



Proceedings of the UNISCAPE En-Route International Seminar LANDSCAPE OBSERVATORIES in Europe II

Organised by UNISCAPE, CIVILSCAPE, RECEP-ENELC,
UNIVERSITY OF TURIN and POLITECNICO DI TORINO

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Preface

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For the European Landscape Convention (ELC), “landscape observatories, centers and institutes” are crucial instruments in the development and implementation of landscape policies. They form a strong incentive to collect and exchange information, to raise awareness, and to offer a platform for public participation and training in landscape matters, which is relevant at the level of local communities and regions as much as for states. In 2013, thanks to the European Landscape Networks (UNISCAPE, CIVILSCAPE, RECEP-ENELC), a first overview on the existing Landscape Observatories was presented in the International Seminar “Landscape Observatories in Europe: from ELC Recommendations to Local Initiatives 2000-2013” (Florence, 27-28th June 2013), which saw the participation of about hundred experts and stakeholders from many different countries. The Seminar “Landscape Observatories In Europe II” discussed how cooperation can enhance the foundation and management of Landscape Observatories from the perspective of representatives of varying denotations and levels of institutionalization, together with other interested stakeholders. The Seminar’s concluding session discussed challenges to be tackled and actions to be taken: the identification of further Landscape Centers, Institutes and Observatories, the establishment of a Network of European Landscape Observatories, and a “Landscape Observatories Action Plan”.



Ioana Velescu, *Together*, 5th Peoples Landscapes.



The European Landscape Convention

Maguelonne Déjeant-Pons

 Executive Secretary of the European Landscape Convention
Council of Europe

I wish most sincerely congratulate the organisers of this meeting, University of Turin and Politecnico de Torino, for the great work done and thank them for their support for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention.

I wish to address special congratulations to Frederica Larcher and the Members of the Scientific Committee of UNISCAPE and CIVILSCAPE. I would like also to acknowledge the major contribution given by Professor Roberto Gambino to the development of landscape policies in Europe.

We are particularly pleased to see observatories, institutes and centers of the landscape flourishing on the territories, according to the Recommendation CM/Rec (2008) 3 of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe to member States on the Guidelines for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention.

Now ratified by 38 member States, the Convention has become an essential reference text. Fully entering the landscape on the agenda of governments, it helps to guide policies adopted at national, regional and local levels to a new territorial intelligence considering outstanding as well as everyday or degraded landscapes.

Offering a qualitative vision of space, the Convention promotes a lifestyle based on the respect of natural and cultural values and know-how. Thanks to this 'landscape approach', human rights and democracy dimensions come together on the territory.

The implementation of the Convention continues favorably. Activities are designed to ensure the monitoring of this implementation, to promote international cooperation, gather examples of good practice, promote awareness, research for development and access to information.

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 in the framework of their cooperation. This observatory for the implementation of the Convention will contribute to promote exchange of information on landscape policies adopted at national, regional and local levels considering political, social, ecological and cultural context.

It is important to move forward with the commitment of all of us, to take better account of the living space. We would like to applaud the vitality of the work of universities and civil society for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention.

Mission and role of the Landscape Observatories in Europe: an introduction

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1. European Landscape Convention objectives and Observatories' missions.

Nearly a decade after the first experiences of Landscape Observatories (LOs), this Seminar recalls the one of Careggi in 2013 trying to define their evolution, since the creation by the Council of Europe of the three networks provided for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention (ELC): UNISCAPE, RECEP-ENELC, CIVILSCAPE. The wide development of LOs in European countries testifies the relevance of their scope - the need for supporting with knowledge and social participation the scientific, political and cultural change promoted by the ELC – but also gives evidence to the ambiguities, the conceptual uncertainties and the coordination difficulties. So, the optimism reflected in the landscape rhetorics and the hopes or illusions that many communities entrust to the landscape concept, cannot obscure the need for a critical approach by the LOs. In the attempt of defining the role of LOs in the changing context of modern society, we must recall the main ELC objectives relevant to this regard:

- Expansion of landscape policies, in terms of protection and enhancement of the entire territory, beyond the constraints and safeguards traditionally applied to single landscape properties',
- Strengthening of landscape policies, in terms of knowledge and awareness of structural factors, public interests and values at stake, multi-sectorial strategies,
- Effective participation of the stakeholders, right holders and local communities, based on their expectations and perceptions, for the public regulation of landscape processes.

According to such objectives and to the further definitions of the Statute of RECEP-ENELC, the Careggi Seminar underlined a two-fold mission for the LOs:

- a) on the one hand, they constitute *instruments for the defense and the enhancement* of the local identities and cultures;
- b) on the other hand, they can be configured as *knots of networks* open to the world and linking diverse natural and cultural resources for the improvement of the territorial qualities.

2. Specific role of LOs

Such mission regards both the 3 networks created by Council of Europe to drive the implementation and monitoring of the landscape policies at the European level, and the numer-



ous Observatories formally set up with this title in various European countries on the basis of national, regional or local initiatives. The role of the 3 European networks is different from the role of the LOs, and it is different for each of them. Particularly, the role of Uniscape as it raises from the experiences, seems to be crucial for linking landscape' practices to scientific and project activities, unlike the role of Recep-Enelc which aims to promote the local powers activities, or the role of Civilscape mainly related to the diverse social interests. Surely, in different forms and with different scopes, the 3 European networks are called to perform the activities provided by the ELC, which include landscape observation as well as evaluation, monitoring, analyzing, management. But the 3 networks are not merely or mainly 3 Observatories, with the same meaning of the LOs specifically considered in the present document.

While the scope and the function of the three European networks have been defined with their founding acts in strict relation to the ELC, it is not the same for the Observatories, whose definition is much more diversified. In fact, to perform effectively their first mission, the LOs must make specific and unavoidable reference to the territorial realities on behalf of which they are created. The territorial rooting is the trade-mark of the LOs and their "raison d'être". As we can see in the experiences made, the reflections and the documents produced (such as the Canarie Manifesto 2011, or the numerous contributes presented to the Careggi Seminar or even to this Seminar), the concerned territories are extremely different in terms of size, natural and cultural characters, knowledge, plans and regulations. Such diversification has some relevant implications: the need for a trans-scale and trans-sectoral approach, the "interpretative" (not directly normative) prevailing character of the LO' functions, their role "open" and consciously partial towards the activities that other subjects and institutions are carrying out in the same territories (local administrations, universities, research centres and so on). In other terms, the LOs, to be well rooted in their territories, are called to play an interactive game, rather than to produce an objective and autonomous collection of statements or neutral data. This need has to be well considered when the LOs are concerned with the production of the atlas of maps.

3. Problems, evaluations and indicators

By consequence, as it raises from the contributes presented to the Seminar, each LO has to face risks and problems, worries, regulation needs and project inputs largely diversified. Of course, a sharp distinction may be made between the problems raising from the territorial realities (such as local or regional problems linked to the effects on landscape of global change) and problems or questions concerning theories, methods, laws technological devices to be used for planning and regulation of landscape dynamics. Despite the wide diversity of the problems that should be faced by the landscape policies and therefore by the LOs, their utility and their positive contribute to the "landscape project", always request analysis and evaluations based on adequate multi-disciplinary, scientific and

cultural competencies, able to guarantee the effective pursuit of the above recalled ELC objectives. To this end, it could be useful that the 3 ELC networks (possibly with the help of the Scientific Committee) build up a shared evaluation framework, containing models and sets of indicators of quality, to be flexibly applied to diverse territorial situations. As an example, one should expect from the Italian LOs the special attention for participation processes that has been lacking up to now, even in legal terms (see the Italian Code 2004 on cultural heritage and landscape). Moreover, we must underline the mediation role that LOs can play between experts' knowledge and local cultures, in a bi-directional interaction which, on the one hand gives voice to the involved populations as stated by the ELC, and on the other hand may translate scientific and technical information in effective regulations.

4. Tools and services

To perform the above activities, the LOs should have at their disposal some proper tools. It has been proposed that each LO, or a set of LOs, provides a centre for Landscape Observatory Documentation (LOD), in order to ensure the continuity of its activity, the sedimentation of outputs, and their accessibility and dissemination. The services entrusted to the LODs to be accessible by means of the suitable website, may concern particularly:

- mapping LOs and relative centres and institutions,
- linking people involved (scholars, public officials, citizens...),
- exchanging information among LOs,
- gathering maps, data bases and other documents concerning each LO,
- promoting events and shared initiatives.

The building of LODs is open to anyone willing to contribute, sending information and documentation and joining the working groups which are to be constituted for the above activities. But, in order to ensure the coherence of the implementation processes towards the general and specific objectives recalled in the above point I, we can also provide a “*competence platform*”, formed by experts accredited by Uniscape, to be consulted for the comparison of proposals, evaluations and local projects, with an integrated and international vision.

5. Coordination networks

In order to play their role as knots of networks, the LOs need the *coordination* of initiatives, experiences and activities, clashing with the extreme diversification and dispersion of initiatives, which reflect, at least in part, the inherent meaning of landscape, the irreducible subjectivity of the landscape experience, and the indispensable role of local options and perceptions. As it was stated in the Seminar of Careggi, a first move in this direction



could consist of a concerted redefinition of the tools and tasks of each of the 3 European networks, and possibly the role of the Scientific Committee, to be reconsidered as a transverse instrument at the service of all three networks. In the context of this redefinition, an important goal could be the creation of a Network of European Landscape Observatories focused on the organization activities enlightened above. Such network, working with and for the Observatories, should offer a common ground of dialogue and cooperation for the 3 existing networks.

A second crucial move concerns the shift of conservation policies from the protection of single properties to the active conservation of the entire territory of each landscape, as a whole network of natural, economic, social and cultural relations. The LOs can play an important role in identifying and evaluating values and problems and indicating the objectives of quality to be pursued by landscape planning and management, against the tendency of the detachment of protection from the range of territorial policies impacting on the landscape. A detachment that can condemn the LOs to a merely “inventory” or cosmetic role. But if we want avoid this risk we must draw the attention to the need for an effective *alliance* between the policies of landscape conservation and the policies of nature conservation. In particular, the conservation of parks and natural protected areas, both inside and outside the city, both at the local and at the regional or even international level (see for instance the Rete Natura 2000, created by the European Union).

As a final remark, we can observe that the risks and processes of environmental degradation related to global changes and threatening the European landscapes, meet new imperatives of fairness and equity required for the world’s population, calling for new visions and new strategies of development. Against this dramatic scenarios of change, the active conservation of the landscape poses unavoidable instances of public regulation at all levels. The “*right to landscape*” implies that new citizenship rights should be guaranteed by public authorities, even by means of supra-local measures and strategies. At the same time, public regulation must strengthen the role of local communities in creating and managing their landscapes. In these directions, the task of the networks of LOs is of utmost importance.

Landscape Observatories in Italy: the state of the art

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✓ KEYWORDS: Landscape Observatories, Activities, Codice Urbani, Piedmont, Italy

➡ ABSTRACT

The adoption of the European Landscape Convention (ELC) by the Member States of the Council of Europe has induced, gradually, since 2000, a profound change in terms of conceptual and political attitudes and culture on the landscape. In particular, the Convention has placed a strong emphasis on the importance of the aspects of landscape awareness, promotion and training of local communities. The Convention has intended, in fact, not only to promote the development of appropriate public policies in favour of the landscape, but has also stated the principle that all European citizens should take an active role in the processes of transformation of the landscapes in which they live. The very definition of landscape has changed with the advent of the Convention, which has extended this concept to the whole of the territories of the Member States, thus including both natural and rural areas and urban and peri-urban areas as well as landscapes that might be considered outstanding, including the ordinary or even degraded ones. The change in the concept of landscape has led to an increased importance of the landscape in the quality of life of local populations, being in fact a possible resource favourable to economic activities, if - as outlined in the Preamble of the Convention - it is protected, managed and planned adequately, giving a further contribution to the creation of new jobs.

In order to implement effectively the policies for the protection, management and planning of the landscape, the Council of Europe - with the guidelines of 2008 - has better explained the contents of the European Landscape Convention, suggesting the Member States to adopt one or more instruments for the optimization of their "landscape policies", which include explicitly the "Landscape Observatories". In this perspective, the Landscape Observatories are an extremely useful opportunity to respond to the need for protection, restoration and enhancement of the landscape, linking scientific research with the expectations of the citizens. Moreover, the Observatories may facilitate the collection and sharing of experiences and study and experimentation protocols between the states and local communities in the landscape protection, management and planning, also on the basis of a relevant practical experience.

It is worth also to remember that, always in 2008, the Network of European Universities for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention - UNISCAPE - was established, based in Florence. At the same time, considering the importance the Convention attaches to the role of the civil society in landscape policies, in February of the same year the International Network of Non-Governmental Organizations for the protection of the landscape quality in Europe, called CIVILSCAPE, was founded. Many Italian Landscape Observatories, including those of Piedmont, have eagerly joined CIVILSCAPE.

1. The Italian Constitution and the Urbani Code

It is clear how the theme of the landscape has acquired over the past years a central role, not only in the Italian legal system, but in all Europe. It deserves, however, to remember that



already in 1948 the Article 9 of the Italian Constitution affirmed the fundamental principle of the importance of the protection of the landscape and the historical and artistic heritage of the nation. Over time, the meaning of the term “landscape” has gradually changed, passing from the concept of “natural beauty”, mainly driven by aesthetic and scenic considerations, to a broader notion, not limited only to the beauties of nature to be preserved, but conceived as the shape and appearance of the earth, as a continuous interaction between man and nature, and, therefore, as the natural environment changed and above all “perceived” by man. In Italy, the laws concerning the landscape have been regulated since 2004 by the *Code of Cultural Heritage and Landscape* (URBANI CODE), which has its purpose in the protection of the landscape with respect to the characteristics that constitute the material and visible evidence of the national identity. The Art. 133 of the Code specifically mentions the *National Landscape Observatory* and the Observatories established in each Region as appropriate tools for the creation of studies, analyses and proposals on the landscape.

The National Observatory, although established many years ago, has never been effectively activated. Concerning the *Regional Observatories* only in certain territories they were established and became operational, as in the case of Abruzzi, Calabria, Sardinia, Venetia, Umbria and Apulia. In Piedmont, for example, the region has not yet established it. At a European level, the *Landscape Observatory of Catalonia* is one of the most known and appreciated examples, even as a consultant of the regional government of Catalonia, constituting a positive model to replicate in other areas.

2. The “bottom up” Landscape Observatories

The Landscape Observatories, as already mentioned in the guidelines of 2008 of the Council of Europe, are set to be among the most important tools to monitor the transformation of the territory and the exchange of information regarding the landscape. In the nature of the ELC, the Observatories have a double mission: on the one hand, to provide tools for understanding and enhancing the landscape, with specific reference to the policy of consolidating the cultural identity of the different territories; on the other hand, to effectively promote the protection, management and planning of each local landscape. In general, it should be noted that the title of the “Observatory” evokes a very heterogeneous set of institutions, associations, meeting places or simple initiatives. In any case, the experience of the Landscape Observatories can be basically related to three key words, strongly connected to each other: knowledge, awareness and sharing.

This type of observatories is indicated in a general way as “bottom-up”, and includes mostly local groups and associations voluntarily made, that are created and managed by people who are sensitive to landscape issues. These observatories are based on a model of involvement of the people from below, in which the “Know-how of experts” interacts with the “common Know-how” of the people. The “BOTTOM UP” model shows a strong tendency towards the creation of networks at regional, national or international level. Among the most successful examples of this

model there is the Observatory Network of Piedmont, the European Landscape Observatory, and the experimental network of the Landscape Observatories of Venetia.

The ever more pressing need for the participation and involvement of the population in the definition and implementation of policies for the protection, management and planning of European landscapes certainly makes the observatories a useful and effective way to strengthen the identity of the people, who recognize themselves in their specific territory. Sharing is defined as the need to assign an “active role” to the population, so as to improve the process of public decision-making and consequently the quality of the landscape. This democratic participation is only possible if the Observatory becomes an influential actor in the collection and dissemination of information and the monitoring of changes in the landscape. The Observatory must also be some sort of rich database, always updated, accessible via the web, easy to access, and absolutely “transparent”. The Observatory, in other words, must be seen as an “ideal place” where people meet to see if the objectives of landscape quality are being met and if the specific policies have had varying degrees of success.

In summary, the tasks of the Landscape Observatories can then be specified as follows:

- Identification of the means of implementation of landscape policies in terms of protection and enhancement of the whole territory, beyond the constraints and safeguards traditionally applied to individual landscape areas;
- Identification of actions to be carried out on the landscape, in terms of knowledge of the factors, aspirations and common interests and values at stake;
- Analysis and knowledge of the landscape, through a highly multidisciplinary approach, so as to involve, in addition to the population, the various professionals working in the field;
- Sensitization and training of the population, in terms of effective participation of stakeholders and local communities in the decision-making moments, according to their expectations and perceptions;
- Implementation of the Landscape Atlases, conceived as operational tools for the collection, storage and classification of data, consisting of images, maps, photos, etc., aimed at the systematic monitoring of the processes and dynamics affecting the landscape. The Atlases can provide a basis for the identification of the values that the society attaches to its own landscapes and, therefore, can help to encourage participation in the management of landscape resources. The Atlas aims to create databases of the areas studied, allowing the interpretation and evaluation of history and its transformations. The methods tested are represented by the most valid Atlases on the web where everybody can contribute to their achievement and at the same time have access to them, to raise awareness of the collective value of the landscape as a collective resource and cultural heritage.

3. The Piedmontese Experience and the Piedmontese Landscape Network

Piedmont has established in a time a significantly high number of “sub-regional” Landscape Observatories (7), having certainly benefited from a previous successful experience of eco-



museums (starting as early as 1995). Among the objectives of the Landscape Observatories in Piedmont, in particular the participation of local communities in the processes of territorial planning may be mentioned. The Piedmontese model consists of a set of local observatories, represented by small associations composed of groups of people working on the issues of comprehending and protecting their territories.

The formation of a mature landscape consciousness is one of the most important objectives of the Piedmontese Network, because only with this setting one can have a broad democratic participation in decision-making processes. This model is designed as a tool to study, understand, interpret and compare different situations. It is, in other words, a starting point for the design of the landscape of the future, which can only take place on a thorough analysis of the historical landscape and its ongoing transformations. In 2006, the Observatories of Piedmont have initiated a process of networking with the aim of developing ways of sharing local individual experiences.

4. The Conference on the National Landscape Observatories

The first National Conference on the theme of Italian Landscape Observatories was held this year in Casale Monferrato, organized by the Coordination of the Network of Landscape Observatories of Piedmont.

A significant increase in the number of Observatories at the national level has strongly appeared in recent years. From the census carried out, in 2014 there is a total of 21 active Observatories spread throughout the national territory. In almost all cases, they are “bottom up” Observatories or however linked to a strong experience with the local civil society and associations working in the various fields of environment and culture. The Conference gave rise to the intention to set up an Italian coordination of the Landscape Observatories that has already been formalized in the signing of a special Document of intent.

5. Conclusions

The Observatories are centres of thought and action on the landscape for the implementation of the ELC.

They are a laboratory of ideas and projects, which can usefully contribute to the formation and development of a “culture aware of the landscape”. They are key tools for the transfer of knowledge and principles of landscape planning. No less important is the role that the Landscape Observatories may provide in the territorial planning, through the implementation in the different local areas of the ELC. In this perspective, I hope that the Council of Europe will support with appropriate operational guidelines the establishment of new Landscape Observatories in each national context and, in perspective, the creation of a Coordination at a European level.

The Tagus River Cultural Landscape. Building up a Landscape Observatory

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✓ **KEYWORDS:** Tagus' Landscape Observatory, Cultural Landscape, Collaborative Landscape Management, Tagus river, Portugal.

➡ ABSTRACT

The Tagus river is the most notable and longest Iberian water shad. It empties into the Atlantic Ocean in Lisbon after crossing around 1000 kilometres of a very diverse and impressive Portuguese and Spanish landscape. Such a landscape includes outstanding biophysical, historic cultural and aesthetic values, where some hotspots are designated as national protected area or biosphere reserve by UNESCO.

Recently, the Tagus Cultural Landscape Project, promoted by a partnership that involves the academy and a NGO, aiming at preserving and promoting those natural and cultural values, has been awarded by the Universidade NOVA de Lisboa and Santander-Totta Bank (2014) as a collaborative research which may be seen as a public recognition of the relevance of that heritage.

The intention is to recognize the Tagus cultural landscape and to propose its nomination to the UNESCO World Heritage List according to a methodology that combines the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (UNESCO, 1972) and the European Landscape Convention approaches, highlighting the importance of public participation as an active institutional and local community's involvement for building up this process.

As a first step, the landscape observatory for the Tagus river is an integrative idea to develop this project as a way of gathering data, raising acknowledgment and awareness concerning heritage, defining innovative ways of spatial planning and design and to set up institutional cooperation and public communication regarding different dimensions of Tagus cultural landscape management.

1. Introduction

Tagus River, understood in a cross-border perspective, congregates relevant biophysical, historical and cultural aspects which reflect a huge wealth and landscape diversity. One of the goals of the Association *Tagus Universalis* Portugal is electing the cultural Landscape of the Iberian Tagus as a transboundary candidate to be inscribed in the UNESCO World Heritage List. This proposition has been set up from the conclusions drawn on the II Tagus Congress, Lisbon 2006, in which the Association Tagus' River Friends was mandated to initiate this process in partnership with Portuguese and Spanish public and private entities. This process has been



developed based on the Vila Franca de Xira Declaration, June 2009, the Talavera Deliberation, September 2009, and the UNESCO Convention for the Protection of Natural and Cultural Heritage. Therefore, this transnational proposal has started throughout the signature of a twinning protocol between the Spanish Tagus Universalis and the Portuguese Tagus Universalis. In 2012, the Association *Tagus Universalis* Portugal, together with the Geographical Society of Lisbon have asked for the collaboration of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities of the University NOVA of Lisbon for the establishment of a methodology underlying the Tagus landscape study and the definition of Landscape Quality Objectives. During the same year, the Association *Tagus Universalis* Portugal (ATUP), the Association of Geography Teachers and the Portuguese General Directorate of Education, have signed a co-operation protocol in order to establish a partnership in both education and training areas. This protocol has to provide support to secondary schools and school Community in the effort leading to attainment of the Tagus Project.

In 2013, in collaboration with the Faculty of Sciences and Technology, the Application was submitted to the Santander-Totta/NOVA Collaborative Research Award, having been awarded the prize in 2014.

In June 2014, the extended training program was started, specially oriented for teachers and practitioners dealing with landscape management. Some collaborative and participatory proposals have been defined at the local level.

At the moment, the Tagus Landscape Observatory is being set up as a meeting place for governmental and non-governmental institutions, local and regional entities, Universities and also professional and citizen groups, who have taken up a role in knowledge, management and preservation of the Tagus River Landscape.

2. Innovative and interdisciplinary character of the landscape concept

According to an interdisciplinary approach and under a collaborative management perspective, Landscape is an innovative concept which allows the integration of environmental, social, cultural and economic dimensions of the Tagus Landscape in the framework of two International Conventions: The UNESCO Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972) and the European Landscape Convention (2000), transposed into the Portuguese legislation through the Decree n° 4 of February, 14th, 2005. According to the Study for the Identification and Characterization of the Landscapes in Continental Portugal, (Cancela d'Abreu *et al.*, 2004) "the landscape today is a dynamic system, where different natural and cultural factors interact and change over time, determining and being determined by the global structure, which results in a particular setting, namely of land relief, soil, land use, and population which gives it a certain unity and that corresponds to a particular character". However, this concept appears in the context of a national scale, in which the base for the analysis and interpretation of phenomena resulting of the landscape character was defined at a scale of 1:250000.

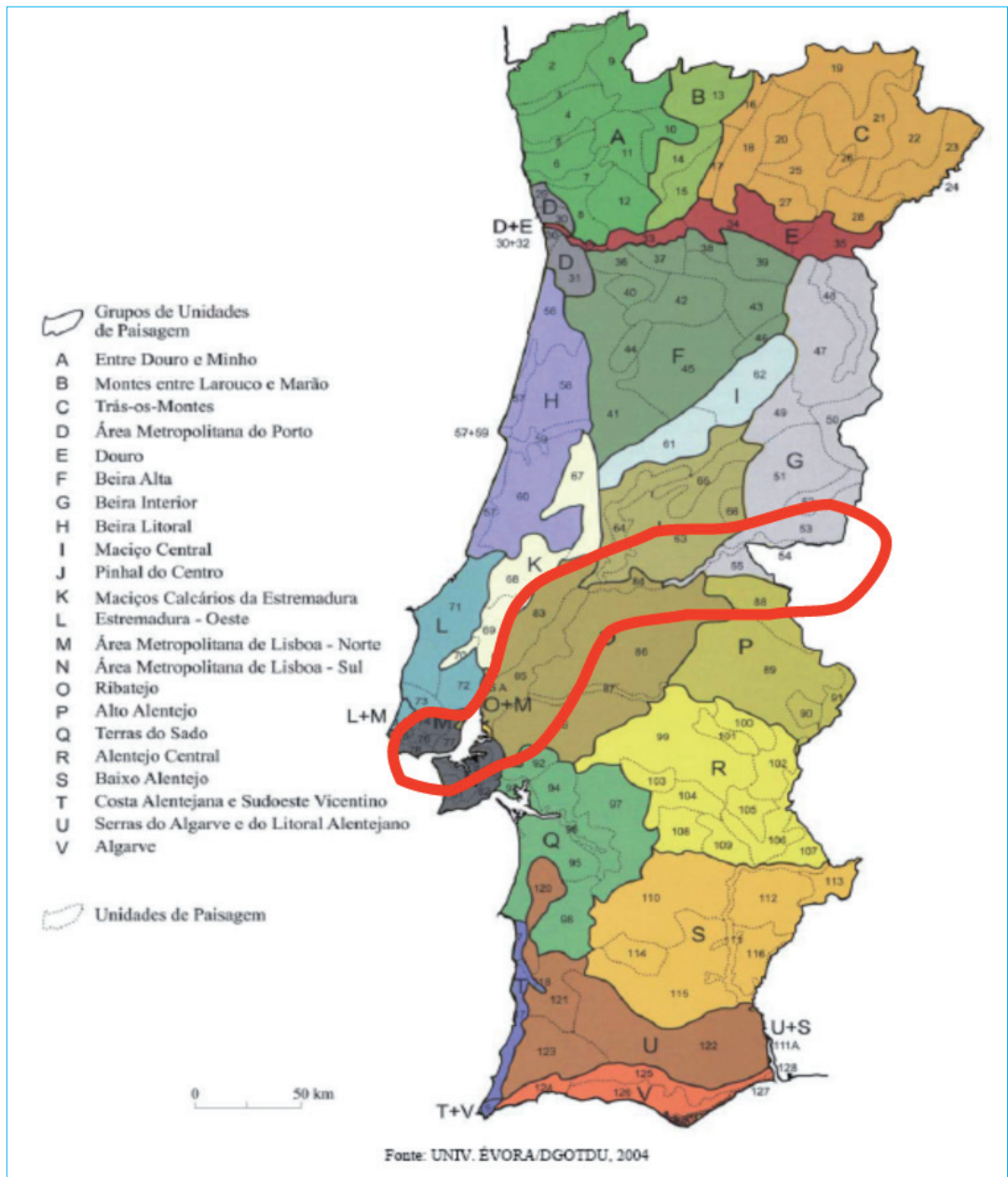


Fig 1: Groups of Landscape Units, Landscape Units and, roughly, the preliminary area of the Project Tagus Cultural Landscape.

Hence, by considering the landscape in a finer-scale approach, in the case of Tagus Valley, a scale that undergoes from the sub-regional to local, it becomes necessary to define other concepts that better allow for the interpretation and characterization of that reality. The adopted landscape concept must include not only elements of an objective nature, such



as biophysical and human components, but also elements of subjective nature, and therefore social, once it is relevant to consider the way in which it is felt and perceived by different groups of local population, as well as the way they are dealing with spatial planning and management.

The European Landscape Convention (Florence, 2000) presents the most adequate concept that “means an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors” throughout time. Therefore, it is fundamental to consider the sociocultural dimension and the way in which actors position regarding interests, needs and expectations, and establishes a relationship of identity with this same territory.

Such knowledge allows the definition of strategies that can better respond to local needs, with the landscape as an excellent basis for the integration of several dimensions to be necessarily addressed within a participatory process of spatial planning and management.

This landscape approach as a social process, that addresses the identity and cultural features, aims at establishing itself as an opportunity for the definition of a shared vision of the future according to a strategy, seeking new ways of management and evaluation of the territory in a perspective of governance, which seems to be adequate for the purposes of the application of nomination of Cultural Landscape. This application can be justified by following arguments:

- 1) Applying the concept of Cultural Landscape to the Hydrographic Basin of the Tagus River allows, for the first time, to intertwine the incredibly rich natural patrimony – from the floodplain recently formed in the Cenozoic basin of the Tagus-Sado, with an exceptional set of cultural heritage assets, both tangible and intangible.
- 2) Tagus River is Water, a precious and limited resource. Thus, before a temporal and special variability of the hydrological cycle in the Iberian Peninsula, given the existing pollution issues and anticipating the resulting problems of water scarcity, it is important to preserve the health and sustainability of the Tagus River Ecosystems, along its’ whole course and, simultaneously, of its’ natural heritage, through an efficient transnational governance of hydric resources.
- 3) A governance of hydric resources implies the effective participation of all parts concerned: the state, the markets and local communities.
- 4) The diversity and particularity of cultural heritages of different communities along the river, mainly those on the riverbanks, calls upon its’ involvement in raising awareness, protect and valorization of that heritage and, as well, of the natural heritage, through social networks in a local scope. The knowledge of the local heritage reality is, therefore, essential to the development of a highly aware and responsible citizenship, resulting from a joint effort of environmental education, development of the scientific culture and increased literacy levels.
- 5) Promoting a broad debate on the cultural landscape concept applicable to the Portuguese Tagus, based on the UNESCO Handbook for Conservation and Management of World Heritage Cultural Landscapes, which is expected to lead to the definition and compilation of the essential elements grounding the nomination proposal that should be afterwards validated by the academy and Governmental institutions and gain the final form

of a Landscape Atlas of the Portuguese Tagus River. This contribution will allow for synergies evoking the highlight potential for sustainable development.

6) The same debate will also contribute to develop, with the local social networks, a wider perception about the Tagus River and its' cultural landscape, by building up of a Trans-community Network of the Portuguese Tagus Landscapes, supported by an efficient communication structure, which is an important contribution for the Transnational Network of the Tagus River Culture.

7) Among others, it should be noted the application of the *Avieira* Culture to National Heritage, the reunion between Tagus Navy and the Pro – Tagus Movement, as well as their experiences of affirmation and consolidation.

8) The promotion of a broad debate on the concept of a regional networked Museum representative of both the material and the immaterial values of the Tagus Landscapes, in a way that all the communities attached to the Tagus River can identify themselves with, because the extensions and local nuclei will allow to safeguard of its' heritage, cultural and identity particularities.

9) This effort will allow the outlining of possible futures for a sustainable socio-economic development (for instance, a more integrated perception of the concept of cultural tourism around the Tagus cultural landscape and the resulting synergies, represented by an unmistakable image of the Tagus brand), a higher national cohesion (inducing, for instance, an increased efficiency on the exercise of a collaborative governance on behalf of the ARH Tagus) and on a different citizenship (aware of the Tagus Cultural Landscape value, identifying itself with its' material and immaterial elements present in a regional networked museum, which is its' major protector).

