



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*

– DRAFT PROGRAMME –
13 March 2018



Downtown Kutaisi and White Bridge as seen from Mt Gora

*Document prepared by the Secretariat of the European Landscape Convention,
Directorate of Democratic Citizenship and Participation, Council of Europe*

The National Symposium on the implementation of the European Landscape Convention in Georgia is being organised in Tbilisi, Georgia (address: Tech Park Innovation and Technology Agency (GITA), 7, Inovatsiebi str., Okrokana, Old Tbilisi District, 0105, Tbilisi) on 9-10 March 2018, by the Council of Europe – Secretariat of the European Landscape Convention, Directorate of Democratic Citizenship and Participation, Council of Europe – in co-operation with the Ministry of Culture and Sport and the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia, within the context of the Work Programme of the European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe.

Introduction

As an international intergovernmental organisation created in 1949, and whose headquarters are located in Strasbourg (France), **the Council of Europe** has 47 member States: Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Republic Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”, Turkey, Ukraine and the United Kingdom. Its main objectives are to promote democracy, human rights and the rule of law, and to seek common solutions to the main problems facing European society today.

The European Landscape Convention was adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on 19 July 2000 in Strasbourg and opened for signature by the member States of the Organisation in Florence (Italy) on 20 October 2000, with the aim of promoting European landscape protection, management and planning and to organise international co-operation. It is the first international treaty to be exclusively devoted to all dimensions of the landscape. The Convention applies to the entire territory of the Parties and covers natural, rural, urban and peri-urban areas. It concerns landscapes that might be considered outstanding, as well as everyday or degraded landscapes. 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, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”, Turkey, Ukraine and the United Kingdom. Two states have signed the Convention: Iceland and Malta.

Acknowledgments

The Secretariat of the Council of Europe would like to thank the Government of Georgia for its hospitality and co-operation, and the Parties to the Convention attending the Symposium for their contribution to the exchange of information according to the provisions of the Convention.

Objectives

The Symposium aims to present the European Landscape Convention and to discuss its implementation at national level.

For the purposes of the Convention:

‘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 landscapes”.

‘Landscape’ means “an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors”; ‘Landscape 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”; ‘Landscape management’ means “action, from a perspective of sustainable development, to ensure the regular upkeep of a landscape, in order to guide and harmonise changes which are brought about by social, economic and environmental processes”; and ‘Landscape planning’ means “strong forward-looking action to enhance, restore or create landscapes”.

The Meeting aims to promote the implementation of the Convention in Georgia.

The Convention states notably in its Chapter II:

Article 5 – General measures

Each Party undertakes:

- a. 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;
- b. to establish and implement landscape policies aimed at landscape protection, management and planning through the adoption of the specific measures set out in Article 6;
- c. 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 mentioned in paragraph b above;
- d. to integrate landscape into 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.

Article 6 – Specific measures

A. Awareness-raising

Each Party undertakes to increase awareness among the civil society, private organisations, and public authorities of the value of landscapes, their role and changes to them.

B. Training and education

Each Party undertakes to promote:

- a. training for specialists in landscape appraisal and operations;
- b. multidisciplinary training programmes in landscape policy, protection, management and planning, for professionals in the private and public sectors and for associations concerned;
- c. school and university courses which, in the relevant subject areas, address the values attaching to landscapes and the issues raised by their protection, management and planning.

C. Identification and assessment

1. With the active participation of the interested parties, as stipulated in Article 5.c, and with a view to improving knowledge of its landscapes, each Party undertakes:

- a. i) to identify its own landscapes throughout its territory;
- ii) to analyse their characteristics and the forces and pressures transforming them;
- iii) to take note of changes;
- b. to assess the landscapes thus identified, taking into account the particular values assigned to them by the interested parties and the population concerned.

2. These identification and assessment procedures shall be guided by the exchanges of experience and methodology, organised between the Parties at European level pursuant to Article 8.

D. Landscape quality objectives

Each Party undertakes to define landscape quality objectives for the landscapes identified and assessed, after public consultation in accordance with Article 5.c.

E. Implementation

To put landscape policies into effect, each Party undertakes to introduce instruments aimed at protecting, managing and/or planning the landscape.

Moreover, the Convention states in *Article 8 – Mutual assistance and exchange of information*:

The Parties undertake to co-operate in order to enhance the effectiveness of measures taken under other articles of this Convention, and in particular:

- a.* to render each other technical and scientific assistance in landscape matters through the pooling and exchange of experience, and the results of research projects;
- b.* to promote the exchange of landscape specialists, in particular for training and information purposes;
- c.* to exchange information on all matters covered by the provisions of the Convention.

Websites

- **European Landscape Convention**
www.coe.int/EuropeanLandscapeConvention
www.coe.int/Conventioneuropeennedupaysage
- **Ministry of Culture and Sport of Georgia**
www.culture.gov.ge
- **Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia**
www.economy.ge

Venue

The National Symposium will be held at Tech Park Georgia's Innovation and Technology Agency (GITA), 7, Inovatsiebi str., Okrokana, Old Tbilisi District, 0105, Tbilisi.

