

**COUNCIL OF EUROPE
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^e REUNION DES ATELIERS POUR LA MISE EN ŒUVRE DE
LA CONVENTION EUROPEENNE DU PAYSAGE***

***“Landscape and education”
« Paysage et éducation »***

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Study visit, 5 October 2018 / Visite d'études, 5 octobre 2018

WELCOME SPEECH

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Ladies and gentlemen,
Dear colleagues,

If we know that any landscape is a condition of the spirit, education about landscape is our single most important job.

Landscape is more than just scenery: it is the interaction between people and place; the bedrock upon which our society is built. The European Landscape Convention defines landscape as ‘an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors.’

The European Landscape Convention was adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe and opened for signature of the Member States of the Organisation with the aim to promote European landscape protection, management and planning and to organise international co-operation. It is the first document to be exclusively devoted to all aspects of the landscape. It concerns landscapes that might be considered outstanding, as well as every day or degraded landscapes.

The Convention represents an important contribution to the implementation of the Council of Europe’s objectives, namely to promote democracy, human rights and the rule of law and to seek common solutions to the main problems facing European society today. By taking into account

natural and cultural values, the Council of Europe seeks to protect the quality of life and individual and social well-being.

Our landscapes are important to us for many reasons. They are a shared resource for everyone, irrespective of ownership, ability or background. They provide a living history of our past, and an inspiration for our culture. They provide a wide range of social and health benefits and underpin economy.

Whether rural or urban, coastal or inland, degraded or well-preserved, our surroundings reflect our quality of life. It is not only areas of outstanding beauty which require our attention, but the rich variety of settings in which we live – many of which have been undergoing rapid change.

The 21st Council of Europe Meeting of the Workshops for the implementation of the Council of Europe Landscape Convention on “Landscape and education” is an opportunity to discuss the implementation of Article 6 B. c. of the Council of Europe Landscape Convention, on education. The great aim of landscape and education is not only knowledge but also action.

Implementation of the Convention in national policies is always a challenge for people who are creating landscape policies at the state and local level. Landscape has no borders and we need to co-operate and to exchange our knowledge, experience and different approaches.

It is a pleasure to bring together achievements in this two days presentations.

I would like to thank the Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities of Italy and the Regions of Calabria and Basilicata, for their hospitality and co-operation.

I wish you every success.