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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*

UPDATE OF THE REPORT

“SELECTED EU FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION”

Council of Europe
Palais de l'Europe, Strasbourg
18-20 March 2015

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

The Conference is invited to note that:

- the revised Report “Selected EU Funding Opportunities to Support the implementation of the European Landscape Convention”, established in 2009, listed below, will be available late 2015.



COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE



EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION
CONVENTION EUROPEENNE DU PAYSAGE

Strasbourg, 20 mars 2009

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EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION

CEP-CDPATEP

5th CONFERENCE OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE ON THE EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION

Council of Europe
Palais de l'Europe, Strasbourg
30-31 March 2009

SELECTED EU FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION IN EU AND NON-EU COUNTRIES

*Document of the Secretariat General
Cultural heritage, landscape and spatial planning Division
Directorate of Culture and Cultural and Natural Heritage*

The Conference is invited to take note of the Document on “*Selected EU funding opportunities to support the implementation of the European Landscape Convention in EU and non-EU Members*” prepared by Mr Burkardt KOLBMULLER, Expert of the Council of Europe. The document was examined by a Council of Europe Select Working Group on the European Landscape Convention, chaired by Mr Jean-François SEGUIN (Reports of the meetings on 28 January and 15 September 2008, in: T-FLOR (2008) 3 and 5).

On this occasion, Mrs Catherine LALUMIERE, Former Secretary General of the Council of Europe, President of the Maison de l’Europe, Paris, made the following statement:

Presentation

The European Landscape Convention is a response to a number of current concerns and has come 'at the right moment'. The term landscape has many different connotations and is therefore difficult to employ. It covers several concepts: urban planning, rural life, the cultural and natural heritage, the economy (agriculture, industry, etc), and social aspects. It is the very diversity of the landscape that makes the word hard to use because it is associated with a large number of sectors. What are the qualities inherent in landscape? It comprises the idea of beauty and harmony. It is neither a scientific notion nor a precisely defined legal concept. The Convention links it to individual and social well-being. By nature, it is a multifaceted and highly subjective concept. If we leave aside any objective criteria, when it comes to the landscape we are almost in the realm of poetry. In sum, the landscape is very important but very hard to define.

The European Landscape Convention draws on a number of international treaties (such as Valletta, Granada and Bern Conventions and treaties adopted under the auspices of the United Nations, especially the Rio and Paris Conventions). It is protean in character, and its weakness lies in its implementation. It is a legal text but the obligations it creates are in fact more recommendations since it does not provide for any controls or penalties. How can its implementation be improved? There might be a temptation to supplement its provisions by means of an EU directive, but I believe a directive in this area would be inappropriate because of the above-mentioned connotations of the term landscape. A directive will not permit the use of an imprecise term. There is a contradiction between the subjectivity inherent in the term and the legal force of a directive.

Implementation entails specific measures that are closer to the situation on the ground than the notion of landscape. In order to safeguard landscapes, there will be a need for precise and highly relevant measures concerning the environment, biodiversity, rural life, etc. These matters are the subject of European Union directives and programmes, so let us use these instruments that already exist at the operational level, ie in the field.

To sum up, in my opinion, a directive would be both inappropriate (due to the subjective nature of the notion of landscape) and superfluous (there are already directives on matters that include the landscape, such as the 1994 'Habitats' Directive).

In principle, therefore, I would not be in favour of choosing the path of a directive. However, at the same time, the implementation of the Convention needs to be improved, because failure to implement it properly will result in disappointment and there will be a temptation to move towards a directive. We must therefore improve its implementation. Public opinion needs to be mobilised at all levels – local, regional, and national – and all sections of the population have to be involved. This is not easy but, at the same time, we have the entire strength of a convention behind us.

On the question of making the Convention better known, the Maison de l'Europe in Paris, of which I am President, could help you to organise seminars, colloquies and debates.

Another concern is to find funds to make people aware of the Convention by means of visibility measures. While an EU directive is inappropriate, it is possible to draw on a number of programmes. Although the European Union's 'culture' budget is limited (400 million euros for the period 2007-2013), part of it can be mobilised to fund measures for the protection of the natural and cultural heritage.

The major EU programmes are the so-called cohesion programmes (ERDF, ESF): 347 billion euros are being invested to develop the economy. These programmes can finance measures to promote the environment and the landscape. The same applies to the EAFRD, which accounts for 78 billion euros, and Life+, which is devoted to nature and biodiversity and accounts for two billion euros.

How can these funds be accessed? The procedures are complex, and bodies have been set up to facilitate access to them. For example, the function of Relais Culture Europe is to help promoters of cultural projects, including the natural heritage. In this connection, Mr Kolbmüller's report provides some interesting information.

In conclusion, I think it is essential for the European Landscape Convention to improve its 'visibility'. In order to do so, it is necessary both to raise the players' awareness at all levels and to make it clear that it is being implemented and is producing beneficial effects. If this improvement does not take place, the European Union is likely to propose a directive as an alternative.

Mrs Catherine LALUMIERE, Former Secretary General of the Council of Europe, President of the Maison de l'Europe

Présentation

La Convention européenne du paysage correspond à des préoccupations actuelles et qu'il s'agit d'un texte venant 'au bon moment'. La notion de paysage est très riche et, de ce fait, difficile à utiliser. Le paysage englobe en fait plusieurs notions : urbanisme, ruralité, patrimoine culturel et naturel, économie (agriculture, industrie...), social. C'est la richesse même du paysage qui le rend difficile à utiliser car il est en relation avec quantité de secteurs. Quelles sont les qualités propres du paysage ? Le paysage comporte l'idée d'harmonie, de beauté. Ce n'est ni une notion scientifique, ni une notion juridique et précise. La Convention le rattache au bien-être individuel et social. Par nature le paysage est une notion polyvalente, multiforme et porte une très forte subjectivité. Au-delà des critères objectifs, avec le paysage, on est presque dans la poésie. Le paysage, en résumé, est très important mais très difficile à définir.

La Convention européenne du paysage s'appuie sur de nombreux textes internationaux (les Conventions de La Valette, Grenade, Berne ..., les textes adoptés sous l'égide des Nations Unies : Conventions de Rio et de Paris, notamment). La Convention européenne du paysage est protéiforme. Son point faible est la question de la mise en œuvre. La convention est un texte juridique, mais les obligations qu'elle crée sont plutôt des recommandations. En effet, la Convention européenne du paysage ne prévoit pas de contrôle ni de sanctions. Comment améliorer la mise en œuvre de cette Convention ? On pourrait être tenté de compléter la convention par une directive de l'Union européenne.

Une directive dans ce domaine me semblerait toutefois inadaptée. Elle serait inadaptée en raison des caractères propres de la notion de paysage, qui ont été évoqués plus haut. Une directive ne s'accommode guère d'une notion floue. Il y a, de fait, une contradiction entre la subjectivité inhérente à la notion de paysage et la force juridique d'une directive.

La mise en œuvre passe par des mesures précises et concrètes qui sont plus proches du terrain que la notion de paysage. Pour respecter les paysages, on aura besoin de mesures précises sur l'environnement, la biodiversité, la vie rurale... au plus près du terrain. Ces thèmes sont objets de directives et de programmes de l'Union européenne. Utilisons ces outils qui existent au niveau opérationnel, au niveau du terrain.

Pour résumer : à mon sens, une directive serait à la fois inadaptée (en raison de la subjectivité de la notion de paysages) et superflue (il existe déjà des directives sur des thématiques qui intègrent le paysage, telle la Directive « Habitats » de 1994).

On l'aura compris, je ne serais a priori pas enthousiaste pour aller vers une directive. Mais, dans le même temps, il faut améliorer la mise en œuvre de la Convention européenne du paysage. Si la Convention n'est pas suffisamment mise en œuvre, elle va décevoir et on sera tenté d'aller vers une directive. Il nous faut donc améliorer sa mise en œuvre. Il faut mobiliser l'opinion publique à tous les niveaux, local, régional, national et impliquer toutes les catégories de la population. Ce n'est pas facile, mais c'est, dans le même temps, toute la force d'une Convention.

Sur la question du 'faire connaître', la Maison de l'Europe de Paris, que je préside, pourrait vous aider pour l'organisation de séminaires, colloques, débats...

Une autre préoccupation est de trouver des financements pour rendre la Convention européenne du paysage concrète par des actions visibles. Si une directive de l'Union européenne est inopportune, par contre il est possible d'émarger à quelques programmes. Certes, le budget 'culture' de l'Union européenne est très restreint (400 millions d'euros sur la période 2007-2013) mais il peut être mobilisé en partie pour financer des actions de protection du patrimoine naturel et culturel.

Les 'gros' programmes de l'UE sont les programmes dits de cohésion (FEDER, FSE) : 347 milliards d'euros sont investis pour développer l'économie. Ces programmes peuvent financer des actions sur l'environnement et le paysage. Il en est de même du FEADER, dédié aux zones rurales, qui représente 78 milliards d'euros, et Life+, dédié à la nature et à la biodiversité, qui représente 2 milliards d'euros.

Comment accéder à ces fonds ? Les procédures sont complexes. Des structures ont été mises en place pour faciliter les accès aux fonds. Par exemple, les Relais Culture Europe ont pour fonction d'aider les porteurs de projets culturels, y compris le patrimoine naturel. Dans cette ligne, le rapport de M. Kolbmüller donne de très intéressantes informations.

Pour conclure, il me semble très nécessaire que la Convention européenne du paysage améliore sa 'visibilité'. Pour ce faire, il convient à la fois de sensibiliser les acteurs à tous les niveaux et de démontrer concrètement qu'elle est mise en œuvre et produit des effets bénéfiques. Si cette amélioration ne se réalise pas, l'Union européenne aura tendance à proposer, en alternative, une directive.

Mme Catherine LALUMIERE, Ancienne Secrétaire générale du Conseil de l'Europe, Présidente de la Maison de l'Europe

Preface

The European Landscape Convention, which was opened for signature in Florence in October 2000, has now been ratified by 30 Council of Europe member states and has been signed by six states. The Florence Convention was drafted in line with the spirit of the Statutes of the Council of Europe, viz the rule of law and the principle that everyone must enjoy human rights and the fundamental freedoms.

This Convention is not a Directive but an agreement among the States Parties to implement appropriate policies to protect, manage and develop landscapes. It is based on the voluntary support of all social stakeholders and focuses on consultation as the means of attaining its goals. It also sets out recommendations on education, public awareness, exchanges of experience, etc.

The philosophy of the European Landscape Convention is not prescriptive. It is above all participative, drawing on the hypothesis that populations who wish to live in an environment suited to their aspirations can help develop projects to protect, manage and develop their local landscapes, including both everyday scenery and landscapes which are deemed exceptional.

The quality of the landscapes covered by such activities is determined not by any criteria pre-established by experts, but by means of dialogue with the populations concerned, prior to any public authority action. The European Landscape Convention defines landscape quality objectives to be formulated following discussion among the elected representatives, professional and scientific experts and the population concerned. This overall process, from the stage of identifying and qualifying the landscapes to that of protecting, managing and developing them, is designed as a community negotiation mechanism in which each participant has his/her rightful place.

