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Drawing landscape policies for the future

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SESSION 1

SERBIA

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The role of the Regional Economic Development Agency for Sumadija and Pomoravlje in the process of the implementation of the European Landscape Convention at regional and local level

The Regional Economic Development Agency for Sumadija and Pomoravlje was founded in 2002 as the partnership between public, civil and private sectors, with the purpose of planning and management of equal territorial development.

The Law on Regional Development (adopted in July 2009, “Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia”, No. 51/2009, 30/2010 and 89/2015) defined the competence and area of intervention of regional development agencies for planning of development processes at regional level, applying the principles of broad stakeholder participation, inter-municipal and cross-sector approach in identifying problems and measures to address them.

REDASP consistently applies these principles in its work on the one hand and has the ratification of the European Landscape Convention on the other hand. Thus the Republic of Serbia has recognised the landscape as an essential component of the human environment and agreed to 1). establish and implement a set of policies aimed at the protection, management and planning of the area and 2). to establish procedures for involvement of the wider public, local and regional authorities, as well as

other landscape policy stakeholders. This has led to the nomination of REDASP as the regional partner for the implementation of adopted methodologies that integrate landscape into policies of strategic, spatial and urban planning, and thereafter in the cultural, agricultural, social, economic and environmental policies, as well as in all other policies that may have a direct or indirect impact on landscapes.

Signing of the Memorandum of Co-operation (February 2014) between the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection and the Ministry of Culture and Information, with regional development agencies on the territory of Sumadija and Western Serbia, represents the official beginning of co-operation and practical implementation of the convention at regional and local level.

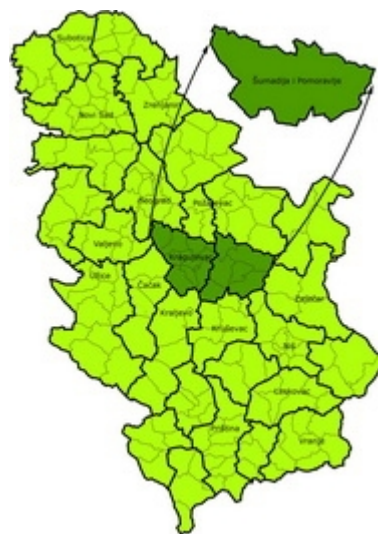
Following ratification of the European Landscape Convention in 2011, the Republic of Serbia committed to recognising landscapes in the law, and joined the group of 38 countries that are implementing it. With reference to the main objective of the European Landscape Convention – protection, management and planning of landscapes and organisation of European co-operation in this field – relevant legal and strategic frameworks of the Republic of Serbia can be identified in the following documents: Law on the Spatial Planning 2011-2010 (Official Gazette of the RS, No. 88/10); Law on Nature Protection (Official Gazette of the RS, No. 36/2009, 88/2010 and 91/2010); Law on Environmental Protection (Official Gazette of the RS, No. 135/2004, 36/2009, 36/2009 and 72/2009) in Article 34; Draft Law on Spatial Planning and Construction, Art. 2.

The Regional Economic Development Agency for Sumadija and Pomoravlje, in co-operation with the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Serbia, officially started implementation of the project “Improvement of the capacity of Sumadija and Pomoravlje region for implementation of the European Landscape Convention”, on 1 March 2015, after adoption (in 2014) of the Rulebook on criteria for identification of landscapes of the Republic of Serbia, and the methodology of assessment of their significant and characteristic features.

Basic information about the territory:

The region of Šumadija and Pomoravlje is located in the central part of Serbia, between the major rivers the Sava and Danube in the north, the Velika Morava in the east, the Zapadna Morava in the south, and the Kolubara River in the west.

The surface of the region is 5 001 sq.km, which makes 5.6 % of the total territory of the Republic of Serbia. According to the latest official census from 2011, a total of 507 844 inhabitants live in this territory, so the average population density is 101 per sq.km. The proportion of population of Šumadija and Pomoravlje in the total population of the Republic of Serbia amounts to 7 %.



