



COUNCIL OF EUROPE
EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION

*National Symposium on the implementation
of the European Landscape Convention in Georgia*

*Interministerial Round-Table:
Integration of the landscape into policies*

*Tbilisi, Georgia
9-10 March 2018*

INTRODUCTION

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“The landscape ...

... has an important public interest role in the cultural, ecological, environmental and social fields, and constitutes a resource favourable to economic activity and whose protection, management and planning can contribute to job creation;

... contributes to the formation of local cultures and ... is a basic component of the European natural and cultural heritage, contributing to human well-being...;

... is an important part of the quality of life for people everywhere: in urban areas and in the countryside, in degraded areas as well as in areas of high quality, in areas recognised as being of outstanding beauty as well as everyday areas ;

... is a key element of individual and social well-being and ... its protection, management and planning entail rights and responsibilities for everyone.”

Preamble of the European Landscape Convention

Adopted in Strasbourg by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on 19 July 2000, the European Landscape Convention¹ was opened for signature by the Organisation's member States in Florence on 20 October of that year. As the first international treaty devoted exclusively to all aspects of landscape, it addresses the Council of Europe's key challenges in the areas of human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

The Council of Europe member states signatory to the Convention have declared themselves "[c]oncerned to achieve sustainable development based on a balanced and harmonious relationship between social needs, economic activity and the environment". The Convention is therefore the first international treaty devoted to sustainable development, with the cultural dimension a particularly relevant factor. Although each citizen must, of course, contribute to preserving the quality of the landscape, it is the authorities that are responsible for establishing the general framework that enables that quality to be assured. The Convention accordingly lays down the general legal principles that must guide the adoption of national landscape policies and the establishment of international co-operation in this area.

To date, 39 Council of Europe member states have ratified the Convention: Andorra, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Moldova, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, "The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", Turkey, Ukraine and the United Kingdom. Two states have also signed it: Iceland and Malta.

The Convention states that it is open for signature by the Council of Europe member states and that the instruments of ratification, acceptance or approval shall be deposited with the Secretary General of the Council of Europe. The Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers can invite the European Community and any European state that is not a member of the Council of Europe to accede to the Convention by a majority decision as provided in Article 20.d of the Council of Europe's Statute and by the unanimous vote of the States Parties entitled to hold seats in the Committee of Ministers.

The Convention provides that an existing competent Committees of Experts, set up under the Council of Europe's Statute, shall be designated by the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers to be responsible for monitoring its implementation. This is currently the task of the Steering Committee for Culture, Heritage and Landscape (CDCPP), which discusses in particular the results of the Council of Europe conferences on the European Landscape Convention. After each of its meetings, the Secretary General of the Council of Europe forwards a report on the work carried out, and on the operation of the Convention to the Committee of Ministers.

The aim of the work programme in support of the implementation of the Convention is to ensure the monitoring of its application, promote international co-operation, gather examples of good practices, promote knowledge and research, raise awareness and foster access to information. The meetings of the Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention, which are regularly organised by the Council of Europe in co-operation with a host country, aim to conduct in-depth analyses of certain matters associated with that implementation. Several issues of the Council of Europe journal *Futuroipa, for a new vision of landscape and territory* have been devoted to the subject of landscape. The references of the work carried out by the Council of Europe since the adoption of

1. Website of the European Landscape Convention: www.coe.int/EuropeanLandscapeConvention

the Convention are mentioned below, and the documents are available at the Council's European Landscape Convention website.²

The Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers has demonstrated its full support for the Convention and its implementation. First of all, it adopted it in Strasbourg on 19 July 2000³ before it was opened for signature by the Organisation's member States. It then adopted four other fundamental texts on its implementation: Recommendation CM/Rec(2008)3 of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers to member states on the guidelines for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention;⁴ Resolution CM/Res(2008) on the rules governing the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe; Recommendation CM/Rec(2013)4 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the European Landscape Convention Information System of the Council of Europe and its glossary; Recommendation CM/Rec(2014)8 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on promoting landscape awareness through education; Recommendation CM/Rec(2015)7 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on pedagogical material for landscape education at primary level; Recommendation CM/Rec(2015)8 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the implementation of Article 9 of the European Landscape Convention on Transfrontier Landscapes; and Recommendation CM/Rec(2017)7 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the contribution of the European Landscape Convention to the exercise of human rights and democracy with a view to sustainable development.⁵

The Convention and the basic texts concerning its implementation contribute to promoting legal recognition of the landscape, ensuring that the landscape dimension is taken into account in national and international policies, and developing international co-operation.