In this context, the EU programmes can provide useful tools for social stakeholders concerned with the landscape, helping them initiate schemes aimed at protection, management and development, exchanges of experience, education or training...

Jean-François SEGUIN, Chair of the Conference of the Council of Europe on the European Landscape Convention

Yves LUGINBHÜL, Expert of the Council of Europe

Préface

La Convention européenne du paysage, ouverte à la signature en octobre 2000 à Florence, est actuellement ratifiée par 30 Etats membres du Conseil de l'Europe et signée par 6 Etats. Cette convention de Florence a été rédigée dans le droit fil des statuts du Conseil de l'Europe, c'est-à-dire dans la prééminence du droit et le principe en vertu duquel toute personne doit jouir des droits de l'homme et des libertés fondamentales.

Cette convention n'est pas une directive, mais un accord entre les Etats parties pour mettre en œuvre des politiques appropriées pour la protection, la gestion et l'aménagement, des paysages. Elle est fondée sur l'adhésion volontaire de tous les acteurs de la société et met en avant la concertation pour parvenir à ces objectifs. Elle comprend en outre des recommandations concernant l'enseignement, la sensibilisation des populations, les échanges d'expériences...

La philosophie de la Convention européenne du paysage n'est pas normative. Elle est avant tout participative et s'appuie sur l'hypothèse que les populations, désireuses de vivre dans un cadre conforme à leurs aspirations, participent à l'élaboration de projets de protection, de gestion et d'aménagement de leurs paysages, qu'ils soient du quotidien ou considérés comme remarquables.

La qualité des paysages concernés par ces actions ne relève pas de critères préétablis édictés par des experts. Elle est déterminée par une dialogue avec les populations avant toute action engagée par les autorités publiques. La Convention européenne du paysage définit des objectifs de qualité paysagère qui doivent être formulés à l'issue d'un débat entre les élus, les experts, professionnels et scientifiques, et les populations. C'est l'ensemble du processus qui s'engage depuis l'identification et la qualification des paysages jusqu'aux actions de protection, de gestion et d'aménagement qui est conçu comme un dispositif de négociation sociale où chacun doit tenir sa place.

Dans ce contexte, les programmes de l'Union européenne constituent des outils utiles aux acteurs des paysages, que ce soit pour engager des actions de protection, de gestion et d'aménagement ou des échanges d'expériences, d'enseignement, de formation...

Jean-François SEGUIN, Président de la Conférence du Conseil de l'Europe sur la Convention européenne du paysage

Yves LUGINBHÜL, Expert du Conseil de l'Europe

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Introduction

The European Union offers a lot of different funding instruments in all policy sectors. Most of them apply to EU member states, but many grants may include applicants from non-EU countries as well. Some funding opportunities are more or less directly related to landscape issues: For instance, the protection and development of landscapes is explicitly mentioned in the INTERREG programmes (European Structural Funds) and in the Common Agriculture Policy CAP. Other programmes focus on heritage protection (CULTURE) and nature protection (LIFE+) what may include (culture) landscape projects as well. Furthermore, activities like research (FP7 programme), education (Life Long Learning) and youth exchange (Youth in Action) also may be directed to landscape topics even though landscape is not the main focus of these programmes.

However, the huge amount of funding opportunities and their diversity is difficult to handle and above all confuses “newcomers” who are not yet familiar with EU grants. Of course, all information is available via Internet, starting with the European Commissions portal http://ec.europa.eu/grants/index_en.htm.

Furthermore, a series of national institutions (like Culture Contact Points or National Agencies for the implementation of the Youth and the Life Long Learning programme) support potential applicants and offer additional information.

Nevertheless, it remains challenging to identify suitable grants and funding opportunities. The present guide includes some of the most interesting EU programmes for projects and activities in the field of landscape protection and development. It shortly summarizes the main aims and principles of the programme, explains possible links to landscape issues and prevents practical basic information (What kind of activities may be funded? Who can apply? Financial aspects and application procedures). To safeguard a fast overview and easy handling, we have tried to confine to the most relevant information. Due to the complexity of nearly all EU funding programmes, this reduction of course may not satisfy all needs immediately. Experienced applicants will miss supporting or even important details. That’s why we have listed contact dates and sources of detailed information at the end of each programme presentation. Furthermore, examples of funded projects may give a clearer impression how the respective programme works and if it suites to your needs.

At the end we have added some information about foundations supporting landscape projects. This list makes no claim to be complete and may be continued in the future.

By this guide we hope to motivate institutions, NGOs and everybody else interested in landscape issues, both from EU and non-EU countries, to look at European Union funding opportunities - in the interest of our common European landscape. In case you discover missing or imprecise information, we would be grateful to get a short note.

Burkhardt KOLBMÜLLER (SALVE.consult)

1. EU funding opportunities for non-EU countries

It is obvious that European Union funding opportunities are primarily designed for institutions and/or individuals from EU countries. However, in many cases also partners from non-EU countries may participate in EU funded projects. Moreover, the European Union offers special programmes that explicitly target at applicants and partners outside the EU. These funding programmes are mostly dedicated to special regions (like Eastern Europe or the Mediterranean region) or special groups of countries (like the EEA countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway or the candidate countries Turkey, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. They are described in detail in chapter 10.

Concerning the participation of partners from non-EU countries in European Union funded projects there are different kinds and different levels of involvement depending on the respective programmes and activities. With regard to the programmes described below the following cases are possible:

- The funding programme allows the full participation of partners from non-EU countries, including the use of EU funds. In some cases, the programme requires special negotiations or additional guarantees. Mostly the participation is restricted to special regions or special kinds of countries. Generally, partners from non-EU countries may not act as a lead partner of a project. However, with regard to practical activities there are no or only slight differences between partners from the European Union and from non-EU countries. This holds true e.g. for the programmes INTERREG IVB and INTERREG IVC, LIFE+, FP7, CULTURE and Youth in Action.
- Partners from non-EU countries may participate in an EU project as “non-financing partners”, e.g. by signing “letters of intent” or special declarations. They do not receive own EU funds, but may participate in all project activities, e.g. seminars, workshops and conferences. In many cases it is possible to finance at least the travel and accommodation costs of participants from countries outside the EU. This kind of partnership is offered e.g. by the programmes INTERREG IVB and INTERREG IVC, LIFE+, FP7 and CULTURE.
- Partners from non-EU countries may participate in an EU project as “observers” or associated partners. In this case, normally no contract or letter of intent is required. The programmes LIFE+ and FP7 may serve as examples for this level of involvement.

Even if institutions, NGOs and individuals from non-EU countries may not directly receive EU funds, the participation in common projects is worthwhile in any case: Mostly the partners from non-EU countries may directly benefit from the project results (e.g. studies, methods, know-how). Furthermore, the participation in conferences, seminars and workshops will broaden the knowledge and encourage new activities in the own country. Finally, the co-operation with EU partners will intensify the contacts and strengthen the trans-national networks. Thus, the participation in EU projects definitely makes sense also without direct financial effects.

2. Regional implementation of the EU Structural Funds

The EU Structural Funds are the most powerful instrument for the sustainable development of European regions. During the funding period 2007 – 2013 more than 347 billion EUR (around 35,7 per cent of the total EU budget) will be spent for “more growth and jobs for all regions and cities of the European Union”. With regard to landscape, the most important parts of the Structural Funds are the following:

- European Regional Development Fund ERDF
- European Social Fund ESF

Many of the activities co-financed by these funds will have more or less direct impact on landscapes. Since they mainly support less favoured regions of the European Union, they will help to maintain landscapes and to safeguard satisfactory living conditions of the inhabitants – one important precondition to avoid migration and negative demographic impacts. Furthermore, also activities directly linked to landscape issues (like rehabilitation of brownfields or protection of habitats) will be supported. On the other hand, in some cases (like construction of new roads or new commercial areas) they also may have negative impacts on landscape. Thus, not only the opportunity to receive grants but also to become actively involved in development processes on regional level should encourage landscape activists to get familiar with the EU Structural Funds.

Unfortunately, the subject is highly complicated and very complex. Especially for newcomers it will be difficult to understand the overall background and the own options for action. Due to this complexity, we may only provide a short and summarizing overview and mainly focus on practical aspects of application for grants. For more details see http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/funds/cf/index_en.htm or contact national and regional administrations in charge with implementing the EU structural funds (mostly ministries of economy and/or ministries of employment/social affairs). For contact details and special regulations on national or regional level please see http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/atlas2007/index_en.htm.

To get familiar with the practical handling of these funds it is necessary to understand that they are not centralized EU programmes. Unlike other funding opportunities presented below, the main parts of the Structural Funds are directly managed by the member states and/or regions, based on so called “Operational Programmes” (bilateral contracts between the EU Commission and the member states and regions). Consequently, funding opportunities based on these Operational Programmes are different in each country/region and may not be presented here. However, we encourage all stakeholders, institutions and organisations to inform themselves about regional and national funding opportunities based on the Operational Programmes – the European Commission explicitly requires the involvement of different stakeholders to the planning and management of the Operational Programmes.

Even though there are no centralized regulations for application and management procedures of projects co-financed by ERDF and ESF, some universally valid rules may be stated:

➤ **What kind of activities may be funded?**

Regional projects according to the national and regional Operational Programmes and aiming at economic growth and the creation of employment may be funded.

➤ **Who can apply?**

Institutions, organisations, communities and public bodies, NGOs and SMEs located in the respective region may apply.

➤ **How many partners are required?**

ERDF and ESF projects based on the Operational Programmes are carried out on regional/national level and do not require foreign partners. However, most of the regional regulations also support

trans-national approaches.

➤ **Financial aspects**

Project budgets depend on the regional regulations, based on national/regional Operational Programmes. The co-financing rate mostly ranges from 50 to 75 per cent, in some cases even higher.

➤ **Application procedure**

Due to the implementation on regional level, the application procedures are relatively easy and may be carried out in national language. However, deadlines, application forms and other details are different for each region and have to be requested at the regional and national authorities.

Contacts and further information:

For the regional and national implementation of the EU Structural Funds please see http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/atlas2007/index_en.htm.

For ESF details and contacts to the national bodies in charge with the implementation of the ESF please see http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/esf/index_en.htm#mem.

For ESF project examples, please see http://europa.esn.be/employment_social/esfdb/front/result.cfm

3. European Territorial Cooperation (INTERREG IV)

In the following, we will focus on the ERDF Objective 3 “European Territorial Cooperation” that contains about 2,5 per cent of the EU Structural Funds (8,7 billion EUR) and is explicitly dedicated to trans-national co-operations. This objective replaces the former programme INTERREG III and is separated into three parts:

- Cross-border Cooperation (INTERREG IVA)
- Trans-national Cooperation (INTERREG IVB)
- International Cooperation/Networks (INTERREG IVC)

3.1 Cross-border Cooperation (INTERREG IVA)

The programme INTERREG IVA is relatively easy to handle and focuses on joint activities and projects along land and sea borders up to 150 km distance. It replaces the former INTERREG IIIA programme. Although some rules will be “updated”, the basic procedures and responsibilities remain similar. This objective aims at common actions of partners in rather narrow areas along borders to other EU member states or (limited) to neighbouring countries, more or less on a county level.

