



European Landscape Convention
**THE LANDSCAPE AWARD ALLIANCE
OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE**

European spatial planning
and landscape Series, No. 120

Volume 2

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

European Landscape Convention

THE LANDSCAPE AWARD ALLIANCE OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Volume 2
2018-2021

6 th Session 2018-2019
7 th Session 2020-2021

European spatial planning and landscape, No. 120



Council of Europe

French edition:

L'Alliance du Prix du paysage du Conseil de l'Europe, Volume 2, 2018-2021

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Cover and layout: Documents and Publications Production Department (SPDP), Council of Europe

Cover photos: Council of Europe, Projects of the 6th Session 2018-2019 and of the 7th Session 2020-2021.

This publication has not been edited by the SPDP Editorial Unit

The Landscape Award Alliance of the Council of Europe gathers the exemplary achievements presented by the States Parties to the European Landscape Convention.

For further information, consult the Council of Europe website:

European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe
www.coe.int/EuropeanLandscapeConvention
www.coe.int/en/web/landscape/landscape-award-alliance

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With the co-operation of Susan Moller and Emma Leroux

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Printed at the Council of Europe

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Preface

Whether urban or rural, landscape has an unquantifiable bearing on the quality of life. It is not only areas of outstanding beauty that require our attention, but also the rich variety of settings in which we live, many of which have been undergoing rapid change.

The Council of Europe Landscape Award, which is open to the Parties to the European Landscape Convention, is intended to raise awareness among the civil society of the value of this living environment. Its objective is to acknowledge practical and exemplary achievements, as sources of inspiration.

Through their participative and innovative approach, the people behind these achievements have demonstrated that landscape matters in the pursuit of human dignity.

I am happy that the Council of Europe is able to recognise their work.

*Marija Pejčinović Burić
Secretary General of the Council of Europe*

Introduction

The European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe (ETS 176) is the first international treaty on sustainable development based on a balanced and harmonious relationship between social needs, economic activity, the environment and culture to be exclusively concerned with landscape enhancement. Its purpose is to promote landscape protection, management and planning, and to organise international co-operation in this domain.

The scope of the Convention is broad: it applies to the parties' entire territory and covers natural, rural, urban and peri-urban areas, which include land, inland water and marine areas. It does not only concern the remarkable landscapes, but also the everyday landscapes and the degraded spaces. The importance of all landscapes is now recognised to the extent that they condition the quality of the living environment of people and deserve to be taken into account in public policies. Many rural and peri-urban areas, in particular, are undergoing significant transformations and require more attention from both the authorities and the public.

The Convention provides for a "Landscape Award of the Council of Europe". This is a recognition of the policy or measures which local or regional authorities or non-governmental organisations have adopted to protect, manage and plan their landscape, which have proved to be lastingly effective and which can serve as an example to other territorial authorities.

On 20 February 2008 the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe adopted Resolution CM/(2008)3 on the rules governing the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe. The Award is given every two years by the Committee of Ministers, based on proposals from an international Jury and the Committee of experts of the Council of Europe in charge of monitoring the implementation of the Convention.

The great achievements, presented by the States Parties to the Convention on the occasion of the 6th Session 2018-2019 and of the 7th Session 2020-2021 of the Award, show that it is possible to promote the territorial dimension of human rights and democracy, thus improving the landscape features of people's surroundings.

In accordance with Resolution CM/Res (2017)18 of the Committee of Ministers, these achievements are now part of the Landscape Award Alliance of Council of Europe¹.

Maguelonne Déjeant-Pons
Secrétaire exécutive de la Convention européenne du paysage

1. See also the presentation of previous achievements: The Landscape Award Alliance of the Council of Europe, European Spatial Planning and Landscape Series, 2017, No. 105, Volume 1, 2008-2017. <https://rm.coe.int/168075f020>.

6th Session 2018-2019

Presentation

Twenty three projects were presented by the States Parties to the European Landscape Convention to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe on the occasion of the 6th Session 2018-2019 of the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe.

On 16 October 2019, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, in accordance with the Resolution of the Committee of Ministers CM/Res(2008)3 on the rules governing the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe, and on the proposals of the Jury and of the Committee of experts responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Convention:

- i. acknowledged the twenty three achievements presented by the States Parties to the European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe for the 6th Session of the Landscape Award 2018-2019, considering that they are part of the Landscape Award Alliance of the Council of Europe, in accordance with Resolution CM/Res(2017)18;
- ii. conferred the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe's European Landscape Convention, for the 6th Session of the Landscape Award 2018-2019, on the following achievement:

Renaturation of the watercourse of the River Aire, Republic and Canton of Geneva, Switzerland,
and the following partners:

Switzerland – Municipalities: *Bernex, Confignon, Perly-Certoux and Onex*; Environmental Associations: *Association for the Protection of the Aire and its tributaries; (transfrontier); ProNatura Geneva; World Wide Fund for Nature-Geneva*; Association of inhabitants: *"Living in Lully"*; Farmers' association: *AgriGenève, Union Vegetable Market of Geneva*; Office: *"Superposition" Group*;

France – Federation of municipalities of Genevois: *Archamps, Haute-Savoie*, in a spirit of transfrontier co-operation, in accordance with Article 9 of the European Landscape Convention;

- iii. conferred identical Special Mentions of the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe's European Landscape Convention, for the 6th Session of the Landscape Award 2018-2019, on the following achievements:

Community activities day, “Let’s do it!”, *Estonian Fund for Nature (NGO), Estonia;*

Establishment of the Kotka National Urban Park, *City of Kotka, Finland;*

Reconquering the quays of the Seine in Rouen, through the development of a large river promenade, *City and Metropolis of Rouen, Normandy, France;*

Between land and water, “Another way of owning”, *The Men of Massenzatica Consortium, Italy;*

iv. acknowledged the great value of each project presented for the 6th Session of the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe’s European Landscape Convention 2018-2019 mentioned below, and the importance to make them well-known as sources of inspiration:

Wortel and Merksplas Colonies: a cultural landscape revalued, *Vzw Kempens Landschap, Belgium;*

Dragodid: preserving the dry stone masonry techniques of the Eastern Adriatic, *4 Grada Dragodid Association, Croatia;*

Multifunctional seaside park in Limassol, *Limassol Municipality, Cyprus;*

Landscape Futures, *University of Copenhagen, Denmark;*

Martvili Canyon Sustainable Development, *Martvili Municipality, Georgia;*

Recreation of Lake Karla, *Region of Thessaly, Greece;*

Landscape revitalisation initiative in the spirit of the Pogányvár Landscape Charter, *Local governments of: Zalaszentmárton, Dióskál, Egeraracs, Esztergályhorváti, Kerecseny, Orosztony, Pacsa, Zalasabar, Zalavár, Hungary;*

The origin of the Latvian cultural traditions: Dikļi, the birthplace of the Latvian singing festival, *Kocēni Municipality, Latvia;*

Formation and consolidation of the natural urbanised territory of Telšiai City, *Administration of Telšiai Municipality, Lithuania;*

Another landscape for Vianden, *Union for the Development and Management of the Our Nature Park, Luxembourg;*

Lista, a unique landscape and partnership, *Municipality of Farsund, Vest-Agder County Council, Norway;*

Landscape of the Pico Island vineyard culture, *Regional Government of Azores, Regional Directorate of the Environment, Portugal;*

The Spatial Plan for a special-purpose area: the cultural landscape of Sremski Karlovci, *Urban and Spatial Planning Institute of Vojvodina, Provincial Secretary for Urban Planning and Environmental Protection, Government of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, Serbia;*

Safeguarding and restoration of the baroque landscape of the Banská Štiavnica Calvary, *Calvary Fund Civic Association, Slovak Republic;*

Meadow orchards and landscape, *Municipality of Kozje, Slovenia;*

The landscape of Bolonia Cove: research, planning and intervention, *Andalusian Historical Heritage Institute of the Department of Culture of the Local Government of Andalusia, Spain;*

Yeşilirmak Basin Landscape Atlas, **Department of Landscape Architecture**, *Faculty of Forestry, Duzce University, Turkey;*

The Sill: National Landscape Discovery Centre, **Bardon Mill, Northumberland**, *Northumberland National Park Authority, United Kingdom.*



© Fabio Chironi

Renaturation of the watercourse of the River Aire

Republic and Canton of Geneva

and the following partners:

Switzerland

Municipalities: Bernex, Confignon, Perly-Certoux and Onex;

Environmental Associations: Association for the Protection of the Aire and its tributaries (transfrontier); ProNatura Geneva; World Wide Fund for Nature-Geneva;

Association of inhabitants: "Living in Lully";

Farmers' association: AgriGenève, Union Vegetable Market of Geneva;

Office: "Superpositions" Group;

France

Federation of municipalities of Genevois: Archamps, Haute-Savoie, in a spirit of transfrontier co-operation, in accordance with Article 9 of the European Landscape Convention



The project consists of the morphological revitalisation of the watercourse of the Aire, which was channelled between the end of the 19th century and the first half of the 20th century, with the aim of restoring its space of freedom and wanderings to meet environmental and protection objectives against flood hazards. Since the river flows in a heavily urbanised plain, the project also had a social purpose, offering the population new places of relaxation and walking in the direct vicinity of the city of the Geneva. Led by the service of renaturation of the rivers of the Republic and Canton of Geneva, it was implemented by the group "Superpositions", composed of engineers, biologists and landscape architects. The approach was to let the new river shape its own bed by giving free rein to the effect of erosion, while transforming the old canal into a linear park with walks and public squares. This "large landscaped garden" is greatly appreciated by the citizens.

The Committee of Ministers conferred the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe's European Landscape Convention to the organisers of the achievement, within the framework of the 6th Session of the Award 2018-2019.

