



1. Introduction

Euroscape 2020: From Vision to Downscaling

On May 23rd, the high-level seminar in Stresa, Italy, succeeded in launching the Euroscape 2020 process at the level of both the European Union and its Member States. Our last newsletter (Issue No. 10, April 2008) informed about the intentions and expectation connected to Stresa. The central objective of this seminar was to raise awareness among key European policy representatives that the diverse and indigenous characteristics of European landscapes are vulnerable towards globally driven land use change dynamics and that landscape-based policy, research and design tools can provide the type of horizontal integration that is currently missing. By calling for more explicit landscape goals as part of the EU's rural development schemes, new forms of governance and reporting as well as a stronger synergy between national and European spatial planning initiatives, Euroscape 2020 generated visions for some very pressing environmental and social problems. It became clear that national activities in support of the European Landscape Convention (ratified by 29 countries) can form effective contributions to EU policy implementation in various sectors and vice versa. One example is the role of landscapes for the tourism and leisure sector. On the event of the conference 'The Wider View' (June 16th 2008) at Radio Kootwijk, organized in the framework of the Triennale from Apeldoorn, the organizers presented the first European map demonstrating the close ties between amenity services provided by landscapes and tourist activities at the European level (see contribution in this newsletter). Also during this national event, the European Union was asked to adequately and explicitly address leisure landscapes as an integral part of its Rural Development policy (see contribution by Caroline Raes of DG Agri in this newsletter). Both initiatives have been attributed the term 'high-level', pointing at the political relevance and representation of the invited speakers. At the same time, participants put much emphasis on the need for linking up with the regional and local dimension of landscapes: too often, only the policy and research experts are exchanging their views, maps and indicators. In order to overcome these limitations, new communication and educative tools are necessary. One proposal put forward in Stresa was to organize a European *mega*-conference during which regional authorities, stakeholders, NGOs and experts can join via internet-services, thereby generating input by more than 10.000 individuals. If well prepared, such a mega-conference could offer the platform for promoting the inclusion of landscape criteria in European policies. Another way of getting into touch with the large and important group of 'non-experts' could be the development of a Landscape Navigation tool that offers targeted information on the cultural and environmental values of landscapes to travelers, hikers and visitors. These and possibly even more direct actions might be necessary to bring the visions of conferences arenas down to the scale of the people in the landscape. It is certainly no coincidence that the number of EU research project requesting 'downscaling' exercises has substantially increased during the last years. Landscape science should offer the expertise to do so *par excellence*.

Dirk Wascher

This is the 11th Newsletter of LANDSCAPE EUROPE, International Network of Expertise on Landscape. More information on LANDSCAPE EUROPE you can find on our website: www.landscape-europe.net. Please feel free to forward the newsletter to other interested people in the wide field of landscape science that seeks to integrate natural, social and economic research. If you do so, please ask them to mail (landscape.europe@wur.nl) their contact information. If you no longer wish to be on our distribution list, inform us as well.

On behalf of LANDSCAPE EUROPE:
Bas Pedroli (Bas.Pedroli@wur.nl)
secretary general

Dirk Wascher(Dirk.Wascher@wur.nl)
network coordinator

2. *LANDSCAPE EUROPE* membership

Membership

The following institutes are now members of LANDSCAPE EUROPE:

Full members:

- Alterra Green World Research
- Centre for Ecology & Hydrology (CEH)
- Cemagref
- Eidgen. Forschungsanstalt für Wald Schnee und Landschaft (WSL)
- Research Institute for Nature and Forest (INBO)
- Umweltforschungszentrum Leipzig-Halle (UFZ)
- Joint Research Centre (JRC)
- National Environmental Research Institute (NERI)

Associate members:

- Norwegian Forest and Landscape Institute
- University of Vienna, Institut für Ökologie (IFO)
- University Western Hungary (UWH) Institute of Environmental Sciences, Sopron
- University of Bucharest (UNIBUC)
- University of Tallinn (TLU)
- University of Salzburg (Z_GIS)
- Landbou Economisch Instituut (LEI)
- University of the Aegean
- Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN), Department for Habitat Management and Landscape Ecology
- University of Dortmund, Chair of Landscape Ecology and Landscape Planning (LLP)
- Leibniz Institute of Ecological and Regional Development (IOER)

Executive Board

Current composition of the Executive Board:

- Alterra (NL): Bas Pedroli (secretary general)
- NERI (DK): Hanne Bach (treasurer)
- CEH (UK): Paul Scholefield
- UFZ (D): Ursula Schmitz (contact person)
- Cemagref (F): Daniel Terrasson
- JRC (int): Maria Luisa Paracchini
- INC (B): Geert de Blust
- TLU (EE) Hannes Palang

Network Co-ordinator is Dirk Wascher (Wageningen, NL)

Website and Forum page

The website of LANDSCAPE EUROPE, www.landscape-europe.net, has updated information on conferences, publications and international vacancies. For more information please contact the webmaster (marion.bogers@wur.nl)