1. The legal recognition of landscapes

The Convention defines landscape as "an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors". It also provides that each Party shall undertake "to recognise landscapes in law as an essential component of people's surroundings, an expression of the diversity of their shared cultural and natural heritage, and a foundation of their identity".

The landscape is recognised irrespective of whether it is of exceptional beauty, since all forms of landscape have a bearing on citizens' quality of life and should be taken into account in landscape policies. The scope of the Convention is extensive: it applies to the entire territory of the Parties and relates to natural, urban and peri-urban areas, including land, inland water and marine areas.

2. The references of the documents mentioned in this document are available at the Council of Europe's European Landscape Convention website: www.coe.int/ConventionEuropeenneDUPaysage;
www.coe.int/EuropeanLandscapeConvention

The proceedings of the Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention can be found in the Council of Europe's "European spatial planning and landscape" series:
www.coe.int/en/web/landscape/publications.

Books published by Council of Europe Publishing: www.coe.int/en/web/landscape/publications; The Council of Europe journal Futuropa, for a new vision of landscape and territory:
www.coe.int/en/web/landscape/futuropa-magazines

3. <http://rm.coe.int/doc/09000016802f80c6>

4. <http://rm.coe.int/doc/09000016806a4938>

5. www.coe.int/en/web/landscape/reference-texts

It therefore concerns not just remarkable landscapes but also ordinary everyday landscapes and degraded areas.

Recommendation CM/Rec(2008)3 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the guidelines for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention sets out a “Suggested text” for use as guidance for public authorities when implementing the Convention.⁶ It states that a specific national ministry should be responsible for implementing landscape policy and for inter-ministerial co-ordination in the area; that it should organise consultation with civil society and the assessment of landscape policies by an ad hoc body; that, in collaboration with the other ministries and with public participation, it should regularly develop and review a national landscape strategy, laying down the guiding principles of landscape policy, describing the paths taken and the goals pursued, in order to protect, manage or plan landscapes.

It provides that this landscape strategy should be made public and that ministries whose activities influence landscapes should liaise with departments responsible for implementing landscape policy in the course of their activities, and regularly report on their landscape policy.

It also provides that regional and local authorities should have staff familiar with landscape issues in order to implement landscape policy in their spheres of competence, taking landscapes into account at their respective territorial levels. The text reiterates that landscape policy is a responsibility shared between the national authorities and regional and local authorities, in keeping with the principle of subsidiarity.

The documents entitled “Landscape in languages and laws in the States Parties to the European Landscape Convention” and “Landscape Lexicon: richness and diversity of words, texts and approaches to landscape in Europe” compile information on the meaning of the word landscape in the languages of the States Parties to the Convention and in the legal texts adopted in connection with implementing the Convention.⁷

Various studies dealing with sustainable development and drawing attention to the role of landscape in the lives of human beings and societies have been carried out.

See in particular on this subject:

The proceedings of the following meetings of the Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention:

- “*Landscape policies: contribution to the well-being of European citizens and to sustainable development (social, economic, cultural and ecological approaches)*”, Strasbourg (France), 23-24 May 2002
- “*Landscapes and individual and social well-being*”, Strasbourg (France), 27-28 November 2003
- “*Landscape and society*” Ljubljana (Slovenia), 11-12 May 2006
- “*Multifunctional Landscape*”, Evora (Portugal), 20-21 October 2011
- “*National policies for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention: challenges and opportunities*”, Yerevan (Armenia), 5-6 October 2016

6. Recommendation CM/Rec(2008)3, Appendix 2.

7. See Council of Europe, “Landscape dimensions”, Council of Europe Publishing, 2017.
www.coe.int/en/web/landscape/publications

- “*The implementation of the European Landscape Convention at local level: local democracy*”, Brno (Czech Republic), 5-6 September 2017

The following publications bring together thematic reports on the implementation of the European Landscape Convention:

