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EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION

CEP-CDCPP

LANDSCAPE AWARD OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

4th Session 2014-2015

***Proposals of the
Steering Committee for Culture, Heritage and Landscape (CDCPP)
on the landscape award, special mentions and acknowledgements
to the attention of the Committee of Ministers***

In the framework of the 4th Session of the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe and according to Article 11 of the European Landscape Convention (ETS No. 176) and Resolution CM/Res(2008)3 on the rules governing the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe, the parties to the convention were invited to present applications, through their Permanent Representations, to the General Secretariat of the Council of Europe by 30 January 2015.

The Secretariat received 12 application files from the following parties: Belgium, Cyprus, Croatia, Czech Republic, Finland, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, the Netherlands, Slovakia, Spain and Turkey.

At its 4th Meeting, held in Strasbourg on 1-3 June 2015¹, the Steering Committee for Culture, Heritage and Landscape (CDCPP) took note of the report of the meeting of the international jury of the 4th Session of the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe, held in Strasbourg on 16 and 17 April 2015², approved the proposals on the Landscape Award, special mentions and acknowledgements as they appear in this document, and decided to forward them to the Committee of Ministers for consideration in view of their adoption.

The Committee of Ministers is invited to decide:

- a. to attribute the Council of Europe Landscape Award of the European Landscape Convention for the 4th Session 2014-2015 to:

Borderless co-operation of local communities for the landscape heritage of “Fabulous” Hetés
Local government authorities, the Greenways Methodological Association and the Iron Curtain Trail Association, Hungary and all the Slovenian villages of the Hetés Region
Project presented by Hungary

The aim of the project, involving 10 small Slovenian and Hungarian villages of the ethnographic micro-region of Hetés, was to rehabilitate and strengthen cross-border connections and ties between the two communities once separated by the Iron Curtain. A joint rehabilitation process of the Hetés region was made relevant by raising awareness of the need to protect, manage and enhance the valuable shared landscape heritage, using it in a sustainable way. Another important feature was mobilising appropriate local resources as well as the local communities to play a central role in the project. The valuable natural and historical landscape elements of the Hetés region were surveyed, identified, assessed and documented with the participation of the population. Local knowledge was also used to uncover the different opportunities and potential – not only environmental and cultural but also social and economic – of the landscape, thus making possible both its conservation and its sustainable use, namely by tourists. Forums, workshops and a joint area called the Friendship Park, have also contributed to the re-emergence of the strong relationship between the communities of this micro-region. The establishment of a cross-border greenway system for hikers and cyclists is another symbolic element of the project.

Considering that the most important added value of the project is that it is a transfrontier achievement which links the communities of the 10 villages on both sides of the border through landscape, thus contributing both to the implementation of the aims of the European Landscape Convention and to the ideals of the Council of Europe, the award is attributed to all 10 villages that participated in the project.

¹. Report of the Meeting (CDCPP (2015) 16, 8 June 2015, item 5.3).

[http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/CDCPP/Plenary/CDCPP\(2015\)19Meeting-Report_en.pdf](http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/CDCPP/Plenary/CDCPP(2015)19Meeting-Report_en.pdf)

². The Report of the Meeting of the Jury (CEP-CDCPP (2015) 35E) is available at the following web address:

Report - [http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/heritage/Landscape/Prix/CEP-CDCPP\(2015\)35EReportJuryLA4thSession.pdf](http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/heritage/Landscape/Prix/CEP-CDCPP(2015)35EReportJuryLA4thSession.pdf)

The agenda and other working documents are also available at the following web addresses:

http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/heritage/landscape/prix/session2015_EN.asp?

http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/heritage/landscape/prix/2014/jury/CEP-CDCPP-2015-2-Award_en.pdf - [CEP-CDCPP (2015) Award 2E]

In order to avoid a possible conflict of interest, the Representative of the CDCPP, Mr Phaëdon ENOTIADES did not take part in the analysis and decision related to the project presented by Cyprus. The same attitude was taken by Mr Mihály MÖCSÉNYI in relation to the project presented by Hungary.

