



EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION
LANDSCAPE AWARD OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

6th Session – 2018-2019

APPLICATION FORM

I. STATE CONCERNED AND APPLICANT

1.	State	Republic of Serbia
	Represented by	Minister Mr Goran Trivan
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2.	Applicant <i>Name of the local, regional authority(ies) or NGO(s)</i>	Urban and Spatial Planning Institute of Vojvodina, Provincial Secretary for Urban Planning and Environmental Protection Government of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina
	Represented by	Director Mr Predrag Knežević
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II. PRESENTATION OF THE PROJET

3. Name of the Project

Spatial Plan for a Special-Purpose Area
“The Cultural Landscape of Sremski Karlovci”

4. Location of the Project

Municipality of Sremski Karlovci,
Autonomous Province of Vojvodina,
Republic of Serbia

5. Summary of the Project

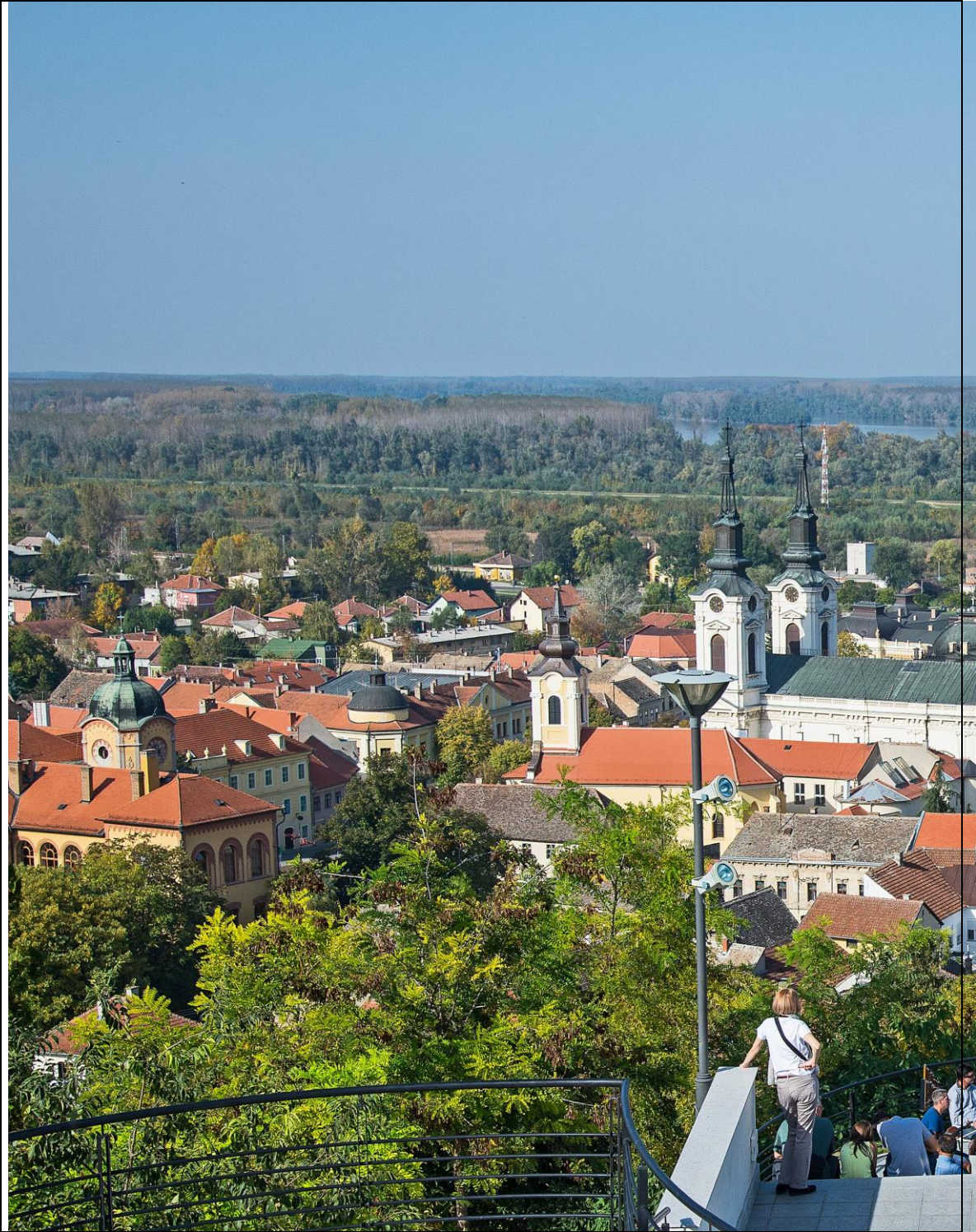
Acknowledging inherited values embodied in the landscape and seeking the way to mitigate negative spatial development trends (urban sprawl, illicit construction, inappropriate land use), the aim of the Project was to create a spatial development strategy that would enhance general image of historical town of Sremski Karlovci, prioritising both settlement scale concerns and values of its surroundings.