- Council of Europe, “*Landscape and sustainable development: challenges of the European Landscape Convention*”, Council of Europe Publishing, 2006
 - Landscape and social, economic, cultural and ecological approaches
 - Landscape and individual and social well-being
- Council of Europe, “*Landscape facets*”, Council of Europe Publishing, 2012
 - Landscape and ethics

The Council of Europe journal *Futuropa, for a new vision of landscape and territory*:

- “Landscapes: the setting for our future lives”, *Naturopa*, 1998, no. 86
- “European Landscape Convention”, *Naturopa*, 2002, no. 98
- “Landscape through literature”, *Naturopa/Culturopa*, 2005, no. 103
- “Landscape and public space”, *Futuropa, for a new vision of landscape and territory*, 2014, no. 3

2. Taking account of the landscape dimension in national and international policies

The Convention provides that each Party shall undertake, at national level, to establish and implement landscape policies on the one hand, and to integrate landscape into its other policies that may have a direct or indirect impact on landscape on the other. They also undertake to co-operate on taking into account the landscape dimension in international policies and programmes and to recommend, where relevant, that landscape considerations be included in them.

The establishment and implementation of landscape policies

The Convention states that “landscape policy” means “an expression by the competent public authorities of general principles, strategies and guidelines that permit the taking of specific measures aimed at the protection, management and planning of landscape”. Among its “general measures”, it also provides that each Party shall undertake “to establish procedures for the participation of the general public, local and regional authorities, and other parties with an interest in the definition and implementation of [the] landscape policies”. In particular, Recommendation CM/Rec(2008)3 of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers to member States on the guidelines for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention contains a set of theoretical, methodological and practical guidelines intended for Parties to the Convention who wish to draw up and implement landscape policies on the basis of the Convention.

The Convention provides a definition of the terms “protection”, “management” and “planning” of landscapes:

- “protection” means actions to conserve and maintain the significant or characteristic features of a landscape, justified by its heritage value derived from its natural configuration and/or from human activity;
- “management” means action, from a perspective of sustainable development, to ensure the regular upkeep of a landscape, so as to guide and harmonise changes which are brought about by social, economic and environmental processes;

- “planning” means strong forward-looking action to enhance, restore or create landscapes.

See in particular on this subject:

The proceedings of the following meeting of the Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention:

- *“National policies for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention: challenges and opportunities”*, Yerevan (Armenia), 5-6 October 2016
- *“The implementation of the European Landscape Convention at local level: local democracy”*, Brno (Czech Republic), 5-6 September 2017

Participation, “general measures” to promote landscape policies

The Convention provides that each Party shall undertake “to establish procedures for the participation of the general public, local and regional authorities, and other parties with an interest in the definition and implementation of [the] landscape policies”. It accordingly demands a responsible, forward-looking attitude on the part of all players whose decisions influence landscape quality, and therefore has consequences in many policy and action areas, both public and private.

See in particular on this subject:

The proceedings of the following meetings of the Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention:

- *“Innovative tools for the protection, management and planning of landscape”*, Strasbourg (France), 23-24 May 2002
- *“Landscape and society”* Ljubljana (Slovenia), 11-12 May 2006
- *“Landscape identification and assessment: an exercise in democracy”*, Cetinje (Montenegro), 2-3 October 2013
- *“Visions for the future of Europe on territorial democracy: landscape as a new strategy for spatial planning”*, Thessaloniki (Greece), 1-2 October 2012

The publication:

- Council of Europe, *“Landscape and sustainable development: challenges of the European Landscape Convention”*, Council of Europe Publishing, 2006
 - Landscape and innovative instruments
 - Landscape identification, assessment and quality objectives
 - Landscape and public participation

Awareness-raising, training, education, landscape identification and assessment, setting landscape quality objectives and implementing landscape policies, “specific measures” to promote landscape policies

The Convention provides that each Party shall undertake “to establish and implement landscape policies aimed at landscape protection, management and planning through the adoption of specific measures”. The “specific measures” to promote landscape policies are outlined below.

Awareness-raising

This is about increasing awareness of the value of landscapes, their role and changes to them, among civil society, private organisations and public authorities.