Participants

The National Symposium is aimed at national government officials, representatives of local and regional authorities, universities, professionals, public and private governmental and non-governmental organisations, working in the fields of landscape and sustainable management, with its environmental, cultural, social and economic dimensions. The number of participants is limited to 50.

Working languages

The working languages are Georgian and English. Interpretation will be provided.

Programme

The programme will be available on the Council of Europe website of the European Landscape Convention at the following address: www.coe.int/EuropeanLandscapeConvention

The proceedings of the National Symposium will be published in the Council of Europe's "European Spatial Planning and Landscape" series:

www.coe.int/en/web/landscape/symposium
www.coe.int/en/web/landscape/publications

Practical information

Travel: Participants are invited to make their reservation in accordance with the provisions mentioned in the letter of invitation message sent to them.

Hotels: Participants are invited to make their own reservation by direct contact with the hotel.

- Ibis style Tbilisi (centrally located): www.ibis.com/gb/hotel-A413-ibis-styles-tbilisi-center-/index.shtml
- Hotel Opera: www.hotelopera.ge
- Hotel City: www.hotelcity.ge
- Hotel Tekla Palace: www.facebook.com/Teklapalacetbilisi
- Rooms hotel: <https://roomshotels.com/tbilisi>

Getting to the Meeting venue

A bus will gather the participants from 08:45-09:15 to take to the venue place at the Freedom Square, Tbilisi, in front of the Courtyard Marriott Tbilisi Hotel, 4 Freedom Square, Tbilisi 0105, Georgia.

Organisers

Council of Europe – Secretariat of the European Landscape Convention

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Photo credits: Wikipedia

FRIDAY 9 MARCH 2018

09.30 – 10.00 *Registrations of participants*

10.00 – 10.30 *Welcome speeches*

Mr Levan KHARATISHVILI, Deputy Minister of Culture and Sport of Georgia

Ms Irma KAVTARADZE, Deputy Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia

Represented by: Ms Nino GVENTSADZE, Head of the Spatial Planning and Construction Policy Department, Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development

Mr Cristian URSE, Head of the Council of Europe Office in Tbilisi

Mrs Maguelonne DEJEANT-PONS, Representative of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe

Mrs Krisztina KINCSES, Deputy Chair of the Council of Europe Conference on the European Landscape Convention, Hungary

10.30 – 11.00 *Presentation of the European Landscape Convention*

Mrs Maguelonne DEJEANT-PONS, Executive Secretary of the European Landscape Convention, Steering Committee for Culture, Heritage and Landscape (CDCPP) of the Council of Europe

11.00 – 11.30 *Implementation of the European Landscape Convention in Georgia*

Mrs Marina TUMANISHVILI, Chief Specialist, National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation of Georgia

11.30 – 12.00 *Coffee break*

12.00 – 12.30 *Institutions and policies for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention - Recognising landscapes in law*

Experience of Hungary – Hungarian National Landscape Strategy

Mrs Krisztina KINCSES, National Representative of the European Landscape Convention, Ministry of Agriculture, Hungary

12.30 – 13.00 *Discussion, Q&A*

13.00 – 14.30 *Lunch*

14.30 – 15.00 **Experience of Latvia – Implementation of the European Landscape Convention in Latvia**

Mrs Kristīne KEDO, Head of Spatial Planning Policy Division, Spatial Planning Department, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development

Mrs Dace GRANTA, Senior Expert, Spatial Planning Policy Division, Spatial Planning Department, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development

15.00 – 15.30 *Instruments for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention: identification, assessment, quality objectives*

Experience of France – Implementing landscape quality objectives

Mr Gilles de BEAULIEU, Policy Officer for Landscapes, Directorate of Housing, Urban Planning and Landscapes, Ministry of Ecological and Solidary Transition, France

15.30 – 16.00 *Landscape awareness, training and education*

Experience of Finland – Landscape awareness, training and education – experiences in Finland

Mr Tapio HEIKKILÄ, Senior Environmental Counsellor, Ministry of the Environment, Finland

16.00 – 16.30 *Coffee break*

16.30 – 17.00 *Participation of the general public, local and regional authorities, and other parties with an interest in the definition and implementation of the landscape policies*

Experience of Serbia – Landscape policies

Mrs Biljana FILIPOVIC, Assistant Minister responsible for International Co-operation, Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection, National focal point responsible for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention in Serbia, Serbia

Mrs Jasminka LUKOVIC JAGLICIC, Director Advisor, Regional Economic Development Agency, Sumadija and Pomoravlje, Serbia

17.00 – 17.30 *Discussion, Q&A*

17.30 – 18.00 *Wrap up*

Mr Kakha POTSKHISHVILI, Deputy Head of Spatial Planning and Construction Policy Department, Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia

Mrs Manana VARDZELASHVILI, Head of the UNESCO and International relations Unit, National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation in Georgia

Mrs Krisztina KINCSES, Deputy Chair of the Council of Europe Conference on the European Landscape Convention, Hungary

Mrs Maguelonne DEJEANT-PONS, Executive Secretary of the European Landscape Convention, Steering Committee for Culture, Heritage and Landscape (CDCPP) of the Council of Europe

SATURDAY 10 MARCH 2018

09.00 – 16.00 *Study visit of the Dmanisi site and Asureti settlement*

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