

Concept of the Landscape Policy of Slovenia

Synopsis of the project *Protection and development of Slovenian Landscape: Starting points for landscape policy* for nomination for the *Landscape Award of the Council of Europe*

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FOREWORD

The Concept of the Landscape Policy presented in this publication is the result of the efforts made over several years by the profession to lay the grounds for a more relevant protection, planning and management of Slovenian landscapes. These efforts were summarised, supplemented, and systematised in the project, Protection and Development of the Slovenian Landscape: Starting points for drafting the Landscape Policy, designed by the Slovenian Association of Landscape Architects (SALA) in cooperation with the Institute for Spatial Policies IPoP and CIPRA Slovenia, the association for the protection of the Alps, and with the support of the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning in the years 2018-2019.

The landscape is one of the most visible features of a country, the result of activities of many generations, our pride and development resource. Good knowledge of the condition and processes in the landscape, understanding of its significance for cultural, social, and economic development, and concerted action by all stakeholders, are key to quality landscape protection, planning and management, as well as in the interests of both the country and all its population. This is why we need landscape policy. Changes are the defining feature of the landscape. The desire to manage these changes has always been the reason for deliberate efforts to preserve the economic, natural, cultural, and social values of the landscape. With the development of environmental protection, these efforts were systematically implemented in the form of landscape (protection) planning, which Slovenia was among the first in the world to put into effect, by incorporating it into spatial legislation and practice. The Spatial Planning Act from 1984 was internationally considered a good example of a comprehensive integration of protection and development planning, and in 2001, Slovenia was one of the first signatories of the European Landscape Convention.

This period of constructive development of the profession was followed by numerous interferences with legislation, which had reduced the possibilities for effective landscape planning, protection, and management. Already a decade ago, the experts began pointing out that the consequences were increasingly evident in the Slovenian landscape, which was rapidly changing for the worse. The Department of Landscape Architecture at the Biotechnical Faculty of the University of Ljubljana organised an international conference, Landscape Policy of Slovenia (2012); the group Acting responsibly to the space! publicly pointed out the necessity to develop a landscape policy in the document, Culture of Space and Construction Now! (2016), and SALA organised several public professional discussions on the situation in landscaping, managing to arouse the interest of four Ministries key to landscaping, which in 2018 endorsed SALA's proposal that the Government of the Republic of Slovenia should launch the Landscape policy preparation process. As part of the call for proposals for NGOs, the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning commissioned SALA to develop a project, the outcome of which is summarised in this publication. A more detailed look into the expert materials, reports on thematic workshops and meetings of the interministerial working group, as well as numerous parallel activities and events, is available on the information website krajinskapolitika.si.

INTRODUCTION: FROM ANALYSES TO CONCEPT

Background and purpose

Variiegated history, culture and nature have created an exceptionally diverse landscape in the small territory of the Earth that we call Slovenia. **The Slovenian landscape 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 state of the landscape and challenges of the future require coordinated landscape protection, planning and management under the auspices of landscape policy. Recognising this and the fact that Slovenia is internationally identifiable precisely because of its diverse and quality landscape, the Slovenian Association of Landscape Architects, in cooperation with partners, the Institute for Spatial Policies (IPoP) and CIPRA Slovenia, the association for the protection of the Alps, has carried out the project **Protection and Development of the Slovenian Landscape: Starting points for drafting the Landscape Policy**, co-financed by the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning, in which a proposal for an integrated approach to managing landscape was formulated in collaboration with numerous stakeholders. The manifold results of the project were combined into the concept of the Landscape Policy of Slovenia, which is presented hereinafter. The purpose of the project was:

- to prepare the scientific basis for drafting and implementing the Landscape Policy;
- to involve the professional public in formulating proposals for Landscape Policy objectives and measures; and
- to raise public awareness of the importance of the protection and development of the Slovenian landscape.¹

