



COUNCIL OF EUROPE LANDSCAPE CONVENTION
LANDSCAPE AWARD OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

8th Session – 2022-2023

APPLICATION FORM

Presentation

The Council of Europe Landscape Convention is the first international treaty to be exclusively concerned with all aspects of landscape: natural, rural, urban and peri-urban. It represents an important contribution to the implementation of the Council of Europe's objectives. By taking into account the value of landscapes, with their natural and human components, the Council of Europe acknowledges that the landscape is an important part of the quality of life for people everywhere: in degraded areas as well as in areas of high quality, in areas recognised as being of outstanding beauty as well as everyday areas.

Article 11 of the Convention establishes the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe. The Resolution [CM/Res\(2008\)3](#) on the rules governing the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe, adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 20 February 2008 at the 1018th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies, draws attention to the fact that Article 11 of the Convention institutes the Award and that it is in keeping with the work carried out by the Council of Europe concerning human rights, democracy and sustainable development.

Opened to the Parties to the Convention, the Award is intended to raise civil society's awareness of the value of landscapes, of their role and of changes to them. Its objective is to reward exemplary practical initiatives aimed at successful landscape quality objectives on the territories of the Parties to the Convention. The Award is conferred every two years and the files presenting applications must reach the Secretariat General of the Council of Europe.

At its meeting held in Strasbourg on 28-29 April 2008, the Steering Committee for Cultural Heritage and Landscape (CDPATEP) decided that applications should be submitted to the Council of Europe Secretariat through the Permanent Representations of the Parties to the Convention.

Each State Party to the Convention is thus invited to send by post to the Secretariat General of the Council of Europe (Council of Europe Landscape Convention), before 31 January 2023, via its Permanent Representation to the Council of Europe, a completed application form in paper format, together with a digital copy on a USB key of the form and additional material.

*

*** * *

Please note that:

- participation to the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe is only open to local and regional authorities and their groupings and non-governmental organisations, as stated in the Resolution CM/Res (2008)3, Appendix, Article 2;*
- the application form must be completed in all its parts, in one of the two official languages of the Council of Europe (English or French);*
- the materials submitted must be copyright-free, for use by the Council of Europe in communications aimed at promoting the Award or any other publications or activities relating to the Convention. The Council of Europe undertakes to cite the authors' names;*
- files that are incomplete or fail to comply with the rules will not be taken into consideration.*

For further information please visit the Landscape Award section of the Council of Europe website:

[Convention du Conseil de l'Europe sur le paysage / Site web officiel \(coe.int\)](#)
[Council of Europe Landscape Convention / Official website \(coe.int\)](#)

*

I. STATE CONCERNED AND APPLICANT

1. State	Slovenia
Represented by	Ms Jelena Hladnik
<i>Address:</i>	Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning
	+386 1 4787000
<i>Telephone:</i>	gp.mop@gov.si
<i>E-mail:</i>	
2. Applicant	Društvo krajinskih arhitektov Slovenije (Slovenian Association of Landscape Architects), CIPRA Slovenija, društvo za varstvo Alp (CIPRA Slovenia, Association for Protection of the Alps), IPoP – Inštitut za politike prostora (IPoP – Institute for Spatial Policies)
<i>Name of the local, regional authority(ies) or NGO(s)</i>	
Represented by	Ms Jana Kozamernik
<i>Address:</i>	Društvo krajinskih arhitektov Slovenije (Slovenian Association of Landscape Architects) Jamnikarjeva ulica 101, 1000 Ljubljana
<i>Telephone:</i>	+386 51 317486
<i>E-mail:</i>	info@dkas.si

II. PRESENTATION OF THE PROJET

3. Name of the Project

Protection and Development of the Slovenian Landscape:
Starting points for drafting the Landscape Policy

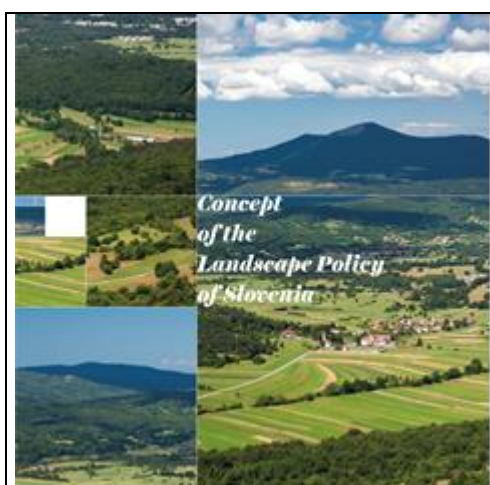
4. Location of the Project

Slovenia

5. Summary of the Project (10-12 lines)

With the European Landscape Convention, the Council of Europe wanted to provide an instrument that would enable uniform protection, planning and management of all European landscapes. In Slovenia, the Convention has been in force since 2004, but we have not yet adopted the Landscape Policy that would operationalize it. With the project Protection and development of Slovenian Landscape: Starting points for drafting the Landscape Policy, we initiated an inclusive process of preparing solutions for the comprehensive protection, planning and management of the landscape as a basis for the subsequent preparation of the Landscape Policy of Slovenia. We developed our findings and solutions gradually through professional analytical work and inclusively through wide stakeholder cooperation, which enabled discussion and exchange of opinions outside professional circles. We combined them into common starting points and the concept for the preparation of the Landscape Policy, which will ensure that the protection, management and planning of the landscape will be more comprehensive and coherent.

