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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*

RESULTS OF THE 16TH COUNCIL OF EUROPE MEETING OF THE WORKSHOPS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION ON

***“Landscape and transfrontier co-operation:
the landscape knows no boundary”,***

Andorra la Vella, Andorra, 1-2 October 2015

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

The European Landscape Convention states that “*The Parties shall encourage transfrontier co-operation on local and regional level and, wherever necessary, prepare and implement joint landscape programmes*” (Article 9 – Transfrontier landscapes).

The Recommendation CM/Rec(2008)3 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the guidelines for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention considers that “*Transfrontier co-operation may result in joint landscape protection, management and planning programmes and take the form of instruments and measures agreed between the authorities (different administrative levels and general and sectoral competences) and relevant stakeholders on both sides of the border*”. It notes that “*Transfrontier co-operation is possible not only between neighbouring states but also between neighbouring regions and communities in the same state which have different landscape policies, on the basis either of territorial contiguity or common features*”.

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The 16th Council of Europe Meeting of the Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention on “*Landscape and transfrontier cooperation: the landscape knows no boundary*” was organised by the Council of Europe – Democratic Governance, Secretariat of the European Landscape Convention – in cooperation with the Ministry of the Environment, Agriculture and Sustainable Development of Andorra, within the context of the Work Programme of the European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe, in Andorra la Vella, Andorra, on 1-2 October 2015.

The Meeting aimed to analyse experiences, achieved or ongoing, of transfrontier co-operation. The five Workshops organised were entitled:

- “A journey through the landscapes of Andorra”;
- “Dotted landscapes, lines that separate, lines that bind”;
- “Landscapes: diverse cultures and natural features, a richness”;
- “Landscapes, spaces for cooperation”;
- “Transfrontier landscapes to be revealed”;
- “Landscape for living, together”.

The Meeting allowed exchanging insights, perspectives, theoretical and practical approaches from the European, national, regional and local levels. Some 200 participants from different European and non-European countries participated.

Link to the Programme and speeches:

<http://www.coe.int/en/web/landscape/16th-council-of-europe-meeting-of-the-workshops-for-the-implementation-of-the-european-landscape-convention>

The Conference is invited to:

- warmly thank the Ministry of the Environment, Agriculture and Sustainable Development of Andorra, for its co-operation with the Council of Europe in the organisation of the event and 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/16th-council-of-europe-meeting-of-the-workshops-for-the-implementation-of-the-european-landscape-convention>, and to make any proposal;
- take note of the Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2015\)8](#) of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the implementation of Article 9 of the European Landscape Convention on Transfrontier Landscapes (reproduced hereafter), deciding to refer to it.



**Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2015\)8](#)
of the Committee of Ministers to member States
on the implementation of Article 9 of the European Landscape Convention on Transfrontier
Landscapes**

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 14 October 2015
at the 1238th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)*

The Committee of Ministers, under the terms of Article 15.b of the Statute of the Council of Europe,

Considering that the aim of the Council of Europe is to achieve a greater unity between its members for the purpose of safeguarding and realising the ideals and principles which are their common heritage;

Having regard to the European Landscape Convention (ETS No. 176, 2000);

Considering Article 9 of the said Convention on Transfrontier Landscapes which states that "The Parties shall encourage transfrontier co-operation on local and regional level and, wherever necessary, prepare and implement joint landscape programmes";

Referring to the European Outline Convention on Transfrontier Co-operation between Territorial Communities or Authorities (ETS No. 106, 1980) and its additional protocols;

Bearing in mind the European Charter of Local Self-Government (ETS No. 122, 1985);

Considering that transfrontier landscapes bear witness to geographical continuity, historic events and the human and cultural relationships that have been forged over time;

Eager to raise greater awareness on both sides of the border of the landscape values of the areas concerned and to promote transfrontier co-operation focusing on landscapes;

Wishing to involve and bring together elected representatives, professionals, the local population and other stakeholders taking action for the protection, management and development of these transfrontier landscapes;

