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Council of Europe Landscape Award Forum of National Selections

5th Session 2016-2017

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INTRODUCTION

Presentation of the Council of Europe Landscape Award Forum of National Selections – 5th Session

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The European Landscape Convention is the first international treaty on sustainable development, based on a balanced and harmonious relationship between social needs, economic activity, the environment and culture, to be exclusively concerned with the valorisation of landscapes.¹ Its purpose is to promote landscape protection, management and planning of European landscapes, and to organise international co-operation on landscape issues.

1. Council of Europe, www.coe.int/EuropeanLandscapeConvention

The convention is extremely wide in its scope: it applies to the parties' entire territory and covers natural, rural, urban and peri-urban areas, including land, inland water and marine areas, and deals with degraded landscapes as well as those that can be considered outstanding. In other words, it recognises the importance of all landscapes – and not just those of exceptional beauty – as having a crucial bearing on quality of life and as deserving attention in landscape policies. In particular, many rural and peri-urban areas are undergoing drastic change and deserve greater care from authorities and the public.

The convention provides for a Landscape Award of the Council of Europe, which recognises policy or measures that local or regional authorities or non-governmental organisations have adopted to protect, manage and plan their landscapes. The project must have proved to be lastingly effective as it can thus serve as an example to other territorial authorities in Europe.

On 20 February 2008, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe adopted Resolution CM/Res(2008)3 on the rules governing the Landscape Award. Every two years the Committee of Ministers makes the Award, based on the proposal submitted by the committee of experts of the Council of Europe that is in charge of monitoring the implementation of the convention.

The Landscape Award was launched in 2008 and five sessions of the Award have been organised: in 2008-2009, 2010-2011, 2012-2013, 2014-2015 and 2016-2017. The sixth session (2018-2019) is under way: the Parties to the convention were invited to present an application to the Secretariat General of the Council of Europe by 30 January 2019.

The collection of outstanding best practices presented of the occasion of these Sessions of the Landscape Award inspire and give rise to similar activities in other geographical areas. According to the Resolution CM/Res(2017)18 of the Committee of Ministers, they are part of the “Landscape Award Alliance of the Council of Europe”, which gathers these exemplary achievements presented by the States Parties to the European Landscape Convention.²

1. The Landscape Award of the Council of Europe

The Resolution CM/Res (2008)3 on the rules governing the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe states that the Award's purpose is to reward exemplary practical initiatives for the achievement of landscape quality objectives on the territories of Parties to the convention. Declaring itself convinced that the Award is capable of heightening civil society's awareness of the value of landscapes, their role and changes to them, the Committee of Ministers decided to adopt the rules governing the Landscape Award and the criteria for awarding it. It also invited the Parties to translate the rules into their national languages, to promote them, and to encourage media coverage of the Award, in order to raise public awareness of the importance of landscapes.³

2. www.coe.int/en/web/landscape/landscape-award-alliance; [Exhibition on the Landscape Award Alliance of the Council of Europe](#); [Publication “Landscape Award Alliance of the Council of Europe”](#); European Landscape Convention – The Landscape Award Alliance of the Council of Europe”, European Spatial Planning and Landscape series, 2018, No.105 – www.coe.int/en/web/landscape/publications).

3. As a result, the Resolution, which was adopted in the Council of Europe's official languages (French and English), has already been translated into the following languages: Armenian, Croatian, Czech, Finnish, French, Hungarian, Italian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Polish, Russian, Slovak and Swedish.

Under these rules, the Award is an honorary distinction which acknowledges a policy or measures implemented by local or regional authorities or their groupings, or particularly remarkable contributions by non-governmental organisations, for sustainable protection, management and/or planning of landscapes.⁴ It takes the form of a diploma. Special mentions may also be awarded. The Award rewards a process of implementation of the convention at national or transnational levels, resulting in an effective, measurable achievement. It also helps make people more aware of the importance of landscapes for human development, consolidation of the European identity and the well-being of individuals, and society as a whole. Furthermore, it fosters public participation in the decision-making process concerning landscape policies.

The Award procedure

The procedure consists of three stages:

Submission of candidatures: Each party may submit one candidature to the Secretariat General of the Council of Europe. The candidature may be the result of a competition held by each Party taking into account the Award criteria appended to the rules. The application file, in one of the official languages of the Council of Europe (French or English), must include: a presentation of the candidate project; the description of a completed project for the protection, management and/or planning of a landscape which has proved lastingly effective and can serve as an example. Mention must be made of the convention provision concerned. In principle the Award is granted every two years. The files presenting candidatures must reach the Secretariat General of the Council of Europe no later than 31 December of the year preceding the year of the Award. In practice, this date has been extended to 31 January, due to postal delays at the end of the year).

