Council of Europe
The European Landscape Convention
Council of Europe

Intergovernmental organisation founded in 1949

47 Member States - Headquarters in the Palais de l’Europe, Strasbourg

**Statutes - values**
- Promote Democracy, Human rights, Rule of law
- Seek Common solutions to the main problems facing society - sustainable development
Status

Parties to the Convention: Andorra, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Moldova, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom (39 ratifications).

Signatories states: Iceland, Malta (2 signatures).

Other Council of Europe Member States: Albania, Austria, Germany, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Russian Federation.

Other States non Member of the Council of Europe: Protocol amending the Convention
Why?

The developments in agriculture, forestry, industrial and mineral production techniques, together with the practices followed in town and country planning, transport, networks, tourism and recreation and, at a more general level, changes in the world economy, have in many cases accelerated the transformation of landscapes.

The Convention expresses the Member States’ concern to achieve sustainable development based on a balanced and harmonious relationship between social needs, economic activity and the environment.

It aims to respond to the public’s wish to enjoy high quality landscapes.
Scope

The Preamble says that States wish to provide “a new instrument devoted exclusively to the protection, management and planning of all landscapes in Europe”.

It applies to the entire territory of the Parties and covers natural, urban and peri-urban areas, whether on land, water or sea.

It concerns remarkable landscapes... and also ordinary or everyday landscapes and degraded areas.

Landscape is recognised irrespective of its perceived value, since all forms of landscape are crucial to the quality of the citizens' environment and deserve to be considered in landscape policies.
Philosophy

The landscape
... has an important public interest role in the cultural, ecological, environmental and social fields, and constitutes a resource favourable to economic activity and whose protection, management and planning can contribute to job creation;

.. contributes to the formation of local cultures and ... is a basic component of the European natural and cultural heritage, contributing to human well-being and consolidation of the European identity;

... is an important part of the quality of life for people everywhere: in urban areas and in the countryside, in degraded areas as well as in areas of high quality, in areas recognised as being of outstanding beauty as well as everyday areas;

... is a key element of individual and social well-being and ... its protection, management and planning entail rights and responsibilities for everyone.

Preamble to the European Landscape Convention
Definitions

“Landscape” means an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors.

“Landscape policy” means an expression by the competent public authorities of general principles, strategies and guidelines that permit the taking of specific measures aimed at the protection, management and planning of landscapes.

“Landscape quality objective” means, for a specific landscape, the formulation by the competent public authorities of the aspirations of the public with regard to the landscape features of their surroundings.

“Landscape protection” means action to conserve and maintain the significant or characteristic features of a landscape, justified by its heritage value derived from its natural configuration and/or from human activity.

“Landscape management” means action, from a perspective of sustainable development, to ensure the regular upkeep of a landscape, so as to guide and harmonise changes which are brought about by social, economic and environmental processes.

“Landscape planning” means strong forward-looking action to enhance, restore or create landscapes.
Aims

National level:

to promote protection, management and planning of landscapes

International level:

to organise international co-operation on landscape issues.
National level: Contracting Parties undertake to implement

4 General Measures

- Legal recognition of landscape as constituting an essential component of people’s surroundings, an expression of the diversity of their shared cultural and natural heritage, and a foundation of their identity;
- Establishment and implementation of landscape policies aimed at landscape protection, management and planning;
- Establishment of procedures for the participation of the general public, local and regional authorities and other parties with an interest in the definition and implementation of the landscape policies;
- Integration of landscape into regional and town planning policies and in cultural, environmental, agricultural, social and economic policies, as well as in any other policies, with possible direct or indirect impact on landscape.
5 Specific Measures

- **Awareness-raising**: increasing awareness among the civil society, private organisations and public authorities of the value of landscapes, their role and changes to them
- **Promotion in training and education**:  
  - training for specialists in landscape appraisal and landscape operations  
  - multidisciplinary training programmes in landscape policy, protection, management and planning, for professionals in the private and public sector and for associations concerned  
  - school and university courses which, in the relevant subject areas, address the values that the landscape has and the issues raised by its protection, management and planning
- **Identification and evaluation**: mobilising those concerned in order to reach a better knowledge of landscape, guiding the work of landscape identification and evaluation through exchanges of experience and methodology between the Parties at a European level
- **Setting landscape quality objectives**: defining landscape quality objectives for the landscapes identified and assessed, after public consultation
- **Implementation of landscape policies**: introducing policy instruments aimed at protecting, managing and/or planning the landscape
International level: Contracting Parties undertake

- **International policies and programmes**
  To co-operate in the consideration of the landscape dimension in international policies and programmes, and to recommend, where relevant, the inclusion of landscape considerations in them.