Considering that it is important for appropriate consideration to be given to landscape and its environmental, cultural, social and economic values as a development factor for local societies,

1. recommends that the States Parties to the European Landscape Convention promote co-operation focusing on transfrontier landscapes by encouraging local and regional authorities to work together to draw up, where appropriate, joint landscape-enhancement programmes for implementation of Article 9 of the European Landscape Convention on transfrontier landscapes;
2. calls on the Parties concerned to inform the other Parties to the Convention, in the framework of the Council of Europe Information System on the European Landscape Convention, of the co-operation programmes drawn up and put in place in order to foster an exchange of experience between the Parties.

APPENDIX



COUNCIL OF EUROPE

EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION

SIXTEENTH COUNCIL OF EUROPE MEETING OF THE WORKSHOPS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION

Landscape and transfrontier cooperation

The landscape knows no boundary

**Andorra la Vella, Andorra
1-2 October 2015**

Study Visit, 30 September 2015

Presentations of the General conclusions of the workshops by the Rapporteurs

Mrs Natàlia ROVIRA, Responsible for Strategy and Communication, Ministry of the Environment, Agriculture and Sustainable Development, Andorra

Mr Yves LUGINBÜHL, Agronomist and Geographer, Research Director Emeritus of the National Centre for Scientific Research, France

Mrs Annalisa CALCAGNO MANIGLIO, Professor Emeritus of Landscape Architecture, Genoa, Italy

Mrs Margarita ORTEGA, Honorary Member of the Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Spatial/Regional Planning (CEMAT) and implementation of the European Landscape Convention, Spain

Mrs Maria José FESTAS, Honorary Chair of the Council of Europe Conference on the European Landscape Convention, Portugal

– Workshop 1 –

A journey through the landscapes of Andorra

Rapporteur

Mrs Natàlia ROVIRA, Responsible for Strategy and Communication, Ministry of the Environment, Agriculture and Sustainable Development, Andorra

As part of the 16th Council of Europe Meeting of the Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention on “Landscape and transfrontier co-operation: The landscape knows no boundary”, this first workshop focused on the application of the European Landscape Convention in Andorra.

For nearly ten years we have mapped our landscape units and put together a list of landscapes with other documents that enable us, after a public participation process, to define seven objectives of landscape quality and some 50 activities grouped together in Andorra’s National Landscape Strategy for 2012-2020. Currently, we are halfway through the Strategy; we have completed many activities and we have four years left to try to apply the measures planned in 2012, to the best of our ability.

Then we will need to think seriously in order to prepare the new Strategy. We will clearly have to incorporate a number of projects into it, such as the one concerning Pas de la Casa, which, even though it was not in the 2012 Strategy, ties in with a large number of quality objectives for Andorra’s landscapes. In addition, this project has made it possible to see how the Strategy’s objectives can be applied to a project on the ground.

This latter stage, concerning projects on the ground, is probably one of the most complicated, but Andorra’s small size and the fact that we do not have many administrative levels will definitely help speed up the whole process. Working in a border area such as Pas de la Casa will of course entail working with our French neighbours. The work carried out in Pas de la Casa has been a good example of cross-border co-operation with students and Catalanian and Italian universities that are keen to focus on improving the landscape of a small town such as Pas de la Casa. This example could be used to establish a methodology that can be applied to other border areas.

– Workshop 2 –

***Dotted landscapes,
lines that separate, lines that bind***

Rapporteur

Mr Yves LUGINBÜHL, Agronomist and Geographer, Research Director Emeritus of the National Centre for Scientific Research, France

<https://rm.coe.int/CoERMPublicCommonSearchServices/DisplayDCTMContent?documentId=090000168048d938>

– Workshop 3 –

Landscapes: diverse cultures and natural features, a richness

Rapporteur

Mrs Annalisa CALCAGNO MANIGLIO, Professor Emeritus of Landscape Architecture, Genoa, Italy

The studies and research that I was able to carry out and co-ordinate during my years of teaching landscape architecture at the University of Genoa prompted me to look further into the principles that inspired the European Landscape Convention and to analyse the way in which they are applied in landscape projects, and in all the activities likely to influence the creation and transformation of landscapes.