6. Photo representing the Project (high definition – JPEG 350 dpi) and name of the author of the photo please



Authors:
Luka Vidic (photo)
Roman Ražman (design)

7. Website of the Project (if exists)

<http://www.krajinskapolitika.si/>

III. CONTENT OF THE PROJECT

8. **Start of the Project** month year
The project must have been completed at least three years previously

9. **Partners**

Društvo krajinskih arhitektov Slovenije (Slovenian Association of Landscape Architects), CIPRA Slovenija, društvo za varstvo Alp (CIPRA Slovenia, Association for Protection of the Alps), IPoP – Inštitut za politike prostora (IPoP – Institute for Spatial Policies)

10. **Financing bodies**

Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning
--

11. Central aims of the Project

Project description

The purpose of the project was to draw the attention to the speedy reduction in the quality and development value of the Slovenian landscape as a common development resource and to initiate an inclusive and integrative process of preparing expert starting points for an integrated approach to landscape protection, planning and management, which will represent the basis for the subsequent preparation of the Landscape Policy of Slovenia.

The project is a response to warnings that care for the protection and development of the landscape in the spatial planning processes in Slovenia are disconnected and insufficiently effective. In the area, we are witnessing the gradual degradation of quality and the reduction of the development value of the Slovenian landscape. Both public and private interest holders are becoming more and more aware of the landscape management problems, but they are unable to adequately address the challenges of landscape protection and development with the existing spatial planning mechanisms. The signs and consequences of uncoordinated functioning of various departments/sectors and other actors at different levels can be perceived both in the landscape and in management processes.

The project will connect individual findings and knowledge about space conditions and landscape management and will, based on the assessment of the situation, form the platform for the Landscape Policy to ensure that the protection, management and planning of the landscape in Slovenia will become more comprehensive and coherent. An important component of the project will be the work process itself, which envisages that public interest holders at national, regional and local levels, as well as the interested local and general public, will be actively involved in the assessment of the current situation and the preparation of the starting points for the Landscape Policy of Slovenia.

Purpose: to ensure a comprehensive and coherent landscape management

The project work was aimed at the interdisciplinary professional, general and political

public, as a preparation for the adoption of the Landscape Policy and for the assumption of their roles and tasks in the implementation of the action plan measures. The purpose of the project was to address the institutionalized and wider professional public and to involve them with innovative work methods into the process of presenting the problems and finding solutions that the adoption of the Landscape Policy will bring into practice; and at the same time to involve the local and general public in the process and to promote the European Convention on Landscape, and thus to create the necessary level of understanding among the spatial planning actors, to develop a common language of landscape protection and development, and to establish solid starting conditions for cooperation in further work and decision-making processes.

Aims: professional, participative, integrated

1. To provide the necessary scientific basis for the drafting and implementing of the Landscape Policy of Slovenia.
2. To establish a broad professional alliance for the subsequent preparation, adoption and implementation of the Landscape Policy.
3. To ensure understanding of landscape management issues among the general professional public and among those responsible for spatial planning.
4. To promote the importance of the protection and development of the Slovenian landscape and the European Landscape Convention among the general public and decision-makers.

12. Outcome

The project achieved its goals with an innovative work method and a competent implementation partnership. In addition to classical study analyses, the essential contribution in the process of preparing the project's professional starting points were the findings obtained through the inclusion of a focus group, workshops and consultations with the wider interested public, as well as an active exchange of opinions between representatives of various departments and representatives of local communities.

The process of preparing the starting points for the landscape policy was guided by an interdisciplinary focus group consisting of representatives of the departments for spatial planning, environment, nature conservation, agriculture, cultural heritage protection and tourism at the national level. Thematic workshops carried out in the authentic environment of four characteristic landscape areas ensured the flow and exchange of opinions and information as well as cooperation between the leaders of spatial planning from the listed domains and the interdisciplinary professional public, and representatives of local communities.

The online portal is intended for communication support for the content promotion of the landscape and for raising awareness of the importance of landscape and its role in the landscape protection and development. It will stimulate the general public's interest in the landscape and provide additional necessary conditions for the adoption of the Landscape Policy, and for an effective landscape management, and thus for the implementation of the provisions of the European Landscape Convention.

