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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***

WORKSHOP 2

**The status of implementation of the European Landscape Convention in Bosnia and Herzegovina -
a brief review**

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Despite the fact that Bosnia and Herzegovina has a relatively long tradition in protection of natural and cultural values, we are still at the very beginning in terms of the implementation and transposition of the European Landscape Convention. The law on nature protection of NRBiH from 1946 has regulated a management of nature characterised by special biological and landscape values. The same law requires an inventory to be completed and designation of protection level for natural objects possessing different values.

Among the protected natural values established by that law, it has also established 10 reserves of natural

landscapes but more on the basis of the observer's impression, than some prescribed categories such as we have today. Furthermore, the practical measures for protection of biological and landscape diversity have no longer been implemented in most of these areas since 1992. In the post-war period, Bosnia and Herzegovina failed to take any appropriate action towards re-establishing the status of the formerly protected areas and restarting the implementation of the appropriate protective measures. In this respect, we have begun to make certain progress recently, forming a framework for further action.

In our highest-order spatial-planning and strategic documents B&H recognised the landscape as a vital component of the human environment, an expression of the diversity of the common cultural and natural heritage and the foundation of the area's, and human, identity. However, the landscape policies that aim to protect landscapes, management and planning, by adopting the special measures as defined in Article 6 of the convention, are not sufficiently implemented.

For instance, the current Spatial plan of the Republic of Srpska states that areas of special natural beauty and characteristic regional landscapes should be preserved in their original form. These areas must be well-planned, their development must be managed in a way that will prevent their degradation and, in particular, should prevent all forms of uncontrolled construction.

Furthermore, it prescribes the creation of preconditions for the implementation of a landscape policy which enables the undertaking of certain measures in order to protect, manage and plan the landscape.

However, landscape is not embedded in regional and urban planning policies and policies relating to culture, environmental protection, agriculture, social and economic policy, or any other policies at local level that could directly or indirectly affect the landscape. In the forthcoming period, it is necessary to encourage the training of experts for the assessment of the landscape and the actions that take place in it, as well as the multidisciplinary training programmes for landscape identification, protection, management and planning for professionals both from private and public sector and associations.

Protection and preservation of landscape diversity is also prescribed as one of the basic principles under the nature protection act. Protection, management and landscape planning are based on the identification of landscapes and the assessment of their significant and characteristic features. The minister shall issue a regulation defining the criteria for identification of landscapes and the manner of assessing their significant and characteristic features. The bylaw has not yet been adopted.

But all of these only make the framework for further actions: after that it is necessary to identify the landscapes in Bosnia and Herzegovina, analysing their characteristics, forces and negative impacts.

A large number of local communities have not yet adopted new regulations concerning the landscape and apply regulations from before the war. Some of the local communities adopted the LEAPs within which the term of landscape is just sporadically mentioned. Very few local communities have adopted spatial planning and strategic documents within the term of landscape in a way that is needed to preserve the landscape characteristics, without clear guidelines and, typically, without any guidance how to do that. The European Landscape Convention should serve as a basis for the development of these issues.

Finally, I can say that we are still at the beginning of the process of the implementation of the European Landscape Convention if we compare Bosnia and Herzegovina with EU countries. We need a comprehensive training programme which will serve us as a tool to identify and assess the landscapes according to Article 8 of the convention.