



***FOURTEEN COUNCIL OF EUROPE MEETING
OF THE WORKSHOPS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION***

***Council of Europe Landscape Award Forum
of National Selections
3rd Session 2012-2013***

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EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION

Council of Europe Landscape Award

CONVENTION EUROPEENNE DU PAYSAGE

Prix du paysage du Conseil de l'Europe

Session 3
– 2012-2013 –

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Council of Europe

Resolution CM/Res(2008)3 on the rules governing the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe

The Committee of Ministers,... recalling that Article 11 of the European Landscape Convention,... institutes the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe...

Résolution CM/Res(2008)3 sur le règlement relatif au Prix du paysage du Conseil de l'Europe

Le Comité des Ministres,... rappelant que l'article 11 de la Convention européenne du paysage,... institue le Prix du paysage du Conseil de l'Europe...

Considering that the award is in keeping with the work done by the Council of Europe in favour of human rights, democracy and sustainable development and that it promotes the territorial dimension of human rights and democracy by acknowledging the importance of measures taken to improve the landscape features of people's living conditions;

Convinced that the award is intended to heighten civil society's awareness of the value of landscapes, of their role and of changes to them...

Estimant que le prix s'inscrit dans la lignée du travail accompli par le Conseil de l'Europe en faveur des droits de l'homme, de la démocratie et du développement durable, et qu'il met en valeur la dimension territoriale des droits de l'homme et de la démocratie, en reconnaissant l'importance des mesures prises pour améliorer les caractéristiques paysagères du cadre de vie des populations ;

Convaincu que le prix est de nature à accroître la sensibilisation de la société civile à la valeur des paysages, à leur rôle et à leur transformation...

Criteria for conferring the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe

Criterion 1 – Sustainable territorial development

Criterion 2 – Exemplary value

Criterion 3 – Public participation

Criterion 4 – Awareness-raising

Critères d'attribution du Prix du paysage du Conseil de l'Europe

Critère 1 – Développement territorial durable

Critère 2 – Exemplarité

Critère 3 – Participation du public

Critère 4 – Sensibilisation

NATIONAL LANDSCAPE AWARD / PRIX NATIONAL DU PAYSAGE

Session 3

1. Belgium / *Belgique*
2. Czech Republic / *République tchèque*
3. Finland / *Finlande*
4. *France*
5. Hungary / *Hongrie*
6. Ireland / *Irlande*
7. Italy / *Italie*
8. Latvia / *Lettonie*
9. Lithuania / *Lituanie*
10. Netherlands / *Pays-Bas*
11. Poland / *Pologne*
12. *Portugal*
13. Romania / *Roumanie*
14. Serbia / *Serbie*
15. Slovakia / *Slovaquie*
16. Slovenia / *Slovénie*
17. Spain / *Espagne*
18. United Kingdom / *Royaume-Uni*



1.

Belgium / *Belgique*

Hoge Kempen National Park

In the early 1990's, the situation in the Hoge Kempen region was as follows: the four present coalmines were closing and the landscape was intersected by roads and fragmented due to poor spatial planning. Several smaller nature reserves existed in the area but were separated from each other.

The Hoge Kempen National Park (started in 1998, opened in 2006) turned this situation around. It is the framework that brings together every stakeholder or involved party. It is the tool for spatial and visual unification of the several nature reserves to a 5,700 ha joined heath land and forest area. It is a leverage for the integration of local economical activities and the employment chance for socially vulnerable people. It is the blossoming of biodiversity, integrated landscape quality and sustainable tourism. It is a supported bottom-up approach.

2.

Czech Republic / *République tchèque*

**Environmental education in the town of Strakonice
year by year or**

“Pilgrimage through the Contemplative Landscape”



The nominated ecological/educational project Town of Strakonice is a set of interrelated one-year thematic sub-projects (cycles) focusing on the countryside and ecology. There have been eleven cycles in succession up to 2012.