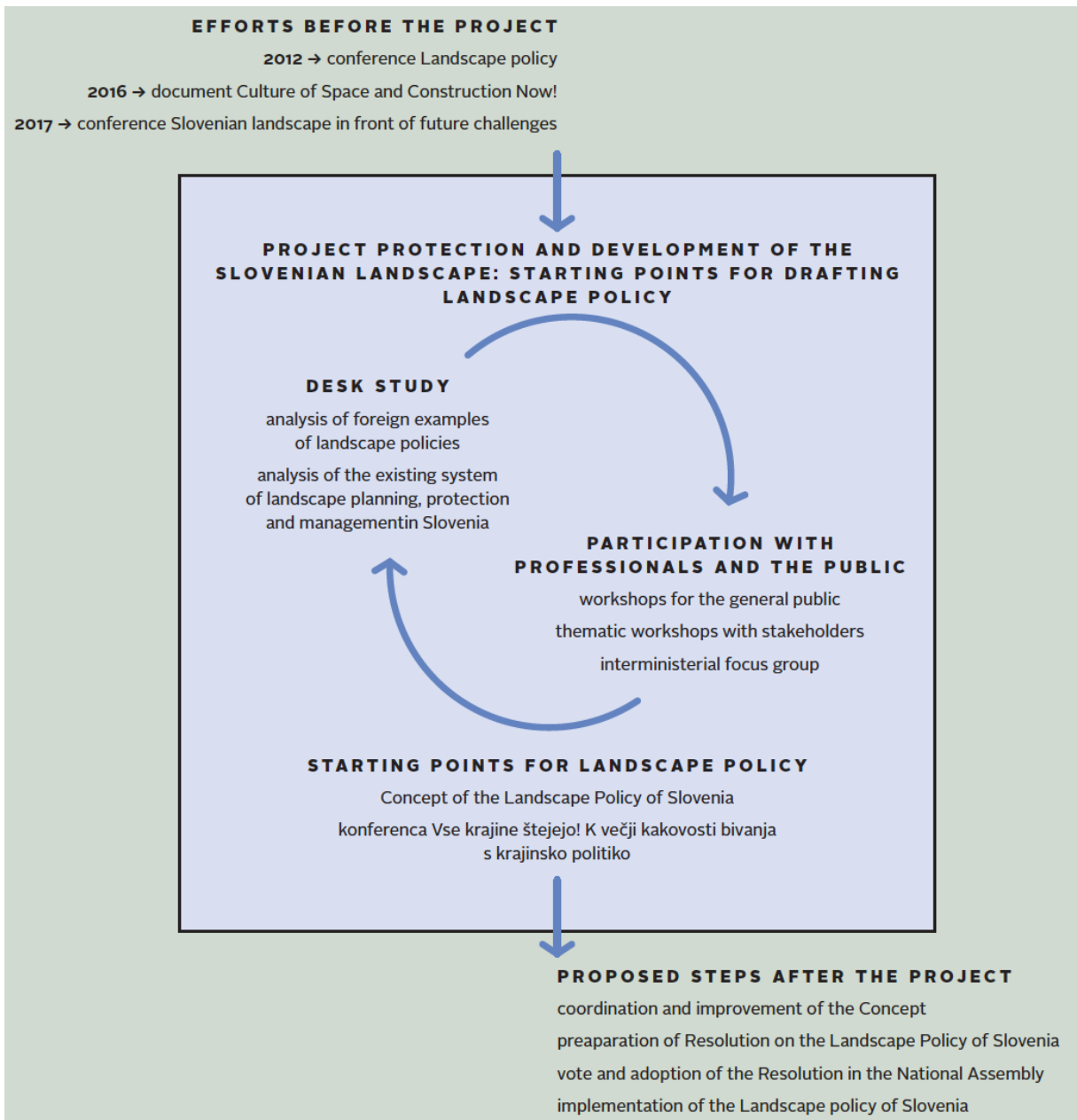
Workflow

The basic principle of the project work stems from the fact that the landscape is an interweaving of many different factors, and a sphere where various interests meet. Consequently, landscape management can be successful only if carried out in a manner agreed by a wide range of actors.

The basis for discussions in the workshops was the **Analysis of the existing system of landscape planning, protection and management in Slovenia** and the **Analysis of foreign examples of landscape policy**. The findings of both analyses have been verified, complemented and evaluated in workshops with different groups of participants. Implementation of the project was monitored by an **interministerial focus group** composed of representatives of ministries which are traditionally linked to landscape. At the beginning of the project, the interministerial focus group presented recommendations for its implementation, and evaluated and commented on the results at the project's conclusion. On a proposal from the interministerial focus group, four **thematic workshops** were conducted, aimed at identifying problems which the participants encounter with regard to landscape management, and the potential solutions. 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.

¹ The complete material prepared of the project is available at <http://www.krajinskapolitika.si>.