10) The transversal feature of the cultural landscape concept will incite a new upturn of the debate about the relevance of the landscape in Portugal through its' focus on the territorial development and, as well, the need for articulation and reconciling of territorial planning with the sectoral policies of nature conservation and cultural and environmental qualification.

3. *The Tagus Landscape Observatory*

Landscape observatories are mentioned in the Recommendations CM/Rec (2008), which defines the guidelines for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention, as essential structures to collect and exchange information and to establish protocols and partnerships among public institutions and local communities.

We can watch the emergence of countless Landscape Observatories throughout Europe with an important role in the areas of landscape knowledge, identification and characterization, within the scope of raising awareness, education, training and participation, in the establishment of co-operation networks among observatories, and in close articulation with spatial planning and management policies.



It is intended that the Tagus Landscape Observatory can encompass all these valences and constitute itself as an aggregating pole for knowledge sharing along with cultural and social-territorial boosting of the Tagus Landscape.

In the first stage, it is considered to be fundamental to deepen both the objective as well as the subjective dimensions of the landscape, in order to define landscape units at a local scale and, for each of them, the landscape quality objectives oriented for landscape protection, management and planning.

By Landscape Quality Objectives (LQO) it is understood as “the formulation by the competent public authorities of the aspirations of the public with regard to the landscape features of their surroundings”.

The definition of Landscape Quality Objectives materializes the process of recognition of the Portuguese Tagus River Landscape, making available the elements considered to be essential inasmuch as they allow for:

- a) Accomplish all steps of the second phase of the itinerary established on the UNESCO Handbook for Conservation and Management of World Heritage Cultural Landscapes, titled “Understanding the cultural landscape and its’ values”: (1) Compile and analyze data concerning the landscape and its’ values and describe the corresponding characteristics, tangible and intangible, (2) Document the prevailing circumstances and respective management, (3) Define the landscape limits and identify the connections with regional reality, (4) Evaluate through comparative analysis the exceptional universal value and, as well, other significant areas, (5) Evaluate the authenticity and integrity and (6) Formulate a Statement on the Exceptional Universal Value;
- b) Create the full and lasting implementation of the Trans-community Network of the Portuguese Tagus Landscapes;
- c) Compile the Landscape Atlas of the Portuguese Tagus River, which shall include “both the exceling heritage values and the features that, although not having exceptional value or uncommonness, have nonetheless relevance that justifies their inclusion in a framework of a sustainable management of everyday landscapes that, in turn, form the framing guarantee the preservation and protection of the ones that present its’ universal value”;
- d) Contribute to an adequate consideration of the landscape in the territorial management in the municipalities of the Tagus Valley and in the revision process of the Municipal Master Plans.

The Iberian formulation of the Application should be based on the harmonization of the Tagus cultural landscape recognition processes led in Spain and in Portugal and, in this way, contribute to the full and lasting implementation of the *Transnational Network of the Tagus River Culture*.

The methodology definition for local actors’ consultation regarding landscape identification criteria, the collection of contributions to its’ characterization and the definition of landscape quality objectives should be established in accordance with the already active partners’ network, with a special emphasis on the municipalities and Inter-municipal Communities.

Furthermore, the Tagus Landscape Observatory, in co-operation with a national and international network, aims to coordinate a set of initiatives in order to (i) evaluate and monitoring

the landscape and territorial changes, (ii) enhance the knowledge on local cultural identity and (iii) promote education and training for the creation of new dynamics of local development in order to integrate landscape management into spatial planning. It also includes a Documentation Centre and different ways of promoting an active public participation.

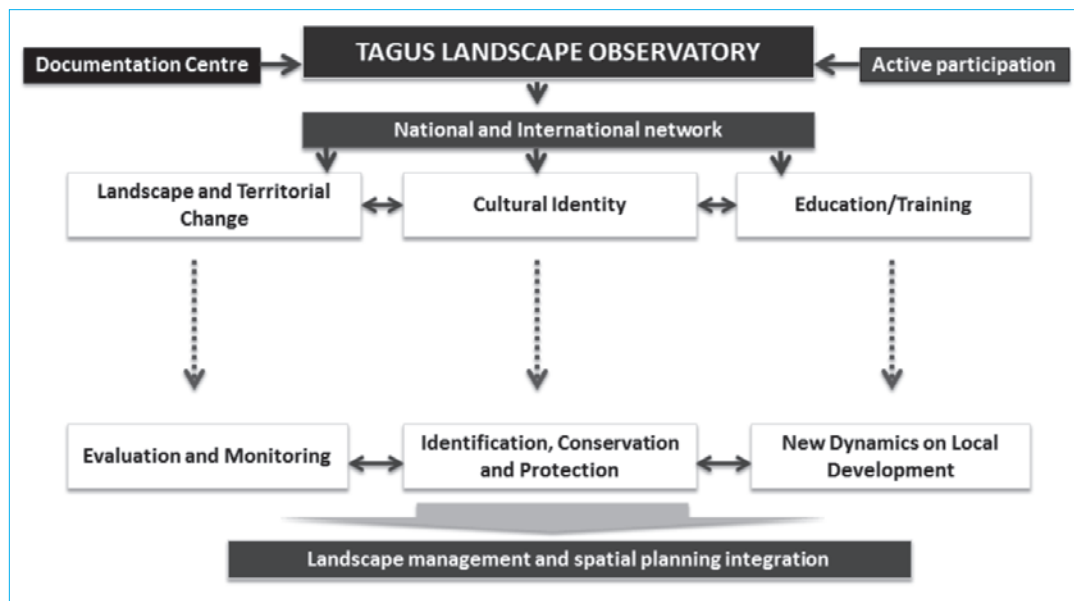


Fig. 2: Main intervention areas of the Tagus Landscape Observatory.


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Re-imagining Landscape: the Role of Participation in Landscape Policy-Making in the Anfiteatro Morenico di Ivrea

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 **KEYWORDS:** Landscape planning, landscape policies, landscape perception, participation.

ABSTRACT

Founded in March 2013 thanks to a volunteer-led process, the “Osservatorio del Paesaggio per l'Anfiteatro Morenico di Ivrea” (OdP/AMI) is a quite “young” Observatory, nevertheless characterized by very distinctive features: (a) an “observed landscape” including unique natural and cultural assets and (b) a post-industrial transition period favouring the redefinition of the territorial identity.

The aims of the Landscape Observatory are characterized by the specific attention to planning and participation, namely referring to ELC, article 6, measures C-“Identification and assessment” and D-“Landscape quality objectives”. In particular, “OdP/AMI” (c) promotes the integration of the different knowledge-production approaches to landscape observation and management and (d) ensures the connection to planning policies, both local and supra-local, with the aim of securing public involvement in landscape policies.

Many activities have been started in the first year of life: establishment of network among stakeholders, connection with institutions for the acknowledgement of the Landscape Observatory within the public arena, round tables with farmers and local entrepreneurs, internship and graduate thesis with Universities and Polytechnics, focus groups and a new official website and Facebook page. The collaboration with the Politecnico di Torino, through a project master, has allowed to start a process of involvement of the population in landscape planning processes, aimed to put on the ground the ELC principles.

The way towards a broader participation in landscape matters within the “Anfiteatro Morenico di Ivrea” has just started. The discussion will therefore present the early results of the participation process, but also the on-going initiatives undertaken by the local Landscape Observatory.

The European Landscape Convention (art.5c) states that each Party to the Convention undertakes: “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”.

According to this principle, the charter of the OdP/AMI promotes the processes of knowledge, recognition and care of the living places; acts as a link among citizens, local and supralocal public institutions; promotes democratic processes of participation in landscape matters. The OdP/AMI tries to apply these principles in the Anfiteatro Morenico di Ivrea (AMI), a landscape whose distinctive features can be summarised as follows. The AMI encompasses a wide-

spread area of 500 km², encompassing 82 Municipalities, 3 Districts, 125.000 Inhabitants and including unique natural and cultural assets: the “Serra di Ivrea” said to be the longest moraine in Europe, 17 Protected areas of landscape/environmental outstanding value, 1 UNESCO Site plus one ongoing nomination as “Città industriale del XX secolo” in Ivrea.

All these peculiarities are to be seen in the actual post-industrial transition period implying economic crisis but apparently stimulating a general need to redefine the territorial identity referring to those very distinctive landscape characteristics.

The OdP/AMI is thus intended as a facilitator who tries to intercepts this need and helps developing it for example ensuring the connection to planning policies, both local and supra-local, with the aim of securing public involvement in landscape policy choices.

Namely in 2013-2014, the OdP/AMI (in cooperation with Politecnico di Torino) has started an experience of population involvement in landscape planning processes. As a matter of fact the topic is also relevant for researches in urban- and landscape planning due to the actual difficulties in linking regional landscape plans (foreseen by the national Code) and sub-regional aspirations towards the landscape which are not currently supported by any specific planning tool, at least in Piedmont.

Therefore a series of focus groups has been carried out to test a method of people involvement in the recognition of landscape values and definition of landscape quality objectives, thus testing people’s attitude to formulate landscape quality objectives at a large scale.

The discussion sessions have been as heterogeneous as possible, encompassing a variety of stakeholders with different interests towards the landscape. The focus groups have been attended by representatives of both local and supra-local institutions, farmers, members of environmental associations and sports representatives, local-native people (insiders) and people who have chosen to live here (care-takers), occasional users (outsiders), agronomists. All sessions have been led by a sociologist and a researcher in urban- and landscape planning.

Clear methodological indications for the development of the focus groups have been followed: the use of a method to identify the main stakeholders categories to be involved, a limited number of people (max. 12-13 people) to allow everyone to explain his own perception.

Mapping the stakeholders categories has been an important preliminary operation to collect heterogeneous aspirations towards the landscape during the focus groups (Fig. 1, Stakeholders map). The local Landscape Observatory has been particularly important to carry out this operation.

Until now, five itinerant sessions have been carried out (Fig. 2, Some highlights of the meetings), more than 40 people involved, 8 categories of stakeholders and 4 municipalities which hosted the discussions.

According to art.6 of the ELC (“*Specific measures*”), the focus groups have been organized into two phases: (1) recognition and interpretation and (2) identification of landscape quality objectives. The first phase aims at (a) discussing the features making the landscape of AMI recognisable; (b) discussing about perceived values and disvalues of the landscape and (c) identifying landscape dynamics and their positive/negative impacts. The second phase aims at

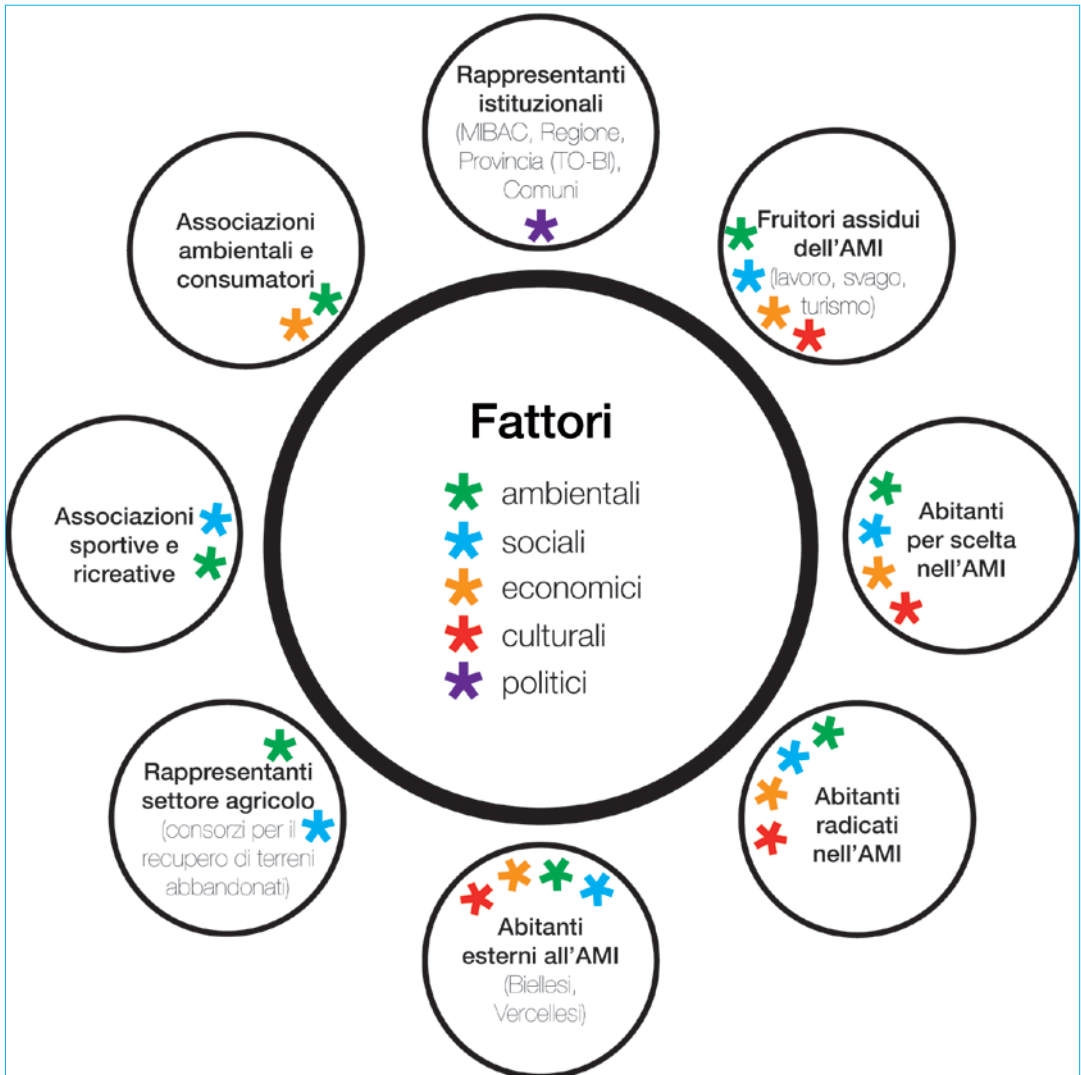


Fig 1: Stakeholders map.

discussing the current regional landscape plan (namely its policies for the AMI area) and at indicating preferred addresses for the sub-regional landscape and actions to be undertaken by the participants and other subjects. The participants have been also asked about their wishes concerning the role of the OdP/AMI in activating future initiatives.

Participants who have attended the first phase were also involved in the second.

Thanks to the support of a big map of the area placed in the middle of the round table, the discussion has been facilitated by having the possibility to recollect places, indicating them and placing post-it colours.

Given the initial questions about (a) the possibility for the landscape of AMI as a new reference for building of the local territorial identity and (b) the possibility of making people ex-



Fig 2: Some highlights of the meeting.

press landscape values and disvalues and propose landscape quality objectives at a large scale, some provisional results can be put in light.

The recognition phase points out that the AMI is generally perceived as a very recognisable area, with a variety of outstanding features marking its visual identity and distinguishing it from the surroundings, even though its boundaries are very hard to set. Natural features (the moraine, the hills, the lakes) are the most cited landscape features characterizing the AMI, while anthropic ones (historic buildings, symbolic public places...) have been mentioned only on request of the mediator.

Concerning the interpretation, the most cited dynamics affecting landscape transformation are: the slowdown of pressures due to new settlements (this dynamic is perceived both as positive, in the way of reducing soil consumption, and negative as it causes abandonment and degradation of former important industrial areas and buildings) and the abandonment of rural landscape which means on the one hand impoverishment of traditional cultural landscape, but on the other more suitable for “natural” processes.

Finally, basing on the outputs of the former discussions, the second phase of focus groups has tried to make emerge some addresses for landscape policies within the area have been formulated, indicating priorities: promoting education and knowledge about the AMI, activating sustainable tourism policies (as a means to open job positions); strengthening networks among actors operating here (also to support the implementation of policies); using the local Landscape Observatory as connector between inhabitants and institutions on landscape transformation processes.

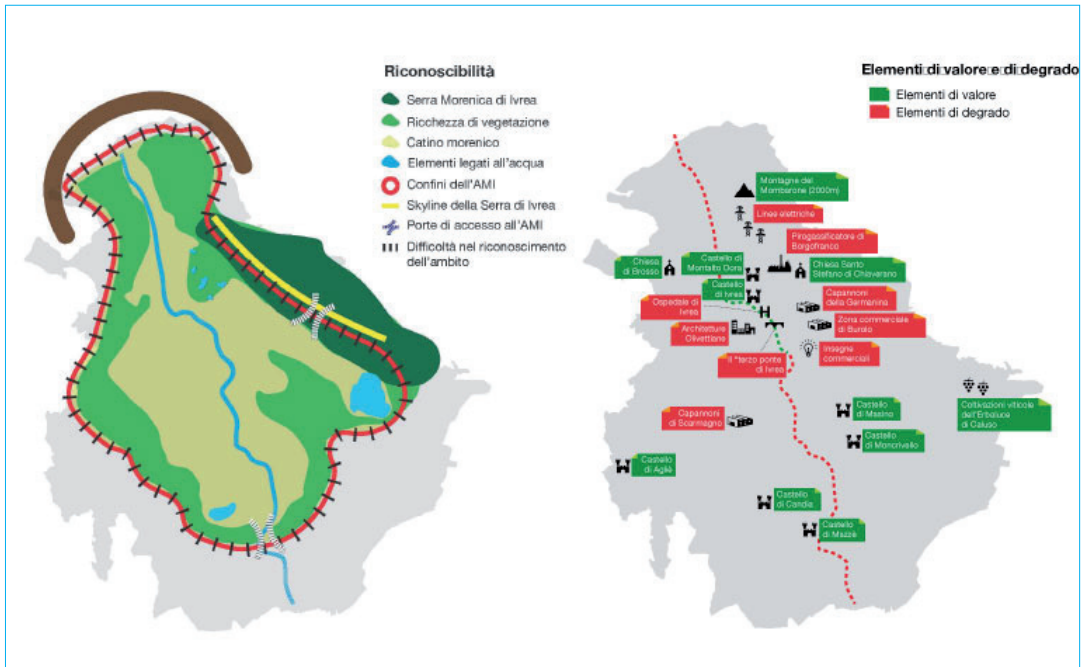


Fig 3: Positive and negative values and elements of recognition.

One of the most recurrent concerns among the participants is the importance of giving impulse to sustainable agriculture in order to revitalize the economy and the landscape of the AMI. According to this perception, the OdP/AMI organized an open round table to raise the awareness on this issue, and to collect proposals and projects about it ("Paesaggio: Prospettive di comunanza e lavoro" held in Montalto Dora - Torino - on October 4th, 2014).

Even though the consultation cannot be considered completed, some questions raise with respect to the method of the focus groups in linking local aspirations towards the landscape and regional landscape planning.

The number of participants involved in the focus groups is not statistically relevant in respect to the entire population of the area, but represents interests which are relevant on a qualitative level (thanks to the identification of the main categories of stakeholders of the area). Thus this method seems to be suitable for more general applications. But while involving new people and stakeholders, the method should be presented as different from other forms of local participation and decision-making (e.g. deliberative democracy). Moreover a correct and efficient way to return the local results to the proper institutions should be framed.

As a matter of fact, by the time the research has been carried out involving people who are already "sensitized" to the landscape issue; the further (democratic?) challenge will be to involve people not used to talk about landscape.

Moreover, the focus groups have pointed out different and sometimes divergent point of view (e.g. concerning the abandonment of rural areas, people express both the need to favour

more natural processes or to restore cultural landscape), which will need a further synthesis in order to come to real addresses for landscape policies.

Giving the importance of landscape in job and economy matters given accorded by the participants to the focus groups, some further questions open up, to be addressed to categories of stakeholders directly involved in landscape transformation (e.g. entrepreneurs, farmers...): do they perceive the landscape as a valuable factor in their production process?; do farmers perceive themselves as “landscape makers” and what is in their opinion their contribution for the landscape?; how do the current landscape dynamics impact their work and what will they change? Which action could be undertaken at the local scale, by them as individuals?

The way towards a broader participation in landscape matters within the “Anfiteatro Morenico di Ivrea” has just started.


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Protection of Landscape Values in an Innovative Management Approach of the Polana Biosphere Reserve

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 **KEYWORDS:** Biosphere Reserve, cultural landscape, heritage, stakeholders, participative planning

 **ABSTRACT**

Natural heritage of the Polana Biosphere Reserve (BR) is concentrated in forests of the Polana mountain. A valuable traditional agricultural landscape with scattered settlements is situated in the southern part of the mountain. The traditionally farmed habitats of grasslands have declined due to difficult socio-economic conditions and harsh natural conditions. The BR's management has similar long-term vision as the Entlebuch BR. Historically, Entlebuch was one of the poorest regions of Switzerland. Nowadays, demonstrates a sustainable living, fair balance and relationship of man with the natural environment. The Polana BR was criticized by the UNESCO headquarter, due to a lack of population and insufficient human influence on nature. Therefore was prepared a scheme of viable activities for local farmers focusing on traditional agriculture. It was done under the project "Development of Conservation and Protected areas in the Slovak Carpathians". Furthermore, the Civic Association PRONATUR developed the project "Nature for people - people nature" which opens up opportunities for the development of business activities respectively to the biodiversity conservation. Activities are coordinated by the BR's management and by residents. Priority task of a new management approach is supporting a positive attitude of stakeholders and residents to the existence of the BR. The city council of Hrinova has tried to include the cultural landscape "Hrinovsko" with traditional forms of agriculture in the list of UNESCO sites for several years, but this process is slow. This was the reason why they decided with expanding of the transitional zone of the Polana BR into the specific cultural landscape. It could be a guarantee for the preservation of its valuable landscape character.

Volcanic mountain Polana has been covered by dense forests for many centuries. It was very popular hunting area for Hungarian rulers and forests provided a high quality wood in the past. At the present time, forests and surrounding sub-mountain traditional agricultural landscape are included in the Polana Protected Landscape Area (1981). The protected territory occupies 20,360 ha and it became the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in 1990 (a network of 350 sites around the world). The Polana Biosphere Reserve (BR) covers only a small part (1324 ha) of the studied cadastral area of Hrinova (12 649 ha). BRs are divided into three zones: a core zone, a buffer zone and a transitional zone. A transitional zone is the most interesting from the point of view of a new management approach application in the presented BR. Landscape protection of this zone was marginalized in the past. Nowadays, a transitional zone is the best area where we can study relatives between locals and their landscape.

The Hrinova cadastral area was sparsely settled before the 17th century. Later, more intensive development of settlements was associated with the growth of peasants' population in the sub-mountain regions in Slovakia. Specific type of scattered agricultural settlements (called "lazy") has been gradually developed in the region and traditional agricultural forms have persisted till present time. However, agricultural production was weak because of slightly and little fertile soils and harsh climatic conditions and income from agriculture was insufficient. Economic development has been accelerated especially by industrial activities (woodcoal processing, glass foundries, sawmills, heavy industry) since the end of the 18th century. Industry provided a guaranty for permanent employment and financial stability. As Lauko (2004) concluded, the employment reoriented to the tertiary sector. But it does not provide enough job opportunities in order to meet the requirements of the local population. This fact mirrored in the need to find a new approach in the management of cultural landscape with traditional agricultural forms.

The studied area is well known especially by living traditional festivals in Slovakia. On the other site, the interest of residents about their specific cultural landscape has increased for the last few years. It is very positive because research of many authors confirmed radical changes in land use. It means agricultural extensification by transformation of arable land into permanent grasslands with varying intensity of use (Mojses, Petrovic 2013). This trend has appeared for the last 50 years in the Polana BR as well as in the agricultural landscape of the Hrinova cadastre. Gallayova (2007) observed that grasslands of the Polana BR occupied 3256.80 ha (16 %) in the 50s and 1790.31 ha (8.79 %) in 2003. Stefunkova et al. 2013 documented land abandonment in the Hrinova cadastre where 17% of the previous agricultural land was abandoned.

Legislative background of the BR's management

Slovakia has four biosphere reserves which implemented the program "Man and Biosphere" (MAB). Management activities of BRs are based on a voluntary approach of directors or employers. Nature and landscape protection of BRs has not yet been covered by any legislative norm which could evoke execution of landscape protection in the practice. "Action Plans" are only documents for ensuring the main tasks of BRs. Slovak Committee for the MAB has started to work since 2003. As it is clear from statements of its long-standing members, BRs are understood as model territories for implementation of scientific programmes and only a minor attention is given to their functionality and management. However, new knowledge and experiences increased pressures to push changes in legislation. BRs are defined as areas of international importance in the amendment of the Act on Nature and Landscape Protection no. 543/2002 Coll. (par. 17, sec. 11). Unfortunately, besides the effort of The State Nature Conservancy of Slovak Republic and the MAB's Committee, a separate paragraph about rules and tools for the management of BRs is missing. Slovakia has applied centralized and "top-down" management approach of protected areas for several years. But for last few years, the lowermost organizational units have appealed for a new, innovative approach with implementation of the principle "protected areas for people". Svajda (2008) highlights the main role of



participatory planning on the example of the park plan of the High Tatras National Park, BR. He recommended invitation of public and authorities in the whole process of elaboration of the park plan documentation.

The management of the Polana BR has initiated elaboration of a new action plan since 2013. Documentation followed a project done by Civic Association (CA) PRONATUR and implemented recommendations of the Seville Strategy (1995) and Madrid Action Plan (2008-2013). The Entlebuch BR (Switzerland) was used as a representative model showing how participatory planning is incorporated into decision-making processes and financing of BRs. Anyway, in terms of the current legal and socio-economic circumstances, it is not possible to implement this model immediately in Slovakia. We would converge to a new model only step by step in terms of long-term concepts.

Implementation of an innovative approach in the Polana BR

The main and current problem is relative low density of inhabitants in the BR. The density of inhabitants of the Hrinova cadastral area (12649 ha) is 62 inhabitant/km². Contemporary territory of the Polana BR (20 360 ha) belongs to the least urbanised areas in Slovakia (1.96 inhabitant/km²). There are only three settlements (Iviny, Snohy a Vrchslatina) with about 400 permanent inhabitants. In such circumstances, it is difficult to speak about vivid interactions between locals, natural environment and cultural landscape and this situation does not match with the main idea of the BR's establishment. We show differences between landscapes with a different number of residents. Less populated agricultural landscape near the Iviny settlement is a part of the current transient zone of the Polana BR. Traditional agricultural practices disappeared due to inhabitants' withdrawal. The Polana BR could spread its transitional zone to the vivid traditional agricultural landscape called "Hrinovsko" in near future (Fig 1, following page). Thus the population of the BR could increase significantly, by about 3500 residents. From this perspective, more population could be involved in maintaining the traditional agricultural landscape.

The BR's management cooperates closely with stakeholders. A referendum done in the region proves this statement. Residents of several cadastral areas (Hrinova, Detva, Ocova, Hrochot, Cierny Balog, Strelniky, Povraznik, Lubietova, Osrbliie, Sihla) were asked to answer two questions. The first was: "Do you think that the Podpolanie region and Polana Mt. should be included into the BR because of spectacular natural and cultural values?" They voted about the inclusion of their private parcels into the transitional zone of the BR. The second question focused on national protection of the territory. The importance of such a step corresponded with a high number of respondents - 12 661; 12157 voted positive and only 504 were negative. This type of referendum has never been organised before in Slovakia. Besides referendum, the BR's management together with CA PRONATUR in frame of the Swiss-Slovak cooperation Program, organised questionnaire with 14 questions focusing on understanding of cooperation between the BR's management and stakeholders. Also public voting about "Seven

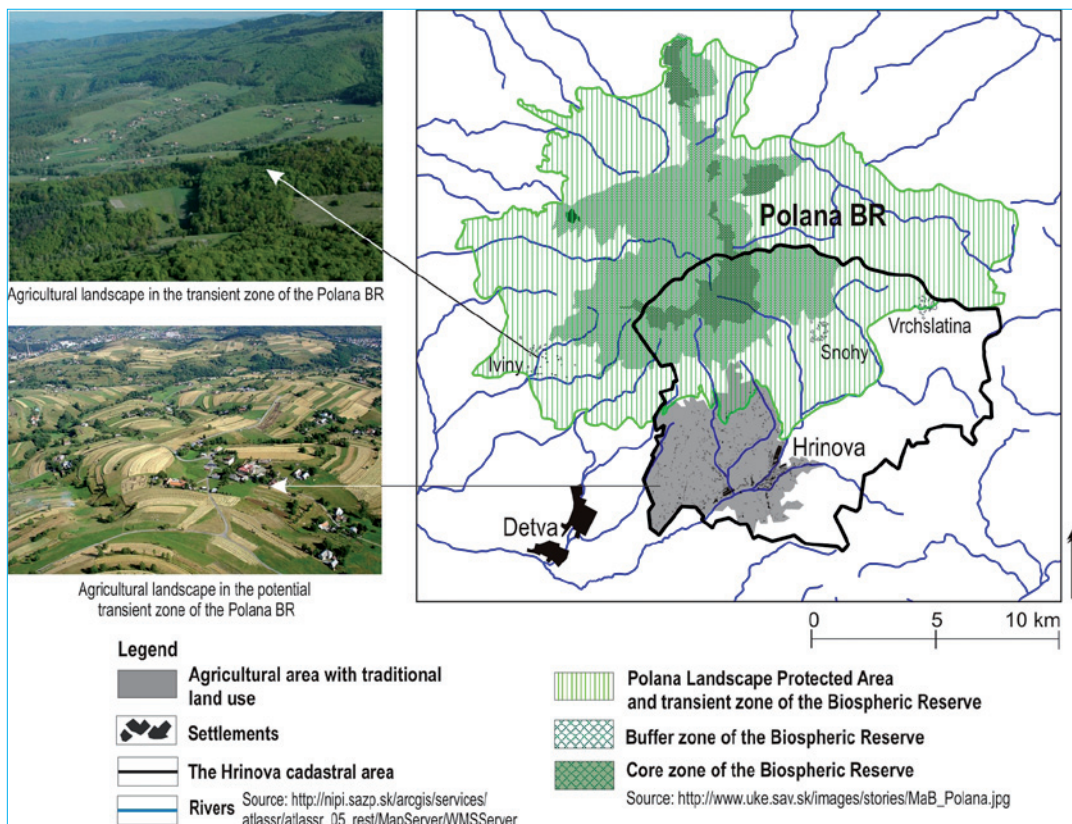


Fig. 1: Comparison of agricultural landscapes in the Podpolanie region.

wonders of the Polana Mt.” was done in parallel with the questionnaire. Further, among the most important steps performed during 2014, we consider educational activities focusing on stakeholders with promotion of change in thinking about the existence of the BR. This means presentation of the harmonious integration of locals with nature using participatory dialogue, knowledge sharing and supporting of local job opportunities based on the hereditary relationship to soil and traditions, respecting natural and cultural values (Fig 2, opposite page). The abovementioned reasons indicates the correctness of the decision on enhancement of the Podpolanie region - “Hrinovsko” into the transitional zone of the Polana BR. It could be understood as an added value generating potential financial sources for the further development of local rural tourism. The BR’s management elaborated “Action Plan of the Polana BR, 2014-2018” which is a unique documentation in Slovakia. It represents an innovative model of the BR’s management with the establishment of the “coordination board”. It is an advisory body operating in the territory. It based on the principles of the partnership between the BR’s management and stakeholders. Strategy on the building of regional identity comprises all factors affecting a healthy awareness of landscape by local inhabitants. Gebhard (2007) indicated that the goals of sustainable tourism development can only be achieved if the people involved

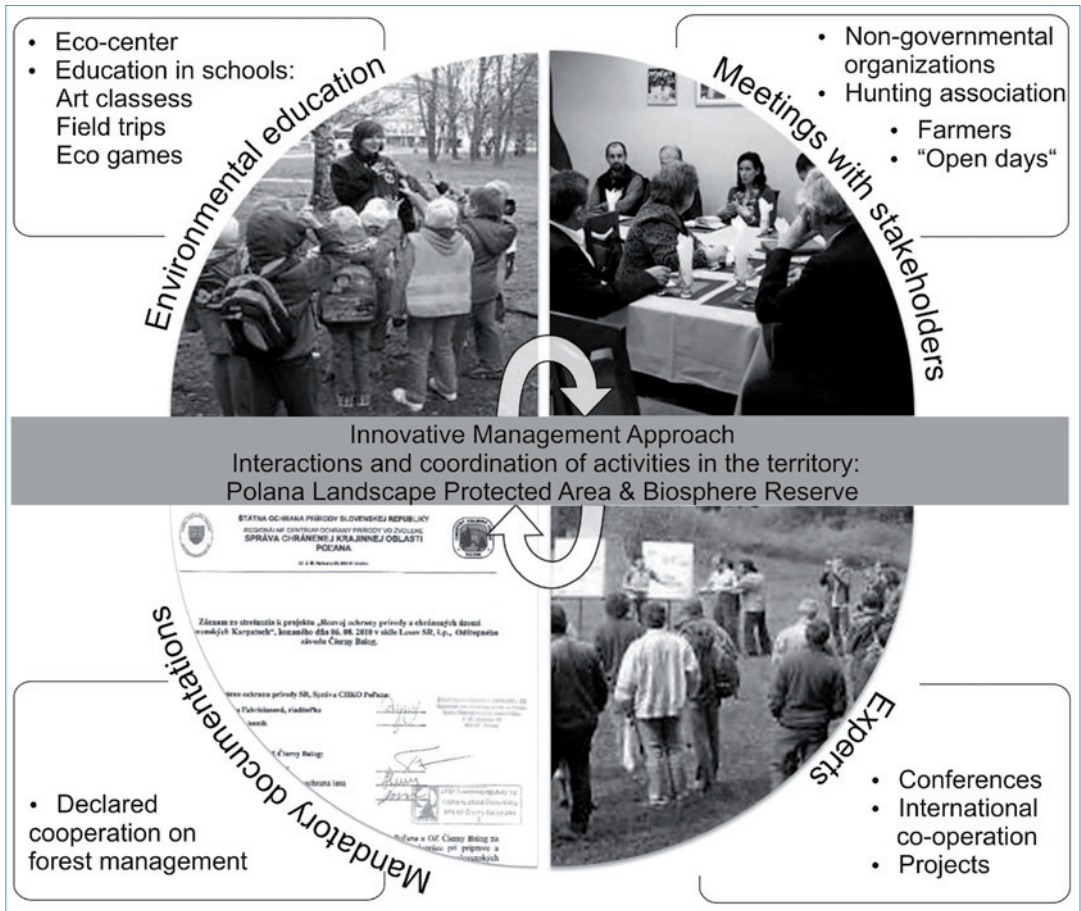


Fig. 2: The main task of the BR's management.

in tourism in the area act according to the tourism management plan and commit themselves to the vision of sustainable tourism development. Thus, the motivation for the conservation of landscape values increases.

