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PRÉSIDENCE DE LA CROATIE

Conseil de l'Europe
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EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION
CONVENTION EUROPÉENNE DU PAYSAGE

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

National Conference

Integrated approach to landscape protection, planning and management

**organised during the CHAIRMANSHIP OF CROATIA
of the Council of Europe**

**by the MINISTRY OF CONSTRUCTION AND PHYSICAL PLANNING,
the CROATIAN INSTITUTE FOR SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT,
and the COUNCIL OF EUROPE**

**with the support of the Ministry of Culture,
the Ministry of Environment and Energy and the Environmental Protection, and Energy
Efficiency Fund,**

Celebrating the International Landscape Day of the Council of Europe

Zagreb, Croatia, 20 October 2018

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SESSION I - DEMOCRACY AND EDUCATION

The European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe

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Adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg on 19 July 2000, [European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe](#) was opened for signature by European States in Florence on 20 October 2000. To date, 39 Council of Europe member States have ratified the Convention and two States have also signed it. Croatia signed the Convention on 20 October 2000 and ratified it on 15 January 2003.

As the first international treaty devoted to all dimensions of the landscape, the Convention addresses the Organisation's major challenges in the field of human rights, democracy and the rule of law with a view to sustainable development. The signatories to the Convention have declared themselves "concerned to achieve sustainable development based on a balanced and harmonious relationship between social needs, economic activity and the environment", considering the cultural dimension of the landscape. The concept of sustainable

development is understood as fully integrating the environmental, cultural, social and economic dimensions in an overall and integrated approach, that is, by applying them to the entire territory.

Although each citizen must, of course, contribute to preserving the quality of the landscape, it is the authorities that are responsible for establishing the general framework that enables that quality to be assured. The Convention accordingly lays down the general legal principles that must guide the adoption of national landscape policies and the establishment of international co-operation in this area.

Important work on sustainable development, highlighting the place of landscape in the lives of human beings and societies, has been carried out in the framework of the Work Programme of the Convention. The Convention and the basic texts on its implementation help to promote: the definition and legal recognition of the landscape; the consideration of the landscape dimension in national and international policies; the development of international co-operation; and the recognition of exemplary projects.

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Each Party to the Convention undertakes to promote: “school and university courses which, in the relevant subject areas, address the values attaching to landscapes and the issues raised by their protection, management and planning.” (Article 6.B.c of the European Landscape Convention – Specific measures)

The [Second International Landscape Day](#) of the Council of Europe, held on 20 October 2018 is devoted to “Landscape and education”.

The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe has already adopted the following basic texts, for the implementation of the Convention concerning education: [Recommendation CM/Rec\(2008\)3 on the guidelines for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention](#); [Recommendation CM/Rec\(2014\)8 on promoting landscape awareness through education](#); Recommendation CM/Rec(2015)7 on pedagogical material for landscape education at primary level.

[Recommendation CM/Rec\(2008\)3](#) contains a series of theoretical, methodological and practical guidelines and is intended for Parties to the Convention which wish to draw up and implement a national landscape policy based on the Convention. It indicates in particular the following provisions on education:

“While schools in certain States already offer landscape training, such training should be strengthened so as to develop children’s sensitivity to questions which they are likely to experience when looking at the quality of their surroundings. Furthermore, this is a way of reaching a population through the family.
This can come about through education in several disciplines, whether geography, history, the natural sciences, economics, literature, arts, architecture or engineering disciplines, or civics education.
School curricula at various levels should foster an awareness of landscape themes through learning to read landscapes and through sensitisation to relations between cadre de vie and landscape, to relations between ecology and landscape problems and to social and economic questions.
Landscape constitutes a teaching resource because, when reading it, pupils are brought face to face with visible signs of their surroundings that relate to spatial-planning issues. Landscape reading also makes it possible to understand current and historical approaches to landscape production as an expression of a community’s identity”.

[Recommendation CM/Rec\(2014\)8](#) considers that one of the aims of education is to “train young people and equip them with a set of skills necessary for citizenship and democracy”, and assert that “educational activities in the landscape field are an excellent way of giving meaning to the future”. It recommends that the governments of member States Parties to the European Landscape Convention “adopt legislative, regulatory, administrative, financial and other appropriate measures to initiate or to develop landscape education activities and to promote landscape awareness among the young in accordance with the principles set out in the appendix to this recommendation”.

The [21st Meeting of the Council of Europe of Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention: “Landscape and education” \(Tropea, Italy, 3-5 October 2018\)](#) aims to present experiences of public policies and other initiatives concerning the implementation of the provisions of the Convention on education at primary and secondary school, at university and also in continuous education.

Excellent experiences of landscape education are already part of the Landscape Award Alliance of the Council of Europe: *The project of education and awareness-raising: city, territory, landscape*, Generalitat of Catalonia and Landscape Observatory of Catalonia, Spain; *We are making our landscape*, Slovenian Association of Landscape Architects, Slovenia; *Environmental education in the town of Strakonice year by year or “Pilgrimage through the Contemplative Landscape”*, Municipality of Strakonice, Czech Republic; *Education of Children in Heavily Industrialised Landscapes*, Elementary School in the city of Most, Czech Republic (European Landscape Convention: [The Landscape Award Alliance of the Council of Europe](#), Territory and Landscape Series, 2018, No.105).

It is now important to introduce landscape education in educational programmes. A publication for teachers on landscape education in primary school is being prepared by the Council of Europe for 2019.

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Since the adoption of the European Landscape Convention, major progress has been made towards the establishment of landscape policies at national, regional and local level. Drawing on shared objectives, these policies foster the quality of a common living environment.

[Recommendation CM/Rec\(2017\)7 of the Committee of Ministers to Member States on the contribution of the European Landscape Convention to the exercise of human rights and democracy with a view to sustainable development](#) recommends that the governments of States Parties to the European Landscape Convention “consider the importance that quality and diversity of landscapes has for the minds and bodies of human beings, as well as for societies, in the reflections and work devoted to human rights and democracy, with a view to sustainable development” and “frame landscape policies in the long term, so that they take into account the common surroundings for present and future generations”.

References of the Council of Europe on Landscape and Education:
www.coe.int/EuropeanLandscapeConvention

Proceedings of the Council of Europe Meetings of the Workshops for the implementation of the Convention:

- [“Awareness-raising, training and education”](#), Strasbourg (France), 23-24 May 2002
- [“Landscape and Education”](#), Tropea, Calabria (Italy), 3-5 October 2018.

Publications:

- Council of Europe, “[Landscape and sustainable development: challenges of the European Landscape Convention](#)”, Council of Europe Publishing, 2006
 - Landscape and awareness-raising, training and education
- Council of Europe, “[Landscape facets: reflections and proposals for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention](#)”, Council of Europe Publishing, 2012
 - Landscape and children’s education
- Council of Europe, “[Landscape dimensions: reflections and proposals for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention](#)”, Council of Europe Publishing, 2017
 - Landscape and primary and secondary education
- Council of Europe, “[Council of Europe Landscape Convention: Contribution to human rights, democracy and sustainable development](#)”, Council of Europe Publishing, 2018