While preparing the concept special attention was given to consideration of why we need the Landscape Policy in the form of a formal state document. The review of foreign examples of landscape policies shows that countries take different approaches to implementing them – through specific rules, landscape concepts and strategies, and directly through spatial planning processes –, depending mainly on particular cultural, political and spatial planning tradition. In the light of experience, and discussions with stakeholders, we believe that adoption of a resolution on the Landscape Policy is the first necessary step towards ensuring integral landscape management. We propose that the Landscape Policy of Slovenia should be 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. **The Landscape Policy is not only a spatial planning policy, but a very broad concept connecting actors from very diverse fields, and with very diverse attitudes to the landscape. It may not serve only the purposes of particular interest groups but has to give priority to the landscape in all its entirety – for all of us who live and work within it and consider it our own.**



Workflow with efforts before the project and proposed future steps after the project

Landscape Policy of Slovenia as a system and a formal document

We understand the Landscape Policy of Slovenia (hereinafter also referred to as: the Landscape Policy) as a broad systemic framework for the functioning of society in the field of landscape, based on a social agreement and consensus on the system of values and development goals, as well as on modes of operation in the field of landscape protection, planning and management. It is a series of different but harmonised and well-connected activities, stemming from commitments laid down in individual strategic documents, legal provisions, action plans, frameworks of operation at different levels of spatial planning, (inter)ministerial programmes, agreements and coordination, publicly available data and research findings, and targeted projects. Thus, the Landscape Policy as such, becomes an expression of the political will to respect the values of the population and the international commitments, and most of all, to fulfil a wide range of needs of Slovenian society for effective landscape protection, planning and management.

When the project “Protection and Development of the Slovenian Landscape: Starting points for drafting the Landscape Policy” was being prepared, a proposal matured to draft and adopt the “Landscape Policy of Slovenia” as a general social consensus on landscape protection, planning and management, incorporating basic starting points and commitments:

- to heighten the meaning of landscape in society and to have a right to enjoy a quality landscape;
- to establish a comprehensive landscape protection, planning and management system;
- to manage landscape responsibly, reflecting its importance to society;
- to maintain and raise the quality of the Slovenian landscape;
- to ensure a systemically regulated, coherent and coordinated action of all stakeholders in relation to landscape protection, planning and management, which will lead to increased efficiency of such action;
- to promote and raise landscape awareness.

The Landscape Policy of Slovenia shall enter into force by means of a formal document – presumably a resolution, which will be adopted by the National Assembly on a proposal from the Government of the RS. The document has to demonstrate unambiguous political support and be sufficiently specific, it must include the estimate of the situation and measures for implementation and start of the policy outlined, which can lead to remedying the situation. The Landscape Policy of Slovenia, together with the **action plan** (most likely for a period of five years), is a living system that develops and responds to the current situation.

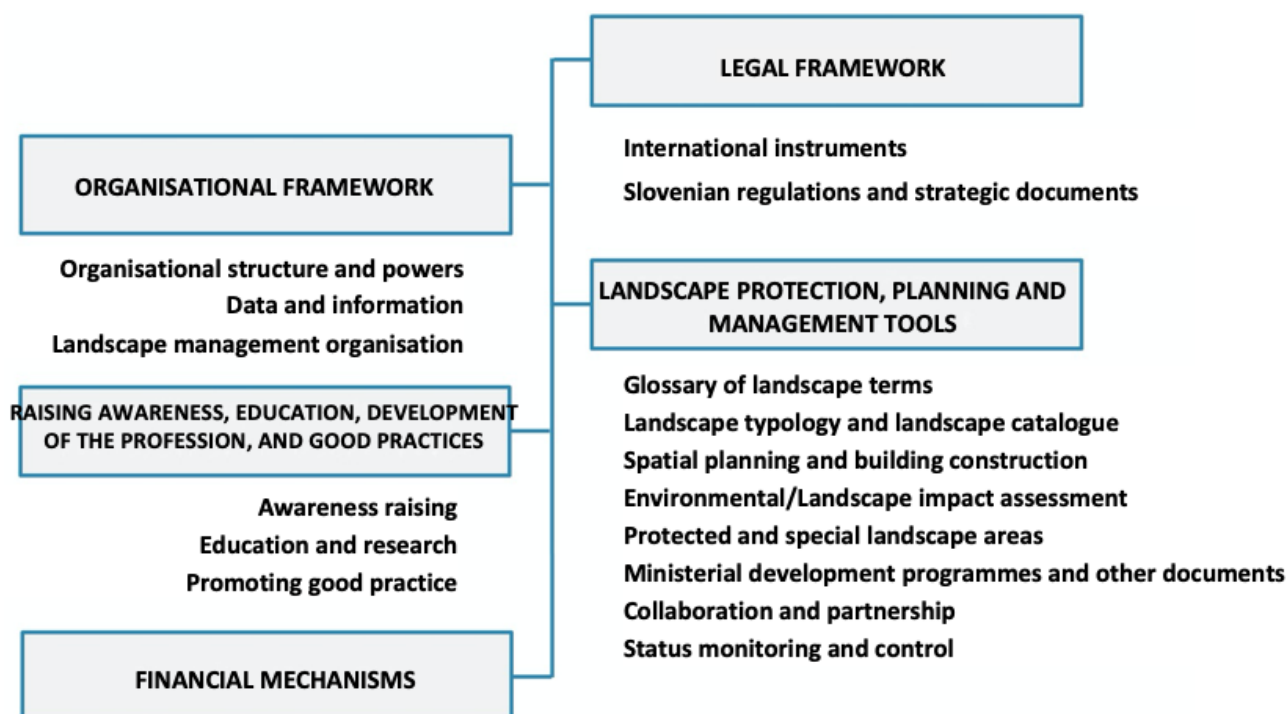
PROPOSED CONTENT OF THE DOCUMENT: “LANDSCAPE POLICY OF SLOVENIA: THE LANDSCAPE PROTECTION, PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT SYSTEM”