Details of the implementation of cross-border cooperation projects are fixed by regional Operational Programmes (to be approved by the European Commission) and are therefore different in each participating region. However, the basic procedures are similar: The programme is managed by regional Technical Secretariats. Two or more partners from both countries (from both sides of the border) commonly plan and apply for a cross-border project. After confirmation by the Technical Secretariat the project is implemented, using the so-called Lead Partner principle. Landscape related issues like common environmental measures, renaturation of rivers, cross-border tourist paths etc. are typical examples for INTERREG IVA projects.

➤ What kind of activities may be funded?

Projects and activities of social and economic development with a cross-border dimension in neighbouring regions may be funded. Depending on the content of the regional Operational Programmes, environment and heritage protection, traffic, tourism, rural and urban development may be topics of common projects.

➤ Who can apply?

Institutions, organisations, NGOs, communities and regional bodies (like county administrations) located within an area near to the national borders. The eligible area is predefined by the European Commission (for more details, see http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/index_en.htm).

➤ How many partners are required?

Normally, a minimum of 2 partners from 2 different countries of the same border region is necessary.

➤ **Financial aspects**

Depending on the regional Operational Programmes, grants and supports may range from several thousand EUR up to several million EUR. The co-financing rates mostly vary from 50 up to 75 per cent.

➤ **Application procedure**

Two or more partners from both countries (from both sides of the border) commonly plan and apply for a cross-border project. After confirmation by the Technical Secretariat the project will be implemented, using the so-called Lead Partner principle. Application deadlines, application forms and other details are different for each region and have to be requested at the regional Technical Secretariats.

Contacts and further information:

Further information will be provided by regional Technical Secretariats. For contact details and addresses please contact your political authorities (national or regional ministries of economy or similar bodies). For eligible areas see

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/official/decisions_en.htm.

3.2 Trans-national Cooperation (INTERREG IVB)

INTERREG IVB is a powerful and a well-funded programme, but very complex to handle. Different from INTERREG IVA, it provides support to trans-national projects within pre-defined geographic cooperation areas like the North Sea Region, Baltic Sea Region, Alpine Space, South West Europe and others (partners for common projects have to come mainly from the same cooperation area). For more details see

http://www.ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/images/map/cooperat2007/transnational/transnat_mosaic.pdf

All co-operation areas have elaborated specific Operational Programmes for the period 2007 – 2013. Furthermore, they have installed Joint Technical Secretariats, Managing and Paying Authorities for the financial and legal management and Steering Committees as decision making bodies (who will finally decide on the approval or rejection of applications). Although (again) rules and procedures are different in the different co-operation areas, landscape-related projects generally may be funded. Most of the programmes even explicitly focus on the protection and management of landscapes.

➤ **What kind of activities may be funded?**

Projects and activities of social and economic development with a trans-national or trans-regional dimension may be funded. Depending on the content of the programme documents of the respective areas, environment, heritage and landscape protection, rural and urban development and similar issues may be topics of common projects.

➤ **Who can apply?**

Institutions, organisations, communities, public or public-equivalent bodies located within the pre-defined cooperation area may apply. In some cases, also private bodies are eligible for funding.

➤ **How many partners are required?**

A minimum of 3 partners from 3 different countries of the same co-operation area is necessary.

➤ **Financial aspects**

Financial aspects differ with different cooperation areas. Project budgets typically range between 500.000 and 5 million EUR. The co-financing rates differ between 50 and 85 per cent. Projects may last up to 3 years.

➤ **Application procedure**

Each co-operation area launches one or two calls for proposals per year. The Lead Partner of a project sends the application form to the Joint Technical Secretariat. After approval by the Steering Committee and signature of the Subsidy Contract, the project may be commonly implemented.

Contacts and further information:

Further information (e.g. application procedures, deadlines, implementation rules) will be provided by the Joint Technical Secretaries of the respective programme areas. For contacts and addresses see the following websites:

Baltic Sea Region: <http://eu.baltic.net/>

North Sea Region: <http://www.interregnorthsea.org/>

Northern Periphery: <http://www.northernperiphery.net/2007/>

Alpine Space: <http://www.alpine-space.eu/>

Central European Space: <http://www.central2013.eu/>

Atlantic Area: <http://www.interreg-atlantique.org/eng/>

South West Europe: <http://www.interreg-sudoe.org/francais/index.asp>

3.3 International Cooperation/Networks (INTERREG IVC)

The INTERREG IVC programme provides funding for all regions of Europe plus Switzerland and Norway (regional and local public authorities) to exchange and transfer knowledge and good practice. The main intention is to help European regions to share experience and to establish sustainable inter-regional networks. Two main priorities are targeted: “Innovation and Knowledge economy” and “Environment and Risk prevention”. Especially the second priority also meets landscape issues.

➤ **What kind of activities may be funded?**

Projects and networks with a European dimension, aiming to establish sustainable inter-regional networks.

➤ **Who can apply?**

Institutions, organisations, communities and public bodies from all EU Member States plus Switzerland and Norway may apply.

➤ **How many partners are required?**

A minimum of 3 partners from 3 different countries is necessary.

➤ **Financial aspects**

Project budgets mostly range between 300.000 and 5 million EUR. The co-financing rate is 75 to 85 per cent.

➤ **Application procedure**

The INTERREG IVC Joint Technical Secretariat JTS launches one call for proposals per year. The Lead Partner of a project sends the application form to the JTS. After approval by the Monitoring Committee and signature of the Subsidy Contract, the project may be commonly implemented.

Contacts and further information:

The INTERREG IVC programme has one Joint Technical Secretariat for the whole of Europe, based in Lille (FR).

24 Boulevard Carnot
59000 Lille
FRANCE
Phone +33 328 38 11 11
Fax +33 328 38 11 15
Email info@interreg4c.net
<http://www.interreg4c.net/>

3.4 INTERREG project examples

- **Maintenance of Typical Rural Architecture in the Border Region Germany-Poland-Czech Republic (INTERREG IIIA)**

Beneficiary/Lead Partner: District Office Löbau-Zittau (Germany)

Duration: 15.01.2006 - 31.12.2007

Budget: 227.700 EUR, EU grant 155.700 EUR

More information: www.lra-loebau-zittau.de

In cooperation with the Monument Administrations, the project records the 20 most valuable objects of typical rural architecture in the region and documents their damages. A concept for provisional saving of the buildings is developed and implemented for at least 4 objects. The houses are recorded in a register of so-called “Umgebände”-houses and marketed for new uses.

- **CULTURAL LANDSCAPE – Protecting Historical Cultural Landscapes to strengthen Regional Identities and Local Economies (INTERREG IIIB CADSES)**

Beneficiary/Lead Partner: Agricultural University of Krakow (Poland), together with 10 further partners from Poland, Germany, Austria, Romania and Ukraine

Duration: April 2006 – May 2008

Budget: 1.354.230 EUR, EU grant 709.567 EUR

More information: www.cadses.ar.krakow.pl

The project aims at protecting and managing landscapes as a cornerstone of the Central European identity and as a source of sustainable regional development. Based on a cross-sector approach covering nature protection, heritage preservation and rural development the project develops best-practice examples for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention.

- **AlpNaTour - Integration of recreation and tourism concerns in Natura 2000 management planning processes to support sustainability in the alpine area (INTERREG IIIB Alpine Space)**

Beneficiary/Lead Partner: University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences/AT, together with 4 further partners from Austria, Slovenia and Italy

Duration: January 2005 – December 2006

Budget: 914.124 EUR, EU grant 484.570 EUR

More information: www.alpnatour.info

The project developed a management framework specific for sites with intensive tourism use. It was developed and tested in several sites, and relied on comparative and standardised visitor monitoring methods and appropriate forms of public participation that take the unique situations of tourist businesses into consideration. The project also initiated a network of Natura 2000 sites and tourism destinations to share experiences and management options.

- **Maintenance BaltCoast - Integrated Coastal Zone Development in the Baltic Sea (INTERREG IIIB Baltic Sea Region)**

Beneficiary/Lead Partner: Ministry for Labour, Building and Regional Development of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, DE

Duration: July 2002 - September 2005

Budget: 2,9 million EUR

More information: <http://eu.baltic.net/>

The BaltCoast project addressed the issue of integrated coastal zone development by promoting economic development, urban expansion and nature protection simultaneously. BaltCoast developed clear recommendations for the spatial planning in off-shore areas and its integration with land-use planning procedures. The plans for coastal waters were prepared around Greifswalder Bodden, Wismar Bay and Kalmar County.

- **ACCESS - Improving accessibility of services of general interest – organisational innovations in rural mountain areas (INTERREG IVB Alpine Space)**

Beneficiary/Lead Partner: Swiss Center for Mountain Regions

Duration: September 2008 – August 2011

Budget: 2,5 million EUR

More information: <http://www.alpine-space.eu/the-projects/running-projects/>

The maintenance of a spatially and socially equal accessibility to services of general interest (SGI) is a core issue to the functionality of mountain areas. However, the ongoing territorial concentration of SGI leads to a vicious circle of further deterioration in the quality of provision which in turn causes a decreasing demand in the existing services. The *ACCESS* project therefore aims at improving the accessibility to SGI in sparsely populated mountain areas mainly by finding new forms of organisation of SGI, using Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) and fostering demand oriented, integrated mobility systems. To achieve these ambitious goals, *ACCESS* builds on a trans-national approach and on participatory methodologies to assess the specific demands of stakeholders on different levels.

4. Common Agriculture Policy - Rural Development

The Common Agriculture Policy CAP is the largest field of financial intervention of the European Union (nearly 50 per cent of the overall budget). Most of the funding concerns direct payments to farmers or policy fields like agricultural markets and food quality policy. Furthermore, CAP also contains the policy field Rural Development, aiming at improving the environment and countryside as well as the quality of life and diversification of the rural economy. For details please see http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/rurdev/index_en.htm.

The EU Rural Development Policy is focused on four so-called "thematic axes". These are:

- Axis 1: improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector;
- Axis 2: improving the environment and the countryside;
- Axis 3: improving the quality of life in rural areas and encouraging diversification of the rural economy;
- Axis 4: providing possibilities for locally based bottom-up approaches ("Leader axis").

To ensure a balanced approach to policy, Member States and regions are obliged to spread their rural development funding between all of these thematic axes. A further requirement is that some of the funding must support projects based on experience with the Leader Community Initiatives. The "Leader approach" to rural development involves highly individual projects designed and executed by local partnerships to address specific local problems (see http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/rur/leaderplus/index_en.htm).