This interest is linked to the significant political innovations of the Convention, which extend well beyond simply protecting, managing and developing landscapes. The Convention considers the need to address all types of landscapes, whether those of outstanding beauty or everyday areas, as well as those that have been degraded. It expresses the need to make society aware of the fact that all landscapes are a common good and an essential factor for the well-being of the community. In order to have sustainable development based on a harmonious balance between social, economic and environmental needs, it strives to convince the authorities and the stakeholders concerned of the need to incorporate the landscape dimension into territorial policies, regional/spatial planning and landscape projects by pursuing the Convention's objectives.

In my book "Ensuring a quality landscape", I tried – thanks to an extremely valuable "dialogue" between specialists, researchers and professionals, all having different experiences – to understand and deepen my knowledge of the reasons for the delay in Italy (between neighbouring regions of the same state) in applying the basic principles of the Convention, which strive to incorporate landscapes (their current or potential wealth) into all territorial policies and to introduce landscape projects that have been democratically designed thanks to the participation of communities linked to these places by their daily lives. The cultural assimilation of some of its political objectives and measures linked to strategic actions is proving to be extremely slow and difficult. There is a delay despite the almost unanimous consensus, obtained in Italy since the presentation phase of the Convention, among the majority of the local and regional institutions, the universities and civil society in general, on the importance that should be given to landscapes. However, regional and local authorities rarely have staff qualified in the field of landscapes who are able to implement landscape policy in their various fields of responsibility.

For these, and other reasons which I do not have the time to mention, I am very interested in taking part in this meeting "Landscape and transfrontier co-operation: the landscape knows no boundary", which refers to Article 9 of the European Landscape Convention. This measure highlights the need to incorporate landscapes not only into States' national policies, but also into transfrontier co-operation experiments involving landscapes.

Recommendation CM/Rec(2008)3 of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe to member States on the guidelines for implementing the European Landscape Convention has already given a series of theoretical, methodological and practical guidelines for the implementation of the Convention between bordering or neighbouring States. It also explains how transfrontier co-operation can be carried out in keeping with a State's policies, in order to avoid differing or contradictory decisions being taken by different sectors of the public administration (misunderstanding of the shared characteristics of landscape in terms of their territorial contiguity, etc.)

The principles laid down in the European Landscape Convention and the actions to be carried out in order to promote transfrontier co-operation – taking into consideration that landscape knows no borders – are often innovative in comparison with the policies of different States. Increasing the awareness of the landscape's value would be a simple objective to share and pursue. Another objective, which in my opinion would be quite difficult to achieve, is that of neighbouring States recognising and sharing their own natural cultural and economic values. Often there are values recognised by one State, such as local or national identity, which have not received, over the course of history, the same recognition by other neighbouring States due to their geographical location or their different aesthetic appreciation.

With regard to incorporating landscape into policies and transfrontier co-operation activities, Michel Prieur commented that in order to respond to this innovative measure, in relation to the international actions of different States, the parties should “exercise a degree of imagination to overcome the legal and practical obstacles which too often stand in the way of transfrontier co-operation, while at the same time availing themselves of the different international instruments that facilitate transfrontier action”.¹

This Meeting of the Workshops was aimed at representatives of member States of the Council of Europe Conference on the European Landscape Convention, at local and regional authorities, academics and professionals, and asked the participants to present and analyse transfrontier co-operation experiments, involving landscape, which have been or are being carried out in their respective States. Many leading figures from several Council of Europe member States, and from various institutions, and having experienced very different situations, presented particularly interesting transfrontier co-operation experiments, in accordance with the specific measures highlighted by the Convention. Participants had the opportunity to share thoughts and get to know the methods followed in order to achieve and carry out transfrontier co-operation experiments successfully. The political framework within which these were successfully completed, in a context of sustainable development, was also sometimes presented.

