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EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION

CEP-CDCPP

9th COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONFERENCE ON THE EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION

*Conference organised under the auspices of the Cypriot Chairmanship of
the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe*

REPORT ON THE SESSIONS OF THE LANDSCAPE AWARD OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE:

Sessions 1 (2008-2009), 2 (2010-2011), 3 (2012-2013), 4 (2014-2015) and 5 (2016-2017), and

“COUNCIL OF EUROPE LANDSCAPE AWARD FORUM OF NATIONAL SELECTIONS”

(Carbonia, Italy 4-5 June 2012; Wrocław, Poland, 11-12 June 2014; Budapest,
Hungary, 9-10 June 2016)

Council of Europe
Palais de l'Europe, Strasbourg
23-24 March 2017

*Document of the Secretariat General of the Council of Europe
Directorate of Democratic Governance*

Summary

Article 11 of the European Landscape Convention on the “Landscape award of the Council of Europe” states:

“1. The Landscape Award of the Council of Europe is a distinction which may be conferred on local and regional authorities and their groupings that have instituted, as part of the landscape policy of a Party to this Convention, a policy or measures 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. The distinction may be also conferred on non-governmental organisations having made particularly remarkable contributions to landscape protection, management or planning.

2. Applications for the Landscape award of the Council of Europe shall be submitted to the Committees of Experts mentioned in Article 10 by the Parties. Transfrontier local and regional authorities, and groupings of local and regional authorities concerned, may apply provided that they jointly manage the landscape in question.

3. On proposals from the Committees of Experts mentioned in Article 10 the Committee of Ministers shall define and publish the criteria for conferring the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe, adopt the relevant rules and confer the Award.

4. The purpose of granting the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe is to encourage those receiving the Award to ensure the sustainable protection, management and/or planning of the landscape areas concerned.”

The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe accordingly adopted Resolution CM/Res(2008)3 on the Rules governing the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe, which states that the Award’s “purpose is to reward exemplary practical initiatives for the achievement of landscape quality objectives on the territories of parties to the Convention”, it “is in keeping with the work done by the Council of Europe in favour of human rights, democracy and sustainable development” and “promotes the territorial dimension of human rights and democracy by acknowledging the importance of measures taken to improve the landscape features of people’s living conditions”. The Committee of Ministers also noted that the award “is intended to heighten civil society’s awareness of the value of landscapes, of their role and of changes to them”.

1. SESSIONS OF THE LANDSCAPE AWARD OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE: Sessions 1 (2008-2009), 2 (2010-2011), 3 (2012-2013), 4 (2014-2015) and 5 (2016-2017)

Four sessions of the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe were organised: Session 1 (2008-2009), Session 2 (2010-2011), Session 3 (2012-2013) and Session 4 (2014-2015).

The Awards, special mentions and acknowledgments were 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) prepared by an International Jury (see Appendix 1 to this document). In accordance with the Rules of the Award, they were presented by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe or his/her representative at a public ceremony.

The list of the achievements appears in Appendix 1 to this document.

See also :

<http://www.coe.int/en/web/landscape/home>;

<http://www.coe.int/en/web/landscape/landscape-award-alliance>

<http://www.coe.int/en/web/landscape/publications>: “The Landscape Award Alliance of the Council of Europe”, Council of Europe Publishing, Territory and Landscape Series, 2016, No. 103:

An Exhibition on the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe will be presented at the Palais de l'Europe (Foyer of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe) on the occasion of this 9th Conference on the European Landscape Convention, on 23 March at 6 pm.

The 5th Session of the Award (2016-2017) is currently under way: the International Jury will meet in April and its proposals will be presented at the 6th Meeting of the CDCPP to be held in Strasbourg on 10-12 May 2017.

2. “COUNCIL OF EUROPE LANDSCAPE AWARD FORUM OF NATIONAL SELECTIONS” : Carbonia, Italy 4-5 June 2012; Wrocław, Poland, 11-12 June 2014; Budapest, Hungary, 9-10 June 2016

Biennially organised by the Council of Europe, 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:

- *Session 1 (2008-2009) and Session 2 (2010-2011)*: 9th Meeting of the Council of Europe Workshops for the Implementation of the European Landscape Convention, Carbonia, Sardinia, Italy, 4-5 June 2012;
- *Session 3 (2012-2013)*: 14th Meeting of the Council of Europe Workshops for the Implementation of the European Landscape Convention, Wrocław (Poland), 11-12 June 2014;
- *Session 4 (2014-2015)*: 17th Meeting of the Council of Europe Workshops for the Implementation of the European Landscape Convention, Budapest (Hungary), 9-10 June 2016.

