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EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION**

**CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE  
CONVENTION EUROPEENNE DU PAYSAGE**

***21st MEETING OF THE WORKSHOPS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION  
OF THE EUROPE LANDSCAPE CONVENTION***

***21<sup>e</sup> REUNION DES ATELIERS POUR LA MISE EN ŒUVRE DE  
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***“Landscape and education”  
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***WORKSHOP 2***

**Landscape policies and landscape education – The Serbian experience**

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Ratification of the European Landscape Convention (ELC) and its entry into force after adoption of the Law on Ratification of the European Landscape Convention in 2011 created in the Republic of Serbia, the conditions for further development of landscape planning and management. Taking into account new circumstances, the Ministry of Environmental Protection became the leading institution for the implementation of the landscape policies, continuing to formulate recommendations for the development of a methodological approach for landscape planning.

As equal partners, culture, heritage and landscape continued to become cross cutting issues in other national and regional activities and strategies, implemented through different projects. The documents created in the period from 2010 to 2017, starting from the Spatial Plan for the

Republic of Serbia, already existing Law on Nature Protection and the Rulebook on the criteria for identifying the landscapes and the method of assessing their significant and characteristic features ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia", No. 119/17 of 29.12.2017) and several regional pilot projects, prove that the landscape policies create a sustainable framework for all other human activities and that their proper economic valorisation supports the creation of new jobs for local people living in them.

As a Contracting Party, Serbia is implementing specific measures on a national level: Awareness-raising 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 (multidisciplinary training programmes in landscape policy, protection, management and planning, for students, on 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).

Landscape as a topic in the education system in Serbia is implemented in several secondary schools and Universities:

- University of Belgrade, Faculty of Forestry – Department of Landscape Architecture and Horticulture - Study Programme Landscape Architecture;
- University of Novi Sad, Faculty of Agriculture – Department of fruit growing, viticulture, horticulture and landscape architecture;
- The Department for Environmental Planning at the Faculty of Geography in Belgrade, course on *Landscape Management*, with an explicit landscape-ecological approach.

Following the signing of the European Landscape Convention, even before, landscape became a specific issue in academic curricula at the University of Belgrade. Within specific implementation measures such as training and education about contemporary approach to landscape value, the European Landscape Convention encourages initiatives for improving academic study programs at the University of Belgrade. Today, students have the opportunity to develop knowledge regarding landscape protection, management and planning, as defined by the Convention, within regular academic courses at the Faculty of Forestry, Faculty of Spatial Planning and Faculty of Architecture.

At the Faculty of Forestry, within the BSc and MSc programmes in Landscape Architecture, students are well educated in sense of landscape research at the different scales: from national to local level. The main influence of the Convention principals and measures is noted in Landscape planning curricula, which are obligatory courses within both programs (BSc and MSc). In a pedagogical context, landscape character assessment, as a main research method, enables students to read and understand the landscape character as a main value.

After completion of the BSc programme, students are able to read landscape in context of: hermeneutical function (they can learn to read inside and through landscape elements and features, and to understand ecological and aesthetical processes that shape landscape);

pragmatic function (for its essential project dimension, mostly within Belgrade urban environment); social function, for it involves and it promotes the development of local identities etc. (Belgrade urban pockets).

The framework of MSc programme is based on the syllabus and package of teaching material for each of nine subject areas coming up from TEMPUS LENNE Curriculum Development Project (2006-2009). The project consortium included six universities and a number of individual experts from European Union countries, and from Serbia: University of Belgrade Faculty of Forestry Department of Landscape Architecture and Horticulture; University of Belgrade, Faculty of Geography Department of Spatial Planning; University of Novi Sad, Faculty of Agriculture and Institute of Lowland Forestry and Environment from Novi Sad. The goal of the Project was to form and develop the structure and content for a new two years Master Programme in Landscape Planning and Management.

The programme was aimed in particular at responding to the needs of public administration in Serbia for the education of specialists able to support the introduction and compliance with recent and forthcoming European environmental legislation (European Landscape Convention, 2000 and Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive, 1996). The current MSc Landscape architecture programme embraces 6 from 8 syllabus. There are courses on Landscape planning, Landscape design, Open urban spaces, Cultural landscape, Landscape management, History and Conservation. By the end of the MSc programme, and having undertaken relevant reading, successful students gain knowledge of *landscape character*, *landscape character assessment*, *landscape quality objectives*, *landscape policies*, *cultural landscape* etc. Students become aware of the role of landscape planning and management in maintaining and enhancing landscape character and cultural heritage and of the public and private institutions who contribute towards landscape planning, protection and management.

As a final result, students are able to undertake a landscape character assessment as a well-known and respectable methodology in reading and understanding landscape value. They become familiar enough with principles and practice of spatial planning and instruments of nature conservation and environmental protection (environmental impact assessment, green infrastructure, ecosystem services). Finally, they become familiar with new techniques for landscape analysis and visualisation (GIS mapping and 3D modelling).

This project obviously had significant influence on the changes and introduction of new courses in the study programs at the mentioned faculties in Serbia. Illustration of gained knowledge might be recognised within titles of some masters theses etc. Landscape character of the Čacak municipality as a framework for implementation of the European Landscape Convention at the local level (student Natasa Petkovic), Green infrastructure as a landscape planning strategy in Čukarica municipality (student Snežana Kecman), Great war island as a core of the green infrastructure in the Belgrade's urban landscape (student Jovana Bošković).

From the theoretical point of view, holistic conceptualisation of landscape as a meaningful influence of the European Landscape Convention's principals and landscape approach

methods could be obtained within PhD thesis titles: Landscape planning as an instrument of spatial development of Serbia (2013) which was defended at the Faculty of Forestry. The main conclusion is that realisation of the landscape planning concept, based on the Convention's principals that are proposed in the thesis, request preconditions: social verification of landscape character and its meaningful recognition in the legislation, and identification of landscape character types and their quality objectives on the territory of Serbia. Perspective can be seen within the implementation of the European Landscape Convention in Serbia as a premise of the modern concept of landscape planning. Landscape architects are expected to direct actions towards development of planning methodology, landscape architects education, and redirection of scientific research for the purpose of landscape planning and implementation of the European Landscape Convention.

The Faculty of Spatial planning and the Faculty of Architecture provide MSc programmes with elective courses of Landscape planning with particular emphasis on introducing students to basic terms of the European Landscape Convention: landscape ecology, landscape structure, function and change of the landscape, urban, rural and natural landscape, landscape character – type, landscape characterisation, landscape protection and management, landscape visualisation, green infrastructure.

Finally, from an academic perspective, education within the profession of landscape architecture, as well as geographers, architect and others who will be responsible in the domain of landscape planning, management and protection in Serbia circumstances, should favour larger landscape scales and should interact with the smaller scales. It is likely to be the dominant force shaping the practice of landscape planning in the 21st century.

### **Relationship between public and cross-sectoral practical policies**

Cultural policy is observed as a part of scientific area of management in culture because its goal is to develop practical systems and theoretical models of cultural life based on certain values, defined by aesthetic and ethical standards. Cultural policy and line policies of cultural landscape (Ministry of Culture and Information, Ministry of Environmental Protection, Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government...), have achieved synergetic effects.

Prerequisites for management are verifiable mechanisms for effective participation of communities in managing and developing cultural and protected landscapes, as well as developing sustainable approaches to landscapes. It is necessary to recognise autochthonic planning in local environment. The management approaches are based on principles (public benefit, understanding, integrity and respect), on values and ethical code.