Introductory note

The structure follows the proposed system of landscape protection, planning and management. The content is organised into three basic sections:

- The introductory section comprises the purpose, objectives, fundamental principles and other basic definitions.
- The middle section is divided into five policy/system pillars: 1) legal framework, 2) organisational framework, 3) landscape protection, planning and management tools, 4) raising awareness, education, development of the profession and good practices, involving the general public in creating a quality landscape, and 5) financial mechanisms.
- The last section comprises an action plan.

Below is a summary of the contents proposed as the content of the document Landscape Policy of Slovenia. A more detailed overview is provided in the reports of the project Protection and Development of the Slovenian Landscape: Starting points for drafting the Landscape Policy.²



A proposal for the structure of a landscape protection, planning and management system

² <http://www.krajinskapolitika.si>

1 PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE LANDSCAPE POLICY OF SLOVENIA

1.1 Purpose of the Landscape Policy of Slovenia

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.

Landscape policy, in accordance with the European Landscape Convention, means “an expression by the competent public authorities of general principles, strategies and guidelines that permit the taking of specific measures aimed at the protection, management and planning of landscapes”.

1.2 Slovenian landscape – state, needs and opportunities

The spatial diversity of Slovenia, which lies at the intersection of the Alps, the Mediterranean, the Pannonian Plain, and the Dinarides, is one of the most recognisable features of our country. In a relatively small territory of our country, human beings have been adapting to the climate, geomorphology and biodiversity over the millennia and actively managing the living conditions. The impact of human action on the natural environment has yielded an extremely diverse cultural landscape. In the future, we will also increasingly face challenges related to climate change, the protection of agricultural land, and the use of renewable energy sources, which will significantly modify the landscape in all dimensions.

1.3 Objectives – What does Landscape Policy bring?

In the process of analysis and communication with project stakeholders (especially in thematic workshops), the starting points have been formulated, serving as the basis for defining the objectives of Slovenia's Landscape Policy:

1 HEIGHTENING CARE FOR THE LANDSCAPE AS A GUARANTEE FOR AN INCREASED QUALITY OF LIVING, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND STRENGTHENING OF NATIONAL IDENTITY

1.1 We will 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.

1.2 We will contribute to the implementation of the objectives of Slovenia's 2030 Development Strategy, which highlight healthy and active living, a decent life for all, a competitive and socially responsible business and research sector, a low carbon circular economy, the sustainable management of natural resources, a trustworthy legal system, and a secure and globally responsible Slovenia, so that we will preserve and develop a quality landscape.