The sub-projects demonstrate, in natural/cultural/historical terms, the uniqueness of the countryside of the Strakonicko, Blatensko and Vodňansko districts and, as regards to a holistic sustainable development, the need to protect and functionally use the countryside as a mutually interlinked and influenced set, enabling, with the correct approach and understanding, quality, healthy and satisfactory life for its inhabitants.

Over the long term, through its comprehensive nature, the project will increase general awareness about the South Bohemian Region and will help people gain healthy self-confidence and respect for the place where they were born and where they live.

Every thematic cycle is accompanied by a quotation from the book *Země zamyšlená* ("Land Contemplative") (1st issue 1947) by local national artist Ladislav Stehlík, which functions as a guideline through the whole project. Comparisons between this text, which is over fifty years old, and the situation today provide an inspirational view of the historical development.

3.

Finland / Finlande

The Landscape Projects of the Hyyppä Valley



Several projects implemented by applicants has created major, long-term landscape maintenance through several projects.

The Establishment of the Hyyppä Valley Landscape Conservation Area is the base project which has achieved the following:

- A Preservation Plan which includes definitions of the special landscape features and values, and numerous illustrated instructions for preservation actions.
- Co-operation and confidence building among the 1200 landowners and villagers, the local municipality, regional and state authorities, specialist organisations, enterprises, international volunteers and local associations.
- 41.5 ha of landscape operations have been implemented.
- Permanent action groups for landscape maintenance and discussion forum for villagers, associations and authorities have been established.
- A juridical Landscape Conservations Area in Hyyppä has been founded by the Ministry of Environment, in the autumn of 2009.

4.

France

Grand Pré Park / *Parc du Grand Pré*



Contemporary park in the small town of Langueux. Grand Pré Park links the village center to Saint Brieuc and the wide horizons of the Yffignac Bay.

The project creates a strong and friendly place that features elegant views in a new urbanity. Today, the city, fragmented by suburban housing, has a new urban quality. This is expressed on the one hand through a social project, which gives its place in a public space that generates diversity and exchanges between people, and secondly, through composed views and materials that recreate the visual relationship with the surrounding landscape and landmarks.

Grand Pré Park becomes the new centrality of a city in the making.

Parc contemporain au sein de la petite ville de Langueux, le Parc du Grand Pré constitue le maillon permettant de relier le centre-bourg aux grèves de Saint Brieuc et aux grands horizons de la Baie d'Yffignac.

Le projet crée un lieu fort et de convivialité qui intègre avec élégance une salle de spectacle dans une urbanité nouvelle. La ville, morcelée par un habitat pavillonnaire, trouve aujourd'hui une nouvelle qualité urbaine. Celle-ci s'exprime d'une part à travers un projet social, qui redonne toute sa place à un espace public générateur de mixité et d'échanges entre les habitants, et d'autre part, à travers un travail de composition fondé sur les vues et les matériaux permettant de recréer des relations visuelles avec le paysage alentour, et des points de repère.

Le parc du Grand Pré devient ainsi la nouvelle centralité d'une ville en devenir.

5.

Hungary / *Hongrie*

**Complex landscape rehabilitation and development
program in the Gerecse Mountains and
the Által Creek Valley**



The Association for the Restoration and Development of the Által Creek Valley was established in 1995 in order to promote the preservation and sustainable utilisation of the environment and rich natural/cultural heritage of the Által Creek Valley, a former industrial site struggling with numerous environmental challenges.

Following its initial efforts aimed at protecting water quality, the Association made its activities more complex in 2002 when it decided to embark on the complex rehabilitation and development of the Gerecse Mountains and the Által Creek Valley on the basis of ecological considerations.

An outstanding achievement is the creation of Gerecse Nature Park based on the sustainable utilisation of natural/cultural heritage and born through the joint action of 29 communities in the region and other affected organisations. Consisting of local members, the Association performed all operations from planning to implementation in a systematic manner and with the involvement of other stakeholders.

