

Ministry of Culture, Directorate for the Protection of Cultural Heritage  
Ministry of Construction and Physical Planning  
Ministry of Environmental and Nature Protection  
Croatian Institute for Spatial Development

### **Activities regarding the implementation of European Landscape Convention (the Law on Ratification of the European Landscape Convention) in Croatia in 2013-2014**

An overview of activities undertaken in the Republic of Croatia regarding the implementation of European Landscape Convention in 2013-2014 is structured according to the measures and responsibilities proposed in the Act on the Ratification of the European Landscape Convention, Official Gazette 12/02. It is based on separate reports written by the Croatian Institute for Spatial Development in collaboration with the Ministry of Construction and Physical Planning, Directorate for the Protection of Cultural Heritage of the Ministry of Culture, and the Directorate for Nature Protection of the Ministry of Environmental and Nature Protection.

#### **Article 4 – DIVISION OF RESPONSIBILITIES**

The questions of landscape are directly connected with the activities of several ministries and departments, that is, administrative and expert bodies: Ministry of Construction and Physical Planning, Ministry of Environmental and Nature Protection, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Agriculture and several public institutions: Croatian Institute for Spatial Development, State Institute for Nature Protection. The establishment of a joint coordination body, National Landscape Committee, consisting of experts from afore mentioned bodies is currently underway.

#### **Article 5 – GENERAL MEASURES**

##### **5a Landscape recognition through legislation**

Apart from the current Act on the Protection and Preservation of Cultural Goods which also includes landscape, a new Act on Nature Protection (Official Gazette 80/13) was enacted in 2013. Its Article 9 adopted a definition of landscape from the ELC and defined landscape diversity. Article 9 ensures protection of significant and characteristic features of landscape important for wild species in spatial development and management of natural goods. It is prescribed that landscape protection is based on classification of landscape into landscape types, and structuring/setting up of mutually connected and multifunctional networks of green infrastructure on local, regional and national level. Landscape protection is carried out by means of its integration in spatial planning documents.

##### **5d) Integration of landscape in department policies**

Ministry of Environmental and Nature Protection and Ministry of Agriculture worked on preparation of incentive measures in agriculture for Fund for Rural Development, regarding the protection of landscape elements that are important for the protection of biological diversity (drystone walls, terraces, hedges...).

Ministry of Construction and Physical Planning and Croatian Institute for Spatial Development carry out activities in order to integrate landscape in spatial (regional) and urban (town) planning.

The following activities have been carried out:

- *Report on the State of the Natural Environment of the Republic of Croatia 2008-2012* has been enacted, and also included landscape among other topics. Its Conclusions mention the need to encourage making, adoption and implementation of Landscape Bases on both state and lower levels.
- the making of *Spatial Development Strategy of the Republic of Croatia* is currently underway. One of its expert bases is the study *Landscape – factor in spatial development strategy*. Many presentations of expert base with working meetings were held during 2014 for the Departments for Spatial Planning in counties and public-law units. The presentation of Strategy's concept was held in October 2014. The expert base aimed to strengthen the role of landscape in physical planning. It also emphasized the need to start a systematic recognition of landscape values and features, that is, to make Croatian Landscape Base.
- Croatian Institute for Spatial Development as a coordinator has carried out activities regarding making and adopting physical plans for areas with special characteristics. Although no Landscape Base had been made for these physical plans as expert bases, these levels of plans include measures for protection of natural and cultural values, which also contained measures of protection of landscapes (they are a part of specific expert base proposals or determined measures of protection made or issued by the authorized ministries – Ministry of Culture and Croatian Institute for Spatial Development of Ministry of Environmental and Nature Protection). Physical plans that were enacted in 2013-2014 are as follows: Plitvice Lakes National Park, Telašćica Nature Park, Medvednica Nature Park, Žumberačko-samoborsko Hills Nature Park. The makings of physical plans for Biokovo Nature Park and Papuk Nature Park are currently in progress.

## **Article 6 – SPECIFIC MEASURES**

### **A. Awareness-raising**

In 2012 the Institute for physical planning of Dubrovačko-neretvanska County launched a project „Heritage –Driver of Development,, as a part of EU IPA project of cross-border cooperation between Croatia and Montenegro, which also follows European Landscape Convention. As a part of project’s activities, a series of manifestations were organized, as well as exhibitions and workshops about landscape, which all aimed to raise awareness on landscape values among citizens, private organizations and public authorities, and their active role in decision-making process concerning changes in landscapes. The project finished with Final Project Conference in Dubrovnik on February 6, 2015.

As a part of “Living with the park” manifestation (2014) organized by Karlovačka County, the Ministry of Environmental and Nature Protection held presentations regarding ways of implementing the Convention by means of Nature Protection Act.

A new web site [www.Suhozid.hr](http://www.Suhozid.hr) has been launched, which is a participating landscape observatory in the form of a web portal for public data collection on drystone walls and drystone walls landscapes throughout Adriatic east coast. It is based on interactive WebGIS interface and Android application, which enable collecting multimedia data (photos, descriptions, illustrations etc.). It aims to build a public data base as well as to promote the subject of drystone walls landscape.

