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## **EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION**

***CEP-CDCPP***

**8th COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONFERENCE ON**

**THE EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION**

*Conference organised under the auspices of the Belgian Chairmanship of  
the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe*

### **RESULTS OF THE 13<sup>TH</sup> COUNCIL OF EUROPE MEETING OF THE WORKSHOPS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION**

***“Territories of the future, landscape identification and assessment:  
an exercise in democracy”,  
Montenegro, 2-3 October 2013***

Council of Europe  
Palais de l'Europe, Strasbourg  
19-20 March 2015

*Document of the Secretariat General of the Council of Europe  
Directorate of Democratic Governance*

### *Summary*

*The 13th Workshop for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention on “Territories of the future: landscape identification and assessment: an exercise in democracy” was organised by the Council of Europe and the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism of Montenegro within the framework of the working programme of the European Landscape Convention in Cetinje, Montenegro, on 2-3 October 2013.*

*The aim of the Meeting was to promote an integrated approach to spatial / regional planning and good governance through the implementation of the following provisions of the European Landscape Convention:*

*– Articles 5c), which states that each Party undertakes “to establish procedures for the participation of the general public, local and regional authorities, and other parties with an interest in the definition and implementation of the landscape policies”, and*

*– Article 6 C. on “Identification and assessment”, which states:*

*“1. With the active participation of the interested parties, as stipulated in Article 5.c, and with a view to improving knowledge of its landscapes, each Party undertakes:*

*a. i) to identify its own landscapes throughout its territory;*

*ii) to analyse their characteristics and the forces and pressures transforming them;*

*iii) to take note of changes;*

*b. to assess the landscapes thus identified, taking into account the particular values assigned to them by the interested parties and the population concerned.*

*2. These identification and assessment procedures shall be guided by the exchanges of experience and methodology, organised between the Parties at European level pursuant to Article 8”,*

*Three Workshops considered the following themes: ‘Identify, analyse, characterise the landscape: to act, improve the knowledge’; ‘An exercise in democracy: the knowledge, the feeling, the will of populations’; ‘Promoting collective intelligence: to react, exchange experiences, methodologies, technologies and researches’.*

*The Meeting allowed to exchange insights, perspectives, theoretical and practical approaches from the European, national, regional and local levels. Approximately 200 participants from various European and non-European countries participated at the event.*

*The following conclusions of the Meeting were presented by Mrs Maria José FESTAS, Chair of the 7th Council of Europe Conference for the European Landscape Convention and Representative of Portugal to the Committee of Senior Officials of the CEMAT and Mrs Jasminka CVEJIĆ, Professor, University of Belgrade, Faculty of Forestry, Serbia.*

*Link to the Programme and presentations:*

[http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/heritage/Landscape/ReunionAteliers/cetinje\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/heritage/Landscape/ReunionAteliers/cetinje_en.asp)

*The Conference is invited to:*

- warmly thank the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism of Montenegro, for its co-operation with the Council of Europe in the organisation of the event;
- take note of the following Conclusions adopted on this occasion;
- take note of the interventions and presentations made at the Meeting, as they appear on the website of the European Landscape Convention (the proceedings are being published in the Council of Europe’s “*Spatial Planning and Landscape*” Series):

[http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/heritage/landscape/reunionateliers/cetinje\\_EN.asp?](http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/heritage/landscape/reunionateliers/cetinje_EN.asp?)

- decide to follow the process of landscape identification and assessment in the framework of the Information System on the European Landscape Convention – ELC L6.

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**Conclusions of the 13th Council of Europe Meeting of the Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention**  
***“Territories of the future: landscape identification and assessment, an exercise in democracy”***  
**Cetinje, Montenegro, 2-3 October 2013**

The general objective of the 13th Council of Europe Meeting of the Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention was to exchange insights, perspectives, theoretical and practical approaches from the European, national, transnational, regional and local levels in the implementation of the European Landscape Convention, in particular of Articles 5c) (participation) and 6c) (Identification and assessment). It aimed at the same time to promote an integrated approach of territorial development and good governance for the implementation of the Convention.

During two long and intense days more than 60 presentations were made by delegates of member States, by representatives of regional governments and local authorities, by researchers, experts, NGOs and networks dealing with landscape issues.

These presentations, ranging from research results to more concrete or practical examples, dealt with different approaches, different levels of intervention by the administration and civil society and with different scales of work.

At the end of this Meeting, we can draw a list of what can be considered a set of general, common conclusions:

- The unquestionable improvement in knowledge about the landscape as well as a major progress in recognising the importance of landscape at the different administrative levels, since the European Landscape Convention entered into force;
- The richness and variety of experiences presented;

- The cooperation on landscape issues between different professions, experts, researchers and “local knowledge”;
- The different types of co-operation between countries, between countries and regions and between regions;
- There is a need to clarify the terms used (examples: landscape types, landscape units, catalogues, atlas, etc.); to prepare a general glossary on the landscape?
- The diversity of approaches and methodologies that were presented, even if the “landscape character” seems very popular;
- There are differences between “landscape assessment”, “landscape hierarchisation” and “landscape qualification”, but it’s also necessary to better clarify what they mean, what criteria they need and they imply;
- There is a need to more usually combine top-down and bottom-up approaches for better results;
- The participation of the population is needed to guarantee acceptance and implementation of proposals;
- Landscape policy needs the co-operation of sectoral policies and these can benefit from taking into consideration/integrating landscape policy;
- The contribution of civil society cannot be ignored either when designing or implementing a landscape policy;
- How to go from “analysis and assessments” to the “real world” (namely, concrete proposals and implementation)?
- There is a need for dissemination of theoretical studies, research results, expert works and concrete experiences in a way that is understandable by everyday people, in order to facilitate widespread awareness-raising;
- The European Landscape Convention Information System of the Council of Europe is very important to keep and make available the experiences presented.

Last but not least, to finalise:

- “No size fits all – it’s clear that it’s necessary to adapt methodologies, experiences and results to the different scales of intervention, different cultures and even different administrative and legal frameworks;
- Everyone has a right to live in a landscape with quality, even if it is “their own quality”;
- Even if they were tiring, these two days showed the importance of continuing with the Council of Europe Meetings of the Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention.

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