- 1.3 **We will contribute to the conservation/enhancement of natural resources and processes in the landscape** by strengthening the efforts to conserve nature and cultural heritage, ensuring sustainable food production, mitigating flood risk, and **above all, the effects of climate change**, thus facilitating the **implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**.
 - 1.4 **We will contribute to creating a better society** by stressing the importance of the landscape and its diversity for the minds and bodies of human beings, as well as for societies, and promote the landscape in the system of values and individual and national identities, and thus to exercise human rights – including the right to enjoy quality landscapes.
 - 1.5 **We will treat all landscapes with care**, we will not confine ourselves to specific areas in the treatment of landscape, we will address landscape as a whole, thus going beyond the current sectoral approach, and in this way, establish the principle that **all landscapes count**.
- 2 **UPDATING REGULATIONS AND STRATEGIC DOCUMENTS TO IMPLEMENT COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTIONS AND GLOBAL COMMITMENTS TO LANDSCAPE**
 - 2.1 **We will fulfil the commitments referred to in the European Landscape Convention (2001) and the Alpine Convention (1991): The “Nature Protection and Landscape Conservation” Protocol (2002)**, thus joining the efforts of European countries in the field of landscape protection, management and planning.
 - 2.2 **We will form the basis for further drafting, amending and supplementing spatial, construction and sectoral legislation on addressing the landscape**, so that the landscape will be given an adequate legal recognition and role.
 - 2.3 **The landscape will become an important component of all levels of society and its development**, as a socially recognised category. Landscape planning, protection and management contents will become an integral part of all relevant strategic development documents, and will be properly addressed and discussed.
- 3 **IMPLEMENTING AN EFFECTIVE LANDSCAPE PROTECTION, PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**
 - 3.1 **All efforts related to landscape protection, planning and management will be systemically regulated** and directed in a coordinated manner within the Landscape Service, which will connect and target the actions of the various stakeholders as a continuous, coordinated action of the state, regional initiatives and local communities.
 - 3.2 **We will increase the responsibility and the active role of the state in the enforcement of the ELC and Landscape Policy at all levels**, so that the Landscape Service will be assigned the role of the landscape planning authority (guidelines, opinions, stances on interventions, instructions for landscape evaluation, proposed legislative amendments, etc.) and will lay down, in conjunction with the ministries whose scope relates to the landscape, operational targets at the planning and management levels.
 - 3.3 **We will enforce the systematic monitoring of the landscape’s state, trends and changes** throughout the country.
 - 3.4 **We will collect all landscape-related information in a single place**, in one institution (Landscape Service) and on one website; the information will be freely accessible to the public and also available in the English language.

4 PROVIDING EXPERT FOUNDATIONS FOR THE PROTECTION, PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT OF LANDSCAPE AND QUALITY SPATIAL SOLUTIONS

- 4.1 We will organise terminology**, elaborate and regularly update the Glossary of landscape terms, with explanations of the basic concepts related to the landscape, with the aim of standardising technical terminology.
- 4.2 We will prepare a landscape typology/catalogue** (online application) so that landscape categorisation, typology, and evaluation will provide the basis for operation. Data on landscape typology and outstanding landscapes will be updated and publicly available.
- 4.3 We will prepare instructions and guidelines and build good practice** to ensure that the landscape is properly addressed, with the Landscape Service providing guidance, recommendations, manuals, and model examples for dealing with landscape in spatial planning, design and environmental impact assessment and management (especially for newly introduced documents), and promptly assessing good (and bad) practice examples.
- 4.4 We will integrate the starting points of the Landscape Policy into ministerial policies/programmes and ensure the synergy of ministerial measures** at all levels of landscape planning, protection and management, while ministries will follow landscape policy principles and provide for mutual coordination from strategic level to operational implementation.

5 RAISING AWARENESS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE LANDSCAPE FOR INCLUSIVE SOCIETY

- 5.1 We will highlight the importance of education, awareness-raising, and public involvement in landscape management**, increase the awareness of the people about the importance of the landscape, provide education for stakeholders and spatial planners, integrate the landscape into the education system (primary and secondary schools), boost the presence of landscape content in the media, and link the efforts of individuals, societies, chambers, and faculties.

6 PROVIDING RESOURCES FOR IMPLEMENTING MEASURES, AND THUS ACHIEVING LANDSCAPE OBJECTIVES

- 6.1 We will develop a financial framework for landscape management**, set up a public fund for landscape, and we will designate public or private funding and other resources, such as tourist taxes or other activities and fees. Financial support/incentives from ministries will also be established (in connection with awareness-raising) as a commitment to the protection, maintenance and integrated management of landscapes.

