



**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*

---

**Implementation of the European Landscape Convention: Experiences of parties to the convention**

**Experience of Hungary: National Landscape Strategy of Hungary (2017-2026)**

**Mrs Krisztina KINCSES**

*National Representative of the European Landscape Convention, Ministry of Agriculture, Hungary*

The Hungarian Government approved the National Landscape Strategy for the period 2017-2026, in 2017. By the Government Decision 1128/2017 (20 March), the Government:

- calls on the Minister of National Development to take the principles of the National Landscape Strategy into account for the planning of investments in transport infrastructure and tourism;
- calls on the ministers concerned to support volunteers and civil organisations engaged in landscape protection;
- calls on the Minister of the Prime Minister's Office to provide for the gradual setting up of the chief landscape architect system;
- calls on the Minister of Agriculture to report every three years on the implementation of the strategy to the Government (the first report is due 30 June 2020).

The National Landscape Strategy is available on the website of the Government:

### *Legal basis*

In Hungary, the European Landscape Convention took effect on 1 February 2008 by the Act CXI of 2007 on the promulgation of the European Landscape Convention that was signed in Florence on 20 October 2000. The primary responsibility for the implementation of the Convention lies with the Ministry of Agriculture. The Minister responsible for Nature Conservation shall provide for the implementation of the Convention in agreement with the Minister responsible for Cultural Heritage protection, and in co-operation with the Ministers responsible for Territorial Development and for Spatial Planning.

Under the management of the European Landscape Convention, National Co-ordination Working Group, a joint work programme applying to all ministries concerned was drawn up to achieve the goals and fulfil the tasks laid down in the Convention. The document entitled Work Programme for the Implementation of the European Landscape Convention (2013-2017) set the development of the Hungarian landscape strategy as an “extremely important” task.

In order to implement this task, the Ministry of Agriculture initiated the development of the strategy at the time of the formulation of the National Environmental Programme. In June 2015, the National Assembly approved the 4th National Environmental Programme for the period between 2015 and 2020. The development of the “National Landscape Policy and Strategy Integrating the Protection, Management and Planning of Landscapes” is stipulated in Chapter 8.7., entitled European Landscape Convention of the Nature Conservation Master Plan annexed to the Programme.

### *Workflow*

As the first step, the European Landscape Convention National Co-ordination Working Group organised an extended meeting in March 2015 and made a SWOT analysis.

On 2 December 2015, a Workshop on the proposed National Landscape Strategy was organised jointly by the Office of the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights and the Ministry of Agriculture. It focused on two topics:

- the analysis and evaluation of the condition of the Hungarian landscape;
- the role and responsibility of public administration in landscape formation.

The event created the opportunity for research institutions, universities and civil organisations to make proposals regarding the National Landscape Strategy to safeguard the nation’s common heritage. The participants could also send their comments in writing.

On 11 December 2015, the Ministry of Agriculture proposed the convocation of an intra-ministerial and an inter-ministerial Working Group for the constructive implementation of this task. The technical preparatory work relied on wide-ranging technical and inter-ministerial co-operation.