On the occasion of the First International Landscape Day of the Council of Europe, which was held on 20 October 2017,⁸ local authorities were invited to celebrate the landscape as “*an essential component of people’s surroundings, an expression of the diversity of their shared cultural and natural heritage, and a foundation of their identity*” (Article 5.a of the Convention). Numerous events were held on this occasion.

See in particular on this subject:

The proceedings of the following meetings of the Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention:

- “*Awareness-raising, training and education*”, Strasbourg (France), 23-24 May 2002

The publication:

- Council of Europe, “*Landscape and sustainable development: challenges of the European Landscape Convention*”, Council of Europe Publishing, 2006
- Landscape and awareness-raising, training and education

Training

It is important to promote training for specialists in landscape appraisal and operations, as well as multidisciplinary training programmes in landscape policy, protection, management and planning, for professionals in the private and public sectors, and for the associations concerned.

See in particular on this subject:

The publications:

- Council of Europe, “*Landscape facets*”, Council of Europe Publishing, 2012
- Landscape and training of landscape architects
- Council of Europe, Report presented to the 8th Council of Europe Conference on the European Landscape Convention “*Landscape and training of civil engineers*” (CEP-CDCPP (2015) 15).

Education

It is important to promote school and university courses that, in the relevant disciplines, address the values attaching to landscapes and the issues raised by their protection, management and planning. Recommendation CM/Rec(2014)8 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on promoting landscape awareness through education focuses in particular on school teaching in primary and secondary education, considering that educational activities in the landscape field are an excellent way of giving meaning to the future of young people.

See in particular on this subject:

The proceedings of the following meetings of the Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention:

8. www.coe.int/en/web/landscape/-/20-october-2017-first-international-landscape-day-of-the-council-of-europe

- *“Awareness-raising, training and education”*, Strasbourg (France), 23-24 May 2002

The publications:

- Council of Europe, *“Landscape and sustainable development: challenges of the European Landscape Convention”*, Council of Europe Publishing, 2006
 - Landscape and awareness-raising, training and education
- Council of Europe, *“Landscape facets”*, Council of Europe Publishing, 2012
 - Landscape and children’s education
- Council of Europe, *“Landscape dimensions”*, Council of Europe Publishing, 2017
 - Landscape and primary and secondary education

The 21st Council of Europe Meeting of the Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention, *“The implementation of the European Landscape Convention: Education”*, will be held in Catanzaro, Calabria (Italy), on 3-5 October 2018.

Identification and assessment

It is necessary to enlist the help of all players concerned to improve knowledge of landscapes and ensure that landscape identification and assessment procedures are guided by exchange of experience and methodology between Parties at European level.

See in particular on this subject:

The proceedings of the following meetings of the Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention:

- *Landscape identification, assessment and quality objectives, using cultural and natural resources; Awareness-raising, training and education*, Strasbourg (France), 23-24 May 2002
- *“Landscape identification and assessment: an exercise in democracy”*, Cetinje (Montenegro), 2-3 October 2013

The publications:

- Council of Europe, *“Landscape and sustainable development: challenges of the European Landscape Convention”*, Council of Europe Publishing, 2006
 - Landscape identification, assessment and quality objectives
- Council of Europe, *“Landscape facets”*, Council of Europe Publishing, 2012
 - European local landscape circle studies

Defining landscape quality objectives

The aim is to define landscape quality objectives for the landscapes identified and assessed, after public consultation. The term “landscape quality objective” means, for a specific landscape, the formulation by the competent public authorities of the aspirations of the public with regard to the landscape features of their surroundings.

See in particular on this subject:

The proceedings of the following meetings of the Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention:

- *“Landscape identification, assessment and quality objectives, using cultural and natural resources; Awareness-raising, training and education”*, Strasbourg (France), 23-24 May 2002

- *“Landscape quality objectives: from theory to practice”*, Girona (Spain), 28-29 September 2006

The publication:

- Council of Europe, *“Landscape and sustainable development: challenges of the European Landscape Convention”*, Council of Europe Publishing, 2006
- Landscape identification, assessment and quality objectives

The implementation of landscape policies

It is necessary to introduce instruments aimed at protecting, managing and/or planning the landscape.