Conclusions

The Polana BR's management is a platform which applies reliable cooperation, mutual respect, professionalism, humanity and especially selfless desire to help others. It has already brought some positive results. This is the first BR which has started to interact actively with social environment and has built partnership in the region and definitely represents unique management approach in our country. The harmonization of conservation of natural resources with the sustainable economic development of the territory is a great challenge for the Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic. This model of the BR's management demonstrate

coordination of human activities in order do not exceed the carrying capacity of nature and landscape. It proves that the BR's management does not mean a barrier but means cooperation with locals respecting their property rights and land ownership. "Hrinovsko" has specific character of landscape. Our effort concentrates on recognition of landscape features and spreading scientific knowledge to the public. Very important is the power of perceiving of calmness and serenity of the place by visitors and tourists. Anyway, without practising traditional agriculture this landscape will be no more vivid landscape but only "landscape museum". That is the reason why proposed incentives would increase the life quality of locals and bring them sufficient income for living in the landscape.

Acknowledgement

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Landscape Observatories and the Italian Declaration of Notable Public Interest: a Chance to Have an Active Role in Landscape Protection and Management

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✓ KEYWORDS: landscape quality, local identity, Codice Urbani, Piedmont

➡ ABSTRACT

Protecting the identity and the history of a territory cannot be done without protecting its landscape qualities, including traditional agriculture and rural architecture, the aesthetic values and the natural environment. In Italy, the Codice Urbani law (2002) gives the Country a tool to do so, that is the declaration of Notable Public Interest, thanks to which any of such qualities can be protected and restrictions can be asked for and obtained to maintain them on the long period. Several things have to be evaluated, though, when listing a place for the declaration, e.g.: which characteristics and/or places can be considered outstanding and by which criteria, which restrictions can be imposed without affecting the local life, how to set a management plan. The Landscape Observatories can play an important role for this in two main ways: by helping local administrations and municipalities in the filling in of the request and documentation; and by keeping an eye on the landscape with a continuous confrontation between different parts of the Country, to identify elements and places that could be eligible of outstanding-ness.

Introduction

The need to protect the landscape we live in and its features of quality and peculiarity is more and more felt and dealt with by the communities, and legislative tools along with specific authority bodies are born to operate locally or nationally to guarantee such protection. In Italy there is an interesting yet still not well known procedure for the safeguard of landscape integrity, that can be found in the art. 136 of the *Codice Urbani* law (D.lgs. 42/2002): is the declaration of Notable Public Interest of landscapes. At a national scale, the old concept of Notable Public Interest was related to the following objects:

1. Real estates that have features of remarkable beauty or geological peculiarities.
2. Villas, gardens and parks that excel for their unusual beauty.
3. Real estate complexes that make up typical features with aesthetic and traditional value.
4. Panoramic views that can be considered as natural pictures, and also points of view and belvedere that are accessible to the public and from which the beauty of the landscape can be seen.

In a recent research, the University of Torino and the Asti Landscape Observatory have joined together to point out how to exploit the opportunity of the declaration of Notable Public

Interest after the European Landscape Convention application. A pilot study was carried out in the Asti province of Piedmont (North-West Italy). The main research questions were:

1. How can we recognize the features that the law points out as of Notable Public Interest?
2. What are the criteria to follow to identify such features?
3. How can we guarantee the protection and the conservation of these landscapes?

To help answering these key questions, a research was made to see how the rest of Europe deals with such landscapes that deserve particular care and safeguard, who and what authorities are appointed to guarantee the safety of quality features in the territory and how such features are identified and recognized. After the application in the Italian context allowed to understand the role of the Landscape Observatories in this process.

The European approach

In some European Countries a similar approach is applied. As examples in UK there are the so-called Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) that are defined as “precious landscapes whose distinctive features and natural beauty are so exceptional that their safeguard is of National interest”; their care is entrusted to Authorities, Communities and local people that live and work within them. They are valuable landscapes with a high variety of characteristics and of various extensions, whose natural qualities are preserved and enhanced, thanks also to the specific committee NAAONB (National Association for AONBs). The high quality is based on the characteristics of the flora and fauna, historic signs, presence of cultural associations and panoramic views.

In the Netherlands, 20 National Landscapes have been identified, that include the most important landscape values from a national and international point of view, to face the problem of the reduction of the quality of the landscape: it was decided by the Government in the Nota Ruimte of 2006.

The German Federal Act for the Protection of Nature of 2002, in its fourth section, speaks of Conservation of Areas and of Areas for Landscape Protection needing particular care

1. for the upkeep or the restoration of the ecosystems and their functions, or the regenerative ability and its sustainable fruition;
2. for the diversity of their peculiar features, the beauty of the natural scenes and/or the important historic and cultural meaning of the area and its landscape
3. for the special significance of the area for human recreation.

In France, the Code de l'Environnement, in its V section “Landscape” identifies territories that are notable for their landscape interest, based on unicity and peculiarities, richness of the heritage and signs of past industrial, agricultural and crafts traditions.

The Italian declaration of Notable Public Interest and its application in Piedmont

All the above-mentioned experiences can be considered very similar to the Italian Declaration of Notable Public Interest (NPI). The peculiarity of Italy, though, lies in the active involve-



ment of the local Landscape Observatories. These Observatories are strictly sites-linked, working between the local and national administrative level, and acting as mediators from the municipalities and their communities and the regional to national authorities.

Four main actions can be pointed out that the Observatories do in such sense:

1. Oversee and guarantee the safeguard of the landscape and its characteristics.
2. Gather information and requests from people.
3. Filter the above mentioned information and requests.
4. Raise awareness in citizens on landscape tools.

Such a role becomes very clear when it comes to NPI. This usually is a request coming from the local authorities and/or general public, as it is a bottom-up approach. The procedure can be synthesized as follows:

- a. The population can communicate to the reference Observatories the features that are locally considered of public interest to evaluate.
- b. The procedure is started, and the Observatory has the duty to help the filling in of the forms and control the requested documentation for the declaration.
- c. The Observatory forwards the checked documentation to the Regional Committee, and at the same time needs to cure the spread and the communication of the initiative by organizing seminars and round tables to raise awareness among the population and the local authorities about the importance of the conservation of the traditional landscape.
- d. The request is evaluated Regionally.
- e. The Declaration (if approved) is published, and the Observatory has now to function to guarantee the management and the upkeep of the protective restrictions needed to maintain the landscape of NPI.

In Astigiano territory several requests of significant public interest of the landscape, actively involving the local population, have been submitted. The landscape observatory for the Asti and Monferrato contributed to their formulation. In this regard, the first attempt to develop a proposal took place in 2007 in Cortiglione. By public meeting on these issues arose the proposal to make the entire territory of the province of Asti of significant public interest. The ambitious and excessive request was unsuccessful. In 2010 were processed requests for declaration of significant public interest of the landscape more limited and related to the territories of San Marzanotto Fractions of Asti and Isola Villa Fractions of Isola d'Asti and the entire territory of the Municipality of Canelli. Also in 2010 also in the municipality of Passerano Marmorito was launched a similar reasoning for the fraction Schierano.

The landscapes in question are characterized by agricultural systems still active, largely related to viticulture. Further requests for declaration of significant landscape public interest were submitted in 2013 for the protection of the historic avenue of Montafia and for so-called "Riviera of the Tanaro" in the town of Asti, including not only San Marzanotto, but also Fraction Azzano. Finally, in 2014 the city of Mombercelli also in the south of Asti province was expressed in a similar way, referring to territories recognized on 22 June 2014 "World Heritage Site" by UNESCO. To date,

the approval process of the demands of significant public interest was successfully completed last year for Isola Villa and Schierano. A brief should end the process for the other case of applications previously submitted for the Astigano province.

Conclusions

Summing up the importance of the local Observatories of the Landscape for the Declaration of Notable Public Interest of a landscape, it is possible to determine how to keep a landscape “that way” and how the Observatories themselves can help in such a delicate but fundamental process.

Easier procedure to achieve the Declaration and help to the local municipalities are needed. The Observatory can analyze and study the requested procedure and assist in the gathering of the documents and forms needed, also by keeping contact with the Landscape Regional commission. Also, the involvement of professionals or universities is of big help for landscape surveys and the redaction of documents such the landscape quality evaluation.

Observatory can filter other initiatives of landscape safeguard, by spreading the information and keeping people and local authorities up to date on the existing opportunities for landscape protection and the differences among them. E.g. the NPI is not a useful method in the already recognized UNESCO sites, but can be a good propedeutical protection tool for a place going towards a world heritage acknowledgement, moreover it can also be completely independent and of big help for smaller communities.

Observatory can guarantee safeguard and protection: once a landscape has achieved the NPI declaration, the upkeep of its distinctive features is obviously fundamental, and the Observatories have the duty of helping to do so and also to cooperate with professionals to deal with problems or criticalities to enhance such features. Keeping people and authorities aware and informed is a necessary practice to guarantee that a landscape declared of NPI stays that way.

Finally, Observatories can monitor the efficiency of the NPI. As a direct consequence to the previous issue, Observatories and their collaborators must help in keeping an active eye on the restraint requests for the conservation of the landscape and in defining a precise short and long term management and monitoring plan to face criticalities.

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A Linear Buitenplaats. A Route Across the Dutch Borderlands

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 **KEYWORDS:** walking, route, pavilions, Buitenplaats, borderlands

 **ABSTRACT**

This paper presents a project for a new walking-route in the South-East of the Netherlands. We named it “linear Buitenplaats”, it passes through the vast borderlands between The Netherlands and Germany and touches interventions that evoke feelings on the identity and history of the borderland. It shows that the changes in landscape are distinguishable despite the Schengen agreement that erased the physical barriers between nations. The itinerary follows a section of the Dutch ‘Pieterpad’ and deviates from it. The path is crossing the border several times and becomes a well defined cross-cultural route. A purpose of this walking-route is to raise awareness about the similarities and differences between the two nations. It proposes pre-designed elements to frame landscape views. Furthermore, this project aims to amplify some visitor’s feelings on regional identity places, such as natural reserves, war memories, ‘Buitenplaatsen’ and other historical monuments. The paper begins by discussing the historical evolution of walking and its relationship with the landscape. From pilgrimage penitence, it changed into research of leisure in walking inside classical villas, and further developed in the Dutch Buitenplaats (country house, literally: outside place). In particular, the Buitenplaats evolved to frame lines of sight and movement, and to create points of rest and meditation, to finally merge with the open parks. In conclusion, the paper presents new ideas on the concept of framing movement and perception in landscape, and proposes a project for a walking route as a ‘linear Buitenplaats’ that may have relevance in the field of landscape framing and its awareness.

“A monument doesn’t commemorate, doesn’t celebrate something that happened in the past, but whispers persisting sensations to the ear of the future, embodying the event”.
(Deleuze and Guattari, 1991)

Walking: the history

Walking has always been essential for humanity. In particular for the nomads, moving seasonally from one place to another was vital for their survival. The traditional long-distance walking has evolved with the religious customs. Nomad populations used the majority of the pilgrimages destinations, as they were moving with the change of seasons (Chatwin, 1986). During the Middle Ages places such as Jerusalem, Mecca, Rome and Santiago de Compostela grew into important religious locations for Christianity. Pilgrims were walking to these locations to receive some form of grace and the walking itself was a symbol of penance. Fast-forwarding to the sixteenth century, many walkers began to show interest in what the road could offer: cities, monuments and cultures of

the local populations. The trip and the walking experiences turned the penitence into pleasure, and pilgrims started to enjoy the journey experiences and the act of slow walking. By the Renaissance era, walking has changed into a meaningful activity, and some people began to value the experience of travelling and personal maturing. This is exemplified by the Grand Tour, an established practice for youth English aristocratic, who were sent off to travel all around Europe. The main aim of the journey was linked to educational ambitions of well-off families. The most important changes of travelling has happened with the introduction of railways: walking lost the meaning of it's necessity. Modern transportation such as trains, cars and later planes substitute the walking practices. Rebecca Solnit (2000) mentions that the walking necessity for humans has been lost by the year 1970. That is related to the fact that the majority of people in US have moved to suburbs. Clearly, this transformation occurred in the mind as well as on the ground.

Walking inside the Buitenplaats

The Buitenplaatsen gardens and the evolution of walking are very much related. Aristocrats weren't unnecessarily walking in the streets; they preferred to remain inside of their private gardens to find ideal world and inhabitants. Aristocrats, who took walking very seriously, were preferably walking within the walls of their homes and custom made gardens. They gradually transformed their highly structured area into a more naturalistic and informal gardens. The evolution of gardens went along with the historical walking concepts. The high walls limiting the gardens were made for safety reasons, but those were restricting the space. These gardens provided space not only for walking but also to sitting around, listening to music, chatting and picking fruits and flowers. When the world assumingly became safer, the fortresses and the gardens were expanded. In the Renaissance gardens the flowers and fruits disappeared but there was still a place where people could sit and talk informally, and walking was still considered a healthy exercise. In seventeenth century, the Baroque style grew exceedingly and most gardens were made with sophisticated landscapes designed for more social and intellectual stimulation of walkers (Turner, 2005). In the following century the walking paths became more and more important aspects of the gardens. In England the garden structures started evolving in different shapes to become less and less formal. Then the shape turned into a more naturalistic landscaping. The visual barrier disappeared from the aristocracy land and the design of the gardens became less distinct from the parks surrounding them (Solnit, 2000). The walkers in these gardens were free to get lost in their own thoughts and follow the meandering paths. From a formal, architectural and public space the garden was changing into a private and solitary wilderness. With the lack of distinction between garden and landscapes the gardens became less necessary. If gardens were nothing more than visually pleasing spaces where to wander, they could be found rather than made, and the tradition of the garden walk could expand to become the tourist's excursions.

Walking prospective

The history of walking shows how important it was for any social class and how the landscape was always taken under consideration for the walkers. The gardens (formal and informal) have always



been designed in defined forms, such as the structured garden, the forest and small houses. It indicates that the designer/architect wanted to reproduce and include a variety of landscapes inside the garden. Similarly, walking inside gardens and landscapes provided vast possibilities to lonely thinkers and group conversations. The evolution of walking history in the gardens is similar to that of walking in the landscape, but it developed at faster pace. Their social meaning changed in the same direction. Both began as obligations: one side offered a penitence symbol; other side promoted a solution for more physical movements. Then, they both evolved into pleasure activities. In the gardens walking became more enjoyable, after the land propriety became larger and more variable. Also the pilgrims/walkers began to pay more attentions to the landscapes and to the route in a more joyful way. With the merging of gardens with landscape the walking could be seen as a “linear” Buitenplaats. There, people can stroll through the gardens or landscapes, read, discuss, make music, contemplate and move through it. They might even hunt if they find the place on the road.

Walking the Pieterpad

An example of a “linear” Buitenplaats could be found in route called Pieterpad, in The Netherlands. It is 485 km long and it goes from Sint Pieter, Maastricht, to Pieterburen, in the northern part of Groningen. This Long Distance Paths was officially opened in 1983 and is meant to connect and re-organize the North and the South of The Netherlands. An interesting aspect is that parts of it follow the border with Germany and in some area is even going inside the German territory (ex Sittard area, Swalmen area, Groesbeek area). In addition the route starts (or ends) in Sint Pieter, which is right on the Belgium border. The route is marked by historical elements such as Buitenplaatsen, Roman remains, Second World War remains and also different type of landscapes. It goes inside and outside towns, villages, forests, agricultural areas, small hills, lakes. Walking through this path narrates some of the history of The Netherlands and its borders.

Walking in the landscape

The author has analyzed the section of the Pieterpad from Venlo to Swalmen, about 30 km long. This section passes by the “invisible” borderline between two nations and it shows that the differences in landscape are remarkable between the German and Dutch lands. This experiences that the landscape is an essential component of a country within borders and it is a representation of local identities. Every society has its own landscape; even each landscape has an identity (Macfarlane, 2012). Walking along the route, one can realize that the Dutch side is a regular agricultural land, while the German side is a woody and wild natural reserve looking (the Brachter-Wald). Thus, Germany ends up with a big forest where the roads are zigzagged shaped. On the other hand, the Netherlands ends up with agricultural fields where the roads are in straight lines. The contrast is visible mainly for slow travelers who have more time to experience a direct and deeper contact with the surrounding space.

Walking along the borderland

This project is meant to implement the borderland features of the Venlo-Swalmen path (Pieterpad) by creating cross-cultural “de routes” (fig. 1). There are six locations, along the bor-



Fig 1: Map showing the cross-cultural route, the six chosen locations, the Pieterpad and the border.

derland, that are important to the local history. These locations have been influencing the surrounding territories, in way or another. These neighborhoods represent the local identities; four of them are in The Netherlands and consequently, two are located in Germany. The first area, Fliegerhorst Venlo (NL) used to be a military air base near the border with Germany, and now is a national reserve with air runways. The second one is the Buitenplaats Schloss Krick-enbeck (DE), the oldest part of the castle was built in 1250 and renovated in 1986, and today it is conference center. The third is the water tower of Tegelen (NL) designed by E. Noorman in Traditionalism style in the 1938; presently it is in a state of abandon. The fourth and fifth buildings are part of the Buitenplaats Bilderber Château Holtmühle in Tegelen (NL), and today one is a hotel and the other a ceramic museum. The last location is Brachter-Wald park (DE), it was the largest NATO ammunition depot in Western Europe in WW2, today is a natural reserve with remains such as of the trains tracks, depot buildings, asphalt roads and artificial hills that covered bomb depots. The proposed cross-cultural path, 39.8 km long, two-day of pleasant walk, passes through a long and historic border that connects two distinct cultures

that have influenced each other for many years. It offers the possibility to recognize the effect of those socio cultural influences through architectural remains and similar lifestyles.

Walking with the pavilions views

Walking along the new path will make people experience the changing landscape and locations. We have attempted to amplify some of the walker's feelings by framing landscapes views with the six wooden pavilions. Their positioning was chosen in relation to the six locations mentioned above, the landscape features and the border history (fig. 2). They have different typologies of interventions: interruption, involvement and integration. Their dimensions are on human size (2,26x2,26x1,13 m) to attract the walkers into the pavilions structure. The thickness of the elements (1,13 m) engages the walkers to enter in the structure, so that they can focus in one direction (Front perspective only). Four pavilions are located on the German side and two on the Dutch side (fig. 3). The first point is at the entrance of the Schloss Krickenbeck (DE). It consists of three pavilions located one after the other on the long tree-line avenue and oriented to empathize the straight lines of the street and accentuate the frontal view by interrupting the side views. The

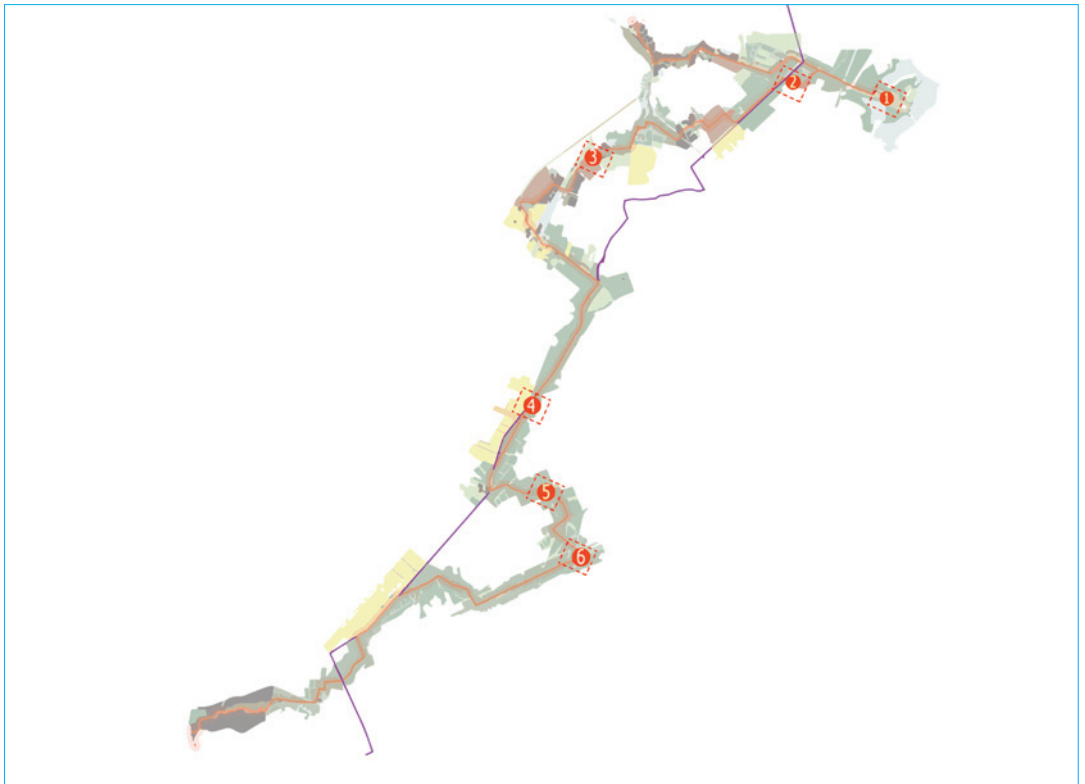


Fig 2: Map showing the pavilions locations.

second installation is in a narrow street that brings walkers to the borderline (DE/NL). It is made of five progressive elements that are installed along this road. The pavilions shape starts as a gate and arrives to a close shaped. This one is located exactly on the borderline, revoking the idea of a physical wall. The third installation is a pavilion that looks at the Water tower of Tegelen. The fourth one is situated along the border of Germany



Fig 3: The pavilions along the cross-cultural path.

and The Netherlands. It is placed on the Dutch side and its shape was designed to make the walker view the landscape differently: stepping out of it he will perceive the German wild forest in a stronger way. The last two installations are located in the Brachter-Wald



park (DE). One is showing the military watchtower upside down through a mirror placed inside of the pavilion to show the landscape from a different perspective. The last one is located in a gap of an artificial military hill to invite people to check the surrounding of the depot building.

Conclusions

This work is about the concept of landscape framing, movement, perception and its relationship with walking. Its application in the walking route 'linear Buitenplaats' that we propose may have relevance in landscape framing and its awareness. The research relates the design process of the Buitenplaats gardens to landscape characteristics and shows that for years the Buitenplaats architects have tried to adopt the surrounding scenery into their courtyard design. Present project uses these findings and applies them back to present Dutch landscape. It is based on walking in the open landscape, and approach that allows a direct and unique contact with the surrounding landscape. Walking along a "cross cultural route" would stimulate awareness of the borderland history, local identities and landscapes peculiarities. Finally, framing the landscape with playful pavilions is a tool for training walkers to pay more attention to the landscapes.

Future prospects

The pavilions can be considered as an observation points, designed to focus the observer perspective and what should the walker feel and see in the landscape. Moreover, this project could be used as a methodological tool for the creation of new Landscape Observatory.

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Alexandra Costea, *Port*, 5th Peoples Landscapes.



When Landscape is a Cause: Implementing the ELC Effectively II

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✓ KEYWORDS: epistemic community, hegemony, initial landscapers, civil dialogue dimension, democracy

Background

With the new important UNISCAPE En Route-initiative, launched in Torino, Sept. 2014, the Landscape & Citizens network continues its long striving to obtain the best results around the participative dimensions around the ELC implementation process. As the Conference title indicates: here comes the times for the various landscape actors to actually finalize the processes of implementation in Europe. Perhaps – as was underlined among the rich views presented in the UNISCAPE position paper and survey of views, Landscape as a project in 2010: by helping to launch a new series of significant landscape “projects”? In this new (fourth) article I shall thus deal, in a hopefully orderly way, with that small and “partial” but increasingly substantial suggestion of a landscape Project that I have already had the possibility to present in more detail first in Florence, then Torino. My objective, I acknowledge, is a bold one since it actually deals with such a less used concept as “initial landscapers” in its certainly rather emblematic dimension of “civil dialogue”, all of it set against the regional picture of Scania, Sweden and its Landskapsobservatorium (Landscape Observatory, s. 2011).

Also, I should say, that this suggested pilot study would certainly not have seen the day had it not been for such potential “partners” and at any rate, significant landscape actors, as the Council of Europe, UNISCAPE, and even CIVILSCAPE. Not to forget the unique contribution especially of an Irish NGO [and a Council of Europe Expert] in trying to help “en route” the kind of a “citizens model Project”, that all my articles for UNISCAPE have discussed. As for my suggested Project’s establishment in Swedish Scania, I here only swiftly recapitulate previous articles and seminars/conferences already realized in Scania and at least to some degree under the hall mark of Landscape & Citizens and concerning such factors as (without order of importance): an earlier realized Orjabäcken Stream Project, documentation concerning the ELC by Leader Skåne Nordväst Norra in 2008, [development of The Rural Economy and Agricultural Societies (SHF) with CIVILSCAPE since about 2009], emergence of the inter-municipal organization in NW Scania, Familjen Helsingborg (Family Helsingborg, a cross-municipal collaboration between XX Municipalities in Scania NW and – naturally - the initial and on-going support/interest of the Council of Europe staff concerning the European Landscape Convention and its foundations within a European a European policy for democracy, culture and, of course, the State of rights.

Problem: Top-down Swedish implementation? Need of improvement/revisions? Few projects?... Partner of the Council of Europe for the successful implementation of the ELC since 2005, thus following important documentation leading to the ratification in 2011, I am struck by this “hard-swallowed” insight: a kind of growing ‘disconnect’ between civil & expert societies regarding the interpretation and application of “common” landscape knowledge in our society. At the occasion of the 6th Caderni di Careggi in January 2014, in Florence, I discussed these somewhat difficult preconditions when trying to undertake a meaningful project, which could address this type of “disconnected” landscape knowledge that is often discussed in relation to the ELC. Two reference guidebooks were selected in order to provide the methodology for such a project - the CoE CEMAT European Rural Heritage Observation Guides and the Landscape Circle Study Guide – a seven step process by Terry O’Regan of the Irish NGO Landscape Alliance Ireland, who is also a Council of Europe Expert. If it can be realized, he has agreed to act as external advisor/trainer to such a project. A project leader and two “recorders”, all from appropriate knowledge backgrounds and experiences, have also been identified as being vital for confidence. The main thing is that the interactive nature of such an exercise of course should ensure – this is what we hope – genuine participation and spread of the “spirit” of the Landscape Convention. If we are able to engage in a more ‘hands-on’ manner together with small local village groups, including, maybe even a few local politicians, the final outcome may be a better common understanding, or “translation” into vernacular language of the various steps and processes laying behind many a stiff and technical municipal or national spatial plan. This in turn might engage communities and inhabitants more actively, confidently and jointly concerning the many important changes of today’s landscape.

The risk of citizen frustration in various fields, including spatial issues, is something every society must be able to tackle. As for the realization of the aims of the ELC, we consequently believe that a group of landscape dedicated participants, “initial landscapers” or “partners”, may undertake a small but significant Landscape circle pilot study in order to test at a place (some places) what is possible, this by close communication, in Scania, with its new Landscape Observatory at www.landskapsobservatorium.se, that would presumably take on board this contribution for the management and enhancement of local places by means of the local cultural & natural heritage. The ultimate goal for the project could thus be, no more, no less, the creation of a NW Scanian Landscape outreach Observatory, or hub, in Ängelholm (or elsewhere) in Scania.

This is not the place but to give a small hint of the collaborative scope – not least in terms of defining landscape democracy. However, to held up for show - not diminishing - the marvelous scope of landscape as a civic/civil concern is certainly in line with a strategic plan for future visions and a functioning democracy. Such a project may also contribute to the efforts to find solutions for one mayor problem, that has long been at the heart of both regional experts’ reflections, and the civil society: “that this exercise should demonstrate whether the ‘top-down’ work completed in Sweden can be made effective in its current format or whether it is in need of revision and improvement!” (O’Regan, 2014).

Fig. 1, 2: These images, at the opposite page, are thought to give a more direct hint of an on-going work. From the Florence – and the Torino Conferences concerning landscapes as “a common good”, respectively European Landscape Observatories. ©E. Salevid.



A holistic view on landscape? or Sectorial work with a landscape perspective?

Development of a landscape policy? or Mainstreaming landscape into sector policy?

