



COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Futuroropa

For a new vision of landscape and territory

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Landscape

Territory

Nature

Culture

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Human beings

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Sustainable development

Ethics

Aesthetic

Inhabitants

Perception

Inspiration

Genius loci

*Landscape and transfrontier
co-operation*





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Transfrontier landscapes – a challenge with multiple and sometimes conflicting approaches



Council of Europe Photo Office

Transfrontier landscapes – conflicting approaches?

Under Article 9 of the European Landscape Convention (Florence Convention of 20 October 2000), the Parties undertake to encourage transfrontier co-operation at local and regional level and to implement joint landscape projects. What does this mean in practice? At first sight, this provision seems to contradict itself. It can only really be understood and have any effect if it is read and understood in the spirit of the Convention and the other provisions. As we shall see, considerable political astuteness is required to interpret this article and put it into practice.

The central starting point is respect for the principle of subsidiarity and national constitutional principles, in other words the territorial organisation of the state concerned and the division of powers (Article 4). As a rule, relations with other states are a central-government responsibility, but there are exceptions to this of varying degrees in a number of countries.

Furthermore, the concept of landscape on which the Convention is based requires co-operation between regional authorities, stakeholders and the public to identify landscapes, categorise them, set protection and development goals and, of course, devise joint transfrontier landscape projects. The challenge of the participatory approach is to cater for regional populations' needs while taking account of increasing mobility and their remoteness from their native regions, without however creating total uniformity. In practice this means that participation is possible only if it is guided by (regional) experts and by specialists with an understanding of wider landscape issues.

The discrepancy pointed out above should on no account be a barrier to promoting transfrontier landscapes and landscape projects. On the other hand, the public and the stakeholders do need to be made aware of the principles behind the approach to landscape and of regional and local landscape values. Only in this way can these specific values then serve to foster a sense of identification with landscape and raise its profile, and become a "unique selling proposition". Creative problem-solving and close, preferably non-bureaucratic, co-operation are required between each country's different sub-state tiers of government (vertical co-operation) and between the official bodies at all levels of the various states concerned (horizontal co-operation). Actual landscape projects often arise not as the result of a specific landscape policy but as the by-product of a sectoral policy relevant to landscape (policy drivers), or are triggered by specific spatial conflicts. The watchword is multi-sectoral co-operation within States and between the different States involved, as this is the only way of ensuring that what emerges is not just a random "residual landscape", but a real landscape development project based on clear and comprehensible foundations and goals.

Transfrontier landscapes – a multitude of approaches

Transfrontier landscapes also give us the opportunity to become aware of the multitude of natural habitats, cultures, mentalities and historical developments in Europe and the landscape development to which this has given rise. Causes and consequences, starting points and subsequent developments – often these things defy explanation, and often they are even interchangeable with one another. They show us that everything can be seen and interpreted from different viewpoints, and also be used for different purposes. Even the interpretation of the term "transfrontier landscape" varies and is often ambiguous:

- *What frontiers are we talking about? Territorial boundaries? Or topographical, climatic, cultural, linguistic, religious, ethnic, geological or mental boundaries?*
- *Are the landscapes on either side of national borders different because they have developed differently or is the border there because natural conditions have shaped different landscapes, and different peoples and people have used and developed them differently?*
- *Are landscapes shaped by man-made territorial boundaries or are they the result of functional links and dependencies?*
- *Are rivers the arteries of landscapes, and mountains their backbones, or do rivers and mountains separate different landscapes? Where a national frontier is marked by a river or mountains, is that a natural or an artificial boundary?*
- *Some landscapes force humans to surpass themselves while others bring them up against their limits.*
- *If landscapes are progressively losing their character and hence their identity, then their frontiers are also fading and vanishing. If that is the case, can we talk about landscapes any more?*
- *Virtual landscapes involve any number of stakeholders, can be anywhere, have no beginning or end, and have no frontiers. If that is the case, can we talk about frontiers any more?*
- *What is the future for landscapes?*

I hope that by exploring the "borderlines" of landscape, we can encourage a fresh understanding, build bridges and join together in developing new approaches. Let us give a new meaning to frontier landscapes so that Europe can continue to boast such a great variety of landscapes!

Andreas Stalder

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Crossing frontiers: towards a common European landscape

Transfrontier co-operation enables us to share landscapes. Exploring new places, meeting new people and finding new ways of 'seeing' are benefits of transfrontier co-operation. They support the aims of the Council of Europe's European Landscape Convention, and they support the Framework Convention on the value of cultural heritage for society by increasing understanding between countries and cultures and by contributing to a sharper definition of Europe's common heritage.

Landscape is one of the most important components of common heritage. It provides a common 'language' that arises simply from being human (landscape is an area "as perceived by people") transcending nationality, race, religion or culture. What, however, is the 'European landscape'? It has been said to me that there can be no 'European landscape' because landscape exists in local or national perceptions, and the European scale is simply too big. It is true that we find it easier to recognise specific areas or types of landscape (such as the Perigord or *dehesa*) than we do

with the 'European landscape', but any combination of landscapes in Europe is in character distinctively European, not American or African. There is indeed a 'European landscape', and transfrontier co-operation – programmes and projects, workshops and exchanges – is an important way to understand it.

Working across borders extends perceptions and opens up new perspectives. Seeing other landscapes (preferably in the company of those who 'own' them) causes a 'European' view of landscape to emerge. Furthermore, seeing our own landscapes, through the eyes of colleagues and friends from other countries revises our perceptions even of familiar areas, whilst having crossed a frontier we can look back from 'the other side' and re-imagine our own landscape.

It is often possible to see strong differences between landscapes with similar topography or climate but divided by political frontiers, thus demonstrating the role of culture in shaping landscape. The relevance of national frontiers to

landscape, however, is challenged by noting that all Europe's national frontiers are 'young' in relation to the deep 'time-depth' of the landscapes that cross them. 'Local' differences born of the spirit of a place are important, but comparing areas across borders reveals deeper pan-European similarities that arise from cultural fundamentals such as types of agriculture, social structures and long-term historical functional processes.

Over recent years, I have been fortunate to have participated in several transfrontier (or pan-European) projects. As a result, 'my' European landscape is becoming a diverse collection of images, memories and interpretations, a collage of Europe, an ever-changing kaleidoscope which speaks increasingly consistently to me of 'Europe'.

The Meetings of the workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention organised by the Council of Europe with various countries are a good example of this, allowing participants not only to see new landscapes



Dehesa landscape, Portugal

but to discuss what they mean to both residents and visitors. More specifically, a recent Cost action (A27; Landmarks) led to many examples of transfrontier comparison, including exchange visits, joint projects (e.g. between Greece and Iceland) and a published overview of how 'landscape' is conceptualised, researched,

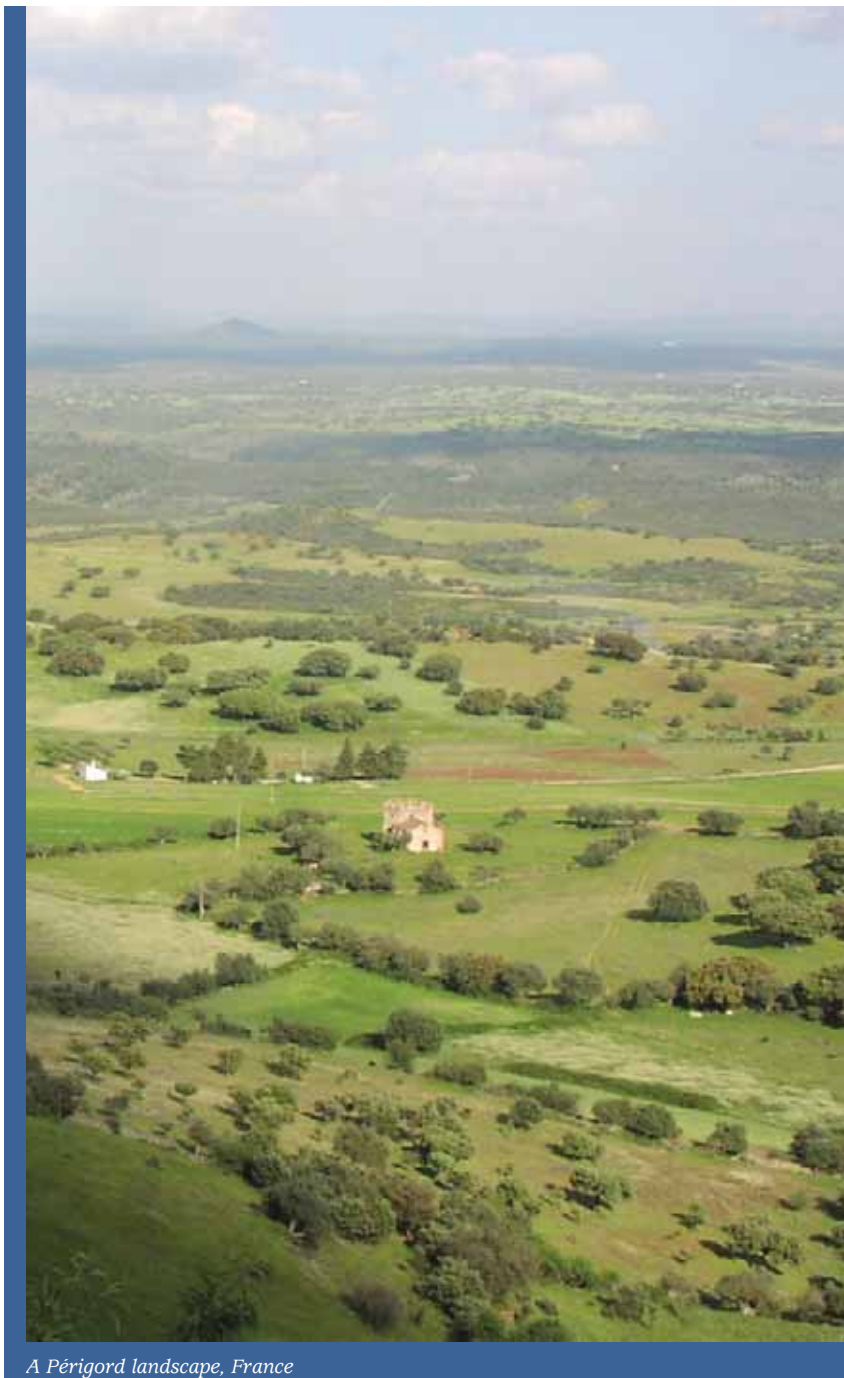
managed and protected in 13 different countries. An earlier project, European Pathways to the Cultural Landscape in the Culture 2000 programme, compared landscape and responses to landscape in 12 places in eight countries, using the metaphor of stories to frame different perceptions of landscape.

A still current project (the Culture 2007 Eucaland Project) considers the contribution to Europe's landscape of past and present agricultural activity. It aims to create a provisional European-wide classification of agricultural landscape so that a 'reading' of the landscape on a European scale will move closer together. Projects such as this, or the French transfrontier workshops, help us to look beyond the national or local perceptions that have emphasised each country's exceptionalism without also noticing a higher commonality. Any area of landscape can have both local and transnational values.

Transfrontier work rises above and transcends borders of all kinds. It reveals what 'landscape as common heritage' might mean, and it introduces an enlarged common perspective and understanding of the mechanics of landscape management. In return, landscape offers a fertile area of research and action for transfrontier co-operation. There have been many successful transfrontier or pan-European landscape-based projects, as this issue of the Council of Europe magazine Futuroipa testifies, but the next few years – thanks to European Union programmes funded by Esf-Cost, FP7, Culture 2007 or Eragnet – are likely to offer many more opportunities for using transfrontier co-operation to see landscape at European as well as local or national level.

Graham Fairclough

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A Périgord landscape, France



Punkaharju,
south eastern
Finland.

Tapio Heikkilä

Nordic multilateral co-operation on landscape

The Nordic context - a vast space

The Nordic region is among the most sparsely populated in Europe. Its 25 million people are just enough to cover the territory with some 21 people per square kilometre. The vast share of landscape *per capita* is a trait shared by most of the northern countries and it is both an asset and a challenge in terms of planning, management and the protection of landscapes.

The concept of vast spaces and desolation is an important part of the branding of the Nordic landscape. The advertising business and the tourist industry are carefully cultivating the exotic images of true wilderness, vast forests, archipelagos and the Nordic light, fully aware of the economic potential. But vast space also has obvious drawbacks. A truly un-exotic fact is that many countryside municipalities are facing a situation with a rapidly decreasing population. This may not be an exclusive Nordic trend, but taking into account the insignificant number of residents housed by these municipalities, the challenge is striking.

A long tradition of multilateral co-operation

The Nordic countries are joined together by their common history, culture and, to a great extent, similarity of languages. The first political union dates back to 1397-1523. In recent history, the Nordic countries have been working closely together on political issues for the last 50 years. This forms a basis also for a joint Nordic approach to landscape challenges.

The Nordic Council was established in 1952. It is a forum for parliamentary co-operation between Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden, and the autonomous territories of Greenland, the Faroe Islands and Åland. Initial successes in the 1950s include the passport union, the common labour market and social policy conventions.

The Nordic Council of Ministers, established in 1971, is a forum for governmental co-operation. Under the Committee of Senior Officials for Environmental Affairs (EK-M), the Working group for



nature, open air and cultural environment (NFK) is dealing with a broad spectrum of themes – including biological diversity, landscape, cultural environment and outdoor recreation. In the area of landscape and cultural environment, the working group is supporting joint Nordic proposals for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention. Through the facilitating work of the Nordic Council of Ministers, Nordic co-operation on landscape issues has a strong multilateral approach.

Intergovernmental actions

The national bodies responsible for the European Landscape Convention are co-operating within the framework of the Nordic Council of Ministers. The Nordic Council of Ministers' Environmental Action Plan 2005-08 identified the implementation of the European Landscape Convention as a priority area of action. The NFK Working group has supported a series of important initiatives:

- A preliminary project on the follow-up to the European Landscape Convention, presenting information on the work on landscape in the Nordic countries, and identifying common priorities for co-operation in implementing the Convention.



Ålesund, mid-western Norway

Jan Solgård



Pål-Nils Nilsson

Odensbacken, inland Sweden

Landscape Convention by municipal and regional planning, and establishing a Nordic network of people involved in these issues (Norway, September 2004). The work is presented in the report: *Implementering av den europeiske landskapskonvensjonen i lokal og regional planlegging i Norden* (55 p. in Norwegian). ANP 2005:771.

- A Nordic workshop, consolidating the network for Nordic co-operation on landscape and cultural environment, and improving the basis for joint Nordic projects (September 2007, Sweden). Report: *Landskap i förändring* (74 p. in Swedish). TemaNord 2008:581.

In addition to these initiatives, the Nordic Council of Ministers has supported a number of joint projects within the areas of natural conservation and cultural heritage with strong relevance to landscape.

Opportunities ahead

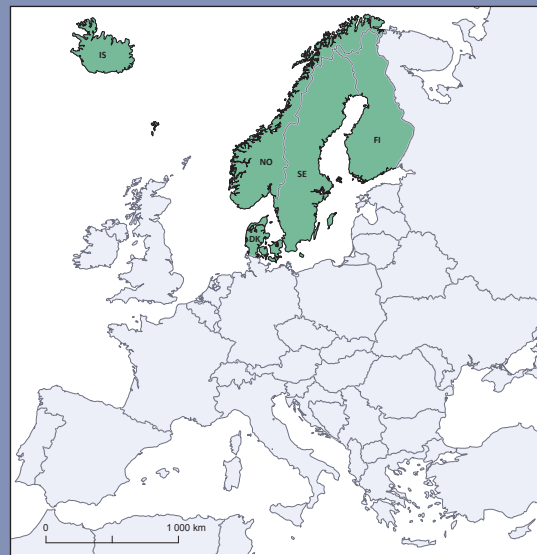
Within current Nordic co-operation, the need for more concrete action has been raised. The co-operation should in particular focus on political aspects and options related to the implementation of the European Landscape Convention, and strengthen links between the management of natural and cultural heritage, recognising them as resources of mutual enrichment.

Three initial steps may explore the opportunities:

- The Convention gives new meaning to our notion of landscapes. Awareness-raising is the key to implementation. Everybody in relevant planning or decision-making positions should recognise the nature of landscapes (according to the Convention definition), what they mean to human quality of life and what kind of forces are changing them.
- The institutional frameworks for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention differ slightly between the Nordic countries. There should be a project looking into the division of responsibilities in each country, the authorities involved and the processes organised at central government level for ratification and

The work is presented in the report: *Nordens landskap* (76 p. in Norwegian). TemaNord 2003:550.

- A Nordic workshop, exchanging views on implementing the European



Map of the Nordic Region

implementation. The aim is to create a better overview in order to facilitate co-operation.

- The Nordic countries should adopt a common Nordic action programme for landscape. The co-operation should draw on each country's particular expertise in different areas, and promote a Nordic perspective in national contexts.

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The experience of France's transfrontier workshops for identifying and assessing landscapes

We often hear it said that the European Landscape Convention is a groundbreaking instrument. Is there any truth to this claim or is it merely one of those trite statements of the kind that has become traditional at international gatherings?