Presented by the Republic and Canton of Geneva, the project constitutes a multidisciplinary and concerted intervention of high quality to reconfigure the river bed of the River Aire, and to renature the course of the river in a peri-urban and urban territorial area. While allowing for the prevention of floods and the reconstitution of ecosystems favourable to animal and plant life, this living landscape has also become a space for walks and recreation, as well as a meeting place appreciated by people.

The transnational dimension of the watercourse represents an invitation to continue transfrontier co-operation to enhance the landscape.

Recognised for its great value, the Project is part of the Landscape Award Alliance of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, as a source of inspiration.



© Laagna garden. Photo by voluntary participant

Community activities day, "Let's do it!"

Estonian Fund for Nature

Every year since 2008, on the first Saturday in May, the community activities day, "Let's do it!", takes place all over Estonia. This is the day of collective action to enhance the landscape. The project was launched and run by a non-governmental project team, which has successfully involved a vast number of voluntary participants. In 2008 the project started with a countrywide action of cleaning up illegally-dumped rubbish. In 2009 local communities gathered together to generate good ideas for sustainable local development. Building on that, since 2010, different collective actions (in Estonian: *talgud*) are taking place all over the country. The project has led to a large number of actions to protect and manage the landscape. Every community, organisation or citizen, can participate in deciding what needs to be done and invite other people to join the initiative. Since 2008, there have been more than 14,700 different landscape management interventions engaging over 433,600 participants. These actions took into consideration the cultural and aesthetic dimensions of the place and improved the quality of the environment. Thanks to the project, local communities have become stronger and the public has become more aware of landscape values in the context of sustainable development.



The Committee of Ministers conferred a Special Mention of the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe's European Landscape Convention to the achievement, within the framework of the 6th Session of the Award 2018-2019.

The project demonstrates that landscape approaches can foster public participation and an awareness of sustainable development issues. Its participative and unifying process has made it possible to mobilise the population around a great diversity of local actions. The bottom-up approach that was followed represents a remarkable example of raising public awareness of the need for a healthy landscape.

Recognised for its great value, the Project is part of the Landscape Award Alliance of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, as a source of inspiration.



© Patricia Broas

Establishment of the Kotka National Urban Park

City of Kotka

The Kotka National Urban Park, located along the Kymijoki River and on the coast of the Gulf of Finland, is made up of neighbourhoods built in vast green spaces, connected by ecological corridors. It covers an area of 2,675 hectares and connects the most important sites of the city of Kotka, to create a uniform network that is easy to navigate. It connects the most significant sites in the city of Kotka to make a network of paths which are easy to walk. It includes a complete set of landscapes – with both natural and cultural components –, and recreational areas that the city is committed to preserving. In 2014, the Ministry of the Environment approved the request of the city to create a national urban park. The status of national urban parks is specified in the Finnish Land Use and Building Act. The concept of a Finnish national urban park, a real tool for sustainable land-use design, was given the European Garden award in the category Large Scale Green Concepts by the European Garden Heritage Network in 2014.



The Committee of Ministers conferred a Special Mention of the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe's European Landscape Convention to the achievement, within the framework of the 6th Session of the Award 2018-2019.

The project has shown that landscape considerations have successfully guided the planning process, with public participation from the initial stages of the project. Pre-existing, sometimes degraded, landscape features have been rehabilitated and integrated into a coherent large-scale spatial network constituting a combination of green and blue spaces (rivers, marine and submarine areas), connected by ecological corridors. Housing blends harmoniously with the surrounding nature. The achievement has contributed positively to the quality of daily life and well-being of the population.

The specific status of National Urban Parks, defined by the Land Use and Building Act of Finland, is also a source of inspiration.

Recognised for its great value, the Project is part of the Landscape Award Alliance of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, as a source of inspiration.



© Jacqueline Osty and Associates

Reconquering the quays of the Seine in Rouen, through the development of a large river promenade

City and Metropolis of Rouen, Normandy

The planning of the left bank of the Seine in Rouen, covering over three kilometres in the heart of the city, is part of a vast project to reclaim disused land on both sides of the river. Industrial and port activities were developed there, following the Second World War and until the early 1980s. Their progressive decline gave way to sterile spaces with polluted soils and subsoils. The location of the quays provided the city with a development opportunity, and it seemed important to give the quays a second life. The creation of the river promenade now reconnects the two banks of the river with the historic city centre, enabling inhabitants to reclaim these spaces and rediscover a forgotten part of their urban landscape.



The Committee of Ministers conferred a Special Mention of the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe's European Landscape Convention to the achievement, within the framework of the 6th Session of the Award 2018-2019.

The project demonstrates the capacity of the landscape approaches to promote the urban development of a river zone. It enabled the revitalisation of abandoned and degraded spaces in urban areas, while respecting ecological, environmental, social and cultural values. Traces of the industrial and port vocation of the site have been saved. The project is part of a vast process of rehabilitation of wasteland on both sides of the river, which has encouraged restoration of the ecological balance; it represents a factor in the attractiveness of the territory and the positive development of the metropolis. A long river walk now reconnects the two river banks to the city centre, allowing the population to reclaim these spaces for their well-being, as a place of recreation and conviviality.

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Landscape

'identity space' of the lands of the Pomposa Monastery

Paesaggio: spazio identitario



© Dr Carlo Ragazzi and Dr Paola Buttini

Between Land and Water, “Another Way of Owning”

The Men of Massenzatica Consortium

The Men of Massenzatica Consortium is a collective ownership project dating back to the Middle Ages, now legally recognised by the Italian Republic under Law No. 168/2017. Established as a consortium in 1896, it constitutes a reference point for protecting and tending to the landscape of the Po delta. Over time, the project has prioritised the generation of a sense of community and brotherhood over individual growth. It has promoted opportunities to undertake and strengthen social capital, while controlling water resources and combating intensive land use. Research and awareness work have been carried out since 2010. The project has developed innovative agricultural practices to counter the depopulation of rural areas and strengthen social cohesion. It is thus possible to transmit a shared heritage to future generations. By proposing a new “landscape pact”, the consortium promotes the values of sustainability, justice and belonging, expressing the multiple identities of Europe and its communities.



The Committee of Ministers conferred a Special Mention of the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe’s European Landscape Convention to the achievement, within the framework of the 6th Session of the Award 2018-2019.

The project testifies to the great success of the landscape approach in promoting social cohesion. The Men of Massenzatica Consortium forms part of a multi-secular property organisation adapted to the socio-economic realities of the current rural world in an evolving context, in order to fight the prevailing rural exodus. The project promotes the sense of community, offering entrepreneurial possibilities through the practice of an environmentally friendly agriculture. The permanent control of the water level, as well as the efforts to fight intensive exploitation of the land, contributes to the maintenance of the social capital. By proposing a new “pact for the landscape”, the achievement allows a lively and harmonious landscape to be passed on to future generations.

Recognised for its great value, the Project is part of the Landscape Award Alliance of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, as a source of inspiration.



© Wim Verschraegen

Wortel and Merksplas Colony: a cultural landscape revalued

Vzw Kempens Landschap



Wortel and Merksplas Colonies together form an exceptional cultural landscape. This 1,000-hectare, man-made compartmental landscape, developed in the 19th century, consists of open and closed areas, farmland, forest and nature reserves. No less than 32 kilometres of historical lanes and other linear elements, such as canals and hedges, divide the territory into orthogonal forms. Some of the remaining heaths and fens illustrate how, with no external influences, this landscape was before the creation of the colonies. Following more than 150 years of agricultural practices, the territory became largely untended. The area was briefly under threat, until citizens were mobilised. Over recent decades, public authorities and associations have successfully worked together to secure and restore the identity and unity of both colonies. Thus, everyone can continue to enjoy this historical 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 a well-known source of inspiration.

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© Nevena Keresa

Dragodid: preserving the dry-stone masonry techniques of the Eastern Adriatic

4 Grada Dragodid



Dragodid is an education, training and awareness-raising project on the dry stone heritage of Croatia and the Eastern Adriatic. It is led by 4 Grada Dragodid Association, a non-governmental organisation consisting mostly of young professionals and students of heritage and landscape-related disciplines (architecture, ethnology, landscape architecture, agriculture, in particular). The initial phases of the project were completed in 2013, and several steps have been taken since then: establishment of a heritage information portal; institution of an inventory of dry stone buildings and landscapes; publication of handbooks on fundraising, awareness-raising and legal issues; development of a regular programme of public workshops; and the inclusion of dry stone art in the National Register of Cultural Goods. The association continues to work for the protection of Croatia's landscapes.

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© Socrates Massouras

Multifunctional Seaside Park in Limassol

Limassol Municipality

In 1970, the government and the municipal authorities of Limassol launched a reclamation project involving some coastal areas of the city of Limassol, by 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, which was a kilometre long and 65 metres wide, had to be modified to integrate it into the new modern face of the downtown area, following a unified design. The reconstruction required land use planning including notably: the plantation of local species resistant to high temperatures; the development of a system to use recycled water from the sewage system for irrigation; the construction of diverse infrastructures (a bike lane along the main road, a small amphitheatre, loungers, walkways, playgrounds and seating areas, skateboard area, pontoons and pedestrian decks); as well as the installation of a lighting system. This development took into account the existing green spaces, playgrounds, fountains and sculptures.



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© Kirsten Klein

Landscape Futures

University of Copenhagen

“Landscape Futures” is the name of a project carried out between 2013 and 2018 with the aim of placing the future of rural landscapes on a multidisciplinary agenda and renewing Danish countryside planning. The project was organised by 18 partners, including 11 Danish municipalities and the Danish Hunters Association, each leading a landscape action. The results of the work carried out have been published in the book “Landscape futures – Visions and plans for the countryside”, Bogværket, 2019. Other research activities which are presented in the book entitled “European landscape in transition: implications for policy and practice” (Cambridge University Press, 2018) draw on the project. These actions have had obvious impacts on municipal planning and landscape management. A general framework for a more integrated, involved and proactive approach to rural landscape planning, called “Landscape strategy-making”, represents a major methodological outcome.



