

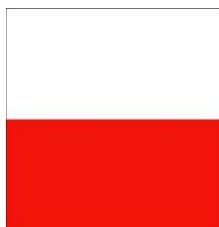


EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION
CONVENTION EUROPÉENNE DU PAYSAGE

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



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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
3rd Session 2012-2013*

Wroclaw, Poland, 11-12 June 2014

Presentation of the European Landscape Convention and of the Council of Europe Landscape Award Forum of National Selections – 3rd Session

Mrs Maguelonne DEJEANT-PONS, Executive Secretary of the European Landscape Convention, Council of Europe

Ms Charlotte KOK, Expert, Cultural Heritage, Secretariat of the 3rd Session of the Council of Europe Landscape Award

This 14th Council of Europe meeting of the Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention is given over to the Council of Europe Landscape Award's forum of national selections and is designed to raise awareness about all these particularly important activities, which may serve as a source of inspiration for others.

The Landscape Award of the Council of Europe

On a proposal by the Committees of Experts mentioned in Article 10, on 20 February 2008 the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe adopted Resolution CM/Res (2008)3 on the rules governing the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe. The Committee of Ministers pointed out that Article 11 of the European Landscape Convention institutes the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe and provides that the Committee of Ministers shall define and publish the criteria for

conferring the award, adopt the relevant rules and grant the award. It stated that the award's purpose is to reward exemplary practical initiatives for the achievement of landscape quality objectives on the territories of parties to the Convention¹.

Declaring itself convinced that the award is capable of heightening civil society's awareness of the value of landscapes, of their role and of changes to them, the Committee of Ministers decided to adopt the rules governing the Landscape Award and the criteria for awarding it. It also invited the Parties to translate the rules into their national languages and promote them, and to encourage media coverage of the award so as to raise public awareness of the importance of landscapes².

Under these rules, the award is an honorary distinction which acknowledges a policy or measures implemented by local or regional authorities or their groupings, or particularly remarkable contributions by non-governmental organisations, for sustainable protection, management and/or planning of landscapes. It takes the form of a diploma. Special mentions may also be awarded. The award rewards a process of implementation of the Convention at national or transnational levels resulting in an effective, measurable achievement. It also helps to make people more aware of the importance of landscapes for human development, consolidation of the European identity and the well-being of individuals and society as a whole. It fosters public participation in the decision-making process concerning landscape policies.

The following may be candidates for the award: local or regional authorities and their groupings that have instituted, as part of the landscape policy of a party to this Convention, a policy or measures to protect, manage and/or plan their landscape, which have proved lastingly effective and can thus serve as an example to other local and regional authorities in Europe. Non-governmental organisations which have made particularly outstanding contributions to landscape protection, management or planning may also be candidates. Transfrontier local or regional authorities and groupings of local and regional authorities concerned may be candidates, provided that they jointly manage the landscape in question.

The Award procedure

The procedure consists of three stages:

Submission of candidatures

¹ Article 11 of the Council of Europe's European Landscape Convention is entitled "Landscape award of the Council of Europe", and reads as follows:

"1. The Landscape award of the Council of Europe is a distinction which may be conferred on local and regional authorities and their groupings that have instituted, as part of the landscape policy of a Party to this Convention, a policy or measures to protect, manage and/or plan their landscape, which have proved lastingly effective and can thus serve as an example to other territorial authorities in Europe. The distinction may be also conferred on non-governmental organisations having made particularly remarkable contributions to landscape protection, management or planning.

2. Applications for the Landscape award of the Council of Europe shall be submitted to the Committees of Experts mentioned in Article 10 by the Parties. Transfrontier local and regional authorities and groupings of local and regional authorities concerned, may apply provided that they jointly manage the landscape in question.

3. On proposals from the Committees of Experts mentioned in Article 10 the Committee of Ministers shall define and publish the criteria for conferring the Landscape award of the Council of Europe, adopt the relevant rules and confer the Award.

4. The granting of the Landscape award of the Council of Europe is to encourage those receiving the award to ensure the sustainable protection, management and/or planning of the landscape areas concerned."

² As a result, the Resolution, which was adopted in the Council of Europe's official languages (French and English), has already been translated into the following languages: Armenian, Croatian, Finnish, Hungarian, Italian, Latvian, Polish, Russian, Slovak, Swedish and Czech.