Doubtless the Common Agriculture Policy CAP in general has a strong impact on landscape development, however not only in a positive way. For this reason, people and initiatives from EU countries interested in landscape issues should try to get included in the CAP implementation of their region or at least to get informed about the measures planned and managed by the regional authorities. It is important to know that the European Commission explicitly requires the involvement of different stakeholders to the planning and management of the CAP.

Apart from these overall remarks, Rural Development Policy offers different funding instruments as well. Similar like with the EU Structural Funds, every Member State or region must set out an own Rural Development Programme which specifies what funding will be spent on which measures. Thus, it is difficult to introduce common regulations how to apply for grants. Rural Development is a decentralized field of intervention, regulated by 94 national or regional programmes. As described with the Structural Funds, detailed information may only be provided by regional or national bodies like ministries of agriculture.

European Rural Development supports projects on a regional and/or national level. Application and implementation procedures are regulated by national and regional Rural Development Programmes, no international partners are required. Even though there are no centralized regulations, some universally valid rules may be stated:

➤ **What kind of activities may be funded?**

In principle, all activities aiming to support and to strengthen the development of rural areas may be granted. Issues like regional and landscape management, marketing of local/regional products, protection and development of rural heritage, renovation of villages and environmental protection are typical areas of intervention.

➤ **Who can apply?**

Depending on the national/regional Rural Development Programmes, institutions, organisations, NGOs, private companies, public authorities, communities and other stakeholders may apply.

➤ **How many partners are required?**

No international partners are necessary.

➤ **Financial aspects**

There are no fixed budget limitations. Co-financing rates vary (depending on region and priority) mostly between 50 and 80 per cent.

➤ **Application procedure**

The participating countries appoint national and/or regional management, paying and controlling bodies. Applications have to be sent to and approved by these bodies, following the procedures laid down in the national Rural Development Programmes.

Contacts and further information:

For the regional and national implementation of the Rural Development Policy please contact the national or regional authorities (ministries of agriculture) of the respective region. Contact details are available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/use/index_en.htm.

5. LEADER+

During recent funding periods, LEADER+ was one of the most powerful instruments of locally based bottom-up approaches for rural development. The LEADER+ programme (LEADER is the abbreviation of the French expression “Liaisons entre Actions de Développement Economique Rurale”) includes many possibilities for landscape-related activities. Encouraging the implementation of integrated, high-quality and original strategies for sustainable development, it has a strong focus on partnership and networks of exchange of experience.

Although LEADER+ applies for all EU Member States, application and implementation of activities are de-centralized: So-called Local or Regional Action Groups (LAG/RAG) manage the available funds in pre-defined areas (more or less on a county level) and decide autonomously about project applications of regional stakeholders. For general information please see http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/rur/leaderplus/index_en.htm.

➤ **What kind of activities may be funded?**

All activities aiming to support and to strengthen the development of rural areas may be granted. The LEADER+ best practice database may give an impression about possible activities (see below). Projects may last some months up to several years.

➤ **Who can apply?**

Depending on the national/regional regulations, institutions, organisations, NGOs, private companies, public authorities, communities and other stakeholders located in the respective area may apply.

➤ **How many partners are required?**

No international partners are necessary. However, LEADER+ also offers the opportunity to implement trans-national projects and activities (like mutual visits of best practice examples).

➤ **Financial aspects**

LEADER projects mostly have a rather small budget of some thousand to some hundred thousand EUR. Co-financing rates vary (depending on region and country) mostly between 40 and 80 per cent.

➤ **Application procedure**

The Local Action Groups LAG decide relatively autonomously about deadlines, application procedures, focal points etc. (of course in accordance with the overall LEADER+ regulations and normally in close co-operation with regional agriculture administrations). The LAG of the respective region will decide about applications several times per year. In any case, applicants are advised to contact their LAG before elaborating an application.

LEADER+ project examples

A centralized EU database informs about LEADER+ projects, please see <http://intranet.leaderplus.org/cpdb/public/gpdb/GpdbSearchFS.aspx?language=en>.

- **Connecting People and Countries with our Peatland Heritage**

Beneficiary: Scottish Natural Heritage (Scotland), additional partners in Finland, France and Ireland

Duration: January 2005 – October 2007

Budget: 494.000 EUR, EU grant 203.000 EUR

More information: www.snh.org.uk/PeatforPeople/homepage.asp

The trans-national project investigates fresh approaches of making links between people and peatlands in different parts of the EU. The aim of this is to enable site managers to deliver best practice in every aspect of managing visitors to peatbogs.

- **RURAL LANDSCAPE COMPETITION**

Beneficiary: Tipperary LEADER Group (Ireland)

Duration: 04/2000 - 12/2006

Budget: 70.000 EUR, EU grant 31.500 EUR

More information: www.iol.ie/~tippleader/tippleader/index.htm

The project aims to encourage residents to become more aware of their local environment. Local community groups are encouraged to enter the competition with applications aiming to preserve and maintain natural environment.

Contacts and further information:

The implementation of LEADER+ is supported by the LEADER Contact Point:

Rue du Marteau 81

B-1000 Brussels

Phone +32 2 235 2020, Fax +32 2 280 0438

Email Contact.point@leaderplus.org

http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/rur/leaderplus/whoswho/leaderpcp_en.htm

For contact details of the Local Action Groups please see

http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/rur/leaderplus/whoswho/lags/index_en.htm.

Actual information and project examples are published in the LEADER+ Magazine that is issued three times a year and can be ordered or downloaded free of charge from the LEADER+ website

http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/rur/leaderplus/index_en.htm.

Further information will be provided by regional bodies in all EU Member States.

http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/rur/leaderplus/whoswho/nnu_en.htm.

6. LIFE+

With a budget of 2.143 billion EUR for the period 2007-2013, LIFE+ is a funding instrument providing specific support for the development and implementation of EU environmental policy and legislation. It comprises three components:

- Nature & Biodiversity
- Environment Policy & Governance
- Information & Communication

Insofar as environmental and nature aspects are affected, LIFE+ may be a suitable instrument for landscape protection projects as well. More details can be found at the LIFE+ website <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/index.htm>.

➤ **What kind of activities may be funded?**

Projects and activities that meet one of the three above mentioned focal components. However, the European Commission will define special topics for each call of proposals.

➤ **Who can apply?**

All legal bodies (public or private) including NGOs that are legally established in the European Union may participate. The future participation of third countries is possible.

➤ **How many partners are required?**

Project proposals can be submitted either by a single beneficiary (no additional partner required) or by a partnership including a co-ordinating beneficiary (Lead Partner) and one or more associated partners. The European Commission advises to keep the number of partners to a necessary minimum.

➤ **Financial aspects**

There are no fixed minimum and maximum sizes for LIFE+ projects. The average grant in recent funding periods has been around 1 million EUR. The co-financing rate is 50 per cent.

➤ **Application procedure**

The European Commission will organise annual calls for proposals and, with the help of external experts, will select, revise and monitor the projects and be responsible for making the appropriate payments. Applications have to be sent to the respective national authority (mostly ministries of environment). Member States will forward the project proposals to the Commission, may set national priorities and may prepare comments on proposals, in particular in relation to national annual priorities.

LIFE project examples

LIFE projects of recent funding periods are presented at <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/bestprojects/index.htm>.

○ Zantecoast

Beneficiary: Management Agency of Marine Park Zakynthos Ktirio (Greece)

Duration: June 2001 to November 2004

Budget: 1.437.693 EUR, EU grant 638.336 EUR

More information: www.nmp-zak.org

The project aims to protect the environment within the National Marine Park of Zakynthos through on-site actions, and ensures minimal disturbance of the marine park's species and habitats. This would involve the elaboration and implementation of an annual integrated awareness-raising plan.

○ EcoMonte

Beneficiary: Regional Planning Association Grosses Walsertal (Austria)

Duration: October 2001 – December 2004

Budget: 1.065.180 EUR, EU grant 504.205 EUR

More information: <http://www.grosseswalsertal.at/emsp/Projekte/tabid/201/Default.aspx>

The project developed an integrated environmental management system based on the EMAS Regulation for the public sector. Other project activities were the use of renewable regional resources a

nd development of a sustainable tourism structure, implementation and marketing of the Biosphere Reserve as a tourism label and implementation of trainings and workshops for experts and the local population.

Contacts and further information:

LIFE+ is managed by the LIFE Unit of the Environment DG of the European Commission:

Environment Directorate-General
LIFE Unit DG ENV.E.4 BU-9 02/1
European Commission
B-1049 Brussels

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/contact/lifeunit.htm>

Furthermore, national Contact Points have been established for each country. For contact details see <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/contact/nationalcontact/index.htm>.

7. Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (FP7)

All over Europe, landscape is a topic for scientific and research activities. Hundreds of universities and academic institutions are involved in landscape-related issues. Therefore, the FP7 programme may be an interesting instrument for trans-national projects and co-operations as well as for the exchange of researchers and know-how.

The 7th Framework Programme is the European Union's chief instrument for funding research over the period 2007 to 2013. The overall budget is EUR 50 billion. FP7 is organised in four programmes corresponding to four basic components of European research. For more details see http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/home_en.html.

➤ Cooperation

Support will be given to the whole range of research activities carried out in trans-national cooperation, from collaborative projects and networks to the coordination of national research programmes. International cooperation between the EU and third countries is an integral part of this action.

Cooperation includes ten subject areas such as:

1. Health
2. Food, Agriculture, Fishing and Biotechnology
3. Information and Communication technology
4. Nanotechnology and –science, Materials and Production processes
5. Energy
6. Environment (including climate research)
7. Transport (including aviation)
8. Social science, Business and Humanities
9. Aerospace
10. Security

In terms of landscape-related issues a closer look should be placed on point 2 and 6.

Goal of the subject area 2 is the sustainable production and farming of biological resources such as soil and forest. Subject point 6 focuses on the interaction of climate, biosphere, ecosystems and human influence. A sustainable support of the environmental management is supposed to be ensured by the development of new technologies, tools and services. For more information see http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/kbbe/home_en.html and http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/environment/home_en.html.

Open calls for the above mentioned subject areas can be found under the following link <http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.FP7CallsPage>.

➤ Ideas

This part of FP7 will enhance the dynamism, creativity and excellence of European research at the frontier of knowledge in all scientific and technological fields, including socio-economic sciences and the humanities.

➤ **People**

The priority People aims at quantitative and qualitative strengthening of human resources in research and technology in Europe by putting into place a coherent set of Marie Curie Actions (exchange of scientists).

➤ **Capacities**

The objective of this action is to support research infrastructures, research for the benefit of SMEs and the research potential of European regions (Regions of Knowledge) as well as to stimulate the realisation of the full research potential (Convergence Regions) of the enlarged Union and to build an effective and democratic European knowledge society.

The themes identified for the FP7 programme correspond to major fields in the progress of knowledge and technology, to address European social, economic and environmental challenges. Amongst the ten high-level themes proposed for EU action are also environment, agriculture, energy and socio-economic sciences.