In my view, and this will come as no surprise to anyone, the European Landscape Convention genuinely breaks new ground. It has generated real, significant progress in the landscape policy implemented in France, and probably in many other countries besides. This progress has been made possible because the Convention has turned several of our habits, and even some of our firmly held beliefs, on their head. It has changed our conception of landscape in several fundamental ways. The innovations that the Convention brings are not actually original and the concepts behind them had been articulated before by various scientists, notably geographers and sociologists. These concepts, however, had not yet, or only barely, begun to creep into legal instruments. This incorporation of research into a legal text was in large part due to the efforts of Yves Luginbühl, one of the two authors of the non-legal version of the convention. Such understanding between researchers and administrators remains all too rare and is one of those challenges that still needs to be addressed.

The European Landscape Convention provides that "*identification and assessment procedures shall be guided by the exchanges of experience and methodology, organised between the Parties at European level pursuant to Article 8*" which states that "*the Parties undertake to co-operate in order to enhance the effectiveness of measures taken under other articles of this Convention, and in particular ... to render each other technical and scientific assistance in landscape matters through the pooling and exchange of experience, and the results of research projects*".

In order to give practical effect to these provisions and, at the same time, prepare a new version of the "*Méthode pour des Atlas de paysages*" ("Landscape Atlases Method") used in France since 1994, in 2005 the Ministry of Ecology, Environment, Sustainable Development and

Maritime Affairs began holding transfrontier workshops on the identification and assessment of landscapes:

- Transfrontier workshop with the Walloon Region,
- Transfrontier workshop with Spain,
- Transfrontier workshop with Italy,
- Transfrontier workshop with England,
- Transfrontier workshop with Catalonia.

The French "Landscape Atlases Method" is constantly being improved by these exchanges of experience and methodology, in 2005 with the Walloon Region, in 2006 with Spain, in 2007 with Italy, in 2008 with England and in 2009 with Catalonia.

The idea behind these workshops is quite simple: in principle, landscapes form a *continuum* that does not stop at national borders. The workshops are held in areas which, although separated by a border between states, have common geographical and landscape features. These proximities and similarities make it possible to draw valid comparisons between the methods used and the results achieved.

Work starts well before the actual workshop, with documents being assembled and sent out to participants a month in advance. The workshop itself begins in the field, where participants can compare and contrast what they discover there with the description of the landscape provided, according to the methods used on both sides of the border. This vital "grounding" exercise continues in the classroom with an in-depth discussion and exchange of views. The workshop ends with participants formulating the conclusions together, which are displayed "live" on a screen.

In an effort to keep costs down, the workshops are run on a voluntary basis: everyone pays their own travel and subsistence costs and local resources are made available by the relevant Regional Department of the Environment in France. The number of participants is deliberately kept to around 30 to encourage everyone to take an active part in the proceedings. Most of the time, no translation is provided, with participants being asked instead to speak in their own language. This helps to avoid misunderstandings, as

more often than not, the language being used as a means of communication distorts the true meaning of the vocabulary of landscape. Where necessary, however, individuals who are bilingual are invited to explain the meaning of certain words or concepts. This is very important because the landscape terms used in the different languages are littered with *faux amis*. As a regular at these transfrontier workshops, I have given up trying to find "literal" translations of words, preferring instead to look for equivalent terms in the different languages, cultures or scientific and technical vocabularies.

Each workshop looks at a particular aspect of the process of identifying and assessing landscapes: with the Walloons, the focus was on the synopsis, i.e. all the themes and topics to be explored, with the Spanish, it was on landscape units, structures and elements, with the Italians, consideration for local perceptions, with the English, the dynamics and with the Catalans, the use made of the Landscape Atlases. A few experts or practitioners from other European countries or related disciplines (such as landscape ecology) are always invited as well, helping to produce more considered and better-thought-out conclusions. When it comes to landscapes, you can never have too much brainpower.

As I see it, this "meeting of minds" is one of the main contributions of the European Landscape Convention. The transfrontier workshops are a good example of this not only because various parties to the Convention attend them, but also because they bring together representatives of public authorities, states, regions, provinces and municipalities, scientists, practitioners and NGOs. All of which goes to show that a lightweight structure, where each individual makes a contribution, can be an effective and useful complement to the Council of Europe Meetings of the workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention.

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Transfrontier co-operation and landscapes: Walloon experiences

Although a modestly sized region, Wallonia has frontiers stretching for 1,231 kilometres. France, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, Germany and the Netherlands, without forgetting the Flemish region, border Wallonia, although there are no real physical barriers to mark its limits. Given this context, transfrontier co-operation becomes significant. Indeed, a large part of the Walloon population lives close to a frontier and its landscapes have no administrative limits.

The European Landscape Convention, in force in Belgium since 2005 and ratified by the Walloon region since 2001, foresees a series of particular measures including the identification and description of landscapes, mutual assistance and exchange of information, and its application in transfrontier landscapes (articles 6, 7, 8 and 9).

Subtly combining all these measures, Wallonia has undertaken a series of actions, some completed, others still in progress.

The France-Wallonia transfrontier Workshop and landscape atlases

Since 1994 in France, the Minister of Ecology, Energy, Sustainable Development and Maritime Affairs has been developing landscape atlases. Since 2001, work of a similar nature has been envisaged in Wallonia. The Workshop organised at Montherme in September 2005 aimed to give rise to an

exchange of experiences about the task of identifying and qualifying landscapes and to reflect on operational improvement of the method.

One of the results of this exchange was the elaboration of a 'reading grid of landscape atlases' presenting the constitutive elements of such a document.

Reassured by this transfrontier Workshop, the Walloon region then decided to launch itself into the production of landscape atlases and to entrust their realisation to the Permanent Conference of Territorial Development (Cpdt)¹, with the help of a working group constituted of experts in the field.

At the start of the work of the 'Landscape Territories of Wallonia'², the territorial scale chosen was landscape groups. Wallonia has thirteen.

The "Landscape Atlases of Wallonia" were conceived as tools to spread knowledge, raise awareness and improve management. Amply illustrated, they are designed to be accessible to a wide public, from citizens who are simply curious or love their region to policy makers, and including members of different associations.

The first volume of this collection, which, when finished, will cover the whole of Wallonia, was published at the beginning of 2008 and concerns the landscape group of L'Entre-Vesdre-et-Meuse, a territory bordering the Netherlands and Germany. It is possi-

ble to consult and download it on the website of the Cpdt.

The first part of the Atlas helps the reader to understand the formation of the Walloon landscapes, specifically those of L'Entre-Vesdre-et-Meuse. It provides the key principles for reading current landscapes as well as showing the pressures to which these landscapes are subjected. In the second part, the reader can discover the elements which characterise more local landscapes, as well as the issues which arise as a consequence of the observations made; issues to do with conservation, management and landscape planning.

The Interreg projects

The EU structural funds have been, for some local institutions and people interested in territorial issues, an opportunity to develop a landscape project in partnership with the administration³.

The Deux Ourthes Natural Park, associated with the *Héllef Fir d'Natur* Foundation of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, for example, has produced a 'topo guide' to transfrontier hiking entitled *La Traversée des Pays et des Ages* (Travelling through countries and time).

The goal of this project is ambitious and has several aspects; it links the development of sustainable tourism, raising the awareness of populations about their surroundings and the enhanced value of the landscape heritage of the Ardennes.

The guide describes the exceptional views which are dotted here and there along the walk, but also the landscapes which although seeming at first glance not very spectacular, actually conceal the traces of an often unknown past. Ruins of buildings, ancient agrarian structures, place names... All these elements deserve as much attention as the landscapes considered 'remarkable' and can improve interpretation of a landscape, understanding of its issues, determination of the pressures which affect it and its probable evolution.

These descriptions and analysis are presented through an original and attractive introductory key. In fact, whether it is a



Jean-François Sequin

The experience of France's transfrontier workshops for identifying and assessing landscapes

Roman road, major cadastral axes put in place in Antiquity or a postal route used at the dawn of modern times, the routes shown in 'Travelling through countries and time' all have a long history.

The 48 km hike is marked out, as are routes allowing a shorter walk.

The topo guide is accompanied by a map (scale 1: 25,000) showing the different routes. It also includes a series of useful addresses (accommodation, restaurants...).

Another project financed by the Interreg IV funds has just begun. It concerns the creation of a transfrontier photographic observatory of landscape.

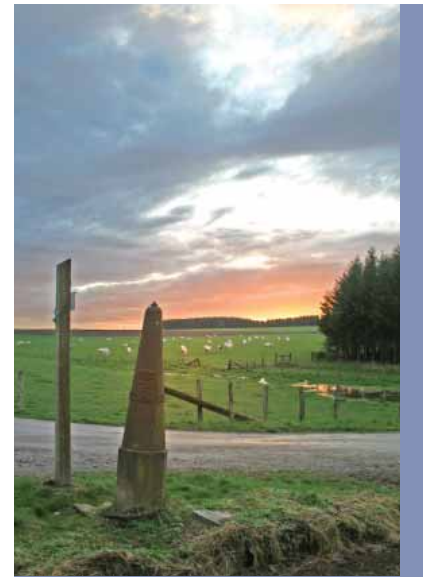
This project began in 2007 thanks to the resolve of the French side of the Natural Regional Park of Scarpe-Escaut and the Walloon side of the Natural Park of the Plains of Escaut, brought together in the Transfrontier Natural Park of Hainaut, to commit themselves to improving knowledge of these landscapes and to following their transformations.

The observatory is destined to illustrate the territory and its future on the basis of participation by citizens. It could constitute a tool to help make decisions, in order to safeguard harmony between current landscapes and those of the future.

The project links a technical approach and a sensitive approach. Indeed, the transfrontier observatory of landscape aims to be:

- an instrument of knowledge: to understand and record the diversity of landscapes thanks to the creation of a photographic collection;
- an instrument of analysis: to observe and evaluate the evolutions of landscapes, whether rapid or slow;
- an instrument of mobilisation: to raise awareness and involve the different actors and inhabitants in the evolution of local landscapes.

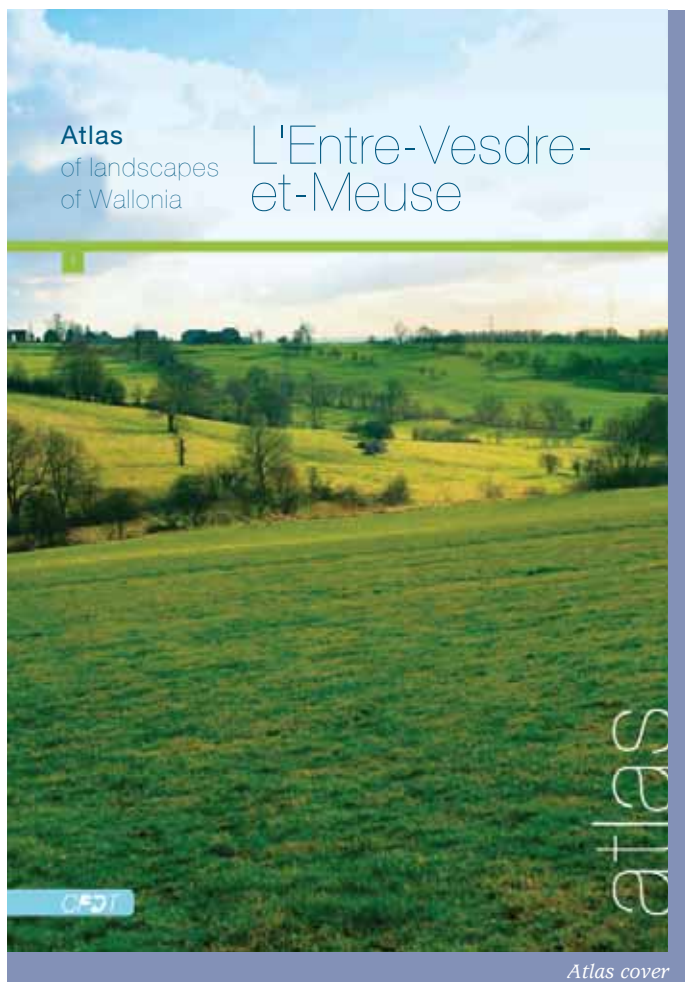
This project was inspired by other experiments run in Wallonia, France, and even other countries. It is supported by a driving committee which is trans-frontier and is now in its initial phase.



Border stone No 271 between Gouvy (Belgium) and Wintrange (Luxembourg)

It is therefore too early to learn from it; the lessons will emerge later.

Other experiments could have been discussed here but these few examples illustrate the manner in which the Walloon region respects the engagements which it has undertaken by ratifying the European Landscape Convention.



Atlas cover

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¹ For more information see:

<http://cpdt.wallonie.be/index.php>

² « Les territoires paysagers de Wallonie » (2004) Permanent Conference of Territorial Development, Studies and Documents 4, Ministry of the Walloon Region.

³ For more information, see the *Cahiers de l'urbanisme* n° 64, June 2007, pages 68-73.

The Planarch 2 Project: integrating archaeology and spatial planning

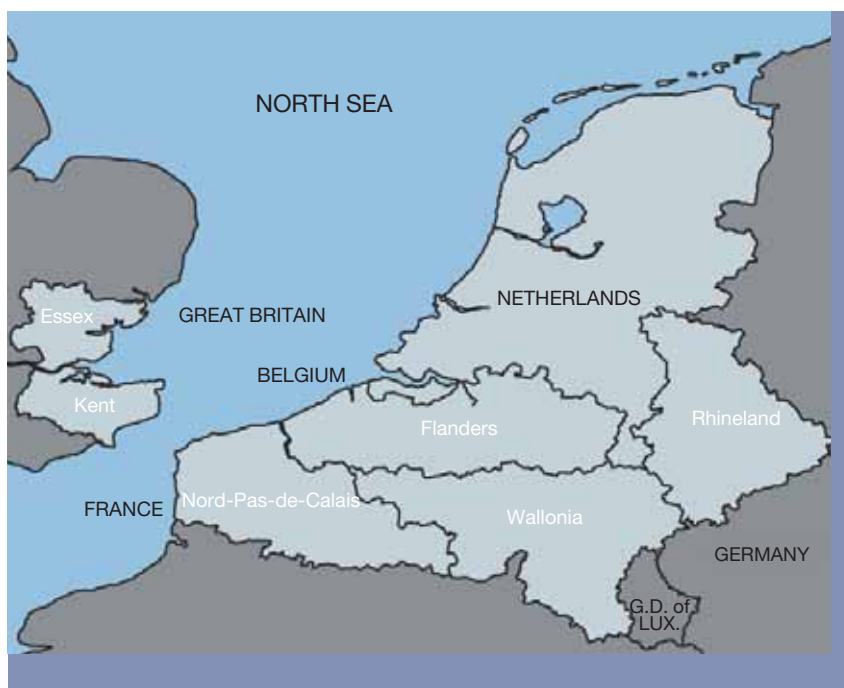
The Planarch partnership originated in the late 1990s from a desire to create better awareness of heritage and archaeology within spatial planning. Two projects have been supported by the North-West Europe Interreg programme (IIC and IIB), with partners from England, France, Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany that were involved at a strategic level in cultural heritage management. Kent County Council was lead partner.

Planarch 2, which commenced in 2004, focused on the heritage cycle, namely identification, evaluation, management and promotion and the crucial role of 'understanding', which is informed by and informs our relationship with the remains of the past.

Under identification, the role of heritage records was considered both within spatial planning and also in making the past accessible to the wider public. Evaluation looked at how to improve decision-making relating to planning proposals; specific topics covered field archaeology investigations, air-photography and the problems of wetland archaeology.

A key management output was a review of approaches to cultural heritage in Environmental Impact Assessment in the Planarch region. Although EIA emanated from a European directive, responses could vary significantly. Strengths and weaknesses were assessed and recommendations made. Guiding Principles for dealing with the Cultural Heritage in Environmental Impact Assessment, endorsed by the European Association of Archaeologists and the European Archaeological Council, were launched at a reception in the European Parliament in Brussels in November 2005.

Promotion was very much about how to communicate, both with those involved



in the planning process and also with the public more generally: our European heritage is part of our collective identity rather than the preserve of a select few and it is important that it is cherished and owned by all.

Looking after the historic environment and making it relevant to today's society remains a challenge in the face of ongoing development and social and economic pressures. Understanding and respecting our individual and collective origins can help to bind the peoples of Europe together as we face the challenges of the 21st century and the

Planarch partners are presently contemplating how they might take co-operation forward into a Planarch 3 – and beyond.

Output from Planarch can be viewed at www.planarch.org

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The Spain-Portugal Atlas of landscapes

An innovative project of European co-operation for the acknowledgement of landscape

In 1998, two European States, Portugal and Spain, decided to approach their landscapes in a coordinated way. The three objectives were to:

- identify, characterise and map the landscape diversity;
- extend this identification to all the territory in the format of an atlas;
- incorporate landscape as a new basis for wider co-operation in territorial management, in the framework of the European Union territorial process.

In this way, in the Interreg IIC Programme, South-western Europe was presented with the Project: "Characterisation and identification of the landscapes of the Iberian peninsula and insular territories" as a proposal of the Portuguese Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning and the Spanish Ministry of Environment. Two teams, from the University of Evora (Portugal) and the Autonomous University of Madrid (Spain), were commissioned to undertake the project¹. After three years of joint work, the project produced two independent atlases, both published in each country.

