

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON LANDSCAPE OBSERVATORIES

Amersfoort, The Netherlands

9-10 February 2017



The European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe





Council of Europe

Intergovernmental organisation founded in 1949

47 Member States- Headquarters in the Palais de l'Europe, Strasbourg

Statutes

- Promotes **Democracy** **Human rights** **Rule of law**
- Seek **common solutions** to the main problems facing European society



Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe

- expressed their commitment to improve “the quality of life for citizens” and to promote “sustainable development”.
- agreed that, on the basis of the existing instruments, the Council of Europe would further develop and support integrated policies in the fields of environment, landscape and spatial planning, in a sustainable development perspective.



The European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe

- Adoption by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe: Strasbourg, 19 July 2000
- Open for signature: Florence, 20 October 2000
- Came into force: 1st March 2004
- Secretariat: Secretariat General of the Council of Europe, under the authority of its Committee of Ministers (Palais de l'Europe, Strasbourg)



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Why?

The **developments** in agriculture, forestry, industrial and mineral production techniques, together with the **practices** followed in town and country planning, transport, networks, tourism and recreation, **and** at a more general level, **changes** in the world economy, have in many cases accelerated the **transformation** of landscapes.

The Convention expresses the Member States concern to achieve **sustainable development** based on a **balanced and harmonious relationship** between social needs, economic activity and the environment.



Scope

The Preamble says that States wish to provide “a **new instrument devoted exclusively to the protection, management and planning of all landscapes in Europe**”.

It applies to the **entire territory** of the Parties and covers **natural, urban and peri-urban areas**, whether on land, water or sea.

It concerns **remarkable** landscapes... and also **ordinary or everyday** landscapes and degraded areas.

Landscape is recognised irrespective of its perceived value, since all forms of landscape are crucial to the **quality of the citizens’ environment** and deserve to be considered in landscape policies.



Philosophy

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;

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

... 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;

... is a key element of **individual and social well-being** and ... its protection, management and planning entail **rights and responsibilities for everyone**.

Preamble to the European Landscape Convention



Aims

It aims to respond to the public's wish to enjoy **high quality landscapes**.



Who?

States Parties to the Convention (38 ratifications): Andorra, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Moldova, Montenegro, **the Netherlands** (signature and ratification on 27 July 2005), Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom



How?

- . “Landscape management”: guide and harmonise changes
- . “Landscape protection”: conserve and maintain the significant or characteristic features of a landscape
- . “Landscape planning”: enhance, restore or create landscapes.

Article 5 – General measures: Each Party undertakes...

- a. to recognise landscapes in law;
- b. to establish and implement landscape policies;
- c. to establish procedures for the participation;
- d. to integrate landscape into policies.

Article 6 – Specific measures: Each Party undertakes...

- A. Awareness-raising
- B. Training and education
- C. Identification and assessment
- D. Landscape quality objectives
- E. Implementation



Monitoring 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.

*Council of Europe Steering Committee for Culture, Heritage and Landscape (CDCPP)
Council of Europe Conference on the European Landscape 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.”

(Article 10 of the Convention – Monitoring the implementation of the Convention)



Recommendation CM/Rec(2008)3 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the guidelines for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention

“The Committee of Ministers,

1. adopts the guidelines for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention as mentioned below;
2. recommends that **the Parties to the convention take them into account and adopt them in the framework of their national policies.**”



Division of powers and administrative arrangements

“In order to make sure that the landscape dimension is incorporated into territorial policies, it is essential to engage in consultation, particularly prior consultation, between the different levels responsible for administering the area concerned (government and local authority departments) and between the different bodies and sectors of the same level (horizontal and vertical consultation).”

Consultation should cover both the formulation of general strategies and operational decisions. In this way it will be possible to transcend the unrelated and particularistic interests inherent in a view of quality based only on the protection of specific areas and avoid the risk of different or, indeed, contradictory policies on the part of the various public service sectors.”



“At national level, it would therefore be useful to establish permanent consultation processes and procedures and regular meetings between bodies with the most central administrative responsibility (ministries) in order to define and agree strategies and prepare consultation bodies (for example, a standing interdepartmental conference). The same could apply vertically between ministries and lower administrative levels (for example, state-region conferences) and also within the different administrative levels.”

In addition to these permanent bodies, procedures can be drawn up for collaboration between the different bodies and institutes (public and/or private) specialising in particular national and local problems, especially collaboration between departments responsible for different operational sectors in the regions, in supra-municipal bodies or in municipalities themselves.”



“Arrangements could also usefully be made for national, regional and local bodies of an advisory and guidance nature to provide assistance to the above-mentioned technical and administrative services (landscape observatories, landscape councils, landscape centres and institutes, etc.). These bodies could be composed of representatives of the administrative authorities, the scientific and professional communities concerned with landscape questions, and associations.

Within its landscape-administration structures and procedures each state should define the criteria for public participation and ways of organising it.

The public authorities should devote human and financial resources to landscape policy: such resources can either be specifically earmarked or come from other sectors (for example, the environment, tourism, public works, culture, etc.), perhaps with the introduction of landscape considerations into the aforementioned sectoral policies.”



Observatories, centres or institutes

“The strong forces surrounding contemporary landscapes and the many problems connected with landscape protection, management and planning necessitate continuous observation and a forum for exchanging information; the creation of landscape observatories, centres or institutes could prove useful for this purpose.

