



**COUNCIL OF EUROPE**  
**EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION**

***National Workshop on the implementation  
of the European Landscape Convention  
in Bosnia and Herzegovina***

***Drawing landscape policies for the future***

***Trebinje, Bosnia and Herzegovina  
25-26 January 2018***

***OPENING SESSION  
WELCOMING SPEECH***

**Mrs Maguelonne DEJEANT-PONS**

*Executive Secretary of the European Landscape Convention, Steering Committee for Culture, Heritage and Landscape (CDCPP) of the Council of Europe*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe I would like to express our great pleasure at being here in Bosnia and Herzegovina at the National Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention and would particularly like to convey our appreciation that you have hosted this event in such nice city and landscape.

We extend our thanks to:

- Mr Edin Veladzic, Senior Advisor for European integration and international cultural co-operation, Ministry of Civil Affairs, Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- Mr Slobodan Nagradic, Executive Director of the Republic Institute for Protection of Cultural, Historical and Natural Heritage, Ministry of Education and Culture, Republic of Srpska, Bosnia and Herzegovina;

– Mrs Lamiya Abdijevec, Senior Advisor for cultural heritage with the Institute for Protection of Monuments of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Federal Ministry of Culture and Sport, Bosnia and Herzegovina;

– Mr Dragoslav Banjak, President of the Assembly of the City of Trebinje, Republic of Srpska, Bosnia and Herzegovina;

and, of course, to Mr Dejan Radosevic, Head of Section, Republic Institute for Protection of Cultural, Historical and Natural Heritage, Ministry of Education and Culture, Republic of Srpska, Bosnia and Herzegovina, for his highly appreciated co-operation in the organisation of this event.

I am also very grateful that the Representatives from Croatia, France, Montenegro, Serbia and Slovenia have been able to join this meeting which is intended to implement the provisions of the Convention on “Mutual assistance and exchange of information” for the establishment of landscape policies.

Bosnia and Herzegovina ratified the Convention in January 2012 and we appreciate very much the significant work in process for its implementation.

To date, 38 Council of Europe member States have ratified the Convention and three states have signed it. Moreover, in August this year, the Convention will be opened for signature to non-European States.

The Parties to this Convention indicated their wish to establish a new instrument dedicated to the protection, management and planning of all landscapes, considering that the landscape is an important part of the quality of life for people everywhere: as much in everyday areas as in areas of outstanding beauty. The Convention applies not only to the countryside but also to urban areas; not only to areas of high quality, but also to degraded ones. The Parties acknowledge that the quality and diversity of landscapes constitute a shared resource to which protection, management and planning is vital to contribute.

Landscape has indeed an important public interest role in the cultural, ecological, environmental and social fields and constitutes a resource that can promote economic activity and contribute to job creation.

It is therefore important to establish strategies and policy documents to ensure that the landscape dimension is taken into account; it is important to adopt legal and financial instruments, and to develop new forms of co-ordination, both horizontal and vertical.

This event intends to provide the opportunity to learn more about experiences of States Parties in promoting landscape policies.

Thank you for your attention.