According to Recommendation CM/Rec(2008)3 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the guidelines for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention, in order to implement landscape policies a general planning and development process should be introduced. This should use specific instruments and provide for the landscape dimension to be included in sectoral instruments. It notes that instruments are already being employed in several countries and each can be a model for either creating new instruments or improving existing ones. The main categories are landscape planning (landscape study plans included in spatial planning); the inclusion of the landscape in sectoral policies and instruments; shared charters, contracts and strategic plans; impact and landscape studies; evaluations of the effects of operations on landscape not subject to an impact study; protected sites and landscape; relationship between landscape and regulations concerning the cultural and historic heritage; resources and financing; landscape awards; landscape observatories, centres and institutes; reports on the state of the landscape and landscape policies; and the management of transfrontier landscapes.

Consultation and decision-making meetings are held by the Council of Europe member States at national, regional and local level with the support or participation of the Council of Europe Secretariat of the European Landscape Convention (the Council of Europe), in order to foster debate and the adoption of policies for the implementation of the Convention. These policies make it possible to promote horizontal co-operation between ministries, vertical co-operation between tiers of government and/or cross-cutting co-operation between the authorities, professionals, the population and the private sector.

See in particular on this subject:

The proceedings of the following meetings of the Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention:

- *“Innovative tools for the protection, management and planning of landscape”*, Strasbourg (France), 23-24 May 2002
- *“Landscape in planning policies and governance: towards integrated spatial management”*, Piešťany (Slovakia), 24-25 April 2008
- *“National policies for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention: challenges and opportunities”*, Yerevan (Armenia), 5-6 October 2016
- *“The implementation of the European Landscape Convention at local level: local democracy”*, Brno (Czech Republic), 5-6 September 2017

Two reports on the landscape dimension of the public policies and international programmes were presented at the 9th Council of Europe Conference on the European Landscape Convention: *“Report*

on public landscape funding” and update of the Report “*Selected funding opportunities to support the implementation of the European Landscape Convention*”.⁹

Integrating landscape to other policies that may have a direct or indirect impact on it

The Convention provides that each Party shall undertake “to integrate landscape to its regional and town planning policies and in its cultural, environmental, agricultural, social and economic policies, as well as in any other policies with possible direct or indirect impact on landscape”.

According to the Convention, developments in agriculture, forestry, industrial and mineral production techniques and in regional planning, town planning, transport, infrastructure, tourism and recreation and, at a more general level, changes in the world economy, have in many cases led to the degradation, standardisation or transformation of landscapes. It points out that many rural and peri-urban areas in particular have undergone and are continuing to undergo far-reaching changes and deserve great attention both on the part of the authorities and the public.

See in particular on this subject:

The proceedings of the following meetings of the Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention:

- “*Landscape and spatial planning*”, Strasbourg (France), 27-28 November 2003
- “*Landscapes for urban, suburban and peri-urban areas*”, Cork (Ireland), 16-17 June 2005
- “*Landscape and rural heritage*”, Sibiu (Romania), 20-21 September 2007
- “*Landscape in planning policies and governance: towards integrated spatial management*”, Piešťany (Slovakia), 24-25 April 2008
- “*Landscape and driving forces*” (*climate change and the new energy paradigm, the “Globalscape”, landscape and social transformations, production systems and consumption patterns*), Malmö/Alnarp (Sweden), 8-9 October 2009
- “*Landscape, infrastructures and society*”, Córdoba (Spain), 15-16 April 2010
- “*Multifunctional landscape*”, Évora (Portugal), 20-21 October 2011
- “*Visions for the future of Europe on territorial democracy: landscape as a new strategy for spatial planning*”, Thessaloniki (Greece), 1-2 October 2012
- “*Sustainable landscapes and economy: on the inestimable natural and human value of the landscape*”, Urgup, (Turkey), 30 September, 1-2 October 2014

The publications:

- Council of Europe, “*Landscape and sustainable development: challenges of the European Landscape Convention*”, Council of Europe Publishing, 2006
 - Landscape and spatial planning
- Council of Europe, “*Landscape facets*”, Council of Europe Publishing, 2012
 - Landscape, towns and peri-urban and suburban areas
 - Landscape and transport infrastructure: roads
 - Road infrastructures: tree avenues in the landscape
- Council of Europe, “*Landscape dimensions*”, Council of Europe Publishing, 2017
 - Landscape and wind turbines
 - Landscape and leisure