Contact: Eva Salevid, MA 2014-01-16/17

Natural recreation development collaboration in Skåne >
Landscape Observatory
For increased knowledge & dialogue between the actors of landscape

LANDSKAPSOBSERVATORIUM
FÖR ÖKAD KUNSKAP OCH DIALOG MELLAN LANDSKAPETS AKTÖREN

Arkiv – april 2013

Justice, power and political landscape
ARTIKEL When you look around your neighborhood, do you see run-down buildings, public squares and parks covered by graffiti and swear words, or does their care and design reflect public pride? Such things tell us much about justice, power and the political landscape in Skåne, or the Bronx, or Iran, or anywhere.
Skrevet av Kenneth Olmg 2013-04-08 11:04
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18:37:29

”The interactive nature of the Project should ensure the spread of knowledge & participation at the regional level with regard to the implementation of European Landscape Convention”

<http://www.landskapsobservatorium.se>

Contact: Eva_Salevid@hotmail.com

21/09/2014

End: "A citizen's proposal to the Municipality"; ways of establishing landscape democracy

Another one comes from that particular top-down perspective that even a municipal organization might decide to deliver to its inhabitants, as concerning a new political organization of the Ängelholm Municipality in 2014: "drain pipes and risk of diminishing collaboration and territorial ownership thinking among both agents and elected politicians. (-) There is the risk that not as many people as before can or will engage in the future. (-) With the present organisation political legitimacy might diminish among inhabitants over time." (XX, 2014).

Thus, during this year, starting up in January 2015, a new political organization has been put in place with the declared objective (among other things) that "the legitimacy of the political organization among the inhabitants might grow with new forms of democracy." (ibid)

Will this help a potential landscape circle project? I believe there is a chance, since, simultaneously, a new Plan of survey, "ÖP 2035" for the Municipality has also this year been both presented and debated – and quite criticized at regional decision-making level for being ultimately too unrealistic – and undemocratic...

As one among some fifty registered commentaries, I also took the opportunity to comment on the Plan. I proposed that "more down-up organized Projects ought to be accepted, preferably via the municipal division of spatial planning in Ängelholm, that now "owns" the question of this future "ÖP2035", that is supposed to be up and running during 2015. I also suggested that it makes use of the Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe, since as so many has said and made evident by now the the landscape in combination with the Convention may extremely well work "as a project" (Zagari, 2010) – and a tool for binding together visions and realism with democracy also in a municipal survey plan.

The context is not unimportant: for several years now an important minority within the municipality has fought for – by means of a municipal referendum – and thus clearly manifested the citizen interest of the maintenance of a local small bridge – actually called the Small Bridge -in central Ängelholm. Combine that with the work of others to better make use of and "visualize" a path for wanderers along stream valley in the peripheries of this municipality and landscape: people have started to evaluate and protect what they have, but, of course, lots of help is needed in the mean time, in order to strengthen definitions and indeed, as in the Plan of the political organization of Ängelholm, to open up for new Projects instead of only traditional technocratic approaches, that are now thus realizing that their traditional exclusive "ownership" is coming to an end.

I suggest that the regional landscape site, www.landskapsobservatorium.se and the national and transnational work for the implementation of the ELCs, for example via Malmö-Alnarp, is much more opened up to and used by citizens and a broad variety of civil associations

In particular, I stress that both the public and the administrative organization should participate more independently of each other, since only so democracy can be ensured:

"Kommunen bör alltså stödja fler projekt mellan olika intressenter för att med framgång framhäva vårt miljöarbete och de naturmiljöer vi kan erbjuda i Skåne nordväst samt att sa-

Med kulturell och historisk information längs den fyra kilometer långa vandringsstigen mellan Strövelstorp och Ausås.

See you by the Stream!

With cultural & historical info along the 4 km long walking path between the Strövelstorp & Ausås communities in the municipality of Ängelholm

Vi möts vid bäcken!

5 "to develop a landscape circle model for Scania and other regions"

Landscape & CITIZENS

21/09/2014 Contact: Eva_Salevid@hotmail.com

Fig. 3: From the 1st En Route Seminar in Torino, September 2014.

Thanks for your attention!

Eva Salevid, MA,
Networks of Partners for the European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe

Här investerar vi för att förbättra miljön och landskapet

Europeiska jordbruksfonden för landskapsutveckling. Europa investerar i landskapsutvecklingen

"Here we invest to improve the environment and the landscape"

Landscape & CITIZENS

Fig. 4: This end image actually might be the best]. The sign says: "Here we invest to improve the environment and the landscape". At least it indicates what I am after in this second vs of my article: more visibility for the Landscape definitions for times to come... Used during the same Seminar En Route in Torino, September 2014. © E.Salevid.

marbeta kring utvecklingen av den regionala grönstrukturen.(Grönstruktur Skåne), ty detta kan knappast komma till stånd med enbart kommunens förtolkade intressen för ögonen, om än aldrig så välvilligt tolkade av experter. En betydande del av svenskt 1960-tals urbana samhällsbyggnad står för oss som varnande exempel än idag”

”för att inte sladda över problemet med att inventeringen av de områden och platser som ligger närmast allas våra bostäder och dagliga livsmiljöer och som ju per definition ligger utanför Stadshuskvarteren, inte enbart kan tolkas av centralt placerade ”expertögon”.Tvärtom vet vi idag med den ratificerade ELC, att de ”sinnebilder” för landskapet som ju existerar både i och bortom kommungränsen bara kan lyftas fram, och en grundläggande mening faktiskt ”försvaras” genom att ett genuint ett medborgerligt intresse för landskapet har utvecklats och – släppts fram (Salevid, 2014).

We are not there, in Sweden today. That is why every landscape “activist” also in 2015 is probably as much attentive as myself on how the European collaboration concerning landscape even in the smallest areas and groups can be helped by this fearful and necessary: epistemic level: defining landscape democracy.

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Servicenet National Landscapes: a Dutch Landscape Observatory?

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✓ KEYWORDS: landscape monitoring, research by participation, landscape laboratory, partnership, education

➡ ABSTRACT

The Netherlands has a rich tradition in landscape planning and landscape research. In 2011 national government abandoned landscape policy, which became the sole responsibility of provincial and regional authorities. Indeed many public and private organisations are involved in landscape protection and development, but no formal Landscape Observatories are appointed by national or provincial authorities. The national monitoring program for landscape has ended, so there is no general overview on landscape development. Servicenet National Landscapes is a non-governmental organisation for the protection and promotion of the 20 National Landscapes of the Netherlands. We can be considered as an informal 'Landscape Observatory'. We think knowledge exchange, research by participation and education are necessary, next to scientific research. Civil and private organisations have to be involved. This is best organised on a regional scale. Still a larger framework is needed to learn from other regions and to see the bigger picture. The proposed Network of European Landscape Observatories could be a useful platform for exchange and cooperation.

Landscape monitoring in the Netherlands

Is landscape monitoring a scientific question or a public responsibility? I think both. Of course an objective method is needed to analyse and evaluate changes in the landscape, which are always complex and often stretch out over long periods of time. A scientific approach is indispensable here. In the Netherlands a comprehensive research method was developed for landscape monitoring, called 'Meetnet Landschap'. This Meetnet involved nine monitoring targets, namely visual perception, cultural heritage, expert judgement, geomorphology, scale, ecology, sustainable land use, urbanisation and landscape development. A detailed organisational scheme was worked out specifying the roles and responsibilities of all governmental departments involved. Still this method lacked to gain general acceptance and was never fully implemented by the Dutch government. The original website is dismantled, but partial results are documented on the websites of the National Office for Environmental Planning (www.compendiumvoordeleefomgeving.nl) and the National Office for Cultural Heritage (www.landschapinederland.nl). Some research on special themes or areas is still carried out by separate organisations, for instance the 'Meetnet Agrarisch Cultuurlandschap' ('Monitoring Program Agricultural Landscapes') of

Landschapsbeheer Nederland, a national NGO for voluntary landscape management. This 'Meetnet Agrarisch Cultuurlandschap' reports yearly on the state of small landscape elements such as tree lines and ponds. Since 2004 national government every 4 years appoints a National Advisor for Landscape and Water, who advises on landscape subjects of national importance.

No national evaluation without national monitoring

However a general overview is missing. Changing political priorities in 2011 lead to abandoning landscape monitoring on a national scale altogether. So despite our strong tradition on environmental planning and landscape management we have no formal Landscape Observatories in the Netherlands.

Therefore it is in fact impossible to evaluate the course of our landscape in a systematic manner. This was one alarming conclusion of the Dutch National Advisor for Landscape and Water, when asked to advise on the state of implementation of the European Landscape Convention in the Netherlands.

Research by participation as a new challenge

An underlying problem with landscape observation is that landscape does not exist outside our perception of it. Just as in quantum physics the researcher is part of the experiment. We have to be aware of that. And indeed Landscape Observatories all over Europe show this: they are actively involved in raising public awareness and developing new tools for planning and management, thus shaping our understanding and appreciation of landscape. In a way they are also landscape laboratories, finding out new ways of dealing with inevitable landscape changes. I think this 'research by participation' is much more effective than purely academic research and that Landscape Observatories are a good means for this.

Goals of Servicenet National Landscapes

Surely the Dutch Servicenet National Landscapes operates as an informal Landscape Observatory. Servicenet National Landscapes is a non-governmental organisation for the protection and promotion of the 20 National Landscapes of the Netherlands. National Landscapes are outstanding examples of typical Dutch landscapes, covering almost 20% of the country. Servicenet aims to raise public awareness and to organise knowledge exchange between people involved.

We organise seminars and workshops and have a website with a public data base on landscape (www.nationalelandschappen.nl).



How to downscale public responsibility?

Scale is a relevant issue for us. We think landscape management and planning is best organised on a regional scale. That also goes for landscape monitoring. Each of the 20 National Landscapes has its own regional identity, which connects people to the landscape and to each other. Many National Landscapes have their own organisational bodies, where local governments, civil organisations and private companies work together. This helps to find common solutions that best fit regional and local circumstances. It is understandable that in 2011 national government decided that landscape policy was no longer a state responsibility, but in the hands of provincial and regional authorities. Unfortunately budgets were not delegated (they were cut) and no clear agreements were reached on how provinces and regions would pick up their new responsibilities. Now many National Landscapes are rethinking the future and are looking for new ways of funding and working. Servicenet National Landscapes was founded to support these regional organisations and help them work together for common goals. We do think that national interests are at stake here, in terms of cultural heritage, biodiversity, economy and quality of life. To safeguard these interests -that are rightly mentioned in the European Landscape Convention- some kind of national landscape evaluation is necessary. Servicenet National Landscapes wants to play a role in this. We do not have the means to carry out a systematic monitoring program, but we do have a broad overview of ongoing developments and are able to evaluate these from a national -and international- point of view. And we can help to create a forum for national debate. We think this debate is vital for the future of our landscape and especially our National Landscapes.

Landscape Observatories: connecting people

As a national Landscape Observatory we first of all want to connect people. Many organisations are involved in landscape maintenance and planning and they have a lot of experience and knowledge. But often people in one region or in one field of expertise don't know what is happening elsewhere. By organising meetings we want to create a 'community of practice', where people can learn from each other. Especially we want to bring together different groups of people: scientists and planners, nature conservationist and private investors, farmers and city people. It often turns out that they have more in common than they first knew. Thus we encourage new partnerships and new ways of working. We do this on a national scale, but also within separate National Landscapes. One example is our ongoing project on 'leisure landscapes'. Here we support farmers in the Green Heart to supply recreational services that fit well in the landscape. And we support them to work together and pick up joint promotion. This can be an economically viable alternative to bigger tourist resorts, which often have little relation with the landscape. Based on the results in the Green Heart we are now working on a national strategy for leisure landscapes. We do this in cooperation with the ANWB, the biggest recreational organisation of the Netherlands.

Another example is a pilot project in het National Landscape of the IJssel delta near the city of Zwolle, where we were asked to set up a new organisational and financial model for landscape development. Our main task here was to involve private investors. We arranged meetings with housing developers, leisure entrepreneurs, farmers, health organisations and even the local football club. It turned out that they were not unwilling to invest in landscape, if only they were given the right opportunity. A new task force has been set up that is now preparing what we call 'business cases for the landscape'. That means that private investments are combined with public investments in an integrated approach that is beneficial for landscape and economy at the same time. This approach we are now extending to other National Landscapes.

Education and awareness raising

Through these working experiences people involved gain valuable insights in landscape dynamics and learn how to deal with them. Education should be an important aspect of Landscape Observatories. Landscape Observatories can have an intermediate role between landscape science and landscape practice and offer a real life testing ground. Not only professionals, but also land users and the larger public can learn from this. One example is the 'landscape academy' which is founded in the National Landscape of South West Friesland. With the help of the Centre for Landscape Studies of the University of Groningen an interactive educational program is developed for visitors of the regional landscape information centre. On a national scale the Dutch Institute for Environmental Education (IVN) offers courses on landscape management and organises educational activities for children and grown-ups alike.

Certainly public interest in landscape is big in the Netherlands. We have 16 million landscape observers walking, cycling and driving around all over the country. There are fierce debates on whether or not large windmills fit in the open polder landscape. We are fully aware that climate change will have a huge effect on our landscape and landscape architects are closely involved in the implementation of a National Deltaprogram. A wide range of landscape aspects like cultural heritage, water, food production and energy is covered in a popular series of atlases. Also the economic value of landscape is more and more recognised. As icons of the Netherlands the National Landscapes and the National Parks are known to support the tourist industry and to attract international investors, there is no debate on that. In the European 'Leaders for Nature' program twenty big companies work together with nature conservation organisations to invest in nature and landscape development. Servicenet National Landscapes is planning to organise a competition for a yearly National Landscape Award, supporting good examples of public and private cooperation.

European network

So it may be clear that Landscape Observatories can cover a wide range of landscape topics and activities. Servicenet National Landscape is happy that so many people and organisations all over

Europe are concerned with landscape. We think that Landscape Observatories work best on a regional scale, as is shown in the various contributions to the Torino seminar. Next to that we think they can also play a vital role in the monitoring of landscape developments on a national and international scale, referring to article 10.1 of the European Landscape Convention. For that a general framework with some form of coordination is necessary. Since Dutch national Government abandoned landscape policies no such framework exists in the Netherlands. The 12 Provincial governments are not likely to come up with a shared framework. Servicenet National Landscapes is willing to contribute to such a framework, though we have limited means. We think that global developments such as urbanisation, climate change and growing public participation offer great challenges for the landscape everywhere, but the right solutions have to be found on the regional scale. Not only in the Netherlands but also in other countries we see that regional organisations are gaining power, while national states tend to become less important as far as environmental planning is concerned. Regions all over Europe can learn a lot from each other and the proposed Network of European Landscape Observatories could be a useful platform for exchange and cooperation. Servicenet National Landscapes surely wants to participate in this network and fully supports the Charter of Torino.



Fig. 1: Observatorium of Robert Morris in the new landscape of the Flevopolders. Artists can have a special role in uncovering hidden layers and transformations in the cultural landscape (Foto Gert Schutte, Museum De Paviljoens, Almere).

East Mediterranean Landscape Observatory

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ABSTRACT

Landscape is a common good that visibly and invisibly frames everyday lives, helps to shape the world within us as well as around us, and contributes to meeting significant economic and environmental challenges.

It is clear that landscape research should be a key element in the East Mediterranean area at a time when it is vital to form a new culture of landscape design based on sustainable management of natural resources, and a better use of non-urbanized land, building new form of government and land management based on social consultation.

The creation of an East Med. Landscape Observatory is a collaborative initiative in the framework of the MEDSCAPES project founded by the ENPI program.

MEDSCAPES is an innovative project that comprises a multidisciplinary approach presupposing cross-border cooperation between neighboring Mediterranean European and third party countries. Partners come from Cyprus, Greece, Jordan and Lebanon and are led by the Laona Foundation for the Conservation and Regeneration of Cypriot Countryside, Cyprus.

Set up by the partnership of MEDSCAPES and hosted by the American University of Beirut, the Observatory will be a permanent structure to ensure the sustainability of the project's results. It will serve as a point of reference for scientific and technical research on landscape, contributing to building a culture of the landscape in the East Med region through awareness-raising, dissemination and participation at local and regional level.

The EMLO will be concerned with landscape heritage protection, landscape identification and assessment, landscape know-how, documentation of the East Med landscape, innovation in methodology and transfer of good practice, with particular focus on planning and policy making, developing catalogues as an instrument for the introduction of landscape targets into Eastern Mediterranean planning, risk assessment modeling, community participation practices, sustainable management of biodiversity and the protection of cultural and biological habitats, and links with related Mediterranean and European initiatives.

The E. Med Landscape Observatory will collaborate closely with related institutions (in particular with the Landscape Observatory of Catalonia) to ensure coherence and complementarity of the content and roles. It will establish an Eastern Mediterranean informal network (E-MEDSCAPES) of organizations, experts and stakeholders in landscape issues.

Introduction. The East Mediterranean Region

Sea between divided and separated lands, the Mediterranean is definitely not a homogeneous and consistent entity. Just as in ancient times there was a division between the North and the South Sea, today we distinguish a northern and a southern shore and the east and west side. This already implies differences due to the diverse nature of the countries surrounding it.

Today, the Mediterranean is a geographical area subject to phenomena of rapid reformulation of the meaning of its territories. New interpretative models and a new sensitivity approach to the contemporary Mediterranean landscape are required owing to the emergence and spread of new social and economic phenomena along with the impacting transformation of places



due to: the abnormal growth of the cities, the intensification of tourism and the overbuilt urban coasts, the abandonment of cultural practices and forms of appropriation of the human territory that over the centuries have led to identity and historical stratification. The Mediterranean Sea is today an area with a strong eco-environmental fragility forced to face problems associated with the use / abuse of resources. It becomes all the more urgent to form a landscape conscience and awareness. The landscape can become the privileged place for policy which is able to stimulate responsiveness of the real resources of the territories, locate the reading parameters and tools for their exploitation and properly communicate their values. There are several legal instruments and international agreements that are contributing to the growth of this consciousness. Among these are cited:

1. The Charter of the Mediterranean Landscape (Seville, 1993), which emphasizes the need to implement “policies that are more effective in protecting the Mediterranean landscape” defined as “a social value for all, one of the core values of the culture of the European peoples.” It highlights the importance of the inclusion of the landscape dimension in the impact studies, action programs and procedures to set-up and manages the environment.
2. The European Landscape Convention that defines landscape as “part of the area, as perceived by people, whose character derives from natural and human factors and their interrelationships” and points out that for the best “protection, management and planning “of the landscape should implement appropriate lines of action to integrate landscape into all the interventions on the territory that may have direct or indirect impact on landscape.

The Eastern Mediterranean is rarely presented as a distinct region or as a sub-region of the Middle East. The older geographic conception of “the Levant” is infrequently used and the geographical referent “the Mashreq” is much broader than the Eastern Mediterranean.

A Mediterranean regional initiative has linked the Middle Eastern countries of the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean to their European neighbors. (Schoenfeld S., et Rubin J., 2004)

Mediterranean regionalism is seen as largely a European Union (EU) project, potentially instrumentally valuable in the southern and eastern Mediterranean, but not yet a focus for shared identity. (Schoenfeld S., et Rubin J., 2004)

Although it is not a littoral state of the Mediterranean, Jordan is treated as an East Mediterranean country because of its importance for security and peace and its historical links with Palestine (The position of Jordan is dealt with in the article by Ambassador Oktay Aksoy), (Mustafa Kibaroglu, 2009).

Why the need for a landscape observatory in the Eastern Mediterranean

Until now there has not been a consolidated theoretical, methodological and operational effort to address East Mediterranean landscapes at the regional level, and there are neither official nor non-official documents, charters, recommendations, declarations, etc. proposed

in scientific or official contexts to report about the state and the existing policies of these areas. The only document, that has been used and in some countries (such as Greece, Cyprus) implemented as guidelines for their recognition, protection, and management, is the European Landscape Convention (ELC). Considering that most of the countries in the East Med region are not part of the European Union and have different cultures, politics, heritage, there is a need to build an Institution to promote common strategies of interventions.

The creation of a place of cross-border collaboration responds also to the importance acquired by the landscape research as a key element in the East Mediterranean area at a time when it is vital to form a new culture of landscape design based on sustainable management of natural resources, and a better use of non-urbanized land, building a new form of government and land management based on social consultation. The Landscape Observatory is conceived as a highly specialized institution, which serves as a link between regional policies and local organizations. A center that aims to study the landscape and disseminate, at the same time, operational methodologies implemented locally for the management and design of the landscape.

The EMLO will provide:

- a. Contacts with international institutions and possible scientific and operational relationships with other international landscape initiatives and activities;
- b. Contacts and links with other Landscape Observatories;
- c. Contacts and links with existing scientific networks or organizations, such as (Civilscape, International network of landscape Observatory...) and any research centre, institution, university, administrative or cultural association that would be interested in the project.

The Initiative is addressed to many different stakeholders: researchers and experts, political decision-makers, public institutions and administrative bodies, economic stakeholders shaping the landscape and populations (especially associations).

In an attempt at promoting unity, the Landscape Observatory is seen as connection knots between landscape policies pursued by the competent institutions at various decision-making levels and other policies relating to the territories of competence (agricultural, urban, infra-structural, etc.). Such a connection must figure out how the objectives set down by the ELC could be adjusted to become implementable in the context of the East Mediterranean area:

- 1) Expansion of landscape policies, in terms of protection and enhancement of the entire territory, beyond the constraints and safeguards traditionally applied to single 'landscape properties' or goods. It implies the necessities of a shared definition of landscape and a conscious acceptance or refusal of the ELC designation.
- 2) The strengthening of landscape policies, in terms of knowledge and awareness of structural factors, public interests and values at stake, multi-sectorial strategies, and more efficient instruments and guidelines.
- 3) Effective participation of the stakeholders and local communities, based on their expectations and perceptions; recognition of the values and issues; design of intervention strategies, social control and the public regulation of processes.



Definition of the landscape in the East Mediterranean context

The landscape observatories have been introduced in Europe in application of the ELC. After the ratification of the European Landscape Convention a process of adoption of the term 'landscape' started almost everywhere around the world. Fortunately, in the process new light was shed, mainly with the purpose of informing landscape architecture as an academic and professional field, on the richness of different European landscape words and their use (Drexler, 2010; Ueda, 2010; Bruns et al., 2012). At the same time, however, much of the abundance in their meaning remained unreflected. Landscape is such a broad term that could contain different interpretations and significance reflecting cultural, social, political and scientific differences. In his book 'Sul paesaggio, lettera aperta', Franco Zagari clearly explains the difficulties in encapsulating multiple meanings in a world. He wrote 'We say landscape, but what exactly are we talking about?... If philosophers certainly have reason to believe landscape to be an indefinable term, if the semiotic would define it but instead prefer to avoid it, if politicians, sociologists, economists cautiously prefer not to name it explicitly, if ecologists, geographers, agronomists, architects, urban planners tend not to recognize the de facto autonomous status as a design discipline, well this discipline exists, with its own history and its own specificity' (Zagari, 2013)

In the Middle East, there is not only one word to translate the English 'landscape'. It can be defined in two different ways: as a physical entity, a piece of the Earth's surface and its system of living, non-living and human components; and as a social and cultural construction, signifying the way in which people engage with their world in a specific time and place (Makhzouni 2002). But this is not the reason for the difficulties the landscape profession is encountering in this area. As a new profession there is a need to raise awareness about the role of the landscape architect '[He/She] plans and designs urban and rural landscapes in space and time, based on natural features and historic and cultural values. This employs aesthetic and functional management and scientific principles with appropriate use of techniques and natural and man-made materials' (Meto J.Vroom, 1989).

Goals of the EMLO

The main goal is to draft guidelines for the policies of the landscape in order to establish a common intervention's culture on the Mediterranean landscapes, which allows to enrich the approaches and practices and to facilitate a better quality of interventions. Looking at the differences between the countries will allow the EMLO to define the ways to differently apply the same rules in order to obtain diverse but homogeneous results to shape the east med. area.

- a. Establish a landscape observatory that responds to the specific environmental, cultural, economic, and ecological current and future conditions of the East Mediterranean Region
- b. Understand the historical evolution of the East Mediterranean Region Landscape
- c. Develop a shared platform for exchange between partner countries and other landscape observatories beyond the East Mediterranean

- d. Develop the concept of the landscape into a viable planning tool within the East Mediterranean.
- e. Develop a comprehensive approach to landscape perception and understanding that is inclusive and community based with a strong cultural and ecological basis.

Role of the EMLO

The EMLO is designed as a regional hub aimed at increasing landscape sensitivity and culture, to coordinate the existing policies for the protection and enhancement of the local landscape and to suggest studies and research to formulate suitable proposals for the definition of policies for the regional landscape. The basic activity of the EMLO concerns sharing the existing practice for the management, preservation and intervention on the east med landscape. The Observatory will be a platform that would collect and sort documentation and activities related to the landscape. Collecting and spreading that information will help to raise awareness towards our Mediterranean landscape comparing the eastern part with the others ones.

It is thought of as “the meeting point” between the government, local institutional actors, universities, professional groups and society.

The EMLO is organized as a study center that operates through thematic working groups associated with the four main activities of the observatory: landscape knowledge; information, training, advocacy, documentation; monitoring and periodic reports; support for adapting the land government instruments.

The four activities are implemented through:

- Establishing methods of observation.

Identify and assess the character of the landscape through studies and elaboration:

- a. Monitor landscape change
- b. Develop a data repository for historic, current and future landscape
- c. Document the landscape of the East-Med in detail
- d. Develop a deep understanding of the dynamics and the drivers of landscape change

- Establishing criteria for the protection, management and planning.

Define landscape quality objectives through norms and measures, and establish indicators for the protection, management and landscape design, as summarized in the charters of the landscape.

- Implementing methodology for public participation.

Explore and develop a methodology to include communities and participatory processes in landscape studies.

- Providing awareness campaigns.

Educate and train society on issues regarding landscape through the organization of meetings, conferences, conventions and exhibitions.

Organization of training courses for technicians of public administration and specific programs for schools and universities:



- f. Develop an educational agenda to incorporate the concept of landscape into school curricula
 - g. Include students (graduate and undergraduate) in the development of the data base for the EMLO
 - h. Develop a dissemination strategy of research
 - i. Develop training opportunities for local and partner countries
 - Stimulating cooperation.
- Spread the plans for implementation, good practices of local authorities, the materials produced by all observers, through various forms of communication, in the form of monthly newsletters, websites and documentation centers or libraries.
- Develop a platform to share data, information, research and experience through collaborative research across disciplines, countries and stakeholders.

Organization of the EMLO

The observatory is a technical structure located in a university environment (AUB, Lebanon) that aims to connect all universities and centers of excellence already working on landscape topics and to build a bridge between researchers and political parties in order to produce implementable activities.

Physically it will be hosted at the Landscape Department, Faculty of Agriculture and Food Sciences – American University of Beirut, but through the website it will be virtually shared and used by all the partner institutions.

It is structured as:

Web structure:

- During the European project length, the website will be hosted on the MEDSCAPES web site to avoid the overlapping of information
- At the end of the EU project the EMLO will have a proper and distinct website
- Definition of criteria to choose the materials to be placed on the EMLO Web site

Physical structure:

- Hosted in the LDEM department, FAFS, American University of Beirut, Lebanon
- Important for the future of the Observatory

The Observatory is conceived as:

- a point of reference for the scientific and technical research on landscape contributing to building a culture of the landscape in the East Med region through awareness/raising, dissemination and participation at local and regional level
- a tool to coordinate and supervise the development of landscape policies defining criteria for territory protection, management and planning

Anticipated activities of the EMLO

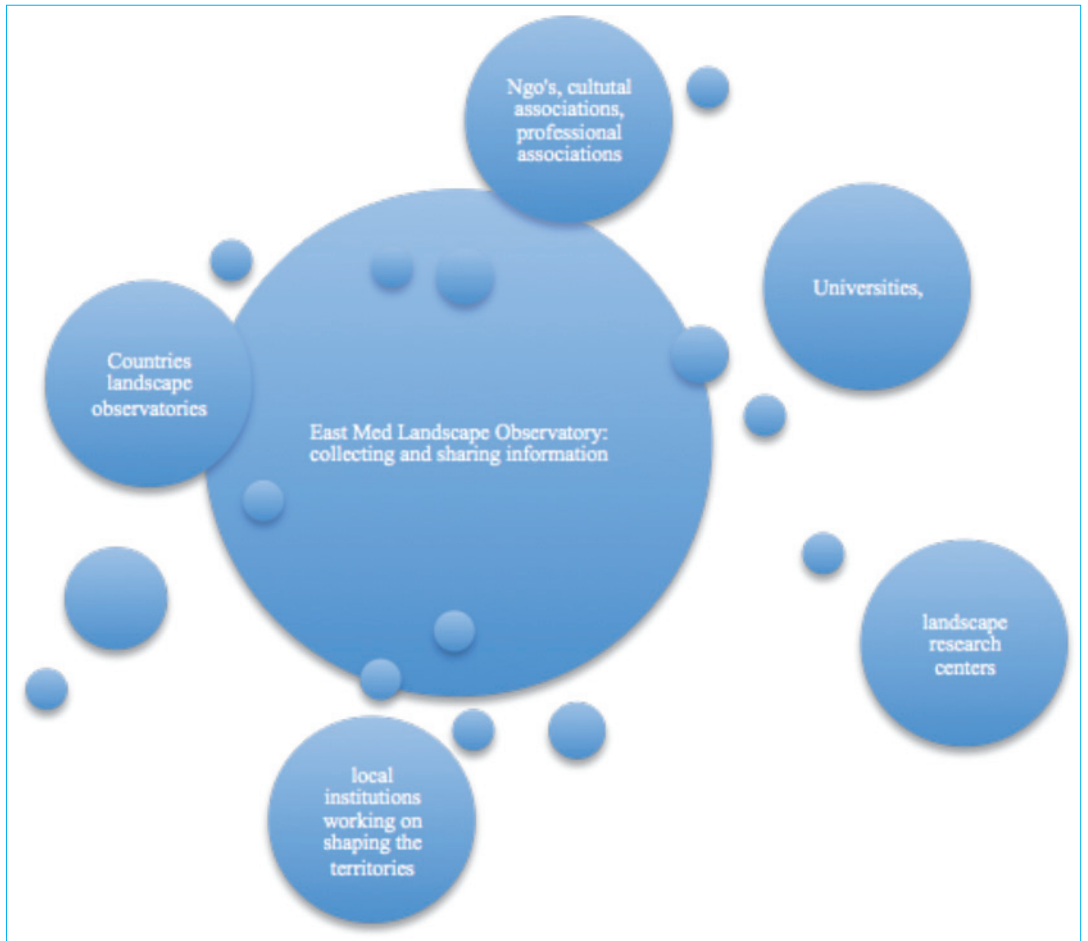
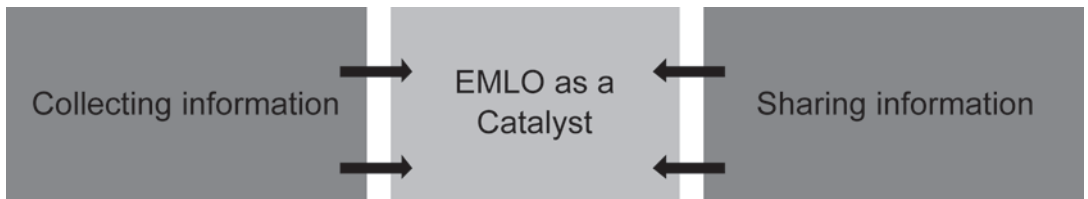
- a. Website
- b. Organize and participate in Conferences (local, regional and international)
- c. Workshops
- d. Training Sessions
- e. Lectures
- f. Courses for school students
- g. Proposal development for grant application

EMLO as a Catalyst

The EMLO is envisioned as a catalyst of change of management and preservation practices in the Eastern Mediterranean. Two simple and primary activities, not present today, will provide the basis for this change. First, is the data collection. This activity will be accrued out at two levels: at the country scale and across countries. The information collected through specific or unified methodologies will provide the basis for these countries' archives. The presence of such data will allow the EMLO and its members to develop approaches and methods to compare country specific data. Those documents will then be developed into usable information that countries can apply within their boundaries or used for comparative research and applications. It is hoped that through the collection and sharing, the EMLO could develop a significant role in the EM region as to be able to instigate change. Change is foreseen at the perceptual level where communities and populations may appreciate the landscape that they have. Such an appreciation should lead to some level of awareness about the cultural, ecological, social and economic benefits of the landscape. At this point, it is hoped that research generated by the EMLO will find its way into local and national documents as well as into policy makers' offices. In essence, the catalyst role of the EMLO is hoped to bring about change in peoples' attitude which could translate into policy that provides mechanisms that help in safeguarding and direct future change.