- b. to attribute identical special mentions of Council of Europe Landscape Award of the European Landscape Convention for the 4th Session 2014-2015 to the following achievements:

Service tree, the tree of the Slovácko Region

Municipality of Tvarožná Lhota and INEX voluntary service Bílé Karpaty – NGO, Czech Republic

The project aims to regenerate the cultural landscape of the Slovácko Region through the promotion and rehabilitation of historical fruit tree species, and in particular the service tree. The participation of the local residents, public authorities and regional partners has been essential to this effort. The large number of diverse activities emanating from this project is a great example of how an idea can keep evolving. Most importantly, this truly local project demonstrates the power of awareness raising backed by co-operation between local organisations to restore and enhance sustainable development and highlights the contribution of traditional fruit tree species to the landscapes in many parts of Europe. It is also an inspiration for promoting the protection of the traditional fruit trees' gene pool diversity, thus becoming an important example of grassroots efforts to mitigate the negative effects on landscape of globalisation, standardisation and market commercialisation of agriculture throughout Europe.

Liptovská Teplička: protection of unique types of historical landscape

Village of Liptovská Teplička, Slovak Republic

The project, jointly operated by the Agricultural Co-operative of Liptovská Teplička and the self-employed farmers of the village, aims to preserve this mountainous agricultural landscape as well as the unique character of the village of Liptovská Teplička. Preserving the character and function of this unique agricultural landscape has played a key role in the economic activity of the town, allowing the village to remain inhabited despite its difficult mountainous location. The special relationship between the traditional farming methods still in practice in the fields close to the village and the more modern machinery being used on the higher slopes allows for efficient and sustainable farming of the land while respecting the town's heritage and preserving its history. The preservation of the agricultural innovation and endeavours of the villagers' forefathers is an inspiration for small towns and villages across Europe on how to implement sustainable development and adequate protection and management of traditional landscapes.

The Sénia Territory Millennium Olive Tree Landscape

Taula del Sénia Commonwealth, Spain

Among the main aims of the project are the conservation and protection of the territory's olive trees, their environment and the characteristic landscape known as the "sea of olive trees", while at the same time promoting the value of the landscape, heritage and culture associated with the ancient olive trees and ensuring their contribution to the sustainable territorial development of the area. Emanating from the concern of the local people over the future of some 4 800 classified millennial trees, endangered namely by economic pressure and speculation, a partnership between several local and regional authorities, individuals and the private sector gave rise to strong public-private co-operation that has led to the implementation of a number of projects that have produced economic opportunities. This has resulted in the rejuvenation of the area that ultimately ensures the protection of the olive trees and the adequate management of this important characteristic landscape. Several educational initiatives have greatly improved the awareness of this landscape and the importance of the historical olive trees. This achievement is an important inspiration for the protection, management and enhancement of all the traditional Mediterranean olive tree landscapes.

- c. to acknowledge and praise the great value of all the other projects presented for the 4th Session (2014-2015) of the Council of Europe Landscape Award of the European Landscape Convention and make them well-known to the general public for their exemplary value and as sources of inspiration:

Enhancement of the natural landscape of Hof ter Musschen

Committee on the environment of Brussels and surroundings, Belgium

The Hof ter Musschen project aims to preserve an old rural landscape, endangered for many years by the urbanisation in the surrounding areas. This project, which plays a key role in the region's sustainable development policy, resulted from the initiative of the local citizens wishing to safeguard the Hof ter Musschen in order to protect its historical and natural assets. In 1990 a partnership was established between the Committee on the environment of Brussels and surroundings, and local and regional actors, to ensure the sustainable management of the Hof ter Musschen as well as awareness-raising activities aimed at the students and the general public while ensuring the protection of the most sensitive areas, in order to protect and develop the landscape and pass it on to future generations.

Ecomuseum Blaca Hermitage

Cultural Centre of Brač, Croatia

The Ecomuseum Blaca Hermitage, formerly a monastic settlement, has great cultural value and has strengthened local sustainability, identity and sense of community. It is therefore a rich source of local heritage. This project is an example of good practice in the protection and enhancement of historical landmarks and their surrounding landscapes, in particular the approach taken to solve the challenging accessibility issues during the renovation phase. The previously difficult access route has now been transformed into a positive experience as many hiking, biking and walking routes have been created, allowing visitors to enjoy the landscape.

Development of the historical centre of Agios Athanasios Municipality

Municipality of Agios Athanasios, Cyprus

The main aim of the project, central to the municipality's sustainable development policy, was the improvement of the citizens' quality of life through the renovation of the municipality's historical centre. Improving the safety of the road network in the area and providing a pleasant space with useful amenities for both young and old to enjoy were some of the major improvements. A lively public debate surrounded the design process for this project in an effort to create a consensus on the plans while allowing the public to take ownership of the project. The public's use of the new central square proves the effectiveness of collaboration in the improvement of our urban landscapes.