The outcomes of the project are:

- The analysis of existing status of landscape protection, planning and management in Slovenia, aimed at obtaining arguments and starting points for the preparation of the Landscape Policy;
- The Analysis of foreign examples of landscape policies;
- The Concept of the Landscape Policy of Slovenia as the first step towards the subsequent

drafting of the Landscape Policy text;

- A set of objectives and measures for the first phase of the implementation of the Landscape Policy, which will add to the implementation of the European Landscape Convention in Slovenia;
- An online portal dedicated to the promotion of the European Landscape Convention, Slovenian landscapes and communication support for the subsequent preparation and adoption of the Landscape Policy of Slovenia.
- Video contents aimed at promoting the European Landscape Convention and raising awareness of the diversity of the landscape in Slovenia.

IV. RESPECT OF THE CRITERIA OF THE ATTRIBUTION OF THE AWARD

13. Sustainable territorial development

Is the project part of a sustainable development policy?

Does it contribute to the enhancement of environmental, social, economic, cultural or aesthetic values of the landscape? How?

Has it successfully countered or posed a remedy to any pre-existing environmental damage or urban blight? How?

The project addresses landscape policy as an integral part of a comprehensive sustainable development policy. The state of the landscape and challenges of the future, such as ensuring a quality living environment, preserving the cultural and natural landscape, strengthening national identity, adapting to climate change, reducing the threat of natural and other disasters, increasing food self-sufficiency, the use of renewable energy sources, developing sustainable tourism, and implementing green infrastructure, all require coordinated landscape protection, planning and management under the auspices of landscape policy.

Landscape policy refers to all dimensions of the landscape, its environmental, social, economic, cultural and aesthetic values. The landscape policy is an exhaustively organised, formally adopted and established method of comprehensive, integrated and inclusive landscape protection, planning and management. Its implementation will provide the conditions for the long-term development of landscape, coherent in all respects, by integrating and harmonising the expectations, objectives and measures of different fields and stakeholders, and enabling us to develop the landscape as a common development resource and heritage, as well as an important element of personal and national identity.

The project is also a response to the state of the Slovenian landscape, which has changed considerably over the past few decades, mostly as a result of settlement, which impacts the landscape in various ways, and due to large infrastructure facilities, changes in farming methods and overgrowth of the landscape. The analysis of Slovenian practice reveals that spatial planning documents address landscape (in terms of content, scope and quality) very differently, and above all deficiently. Given the current situation and practice in Slovenia, it is believed that key improvements and a comprehensive and more effective landscape protection, planning and management practice is urgently needed. It has therefore been proposed that the Landscape Policy of Slovenia should be adopted as a uniform operational document, which will strategically and systematically regulate landscape protection planning and management issues, serve as a common guide for formulating legal and other solutions, require interconnection and cooperation, substantiate, explain, point to solutions and direct action related to landscape. By adopting the Landscape Policy of Slovenia, we shall gain a

fundamental instrument and a system of action in the field of landscape protection, planning and management, which will be binding on Slovenian society as a whole, Slovenia as a state, the National Assembly, the government, ministerial departments, local communities and the profession, educational institutions, the media and all citizens.

Policy objective is to prevent further degradation of the landscape and preserve its identity, attractiveness and potential for competitive development and the quality of living by planning the spatial development in the landscape based on landscape evaluation and impact assessment, paying special attention to rural development and maintenance of cultural landscapes, conservation of the natural landscape, limiting and directing the typology of dispersed settlement, and sanctioning illegal encroachments on space.

14. Exemplary value

Can the project be considered of exemplary value? Why?

Which are the good practices that it implemented?

The project can be an example for actions at the national level in the formulation of similar policies and for countries in the wider region (countries with a similar historical background of spatial planning and problems) that do not yet have this type of policy. It brings, or at least promises, progress in the field of intersectoral action in the field of landscape management and public involvement.

The first good practice is the method of preparation. The concept of the Landscape Policy of Slovenia was being developed gradually through the analytical work of a broad working group of experts, and in cooperation with numerous participants of interministerial and thematic workshops, as well as workshops for the general public (see chapter 15). Implement action of the project was monitored by an interministerial focus group composed of representatives of ministries which are traditionally linked to landscape; namely, those for spatial planning, environmental protection, agriculture, preservation of the natural and cultural heritage, and tourism. The cross-sectoral structure of the working groups has proven highly successful, as it has allowed for a broad and in-depth exchange of views, predominantly on how to establish a more effective system for collaboration at all levels of planning, development programmes, and measure implementation aimed towards facilitating positive effects in the environment.