6.

Ireland / *Irlande*

Bere Island Conservation Plan



The plan was completed in 2002.

The aim of the plan is to shape the sustainable future of the Island.

The Conservation Plan demonstrates the value of a landscape approach to Island management. In line with the European Landscape Convention, the Conservation Plan was developed with the full involvement of the Bere Islanders who were proactive in developing to strategies to protect and manage their landscape. It has resulted in a series of projects inspired by its vision.

The Conservation Plan and its projects are informing and shaping policy at a regional, national and European level. The Conservation Plan has also become a model of best practice for other European islands.

7.

Italy / *Italie*

**The rebirth of Alto Belice Corleonese from the
recovery of land confiscated from
the mafia organisations**



Libera Terra's mission is to re-valorize the lands confiscated from mafia organizations starting from the creation and empowerment of social, independent and rural cooperatives, located on these lands, enabled to sustainably manage their business activities thus also contributing to the creation of induced employment as well as the spreading of a virtuous economic system.

The project determines the valorization of landscape, culture, local identity, material and immaterial heritage based on legality, social justice and responsible and sustainable tourism.

Libera Terra's started in Alto Belice Corleonese regarding the “Placido Rizzotto-Libera Terra Cooperative”. This project concerned the recovery of an area of more than 500 hectares confiscated from mafia organizations and abandoned for many years, as well as rural buildings and historically relevant manor farms.

Libera has promoted a recovery and re-qualification action on the aforesaid assets, focusing particularly on the enhancement in terms of nature maintenance and protection and rural and landscape recovery.

8.

Latvia / Lettonie

Dzintari Forest Park



Jūrmalas forest park has a unique location, because its thirteen hectares wide natural area is located in the centre of Jurmala City.

The park greatest values are its 200 years old pine tree grove and habitats, which are preserved intact till the present day, notwithstanding the rapid development of surrounding areas.

Intensive development of public and living object construction around the nature territory significantly increased the number of visitors before the construction of the park. The idea was to arrange a nature landscape according to the new situation which includes nature into the city's infrastructure.

Dzintari forest park is a vacation and recreation place for everyone to enjoy: the infrastructure objects in the park are evenly distributed along the park territory; the infrastructure objects interconnect through an elevated wooden plank walkway; the most important active recreation element is the roller blade route, which is located in the centre of the park. The skaters and pedestrians are separated by a pedestrian bridge. In the park's territory there are also locations to skateboard and play street ball. In addition, one can enjoy the sightseeing tower and the children's playgrounds.

9.

Lithuania / Lithuanie
U-parks. U-turn we love



Utena is the 10th largest Lithuanian town with a population of 34000 (2012).

In 1960-1990 the industrial town enlarged into the expressive nature landscape (system of rivers, lakes, valleys) in an area of 140 ha. A system was supported which considered nature as being ecologically important, yet its aesthetic and recreational functions were not recognized.

In 1990-1998 the processes of private property restoration and land privatisation proceeded in the whole country. The municipality made great efforts to save these areas as public spaces.

Combining the protection and management of the unique landscape and understanding the recreational potential of the area, Utena District Municipality developed City Gardens in the town centre (2005), in the Krašuona River riverside located in a densely build up residential area (2009), in Dauniškis (2005) and Vyžuona (2010) parks were created as central recreational areas (total area 50 ha).

10.

Netherlands / *Pays-Bas*



**Planning policy for conservation
and sustainable development of
20 National Landscapes
in the Netherlands**

Since 2006 local and regional organisations have joined forces to protect landscape qualities and stimulate sustainable development in the twenty most valuable cultural landscapes in the Netherlands.

Much has been invested in improving recreational facilities and accessibility and in raising public awareness.

Introduced and financially supported in the first years by national government, recently a new non-governmental organisation has been formed to secure protection and management in the future and improve cooperation of all parties involved, including local and regional authorities and private investors.