The project considers landscape as an expression of the centuries-old relationship of societies with their surroundings and as a reality "that has become one of the components that land planning and territorial development policies and instruments should consider in the

design of territorial models", and also as an "element for intervention favouring its protection and conservation and for aiming its improvement in land use transformation processes".

Co-operative methodology and some shared cross-border landscapes in two independent atlases

The Project anticipated some of the aspects later considered in the European Landscape Convention, in particular "Identification and assessment", the contribution to European co-operation, integrating landscape in international programmes and the identification of cross-border landscapes (Articles 6, 7 and 8). The Convention also planned three specific tasks: to identify their own landscapes (those of the signatories) within their territory as a whole; to analyse the characteristics thereof, along with the dynamics and pressures modifying them, and to monitor any transformations.

The two Atlases tackle the identification and characterisation of landscapes throughout the whole territory, both on the Iberian Peninsula and the islands (Madeira, The Azores, the Balearic Islands and the Canary Islands).

Typology of the landscapes of Portugal and Spain

Even though the methodologies used were not the same, the same types of variables were taken into account in each State.

The working method developed has allowed the establishment of a hierarchical typology on three levels: landscape units or simply, landscapes; landscape types, and landscape associations.

Landscape units express the diversity of landscapes at a basic level. Each unit is defined by its internal homogeneity and its differences with neighbouring landscapes. Uniqueness is its most characteristic feature and results from the particular relationships between local communities and their territory.

The description of each landscape is conducted using standardised formats including basic aspects of the territorial and dynamic characterisation of the landscape: landscape organisation, landscape dynamics, perception of the landscape, and landscape values. Each landscape analysed is presented by a text, a cultural image of that landscape.

Landscape types represent grouped landscapes whose fundamental structures are repeated throughout the territory. At the level of the atlas, the landscape types provide a synthetic but relatively detailed reading of large landscape configurations. In the identification and characterisation of the landscape types, the regional factor, understood as the landscape construction process based on different territorial histories, was in most cases decisive. Many of the landscapes respond to long-term processes, which have occurred within the framework of historic territories, currently within the regional scope.

Associations of such landscape types and landscape as the highest level of taxonomy, integrate landscape types that are similar due to their topographic configuration, to their bioclimatic characteristics and to similarities in the land uses. In most cases, this font goes



R. Mata

Holm oaks with arable land, Ciudad Real, Spain



Cantabrian mountains, Asturias, Spain

beyond the regional scope, as regards physiographical features of the territory and provides a map that is relatively abstract in relation to the reality of the landscape, but is useful as a general and synthetic cartographic expression.

Cartography and photographs

The Atlases are presented with maps on different scales (1:700.000, Spanish Atlas; 1:250.000, Portuguese Atlas).

Maps are completed with photographs, taken by the authors during their field work, as a valuable testimony of the image of the landscapes in the transition from the 20th to the 21st century.

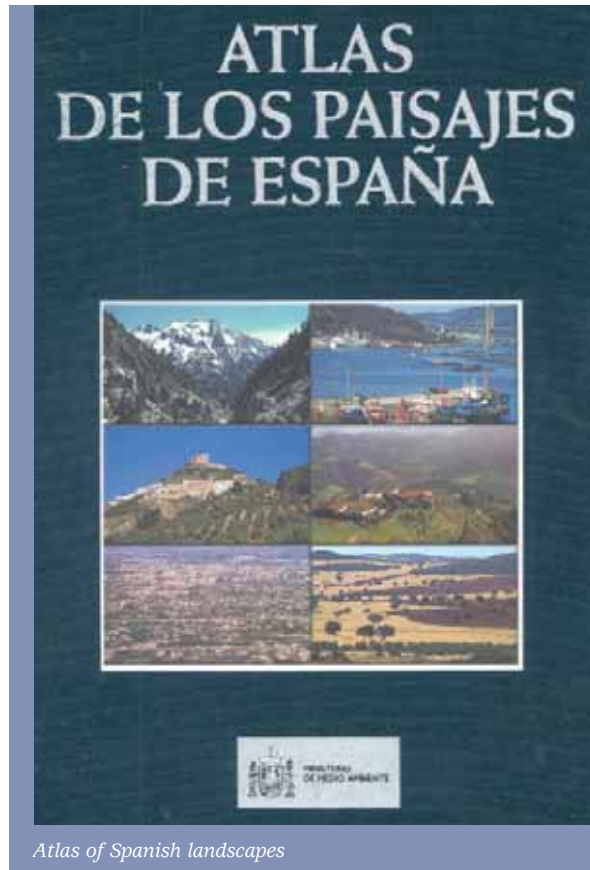
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Atlas of Spanish landscapes



Identifying trans-border landscapes

Introductory remarks

In July 2006, the First Interreg Landscape Symposium was held in Pernegg, Austria, as a joint initiative of the University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences of Vienna, the Southern Bohemian University Budvar, Ecovast Austria and Ecovast International. The main aim of the three day event was to discuss the problems of identifying landscapes that extend across national borders and to draw up solutions. The event dealt with four crucial points of the European Landscape Convention: to identify landscapes, involve local people in this process, raise their awareness and include landscape in education.

Identifying and appreciating landscapes

Identifying landscape (units) is one of the major targets of the European Landscape Convention. The question is whether this only concerns experts or whether local and interested lay people – if guided – can also be involved. We are convinced that this is possible. This is supported by the results of the pedagogical research as shown in the learning pyramid according to Bales.

Whereas only 5 % of information that is passed on to the public through speeches, e.g. in meetings and information events, is remembered, and 10 % of the contents of written information, 50 % is remembered from discussions and up to 80 % when people are active.

Active participation of the interested and concerned population during landscape identification, the definition of quality goals for the landscape, and the elaboration of measures are therefore essential for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention's landscape policy and really leads to a higher appreciation of landscapes and behavioural changes which will facilitate landscape protection, management and planning. In turn, people will be able to perceive landscapes with more attention. In the Landscape Symposium, it became clear that state of the art methods of landscape identification frequently do not comply with these requirements. To support successful implementation of

the European Landscape Convention, methodological approaches that allow active public participation could be developed and applied.

Developing and applying such methods is complex. There is common agreement that landscapes are a multi-sense experience depending on people's perception (which again has to do with education). The dominating sense for landscape perception is vision. But other senses are also involved, for example hearing (wind and water), feeling (heat, cold, humidity) or even taste when trying typical local food.

One method designed for grass-roots level work is the Ecovast landscape identification method with its 10 layers. The basic layers (numbers 1-4) refer to the naturally created constituents of landscape: surface geology, climate, soil and landform. They are those landscape elements that can not be changed by humans or at least not easily (in a short time). Numbers 7-10 are the landscape features created by people (e.g. houses and settlements), whilst numbers 5 and 6 are hybrid features with essential natural elements but seriously influenced and/or changed by humans. To put it briefly: the basis of landscape is nature, in which the "cultural elements" are rooted. Yet to identify landscapes and their character, both elements have to be taken seriously, the natural and the cultural.

At the Landscape Symposium, cross-border landscapes between Austria and the Czech Republic were identified. Having

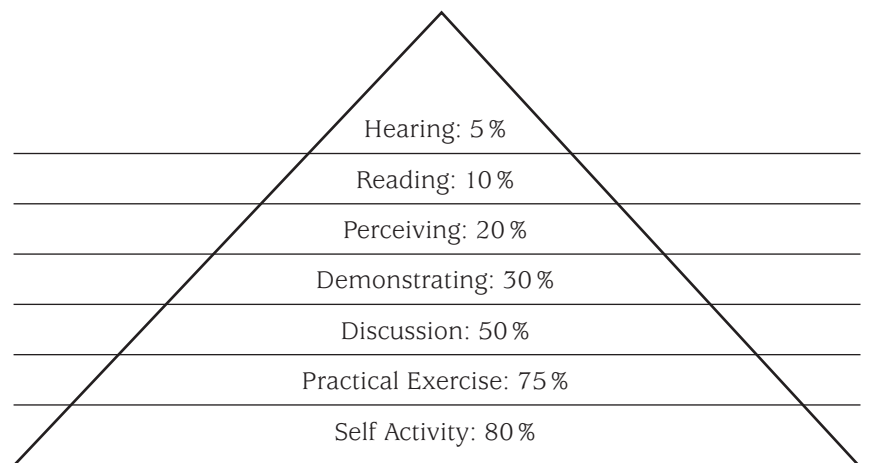
tested this Ecovast method during a one day workshop, some of its strengths and weaknesses were pointed out, like the easy applicability and the holistic landscape characterisation on the one hand, and the predetermination of landscape objectives through the selection of identification criteria, on the other hand. It has been concluded that most weaknesses can be overcome when the group using the method is guided by an expert in landscape protection, management and planning.

The peculiarities of transborder landscapes

It is only rarely that a border-line between different authorities, e.g. national borders, can be seen in the real landscape, with the exceptions of borders that are marked by large rivers, the foot line of hills or the ridge of mountain chains. Landscapes tend to extend such borders. But what do you have to take into account when dealing with trans-border landscapes?

Let us use the example of the 'Wood Quarter' in the north of Austria and its Czech equivalent on the other side of the state border, where the First Interreg Landscape Symposium took place:

– The natural elements of the landscape and their visual impression are almost the same on each side of the border (the same geology, soil, climate and land form; layers 1-4 of the 'matrix' of Ecovast's method to identify landscapes).



Learning pyramid according to Bales.



The Austrian Weinviertel, viewed from the threshold to the higher Waldviertel

– The land cover and the characteristic features and patterns of agriculture and forestry are also almost the same (the ‘two-fold landscape’ dominated by the almost rhythmical alternation of big clearances/fields and areas of forest; you need a trained eye to notice the differences in details).

These six points (items 1-6 of the matrix) result in the fact that it will not be possible to recognise the state border-line when looking at the landscape from either Austria or the Czech Republic (this even includes to a certain extent the ‘inlay of a karstic region’ around the famous cave ‘Macocha’ north of Brno).

The personal experiences of landscape on both sides of the border are not the same:

- There are differences in the fabric of the settlements (e.g. in the Czech Republic, almost every village – not to mention small towns – has at least one significant building from ‘socialist times’, the so called ‘panelák’; it is an interesting fact that some architects have already begun arguing that some of those ‘panelák’ should be put under monument conservation, as symbols of their time).
- But what counts much more is that it feels like being in a strange country due to the totally different languages, giving the whole landscape experience a different quality.
- It is the same with the signs: they are written in a different language and do not look alike.
- Here is an additional difference that applies to layer 10 ‘spirituality and added value’. The Austrian people living in the ‘Wood Quarter’ identify with the region and landscape; they call themselves ‘Wood-Quarters’. In

the Czech Republic, the landscape has not been given a specific name by the inhabitants; they do not identify themselves with the name of their region or landscape. Only geographers or spatial planners call the region the ‘Moravian Uplands’.

Since it is agreed that landscape recognition is a holistic and sensual experience, account has to be taken of all the impressions that add up to landscape perception, and not only those confined to the eye.

So the challenge, when identifying cross-border landscapes, is to choose the appropriate line on the map when working at European scale. The solution suggested to this problem (on the map) is: draw the usual black line surrounding the identified landscape unit but add an additional broken and thinner black line to the red line that indicates the state border.

Involving local people

The Ecovast method of identifying landscapes has been designed to make a seemingly complicated matter more understandable and enable the involvement of local people. Ecovast has had some good experiences with this approach in various countries, and dealing with various landscapes. The hand-out for this method is an ‘open source’ for everybody and can be downloaded free of charge at: www.Ecovast.org. In the course of practising this method, it became obvious that dealing with landscape, particularly landscape identification, has much to do with education; in fact, it is a matter of education!

Therefore, Ecovast has started a pilot project. From the beginning of 2009, four selected (higher) schools of the

region ‘Wood Quarter’ in Austria and in the corresponding region in the Czech Republic will start identifying their surrounding landscapes in both countries. If this project delivers good results, this approach will be extended to other parts of the ‘Wood Quarter’ and the neighbouring ‘Wine Quarter’. Ideally, it might end with something like a ‘Landscape Register’ achieved by local people and schools and other educational organisations.

To avoid misinterpretation, two points should be made clear from the beginning:

- The method and its results will give a first rough but correct alternative view and description of the landscapes of a region or a country, their character and names on which further research can be based if need be.
- This task should not be confused with any wide scale or biotope mapping.

Final remark

The identification of transborder landscapes requires intensive co-operation between nations implementing the European Landscape Convention at all levels of administration, scientific institutions, and the people living in those landscapes. Ecovast hopes to offer successful contributions with the help of local people after carrying out the intended cross-border school project.

Acknowledgements

Thank to the European Union, the European Regional Development Fund (ErdF) and the Province of Lower Austria, the Department of Spatial Planning and Regional Policy, the Department of Culture and Science, the Department of Nature Protection for co-financing the First Interreg Landscape Symposium. Further thanks to the contributors and participants in the symposium for a vivid and in-depth dialogue on the conference issues.

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Some examples of co-operation within Europe and the East



Castle Leuchtenburg, Middle Saale Valley, Germany

Protecting landscapes to strengthen regional and local economies: the transnational project

Cultural landscapes of Central Europe are endangered. The reason for this is not only negligence of conservation but also poor spatial economies and socio-economic processes. However, the experiences of some European countries, such as Germany or Austria, illustrate that it is possible to protect cultural landscapes when local communities and regional authorities cooperate actively with each other.

The project 'Cultural Landscapes' sought to analyse and possibly adjust such an approach to the development and protection of cultural landscapes in Central Europe. It aimed at the identification, enhancement and development of cultural landscapes in the whole of the Cadses area.

Structure of the project

The project was one of the activities within the programme Interreg IIIB Cadses¹. Over 24 months (2006-2008), the network brought together 11 partners from Poland, Germany, Austria, Romania and Ukraine and was directed by the University of Agriculture in Krakow, Poland².

The EU Structural Funds are a powerful instrument for the sustainable development of European regions. Many of the activities co-financed by these funds

have a more or less direct impact on landscapes. They may help to maintain landscapes and to safeguard satisfactory living conditions for the inhabitants – an important precondition to avoid migration and negative demographic impacts. Furthermore, the funds support activities directly linked to landscape issues, such as the rehabilitation of brownfields or the protection of habitats. However, in some cases, such as the construction of new roads or new commercial areas, they may have a negative impact on the landscape. It is therefore reasonable that the sustainable development of landscape is an important topic for the Interreg programme, funded by the European Regional Development Fund.

The fact that the project received the formal support of the Council of Europe also confirms the importance of the challenge facing the 'Cultural Landscapes' project.

Activities

Based on the inter-sectoral approach, including the protection of nature and heritage as well as the development of rural areas, and on international research structures, the project has developed the best examples as regards the implementation of the European Landscape Convention.

The main activities of the project were research, the development of new tools of landscape survey and new teaching curricula, the training and involvement of local experts, and pilot projects to strengthen local economies.

The level of landscape research and education in Central Europe is diverse. With the help of the Interreg project, universities and research institutions from all the participating countries exchanged know-how and practical experiences to improve this situation. Amongst other activities, they developed a common methodology of identifying and categorising cultural landscapes of the Cadses area, and surveyed innovative research methods and planning tools. Intensive exchange of knowledge resulted in the creation of an international catalogue of historical cultural landscape elements of Central Europe.

Setting up an internet platform, 'Landscape Wikipedia', was another significant result of the academic research conducted. This platform makes it possible to integrate the wider public into the process of cultural landscape identification and categorisation, and promotes social awareness of the significance and quality of cultural landscape. The platform (currently available in German) consists of two parts: 'Landscape Wiki' (a glossary of elements) and maps / orthophotomaps which allow the digitalising of elements provided by people with access to the portal.

Building social awareness regarding cultural landscape assets should already take place in formal education. That is why project activities have resulted in the development of teaching curricula involving cultural landscape and spatial planning issues to be introduced at university. Some of them were developed and implemented, based on the transnational exchange of knowledge

The project also resulted in training sessions for 'local experts' (regional decision-makers and local people) to make them aware of the cultural landscape concept. After all, the people who live in a certain region mainly decide on the development of 'their' landscape. Moreover, their knowledge is neces-



StadtStrategen, Weimar

Gessen Valley Bridge, Ronneburg, Germany

identities 'Cultural landscapes'

sary to complete academic research. Numerous meetings, seminars, and workshops were an opportunity to disseminate the results of the research carried out. These activities have set an example of the perfect integration of theoretical research and practical actions aimed at the promotion of landscape issues among the wider public.

Transregional development tours and a series of thematic regional markets were aimed at strengthening local identities and presenting the cultural landscapes of other participating regions and countries. The tours enabled international participants to become familiar with examples of approaches to cultural landscape issues and observe how landscape can be managed and protected in accordance with the principles of sustainable development.

Finally, the project aimed at the integration of landscapes with regional development through pilot projects in agriculture, tourism, regional market and renewable sources of energy. The community of Miechów created the Centre for Renewable Energies, which promotes energy production from pellets and briquettes (fields being the distinctive cultural landscape feature of the region). The project also made it possible to reconstruct the former retention basin in Wiśniowa, which will now be used for recreation and water tourism. In co-operation with the city of Jena (central Germany) and the Saale-Holzland district, a detailed project of regional development, called 'Middle Saale Valley', was elaborated. This pilot project enhanced the industrial area of Göschwitz with a connection to the Saale River floodplain and led to the establishment of a general marketing concept of manor houses and castles in the area as well as drawing attention to the historic site of the town of Kahla. Moreover, the Cultural Landscapes project undertook integrated activities aimed at the development of agrotourism in the region of Schidnycia in Ukraine, based on the rich resources of medicinal waters.