This Project is the first Spatial planning document in Serbia that provides conceptual framework for spatial planning based on landscape conceptualisation and the first planning document that performs as an application model of the ELC.

The area considered by the planning document covered 64,16 km² containing the diverse landscapes of the forested slopes of the Fruska Gora mountain and one of the widest alluvial plains of the middle Danube (Koviljsko-petrovaradinski rit). The contact zone between these two dominant spatial entities has determined the specific form of the landscape characterised by the compact morphology of the historical town of Sremski Karlovci and the particularities of its agricultural surroundings.

The project activities were aiming to realise the full potential of landscape characterisation and to identify the landscape quality objectives with the purpose of creating new spatial development strategy for Sremski Karlovci. The adaptation of the spatial planning document appeared as the final product of comprehensive and collaborative work on those activities.

6. **Photo representing the Project** (*high definition – JPEG 350 dpi*) and *name of the author of the photo please*



III. CONTENT OF THE PROJECT

7. **Start of the Project** month year

8. **Partners**

Urban and Spatial Planning Institute of Vojvodina
Provincial Secretary for Urban Planning and Environmental Protection
Municipality of Sremski Karlovci
Vojvodina Environmental Movement, Sremski Karlovci
The Society for Heritage Promotion and Development of Sremski Karlovci

9. **Financing bodies**

Government of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina

10. **Central aims of the Project**

The central task of the project activities was to develop Spatial Plan for the Special Purpose Area “The Cultural Landscape of Sremski Karlovci” by emphasizing historical importance of the area, its potential to become well established cultural tourism destination and its diversity of landscape types.

With the innovative conceptual framework and methodological approach based on landscape characterisation, it was intended to formulate shared landscape quality objectives through comprehensive communication and create strategic spatial development framework for the establishment of proper landscape management plan.

Accordingly, the central aims were related to two main sections of the Project:

1. Communicative activity aims:

- Raising the landscape awareness both within the community and the activities related to spatial and urban planning.
- The promotion of the importance of landscape characterisation as essential part of sustainable development.
- The establishment of the multi-direction transfer of knowledge between professionals, local people and government bodies.
- Promote landscape planning as the activity of primer public interest and landscape character as major part of cultural identity of the community.
- Formulation of the shared vision for protection and improvement of the landscape character of Sremski Karlovci.

2. Aims related to the framework of strategic spatial development:

- Identification, valorisation and institutionalisation of the Cultural landscape of Sremski Karlovci.
- Identification of certain characteristics of the landscape as strategically important for protection, conservation or improvement.
- Defining strategies to prevent degradation of sensitive landscapes, and ensure the necessary level of protection for the remaining ones.
- Generate central spatial development ideas and align them with the strategies for landscape protection and improvement.

11. Outcome

The final stage of the project and the major outcome was the adaptation of the Planning document by the regional government (The Assembly of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina). In that way, the planning document became local landscape policy that contains measures for interventions in the designated area.

In line with the presented central aims of the Project, the concept for the spatial development included:

- the preservation of functionality, diversity and the visual experience of the landscape form,
- better articulation of land use to safeguard the area against uncontrolled constructions,
- tourism development strategy and tourism infrastructure improvements,
- arrangement of historical settlement cores,
- continuous multi-functional connections (green infrastructure) between the forests of the Fruska Gora, the settlement and the Danube,
- use of ecosystem services,
- development of recreational areas and educational pavilions in nature protected areas and historical cores.

The adaptation of the Plan defined the border of the Cultural landscape of Sremski Karlovci which is seen as a multifunctional spatial entity, and its formation has been considered as a public interest in the field of culture, ecology and the environment, as well as at the social level. Accordingly, the landscape character as a major part of the cultural identity is seen as a public domain, and its improvement is in the interest of all participants in the planning process. Landscape character assessment, and its valorisation, is seen as an aspect of territorial capital, which significantly affected local development in a sustainable manner.