3. Network News

EUROSCAPE 2020: REFRAMING THE FUTURE OF THE EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE: – POLICY VISIONS AND RESEARCH SUPPORT –

Seminar in Stresa (Italy) May 23rd-24th 2008

LANDSCAPE EUROPE has taken the initiative to organise a High Level Landscape Seminar in Stresa (Lago Maggiore, Italy) on 23/24 May 2008. In preparation of this event, the organisation committee consisting of Bas Pedroli and Dirk Wascher of Alterra Wageningen UR and Maria Luisa Paracchini of the European Commission's Joint Research Centre has prepared an illustrative pocket book entitled "Blueprint for EUROSCAPE 2020". Offering objectives and visions for putting European landscapes on international and national agendas. The booklet can be ordered through the LANDSCAPE EUROPE secretariat.



The invitational seminar was opened by the Minister of territorial policies and environmental resources, Regione Piemonte, Italy, Mr Sergio Conti, followed by Giovanni Bidoglio, Head of the Rural, Water and Ecosystem Resource Unit at JRC's Institute of Environment. The European Commission was further represented by Ms Carolina Raes (DG Agriculture and Rural Development) and Michaela Gensheimer (ESPON) who highlighted forthcoming issues in rural development and spatial assessments with regard to the role of landscape. From the national perspective, Mrs Anita Wouters of the Netherlands Ministry of Agriculture, Nature & Food Quality demonstrated commitment and a 'broader view' when presenting the Dutch perspective on landscapes in an European context. Mrs Beate Jessel, president of the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, called for strengthening the links between biodiversity and landscapes when reporting back from the 6th Conference of the Parties on CBD which was taking place at the same time in Bonn.



The following roundtable discussion and parallel sessions were mainly focused on the Blueprint's three headline topics:

- (1) establish a policy monitoring for rural development on the basis of landscape criteria and functions;
- (2) introduce new spatial planning instruments to support the concept of Rural Retreat, Remote Areas and Vital Bridges; and
- (3) develop new forms of governance involving local and regional authorities, people and decision-makers.

The parallel sessions – facilitated by a professional team – succeeded in initiating problem-oriented discussions and generated pro-active input by many participants pointing at a number of opportunities for enhancing the cooperation between research and policy. Great attention was given to the local dimension of landscape impact and knowledge, to awareness raising and to potential input of landscape science in EU policy implementation (rural development) and knowledge transfer (reporting and monitoring).

4. Contributions: Impressions of the Stresa Conference EUROSCAPE 2020, 23/24 May 2008

Taking forward the 'Blueprint for EUROSCAPE 2020'

Richard Partington

I was a privilege participating, as Natural England's representative, in the EUROSCAPE 2020 conference held in the beautiful location of Stresa, Italy on the shores of Lake Maggiore. A place where visitors have been coming for centuries to enjoy the natural combination of water and mountains together with man's contribution through settlement. Its architecture, 'hanging' and alpine gardens, summer and winter sporting activities, its people, food and wine. Indeed, the very essence of the principles of the European Landscape Convention.

Landscape is a meeting-ground between past, present and future as well as between natural and cultural influences. It has both a physical and an emotional presence and sets a context for peoples lives. European landscapes have undergone past, often dramatic, change. In England our future landscapes will continue to be influenced by changes in climate, agriculture, housing and development needs, and by progress towards low carbon society. The Stresa 'Blueprint' highlighted that Natural England is reviewing its landscape policies and through our development of the ELC England Framework for Implementation we have set out a direction of travel which will raise the quality of policy and practical instruments in the protection, planning and management of landscape. We are also ready to work with European partners in activities such as taking forward the 'Blueprint for EUROSCAPE 2020' through joint influence, research, and best practice.

The ELC provides a challenge to improve perception, understanding and care for all landscapes through improved collaboration and better public involvement as well as through integration of policies and actions. The contributions and discussions at Stresa rightly focused on the how the European policy instruments, such as Natura 2000, Water Framework and Agriculture can be used and utilised to further implement the principles of the ELC. This use of existing mechanisms is positive and there is much to commend new thinking on how environmental goods and services such as air, water, biodiversity, energy and agricultural production as well as recreation, transport, rural development and its cultural life can all be better integrated to form a new paradigm of landscape governance.

Natural England is currently developing its own ELC Action Plan and the policy and practical landscape tools will be explained and a 'golden thread' of the history and context set out. Also we propose rolling out training and guidance to others and we are establishing 9 English regional landscape and geodiversity partnerships and a regional challenge fund to support activities that promote one or more of the ELC articles. Through these mechanisms we have high hopes that a wide range of activities, from public perception and stakeholder involvement to developing improved synergies and connections, will lead to wider understanding and appreciation, improved knowledge and care as well as a sense of inspiration, well-being and a better connection between people and place.

