



EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION
LANDSCAPE AWARD OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

6th Session – 2018-2019

APPLICATION FORM

Presentation

The European Landscape Convention aims to promote the protection, management and planning of landscapes and to bring together European co-operation in this field. It is the first international treaty exclusively devoted to all dimensions of European landscape. Taking into account the landscape, natural and cultural values of the territory, it contributes to promoting the quality of life and well-being of Europeans.

The Resolution on the Rules governing the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe, adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 20 February 2008 at the 1018th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies, draws attention to the fact that Article 11 of the Convention institutes the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe and that it is in keeping with the work carried out by the Council of Europe concerning human rights, democracy and sustainable development. It effectively promotes the territorial dimension of human rights and democracy by acknowledging the importance of measures taken to improve the landscape for people's living conditions.

Opened to the Parties to the Convention, the Award is intended to raise civil society's awareness of the value of landscapes, of their role and of changes to them. Its objective is to reward exemplary practical initiatives aimed at successful landscape quality objectives on the territories of the Parties to the Convention. The Award is conferred every two years and the files presenting applications must reach the Secretariat General of the Council of Europe.

At its meeting held in Strasbourg on 28-29 April 2008, the Steering Committee for Cultural Heritage and Landscape (CDPATEP) decided that applications should be submitted to the Council of Europe Secretariat through the Permanent Representations of the Parties to the Convention.

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Please note that:

- participation to the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe is only open to local and regional authorities and their groupings and non-governmental organisations, as stated in the Resolution CM/Res (2008)3, Appendix, Article 2;*
- the application form must be completed in all its parts, in one of the two official languages of the Council of Europe (English or French);*
- the materials submitted must be copyright-free, for use by the Council of Europe in communications aimed at promoting the Award or any other publications or activities relating to the Convention. The Council of Europe undertakes to cite the authors' names;*
- files that are incomplete or fail to comply with the rules will not be taken into consideration.*

For further information please visit the Landscape Award section of the Council of Europe website: www.coe.int/EuropeanLandscapeConvention

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I. STATE CONCERNED AND APPLICANT

1. State	Republic of Cyprus
Represented by	Ms Athena Aristotelous-Cleridou, Director
<i>Address:</i>	Ministry of Interior, Department of Town Planning and Housing
<i>Telephone:</i>	+35722408210
<i>E-mail:</i>	ihadjisavva@tph.moi.gov.cy
2. Applicant	Limassol Municipality
<i>Name of the local, regional authority(ies) or NGO(s)</i>	
Represented by	Mr Nicos Nicolaides, Mayor
<i>Address:</i>	23, ARCH. KYPRIANOU 3600. LIMASSOL, CYPRUS
<i>Telephone:</i>	00357 25 884324
<i>E-mail:</i>	executiveeng@limassolmunicipal.com.cy

II. PRESENTATION OF THE PROJET

3. Name of the Project

MULTIFUNCTION SEASIDE PARK IN LIMASSOL

4. Location of the Project

LIMASSOL

5. Summary of the Project (10-12 lines)

In 1970, the Government and the Municipal Authorities proceeded with the reclamation project, expanding the land into the sea in order to cope with erosion, to protect buildings along the beach, and to create a large seaside park. The existing seafront situation, 1 km long and 65 metres wide, needed modifications that would make it part of the new, modern face of central Limassol by means of an integrated, unified design. The reconstruction included new landscaping using local plants, which are high- temperature -resistant, mainly used for greenery and beautification purposes, the use of recycled water from the sewage system for irrigation, a bike lane along the main road, a small amphitheatre, lounges, walkways, seating areas, playgrounds, a skateboard area, wooden piers and decks for walking and lighting. In the context of the upgrade, existing functions and infrastructures were taken into consideration, such as fountains, sculptures, green areas and play areas.

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



7. Website of the Project (if exists)

<https://www.limassolmunicipal.com.cy/en/anaptiksiak-erga-2007-2013>

III. CONTENT OF THE PROJECT

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

The project must have been completed at least three years previously

9. **Partners**

LIMASSOL MUNICIPALITY

10. **Financing bodies**

The project was co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund of the EU as part of the 2007-2013 programming period in the "Competitiveness and Sustainable Development operational programme, Cyprus Government and Limassol Municipality

11. **Central aims of the Project**

The aim of the Project was to reshape the seafront, based on the new developments dating from 2002 when the 'Central Limassol Plan – provisions and policy matters' was drawn up, and on the new demands and needs of those using the area and mainly to improve the environment and quality of life of the town's residents and those of the wider metropolitan area.

The philosophy of the project was also to offer to the public the regaining view of the sea and to revive the use of the place as it used to be around 1950's, where it used to be a pier and a multifunction building with coffee shop, theatre etc 'The Aktaio' and the place was one of the most important meeting place for the Limassolians for relaxation and various functions.

The aim was also for the seafront promenade to link up both functionally and semantically with the rest of the town with the various access points and changes to the seafront so as to bring back the functional relationship between the town centre and the sea, which had been lost for many years.

12. Outcome

The project implemented the objective set up by the municipal Authorities, “*Helping Limassol regain a view of the sea and keep in touch with the shore*”.

The positive results have already materialised as, despite the economic crisis plaguing the country, Limassol is one of the very few areas in Cyprus exhibiting growth and development. The active seafront planning aim of qualitative social improvement and round-the-clock activity of the park – in essence revitalising it both socially and economically – has been achieved.

The green environment, the quality comforts, facilities and installations for public recreation and relaxation included in the project have made the park a unique area whose reputation has spread across Cyprus.

Today, the Limassol seafront area became meeting place for social activities and is buzzing with life and is one of the most important places with the town's residents as well as with thousands of visitors who walk, exercise, rest and enjoy some recreation there in a green environment.

