



HUNGARIAN PRESIDENCY
Council of Europe
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PRÉSIDENCE HONGROISE
Conseil de l'Europe
Mai – Novembre 2021



COUNCIL OF EUROPE LANDSCAPE CONVENTION
CONVENTION DU CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE SUR LE PAYSAGE

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

COUNCIL OF EUROPE EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION

11th COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONFERENCE ON THE EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION

*Conference organised under the auspices of the Presidency of Hungary
of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe*

Council of Europe
Palais de l'Europe, Strasbourg
26-27 May 2021
Online meeting [Room 9]

Exhibition

Photographic exhibition on Hungarian landscapes

“Magical Hungary”

Mrs Krisztina KINCSES

*Chair of the Council of Europe Conference on the European Landscape Convention,
National Representative of the Convention for the Ministry of Agriculture, Hungary*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Landscape is an essential component of people's surroundings, an expression of the diversity of our shared cultural and natural heritage, and a foundation of our identity. Indeed, landscape helps to define who we are both as individuals and as a people.

Giving people an active role in decision-making on landscape helps them identify with the areas and towns where they live. A good experience in a participatory planning process will ensure their continued interest and involvement helping to promote sustainable development and respect of the area concerned, appreciating and enjoying a landscape that has an important bearing on their social initiatives and economic success.

However, achieving this also required a multi-disciplinary, cross sectoral approach, that better recognises the expertise in landscape design, planning, science and management which can make a huge contribution to a more holistic approach. Failure to do this, will not simply be ineffective, inefficient, and counter-productive but also not in the public interest.

Unfortunately, many people spend little time outdoors and their knowledge of the landscape is much less developed and therefore shallower and simpler than that of previous generations.

Thus, in parallel with increasing people's willingness to express opinions in decision-making processes, we need to help people to better perceive, experience and understand the landscape. And, new methods must be employed to discover the local knowledge and perceptions of stakeholders.

Hungary would like to draw attention to values inherent in the diversity of landscapes and to our common responsibility in the preservation of the beloved characters of the magical landscapes of Hungary and all over the world.

In the Programme of the Presidency of Hungary of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, the Ministry of Agriculture included an important photo exhibition on Hungarian landscapes to arouse people's curiosity and interest in landscapes.

This was partnered by "Magical Hungary", which was a most exciting and challenging nature photography contest in the country. This initiative has attracted thousands of nature photographers for more than a decade. Contestants are invited to eternalize the natural beauties of our country with a variety of topics, ranging from classical landscapes to abstract depictions. Each year, "Magical Hungary" presents the best photos in a beautiful album and presents a large-scale exhibition in the prestigious museums of the Hungarian capital. In so doing, our partner, "Magical Hungary" not only draws attention to nature conservation but also acts for it.

I have the delightful responsibility and honour of opening the exhibition of forty photographs available virtually on the website of Magical Hungary (<https://magicalhungary.com>). The exhibition can also be seen in the Palais de l'Europe.

Please, enjoy these superb images. These photos help to confirm the idea that landscape must become a subject of mainstream political concern since it plays such an important role in the well-being of people, their quality of life, and their future.

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