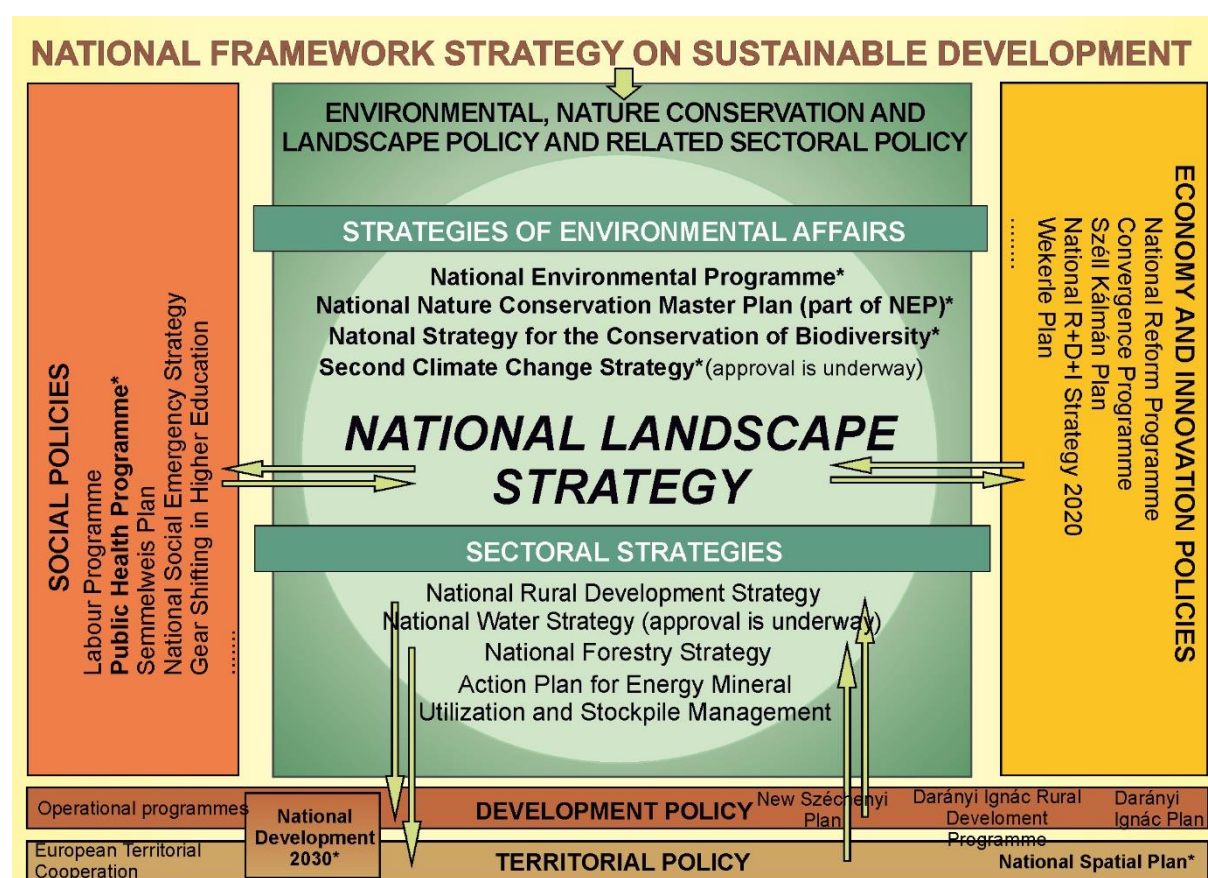
### *Mission of the strategy*

The landscape is represented in the strategy documents developed and approved in the past ten years, although it is represented only indirectly and not in the ternary system of protection-management-planning of the European Landscape Convention. For the review of the interfaces of the landscape strategy, priority was given to those that determine territorial development, sustainability, natural and environmental condition and the development directions of utilisations relying on natural configurations.

Considering the principles and the tasks presented in the preamble and laid down in the articles of the Convention, the mission of the first Hungarian National Landscape Strategy can be summarised as follows:

- Development of a complex holistic landscape approach, and having it acknowledged generally.
- The landscape generally must be made an underlying approach element of sectoral policy areas and functions, not only the areas and functions with outstanding values.
- The condition of the landscape and the triggering effects must be handled together through revealing causal interrelationship and thereby demonstrating the need for taking responsibility for landscapes.

The National Landscape Strategy emphasises the change in land use and land cover on both protected and unprotected areas.



*The place and role of the National Landscape Strategy within the Hungarian planning scheme  
(Source: National Landscape Strategy of Hungary (2017-2026))*

### *Structure, content*

The National Landscape Strategy is being developed in compliance with the criteria of policy strategies. However, its fundamental purpose and mission resulting from the European Landscape Convention is to develop a horizontal vision which goes beyond the given policy areas and to devise a medium-term strategy to achieve its vision. Within the meaning of Government Decree 38/2012 (12 March), a policy strategy is a medium-term strategic document for achieving the vision of a given policy area.

The structure of the Strategy analysis and evaluation of the situation; measurable objectives, required actions and their preconditions; follow-up and evaluation largely follows the requirements of the applicable government decree.

This Strategy reviews how Hungary fulfils international expectations, and presents the most dominant landscape formation processes. It shows the condition of Hungarian landscapes and the drivers that determine their condition.

### *Vision*

The vision of the Strategy outlines the future condition of Hungarian landscapes and Hungarian landscape policy. It considers that land use relies both on landscape configuration and its assets.