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

The 17th Council of Europe Meeting of the Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention on “*Council of Europe Landscape Award Forum of National Selections - 4th Session 2014-2015*” was organised by the Council of Europe in co-operation with the Ministry of Agriculture of Hungary, in Budapest, Hungary, on 8-10 June 2016.

Twelve experiences of high value achieved in the Member States of the Organisation on the occasion of the 4th Session of the Landscape Award were presented in the following Workshops:

- “Landscape to be protected: actions to conserve and maintain the significant or characteristic features of a landscape”;
- “Landscape to be managed: actions, from a perspective of sustainable development to guide and harmonise changes”;
- “Landscapes to be planned: strong forward-looking actions to enhance, restore or create landscapes”.

Some 150 participants from various countries participated in the meeting.

Link to the Programme and speeches: <http://www.coe.int/en/web/landscape/17th>

The Ceremony of the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe was held on 4 June 2016 and the Landscape Award given on this occasion to the achievement: “*The borderless co-operation of local communities for the landscape heritage*” of ‘*Fabulous*’ *Hetés*”, realised by the Villages of Bödeháza, Gáborjánháza, Szijártóháza, Zalasombatfa (Hungary), the Villages of Genterovci, Kamovci, Radmožanci, Žitkovci, Mostje, Banuta (Slovenia), the Greenways Methodology Association and the Iron Curtain Trail Association.

Link to the [Programme of the Ceremony of the Landscape Award](#)

The Conference is invited to:

- warmly thank the Ministry of Agriculture of Hungary for its co-operation with the Council of Europe in the organisation of the 17th Council of Europe Meeting of the Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention on the “*Council of Europe Landscape Award Forum of National Selections - 4th Session 2014-2015*” and the Ceremony of the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe, held in Budapest, Hungary, on 8-10 June 2016, and for its hospitality;
- take note of the speeches and presentations made at the Meeting, as they appear on the website of the European Landscape Convention, as well as the conclusions of the Meeting (also appended to this document): <http://www.coe.int/en/web/landscape/18th> and to make any proposal;
- decide to pursue the development of Article 11 of the European Landscape Convention on the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe, according to Resolution CM/Res(2008)3 on the rules governing the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe.

APPENDIX 1

Sessions of the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe

1st Session 2008-2009

Eight projects were presented by the States' Parties to the European Landscape Convention to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe. On 23 September 2009, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe decided to:

1. confer the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe on:

The Park de la Deûle, Lille Métropole, France

2. confer a special mention of the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe to the following achievements:

The Cristina Enea Park, San Sebastián City Council, Spain

3. congratulate warmly the organisers of the following achievements:

The marking system of the tourist trails, Czech Tourist Club, Czech Republic

Landscape Management of Hämeenkyrö National Landscape Area, City of Hämeenkyrö, Finland

Implementation of the Complex Nature Conservation and Landscape, Management Programme in the Zámoly Basin, Public Foundation for Nature, Conservation Pro Vértes, Hungary

The Val di Cornia Park System, Val di Cornia, Italy

Biodiversity and Natural Resources Management Project, Association for the Conservation of Nature, Turkey

4. recognise the exemplariness of the following achievement:

Regional Distribution of Landscape Types in Slovenia, University of Ljubljana, Biotechnical Faculty, Department of Landscape Architecture, Slovenia.