2 FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES AND THE DESIRED STATE OF THE LANDSCAPE

Fundamental principles

The fundamental principles (guidelines) of the Landscape Policy underpin its primary vision – the creation of a solid, comprehensive, lasting, and at the same time, responsive, well-coordinated and inclusive system of landscape protection, management and planning. The Landscape Policy defines procedural principles for landscape protection, management and planning, and defines/formalises tools:

- the protection of the landscape by adopting and implementing the acts regulating the protection of individual areas, and by integrating protection-oriented definitions in spatial planning acts;
- the management of the landscape through the day-to-day use of land, with prescribed management plans, development programmes and projects, financial measures and land policy;
- landscape planning carried out through the preparation and adoption of spatial planning and implementing acts; these are derived from the relevant expert bases, and determine the planned land use, the allocation of land, and the implementation of activities in the landscape, serving as the direct basis for the preparation of design solutions based on which permits for land development are issued.

Desired state of the landscape

In accordance with Article 6.d of the ELC, each Party undertakes *“to define landscape quality objectives for the landscapes identified and assessed, after public consultation in accordance with Article 5.c”*. **The document defines the desired state of the landscape at strategic/national level, meaning that it answers the fundamental question, *What kind of landscape do we want?*”, which is considered in the preparation of all strategic planning acts and ministerial documents.** The desired state of the landscape is expressed as a general objective or postulate (starting point, requirement, basic principle), which at the same time directs activities (analytical, planning, regulation, management), so as to make this state a reality. For the process to be successful and to properly define the desired state of the Slovenian landscape, it is necessary to consult the public or all relevant stakeholders.

3 LEGAL FRAMEWORK

International instruments

The Landscape Policy must lead to the recognition or acknowledgement of landscapes in law (Article 5.a of the ELC) and the transposition to ministerial policies (Article 5.d of the ELC), and other regulations that directly or indirectly relate to the landscape, so as to at least maintain, if not exceed, the achieved level of compliance with the ELC in the future.

Landscape definition in legislation

To provide for a more comprehensive treatment of the landscape and the exercising of an individual's right to a quality living environment, as well as the strengthening of national identity, it would be reasonable for the landscape to become a constitutional category.

With consistent advocacy of integrated spatial planning, an Act on landscape protection, management and planning, would be the most promising option to provide the legal basis for unifying and upgrading expert work, and the measures for more efficient landscape management at all levels. However, more realistic is to upgrade existing regulations on spatial planning and construction, as well as other regulations governing activities affecting the landscape (nature conservation, protection of the cultural landscape, agricultural measures) to provide clearer requirements for addressing the landscape at all levels of landscape protection, management and planning.

Landscape as the subject of strategic documents

In line with the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers (Recommendation CM/Rec (2008) 3 ..., 2008), which specifically highlight the definition of landscape strategies, in most European countries, the landscape is the subject of strategic documents, and thus included in various (inter)ministerial programmes, agreements, research and projects, and guidelines. **Since Slovenia does not have such a document, it is crucial that the Spatial Development Strategy of Slovenia, as hierarchically the ultimate spatial document, addresses landscape – in addition to settlement and infrastructure – as one of the three interconnected and intertwined spatial systems.** Otherwise, it would be necessary to adopt a **National Landscape Strategy** as the formal strategic landscape framework.

4 ORGANISATIONAL FRAMEWORK

4.1 Organisational structure and responsibilities for implementing the Landscape Policy

As regards the Landscape Policy implementation, it is determined which bodies with public mandate perform the tasks of a landscape planning authority in spatial planning, and who are the other stakeholders assigned the tasks and responsibilities for implementing the ELC and the Landscape Policy, and their mutual relations and manner of cooperation are defined. The stakeholders in landscape protection, management and planning are:

- **The Ministry** competent for integrated landscape management or the national landscape specialist service, which plays the leading role in shaping the country's landscape policy, manages the process of preparing and adopting resolutions and action plans, and is responsible for implementing the ELC and the Landscape Policy of Slovenia. The optimal organisational form would be a landscape service as an interministerial coordination service for space and construction within the Government of the Republic of Slovenia.
- **Interministerial working group/Landscape Council** at national level: It continues the work of the interministerial working group formed in the framework of preparing the Starting points for drafting the Landscape Policy, and providing for the formulation of strategic guidelines and more comprehensive ministerial documents, as well as the alignment of interests.
- **Institutions and (cross)sectoral national and regional specialised and advisory services:** They are important for the coordination of sectoral measures in practice, in particular because of direct contact with those who actually manage (maintain) the landscape and implement completely concrete solutions.
- **Local communities:** They are considered key stakeholders, owing to their constitutional authority for spatial management, the enforcement of the ELC, and the implementation of the policy at local/operational level.
- **The Chamber of Architecture and Spatial Planning of Slovenia and the Slovenian Chamber of Engineers:** They provide professional training and highly ethical expert work; they are crucial for the development of the profession and good practices.
- **Societies** pursuing the public interest in the field of spatial planning, environmental protection, nature conservation, cultural heritage protection, water management, and other professional societies: They play an important role in the development of the profession, raising public awareness and advocating the public interest due to their socio-critical stance in the preparation of systemic solutions and in specific (environmentally/spatially controversial) situations.
- **Higher education institutions, vocational colleges and secondary schools,** especially those in the field of spatial planning, landscape architecture, urbanism, architecture, agronomy, forestry, geography, civil engineering, etc.: They hold an important place in the organisational structure because of education, knowledge development (high, secondary, elementary, formal – informal) and research work.