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© Lasha Gigauri, Agency of Protected Areas of Georgia

Martvili Canyon Sustainable Development

Martvili Municipality

The Martvili Canyon received the status of Natural Monument in 2013, and an administration in charge of the monument was created in 2015. Previously, the site was only known locally and, due to the lack of suitable management, it became degraded: illegal fishing and poaching were taking place, and the flora was damaged. In addition, due to the lack of infrastructure, the safety of tourists was not assured. The situation has changed rapidly since 2015, when the Agency of Protected Areas of Georgia started, in the framework of a co-operation with the Municipality of Martvili, to implement a project of sustainable development for the area. The canyon now has a visitor centre, quays, a shelter for boats, walking trails, bridges and viewpoints. A 19th-century water mill has been restored and a flood-warning system has been installed for the River Abasha. In addition, large quantities of plastic bottles and packaging have been removed and the place is now totally clean and safe. The Government of Georgia granted boating rights to the local company, Oputsokhi, which purchased boats and set up services to welcome visitors.



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© Ministry of Environment and Energy

Recreation of Lake Karla

Region of Thessaly



The Recreation of Lake Karla is currently the largest environmental project in the Balkans, implemented by the Region of Thessaly. It concerns the creation of a wide wetland area of 3,800 hectares, designed to reverse the adverse environmental conditions that were caused when the lake was drained. This local development project, launched in 2009, is of national importance, with multiple positive effects for the lake area. It was implemented with financial support from European funds, the Ministry of Infrastructure, Transport and Networks and the Region of Thessaly. As a result of the project, the region's water supply has been facilitated, flood protection and irrigation of arable land has been improved, and agri-tourism could develop.

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 a well-known source of inspiration.

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© János Veress

The Landscape revitalisation initiative in the spirit of the Pogányvár Landscape Charter

Local governments of: Zalaszentmárton, Dióskál, Egeraracs, Esztergályhorváti, Kerecseny, Orosztony, Pacsa, Zalasabbar, Zalavár

From 2011, the municipalities of Pogányvár – Zalaszentmárton, Dióskál, Egeraracs, Esztergályhorváti, Kerecseny, Orosztony, Pacsa, Zalasabbar, Zalavár –, jointly developed a complex landscape-oriented revitalisation project for their territory, in order to preserve and sustainably use the traditional heritage of Zala county. On the initiative of the local government of Zalaszentmárton, the nine municipalities approved a programme and signed the Pogányvár Landscape Charter (*Pogányvári Karta*), Hungary's first landscape charter. An adaptive management of the microregion's landscape has been implemented, promoting the quality of life for the inhabitants.



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© Koceni Municipality

The origin of the Latvian cultural traditions. Dikļi, the birthplace of the Latvian song festival

Municipalité de Kocēni

Dikļi, a small village in Latvia, was first mentioned in historical documents in 1436. In the past, this territory was inhabited by the Livonians who chose the mountains Grebu and Bļodas as their settlements. It is well-known in the cultural history of Latvia: the Latvian theatre traditions started there in 1818. In 1864, Juris Neikens, a clergyman and writer, organised the first ever singing festival in the grounds of the vicarage (now *Mount Neikenkalns*), laying the foundation for the beautiful Latvian tradition which is now included in the UNESCO List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. Dikļi is a place where nature and cultural heritage meet, and one of the few places where all the records of the most important cultural events and facts of Latvian history are kept. The project has promoted the archaeological site and the historical monuments of national importance with regard to their 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 a well-known source of inspiration.

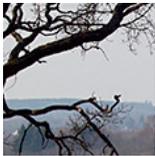
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© Algirdas Žebrauskas

Formation and consolidation of natural framework urbanised territory of Telšiai city

Administration of Telšiai District Municipality



The natural urbanised territory of Telšiai city, in north-west Lithuania, is located on seven hills on the banks of Lake Mastis. With funds from the European Union and the Lithuanian Government, more than 20 projects were carried out with the aim of cleaning up the previously polluted northern bank of the lake, consolidating the city's setting, and restoring the link between the territory and the lake. These projects, complex and interdependent, have considered the geographic location of the city and its natural and cultural values. Each quarter in the centre of the city has been renovated, and the ensemble now forms a functional and attractive historical site. After cleaning the northern shore of the lake, a modern recreation infrastructure was established, significantly improving the quality of life for the population. This new environment now attracts investment, both in the city and its surroundings, while promoting sustainable development.

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© Caroline Martin

Another landscape for Vianden

Union for the Development and Management of the Our Nature Park

Surrounded by the beautiful nature of the Luxembourg Ardennes, the town of Vianden lies at the foot of an imposing castle and represents a cultural and historical attraction in Our Nature Park, in the north of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. In recent centuries, intensive agriculture and forestry have marked the landscape. The slopes around Vianden, often steep and difficult to cultivate, had become scrubland or reforested with conifers. These factors led to the almost total disappearance of the attractive views of the city and the castle. In addition, the city park with its network of paths, was no longer maintained. Considering this evolution, the project aimed to improve the quality of a traditional landscape.



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© Flyt Norge, Arild Nielsen

Lista, a unique landscape and partnership

The municipality of Farsund, Vest-Agder County Council



Since 1976, the municipality of Farsund has been systematically working to protect, manage and promote natural and cultural values of the coastal district of Lista, with the co-operation of regional authorities, as well as local volunteer groups and associations. Targeted work, conducted for more than 40 years, has helped shape a multi-faceted and rich landscape. Lista has many species of birds and rare plants. The various forms of relief (sand dunes, lakes, wetlands, pastures and forests) provide birds with suitable resting, nesting and wintering grounds. The preservation of these precious coastal and marine ecosystems requires landscape management and the use of traditional agricultural methods. Bathed with a specific light, the area is attractive for both the inhabitants and the visitors, who can discover and appreciate the landscape.

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© José Feliciano

Landscape of the Pico Island vineyard culture

Joint Regional Government of the Azores, Regional Direction of the Environment

Pico Island, the main island of the central group of the Azores archipelago, is geographically far from the western-most part of Europe. In 1996, responding to land abandonment and the declining population, the regional government of the Azores developed an innovative landscape policy, based on the specific characteristics of the island. The volcano, the highest mountain of the Azores and all Portugal, the rocky volcanic nature of the soil, and the traditional culture of the vineyards were considered in promoting the natural and cultural assets of the island, as a basis for sustainable development. The regional government promoted land use planning, addressing the need to stop the decline of the population and to welcome visitors. The landscape policy, implemented in a continuous and co-ordinated way, was the starting point for revitalising the socio-economic structure of the territory. This led to the marketing of local products outside the region, on an international level. The aim was to promote the traditional characteristics of the landscape and to rehabilitate the rural and built heritage assets. The policy has shown that it is possible to transform a remote ultra-peripheral region into a vibrant, attractive, sustainable and exemplary territory.



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© Vladimir Pihler, Novi Sad

Spatial Plan for a special-purpose area: “The Cultural Landscape of Sremski Karlovci”

Urban and Spatial Planning Institute of Vojvodina,
Provincial Secretary for Urban Planning and Environmental Protection,
Government of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina



Acknowledging the inherited values embodied in the landscape, and seeking to mitigate the negative spatial development trends resulting in urban sprawl, illegal construction and inappropriate land use, the project aimed to create a spatial development strategy. The objective was to enhance the image of the historical town of Sremski Karlovci, giving priority to settlement concerns linked to the landscape. The first conceptual framework for spatial planning in Serbia was designed for this project, providing a model for the application of the European Landscape Convention. The area considered by the planning document covered an area of 64.16 square kilometres, including diverse landscape on the forested slopes of the Fruska Gora mountain and one of the widest alluvial plains of the middle Danube (*Koviljsko-Petrovaradinski rit*). The contact area between these two dominant spatial entities has determined the form of the landscape, characterised by the compact morphology of the historical town, and the particularities of its agricultural surroundings. The activities undertaken aimed to realise the full potential of the landscape and to identify the landscape quality objectives, with the purpose of creating a new spatial development strategy.

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© ACalvary fund archives

Safeguarding and restoration of the baroque landscape of the Banská Štiavnica Calvary

Calvary Fund Civic Association

The project was implemented by the Calvary Fund Civic Association with the aim of saving and restoring the baroque landscape and architectural complex of the Banská Štiavnica Calvary. The calvary complex is part of a site included in the UNESCO World Heritage List. It consists of a total of 23 separate sacral buildings – three churches, 17 chapels and three other objects on the central axis on the Scharffenberg hill. The project realisation began shortly after the baroque calvary area was included, in 2007, in the World Monuments Watch List of 100 Most Endangered Sites. The Calvary Fund Civic Association has helped to restore the degraded area of Calvary Hill, bringing back, following extensive reconstruction, its original baroque appearance. At the same time, the association helped restore life in a symbolic religious landscape that, once again, is a destination for the faithful and numerous visitors. The implementation of the project has preserved immense cultural, architectural, artistic and historical treasures, both outside the monuments and in their interior: decorations, frescoes and sculptures.



