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## **LANDSCAPE PLANNING IN THE ENLARGED EUROPEAN UNION (CONCLUSIONS OF THE CONFERENCE)**

On March 14 and 15, 2005 the International Conference "Landscape Planning in the Enlarged European Union" was held in Bratislava. The conference was organised by:

- the Faculty of Architecture of the Slovak Technology University in Bratislava (SPECTRA Centre);
- the Slovak Association for Landscape Ecology;
- the Faculty of Natural Sciences of the Comenius University in Bratislava;
- the Institute of Landscape Ecology of the Slovak Academy of Sciences and
- the Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic.

The conference was held under the auspices of the minister of the environment, Prof. László Miklós.

The aim of the conference was to create a forum for scientists, landscape ecologists and representatives of decision-making institutions for exchange of their knowledge and experiences relative to these topics:

- The role of the landscape planning in the enlarged EU, in context of the European Landscape Convention.
- Contemporaneous position of landscape planning in a system of planning and its linkage to the planning of land utilisation, 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 practice of the EU countries.
- Instruments for raising awareness on the values and role of the landscape and education of professionals in the field of protection, assessment, planning and management of the landscape.
- The proposal of the Slovak Act on Landscape Planning.

Obviously a lack of time cannot allow discuss such a vast topic within 2 days; however the target of the conference was to provoke a discussion in order to suggest various recommendations for further co-operation.

Outstanding European specialists from 21 universities have participated at the conference, (out of it 15 foreign universities), 4 national academies of sciences, 16 other organisations (public administration, environmental agencies, research institutes, environmental firms along with 7 from the abroad).

130 participants from 14 European countries attended at the conference, and more than one third have arrived from foreign countries. Moreover, about 50 students from the Slovak universities have been attended in the selected sessions. Out of the original 15 EU member states there were representatives of 7 countries (Belgium, Denmark, the Netherlands, Germany, Austria, Italy and Great Britain). Out of the new EU member states there were representatives of 4 countries (Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovenia and Slovak Republic).

PhD students from other European and out of Europe countries were present, studying at universities in Austria (coming from Palestine, Turkey, Serbia and Montenegro,) and foreign students studying in Slovakia (from Turkey), who gave contributions about landscape planning and procedures of creation of ecological networks in these non member states.

The organisers have appreciated attendance of the representatives from the Austrian Federal Ministry of the Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management; the Ministry of Local Development of the Czech Republic; the Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic; the Ministry of the Land Management of the Slovak Republic; and the Ministry of Regional Development and Construction of the Slovak Republic. Within the framework of plenary session the agenda was divided into following thematic sessions:

- Introductory papers (speakers: the minister of the environment of the Slovak Republic Prof. L. Miklós and the founder of the Slovak landscape ecology Prof. M. Ružicka);
- The Role of Landscape Planning in the Decision-Making Process in the context of the European Landscape Convention (speakers: Prof. M. Antrop, Dr. R. Jongman, Dr. D. Gruehn);
- The State of the Art in Landscape Planning in the Enlarged EU (speakers: Prof. J. Drdoš, Prof. J. Brandt, Dr. G. Schönfelder, Prof. J. Breuste);
- Methodological Basis and Development of Practical Applicability of Landscape Planning in the Enlarged EU (speakers: Prof. F. Žigrai, Dr. J. Ořahel, dr. J. Feranec, Dr. Z. Izakovičova, Dipl. Ing. J. Oszlányi, Dr. O. Bastian);
- The Introduction of the Proposal of the Slovak Act on Landscape Planning (speakers: Dr. L. Ambróš, Prof. M. Finka, Dr. M. Kozová).

Several lectures were held in the parallel session aimed at:





- The Assessment of the Landscape, Management of River Basins and Case Studies (speakers: Dr. Z. Lipský, Dr. P. Jančura, Dr. M. Lehotský);
- The Education and Training in the field of Policy, Protection, Management and Planning of the Landscape (speakers: Prof. W. Kvarda, Dr. V. Herber, Dr. G. Petřířková, Prof. J. Supuka, Dipl. Ing. D. Kalinová, Dr. P. Jančura, Dr. T. Benčať, Dr. M. Adomssent, Dr. K. Pavličková, Dr. M. Kozová);
- Sustainable Development of the Protected Landscapes and Case Studies (speakers: Prof. I. Roch, Dr. K. Klančířar, Prof. W. Zsilincsar, Dr. I. Hanousková, Ing. E. Boučnicková, Ing. D. Djapa);
- Landscape Planning in Planning Practice - National Experience and Case Studies (speakers: Prof. R. Stiles, Dr. H. Schaffer, Dr. B. Y. Turan, Dr. A. Anwar).

Altogether 16 papers have been presented at the plenary sessions and 16 papers simultaneously in other sessions. The poster session, being a part of this conference, has introduced 30 posters concerning landscape planning, a creation of ecological networks or environmental impact assessment. Authors of papers and posters were given the opportunity to publish their works in the Conference Proceedings. Some lectures focused on principal tasks and roles of landscape planning in the European space will be published in an international scientific journal ALFA SPECTRA Planning Studies No. 2/2005, published by the Faculty of Architecture of the Slovak Technical University in Bratislava.