2nd Session 2010-2011

Fourteen projects were presented by the States' Parties to the European Landscape Convention to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe. On 12 October 2011, the Committee of Ministers decided to:

1. confer the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe's European Landscape Convention on:

Carbonia: the landscape machine, Joint Committee of the Municipality of Carbonia, Italy

- 2. confer identical special mentions of the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe to the following achievements:**

The grant programmes for local communities to shape their surroundings into a place where they are happy to live, Ekopolis Foundation, Slovakia

The project of education and awareness-raising: city, territory, landscape, Generalitat of Catalonia and Landscape Observatory of Catalonia, Spain

The Durham Heritage Coast, Durham Heritage Coast Partnership, United Kingdom

- 3. acknowledge the great value of each of the following achievements and make them well known to the general public as a source of inspiration:**

The Landscape Route of the Escaut Plains Natural Park, Escaut Plains Natural Park, Belgium

The hazel orchards in the village of Polystypos, Polystypos Community Council, Cyprus

The Čehovice Landscape, Prostějov district in Moravia, Regional Land Office Prostějov, Czech Republic

The management of endangered traditional biotopes and the preservation of the traditional rural landscape, Finnish Association for Nature Conservation, Finland

The Port aux Cerises Outdoor Leisure Centre, Joint Committee for investigation, planning and management of the Port aux Cerises Outdoor Leisure Centre, France

The traditional stone culture of the Bükkalja landscape, Beehive Rock Nature Conservation and Cultural Association, Hungary

The Dutch Landscape Manifesto, Foundation Landscape Manifesto, the Netherlands

The Herand Landscape Park, County Government of Hordaland, Norway

The landscape of Backi Monostor village, Podunav Backi Monostor, Serbia

We are making our landscape, Slovenian Association of Landscape Architects, Slovenia

3rd Session 2012-2013

Eighteen projects were presented by the States' Parties to the European Landscape Convention to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe. On 12 December 2013, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe decided to:

- 1. confer the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe's European Landscape Convention on:**

Preserving ecological value in the landscape of the Szprotawa River Valley, Lower Silesian Association of Landscape Parks, Poland

- 2. confer identical special mentions of the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe to the following achievements:**

The rebirth of the Alto Belice Corleonese region through the recovery of lands confiscated

from the mafia organisations, LIBERA, Associations, names and numbers against mafias, Italy - Special Mention for “Strengthening democracy”

U-parks, U-turns we love, Utena district Municipality, Lithuania - Special Mention for “Giving attention to the urban landscape as a common good”

The Gate of Gornje Podunavlje, NGO Podunav, Backi Monostor, Serbia - Special Mention for “Contributing to European ideals”

3. acknowledge the great value of each of the following achievements and make them well known to the general public as a source of inspiration:

Hoge Kempen National Park, Regionaal Landschap Kempen en Maasland vzw, Belgium

Environmental education in the town of Strakonice year by year or “Pilgrimage through the Contemplative Landscape”, Municipality of Strakonice, Czech Republic

The Landscape Projects of Hyypä Valley, City of Kauhajoki, Hyypä Village Association, Finnish Forestry Centre/Public Services, Unit of South and Central Ostrobothnia, Finland

Grand Pré Park, City of Langueux, France

Complex landscape rehabilitation and development programme in the Gerecse Mountains and the Által Creek Valley, Association for the Restoration and Development of the Által Creek Valley (Tata), Hungary

Bere Island Conservation Plan, The Heritage Council and the Bere Island Project Group, Ireland

Dzintari Forest Park, Jurmala City Council, Latvia

Planning policy for conservation and sustainable development of 20 national landscapes in the Netherlands, Stichting Nationale Landschappen (NGO), the Netherlands

Furnas Landscape Laboratory (Furnas LandLab), Azores Regional Directorate of the Environment, Portugal

Agricultural Development and Environmental Protection in Transylvania, ADEPT Foundation, NGO, Romania

Salvage, Revival and Operation of the Forest Railway in the Landscape of Cierny Balog, Ciernohronska železnica NGO, Slovak Republic

Landscape and water-management restoration of Škocjanski Zatok Nature Reserve, DOPPS, BirdLife Slovenia, Slovenia

The sustainable revitalisation of the protected landscape of Geria, Consortium for the defence and promotion of the landscape of Geria, Spain

South Pennines Watershed Landscape Project, Pennine Prospects, United Kingdom

4th Session 2014-2015

Twelve projects were presented by the States' Parties to the European Landscape Convention to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe. On 14 October 2015, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe decided to:

- 1. confer the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe's European Landscape Convention on:**