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© Barbara Ploštajner

The Meadow orchards and landscape

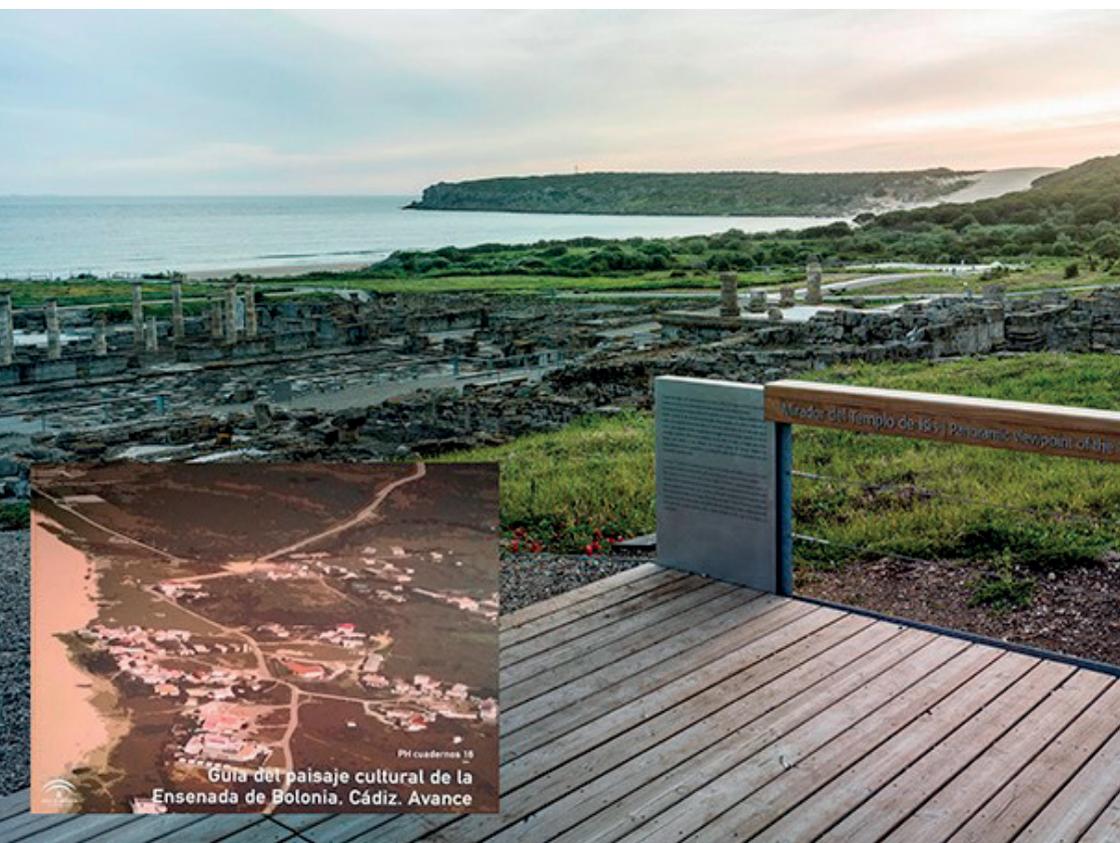
Municipality of Kozje

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.



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© Jesús Granada

The landscape of Bolonia Cove: research, planning and intervention

Andalusian Historical Heritage Institute
of the Department of Culture of the Local Government of Andalusia

In order to comply with the provisions of the European Landscape Convention, a series of actions – research, planning and intervention – have been undertaken in support of the landscape of Bolonia Cove, considering its natural and cultural heritage. Visitor itineraries have been designed to reveal the richness of the site. The project took into account the complex and relational nature of the landscape, as perceived by the inhabitants and visitors. The accessibility conditions have been improved and new interpretive materials have been produced. The project is part of a broader strategy to protect and manage the landscape, in order to improve its quality. It has helped to promote the participation of local stakeholders and to establish genuine interinstitutional co-operation.



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© Osman Uzun

Yeşilirmak Basın Landscape Atlas

Department of Landscape Architecture, Faculty of Forestry, Duzce University



The Yeşilirmak Basın Landscape Atlas aimed to identify the landscapes of the area, to analyse their characteristics based on natural and cultural values of the territory, as well as the dynamics and pressures that transform them. The project was launched in 2012 and was undertaken in three main stages: study, inventory and landscape assessment; constitution of a database; analysis of landscape functions, with the definition of indicators and the evaluation of landscape features. A meeting to launch the project was held in Amasya, and workshops were then organised, with the participation of government agencies, non-governmental organisations and the general public, in Samsun, Tokat and Çorum. Training and finalisation of the work was held in Ankara. A map, indicating sectoral guidelines, has been drawn up.

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© Northumberland National Park Authority

The Sill: National Landscape Discovery Centre, Bardon Mill, Northumberland

Northumberland National Park Authority

The Sill National Landscape Discovery Centre is an accessible destination for anyone wishing to explore the wilderness of the Northumberland National Park and the wider north-east of England, as well as the Scottish Borders. This centre is named after the internationally renowned geological site, Whin Sill, located nearby. Throughout the year, it offers a comprehensive programme of activities and events to: help nurture the current and next generation of landscape enthusiasts; open up access to the countryside to everyone; and ensure that these last wild places can be preserved, and the communities within them continue to thrive. The centre acts as a hub, a safe and accessible destination for everyone, particularly for families, young people, and people with disabilities. With more than 150,000 visitors a year and nearly 30,000 people participating in a variety of activities about the landscape, the centre has quickly become one of the main open-access attractions in the north-east of England.



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7th Session 2020-2021

Presentation

Twelve projects were presented by the States Parties to the European Landscape Convention to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe on the occasion of the 7th Session 2020-2021 of the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe.

On 23 November 2021, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, in accordance with the Resolution of the Committee of Ministers CM/Res(2008)3 on the rules governing the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe, and on the proposals of the Jury and of the Committee of experts responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Convention:

- i. acknowledged the great quality of the twelve achievements presented by the States Parties to the European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe for the 7th Session of the Landscape Award 2020-2021, considering that they are part of the Landscape Award Alliance of the Council of Europe, in accordance with Resolution CM/Res(2017)18;
- ii. conferred the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe's European Landscape Convention, for the 7th Session of the Landscape Award 2020-2021, on the following achievement:

Biodiversity in the city: Bergamo and the Astino Valley, *Foundation della Misericordia Maggiore of Bergamo, Italy*;

- iii. conferred identical Special Mentions of the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe's European Landscape Convention, for the 7th Session of the Landscape Award 2020-2021, on the following achievements:

The Salt of Life, *Bulgarian Biodiversity Foundation, Bulgaria*;

Bothnian Bay Coastal Meadows Management, *Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment, North Ostrobothnia, Finland*;

The Land of Bees, *kRAJ Civic Association, Slovak Republic*;

Brda tourist destination development, *Municipality of Brda, Institute for Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sport Brda, Slovenia*;

Dokuma Park, a culture, nature and art park for society, *Antalya Kepez Municipality, Turkey;*

iv. acknowledged the great value of each project presented for the 7th Session of the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe's European Landscape Convention 2020-2021 mentioned below, and the importance to make them well-known as sources of inspiration:

Landscapes are speaking, *Latvian Fund for Nature, Latvia;*

Living Landscape: the Fjord Coast Regional- and Geopark, *Municipalities of Solund, Fjaler, Askvoll and Hyllestad, Norway;*

Protection of the valuable non-forest habitats and landscape characteristic for the area of Orle Gniazda Landscape Park, *Complex of Landscape Parks of the Silesian Voivodeship, Poland;*

Herdade da Contenda, a tale of resilience for nature, *Municipality of Moura, Alentejo, Portugal;*

The Gardens Park, *Timișoara City, Timiș County, Romania;*

Val Bregaglia, a landscape culture to meet the challenges of the future, *Municipality of Bregaglia, Switzerland.*



© Gabriele Rinaldi

Biodiversity in the city: Bergamo and the Astino Valley

Foundation della Misericordia Maggiore of Bergamo

The project consisted of reclaiming and planning, through public-private partnerships, the landscape of the Astino Valley, a precious area of 60 hectares located just outside the city of Bergamo. Rich in history and biodiversity, the area had fallen into a state of disrepair and neglect in recent decades, despite the introduction of development restrictions.

In 2007, responding to the desire of the local community to safeguard and enhance this area, the Foundation della Misericordia Maggiore (MIA) of Bergamo acquired the Astino monastery and the adjacent land, in order to restore the complex and sustainably regenerate its landscape. An intense dialogue with a wide collaboration resulted in 2017 in the underwriting of a plan agreement.

The project foresaw: the restoration of the monastery and farms, the castle and the surrounding paths; the creation of educational itineraries in the Wood of Happiness (*Bosco dell'Allegrezza*); the reintroduction of traditional crops based on organic farming methods and an irrigation network; and the creation of a local branch of the Bergamo botanical garden. A series of cultural, educational and training events were organised. Specific measures were taken to integrate disadvantaged people. By restoring the strong identity and social significance of these sites, the project has fully restored the Astino Valley for the benefit of all the inhabitants of Bergamo and the valley.



In keeping with a long tradition of solidarity carried on by the Fondazione della Misericordia Maggiore of Bergamo, the project has succeeded in enhancing a historic landscape to create a landscape turned towards the future. Combining tradition and novelty, it has promoted a sustainable territorial development considered in its environmental, cultural, social and economic dimensions. The landscape of the Astino Valley and its monastic complex have been preserved at the city's doorstep. Continuing the work initiated by the monks, the authors of the project have developed contemporary agricultural and forestry management methods that promote biodiversity. The cultural heritage has been restored, social ties have been forged, and jobs have been created with the strong involvement of the local population. Soft traffic modes have been implemented. Awareness-raising activities and education promote a real landscape awareness. The close co-operation between the different actors, based on an ethical charter, confer to this project an eminently exemplary value.