This organisation is a non-profit foundation (Stichting Nationale Landschappen) with an executive office of its own (Servicenet Nationale Landschappen). New projects are being set up and new ways of financing are being organised.

11.

Poland / *Pologne*

**Preserving ecological value in the landscape
of the Szprotawa river valley**



Conservation of plant communities classified as *Molinion* and *Arrhenatherion elatioris*

Conversion of a former Soviet airbase into wetland meadows covering 500 hectares.

Implementation of measures to raise and maintain groundwater level at the protected site.

Preservation of traditional land management practices on the protected site: polder.

Re-establishment of nesting grounds for aquatic and wetland birds. Removal of Soviet military earthworks.

Interruption of succession by willow trees. Eco-agricultural program and grazing by cattle, sheep and horses.

Re-establishment of the use of meadows for pasturage to preserve low peat bogs.

Long-term vocational activation among the Gypsy population to counter poverty and exclusion.

Preservation of bird sanctuaries European importance E052 species listed in Annex I of the Birds Directive, also from the Polish Red Book.

Conversion of the heating system from traditional coal-based to eco-friendly biomass-based in the headquarters of the Lower Silesian Association of Landscape parks and in the village of Wysoka.

12.

Portugal

Furnas Landscape Laboratory

Furnas LandLab



The intensification of dairy farms in the last decades has lead to the eutrophication of Furnas Lake. Therefore, to restore its water quality a legally binding *Furnas Watershed Plan* took place, aiming at a major change of the soil use. It was a turning point in the landscape management and economic activities of the last decades.

Since 2007 about 300 ha of agricultural land within the watershed were bought by the Azorean Government, which enabled the management team to implement an ambitious plan.

Furnas Landscape Laboratory, a future *multifunctional forest landscape* was created to act as a large experimental ground, pioneer in Azores, to implement new ecological restoration techniques, economical activities and management practices, promoting a wide spread public involvement, to achieve sustainability at all levels (ecologic, economic, social, cultural and aesthetic). Although much has already been achieved and finished since 2007, the project is ongoing with no conclusion date.

13.

Romania / *Roumanie*

**ADEPT – Agricultural Development
and
Environmental Protection**



The Agricultural Development & Environmental Protection (ADEPT) project was implemented by the ADEPT Foundation in the period May 2006-March 2009, financed under the Darwin Initiative and co-financed by Orange Romania and the UK Government (Defra).

The project was initiated in the Târnava Mare area as a response to the threats to the semi-natural landscapes in Southern Transylvania, threats stemming both from land abandonment and agriculture intensification as well as from lack of recognition.

The goal was to facilitate the conservation and traditional management of the Târnava Mare semi-natural landscape, while increasing local benefits through the sustainable use of ecosystems. The project met its targets and developed a wider significance, with impact on national and EU policy towards High Nature Value Farmland (HNVF) areas.

14.

Serbia / *Serbie*

The Gate of Gornje Podunavlje



The main goal of the project is a sustainable development of the whole region through eco and rural tourism development, which includes engagement of the whole local community, causing a social and economic welfare with nature and landscape preservation.

Connection of local culture and historic heritage in harmony with nature and its promotion as an eco and rural tourist destination which provides a social, cultural and aesthetic sustainability. This is also a chance for a new quality development through new ways of nature preservation, tradition preservation and new jobs for a local community.

The project is a partnership between local and regional institutions, non government and civil sector, including the local community.

15.

Slovakia / *Slovaquie*

Salvage, Revival, and Operation of the Forest Railway in Landscape of Cierny Balog



The project *Salvage, Revival, and Operation of the Forest Railway in Landscape of Cierny Balog* was awarded by the Landscape Award of the Slovak Republic 2012 for bringing the people back to their landscape through the revival of a technical monument in the landscape, for restoring the identity of Cierny Balog Region and for retaining its cultural heritage.

