



CDCPP THEMATIC SESSION

**CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT AS RELATED
TO HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY,
and specifically, culture, heritage and landscape
resources**

Hungarian contribution

Cultural Heritage: Climate
Change and Sustainable
Development goals

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Challenges are addressed at national level by the framework of the European Landscape Convention

The European Landscape Convention is a most outstanding instrument. It is flexible enough to be adopted all over the world, while being able to focus and contribute to the most important challenges facing Europe. The Convention is concerned with human well-being, whose territorial dimension is the landscape.

In ratifying the Convention, Hungary has adopted its principal objectives, the protection, management and planning of landscapes, conferring important rights, but at the same time imposing obligations. The European Landscape Convention safeguards and realises the ideals and objectives of the Council of Europe: sustainability, the principle of subsidiarity, and the use of democratic instruments to ensure the involvement of stakeholders.

The Hungarian Government approved the *National Landscape Strategy* in 2017 adopting the principles presented in the Preamble of the European Landscape Convention and the provisions laid down in it. This strategy reviews how Hungary satisfies international expectations and presents the most dominant landscape formation processes. It shows the condition of Hungarian landscapes and the drivers that determine their condition. The processes currently affecting the condition of Hungarian landscapes can be summarised as follows:

- Population changes and variation in different regions of the country
- Difference between the economic demand and regeneration capacity of natural resources
- Weakening of landscape identity
- Definitive role of protective actions

The vision is dual: it outlines a future condition of Hungarian landscapes with the vision of Hungarian landscape policy and summarises the duality as: **Land use based on landscape configuration and assets.**

Responding to recent challenges requires cooperation to find suitable new areas to meet the changing needs of society and to adjust existing land uses to realise the landscape's potential based on the principle of sustainability.

However, the Hungarian National Landscape Strategy can only satisfy expectations if its objectives are integrated with the policies and a complex, holistic approach is adopted. Based on the European Landscape Convention, the Hungarian National Landscape Strategy contributes to fulfil the right to a healthy environment, the right for information and participation, consolidating important democratic instruments in the planning process.

The Hungarian National Landscape Strategy is available at the website of the government in English.