On behalf of the conference organisers, we would like to thank once again to all speakers for their valuable presentations, to the chairmen of sections for their highly professional and motivated chairing of discussions and to all participants for their active participation and contributions within the conference. The papers and posters have caused a fruitful discussion and have brought a lot of important questions, which could be answered in the future on the occasion of similar scientific events. Particularly we appreciate helpful advice concerning proceeding and single topics of the conference, referred by the minister of the environment Prof. L. Miklós, Prof. M. Ružička, Prof. F. Žigrai, Dipl. Ing. J. Oszlányi, Dr. L. Ambróš and our foreign guests, Prof. M. Antrop, Dr. R. Jongman, Prof. J. Brandt, Prof. J. Breuste, Prof. W. Kvarda, Dr. D. Gruehn, Dr. Z. Lipský, Dr. M. Martiš, Ing. R. Fingerová, and others. We would like to thank for ideas and comments of Prof. W. Zsilincsar which have been sent after the conference. We have tried to summarise all ideas of mentioned suggestions into final conclusion taking into account results of the 9th International conference: "The Culture and Environment"(Banská Štiavnica, November 2004) summarised by Prof. M. Antrop and presented by the Minister of the Environment Prof. L. Miklós.

We hope that participants will accept our invitations also in the future. Some of these international events, prepared in Slovakia have been already mentioned at the conference.

The minister of the environment Prof. L. Miklós has invited the participants to the 10th "International Conference Culture and Environment", which will be held in Banská Štiavnica, on 7-9 September 2005. Dipl. Ing. J. Oszlányi, the director of the Institute of Landscape Ecology, has invited all participants to the 14th "International Symposium on problems of landscape ecological research", which will be held in Stará Lesná, on 4-7 Oct 2006.

## Conclusions and recommendations:

### Participants of this conference:

- *pointed out*, that this conference succeeded in its objective to unify highly professional forum for discussion about important tasks concerning sustainable planning in different conditions of European countries. It was also discussed about commonly acknowledged values, interests and objectives of landscape planning in the context of European Landscape Convention and about different approaches in landscape planning within countries of Europe;

- *appreciated* professional standard of papers and posters and the opportunity given to young scientists, that their papers have been included into the agenda of the conference;
- *emphasised* important task of landscape planning within entirety of complex regulation of territorial development and the necessity of co-ordinated integrative approach of landscape and territorial planning and other planning activities (regional development, integrative management of river basins, sectoral plans and others);
- *pointed out* an indisputable fact which occurs especially in new member states, a phenomenon of split competencies in these countries causes lot of difficulties, where for an application of landscape planning different institutions are involved: e. g. the Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of the Land Management, Forestry and Water Management, Ministry of Regional Development. Therefore it is advisable to support integrative approaches;
- *confirmed* that a presupposition for successful spatial development is multifunctional integration and activation of various public and private institutions and first of all activation of general public in order to protect and build up natural and cultural heritage to achieve sustainable development, improve consciousness of society within Europe about landscape values and integrate all these activities for protection, utilisation, planning and management of the landscape. - mentioned the importance of the co-operation, more intense interchange of



knowledge and experience would be helpful for bilateral and international co-operation, there is also need to co-operate with existing offices and help to new network's ones.

- *emphasised* the importance of education for landscape planners, officers of local and regional administration and co-operating specialists for the protection, assessment, planning and management of the landscape.
- *advised* upon need of an explicit orientation and interdisciplinary principles of their studies, dealing with meta-scientific, theoretical, methodical, applied and didactic questions, supporting development of landscape planning. At the same time participants point out to need a clear profile of specialists in the area of landscape planning based on interdisciplinary of their education.

Papers, posters and discussion have provoked many inspirational questions, suggestions and recommendations. Let us mention some of them:

### **1. What kind of landscape planning particularities can be identified within EU?**

Planning systems are in EU countries very different, (depending on historical or landscape development or landscape character) and they differentiate from each other, within a single country; (for example in Germany has every region or federal state its own planning regulations). Summarising various conceptions presented at the conference, we can define several independent approaches:

- landscape planning as optimising method of spatial "arrangement" respecting landscape ecological conditions (e. g. Middle-European countries: Germany, the Slovak Republic, the Czech Republic but also Poland, Hungary; in these countries landscape planning is based upon the geography, landscape ecology; to this group belong also other countries: Switzerland, Austria, the Netherlands, Belgium, where the linkage to territorial planning prevails);
- landscape planning respecting mainly landscape character and formation, landscape scenery and the formation of impression (e. g. Great Britain where approaches respect landscape architecture and environmental impact assessment);
- landscape planning as a tool for the protection of cultural heritage (e. g. Italy);
- landscape planning respecting firstly nature protection, creation of ecological networks and forest protection (e. g. northern European states - Denmark, Sweden and others, where landscape planning is a part of instruments for nature protection).