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© Diana Pavlova

The Salt of Life

Bulgarian Biodiversity Foundation

The “Salt of Life” project was implemented in the area of Lake Atanasovsko, one of the main biodiversity hotspots in the Black Sea biogeographical region. The lake is part of the Burgas wetland complex, one of the three most important wetland complexes for waterbirds along the Bulgarian Black Sea coast. The beautiful and colourful Lake Atanasovsko, as it is known today, is largely the result of the symbiosis between man and nature: a major modification for the purpose of salt production has made the site rich and significant. At a time when the coast is undergoing increasing urbanisation, the lagoon is of strategic importance for the conservation of biological diversity on the Black Sea coast.



The actions carried out have made it possible to halt the long-term trend that was leading to the degradation of these lagoons, priority habitats for many species. Work was developed to raise public awareness of the high value of the salt marshes (Natura 2000 network sites), hence the project’s motto, “Salt of Life”. The project has involved a wide range of people who are now aware of the richness of the region and the benefits that result from protecting the area. The understanding and respect for the processes taking place in the lake, the biodiversity, the Bulgarian sea salt and the fascination for the process of salt extraction have improved. Most valuable of all, an emotional connection between the people and the lake has been nurtured.

The operation achieved the preservation of the landscape of the coastal lagoon of Atanasovsko Lake, a witness of the symbiosis between man and nature. It has strengthened the public’s attachment to the ecological, social and cultural values of this exceptional landscape that has undeniable aesthetic appeal. The hydraulic system has been carefully restored. This attractive site has become the preferred venue for cultural and artistic events, such as the salt festival. Born from the involvement of the scientific world, local associative organisations, inhabitants of the region and political decision-makers, the achievement has revealed a landscape that improves the quality of life for the populations of both people and birds, while supporting the local economy.

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© Jorma Pessa

Bothnian Bay Coastal Meadows Management

Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment,
North Ostrobothnia

The exceptionally extensive coastal meadows of the Bay of Bothnia have been restored to preserve their landscape and habitats. These were the result of the traditional agriculture that was practised there, but the evolution of agricultural practices had led to their degradation. Thanks to the project, more than 4,000 hectares have been restored.

An operating model for the management of the coastal areas was first developed involving identification of valuable coastal meadow sites, identifying suitable measures for restoring them to the target state, and finding a local farmer to implement these measures with funding via agri-environmental support. The use of this operating model, based on the experience gained in pilot sites, has been successfully extended to a large territory.

The success of the project means that the vast traditional coastal meadows of the Bay of Bothnia have been restored to their former lustre through extensive and long-term co-operation. Similar measures and methods can also be applied elsewhere in Finland and in other States.

The strong co-operation between nature conservation authorities, landowners, farmers and local organisations has resulted in the restoration of a landscape of 4000 hectares of coastal meadows with maintenance practices dating back to the 15th century. Farmers have been able to benefit from agri-environmental measures to revitalise the rural landscape of the Bay of Bothnia. Awareness-raising initiatives have helped to familiarise new generations with traditional agriculture. The project represents a noteworthy example of solidarity between local actors, in order to preserve the history of a unique landscape.

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© KRAJ Civic Association

The Land of Bees

kRAJ Civic Association



The Land of Bees is a project focusing on education in the field of beekeeping, which is one of the European Union's priority themes. The association has built a unique education centre and now operates educational apiaries for professionals and the general public. It organises experimental programmes for all types of schools, with day camps and activities during which it systematically raises public awareness of the importance of bees and natural pollinators for the environment. Beekeeping courses for beginners and free courses for the long-term unemployed are provided. Material assistance and training for graduates in the sale of beekeeping products is also provided.

Engaged in social entrepreneurship, the association has founded a wax processing workshop and a carpentry workshop for the production of beehives. People from socially disadvantaged backgrounds and marginalised groups are involved and learn how to process beekeeping products. Vocational training is also offered, which helps to develop co-operation in the region and support community life. By extending bee families in the landscape and creating territories favourable to pollinators, it contributes to increasing the biodiversity of the landscape.

The project contributes to the sustainable preservation of a landscape by addressing the serious environmental problem of pollinator decline. It aims to ensure pollination by bees and other natural pollinators. The project promotes the making of a landscape designed for bees, developing a sustainable beekeeping method and provides professional training. Awareness-raising, education and training activities strengthen the link with the landscape and are a real source of inspiration for the local population. The project contributes to the creation of a socio-economic space for job creation based on local honey and bee products. It thus promotes social cohesion in a previously neglected area.

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© Damijan Simčič, Zoso

Brda Tourist Destination Development

Municipality of Brda, Institute for Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sport

The Municipality of Brda covers two thirds of the entire terraced landscape that stretches in western Slovenia between the River Soča, Mounts Sabotin and Korada and the Friulian plain. The pursuit of the best wine-growing and fruit-growing produce resulted in terrace-building on the hillsides. This long history and tradition are preserved to this day, and are promoted by the responsible spatial planning policy of the municipality. This policy fosters the quality of the terraced landscape as well as the traditional and predominantly manual agricultural work, integrating the old with the new.



The exceptional landscape with its olive trees, vineyards and fruit trees (cherry trees in particular) represents an asset for sustainable tourism based on the discovery of traditional cultivation methods, forms of inter-generational co-operation on farms and the valorisation of local products. The character of the landscape is presented in the context of the products offered for sale (wine, olives, fruit), which helps to enhance them.

The restoration and maintenance of Brda's terraced agricultural landscape, combined with the conservation of local varieties and the promotion of traditional products, demonstrates the importance of preserving the identity of a landscape full of history. The restoration of the cultural heritage and the development of agri-tourism have positively contributed to supporting the economic activity of the commune in a sustainable development perspective. The participatory approach in the decision-making process has contributed to the success of the project. The population, as well as visitors, can now appreciate the landscape and its quality products.

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© Ali Kemal Birinci & Kansu Alkan

Dokuma Park, a culture, nature and art park for society

Antalya Kepez Municipality



The foundations of the Antalya Cotton Weaving and Spinning Mill were laid in the 1950s, becoming the first industrial facility in Antalya, with an area of 250,000 m². Many people worked there for long hours and, until its closure in 2003, the factory became a place of memory for the stories of the workers, their families and friends. In 2005, the owners of the factory handed over the rights to the administration of that time, which then handed over the use rights to a foreign company to build a shopping centre. In 2009, the new administration of the municipality of Kepez recognised the importance of this space for the collective memory of the city and spent several years fighting in court to recover the legal rights to the land and return it to its rightful owners, the citizens. This position was of great importance as the recovery of the land would allow the preservation of a natural and cultural landscape.

Focusing on the common interest, in collaboration with a management that defends its values, the city council convened a diverse working group. The resulting report served as a master plan for the creation of this centrally located park, a plan that protects the interests of society as a space accessible to all. There is now a common platform for raising awareness and engaging local citizens as active participants and owners of the park. This represents an essential guarantee for a sustainable future in terms of maintaining the ecosystem qualities and socio-cultural characteristics of the park.

By deciding to create a park dedicated to linking nature and culture on the site of a disused spinning mill complex, the municipality of Kepez has put at the disposal of the inhabitants a vast cultural and leisure space that can be appreciated by all. The different components of the park – a botanical garden, museums, a library, social spaces – have been restored and converted, thus preserving the memory of the place. The project was carried out with respect for civic and ethical values, and a participatory approach was followed from the beginning of the process. An interactive governance platform allows citizens to become actively involved in the future of this living landscape. The mayoral decision to prefer a park to a shopping centre has been fully vindicated.

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© Latvian Fund for Nature

Landscapes are speaking

Latvian Fund for Nature

The project, dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the Latvian State, is based on a vision of the future landscape of Latvia, defined by experts from the Latvian Fund for Nature. It is forward-looking, respecting the past. It envisages a landscape where people live and work sustainably, preserving the natural and cultural heritage. The future landscape of Latvia – the one that new generations will see and live in – is created and decided now. Therefore, the main objective was to create ways for the vision to become reality by raising awareness in society about the impacts that today's actions have on the landscapes of the future.



The project consisted of the following elements: a communication campaign where elements of the landscape “speak” through voice-overs of famous Latvian actors and musicians (www.ainavasruna.lv); practical tips “What I can do to help”, which included simple actions that most people could incorporate into their daily lives; and “Then and now”, an exciting virtual journey to visit familiar landscapes from a hundred years ago through a collection of old postcards and corresponding contemporary photos. People were encouraged to submit their own photos for the exhibition. The campaign was complemented by activities on sustainable landscape management at individual, farm and local community level. Actions were developed in the form of fact sheets and educational materials. The results of research entitled “Landscapes speak. Changes in Latvian landscapes and their values in the last century” by the University of Vidzeme, received wide media coverage. The vision and main objectives of the project are contained in a Landscape Manifesto (<https://ainavasruna.lv/ainavas-manifests>).

This project reflects a strong commitment of the involved actors to raise awareness, on a large scale, of the importance of the Latvian landscape for people and visitors. It made it possible to raise stakeholders awareness of the importance of the landscape and the impacts that today's actions can have on tomorrow's landscape. A broad communication campaign proposed ways to preserve biodiversity and manage the landscape. The general public, professionals and public authorities were invited to consider the transformations of the landscape, in order to take care of it. A large virtual exhibition has aroused great interest.

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© Trude-Soilen

A living landscape: the Fjord Coast Regional- and Geopark

Municipalities of Solund, Fjaler, Askvoll and Hyllestad

The Fjord Coast Regional- and Geopark brings together the inhabitants of four municipalities who are acting together to preserve, enhance and promote the nature and culture of their region. The work carried out is part of a long-term sustainable development perspective, from an environmental, cultural, social and economic point of view. With a sheep society's practical knowledge of the Old Norwegian sheep husbandry, people can learn to produce their own food while protecting the threatened coastal moor.