According to the performed landscape character assessment, the Spatial Plan for Special Purpose Area defines 9 (nine) landscape units as a strategic framework for actions at the local scale. Each unit is the outcome of a group of landscape units which landscape features are repeated in the territory and together form one of 3 identified landscape types at the regional scale. At the local scale, the chosen landscape units are meant to provide a synthetic, but sufficiently detailed view of the region's landscape configurations and they provide a good reflection of its cultural profile.

The project defined the landscape quality objectives both for the whole area of defined Cultural Landscape and each of the landscape units. General quality objectives that stand out for the whole area emphasize the historical importance of the area, heterogeneity of landscape types and the potential of the area to become well established cultural and eco-tourism destination.

Important outcome of the project is also GIS database which has been used as a tool for monitoring the impact on the landscape.

As a consequence of the Project outcomes, the town of Sremski Karlovci was designated as part of the area that represents European Capital of Culture in 2021 (together with the city of Novi Sad and two more municipalities).

IV. RESPECT OF THE CRITERIA OF THE ATTRIBUTION OF THE AWARD

12. Sustainable territorial development

The adaptation of the Spatial plan by Regional government represents the implementation of landscape protection policy outlined by The Spatial Plan of Republic of Serbia.

As a consequence of negative development trends in Sremski Karlovci the overall quality of life in the town deteriorated. The new development strategy is focused on directing selective development interventions using landscape particularities and ecosystem services as a driving tool.

The project used the cultural dimension of the landscape as the generator for sustainable economies, improved identity and new interpretation of the territory. Landscape character has been recognized together with society, economy and environment as mutually reinforcing concern rather than conflicting domain.

Tourism development strategy was the one of the main rationales of the Project and an important indicator of the sustainability. It was based on providing the concept for the interpretation of landscape character and its values. The main idea behind tourism development strategy in the Cultural Landscape of Sremski Karlovci is to offer good interpretation of the diversity of landscape types on the relatively small area and attach to them multiple tourist activities.

13. Exemplary value

This Project seen as a process of policy development is presented here in relation to the Serbian spatial planning systems` ability to recognize landscape character assessment and European Landscape Convention as an important framework and a valid approach in guiding spatial development.

The implementation of spatial development policy in Sremski Karlovci based on the landscape conceptualization approach, confirmed that spatial change can be directed through considerations of landscape dynamics where landscape character assessment represents the major medium for collaboration, participation and finally intervention on the local level.

Therefore, strategic application of landscape character assessment in the spatial planning documents in Serbia can be recommended for the proper application of the European Landscape Convention. It represents a tool for testing the structuring capacity of the landscape features as a new infrastructure for urbanization.

Landscape-based concepts propose spatial development which negotiates the contrasting realities of the urban/suburban/rural structures. Such an approach towards landscape interventions in a territory intertwined with water, forest and agriculture should result in a sustainable spatial structure that is capable of accepting and rationalizing new development trends and new production systems.

The planning process established in the context of Sremski Karlovci can be replicated in a different context within Serbia and in other countries with similar spatial planning systems.

14. Public participation

Communication activities about the landscape awareness reassigned was one of the main aims of the Project. Procedures for the participation were generally made through the legal process of spatial planning document elaboration. As it was shown not to be sufficient for the purpose of the project, alternative participation procedure was made. It went through the local civic organisations and NGOs with the aim to reach both general public and specific interest groups.

The town and its community showed significant resilience in sustaining itself in the past through developed network of local civic initiatives and NGOs. Through the elaboration of the Project that was shown as inherited value and significant capacity of the local community to successfully tackle different sorts of problems.

That strength of the community has been mobilized for the purpose of the project in its full.

15. Awareness-raising

This Project represent contemporary landscape conceptualization that has been read and interpreted in a holistic manner as a multifunctional and multidimensional entity the character of which should be protected and enhanced according to local and regional values and interests.

Landscape character assessment, as a methodological approach used here as starting point for spatial planning elaboration is new conceptual framework in Serbian spatial planning practice.

Therefore, the awareness raising of the importance of landscape through the elaboration of the Project was achieved through two directions:

1. Awareness rising of general public about the importance of the protection of landscape character values and their right to protect it and be asked about it, which was done during public participation sessions.

2. Raising the awareness of civil organisations, public authorities (decision makers) and professionals involved in the elaboration of the planning document (architects, urbanists, infrastructure engineers and other professionals) about both importance of landscape considerations and tools for its improvement.

V. ADDITIONAL MATERIAL

DVD:

- **Booklet with text and photos (pdf)**
- **Video “The Cultural Landscape of Sremski Karlovci”**