➤ **What kind of activities may be funded?**

In principle, all kinds of research and scientific activities that meet the topics of the FP7 programme may be funded. The European Commission will define special topics for each call (several calls par year). Furthermore, Marie Curie actions support the exchange of researchers and scientists.

➤ **Who can apply?**

Any company, university, research centre, organisation or individual, legally established in any country, may participate in a collaborative project. While FP7 participants can in principle be based anywhere, there are different categories of countries (EU Member States, associated countries, candidate countries, third countries) which may have varying eligibility for different specific and work programmes.

➤ **How many partners are required?**

For co-operation projects, at least three legal entities from at least three countries (defined as organisations or individual researchers) must participate, each of which established in a Member State or Associated Country. Typically, FP7 projects consist of rather large consortiums of 15 to 25 scientific and research institutions.

➤ **Financial aspects**

Compared to other EU funding programmes, FP7 projects have a rather high budget. Even if there are no predefined minimum and maximum amounts, typical budgets range from 2 up to 15 million EUR. The EU co-financing rate varies depending on the different actions. For EU based universities for instance the co-financing rate is 75 per cent. The exchange of scientists by the Marie Curie programme finances scholarships and travel expenses by 100%.

➤ **Application procedure**

The calls for proposals under FP7 will be set out in annual work programmes providing details about topics, timing and implementation. The proposal process is triggered by the call. Calls are published by official invitations for researchers to submit project proposals for a specific area of the Framework Programme by a specific date, usually about three months after the call. Calls specify very clearly what is required. However, application procedures for FP7 grants are highly complicated and only reasonable for experienced applicants.

Project examples

- **Alpine ALARM – Assessing Large-scale environmental Risks for Biodiversity with tested Methods**

Beneficiary/Lead Partner: Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research Halle (Germany), together with 67 further partners from 33 countries

Duration: 5 years

Budget: 26 million. EUR, EU grant 12.7 million EUR

More information: www.alarmproject.net

ALARM research focuses on the assessment and forecast of changes in biodiversity and in the structure, function, and dynamics of ecosystems. This relates to ecosystem services and includes the relationship between society, economy and biodiversity.

- **PLUREL – Peri-urban Land Use Relationships**

Beneficiary/Lead Partner: Danish Centre for Forest, Landscape and Planning (Denmark), together with 29 further partners from 13 countries

Duration: January 2007 – December 2011

Budget: 10,53 million EUR, EU grant 7 million EUR

More information: www.plurel.net

PLUREL will develop new outward looking strategies for sustainable urban, peri-urban and rural land use relationships. New planning and forecasting tools will support the analysis of urbanisation trends in a range of different economic, social and environmental contexts. The aims are to identify optimal strategies to support these interactions on a mutually beneficial basis, minimise their negative impacts, and improve the quality of life of the urban population.

- **SENSOR - Sustainability Impact Assessment: Tools for Environmental, Social and Economic Effects of Multifunctional Land Use in European Regions**

Beneficiaries: The SENSOR consortium includes 33 partner institutions from 15 European countries and 6 partner institutes from China and South America. The consortium is based on the two European research networks „Landscape Tomorrow“ and „Landscape Europe“.

Duration: December 2004 – December 2008

Budget: 13,51 million EUR, EU grant 10,21 million EUR

More information: www.ip-sensor.org

SENSOR will build, validate and implement Sustainability Impact Assessment Tools (SIAT), including databases and spatial reference frameworks for the analysis of land and human resources in the context of land use policies for Europe.

- **DESURVEY - A Surveillance System for Assessing and Monitoring of Desertification**

Beneficiaries: The DESURVEY consortium includes 39 partner institutions from 17 European, African, Asian and American countries.

Duration: March 2005 – March 2010

Budget: 10,3 million EUR, EU grant 7,8 million EUR

More information: www.desurvey.net

DESURVEY develops assessment of desertification status with early warning of risks and vulnerability evaluation of the involved land use systems. To this purpose the interactive effects of climatic and human drivers of desertification will be taken into account in a dynamic way. The project goal is to deliver a compact set of integrated procedures, with application and tutorial examples at the EU and national scales.

Contacts and further information:

All information about the FP7 programme (application procedures, calls for proposals, information about approved projects etc.) is offered by CORDIS, the Community Research & Development Information Service (see <http://cordis.europa.eu/> for more details).

Furthermore, National Contact Points NCPs are established to provide local guidance, practical information and assistance on all aspects of participation in the framework programmes. For the contact details of the NCPs see http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ncp_en.html.

8. CULTURE

The EU's CULTURE programme (2007-2013) has a budget of EUR 400 million for projects to celebrate Europe's diverse cultures and enhance appreciation of our shared cultural heritage. Although the programme mainly focuses on artistic activities, landscape-related issues are funded as well. Above all the aim to "enhance appreciation of our shared cultural heritage" may be directly applied to landscape: Landscape itself can be understood as cultural heritage, supporting European as well as national and regional identity. Furthermore, a wide range of heritage sites (like castles, villages, historic gardens) largely contributes to the typical character of a given landscape. Finally, artistic activities related to landscapes (like festivals and exhibitions) may be of interest for the promotion of landscape protection and development projects.

Above all, the following sub-categories will be of interest for landscape-related activities:

- Multi-annual cooperation projects over a period of three to five years.
- Cooperation measures over a maximum period of two years.

Both categories are described below in detail. However, we recommend to mainly focus on the two-year co-operation measures because they are much easier to handle. For more details see http://ec.europa.eu/culture/index_en.htm.

8.1 Multi-annual cooperation projects

This category supports trans-national cultural links by minimum of six cultural operators from at least six countries. The EU funding is intended to help setting up of a network and making it sustainable beyond the funding period.

➤ What kind of activities may be funded?

Activities aiming to achieve a sustainable and structured cooperation between cultural operators (networks). Projects may be sectoral or cross-sectoral in nature and must pursue a common overarching objective, founded on a cooperation agreement. Projects will be funded in their launching or structuring phase to enable them to develop over the long-term and achieve financial independence.

➤ Who can apply?

Applicants must be public or private bodies with legal status. They must prove, on the basis of their statutes and the submitted activity report, that they are active in the field of culture (cultural and creative sectors) and they must have their registered seat in one of the countries participating in the programme:

- European Union Member States;
- EEA countries (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway);
- Candidate countries (Croatia and Turkey; former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia);
- The countries of the western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, Kosovo)

➤ How many partners are required?

A minimum of 6 partners from 6 different countries is required.

➤ Financial aspects

The EU co-financing will be granted for a period of three to five years and cannot exceed 50 per cent of the total eligible costs of the project. The budget per project must be between 200.000 and 500.000 EUR per year.

➤ Application procedure

There will be one call for applications per year (normally, the deadline is 31st October). Newly, the EU Commission introduced a two-steps application procedure: The submission of proposals only requires to fill in the application form. Only selected proposals need to provide additional documents.

8.2 Projects lasting up to two years (Cooperation measures)

This category concerns actions shared by at least three cultural operators from at least three countries over a maximum period of two years. Funds of between EUR 50.000 and EUR 200.000 are available, but EU support is limited to half of the total eligible cost.

➤ What kind of activities may be funded?

Co-operation measures concern projects that enhance the European cultural area through the development of cooperation between cultural operators from different countries. Projects shall develop trans-national mobility of people working in the field of culture, encourage trans-national circulation of cultural works and products and encourage inter-cultural dialogues.

➤ Who can apply?

Applicants must be a public or private body with legal status and they must have their registered seat in one of the countries participating in the programme (see above).

➤ How many partners are required?

A minimum of 3 partners from 3 different countries is required.

➤ Financial aspects

The EU co-financing will be granted for a period of two years and cannot exceed 50 per cent of the total eligible costs of the project. The grant per project will be between 50.000 and 200.000 EUR.

➤ Application procedure

There will be one call for applications per year (normally, the deadline is 31st October).

8.3 Project examples of recent funding periods

In recent funding periods, a considerable number of projects more or less related to landscape issues was funded by the CULTURE programme. For more details please see http://ec.europa.eu/culture/archive/culture2000/cult_2000_en.html.

- **European Landscape: Past, present and future**

Beneficiary/Lead Partner: English Heritage (United Kingdom)

Duration: July 2004 – August 2007

Budget: 10,3 million EUR, EU grant 883.055 EUR

More information: www.english-heritage.org.uk

The project aims to increase the awareness of cultural heritage within European archaeological landscapes and to conserve them for the future. The project united 23 partners under the direction of English Heritage.

- **Our Common European Cultural Landscape Heritage**

Beneficiary/Lead Partner: University of Bergen (Norway)

Duration: October 2004 – September 2007

Budget: EU grant 747.677 EUR

More information: <http://ecl.cultland.org/>

The project promotes common European cultural landscape heritage through a co-operation between scientists, cultural operators and promoters. Amongst others, three TV documents and a DVD have been produced by the University of Bergen (Lead Partner) and 7 further partners.

8.4 Contacts and further information

The CULTURE programme is co-ordinated and managed by the Education, Audiovisual & Culture Executive Agency (<http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/index.htm>).

Education Audiovisual & Culture Executive Agency
Avenue du Bourget 1
BOUR
BE-1140 Brussels
Phone +32-2-2991640
Email eacea-info@ec.europa.eu

Furthermore, all countries participating in the CULTURE programme have established national Cultural Contact Points CCP. Their main task is to provide technical assistance and support for potential applicants. For addresses and contact dates of all CCPs see <http://ccp.culture.info/>

9. Youth in Action

Youth in Action is the EU Programme in the field of youth, which will be implemented from 2007 until 2013 with a total budget of 885 million EUR. The programme is a key instrument in providing young people with opportunities for non-formal and informal learning with a European dimension and addresses young people aged between 13 and 30.

The topics of the meetings and exchanges of young Europeans may be manifold. Of course cultural, political and educational issues are the most common ones. However, also the protection and development of landscapes or landscape policies may be (or become) fields of interest for young people, for instance within the European Voluntary Service.

The Youth in Action Programme foresees five operational actions. Above all, actions 1, 2 and 3 may be of interest for landscape projects. For more information see http://ec.europa.eu/youth/index_en.html.

9.1 Action 1 - Youth for Europe: supporting exchanges and youth initiatives

Youth exchanges (action 1.1) offer an opportunity for groups of young people (in principle aged 13 to 25) from different countries to experience other cultures. The groups plan together their youth exchange around a theme of mutual interest. Youth initiatives (action 1.2) are self-organized projects of young people with regional or trans-regional dimension.

➤ What kind of activities may be funded?

Action 1 supports youth exchanges, lasting between 6 and 21 days, and creative initiatives of young people, lasting between 3 and 18 months. Central topics are participation of young people, European Citizenship, development of competencies and qualifications. Taking into account these overall topics, the content may be related to landscape issues as well (cultural diversity, nature and heritage, regional development).

➤ Who can apply?

Youth organisations and other kinds of NGOs, youth institutions and informal groups of young people from the 27 EU member states, Turkey and the EFTA countries (Iceland, Norway, Liechtenstein) may apply.