Each Party may submit one candidature to the Secretariat General of the Council of Europe. The candidature may be the result of a competition held by each Party taking into account the award criteria appended to the rules. The application file, in one of the official languages of the Council of Europe (French or English), must include: a presentation of the candidate (not more than three pages long); the description of a completed project for the protection, management and/or planning of a landscape, which has proved lastingly effective and can serve as an example. Mention must be made of the convention provision concerned. In principle the award is granted every two years. The files presenting candidatures must reach the Secretariat General of the Council of Europe by no later than 31 December of the year preceding the year of award.

Consideration of candidatures

An international jury set up as a subordinate body of the committees of experts referred to in Article 10 of the Convention³ determines whether candidatures are admissible. The jury is composed of: one member of the committee of experts responsible for monitoring the Convention, appointed by the committee concerned; one member of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, appointed by the Congress; one representative of an international non-governmental organisation, appointed by the Secretary General on the proposal of the Grouping of INGOs enjoying participatory status with the Council of Europe; three eminent specialists on landscape, appointed by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe. The jury proposes the award winner from among the candidates admitted. The jury's proposals are adopted by an absolute majority in the first round of voting, and by a relative majority in the following round, based on the criteria set out in the appendix to the rules. In the event of equal votes, the president of the jury has the deciding vote. The reasons for the choice must be given. The jury may propose to award one or more special mentions. The committees of experts referred to in Article 10 of the Convention¹ examine the jury's proposals and forward their proposals concerning the award winner, and, wherever appropriate, special mentions, to the Committee of Ministers.

Granting and presentation of the award and the special mentions

In the light of the proposals by the committees of experts referred to in Article 10 of the Convention, the Committee of Ministers grants the award and any special mentions. The award and the special mentions shall be presented by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe or his/her representative at a public ceremony.

The criteria for granting the Award

The criteria for granting the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe are as follows:

Sustainable territorial development

The completed projects submitted must give tangible form to the protection, management and/or planning of landscapes. This means that the projects must have been completed and open to the public for at least three years when the candidatures were submitted. They must also: be part of a sustainable development policy and be in harmony with the territorial organisation of the area concerned; demonstrate their environmental, social, economic, cultural and aesthetic sustainability; counter or remedy any damage to landscape structures; help enhance and enrich the landscape and develop new qualities.

Exemplary value

³ On 30 January 2008, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe decided to assign this task to the Steering Committee for Cultural Heritage and Landscape (CDPATEP), which has been renamed the Steering Committee for Culture, Heritage and Landscape (CDCPP) by a decision of the Committee of Ministers.

The implementation of the policy or measures that have helped to improve the protection, management and/or planning of the landscapes concerned must set an example of good practice for others to follow.

Public participation

The policy or measures implemented with a view to the protection, management and/or planning of the landscapes concerned should involve the active participation of the public, local and regional authorities and other players and should clearly reflect the landscape quality objectives. The public should be able to participate simultaneously in two ways: through dialogue and exchanges between members of society (public meetings, debates, procedures for participation and consultation in the field, for example); through procedures for public participation and involvement in landscape policies implemented by national, regional or local authorities.

Awareness-raising

The Convention provides that each Party undertakes to increase awareness among civil society, private organisations and public authorities of the value of landscapes, their role and changes to them. An assessment will be made of action along these lines taken as part of the project concerned.

The third session of the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe (2012-2013)

On 12 January 2012, the Parties to the Convention were invited to present applications to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe by 25 January 2013⁴. Presentations were made on the following projects, which are described on the website of the European Landscape Convention:

- Hoge Kempen National Park, Regionaal Landschap Kempen en Maasland vzw, Belgium;
- Environmental education in the town of Strakonice year by year or “Pilgrimage through the Contemplative Landscape”, Municipality of Strakonice, Czech Republic;
- The Landscape Projects of Hyypä Valley, City of Kauhajoki, Hyypä village association, Finnish Forestry Centre/Public Services, Unit of South and Central Ostrobothnia, Finland;
- Grand Pré Park, City of Langueux, France;
- Complex landscape rehabilitation and development programme in the Gerecse Mountains and the Által Creek Valley, Association for the Restoration and Development of the Által Creek Valley (Tata), Hungary;
- Bere Island Conservation Plan, The Heritage Council and the Bere Island Project Group, Ireland;
- The rebirth of the Alto Belice Corleonese region through the recovery of lands confiscated from the mafia organisations, LIBERA, Associations, names and numbers against mafias, Italy;
- Dzintari Forest Park, Jurmala City Council, Latvia;
- U-parks. U-turn we love, Utena district Municipality, Lithuania;
- Planning policy for conservation and sustainable development of 20 national landscapes in the Netherlands, Stichting Nationale Landschappen (NGO), Netherlands;
- Preserving ecological value in the landscape of the Szprotawa river valley, Lower Silesian Association of Landscape Parks, Poland;
- Furnas Landscape Laboratory (Furnas LandLab), Azores Regional Directorate of the Environment, Portugal;
- Agricultural Development and Environmental Protection in Transylvania, ADEPT Foundation, NGO, Romania;
- The Gate of Gornje Podunavlje, NGO Podunav, Backi Monostor, Serbia;
- Salvage, Revival and Operation of the Forest Railway in the Landscape of Cierny Balog, Ciernohronska železnica NGO, Slovak Republic;