The region of Šumadija and Pomoravlje includes two districts in its structure – the Šumadija district and the Pomoravlje district. The Šumadija district includes the city of Kragujevac and six municipalities: Arandelovac Batočina, Lapovo, Knić, Rača and Topola. The total area of the Šumadija district is 2387 sq.km, out of which 835 sq.km is the territory of the city of Kragujevac, which is also the largest city in the region. The

number of residents of Šumadija district is 293 308, and the average population density is 123 per sq.km.

The Pomoravlje district includes the city of Jagodina and five municipalities: Despotovac, Paraćin, Rekovac, Svilajnac and Čuprija. With the total of 2.617 sq.km of the whole area and the population of 214 536, the Pomoravlje district has an average density of 82 inhabitants per sq.km.

The city of Kragujevac is the largest city in the territory of Šumadija and Pomoravlje, and also represents an administrative, economic, cultural, educational and health centre for the entire region of Šumadija and Pomoravlje and central Serbia. It is located in the central part of the Republic of Serbia and the region of Šumadija and Pomoravlje, 140 km southeast of Belgrade.

Overall objective of the project:

Contribution to conservation and protection of the landscapes on the territory of Sumadija and Pomoravlje

Specific objective of the project:

Identification and assessment of landscapes on the territory of Sumadija and Pomoravlje and creation of the mechanism for strategic management and preservation of the quality of landscapes in accordance with the European Landscape Convention

Activities implemented within the project are:

- establishment of the project team and the expert team for implementation;
- identification of data sources;
- preparation of bases and thematic maps - determination of characteristic features/attributes, preparation of thematic maps, extraction of the landscape description units (LDU), overlapping of LDU physical characteristics with cultural characteristics, preparation of maps of preliminary LDU and landscape character types (LCT), and description of selected LDUs;
- data processing;
- preliminary identification of the LDUs and defining the LDU and LCT map;
- data collection in the field - field visits;
- final valorisation of collected data and valorisation of the state and sensitivity of the 2 LCTs;
- selecting of LCTs for entry into the database;
- data entry into the spatial data base – forming the database;
- creating the web portal;
- promo video “Horizons of Sumadija and Pomoravlje” with over 300 photographs;
- organising the workshops and final project conference.

The project will serve as a model for improving the capacities of other districts in the Republic of Serbia for implementation of the European Landscape Convention, in order to carry out activities for identification of the landscapes applying the same principles and methodology.

REDASP is using the results of the project in regular work for:

- Sustainable development strategies;
- Economic strategies and economic assessments;
- Renewable energy use strategies;
- Exploitation of raw materials and waste disposal strategies;
- Tourism development and recreation strategies;
- Green infrastructure strategies;
- Environmental impact assessments;
- Strategic impact assessments;
- Assessments of impact on landscapes and visual impact;
- Mitigation and adaptation measures for climate change;
- Local-level planning / place-making.

Celebration of the First International Landscape Day of the Council of Europe

On the initiative of the Ministry of Environmental Protection, REDASP took the role of the organiser of the celebration of the 1st International Landscape Day – October 20, 2017. On this occasion, on 13 October, the presentation of the European Landscape Convention and the project “Capacity Building of Sumadija and Pomoravlje Region for Implementation of the European Landscape Convention” took place in Kragujevac. The target group was primary schools – the pupils and teachers of biology, geography, history, Serbian language and fine arts. About 50 teachers attended the presentation, and discussed about possibilities of using European Landscape Convention and the results of the project in the teaching process in relevant subjects.

The Photo gallery from the portal “Horizons of Sumadija and Pomoravlje” was used during the week after the presentation as a starting point for students on thematic art classes on which they drew and painted on the topic “The landscape I love and dream about”. The exhibitions were officially opened in 11 schools on 20 October and were set up until the end of October 2017. The exhibitions were further enriched with the settings of products of old crafts, traditional national costumes and models of traditional households and landscapes. Many participating teachers created the added value by applying the European Landscape Convention theme through integrative teaching methodology. The event was broadcast by Radio Television Kragujevac and NGO "Stakleno zvono" (Glass bell) that deals with topics of environmental protection.