

### **Liptovská Teplička: protection of unique historical landscape types,** Village of Liptovská Teplička

The project aims to preserve specific features of the village of Liptovská Teplička and its habitat and the character of the local landscape, which is a mountainous agricultural area, as part of a type of unique historical landscape in the Carpathian Mountains. In the first half of the 17th century, local people cleared the surrounding forest to build a system of narrow terraced fields, which today cover an area of 350 hectares around the village. There are also the unique historical parts of the settlement, with a set of preserved wooden farm buildings, barns, and a total of 419 potato cellars that still perform their original function. The municipality of the village has been developing a long-term effort to preserve the original character and functionality of the landscape. These activities bring benefits to the population in terms of the preservation of its cultural and historic values. The project promotes the maintenance of ecological balance, strengthens local identity and boosts the local economy through the promotion of sustainable tourism, respecting people and their surroundings.



The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe conferred a special mention of the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe's European Landscape Convention for the 4th Session of the Award 2014-2015 on the organisers of the project. The project, jointly operated by the Agricultural Co-operative of Liptovská Teplička and the self-employed farmers of the village, made possible the preservation of a mountainous agricultural landscape with unique and significant features. The preservation of the character and functionality of this outstanding agricultural landscape has played a key role in the economic activity of the village, allowing it to remain inhabited despite its mountainous location, which renders access difficult. The combined use of traditional farming methods, still practised in the nearby village fields, and modern methods used on high altitude slopes, makes possible an efficient and sustainable practice of agriculture, respecting the history of these places. The preservation of innovative agricultural practices, and the efforts made by the ancestors of the villagers, is a source of inspiration for villages and small towns which wish to develop sustainably, by enhancing traditional landscapes.