  In particular:
  - to render each other technical and scientific assistance in landscape matters through the pooling and exchange of experience, and the results of research projects;
  - to promote the exchange of landscape specialists for training and information purposes;
  - to exchange information on all matters covered by the provisions of the Convention.

- **Transfrontier landscapes**
  To encourage transfrontier co-operation on local and regional level and, wherever necessary, prepare and implement joint landscape programmes.
Recommendations of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe to member States for the implementation of the Convention

CM/Rec(2008)3 on the guidelines for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention;
CM/Rec(2013)4 on the European Landscape Convention Information System of the Council of Europe and its glossary;
CM/Rec(2014)8 on promoting landscape awareness through education;
CM/Rec(2015)7 on pedagogical material for landscape education in primary school;
CM/Rec(2015)8 on the implementation of Article 9 of the European Landscape Convention on transfrontier landscapes;
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
CM/Rec(2018)9 on contributing to the implementation of the European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe: creation of public funds for landscape
Recommendation CM/Rec(2008)3 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the guidelines for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention

General principles are designed to provide guidance on some of the fundamental articles of the European Landscape Convention:

A. Consider the territory as a whole
B. Recognise the fundamental role of knowledge
C. Promote awareness
D. Define landscape strategies
E. Integrate the landscape dimension in territorial policies
F. Integrate landscape into sectoral policies
G. Make use of public participation
H. Achieve landscape quality objectives

“Every planning action or project should comply with landscape quality objectives. It should in particular improve landscape quality, or at least not bring about a decline. The effects of projects, whatever their scale, on landscape should therefore be evaluated and rules and instruments corresponding to those effects defined. Each planning action or project should not only match, but also be appropriate to the features of the places.”

I. Develop mutual assistance and exchange of information
Examples of instruments used to implement the Convention

- landscape planning: landscape study plans included in spatial planning;
- inclusion of the landscape in sectoral policies and instruments;
- shared charters, contracts, strategic plans;
- impact and landscape studies;
- evaluations of the effects of operations on landscape not subject to an impact study;
- protected sites and landscapes;
- relationship between landscape and regulations concerning the cultural and historic heritage;
- resources and financing;
- landscape awards;
- landscape observatories, centres and institutes;
- reports on the state of the landscape and landscape policies;
- transfrontier landscapes.
- reports on the state of the landscape and landscape policies;
- transfrontier landscapes.
Suggested text for the practical implementation of the European Landscape Convention at national level for use as guidance for public authorities
(Appendix 2 of the Recommendation 2008)

This guidance document suggests certain regulatory and institutional measures that could be taken at national level to assist in formulating, monitoring and evaluating landscape policies. Each paragraph is directly related to the corresponding provisions of the convention.

Paragraph 1 – Definitions / Paragraph 2 – Scope /Paragraph 3 – General principles

Division of responsibilities and competences (Paragraph 4)

...b. The Ministry of ...:
i. is **responsible for implementing landscape policy** and for interministerial co-ordination in that field;
   ii. **organises consultation** with civil society and the assessment of landscape policies by an ad hoc body;
   iii. in collaboration with the other ministries and with public participation, regularly develops and reviews a national landscape strategy laying down the guiding principles of landscape policy and describing the paths taken and the goals pursued in order to protect, manage or plan landscapes. This landscape strategy should be made public.

c. The ministries whose activities influence landscapes should liaise with departments responsible for implementing landscape policy in the course of their activities, in keeping with the principles embodied in Paragraph 3, and regularly report on their landscape policy.