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Three Years of Landscape Observatories in the Veneto Region: an Evaluation

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✓ KEYWORDS: Veneto region; local Landscape Observatories network; regional Landscape Observatory

➡ ABSTRACT

The regional administration of Veneto has been one of the first in Italy to establish and structure landscape observatories both at regional and local level.

The first initiative was the project “OP! Landscape is a part of you!” launched in June 2011 in “Canale di Brenta” (Prealpine area), that led to the institution of a local Landscape Observatory, as a result of the co-operation between regional, local administrations and the Universities of Padua and Venice (IUAV). Some months later, other seven local initiatives started in the Veneto region, under the supervision of the regional government and thanks to the co-operation of local administrations, stakeholders, NGOs, etc. At the same time, the Regional Landscape Observatory has been instituted with the official involvement of the Universities in the Scientific Committee. The Committee has also had the commitment of the co-ordination of the network of the local Observatories.

The author presents a first evaluation of the previously mentioned experiences, to which she has actively participated. She focuses on the following points:

- The objectives and purposes of the regional and local initiatives, compared with actions effectively implemented and/or in progress
- The means used in the implementation of the actions and the structuring of the observatories
- The roles of the stakeholders (institutional as well as non-institutional), the involvement of lay people, the communication inside and outside the observatory network.

This evaluation, despite its positive and/or negative outcomes, may contribute to a more effective implementation of Landscape Observatories, at regional and local scale, in the Veneto region as well as in other places.

1. The state of the art: landscape observatories in the Veneto region

This contribution presents some remarks coming from an evaluation of the system of landscape observatories in Veneto, since its beginning in 2011.

The regional government of Veneto has been one of the first in Italy to establish and structure landscape observatories at regional as well as at local level.

The first initiative has been the project “OP! Landscape is a part of you!” launched in June 2011 in Canale di Brenta (a valley in the Prealpine area) that led to the creation of a local Landscape Observatory, thanks to the co-operation among the regional government, the local administrations and the Universities of Padua and Venice (IUAV). In this one year-long experi-

mental project many different activities were put in place, related to the implementation of the European Landscape Convention; they concerned the improvement of the local landscape knowledge, training and education, diffuse awareness raising – especially with school children –, participation. The pivot of all the activities in the project were three keywords: knowledge, awareness and sharing; they were implemented in connection with many different stakeholders in the valley, from the local cultural institutions to the NGOs.

In addition, the regional Observatory has been established inside the regional administration, and coordinated by a scientific committee. Thanks to an official agreement between the administration and the Universities, two representatives of each university in the region were involved in the committee, together with representatives of different department of the regional administrations and of the Authority for heritage and landscape. In the frame of higher ambitious general aims, the committee –dealing with scarcity of financial resources – in these years has mainly attended at the establishment and coordination of the regional network of local landscape observatories (see below) and – in the last year – at the organization of a training course for technicians and professionals, in co-ordination with the Associations of Architects and Planners, Engineers, Geologists and Agronomists. This course, which was held in spring 2014, was attended by 50 people; it will be proposed again in 2015.

The regional network of local landscape observatories is the other part of the system formed in the last three years. Following the first local experience (the one in Canale di Brenta) other eight local observatories have been established and other five are going to be established in the future. These local initiatives are structured by following a strict protocol that involves some local administrations in agreement with the regional one. Each one can be different in terms of structure, however, in all cases, at least one local administration takes the initiative and signs the agreement with the regional government. Furthermore, different organizations can be involved, from the public and private sectors (such as the consortium for water management, or the public and private consortium for local development as well as cultural organizations such as museums, or local foundations) and NGOs, too.

These local observatories are not financially supported by the regional government and therefore they have to find their own resources to develop their programs. As a matter of fact, these programs cannot be very ambitious.

2. The evaluation

The evaluation here presented aims at putting in evidence the strength and weaknesses, the opportunities and risks of the system of landscape observatories in Veneto. This evaluation is first of all needed for internal purposes, in order to finalize better the next steps; but it can also be useful in the scientific discussion, in which the analysis of the case studies provides a wider overview on what observatories could or should be, on how they could or should work. This evaluation, besides its positive and/or negative results, by making emerge further-questions, may contribute to a more effective implementation of Landscape Observatories



activities and to the enhancement of knowledge of the ELC implementation process, in a broader perspective.

The evaluation considers three main issues: the scale, distribution and borders of the observatories; their composition, setting and organization; their activities, functions and resources

2.1. Questions of scale, distribution and borders: where are the observatories?

Considering the first question, the two different scales of observatories can be noticed, regional and local: this is probably the first and still the unique case of this type of organization, in Italy at least. This dual scale structure presents different reasons of interests: for instance, it permits a strong connection with the highly differentiated local realities in the Venetian area, from the Dolomites mountains 3000 m high to the coast and the lagoon with the town of Venice; this also means different social, economic, cultural contexts. At the same time this structure permits the co-ordination and the connections among initiatives, and the choice of the appropriate scale level for the different activities, as far as some of them are better implemented at regional, and others at local level. Anyway, the question on how to improve concretely the connection and the coordination is still open.

A second topic considers the boundaries of the observatories, which coincide with the administrative ones: in this sense, of course, inside each observatory there is not only one type of landscape, but probably more than one (plain and hills, valley bottom and uplands, and so on). This fact - that is linked to the way the observatories are established - can appear excessively strict, but can be tackled as an opportunity, too: indeed, in the local observatory people attempt to address actions to all these various types of landscape, avoiding, therefore, the risk to only consider the exceptional ones. They have to consider the connections and the mutual interactions among different areas, in a perspective that can overcome the rigidity of the zoning used in planning. As a matter of fact, the observatory should work to a greater extent on the basis of people living in the landscape than on the basis of the types of landscapes.

In the same way, the observatories usually cover more than one municipality, in order to stress the necessity of co-operation.

2.2 Questions of composition, setting, organization: who and how they work in the observatories?

The questions concerning people, roles, competencies and organization have large relevance in the concrete functioning of the observatory system.

At regional level, we put in evidence two main aspects. First, the official presence of the Universities in the scientific committee since its very beginning is considered as a very positive fact: the landscape observatory is not just a question of administration, it involves broader questions, it requires different skills, and needs a strong connection with the scientific knowledge of landscapes and of dynamics. Second, we highlight that the co-operation among the

professional associations (architects and planners, engineers, geologists, agronomists), built during the last year - in order to implement the training course on landscape issues - is very positive and innovative (at least in Italy). Apart from the difficulties in managing different approaches and languages, and keeping in mind all the improvements that are needed, this co-operation is forward-looking and promising, in order to connect these different worlds and to facilitate the spreading of a shared vision and the learning of a common language on landscape.

At local level, let's first focus on the fact that the observatories are based on the local administrations: this has good positive consequences from the point of view of stability and grounding the initiatives on the actions that transform the landscape; on the other hand, there is the risk of insufficient involvement of the local community, that does not always feel itself represented by the administration; the administration is often perceived as distant, not giving importance to what the citizens demand and actually live in their everyday life; local administrators are often considered as politicians, who only care about their position and power. In this sense, we question if the approach of local observatories has to be really intended as a "bottom up" approach: the local level is not necessary a guarantee of a correct implementation of the ELC principles concerning the involvement of the public. Moreover, the strict connection with the administration does not help the observatory in being a "third part" between local communities and institutions.

Concerning the program and the actions that are implemented, they strongly depend on the "active part" of the observatory, which could be performed by a key figure such as a "director". As a matter of fact, we address this question as one of the most important ones. As far as the observatory has very scarce resources, there is not a large investment on this position. Sometimes the director is one of the employees of the administration, with additional tasks to carry out; in other "extreme" cases he is a volunteer with cultural and social interests. We suggest that the regional committee should pay more attention on it, requiring peculiar expertise and directors with skills on the landscape matters, and investing on the education, training and co-operation among them.

Concerning the organization of the observatory, we can positively remark that the administration has the possibility to involve all the interested bodies at local level in the management and in the activities proposed, as it happens in the best experiences. Local associations, NGOs, cultural bodies can meet together in the observatory. Two categories are particularly significant:

- the organizations linked to the productive world, i.e. in agricultural, in industrial, as well as in tourism sectors. The observatory is not a place disconnected from the local economy, it is not just a matter of discourses, it can be an opportunity for integrating different approaches and finding new ways for sustainable development in the region;
- the school world, at different levels, from the kindergarten to the secondary school: school children should be seen not only as the "recipients" of an expert knowledge that has to be spread; they should be addressed with an approach of "landscape literacy", in order to give them voice as active citizens; moreover, school children can be directly involved as actors of dissemination and awareness raising activities, with effective results towards a large public.



2.3. Questions of activities, functions, resources: what do the observatories do?

Concerning the long lists of activities that the regional and local observatories have in their programs and try to implement (monitoring and landscape analysis, dissemination, awareness raising, training and education etc.), we can discuss first the following question: due to the scarcity of financial resources, is it correct to keep wide the range of the activities in the programs of the observatories? Would it be better to choose just one or two of these activities and to finalize the use of resources more strictly? Even if from the point of view of resources some choices are necessary, in our opinion it is a good thing if the observatories act in several directions, as far as they are (or they should be) connected each other. The increasing of landscape knowledge has to be implemented together with the involvement of citizens; the training of technicians is not disconnected from the activities in school. One of the peculiarities of the landscape observatory is in fact to build these interconnections, avoiding, therefore, any narrow view on the landscape issues: for instance, in the experience of Canale di Brenta all the initiatives we proposed could stay under the umbrella of the same three keywords, and in this sense, they were related to each other.

Anyway, some priorities should necessarily be defined, at local as well as at regional level, mostly clarifying the criteria used to define them and avoiding the risk of dispersing energies in a hyper-fragmented scenario, made of single projects without a global strategy.

Moreover, the observatories should not necessarily be the direct organizers of activities (that requires financial support), but they can be mostly the catalysts, the hub of initiatives proposed by other organizations; they could launch, activate and co-ordinate what already exists or could be done at local level. As an example, we can remember that in “Canale di Brenta” the activity with school children (that involved more than 1300 school children) was the less expensive one among those implemented: we proposed a short training to the school teachers and a tutoring during all the period of the project; this was not so expensive; afterwards, the teachers worked with their pupils, in school time as they always do, just finalizing their educational activities towards the aims of the project proposed by the observatory. This part of the project did not require any financial resource from the observatory.

Another question concerning the activities, which we evaluate negatively in the experience of the Veneto region, is the insufficient connection between the observatories and the planning and policy making processes. The observatory should be the place for a better understanding of the purposes, the feasibility and the effectiveness of planning and policies affecting landscapes at different levels; concerning spatial and landscape planning first, as well as other sectors such as energy or rural development. This should be done through precise participative processes and mostly by creating a spirit of dialogue among the stakeholders, a spirit by which the observatory activities should be characterized. We acknowledge that it is a political question that should be addressed in the appropriate context, nevertheless it is also a matter of a more or less diffuse consciousness. Furthermore, a stronger relationship with planning and policies sectors would make the observatory itself considered more useful, in a practical sense. Otherwise, there would be the risk to be perceived as useless, as just a squandering/wasting of public resources.

3. Final remarks

This evaluation highlights that the system of landscape observatories in the Veneto region can be viewed as a “container” with many strong points as well as some weaknesses; the regional administration first and all people involved should do the effort to “fill it up” with effective initiatives in an adequate way, step by step, considering the priorities, the resources and the opportunities that are growing. Surely, in these three last years this system could have made more achievements, however it should be recognized that all started from a scratch and that very few other experiences were at that moment active, in order to follow or replicate them. The interest of this complex process is its experimental, forward looking and promising character.

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The Activities of the Landscape Observatory of Trentino: a Five-Year Report on the State of the Landscape

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✓ KEYWORDS: Trentino, report, indicators, assessment

➡ ABSTRACT

The paper describes the activities carried out by the Landscape Observatory of Trentino – established in December 2010 – focusing on the drafting of a Five-Year Report on the State of the Landscape in Trentino. As a matter of fact this project has kept one of the thematic committees of the Observatory's Forum busy for almost one year. Furthermore it should have a significant impact on urban and territorial policies, on the landscape, and on the monitoring of the dynamics of physical territorial transformation.

The Report is divided into three sections: first, "The dynamics affecting the physical structure of the Trentino landscape"; second, "Spatial management policies and their effects on landscape"; third, "Perception and mechanisms of value-attribution of the Trentino landscapes" (Report on the drafting of the Five-Year Report on the State of the Landscape in Trentino, edited by the technical and scientific secretariat of the Landscape Observatory). Research on the first and the third sections is currently in an advanced state.

A research report on the first section has been elaborated, discussed, and approved by the thematic committee. The project that resulted from the research activity establishes that the Report shall be structured on two levels of enquiry. The first proposes a reading of landscape transformation dynamics through the analysis of land use change. The second level resorts to indicators to obtain quantitative data which, in combination with expert assessment (qualitative information), reveal the complexity of certain phenomena that would be otherwise indescribable.

In this initial phase of the realization of the Report, we have been focusing on the progressive validation of work methodology and to the testing of the scales for the programmed analytical readings. Our original intention was to analyse generalized land use dynamics in the Trentino area. Yet, the research work has been redirected towards the study of representative sample areas. A work methodology test is currently being carried out on one of these sample areas. At a later stage, its application will be generalized within an initiative involving town and local institutions that gather and manage cartographic and environmental data on the territory.

Foreword

This brief introduction aims to clarify the nature of this text, which presents itself as a report on our research and, at the same time, hopes to go beyond that. This is due to the strongly operational quality of our study, whose outcomes are presented in the following article. In the first stages of our research, we gathered numerous examples of periodic monitoring experiences similar to the one we intend to carry out in the Trentino region (Italy). This preliminary research allowed us to identify some useful reference studies. In our view, though,

these studies dealt with the theme of monitoring in a partial way, or were too closely related to a particular territorial scale or specific focus. Therefore, the drafting of the *Five-Year Report on the State of the Landscape* was born as a highly experimental project, open to progressive validation of its work methodology and to revisions of the application scale for the scheduled analytical readings. This phase has been very recently activated, and it will be interesting, in the near future, to see where it will lead.

The Landscape Observatory, Structure and Functions.

In compliance with the indications of the European Landscape Convention, in 2010 the autonomous Province of Trento created the Landscape Observatory. Its function is to monitor the evolution of the Trentino landscape, favour participatory processes, and develop action strategies for the preservation and valorisation of the Trentino landscape heritage.

The Landscape Observatory is a Forum that brings together representatives of several public, social, and cultural institutions of the Trentino. The Observatory is headed by a town Councillor with responsibility for urban planning matters and includes a technical/scientific secretariat affiliated with the department of landscape research.

In addition, the Observatory avails itself of two thematic committees:

- Committee 1: "Study, research, documentation, participation, and communication"
- Committee 2: "Project laboratory on the Trentino landscape"

The tasks of the first thematic committee consist of:

- creating and managing databases of analytic and iconographic materials relative to the Trentino Landscape;
- monitoring the evolution of the Trentino landscape with the purpose of writing a five-year report on the state of the landscape;
- implementing scientific research and education programs, engaging the local communities in a dialogue on the landscape and raising their awareness of themes connected to it;
- facilitating technical/scientific exchanges with institutions and observatories located in other regions.

The tasks of the second thematic committee consist of:

- establishing landscape quality objectives and parameters;
- providing guidelines for landscape designing;
- developing analytical methods and assessment criteria for landscape values and transformation dynamics.

The Observatory's main activities at the moment are:

- the preparation of the *Five-Year Report on the State of the Landscape in Trentino*;
- setting up working groups and research projects that may look into specific themes connected with the landscape and develop management strategies;
- definition of "landscape quality objectives";



- studying how landscape is perceived and the mechanisms through which it is attributed social value.

In addition to that, the Observatory is currently promoting the diffusion of the outcomes of a recently concluded research cycle that resulted in 9 further landscape projects. The project involved about a hundred contributors from research centres, universities, and the private sector. The results have been published in *Quaderni del paesaggio trentino – materiali di lavoro dell'Osservatorio del paesaggio* (Trentino Landscape Series: Working Papers Documenting the Activity of the Landscape Observatory; 2 volumes).

The Observatory also operates a triennial selection of projects, managing tools, and relevant initiatives in the field of landscape studies in Trentino. The initiative is entitled “Fare Paesaggio” (Making the Landscape).

The Drafting of the Five-Year Report on the State of the Landscape

The decision of drafting a *Five-Year Report* was taken in compliance with article 6 of the European Landscape Convention, “Specific Measures,” but not exclusively. The methodological approach developed by the Observatory for the drafting of the *Five-Year Report* is divided into three parts:

- the study of the dynamics that affect the physical structure of the Trentino landscape;
- the study of the effects local management policies have on the Trentino territory;
- the study of how landscape is perceived and the mechanisms through which it is attributed social value.

The second and third sections have reached an advanced stage of development. The first results will be made available in the first semester of 2015. The first part is the focus of this article and covers the study of the dynamics that affect the physical structure of the Trentino landscape. Research in this field will develop on two different levels of inquiry:

- the first level focuses on the analysis of landscape dynamics through the study of land use changes in large portions of Trentino;
- the second level avails itself of indicators and qualitative assessment to approach specific themes, representing the ways in which some phenomena that are of relevance for the landscape manifest themselves.

First Level of Inquiry

The first level of inquiry focuses on the monitoring of landscape dynamics that affect the physical structure of the Trentino territory through the quantitative analysis of land use changes. The study has been carried out according to the “elementary landscape domains” classification system devised by the Trentino Regional Plan (Piano Urbanistico Provinciale or PUP). The choice of resorting to the “elementary landscape domains” system was due to the need to secure coherence between the monitoring processes and the contents and intents of the

PUP. Besides, it was necessary to group the numerous land use classes provided by the Corine Land Cover standard into a limited number of homogeneous categories.

Hence, the analysis took the following categories into consideration:

- historical settlements
- recently urbanized areas
- productive areas
- quarries
- mobility infrastructures
- rural areas
- pastures
- rocks
- rivers, creeks, lakes
- glaciers
- woodlands

The main objectives of the first level of inquiry can be summarized as follows:

- monitoring land use dynamics and changes in the relationships between “elementary landscape domains.” The analyses cover the Province of Trento and ought to be repeated every five years.
- reconstructing the historical evolution of landscape dynamics that affected significant portions of the Province territory from the second half of the nineteenth century onwards.
- Analysing specific aspects of landscape changes through indicators that connect the cartographic representation of urbanized areas with data on the corresponding population.

The abovementioned analyses will require the use of land cover maps in shapefile format realized with GIS software products and based on available cartographic sources.

The elaboration of land cover maps for the quinquennial monitoring will be carried out in the framework of the project/initiative “Sistema Telerilevamento e Monitoraggio Risorse Territorio e Ambiente Trentino” (remote detection and monitoring system of territory and landscape resources in Trentino, or STEM), recently implemented by the Province of Trento. The aim of this project is to realize a platform for the automatic elaboration of the data acquired from a satellite or a plane – referring to agricultural land, forests, and pasture – according to the Corine classification scheme. The realization of this kind of technological platform for data management and elaboration will provide us with homogenous, real-time land use data for the entire Province.

The historical evolution of land use from 1800 onwards, instead, will be reconstructed through the analysis of 20 representative sample landscape units. For each analysed unit, we shall elaborate historical land cover maps on GIS by manually digitalizing our sources. The following sources will be used for the purpose of this study:

- Hapsburg cadastral map – 1860
- G.A.I. flight – 1954
- black and white ortophoto – IT 1973
- black and white ortophoto – IT 1994



- colored ortophoto – IT2011

The basic informative stratum for the elaboration of the historical maps is the Forest Land Use of 2008. After having made a photo interpretation of the sources and operated the appropriate manual modifications to the primary informative stratum, we will proceed with the realization of the five land cover maps.

Finally, this first level of inquiry will make use of indexes that may synthetically represent certain aspects of land change dynamics – e.g. resource use intensity, urban space per capita, and the extent of natural and rural land consumption – connecting the cartographic representation of urbanized areas with data on the corresponding population.

Second Level of Inquiry

Some phenomena that leave profound marks on the landscape cannot be exclusively described by land use dynamics indicators based on cartographic sources and periodic standard databases (e.g. land use maps and population censuses). Many a time describing certain dynamics necessitates specific cartographic elaborations and information gathering that are not readily available. These representations are therefore hardly generalizable. Besides, various phenomena can only be described in qualitative terms and cannot be synthesized through numeric indicators.

In the light of these considerations, we deemed necessary to combine the first level of inquiry with a second one that may include expert assessments, namely, the elaboration of quality assessments and specific indicators. This approach extends to in-depth analyses of particular landscape dynamics and to the process of zooming (scale analyses) on territories that present peculiar characteristics.

Thus, the field of analysis expands. To the “elementary landscape domains,” we now add further domains that display the interrelations among different landscapes and the spaces of transition and interaction that best register qualitative *and* formal landscape changes. These additional domains consist of network systems (divided into ecological, infrastructural, and technological networks) and spaces that mark the transition from one landscape to another, such as urban to rural, woodland to agricultural, woodland to pasture, etc.

For this level of inquiry, and for each domain, we proposed a list of themes that deserve to be analyzed in depth, either through qualitative assessment that may highlight weaknesses and strengths, or through a set of indicators, which can at times support the elaboration of qualitative assessments. With regard to infrastructural networks, for example, such themes would be their relationship with the context, their integration into landscape, and infrastructure as a means to implement landscape knowledge and, as a result, to promote tourism. With regard to transition areas, for example, we have identified the problematic quality of the borders between urbanized and open areas, and those spaces within urbanized areas where the contiguity between different uses sparks conflict.

Some preparatory work on the report project has been done already. We have developed notes on the procedures that need to be activated for the elaboration of quality assessments and we

described more than ten indicators in support of quality assessments. The notes contain:

- the descriptions of the phenomena to be studied;
- the reasons why the analyses were carried out in relation to the general programmatic objectives and the landscape quality objectives pursued by the Landscape Observatory;
- the field of application of the inquiry;
- monitoring frequency;
- sets of numeric indicators or cartographic elaborations that are deemed necessary to formulate an assessment;
- criteria for quality assessment;
- the composition of the bodies in charge of the expert quality assessment;
- the description of their functioning;
- modes of articulation of the quality assessment and results documentation.

Finally, the indicators that have been selected and described in this phase almost exclusively refer to urbanized areas and to the borders between urbanized and open areas. This is due to two reasons in particular. On the one hand, the major landscape transformation dynamics affecting Trentino are still those connected to settlement growth. On the other hand, these indicators – which will need to be adapted to fit the context at hand – have already been frequently applied and extensively tested. There is no reference available on indicators that will serve to describe other phenomena. Their elaboration will therefore require an in-depth analysis that may be carried out, for instance, in the framework of the STEM initiative.

Concluding Remarks

As we started working on the Report, we realized that our monitoring activities needed to be reconfigured for more specific targets.

To begin with, the first level of inquiry called for a limited number of sample areas for the historical reconstruction of the evolution of landscape dynamics. This was due to the necessity to manually digitalize historical maps, and especially to the possibility – granted by the use of sample areas – to represent the major transformation phenomena without having to conduct analyses on the entire territory.

In addition, for the second level of analysis, we had to resort to expert assessment to select case studies. It was also necessary to define the physical parameters of the domains we chose to apply indicators on, and it is often close to impossible to retrieve sufficient information on the latter.

For this and other reasons, participating in the STEM initiative seemed to be very advantageous. The gathering, management, and elaboration of remote-detection data provide regularly updated information for the reconstruction of land use evolution. An active involvement of the Landscape Observatory of Trentino in the early stages of the STEM initiative would have facilitated the gathering of data according to their relevance for monitoring activities.



Catrinel Cotae, *Afternoon lights*, 5th Peoples Landscapes.

Community Landscapes. Project for the Collective Construction of an Iconographic Archive of the “Community Alta Valsugana and Bersntol” (Autonomous Province of Trento)

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✓ KEYWORDS: archive, photography, participation, memory, representations

➡ ABSTRACT

The goal of the project “Community Landscapes” is to collect digital copies of illustrative materials (in particular photographs and postcards) on the landscape, from public institutions, collectors and families and to construct in a participated way an “Iconographic Archive of the landscape of the community”. This Archive will be available online on a dedicated website. It will be a significant source on the history and iconographic memory of the landscape of the Community, allowing observe the transformations of the territory and changes in its representation in the course of time.

Scholars and researchers, schools and public libraries, cultural associations, touristic institutions and all interested citizens will have free access to online archive. Collected, sorted and catalogued images will also serve as an important documentation for public administrators and technicians, with regard to the urban planning, as well for architects and designers, in favor of a balanced and sustainable development of the territory.

The initiative is part of a research on the iconographic sources of Trentino landscape. In the promotion and implementation of the initiative are involved municipalities, public libraries, schools, cultural institutions and associations in the area and the local press.

Geographers and historical geographers were certainly among the first to use photography to observe and to study territorial and landscape resources. Together with cartography, photography offers in fact many chances for the historical analysis of the landscape and territorial palimpsest, but it can be also a testimony of the evolution of the visual relationship between observer and the environment.

Besides the “veduta” has played a significant role in the widespread knowledge of the shapes of the landscape, just think, as regards Italy, the work of geographic and scientific disclosure, made by the Italian Touring Club and by the Italian Alpine Club, through innumerable and valuable publications.

In generally an iconographic archive, with amateur and professional photographs, illustrations and postcards, can be a relevant source for the territorial sciences, to observe the transfor-



mations of the territory. On the other hand, it allows explore the modification of the forms to represent the landscape, corresponding with changes in the way to see and to communicate it, in relation with new sensibilities and points of attention, following the emergence of new problems and possible solutions.

Such an archive could be a useful mean also to investigate issues of identity and socio-cultural dimensions of landscape, that is the perception and signification given by those who live or those who pass through those places.

In studying landscape photos, it is necessary to consider the role of the intention of photographer, his point of view, his cultural background, but also the function for which the image was produced.

Even in the age of digital photography, the action of taking a picture consists of a sequence of options that goes far beyond the act of “push the button”. These choices relate primarily to the frame, that includes a portion of space and actors to exclude others, and relate to the shooting point, thanks to which it is possible to highlight some elements and in this way to lead the attribution of meaning to the photo.

In other words, it is necessary to distinguish and evaluate the differences between a “documentary” intention, a promotional aim, an emotional approach, and likewise to discern between the public commissions, an authorial project, an occasional amateur photo, not forgetting to report that given image to the historical, economic, social and cultural context within which it was made.

Regarding contemporary landscape photography, historiography was repeatedly questioned about coincidences between the birth of renewal movements of photography and the deepening of reflection on the changes in the landscape. It was highlighted the convergence in a group of authors, in the thinking of own social function and in order to revisit the theme of landscape and of innovation of languages, searching for meaning of photographic commitment in the face of the loss of ancient equilibrium between environment and human artifacts (Valtorta, 2013).

A photographic image can assume for anyone who observes it a different value and meaning. This value could be entirely independent on the intentions of the author and quite different from the meaning he attributed to his photographic work.

Any photo is related to a specific site (more or less recognizable) and a specific time (more or less definable and ascertainable).

Each image is then located and dated. You can reproduce as many copies as you like, but in fact any image is unique and you cannot do it again in the totality of the elements those compose it. This “analogy” between image and photographed object (or place), this “illusion of reality” makes photography a “document”? Is it a useful “document” to observe, to analyze and to interpret permanence and transformations of a territory?

The landscape is not only a part of the territorial heritage, but it is also like a “palimpsest”, a track, a source to observe and to study the historical process which has produced that land-

scape. We perceive the landscape and we represent it, on the basis of our feelings, emotions, suffering, remembrance, hopes and wishes (Turri, 2000)

A sequence of some representations of the same landscape, created at different times, allows us to reconstruct the different stages of the history of that place.

It also gives us the possibility to observe changes in sensitivity, of points of view and the instance that a community expresses when it represents its landscape.

So landscape photography can be a tool for study and observation, not because it corresponds fully to the “reality” of that site in a given time, but because it allows to study that landscape from a cultural and sociological perspective. On one hand, it allows us to observe permanence and transformations (although filtered by the photographer’s intention), on the other hand, if we know how to decode it, the photography can testify a mode of reading and representing the landscape at the time image was done. Moreover it can show us which visual models could have played a role in the social construction of the “identity” and “vocations” of that territory .

“Paesaggi di Comunità”, Progetto per la costruzione collettiva di un Archivio iconografico del paesaggio della Comunità Alta Valsugana e Bersntol (“Community Landscapes”. Project for the collective construction of an Iconographic Archive of the “Community Alta Valsugana and Bersntol”) is an initiative of TSM Step, Scuola per il governo del territorio e del paesaggio della Provincia autonoma di Trento and of Comunità Alta Valsugana e Bersntol, with the participation of local municipalities and cultural institutions, public libraries, museums, schools, collectors, families, cultural associations and elderly citizens clubs. In the promotion and implementation of the initiative are involved also the local media.

The project is connected with a research on the iconographic sources of Trentino landscape, which considers photographs as a tool to observe the transformation of the territory and the changes in the ways of representing the landscape. This research, currently going on, is designed to evaluate the consistency and the contents of the photographic materials conserved in public and private museums and archives, at national and local level.

The goal of the project “Paesaggi di Comunità” is to collect digital copies of illustrative materials (in particular photographs and postcards) on the landscape, from public institutions, cultural associations, collectors and families, to construct in a participated way an “Archive of the landscape of the community”. The initiative may also involve Trentino emigrants abroad as well as foreigners, as habitual tourists and vacationers.

The Archive will be available online on a dedicated website, with a relational database on webGIS platform. It will be a significant source on the history and iconographic memory of the landscape of the Community, allowing observe the transformations of the territory and changes in its representation in the course of time.

Scholars and researchers, schools and public libraries, cultural associations, touristic institutions and all interested citizens will have free access to online archive. Collected, sorted and



catalogued images will also serve as an important documentation for public administrators and technicians, with regard to the urban planning, as well for architects and designers, in favor of a balanced and sustainable development of the territory.

The design and the scientific coordination of the project are conducted by TSM step-Scuola per il governo del territorio e del paesaggio - Incarico speciale per lo Studio, la ricerca e la documentazione sul territorio, of the Autonomous Province of Trento.

The action is implemented as a pilot project, to build and to test the methodology and the process applicable thereafter to other Communities.

