



COUNCIL OF EUROPE EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION

TWENTIETH COUNCIL OF EUROPE MEETING OF THE WORKSHOPS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION

Council of Europe Landscape Award Forum of National Selections

5th Session 2016-2017

Daugavpils, Latvia
20-21 June 2018
Study visit, 19 June 2018

WORKSHOP 2

Hriňovské lazy: landscape of values

Town of Hriňová, Slovak Republic

Mrs Zlatica CSONTOS ŠIMOŇÁKOVÁ

Senior Officer, Nature and Landscape Protection Department, Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

I work in the biodiversity and landscape department for the Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic: I am also the national focal point for the Carpathian Convention and contact person for the

European Landscape Convention. Firstly I want to thank you for the invitation to this meeting. I am honoured that I can represent my country today.

The importance of the landscape in the process for the sustainable development of our society is constantly increasing. Within the meaning of Article 11 of the European Landscape Convention, Slovakia has decided to award the Slovak Republic Prize for landscape. It is an honourable award for those who, ideologically, thematically and practically contribute to the implementation of the European Landscape Convention at national level. The goal of awarding a prize is to appreciate activities aimed at quality and sustainable care for the landscape.

The prize is a motivating tool for continual supporting care for all types of landscape and aims to appreciate exemplary efforts that achieve joint commitment in the process of implementing the European Landscape Convention. The Slovak Republic grants a prize to support the presentation of successful activities aimed at protecting, managing and planning the landscape.

The Slovak Republic signed the European Landscape Convention on 30 May 2005 and ratified it on 9 August 2005. The convention then entered into force on 1 December 2005. The key organisations for the European Landscape Convention in Slovakia are the Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic and the Slovak Environment Agency.

From the awareness-raising point of view, activities for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention are: conferences, exhibitions workshops, study visits, landscape studies, brochures, leaflets, regional posters promoting the European Landscape Convention concept and the Landscape Award, at national level.

The Landscape Award of the Slovak Republic is a Medal of Honour for organisations which ideologically, thematically and practically contribute to the implementation of the European Landscape Convention at national level. The aim of the Award is to honour activities leading to high-quality and sustainable land management. The Award is a tool of motivation for continuous support of landscape management and honouring exemplary efforts to achieve the common goals in the implementation process of the European Landscape Convention.

The Slovak Republic honoured the Award with the aim of supporting the successful protection, management and planning activities within the Slovak landscape, and with the aim of nominating its laureate to the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe.

The Slovak Republic held its first Landscape Award in 2010. The Award moderator is the Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic; the National Award Co-ordinator is the Slovak Environment Agency. The roles of the Slovak Environment Agency are: to manage the call for the Award nominations; to give consultations to potential candidates; to evaluate the administrative criteria of the applications; to provide the possibility to complete the application if necessary; to establish an expert commission; to organise and professionally oversee the process of the Award; to ensure and prepare the nomination to the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe.

Eligibility for the Award

Applicants should be local and regional municipalities, associations of local and regional municipalities (micro-regional associations), cross-border associations of local and regional municipalities which together manage the landscape, and non-governmental organisations.

Eligible projects are projects with the character of landscape policies and demonstrate the implementation of measures, and that have achieved the criteria of the Landscape Award of the Slovak Republic.

Candidates to the Award can submit the project application directly, or it can be submitted by another legal entity or individual body (a written agreement must be attached).

The process for awarding the Slovakian Republic Landscape Award

- award call: a press release publishes the deadline for proposal submission. Consultation is provided to the project applicants;
- administrative control by National Award Co-ordinator: administrative evaluation; eligibility of the submitted proposals; applications completed, if appropriate;
- National Award Co-ordinator publishes nominations to the Award;
- nominations: project presentation to the expert commission. The expert commission consists of experts in landscape management, representatives of the government, local authorities and representatives of the non-profit sector. The expert commission may award a special mention to other nominees;
- evaluation: the official Award Ceremony is followed by the official nomination of the Slovak Republic for the Council of Europe Landscape Award.

An expert commission, with a maximum of nine members, consists of representatives of the Ministry and the National Award Co-ordinator, experts of landscape management, universities and a representative of the previous Award laureate.

Award criteria: sustainable territorial development; exemplary value; public participation; awareness-raising; project sustainability; representativeness at European level.

Landscape revitalisation: effective traditional forms of land use and new progressive economical practices associated with positive changes in landscape structures, implementation of eco-stabilising, reclamation, revitalisation measures.

Monument restoration: restoration of monuments in the country (castles, monasteries, technical monuments and historical landscape structures); protection of nature (maintenance, cleanliness).

Landscape design: landscaping, creation of zones for rest and relaxation, revitalisation and operationalisation of villages and towns, park design, greening of the landscape, creating interesting public areas.