➤ How many partners are required?

Youth exchanges require at least 16 and maximum 60 participants aged between 13 and 25 (exceptional 30), coming from least 2, normally from 3 or 4 countries. Youth initiatives may have a national (no foreign partners necessary) or a trans-national dimension (at least 2 partners from different countries).

➤ Financial aspects

Youth exchanges are financed by fixed lump sums (500 EUR for the preparation of each group, 800 EUR activity costs etc.) and by daily rates for accommodation, meals etc. (different for each country). Furthermore, 70 per cent of the real travel costs may be refunded. Also preparation meetings are eligible. Youth initiatives may be supported up to 10.000 EUR, the EU funding rate is max. 90 per cent.

➤ Application procedure

The programme Youth in Action is managed by 33 national agencies (see below). The hosting organisation of a youth exchange has to apply at their national agency (applications may be written in the national language). There are several deadlines per year (February, April, June, September, November).

9.2 Action 2 - European Voluntary Service EVS

Under this action, young people (aged from 18 to 30) take part individually or in groups in non-profit, unpaid activities abroad. The service may last between two weeks and twelve months. Young people interested in a voluntary working stay abroad normally contact a sending organisation in their country that helps them to organize all practical details.

➤ What kind of activities may be funded?

EVS finances the temporary working stay of young people abroad. Amongst others, heritage protection, environment and rural/urban development may be the working fields.

➤ Who can apply?

EVS aims at young people aged between 18 and 25 (exceptional 30) years. To realize an EVS stay, a sending organisation and a hosting organisation are required. Both sending and hosting organisations have to be non-for-profit organisations/institutions or local, regional or national institutions working with young people.

➤ Financial aspects

EVS finances the stay of the volunteers by lump sums and monthly rates depending on the hosting country. Furthermore, EVS bears travel costs (100 per cent), preparation, coordination and other costs.

➤ Application procedure

To become recognized as a sending and/or a hosting organisation, an application has to be sent to the national agency. After a checking procedure, organisations are approved for a duration of 3 years.

9.3 Action 3 - Youth in the World

This action supports youth exchanges and youth projects with EU neighbouring partner countries and other countries around the world. Amongst others, Mediterranean and Caucasian countries as well as Eastern and South-Eastern European countries may participate. Topics, application procedures and rules are similar to action 1 (see above).

9.4 EVS Project examples

The offers of the European Volunteer Service are registered in a special database (see http://ec.europa.eu/youth/evs/aod/hei_en.cfm). Actually, there are a lot of offers in the fields of heritage conservation, nature and landscape protection and regional development. Some examples:

- **Landscape Protection Association Dummerstorfer Ufer (Germany)**

Since 1977 the aim of the not-for-profit NGO is to conserve and sustainably manage the rural landscape around the estuary of the Trave river, most of which is under conservation as a protected area of European relevance. One of the projects concerning environmental education is the open-air kindergarten on the site, where the kids are getting close contact to nature and environment. In collaboration with local schools, they also offer projects for older children, e.g. felting wool or baking bread.

- **The National Trust (Great Britain)**

The National Trust is the largest and foremost UK non-governmental agency undertaking conservation of places of natural beauty and historic interest. The mission is to include as wide a cross section of British society in conserving and appreciating their historic and natural heritage. The National Trust involves EVS volunteers amongst other in educational programmes and the accompanying of visiting groups on woodland/riverside trails and in woodland/riverside learning exercises.

- **OIKOS Servise Educatos Mas d'en Pedro (Spain)**

Mas d'en Pedro is an environment education centre specialized in approach and contact with the natural environment. Tasks for EVS volunteers are for instance collaboration in the restoration project of river marsh in Cubelles, study of wet areas in the river Foix, cleaning of the Foix riverbed, reforest riverside trees in adjacent areas, construction and design of leaflets and information panels, participation in awareness campaigns for tourism and summer visitors.

9.5 Contacts and further information

The implementation of the programme Youth in Action is supported by 33 national agencies in 31 countries. This de-centralized structure largely facilitates the application and implementation of projects – youth organisations and other stakeholders may get the maximum support by specialists in their national language. For the contact dates of all national agencies see http://ec.europa.eu/youth/contact_en.html.

Furthermore, the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency EACEA supports the program Youth in Action on European level (<http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/index.htm>).

Education, Audiovisual, and Culture Executive Agency, Youth Department
 Rue Colonel Bourg 139
 B-1140 Brussels
 Phone +32 2 29 97824, Fax +32 2 29 21330
 E-mail: youth@ec.europa.eu

10. Lifelong Learning LLL

According to the European Landscape Convention, training for specialists in landscape appraisal as well as school and university courses are an essential precondition for the suitable protection and management of landscapes. With the Lifelong Learning programme, the European Union offers a wide range of education and training initiatives that will meet also the needs of landscape activists. With a budget of nearly 7 billion EUR for 2007 to 2013, the programme replaces the existing education and vocational training programmes, which ended in 2006. The new Lifelong Learning Programme enables individuals at all stages of their lives to pursue stimulating learning opportunities across Europe. It consists of four sub-programmes: **Comenius** (schools), **Erasmus** (higher education), **Leonardo da Vinci** (vocational training) and **Grundtvig** (adult education). For details see http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/llp/index_en.html.

Most of the LLL offers are de-centralized actions, managed by national agencies. This largely facilitates the application and implementation procedure (application in the national language, direct support). Only some centralized actions are managed by the Education, Audiovisual, and Culture Executive Agency.

10.1 Comenius

The Comenius programme seeks to develop understanding between various European cultures through exchanges and cooperation between schools in different countries. It aims to boost the quality of school education, strengthen its European dimension and promote mobility, language learning and greater inclusion. Comenius consists of three sub-actions: School Partnerships, Multilateral Projects and Networks. Focussing on pedagogical exchange, curricula, training for teachers etc., Comenius is surely not the most suitable programme for landscape issues. However, also heritage and nature protection and other landscape-related topics may be an interesting topic of a school partnership or newly developed curricula.

➤ **What kind of activities may be funded?**

Comenius supports partnerships between schools in thematic fields of common interest and multilateral projects to develop new pedagogical methods or curricula. It also funds education networks, as well as the on- and off-line twinning between schools. More specifically, Comenius has the objective of promoting the participation of at least 3 million pupils in joint educational activities.

➤ **Who can apply?**

The programme addresses the educational community in its broadest sense, including schools, local authorities, parents associations or teacher training institutes from EU Member states.

➤ **How many partners are required?**

At least 2, for multilateral projects and networks at least 3 partners are required.

➤ **Financial aspects**

The level of grants as well as the duration of Comenius projects depends on the type of the activity, the number of partners and other factors. For partnership projects lump sums as a contribution to all eligible costs are paid (travel, subsistence, local project activities). In case of multilateral projects and networks, a maximum of 75 per cent of the total costs is provided.

➤ **Application procedure**

Applications have to be sent to the National Agencies by the relevant deadlines (yearly published by the European Union, mostly once a year in January/February).

10.2 Erasmus

Erasmus emphasises student and staff mobility and European cooperation of higher education institutions. Over 1.5 million students have participated so far with a goal of reaching 3 million by 2013. Since landscape-related topics (like landscape and environmental planning, regional management, agriculture and forestry etc.) are taught at numerous European universities, Erasmus may be a suitable instrument to support the ELC.

➤ **What kind of activities may be funded?**

Erasmus supports the mobility of students and university teachers (period of study or placement abroad), cooperation projects of European institutions of higher education and thematic networks.

➤ **Who can apply?**

In addition to students, Erasmus also targets teachers, trainers and others involved in higher education. This includes relevant associations, research centres, counselling organisations etc. It is also open to enterprises, social partners and stakeholders, as well as public and private bodies providing education and training at local, regional and national levels.

➤ **How many partners are required?**

Some activities (like the exchange of students) do not require foreign partners in the sense of common projects. Cooperation projects require at least 2 partners from 2 EU countries.

➤ **Financial aspects**

The level of grants as well as the duration of Erasmus projects depends on the type of the activity. In case of cooperation projects and networks, a maximum of 75 per cent of the total costs is provided. Mobility activities (stays abroad) are financed by lump sums depending on the hosting countries.

➤ **Application procedure**

Applications have to be sent to the National Agencies by the relevant deadlines (yearly published by the European Union, mostly once a year in February/March).

10.3 Leonardo da Vinci

The Leonardo da Vinci programme focuses on the needs of those involved in vocational education and training. It aims to establish and bolster the competitiveness of the European labour market by helping European citizens to acquire new skills, knowledge and qualifications and have them recognised across borders. It also supports innovations and improvements in vocational education and training systems and practices. Leonardo supports the transfer of knowledge, innovation and expertise between all key actors in this domain and consequently may be of interest for landscape-related vocational education.

➤ **What kind of activities may be funded?**

Leonardo da Vinci is open to the entire spectrum of subjects covered by vocational education and training. It funds a wide-range of actions, notably trans-national mobility, European projects focusing on the development or the transfer of innovation, European partnerships of vocational training organisations and networks. Also preparatory meetings may be supported.

➤ **Who can apply?**

Leonardo addresses trainees in initial vocational training, people available on the labour market and professionals in vocational education and training, as well as any organisation active in this field.

➤ **How many partners are required?**

Mobility activities require 2 partners in 2 EU countries. Trans-national projects of development and transfer of innovation as well as thematic networks require at least 3 partners from 3 different EU countries.

➤ **Financial aspects**

Trans-national projects are supported by a maximum of 150.000 EUR per year (for a period of maximum 2 years). EU co-financing rate is max. 75 per cent. Mobility activities (training stays abroad) are financed by lump sums depending on the kind of action and the hosting countries.

➤ **Application procedure**

Applications have to be sent to the National Agencies by the relevant deadlines (yearly published by the European Union, mostly once a year in February/March).

10.4 Grundtvig

Grundtvig focuses on non-vocational adult and continuing education. The Grundtvig programme seeks to respond to the challenges raised by the necessity to update knowledge and to provide adults with pathways to improve their know-how and competences, as they progress through life so that they can adapt to changes in the labour market and society.

➤ What kind of activities may be funded?

Grundtvig is targeted at learners, teachers, trainers and other staff in adult education and the educational institutions, organisations and other bodies offering and facilitating such learning opportunities. Those involved in adult education can also take part in mobility activities.

➤ Who can apply?

Adult education associations, counselling and information services, NGOs, enterprises, research centres and higher education institutions can work together through trans-national partnerships, European projects and networks.

➤ How many partners are required?

Mobility activities and learning partnerships require at least 2 partners in 2 EU countries. Trans-national projects and thematic networks require at least 3 partners from 3 different EU countries.

➤ Financial aspects

Trans-national projects are supported by a maximum of 150.000 EUR per year (for a period of maximum 2 years). EU co-financing rate is max. 75 per cent. Mobility activities are financed by lump sums depending on the kind of action and the hosting countries.