The borderless co-operation of local communities for the landscape heritage of the "Fabulous" Hetés, the Villages of Bödeháza, Gáborjánháza, Szigártóháza and Zalaszombatfa (Hungary), the Villages of Genterovci, Kamovci, Radmožanci, Žitkovci, Mostje, Banuta (Slovenia), Greenways Methodology Association and the Iron Curtain Trail Association. Project presented by Hungary

- 2. confer identical special mentions of the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe to the following achievements:**

The service tree, the tree of the Slovácko Region, Municipality of Tvarožná Lhota and NGO International Exchanges (INEX) – Voluntary Service of the White Carpathians, Czech Republic

Liptovská Teplica: protection of unique types of historical landscape, Village of Liptovská Teplica, Slovak Republic

The Sénia Territory Millennium Olive Tree Landscape, Taula del Sénia Mancomunidad, Spain

- 3. acknowledge the great value of each of the following achievements and make them well known to the general public as a source of inspiration:**

The Enhancement of the natural site and landscape of Hof ter Musschen, Commission on the Environment of Brussels and its environs ASBL, Belgium

The Ecomuseum Blaca Hermitage, Cultural Centre of Brač, Croatia

Development of the historical centre of Agios Athanasios, Municipality of Agios Athanasios, Cyprus

"The Bull by the horns": grazing in nature and landscape management, Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment for Central Finland, Finland

The Agricultural Park of Paduli, Open Urban Laboratory, Italy

The Town of Kuldīga in the Venta Valley: preserving a unique landscape for future generations, Kuldīga Municipality, Latvia

The New Dutch Waterline, Board of the New Dutch Waterline, the Netherlands

Biodiversity and natural resources management in the Camili Basin, Camili Environmental Protection and Development Association, Turkey

5th Session 2016-2017 (in progress)

APPENDIX 2



**COUNCIL OF EUROPE
EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION**

**SEVENTEENTH COUNCIL OF EUROPE MEETING
OF THE WORKSHOPS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION**

***Council of Europe Landscape Award Forum
of National Selections
4th Session 2014-2015***

**Budapest, Hungary
9-10 June 2016**

<http://www.coe.int/en/web/landscape/17th>

GENERAL CONCLUSIONS

Mrs Maria José FESTAS, Chair of the Jury of the 4th Session of the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe and Honorary Chair of the Council of Europe Conference of the European Landscape Convention

Before the formal start of the 17th Workshop, on the 8th of June, we had the pleasure of visiting the Hetés Microregion on the border between Slovenia and Hungary. The study visit, organised by our host, the Hungarian Ministry of Agriculture, had the co-operation of the local authorities of the communities and associations involved in the project presented by Hungary to the 4th Session of the Council of Europe Landscape Award. This study visit, shared between Hungary and Slovenia, allowed us to experience the reality and importance of the involvement and commitment of the local authorities and communities in this transborder co-operation project.

In this 17th Meeting of the Workshop for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention, which was simultaneously a meeting of the Council of Europe Landscape Award Forum of National Awards, all the 12 projects selected at national level as candidates to the 4th Session of the Council of Europe Landscape Award were publicly presented and explained by those responsible for them.

The national process of selection was also explained by the respective European Landscape Convention national delegate, showing the diversity of procedures that, while respecting the rules and

criteria of the Council of Europe Landscape Award, allows each State to define their own procedures. This once again confirms the respect of subsidiarity that the European Landscape Convention's flexibility allows, which is one of the reasons for its success.

At the end of the first day of the Meeting, there was a special Ceremony of the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe's European Landscape Convention, in which all the projects were praised¹.

According to the decision of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, on 14th October 2015, in accordance with the Resolution of the Committee of Ministers CM/Res(2008)3 on the rules governing the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe, and on the recommendation of the jury and the Committee of experts responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Convention:

- the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe's European Landscape Convention for the 4th Session of the Award 2014-2015 was attributed to *The borderless co-operation of local communities for the landscape heritage of the 'Fabulous' Hetés*, the villages of Bödeháza, Gáborjánháza, Szijártóháza and Zalasombatfa (Hungary), the villages of Genterovci, Kamovci, Radmožanci, Žitkovci, Mostje, Banuta (Slovenia), Greenways Methodology Association and the Iron Curtain Trail Association, a Project presented by Hungary;
- Identical special mentions for the 4th Session of the Landscape Award 2014-2015 of the Council of Europe's European Landscape Convention were presented to the following projects:
 - *The Service Tree, the tree of the Slovácko Region*, Municipality of Tvarožná Lhota and NGO International Exchanges (INEX), Voluntary Service of the White Carpathians, presented by the Czech Republic;
 - *Liptovská Teplička: protection of unique types of historical landscape*, Village of Liptovská Teplička, presented by the Slovak Republic;
 - *The Sénia Territory Millennium Olive Tree Landscape*, Taula del Sénia Mancomunidad, presented by Spain.

