

The landscape of Backi Monostor village, “Podunav” Backi Monostor

The village of Backi Monostor is located on the outskirts of the Gornje Podunavlje Special Nature Reserve that is host to a number of preserved indigenous biotopes harbouring a rich flora and fauna. It is close to the Croatian and Hungarian borders and the village is a place of multi-ethnicity where different cultural expressions are promoted and are a part of the unique environment which makes Backi Monostor attractive to tourists. These features are encouraged where actions are taken to increase its attractiveness. Old houses are rehabilitated through traditional methods, and become “ethno houses” and old crafts are taught to young people, so that they can be employed in their home village as well as provide support for the blossoming tourist industry. The flood plains are not only a resource for tourism but also play a more direct role in the socio-economic welfare of the region. They provide drinking water, flood protection, sustainable forestry and fisheries. For this reason, workshops and seminars are regularly held for adults and children to give them first-hand knowledge of landscape management. An increasing number of young people have since chosen to remain in the area to be proud representatives and promoters of their village to visitors.



The candidature was presented by Serbia as Signatory State of the European Landscape Convention and, on 28 June 2011, Serbia ratified the convention. The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe recognised the great value of the project: it constitutes a fine example of a citizen's initiative, deriving from the inhabitants of a rural village who took care to make use of their history and traditions in a dynamic perspective.

www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/heritage/landscape/prix/2011-Serbia.pdf