➤ Application procedure

Applications have to be sent to the National Agencies by the relevant deadlines (yearly published by the European Union, mostly once a year in January/February).

10.5 Project examples

○ Ecological Agrarian Tourism (Leonardo da Vinci)

Beneficiary/Lead Partner: IWM GmbH Erfurt in cooperation with 15 partners from Germany, Switzerland, Denmark and Poland

Duration: November 2005 – October 2007

More information: www.iwm-erfurt.de/Agrar/Leonardo/Leonardo-englisch/index.html

The project targets at teachers and graduates of agricultural and tourist occupations and to people interested in a further qualification in the vocational field of the ecological agrarian tourism. It also provides support for land owners of agrarian enterprises to discover and develop the tourist aspect in the field of ecological agrarian tourism.

- **Gardening Training Abroad** (Leonardo da Vinci)

Beneficiary: Bavarian Academy of Gardening and Viniculture (Germany)

Duration: June 2006 – May 2008

EU grant: 65.562 EUR

More information: www.lwg.bayern.de/gartenbau/betriebswirtschaft_marketing/unternehmensfuehrung/15154/

Supported by the Leonardo da Vinci programme, the Bavarian Academy of Gardening offers training stays abroad for young German gardeners. The stays with a duration of 9 weeks shall inspire them with new ideas and different mindsets.

- **Autonomy in Rural Professions** (Leonardo da Vinci)

Beneficiary: Educational Centre Nature Park Dübener Heide (Germany)

Duration: 2007 – 2008

EU grant: 31.193 EUR

More information: www.duebener-heide.de/hvhs/bildung.htm

The Educational Centre Nature Park Dübener Heide offers stays in Wales, Scotland and Slovakia for young professionals and trainees. The stays with a duration of 8 weeks shall provide ideas how to start an autonomous rural professional life.

10.6 Contacts and further information

Most of the Lifelong Learning activities are managed by national agencies. For the contact dates see http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/llp/national_en.html

Furthermore, the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency EACEA supports the programme on European level and manages centralized activities (see <http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/index.htm>).

Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency
Rue Colonel Bourg 139
B-1140 Brussels
Phone +32 2 29 97824
Fax +32 2 29 21330
E-mail eacea-info@ec.europa.eu

11. Europe for Citizens

The Europe for Citizens programme provides instruments to promote active European citizenship. Intercultural exchanges contribute to improving the mutual knowledge of the culture and history of the European peoples. It brings our common heritage to the fore and strengthens the basis for our common future. Mutual understanding, solidarity and the feeling of belonging to Europe are indeed the building blocks for the involvement of citizens and are reflected by the four different programme actions:

- **Action 1 "Active citizens for Europe"** involves citizens directly, either through activities linked to town-twinning or through other kinds of citizens' projects.
- **Action 2 "Active civil society for Europe"** is targeted to Europe-wide civil society organisations, receiving either structural support on the basis of their work programme or support trans-national projects.
- **Action 3 "Together for Europe"** supports high visibility events, studies and information tools, addressing the widest possible audience across frontiers and making Europe more tangible for its citizens.
- **Action 4 "Active European Remembrance"** supports the preservation of the main sites and archives associated with the deportations and the commemoration of the victims of Nazism and Stalinism.

Considering landscape as a common European heritage of central importance for the identity and welfare of its inhabitants and as an important topic of the civil society, citizen meetings and civil society projects on landscape topics may be funded by this programme.

➤ **What kind of activities may be funded?**

Trans-national meetings, seminars, conferences, town-twinning, support to civil society organisations working on a European level and other activities bringing together European citizens and/or supporting a European citizenship.

➤ **Who can apply?**

Institutions, organisations, NGOs, communities based in EU Member States.

➤ **How many partners are required?**

Some activities (like town-twinning) require at least 2 partners from 2 EU Member States. Other activities may be applied and carried out by only one beneficiary provided that participants from different European countries participate in the activities.

➤ **Financial aspects**

The overall budgets and the EU grants vary depending on the activities. For most of the activities lump sums and daily rates (different for each country) are used. Typical budgets for trans-national meetings (action 1) range between 20.000 to 80.000 EUR.

➤ **Application procedure**

Applications have to be sent to the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency EACEA. The EACEA launches one call for proposals per year.

Project examples

- **Conservation of energy and natural resources (Town Twinning)**

Beneficiaries: NETHER KELLETT (UK) Bussieres/Loire (France)

Themes such as that of energy and natural resources conservation, waste disposal etc. was at the centre of this twinning project involving guided visits, information debate by local MEP and a good mixture of practical activities and cultural events and targeting citizens and local representatives of the two towns involved.

- **Weimar Summer Courses** (Europe for Citizens)

Beneficiary: Weimar-Jena-Academy (Germany)

Duration: 11 – 25 August 2007

Budget: 79.000 Euro, EU grant 40.308 Euro

More information: www.weimar-summer-courses.de

The Weimar Summer Courses intend to stimulate active exposure to cultural heritage: What can poets, philosophers and artists say today? Which directions and thought-provoking impulses can be derived for contemporary challenges? “European cultural heritage – the basis and product of intercultural dialogue” was a common theme for 2008. Nine courses, aimed at young intellectuals from throughout Europe and beyond, offer different approaches to examining these fundamental issues: through literature, through art, through philosophy and religion.

Contacts and further information

The programme Europe for Citizens is managed by the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency EACEA. See <http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/index.htm>

Education, Audiovisual, and Culture Executive Agency

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E-mail eacea-info@ec.europa.eu

12. Cooperation with Neighbourhood and Third Countries

Most of the European Union grants are available only for beneficiaries located in one of the EU Member States. Even if partners from neighbourhood or third countries may be involved, this is an exceptional case. By contrast, the EU external cooperation programmes explicitly target at countries outside the European Union. Amongst others, also sustainable (landscape) development, heritage and nature protection and related issues may be funded. For the period 2007-2013, there will be 12 billion EUR in EU funding available. The following instruments are available:

- **ENPI** supports Mediterranean and Eastern neighbourhood countries (Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Egypt, Georgia, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Moldova, Morocco, Palestinian Authority, Syria, Tunisia, Ukraine, Russian Federation)
- **IPA** is dedicated to the (potential) EU candidate countries (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Croatia, Turkey, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia and Kosovo)
- **EZWZI** applies to all other countries outside the EU and outside the ENPI and IPA regions.

Below, we only focus on the programmes relevant for Europe (ENPI and IPA). For more information, see http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/index_en.htm.

ENPI is the European Union programme to support co-operations with its Mediterranean and Eastern neighbours. With an overall budget of 400 million EUR (2007 – 2013), ENPI aims at supporting democratic transition and promoting human rights, the transition towards the market economy and the promotion of sustainable development and policies of common interests (antiterrorism, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, conflict resolution, the rule of international law, etc.)

The Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (**IPA**) offers rationalised assistance to countries aspiring to join the European Union. Amongst others, economic reforms, economic and social development, reconciliation and reconstruction, and regional and cross-border cooperation will be supported.

➤ What kind of activities may be funded?

ENPI and IPA on the one hand support governmental activities of the target countries; if this includes landscape-related issues as well has to be clarified with the respective national authorities. On the other hand, also co-operation projects between partners from EU Member States and partners from the target countries may be supported.

➤ Who can apply?

Applicants can be NGOs, public bodies, organisations and communities with legal status and registered seat in one of the countries participating in the programme.

➤ How many partners are required?

For trans-national projects a minimum of 2 partners from 2 different countries is required.

➤ Financial aspects

The EU co-financing normally cannot exceed 80 per cent of the total eligible costs of the project. The grant per project depends on the respective call; mostly it will be between 50.000 and 250.000 EUR.

➤ Application procedure

There are numerous calls for applications per year, dedicated to specific countries or regions. The open calls are published at <http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/cgi/frame12.pl> Application forms will be evaluated and decided by the representations of the EU Commission in the respective countries or regions.

Project examples of recent funding periods

- **National Cultural Heritage as a Factor of Sustainable Regional Development**

Beneficiaries: City of Weimar (Germany), International Fund Leo Tolstoy's Heritage (Russia), Shakespeare Trust Stratford (UK)

Duration: January 2006 – December 2007

Budget: 250.000 EUR, EU grant: 200.000 EUR

More information: www.shakespeare-goethe-tolstoy.eu

The project aims to develop a model of sustainable regional development based on the national Russian heritage in "Yasnaya Polyana", former home of Leo Tolstoy. Experiences of Weimar/DE and Stratford/GB in education and tourism will support actors in the field of culture and use local cultural traditions.

- **Development of environmental legislation to increase effectiveness of non-profit institutions participation in solving environmental problems**

Beneficiaries: Association for the Promotion of International Environmental Technology Transfer Leipzig (Germany), Russian Industry Environmental Centre

Duration: 18 months

Budget: 218.372 EUR, EU grant: 168.372

More information: www.itut-ev.org/english/index-e.html

The project is aimed at providing more opportunities to non-profit professional institutions (NPPIs) to participate in environmental decision making and monitoring of environmental compliance.

Contacts and further information

The EU Neighbourhood Programmes are managed by the EuropeAid Co-operation Office:

European Commission, EuropeAid Co-operation Office

B - 1049 Brussels

Phone +32-02-299 11 11

EUROPEAID-info@ec.europa.eu

http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/index_en.htm

13. Selected European Networks

Funded by different EU programmes or funds (e.g. European Regional Development Fund ERDF, Lifelong Learning), several European networks support activities related to landscape issues. Although in some cases they offer funding, these networks are no EU funding programmes in the strict sense. However, these networks may be of interest for people engaged in the framework of the European Landscape Convention as well. In many cases, also partners from non-EU countries may participate.

13.1 European Spatial Planning Observation Network (ESPON)

ESPON is the European observation and research network for territorial development and cohesion. The ESPON Programme, adopted on 7 November 2007, is part-financed by the European Regional Development Fund. It shall support policy development in relation to the aim of territorial cohesion and a harmonious development of the European territory. It shall provide comparable information, evidence, analyses and scenarios on framework conditions for the development of regions, cities and larger territories. For more details please see www.espon.eu.

Calls for Proposals on applied research projects covering the following themes:

- Cities and urban agglomerations: their functionality and potentials for European competitiveness and cooperation

- Development opportunities in different types of rural areas
- Demographic and migratory flows affecting European regions and cities
- Climate change and territorial effects on regions and local economies
- Effects of rising energy prices on regional competitiveness
- Territorial Impact Assessment of policies

ESPON projects are carried out by thematic Transnational Project Groups (TPGs), involving spatial research institutes from at least three EU Member States. Thematic fields related to landscape are amongst others “Urban-rural Relations”, “Natural Heritage”, “Cultural Heritage”, “Tourism” and “Impact of the Common Agriculture Policy CAP” (see http://www.espon.eu/mmp/online/website/content/network/94/725_EN.html). Each TPG has to apply the “Lead Partner Principle”. This project management structure implies that one partner (Lead Partner) holds the financial and administrative responsibility for the whole project.