4.2 Data and information

By organising an appropriate Landscape Service, all landscape-related information would be collected in a single institution, which would also coordinate all key (interministerial) tasks and contribute to a more efficient transfer of national policies to lower administrative levels.

4.3 Landscape management organisation

Landscape is managed by many diverse actors carrying out work and tasks. The sectors operating in landscape have at their disposal different financial mechanisms. It is therefore necessary to improve the coordination of the implementation of works and tasks in landscape management practice at all management levels, throughout the territory of the country/regions/municipalities.

5 LANDSCAPE PROTECTION, PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT TOOLS

5.1 Glossary of landscape terms

Appropriate terminology is the basis for the operation of any area of expertise. Due to the different, and in some cases even misleading, use of landscape terms in sectoral regulations and practice, misunderstandings, misconception or misinterpretation occur in spatial planning and management processes, leading to difficult harmonisation across a wide area of spatial planning.

5.2 Landscape typology and landscape catalogue

By producing the **Regional Distribution of Landscape Types of Slovenia** (1998), Slovenia became one of the first European countries to recognise and evaluate its landscape throughout the country. Since the landscape is a living organism, this material, which has also been exemplary in an international context, and is among the most used in the context of spatial planning and environmental impact assessment, is outdated and needs to be updated and upgraded, and should constitute one of the input data items for sectoral strategies and programmes. It has been suggested to use the phrase “landscape catalogue”, following the example of naming such tools in Europe.

5.3 Spatial planning and building construction

Spatial planning is a crucial tool for landscape protection, planning and management. **It is necessary to define an appropriate landscape framework, the basic requirements and content in the context of providing a comprehensive spatial planning system for both spatial planning and building construction.** This would result in going beyond the narrow ministry-oriented planning, improving interministerial coordination, ensuring a more appropriate evaluation and regulation of the landscape as well as prevent partially solving locally constrained development problems.

5.4 Environmental/Landscape impact assessment

While environmental regulations provide for a (comprehensive) landscape impact assessment, a comprehensive/strategic environmental impact assessment (SEA), which could serve as a good landscape protection tool, is nowadays poorly utilised and rather ineffective in this area. **There is no competent landscape planning authority to issue an opinion on the appropriateness of environmental reports and the acceptability of plan impacts specific to landscape. Therefore, in environmental impact assessments, attention paid to landscape is marginal, and landscape is neglected and inadequately addressed.**

5.5 Protected and special landscape areas

Landscape protection is primarily provided in the spatial planning process and through the provisions of spatial planning documents. Considering the analytical findings related to the situation in the Slovenian landscape and in planning and management practice, landscape protection should be established (standardised, formal) by defining protected areas and special landscape areas, which must be taken into account in spatial planning and environmental impact assessment, as well as in authorising interventions in the landscape and landscape management.

5.6 Sectoral development programmes and other documents

Ministries or individual sectors are involved in spatial planning and construction processes, as landscape planning authorities providing their guidelines and opinions, as well as development initiatives and programmes, and through their actions and activities, additionally contribute to landscape. **The need for the effective coordination of ministries in the spatial planning and landscape management procedures is becoming increasingly evident in practice.** Management is essential for the implementation of the provisions of the spatial plans and landscape protection conditions, and the goals and principles enshrined in the strategic documents of the state, regions, and local communities.

In order to achieve the desired state of landscape, it is necessary to develop guidelines for targeting the measures of ministries and sectors operating in the field of landscape, at maintaining landscape quality and rehabilitating degraded areas, as well as the guidelines for evaluating the landscape, directing spatial development, and coordinating the planning and implementation of ministerial actions.