9. Documents of the European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe: CEP-CDCPP (2017) 10E and 11E.

- Landscape and economy
- Landscape and advertising

The Council of Europe journal *Futuropa, for a new vision of landscape and territory*:

- “Landscape through literature”, *Naturopa/Culturopa*, 2005, no. 103
- “Vernacular rural habitat, a heritage in our landscape”, *Futuropa, for a new vision of landscape and territory*, 2008, no. 1

Two reports on the integration of the landscape dimension to agriculture policies, as well as regional and town planning policies, were presented at the 9th Council of Europe Conference on the European Landscape Convention: “*Drawing agricultural landscapes for the sustainable and harmonious development of territories*” and “*Towards a grammar for European landscapes*”.¹⁰

3. The development of international co-operation

The Contracting Parties undertake to co-operate in catering for the landscape dimension in international policies and programmes, and to recommend as appropriate the inclusion of landscape considerations in these policies and programmes. They accordingly undertake to co-operate in respect of technical and scientific assistance and exchange of landscape specialists for training and information, and to exchange information on all matters covered by the Convention.

The Council of Europe organises this co-operation through its conferences on the European Landscape Convention. Held since 2001 at the Palais de l’Europe, they enable progress to be made on implementing the Convention.¹¹ Representatives of the Parties to the Convention and signatory States participate in them, as do representatives of the main Council of Europe bodies: the Committee of Ministers, the Parliamentary Assembly, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities and the Conference of Non-Governmental Organisations with participatory status at the Council of Europe. Also present with observer status are representatives of Council of Europe member States that are not yet Parties or signatories, as well as international governmental and non-governmental organisations with an interest in the subject.

The results of the discussions held at the meetings of the Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention and the meetings of the Working Groups responsible for drawing up draft recommendations, thematic reports produced by Council of Europe experts formulating action proposals, and proposals made by the juries of the Council of Europe Landscape Award are presented at these conferences with the aim of preparing draft decisions, which are then submitted to the steering committee responsible for the Convention.

10. Documents of the European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe: CEP-CDCPP (2017) 14E and 15E.

11. Council of Europe Conferences on the European Landscape Convention have been held on 22-23 November 2001, 28-29 November 2002, 17-18 June 2004, 22-23 March 2007, 30-31 March 2009, 3-4 May 2011, 26-27 March 2013, 19-20 March 2015 and 23-24 March 2017. www.coe.int/en/web/landscape/conferences. The Celebration of the 10th anniversary of the European Landscape Convention 2000-2010 – New challenges, new opportunities, was held in Florence, Italy, on 19-20 October 2010. www.coe.int/en/web/landscape/publications

The development of transfrontier co-operation

Transfrontier landscapes are the subject of a specific provision: “The Parties shall encourage transfrontier co-operation on local and regional level and, wherever necessary, prepare and implement joint landscape programmes”. Recommendation CM/Rec(2008)3 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the guidelines for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention also pays particular attention to the management of transfrontier landscapes.

The Recommendation CM/Rec(2015)8 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the implementation of Article 9 of the European Landscape Convention on Transfrontier Landscapes considers that it is important for appropriate consideration to be given to landscape and its environmental, cultural, social and economic values as a development factor for local societies, and recommends that the States Parties to the European Landscape Convention “promote co-operation focusing on transfrontier landscapes by encouraging local and regional authorities to work together to draw up, where appropriate, joint landscape-enhancement programmes for implementation of Article 9 of the European Landscape Convention on transfrontier landscapes”, and calls on the Parties concerned to “inform the other Parties to the Convention, in the framework of the Council of Europe Information System on the European Landscape Convention, of the co-operation programmes drawn up and put in place, in order to foster an exchange of experiences between the Parties”.