Spiritual link, human identity and landscape: maintaining and deepening the identity of man and landscape (genius loci); enhancement of the spiritual message; valorisation of landscape phenomena in regional development.

Motion paths: increase of motion path routes – nature trails, hiking trails, biking trails, paths for walking in settlements, thematic trails, parks, geoparks, archaeoparks, museums in the nature; development of amenity routes, information systems, recreational and sightseeing places.

Landscape Award of the Slovak Republic

Nominated projects in 2010 (in alphabetic order):

- EKOPOLIS Foundation: Grant programmes for local communities to shape their surroundings into a place where they are happy to live;
- Regional Association for Nature Conservation and Sustainable Development, NGO (Civic Association) Veľkolélsky island: return to traditional farming in the Danube wetlands;
- Special Mention for the Second Council of Europe Landscape Award 2010 was the village of Suchá nad Parnou (nominated by ILE SAS Bratislava) entitled “Learning from each other” and the “Implementation of an ecological network and integrated management of use of natural resources”.

Nominated projects in 2012

- The Čierny Hron Railway, NGO: Salvage, revival and operation of the forest railway in the landscape of Cierny Balog;
- The town of Pezinok: Vineyard educational path;
- TATRY, NGO (Civic Association): Revitalisation of landscape programme in the High Tatras region (2000 – 2012);
- [The village of Čierny Balog (nominated by Forests of the Slovak Republic): Forestry open-air museum candidate withdrew in September 2012.]

Nominated projects in 2014

- The village of Dravce: Revitalisation and flood control measures;
- The village of Horný Tisovník: Renovation of a historic memorial places;
- The village of Liptovská Teplička: The protection of a unique historical landscape;
- ProPolis, NGO: Circuit Sĺňava, recreational and educational trail;
- TRIPTYCH, NGO (Civic Association): Hidepark Nitra. Revitalisation of an area for cultural activities. Friends of nature of Trstená, NGO (Civic association): Revitalisation of the meander of Starý Hornád river.

Nominated projects 2016

- Ďarmoty, NGO (Civic association): Restoration and revitalisation of the vineyards of Golianovo;

- The village of Horný Tisovník: Rescue and presentation of the new town folk tombstones in Horný and Dolný Tisovník;
- The town of Hriňová: Hriňovské lazy, landscape of values;
- Carpathian Wooden Churches, NGO: Cycling route of icons of Nová Sedlica–Inovce. Nominated by village of Šmigovec;
- The Malachov Valley, NGO (Civic Association): Malachov leisure areas and educational walkways;
- Muránska planina, NGO (Non-Investment Fund): For the Nature of the Muránska Plain;
- Ethnographic museum in Sebechleby, NGO (Civic Association): Ethnographic museum in Sebechleby;
- Pro Eberhard, NGO (Civic association): Green oasis at Small Dunaj with sightseeing tower nest;
- The town of Spišská Belá: Restoration of peatland in the town of Spišská Belá;
- Save the Castles, NGO (Professional Association of legal entities): project for the conservation of Slovakia’s castles.

Projects of 2016 that were attributed special mentions by the expert commission

Muránska planina, NGO (non-investment fund)

“For the Nature of the Muránska Plain”, removing the migration barrier on the Muráň River, a 1.7m high water level and creating a 88m long slipway to ensure the migration of aquatic animals to the higher parts of the river; realisation of the international volunteer camp INEX, which ensured the promotion of the project abroad; knowledge and experience were subsequently transferred to the methodological manuals issued by the State Nature Conservation department of the Slovak Republic.

Pro Eberhard, NGO (civic association)

“Green oasis at Small Dunaj with sightseeing tower nest”, the aim was to build a recreational zone for the inhabitants at the site of the black waste dumps at the Malý Dunaj arm and to change their attitude towards the surrounding nature; building of infrastructure (gazebos, wooden pontoons, a playground, footpaths, instruction boards); restoring the irrigation channel; building a wooden sightseeing tower nest; organising enviro-educational events to teach about the nature of floodplain forests: summer camps, called “Searchers” (4 years); water courses for 50 children, etc.

Save the Castles, NGO (professional association of legal entities)

“Save the Castles – a project to conserve Slovakia’s castles”. The aim was to take care of the ruins of Slovak castles: the reconstruction of the ruins; the reconstruction of the building with the aim of preservation of originality and authenticity and its promotion and use for tourism. 29 member organisations, civic associations have been created for the restoration of castles.

This year’s timeline of the Award

- award call publication: 15th March 2018;

- completion acceptance of the proposal for the award (submission deadline): 30 June 2018;
- processing of proposals (applications) by award national co-ordinator: until 15 July 2018;
- publication of award nominations: 16–31 July 2018;
- meeting of the expert commission: August 2018;
- the official award ceremony: October 2018;
- nomination to the Council of the Europe Landscape Award - January 2019

Thank you for your attention.