The inhabitants work together to maintain one of Europe's oldest cultural landscapes with its diversity of species. They pass on to new generations a traditional method of farming. Sheep roam the moors all year round and the burning technique is used. The park is pursuing a project to preserve the buildings associated with the local coastal cultural heritage. In addition to the initial results – food production, preservation of a threatened landscape and health benefits – the co-operation has created a sense of cohesion, belonging and integration among the inhabitants, which has given meaning to the word 'we'.

The project is part of a wider process of preserving a landscape that has been shaped by man for over 5,000 years. By re-establishing the traditional breeding of the Old Norwegian Sheep, the Hardbakke Old Norwegian Sheep Society, a cooperative run by the inhabitants of the Fjord Coast region, has made it possible to rediscover the richness of this ancient breed. Jobs based on traditional, environmentally friendly forms of production have been created and the work carried out has enhanced ancestral practices that current generations are rediscovering. Based on a bottom-up approach, the project is the result of a strong commitment from the local population. By preserving the richness of a unique landscape, it has created a dynamic that is based on a lasting alliance between man and nature.

Recognised for its great value, the Project is part of the Landscape Award Alliance of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, as a source of inspiration.



© Milena Piatkowska

Protection of the valuable non-forest habitats and landscapes characteristic for the area of Orle Gniazda Landscape Park

Complex of Landscape Parks of the Silesian Voivodeship



The project has enhanced the landscape with its environmental, cultural and historical features. Sustainable planning and management of the landscape revealed and enhanced the limestone hills with rocky outcrops which are a unique feature at national and European level. Non-forest thermophilic habitats have been protected, restored and preserved; nature conservation methods have been developed and invasive non-native species have been controlled, thus setting an example to be followed. The knowledge, experience and results of the project were promoted at conferences, and the education, information, publication and promotion activities of the Silesian Voivodeship Landscape Park Complex (*Zespół Parków Krajobrazowych Województwa Śląskiego*) were presented, both in Poland and abroad.

The project is part of a policy of sustainable and inclusive development of the Krakow-Częstochowa plateau, contributing to the social and economic development of the population. The landscape awareness-raising activities promoted, and the forms of participation developed, have led to the search for alternative sources of income that respect the natural and cultural environment. Active conservation of the landscape and the development of rural tourism that promotes gastronomy and the sale of local products have helped to improve the living conditions of local communities.

Through the introduction of exemplary landscape planning and management operations, the project has helped to protect a unique landscape of the Upper Jura which consists of a mosaic of picturesque hills and rocks. It has preserved valuable habitats and endemic species that were threatened by agricultural intensification, by various forms of pollution and invasive species. The actions carried out to raise the local actors' awareness on the territory's history, the values of its natural and cultural resources, as well as traditional farming and livestock practices, have fully placed the issue of sustainable territorial development at the centre of their concerns.

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© Daniel Pinheiro

Herdade da Contenda, a tale of resilience for nature, Municipality of Moura, Alentejo



The project implemented a landscape policy in an area called Herdade da Contenda (Contenda Estate, 5,270 hectares) belonging to the local authority of Moura, which borders Spain. The importance of this cross-border landscape dates back to the Middle Ages, when it was managed as a community. It was the subject of disputes between Portugal and Spain, and the vast property was divided between the two countries at the end of the 19th century.

Managed by the municipality, the Portuguese part was later leased for agriculture. Its overexploitation led to its decline, loss of biodiversity, abandonment and the degradation of the landscape. The local authority, in collaboration with the forestry services and the Institute for the Conservation of Nature and Forests, has implemented policies for the regeneration and enhancement of the landscape, transforming it into an attractive area and rich from an ecological point of view.

The adopted management practices have made it possible to enhance the landscape for the benefit of all. For example, it has been a concern to promote the use of machinery and adequate equipment in forest interventions; plantations on contour lines; the development of a regular census of hunting and protected species; respect for nesting periods; and the protection of natural regeneration.

The landscape policy implemented in the Contenda Estate has reversed the trend that was leading to its decline. The conservation status of this *montado* landscape has been improved through appropriate management and planning, with a remarkable participatory approach. The dissemination of scientific knowledge on its intrinsic values has enabled local actors to become its best protectors. By restoring degraded landscapes, the project ensures sustainable use of the forests, contributing to climate change reduction, and preserves endemic species. It also promotes educational and pedagogical practices in the field of ecology. Its economic dimension in terms of sustainable agriculture, animal breeding, beekeeping and hunting is certain. The domain of Contenda is also particularly popular for relaxation and recreation.

Recognised for its great value, the Project is part of the Landscape Award Alliance of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, as a source of inspiration.

The Gardens Park

- known as Padurice Giroc Park, and Lidia Park -
Timisoara, Romania



© Daliana Iacobescu, Sebastian Puraci

The Gardens Park

Timișoara City, Timiș County

The Garden Park is also known as “Little Forest Giroc Park” and “Lidia Park”. In 2010, a sparse forest area was identified for a landscape project based on a functional adaptation of the area. The vegetation was mainly from a disused nursery, and this was considered an appropriate backdrop for the landscape development. The concept for the new park was inspired by the words of a local resident. To the question “What kind of park would you like to have?” he replied: “I grew up here and I always wanted it to be... a garden.”



The park was designed according to a stylistic composition “a theme within a theme”. Given the generous space available, the idea emerged to create not one but several gardens, and this inspired the conceptual name of the project “A Park with Gardens - The Park of Gardens”. The project thus offers a tour of European garden styles, ranging from classical to modern gardens. The elements introduced have a unity in the resulting landscape diversity: the “English Medieval Garden” contains a Celtic knot within a labyrinth; the “Biblical Garden” contains a round parterre divided by a green cross hedge; the “Italian Garden” reveals Tuscan influences of red brickwork along a path; the “Modern Garden” has outdoor tables and sun loungers on the surrounding lawn; the “Spanish Garden” is a classical monastic garden; the “Greek Garden” has a mini amphitheatre at its centre; and the “Romantic Garden” has a rose collection, a water lily lake and ornamental rockeries. The public can thus enjoy an attractive park in its urban landscape.

This creative project has improved the quality of people’s lives. The landscaping facilitated circulation in the park’s paths and promoted individual and collective well-being by providing a park for relaxation and leisure. The project has taken full account of the environmental, social, cultural and economic values of the urban landscape in a sustainable development perspective. It is one of the largest green spaces recently developed in the city, promoting interest in the variety of gardens, the diversity of species, and in particular that of the varieties of roses.

Recognised for its great value, the Project is part of the Landscape Award Alliance of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, as a source of inspiration.



© Roberto Moiola

Val Bregaglia, a landscape culture to meet the challenges of the future, Municipality of Bregaglia

Val Bregaglia has a long-established culture of landscape, an awareness and willingness to intervene carefully in the landscape. This landscape sensitivity is deeply rooted in the population and is also supported by the municipal authorities. With the merger of five municipalities in this Alpine valley in 2010, landscape and built heritage quickly emerged as central elements of the overall strategy formulated for the valley. As a result of this commitment, the municipality was awarded the prestigious Wakker Prize in 2015 by the Swiss Heritage Association, attributed to municipalities that can boast a high standard of urban development.



In 2017, the valley was hit by a deadly landslide and debris flow, causing extensive damage in the Bondo and Promontogno areas. The prevailing landscape culture in the municipality has led it to ensure that new infrastructure for protection against natural hazards is well integrated into the landscape. A competition was launched in 2019 and the selected project, entitled "Strata", proposed an ambitious landscape integration programme with the creation of a network of dry stone walls and the use of stones brought into the valley by the landslide. This example demonstrates how a rational approach to landscape planning based on the characteristics of the territory can appropriately address challenges.

The landscape culture is well anchored in the concerns of this municipality of the Swiss Alps. In order to meet the socio-economic needs of the population and to repair the damage caused by natural disasters, the municipality has integrated the landscape dimension into its land use and town planning policies. The aim is to preserve the environment and the building culture of the valley. Based on a participatory approach of the stakeholders, the action undertaken shows that a landscape approach makes it possible to face contemporary challenges, in the forefront of which is climate change.

Recognised for its great value, the Project is part of the Landscape Award Alliance of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, as a source of inspiration.

Appendix 1

European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe

Preamble

The member States of the Council of Europe signatory hereto,

Considering that the aim of the Council of Europe is to achieve a greater unity between its members for the purpose of safeguarding and realising the ideals and principles which are their common heritage, and that this aim is pursued in particular through agreements in the economic and social fields;

Concerned to achieve sustainable development based on a balanced and harmonious relationship between social needs, economic activity and the environment;

Noting that the landscape has an important public interest role in the cultural, ecological, environmental and social fields, and constitutes a resource favourable to economic activity and whose protection, management and planning can contribute to job creation;

Aware that the landscape contributes to the formation of local cultures and that it is a basic component of the European natural and cultural heritage, contributing to human well-being and consolidation of the European identity;

Acknowledging that the landscape is an important part of the quality of life for people everywhere: in urban areas and in the countryside, in degraded areas as well as in areas of high quality, in areas recognised as being of outstanding beauty as well as everyday areas;

Noting that developments in agriculture, forestry, industrial and mineral production techniques and in regional planning, town planning, transport, infrastructure, tourism and recreation and, at a more general level, changes in the world economy are in many cases accelerating the transformation of landscapes;

Wishing to respond to the public's wish to enjoy high quality landscapes and to play an active part in the development of landscapes;

Believing that the landscape is a key element of individual and social well-being and that its protection, management and planning entail rights and responsibilities for everyone;

