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EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION**

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

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OF THE EUROPE LANDSCAPE CONVENTION***

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WORKSHOP 3

Education and the implementation of the European Landscape Convention in Slovakia

Mrs Zlatica CSONTOS ŠIMOŇÁKOVÁ

Senior Officer, Ministry of the Environment, Slovak Republic

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In the Slovak Republic, the four following elements contribute to the implementation of the provisions of the European Landscape Convention on education: Institutional support; Promotion and education; Co-operation; and Professional support.

Institutional support

The principles of the European Landscape Convention are implemented in the draft legislation of all sectors (land-use planning, protection of monuments and sites and environmental impact assessment) and integrated into strategic, conceptual and programme documents at all levels, in particular in national land use plan guidelines. The concept of the territorial development of Slovakia is a prerequisite for preserving the characteristic landscape features.

The goals of the Convention are integrated into the Concept of Nature and Landscape Preservation, the Biodiversity Action Plan by 2020 and into both existing and forthcoming methodical guidelines for the preparation of landscape documents.

Methodology for the development of territorial systems of ecological stability in the context of the integration of the Convention's objectives. These documents refer to the green infrastructure.

A support is provided for the development and the implementation of landscape concepts for landscape protection, management and planning.

Promotion and education

Learning programmes focusing on landscape planning, spatial planning, landscape architecture which are notably provided by the Slovak Agricultural University in Nitra, the Technical University in Zvolen, the technical university in Bratislava and the University of Prešov.

A strong information campaign was undertaken to educate the expert public and local government, working with the public, lectures and presentations at seminars and conferences. The Slovak Environment Agency prepare many publications and promotional materials which are informative and aim to raise awareness about landscape value, for both experts and the non-expert public.

- Brochure “European Landscape Convention in the Slovak Republic”, 2005 and 2017;
- Brochure “Guide to landscape values. Horehronie”;
- Landscape Award travelling exhibition;
- Documentary film, “National Landscape Award for the Landscape in Slovakia”, regarding the award ceremonies;
- Posters promoting the European Landscape Convention and presenting Slovakia through the pictures submitted for the Award.

Co-operation

- The Technical University of Zvolen, Faculty of Ecology and Environmental Sciences, focuses on landscape issues at the level of research and education with the support of UNISCAPE;
- The EKOPOLIS Foundation, which has been a member of CIVILSCAPE since 2009, supports and carries out the concepts of the European Landscape Convention through its grant programmes and projects;
- Co-operation between experts contribute to promote the integration of landscape protection management and planning in sectoral policies: land-use planning, monument and site protection and nature conservation. Historians and tourism organisations are involved in this process;
- Networking is developed;
- Exchange of experience and methodologies on identification of landscape values is carried out.

Moreover, in the context of the promotion of the Convention and education regarding landscape, a European Landscape Convention Information Day is organised every year, on the basis of a co-operation between the Slovak Environment Agency and the Scientific Library of the Technical University of Zvolen. This year, the 10th Information Day event took place.

This year, the 22nd Conference on *Landscape man and culture*, focused on the implementation of the European Landscape Convention. This conference, which has been held since 2006, is popular among experts and students, as well as the non-expert public. The first day of conference is dedicated to expert lectures and, on the second day, expert education takes place.

Professional support: Landscape Typology

Each party to the Convention undertakes to determine landscape types within its whole territory: under this obligation, a *Methodical guideline for development of landscape typology in Slovakia* was prepared. The aim of this landscape typology is to identify interdependencies between natural, cultural and historical values and social and economic conditions, and to improve the preservation of various landscape types in Slovakia. Specification of landscape types and particulars of individual regions will promote effective landscape preservation, its conservation, management and planning processes.

The Institute of Landscape Ecology of the Slovak Academy of Sciences develops two projects:

The *Representative Geoecosystems of Slovakia* (REPGES) has identified and evaluated representative types of Slovakian landscape, based on the morphological features of relief and prevailing land use;

The *Research and Preservation of Biodiversity in the Historical Structures of Agricultural Slovak Landscape* was prepared using Landscape Assessment Methodology.

Although landscape assessment methodologies were developed and approved, providing the methodological background for landscape assessment in Slovakia, there is no uniform method of evaluation. A Methodology is available for the identification and evaluation of characteristic landscape features (2010) and another methodology is available for the assessment of the visual impact of wind power plants and wind farms on the landscape (2010).

Those methodologies can be used to define the actual landscape values, landscape image, to evaluate characteristic phenomena of landscape aspect, landscape features, particulars, landscape identity, risk of decline of significant landscape components. They can also be used to evaluate the development project in the territory and the project of locating structures in the country (e.g. wind power plant, tourism facilities and industrial parks).

Thank you for your attention.