The environment and quality of life have been improved and the city's marketability and competitiveness boosted.

The local economy has been boosted thanks to more visitors, charmed by the seafront new look. The city's residents have benefited from the project, as have those of the wider metropolitan area.

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

13. Sustainable territorial development

Is the project part of a sustainable development policy?

Does it contribute to the enhancement of environmental, social, economic, cultural or aesthetic values of the landscape? How?

Has it successfully countered or posed a remedy to any pre-existing environmental damage or urban blight? How?

Limassol City in 2003 in co-operation with the Town Planning & Housing Department , in an attempt to face its problems and needs proceeded with the preparation and adoption of a Strategic Plan for an Integrated Sustainable Urban Development to solve urban issues like abandoned spaces, city planning, urban mobility, cultural and heritage and urban renewal. The Plan determined the functional structures, permitted uses of land, pedestrian modules, creation of open spaces; all within an existing and already structurally defined area. With the completion of the project the seafront park has been reshaped contributing to the improvement of the environment and quality of life as well to the city's marketability and competitiveness which have been boosted.

The local economy has been boosted thanks to more visitors, charmed by the seafront new look. The city's residents have benefited from the project, as have those of the wider metropolitan area.

The open spaces together with the amphitheatre offer spaces for cultural activities either organised by the Municipality but more often from local community groups. Festival activities, such as the Carnival, beer festival and others are organised as well as theatre plays, music and dance performances take place in the area, making it a liveable place and a cultural and leisure area. The seafront's situation which had been more or less unexploited and neglected has been reversed. Sculptures placed in the area contribute not only to aesthetic values but also to cultural. Temporary outdoor exhibitions by different bodies are also organised.

14. Exemplary value

*Can the project be considered of exemplary value? Why?
Which are the good practices that it implemented?*

Limassol's seafront regeneration has been proven to work well by achieving the desired results, and can be recommended as a model. It is a successful experience, which has been tested and validated and we strongly believe that it is interesting for other European sea coast cities as many of them face similar problems.

Limassol's practice addresses issues widely faced by coastal cities, offers practical and result-oriented solutions and applies a sustainable and integrated approach to tackling urban challenges. It is a participatory approach in both project development and implementation, involving all relevant stakeholders, it well-documented and has made a visible and measurable difference to the city and in the wider metropolitan area.

The objectives were defined, such as the creation of a green core in the city centre, "Helping Limassol regain a view of the sea and keep in touch with the shore", the completion and modernization of a basic infrastructure.

The Plan described the scope of the city quality improvement, the modernization of basic infrastructure, proper urban planning and the creation of sites of special interest.

In Limassol, a city with a vision, problems became opportunities, through their successful identification, bearing in mind the importance of the seafront area.

One of the most important accomplishments of the project is that it managed not only to upgrade environmentally and aesthetically a neglected area but to incorporate successfully human activities, linking intangible heritage and practices with the spatial dimension.

15. Public participation

Does the project actively encourage the public's participation in the decision-making process? How?

Is the project in line with the wider policies implemented by national, regional or local authorities?

The Government, the State services and the private sector came together and cooperated fully. In Limassol, a step-by-step procedure was followed, enabling economic and social actors to work together and develop integrated solutions to common urban challenges. The preliminary plans were presented to the public and the views expressed were seriously considered and incorporated to the final design.

An example: the public strongly expressed their demand that the landscaping design should include both a walkway in straight line for quick walking as well as a walkway for leisure walking; therefore both types of walkways were incorporated in the project. Another example is the demand for having a view of the sea while walking or sitting; therefore the levels of the area were raised and the platforms and walkways over the sea were constructed.

The project was produced by respecting sustainability rules and best practices. They have been followed up by the competent State authorities, such as the Department of Public Works and the Department of Environment. Recycled water from the sewage system is used for irrigating the green areas. Local plants, which are high- temperature-resistant, are mainly used for greenery and beautification purposes.

This initiative is perfectly compatible with long-established State policy in terms of utilizing and developing the existing. In the context of the planning and construction of the project, we have been encouraged and supported financially and technically by the State and is based on the Area Plan for the city centre as issued by the Department of Town Planning and Housing of the Ministry of Interior in cooperation with Limassol Municipality.

16. Awareness-raising

Is the project effectively increasing public awareness of the importance of landscape in terms of human development, consolidation of European identity, or individual and collective well-being? How?

The positive results of the project have already materialised : the active seafront planning aim of qualitative social improvement and round-the-clock activity of the park – in essence revitalising it both socially and economically – has been achieved.

The green environment, the quality comforts, facilities and installations for public recreation and relaxation included in the project have made the park a unique area whose reputation has spread across Cyprus. The city now offers greater hospitality, freshness and an open-hearted atmosphere, which is mainly felt during the warm Mediterranean summer and autumn days and nights. It is relaxing and offers peace of mind.

Today, the Limassol seafront area became meeting place for social activities and is buzzing with life and is one of the most important places with the town's residents as well as with thousands of visitors who walk, exercise, rest and enjoy some recreation there.

The environment and quality of life have been improved and the city's marketability and competitiveness boosted.

The city's residents have benefited from the project, as have those of the wider metropolitan area.

V. ADDITIONAL MATERIAL

Together with the printed version of the Application form, additional material in digital format should be included in one CD-Rom, DVD or USB key.

- Text (20 pages max.): *PDF format*
- Photos (10 max.): *JPEG 350 dpi high definition*
- Posters (2 max.): *PDF format high definition or JPEG 350 dpi high definition*
- Video (15 min max.): *mpeg 2 format - It is recommended to present a video (even of amateur quality).*

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