

# Overview of Landscape Architecture in Croatia

Legislative Framework, Current Challenges and Opportunities for Enhanced Cooperation

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*From plant supply to resilient landscapes and strategic partnership*

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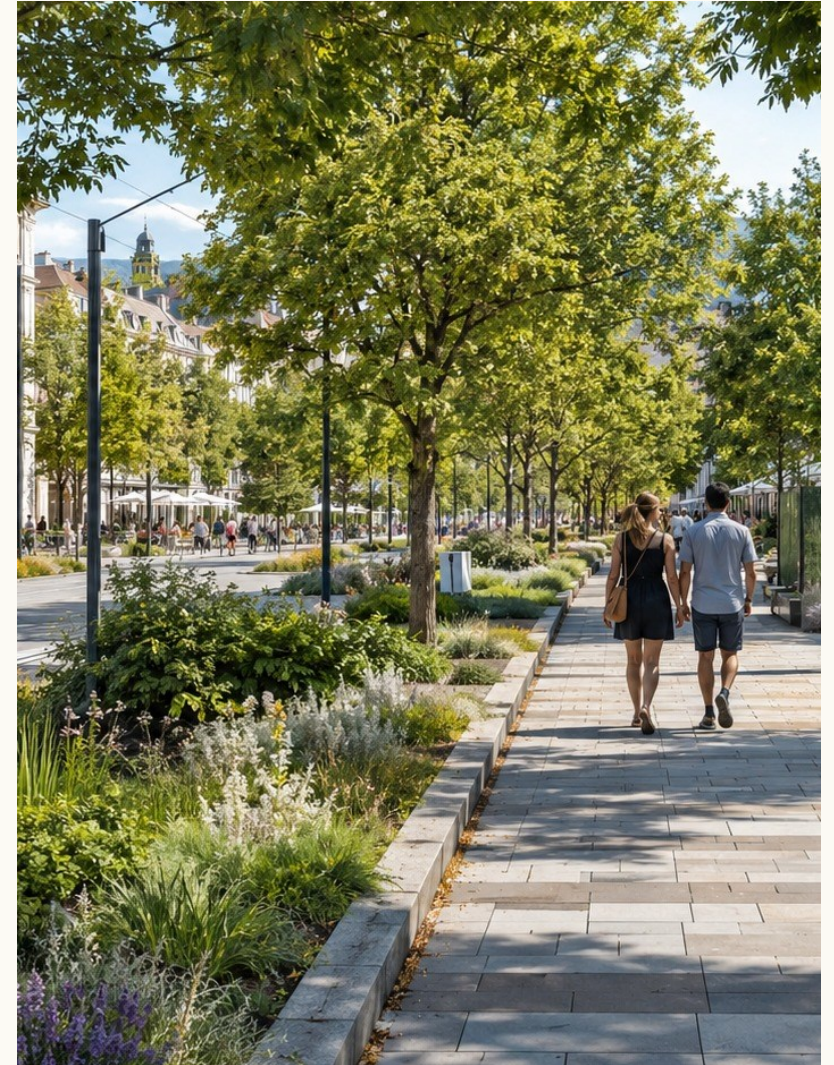
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# Landscape Architecture Is Becoming Strategic

From aesthetic value to climate, social and economic infrastructure

- public space quality
- climate resilience
- tourism and outdoor living
- biodiversity, soil and water
- long-term value of place

**Landscape is not a decorative layer. It is where climate, people and value meet**



# The Croatian Context: Growing Demand, Uneven Capacities

EU obligations are becoming real spatial and market demand



- rising demand for green and resilient spaces
- EU and national climate commitments
- existing partial domestic production
- larger projects often rely on import-supported supply chains
- need to strengthen Croatian capacities

**Croatia has producers and good examples, but major projects often depend on foreign nursery capacities**

# A Legislative Gap

The profession is needed in practice, but not fully recognised in the system.

professional restrictions and limits

incomplete legal recognition

late involvement in projects

conflict with underground infrastructure

need for clear landscape architecture projects

## **Institutional support matters**

Clear recognition of landscape architecture helps deliver the green goals already written into public policies.

*Support at the highest institutional levels would be valuable.*

# A New Planting Paradigm

Planting for future climate, not only present appearance

- pollution-tolerant species
- salt, wind and urban soil resistance
- heat and drought tolerance
- storm resilience
- future climate scenarios



**Planting is no longer a decorative decision; it is a decision about future resilience**

# Quality Plants Need Quality Conditions

Planting is the beginning of responsibility, not the end of the project.

- 1 soil preparation
- 2 irrigation as a basic condition
- 3 fertilisation and aftercare
- 4 seasonal change and growth
- 5 monitoring and replacement plans

# Lowest Price Is Not the Lowest Cost

Landscape is often a fragment of construction cost, but treated as if it were the most expensive element

- cheap plants can become expensive failures
- poor soil means poor growth
- no maintenance means repeated planting
- public procurement should value quality
- landscape is a small cost with large visible value

cheap now → **expensive later**

replanting · weak growth · lost function ·  
disappointed users



# Cooperation with Italy: From Import to Strategic Partnership

- important existing partner
- knowledge
- quality plant material
- local capacity building
- shared standards and education

**Not only import, but know-how, standards and capacity building**

# Plant Exchange: Opportunity and Responsibility

International trade is decisive, but must be handled carefully



- phytosanitary risks
- palm weevil as a warning
- traceability of plant material
- responsible trade
- learning from mistakes

**One pest or pathogen can have catastrophic consequences for entire plant populations and ecosystems**

# Call to Action

Quality plants, quality projects, stronger profession

- involve landscape architects early on
- support clearer legal recognition
- build Croatian capacities
- cooperate on standards and education
- resilient cities need resilient professions

## Final message

Quality seedlings need quality projects. Quality projects need landscape architects involved from the beginning.

**Thank you!**