The Community Alta Valsugana and Bernstol was chosen to share the project. The participation in this experience gives some significant opportunities to the Community, because the collection of materials and the way to get it may offer:

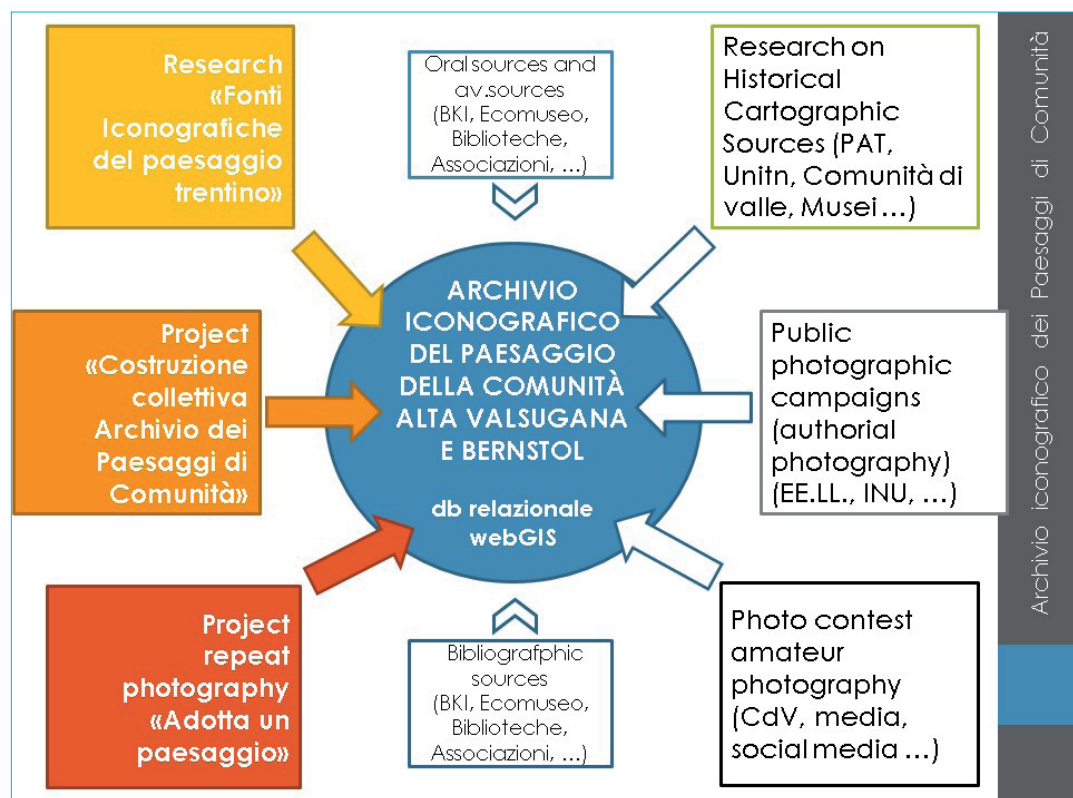
- a chance to grow up people's knowledge and awareness about the issues on landscape and its management;
- the opportunity to collect illustrative material that will be useful in the urban planning activities ;
- the tool for the creation of a local multifunctional archive on the landscape, from which it's possible to reach exhibitions, books, essays and studies in various fields;
- the opportunity to build a network with various local social actors that will be able to cooperate into other future initiatives promoted by the Community to increase value of its historical, cultural and environmental heritage.

Some types of landscape will be represented in the archive: natural alpine landscape; landscape of woods and pastures; landscape of the highlands; landscape of the valley; landscape of lake and river network; agricultural landscape; cultural landscape of linguistic and cultural minorities; landscape of rural buildings; cityscape and historic settlements; landscape of industrial settlements, craft areas and mining areas; landscape of tourist resorts, spa activities and sports; landscape of roads and mountain passes; historic landscapes of the First World War. Delivered photos and post cards are duplicated in digital format and immediately returned to the owners. The property of the original materials remains to those who are entitled and who have given their permission to reproduce the materials. If anyone decide to use some images collected in the on line Archive, to produce prints, audiovisual programs, exhibitions, he have to ask permission to the owners.

The use of "historical photography" of the landscape will be integrated in the Archive with the practice of "repeat photography" and by comparison with other documentary sources.

Comparing photographic images with different sources, such as historical maps and other iconographic representations, text documents, oral sources, in the perspective of a "micro-geo-historical analysis", it is possible discover and highlight the practices, actions, technical knowledge that produced a specific landscape (Gemignani, 2013).

Implementation of an historic iconographic archives integrated with application of the method of re-photography can provide with effective tools to support planning and design. At the same time it could be an effective way to promote involvement and participation of the population, and to encourage reflection and debate about some interpretative categories such as “identity places “and “everyday look “(following the approach adopted by the European Landscape Convention).



Finally it gives the possibility of observing and monitoring the effects of the environmental and landscape policies and practices previously adopted.

Among the outcomes of the project, in addition to the archive online, there will be the creation of a traveling exhibition and one or more publications.


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EPIC WebGIS – Sharing Knowledge as a Tool to Integrate Landscape into Planning Policies

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✓ KEYWORDS: EPIC WebGIS, Landscape Planning, Landscape-System, Open Access Information, National Geodatabase

➡ ABSTRACT

The integration of landscape into planning policies considering its protection, management and planning remains one of the great challenges addressed by the European Landscape Convention. The recognition of landscape as a complex system composed by ecological and cultural components is a challenge for specialists, technicians, municipalities and researchers.

The "Landscape-System" methodology (Magalhães et al., 2007) considers landscape as a system constituted by a network of subsystems comprising several interconnected levels that correspond respectively to its ecological, cultural and semiotic components. During the last decade this methodology has been gradually developed and applied in several case studies at local and regional scales by the Research Centre for Landscape Architecture "Prof. Caldeira Cabral" (CEAP).

Currently CEAP is applying this methodology in Portugal at a national scale within the scope of two R&D funded projects: the National Ecological Network and a Potential Land-Use Ecological Plan, aiming the assessment of the ecological suitability for human activities and nature conservation.

The Ecological Network in Portugal is currently being delimited in municipal master plans. Given the difficulty in accessing cartographic data with good quality, as well as its general dispersion among several institutions, a web platform – EPIC (Environmental Planning, Investigation and Cartography) WebGIS – was created to serve as a technical and scientific reference at all levels of Planning. This platform is free of charge and interactive, open to new data, contributing to the implementation of Open Access policies.

EPIC WebGIS main goal is to enhance the generalisation and acceptance by society of an ecologically-based planning policy, which will bring already recognised social and economic benefits. The use of the available cartography as an auxiliary tool in spatial planning will contribute to a more sustainable landscape management.

Introduction

Sustainable development implies that public spatial policies consider the preservation of the fundamental structures of landscape ensuring its well-functioning through its main subsystems: air, water, soil, vegetation, fauna, etc. Regarding this matter, the "Landscape-System" methodology considers landscape as a complex and dynamic system constituted by a network of subsystems comprising its ecological, cultural and semiotic components (Magalhães et al., 2007).

Based on this concept, the Ecological Network (EN) can be seen as a continuous spatial structure composed by the ecosystems' components that are essential to the conservation of natural resources (Magalhães, 2001). The EN is an instrument that seeks sustainability, geared towards finding a balance between the protection of the natural resources and the suitability for the establishment of human activities. It should be delimited at different scales of planning, in accordance with Decree-Law n° 380/99 of September 22th, changed by Decree-Law n° 316/2007 of September 19th and by Decree-Law n° 46/2009 of February 20th, thus contributing to the knowledge of landscape potentialities.

During the last decade this methodology has been gradually developed and applied in several case studies at local and regional scales by the Research Centre for Landscape Architecture "Prof. Caldeira Cabral" (CEAP).

More recently, CEAP concluded the R&D project "National Ecological Network – a proposal of delimitation and regulation" (NEN) (Magalhães *et al.*, 2013), providing a contribution to a National Green Infrastructure Plan. For this purpose, a large team was gathered with all the scientific backgrounds that are necessary to the study and interpretation of the several NEN sub-systems. Moreover, the NEN unifies in a unique instrument, the areas in Portugal that are essential to the conservation of natural resources, most of them included in different legal instruments of environmental protection (such as National Ecological Reserve, National Agricultural Reserve, Public Hydric Domain, National Protected Areas, Natura 2000). These areas correspond to dynamic components that interact among themselves and constitute the natural subsystem of the landscape.

Once the EN is being delimited in municipal master plans and given the difficulty in accessing cartographic data as well as its general dispersion among several institutions, the results of the NEN project are to be used as a technical and scientific reference of planning. Therefore, EPIC WebGIS Portugal (<http://epic-webgis-portugal.isa.ulisboa.pt/>) was created to provide an available database to all users, upon a simple identification.

The Ecological Network in Portugal is currently being delimited in municipal master plans. Given the difficulty in accessing cartographic data with good quality, as well as its general dispersion among several institutions, a web platform – EPIC (*Environmental Planning, Investigation and Cartography*) WebGIS – was created to serve as a technical and scientific reference at all levels of Planning (EPIC, 2013).

Currently, another R&D project is ongoing with the objective of evaluating landscape ecological suitability to several human activities, such as nature conservation, agriculture, horticulture and forestry, leisure and recreational facilities, in urban and rural areas. This project will be concluded with a Potential Land-Use Ecological Plan for Portugal and its results will also be included in EPIC WebGIS Portugal.

Hence, the main goal of EPIC WebGIS is to enhance the generalisation and acceptance by society of an ecologically-based planning policy.

EPIC WebGIS Portugal

EPIC platform was presented to the public in 2013 at an international conference in Lisbon as a dynamic and interactive geospatial data infrastructure that includes landscape thematic

cartography, such as geology/lithology, land morphology, soil, water, vegetation, climate and nature conservation areas (Figure 1).



Fig. 1: EPIC WebGIS Portugal platform interface.

This platform allows free data visualisation and download, contributing to the implementation of the European Landscape Convention (ELC) and EU Open Access Policies (INSPIRE). In this regard, according to Recommendation CM/Rec (2008) 3 (Council of Europe, 2008) on the guidelines for the implementation of the ELC, adopted on 6 February 2008, “action should be taken to encourage the establishment and availability of landscape databases”.

The available cartography and used methodologies can be seen as an auxiliary tool to the interested stakeholders, also allowing technicians and institutions to use it as a technical and scientific reference for several activities, such as: education and R&D; land use plans, programs and policies; agriculture and forestry management and production; nature conservation and natural resources management; tourism, etc.

The innovation attached to EPIC is providing original cartography at national level, produced with homogeneous standards and a level of accuracy that allows its use from national to municipal scale. This could help mitigate difficulties currently felt in accessing cartographic data dispersed among public Portuguese institutions, while supporting policy making and sustainable development (Figure 2).

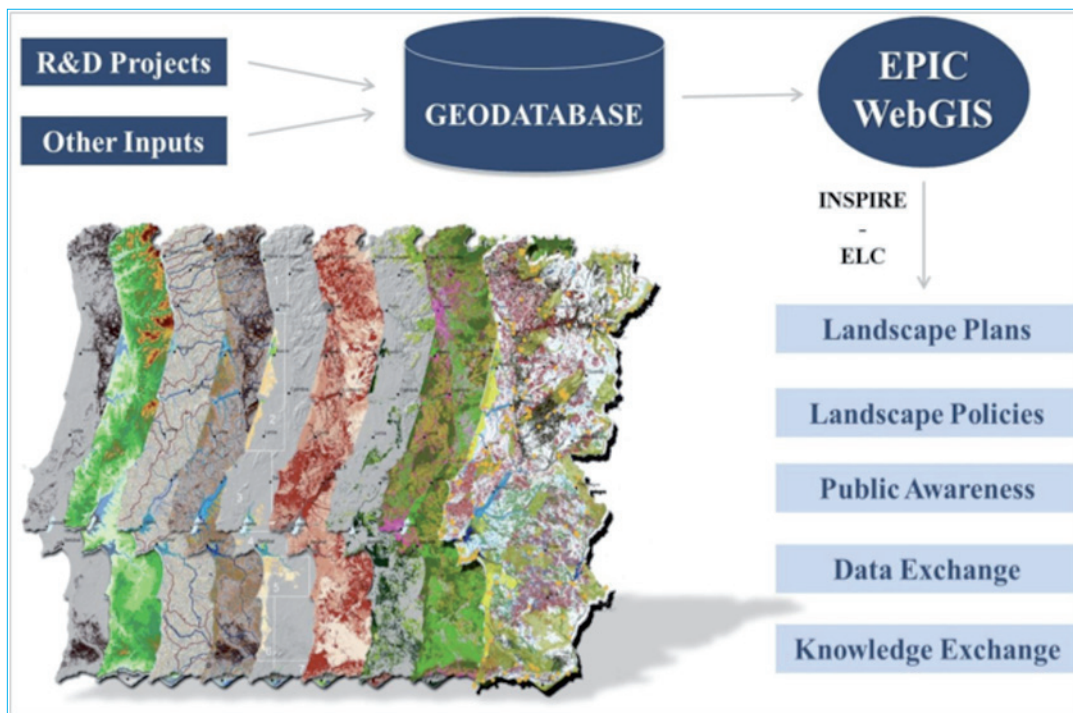


Fig. 2: EPIC WebGIS framework.

On the other hand, the level of accuracy of the available cartography depends on the quality of its bases, as well as the scales of representation.

For this reason, it will always be possible to increase the quality of the maps, depending only on updates of the base cartography. One significant example is the existing soil cartography, which was made at different times with different criteria, urging a reformulation for the whole country.

Results

Currently, EPIC WebGIS has 7816 page views from 3689 unique users and 260 registered data downloads (function available since 03.28.2014) from professionals of various fields of activity like spatial planning, quantification of ecosystem services, landscape architecture projects, irrigation systems, Master and PhD programs, R&D projects, biodiversity and geodiversity assessment, forest fire prevention, nature conservation associations, agro-forestry and environmental consultancy, communal land management, archeology, among others.

From the total 7816 page views, 6459 are from national users and 1357 are from international users (Figure 3). Moreover, statistics show that 46,8% of the users returned at least once to the WebGIS.

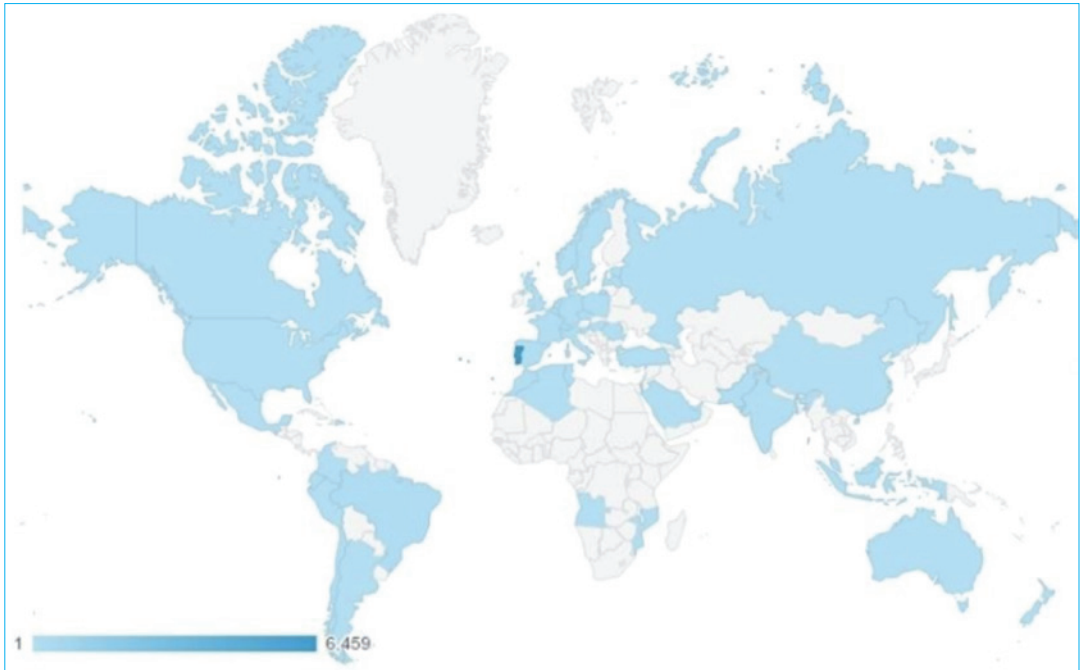


Fig. 3: Map of the countries with page views (Google Analytics, 14/11/2014).

Conclusions

The open and interactive nature of EPIC enables the possibility of including cartography from other entities, at various scales, thus contributing to a national geodatabase. Moreover, sharing the used methodologies can help triggering a debate on environmental planning and best practices, which is also an issue sought by the ELC.

EPIC WebGIS Portugal complies with the ELC orientations and can provide a major contribution to the implementation of a National Landscape Observatory in Portugal, propelling the generalisation and acceptance by society of an ecologically-based planning policy, which will bring already recognised social and economic benefits.

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Landscape Planning and “Everyday Landscapes”: a Potential for Improving Citizens Quality of Life

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✓ KEYWORDS: European Landscape Convention, Landscape planning, Periurban areas, urban agriculture, integrated policies

➡ ABSTRACT

The Regional Landscape Plan of Lombardy fully assumes the principles of the European Landscape Convention (ELC). It covers the entire region including “natural, rural, urban and peri-urban areas” by protection rules and enhancement addresses, and provides dedicated policies for them. In particular, according to the ELC, great attention is paid to “landscapes that might be considered outstanding as well as every day or degraded landscapes”.

The actions of the regional plan are focused on high value landscape areas needing particular protection like the lake District and UNESCO sites but they are addressed also to specific critical areas (periurban areas, metropolitan region) and on large municipalities.

The focus of the new Regional Landscape plan now under preparation involves a large part of the region defined in the present plan as a “neglected area”, covering the metropolitan area of Milan and part of the Alpine valley floors. These areas are characterized by dense and sprawled urban settlements, residual open space, marginal agriculture, but also by valuable ancient rural settlements, monasteries and lasting countryside.

It is therefore important to investigate character and typologies composing this “neglected area”, that involves more than seven million citizens living or working there, in the perspective of strengthening the relationships between territorial and landscape planning and to work out more effective policies.

The importance of “Everyday landscapes” in Lombardy and in the EU context

The Regional Landscape Plan of Lombardy fully assumes the principles of the European Landscape Convention (ELC). It covers the entire region including “natural, rural, urban and peri-urban areas” by protection rules and enhancement addresses, and provides dedicated policies. In particular, according to the ELC, great attention is paid to “landscapes that might be considered outstanding as well as every day or degraded landscapes” (COE, 2000).

One of the areas under particular attention by planners and stakeholder are the marginal peri-urban areas. As underlined in recent studies (Bbsr-Bbr, 2012; Pluriel, 2011; EC, 2011) these areas, no longer agricultural in a fully productive sense and not yet urban, are very sensitive for mature metropolitan regions and particularly for European ones. A great number



of European citizens are involved with the 'peri-urbanization'. In a large European region like Lombardy (10,000,000 inhabitants), the metropolitan area of Milan involves about 7,500,000 citizens that daily affect their life within the peri-urban environment. It is therefore important to investigate character and typologies composing these kinds of "neglected areas", in the perspective of strengthening the relationships between territorial and landscape planning and to work out more effective policies.

Concerning landscape and spatial planning and policies, this is nowadays primarily a question of 'potentials' in term of quality and functions of the metropolitan regions' outskirts. An integrated approach to face this issue is coherent with the ELC. According to the Convention, this concept not only refers to beautiful sites but also to derelict or marginal landscapes, that have to be managed *«from a perspective of sustainable development, to ensure the regular upkeep of a landscape, so as to guide and harmonize changes which are brought about by social, economic and environmental processes»*. This assumes a comprehensive way to intend 'landscape', and its role, meaning and 'use' in improving involvement of citizens in building up a better environment. As it is known, 75% of the EU's citizens live today in and around cities. Europe is a continent of towns and cities that means both built up areas and peri-urban space, in fact, as emerged from the project Pluriel 48,000 km² are defined peri-urban as well as 49,000 km² are built up areas (Pluriel, 2011: 10). This condition drives beyond the historic dichotomy between urban and rural areas, seeing that today in Europe peri-urban areas are more or less the same as urban areas.

To better focus on the landscape of every day and in particular on the peri-urban issue, it is useful to consider as a starting point the Oecd definition that asserts: *«The impacts of economic growth and physical expansion of the urban area are not confined within urban boundaries; they reach into much wider areas surrounding urban centres, creating so-called 'rurban areas', 'urban fringe areas', or 'peri-urban areas'. While the peri-urban area retains the characteristics of the rural area, these are subject to major modifications: changes take place with respect to physical configuration, economic activities, social relationships and so forth»* (OECD, 1979: 9). Later on, the Council of Europe Conference of Ministers Responsible for Spatial/Regional Planning (CEMAT) deepened this concept, sketching the following definition: *«Periurban areas are areas that are in some form of transition from strictly rural to urban. These areas often form the immediate urban-rural interface and may eventually evolve into being fully urban. Periurban areas are places where people are key components: they are lived-in environments. The majority of periurban areas are on the fringe of established urban areas, but they may also be clusters of residential development within rural landscapes. Periurban areas are most frequently an output of the process of suburbanisation or urban sprawl. [...]»* (CEMAT, 2007: 19).

Peri-urban is not a new subject in planning but the approach is new and the way to consider the role and potential of these territories, particularly in the metropolitan regions of the mature economies. At present, these areas are not considered simply places of transition from rural to urban functions but places with their own character with important potential due to a multifunctional identity. These 'intermediate' territories represent the interface between the EU citizens living in urban areas and the neighboring countryside, and it is recognized the growing interdependence between urban and rural areas. They are increasingly valued for

their local production and resources, their diversity in landscapes, richness in cultural heritage and for quality of life. In recent years, great attention has been given to this issue and many initiatives were promoted in Europe.

The European Parliament in 2010 agreed upon a preparatory action managed by the European Commission aiming to analyze and investigate urban-rural relationships named Rurban. It was oriented to promote urban-rural linkages supporting partnership and common initiatives between towns and cities and rural areas; encouraging territorial multilevel governance, exploring potential of rural-urban cooperation for economic development, regional competitiveness and regional governance. It was addressed also to promote the integration and the use of EU cohesion (Erd) and agricultural funds (European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development-Eafrd). Amongst the diverse Rurban initiatives, a study was supported to put in evidence the character of urban-rural relationships and to sustain cooperation in the view to recognize peri-urban areas as a distinct kind of multi-functional territory. The concept of Functional Urban Area is proposed as a proper way to define peri-urban as areas of transition but with a specific character (Bbsr-Bbr, 2012: 5-10).

Focusing on the core of Milan's metro region

The Regional Territorial and the Landscape Plan of Lombardy (PTR-PPR, 2010) assume an integrated approach to correlate town and country planning and landscape planning, confirming particular attention to safeguard and improve open areas at territorial scale shaping a rural-landscape-environmental system that involves natural areas and open spaces including the metropolitan region ones.

In this, peri-urban areas in the metro-region of Milan are very important. The urban region of Milan is characterized by a very high anthropic and environmental pressure (up to 6,000 inh./km² in the city of Milan), on air, soil, water pollution and traffic congestion, and a very high degree of land consumption and landscape degradation are present. On the other hand, in this region there still exists a valuable agriculture production and a tradition of rural activities, being that the Lombardy region is the first agriculture producer in Italy. The Regional Territorial and Landscape Plan and other recent projects worked out for the region of Milan drive to consider this area particularly involved in plans and policies oriented to give a specific perspective to urban agriculture and attention to peri-urban landscape. Moreover, this is motivated with a view to the next global event that will be held in Milan: the Expo 2015, devoted to 'Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life', dealing with ensuring access to safe, sufficient, and balanced nutrition as a basic human right. This is an important occasion for the metropolitan region to re-think profoundly the relationship between the urban region, open spaces, and 'new rurality' as a way to give more attractiveness to the European metropolitan city region of Milan, under reconversion. Nowadays the "marginal" agriculture and the underused land of the city outskirts can play an important role for citizens and stakeholders asking even more to improve quality of life and for a better urban environment of the metro region. Redesigning



this wide, although fuzzy, part of the region is important for both social, environment and economic reasons. The peri-urban fuzzy landscapes are significant, and the 'rurbanisation' seems a key word to describe a phenomenon that catalyzes attention, and where now there are converging policies and projects; sometimes derelict and marginal, these areas are not close enough to downtown and no longer countryside; yet, they still conserve the historical rural genius loci and captivating capacity for citizens. Over the last decades, the only one effectively performed policy to protect agricultural and green areas in the metropolitan region of Milan has been referred to the regional parks planning. Regional Parks planning was promoted during the '90 by the Lombardy Region, according to a sector policy approach (environmental-ecological oriented plans) but with weak relationships and coordination with town and country planning, devoted to manage territorial and urban transformations involving also open spaces. On the other hand, three regional parks (Parco Agricolo Sud Milano, Parco della Valle del Ticino e Parco Nord Milano) surround the core of the metropolitan area and opportunely help to preserve and safeguard open spaces from settlement expansion in the past decades. One of the most interesting projects performed in Lombardy is the 'Parco delle risaie' project ('The rice field park'), aiming to recover and revitalize a large residual agricultural area in the South of Milan by promoting new agriculture, re-designing open spaces and green networks and restoring rural historical settlements. This project received the European landscape award from an international jury for the methodology adopted in promoting the participation of the citizens, Ngo and private owners aiming to redesign the area.

In Milan a similar initiative has been recently carried out establishing the Milan Agricultural District – Dam (Distretto Agricolo Milanese) in 2011, to guarantee and sustain agricultural production in the metropolitan city, with the motto: «Milano città di campagna» (Milan countryside city). This initiative was promoted by a non-profit association, a Consortium composed of 35 farms, according to a professional agriculture interacting with the territory. It covers a large part of the whole agricultural land of the city, having as main goals to maintain and secure agricultural production, preserving the environment and protecting landscape and cultural heritage, including rural buildings and farms. This approach to multi-functional agriculture, located at the edge of the city, identifies a specific specialized function of areas that only a few years ago would have been under the risk of abandonment and destined to be incorporated in urban settlements' expansion. With the signature of a protocol between the Dam, the Municipality of Milan, the Province of Milan and the Lombardy Region in September 2011, the road map to the 'new-ruralization' of Milan was agreed upon to pursue: «un processo di neoruralizzazione di Milano» (Piano del Distretto Rurale di Milano, 2011: 7). Further, other projects underway are pursuing the objective to maintain agriculture and the rural landscape of the metropolis, such as the framework agreement named 'Milano Metropoli Rurale' (Milan Rural Metropolis). The agreement was signed in 2013 by the Lombardy Region, Province of Milan, Municipality of Milan, Dam (AQST Milano Metropoli Rurale), aiming to coordinate various initiatives and projects of 'ruralization' of the metropolis by an instrument of governance. This experience is particularly important because it marks a mile-stone and represents a turning point in the city planning history,

traditionally oriented to urban expansion. Indeed, in the city of Milan agriculture is still important, the dedicated surface amounts to about 4,000 ha, that means 22% of the whole municipal area devoted to rural uses. The city is the second agricultural municipality in Italy and 128 farms are registered with the Chamber of Commerce (2010). The outskirts of Milan are commonly recognized for their significant economic and productive value but also for public fruition, for historical, environmental and landscape assessment. In the Province of Milan agriculture surface represents more than one third of the total area. Considering the sole core metropolitan area, this situation is confirmed: 48% of the area belongs to a regional park (agriculture oriented); 70% of the population of the province of Milan live in a municipality belonging to a regional Park (2,1 to 3,1 Million/ inhabit.) and 50% of municipalities are located in a regional park. Nevertheless, the area is characterized by high atrophic and settlement pressure, with the highest population density in Italy and the sealing of soil up to 70% in the northern part of the metropolitan region (Monza-Brianza).

New addresses in the regional Landscape policy

The focus of the new Regional Landscape plan now under preparation is on a larger part of the region defined in the present plan as a “neglected area”, covering the metropolitan area of Milan and part of the Alpine valley floors and covering about 20% of the whole region. This region is characterized by dense and sprawled urban settlements, residual open space, marginal agriculture, but also by valuable ancient rural settlements, monasteries and lasting countryside.

These areas, historically involved in the competition between settlement expansion and agricultural/rural uses in the fringe areas of the metro regions, are now being given particular attention by public decision makers, citizens and farmers. A new role and dedicated policies are requested for marginal agriculture not only for ensuring agricultural products in proximity of the city but to further improve the quality of fringe urban areas according to a strong multifunctional and environmental vocation. It is further important to strengthen and give value to the historical heritage and cultural identity still present, giving a dedicated specific status to this multifunctional space.

This is also part of the most competitive areas of the region in Europe, and its competitiveness in the economic global arena should be based also on its attractiveness in term of quality of life and environment.

In this frame, an important role is played by the landscape as a key factor to promote effective policies integration. The multifunctional attitude of the area performs many targets and activities such as: securing ecological services, cleaning and maintenance of the hydrographic network and open spaces, recovery and restoration of degraded landscape and environment, environmental cleaning, creation of ecological buffer strips.

There is a general shared acknowledgment about the high value characterizing this territory regarding the quality of soil, richness in biodiversity, uniqueness of the historical landscape and

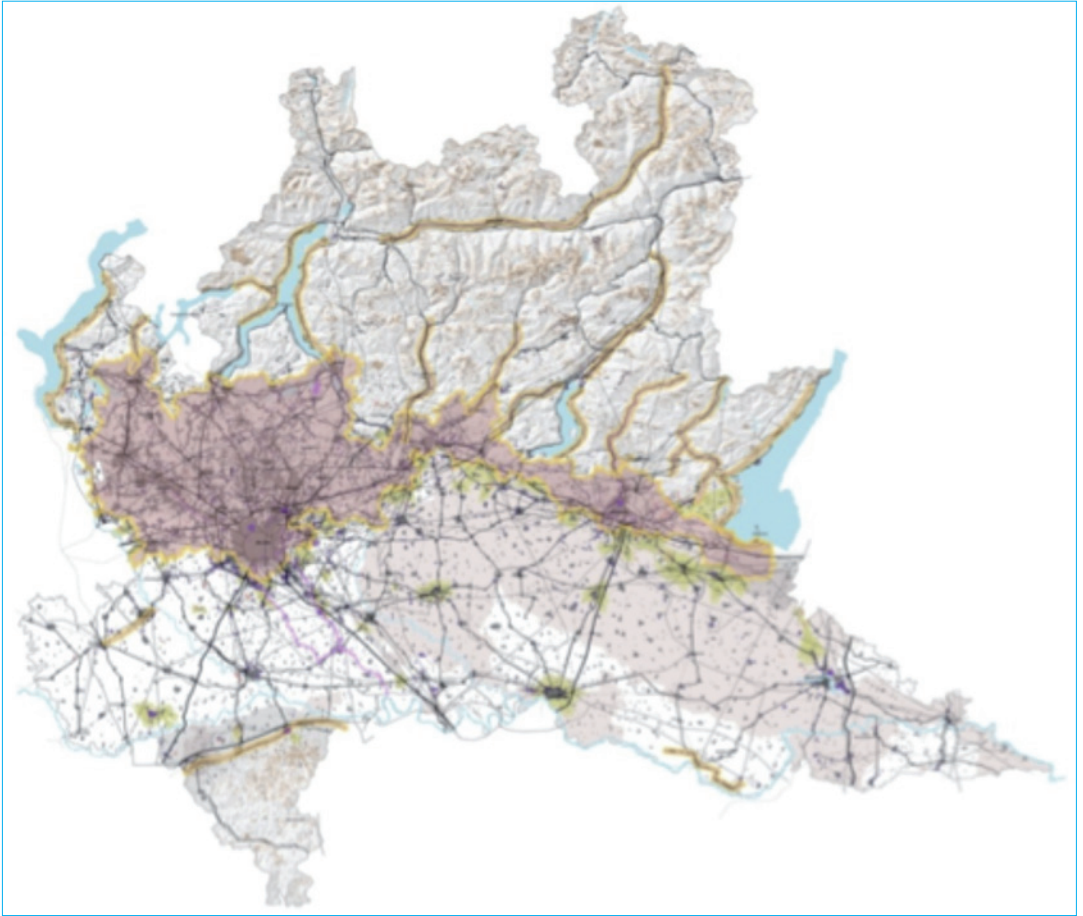


Fig. 1: PTR-PPR Derelict areas

heritage characterized by a network of medieval monasteries, historical rural settlements) still in use but endangered. On this point, differences and peculiarities compared to the rest of Europe are evident.

