



# Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic

# **19th Council of Europe Meeting of the Workshops for the Implementation of the European Landscape Convention**

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

**Brno, Czech Republic  
5. - 6. September 2017**

**National Landscape Policy  
-  
Ministry of the Environment**

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of the Czech Republic

Ministerstvo životního prostředí  
Vršovická 65, 100 10 Praha 10  
Česká republika

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# The Czech Republic – general information

In the Czech Republic traditional meaning of the word „Landscape“ / „Krajina“ is commonly understood as the environment or nature;



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# The Czech Republic – general information

- **CONSTITUTION OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC - PREAMBLE**

We, the citizens of the Czech Republic in Bohemia, in Moravia, and in Silesia, ... Are resolved to guard and develop together the natural and cultural, material and spiritual wealth handed down to us, ...

- **CHARTER OF FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS**

- Ownership entails obligations. It may not be misused to the detriment of the rights of others or in conflict with legally protected public interests. It may not be exercised so as to harm human health, nature, or the environment beyond the limits laid down by law.
- Everyone has the right to a favorable environment.
- Everyone has the right to timely and complete information about the state of the environment and natural resources.
- No one may, in exercising her rights, endanger or cause damage to the environment, natural resources, the wealth of natural species, or cultural monuments beyond the extent set by a law.

# The Czech Republic and the European Landscape Convention

- Signed on 28. November 2002
- Ratified on 1. October 2004 and published in the Collection of International Treaties of the Czech Republic Nb. 13/2005
  - The corrected translation was published in the Collection of international Treaties of the Czech Republic No. 12/2017;
- 2000-2004 – Outcomes of the analyses done at the process time of the ratification:
  - Czech Republic generally fulfilled the requirements of the ELC, which are contained in the legislation and strategies at the national level;
  - Recommended to apply the policy through the modification of existing tools when needed or updated;
  - **Implementation of ELC is a long term and permanent process, not a single activity.**
- 2002 – Governmental Resolution imposed the Ministries of the Environment, Agriculture, Culture, Regional Development and the Ministry of School, Youth and Sports to implement the ELC within their own competencies

# The Coordination and the Cooperation

- The current number of ministries is 14;
- There are two types of self-government in the Czech Republic: territorial and professional, both delegated with certain powers.
- Territorial self-government is realised on two levels:
  - Municipalities (obce), which are basic territorial self-governing units (základní územní samosprávné celky ); The competence and functioning of municipalities are laid down by Act on Municipalities.
  - Regions ( kraje ), which are so-called higher territorial self-governing units ( vyšší územní samosprávné celky ). There are 14 regions. The competence and functioning of the regions are set Act on Regions.
- The state may intervene in the activities of territorial self-governing units only if such intervention is required for protection of law and only in a manner defined by law.
- Authorities of municipalities and regions may also be entrusted to exercise state administration when so provided by law. Then the authorities of self-governing units act as a kind of decentralised bodies of the government and exercise delegated state administration (not self-administration).

# The Coordination and the Cooperation

- **Interministerial Consultation Committee** – established in 2006 to grant the coordination and consultations on the ELC topics
- **Governmental Council for Sustainable Development** – established in 2014 as an advisory body to the Government
  - 8 Committees – one of which is Committee for Landscape, Water and Biodiversity.  
This committee consists of the state representatives, regional representatives, academics, professionals, representatives of NGO
- **Continuous bilateral/trilateral horizontal and vertical cooperation** via working groups and platforms to fulfill specific goals, measures, tasks. Working together on legislation, strategies and methodologies.
- **Thematic Seminars, Conferences, Workshops**

# The Role of the Ministry of the Environment

- **The Coordinator** of the interministerial cooperation in environmental matters – including sustainable use and management of landscapes (f.e. by defining sectoral strategies, conceptual and methodological documents)
- **The administrator** of the environmental pillar of sustainable development – protection of soil, water, nature and landscape - in the public interest
  - Legislation
  - Strategies
  - Methodologies
  - Grant Programmes
  - Support of Local Agenda 21
  - Support of Environmental Education and Awareness raising



# Ministry of the Environment

## **Framework objectives of nature and landscape protection**

- Preservation of natural and cultural landscape values
- Improvement of the ecological stability of landscapes (ensuring landscape ecosystem services - flood protection, production, recreation, etc.)
- Adaptation to climate change
- Comprehensive landscape monitoring
- Promoting sustainable farming in rural landscapes
- Raising the public's interest in the landscape
- Linking sectoral policies to the landscape
- Utilization of the potential of existing tools for protection, management and planning of landscapes