Results

Due to its wide scope, the Cultural Landscapes project substantially increased social and political awareness as regards the importance and role of cultural landscapes for sustainable development, and of the identity of the Cades countries.

The protection of landscapes, which are the most basic elements of our European cultural heritage, supports the development and protection of local cultures. The project's approach to cultural heritage made participating regions more attractive for investment, especially as regards tourism and regional products.

The project was an important step towards the implementation of the European Landscape Convention in Central Europe. However, the project results may be of interest to other regions and actors as well. These results are documented by several monographies also available via the Internet. Currently, a follow-up project to be applied within the programme Interreg IVB Central Europe is under way.



Rural Christmas Market, Reinstedt, Middle Saale Valley, Germany

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² The project partners were the University of Agriculture in Krakow (PL) – Lead Partner, the Community of Miechów (PL), the Community of Wiśniowa (PL), the University of Applied Science Erfurt (DE), the Heritage Association of Thuringia (DE), the Regional Planning Association East-Thuringia (DE), Environment Management Austria (AT), the Grazing Association Ramsar Site Valley of Lafnitz (AT), the University "Babes-Bolyai" Cluj-Napoca (RO), the Ethnographic Museum of Transylvania (RO) and Lviv Polytechnic National University (UA).



Wooden Church, Malopolska, Poland

Transfrontier co-operation for preserving in the Drava Valley, Croatia and Hungary

The River Drava has its source in the Tirol Alps, and, after its journey of 700 km through five countries, it flows into the Danube at Aljmas, Croatia. The river course in Croatia is 305 km long and is the second longest river in Croatia. Around 140 km of the river mark the border with Hungary, from Örtilos to Eperjespuszta. Due to the border, this landscape remains dominantly natural, especially on the river section above the towns of Barcs and Virovitica, where regulation activities were kept at a necessary level. The Drava has buoys up to 198 km from the mouth of the Danube. However, only 13 km from the Danube to the town of Osijek are used intensively by traffic. The river has variable water dynamics: the sloping gradient of the water surface at the upper reach is three times that measured in the lower section! The riverbed and the deposits vary from coarse pebbly gravel to fine-grain sand, this feature allowing colonisation by plant and animal communities with different ecological requirements.

There is evidence of human presence in the Drava lowlands, dating back to the Neolithic Age. During the Roman era, significant military routes crossed the area, with strategic points defended

by fortresses. The river basin was suitable for human settlement, because natural resources were suitable for both pastoral and farming activities. Forest coverage along the Drava were much higher in the past (about 60-80% at the time of the settling of the Magyars in Hungary), but later on were gradually reduced by deforestation. Grasslands and wooded grasslands, where forests had been removed, were used for grazing. In addition to grazing on grasslands, water and forests, also, offered raw material for a number of ancient occupations and handicrafts, such as fishing and hunting, fruit-growing, wood carving, weaving and wickerwork, pot-ash-production. Living in this area was always closely connected to the environment, with adjustment to the water regime of the Drava. A typical form of that is "fok" (canal) management, meaning that the flood water was directed so that it spread over the floodplain, serving fishing, grazing and floodplain fruit production. The reduction of traditional floodplain canal management occurred with river regulation and water management interventions. The regulations served mostly to improve conditions for river navigation which was at its peak during the late 19th century. As a result

of water control and the discontinuation of floodplain farming, the proportions of farmland and arable areas grew steadily along the Drava and also in earlier floodplain areas. Agricultural land along the river on Croatian territory forms one of the most interesting artificial landscape patterns, formed by many small strips of 10 ha, made by agrarian reforms in the past.

This area is also the central part of the Mura-Drava-Danube river network, the most important European west-east axe for nature conservation. Nature conservation activities have a long tradition in this area. The establishment of protected areas along the Drava in Hungary started in 1942 when five smaller plots were declared to be protected under the name "Középrigóc Grove". The Barcs Juniper Woodland Landscape Protection Area was established in 1974, and was followed by another set of areas being brought under protection in 1987. In 1991, the Lankóci Forest Nature Reserve was created near Gyékényes, and, in 1996, the Duna-Drava National Park was proclaimed, covering a total of 50,000 hectares. The protected areas along the Drava cover 21,251 ha, and are shared by two counties: Somogy and Baranya. The phyto-geographical significance of the Duna-Drava National Park is ensured by the fact that Illyrian and Pannonian flora border each other here, contributing to the presence of 150 different plant species and more than 100 protected plants in the area. The fauna of the Drava areas and of the Duna-Drava National Park are rich: nearly 4,500 animal species have been identified in the area, and with over 300 protected species. The water quality of the Drava is better than that of the average of our great rivers, as is demonstrated by the uniquely diverse fauna.

On the Croatian side of the river Drava, the most valuable natural area is the Kopački rit Nature Park, situated at the mouth of the Drava and the Danube, covering a total of 22,894 hectares, with a special zoological reserve inside the park. Although this area has been protected since 1967, Kopački rit has been explored since the middle of the 19th century. Its relief is the result of flood waters forming ponds,



landscape

or rather traverses running side by side and creating the image of an internal Delta. Such a wetland habitat is ideal for a biodiversity important for migratory water birds and as the hatchery for fish for the Danube and lower Drava. So far, more than 2,000 species have been recorded, with 291 bird species, 44 fish species, 400 plant species, 400 vertebrates and others. Other protected areas along the river Drava are the Drava park-forest close to Varaždin, the special zoological reserve Veliki Pažut at the mouth of the river Drava and Mura, the protected Čambina landscape, the natural monument of Repaš, four protected landscapes above Virovitica: Križnica, Jelkuš, Širinski otok and Vir, the park's architectural monument Noskovačka Dubrava close to Čađavica, the ornithological reserve of Podpanj close to Donji Miholjac, and many Natura 2000 sites. In order to ensure the protection of the whole Drava river course covering all the sites mentioned, the process of proclaiming the Regional Park Mura Drava started in 2008 with preventive protection of this area.

When looking at the current landscape preservation problems of the Drava areas, the river itself should be looked at first. Although the river has been subject to a number of interventions during the last century, it appears to be a natural-looking river even today. The



cut-through bends, stone barriers and embankments created in the past have merged into the landscape. However, the need for new water engineering structures will exist in the future since it is related to water course movement and the potential dangers of flooding in urban areas and infrastructures.

Also, the fact that the entire Hungarian section is protected as a national park, and that Croatia has taken steps towards declaring protection of a larger area, serves the survival of the original landscape values.

At some locations along the Drava, including both Hungarian and Croatian areas, dredging in the riverbed is still practised which results in damage to the local landscape. Dredging is done partly for river regulation and embankment protection purposes, and partly for flood prevention. The continuation of dredging in areas protected at national park level, with the purpose of river regulation and embankment protection, is regarded in the long run as unnecessary. The development of river navigation is not anticipated in this section. If the rivershore sections are brought under state ownership, the natural side-erosion of the river will no longer be a problem. Riverbed dredging means damage to the landscape, with the dredging vessels, transportation machinery and shore structures disrupting the natural landscape.

In the broad natural area around the Drava, some activities which are not permitted unfortunately occur such as the building of odd-looking structures and buildings for angling and recreation purposes as well as disposal of household waste. This problem could be tackled by the revision of local building legislation and masterplanning, relying on co-operation between land owners along the river, water management bodies, those who go fishing and angling, and the nature conservation managing body.

Along the Drava section of the Duna-Drava National Park, there are some expanses of farmland and arable land which are detrimental to landscape preservation and nature conservation.



These farmlands were created in the past in locations where there used to be riparian forests, and they are used intensively even today. Since the Duna-Drava National Park was established and lands were brought under state protection, the extent of such farmlands in protected areas has been decreasing, as a consequence of the new land use policy that encourages their conversion into grasslands or forests. This, however, can still continue sometimes. The degree of natural habitat in the forests in the national park varies greatly. In some places, there are riparian forests with good growth and rich flora and fauna, whereas in other locations, the forest is full of new and/or invasive species, inappropriate for the area. Such forests are poor in natural values, and are not attractive from a landscape perspective. The replacement of tree species and the conversion of forest structures are possible solutions to their treatment in the future, with a view to increasing the extent of near-natural forest stands.

According to the Croatian Strategy of Spatial Planning (1997), there was a plan to build a new hydro-electric power plant in Novo Virje. As the nature conservation NGOs and experts, as well as the general public, opposed this proposal, the construction of the hydro-electric power plant has not yet started. It would cause irreparable damage to the flora and fauna in the lower reaches of the river Drava as well as landscape transformation. Since Croatia has to draw up a new Strategy of Spatial Planning, this issue will be taken into account, bearing in mind other possibilities for electric power production and new initiatives in transborder nature protection.

The Drava floodplain can be preserved only if there is co-operation between the neighbouring countries. The Croatian-Hungarian working group for nature conservation therefore prepared together the nomination file for a Mura-Drava Danube Biosphere Reserve. If that is

achieved, the best results for the region would be eco-tourism and pursuing traditional land management forms, concentrating mainly on areas under nature conservation management. This work already resulted in closer co-operation between institutions that provide management for protected areas and with proposals for new projects in nature conservation that could apply for EU funds. Through the new nature conservation initiatives, we have brought about closer co-operation with the neighbouring country, and we hope that, through the implementation of wide range of projects for implementation of management, habitat reconstruction, the re-introduction of traditional forms of farming, for improvement of the facilities and targets of eco-tourism, and through the operation of a high-standard nature monitoring system, we will achieve our goal, i.e. a well preserved river Drava, which will be a heritage for future generations.

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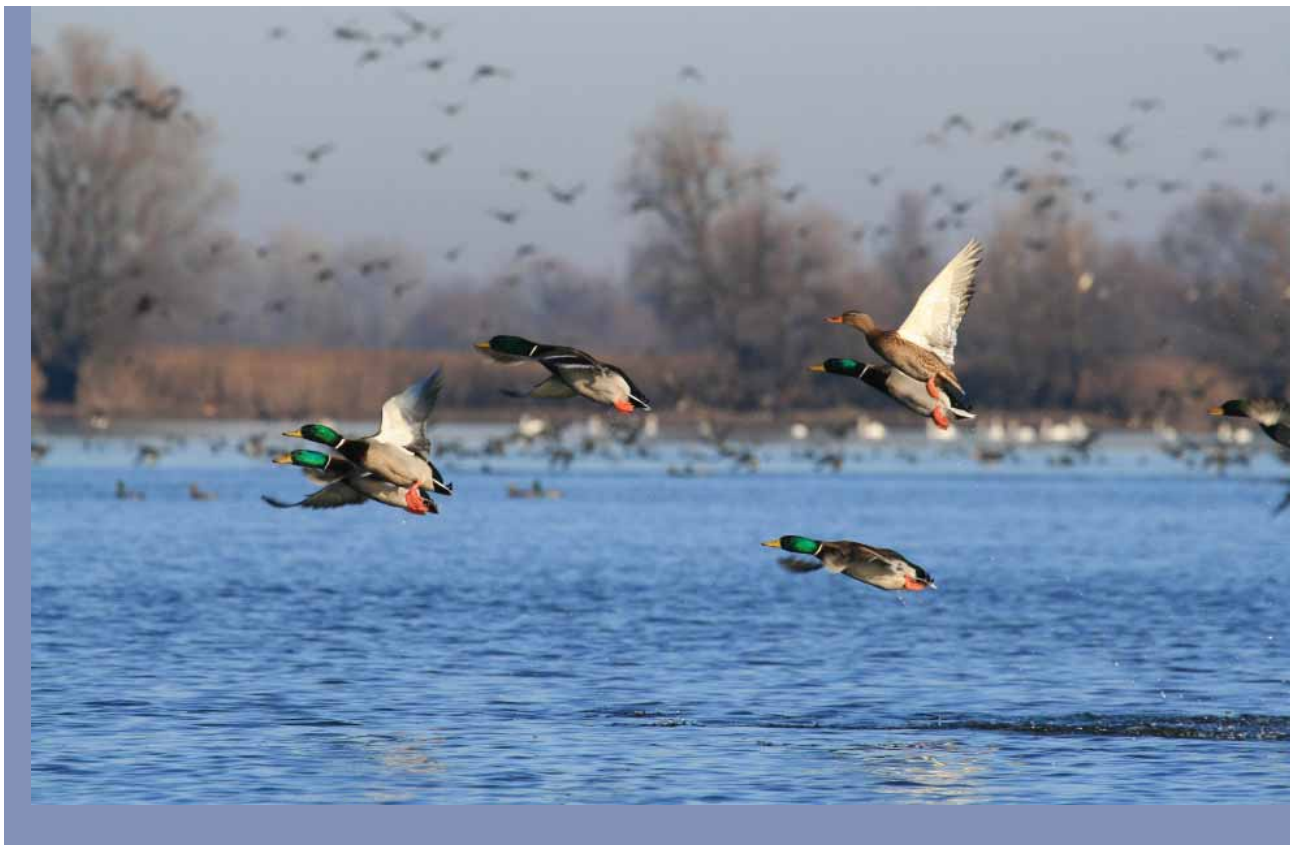
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Some examples of cooperation within Europe The Centre and the East

A transboundary landscape between Austria and Hungary around the Lake Fertő/Neusiedler

Contemplating the landscape from a bird-watcher's tower a unique landscape scenery opens before us – a shallow alkaline lake with a large reed belt encircled by dry steppe, thousands of birds, cultivated lowlands and a chain of traditional rural settlements, as well as hill ranges covered by vineyards, orchards and forests; the appearance of harmony between humans and nature.

The Lake Fertő/Neusiedler landscape is a transitional area between the Alps and the Pannon Plain. It is Europe's westernmost shallow alkaline lake on the Austro-Hungarian border on the pre-alpine lowland where the last remains of the Eurasian steppe landscapes and habitat types can be found. The influences of Alpine, Pannonian and Mediterranean natural factors and cultural characteristics give the area its unique qualities which have been recognised by several designations. The wetlands are qualified as Ramsar sites, national parks and biosphere reserves were founded in the 1980s both in Austria and Hungary and recently the whole transboundary cultural landscape received its Unesco World Heritage diploma and several Nature 2000 sites have been designated.

The most ancient remnants of human settlement around the Fertő/Neusiedler Lake date from the New Stone Age. Since that time, inhabited and depopulated periods have alternated in the landscape history, depending mostly



Kitti Horvath

Character of the lake basin with the large reed belt on the southern Hungarian part



Kitti Horvath

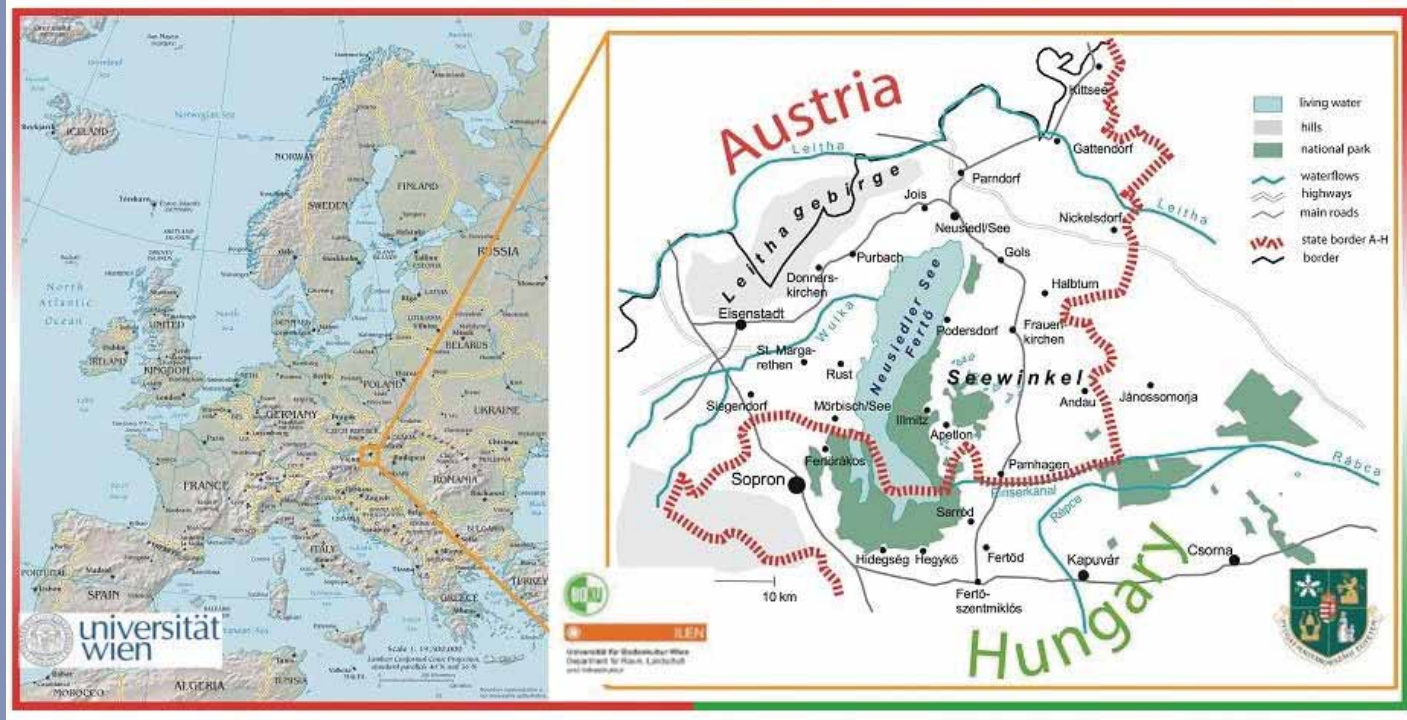
Character of the western transboundary hill range



Éva Konkoly-Gyuró

Panoramic view of the Lake Fertő on the south western shore

Eva Konkoly-Gyuró



Location of the transboundary Fertő/Neusiedlersee landscape in Central Europe

on the presence of water. Austria and Hungary shared their history for centuries. After the First World War and the collapse of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy, the new state border divided the lake. During the 20th century, the different political regimes and the significantly different demands towards the landscape resulted in a different development. In predominantly alpine Austria the need for agricultural production, vine-growing and water-related recreation were the main driving forces relating to land-use, while, in Hungary, the Iron Curtain zone became a 'sleeping' region, where depopulation and abandonment of the agricultural land resulted in a semi-natural landscape. Here nature conservation started earlier and had more significance due to the low intensity of human use. However, the political changes 1989-90 witnessed the end of the Iron Curtain and the opening of the frontier. Increasingly intense development has taken place in the area, though the imprints of the 20th century are still evident.