➤ **What kind of activities may be funded?**

In general all kinds of research and scientific activities undertaken by Transnational Project Groups TPG that meet the topics of the ESPON programme may be funded.

➤ **Who can apply?**

Partners from EU Member States plus neighbouring states such as Norway, Switzerland, Iceland and Liechtenstein and potential EU candidate countries may apply. Project partners have to be public bodies or bodies governed by public law. Private actors cannot participate as project partners under the present calls, but can be subcontracted by partners to provide services with respect to public procurement rules.

➤ **How many partners are required?**

At least three partners from three EU Member States are necessary. The maximum number of partners is up to the TPG. However, to guarantee a sound and efficient management, a TPG might consider restricting the total number of partners to five.

➤ **Financial aspects**

The programme covers 100% of the cost of the implementation of the project. The total budget for the ESPON 2013 Programme is about 34 million Euro.

➤ **Application procedure**

Calls for proposals for applied research projects are subject to discussion and decision by the ESPON Monitoring Committee. The intention is to have two calls per year from 2009 – 2011, one being opened in January/February, a second call between July-September. The proposal process is triggered by the call. Proposals will be selected by the ESPON Monitoring Committee in line with the existing policy demand.

Contacts and further information:

The Programme is managed by the ESPON Coordination Unit:

CRP HT - P.O. Box 144
 L-4221 Esch-sur-Alzette
 GRAND-DUCHÉ DE LUXEMBOURG
 Phone: +352-545580-700
 Fax: +352-545580-701
 Email: info@espon.eu
www.espon.eu

13.2 URBACT II (2007-2013)

URBACT is a European programme which aims to foster the exchange of experience among European cities and the capitalisation-dissemination of knowledge on all issues related to sustainable urban development. URBACT II (2007-2013) follows in the footsteps of URBACT I (2002-2006), which successfully rallied 217 cities across Europe to work in 38 different projects. URBACT II is an exchange platform used to set up Thematic Networks and Working Groups, known as "Projects". Each project is essentially composed of cities, but local authorities, universities and research centres can also get involved. The URBACT objectives are the following:

- Provide an exchange and learning tool for policy decision-makers, practitioners and other actors involved in developing urban policies.
- Learn from the exchanges between URBACT partners that share experiences and good practices.
- Disseminate good practices and lessons learned from exchanges to all European cities. In this way, URBACT II encourages "cities to work for cities".
- Assist city policy-makers, practitioners and managers of operational programmes to define action plans.

Synergies between URBACT II and the network programmes, such as INTERREG IVC and ESPON 2013, shall be achieved through a strong coordination in elaborating the annual work plans and through mutually providing information on the activities and results.

- **What kind of activities may be funded?**

In principle, all kinds of activities that meet the topics of the URBACT II programme may be funded. The European Commission will define special topics for each call.

- **Who can apply?**

Any operator, body or firm from the 27 EU Member states, whether public or private, implementing operations related to the programme objective. Partners from other countries, anywhere in the world, can participate with their own funding. An URBACT working group brings together public organisations for a period of maximum two years and can consist of local, national and regional authorities, practitioners, experts, universities, research centres, national and European networks and other organisations.

- **How many partners are required?**

The Working Groups include between 6 and 8 partners from at least three different Partner States. Each Working Group can include two cities acting as observers.

- **Financial aspects**

The total budget for the URBACT II Programme is about € 68 million. The total budget for a Working Group shall be between € 75.000 and € 300.00, jointly funded by ERDF and national contributions. Eligible partners may be co-financed at 70 to 80% (up to 50% for partners from Norway and Switzerland).

- **Application procedure**

There will be different calls for proposals with specific application procedures. For more information and actual calls see <http://urbact.eu/urbact-programme/calendar.html>

Contacts and further information:

The Programme is managed by the URBACT Secretariat:

194, av. du Président Wilson
F-93217 Saint-Denis La Plaine Cedex

Phone 00 33 1 49 17 46 40, Fax 00 33 1 49 17 45 55
<http://urbact.eu/>

13.3 LE:NOTRE - Thematic Network Project in Landscape Architecture

The LE:NOTRE Project is a Network of European universities and higher education institutions involved in teaching and/or research in landscape architecture (including landscape planning, design and management). LE:NOTRE ("Landscape Education: New Opportunities in Teaching and Research") brings together over 100 universities from Europe and beyond, together with a wide range of stakeholder organisations to strengthen European links and dialogue within the discipline, to facilitate mobility, and to further "forward looking, strategic reflection of scientific, educational and institutional issues".

One of the important principles behind the LE:NOTRE Project has been to make it open to participation by any department where landscape architecture teaching and/or research is undertaken, at any higher education institution within an 'eligible country' in the sense of the SOCRATES - ERASMUS Programme. For more details, please see [http://www.le-notre.org/public/content/contact lenotre.php](http://www.le-notre.org/public/content/contact_lenotre.php).

➤ **What kind of activities may be funded?**

In general all kinds activities in the sense of the SOCRATES - ERASMUS Programme.

➤ **Who can apply?**

Members of the LE:NOTRE project (University / Faculty / Department) from countries inside and outside the European Union may apply.

➤ **Application procedure**

Applicants should ask the contact person of their school to register on the website as a staff member. In case a school/organisation is not one of the 101 universities which are part of the LE:NOTRE TWO bid, there is still an opportunity to participate in the project. Eligible universities can join the project at any time and get access to the web site on an informal basis. In addition it is possible to apply to Brussels for a contract amendment to add new members of the Network. They will then be able to benefit from project funding, although adding new members to the project does not increase the overall project budget.

Contacts and further information:

The LE:NOTRE network is currently managed by the Technical University Vienna, Department of Landscape Planning:

Technische Universität Wien
Institut für Städtebau, Landschaftsarchitektur und Entwerfen
Fachbereich Landschaftsplanung und Gartenkunst
Operngasse 11/260
A-1040 Wien
Phone +43-1-58801-26117, Fax +43-1-58801-26120
lenotre@landscape.tuwien.ac.at
www.le-notre.org/index.php

13.4 ECLAS – European Council of Landscape Architecture Schools

The European Council of Landscape Architecture Schools exists to foster and develop scholarship in landscape architecture throughout Europe by strengthening contacts and enriching the dialogue between members of Europe's landscape academic community and by representing the interests of this community within the wider European social and institutional context. In pursuit of this goal the European Council of Landscape Architecture Schools seeks to build upon the Continent's rich landscape heritage and intellectual traditions to:

- Further and facilitate the exchange of information, experience and ideas within the discipline of landscape architecture at the European level, stimulating discussion and encouraging co-operation between Europe's landscape architecture schools through, amongst other means, the promotion of regular international meetings, in particular an annual conference;
- Foster and develop the highest standards of landscape architecture education in Europe by providing advice and acting as a forum for sharing experience on course and curriculum development, and supporting collaborative developments in teaching;
- Promote interaction between academics and researchers within the discipline of landscape architecture, thereby furthering the development of a Europe-wide landscape academic community, through the development of common research agendas and the establishment of collaborative research projects;

- Represent the interests of scholarship in landscape architecture within Europe's higher education system, encourage interdisciplinary awareness and enhance public understanding of the discipline;
- Stimulate dialogue with European landscape architectural practice and with other international organisations furthering landscape scholarship.

For more details please see <http://www.eclas.org/goals-and-origins.php> and (for landscape related study programmes) <http://www.eclas.org/study-programmes-courses.php>.

Contacts and further information:

The secretary of ECLAS is located at the Technical University Vienna, Department of Landscape Planning:

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Operngasse 11
A-1040 Vienna
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14. Selected Foundations

There are a large number of national and international foundations providing funds for landscape, nature and heritage protection projects. Of course it is impossible to describe all of them here. Below, we only intend to present some examples to encourage landscape activists to look for this kind of funding, too.

14.1 German Federal Environmental Foundation (Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt)

DBU is one of Europe's largest foundations and promotes innovative and exemplary environmental projects. Since 1991, almost 6.400 projects have received financial support totalling about 1,2 billion EUR. The promotional activities concentrate on environmental technology and research, nature conservation, environmental communication and cultural assets. The financial backing can receive all regions of neighbouring European countries (promotion of cross-bordering activities). The DBU guidelines are divided into nine fields of support, like environmental research and nature conservation or environmental communication and protection of cultural assets.

Contact: <http://www.dbu.de/359.html>

14.2 NatureLife - International (Foundation for environment, education and sustainability)

Central goals of NatureLife are to support nature and landscape conservation and management; promotion of the understanding of nature and the environmental awareness in the context of implementing intensive education in matters of the environment and sustainability, thus creating the base for self-competence and the ability to act individually, as well implementation and promotion of projects for sustainable development on a regional, national and international level.

Contact: <http://naturelife-international.org>

14.3 European Foundation for Landscape Architecture EFLA

EFLA is the professional organisation for landscape architecture in Europe, membership is open to national associations in countries which are members of the Council of Europe. The aims of EFLA are to encourage the development of landscape architecture courses in the European Union, EEA, and Switzerland; to help promote study and research, the exchange of knowledge and technical information, as well to stimulate and promote education exchange between member countries.

Contact: <http://www.efla.org/base/frames/centre.asp?LG=uk>

14.4 EPCE - The Environmental Partnership for Central and Eastern Europe

EPCE is a consortium of national environmental organisations focused on fostering community-based environmental action and citizen participation in Central Europe. Moreover, EPCE supports bottom-up initiatives aimed at proposing alternatives to official government programs and policies, which lead to more effective sustainable development solutions at the local, regional and national levels. Since their establishment, the Environmental Partnership foundations have invested over US\$ 16 million in support of more than 5.000 individual projects and are currently the most significant private source of funding for community-based environmental initiatives in the region.

Contact: <http://www.environmentalpartnership.org/epc.php?page=aboutus>

14.5 FEE Foundation for Environmental Education

The Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) is a non-governmental and non-profit organisation aiming to promote sustainable development through environmental education (formal school education, training of staff and general awareness raising). FEE is an international umbrella organisation with one national member organisation per country representing FEE on the national level and in charge of implementing FEE programmes nationally. FEE has member organisations in 48 countries in Europe, North and South America, Africa, Asia and Oceania.

Contact: <http://www.fee-international.org/Render.aspx?PageId=26>

14.6 COMPACT Community Management of Protected Areas for Conservation

COMPACT is a small grants program (SGP) for community-based initiatives that can significantly increase the effectiveness of biodiversity conservation in the co-management of World Heritage sites while working to improve the livelihoods of local populations. SGP supports activities in support of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) priorities - biodiversity conservation, abatement of climate change, protection of international waters, prevention of land degradation and elimination of persistent organic pollutants.

The maximum grant amount per project is US\$ 50.000, but averages around US\$ 20.000. Grants are channelled directly to NGOs. More than 7.000 grants have been awarded worldwide to date, with many benefiting multiple communities.

Contact: http://sgp.undp.org/index.cfm?module=ActiveWeb&page=WebPage&s=compact_1