“Bull by the Horns”: grazing in nature and landscape management

The Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment for Central Finland, Finland

The “Bull by the Horns” project used landscape management to guide the development of valuable natural and landscape areas across a number of regions. The project included a wide variety of partners (authorities, associations and citizens) and forged co-operation networks where the landowners of valuable sites made grazing agreements with livestock owners, resulting in management arrangements being established for 220 hectares of threatened traditional rural biotopes, as well as in efforts to prevent overgrowth and subsequent degradation of landscapes. The project demonstrates the importance of involving all concerned stakeholders, namely local people, in the appropriate landscape management of their area and in their commitment to carry on the aims of the project after its initial funding stopped.

Agricultural Park of Paduli

Open Urban Laboratory, Italy

The rural project *Abitare i Paduli* (Living Paduli), led by local communities, associations and inhabitants stemmed from an idea to create a multifunctional rural park to restore the largely abandoned olive grove. The aim was to develop new methods to care for the land and enhance its

value to the local population. A collaboration co-ordinated by the “Open Urban Laboratory”, which involved the local stakeholders and a large number of experts from all over Italy, used a bottom-up approach that raised inhabitants’ awareness of the landscape’s value and persuaded young people to try innovative agricultural management activities.

The town of Kuldīga in the Venta Valley: preserving a unique landscape for the next generations

Kuldīga Municipality, Latvia

The preservation of Kuldīga’s unique landscape through improved management was the main goal of the project. The cleaning of the Venta Valley River was a central issue so that the river could become the cohesive element to highlight the town’s cultural heritage and landscape along its banks. Since 2004, the project has involved various local and European partners in order to improve the planning and management of the town, its river and riverside landscape to ensure a closer bond between the town and its citizens, thus contributing to their quality of life.

New Dutch Waterline

Board of the New Dutch Waterline, Netherlands

The project is an interesting example of innovative and exemplary reintegration of abandoned historical military structures into the landscape, restoring its historical and cultural heritage. By transforming the 85 km line of military infrastructure into a sustainable and cherished part of the landscape, the project aimed to provide the public with a valuable and accessible leisure and agriculture resource, as well as enhancing tourism in the concerned regions.

Biodiversity and natural resources management in Camili Basin

Camili Environmental Protection and Development Association, Turkey

As a result of the project, an intersectoral and participatory sustainable management plan was prepared and is being implemented, while training, education and awareness-raising programmes were carried out for local inhabitants and school children. In addition, technical and financial support was provided to engage the local population in the various economic opportunities provided by the landscape and the tourism it attracted. The Camili Basin was included in the World Biosphere Reserve Network in 2005. The project is an example of how biodiversity and natural resource management contributes to landscape protection and management, in spite of the latter not being the explicit aim of the project.

APPENDIX

Summaries of the applications for the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe

Belgium

Enhancement of the natural landscape of Hof ter Musschen

Committee on the environment of Brussels and surroundings

The Hof ter Musschen project aims to preserve, enhance and animate this old rural landscape that is typical of the area to the east of Brussels. Located just outside the regional territory, this highly valuable biological landscape consists of a farm, wet meadows, reed beds, wooded areas, wastelands, orchards and a mill. The remains of a 17th century Brabant farm, Hof ter Musschen stopped its activities in 1979. It is bordered on the south by the Woluwe River, and by a main road heading towards the city. Citizens have worked hard to safeguard the Hof ter Musschen, threatened by the extension of the St Luc University campus and urbanisation, to protect its historical and biological assets. Since 1990, the Committee on the environment of Brussels and surroundings, in partnership with local and regional actors, have sought to ensure sustainable management by hosting study days and raising awareness through rehabilitation of the bakery, mowing, size of willows, beekeeping, school activities, tours, etc. to revive and develop the landscape and pass it on to future generations.

Croatia

Ecomuseum Blaca Hermitage

Cultural Centre of Brač

The ecomuseum Blaca Hermitage project revitalised a former monastic complex into a contemporary museum that captures the local identity and immerses the visitor in the local history and culture while allowing them to enjoy the exceptionally beautiful landscape. Blaca Hermitage was built in the 16th century next to caves in the cliffs of an isolated canyon on the southern side of Brač Island in Croatia. Its great natural, cultural and aesthetic values were recognised by the local community, local authorities and national institutions, all of which helped in placing it on the UNESCO's World Heritage tentative list. This project serves as an outstanding example of sustainable heritage preservation in the region with the highest degree of landscape appreciation. The complex was renovated and extensive interdisciplinary research was carried out between 2007 and 2011. The project is continuously updated with new curatorial programmes and restoration projects.