Building the knowledge about and the need to incorporate landscape into policies and actions by states, in full compliance with the concept of landscape introduced by the European Landscape Convention, has become an important means of understanding our current society. This takes into account the development of the concept of landscape in Europe, as well as various ongoing and past experiments that promote the application of the Convention. However, at the same time it is possible to state that the problems of an ever more complex world bring into play new stakeholders: private and non-governmental institutions and organisations, as well as spontaneously organised groupings which sometimes play an innovative and creative role in current landscape experiments. The presentations informed us of very interesting places, as well as very different situations, owing to the varied approaches and methods used in understanding landscapes.

Some States in the north of Europe – Finland, Norway and Sweden – gave examples of good transfrontier practices in the landscape field: a diverse range of interesting approaches, aimed at protecting natural landscapes, showing a sensitivity, perception and understanding of the landscape linked to a cultural matrix that has long been rooted in the historical and political traditions of these States.

In other cases, transfrontier co-operation experiments were presented. Some examples, however, demonstrate that the attention given to landscapes is still recent, or even that the collective sensitivity, conscious individual behaviours and shared social responsibilities concerning the activities and transformations which influence the landscape do not sufficiently take into account the pressures that

¹ Council of Europe, “[Landscape and sustainable development: challenges of the European Landscape Convention](#)”

Territory and Landscape Series, p. 144 et seq.

modify it.

It was possible to note that the creation of new tools and new approaches for promoting public awareness and active involvement is essential in drawing up all the policies that concern territorial management, so that the public plays an active role in the creation of quality landscape objectives and their implementation.

A difference in approach and method – leading at times to the presentation of excellent examples concerning monuments, historic architectural sites or cultural landscape experiments – sometimes departed somewhat from the spirit of the Workshops' objectives. These examples are far removed from the integrated methods used to understand the landscape in the drawing up of all the policies that concern territorial management (sectorial as well as general).

Examples of transfrontier co-operation involving rivers (the banks of the Danube for example) and river basin catchment areas were mentioned in presentations: examples of good practice, presenting the tradition of the places concerned, analysed the significant attention focused on cultural heritage, biodiversity and the wealth of landscapes shared between neighbouring states. There was clear demonstration of the relevance of transfrontier co-operation and the different strategies for sustainable development of the territory.

Examples were given describing the characteristics of transfrontier landscapes, as well as elements which define their landscape quality. These determine not only the activities for protecting, enhancing, reclassifying and transforming landscapes but also the strategies that make it possible to render them operational by promoting action. For example:

- a documentation centre and a data base concerning the nature and quality of landscapes;
- a monitoring centre relating to landscape transformations;
- the production of several thematic maps on the transformation of the landscape since the Second World War.

It is rarely mentioned that we need to offer territory-wide training on the technical skills and knowledge needed in the field of landscape in order to understand its constituent elements, both on a natural and cultural level, and in terms of their interrelations and the changes that have taken place over time, its recent importance and the analysis of its transformations.

The landscape forms a whole that includes events and phenomena, which are less evident and are difficult to discover, such as reciprocal connections and influences.

In order to apply the measures of the European Landscape Convention, it is necessary to define a basic programme upon which we can base the instruments for understanding and evaluation required by landscape policies and the various protection, management and development activities. In addition, it is important to define the tasks and sectors which need to take action in the landscape field when considering the policies that affect the territory.

– Workshop 4 –

Landscapes, spaces for co-operation

Rapporteur

Mrs Margarita ORTEGA, Honorary Member of the Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Spatial/Regional Planning (CEMAT) and of the implementation of the European Landscape Convention, Spain

In border areas in particular, landscapes reflect cultural differences which evolve over time – past and present, but future as well. However, as indicated by the title of this Workshop, border landscapes are places where co-operation is essential. The experiences presented by the speakers confirm this proposal. Addressing the topic of the workshop title – landscape, spaces of co-operation – they emphasised their reciprocal relationships, with special attention to the specific role of co-operation in border landscapes.

