

## ***Activities on the implementation of the European Landscape Convention in Croatia***

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The Republic of Croatia was among the first countries to ratify the European Landscape Convention and the Act on the Ratification of the European Landscape Convention was adopted by the Croatian Parliament at its session on September 19th, 2002. The main activities related to the implementation of the European Landscape Convention at **the national level** in the year 2012 were focused on deciding which ministry is to be responsible for the implementation of the Convention. Due to the changes in the administrative structure of the governmental bodies, the Ministry of Construction and Physical Planning is most likely to take over the coordination and thus the authority for the enforcement of the Act on Ratification of the ELC as well as the coordination of intersectoral activities. In *the Report on the State of the Natural Environment of the Republic of Croatia 2008-2012* ratified at the beginning of the year 2013 it was concluded that the landscape planning as a part of spatial and urban planning must to a greater extent take into account the values of the landscape. Spatial development should contribute to protecting, managing and enhancing the landscape, and by appropriate means, especially with better cooperation among various sectors, landscapes should be included in regional and urban policies and development plans.

### **Landscape identification and assessment**

The development of The Landscape Strategy as the basis for the drawing up of the Spatial Master Plan of the Republic of Croatia is being planned. The establishing of the National Commission for Landscape which should define the methodology of its preparation in order to make it compliant with the European classification LANMAP2 is also being planned.

At **the county and local level**, the Landscape study is developed for the purpose of spatial planning documentation. The drafting of *the Zagreb County Landscape Study*, as the basis for the drafting of the Spatial Master Plan of the county is underway. Due to material limitations its development is divided into two stages; this year it is being developed as a strategic level of general types and regions, while in the following year a more detailed level will be made. *The Landscape Study for the area of the Town Sveta Nedelja (Zagreb County)* has also been developed at a more detailed level of types and subtypes, as the basis for the Spatial Master Plan of the City. The methodology for the development both studies has been harmonized based on the identification, evaluation and protection of landscape areas. The methods and tools of GIS in use are pursuant to the European landscape classification LANMAP2.

## **Landscape quality objectives – landscape protection**

Several landscapes recognized as cultural heritage whose value is the result of natural features and human activities were protected in the last year. These are mostly landscapes on the Adriatic coast and islands. Protected landscapes are as follows: the landscape of the island of Palagruža, nowadays uninhabited area with a lighthouse and valuable archaeological finds, organically developed terraced landscapes of vineyards in Primošten (Šibenik-Knin County), the area of Takali (terraced vineyards near Bakarac in Primorje-Gorski Kotar County), olive groves in Lun (Island Pag), the Brijuni islands and the Marjan peninsula in Split. The protection of these landscapes implies maintenance and preservation of their significant features. The cultural landscape of the Starigrad Plain on the island of Hvar was earlier listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site with a Greek centuriation of fields, archaeological and ethnological heritage and agrarian landscape. The agency "Faros" Ltd. with headquartered in Stari Grad was established in order to monitor and study this phenomenon, plan cultural paths and manage the landscape. In the county plan of Split-Dalmatia County, the development of the Special Purpose Spatial Plan for the following cultural landscape was agreed: the Stari Grad Plain, the Marjan peninsula, the islet of Šćedro near Hvar and the Blaca valley on the island of Brač whose protection is being prepared.

## **International Programmes, Transfrontier Landscapes**

Dubrovnik-Neretva County and the administration of Tivat and the Bay of Kotor are jointly carrying out the IPA project: *Heritage – Driver of Development of Dubrovnik and BokaKotorska region – joint cross border activities in applying new methodologies in natural and cultural heritage protection and management*. The area of Dubrovnik and the Bay of Kotor, which share similarities related to cultural and natural heritage and the overall appearance of the landscape is faced with similar problems in the implementation of the conservation and management of assessed resources. Cultural and natural heritage, in particular the landscape, due to inappropriate management is exposed to devastation.

This region has two UNESCO World Heritage sites - the City of Dubrovnik and Cultural-historical and natural region of Kotor. They form the two most attractive landscapes of the Adriatic region, which is proved by the vast number of tourists. Expert care for individual cultural goods, historic buildings and the urban area of Dubrovnik, Kotor, Perast, is being implemented successfully. However, the problem lies in their environment which, although not officially protected, takes significant part in creating the value of the entire landscape. The current development trends and inadequate construction represent threats which reduce the authenticity of the landscape and impair its natural and man-created value. Generally speaking, the value of landscape as heritage is insufficiently recognized, particularly as the basic resources and potential driver of growth. The major problem is various stakeholders, especially decision makers who perceive cultural and natural heritage as an obstacle to development.

The task of the project is to establish the cooperation among institutions regarding issues of landscape protection and cultural and natural heritage through the implementation of a common programme, education, transfer of knowledge and actions aimed at raising awareness. The goal is to connect activities in the application of new methodologies, increase the level of expertise and raise

the citizens' awareness of the way in which heritage can be used as an initiator for development. The planned activity of organizing the "Landscape Days" campaign through the implementation of 10 events in Croatia and Montenegro in 2014 is of great importance.

### **Education - specific measures of the landscape protection**

At the Faculty of Architecture of the University of Zagreb in the graduate study programme in addition to the current course Landscape Planning, a new course Landscape Protection has been founded, which is aimed at recognizing the values of the landscape and the application of methods which enable its protection through planning. It also tries to protect and pay attention to the landscape through an interdisciplinary approach and the collaboration both with the Faculty of Agriculture as well as the Study of History and Geography at the Faculty of Philosophy of the University of Zagreb in order to create the atlas of landscape evolution.



The cultural landscape of the Starigrad Plain on the island of Hvar



The cultural landscape of the Marjan peninsula in Split



The Blaca valley on the island of Brač