



STEERING COMMITTEE FOR CULTURE, HERITAGE AND LANDSCAPE (CDCPP)

CDCPP(2015)16

Strasbourg, 12 May 2015

4th meeting
Strasbourg, 1-3 June 2015

EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION

LANDSCAPE AWARD OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

DOCUMENT FOR DECISION

Item 5.3 of the draft Agenda

The Committee is invited to:

- take note of the Report of the International Jury of the 4th Session of the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe, held in Strasbourg on 16-17 April 2015;
- approve the proposals on the landscape award, special mentions and acknowledgements; and
- forward them to the Committee of Ministers.

4th Session of the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe

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

The international Jury held a meeting in Strasbourg on 16-17 April 2015 in order to examine the applications and propose the award, special mentions and acknowledgements.

The Jury was composed of the following members: Mrs Liv Kirstine MORTENSEN, Chair of the Council of Europe Conference on the European Landscape Convention, Mrs Maria José FESTAS, Former Chair of the Council of Europe Conference on the European Landscape Convention, Mr Phaedon ENOTIADES, Representative of the Steering Committee on Culture, Heritage and Landscape (CDCPP), Mr Mihály MÓCSÉNYI, former President of the International Federation of Landscape Architecture (IFLA) and Professor Emeritus of the University of Horticulture, Faculty of Landscape Architecture of Hungary, and Mrs Anne-Marie CHAVANON, Representative of the Conference of INGOS of the Council of Europe. The members of the Jury elected Mrs Maria José FESTAS, Chair of the Jury.

In order to avoid possible conflict of interest, the Representative of the CDCPP, Mr Phaedon 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 MÓCSÉNYI in relation to the project presented by Hungary.

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](#)]

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The Committee is invited to take note of the Report of the Jury and, according to its proposals, to invite the Committee of Ministers:

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

Borderless cooperation 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

The aim of the project, involving ten 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 recovery process of the Hetés 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 mobilizing 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. *Fora*, workshops and a joint space called the 'Friendship Park', have also contributed to the re-emergence of the strong relationship between both 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 this project is that it is a transfrontier achievement which links the communities of the ten villages on both sides of the border through the landscape, thus contributing both to the implementation of the aims of the European Landscape Convention and thus to the ideals of the Council of Europe, **the Committee proposes that although the project was presented by Hungary, the Award is attributed to all ten villages that participated in the project.**

- 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 – 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 the historical fruit tree species, the service tree. Central to this effort is the participation of the local residents and community partners.

The large and diverse number of 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 up by cooperation between local bodies to restore and enhance sustainable development and highlights the contribution of traditional fruit tree species to the character of 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 grass root efforts to mitigate the negative effects on landscape of globalisation, standardisation and market commercialisation of agriculture throughout Europe.

Liptovská Teplička: The protection of the unique historical landscape types

Village of Liptovská Teplička, Slovak Republic

The project, jointly operated by the Agricultural Cooperative 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. Achieving the aim of preserving the character and functionality 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 closest to the village and the more modern machinery being used on the higher slopes allows for the 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 the sustainable development and adequate protection and management of traditional landscapes.

The Sénia Territory Millennium Olive Tree Landscape

Taula del Sénia Commonwealth, Spain

Among the central aims of the project are the conservation and protection of the olive trees, their environment and 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 millenarian trees, endangered namely by economic pressure and speculation, a partnership between several local and regional authorities, individuals and the private sector gave rise to a strong public-private cooperation that has led to the implementation of a number of projects that have borne economic opportunities, resulting 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 for this landscape and the importance of the historic 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

Commission of the Environnement of Brussels and surroundings ASBL, Belgium

The Hof ter Musschen project aims to preserve this old rural landscape, in danger for many years from the on-going urbanisation in the surrounding areas. This project, which plays a key role in the region's sustainable development policy, results from the initiative of the local citizens wishing to safeguard the Hof ter Musschen to protect its historic and biologically important values. In 1990 a partnership was established between the Brussels Environment Committee, the Area Association ASBL, local and regional actors to ensure the sustainable management of the Hof ter Musschen as well as awareness-raising activities aimed at the school population and the general public whilst 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 Blac, Croatia

The Ecomuseum Blaca Hermitage, formerly a monastic settlement, has great cultural value and is a strong boost for local sustainability, identity and sense of community and thus is 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. This difficult access has now been transformed into a positive experience as many hiking, biking and walking routes have been created, allowing everyone 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 historic 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 interventions. A lively public debate surrounded the design procedure of 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 (ELY Centre), Finland

The Bull by the Horns project organised landscape management to guide the development of valuable nature and landscape areas across a number of regions. The project included a wide variety of partners (authorities, associations and citizens) and forged cooperation 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 areas and in their commitment to carry on the aims of the project after its initial funding stopped.

Agricultural Park of Paduli / Parco Agricolo dei Paduli

Laboratorio Urbano Aperto / Open Urban Laboratory, Italy

The project *Abitare i Paduli* ("Living Paduli"), a rural project, led by the local communities, the associations and the 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 coordinated by the *Laboratorio Urbano Aperto* ("Open Urban Laboratory"), which involved the local stakeholders and a high number of experts from all over Italy, used a bottom-up approach that raised new awareness of the landscape's value in its inhabitants and persuaded young people to practise innovative management activities.

Kuldīga Town in Venta Valley – Preserving Unique Landscape for the next Generations

Kuldīga Municipality, Latvia

The preservation of the Kuldīga town's unique landscape through improved management was the main goal of the project. The cleaning up of the River Venta Valley 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 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.

National Project: *Nieuwe Hollandse Waterline* / 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, 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 inter-sectoral participatory sustainable management plan was prepared and is being implemented, while training, education and awareness programmes were carried out for local people 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.