### **2. What do have these different approaches of landscape planning within European space in common?**

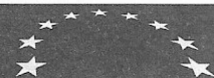
Different landscape planning approaches within the EU are linked together by the common European policies interfering significantly into landscape development. They are mostly agricultural policy, environmental policy, transport policies, the infrastructure and the EU legislation (e.g. in the area of protection of landscape components, nature and landscape protection, environmental impact assessment, strategic environmental assessment). All the principles and basic philosophy of landscape planning within European space are defined in European Charter of Spatial Planning (accepted in 1983) and later amended by documents: Principles of European Policy of Spatial Planning (1994) and European Spatial Development Perspectives (ESPD or EUREK, 1999). Besides these documents, integrative components are also other agreements and conventions concerning landscape protection and its natural and cultural heritage. Also the acceptance of Pan-European strategy supported activation in order to stop degradation of biological and landscape diversity in Europe (PEBLDS, 1995), the project NATURA 2000 has been implemented as a system of protected areas of EU member states. This topic of landscape protection and cultural landscape formation has been fully represented in documents concerning whole European territory with regard to spatial development taking into account its social, economic and environmental dimension. This tendency has been confirmed by the Strategy of sustainable development EU (2001). Particularly important position in the sphere of a protection has the European Landscape Convention, which became valid on the March 1st 2004. It is positive that to the date of the conference it was ratified by 8 countries EU and signed by other 8 countries. On May 30th 2005 also Slovakia has signed this convention. Other 7 EU countries: Estonia, the Netherlands, Latvia, Hungary, Germany, Austria and Great Britain still did not sign the Convention.

### **3. What sort of recommendations have the participants proposed in order to strengthen role of landscape planning within EU countries?**

Following the results and obtained comments we can define these recommendations:

- to integrate landscape planning more effectively into planning systems of each European country so that it could become an effective instrument of an implementation as specified in demands of European Landscape Convention and in other agreements, relative to the protection, evaluation, planning and management of the landscape;
- to link together/integrate preparation of landscape plans, proposals of ecological networks and conceptions of nature and landscape protection, evaluation of landscape character, plans of integrative management of river basins, and others documents concerning landscape management;





- to define juridical regulation as key results of landscape planning process with the reflection into territorial planning, regional development, integrative management of water basins and other sector plans;
- to apply as frequently as possible the GIS technology methods, simulating models and visualisation of the landscape;
- to enlarge landscape planning and management study programmes at the universities and organise education courses for specialists working in the sphere of landscape planning and relating systems of planning and management.

#### 4. What kind of topics should be discussed at scientific events dedicated to landscape planning in the future?

Following the discussions we can propose these topics:

- identification of problems arising as a consequence of applying landscape planning in practical conditions, applying of environmental projects;
- importance of the evaluation of experiences concerning involvement of general public not only to reviewing, but also to the process of landscape plan preparation; - analysis and evaluation of present institutional capacities for arranging process of landscape planning in individual EU countries and proposals for supporting higher efficiency of the implementation;
- analysis and evaluation of efficacy of financial instruments at EU level and at a level of each national state, supporting sustainable development (for instance a sphere of agricultural landscape, nature protection, development of tourism and others); - analysis and evaluation of contemporaneous proceeding's efficiency for an implementation of scientific knowledge and expertise into practical conditions, defining obstacles (political, juridical, financial or personal obstacles) and an exchange of positive experiences (positive case studies). This topic will be discussed also at the next World Congress of the International Association which will be held in Wageningen (Netherlands) in July 2007 and it will deal mainly with "25 years of Landscape Ecology: Scientific Principles in Practice";
- examples of environmental studies, eventually other documents which support landscape planning and have priority in new member states of EU;
- drawing attention to those significant areas where the problems are behind, discussing about the fact how the opinion of scientists, politicians, mass media and general public are taken into account;
- possibilities of real influence of landscape planning and environmental policy by mass

- media in new EU member states and learning from applicable experiences of 'older' states;
- possibilities of scientists, experts (landscape planners, environmentalists) to improve environmental consciousness of the public to environmental issues with implementation to local policy documents, without application of "catastrophic" scenarios.

#### What do the participants of this conference recommend?

Participants recommend organising a special international conference dedicated to environmental education and training at secondary schools. Representatives of all relevant interested groups who work in the sphere of the environment (scientific and research institutes, universities, entrepreneurial sphere) etc.), who are informed about latest tendencies of environmental research, should be invited. Such an international conference should participate also secondary school teachers, having their experiences with environmental education.

The second proposal is to organise special seminar on the "culture" of landscape planning - ethic, moral, mental, psychological and sociological aspects, which influence landscape planners in individual steps of landscape plan development. The aim of a seminar will be also to strengthen interdisciplinary co-operation and to joint "non-traditional" scientific disciplines to landscape planning process.

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