Consideration of candidatures: An international jury, set up as a subordinate body of the committees of experts referred to in Article 10 of the Convention,⁵ determines whether candidatures are admissible. The jury is composed of: one member of the committee of experts responsible for monitoring the convention, appointed by the committee concerned; one member of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, appointed by the Congress; one representative of an international non-governmental organisation, appointed by the Secretary General on the proposal of the Grouping of INGOs enjoying participatory status with the Council of Europe and three eminent specialists on landscape, appointed by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe. The jury proposes the award winner from among the candidates admitted. The jury's proposals are adopted by an absolute majority in the first round of voting, and by a relative majority in the following round, based on the criteria set out in the appendix to the rules. In the event of equal votes, the president of the jury has the deciding vote. The

4. The following may be candidates for the award: local or regional authorities and their groupings that have instituted, as part of the landscape policy of a party to this convention, a policy or measures to protect, manage and/or plan their landscape, and which have proved lastingly effective and can thus serve as an example to other local and regional authorities in Europe. Non-governmental organisations which have made particularly outstanding contributions to landscape protection, management or planning may also be candidates. Transfrontier local or regional authorities and groupings of local and regional authorities concerned may be candidates, provided that they jointly manage the landscape in question.

5. <http://rm.coe.int/16802f80c6>

reasons for the choice must be given. The jury may propose to award one or more special mentions. The committees of experts referred to in Article 10 of the convention⁶ examine the jury's proposals and forward these proposals concerning the Award winner, and, wherever appropriate, special mentions, to the Committee of Ministers.

Granting and presentation of the Award and the special mentions: In the light of the proposals by the committees of experts referred to in Article 10 of the convention, the Committee of Ministers grants the Award and any special mentions. The Award and the special mentions are presented by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe or his/her representative at a public ceremony.

The criteria for granting the Award

The criteria for granting the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe are as follows:

Sustainable territorial development: The completed projects submitted must give tangible form to the protection, management and/or planning of landscapes. This means that the projects must have been completed and open to the public for at least three years when the candidatures are submitted. They must also: be part of a sustainable development policy; be in harmony with the territorial organisation of the area concerned; demonstrate their environmental, social, economic, cultural and aesthetic sustainability; counter or remedy any damage to landscape structures; help enhance and enrich the landscape and develop new qualities.

Exemplary value: The implementation of the policy or measures that have helped to improve the protection, management and/or planning of the landscapes concerned must set an example of good practice for others to follow.

Public participation: The policy or measures implemented with a view to the protection, management and/or planning of the landscapes concerned should involve the active participation of the public, local and regional authorities and other players, and should clearly reflect the landscape quality objectives. The public should be able to participate simultaneously in two ways: through dialogue and exchanges between members of society (public meetings, debates, procedures for participation and consultation in the field, for example); through procedures for public participation and involvement in landscape policies implemented by national, regional or local authorities.

Awareness-raising: The convention provides that each party undertakes to increase awareness among civil society, private organisations and public authorities of the value of landscapes, their role and changes to them. An assessment will be made of action along these lines, taken as part of the project concerned.

6. On 30 January 2008, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe decided to assign this task to the Steering Committee for Cultural Heritage and Landscape (CDPATEP), which has been renamed the Steering Committee for Culture, Heritage and Landscape (CDCPP) by a decision of the Committee of Ministers.

2. The 5th Session of the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe (2016-2017)

The Parties to the convention were invited to present, by 30 January 2017, the applications to the General Secretariat of the Council of Europe, according to the Resolution CM/Res(2008)3 on the rules governing the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe.

Thirteen projects were presented by the following States' Parties to the European Landscape Convention to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe: Andorra, Belgium, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Norway, Serbia, Slovakia, Spain.⁷

An International Jury, set up as a subordinate body of the committee of experts referred to in Article 10 of the convention, was invited to examine the applications and to propose the Award and possible special mentions. The Jury held a meeting in Strasbourg on 4-5 April 2017. It was composed of the following members: Representative of the Steering Committee for Culture, Heritage and Landscape (CDCPP): Mrs Kriztina Kincses, Vice-Chair of the Council of Europe Conference on the European Landscape Convention, National Representative of the European Landscape Convention for Hungary, Ministry of Agriculture of Hungary; Representative of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe: Mrs Gudrun Mosler-Toernstroem, President of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe [*Apologised for absence*]; Representative of the Conference of INGOS of the Council of Europe: Mrs Anne-Marie Chavanon, President of the Committee on Democracy, Social Cohesion and Global Challenges of the Conference of INGOS of the Council of Europe; three eminent specialists on landscape: Mrs Linajeros Cruz, Former National Representative of the European Landscape Convention for Spain, Institute of Cultural Heritage of Spain; Mr Yves Luginbühl, Director of Research Emeritus at CNRS; Mr Michael Oldham, Founding President of the European Federation for Landscape Architecture (EFLA), Honorary Member of the International Federation of Landscape Architects Europe (IFLA-Europe). In order to avoid a possible conflict of interest, Mrs Kriztina Kincses did not take part in the analysis and decision related to the project presented by Hungary. The same approach was taken by Mrs Linajeros Cruz in relation to the project presented by Spain.