d. Regional and local authorities should have staff familiar with landscape issues who are capable of implementing landscape policy in their spheres of competence, taking landscapes into account at their respective territorial levels.
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:

a. 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;

b. frame landscape policies in the long term, so that they take into account the common surroundings for present and future generations;

c. develop landscape policies throughout the entire territory, so that people can enjoy their surroundings in dignity and without discrimination;

d. ensure that landscape policies respond to the ideal of living together, especially in culturally diverse societies;

e. take into account the landscape issue in the actions taken to promote good governance and democratic citizenship, notably through awareness-raising, training and education;

f. apply the principles of human rights and democracy in landscape policies;
g. guarantee the **right to participation** by the general public, local and regional authorities, and other relevant parties including non-governmental organisations, with an interest in the definition, implementation and monitoring of landscape policies;

h. include the “landscape”, as defined by the Convention, in **indicators of sustainable development** relating to environmental, social, cultural and economic issues;

i. implement the principle of **non-regression** in order to ensure that landscape policies can only be subject to continuous improvement.

“The landscape flower” – Council of Europe Design Adrien D.
The European Landscape Convention Information System
of the Council of Europe

Recommendation CM/Rec(2013)4 of the Committee of Ministers to member states recommends that States Parties to the Convention:

– use the Information System with its glossary, in the framework of their co-operation, and co-operate to develop it;
– continue to exchange information on all matters covered by the provisions of the Convention in order to promote knowledge of landscapes and landscape policies, in view of enhancing the quality of people’s lives, taking care of their surroundings.

The Information System is a “toolbox” helping to provide mutual technical and scientific assistance through the collection and exchange of landscape experience and research, as provided for in Article 8 of the Convention on mutual assistance and exchange of information.
Information System on the European Landscape Convention
Strategies and policy documents in favour of the landscape


Hungary: National Landscape Strategy (2017-2026) - Ministry of Agriculture

Latvia: Landscape Policy Strategy - Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development

Switzerland: The Swiss Landscape Conception; Landscape 2020 – Federal Office of the Environment

Netherlands: Agenda Landschap – andschappelijk verantwoord ondernemen voor iedereen

Portugal: The National policy on architecture and landscape

Armenia: Architectural criteria’s protection of landscape character identity of settlements; Provision of the measures for the implementation of the European Landscape Principles of landscape planning in mountainous regions; Introduction of principles are defined by the European Landscape Convention relating to training and education in the higher education systems

...Finland, Lithuania...
Legal and financial instruments

France: Landscape policies and legal instruments
Poland: Instruments for the implementation of the national landscape policy:
   Landscape audit, Landscape Day
Spain: The National Plan of cultural landscape, “100 Cultural landscapes in Spain”
Italy: Thee National Landscape Observatory
Switzerland: The Swiss Landscape Fund

Horizontal and vertical co-ordination

Czech Republic: Horizontal co-operation with interministerial round tables
Greece: The landscape policy through the regional spatial plans
Serbia: Improvement of the capacity building of regions for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention
Exchange experiences:
Council of Europe Meetings of the Workshops
for the implementation of the Convention

- Organised by the Council of Europe with a Member State of the Council of Europe and other partners on a regular basis since 2002
- Exchange experiences, examining both good and bad practices in the protection, management and planning of the European landscape
- Special emphasis is given to the experiences of the state hosting the meeting.

The proceedings of the Meetings are published in the Council of Europe’s “European Spatial Planning and Landscape” series and are available on the Council of Europe’s European Landscape Convention website: www.coe.int/en/web/landscape/workshops; www.coe.int/en/web/landscape/publications
1. Workshops 23-24 May 2002, Strasbourg, France

- Landscape policies: the contribution to the well-being of European citizens and to sustainable development – social, economic, cultural and ecological approaches
- Landscape identification, evaluation and quality objectives, using cultural and natural resources – Awareness-raising, training and education
- Innovative tools for the protection, management and planning of landscape
- Landscape Award
2. Workshops 27-28 November 2003, Strasbourg, France

- Integration of landscapes in international policies and programmes
- Transfrontier landscapes
- Individual and social well-being
- Spatial planning and landscape

Exhibition on “Landscape through the eyes of the children of Armenia”

3. Workshops 16-17 June 2005, Cork, Ireland

“Landscape for urban, suburban and peri-urban areas”


8. Workshops 8-9 October 2009, Malmo, Sweden, “Landscape and driving forces”

Swedish National Heritage Board


11. Workshops 4-5 June 2012, Carbonia (Sardinia), Italy “Forum of national landscape selections for the Council of Europe Landscape Award – 1st and 2nd Sessions”
12. Workshops 2-3 October 2012, Thessalonica, Greece,
“Vision for the future of Europe on territorial democracy: Landscape as a new strategy for spatial planning. Another way to see the territory involving civil society...”