Cyprus

Development of the historical centre of Agios Athanasios Municipality

Municipality of Agios Athanasios

The project for the construction and renovation of the municipality's central square started in 2006 and included a series of measures to improve citizens' lives. The project was completed in three phases. The first phase was to divert the main road from the front of the municipal building to the rear and east, as well as the construction of parking areas. The second phase started on 30 December 2007 and was completed on 14 September 2011. It included the construction of the new square for pedestrians which provides safe access to the municipal building for elderly and disabled people, a new children's play area and improved landscaping of the surrounding areas. The third phase includes the restoration of old buildings in close proximity to the central square, the creation of a library, a municipal youth centre, a shopping arcade and a folklore museum.

Czech Republic

Service tree, the tree of the Slovácko Region

Municipality of Tvarožná Lhota and INEX voluntary service Bílé Karpaty

This programme is working to restore the cultural landscape of the Slovácko Region by cultivating, disseminating and promoting traditional fruit trees with the participation of local residents, volunteers and local governments. The fundamental element of the project is the service tree (*Sorbus domestica*), nowadays nearly forgotten, but which used to be an economically important tree and an important landscape feature in the Slovácko Region. It has encouraged the participation of local residents, regional authorities and other partners to rescue historical fruit tree species, especially the service tree. During the programme, a number of projects were brought to fruition, for example the Service Tree Museum, educational trails and an arboretum were built; a gene pool was created from rare fruit trees and old fruit trees were treated; seedlings were obtained and grown; trees were planted within the network of the regional system of ecological stability (an essential part of the green infrastructure in the Czech Republic). More than 100 villages of the Slovácko Region – the “tradition bearers” of the service tree – have subsequently joined the project.

Finland

“Bull by the Horns”: grazing in nature and landscape management

The Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment for Central Finland

The Bull by the Horns project arranged landscape management for areas that are particularly valuable in terms of their nature and landscape in the regions of Central Finland, Southern Savonia, Pirkanmaa, Central Ostrobothnia and Ostrobothnia. The project forged co-operation networks where the landowners of valuable sites made grazing agreements with livestock owners. This resulted in management arrangements being established for 220 hectares of threatened traditional rural biotopes, and the rare species contained therein. At the same time, efforts were made to prevent the harmful overgrowth of landscapes, and local people were encouraged to manage landscapes in the area. Funding for the management efforts was received through special support under the agri-environmental aid arrangement. The project was administered by the Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment of Central Finland, and its participants included a wide variety of partners, including authorities, associations and citizens.

Hungary

Borderless co-operation of local communities for the landscape heritage of “Fabulous” Hetés

Local government authorities, the Greenways Methodological Association and the Iron Curtain Trail Association

Some 10 small villages of the ethnographic micro-region of Hetés, which is divided by the border between Hungary and Slovenia, were the focus of this programme. It started in 2003 and peaked with a pilot project in 2013 and 2014 on preserving the region’s valuable landscape elements, as well as using them in a sustainable way. The aim of the programme was to rehabilitate the links between the communities on both sides of the border, along the former Iron Curtain, with the help of awareness-raising activities on landscape, as well as to mobilise local resources in order to maintain the heritage of the landscape. During the programme, the valuable natural and historical landscape elements of the Hetés region were assessed and documented with the participation of local communities. Using local knowledge to uncover the opportunities made the conservation and sustainable use of these landscape elements possible. A greenway system for hikers and cyclists was established enabling the use of these landscape features for tourism.

Italy

Agricultural Park of Paduli

Open Urban Laboratory

In south-eastern Italy, in an area known as the *terre di mezzo* (middle lands), there is a majestic, centuries-old olive tree grove, which is named Paduli. Within this landscape, the project “Abitare i Paduli” (Living the Paduli) is taking place. This project was conceived thanks to the involvement of local communities, associations and inhabitants, with the aim of creating a multifunctional rural park.