### *Policy objectives*

The overall policy objective considers that responsible land use is based on landscape configuration and assets.

The following horizontal principles consider general protection of natural resources and cultural heritage; wise and rational use of areas and the mitigation of the impacts of climate change and adaptation to it.

### *Strategic objectives and sub-objectives*

The Strategic objectives and sub-objectives are the following:

#### **I. Laying the foundations for land use based on landscape configuration and assets**

1. Establishing the framework for land use based on landscape configuration and assets;
2. Monitoring changes in land use;
3. Integrating land use, based on landscape configuration and assets, into decision-making;
4. Integrating a complex approach to landscape into research activities.

#### **II. Liveable landscape – liveable settlement – wise land use**

1. Compact, climate-friendly settlements that preserve values;
2. Infrastructures fitted into the landscape;
3. Production functions based on landscape configuration and assets;
4. Recreational functions based on landscape configuration and assets;
5. Better functioning regulatory and protective functions.

### III. Enhancing landscape identity

1. Improving awareness and social responsibility;
2. Improving social participation;
3. Developing education and training related to landscape.

#### *Guarantees for the implementation*

The operational programmes for 2014-2020 have been taken into account when defining objectives and intervention areas. A major part of actions for the fulfilment of the objectives is, or can be, linked to operational programmes financed from EU funds. At the end of the EU budgetary period and the beginning of period of planning the following budgetary period, attention should be paid that the objectives specified in the strategy are involved among the planning criteria. Additionally, ensure that the strategy contains actions that do not require allocated funds in the budget but can be achieved as part of the existing tasks through a change of approach or attitude.

It is important that, according to the order of strategic management by the government, the new strategies and the existing strategies that are reviewed should integrate the requirement for responsible land use, based on landscape configuration and assets, and should incorporate the actions (94 measures) specified for the objectives into the sectoral policies.

#### *Follow-up and evaluation*

The strategy determined measurable indicators and the milestones for the follow-up of its implementation. Indicators suitable for the review of the achievement of objectives and sub-objectives were selected using relevant data into account. It is necessary to note that the monitoring of the landscape differs from the follow-up of the objectives of the strategy, even if some indicators overlap.

Interim evaluation must be made every three years as a report on the implementation of the strategy to the Government, and the subsequent evaluation must be made within one year of its implementation.

#### *Achievements*

Taking the list of objectives of the strategy into account, and the principles laid down in the European Landscape Convention, among others, two inter-ministerial working groups began their operation in 2017 in order to monitor the changes of landscapes, and to establish a chief landscape architect system in public administration.

#### *Actual challenges*

1. A new Work Programme for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention will be adopted for the period 2018-2022 based on the objectives of the National Landscape Strategy 2017-2026.
2. An Action Plan will be adopted taking into account the date of the interim evaluation of the strategy.
3. The Hungarian Government should express the consent to be bound by the protocol amending the European Landscape Convention (Treaty No. 219) by adopting a new law and depositing the

instruments of ratification, acceptance or approval with the Secretary General of the Council of Europe.

4. The Ministry of Agriculture has started a National Programme of State Nature Conservation with the title “Strategic assessments supporting the long-term conservation of natural values of community interest as well as the national implementation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020”. The main aim of the project is to continue and improve data collection, monitoring and research related to biodiversity. This National Programme will support policy-making by development of the decision-making process.

The four closely related project elements (Natura, Ecosystem Service, Landscape character, Green Infrastructure) will produce the following elements:

- thematic maps on ecosystem status of natural and close-to-natural ecosystems;
- national priority list of ecosystem services;
- assessment of the contribution of ecosystem services to human well-being, socio-economic evaluation of ecosystem services;
- national methodology and model for the mapping and assessment of ecosystems and ecosystem services;
- range maps;
- habitat maps;
- national survey of bird species nesting in Hungary;
- refined methodology for monitoring and assessment the conservation status of 45 habitat types;
- preparing species’ management plans, updated prioritised action framework;
- updated conflict map of power lines threatening birds;
- national GIS database of landscape character units;
- guidelines for the classification of landscape character types;
- methodology for the delimitation and protection of landscape character units at local level;
- national GIS database of the Green Infrastructure Network;
- national restoration prioritisation framework;
- target areas of conservation.

[Powerpoint presentation](#)

<http://rm.coe.int/16807b555a>