Having regard to the legal texts existing at international level in the field of protection and management of the natural and cultural heritage, regional and spatial planning, local self-government and transfrontier co-operation, in particular the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern, 19 September 1979), the Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada, 3 October 1985), the European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (revised) (Valletta, 16 January 1992), the European Outline Convention on Transfrontier Co-operation between Territorial Communities or Authorities (Madrid, 21 May 1980) and its additional protocols, the European Charter of Local Self-government (Strasbourg, 15 October 1985), the Convention on Biological Diversity (Rio, 5 June 1992), the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (Paris, 16 November 1972), and the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice on Environmental Matters (Aarhus, 25 June 1998);

Acknowledging that the quality and diversity of European landscapes constitute a common resource, and that it is important to co-operate towards its protection, management and planning;

Wishing to provide a new instrument devoted exclusively to the protection, management and planning of all landscapes in Europe,

Have agreed as follows:

Chapter I – General provisions

Article 1 – Definitions

For the purposes of the Convention:

- a. “Landscape” means an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors;
- b. “Landscape policy” means an expression by the competent public authorities of general principles, strategies and guidelines that permit the taking of specific measures aimed at the protection, management and planning of landscapes;
- c. “Landscape quality objective” means, for a specific landscape, the formulation by the competent public authorities of the aspirations of the public with regard to the landscape features of their surroundings;

d. "Landscape protection" means actions to conserve and maintain the significant or characteristic features of a landscape, justified by its heritage value derived from its natural configuration and/or from human activity;

e. "Landscape management" means action, from a perspective of sustainable development, to ensure the regular upkeep of a landscape, so as to guide and harmonise changes which are brought about by social, economic and environmental processes;

f. "Landscape planning" means strong forward-looking action to enhance, restore or create landscapes.

Article 2 – Scope

Subject to the provisions contained in Article 15, this Convention applies to the entire territory of the Parties and covers natural, rural, urban and peri-urban areas. It includes land, inland water and marine areas. It concerns landscapes that might be considered outstanding as well as everyday or degraded landscapes.

Article 3 – Aims

The aims of this Convention are to promote landscape protection, management and planning, and to organise European co-operation on landscape issues.

Chapter II – National measures

Article 4 – Division of responsibilities

Each Party shall implement this Convention, in particular Articles 5 and 6, according to its own division of powers, in conformity with its constitutional principles and administrative arrangements, and respecting the principle of subsidiarity, taking into account the European Charter of Local Self-government. Without derogating from the provisions of this Convention, each Party shall harmonise the implementation of this Convention with its own policies.

Article 5 – General measures

Each Party undertakes:

a. to recognise landscapes in law as an essential component of people's surroundings, an expression of the diversity of their shared cultural and natural heritage, and a foundation of their identity;

- b. to establish and implement landscape policies aimed at landscape protection, management and planning through the adoption of the specific measures set out in Article 6;
- c. to establish procedures for the participation of the general public, local and regional authorities, and other parties with an interest in the definition and implementation of the landscape policies mentioned in paragraph b above;
- d. to integrate landscape into its regional and town planning policies and in its cultural, environmental, agricultural, social and economic policies, as well as in any other policies with possible direct or indirect impact on landscape.

Article 6 – Specific measures

A. Awareness-raising

Each Party undertakes to increase awareness among the civil society, private organisations, and public authorities of the value of landscapes, their role and changes to them.

B. Training and education

Each Party undertakes to promote:

- a. training for specialists in landscape appraisal and operations;
- b. multidisciplinary training programmes in landscape policy, protection, management and planning, for professionals in the private and public sectors and for associations concerned;
- c. school and university courses which, in the relevant subject areas, address the values attaching to landscapes and the issues raised by their protection, management and planning.

C. Identification and assessment

1. With the active participation of the interested parties, as stipulated in Article 5.c, and with a view to improving knowledge of its landscapes, each Party undertakes:

- a. i. to identify its own landscapes throughout its territory;
- ii. to analyse their characteristics and the forces and pressures transforming them;
- iii. to take note of changes;

b. to assess the landscapes thus identified, taking into account the particular values assigned to them by the interested parties and the population concerned.

2. These identification and assessment procedures shall be guided by the exchanges of experience and methodology, organised between the Parties at European level pursuant to Article 8.

D. Landscape quality objectives

Each Party undertakes to define landscape quality objectives for the landscapes identified and assessed, after public consultation in accordance with Article 5.c.

E. Implementation

To put landscape policies into effect, each Party undertakes to introduce instruments aimed at protecting, managing and/or planning the landscape.

Chapter III – European co-operation

Article 7 – International policies and programmes

Parties undertake to co-operate in the consideration of the landscape dimension of international policies and programmes, and to recommend, where relevant, the inclusion in them of landscape considerations.

Article 8 – Mutual assistance and exchange of information

The Parties undertake to co-operate in order to enhance the effectiveness of measures taken under other articles of this Convention, and in particular:

- a. to render each other technical and scientific assistance in landscape matters through the pooling and exchange of experience, and the results of research projects;
- b. to promote the exchange of landscape specialists in particular for training and information purposes;
- c. to exchange information on all matters covered by the provisions of the Convention.

Article 9 – Transfrontier landscapes

The Parties shall encourage transfrontier co-operation on local and regional level and, wherever necessary, prepare and implement joint landscape programmes.

Article 10 – Monitoring of the implementation of the Convention

1. Existing competent Committees of Experts set up under Article 17 of the Statute of the Council of Europe shall be designated by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe to be responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Convention.
2. Following each meeting of the Committees of Experts, the Secretary General of the Council of Europe shall transmit a report on the work carried out and on the operation of the Convention to the Committee of Ministers.
3. The Committees of Experts shall propose to the Committee of Ministers the criteria for conferring and the rules governing the Landscape award of the Council of Europe.

Article 11 – Landscape award of the Council of Europe

1. The Landscape award of the Council of Europe is a distinction which may be conferred on local and regional authorities and their groupings that have instituted, as part of the landscape policy of a Party to this Convention, a policy or measures to protect, manage and/or plan their landscape, which have proved lastingly effective and can thus serve as an example to other territorial authorities in Europe. The distinction may be also conferred on non-governmental organisations having made particularly remarkable contributions to landscape protection, management or planning.
2. Applications for the Landscape award of the Council of Europe shall be submitted to the Committees of Experts mentioned in Article 10 by the Parties. Transfrontier local and regional authorities and groupings of local and regional authorities concerned, may apply provided that they jointly manage the landscape in question.
3. On proposals from the Committees of Experts mentioned in Article 10 the Committee of Ministers shall define and publish the criteria for conferring the Landscape award of the Council of Europe, adopt the relevant rules and confer the Award.

4. The granting of the Landscape award of the Council of Europe is to encourage those receiving the award to ensure the sustainable protection, management and/or planning of the landscape areas concerned.

Chapter IV – Final clauses

Article 12 – Relationship with other instruments

The provisions of this Convention shall not prejudice stricter provisions concerning landscape protection, management and planning contained in other existing or future binding national or international instruments.

Article 13 – Signature, ratification and entry into force

1. This Convention shall be open for signature by the member States of the Council of Europe. It shall be subject to ratification, acceptance or approval. Instruments of ratification, acceptance or approval shall be deposited with the Secretary General of the Council of Europe.

2. The Convention shall enter into force on the first day of the month following the expiry of a period of three months after the date on which ten member States of the Council of Europe have expressed their consent to be bound by the Convention in accordance with the provisions of the preceding paragraph.

3. In respect of any signatory State which subsequently expresses its consent to be bound by it, the Convention shall enter into force on the first day of the month following the expiry of a period of three months after the date of the deposit of the instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval.

Article 14 – Accession

1. After the entry into force of this Convention, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe may invite the European Community and any European State which is not a member of the Council of Europe, to accede to the Convention by a majority decision as provided in Article 20.d of the Council of Europe Statute, and by the unanimous vote of the States parties entitled to hold seats in the Committee of Ministers.

2. In respect of any acceding State, or the European Community in the event of its accession, this Convention shall enter into force on the first day of the month following the expiry of a period of three months after the date of deposit of the instrument of accession with the Secretary General of the Council of Europe.

Article 15 – Territorial application

1. Any State or the European Community may, at the time of signature or when depositing its instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, specify the territory or territories to which the Convention shall apply.

2. Any Party may, at any later date, by declaration addressed to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, extend the application of this Convention to any other territory specified in the declaration. The Convention shall take effect in respect of such territory on the first day of the month following the expiry of a period of three months after the date of receipt of the declaration by the Secretary General.

3. Any declaration made under the two paragraphs above may, in respect of any territory mentioned in such declaration, be withdrawn by notification addressed to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe. Such withdrawal shall become effective on the first day of the month following the expiry of a period of three months after the date of receipt of the notification by the Secretary General.

Article 16 – Denunciation

1. Any Party may, at any time, denounce this Convention by means of a notification addressed to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe.

2. Such denunciation shall become effective on the first day of the month following the expiry of a period of three months after the date of receipt of the notification by the Secretary General.

Article 17 – Amendments

1. Any Party or the Committees of Experts mentioned in Article 10 may propose amendments to this Convention.

2. Any proposal for amendment shall be notified to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe who shall communicate it to the member States of the Council of Europe, to the others Parties, and to any European non-member State which has been invited to accede to this Convention in accordance with the provisions of Article 14.

3. The Committees of Experts mentioned in Article 10 shall examine any amendment proposed and submit the text adopted by a majority of three-quarters of the Parties' representatives to the Committee of Ministers for adoption. Following its adoption by the Committee of Ministers

by the majority provided for in Article 20.d of the Statute of the Council of Europe and by the unanimous vote of the States parties entitled to hold seats in the Committee of Ministers, the text shall be forwarded to the Parties for acceptance.