# Ministry of the Environment - Legislation

## **Act on Nature and Landscape Protection (1992)**

*"landscape" shall mean a part of the surface of the Earth with a characteristic relief, formed by a complex of functionally interconnected ecosystems and civilization elements;*

# Ministry of the Environment - Legislation

## Tools:

- Significant landscape elements – to protect ecological stability and functions of landscapes
  - *forests, water streams, floodplains, ponds, moorlands, and other registered SLE*
- Territorial system of ecological stability
  - *an interconnected network of natural and modified, but nature-close ecosystems*
- Landscape character and natural parks
  - *natural, cultural or historical characteristic of certain locality or area*
- Trees growing outside the forest (including alleys)
- Special territorial protection – protected areas
  - *National Parks, Protected Landscape Areas, small protected localities (nature reserves, nature monuments, national nature reserves and national nature monuments )*
- Specially protected species and biotopes
- Natura 2000

# Ministry of the Environment - Legislation

## **Act on Waters (2001)**

(shared responsibility with the Ministry of Agriculture)

- protection of waters and water bodies as a component of the environment
- protection of aquatic and other water bound ecosystems
- support of sustainable use of waters
- planning of waters / riverbasin plans

## **Act on Soil Protection (1992)**

- defines the Agricultural Land Fund (ZPF) and the tools of its qualitative and quantitative protection

## **Act on Environmental Impact Assessment (2001)**

## **Aarhus Convention**

- Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters

# Ministry of the Environment – National Strategies

There are over 140 sectoral strategies at national level in the Czech Republic.

## **Strategical Framework of the Czech Republic 2030 (2017)**

Designed by the Governmental Council of Sustainable Development with a participative methods.

- Set of visions of sustainable development of the Czech Republic;
- Set of sustainable strategical goals to protect values, grant sustainable management and use of resources;
- Coordinates other sectoral strategies.

## **Ministry of the Environment**

- **State Environmental Policy of the of the Czech Republic (2012)**
  - Sets objectives and tasks to ensure the protection of natural values and sustainable management of landscapes. It is binding for all sectors.
- **State Program on Nature and Landscape Protection (2009)**
  - In addition to specifying the objectives and measures of the State Environmental Policy, it also represents an action plan for the implementation of the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy, the Ramsar Convention and the European Landscape Convention.

# Ministry of the Environment – National Strategies

## Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change in the Czech Republic and National Action Plan on Adaptation to Climate Change (2015, 2017)

- The Action Plan elaborates the measures outlined in the Adaptation Strategy into concrete tasks.
- Action plan contains 33 specific objectives and one crosscutting objective focused on education and awareness raising. The individual objectives are fulfilled by 52 priority measures.
- Due to significant inter-sectoral overshoots of climate change and the need for inter-ministerial cooperation to prevent or address its negative impacts, the Action plan is structured by the climate change exposures:
  - **Longterm Droughts**
  - **Floods and flash floods**
  - **Gradual temperature increase**
  - **Extreme meteorological events:**
    - A) Rich percipitation,
    - B) Heat waves,
    - C) Extreme wind
  - **Fires in nature**

# Ministry of the Environment – subsidies

## **National subsidies (approx. 200 mil. CZK/7,7 mil EUR per year)**

- Program of landscape management
- Support of natural landscape functions restoration
- Administration of inalienable state property in specially protected areas
- Other supports:
  - NGO projects, Environmental Education, LA21, ...

## **European Subsidies**

- Operational Program Environment
  - Priority Axis 4 (2014-2020)
  - Allocation - about CZK 9.7 billion czech crowns
  - Objective - Strengthening biodiversity and enhancing the ecological stability of the landscape, enhancing the features of residential greenery
- EEA and Norway Grants, LIFE

# Ministry of the Environment – Conclusions

- Legislation and strategies at national level create ample scope for coordinating all activities in the landscape
- Existing problems arise more often because of inadequate, incorrect or uncoordinated use of those instruments, which is shown by both positive and negative examples
- The most important implementation of ELC is realised at regional and local levels
- The Key component is the involvement and participation of general public and landowners / land-users at the local level
- Linking tools – Local Agenda 21, Local Action Groups, landscape plans using participative methods etc.



# Ministry of the Environment

## Our actual tasks

- to increase general public awareness of the importance of natural, cultural and historical values of landscapes for man and for the quality of his life by supporting educational and awareness raising programs
- to promote the active role of the public in the planning and decision-making processes related to landscape
- to improve the performance of the state administration and both horizontal and vertical communication

# Thank you for your attention

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