

landscape observatories – how to keep an eye on our landscapes?

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European Landscape Convention

Recommendation CM/Rec(2008)3 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the guidelines for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention Extracts concerning landscape observatories



10. Observatories, centres or institutes

The strong forces surrounding contemporary landscapes and the many problems connected with landscape protection, management and planning necessitate continuous observation and a forum for exchanging information; the **creation of landscape observatories**, centres or institutes could prove useful for this purpose. Such observatories, centres or institutes would allow observation on the basis of appropriate study protocols employing a range of indicators; they would also allow for the collection and exchange of information on policies and experience. They could be independent or part of a broader observation system.

Various levels of operation

These landscape observatories, centres or institutes could be set up at various levels – **local, regional, national, international** – employing interlocking observation systems, and providing the opportunity for ongoing exchanges. Thanks to these bodies, it should be possible to:

- describe the condition of landscapes at a given time;
- exchange information on policies and experience concerning protection, management and planning, public participation and implementation at different levels;
- use and, if necessary, compile historical documents on landscapes which could be useful for knowing how the landscapes concerned have developed (archives, text, photographs, etc.);
- draw up quantitative and qualitative indicators to assess the effectiveness of landscape policies;
- furnish data leading to an understanding of trends and to forecasts or forward-looking scenarios.

Exchange of information

Exchanges of information and experience between states, regions and territorial communities, which already take place, should be based on exemplarity but should always be set against the political, social, ecological and cultural context of the original landscape.

The choice of the composition of observatories is a matter for the administrative bodies concerned but should allow for **collaboration between scientists, professionals and technicians from the public authorities and the public.**

LOD Landscape Observatory Documentation

The LOD project

Landscape
Observatories, Centres,
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LANDSCAPE OBSERVATORY DOCUMENTATION

"Landscape observatories, centres and institutes" (LO) are one of the recommended instruments for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention (ELC).

Their mission is to study and monitor the dynamics of the landscapes, and to facilitate the collection, production and exchange of information and study protocols between states and local communities.

(See the Recommendation on the Guidelines for the implementation of the ELC, CM/Rec (2008)3 Appendix 1, 10; II.3.3)

The existing situation presents centres for landscape observation, at various territorial levels, established by institutional bodies, as much as by civil society. The LOD Project promotes the scientific cooperation among the existing LO, aiming at reducing the fragmentation of the local initiatives and coordinate their potentials.

NEWS

Presentation of the Charter of Torino for the Promotion and Dissemination of the Landscape Observatories in Europe

8th COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONFERENCE ON THE EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION, Strasbourg, 18-20 March 2015



18-20 March 2015 -
Agenda

The Charter of Torino for the Promotion and Dissemination of the Landscape Observatories in Europe will be presented at the 8th COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONFERENCE ON THE EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE

CONVENTION (ELC), to be held in Strasbourg, on 18-20 March 2015. [READ MORE...](#)

CHARTER OF TORINO

for the

PROMOTION AND DISSEMINATION OF THE LANDSCAPE OBSERVATORIES IN EUROPE



Landscape Observatories

Strasbourg, 19 March 2015, Bas Pedrolí



The **UNDERSIGNED**

on the occasion of the first UNISCAPE En-Route *International Seminar*

"**LANDSCAPE OBSERVATORIES IN EUROPE II**"

which took place in Turin, *Castello del Valentino*, on 22-23 September 2014,

- **considering** that the COUNCIL OF EUROPE RECOMMENDATION CM/Rec (2008)3 identifies LANDSCAPE OBSERVATORIES as a useful approach for application in all Member States of the principles of the EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION;
- **considering** that the participation of European citizens in the decisions concerning landscape is a priority for their proper and effective protection, management and enhancement;
- **being aware** that the LANDSCAPE OBSERVATORIES may be the appropriate platform of democratic debate for participatory policies and planning of the landscape;

ADDRESS

the **COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS** of the **COUNCIL OF EUROPE** to organise a special conference to exchange experiences and best practices in order to support efforts on establishment of LANDSCAPE OBSERVATORIES in the different countries. This to be achieved through the preliminary constitution of **EUROPEAN COORDINATION** between all those existing LO on the basis of studies and activities already carried out by the three European networks UNISCAPE, RECEPT-ENELC and CIVILSCAPE and others.

keep an eye on our landscapes?

with a minimum of bureaucracy
coordinate the actions of
observing the landscape –
let's accept the challenge!

landscape –
a privilege and a duty