13. Workshops 2-3 October 2013, Cetinje, Montenegro,
“The future of the territories, landscape identification and assessment: an exercise in democracy”
14. Workshops 11-12 June 2014, Wroclaw, Poland, “Forum of national landscape selections for the Council of Europe Landscape Award – 3rd Session”

15. Workshops 1-2 October 2014, Urgup, Turkey, “Sustainable landscapes and economy: on the inestimable natural and human value of the landscape”
16. Workshops 1-2 October 2015, Andorra la Vella, Andorra, “Landscape and transfrontier cooperation, the landscape knows no boundary”

17. Workshops 9-10 June 2016, Budapest, Hungary, “Forum of national landscape selections for the Council of Europe Landscape Award - 4th Session”
18. Workshops 5-7 October 2016, Erevan, Armenia, “National Landscape policies for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention: challenges and opportunities”

19. Workshops October 2017, Brno, Czech Republic “The implementation of the European Landscape Convention at local level: local democracy”
20. Workshops 20-21 June 2018, Daugavpils, Latvia
“Forum of national landscape selections for the Council of Europe Landscape Award - 5th Session”

21. Workshops 3-4 October 2018, Tropea, Calabria, Italy
“Landscape and education”
22. Workshops 14-15 March 2019, Seville, Spain
“Water, landscape and citizenship in the face of global change”

23. Workshops June 2019
“Forum of national landscape selections for the Council of Europe Landscape Award - 6th Session”

24. Workshops 19-20 October 2019, Lausanne, Switzerland
“Landscape integration in sectoral policies”
The Landscape Award recognises a policy implemented or measures taken by local and regional authorities or non-governmental organisations to protect, manage and/or plan their landscape which have proved effective in the long-term and can thus serve as an example to other territorial authorities.

The Award thus contributes to the stimulation of those working on a local level and to the encouragement and recognition of exemplary landscape management. It is conferred by the Committee of Ministers, on proposals from the Committee of Experts responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Convention.

Resolution CM/Res(2008)3 on the rules governing 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
Overview of the Projects of the Council of Europe Landscape Award Alliance: classification based on the actors, the scope and the objectives of the Projects

05/05/2019
European Landscape Convention
THE LANDSCAPE AWARD ALLIANCE
OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

European spatial planning and landscape, No. 105

Convention du Conseil de l’Europe sur le paysage
ALLIANCE DU PRIX DU PAYSAGE

Aménagement du territoire européen et paysage, n° 105
Achievements presented at the 5th Session of the Landscape Award (2016-2017)

Developing “Water Codes” in Larissa City Centre: the “Sculpted River” of Larissa
*Municipality of Larissa, Greece*

Développer les « Codes de l’eau » au centre de la ville de Larissa : la « rivière sculptée » de Larissa
*Municipalité de Larissa, Grèce*
Regeneration of Daugavpils Fortress to Preserve Cultural and Historical Objects
Daugavpils City Council, Latvia

La réhabilitation de la forteresse de Daugavpils pour sauvegarder des monuments culturels et historiques
Conseil municipal de Daugavpils, Lettonie
From an Enclosure to a Network
City of Liège, Belgium

De l’enclos au réseau
Ville de Liège, Belgique
Regeneration of the landscape and archaeological Park of the Valley of the Temples in Agrigento
Department of Cultural Heritage and Identity of Sicily, Italy

La réhabilitation des paysages du Parc archéologique et paysager de la Vallée des temples d'Agrigente
Département des biens culturels et de l'identité sicilienne, Italie
Alna Environmental Park: a blue-green corridor of biodiversity, recreational opportunities and sustainable urban water management
*Municipality of Oslo, Agency for Urban Environment, Norway*