Considering all that is described above, it's evident the importance of tailored operative policies for this typology of space, oriented to rethink the role of marginal agriculture in supporting the improvement of urban fringe quality, according to an environment with a strong multifunctional agriculture vocation, and to give value to historical and cultural identities and assets, while also recognizing the concept of a new typology of space with its own character needing dedicated policies. It is evident that in this context, landscape could be a key factor for policy integration. The initiatives carried out represent concrete examples to govern such a complex and evolutive space where urban agriculture, landscape, social uses and social integration require comprehensive and integrated instruments of governance to be effective.

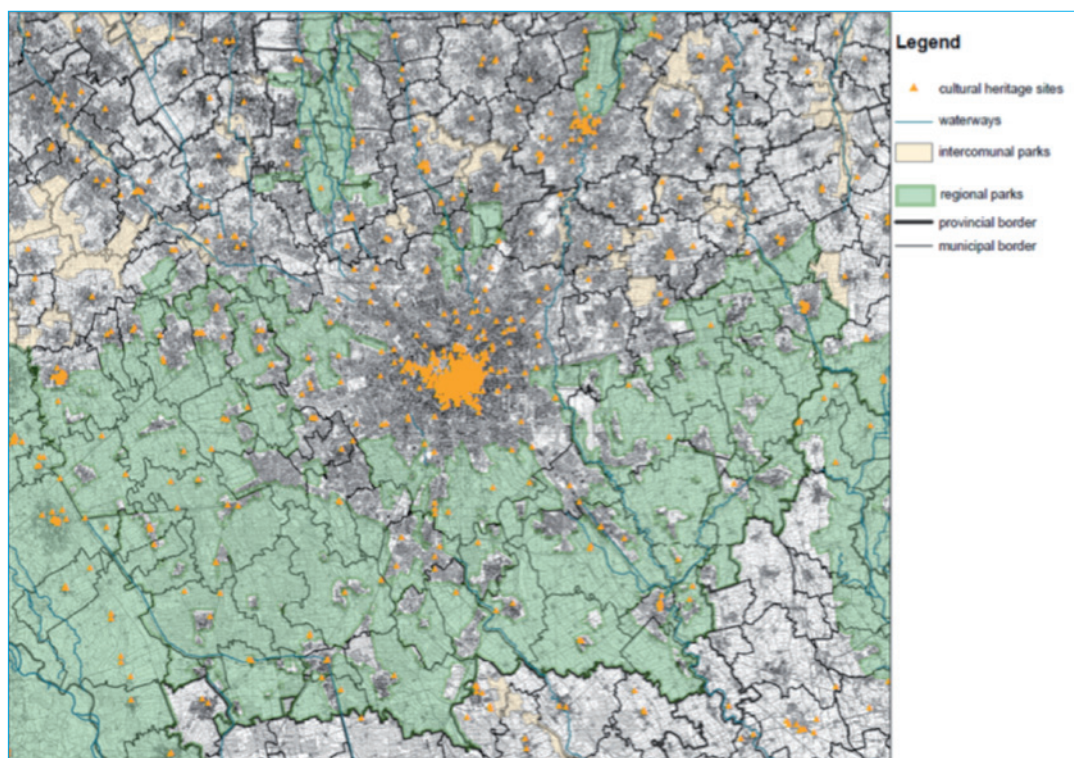


Fig. 2: Green areas and Cultural heritage

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Planning Beyond the Institutions: Landscape Observatories as Key-Intermediary-Bodies Between Communities and Institutions

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✓ KEYWORDS: Crisis, “vacatio sedis”, intermediary bodies, community collaborative planning, public institutions, “strategic ideas”, landscape observatories

ABSTRACT

In this crisis period, when formal public institutions struggle to be legitimized by citizens, intermediary bodies can help planning processes. In this context Landscape Observatories can play a key role between the community and planning institutions.

Treasuring the experiences of a Landscape Observatory and a Community Land Trust, the paper synthesizes the considerations deriving from a study which aims to suggest “strategic ideas” to maintain a “linker” position.

The starting point is the actual situation which is here defined as a “domino-effect crisis”, caused by interconnected latent problems that influence and enhance each other. In fact, the financial-economic crisis has highlighted the welfare-state crisis that in turn reduced people confidence in formal institutions which has led to the political crisis of the democratic system. The formal system’s loss of power and legitimacy in people’s eyes was the result of this domino effect. This effect is theorized in terms of a “Vacatio Sedis”, that is “the space of dissolving Governance” (Healey) within which it can be hard to take decisions. In this situation, the central role of Landscape Observatories is well expressed in their aim of gathering information, aspirations and visions from a community, making them understandable to formal planning institutions (as also remarked in the ELC), driving the process to the direction of a shared Landscape.

The study compares two Italian Landscape Observatories (in Canale di Brenta and in the Anfiteatro Morenico d’Ivrea) with an English Community Development Trust (Glendale Gateway Trust). As those bodies are different, they are compared using an analytical scheme focused on context, structure, effectiveness and history. Despite their differences, they both have the an intermediary attitude and show plenty of similarities in the approaches they use. “Strategic ideas” are drawn from those similarities as suggestions based on positive experiences which could help maintaining maintain the role of such essential intermediaries.

Concepts and context

Before getting to the core of the work it is fundamental to describe the specific concepts used and the context in which the work is set, that represent key elements on which the work is built.

Institutions are intended as the authorities established and appointed (thus “instituted”) to undertake planning work by a national authority and also accepted in this role within citizens

culture. Planning is used with a wide meaning including “Community planning”(Wates, 2000-2006) and actions that “influence planning” enough to let the transformation and the plan-building be driven by community.

The momentum to this study and its reflections was given by the context in which it was developed - the crisis ongoing all around Europe that actually consists of a series of interconnected domino-effect crises. The wide recession and financial crisis of the last decades caused some changes in social life and the administrative-political system. This crisis affected other sectors, enhancing already latent problems and producing even deeper new ones. It influenced the underlying crisis of the welfare state that led to greater changes in people’s perception of administrative structures which have often not been able to provide services (including planning). In some cases, services were reduced to achieve spending cuts or taxes were raised to maintain minimum services. In other cases, formal levels of government were abolished (some Districts in England, the Province in Italy). People consequently started to see the formal institutions as useless “boondoggles” instead of being “providers” of public goods. This generated a large disaffection toward the institutions and the consequent political crisis of the democratic system (Barbera, 2013). All this situation brought to what in this work is defined as “Vacatio Sedis” (a term borrowed from a particular situation of vacancy in the Vatican state, occurring at time of the work). It means the absence of power symbolised by the empty seat, that is the lack of institutions or established bodies in which people can trust. It is the empty place of both community legitimacy and nationally-established power that Patsy Healey, commenting on the present study, called “the space of dissolving governance”.

Theory and method

People and local communities have been creating autonomous arrangements cooperating to solve problems that institutional agendas have instead left behind. They got organized into collaborative bodies that can be considered “antifragile” (Taleb, 2012).

Drawing from recent personal practical experiences with an English Community Development Charitable Trust (Glendale Gateway Trust) and one Italian Landscape Observatory (in Ivrea area) arose a series of thoughts regarding the possibilities of informal organizations as influential and collaborative actors in the planning field.

Starting from those two bodies, the aim of the a larger study (Nigro, 2014), is to draw from them a range of action, proposal and interpretations to chew on, and to stand as a base for the widest range of further considerations. For this reason it was decided to define “strategic ideas” as suggestions: they are ‘substances’ to build upon using the criteria of “strategic thinking” (Mintzberger, 1994; Healey, 2007). Considering the diversities between the two bodies, through their affinity, the study define an ad-hoc inductive method based on a comparative scheme (Fig 1). It first analyses the bodies backgrounds, structures, functions and planning issues which the bodies are involved in, and then provides a first interpretation for each case. Afterwards two kinds of strategic ideas are put forward, aiming to (a) receive legitimacy by

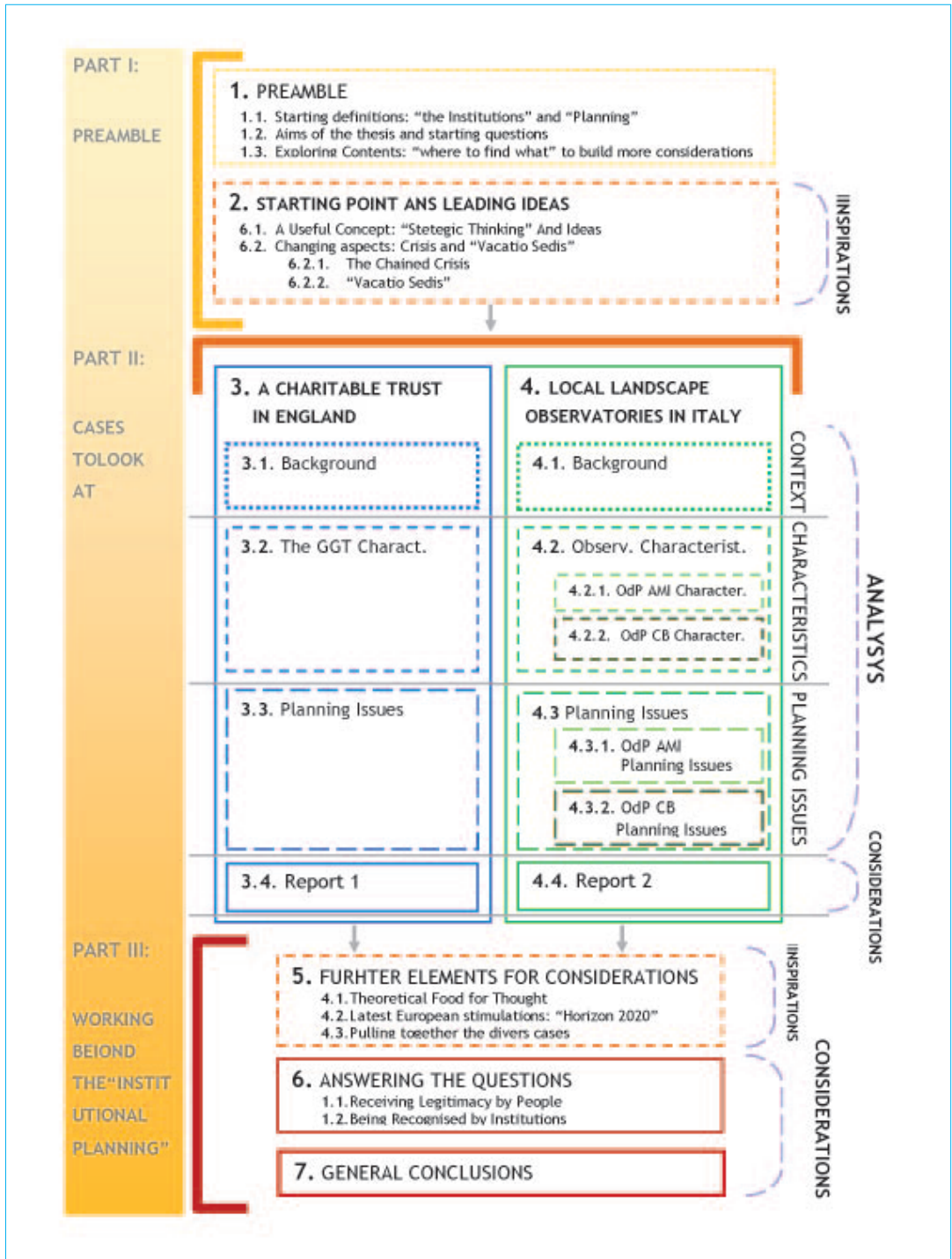


Fig. I: Scheme of the inductive method used.

people and (b) be recognised by the institutions. These ideas are joined together in the final general suggestion to follow both patterns. This paper focuses on the feedback of the analysis on the Landscape Observatories and also on both separate and combined strategic ideas for being an intermediate body.

What can we learn from Observatories

Two different kinds of Italian observatories were analysed: (a) the just-started Osservatorio del Paesaggio dell'Anfiteatro Morenico d'Ivrea (OAMI), where I first experienced the potential of such a body; and (b) the more experienced and structured "Osservatorio del Paesaggio del Canale di Brenta" (OCB) that represents one of the most advanced Italian cases for the possibilities of Observatories, over than being a body connected with formal institutions.

A first important difference is that OAMI has a simple structure (no real subgroup within its structure). It is an association recently detached from the local "Ecomuseo", but this connection provides good networking and involvement possibilities. On the contrary the OCB, established under Regional Law (Regione Veneto, 2011), is a more structured agency. This means that public institutions are already included within its network, while OCB still has to work out to how to include associations.

Nevertheless in the OCB involvement of formal institution has double value: on one hand it can be criticized because of its appearance of persuasive action on the community toward institutional interests (though they are very limited); on the other hand activities can have a more strong impact on planning institutions and moreover the Observatory can have more grants for involvement activities (the most important ones).

In relation to involvement, the positive people's perception of the Observatory's activities and their benefit to the "territory and community" can be real since the staff have no personal interest in the goods and services managed (Castiglioni Varotto, 2013). In the OCB this attitude was reinforced by the presence of professors and academics with a research interest. This is true also for the case of OAMI but a stronger proof to the goodness of actions is here given by the fact that the Observatory is managed just by local people, really near to the territory/community. Moreover the involvement of public institutions in OAMI was warranted by preliminary analysis of stakeholders, avoiding exclusions of representatives of different local interests.

As regards effectiveness, it cannot be defined in terms of 'physical' results as in those bodies more importance is to be given to 'immaterial' ones, such as the capability to create interest around the theme, arousing consciousness and increasing awareness and capability to protect community interests, above and beyond landscape (Castiglioni Varotto, 2013). Still about involvement, used tools and feedback gave interesting results. These were more evident for OCB, firstly because of the longer time used and secondly because of the institutional contexts. As regards the relationship to institutions, in OCB's case, their absence at focus groups, probably due to the fact that they are already considered included, was criticised by citizens.



In the case of the OAMI, the limited time as yet available to test the tools could not give completely accurate results, but the considerable backing received, proved the applicability of a participatory method for a vast area, in a limited time and with low budget. An innovative web/GIS-based method (Nigro et al, 2013) was used. It was feared that this would exclude important portions of the population (elders and non-internet-users), but on the contrary their participation was good (25%).

A useful action, in the inclusive perspective, was the activation of specialist-training courses provided for institutional professionals of planning and landscape (OCB). This gave a great echo to the activity of the Observatory and helped the community to let experts know their aspirations and main concepts, creating a kind of influence in the latter's institutional decisions. Also, the inclusion of the academic experts gave a large echo and possibility of networking. Such a link is growing in OAMI and is well-structured in the OCB (there is a Regional Pact between Universities in Veneto).

Both observatories demonstrated their capacity of being intermediary for planning beyond the public institutions as they performed a double role as leaders of participatory planning processes and the "centre of the network" for the associations.

Strategic ideas to receive legitimacy from the community

First of all the capability to involve people within the activities of the organizations was directly proportional to the consensus they achieved. Here involvement stands for the wider concept that leads to community empowerment (Bobbio, 2013) and awareness raising in order to help citizens to join the planning processes and to make them aware of their possibility to influence them.

The acknowledgement of organizations' legitimacy by people also depends on the Organizations' ability to give people the feeling of "something new". Such "innovation" also results in people discovering that there is something the community can do on its own to become a real powerful actor. In order to let the involvement be effective in expanding the audience, organizations need to show their real interest in community's activities and ideas, becoming then the 'community voice' as advocate for itself. Therefore organizations such as these landscape laboratories should have a strong commitment toward people and their needs. For the same aim it is very important for those involved in an organisation to have effective community-recognised citizenship.

It is also important to be skilled in making public institutions aware of a community's views and aspirations. This means to have good capability to dialogue, but also requires good capabilities to understand what all parts of community want. For this, again, methods of involving people should be very carefully designed and implemented to avoid problems that can jeopardise participation. It also means attracting a wide all-embracing audience that can be achieved through the enhancement of networking capability. In fact, through the links with other organizations and activities, the dissemination of participatory material will be ampli-

fied and more effective, thus magnifying the echo of the activities and of the organization itself. Other than that, the capability of networking contributes to build up a virtual platform for communication and exchange. The capability of circulating activities is achievable through networking and through internet-based digital strategies, web pages, blogs and social-media marketing which allow citizens to keep up-to-date with what is going on.

As regards involving all sections of the community, this goes hand in hand with legitimacy. It is still a big challenge to include all, youngers and elders. This may be due to deep-seated attitudes within the organization but also to difficulties in finding ways to stimulate the interest of the whole population.



Fig. 2: Illustration for contents: hand sketch drawing by Loredana Micu on a Carmine Nigro graphic project.



Strategic ideas to be recognised by public institutions

Gaining a 'recognised role' in the eyes of the formal public institutions is important to maintain the activities sufficiently distinct from the authorities and to be 'intellectually independent'. Working outside the public institutions, in fact, requires a great effort to find means and ways to enhance dialogue.

It is first of all important for the organization to be considered by the public institutions as productive and proactive. This means finding possibilities for economic independence, for which aim it is very important to keep looking always for opportunities of funding. This requires going beyond possibilities given by local resources receiving funding coming from elsewhere (eg. EU, foundations). Also, an organization should always look at possibilities of projects to participate in, even if no funding is available. As a result the organization will always be in action, demonstrating a proactive behaviour and a capability of self-supporting in shortage periods.

Being recognised by public institutions as good-practice actor requires to maintain a good capability of understanding their ideas and visions and to convey them to the citizens. This does not imply bringing institutional demands forcedly into the community but means to be able to "translate" the ideas and the perspectives of the institutions in an easier manner. In this way the organization will fill the existing gap developing tasks that should normally lie with the institutions.

A relevant factor of success is to create strong links with the institutions and moreover to become a real hub of the network among different institutions, thus gaining the reputation as a very important source for multilevel governance, staying in the middle of the "net" and therefore facilitating exchange and cooperation between institutions, while still remaining a community "advocate".

Focusing on the real possibility of implementing such organising, we should pay attention to specific context of each, due to cultural attitudes and legal frames. For this reason more consistency is needed in the way of implementing actions when the contexts of civil society and the legal frame do not give too many possibilities. Furthermore this requires that policy programs should push more strongly for a better recognition and stimulation to this kind of Organization.

General suggestions

It seems possible to find suggestions and "Strategic Ideas" to be implemented in the perspective of promoting a successful interaction between both community-based organisations and public institutions.

The first one is to try to maintain a 'midway position', both when choices and proposals are made. It requires a balanced behaviour in choosing actions to promote, to avoid tending either in one or the other direction. This has not to be seen as an opposition but as a different point of view that the organization should manage to help to coexist with that of the institu-

tions. Here maintaining an independent way of thinking is important, avoiding tendentiousness but not limiting exchanges between one part or the other.

The aptitude to dialogue helps to always be up-to-date about the visions and perspectives of both community and public institutions, activating initiatives that can include them (possibly at a single roundtable), but also acquiring the capability to “stay open to listen” to all sorts of ideas and to look at them as inspirations to build up actions and take decisions.

As regards maintaining an attitude of listening and dialogue, an effort is needed to become a hub for community organisations, public institutions, other organizations and all sorts of stakeholders or individuals. Over than gathering all of them around discussions, this approach helps to promote exchange and increase civic sense awareness. This is the capability to become an incubator for citizens’ ideas and visions, avoiding communities being neglected and losing self-confidence.

Another important point is maintaining an entrepreneurial attitude. This helps to develop a reputation as a successful actor that uses mostly autonomously earned proceeds for local benefit. It also means that institutions will perceive the community organization as a self-standing body, rather than as a suppliant, asking for constant grants. This seems to be a key element especially in the crisis period, when limits to expenditure are desirable. As there are plenty of actions to do and a variety of expertise is required, this is a hard task. It is possible to find such a kind of expertise using the competences of members and associates of the organisation, assessing them and trying to co-opt people with specific skills. A good strategy is also to create strong connections with the academic world, involving experts from universities into the activities and becoming a “boot camp” for students, researchers and professors within which to test methods and tools.

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Observatory 2.0: Virtual Flows and Physical Space in Management, Protection and Landscape Design

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✓ KEYWORDS: Community, ICT, Participation, Perception, Networks

➡ ABSTRACT

Perception landscape by local communities is a key aspect that provides guidelines for possible sustainable development of places in continuity with history and local traditions.

For this reason, The European Landscape Convention recognizes the landscape observatory as an essential tool of landscape that, from its image as perceived by inhabitants, allows us to define projects consistent with the identity of places.

New tools from the Internet world enable the development of innovative strategies for monitoring, protection and landscape design. The continuity between physical space and virtual flows generate hybrid realities that shape new geographies: web 2.0 allows definition of shared and custom maps as expressions of social and anthropological dimensions of places and not only geometric space but telling a community connected to places. Cybergeography is produced from communication by Internet users and it becomes a new tool for investigation of contemporary landscape, it allows us to: read and interpret places such as customs, habits and movements of people that reveal immaterial aspects, result of culture, behavior and desires of community.

"Tracking" and "tagging" define new ways to write and access sites that tell the landscapes unpublished: stories and tales connected to places around the world and within an urban environment, itinerary images, videos and sounds made on site or associated with them.

Especially in abandoned, degraded and everyday landscapes neglected in policies of territory government, are effective project tools highlighting intangible aspect of landscape. People become actors and authors of individual and collective stories that tell specific issues related to landscape which contribute in an active way to redefine the often absent collective imagination. This is essential for the recovery of landscape networks deleted by modern changes and are therefore a bridge that reconnects past and future, a point from which to re-start.

In recent years, important awareness has emerged about landscapes connected to the search of new models, professions and regulations able to comply with sustainable development of territory.

To resolve problems related to the global crisis of the city, the importance of a community that is aware of the value of its landscape, is increasingly growing in dynamics of the transformation of places.

The role of the community is recognized as a cornerstone of the Convention. The landscape's quality, a "reality that we contemplate living" (Rosario Assunto, 2006), can't exclude

the inhabitant's perception of places, the social representations and the identity values of the community.

As recalled by Eugenio Turri, each inhabitant takes the role of spectator/actor of "landscape theatre" where the man's action over nature corresponds to a careful observation of his work. In this way, the resident recognizes himself in the image of the landscape and he feels his membership to the site and implements changes consistent with the past and history of places.

The Landscape "part of territory [...] whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors"(art.I ELC), results in the inseparable relationship



Fig 1: Sara Alverellos, the data citizens driven city project. (Source: http://thedatacitizendriven-city.com/?page_id=4)



between nature and man which requires the central role of the community as conscious observer and active component of the transformation of places.

Perception and participation, therefore, become the two main aspects of the contemporary project to implement efficient strategies to restore landscape as system of material and immaterial relations: “networks are today a plot without order, without connections and continuity” (Rosario Pavia, 2012); they are the consequences of indiscriminate exploitation of resources that produced a complete disconnect between people and places, erasing the identity and history of places.

The ELC highlights that “landscape means a part of territory as well as is perceived by inhabitants” focusing attention on the perception that people have about their living environment: this aspect allows us to identify and evaluate landscape’s quality starting from the collective imagination of community (Art. 6 Specific measures, III. Comments on provision of the Convention)

Also, participation plays a major role in landscape’s policies to develop sustainable processes able to satisfy needs and to value resources, recognized by community (Art. 23-24 Explanatory Report, II. Objectives and structure of the Convention).

On this basis, the ELC and the Observatories identify new approaches to the project aimed at increasing the community’s awareness about the importance of landscape as a common good and foundation of economic and social welfare of a population (art.24, comment on the Convention).

The search for new strategies of management and project, focused on community, finds new opportunities in the information and communication technologies (ICT) that offer, today, new tools to investigate and plan the contemporary complexity, starting from the inhabitants.

In the Information Age, the spread of ICT allows us to communicate more easily, enhance social relationships and bring back the active role of people to the centre of new economic, social and cultural models.

The paradigm of information technology configures the reality as “etopia [...] constant interaction, voluntary or not, with information systems on line [...] where the space of flows is rooted in the physical space” (Manuel Castells, 2004).

Computer networks have become the “nervous system” of urban environment in which “citizens live in a interconnected civilization and they perceive the digital as a seamless extension of their physical existence” (Carlo Ratti, 2009).

There is a clear need to investigate how the Web reconfigures the landscape and updates the project to respond to the socio-economic structure which has radically changed in respect to the past.

The networks system of technologies has become a new territorial infrastructure that redefines the links and relationships of landscape while restructuring the “networks’s society” (Castells, 2002).

The urban sociologist, Manuel Castells highlights that “the space isn’t a reflection of the society but the expression of it, an inseparable dimension from the general process of organization and social development”. The appearance of new social models corresponds to a new spatial configuration.



Landscape becomes “hyperlandscape” (Claudia Cassatella, 2001): a networks system that’s dynamic, heterogeneous, interactive and multimedia, similar to hypertext language of Internet. The connection between Hyperlandscape and Internet, underlines the importance that the landscape takes on today, as a reference model for sustainable transformation of territory. According to the geographer Franco Farinelli (2010), the Web abolishes the traditional concept of objective and measurable space and forces the overcoming of maps’ logic. It determines the crisis of the “territory’s concept” and “geographic map” that have produced, in the past, a rigid and mechanical interpretation of the world and reduced it to a “set of static elements”. In the contemporary reality, interconnected, fluid and dynamic, the landscape, a networks system in constant motion is more similar to the Web’s language: both interpret the reality as a “complex, dynamic, heterogeneous and interrelated processes”(Farinelli, 2008). Attention to the places, history and local identities and inhabitants is inherent in the idea of landscape which reevaluates community and immaterial contents that underlie the same construction of places. This is consistent with the evanescent world of Internet that offers the central role of people and the intangible heritage of knowledge and information through the sharing of culture. The new geography produced on the web shows, in fact, the importance that people and informations take on for the territory, described with not only spatial data but also anthro-



Fig 2: Twitter geography in Europe (Source: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/twitteroffice/sets/72157633647745984/>).

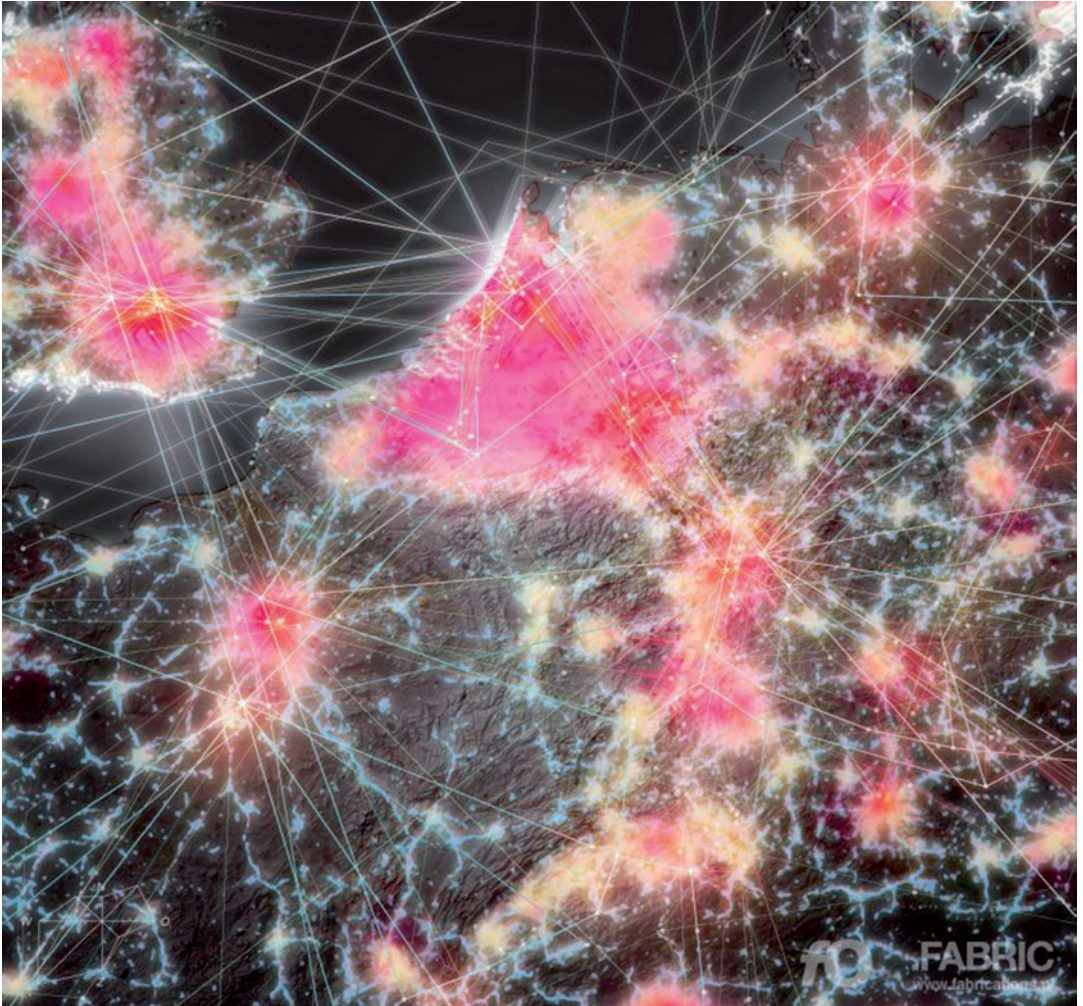


Fig 3: IABR project Atelier Rotterdam (Source: <http://iabr.nl/en/projectatelier/2014paRotterdam>).

pological and existential. Cybergeography illustrates how the Internet gradually produces representations in which intangible character of information and data, relating to the human dimension of living, complete the traditional maps with content of life, motion, work, culture of people and allow us to consider new aspects in landscape planning.

As MacLuhan (2011) stresses, media is not neutral, as well as they change the mode of transmission of information and influence behavior and culture of the context in which they act.

The transition from a-principle to e-principle, described by the sociologist De Kerckhove (1996) shows us that the language of communication changes the way we enjoy and perceive reality and thus design the living space: if the urban grid was connected to literacy Greek, the contemporary spatial structure will be connected to the electronics.

In line with these considerations, on an international scale, studies and research using technology, are proving the effectiveness of electronic devices, smart sensors and platforms to



investigate the perceptual aspects of the landscape and develop new participatory processes. Among the first trials of the SENSEable City Lab at MIT, technologies become new materials to analyze the city and understand how urban spaces are lived.

The possible application of ICT in the project also emerge from the study of “location aware technologies” used such as spontaneous forms of communication by the people. The spread of computing platforms for the connection of georeferenced maps in blogs, social networks and websites, allows Internet users to create personal maps with routes, environmental data, text, images, video and sound. New interactive maps highlight the social aspects related to the way of enjoying and feeling of space.

In particular, “location aware technologies” offer two different modes of association between sites and virtual information: “tracking” and “tagging”, useful to understand and develop specific aspects of landscape.

In the first case, “tracking” produce maps of flows that reveal the movement of people in places and allow us to understand how users move through space.

The project “Barcelona at Night” led by the urbanist Mar Santamaria Varas in 2013, reveals how the virtual flows of social networks describe people moving into the city. From the study, it was possible to determine the change of the uses and perceptions of the urban landscape between day and night and explain how the areas of greater affluence and behaviors change during the 24 hours, depending on the social and economic activities in Barcelona.