4. Any amendment shall enter into force in respect of the Parties which have accepted it on the first day of the month following the expiry of a period of three months after the date on which three Council of Europe member States have informed the Secretary General of their acceptance. In respect of any Party which subsequently accepts it, such amendment shall enter into force on the first day of the month following the expiry of a period of three months after the date on which the said Party has informed the Secretary General of its acceptance.

Article 18 – Notifications

The Secretary General of the Council of Europe shall notify the member States of the Council of Europe, any State or the European Community having acceded to this Convention, of:

- a. any signature;
- b. the deposit of any instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession;
- c. any date of entry into force of this Convention in accordance with Articles 13, 14 and 15;
- d. any declaration made under Article 15;
- e. any denunciation made under Article 16;
- f. any proposal for amendment, any amendment adopted pursuant to Article 17 and the date on which it comes into force;
- g. any other act, notification, information or communication relating to this Convention.

In witness whereof the undersigned, being duly authorised thereto, have signed this Convention.

Done at Florence, this 20th day of October 2000, in English and in French, both texts being equally authentic, in a single copy which shall be deposited in the archives of the Council of Europe. The Secretary General of the Council of Europe shall transmit certified copies to each member State of the Council of Europe and to any State or to the European Community invited to accede to this Convention.

Appendix 2

Resolution CM/Res(2008)3 of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on the rules governing the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe

The Committee of Ministers,

Recalling that Article 11 of the European Landscape Convention (ETS No. 176) (hereinafter “the Convention”), adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on 19 July 2000 and opened for signature in Florence on 20 October 2000, institutes the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe (hereinafter “the award”);

Bearing in mind that this article provides that the Committee of Ministers shall define and publish the criteria for conferring the award, adopt the relevant rules and grant the award;

Bearing in mind that the award’s purpose is to reward exemplary practical initiatives for the achievement of landscape quality objectives on the territories of parties to the Convention (here- inafter “the Parties”);

Considering that the award is in keeping with the work done by the Council of Europe in favour of human rights, democracy and sustainable development and that it promotes the territorial dimension of human rights and democracy by acknowledging the importance of measures taken to improve the landscape features of people’s living conditions;

Convinced that the award is intended to heighten civil society’s awareness of the value of landscapes, of their role and of changes to them,

Resolves as follows:

- I. The rules governing the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe are adopted as set out in the appendix to this resolution.
- II. The criteria for awarding the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe are appended to these rules.
- III. The Parties are invited to translate into their national language(s) and promote the rules governing the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe. They are also requested to encourage media coverage of the award so as to raise public awareness of the importance of landscapes.

Appendix to Resolution CM/Res(2008)3

Rules governing the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe

Article 1 – Aim

a. The award is an honorary distinction which acknowledges a policy or measures implemented by local or regional authorities or their groupings, or particularly remarkable contributions by non-governmental organisations, for sustainable protection, management and/or planning of landscapes. It takes the form of a diploma. Special mentions may also be awarded.

b. The award rewards a process of implementation of the Convention at national or trans-national levels resulting in an effective, measurable achievement.

c. The award also helps to make people more aware of the importance of landscapes for human development, consolidation of the European identity and the well-being of individuals and society as a whole. It fosters public participation in the decision-making process concerning landscape policies.

Article 2 – Qualification of candidates

In accordance with Article 11, paragraph 1, of the Convention, the following may be candidates for the award: local or regional authorities and their groupings that have instituted, as part of the landscape policy of a party to this Convention, a policy or measures to protect, manage and/or plan their landscape, which have proved lastingly effective and can thus serve as an example to other territorial authorities in Europe. Non-governmental organisations having made particularly remarkable contributions to landscape protection, management or planning may also be candidates.

In accordance with paragraph 2 of the above-mentioned article, transfrontier local or regional authorities and groupings of local and regional authorities concerned may be candidates, provided that they jointly manage the landscape in question.

Article 3 – Procedure

The procedure consists of three stages:

Stage 1 – Submission of candidatures

Each Party may submit one candidature to the Secretariat General of the Council of Europe.

The candidature may be the result of a competition held by each Party taking into account the award criteria appended to these rules.

The application file, in one of the official languages of the Council of Europe (French or English), shall include:

- a presentation of the candidate (not more than three pages long);
- the description of a completed project for the protection, management and/or planning of a landscape, which has proved lastingly effective and can serve as an example. Mention shall be made of the convention provision concerned.

The description shall take the form of a paper document, approximately 20 pages long, accompanied by a digital copy in PDF format on CD-Rom and posters. The file may also include a video presentation lasting approximately five minutes. 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.

The award is in principle conferred every two years. The files presenting candidatures must reach the Secretariat General of the Council of Europe by no later than 31 December of the year preceding the year of award.

Stage 2 – Consideration of candidatures

An international jury set up as a subordinate body of the committees of experts referred to in Article 10 of the Convention¹ shall determine whether candidatures are admissible.

The jury is composed of:

- one member of (each of) the committee(s) of experts responsible for monitoring the Convention appointed by the committee(s) concerned;
- one member of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, appointed by the Congress;
- one representative of an international non-governmental organisation, appointed by the Secretary General on the proposal of the Grouping of INGOs enjoying participatory status with the Council of Europe;

- three eminent specialists on landscape, appointed by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe.

The jury appoints a president.

The jury proposes the award winner from among the candidates admitted.

The proposals of the jury are taken by an absolute majority for the first two rounds of voting, and by a relative majority for the following round, based on the criteria set out in the appendix to these rules, stating the reasons for its choice. In case of equal votes, the vote of the president of the jury is decisive.

The reasons for the choice are explained.

The jury can propose to attribute one or more special mentions.

The committees of experts referred to in Article 10 of the Convention examine the proposals of the jury and forward their proposals concerning the award winner, and, wherever appropriate, special mentions, to the Committee of Ministers.

Stage 3 – Granting and presentation of the award and the special mentions

In the light of the proposals of the committees of experts referred to in Article 10 of the Convention, the Committee of Ministers shall grant the award and any special mentions.

The award and the special mentions shall be presented by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe or his/her representative at a public ceremony.

Appendix to the rules

Criteria for conferring the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe

Criterion 1 – Sustainable territorial development

The completed projects submitted must give tangible form to the protection, management and/or planning of landscapes. This means that the projects must have been completed and open to the public at least three years, when the candidatures were submitted.

They must also:

- be part of a sustainable development policy and be in harmony with the territorial organisation of the area concerned;
- demonstrate their environmental, social, economic, cultural and aesthetic sustainability;

- counter or remedy any damage to landscape structures;
- help enhance and enrich the landscape and develop new qualities.

Criterion 2 – Exemplary value

The implementation of the policy or measures that have helped to improve the protection, management and/or planning of the landscapes concerned must set an example of good practice for others to follow.

Criterion 3 – Public participation

The policy or measures implemented with a view to the protection, management and/or planning of the landscapes concerned should involve the active participation of the public, local and regional authorities and other players and should clearly reflect the landscape quality objectives.

The public should be able to participate simultaneously in two ways:

- through dialogue and exchanges between members of society (public meetings, debates, procedures for participation and consultation in the field, for example);
- by national, regional or local authorities.

Criterion 4 – Awareness-raising

Article 6.A of the Convention provides that “each Party undertakes to increase awareness among civil society, private organisations and public authorities of the value of landscapes, their role and changes to them”. Action along these lines taken as part of the completed project concerned will be assessed.

Appendix 3

Resolution CM/Res(2017)18 of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on the Landscape Award Alliance of the Council of Europe

The Committee of Ministers,

Bearing in mind that Article 11 of the European Landscape Convention (ETS No. 176) (hereinafter “the Convention”), adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on 19 July 2000 and opened for signature in Florence on 20 October 2000, institutes the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe (hereinafter “the Award”);

Considering Resolution CM/Res(2008)3 on the rules governing the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe;

Underlining that the Award’s purpose is to reward exemplary practical initiatives for the achievement of landscape quality objectives on the territories of Parties to the Convention (hereinafter “the Parties”);

Bearing in mind that the Award is in keeping with the work carried out by the Council of Europe in favour of human rights, democracy and sustainable development and that it promotes the territorial dimension of human rights and democracy by acknowledging the importance of measures taken to improve the landscape features of people’s living conditions;

Bearing in mind that the Award is intended to enhance civil society’s awareness of the landscapes’ values, roles and transformations;

Considering the importance of gathering the exemplary achievements presented by the States Parties to the European Landscape Convention in the framework of the sessions of this Landscape Award,

Resolves that:

I. The exemplary achievements presented by the States Parties to the European Landscape Convention in the framework of the sessions of the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe and acknowledged by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, are part of the "Landscape Award Alliance of the Council of Europe"²

II. The Parties are invited to encourage media coverage of the Council of Europe Landscape Award Alliance to raise public awareness of the importance of landscape.

2. www.coe.int/en/web/landscape/landscape-award-alliance.

Adopted under the auspices of the Council of Europe, the European Landscape Convention aims to promote the protection, management and planning of landscapes, and to organise international co-operation in this field. It is the first international treaty covering all aspects of landscape. It applies to the entire territory of the contracting parties and covers natural, rural, urban and peri-urban areas. It concerns landscapes that might be considered outstanding, commonplace or deteriorated.

The Convention represents an important contribution to achieving the Council of Europe's objectives, namely to promote democracy, human rights and the rule of law, in a sustainable development and harmonious perspective.

The exemplary achievements presented by the States Parties to the Convention in the framework of the Sessions of the Landscape Award and acknowledged by the Committee of Ministers, are part of the "Landscape Award Alliance of the Council of Europe".

The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It comprises 47 member states, including all members of the European Union. All Council of Europe member states have signed up to the European Convention on Human Rights, a treaty designed to protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The European Court of Human Rights oversees the implementation of the Convention in the member states.

www.coe.int