Le Parc écologique de l’Alna : un couloir bleu-vert pour la biodiversité, les loisirs et la gestion durable de l’eau en zone urbaine
*Municipalité d’Oslo, Agence de l’environnement urbain, Norvège*
Hriňovské lazy: landscape of values
Town of Hriňová, Slovak Republic

Hriňovské lazy : paysage de valeurs
Ville de Hriňová, République slovaque
Management of the Madriu-Perafita-Claror Valley, included on the list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites in the Cultural Landscape Category

Madriu-Perafita-Claror Valley management plan steering committee, Andorra

La gestion de la vallée du Madriu-Perafita-Claror, inscrite sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial de l’UNESCO dans la catégorie paysage culturel
Commision de gestion du plan de la vallée du Madriu-Perafita-Claror, Andorre
Education of Children in Heavily Industrialised Landscapes
*Elementary School in the city of Most, Czech Republic*

*L’éducation des enfants dans des paysages fortement industrialisés*
*Ecole élémentaire de la ville de Most, République tchèque*
“Shepherding Weeks”
Metsähallitus Parks and Wildlife Finland, Finland

Les « Semaines du berger »
Metsähallitus Finlande des parcs et de la vie sauvage, Finlande
Landscape as a Link, Saint-Paul
La Réunion, France

Le paysage comme relation
Saint-Paul, La Réunion, France
Landscape Development and Community Sample Programme for a Pleasant Village
Local Government of Mátraderecske, Roma Minority Local Government of Mátraderecske, Hungary

Le Programme d’aménagement du paysage et de participation locale pour un village agréable, Collectivité locale de Mátraderecske
Administration de la minorité rom de Mátraderecske, Hongrie
Protection and management of Zasavica Special Nature Reserve: a tool for sustainable development
Nature Conservation Movement of Sremska Mitrovica, Serbia

La protection et la gestion de la Réserve naturelle spéciale de Zasavica : un outil du développement durable
Mouvement pour la conservation de la nature de Sremska Mitrovica, Serbie
Landscape inventory of Galicia: 
public participation for landscape characterisation and planning

Institute of Land Studies, Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning of the Government of Galicia, Spain

L’inventaire du paysage de la Galice :
participation du public à la caractérisation et à la gestion du paysage

Institut des études du territoire, ministère de l’Environnement et de l’Aménagement du territoire du gouvernement de la Galice, Espagne
Publications

*Landscape and sustainable development: challenges of the European Landscape Convention*

- Integration of landscapes in international policies and programmes;
- Transfrontier landscapes;
- Education; Individual and social well-being;
Spatial planning and landscape

*CoE Publishing, 2006*
Landscape facets: reflections and proposals for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention

- Landscape, town, peri-urban and sub-urban areas;
- Infrastructure and landscape: roads;
- Road infrastructure: tree avenues in the landscape;
- European Local Landscape circle studies: implementation guide;
- Education on landscape for children;
- Training of landscape architects; Landscape and ethics)

Landscape dimensions: reflections and proposals for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention

Landscape and wind turbines, Landscape and leisure
Landscape and education
Landscape and economy
Landscape and advertising
Landscape and democracy

CoE Publishing, 2017
Conclusion

Contemporary societies throughout the world are confronted and will be brought increasingly to grips with phenomena and events that bring in question the values of their civilization and ideals of their philosophies.

A unique setting and meeting place for populations, landscape is a key factor in the physical, mental and spiritual well-being of individuals and societies.

Any government wishing to implement the principles of good governance needs to give due emphasis to landscape in its local, regional, national and international policies.
Spatial planning policy is an instrument in the hands of public authorities which use is a political responsibility. It should result in an organisation of space that expresses, in its distribution of human being and their activities, and in the quality of human environment created or adapted to our own time.

A thoroughly modern concept, landscape combines all four elements of sustainable development: natural, cultural, social and economic. It is also a constantly evolving story. A unique setting and meeting place for populations, landscape is a key factor in the physical, mental and spiritual well-being of individuals and societies.
International Landscape Day of the Council of Europe:

20 October

www.coe.int/EuropeanLandscapeConvention
www.coe.int/Conventioneuropeennedupaysage