The project is an exemplary model on how people can really make a positive change to their decaying landscape element from the bottom up approach. A high number of enthusiasts and volunteers, local citizens, as well as invited experts through combining their enthusiasm, wisdom, memory, efforts, time, expertise, money, planning abilities, and management skills have renewed the original vision: the purpose and the operation of the historic forest railway, which was facing the deliberate extinction by the not appropriate official decision from the last century.

The people were able to persuade everybody, that the forest railway gives the additional value to their landscape as a main artery of their region. The forest railway, a symbol of the sustainable wood cutting practice of the previous generation in the region, represents today the living historic form of the landscape, which has contributed significantly towards the characteristic appearance, new life opportunities, prosperity, and well known reputation of the Cierny Hron Valley in Slovakia.

16.

Slovenia / *Slovénie*

**Landscape and water-management restoration
of Škocjanski zatok Nature Reserve**



The project was aiming to recreate the typical coastal wetland landscape of Škocjanski zatok Nature Reserve, the largest brackish wetland in Slovenia, after the past degradation in the 1980s.

It is resulting in the restored semi-natural coastal wetland ecosystem, landscape and its natural processes, thus posing remedy to the environmental burdens from the past, in conservation and enhancement of the typical brackish and freshwater habitats supporting fauna and flora of EU and national importance with strong exemplary value, and in the organisation of the wetland centre – nature reserve open to the public.

Visitors from Slovenia and elsewhere nowadays enjoy the area for education, recreation and high-quality nature experience. The local community awareness was raised and positive attitude stimulated with public participation throughout the project which also contributed towards better life quality and sustainable development of the Slovenian coast.

17.

Spain / *Espagne*

**The sustainable revitalisation of the Protected
Landscape of Geria / *Revitalisation durable du
paysage protégé de la Geria***



Geria is an exceptional volcanic farmland for its outstanding landscape and heritage values. It is exemplary for the combination of human intervention and environmental sustainability. The area went into decline in the late twentieth century due to the expansion of the service economy that has adversely affected agriculture on Lanzarote. To reverse this trend, public and private agents have tried to create a new framework and have implemented actions to achieve a new appreciation of its unique history and its economic opportunities. Revitalisation of a heritage awareness campaign, food and wine innovation, active tourism or land rehabilitation are the answers to the preservation and conservation of a unique agricultural system in the world.

La Geria est un espace agricole volcanique exceptionnel pour ses valeurs paysagistes et patrimoniales. Exemple dans la combinaison intervention humaine et durabilité environnementale, cette zone est entrée en déclin à la fin du XX siècle en raison de la tertiarisation de l'économie de Lanzarote qui a affecté négativement l'agriculture. Pour inverser cette tendance, les agents publics et privés se sont efforcés de créer un nouveau cadre de travail et de mettre en place des actions pour parvenir à une nouvelle appréciation de sa singulière histoire et de ses possibilités économiques. Dynamisation du patrimoine, campagne de sensibilisation, innovation oenogastronomique, tourisme actif ou réhabilitation territoriale sont autant de réponses à la préservation et conservation d'un système agricole unique au monde.

18.

United Kingdom / *Royaume-Uni*

South Pennines Watershed Landscape Project



The South Pennines Watershed Landscape Project seeks to tell the story of the landscape in terms of both the historic and natural environment. Located between Leeds and Manchester, more than a million people live in or around the South Pennine uplands yet they can still feel remote, wild and exhilarating.

This unique landscape has been an inspiration to artists and writers from the Brontës to Ted Hughes. There are significant pressures, e.g, our peat resources are in the front line of our battle to mitigate climate change.

Engaging local communities through projects based on science, archaeology and creative arts has improved understanding of the value of the landscape.

Managed by Pennine Prospects (a rural regeneration non-Government organisation), working with volunteers and providing training has enabled more people to be directly involved in caring for and managing this fragile landscape.