Ministry of LNV, the Netherlands
Hayo Haanstra

Hungary
Gabor Kiss and Eva Konkoly

4. Recent Publications

- Fjellstad, W. and W. Dramstad Use of Landscape Sciences for the Assessment of Environmental Security. 2008 In: Petrosillo et al. 2008. Landscape monitoring as a tool in improving environmental security. Springer Netherlands Pages 131-141.
- Helming, K. Sieber, S., Wiggering, H., Wascher, D.M., Tabbush, P., Dilly, O. and Bach, H. 2007. Sustainability Impact Assessment of Multifunctional Land Use. In: Starret et. al. 2007. Environmental Science and Technology 2006 (2). Proceedings from the Second International Conference on Environmental Science and Technology, held August 19-22, 2006 in Houston, Texas, USA; American Science Press , pp. 495-500
- Henle, K., Alard, D., Clitherow, J., Cobb, P., Firbank, L., Kull, T., McCracken, D., Moritz, R.F.A., Niemelä, J., Rebane, M., Wascher, D., Watt, A., and Young, J. 2007. Identifying and managing the conflicts between agriculture and biodiversity conservation in Europe—A review. *Agriculture, Ecosystems & Environment*, 12 pages; available online www.sciencedirect.com
- Kizos, T. and Th. Terkenli, (2007) Island Lifestyles in the Aegean Islands, Greece: Heaven In Summer, Hell In Winter? In Palang, H., Sooväli, H., and Printsman A. (eds.) *Seasonal Landscapes*, Springer-Verlag, Berlin, p. 127-149.
- Nassauer, J.I. and Wascher, D.M. 2007. *The Globalized Landscape: Rural Landscape Change and Policy in the United States and European Union*. In: Westcoat, J.L. and Jonston, D.M. *Places of Power, Political Economies of Landscape Change*. Pp275-315 (in press)
- Palang H., A. Printsman, É. Konkoly Gyuró, M. Urbanc, E. Skowronek & W. Woloszyn (2006). *The Forgotten Rural Landscapes of Central and Eastern Europe*. *Landscape Ecology* 21 (3): 347–357.
- Palang, H.; Sooväli, H.; Printsman, A. (eds) 2007: *Seasonal Landscapes*. Berlin: Springer-Verlag.
- Pedroli, G.B.M., Th. Van Elsen & J.D. Van Mansvelt (2007): *Values of rural landscapes in Europe. Inspiration or by-product*. *NJAS – Wageningen Journal of Life Sciences* 54 (4): 431-447.
- Pedroli, B., A. van Doorn, G. de Blust, M.L. Paracchini, D. Wascher & F. Bunce (2007). *Europe's living Landscapes. Essays exploring our identity in the countryside*. KNNV Publishing, Zeist / LANDSCAPE EUROPE, Wageningen.

5. Outlook

EURORURAL '08 conference on INVESTIGATING EUROPEAN COUNTRYSIDE

Date: 25 - 29 August, 2008

Place: Brno, Czech Republic
Organisers: Mendel University of Agriculture and Forestry Brno
Further information: www.uake.cz/novinky.html

PECSRL "LANDSCAPES, IDENTITIES AND DEVELOPMENT"

Date: 1st to 5th September 2008

Place: Lisbon and Óbidos, Portugal

Organisers: PECSRL - The Permanent European Conference for the Study of the Rural Landscape (<http://www.pecsrl.org>)

Further information: <http://tercud.ulusofona.pt/PECSRL2008.htm>

New Landscapes New Lives: ECLAS conference 2008

Date: 11-14 September 2008

Place: Alnarp, Sweden

Organisers: ECLAS

Further information: www.ltj.slu.se/eclas/

Barcelona Biennale 2008

Date: 25-27 September 2008

Place: Barcelona, Spain

Organisers: Landscape Architecture

Further information: <http://www.coac.net/landscape>

IALE-D Jahrestagung 2008: *Global Change and Landscape Response *-- Die Rückkopplungen von Landschaften auf den Globalen Wandel

Date: 30. Oktober - 2. November 2008

Place: Bonn

Organisers: IALE-D

Further information:

International Conference: living landscape: memory, transformation & future scenarios

Date: 10-11 November 2008

Place: Ustí nad Labem, Czech Republic

Organisers: Dept. of Geography, University of J.E. Purkyne

Further information: <http://conference.geoscape.cz/>

The Right to Landscape: Contesting Landscape and Human Rights

Date: 8-10 December 2008

Place: Cambridge

Organisers: Cambridge Centre for Landscape and People

Further information:

Conference Integrated Assessment of Agricultural Systems (AgSAP)

Date: 10-12 March 2009

Place: Egmond aan Zee, the Netherlands

Organisers: Seamless office, Wageningen University

Further information: www.conference-agsap.org

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LANDSCAPE EUROPE 's E-Newsletter

c/o Marion Bogers, Network Office

P.O. Box 47

6700 AA WAGENINGEN

The Netherlands

Tel: + 31 317 477768 Fax + 31 317 419000

E-mail: landscape.europe@wur.nl

Website: <http://www.landscape-europe.net>

Newsletter on-line at: <http://www.landscape-europe.net>