See in particular on this subject:

The proceedings of the following meetings of the Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention:

- “*Integration of landscapes in international policies and programmes and transfrontier landscapes*”, Strasbourg (France), 27-28 November 2003
- “*Landscape and transfrontier co-operation: the landscape knows no boundary*”, Andorra la Vella (Andorra), 1-2 October 2015

The publication:

- Council of Europe, “*Landscape and sustainable development: challenges of the European Landscape Convention*”, Council of Europe Publishing, 2006
- Landscape and policies, international programmes and transfrontier landscapes

The Council of Europe journal, *Futuropa, for a new vision of landscape and territory* – “Landscape and transfrontier co-operation”, 2010, no. 2

A Report on “*Regional approaches to sustainable landscapes and green economic growth*”, covering activities of REC Caucasus for Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia, was presented at the 9th Council of Europe Conference on the European Landscape Convention.¹²

The promotion of international co-operation, mutual assistance and the exchange of information

To ensure exchanges of information and monitoring of the implementation of the Convention in the various member States of the Council of Europe, a document setting out the landscape policies

12. Documents of the European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe: CEP-CDCPP (2017) 17E.

pursued in the member States was produced on a regular basis and presented on the occasion of the Council of Europe Conferences on the European Landscape Convention.¹³

The use of the European Landscape Convention Information System, set up pursuant to Recommendation CM/Rec(2013)4 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the European Landscape Convention Information System of the Council of Europe and its glossary, permit access online to information concerning national and regional policies that have been developed.¹⁴ The glossary has been produced in order to explain certain terms employed and thus provide access keys for authorities, organisations or citizens seeking useful information on landscape policies.¹⁵

The States Parties to the Convention are invited to make use of this Council of Europe Information System and its glossary in the context of their co-operation, to work together on developing it further and to continue to exchange information on the matters covered by the provisions of the Convention, in order to promote an awareness of landscapes and the policies relating to them.

Recognition of exemplary projects: Landscape Award and the Landscape Award Alliance of the Council of Europe

The European Landscape Convention provides for a Council of Europe Landscape Award which recognises policies or measures adopted by local or regional authorities or non-governmental organisations to protect, manage and/or plan their landscape which have proved lastingly effective and can thus serve as an example to other territorial authorities in Europe.

On 20 February 2008, the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers adopted Resolution CM/Res(2008)3 on the rules governing the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe. The Award and special mentions are conferred every two years on the basis of a Committee of Ministers' decision following a proposal by a jury and the Council of Europe steering committee tasked with monitoring the implementation of the Convention. Four criteria have been established for the conferment of the Council of Europe Landscape Award: sustainable territorial development, exemplariness, public participation and awareness-raising.

A section of the Convention website, entitled "Council of Europe Landscape Award Alliance of the European Landscape Convention", is devoted to a presentation of national award-winning projects.¹⁶ These extremely important awards are real sources of inspiration and show it is possible to promote the territorial dimension of human rights and democracy by improving the landscape features of people's living environment.

13. Documents of the European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe: CEP-CDPATEP (2009) 3; CEP-CDPATEP (2011) 7; CEP-CDCPP (2013) 5; CEP-CDCPP (2015) 5.

14. Public part to be completed by the Parties to the Convention:

www.coe.int/en/web/landscape/landscape-observatory; https://elcl6.coe.int/WebForms/Public_List.aspx

15. <https://rm.coe.int/09000016802fc144>

16. www.coe.int/en/web/landscape/landscape-award-alliance.

See also the "Landscape Award of the Council of Europe" section of the European Landscape Convention website www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/heritage/Landscape/default_en.asp; Publication: The Landscape Award Alliance of the Council of Europe, Territory and Landscape Series, 2017, No.105 (presentation of the projects in Sessions 1 to 5 of the Award); www.coe.int/en/web/landscape/publications

Depending on the case, they promote landscape protection through measures to preserve the significant and characteristic features of the landscape; landscape management through action from a sustainable development perspective to ensure the regular upkeep of a landscape in order to guide and harmonise change; or landscape planning through forward-looking action to enhance, restore or create landscapes. These projects foster “landscapes for living”, in urban and peri-urban areas; “landscapes to discover”, through the provision of roads or country paths; “historical and living landscapes”, between nature and culture; or landscapes that enable people to “get to know the countryside and take action to support it”, by establishing methodologies and other landscape promotion tools.

The Committee of Ministers adopted, on 27 September 2017, the Resolution CM/Res(2017)18 on the Landscape Award Alliance of the Council of Europe. It gathers the exemplary achievements presented by the States Parties to the European Landscape Convention, showing that it is possible to promote the territorial dimension of human rights and democracy by improving the landscape features of people’s surroundings.

