



**IFLA EUROPE 1<sup>ST</sup> Webinar on Agricultural Landscapes,  
16 June 2023, 13h CET**

**“Talk with Gijs SCHILTHUIS, Head of Unit for Policy Perspectives, DG  
Agriculture and Rural Development”**

**Programme:**

- 13:00 Welcome by **Katerina Gkoltsiou**, IFLA Europe President
- 13:10 Presentation of Working Group and series of webinars by **Francesca Neonato**, Chair of IFLA Europe Working Group for Agricultural Landscapes, AIAPP Italy
- 13:15 Introduction by **Merrick Denton-Thompson**, IFLA Europe Working Group for Agricultural Landscapes
- 13:25 Presentation by **Gijs Schilthuis**, Head of Unit for Policy Perspectives, DG Agriculture and Rural Development followed by a moderated discussion  
Moderator: **Lena Athanasiadou**, PHALA Greece, IFLA Europe Working Group Agricultural Landscapes
- 14:00 Questions and Answers
- 14:30 Conclusions and closing



Photo: IFLA Europe Rural Photo Competition, image by Giulia Spadafina

**Gijs SCHILTHUIS**



**Katerina GKOLTSIOU**



**Francesca NEONATO**



**Merrick DENTON-THOMPSON**



**Lena ATHANASIADOU**



Speakers:



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Meet our speakers!**



**Gijs Schilthuis**, Head of Unit for Policy Perspectives at the European Commission's Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development. He has worked since 2008, in different capacities, on agricultural policy reform in this Directorate-General. He first joined the European Commission in 2005 at the Directorate-General for Health and Consumers. Prior to joining the Commission, he worked at the European Parliament as a parliamentary assistant. He earned a Master's degree in agricultural economics from Wageningen University in 2000. He is a Dutch national.



**Katerina Gkoltsiou, IFLA Europe President/PHALA Greece**

Katerina has a Ph.D. in Geography from the University of Aegean in Greece, MA in Landscape Architecture from the University of Edinburgh, U.K., and BA Agriculture from the Agricultural University of Athens. She is President of IFLA Europe and member of the Geotechnical Chamber in Greece. In 1997, she founded her practice on Landscape Architecture in Athens ([www.katerinagoltsiou.gr](http://www.katerinagoltsiou.gr)). She specializes in a wide range of services in the design, construction and research sector of landscape architecture. Her landscape expertise involves the landscape design of public and private projects, landscape assessment and landscape restoration projects. She is also a partner of AGRODESIGN ([www.agrodesign.gr](http://www.agrodesign.gr)), in order to promote rural tourism and to provide innovative ideas concerning the landscape design of agrotourism farms and agricultural landscape.



**Francesca Neonato, Chair IFLA Europe Working Group on Agricultural Landscapes/AIAPP Italy**

Francesca is the founding partner of PN Studio PROGETTO NATURA which conducts environmental consultancy and landscape design, also in an international context, in particular parks, green facilities, ecological networks, regenerative agriculture and landscape restoration. She has developed a high experience in Healing gardens design. Francesca is a member of AIAPP (Italian Association of Landscape Architecture) member from 1992, she is delegating traditional rural landscapes. She is also Delegate to IFLA World WG "Landscape & Agriculture". Francesca is Visiting Professor at the Polytechnic of Milan of Applied Botany in Landscape Design Studio and in the postgraduate course in Healing Gardens. She has published over one hundred scientific papers and articles for specialized magazines, several books, among the last in 2019 "Green Gold. How much Nature is worth in the city" and in 2021 "The cost of nature: implementation, management and maintenance costs for NBS, in NBS for more sustainable cities".

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## **Merrick Denton Thomposn, OBE FLI Past President of the Landscape Institute UK 2016-2018, IFLA Europe Working Group on Agricultural Landscapes**

Merrick has worked all his life in both the public sector, at all levels of Government, and in the voluntary sector. Specialising in Strategic and Local Planning, Urban Regeneration and latterly in Rural Land Use. His team pioneered the Landscape Character Assessment in the early 1980s which was subsequently undertaken for the whole country. He contributed to the setting up of the Countryside Stewardship programme in 1985, the Environmental Stewardship in 2000 and was appointed to the Board of Natural England in 2006. He helped draft the 25 Year Environment Plan for England and has directed two of Test and Trials for the new Environmental Land Management system replacing the Common Agricultural Policy in 2024.

He is the founding Trustee for the Learning through Landscapes Trust established in 1990 to transform all school sites for experiential learning, social development, play, reconnection with nature, health and wellbeing for every child. He was awarded the Order of the British Empire for his contribution to education in 2002.



## **Eleni Athanasiadou, IFLA Europe Working Group on Agricultural Landscapes, President of PHALA Greece**

Eleni is a Horticulturist (BSc Horticulture Wye College, University of London UK, MSc Horticulture, University of Reading UK ) and a Landscape Architect (MLA & PHD AUTh). She is currently laboratory teaching staff at the School of Agriculture, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, co-teaching undergraduate and postgraduate courses relevant to landscape architecture at the School of Agriculture, School of Architecture and at the Joint Postgraduate Program of Studies 'Landscape Architecture'. She has co-supervised undergraduate and postgraduate dissertation theses and is being involved (as a participant or coordinator) in workshops, architectural competitions and research programs. She is the co-author of three books and has published papers in scientific journals and international and national conferences proceedings and she is a reviewer on MDPI and Elsevier. She is President of the Panhellenic Association of Landscape Architects and PHALA Greece Delegate to IFLA Europe and IFLA World.