Another good practice is systemic and integrative thinking. The concept of the Landscape Policy addresses landscape as a whole, thus going beyond the current sectoral approach, and in this way, establish the principle that all landscapes count. It is formulated as a commitment and modus operandi of the entire Slovenian society, and as a framework for the constructive collaboration of all stakeholders in landscape protection, planning and management. The policy as such, does not seek to redistribute and delimit the powers to narrow professional circles, nor does it offer just a handful of ad hoc objectives and measures, but brings systemic solutions leading to comprehensive measures and synergistic effects.

15. Public participation

Does the project actively encourage the public's participation in the decision-making process? How?

Is the project in line with the wider policies implemented by national, regional or local authorities?

The project actively encourages public participation regarding both the process and the contents. The concept of the Landscape Policy of Slovenia was being developed gradually both through analytical work and through public participation. Numerous experts participated

in the interministerial and thematic workshops, as well as in workshops for the general public and for the representatives of local communities. As part of the project, workshops for the general public, called “Let's talk about landscape – together” were organised, providing opportunities for discussing the issues and exchanging views also outside the professional circles. The response of the participants was very satisfactory, so the workshops regarding both the process and the contents proved to be examples of good practice and for the definition of common goals and measures in the planning and management of the landscape on all the levels – strategic documents, action plans, spatial plans and management programmes.

The raise of awareness of importance of the landscape for more inclusive society was one of the goals of the Landscape Policy, above all with promotion of education, awareness raising and public participation in the processes of landscape management. The concept of the Landscape Policy provides the measures of promotion of good practices on one side and of exposing bad practices on the other, the measures of promotion of articles and publication, public participation in decision-making processes and also the activities of NGOs that act professionally and responsibly in the field of planning, protecting and management of landscape.

The project is a part of broader efforts for sustainable development on the national, regional and local level in Slovenia. As a distinctly cross-sectoral and interdisciplinary project, it was created taking into account the Agricultural Policy of Slovenia, the Tourism Development Strategy and other sectoral development documents. The Landscape Policy is conceptualized as a substantive and semantic parallel of the Spatial Policy of Slovenia and of the Architectural Policy of Slovenia (adopted in 2017). It is in line of the Spatial Development Strategy of Slovenia, which is being prepared at the same time. The concept of the Landscape Policy of Slovenia implements the obligations that come from the European Landscape Convention and enables more efficient achieving of the goals entitling nowadays issues, concerning the consequences of climate changes protection of agricultural land, water management, usage of renewable sources of energy, preservation of spatial identity, etc.

16. Awareness-raising

Is the project effectively increasing public awareness of the importance of landscape in terms of human development, consolidation of identity, or individual and collective well-being? How?

Systematic approach for raising public awareness was established in the project. Public awareness regarding the importance of landscape was one of the main purposes and goals of the project. In the 2-year process of preparation of the Concept of Landscape Policy the statements on existing condition, problems and opportunities of Slovenian landscape as well as the examples of good practices from other countries were presented to general public. All the workshops proved that the landscape represents a core value for people, and touches them on an emotional and an identity level (landscape as one of the most important elements of national identity) as well as from an economic point of view (landscape as a natural source and an economic category). The findings and the demands of the experts served as the project's baseline and were confirmed. They stated that clear common objectives and criteria for the protection and better management of the landscape as well as for better system of intersectoral coordination should be formulated at the state level, and that good practices must start being developed and Landscape Policy measures constantly enforced.

Next to the workshops and a round table entitled “Slovenia – still my country?“, by which the discussions in professional circles and in general public were initiated, the new web-site www.krajinskapolitika.si was established with the purpose to raise the public's awareness.

Thus, for the first time in Slovenia, all the material, information, professional bases and documents relevant for the landscape were gathered. One of the important outcomes of the project was the exhibition named “Landscape. Yesterday. Today? Tomorrow!” which, after the conclusion of the project, travelled through many Slovenian towns. In the course of the project many articles were published in media talking about the workshops. In addition, within the two “Months of Landscape Architecture” (April 2018 and 2019) many events were organised which promoted the efforts for the implementation of the Landscape Policy and enhanced the awareness on the importance of landscape. After the conclusion of the project a conference titled “Landscape Policy of Slovenia” was organised and the brochure entitled “The Concept of the Landscape Policy of Slovenia” was published in Slovenian and in English language which presented all the most relevant issues.

V. ADDITIONAL MATERIAL

Together with the printed version of the Application form, additional material in digital format should be included in one USB key, and returned by post to:

Secretariat General of the Council of Europe

Council of Europe Landscape Convention

8th Session of the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe

F-67075 STRASBOURG, Cedex

- Text (20 pages max.): *PDF format*
- Photos (10 max.): *JPEG 350 dpi high definition*
- Posters (2 max.): *PDF format high definition or JPEG 350 dpi high definition*
- Video (15 min max.): *mpeg 2 format - It is recommended to present a video (even of amateur quality).*

*