In the second case, “tagging”, through GIS and augmented reality, allow us to understand the value that people attach to places.

The maps, through association of personal content such as stories, images, video to life context, allow us to identify new values and meanings for places known in the city and sometimes to rediscover spaces ignored and unknown.

The street art project “Yellow Arrow” created by Christopher Allen, Brian House, Jesse Shapins in 2004, allows the connection to a global atlas of personal places, shared on the web, while the geoblog “Emotional Paths” in Bologna, proposed by the Laboratory of Urban Maps in 2008, bring back new city routes, thanks to the life stories of it’s inhabitants.

The landscape project emerges as the connection between physical space and virtual flows which allows us to identify cultural, social meanings and identities related to the sites, using processes like crowdmapping. The collaboration of users on the web, increases the participation of the inhabitants in the identification of assets and resources related to landscape allowing greater objectivity and speed in identifying its positive and negative values. A significant development is the “Atlas of reports” of the Landscape Observatory in Puglia where residents can share resources, emergencies, environmental disasters and abuse of the region areas.

New technologies applied to participatory processes open up new possibilities for “improving information exchange and facilitate participatory process ... interactive media allow a greater understanding of citizenship than traditional cartographic representations and ensure young people involvement” (Jouan Nougè, 2010).

Sharing culture and collaborative networks allows us to understand the social and cultural processes that make up landscape as a “ethics / aesthetics representation of relationship



between communities and life places (Venturi Ferriolo, 2009) ICT use allows, therefore, the development of new strategies and methods that update the traditional tools of the project based on the exchange of information and data.

The processes of crowdmapping bring out the immaterial dimension of landscape as a “set of characters, meanings, and values relevant to the aesthetic sphere, affective, symbolic linked to perception and subjective representations” (Benedetta Castiglioni, 2009).

Usefulness of these tools is especially evident in relation to the “rejected landscape” (Calcagno Maniglio, 2010): abandonment areas, urban voids and degraded spaces.

In these places the inhabitants have an active role in the definition of identity and symbolic values, needs and solutions, that redefine the collective imagination of abandoned landscapes and allow the development of shared projects. In recent years, numerous projects have emerged from the bottom in this direction: the community, thanks to the sharing culture, gives new value to the abandoned areas such as the project of artist Eve Mosher “Insert... Here” which invites people to write on a yellow arrow, located in an area abandoned, what they would like it to become.

The people become authors of storytelling that reconnect resources on a local and global scale. They discover latent values and indicate priority areas that need work, offering also solutions, ideas and directions for future transformations.

The possible uses of this information and data, that people produce to communicate, become new tools of an Observatory 2.0 that considers the community as guardian and maker of its own living environment, the main resource of the places and the principal component in the management, protection and landscape design.

ICT applied to the project, leads to increasing the idea of “sharing landscape”, participated and perceived as a common heritage, “operates in continuous movement of a whole community” (Venturi Ferriolo, 2009) where the inhabitants regain an active role in decision-making and transformation of life places.

As ELC emphasizes, people have the right to benefit from landscape quality and the responsibility to act in respect and protection of places (ELC, III. Comments on the provision of the Convention, Preamble): technologies allow bottom up actions and reinforce the inhabitants position as spectator/actor in the “landscape theater”.

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Developing Landscape Indicators for Landscape Assessment and Monitoring; the Case Study of Mie Prefecture in Japan

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✓ **KEYWORDS:** Landscape indicators, Landscape assessment, Landscape monitoring, Case study, Japan
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ABSTRACT

In 2004, Japan had also the landscape law. However, the law has no definition of “Landscape”. It controls mainly colors and designs of the artificial objects in urban areas. So, it is not thought that the law could lead to sustainable development based on a balanced and harmonious relationship between social needs, economic activity and the environment. To achieve sustainable development in Japan, it is needed to define that “Landscape” means an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors and to protect, manage and plan the landscape. As is well known, landscape indicators are needed to adopt effective measures to identify, protect and enhance the landscape. On the basis of the multifarious international review on landscape indicators, Cassatella et al. (2011) proposed five categories of landscape indicators. They proposed the sets of landscape indicators which are suitable for the situation in Piemonte. The landscape indicators belong to the five categories. The set of landscape indicators for regional scale has eleven landscape indicators. Ten indicators of the eleven indicators, excluding obstruction of view from viewpoints, were calculated for the Mie prefecture in Japan to evaluate the applicability of the indicators. Results indicated that the ten indicators could be used to identify the landscape character. However, because data varying in time could not be got, monitoring could not be done.

1. Introduction

Landscape is considered as the key concept of policies for sustainable development all over the world. In Europe, the European Landscape Convention promotes landscape policies. Japan also had the landscape law in 2004. However, the law has no definition of “landscape” and can control mainly colors and designs of the artificial objects in urban areas. So, the law is not considered to be able to lead to the sustainable development based on a balanced and harmonious relationship between social needs, economic activity and the environment.

To achieve sustainable development in Japan, it is needed to define “landscape” appropriately and manage the “landscape”. Following ELC’s definition of “landscape”, “landscape” should be defined as the area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors and to protect, manage and plan the landscape. Then, managing landscape should be aimed.

As is well known, landscape indicators are needed to adapt effective measures to identify, protect and enhance the landscape. On the basis of the multifarious international review on landscape indicators, Cassatella et al. (2011) proposed the sets of landscape indicators which are suitable for the situation in Piemonte

The landscape indicators belong to the five categories:

- Ecological category
- Historical and cultural category
- Perceptual category
- Land uses category
- Economic category.

The set of landscape indicators for regional scale has eleven landscape indicators:

- Evenness
- Biological Territorial Capacity
- Preservation of the assets
- Promotion
- Fame
- Obstruction of view from viewpoints
- Land consumption
- Degraded landscape
- Landscape protection
- Tourism flows
- Employment

My final objective is to develop the suitable set of landscape indicators for landscape assessment and monitoring in Japan. However, there is no study about the suitable set of landscape indicators for Japan. In this paper, the set proposed by Cassatella et al. (2011) is calculated for Mie prefecture in Japan and then is evaluated the applicability of the indicators.

2. Method

Ten indicators of the proposed eleven indicators, excluding “obstruction of view from viewpoints”, were calculated for Mie prefecture in Japan. The indicators were calculated in administrative boundaries because data are easily obtained.

Fig.1 shows Mie prefecture’s location. Mie prefecture is the region having 577,687 ha in central Japan. There are 29 towns and cities. The prefecture has one UNESCO world heritage site, “Sacred Sites and Pilgrimage Routes in the Kii Mountain Range” and the holiest and most important Shinto shrine. Nine towns have the landscape planning.

Data were obtained from national land numerical information download service, Japan integrated biodiversity information system, e-stat (a portal site of the government statistics for Japan statics), annual report on the trend of forest and forestry, Mie prefecture’s cultural heritage database, Mie prefecture’s official website, Mie prefecture’s landscape plan, nine town’s

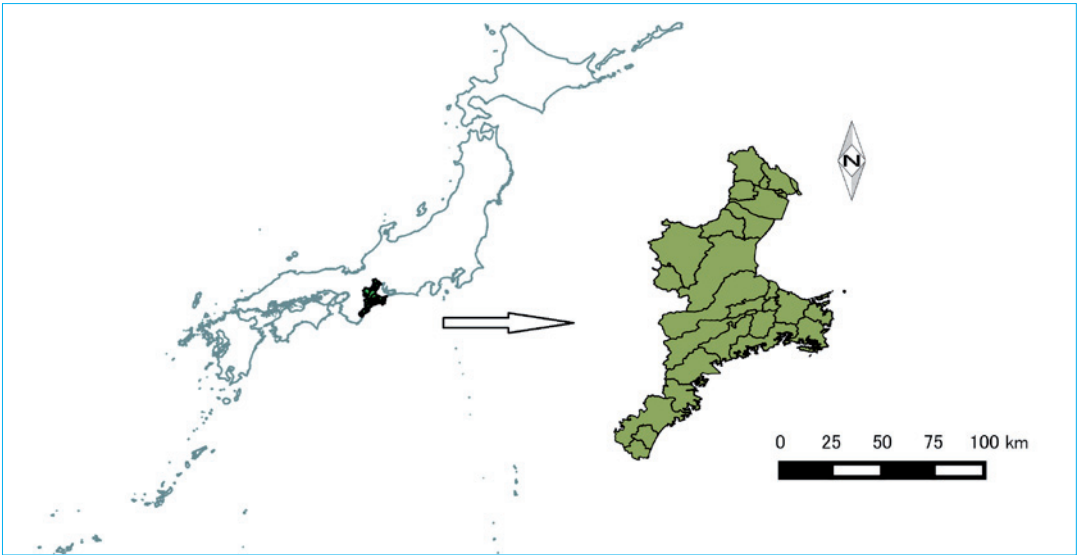


Fig 1: Mie Prefecture.

landscape plans, four travel websites, agency for cultural affairs homepage and hearing investigation.

3. Results and Discussion

“Obstruction of view from viewpoints” could not be calculated because each town does not define important viewpoints. The other ten indicators were calculated. But, there is not enough space to show the ten calculations.

So, the four calculations – “landscape consumption”, “evenness”, “fame” and “promotion” - are denoted and discussed. The four indicators are selected because each indicator belongs to a different indicator category.

3.1 Landscape consumption

Fig.2(a) displays “landscape consumption”. “land consumption” is calculated by the following equation.

$$\text{Land_consumption} = \frac{\text{the_artificial_surf_ace_area}}{\text{the_total_surf_ace_of_reference}}$$

The calculation is based on the national land use database (100m mesh).

The northern towns in Mie prefecture had large values of “landscape consumption”. The southern towns had small values of “landscape consumption”.

Because there is the big city located in the north of Mie prefecture, the northern towns have settlement pressures. Because the southern towns lack traffic facilities, the southern towns have little pressure.

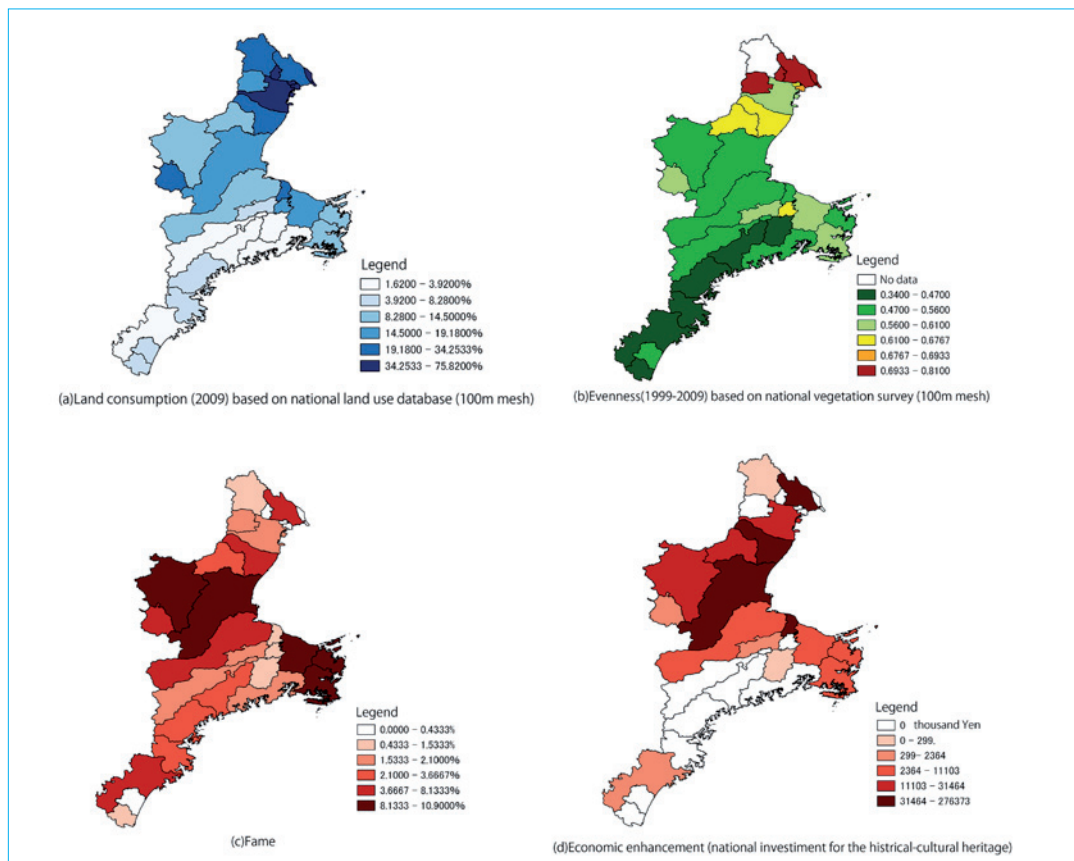


Fig 2: Calculated Landscape Indicators.

3.2 Evenness

Fig.2 (b) shows “evenness”. “Evenness” is calculated by the following equation.

$$H = - \sum_{k=1}^s (p_k) \ln(p_k)$$

$$E = \frac{H}{H_{\max}} = \frac{H}{\ln(s)}$$

p_k = percentage_presence_of_a_K_type_element_in_the_ecomosaic

s = number_of_landscape_element_types

H = Shannon_diversity

$H_{\max} = \ln(s) = \text{maximum_possible_diversity}$



The calculation is based on the national vegetation survey (100m mesh). “Evenness” measures the distribution of the relative abundances of landscape element types in a landscape mosaic. The northern towns in Mie prefecture had large values of “evenness”. The southern towns had small values of “evenness”. That is, the northern towns have many kinds of landscape elements and the southern towns are dominated by one single type of landscape element. Because most area of southern towns are covered by artificial forests, this appears to be a reasonable result. However, many types of landscape elements in northern towns are man-made landscape elements. So, northern towns do not represent the optimal situation in terms of ecological functionality.

3.3 *Fame*

Fig.2(c) represents “fame”. “Fame” is measured by frequency of a regional landscape. The number of citations of the natural landscapes and the historical landscapes was counted by using Japanese four major travel websites. “Fame” is considered as an indicator of social acknowledgement and identity value.

Five towns in central Mie prefecture had big values. Two towns along the sea coast are famous for the scenic beauty of the coastline. One town has the holiest and most important Shinto shrine which is said that the Japanese emperor’s ancestor is enshrined. One town is said to have the village of secret agents in ancient Japan, called ‘ninja’. One town is the prefectural capital.

3.4 *Promotion*

Fig.2(d) displays “Economic enhancement”. Cassatella et al. (2011) proposed using “promotion” as indicator. “Promotion” is the level of historical and cultural promotion to be evaluated through the observation of the economic resources invested from public authorities. Because the data could not be obtained, “economic enhancement” is used instead of “promotion”. “economic enhancement” is the evaluation of the investments born by private entities the public administration to enhance the historical-cultural heritage in terms of restoration and conservation actions. In this figure, the national investment is only evaluated.

Central and northern towns had large values. These towns seem to have big political powers. One town is the prefectural capital and one town is famous for the automobile industry (Honda).

3.5 *Indicators for untypical four towns*

Fig.3 represents the indicators for the untypical four towns. Fig.3(a) displays the ten indicators’ radar charts for the four towns. Fig.3(b) shows the location of the four towns.

The four radar charts are very different. Because the four towns’ characteristics are very different, this is an inevitable result. Ise is the town that has the holiest and most important

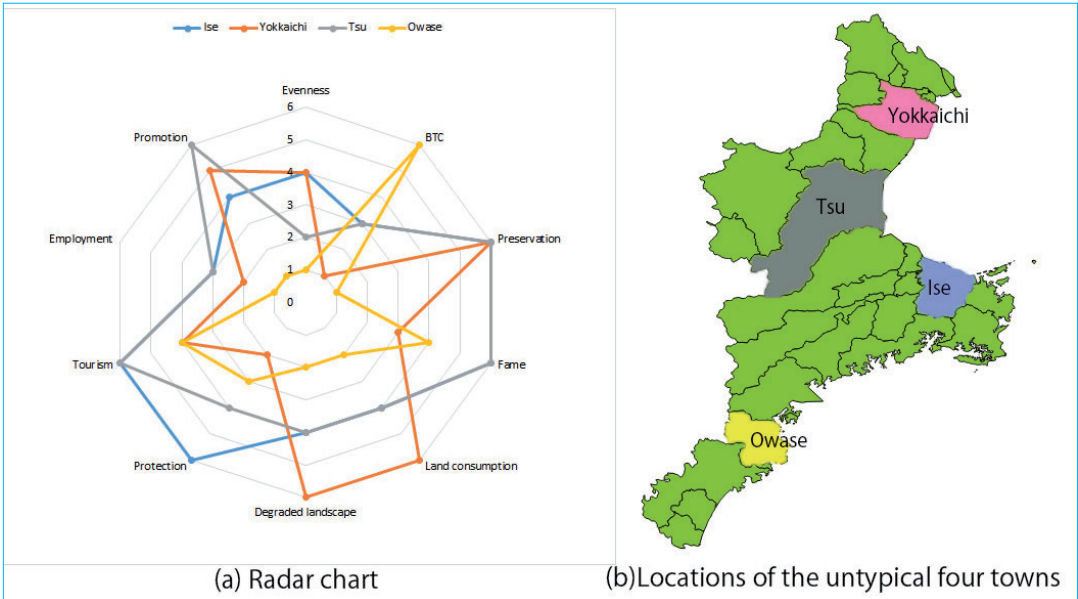


Fig 3: Landscape indicators for the untypical four towns.

Shinto shrine which is said that the Japanese emperor’s ancestor is enshrined. Yokkaichi is the most urbanized town in Mie prefecture. Tsu is the prefectural capital.

Owase is the town that has the large precipitation (3849mm/year, Japanese average 1718mm/year). The town has large artificial forests and the world heritage places.

Though the radar charts of all towns are not represented in this paper, the northern towns had relatively similar charts and the southern towns also had relatively similar charts.

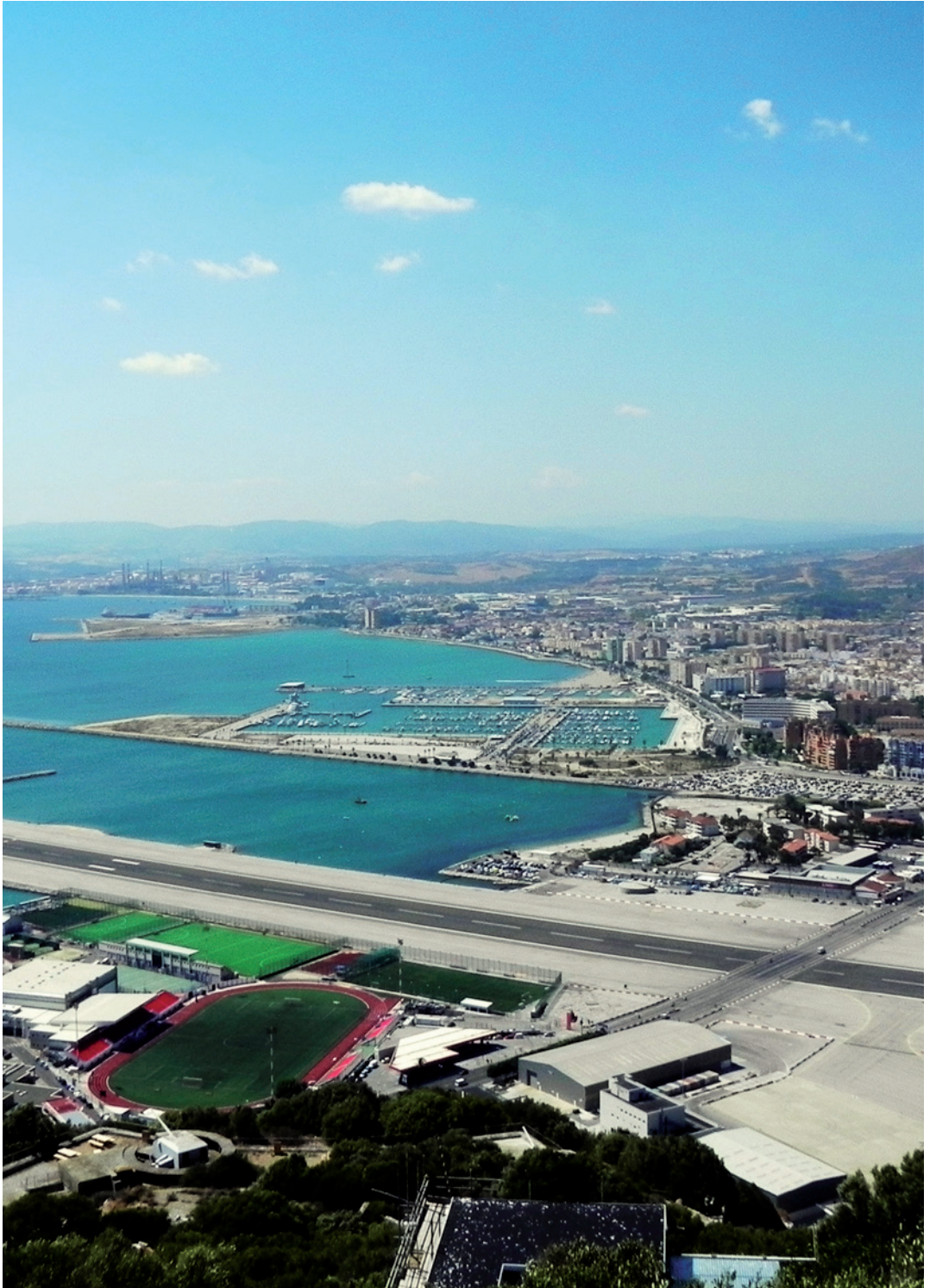
4. Conclusion

After the calculations, most indicators are considered to reflect each regional character adequately. So, each town landscape could be thought to be identified by using these indicators. However, landscape monitoring by using these indicators is difficult because sources of data are not frequently renewed. Especially, the renewal of vegetation map takes long time.

This study has taken a step in the direction of a suitable landscape managing in Japan. More detailed examination of indicators should be conducted and more calculations should be made in other prefectures in Japan. Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to Prof. Cassatella for her useful advice.

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Landscape Observatories in Europe: the Action Plan

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On the basis of the twenty seminar presentations - from Italy, Spain, Portugal, The Netherlands, Slovakia, Sweden, Lebanon, and Japan - we would like to make the point on the state of Landscape Observatories (LOs) in Europe, including some suggestions for the development of future initiatives and research programs.

General issues of discussion concern LOs definition, role and potentialities. The experiences and the projects mentioned during the Seminar show that LOs can be conceived in many different ways:

- 1. data-container** of material (cartography, pictures and other types of iconographic representation, texts, and so on) and immaterial knowledge; in other words, a landscape atlas;
- 2. monitoring instrument** for long term landscapes transformation;
- 3. place** where experience-based knowledge meets experts-based knowledge; civil society meet experts, public officials, decision makers trying to build up a common language;
- 4. mediator, catalyzer, incubator** of innovative initiatives, based more on people than on landscape types;
- 5. way** to improve the landscape right in Europe and promote the people responsibility being landscape actors and not bystanders!

Existing observatories also are very different with regard to their legal nature: civil society associations, public entities, research bodies, or a consortium. This differences have an effect on the role of LOs and on their capacity of interaction with other actors. This also means interactions between the information built up by LOs, usually bottom-up and open source, and official, and validated, governmental databases. And, of course, interactions intended for decision making. In particular, the world of European Observatories looks to the Council of Europe, and its Information System, wishing for a possibility of interaction.

During the Seminar, we felt that the interaction among existing observatories, and the interaction with people interested in setting up new observatories, was a fundamental task, due to the peculiar moment of effervescence, creativity, and experimentation. All the “observatories



people” are interested in meeting each other, confronting and sharing methods, experiences, but also practical information: “how do you?”.

Knowing “who and where” is doing LOs is the first step. Thus, we decide to build up an **international information platform** for LOs networking at European level: the Landscape Observatories Documentation (LOD) website (<http://areeweb.polito.it/LOD/index.php>). The website is hosted by Politecnico di Torino, as a heritage of the Turin Seminar. It is a tool for mapping LOs, or, better, a tool offered to LOs for self-mapping and get into the network. A web survey is ongoing, and the result will be soon available. In the meantime, it may be interesting to notice that, thanks to reports from the net, LOs in America have been found out.

The Seminar had another relevant heritage: the **Charter of Torino**. The Charter of Torino for the Promotion and Dissemination of the Landscape Observatories in Europe promote the establishment of a European Coordination of Landscape Observatories, identified as a useful approach for the application in all Member States of the principles of the European Landscape Convention. The Charter has been presented by Uniscape at the 8th Council of Europe Conference on The European Landscape Convention, in Strasbourg, on 18-20 March 2015.

The Landscape Observatories research is just at the beginning!

ANNEX I: Recommendation CM/Rec(2008)3 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the guidelines for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention *(Extracts concerning landscape observatories)*

II.1. 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.

10. 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.

11. 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.

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Recommandation CM/Rec(2008)3 du Comité des Ministres aux Etats membres sur les orientations pour la mise en œuvre de la Convention européenne du paysage. (*Extraits concernant les observatoires du paysage*)

II.1. Répartition des compétences et organisation administrative

Afin d'aboutir à l'intégration du paysage dans les politiques territoriales, il semble essentiel d'utiliser des méthodes de concertation, en particulier de concertation préalable, entre les différents niveaux de l'administration du territoire (administrations de l'Etat et des autorités locales) et entre les différents organismes et secteurs de l'administration du territoire de même niveau (concertations horizontale et verticale).

La concertation devrait concerner aussi bien la formulation des stratégies générales que les décisions opérationnelles. C'est par ce moyen qu'il est possible de dépasser une conception de qualité liée seulement à la protection d'espaces particuliers et d'éviter le risque de politiques différentes, voire contradictoires, de la part des différents secteurs de l'administration publique.

Au niveau national, il serait donc utile de prévoir des instruments et des procédures de concertation permanente et des réunions régulières entre les organismes ayant la responsabilité administrative la plus centrale (ministères) afin de définir et d'accorder les stratégies et de préparer des instances de concertation (par exemple une conférence permanente interministérielle). Il peut en être de même, verticalement, entre ministères et niveaux administratifs inférieurs (par exemple, des conférences Etat-Régions) et au sein des différents niveaux administratifs. Outre ces formes permanentes, des modalités de collaboration pourraient être définies entre les différents organismes et instituts (publics et/ou privés), spécialisés dans des problèmes particuliers, nationaux, locaux, en particulier entre les directions responsables des différents secteurs opérationnels, dans les régions, dans les organismes supracommunaux et même dans les communes. Il conviendrait également de prévoir des organismes nationaux, régionaux, locaux, de caractère consultatif et d'orientation, portant assistance aux services techniques et administratifs cités ci-dessus (observatoires du paysage, conseil du paysage, centres ou instituts du paysage, etc.). Ces organismes pourraient être composés de représentants des autorités administratives, des communautés scientifiques et professionnelles expertes en paysage, et d'associations.

A l'intérieur de ses structures et de ses modalités d'administration du paysage, chaque Etat peut définir les critères et les modalités de la participation des populations.

Les autorités publiques consacrent à la politique du paysage des moyens humains et financiers : ces derniers peuvent être issus de ressources soit spécifiques soit d'autres secteurs (environnement, tourisme, travaux publics, culture, etc.), voire avec l'introduction du paysage dans ces politiques sectorielles.

I0. Observatoire, centres ou instituts du paysage

Les fortes dynamiques des paysages contemporains et les nombreux problèmes liés à la protection, à la gestion et à l'aménagement des paysages nécessitent une observation continue et un lieu d'échanges; à cet effet, la création d'observatoires, de centres ou d'instituts du paysage peut s'avérer



pertinente. Ces observatoires, centres ou instituts du paysage permettraient cette observation sur la base de protocoles d'étude appropriés et mobilisant divers types d'indicateurs ; ils permettraient également de rassembler et d'échanger des informations sur les politiques et les expériences. Ils pourraient être autonomes ou faire partie intégrante d'un dispositif d'observation plus large.

Ces observatoires, centres ou instituts du paysage pourraient être créés à diverses échelles – locale, régionale, nationale ou internationale – en mettant en œuvre des dispositifs d'observation à échelles emboîtées. Un échange continu entre eux devrait être possible. Ces observatoires devraient permettre:

- de dresser l'état des paysages à des périodes données;
- d'échanger les informations sur les politiques et les expériences de protection, de gestion et d'aménagement, de participation du public et de mise en œuvre à différents niveaux;
- d'utiliser et, si nécessaire, de rassembler les documents historiques relatifs aux paysages qui peuvent être utiles à la connaissance des processus d'évolution des paysages (archives, textes, iconographie, etc.);
- d'élaborer des indicateurs quantitatifs et qualitatifs permettant l'évaluation de l'efficacité des politiques paysagères;
- de fournir des éléments permettant de comprendre les tendances, et de réaliser des prévisions ou des scénarios prospectifs.

Les échanges d'information et d'expériences entre Etats, régions et collectivités territoriales, qui se pratiquent déjà, devraient reposer sur l'exemplarité mais être toujours replacés dans le contexte politique, social, écologique et culturel du paysage d'origine.

Le choix de la composition des observatoires revient aux organismes administratifs, mais ils devraient permettre la collaboration de scientifiques, de professionnels et de techniciens des administrations et du public.

11. Rapport sur l'état du paysage et des politiques paysagères

Les Etats et les régions devraient rédiger, à des intervalles appropriés et sur la base des travaux réalisés par les observatoires, centres ou instituts du paysage, un rapport sur l'état des paysages de leurs territoires. Ce rapport devrait comprendre un bilan des politiques mises en œuvre, de manière à vérifier l'efficacité de la législation et des actions menées.

Un tel type de document, élaboré par les organismes administratifs, les observatoires, les centres ou instituts du paysage ou d'autres organismes, et/ou en collaboration avec ces diverses entités, pourrait confronter les dynamiques effectives des territoires concernés avec les orientations et les mesures paysagères mises en œuvre, souligner les résultats, les solutions et les problèmes rencontrés et indiquer de nouvelles orientations. Ce document devrait être autonome ou intégré dans un rapport avec des finalités plus étendues, en prévoyant une partie spécifique pour le paysage. Ce document ne devrait cependant pas se substituer aux travaux des réunions régulières que les Etats devraient tenir pour la mise en œuvre de la Convention européenne du paysage.

ANNEX 2:

CHARTER OF TORINO

for the

**PROMOTION AND DISSEMINATION OF THE LANDSCAPE
OBSERVATORIES IN EUROPE**



Foto Tommaso Zanaica

The **UNDERSIGNED**

on the occasion of the first UNISCAPE En-Route *International Seminar*
"LANDSCAPE OBSERVATORIES IN EUROPE II"
 which took place in Turin, *Castello del Valentino*, on 22-23 September 2014,

- **considering** that the COUNCIL OF EUROPE RECOMMENDATION CM/Rec (2008)3 identifies LANDSCAPE OBSERVATORIES as a useful approach for application in all Member States of the principles of the EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION;
- **considering** that the participation of European citizens in the decisions concerning landscape is a priority for their proper and effective protection, management and enhancement;
- **being aware** that the LANDSCAPE OBSERVATORIES may be the appropriate platform of democratic debate for participatory policies and planning of the landscape;

ADDRESS

the COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS of the COUNCIL OF EUROPE to organise a special conference to exchange experiences and best practices in order to support efforts on establishment of LANDSCAPE OBSERVATORIES in the different countries. This to be achieved through the preliminary constitution of EUROPEAN COORDINATION between all those existing LO on the basis of studies and activities already carried out by the three European networks UNISCAPE, RECEPE-ENELC and CIVILSCAPE and others.

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