The national and international research activities are more and more intensive

in the area. Amongst others, landscape scientists of the University of Vienna, the team of Austrian University of Life Sciences as well as the landscape research group of the University of West Hungary have been working together for several years on bilateral projects focusing on the natural and cultural heritage of landscape, on the landscape character and regional identity¹.

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Some examples of co-operation within Europe The Centre and the East

Riverbank forests of the Moldova-Ukraine

Forests are a life-giving source to local communities and home to a wide diversity of plants and animals. The Nistru (Dniester) river, more than 1,300 km in length and with a basin area of around 72,100 km², partially borders both Ukraine and Moldova. The middle Nistru basin (or the Podol Dniester) is a steppe-forest area of hills (150-200 metres above sea level) with extensive agriculture and spectacularly beautiful, canyon-shaped and steep-sided landscapes. Riverbank forests, amazingly resistant through difficult times, are closely associated with the history and culture of local people.

History and management

Moldova is a poorly-forested country; its current forestation (scattered and highly fragmented) covers 9.6% of its territory. Forests in Ukraine cover about 15.6% of its territory and the woodstock is quite

high. The forest coverage in the middle Nistru basin is comparatively low, i.e. 7% in Moldova and 11% in Ukraine.

A long history of management and intensive exploitation, through selective tree cutting for the shipbuilding industry (for the Russian Black Sea Fleet in the 19th century), massive wood extraction during the Second World War, and the expansion of agriculture and bad droughts after the war, have caused colossal damage to the whole riverbank ecosystem.

The current ownership of the forest fund of Moldova is around 90% of the State Forest Agency "Moldsilva", while the rest of the fund is managed mainly by local authorities and municipal administrations. About 66% of forests in Ukraine are owned by the State Committee of Forestry, while the rest are managed mainly by ministerial bodies (agriculture, defence) and state agencies.

Illicit cutting, cattle grazing, poaching, unauthorised dumping of waste and pollution are having negative effects on the remaining forested areas. Many forests have been transformed into agricultural fields which has led to soil erosion and changes in the land. According to the Strategy of sustainable development of the forest fund of the Republic of Moldova (2001), the State programme on regeneration and reforestation of forest lands for 2003-2020 (2003) and the Forest Code (1996), the forests should cover at least 15% of Moldovan territory by 2020-2025.

Climate change scenarios for Moldova, according to the National Communication under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (2000), may have consequences on the capacity of landscapes and forest habitats. However, the rehabilitation and adequate management of forests is specified in the National Action Plan to Combat Desertification in Moldova (2000).



Haidamak ravine, part of Historic-cultural Park, Busha (Ukraine)

Middle Nistru Basin

Biodiversity and conservation

Riverbank slopes covered by forests of mainly oak but also cherry trees provide a diversified habitat architecture with herb-rich forest vegetation, still preserving communities of many protected plant species such as bird's nest orchids, ferns, pasque flowers, and the turk's cap lily. The river basin is home to a great diversity of animals, including such rare species as the greater horseshoe bat, the eagle owl, the black woodpecker, clouded apollo and southern festoon butterflies, and the European stag beetle.

In 2007, the total protected area of Moldova reached 157,227 ha (4.6% of its territory) and about 20% of the country's protected areas are placed under the national forest fund. The recently created Ramsar site of Wetlands of International Importance (Nr. 1500 "Unguri-Holosnita", 15,553 ha) is situated in the middle Nistru (by Law nr. 354-XVI, 2006).

More than 200 sites in the area, including nature reserves (Landscape reserve Cosauti, "Bechir Canyon" etc.), historical monuments (Sorooca Fortress, Cosauti Monastery, Historic-cultural park "Busha"), geological sites (Nistru rapids) and archaeological sites (Palaeolithic settlement of Cosauti, the remains of a Geto-Dacian fortress) are protected by the state. According to the National Development Strategies and Action Plans of both Moldova and Ukraine, many other protected categories (parks, nature reserves, monuments etc.) will be established and included in the national protected area network by 2020-2025.

Sorooca-Yampil co-operation

A bilateral site co-operation was set up in the region. It is supported by the Rufford Small Grants for Nature Conservation (UK), and in co-operation with the local authority of Cosauti (Moldova) and Yampil municipal administration (Ukraine). Field meetings were organised since 2006 at the Landscape

Reserve of Cosauti, with the participation of representatives of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of Moldova, the Ecological Administration of Vinnytsia region (Ukraine), ecological agencies, forest management units and NGOs from both countries. The outcome of the meeting was the drawing up of plans for bilateral local conservation – there is a strong potential for a Transboundary Natural-Historic Park. The two districts have an amazing heritage that could be well incorporated into a larger protected area managed mainly

for conservation of valuable landscapes and the development of a recreation/touristic network.

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Bechir Valley near Sorooca town (Moldova)

Transfrontier co-operation projects in the South Caucasus: REC Caucasus

The Regional Environmental Centre for the Caucasus (REC) is a non-commercial intergovernmental organisation registered in the spring of 2000, following the decision made at the Sofia Ministerial Conference in 1995, established within the framework of the "Environment for Europe Process" pursuant to the decision made at the Sofia Ministerial Conference in 1995. REC Caucasus is working for environment and sustainable development in the Caucasus region, assisting Caucasus states in solving environmental problems, and supporting their efforts to build civil society through promotion of public participation in the decision-making process, development of free exchange of information, and encouragement of co-operation at national and regional levels among NGOs, governments, businesses, local communities and other stakeholders. The founding document of REC Caucasus is the Charter signed in September 1999 by the governments of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and the European Union. RECs' network spreads its links through Russia, Moldova and Central Asia, Hungary – the latter serves for Central and Eastern Europe.

Sharing common overall aims addressing environmental and sustainable development issues in their countries, REC Caucasus is successfully networking and undertaking collaborative transboundary initiatives.

Currently, REC Caucasus is actively involved in the management and implementation of several EU funded projects which are being implemented in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia.

Transboundary co-operation between Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia is ongoing within the frameworks of "Fostering Community Forest Policy and Practice in Mountain Regions of the Caucasus" project. The overall objective of this initiative is to advance community forest policy and practice in Caucasus in order to address deforestation and climate change issues, secured land tenure and forest rights, rural poverty reduction, reducing regional and national tensions and the risks of insurrections raised by alienated elements, conservation and the sustainable development needs of local communities.

The initiative has been specifically targeted to meet current demands of the countries in making institutional, legal and technical arrangements for community forest management, awareness raising and capacity building of local communities and local authorities with regard to sustainable forest management and demonstration of best approaches/methods for immediate reforestation and landscape restoration in areas affected by landslides, mudflows, avalanches and other natural disasters that prevent measures from being taken. The project will result in building local capacity and formulating public opinion for sustainable use of natural resources and income generation activities, leading to further decentralisation and democratisation process by strengthening the role of community-based institutions, finding legal solutions and strategies to harmonise and stabilise community-related national legislation, as well as devising the regional model and nationally adopted guiding documents on community forestry. Applicable tools and mechanisms will be defined as pilot Community Forest Management Plans for sustainable community-based forestry and use of natural resources within the selected communities.

The project is also intended to increase forest areas, preventing loss and degradation and combating climate change.

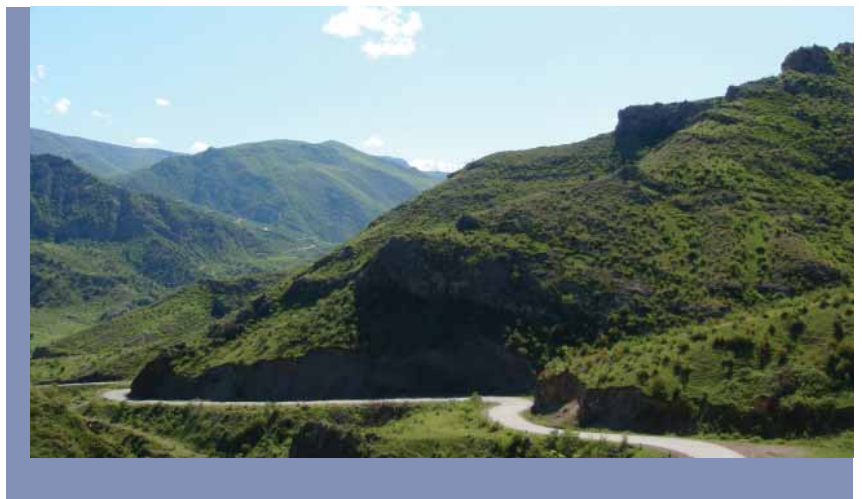
REC Caucasus has been also actively working on prevention of land degradation on the transboundary water-

sheds, under the regional project on "Sustainable Land Management for Mitigating Land Degradation and Reducing Poverty in the South Caucasus Region".

The pilot activities will be implemented in the transboundary watersheds.

Armenia and Georgia: Khrami-Debeda river watershed – towns of Toumanyán, Alaverdi, Akhtala in Armenia and towns of Bolnisi, Marneuli, Dmanisi in Georgia and Azerbaijan and Georgia – Alazani-Iori river watershed – towns of Belaken, Zagatala, Sheki, Gakh, Oguz, Mingachavir in Azerbaijan and towns of Telavi, Lagodekhi, Dedoplistkaro, Sagarejo in Georgia.

The project is to ensure ongoing functions and integrity of the ecosystem, to reduce poverty and enhance food security and income for rural farmers in the South Caucasus countries by combating desertification, strengthening the natural resource base and revitalising the agricultural sector. It has specifically been focused on strengthening policy, planning and regulatory environments for promotion of sustainable land management (SLM) in transboundary watersheds of the South Caucasus region and on demonstrating the benefits of sustainable land management in a watershed framework and alternative livelihood for rural people, while protecting fragile ecosystems and disseminating lessons learned and best practices by developing a replication strategy. As a result of this project, bilateral water-



shed Action Plans (complying with EU guidelines and recommendations) for improved land planning, management and monitoring in transboundary river basins of the South Caucasus region will be elaborated, agreed upon among the stakeholders, and effectively used in decision-making. Additionally, local government and community groups in the Khrami-Debeda and Alazani-Lori transboundary river basins will increase their awareness, practical knowledge and capacity to plan and manage lands, forests, pastures and arable areas in a sustainable way to protect fragile ecosystems and enhance food security and income. Both of the projects described above are funded by the EU.

A brand-new project initiative – “Building Capacities of Local Communities and Governmental Institutions for Implementation of European Landscape Convention in Armenia”, a project supporting implementation of ELC in Armenia, has recently been developed by the REC Caucasus Armenia Branch Office and is under discussion. The overall objective of the proposed action is to improve landscape management, protection and spatial planning strategies, and advance local decision-making by introducing mechanisms and practical tools for the harmonisation of the natural and man-made environment in Armenia and by replicating successful experience in the region through exchange of experience with Azerbaijan and Georgia. The aim of the project is to introduce sustainable management, protection of landscapes and spatial planning as well as a structured, integrative approach to the implementation of ELC in Armenia, enhancing the involvement of citizens, NGOs and regional authorities in landscape management, protection, spatial planning and environmental decision-making. The project was recently presented and discussed by representatives of relevant ministries, government agencies, NGOs and local experts during the first workshop of the Inter-agency Commission on ELC implementation in Armenia.

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European Christmas landscapes: a transfrontier analysis

All European cultural landscapes have some universal or transfrontier features and some regional or national features. Undoubtedly, one of the key pan-European cultural factors is Christianity and the individual manifestations of Christianity in the cultural landscapes of towns, villages, resorts and other locations. A striking example of this is provided by the images that form in people's minds when they are asked to think of a Christmas landscape.

Mental landscapes of this sort are very interesting subjects for transfrontier analysis. We are all aware of universal Christmas images and symbols, such as the cave in the desert, the star of Bethlehem, the three kings, the shepherds and the donkey. There are also national images such as the Christmas character, Santa Claus, and the Russian equivalent, "Ded Moroz" (literally "Father Frost"). What we should be investigating here is whether there are other Christmas symbols which are reflected in the regional features of cultural landscapes. It is reasonable to suppose that they will be reflected to varying degrees in cultural phenomena such as painting, poetry and music.

To ascertain whether this is true, we compared a large number of old and contemporary Russian and German Christmas cards. The results were as follows:

- Many of the cards show rural landscapes or villages. In all of the pictures, there is snow, houses with lights in the windows, smoke rising gently from chimneys and the moon in the sky. However, the houses and churches on the German and Russian cards look different (Figs. 1 and 2). These are country-specific regional differences.
- Some of the scenes have a trans-regional character. For instance, on some modern Russian cards, there are pictures of the countryside villas of "New Russians" (*nouveaux riches*) and reindeers and Santa Claus, instead of

the traditional horse-drawn troika, driven by Ded Moroz (Fig. 3).

- Some trans-regional features can also be seen on old cards. However, on modern cards, there are clear reflections not only of trans-regional cultural influences but also of cultural globalisation (Fig. 4).

Combinations of trans-regional and regional symbols and the cross-border transfer of national images are also seen in Christmas poetry. Often, poets describe Christmas scenes quite realistically but add some characteristic regional or national features.

- In Russian poetry, a typical example of this kind of transfer occurs in the poems of Joseph Brodsky and Boris Pasternak. Both poets portray the night when the magi came to Christ following the Christmas Star as a cold, snowy night. This was an obvious transposition of conditions at Christmas in Russia to Palestinian Bethlehem.
- The transposition of national images of Christmas is also found in German poetry. For instance, in the poem by Conrad Ferdinand Meyer *Weihnachten in Ajaccio* (Christmas in Ajaccio), there are descriptions of ripe oranges, blooming myrtle and shining sun, whereas the hero's dream is about white snowflakes.
- The scenery of Bethlehem seems very realistic in the poem by Russian poet Ivan Bunin "The Christmas Tree" whereas Alexander Blok's poems contain descriptions of sparkling snowy Christmas forest typical of Russia. Some of the scenes created by German poets are also very realistic. For instance, in Annette von Droste Hülshoff's poetry, the three magi are tanned by hot winds and walk among palms and camels. The German Christmas portrayed by Gustav Hermann Kletke, however, is windy, snowy and frosty.

It is a complicated challenge to compare Christmas music in different countries.

It is reasonable to distinguish between different musical genres – liturgical music, professional sacred music, professional secular music and folk music – and to consider them separately.

If we compare Gregorian chants, the Christmas Oratorio by Johann Sebastian Bach, and *Vingt Regards sur l'Enfant Jésus* (Twenty Views of the Infant Jesus) by Olivier Messiaen, on the one hand, and the Znamenny Chant and the All-Night Vigil (Vespers) by Sergey Rachmaninov, Christmas Eve by Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov, the Christmas Tree by Vladimir Rebikov and traditional Russian Kolyadka songs, on the other hand, we may come to the following conclusions:

- Liturgical music does not include regionally different landscape images. Regional distinctions seem to be more pronounced in folk music. However, these musical genres have to be studied more carefully.
- It is easier to compare professional secular music. Landscape images can be clearly heard in Russian secular music devoted to Christmas. They are approximately the same as those in Russian poetry, including elements such as frosty nights, stars, and Christmas trees in warm and cosy houses.

In conclusion, therefore,

- Russian Christmas cards, poems and secular music bear distinct regional or national features characterised by obvious landscape symbols such as snow-covered plains, fir trees, heavy frost, night-time, stars, troikas, villages and cosy candle-lit houses full of the scent of conifer needles.
- Some of these symbols, such as snow, fir trees, lights and villages are also present in German mental Christmas landscapes. However, views of churches and Christmas markets are only seen on German cards.
- The mental Christmas landscapes of both countries also contain universal or transfrontier biblical symbols, such

as the baby Jesus, Mary, Joseph, the kings or magi, camels, the Christ child, the ox and the donkey, the manger, the cave and the Star of Bethlehem.

