

18th Council of Europe Meeting of the Workshops for the Implementation of the European Landscape Convention

National policies for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention: challenges and opportunities

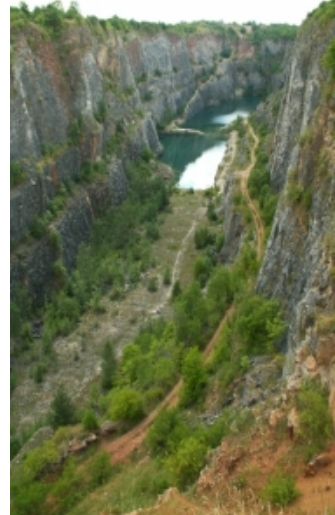
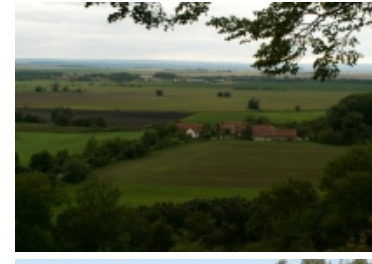
Yerevan, Armenia

5. - 6. October 2016

Coordinadion and Cooperation

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The Czech Republic Experience



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The term „LANDSCAPE“ – „KRAJINA“

- Tens of specialized, very academic, definitions used by experts in specific sectors or fields;
- Meaning of the word commonly connected to the environment or nature – traditional meaning;



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- **CONSTITUTION OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC - PREAMBLE**

We, the citizens of the Czech Republic in Bohemia, in Moravia, and in Silesia, ... Are resolved to guard and develop together the natural and cultural, material and spiritual wealth handed down to us, ...

- **CHARTER OF FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS**

- Ownership entails obligations. It may not be misused to the detriment of the rights of others or in conflict with legally protected public interests. It may not be exercised so as to harm human health, nature, or the environment beyond the limits laid down by law.
- Everyone has the right to a favorable environment.
- Everyone has the right to timely and complete information about the state of the environment and natural resources.
- No one may, in exercising her rights, endanger or cause damage to the environment, natural resources, the wealth of natural species, or cultural monuments beyond the extent set by a law.

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Czech Republic and the European Landscape Convention

- Signed on 28. November 2002
- Ratified on 1. October 2004 and published in the Collection of International Treaties of the Czech Republic Nb. 13/2005
- 2000-2004 – Outcomes of the analyses done at the process time of the ratification:
 - Czech Republic generally fulfilled the requirements of the ELC, which are contained in the legislation and strategies at the national level;
 - Recommended to apply the policy through the modification of existing tools when needed or updated.
 - **Implementation of ELC – long term and permanent process, not a single activity**
- 2002 – Governmental Resolution imposed the Ministries of the Environment, Agriculture, Culture, Regional Development and the Ministry of School, Youth and Sports to implement the ELC within their own competencies

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- The current number of ministries is 14;
- There are two types of self-government in the Czech Republic: territorial and professional, both delegated with certain powers.
- Territorial self-government is realised on two levels:
 - Municipalities (obce), which are basic territorial self-governing units (základní územní samosprávné celky); The competence and functioning of municipalities are laid down by Act on Municipalities
 - Regions (kraje), which are so-called higher territorial self-governing units (vyšší územní samosprávné celky). There are 14 regions. The competence and functioning of the regions are set Act on Regions
- The state may intervene in the activities of territorial self-governing units only if such intervention is required for protection of law and only in a manner defined by law.
- Authorities of municipalities and regions may also be entrusted to exercise state administration when so provided by law. Then the authorities of self-governing units act as a kind of decentralised bodies of the government and exercise delegated state administration (not self-administration).

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ELC - „Landscape" means an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors;

- **Ministry of the Environment** – two roles:

- Coordinator of the interministerial cooperation in environmental matters – including sustainable use and management of landscapes (f.e. by defining sectoral strategies, conceptual and methodological documents)
- The administrator of the environmental pillar of sustainable development – soil, water, nature and landscape protection - in the public interest
- Act on Nature and Landscape Protection (1992) *"landscape" shall mean a part of the surface of the Earth with a characteristic relief, formed by a complex of functionally interconnected ecosystems and civilisation elements;*
- Act on Environmental Impact Assesment (2001), Act on Waters (2001), Act on Soil Protection (1992), Aarhus Convention

- **Ministry of Culture**

- cultural heritage values of landscape, intangible cultural heritage / regional heritage
- Act on State Monuments Preservation (1987)

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- **Ministry of Regional Developement**
 - Spatial planning – planning and coordinating the land use in a territory
 - Spatial Planning and Building Act (2006) - *Spatial planning protects and develops the natural, cultural and civilization values of the area as a public priority, including the urban planning, architectural and archaeological heritage. And it protects the landscape as the substantial component of the environment of the inhabitants' life and the basis of their identity.*
 - Regional policy
 - Tourism policy
- **Ministry of Agriculture** – economic use of landscapes – „land management“ – 80% of the territory of CR
 - Forestry – Act on Forests (1995)
 - Water management – Act on Waters (2001)
 - Agriculture – Act on Ecological Agriculture (2000)
 - Land consolidation – Act on Land Consolidation (2002), Act on Adjustings of ownerships to land and other agricultural properties (1991)
- **Ministry of School Youth and Sports**
 - Educational programmes for elementary and high schools

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Strategies – over 130 strategies at national level

- **Strategic Framework for Sustainable Development of the Czech Republic (2010)** - Sustainable strategical goals to protect values, sustainable management and planning, coordinates other sectoral strategies
- **State Policy for the Environment of the Czech Republic (2012)**
- **State Program on Nature and Landscape Protection (2009)**
- **State Cultural Policy (2012)**
- **Policy on Territorial Development of the Czech Republic (2015)**
- **National Policy on Adaptation to Climate Change (2015)**

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Cooperation

Interministerial Consultation Committee – established in 2006 to grant the coordination and consultations on the ELC topics

Government Council for Sustainable Development – established in 2014 as an advisory body to the Government

- 8 Committees – Committee for Landscape, Water and Biodiversity

- state representatives, academics, professionals, NGO

Continuous bilateral/trilateral ... cooperation via working groups and platforms to fulfill specific goals, measures, tasks

- working on legislation, strategies, methodologies

Seminars, Conferences

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Conclusions

- Legislation and strategies at national level create ample scope for coordinating all activities in the landscape
- Existing problems arise more often because of inadequate, incorrect or uncoordinated use of those instruments, which is shown by both positive and negative examples
- The most important implementation of ELC is realised at regional and local levels
- The Key component is the involvement and participation of general public and landowners / land-users
- Linking tools – Local Agenda 21, Local Action Groups, landscape plans using participative methods etc.

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Our actual tasks

- Increase general public awareness of the importance of natural, cultural and historical values of landscapes for man and for the quality of his life by supporting educational and awareness raising programs
- Promote the active role of the public in the planning and decision-making processes related to landscape
- Improve the performance of the state administration and both horisontal and vertical communication

Thank you for your attention

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