The proposals of the Jury were presented at the 6th Plenary Session of the Steering Committee for Culture, Heritage and Landscape (CDCPP) (Strasbourg, Palais de l'Europe, 4-5 June 2017), and then to the Committee of Ministers.⁸

On 27 September 2017, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe decided, in accordance with Resolution CM/Res(2008)3 on the rules governing the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe, and on the recommendation of the Jury and of the Council of Europe Steering Committee responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Convention, to:

– confer the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe's European for the 5th session 2016-2017 of the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe, on the following achievement:

7. www.coe.int/en/web/landscape/sessions-of-the-landscape-award

8. Document CDCPP(2015)16.

- *Regeneration of Daugavpils Fortress to preserve cultural and historical objects*, Daugavpils City Council, Latvia;

– confer identical special mentions of the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe’s European Landscape Convention, for the 5th session of the Award 2016-2017, on the following achievements:

- *The hillside of the citadel in Liège: 1999-2010. From an enclosure to a network*, City of Liège, Belgium;
- *Regeneration of the landscape and archaeological Park of the Valley of the Temples in Agrigento, Archaeological and Landscape Park of the Valley of the Temples of Agrigento*, Department of Cultural Heritage and Identity of Sicily, Italy;
- *Alna Environmental Park: a blue-green corridor of biodiversity, recreational opportunities and sustainable urban water management*, Municipality of Oslo, Agency for Urban Environment, Norway;
- *Hriňovské lazy: landscape of values*, Town of Hriňová, Slovak Republic;

– acknowledged the great value of each project presented for the 5th session 2016-2017 of the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe’s European Landscape Convention and the importance to make them well known to the general public as sources of inspiration:

- *Management of the Madriu-Perafita-Claror Valley, included on the list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites in the Cultural Landscape Category*, Madriu-Perafita-Claror Valley management plan steering committee, Andorra;
- *Education of children in heavily industrialised landscapes*, Elementary School in the city of Most, Czech Republic;
- *Shepherding weeks*, Metsähallitus Parks and Wildlife Finland, Finland;
- *Landscape as a link*, Saint-Paul, La Réunion, France ;
- *Developing ‘Water Codes’ in Larissa City Centre: the ‘Sculpted River’ of Larissa*, Municipality of Larissa, Greece;
- *Landscape development and community sample programme for a pleasant village*, Local Government of Mátraderecske, Roma Minority Local Government of Mátraderecske, Hungary;
- *Protection and management of Zasavica Special Nature Reserve: as a tool for sustainable development*, Nature Conservation Movement of Sremska Mitrovica, Serbia;

- *Landscape inventory of Galicia: public participation for landscape characterisation and planning*, Institute of Land Studies, Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning of the Government of Galicia, Spain;

Conclusion

We welcome this 5th Council of Europe Landscape Award Forum,⁹ designed to raise awareness about best practices which may serve as a source of inspiration.

The thirteen projects presented on the occasion of the 5th Session of the Landscape Award will be presented under three thematic headings – which are not exclusive, as each combines, in different ways, the three keywords of the European Landscape Convention: landscape “planning” “management” and “protection”:

- *Workshop 1*: Landscapes to be planned: strong forward-looking actions to enhance, restore or create landscapes;
- *Workshop 2*: Landscape to be managed: actions, from a perspective of sustainable development, to guide and harmonise changes;
- *Workshop 3*: Landscape to be protected: actions to conserve and maintain the significant or characteristic features of a landscape.

Powerpoint presentation

9. See the three previous Forums, organised on the occasion of the [11th Council of Europe Meeting of the Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention \(Carbonia, Sardinia, Italy, 4-5 June 2012\)](#), Sessions 1 and 2 (Council of Europe, European Spatial Planning and Landscape Series, No 98) and [14th Council of Europe Meeting of the Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention \(Wroclaw, Poland, 11-12 June 2014\)](#), Session 3 (Council of Europe, European Spatial Planning and Landscape Series, No 101); Session 4 (Council of Europe, European Spatial Planning and Landscape Series) www.coe.int/en/web/landscape/publications