Specific public opinion polls may be one means of revealing shared and local Christmas symbols in different countries. The results of one such poll are given in the table below. Representatives of nine countries – Austria, United Kingdom, Germany, Denmark, Latvia, the Netherlands, Poland, Slovenia, and France – took part. They were asked to name five major Christmas symbols. Overall, 29 different symbols were mentioned. They included both frequently repeated and rarely mentioned symbols.

Admittedly, the results of this poll, which was conducted by just one group of experts, are somewhat tentative. However, they do point to the regional

diversity of mental Christmas images. Indeed, among the less frequently mentioned symbols, which may reflect specific regional characteristics, there are some highly contrasting images such as grey rainy skies and stars. It can be supposed that if such polls were conducted more frequently on a more representative sample, they would be very informative.

In further studies, it would be reasonable to compare Christmas landscape images not only in Germany and in Russia but also in other large regions selected with due regard for their cultural and geographical identities, including Scandinavia, the plains of northern Europe, the Alps, and the Mediterranean region. Subsequently, these large regions could be subdivided into smaller regions, particularly in the Mediterranean region. The results of such an analysis of mental Christmas

landscapes would show the similarities and differences between European regions in a new light and may be a key means of attaching identities to them.

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Symbols of mental Christmas landscapes: frequency of occurrence in the answers to the poll, %

45 – 50 %
Christmas tree, snow
20 – 25 %
lighted windows in houses, lighted churches, hills and mountains, Christmas markets
4 – 5 %
the peals of bells, villages, grey sky and rain, stars
1 – 2 %
crowds in the countryside, fir trees, traffic jams, icy lakes, open landscapes, fields, horrible American songs on the radio, snow-covered paths



1. Traditional Russian village



2. Traditional German village



3. "New Russian" village (stripped of any national identity)



4. Merry Christmas everyone: Globalisation



Rimini Exhibition

A proposal for a shared landscape reading methodology

Project aims

The aim of the transnational project Loto (Landscape Opportunities for Territorial Organisation), co-funded by the EU Interreg IIIB Cades Programme, was to identify an interpretative reading methodology of landscape which could serve as a shared operating framework to steer and verify decisions regarding spatial change, restoration or enhancement¹.

Given the principles expressed in the European Spatial Development Perspective and in the European Landscape Convention, Loto is founded on the awareness that the different landscapes of European territories are a legacy to be safeguarded and fundamental to the quality of the places where we live, and on the principle that all territory is landscape and should be the object of a careful landscape policy. It should be realised that territory is always changing and these changes should be guided in order to attain good landscape results.

The project's approach is geared towards overcoming a sectoral vision in favour of an integrated and holistic vision of the landscape which interprets its evolution as a unitary system in which the ecological and natural components interact with the social, cultural and economic ones as well as the habitat.

However, integrating this landscape approach into spatial planning requires drawing up simple and effective landscape interpretation methods. To involve inhabitants, an effort should be made to produce effective summaries, and clear, transparent forms for the presentation of landscape interpretation results.

To this end, the Loto project intended to help providing tools for governing the landscape's evolution, using the landscape as a frame of reference for any territorial project in order to focus spatial development instruments on it in a complementary way.

The project was divided into three phases:

- preliminary: the study of other experiences and analysis of skills, approaches and landscape planning methods currently used;
- intermediate: the first methodological framework and pilot actions to test its effectiveness;
- final: editing the shared document "Guidelines for a landscape reading and interpretation aimed at steering the choices of territorial transformation".

Within the processes of defining spatial transformation, the methodological path gives effectiveness to an open, frank discussion about:

- What kind of landscape do we have and how do we perceive it?
- What kind of landscape will it become?
- What kind of landscape do we want?

The basic preliminary requirements of the Loto methodology were: possible reproduction and easy use of the method; open and flexible procedure; transparency and repeatability; and main use of databases and information already available. Attention is paid to the whole territory and the reading intends to capture landscape characterisations and dynamics in order to understand the opportunities for its evolution. The proposed process is open and the various activities in the methodological process can be easily recognised and focus on building up clear information. Comparison of knowledge and shared landscape interpretative synthesis should become basic preconditions for effective landscape policy.

Landscape reading

According to the European Landscape Convention, methodology is based on the sites' landscape knowledge. All territory is involved, not only extraordinary parts. Loto proposes a different kind of knowledge from other methodologies; it is an analytical-descriptive method, based on an identification-classification process of homogeneous areas, describing the sites' landscape characteristics, without specific operational purposes; it proposes a description-interpretation of places, starting from a problem-solving approach or an interpretative hypothesis. Interdisciplinarity (bringing together different disciplinary approaches) and transdisciplinarity (the involvement of political authorities and populations) are the other methodological requirements of Loto methodology.

The methodological framework is organised into cognitive and operational activity cores:

- A. characterisation/qualification;
- B. future evolution trends and transformation demands;
- C. interpretative synthesis;
- D. shared cognitive framework;
- E. definition of premises for landscape policies and operational choices.



A Loto meeting

The phase concerning the cognitive activities A, B, and C has been analysed in depth since the knowledge of sites from the landscape viewpoint is considered as the basis of quality transformations (protection, management, planning) which are suitable to, not just compatible with, the specific characteristics passed down to us.

Characterisation/qualification encompasses:

- Identification of basic elements and characteristics: physical features of sites (morphology, components such as water networks, buildings, terracing, woodland etc.), building materials (vegetable and mineral), colours, physical-chemical features (soil, water, air and climate, flora and fauna), current land uses, main characteristics of the local population and visitors interested in sites.
- Historic dynamics: the knowledge of how the current landscape organisation has formed and changed over the centuries (dyachronic reading), in particular creating a cultural and physical space, and the significant steps in the continuity and discontinuity of historical processes and of territorial impacts.
- Past and present social perception of sites from the landscape viewpoint (acknowledgement of the meaning that landscape has for people, from the symbolic, cultural, identity etc. viewpoints, for experts, for the heritage of the collective local and general memory, etc.).
- An interpretative description of the current characteristics of "site architecture" to record the morphological organisation of built and non-built areas, artificial and natural spaces, in their specific material aspects, underlining the existing landscape relations, whether physical, functional, visual, symbolic, recent or historic differently linked (the cultural characteristics, but also the ecological functionality of sites).

The analysis of the main transformation processes (under way, predicted and predictable) brought about by both anthropic and natural factors (future evolution trends and transformation demands) aims at predicting their impact on the sites' physical character and on landscape meanings: evolution

trends (for economic, social and cultural reasons; biological and physical events or processes etc.); policies, territorial transformation plans and projects at the various administrative levels; stated and unstated transformation demands coming up; good projects and processes under way in the territory which may represent opportunities for developing effective policies.

Interpretative synthesis may lead to the prediction of one or more future scenarios expressed through technical, descriptive and explanatory reports and based on all the discussions between the authorities and populations concerned (shared cognitive framework). The synthesis is a sort of diagnosis defining the threats/problems and potentials/opportunities of sites, from the landscape point of view, to define landscape policies and operational choices (landscape quality objectives, definition of strategies and tools to realise these objectives; definition of a management programme and plan over time; monitoring of landscape transformation and of the effect of policies and reformulating new objectives). According to the European Landscape Convention, planning policies are a mixture of preservation, innovation, enhancement and rehabilitation all over the landscape.

A checklist is the final formal structure of the Guidelines mentioned above: a summary of the key questions to be dealt with and to be analysed in depth where necessary.

The project follow-up

The first effective outcome of the project began while it was still running; this is the landscape plan for the Municipality of Glonn, an integrative part of the regulatory plan. After the conclusion of the project, many pilot actions were carried out with local public authorities. In any case, the Loto partners' shared guidelines can be considered a contribution to landscape assessment procedures, and also a tool to guide the start up of local shared processes on the definition of future spatial "scenarios" with particular attention to landscape upgrading. This is what is now happening in many areas of the Loto partners' territory, with particular success in some regions such as Lombardy and Emilia-Romagna.

Furthermore, the Lombardy Region decided to introduce the Loto guidelines

framework into the regional document criteria for landscape contents of a local urban plan, and the interregional public authority for the River Po Valley has referenced the Loto methodology in its guidelines for the management of mountain territory. Now, some new transnational project proposals are trying to implement and to develop Loto methodology with attention being paid to specific themes such as the management of periurban and rural areas or alpine cultural landscape preservation.

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¹ The Loto Project ran from March 2003 – October 2005. The project, coordinated by Regione Lombardia, involved eight other partners – the Italian Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Umbria Region, Marche Region, Emilia Romagna Region, Veneto Regione, Istria Region, the Slovenian Ministry of Spatial Planning and the Environment, the Technical University of Munich – and two observers – the Institute of Urban Project of Bucharest and Corvinus University of Budapest. Many experts, research institutes, universities and local public authorities took part in the Project work, allowing in-depth discussion of the various questions and a wide dissemination of the project's results.



Staircase Vanvitelli,
Certosa di San
Lorenzo

The European landscape observatory of Arco Latino

"In order to promote its overall harmonious development, the Union shall develop and pursue its actions leading to the strengthening of its economic, social and territorial cohesion" (Art. 174, 1° TEU).

Arco Latino¹, the second-tier local authority network of the Western Mediterranean Arco, with the aim of sustainable territorial development in Europe, launched in 2005 in Barcelona, a "Landscape Agreement" in the presence of many public and private actors², who, in their capacity as promoters of the "European Landscape Observatory", chose to locate their headquarters in the Province of Salerno.

On the occasion of the 2008 European Heritage Days, Arco Latino and the Province of Salerno established the European Landscape Observatory at the Certosa di San Lorenzo in Padula³ under the high patronage of the President of the Italian Republic and the Ministries of Cultural Heritage, Environment and of Land and Sea Conservation, implementing Recommendation CM/Rec (2008) 3 of the Committee of Ministers to member states of the Council of Europe on the Guidelines for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention. The Centre brings together scientists, landscape specialists and technicians from the public and private sectors, who have given themselves the ambitious goals of:

- describing the condition of the landscapes of Arco Latino at a given time;
- exchanging information on policies and experiences concerning protection, management and planning of landscapes, and concerning participation in decisions at different levels;
- using, editing and compiling historical documents on landscapes for understanding and interpreting how landscape levels have developed (databases, archives, texts, photographs, etc.);
- drawing up quantitative and qualitative indicators to assess the effectiveness of landscape policies following the Council of Europe guidelines;
- providing data and information leading to an understanding of trends and forecasts (forward-looking scenarios);

- organising exchanges of information and experiences between the regions of Arco Latino and territorial communities, including those already in place, based on examples and on the integration of political, social, ecological and cultural landscape policies.

Today, the Observatory brings together the network of its founding members and serves as a platform for the implementation of several pilot projects, as:

- The Master's degree in European Landscape (Master EuroMed) presented by the University of Salerno in co-operation with universities in Spain and France involved in the project. This Master's degree is primarily intended to train environmental experts either already active or able to hold central positions in environmental service companies, control bodies, and local government involved in landscape management and implementing the European Landscape Convention;
- The EuroMed Landscape Forum presented by the High National Strasbourg School of Architecture. This is a place for training to pass on skills for understanding landscape in all the countries along the Mediterranean shores;
- The Prize for policies that support landscape and biodiversity in co-operation with the Coordination of Local Agenda 21, Hispa and the Italian Federation of Parks www.a21italy.it, www.hispa.it, www.parks.it.

The Observatory is open to all new projects compatible with its aims, and to all agencies willing to co-operate. This is an operative tool which will, its promoters hope, contribute not only to the implementation of the European Landscape Convention, but also to the development of a shared culture and to the protection and enhancement of landscape.

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Promoted by
Province of Salerne, Territorial
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¹ Arco Latino is an area of co-operation between territorial communities, within which integrated actions are implemented in different areas. The members of Arco Latino are represented by the Italian, French and Spanish second-tier local authorities.

² Barcelona Council, Malaga Provincial Council, General Council of Gard, General Council of Hérault, Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'architecture de Lyon, Province of Alessandria, Province of La Spezia, Province of Matera, Province of Torino, Province of Viterbo, Province of Salerno, Ferderparchi, Legambiente, SITI (Istituto Superiore sui Sistemi Territoriali per l'innovazione), Coordination of Agenda 21, Interdepartmental Centre of the 'Salerno Study University', National Park of Cilento and Vallo di Diano, IPOGEA, Hispa.

³ La Certosa is one of the largest European Certosa, built by the Prince of Sanseverino in 1306. The monument was officially recognised by UNESCO in 1998 as part of The World Heritage list.



Certosa di San Lorenzo

Describing and labelling Mediterranean landscapes to protect their diversity

Values of cultural and natural landscapes of the Mediterranean

The diversity of Mediterranean landscapes contributes to local and regional identity, reflecting past and present relationships between people and their natural and human-made environment. Rich cultural landscapes have been developed over many millennia during which different human populations, cultures, and religions have flourished around the Mediterranean and have developed coastal landscapes in order to produce food, build living habitats, art, etc. Nowadays, however, increasing threats to cultural identity, heritage and landscape diversity of the region due to external (e.g. globalisation) and internal (e.g. rapid urbanisation of coastal areas with consequent impacts on traditional socio-economic structures) factors are apparent. As a result, natural and cultural landscapes have deteriorated significantly in several coastal areas.

The coastal landscapes of the Mediterranean have never been studied as a specific group or type of landscape. Existing landscape-specific methodologies and concepts have not been introduced or taken into account. Also, knowledge of the landscape typology, i.e. the variety of landscapes, and especially the most valuable and typical Mediterranean landscapes, in other words outstanding landscapes, is not adequate, nor are the main processes and forces influencing their transformation.

Identification and assessment of landscapes are two of the main obligations in the European Landscape Convention. In the preamble to the Convention, it is written "that the landscape is an important part of the quality of life for people everywhere: in urban areas and in the countryside, in degraded areas as well as in areas of high quality, in areas recognised as being of outstanding beauty as well as everyday areas". The Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean. states that "Contracting Parties shall commit themselves to promote the integrated management of coastal zones, taking into account the protection of areas of

ecological and landscape interest and the rational use of natural resources". Also, other implementation documents make landscape management an objective, such as Mediterranean Action Plan and Priority Fields of Activities (1995), where countries commit themselves "to promote nature, and protect and enhance sites and landscapes of ecological or cultural values". Unesco has issued legal instruments with some bearing upon landscape, either directly or indirectly.

Two actions are therefore proposed:

- characterisation of all Mediterranean coastal landscapes (Mediterranean Landscape atlas);
- evaluation and definition of outstanding landscapes.

Description and characterisation of Mediterranean coastal landscapes (Mediterranean landscape atlas)

The Landscape Character Assessment (LCA methodology) is a technique to classify, describe and understand the physical and cultural characteristics of the landscape. The objective of this methodology is to prepare a distribution of landscape types that are homogeneous in their structure and have similar landscape patterns. It can be done at national, regional or local level or even internationally. Recommendations for

landscape change as part of the exercise are another important outcome. These recommendations serve the planners and public in decision-making processes by presenting the spatial values and landscape structures that should be preserved or enhanced, as well as the level of their acceptable transformation or change so as to maintain the *genius loci* of the landscape unit in question. This characterisation also contributes to raising awareness about the landscape and its values in the country. It contributes to maintaining European, national, regional and local identity through landscapes, which have been under globalisation pressures in recent decades due to similar techniques and technologies applied around the world, especially in agriculture and the urban sector. The LCA methodology, i.e. a functional hierarchy of abiotic, biotic and cultural components of the landscape, involves a desk study, mapping of landscape types from layers of data, a field survey and, finally, classification and description to define and communicate landscape types.

The main steps in this study are to prepare a landscape typology for all coastal areas of the Mediterranean on the basis of national landscape characterisation. The main variables used to characterise landscapes in the study area include climate, landform, geology and soils, land cover and land use. Each landscape type should be described, i.e. its main land-



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Outstanding landscapes have great potentials for cultural tourism



Coastal landscape of Adriatic sea in Slovenia

scape patterns, landscape elements, and land uses that are the main agents for development.

On the basis of common methodology, national experts will co-operate to produce comparable results. The methodology is based on the digital data available from various satellite images and verified on the ground during field surveys.

Once the report is completed, it should be published in different languages as a Mediterranean landscape atlas, widely distributed, and a broad awareness-raising campaign organised. In this way, awareness of the values encompassed by the cultural landscapes should be improved.

A label 'Outstanding landscapes of the Mediterranean'

The 'Outstanding Landscape' is another recently developed concept that could be interesting for the Mediterranean countries. It would mean that the most valuable cultural landscapes, which are rare, typical, unique and important for Mediterranean identity, would gain a special status and be maintained. The outstanding landscapes represent evidence of the socio-economic circumstances of societies which should be preserved for the future as universal assets of human civilisation. On the one hand, they represent a huge potential for the development of a new sort of cultural tourism and, on the other, they could become a sort of a stimulus for agricultural policy as most of them are the result of past farming practices. However, all coastal areas of the Mediterranean should be analysed on the basis of common criteria and a list with the description of these landscapes should also be drawn up.