Such observatories, centres or institutes would allow observation on the basis of appropriate study protocols employing a range of indicators; they would also allow for the collection and exchange of information on policies and experience. They could be independent or part of a broader observation system.”



“These landscape observatories, centres or institutes could be set up at various levels – local, regional, national, international – employing interlocking observation systems, and providing the opportunity for ongoing exchanges.

Thanks to these bodies, it should be possible to:

- describe the condition of landscapes at a given time;***
- exchange information on policies and experience concerning protection, management and planning, public participation and implementation at different levels;***
- use and, if necessary, compile historical documents on landscapes which could be useful for knowing how the landscapes concerned have developed (archives, text, photographs, etc.);***
- draw up quantitative and qualitative indicators to assess the effectiveness of landscape policies;***
- furnish data leading to an understanding of trends and to forecasts or forward-looking scenarios.”***



“Exchanges of information and experience between states, regions and territorial communities, which already take place, should be based on exemplarity but should always be set against the political, social, ecological and cultural context of the original landscape.

The choice of the composition of observatories is a matter for the administrative bodies concerned but should allow for collaboration between scientists, professionals and technicians from the public authorities and the public”.

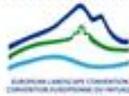


“Report on the state of the landscape and of landscape policies

States and regions should draft a report on the state of landscapes in their territories at suitable intervals on the basis of the work of the landscape observatories, centres or institutes. The report should include a policy review in order to check the effectiveness of legislation and action taken.

This type of document drawn up by administrative bodies, landscape observatories, centres or institutes or other bodies and/or in collaboration with those different entities could compare what is actually happening in the concerned area with the landscape guidelines and measures implemented, highlight the results, solutions and problems encountered and indicate new directions. The document should stand on its own or be part of a broader report in which a specific section is devoted to the landscape. However, it should not be a substitute for the regular meetings which states should hold for the purpose of implementing the European Landscape Convention.”





National policies for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION

*EIGHTEENTH COUNCIL OF EUROPE MEETING
OF THE WORKSHOPS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION*

*National policies for the implementation of
the European Landscape Convention:
challenges and opportunities*

Yerevan, Armenia

5-6 October 2016

Study visit, 7 October 2016

– PROGRAMME –

2 October 2016



“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.

- Strategies and policy documents in favour of the landscape
- Legal and financial instruments
- Horizontal and vertical coordination.

Strategies and policy documents in favour of the landscape

Strategies

Andorra : Actions 2016-2020 of the National Landscape Strategy

Ireland : The National Landscape Strategy 2015-2025

Finland: Cultural Environment Strategy as a tool for landscape awareness and activities

Switzerland : Landscape strategies and policies

Policy documents

The Netherlands: Heritage planning and spatial development

Portugal : The National policy on architecture and landscape

Armenia: European Landscape Convention in strategic spatial planning documents : Architectural criteria's protection of landscape character identity of settlements; Provision of the measures for the implementation of the European ; Landscape Principles of landscape planning in mountainous regions ; Introduction of principles are defined by the European Landscape Convention relating to training and education in the higher education systems

Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, ...



Legal and financial instruments

France: Landscape policies and legal instruments

Poland: Instruments for the implementation of the national landscape policy :
Landscape audit, Landscape Day

Spain: The National Plan of cultural landscape, “100 Cultural landscapes in Spain”

Italy: Thee National Landscape Observatory

Switzerland: The Swiss Landscape Fund

Horizontal and vertical co-ordination

Czech Republic: Horizontal co-operation with interministerial round tables

Greece: The landscape policy through the regional spatial plans

Serbia: Improvement of the capacity building of regions for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention

Norway, Slovenia, Sweden...



Council of Europe Landscape Observatory on the European Landscape Convention: Recommendation CM/Rec(2013)4 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the European Landscape Convention Information System of the Council of Europe

“Recommends that States Parties to the Convention:

- use the Information System with its glossary, in the framework of their co-operation, and co-operate to develop it;***
- continue to exchange information on all matters covered by the provisions of the Convention in order to promote knowledge of landscapes and landscape policies, in view of enhancing the quality of people’s lives, taking care of their surroundings.”***

The Information System (on the Council of Europe Website of the European Landscape Convention) is a “toolbox” helping to provide mutual technical and scientific assistance through the collection and exchange of landscape experience and research, as provided for in Article 8 of the Convention on mutual assistance and exchange of information.



Accueil

CONVENTION EUROPÉENNE DU PAYSAGE - L6



Système d'information du Conseil de l'Europe sur la Convention européenne du paysage

Albanie	France	Norvège
Allemagne	Géorgie	Pays-Bas
Andorre	Grèce	Pologne
Arménie	Hongrie	Portugal
Autriche	Irlande	République tchèque
Azerbaïdjan	Islande	Roumanie
Belgique	Italie	Royaume-Uni
Bosnie-Herzégovine	Lettonie	Saint-Marin
Bulgarie	"L'ex-République yougoslave de Macédoine"	Serbie
Chypre	Liechtenstein	Slovaquie
Croatie	Lituanie	Slovénie
Danemark	Luxembourg	Suède
Espagne	Malte	Suisse
Estonie	Moldova	Turquie
Fédération de Russie	Monaco	Ukraine
Finlande	Monténégro	

European Landscape Convention Website

<http://www.coe.int/EuropeanLandscapeConvention>

<http://www.coe.int/Conventioneuropennedupaysage>

