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The Meadow orchards and landscape

Municipality of Kozje



The extensive use of agricultural land in meadow orchards helps maintain a traditional agricultural landscape by contributing significantly to the preservation of biodiversity. The meadow orchards of the protected area of Kozjansko Regional Park are among the most important special conservation areas in Europe (Natura 2000), because they represent a natural environment necessary for many endangered rare bird species. Changes in farming practices, lack of land maintenance, economic and social transformations, which are processes threatening this habitat type, were halted with pro-active measures. The adoption of a holistic approach has helped protect nature and enhance the landscape, developing quality agriculture favourable to the local economy. The meadow orchards, and the apples grown there, have become a symbol. The local population, the managers of the protected area and non-governmental organisations, work together for this landscape.

The Committee of Ministers acknowledged the great value of the achievement presented for the 6th Session of the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe's European Landscape Convention 2018-2019, and the importance to make it well-known as a source of inspiration.

In accordance with Resolution CM/Res (2017)18 of the Committee of Ministers, the project is thus part of the Landscape Award Alliance of the Council of Europe.