Outstanding landscapes are important vehicles for national identity. The measures taken to preserve the features and associated values of such landscapes are often in contradiction with the developers' real aims, as it can often be witnessed in building projects or in the modernisation of agricultural production. In principle, these are the areas whose most important landscape values

derive from traditional agriculture and which have been maintained due to the lack of development opportunities in the past. Outstanding landscapes are now becoming more and more valued and respected by both professionals and the general public because of their tourist and leisure potential.

The proposed list of criteria for identification of outstanding landscapes includes the following:

- a unique landscape pattern;
- adaptation of the land use to topography;
- continuation of traditional patterns;
- presence of native vegetation;
- structural complexity;
- level of uniqueness (local-national-international);
- embodiment of characteristic cultivation;
- evidence of socio-economic circumstances.

The project is based on a common methodology to be followed by a team of experts from various Mediterranean countries. The typology (Landscape Atlas) from the previous project would be a valuable contribution. Once the report is completed, it should be published in different languages, widely distributed, and a broad awareness-raising campaign organised to raise awareness of the potential of these landscapes for

protection and development. The publication, accompanied by a map of outstanding landscapes, will be a valuable resource for developers and policy-makers (e.g. tourism, the agricultural sector). In this way, they will easily find the locations with a potential for the development of a special type of tourism and destinations programmes. Also, agricultural policies will easily define the areas that should receive special subsidies to support farmers in order to maintain the original values of the landscape.

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Typical landscape pattern of Mediterranean agriculture

The “CôteàCôte” project: a sea viewed from its shores for greater co-operation between Mediterranean landscapes

The Mediterranean is a source both of fascination and of challenges. The issues now facing people around its shores once again confirm Fernand Braudel’s vision of the Mediterranean as being central to co-operation and openness in Europe. In the current era of great regional changes, the “CôteàCôte” (coast-to-coast) project seeks to restore the Mediterranean’s function of communication by involving writers and photographers in a contemporary interpretation of relationships with the sea.

In this context, the approach of the project is to re-establish dialogue between the founding myths of the Mediterranean as a “common heritage” and the far-reaching changes and transformations now affecting it. The aim is to update the basis of this new Mediterranean identity and the aspects leading to shared values so as firmly

to establish a form of citizenship that meets the challenges of today.

In combining photographic and regional development approaches, the methodology employed by the project developers (the research consultancy, (MTP) prospective, and the photo agency, VU’) follows on from a long tradition of photography for the surveys by the French regional development agency, DATAR. Beyond the involvement of images in the interpretation of regions and territory, however, the original feature of the project lies in the multidisciplinary nature of the languages and points of view employed and expressed, involving a multicultural and pluralist approach made up of the views of women and men from different backgrounds.

By basing its methodology on “landscape”, the project also contributes to

the implementation of the principles of the European Landscape Convention on the subject. Through these principles, the project seeks to promote not so much the permanence of iconic landscapes but rather the interdependence of Mediterranean situations so as to capitalise on a forward-looking dimension of landscape. The project now enjoys the patronage of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe.

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Cover page

Co-operation between Mediterranean regions to encourage good landscape

An important and useful way to promote the effective implementation of the Council of Europe's European Landscape Convention lies in co-operation between European regions within the framework of programmes co-funded by the European Union that support cross-border, transnational or interregional co-operation initiatives. This is clearly the case of "Pays.Doc. Good Landscape Practices", a transnational co-operation project developed between 2004 and 2007 in the framework of the Interreg III B Programme for the Medocc space (Western Mediterranean). Thirteen regions from four European countries took part in this project, including: the regional authorities of Andalusia, Murcia, Valencia and Catalonia in Spain; the regional authority of Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur in France; the regional authorities of Tuscany, Umbria, Lazio, Emilia-Romagna, Piedmont, Lombardy and Basilicata in Italy; and the prefecture of Magnesia-Anem in Greece. Andalusia was in charge of overall co-ordination as the project manager.

The project's partners undertook to apply the aims and principles set out

in the European Landscape Convention to each of the public policies within the scope of their competencies (town planning, spatial planning, historical heritage, infrastructures, tourism, agriculture and rural development). At the same time, the project was created as a development of the landscape policy recommendations laid down in the European Spatial Development Perspective of 1999. Within this context, the overall aim of Pays.Doc consisted in improving the management and landscape planning of the Mediterranean landscape by identifying and assessing local experiences that constitute "good landscape practices" and to serve as a model by drawing up directives and guidelines that could be applied to ensure that landscape transformations are properly managed. With this approach in mind, the project was structured along four lines of work, on which the partner regions focused their joint efforts by interchanging and sharing their different regional experiences and jointly drawing up measures for each line under the aegis of a partner that acted as the coordinator.

Setting up and managing a Mediterranean landscape observatory, co-ordinated by Andalusia

The aim of this activity consisted in setting up a virtual observatory as a means to recognise and observe characteristic Mediterranean landscapes that are representative of the processes and trends involved in its transformation. This virtual observatory is based on an image bank, an essential support tool to represent such landscapes, and refers to a series of observation points in each region.

Catalogue of good practices, co-ordinated by Tuscany

The Catalogue of good practices contributed to the drawing up of a 'learning by example' system in which a series of local managers, technicians and professionals representing a variety of standpoints towards landscape took part. It provides a common culture as regards landscape interventions on



Corbesassi, Lombardy, Italy, integrated in the landscape

practices

the Mediterranean environment. This common culture allows approaches and practices to be enriched, thereby enabling better quality interventions that have an impact on our landscapes.

Creation and management of an internet portal on the Mediterranean landscape, co-ordinated by Umbria

The main aim of the Portal's creation was to make interchanges easier and make Mediterranean co-operation on the landscape more dynamic. Likewise, its implementation aimed to promote, at an international level, the richness and diversity of landscape and environmental and cultural heritage of the Mediterranean regions.

Guides containing landscape strategies and guidelines to be applied as spatial policy instruments, co-ordinated by Catalonia

This line of work aimed to define strategies capable of ensuring added landscape value for public and private policies, plans and actions with an impact on the landscape. In order to do so, some practical guides were drawn up offering guidelines and criteria for the proper management of landscape transformation concerning the following areas: communications infrastructures and access to urban centres; productive, commercial and logistical spaces; places of historical, cultural and public interest; and agricultural, forest and natural spaces.

From the results obtained, it may be said that Pays.Doc has been a successful experience in spatial co-operation between European Mediterranean regions.

– Firstly, the project stands out because of the high quality in both the format and contents of its products. It includes publications on the different lines of work and the portal (www.paymed.net), which offer abundant and reliable information to all those with an interest in the Mediterranean landscape.

– Secondly, it is worth highlighting that the second edition of the Mediterranean Landscape Award was held within the framework of Pays.Doc. After a selection process conducted by an international jury in Seville in 2007, this award internationally recognised the best practices in each of the award's four categories: plans, programmes and projects; activities and works carried out; awareness-raising initiatives concerning the landscape; and informative activities about the landscape.

– Lastly, the project enabled Euro-Mediterranean landscape co-operation between regions to be consolidated and widened. In this regard, it should be remembered that Pays.Doc has involved the creation of a wide and stable network of co-operation between European regions (13 participating regions). This is of importance in itself, as well as the social capital that has generated a good basis for future co-operation actions among this network's member regions. This can be seen in the agreement that made it

possible to submit a new project entitled Pays.Med.Urban to the operational programme Med 2007-2013, which capitalises on the results obtained by Pays.Doc. This project, approved by the selection committee of Programme Med on 4-5 February 2009, is led by Andalusia and most of the Pays.Doc regions are taking part, along with three new regions (Veneto, Algarve and the Island of Mallorca) and the Enelc (European Network of Local and Regional Authorities for the Implementation of the European Landscape Convention). It is expected that six lines of work concerning landscape matters will be carried out (free peri-urban spaces and landscape integration of spaces for productive and logistical activities), which are important for the development of Mediterranean urban areas, taking into consideration that the existence of a high-quality landscape constitutes spatial capital and a factor in favour of these areas' competitiveness by enabling them to attract economic activities, particularly in cutting-edge industries.

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Coastal landscape in Andalusia: Huelva, Spain

Rivers as cultural infrastructures

The Project “Rivers as cultural infrastructures” concerned the relationship between rivers and culture¹. When we chose this topic, we had mainly thought of the importance of rivers when defining the urban features of the European landscape. This is evident if we think about the way in which many European cities are identified by their rivers. It is obvious to link together Paris and the Seine, London and the Thames or Budapest and the Danube: but it is not clear to everyone that, all over Europe, this kind of “link” between towns and rivers is strong. We could actually read the history of most European cities starting from the role of the rivers on the construction of the features of European urban landscape, all with their own characteristics and aspects.

Another important aspect is the variety of meanings that can be given to the river – meanings that, as a matter of fact, are often quite contradictory.

The rivers have both divided and brought together. They are and they have been borders for countries and territories, even if we know that this is often a result of political processes and conflicts that do not reflect the cultural identities connected with the river itself. In the case of our own Po, there are many more linguistic, architectural and

gastronomic affinities between the populations living on both sides of the river, independently of the regions, than there are between the people living in different parts of the same region. In fact, if we travel along a river, what really strikes us is how the river is an expression of a common historical, cultural, and architectural identity.

The rivers can be environmental resources, but also often sources of degradation.

They have been privileged areas for productive activities, but tend to become more and more places for recreation and leisure time activities. In fact, in France, there are several landscape projects along the rivers, and also in the area of the Ruhr in Germany, the old industrial basin is being reconverted.

One of the targets of this project was to represent at least a small part of all this complexity of meanings. A brief description follows. The aim was to spread knowledge about European cultures. All the activities that have been carried out, had to allow dissemination and cultural exchange between the various European partner countries.

The knowledge to be disseminated often already existed and was already

an essential part of the daily work of all citizens. This aspect is important, because the importance of intellectual and scientific work does not only lie in making new discoveries but also in knowing how to disseminate them.

Our Project thus aimed to promote this dissemination, through the organisation of events that have facilitated dialogue and helped establish new research networks that would allow other co-operation and common projects in the future. This kind of dialogue is not only aimed at universities and research centres, but at all those who work for the enhancement of European cultural heritage. For the same reason, in our own group for example, we involved not only universities but also local bodies and cultural foundations.

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¹ The rivers Aura (Finland), Loire and Rhône (France), Po di Volano (Italy), Vistula (Poland and Guadiana (Portugal)).



Rivers (GAFS image design) - Francesco Nicoletti

The potential of the European Geopark Network for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention

What is the essence of landscape? Is it the terrain formation, its diversified forms of life, the scenery perceived as landscape aesthetics or its spiritual values? What do geoparks with their philosophy have in common with landscape and with people living there?

Geoparks means a real bottom-up initiative where the landscape as perceived by local people plays a central role whilst the landscape type, objectives, characteristics and values represent key issues for the geopark movement.

The main objective of the geopark initiative is to make people more curious about the story of the planet, to take care of it and to search for optimal and responsible ways of developing it.

In the context of the European Landscape Convention European, geoparks can be seen as one of the special landscape planning and management tools. The key phenomena can include for example rock cities, volcanic and karst areas, archaeological and palaeontological sites, or abandoned mines including the mining facilities. But this landscape heritage is supposed to be not only conserved for future generations but also to be interpreted in an innovative and creative way and to be used sustainably for local quality of life. The main idea of the geopark's philosophy is sustainable development, with an active role for the local community and for geotourism and other environment-friendly forms of tourism, with an emphasis on the modern way of interpreting the geological and related landscape heritage values of the territory. The status of the geopark requires a systematic approach to landscape management with a clear landscape development vision.

Official recognition and support for the geopark initiative was given by Unesco in 2004 – just four years after the European Geopark Network was founded by four European areas (Petrified Forest

in Lesvos, Geological Reserve of Haute-Provence, Gerolstein/Vulkaneifel in Germany and the Maestrazgo Cultural Park in Spain). Nowadays, three geographical levels of geopark networks exist: global, European and national. The global network based in Beijing, China, is in the process of preparing other continental networks. Apart from European geoparks (33 geoparks in 13 countries¹), already about 20 Chinese geoparks, one Iranian, one Brazilian, one Malaysian and one Australian geopark are included (58 geoparks from

18 countries). The European Network represents a real motor in the dynamic geopark movement. The national geopark level was developed in China, Germany, Switzerland, Japan, Italy, Portugal, the United Kingdom and the Czech Republic. It provides verification before entry to the European Geopark Network and, at the same time, represents the system for geoparks with only national importance.

At the last meeting of the European Geopark Network in the Bohemian



Tomas Ridkosi

Klokocske skaly, Paradise Geopark, Bohemia

Paradise Geopark, Ladislav Miko, Director of Environment at the European Commission reflected on the meaning of geology in the area of biodiversity protection, landscape ecology and landscape mental mapping. He explained how geological and geomorphological characteristics influence both wildlife and cultural processes and phenomena: landscape is basically a result of mutual interconnections between geological, biological and cultural diversity. This implies that, in order to understand a complex system, a truly multidisciplinary approach is needed. According to him, geoparks offer just such a cross-disciplinary, interesting and practical approach. He recognised that geoparks serve as a useful voluntary bottom-up instrument based on the activity and enthusiasm of local communities. He contrasted this approach with often directive-based concepts of protected areas and underlined the need to convince local people to join the geopark initiative.

L. Miko suggested that it would be interesting and helpful if the geopark network could contribute, with its expert

skills and knowledge, to the preparation of management plans for Natura 2000 localities, specifically in the area of geodiversity and its relation to biodiversity. This proposal presents a significant challenge for the European Geopark Network, as subsequently pointed out by its coordinator Nikolaos Zouros.

Other potential benefits of the geopark initiative for the European landscape lie in education, interpretation, landscape research, landscape heritage conservation based on the knowledge of the importance and mutual relation between its three types of diversity and lastly the sustainable use of landscape heritage above all in the form of geotourism, local branding, eco/bio-agriculture, handicrafts etc.

The strength, comparative advantage and success of the geopark movement lie in networking instruments. A strict initial evaluation and periodical revalidation is necessary to keep and enhance the quality and competitiveness of the network. It is based on the following criteria: conservation and interpretation

of geological and landscape heritage, human resources and financial management, sustainable tourism strategy, education and research, participation in network activities (common marketing, projects, magazines, periodical meetings of coordination committees, annual and biannual conferences).

In return, the network offers to its members the organisation of the activities mentioned above, training, information, know-how and best practices exchange (guidelines, manuals, communication and marketing systems etc.), exchange of experts and youth camps, technical support and expert consultation and finally active international co-operation. Unesco plays an important institutional role in the geopark movement and its performance is crucial from the global perspective. The last but not least benefit of the geopark community is the mutual support resulting from the enthusiasm of individual members of the European Geopark Network in their work and efforts to conserve, present, interpret and use geology sustainably as a basis of landscape heritage.

It is clear that the philosophy of the geopark initiative is close to that of the European Landscape Convention and that parallel implementation of these concepts can produce substantial synergies. It is mutually beneficial when these initiatives support and promote each other.

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Tomas Ridkosi

Meeting of the European Geopark Network

¹ Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Greece, Germany, Italy, Norway, Portugal, Ireland, Romania, Spain, United Kingdom.



The role of landscape in co-operation between Andalusia and Morocco

Geographically speaking only three countries are both Mediterranean and Atlantic: Spain, France and Morocco, although Portugal could also be included because of the Mediterranean climate of its southern shores. On a regional scale, Andalusia and northern Morocco are the only areas that share seaboard with both the Mediterranean and the Atlantic. Nevertheless, despite this special location, the Mediterranean was always predominant historically and culturally until its influence was extended dramatically by the new horizons of the Atlantic.

The Mediterranean, as a sea and a geographical region, was the first area in the world of its size to be mapped completely and given a name of its own. Although called *Mare nostrum* during Roman times, the Mediterranean has never been a culturally homogeneous area. The story of the development of the peoples and societies who have inhabited this corner of the planet is of conflict and mutual interferences. As Pedrag Matvejevic remarked, in his history of the Mediterranean and its peoples, *Mediteranski brevijar*, "The idea of the Mediterranean and the Mediterranean itself have never managed to live in harmony". In recent times, the Mediterranean is possibly the region where economic and cultural boundaries are most in conflict and where, from both its shores, great efforts for co-operation are being undertaken.



Talassemtane

The opportunities and tensions created by this situation are centred mainly on the Straits of Gibraltar and the border of Andalusia and Morocco. Many are the daily episodes and sporadic events that bear witness to this constant synergy between the two continents. The straits are a veritable north-south east-west crossroads for travellers and merchandise and a strategic point in global geopolitics. Just to stand on a vantage point on one coast and look towards the other evokes strong emotions, not just because of the impressive landscapes but also because of the multitude of past and present events.

The intensity of life and its meaning centred around the Straits of Gibraltar do not receive the political reactions they deserve and, although things are moving in the right direction, the path of diplomacy and co-operation is bogged down by distrust and misunderstandings. European and national programmes exist but real understanding only comes about when grass-roots political communities get together, and especially individuals. Thus co-operation between Andalusia and Morocco is of the utmost importance.

Scientists have long observed that the same natural landscapes exist on each side of the straits, which are in fact no more than a narrow arm of the sea that opened quite recently in geological terms between two mountainous formations created by the same tectonic events and composed of the same types of rock. Even the vegetation includes the same endemic species. Latterly, a shared background has left the African and Spanish Mediterranean regions with many common features in their social and territorial organisation.

