



**Chairmanship of the Czech Republic**  
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Mai – Novembre 2017



**COUNCIL OF EUROPE  
EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION**

***NINETEENTH COUNCIL OF EUROPE MEETING  
OF THE WORKSHOPS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION  
OF THE EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION***

*Organised under the auspices of the Czech Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers  
of the Council of Europe*

***“The implementation of the European Landscape Convention at local level: local democracy”***

**Brno, Czech Republic,  
5-6 September 2017  
*Study visit, 7 September 2017***

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***OPENING SPEECH***

**Mrs Sanja LJESKOVIC MITROVIC**

*Chair of the Council of Europe Conference on the European Landscape Convention, National Representative of the European Landscape Convention, Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism, Montenegro*

Ladies and gentlemen,

Dear colleagues,

The European Landscape Convention was adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe and opened for signature of the Member States of the organisation with the aiming of promoting European landscape protection, management and planning and to organise international co-operation. It is the first document to be exclusively devoted to all aspects of the landscape: the convention applies to the entire territory of the Parties and covers natural, rural, urban and peri-urban areas. It concerns landscapes that might be considered outstanding as well as everyday or degraded landscapes.

The convention represents an important contribution to the implementation of the Council of Europe's objectives, namely to promote democracy, human rights and the rule of law and to seek common solutions to the main problems facing European society today. By taking into account natural and cultural values, the Council of Europe seeks to protect the quality of life and individual and social well-being.

Landscape is more than just scenery: it is the interaction between people and place; the bedrock upon which our society is built. The European Landscape Convention defines landscape as ‘an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors.’

Our landscapes are important to us for many reasons. They are a shared resource for everyone, irrespective of ownership, ability or background. They provide a living history of our past, and an inspiration for our culture. They provide a wide range of social and health benefits and underpin economy.

Whether rural or urban, coastal or inland, degraded or well-preserved, our surroundings reflect our quality of life. It is not only areas of outstanding beauty which require our attention, but the rich variety of settings in which we live – many of which have been undergoing rapid change.

The 19th Council of Europe Meeting of the Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention on “The implementation of the European Landscape Convention at local level: local democracy” aims to present experiences of national policies adopted or being developed at local level, considering notably the provisions of Article 5 of convention:

- to recognise landscapes in law as an essential component of people’s surroundings, an expression of the diversity of their shared cultural and natural heritage, and a foundation of their identity;
- to establish and implement landscape policies aimed at landscape protection, management and planning, through the adoption of the specific measures set out in Article 6 of the convention ;
- to establish procedures for the participation of the general public, local and regional authorities, and other parties with an interest in the definition and implementation of the landscape policies;
- to integrate landscape into their regional and town planning policies and in their cultural, environmental, agricultural, social and economic policies, as well as in any other policies with possible direct or indirect impact on landscape.

Implementation of the convention in national policies is always challenge for people who are creating landscape policies at both the state and local level. Landscape does not have borders and we need to co-operate and exchange our knowledge, experience and different approaches.

It is a pleasure to bring together achievements during these two days of presentations on the topic, *Instruments for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention at local level, local democracy*: participation and commitment and experiences which take into account the landscape dimension at the local level.

I want to thank to Secretariat of the European Landscape Convention, Directorate of Democratic Governance, the Ministry of the Environment, the Ministry of Regional Development, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Culture, and the Ministry of School, Youth and Sport of the Czech Republic, the City of Brno, Mendel University in Brno and South Moravian Region,

I wish you every success.