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**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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***WORKSHOP 3 – GENERAL DEBATE***

**Spain - Experiences taking into account the landscape dimension at the local level. How can the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport of Spain collaborate at the local level via a specific study on the *Dehesa landscape*?**

Carmen Caro

*Senior Officer, Co-ordinator of the National Plan of Cultural Heritage, Spanish Cultural Heritage Institute, Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport*

Spain is a very decentralised country in which the 17 autonomous regions have many competencies and are quite independent, especially in areas such as education or culture. These autonomous communities are the ones that co-ordinate with the local administrations, although for areas in which the villages are very small (and this occurs in many parts of the country) some common services are provided by the *Diputaciones*, an administration of provincial dimensions and responsibilities.

In addition to this, some areas of interest, such as the dehesa, fall under the responsibility of two ministries: the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food and Environment in all themes relating to the exploitation of agriculture, forestry and livestock, as it must follow the Common Agricultural Policy of the European Union; and the Secretary of State of Culture, for those aspects relating to cultural heritage of the dehesa.

But what is the dehesa? It is supposed to be a typically Mediterranean landscape, although it is found on both shores, but it is more extensive in Spain and to a lesser extent Portugal. It is characteristic for its combined exploitation as it includes:

- Agriculture, for its exploitations of dryland farming or for pasture;
- Forestry, supposed to include the autochthonous tree species of the peninsula such as *quercus robur*, *quercus ilex* or *quercus suber* (which produces cork);
- Livestock, again exploiting the autochthonous breeds such as the ibérico pig (famous for its ham world-wide), the retinta cow, merino sheep (again famous world-wide since the Middle Ages), bulls (fighting bull), etc.;
- Wild animals such as wild boar, deer, red partridge (*alectoris rufa*) for big and small game hunting;
- Other types of exploitation: mycology, apiculture, etc.

At the same time the dehesa is a landscape where some of the more protected species live such as the Iberian lynx (*lynx pardinus*) and certain varieties of eagles, such as the *Aquila adalberti*.

The dehesa is one of the most extended types of landscapes in Spain (+3M Has), more than the vineyard (1M Has) or the olive grove (2.4 M Has), but there is no global study on its cultural heritage, although there are many partial or regional studies.

Thus, conversations were held with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food and Environment on how to address a project on cultural heritage of the dehesa, and they asked us to develop an integrated and in-depth study because its survival depends on the identification of the peoples with their landscape: as a result its cultural resources will be better known, and their interest on cultural facts and assets will increase.

The project intends to provide the means to safeguard and promote its cultural manifestations, both tangible and intangible and, as a consequence, its preservation. It is oriented to landscape, its people and the villages, thus it is intended to be known at national, regional and local level.

As this study goes beyond the Cultural Heritage National Plan, it will be approached in collaboration with the Traditional Architecture National Plan and the Safeguard of Intangible Cultural Heritage National Plan.

This project is intended to be finished by 2019. And what do we expect of the content? The content will be divided into eight chapters:

1. Distribution of the landscape of the dehesa;
2. Its nature (climate, water, geography, vegetation and forestry, pastures, flora and fauna, domestic and wild);
3. The dehesa as cultural heritage (How it was developed during the Middle Ages as a result of the conquest, associated with aristocracy and church, castles and monasteries, and thus its great extensions, its transformation during the sale of church lands during the nineteenth century, sale of the properties during the twentieth century and changes of property until modern times; Organisation of the landscape: combined use of the dehesa described above; Settlement: houses, villages and towns, interchange and communication, markets, fairs and transhumance);
4. Human relations: society and its peoples (Social structure, work and professions, their tools, guilds and associations, political relations, communal activities such as markets, festivities and their cycles, gastronomy);
5. Perception of the landscape (Individual: painting, photography, films, literature, poetry, music, etc. and collectively, such as museums, interpretation centres, ONGs);
6. Value of the landscape (both tangible and intangible);
7. Conclusions (legislation, existing or to be developed; potentials, existing or to be developed);
8. Proposals and safeguarding.

For results, the following are anticipated: a) A study with its social manifestations both tangible and intangible, with its unities of landscape; b) The identification of protected elements related to the dehesa; c) A strategic plan for the safeguarding and management of the dehesa as cultural landscape; d) A book; e) A video.

It will be developed and implemented following the lines traced by the European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe.