If, as in the European Landscape Convention, the landscape forms part of the framework of people's lives, the similarities to be seen between Andalusia and northern Morocco would go a long way towards explaining similarities in the way people conduct their daily lives; for example, the times when people work in the fields are much the same, and so are their ways of using urban public areas.

Co-operation between Andalusia and Morocco recognises these common bases of understanding and, although many other fields of joint action exist, it is worth highlighting three joint measures which have been taken with particular regard to the landscape:

- The creation in 2006 of the inter-continental Biosphere Reserve of the Mediterranean, an area of more than 9,000 sq km, which is made up of land on both sides of the straits, including such important national nature reserves as those at Grazalema in Andalusia and Talassemtane in Morocco.
- The support of the Andalusian government in restoring the historical centres of the towns of Larache, Tangiers and Tetuan, with buildings and areas of great symbolic value.
- Programmes for co-operation between the International University of Andalusia and the Abdelmalek Essaadi University of Morocco (Tangiers and Tetuan) have recently been responsible for devoting numerous activities to natural and cultural heritage. In July 2008, the first course devoted to landscape was held, during which the tenets of the European Landscape Convention were presented.

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Gibraltar Strait

*Virgin landscape,
Trguiste region,
North Morocco*

Towards landscape-centred transfrontier co-operation: “Andalusia and Northern Morocco” – A model to emulate

Moroccan-Spanish transfrontier co-operation on cultural heritage and landscape has become one of the major concerns of several officials both in Morocco and in Spain. This type of co-operation has undergone particularly striking development between Tetuan and the Autonomous Community of Andalusia, which are two cross-border zones. Co-operation commenced in 1989 during a Moroccan-Spanish meeting organised in Tetuan and entitled “The Andalusian town and the challenges of change”, during which several proposals and recommendations were put forward.

In 1993, the President of the Autonomous Community of Andalusia, Manuel Chaves González, gave this transfrontier co-operation process a strong impetus through his visit to Tetuan to inaugurate the first joint projects on rehabilitation and enhancement of the common legacy formed by the Andalusian cultural heritage.

This action generated a fresh perception of the cultural heritage among the citizens of Tetuan, especially crafts people, shopkeepers and hotel, guest house and restaurant owners. Indeed, this heritage, after renovation, has been the main

source of improvement in their prosperity. This has made it possible to increase the number of citizens who respect and preserve the cultural heritage.

In 1997, the historic centre of Tetuan was recognised as World Heritage by Unesco, raising the profile of the transfrontier co-operation and allowing the organisation of further meetings, seminars and joint workshops for group discussion of practical solutions.

The “Heritage, Development and Citizenship Club” (Cpdc) of Abdelmalek Essaadi University has played a leading role in the success of the Andalusian-North Moroccan transfrontier co-operation on landscape. It has organised several meetings to develop and establish alternative, sustainable tourism respecting nature and culture, and capable of turning the natural and cultural potential into financial gains benefiting local citizens. The Club organised a Seminar on “The role of cultural heritage in local development” in conjunction with the “select classroom” of the University of Cadix; there have been summer courses together with the International University of Andalusia, such as “Tourism and landscape” and “Sustainable tourism on both shores”.

At present, the Club is working in co-operation with several Spanish NGOs and institutions to create tourist routes in rural areas. This is part of a major project called “Human development and poverty alleviation by introducing alternative tourism and fair trade”.

The Andalusia-Tetuan model has become a pilot scheme in several towns of Northern Morocco, dealing with transfrontier co-operation for the enhancement and preservation of landscape. Among the North Moroccan towns which have followed the same approach as Tetuan, mention should be made of Larache, Chefchaouen, Asilah, Ksar-El-Kebir, Oud Laou and Tangiers.

All these towns now benefit from several projects financed by the European Union and managed by the Autonomous Community of Andalusia. Andalusian-North Moroccan transfrontier co-operation is a model which should be emulated.

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Virgin landscape, Alhoucima region, North Morocco



Calla-Eres, Alhoucima natural parc, North Morocco



A. Idelhadj with the future leaders for landscape conservation, North Morocco



Both natural and cultural landscape, Snada, North Morocco

Alliance of World Heritage Cultural Landscapes

In 2006, the City Council of Aranjuez called for a first working meeting to discuss places holding the World Heritage Declaration by Unesco, in the Cultural Landscape category. It was about starting up an initiative aimed at creating a network of Cultural Landscapes, which would be named the "Alliance of World Heritage Cultural Landscapes".

Implementation

In December 2007, the First International Conference of the Alliance of World Heritage Cultural Landscapes was held in Aranjuez, attended by representatives of 16 Cultural Landscapes, the Spanish Ministry of Culture, the Unesco World Heritage Centre itself, and the official organisations related to the WHC (Icomos, Iccrom, Iucn...)

The Conference ended with the signing of the "Aranjuez Declaration" and the announcement of the Second International Conference and the Alliance Constituent Assembly, to be held in Sintra, Portugal, in 2008. The Aranjuez Declaration was intended to be a programing document, and form the basis of the Alliance.

The initiative is supported by the Spanish Ministry of Culture and the Unesco World Heritage Centre and is considered an important tool in the privilege-commitments relationship of the Cultural Landscape. It is an instrument of solidarity for countries that have lower scientific, technical and financial resources at their disposal, both to gain the Unesco Declaration and to keep it.

Working meetings have been organised, with representatives of other places declared World Heritage in similar categories to Cultural Landscape, e.g. the case of the biodiversity and culture of Ibiza, the Alhambra and Generalife of Grenada, the Palmeral of Elche and the Médulas in León. The incorporation of these places has created discussions about the forms which Cultural Landscapes can take, which may give rise to another Unesco Declaration.

Thus, the creation of the Alliance of World Heritage Cultural Landscapes

Association was proposed with these Spanish members as well as Sintra, in Aranjuez, in 2008. It offered the possibility of incorporation to the other international partners.

National scope: optimisation through networking

The Alliance of World Heritage Cultural Landscapes is an opportunity to provide a national frame of reference so that the places declared Cultural Landscapes and given similar labels have suitable tools for the defence of common interests related to the management, maintenance and uses linked with the World Heritage Declaration.

The Alliance of World Heritage Cultural Landscapes may be an instrument for dialogue and exchange for the development of coordinated actions organisations and institutions related to the World Heritage Declaration, particularly in the relationships with the respective Ministries of Culture and the Unesco World Heritage Centre itself.

The coordination of actions is also important in connection with the decisions of local and regional administrations, as it shows the impact of the World Heritage Declaration on other management areas: town planning, environment, tourism, etc.

Besides, it is an important opportunity to activate social participation with local populations.

International scope

The Alliance provides the possibility of adding common elements to all Cultural Landscapes, it contributes to overcoming the existing gaps in the concept and definition of Cultural Landscape.

Scientific research carried out throughout history aimed at better understanding of the human-nature-activity relations, together with the sustainable use of the endogenous resources, is an important starting point to bring about an innovative advance in research that combines technical knowledge with political



Representatives of the founder members of the Alliance

decisions. It should also be maintained when looking for harmony between the principles of the European Landscape Convention and those included by Unesco in the World Heritage Cultural Landscapes Declaration.

This is one of the main contributions that the Alliance of World Heritage Cultural Landscapes can provide to sustainable development and spatial planning. All this work encourages a worldwide network, which could provide proposals and solutions in view of sustainable development, climate change and the challenges of conserving our cultural heritage. Its relationship with the contents and guidelines of the European Landscape Convention is clear.

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Windmills in
Consuegra,
La Mancha, Spain

Co-operation for transfrontier landscapes

At the start of the 21st century, it may seem unnecessary to talk about the need to protect landscapes, as they have already been protected for many years. We need only to think of the great American national parks such as Yellowstone, which were established at the end of the 19th century and whose beautiful lakes, high snow-covered mountains and vast conifer forests have always been a source of wonder. They are sanctuaries for fauna and flora of outstanding beauty, in which all human activity remains banned in principle.

When European countries began protecting landscapes of this kind a little later, they had to employ other methods of protection because – with the possible exception of Scandinavia and Russia – population density levels meant that measures as drastic as those in the United States could not be adopted. Under these circumstances, the landscapes protected in Europe were relatively small but of great beauty and with a wide variety of fauna and flora. Accordingly, while account has to be taken of human presence, activities conducted in protected landscapes should be in harmony with nature. Landscapes featuring outstanding archaeological or historic monuments and parks and gardens laid out by humankind are also protected.

The protection of such landscapes, which may be regarded as traditional, subsequently transcended national boundaries with the adoption of international treaties, including the Unesco Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, which unquestionably marked a breakthrough. At regional level, the Council of Europe led the way in this area with the adoption, among others, of the European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (revised) (Valletta, 1992), the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern, 1979) and the Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada, 1985).

The transfrontier co-operation promoted by the Council of Europe in recent years has also had consequences regarding the protection of landscapes: many nature reserves now cross-borders and are managed jointly. However, there is a need to extend this cross-border co-operation to a new type of landscape which was clearly defined in the European Landscape Convention. It is no longer a matter of protecting only landscapes of outstanding beauty – protection also extends to any “area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors”. The Convention covers natural, rural, urban and peri-urban areas and concerns not only outstanding landscapes but also everyday or degraded landscapes, which all determine the quality of surroundings for all Europeans. The aim is to protect, manage and plan the landscape on the basis of a new approach, in other words, as a common good which is the foundation of people’s cultural and local identities, an essential component of their environment and a reflection of the wealth and diversity of their cultural, ecological, social and economic heritage. Ultimately, the objective is to take into consideration the landscape, which, according to the preamble to the Convention, is “a key element of individual and social well-being” and “an important part of the quality of life for people everywhere” which contributes to “human well-being and consolidation of the European identity”.

Among the principles set out in the European Landscape Convention, special attention should be paid to integrating the protection of the landscape when developing regional planning, agricultural, social, cultural and environmental policies, etc. and also to the subsidiarity principle. The latter is also directly connected with Chapter III of the Convention concerning European co-operation, which includes a specific reference to transfrontier landscapes: “The Parties shall encourage transfrontier co-operation on local and regional level and, wherever necessary, prepare

and implement joint landscape programmes”. Although this is not an overly restrictive solution, it does involve an obligation for the Parties which have ratified the Convention. People living on either side of a border should be able to call for protection, management and planning of the landscapes which they share. At the same time, the relevant public authorities are required to set “landscape quality objectives” which take account of the wishes of the people concerned, regardless of the side of the border on which they live. This is all found in the European Landscape Convention and stems from conventions such as the 1990 Espoo Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context and the 1998 Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters¹.

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¹ “La cooperación transfronteriza hispano-portuguesa. Nuevos instrumentos internacionales”, in *Relações Portugal-Espanha: Cooperação e identidade*, Fundação Rei Afonso Henriques, Porto 2000, pp 263 ff.; “El Convenio europeo sobre el paisaje de 20 de octubre de 2000”, *Anuario Español de Derecho Internacional*, no XVI, 2000, pp. 393 ff.; “La evolución del marco jurídico de la cooperación transfronteriza en Europa”, in E.J. Martínez Pérez (Coord.), *La adaptación de los organismos de cooperación transfronteriza por las Comunidades Autónomas*, Ed. Junta de Castilla y León, Valladolid, 2006, pp. 9 ff.; “La cooperación transfronteriza entre regiones europeas. En busca de un instrumento jurídico eficaz”, *Revista de Derecho de la Unión Europea* no 13, 2007, pp. 125 ff.

“Landscape Ambassadors” students

The aim of the “Landscape Ambassadors” programme is to help introduce landscape and biotechnical science specialists to the techniques of mediation required for the application of the European Landscape Convention. Led by a group of six teacher-researchers from different countries (France, Hungary, Norway, Portugal, Slovenia and Sweden) and from several specialities (agronomy, ecology, forestry, geography and landscape), the programme is organised around a 15-day seminar bringing together about 30 students to work together on the territory. Each year, it takes place in a different country where there is a local demand from specialists want to participate in the courses, in exchange expecting results from the work done by the students.

The teaching aims at involving the students as much as possible. Theoretical and methodological tools are also used on the terrain studied. As the work progresses, they are used at moments when students meet an obstacle which can be solved by teaching; this often means that the timetable has to be adapted during the project. The stu-

dents work in small groups which mix nationalities and disciplines and which investigate a theme through the expectations of the local partners. A teacher guides each group to make progress and to ease any tensions which may arise from the intensity of the work and confrontations of different points of view.

The programme culminates in two public presentations: one for the authorities, in English, and the other for the local inhabitants, in the language of the country. To do this, several students from the host country, who have participated in seminars in previous years, are recruited as assistants. They help the groups complete their tasks and act as translators in the interviews. Each year, a blog is set up to track the progress (<http://lamb05.over-blog.com>) and all the work (lessons, presentations, work produced by the students, etc) is put on a DVD given to the participants and partners from the local area and institutions.

After two years of experimentation in France in 2004 and 2005, the programme received the title of intensive Erasmus course, allowing it to take place

in three different countries (Slovenia in 2006, Portugal in 2007 and Sweden in 2008). Thanks to this European funding, added to by local communities in the country concerned, all the students’ accommodation fees and spending money were covered, which allowed them to be selected based on their motivation and competence, whatever their financial situation. In total, more than 150 students have benefited from the programme and, by maintaining contact with many of them, we know that this experience has been enriching and that they use the knowledge they gained in their professional lives.

We hope that this initiative will contribute to the emergence of a new group of professionals who will act as mediators between the local and the global levels, be both technically qualified and real ‘landscape ambassadors’, and use an approach that privileges the human being and has trust in intelligence and generosity.

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Reporting for the elected representatives, Sweden



Students at work, Portugal



Inquiry near farmers, Slovenia

Council of Europe: towards development of transfrontier co-operation in favour of

The territorial integration of the European continent is a gradual ongoing process in which transfrontier co-operation among Council of Europe member states plays a key role. In this connection, the CEMAT Guiding Principles for Sustainable Spatial Development of the European Continent formulated by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe present a vision of an integrated Europe, and as such constitute a reference policy document for the many spatial planning actions and initiatives throughout Europe and, in particular, for transnational and international co-operation (Recommendation Rec (2002) 1 of the Committee of Ministers to member states).

The Guiding Principles stipulate that specific spatial development policies in border regions and transfrontier co-operation involve the adoption of a joint approach to development in the form of transfrontier structure schemes and joint plans. They add that such an approach should be based on thorough analysis of relevant border regions' functional relations network, and centred on homogeneous development of the region's territories located on both sides of the frontier. From that angle, particular attention should be paid to:

- developing transfrontier transport and telecommunications infrastructures and services;
- the transfrontier conservation and sustainable use of natural resources (particularly in the case of mountain and coastal regions, forests and wetlands, etc.) and of water resources;
- taking the cross-border dimension of supplying public and private services into account;
- the coherent planning of transfrontier conurbations, cities, and settlement areas of ethnic communities;
- organising transfrontier employment catchment areas;
- combating the cross-border impact of pollution.

The Guiding Principles stress that such co-operation can be conducted not only between neighbouring States but also between neighbouring regions or communities which implement different

policies in the same State, on the basis of either territorial adjacency or specific shared features.

The Guiding Principles refer in particular to the European Outline Convention on Transfrontier Co-operation between Territorial Communities or Authorities (Madrid, 21 May 1980) and to the European Landscape Convention (Florence, 21 May 1980), and stress the importance of taking account of the landscape dimension in all the activities implemented. The European Landscape Convention stipulates that Parties to the Convention "shall encourage transfrontier co-operation on local and regional level and, wherever necessary, prepare and implement joint landscape programmes". A number of initiatives have already been taken to implement this provision. Recommendation CM/Rec(2008)3 of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe to member states on the Guidelines for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention specifies that such 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.

Resolution No. 2 adopted by the 13th CEMAT Ministerial Conference

established a pan-European network of "CEMAT Model Regions" as innovative regions undertaking to develop good practices in implementing the Guiding Principles for Sustainable Spatial Development of the European Continent, constituting pilot experiences for other regions. The landscape dimension represents an essential aspect of this approach. The Initiative on sustainable spatial development of the Tisza/Tisza river basin, which is being developed as a transfrontier "CEMAT Innovative Region" is a good example of the approach.

Action to implement spatial development policies is an important precondition for pursuing the harmonious integration of the European continent, as it highlights the territorial dimension of democracy and social cohesion policy. The Guiding Principles and their application in development decisions can facilitate co-operation throughout Europe by helping to create a more balanced and sustainable Europe.

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The Council of Europe is an intergovernmental organisation founded in 1949 with its headquarters in Strasbourg, France. The statutes of the Organisation, which has 47 member states, mention that its aim 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 and facilitating their economic and social progress. The main objectives of the Organisation are to promote democracy, human rights and the rule of law and to seek common solutions to the main problems facing European society. It is active in promoting sustainable spatial development in line with Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the "Guiding principles for sustainable spatial development of the European Continent". The aim is to protect the life, the quality of life and well-being of Europeans taking into account landscape, cultural and natural values of the territory.

The Futuropa magazine, previously named Naturopa, has been published since 1968. It is intended to raise awareness among European citizens and decision-makers of the importance of sustainable development in Europe by focusing on its unique heritage.

The magazine is published in the two official languages of the Organisation: English and French.

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