These suggestions can be organised into three main areas:

Singularity of border landscapes

The situation of a landscape on a border is a key element of its identification, which could be an opportunity. It is possible to identify some principal factors:

Periphery: Border regions are typically “peripheral” in both senses, physical and economic in relation to central ones. In the past, most have also suffered from common administrative control or restrictions, with economic consequences. Therefore, they have had common challenges (rural abandon, marginalisation, lack of activity resulting from different market or administrative regulations, as demonstrated by cases from Serbia, Douro-Douro and Lapland). Nevertheless, this has resulted in the preservation of vernacular or traditional features (uses and management of the territory; agricultural, urban and architectural patterns; cultural traditions...) that are now considered important assets.

Significance or values of borders: Border lines are not random. In general, they use relevant geographic elements (mountains, rivers, bays, capes) normally less transformed than other elements and, for that reason, are better preserved. As a result, today these areas are more authentic and rich (Lapland, Serbia, Douro). Nevertheless, these spaces were established by political decisions as strategic areas (defence or dominance) that left traces or footprints with associated cultural values that need now to be rediscovered and identified.

Rural dominance: some areas are more vulnerable than others, especially remote rural areas. In the case of Douro, we gained insight from the viewpoint of the inhabitants.

Symbolic and identifying features: Most border areas have witnessed historical facts; sites where events have occurred that have created their footprints. They can be considered “event places” or “narrative spaces” with the capacity to communicate, to offer scenery or transmit information.

In synthesis, as the Russian comparative study stated, due to the impact of a border, different patterns appear on each side of that border, according to the different administrative or cultural rules.

The additional values of border landscapes

Because of the above factors in relation to border landscapes, cultural and symbolic values may be more important than natural values which are already recognised. It is crucial to identify the additional value that incorporates the cultural and historic aspects into the environment, in order to reveal the different character of “new” landscapes.

Natural and environmental values: Border areas generally have higher natural or environmental values as they suffer fewer or lesser changes over time. It suggests slow transformations (Serbia, Lapland and Douro).

Cultural and historic values: It was noted that the cultural aspects serve as descriptors of lifestyles, customs and traditions in the use and management of the territory, in addition to the historically-established footprints. Therefore, most border landscapes are really “cultural landscapes”².

As “cultural landscapes”, symbolic and historic dimensions of the landscape require an innovative language as an expression not simply of physical aspects of the territory. We need an image of its complex structure. In addition, it must be an answer, culturally created, which is transmitted and expressed by a concrete social group of the two communities that have been historically separated for political reasons. In fact, they could be considered a “heritage” landscape. This would involve transforming a territory landscape, to create a new scene – a new narrative – integrating all the elements which incorporate the memory, and its historical events. This would be the representation of the realistic result of a process.

Practically all the examples noted that landscapes are a resource and a factor for both local and regional development. The cultural and symbolic values which form local identity and also the desires of citizens, incorporate the needs and contributions of the current society and take into consideration their possibilities in the regeneration or creation of these new landscapes: “from landscape received to landscape desired”, as the Italian-Swiss project expressed it.

What are the factors and consequences of the co-operation?

According to the examples presented, it is possible to summarise some key common aspects in relation to the role of the co-operation.

The European Landscape Convention and the Recommendation CM/Rec(2008)3 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the guidelines for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention form key reference texts. The Recommendation provides the legal basis for the Convention’s implementation on both sides of the frontier (Serbia and Douro); it offers an operative interpretation of the cultural dimension of the landscape as a basic component of the European identity – the “European construction” (Russian Federation study); there is also the lure of an added-value of the national selections for the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe, such as for the Serbian project.