### **B. Training and education**

As a part of „Heritage-Driver of Development” project, in 2013 the Institute for physical planning of Dubrovačko-neretvanska County organized workshops to train professionals in GIS application for landscape recognition and evaluation.

The Institute for physical planning of Sisačko-moslavačka County educated their employees by attending International conference “Krajobraz-krajina-pejzaž” organized by Croatian Association of Landscape Architects in 2014.

Apart from the existing courses in the field of landscape planning, two new courses - Landscape typology and Design of rural landscape - were introduced as a part of Ms and Bs studies of Landscape Architecture at the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Zagreb. The emphasis is put on educating students in the field of landscape character evaluation and making landscape plans, and their application in physical plans and conservation studies. Graduate courses on protection and landscape planning are held at Faculty of Architecture and Faculty of Science University of Zagreb, as well as at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of University of Zadar.

### **C. Identification and assessment**

Several Landscape studies have been made for various levels of physical plan documentation:

- Institute for Physical Planning of Zagrebačka County placed an order for *Landscape study of Zagrebačka County* (2013) – expert base for landscape planning and management.
- Institute for Physical Planning of Istarska County placed an order for *Overview of landscapes in Istarska County* – expert base for Act amendments of Istarska County Physical Plan
- Krka National Park placed an order for *Landscape base of Krka National Park, 2014-2015*
- Priroda Public Institution in Rijeka placed an order for *Landscapes of Primorsko-goranska County – landscape base, analysis and development framework*
- Brijuni National Park placed an order for *Study of spatial and landscape identity of Veliki Brijuni Island, 2014-2015*
- *Island of Cres Landscape study*, as a part of Island of Cres Local Development Pilot Project is funded by the Council of Europe, 2014-2015
- The Town of Stari Grad, Island of Hvar, placed an order for *Conservation base for Starogradsko Polje Cultural Landscape* – world heritage site (base for Act amendments of Physical Plan of the Town of Stari Grad and Physical Plan of the Municipality of Jelsa), 2014
- *Register of rural landscapes of the littoral Croatia* was established in 2013/2014 as a part of scientific projects “Mediterranean landscape as an identity factor of Croatia – its protection and development”, and “Protection, planning and management of Croatian rural landscape”

As a part of international project Croatia-Montenegro „Heritage-Driver of Development“, in 2013 the Institute for Physical Planning of Dubrovačko-neretvanska County and the Municipality of Tivat organized international workshops aimed at exchanging experiences and methodology on landscape recognition and evaluation. Beside international experts, there were many experts from Croatia who participated as workshop leaders.

### **D. Landscape quality objectives**

Landscapes of extraordinary values have been recognized in Croatia, so the Act on Nature Protection registered over 80 sites in the category of significant landscapes. About ten cultural landscapes have been registered pursuant to the Act of Protection and Preservation of Cultural goods.

### **Article 7 International policies and programmes**

Ministry of Culture carries out „Ljubljana Process – Rehabilitating our common heritage, State Assessment and Action plan“, which is funded by the Council of Europe and European Union - Approved action: Introduction of joint management strategy for landscapes in general, 2014.

## **Article 8 Mutual assistance and exchange of information**

Active participation of Croatian experts and scholars in international workshops:

- EUCALAND; 7th Meeting (Institute for Research on European Agricultural Landscapes and Charles University, of Science, Department of Social Geography and Regional Development, Prague, 2014)
- LE:NOTRE III - Landscape Education: New Opportunities for Teaching and Research in Europe III – Thematic Network Project in 2009-2013 Erasmus Programme under the Lifelong Learning Programme
- Unity in Diversity Cultures, meanings and landscapes in transition, as a part of The third LE:NOTRE Extraordinary Landscape Forum 2014: Sarajevo, Bosna i Hercegovina
- “Krajobraz-krajina-pejzaž” – International conference of landscape architects, Zagreb, 2014
- International landscape architecture student workshop Rab 2013, University of Zagreb, Faculty of Agriculture/UMO+ School of Landscape Architecture; University of Washington / College of Built Environments - Seattle / Department of Landscape Architecture; Rab Psychiatric Hospital – Special Hospital for Psychiatry/ Teaching base for faculties of medicine of the University of Rijeka and Osijek.

## **Article 9 – Transfrontier landscapes**

The cross-border Mura-Drava-Danube Biosphere Reserve between Croatia and Hungary carries out activities regarding joint area management, which is based on biological and landscape values acknowledging cultural values of the area.

## **Article 11 – Landscape award of the Council of Europe**

Directorate for the Protection of Cultural Heritage of the Ministry of Culture and Brač Culture Center have applied *Eco-Museum Blaca Desert* as a candidate for Landscape award of the Council of Europe. Blaca desert is an exceptional example of cultural and natural heritage symbiosis that has been recognized as an important and unique example in both Croatia and throughout the region due to its centuries-old preservation. Eco-museum assumes an important role of the local community in developing museum’s attractions and devising presentation of their culture, as well as implementing sustainable development strategies.