General Debate: Local democracy for the landscape: participation and commitment

Slovak Republic
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Good afternoon

I would like to present the unique landscape of the town of Hriňová. The town of Hriňová is located in the middle of Slovakia in the mountains of Poľana which is one of the biggest extinct volcanoes of Europe. This landscape is an example of the interaction between man and landscape in the principles of the European Landscape Convention.

The project is aimed at preserving the traditional way of life of people living in harmony with the landscape in a specific scattered settlement which is created by terraced fields which you can see in the photograph.
The next aim of the project is to create the conditions for all stakeholders to co-operate in the land management and local development. Toward this end, the town of Hriňová has taken various steps and implemented certain measures to conserve this unique landscape. Documents that ensure conservation this landscape for future generations at a local level are:

- Spatial Plan of the Town of Hriňová;
- Economic and Social Development Plan for the Town of Hriňová;
- Hriňová Community Plan of Social Services;
- Local Agenda 21.

The formulated regulations mentioned in Hriňová policy documents are essential for the maintenance of specific forms of settlement, while preserving the settlements and without any undesirable street development. Despite the rough natural conditions and remoteness, and by participation and committed approaches, Hriňova´s unique landscape is still alive.

Thank you for attention.