



## LANDSCAPE PLANNING IN THE ENLARGED EU

Landscape planning as progressive science is the most efficient way to be taken to really safeguard sustainable development. This was confirmed by meeting of professionals at the international conference "Landscape Planning in the Enlarged EU" that was taking place in Bratislava, 14-15 March 2005. The conference was organized by the Faculty of Architecture of the Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava (SPECTRA Centre), by the Slovak Association for Landscape Ecology, by the Faculty of Natural Sciences of the Comenius University in Bratislava, by the Institute of Landscape Ecology of the Slovak Academy of Sciences and by the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic. The conference was attended by 130 participants from 14 European countries and out of them more than one third of the participants were from abroad.

The aim of the conference was to create the space for the exchange of knowledge and experience among scientists, landscape ecologists and decision-makers in the field of landscape planning. The conference was dealing with the following topics:

- The role of landscape planning in the enlarged EU in the context of the Landscape Convention;
- Current status of landscape planning in the system of planning and its linkage to planning of land utilization, regional development, integrated planning and management of river basins as well as to sectoral development plans;
- Examples and positive experiences of landscape planning application in the practice of the EU countries;
- Instruments to raise awareness on the values and role of the landscape and education of professionals in the field of protection, assessment, planning and management of the land;
- Introduction of the proposal of the Slovak Act on Landscape Planning.

The richness of landscape plans corresponds to the richness of cultural and landscape character of each country and its specific features. Every paper and contribution to discussion has been based on a common denominator: the importance and exclusivity of landscape

planning in the frame of complex spatial regulation. It follows from the conference that there is a need of coordinated, integrated landscape and land use planning with other planning activities of regional development, integrated management of river basins or sectoral planning.

A great benefit to the conference was the attendance of the employees of the ministries (Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management, Ministry of Local Development of the Czech Republic, Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic, Ministry of Agriculture of the Slovak Republic and Ministry of Regional Development and Construction of the Slovak Republic) and local governments that ensures the transfer of scientific knowledge to decision-making sphere.

Another positive aspect of the conference was the participation of young researchers embracing new views in the field of landscape planning, thus contributing to new solutions, which was highly appreciated by all participants of the conference.

The conference "Landscape Planning in the Enlarged EU" became a milestone in the step by step process of introduction this efficient prevention into the practice of creation and protection of living environment. It is our hope that recommendation of this international conference will become a reality in the near future. It concerns mainly to fulfil the basic conditions for an evident step forward. This is primarily the need to establish the consistent scientific discipline, supporting the development of landscape planning and dealing with met scientific, theoretical and methodological, applicative and didactical issues, as well as clear legislation of landscape planning. And last but not least also the necessity to educate the specialists to work in the field of landscape planning, with the emphasis on interdisciplinary aspect of their education. I am convinced that creation of such optimal conditions - on behalf of sustainable development of European countries - will not be realised before too long.

**László Miklós,**

Minister of Environment of the Slovak Republic

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*This issue of ALFA SPECTRA Planning Studies has been edited by:*

*Finka M. - FA STU, Izakovičová Z. - ÚKE SAV, Kozová M. - PriF UK, Ružička M. - FPV UKF, O'ahel J. - GgÚ SAV*