This region, which has been known since the XVII century for the production of lamp oil that was used for lighting the streets of European capitals, is now in a persistent state of decline. It represents the ideal space to experiment new means of management which can avoid decay and instead lead to new models of production. A collaboration co-ordinated by the Laboratorio Urbano Aperto, which involved local stakeholders and a large number of experts from all over Italy, developed around the idea of the rural park. The bottom-up approach raised the inhabitants' awareness of the landscape's value. It has also persuaded young people to try innovative agricultural management activities through the Urban Workshop of the Middle Lands – "Living the Paduli".

Latvia

Town of Kuldīga in the Venta Valley: preserving a unique landscape for the next generations

Kuldīga Municipality

This project presents the case of how the town of Kuldīga promotes and maintains the synthesis of the cultural heritage and nature values for the future through a set of several complementary activities. The unique value of the landscape in Kuldīga lies at the intersection of important natural and cultural highlights: the centre of Kuldīga on the Venta River is both a Natura 2000 and UNESCO tentative list site. The main activities within the project were to improve the ecological condition and natural landscape of the river by reducing pollution and cleaning the river banks located within the town borders. The project works to restore and highlight Kuldīga's culture and natural landscape on the banks of the Venta River while raising public awareness and promoting the image of Kuldīga as an important heritage site within the Venta Valley.

Netherlands

New Dutch Waterline

Board of the New Dutch Waterline

The New Dutch Waterline is a military line of defence designed in 1815 to protect the economic and financial heart of the Netherlands. The concept of controlled flooding through subtle landscape engineering, originated in the 12th century. However, during the Second World War, the concept of a waterline as defence system proved to be useless and was abandoned. The redevelopment of this unique cultural landscape, consisting of 60 fortresses, 5 fortified towns and over 1500 smaller buildings, all located in the central part of the country, was announced by the government as a national project in 1999. The New Dutch Waterline was chosen because of its unique character and the complex spatial and administrative needs of the project. In order to transform the New Dutch Waterline into a recognisable spatial entity, present day functions such as leisure activities, water management, agriculture, nature and commerce were added.

Slovak Republic

Liptovská Teplička: protection of unique types of historical landscape

Village of Liptovská Teplička

This project aims to preserve the local character of this mountainous agricultural landscape and the specific characteristics of the village Liptovská Teplička, as part of a unique historical landscape in the Carpathian mountains. The native population cut down surrounding forests and created a system of narrow terraced fields in the first half of the 17th century, which still exist around the settlement. There are also the unique historical parts of the settlement, with a set of preserved wooden farm buildings (barns) and a total of 419 potato cellars that still perform their original function. The municipality of the village has been developing a long-term project to preserve the original characteristics and function of the landscape. This project has brought benefits to the population in terms of preservation of its cultural and historical values, an impetus for their economy and a strong potential for sustainable tourism, environmental balance and the continuity of their identity and landscape.

Spain

The Sénia Territory Millennium Olive Tree Landscape

Taula del Sénia Commonwealth

Beyond its geography, history, language and culture, it is the conservation of some 4 800 ancient olive trees (those with a trunk circumference of over 3.5m at 1.30m above the ground) which unites and

characterises the Sénia Territory. Almost all of the trees are of the Farga variety (the oldest variety with a high-quality oil, but low production) and are part of a traditional olive tree landscape known as “the sea of olive trees”. This landscape, where the millennial olive trees are found in a setting of olive groves and traditional farming systems, terraced fields and dry stone constructions, together with a unique flora and fauna, is an excellent example of the interaction of natural and human factors. Thanks to the collaboration from the public and private sectors, programmes that have been implemented to enhance the intrinsic value of the millennial olive trees and their environment have had good results.

Turkey

Biodiversity and natural resources management in Camili Basin

Camili Environmental Protection and Development Association

The Camili Basin was selected as one of the four pilot sites of the Biodiversity and Natural Resources Management Project which was implemented by the Camili Environmental Protection and Development Association with the help of the ministry of environment and forestry, in collaboration with the World Bank and supported by Global Environment and Facility (GEF) between 2000 and 2008. Many of the project’s aspects, including policy and programmes, training and awareness raising, and implementation and monitoring were realised. Within this context, a participatory management plan was prepared; training and awareness programmes were carried out for local people and school children; local inhabitants received both technical and financial assistance to create alternative income generation activities; a visitor centre and bird watching towers were constructed; local ecotourism and beekeeping committees were established and, with collaboration between the project and the Turkish National Commission for UNESCO, the basin joined to the World Biosphere Reserve Network in 2005.