5.7 Collaboration and partnerships

Based on the public consultations already carried out in the framework of preparing the Starting points for drafting the Landscape Policy, and on the basis of targeted consultations in the process of adopting the document on Landscape Policy, all important contents of Landscape Policy are defined, and in particular the desired state of Slovenian landscapes, which should thus become a joint commitment of all stakeholders. Particular attention is given to identifying the starting points for more active involvement of local communities in addressing landscape content, disseminating the importance of landscape and proper management to achieve the desired state of landscape. Of key importance is the constructive and voluntary cooperation of individual (public and private) agents in landscape protection, planning and management, who can also formalise such cooperation by agreement – such a collaboration tool, for example, is known in Catalonia.³

5.8 Monitoring and control

Good knowledge of the state of the environment is a prerequisite for designing and monitoring the effectiveness of measures in all areas. In Slovenia, monitoring of the situation at national, regional, or local level is not yet fully developed, and is implemented in practice in a very curtailed form. An important shift in this area comes with ZUreP-2, which stipulates a system for monitoring the state of spatial development and the preparation of a report on spatial development every four years. Therefore, the obligation to monitor the situation, the dynamics of issuing reports, and the indicators for monitoring the landscape situation are determined.

³ <http://www.catpaisatge.net/monlocal/eng/cartes.php>

6 RAISING AWARENESS, EDUCATION, DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROFESSION AND GOOD PRACTICES

6.1 Awareness-raising

Key programmes and methods of raising public awareness are defined, both on the basis of the methods prescribed in the administrative procedures in which the public participates (e.g. public display of spatial planning documents), and through media announcements. The implementation of specific projects to raise awareness of the importance of landscape as a common good, and of responsible management, is encouraged, taking into account the experience with successful projects of this type, such as the project “We are making our landscape (2004-2005)”.

6.2 Education and research

Promoting better integration of landscape issues into educational processes (primary and secondary schools) and into the creation of a value system for the general public. Paying special attention to educating the professional public and familiarising it with good practice examples, so as to provide for comprehensive knowledge, understanding of natural and social processes, the principles of landscape planning, etc. at all levels of landscape planning, protection and management.

6.3 Promotion, examples of good practice, rewards

Examples of good practice are promoted in the professional and general public, and made publicly available. A Landscape Service is established in this field as the main activity operator, which is responsible for the on-going evaluation and publication of good practice examples in spatial planning, environmental impact assessment and design, and ensures promotion (e.g. through media coverage, either by exposing good practice or critiquing bad practice) and the rewarding of best practices.

7 FINANCIAL MECHANISMS

In accordance with the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers related to the creation of public funds for landscape, financial mechanisms for landscape planning, protection and management are set up. **Appropriate financial mechanisms and methods of stakeholder involvement should be determined**, e.g. the promotion of public and/or private financing and other sources, such as lottery funds, allocating a part of the investment amount in infrastructural facilities, tourist taxes or charges related to public works, and contractual protection, common documents, etc. Taking into account the guidelines for the management of protected and special landscape areas, the financial support/incentives, nowadays known chiefly in the context of agricultural policies, nature conservation and climate policies, are becoming a commitment to the protection, maintenance and comprehensive management of landscape.

8 ACTION PLAN FOR 2020–2025

The proposal for priority actions for the first five-year period (2020–2025) are the following:

- Upgrading the landscape website, designating a manager and establishing regular management (2020)
- Developing general guidelines for landscape planning, protection and management (2021)
- Producing a guide for landscape management in spatial planning and environmental impact assessment (2021)
- Updating the Regional Distribution of Landscape Types in Slovenia, and transforming it into an online application (2020–2024)
- Defining the set of outstanding landscapes and their formal protection (2020–2022)
- Setting up a system of financial mechanisms (2020–2025)
- Educating and raising the awareness of the importance (of planning, protection and management) of the landscape (2020-2025)

CONCLUSION: FROM CONCEPT TO RESOLUTION

The material “The Concept of the Landscape Policy of Slovenia”, together with other materials prepared within the project provide the **scientific basis for drafting the Landscape Policy of Slovenia**. Its adoption and implementation are expected to bring about significant shifts in understanding the importance of the landscape for the development of society and an improved situation in the field of **landscape protection, planning and management**. Its implementation requires the launch of the preparation process, which will lead to the final adoption of the formal document and to the appropriate organisational framework, thus enabling Slovenia to become one of the European countries actively pursuing the objectives of the European Landscape Convention.

The formulation of the Landscape Policy of Slovenia must be devised as a process that requires broad coordination and support from various stakeholders in all segments of society.