Sessions of the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe

Five sessions of the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe have been held: Session 1 (2008-2009), Session 2 (2010-2011), Session 3 (2012-2013), Session 4 (2014-2015) and Session 5 (2016-2017). The sixth Session (2018-2019) is now under way.

The Awards, special mentions and acknowledgments have been conferred on the basis of decisions by the Committee of Ministers based on the recommendations of the Council of Europe steering committee responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Convention (Steering Committee for Culture, Heritage and Landscape – CDCPP) and prepared by an International Jury. In accordance with the Rules, the Awards are presented by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe or his/her representative at a public ceremony.

See also: www.coe.int/en/web/landscape/home;

www.coe.int/en/web/landscape/landscape-award-alliance;

www.coe.int/en/web/landscape/publications: “The Landscape Award Alliance of the Council of Europe”, Council of Europe Publishing, European Spatial Planning and Landscape Series, 2017, No. 105.

Council of Europe Landscape Award Forum of National Selections

Biennially organised by the Council of Europe in co-operation with an hosting State, the “Council of Europe Landscape Award Forums” aim to highlight the selections made at national level within the framework of the Landscape Award, as sources of inspiration.

See in particular on this subject:

The proceedings of the following meetings of the Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention:

- “Council of Europe Landscape Award Forum of National Selections – 1st-Sessions 2008-2010 and 2nd Session 2010-2011”, Carbonia (Italy), 4-5 June 2012
- “Council of Europe Landscape Award Forum of National Selections – 3rd Session 2012-2013”, Wroclaw (Poland), 11-12 June 2014

- *“Council of Europe Landscape Award Forum of National Selections – 4th Session 2014-2015”*, Budapest (Hungary), 9-10 June 2016
- *“Council of Europe Landscape Award Forum of National Selections – 5th Session 2016-2017”*, Daugavpils (Latvia), 19-21 June 2017

Proceedings available in Council of Europe publications, Territory and Landscape Series,
www.coe.int/en/web/landscape/publications and
www.coe.int/en/web/landscape/workshops

Conclusion

Recommendation CM/Rec(2008)3 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the guidelines for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention states that “[t]he concept of landscape is undergoing a period of rapid and profound change accompanied by significant advances”. It notes that the European Landscape Convention and the documents relating to its implementation “have led to developments in numerous European States, not only in their national and regional legislation but also at various administrative levels, as well as in methodological documents and experiments with active participatory landscape policies”. It further notes that “[t]his situation has come about both in States which have long been active in this area and which have tried and tested landscape policies and instruments, and in States which are not yet at that stage”. Finally, it points out that the Convention “is used as a benchmark by some countries to initiate a process of profound change in their landscape policies; for others it constitutes an opportunity to define their policy”.

Landscape has been gradually introduced into governmental political agendas; an extensive international co-operation network in support of the implementation of the Convention has developed; the concept of landscape as defined by the Convention is being increasingly recognised by the authorities and citizens; new forms of co-operation are emerging between the different tiers of government – national, regional and local – and between the ministries or departments of the same state or region; landscape-specific working structures (observatories, centres or landscape institutes) are being set up; landscape-specific laws and regulations are being adopted; states and regions are co-operating beyond their borders in the case of frontier landscapes; national landscape awards referring to the Council of Europe Landscape Award have been launched; university programmes have been developed with reference to the Convention and summer universities on landscape are being organised; biennials, landscape festivals and exhibitions based on the principles of the Convention are being held; and communities and non-governmental organisations are feeling increasingly involved and becoming active.

As a thoroughly modern concept, landscape combines the four elements of sustainable development: natural, cultural, social and economic. It is also a constantly evolving story. As a unique setting and meeting place for populations, it is a key factor in the physical, mental and spiritual well-being of individuals and societies. As a source of contemplative and creative inspiration, it takes us on a journey through time, space and imagination.

Governments wishing to implement the principles of good governance need to consider the inestimable value of landscape for human beings and include the landscape dimension in their national and international policy-making. It is also up to each individual to respect the landscape and take care of it – both its appearance and its substance – for both current and future generations.

Website of the Convention:

www.coe.int/Convention europeennedupaysage

www.coe.int/EuropeanLandscapeConvention

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