



## **COUNCIL OF EUROPE LANDSCAPE AWARD EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION**

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

### ***Council of Europe Landscape Award Forum of National Selections 3<sup>rd</sup> Session 2012-2013***

**Wroclaw, Poland, 11-12 June 2014**

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On behalf of: Mr Piotr OTAWSKI, Deputy of the General Director for the Environmental Protection,  
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On behalf Mr Piotr OTAWSKI, the Deputy of the General Director for the Environmental Protection, I would like to say that it was an honour to host you in our land – in the Lower Silesian Region during the 14<sup>th</sup> Council of Europe meeting on implementation the European Landscape Convention.

The main purpose of this meeting was the presentation of national candidates for the 3rd Session of the Council of Europe Landscape Award. Meeting like this is an excellent opportunity for sharing experiences and best practices of initiatives for landscape.

The Council of Europe Landscape Award is a very important tool for promoting exemplary measures which are carried on to reach landscape quality standards and provide sustainable environment for living. At the same time it contributes to raising public awareness of the landscape functions, changes of our surroundings and its meaning for us.

The European Landscape Convention it is not only a useful instrument for protecting and preserving beautiful landscape but also for shaping our daily spaces in a sustainable way. This leads to enhancing

the quality of life for people, fostering ecosystems services, as well as improving natural conditions for wild and cultivated plants and animals. At the same time it give us an opportunity to retain our cultural heritage.

Projects which were presented during these two days have confirmed that without multi-sectoral cooperation for landscape management, the above-mentioned aims cannot be achieved. At the same time the role of local public engagement in the process of landscape management deserves special attention.

Landscape is a very broad term which refers to many domains of our life and different human activities, which has been demonstrated during this conference, which hosted many experts in different fields, such as spatial planning, architecture, nature and culture, representing different environments, such as scientific institutions, universities, governmental and non-governmental organisations. The cooperation and exchange of experiences will definitely bring positive results.

I would like to take the opportunity to express my warm gratitude and appreciation to the Council of Europe for giving us a possibility of hosting this Forum of the national selections for the Council of Europe Landscape Award. A special thank you goes to Mrs Maguelonne Déjeant-Pons and Mrs Pascale Doré for great help and support in organizing this conference.

I would like also thank Mr Piotr Śnigucki, Mr Marek Cieślak and Mr Paweł Sendecki and the team from the Lower Silesian Landscape Parks Association for hosting the study trip and for the involvement in organizing this conference. Thank you for a very inspiring presentation of the Winner of the 3rd session of the Council of Europe Landscape Award.

I would like to congratulate the Winner one more time and I think that after Mr Śnigucki's presentation we are all convinced about the wisdom of the Jury's decision.

I would also like to thank the Regional Director for the Environmental Protection in Wrocław for his significant involvement and help in organising this meeting.

Most of all I would like to thank all the participants for attending and active participation in the 14th Council of Europe Meeting for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention. I think that we all will leave Wrocław enriched by the new experience and that the presented projects will be an excellent inspiration for our future work. I hope that you will remember these three days in one of the oldest and most beautiful Polish cities.