⁴ See: http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/heritage/Landscape/Prix/Session2013_en.asp

- Landscape and water-management restoration of Škocjanski Zatok nature reserve, DOPPS, BirdLife Slovenia, Slovenia;
- The sustainable revitalisation of the protected landscape of Geria, Consortium for the defence and promotion of the landscape of Geria, Spain;
- South Pennines Watershed Landscape Project, Pennine Prospects, United Kingdom.

The Council of Europe Landscape Award Forum

The goal of the Council of Europe Landscape Award Forum is to highlight significant achievements in the Organisation's member states during the initial sessions of the Council of Europe Landscape Award. They all show that it is possible to promote the territorial dimension of human rights and democracy by improving the landscape features of people's living environments.

The projects were divided into three subject areas even if this division presents limits, each of them combining in different ways the three keywords of the European Landscape Convention: landscape protection, management and planning:

Workshop 1: Landscape to be protected: actions to conserve and maintain the significant or characteristic features of a landscape

- Environmental education in the town of Strakonice year by year or "Pilgrimage through the Contemplative Landscape", Municipality of Strakonice, Czech Republic;
- Bere Island Conservation Plan, The Heritage Council and the Bere Island Project Group, Ireland;
- Preserving ecological value in the landscape of the Szprotawa river valley, Lower Silesian Association of Landscape Parks, Poland;
- Furnas Landscape Laboratory (Furnas LandLab), Azores Regional Directorate of the Environment, Portugal;
- The Gate of Gornje Podunavlje, NGO Podunav, Backi Monostor, Serbia;
- Salvage, Revival and Operation of the Forest Railway in the Landscape of Cierny Balog, Ciernohronska železnica NGO, Slovak Republic.

Workshop 2: Landscape to be managed: actions, from a perspective of sustainable development, to guide and harmonise changes

- Hoge Kempen National Park, Regionaal Landschap Kempen en Maasland vzw, Belgium;
- The Landscape Projects of Hyypä Valley, City of Kauhajoki, Hyypä village association, Finnish Forestry Centre/Public Services, Unit of South and Central Ostrobothnia, Finland
- Dzintari Forest Park, Jurmala City Council, Latvia;
- Planning policy for conservation and sustainable development of 20 national landscapes in the Netherlands, Stichting Nationale Landschappen (NGO), Netherlands;
- Agricultural Development and Environmental Protection in Transylvania, ADEPT Foundation, NGO, Romania;
- South Pennines Watershed Landscape Project, Pennine Prospects, United Kingdom.

Workshop 3: Landscapes to be planned: strong-forward looking actions to enhance, restore or create landscapes

- Grand Pré Park, City of Langueux, France;
- Complex landscape rehabilitation and development programme in the Gerecse Mountains and the Által Creek Valley, Association for the Restoration and Development of the Által Creek Valley (Tata), Hungary;
- The rebirth of the Alto Belice Corleonese region through the recovery of lands confiscated from the mafia organisations, LIBERA, Associations, names and numbers against mafias, Italy;

- U-parks. U-turn we love, Utena district Municipality, Lithuania;
- Landscape and water-management restoration of Škocjanski Zatok nature reserve, DOPPS, BirdLife Slovenia, Slovenia;
- The sustainable revitalisation of the protected landscape of Geria, Consortium for the defense and promotion of the landscape of Geria, Spain.

We welcome this second Council of Europe Landscape Award Forum, which is in full keeping with the Organisation's work to promote human rights, democracy and sustainable development. The projects presented show that it is possible to promote the territorial dimension of human rights and democracy by improving the landscape features of people's living environments. An updated version of the "The Council of Europe Landscape Award" (European Spatial Planning and Landscape series, 2012, No. 96) 5 will be prepared providing useful complementary information.

⁵ http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/heritage/Landscape/Publications/LandscapeAwards_en.pdf