² According to the Spanish National Plan for Cultural Landscape (2012), “Cultural landscape” is the result of people interacting over time with the natural medium, the expression of which is a territory perceived and valued for its cultural qualities, the result of a process and the bedrock of a community’s identity. “Border landscapes” are obviously between the different categories of cultural landscapes.

Discover and identify common values and challenges, appreciate diversity and perceive threats. Landscape emerges clearly as an important local resource and as a tool to discover and reinforce the identity factors and the necessary sense of ownership (Italian-Swiss project). New conditions and opportunities must be created for a more attractive environment which will improve the local quality of life. There is evidence of increased tourism and jobs in the Serbia experience; historical and positive resilience reinforce the relationship between the people and the territory, claiming the very rich resources for the area (in the Douro case); or discovering and improving a new transversal and trans-European “region” for the Lapland project.

Set common goals for a “new” shared landscape. It requires common but differentiated and adapted responses according to the different administrative rules for each side. States must agree on a common management model, while maintaining the co-operation commitments. It is important to respect the management models, especially to be able to manage the complementarities between the diverse dimensions of the landscape. It is necessary to avoid the temptation of simplification and isolated answers.

Creative and active approach and methods. To achieve a new “desired” landscape it is important to use innovative tools for appreciation, public participation or required measures of restoration and remedy, as well as looking for new patterns for current activities and uses. Maps made by children to provide the bases for the future in the Italian-Swiss project, or discover a landscape strongly connected to individuals’ minds and emotions in the Lapland case, are good examples.

Seek appropriate support tools or instruments: Observatories; new interpretation maps; itineraries, green corridors or historical networks to refer to the “new” border landscapes. Some projects mentioned the possibilities and opportunities provided by the European Union instruments.

– Workshop 5 –

Transfrontier landscapes to be revealed

Rapporteur

Mrs Maria José FESTAS, Honorary Chair of the Council of Europe Conference on the European Landscape Convention, Portugal

The five presentations of this workshop demonstrated that, as mentioned at the start of the session by one co-chair, Mr Jean-François Séguin, “there is a need to analyse what separates, in order to reveal what is common”.

In the MEDSCAPES Initiative, Mr Phaedon Enotiades presented a project involving Cyprus, Greece, Jordan and Lebanon, which considered landscape character assessment as a tool for the conservation of natural values in the Eastern Mediterranean, and had as one of its goals the development of a landscape methodology as a source of inspiration for sustainable decision-making in the participating countries. The presentation revealed some important issues that were dealt with in the project, such as using a methodology developed by in the Western States (landscape character assessment) but adjusted and applied to the East. Users needed training to develop a common understanding of the

methodology and process, recognising that landscape is defined by the relationship between the population and its territory, suggesting the special importance of allowing for cultural, historic and symbolic diversity in the Eastern Mediterranean, and noting that every single landscape is different from the rest (and neither better nor worse). The community participative process (based on the tradition of the Arabic concept of “Hima”) which built on the results of the landscape character assessment was an important feature of the project.

“A Landscape Observatory of the Tagus River”, a common project between Portugal and Spain, presented by Mrs Maria do Rosário Oliveira. It demonstrated the relevance of transfrontier co-operation, raising the issue of the meaning of “border” for the protection and management of the landscape of this shared river: between two States with different public policies and administrative organisation (both normative and regulatory) along the common border. Can transfrontier co-operation overcome the concept of the border as a barrier and allow “continuity”, in terms of common goals, for example?

The presentation briefly described the process of setting-up the Landscape Observatory as an essential framework for partnerships between public institutions and local communities, a tool for information, participation, education and training. A proposal for the definition of a “Tagus green infrastructure”, considering the river as a structural and cohesive element between north and south, urban and rural, coastal and hinterland, is being prepared. This project, while enhancing cross-border co-operation between Portugal and Spain, may provide a step forward for the European Landscape Convention implementation in both States from a transfrontier perspective, by connecting the Tagus landscape through fundamental resources such as water, land, people and biodiversity, overcoming the border challenges mentioned above.