Returning to the Meeting of the Workshops, these conclusions will not focus specifically on the projects presented because, as mentioned above, they were all presented and discussed and details can be found on the European Landscape Convention website. Instead, it will present a short global analysis of this 4th Session of the Landscape Award².

Most of the projects focused on what we might call protection or rehabilitation of landscape, mostly dealing with rural landscapes; some focused on what can be considered peri-urban landscapes and one is clearly an urban landscape, focused on public space.

Interestingly, all the projects had strong involvement from the local communities, in many cases resulting from local initiatives. A common feature was also a wish to make the most of the existing or potential assets (natural, cultural, social and economic) and the landscapes more sustainable in the future, even economically.

But at the same time, it seemed that the landscape itself was not the starting point or goal of many of the projects, but that it was an “afterthought” or an “added-value” discovered after the project started. Ultimately, however, all the projects had a role in raising or strengthening the awareness of the

¹ See programme of the ceremony on the European Landscape Convention website:
<https://rm.coe.int/CoERMPublicCommonSearchServices/DisplayDCTMContent?documentId=09000016806555f5>

² <http://www.coe.int/en/web/landscape/17th>

populations involved to landscape values and thus makes an important contribution to the future landscape management of those areas.

We need to consider this carefully, as we may risk allowing the Convention to become a “protection” Convention instead of being the basis for policies and strategies for landscapes as dynamic as the world is today. We must also avoid the Convention becoming dedicated to rural landscapes. It is true that most of our territory is still rural, but we cannot forget that the majority of the population lives in urban areas, and a good quality urban landscape is indispensable to a good quality of life. However, as I have said many times, we need to prepare to create good new landscapes that will become new values to future generations.

Considering the experience of the Award to date, and what we heard these two days, both during the Workshops and the breaks, I would like to present some proposals for the future:

- my first proposal, considering that the next session of the Landscape Award will be the fifth, is that, after that session, the Council of Europe Conference on the European Landscape Convention makes an assessment of the experience of the Award. This would be an assessment of the follow-up of the projects presented and the lessons learned both at European and national level – let us not forget that the Award concerns projects that are considered “lastingly effective and can serve as an example” of “sustainable protection, management and/or planning of the landscapes”;
- my second proposal is to organise an exhibition at the Palais de l’Europe with all the projects presented during all the previous sessions. The idea is not only to raise awareness of the national delegates in relation to the Award but more importantly to show all the institutions of the Council of Europe – the Ambassadors (representing the Committee of Ministers), the Parliamentary Assembly and the members of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities – the results and the added-value of the European Landscape Convention. So this idea, together with the when and where of a possible exhibition could be discussed at the next Conference of the Parties;
- a third proposal concerns the possibility of having the meeting of the Forum of National Awards with the candidate projects before the meeting of the Jury, the Award being given during a Meeting of the Workshop dealing with themes other than the Landscape Award, as at the 1st Session of the Landscape Award. I know there are some dangers in this (a very good public presentation could influence the decision), but the possibility of raising questions and having more explanations could be interesting for the procedure. This may also have logistical and financial costs that need to be considered.

As Chair of the Jury of this 4th session of the Award, I would also like to express my gratitude and to mention the good work and all the help from the Members of the Jury and the Secretariat. Without them, I would not have been able to my job.

In conclusion, I would like to offer my personal congratulations to all involved in the projects that were presented. They all had great quality and excellently demonstrate the diversity of landscape interventions and solutions that the European Landscape Convention framework promotes and allows. As the decision of the Committee of Ministers mentions, they should also be acknowledged and praised and made well-known to the general public for their exemplary value, and as sources of inspiration.

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