“Small historic towns and their landscapes along the European Green Belt, following the former Iron Curtain”, presented by Mrs Brigitte Macaria, dealt with the Austrian section of the Green Belt, a green ribbon along the former “Iron Curtain” that crosses 24 States and connects a great variety of landscapes, showing that landscape border lines are not usually administrative border lines, as landscapes are composed of natural and human factors, and influenced by the way the people perceive them.

This report was based on the six pilot border regions between Austria and its neighbours, having common landscapes but different languages, and common problems and challenges, many deriving from the peripheral situation of the Green Belt in these countries. However, the project confirmed that small towns and villages are a cultural mark in a real mosaic of landscapes, based on a set of historic and functional criteria. “Historic small towns” were identified as a cultural variety in these regions and several paths were proposed for sustainable regional development. Essentially there is the need for “dynamic preservation” of these landscapes, good governance and transborder co-operation at the local and regional level. The last part of the presentation dealt with the future, and the role of the Green Belt, considering that its rich variety of landscapes, small historic towns and human factors justifies its recognition and need for management in the sense of the European Landscape Convention, and as a contribution for sustainable rural development.

Mr Tapio Heikillä, a co-chair, concluded the presentation by remarking on the importance of respecting the memory of very important and difficult events, and that the Green Belt could facilitate this, whilst encouraging a change in the interpretation of memories.

The ECSLAND Project, presented by Mrs Gloria Pungetti, dealt with European culture expressed in sacred landscapes, as part of the EUCEL Initiative (European Culture Expressed in Landscapes), developed between 2007-2015. The Project was based on the idea that the transfrontier concept is not just about the “physical” but also has a “spiritual” dimension and that sacred landscapes are a fundamental part of our cultural heritage and unique identity. Different groups organised within the project network dealt with different topics (history, character, identity, archaeology and architecture) and going from the spiritual to governance (supporting and promoting inter-religious, intercultural and intergenerational dialogue): each group had their own goals and functioning process. Improved co-operation between the participants was one important outcome of the project. Mrs Pungetti concluded by raising the idea of the transition from sacred landscapes to biocultural diversity, recognising that the cultural and sacred landscapes reflect a cultural and spiritual relation to nature. This supports a bionatural diversity that defines “biocultural landscapes”.

“The touristic values of the landscape of the transfrontier Parc – PRESIPA”, presented by Mr Laci Sabri, focused on the importance and diversity of the landscape of this area (two lakes, mountains, historic monuments, agricultural land, biodiversity) and the impact of human activity on the landscape. Focusing mostly on the Albanian area of the Parc (created in 2000 between Albania, Greece and the Former Republic of Macedonia), Mr Sabri summarised the actions developed to analyse existing factors and the potential for socio-economic development of the area (namely, the opinion of the population) in order to address the possible political priority given to tourism, whilst protecting important local values. Mr Sabri emphasised the need to diversify relationships and co-operation with the neighbouring countries, in order to guarantee the suitable development that is aligned to the protection of existing values.

Important conclusions of this Workshop were that:

- landscape borders do not always fit administrative borders, as they are the result of natural, man-made and cultural factors, and even political priorities, as well as from the perception of the populations with different cultural and social backgrounds and identity;
- there is a need for common language, concepts and even methodologies, although adapted to local culture and tradition;
- as Mr Phaeton Enotiades mentioned, transfrontier co-operation does not have to mean that it is applicable only to “contiguous” frontiers;
- transfrontier co-operation, at all levels and between populations is an important tool for the protection, management and enhancement of border landscapes;
- landscape is an important potential contributor to sustainable development, but must take into account the wishes of the population;
- a common analysis, not only of what exists but also of challenges and solutions, allows for coherent decision-making (Mr Jean-François Seguin);
- Europe is full of borderlands, thus there is a need to promote transfrontier and transborder co-operation, which will provide an important contribution to democracy (Mr Tappio Heikkilä).

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