

INTRODUCTION TO THE SPECIAL ISSUE

The 28th session of the PECSRL biennial international conference (Title: European landscapes and quality of life) was held at two locations from 3–9th of September 2018 in Clermont-Ferrand and Mende, France. This special issue introduces some of the presentations of the following session:

Traditional landscapes: exploring the connections between landscape, identity, heritage, and change

The aim of the session was to discuss (the concept of) traditional landscapes, their ambiguous nature, and links to contemporary landscape research and practice. Particular attention was given to traditional landscapes within the themes of people's identity, landscape transformation, landscape management, and heritage.

In the past, within cultural landscape research, much attention has been given to unique historical, environmental, economic, social and cultural conditions that have contributed to the development of specific forms of landscapes and their management. A prominent position in these discussions occupy so-called traditional or historical landscapes where several particularities might be observed: They often seem to be rather stable and slowly developing, most often of pre-modern origin. They show unique examples of the historical continuity of local landscape forms as well as practices. We find them in marginal locations, often rarely protected. However, such a notion of traditional landscapes may be criticized from different perspectives, especially for not considering the importance of change for formation and recognition of specific meanings and values bounded with local landscapes and heritages (Renes 2015, DeSilvey 2017). It may be argued as well that the ideas of traditional landscapes still contribute to the formation of present identities and that traditional landscapes are often referred to while promoting particular regions and communities, their products and heritages. In this sense, traditional landscapes may be viewed as constructed or invented, their present recognition is a result of particular perceptions and interpretations of local environments and their pasts. According to Schein (2009) Traditional landscapes also serve as a facilitator/mediator of particular social, cultural, economic, and political intentions and debates. They can contribute to the normalization and reproduction of various social and cultural practices.

Hence, the key questions addressed by the session was:

- What is meant by traditional landscapes?
- How are they recognized and what are their characteristics and functions?
- Are there any transformations acceptable in connection with traditional landscapes?
- Can transformations of present landscapes result in the formation and recognition of new traditional landscapes?
- What is the connection between traditional landscapes and authenticity?
- Do landscape protection, management and planning contribute to the sustainability of traditional landscapes and their heritages?
- Can they contribute to the recognition of new ones?
- What are the meanings and values of traditional landscapes?
- Are traditional landscapes important for identity formation across various geographical scales? How and why?
- What is the role of local products in sustaining traditional landscapes, authentic regional cultures, and their identities?

Both, more general and conceptual contributions as well as case studies had been welcomed. It seems that the session addressed an important and well-missing topic: We received 24 submissions from 8 European countries, plus Mexico, Colombia and the US.

The following presentations had been chosen for presentation:

1. Traditional Landscapes As Challenges For The Future – H. Renes (NL)
2. How Does An Agricultural Landscape Become Traditional? Coming Back To Landscape Temporality – Viviana Ferrario (IT)
3. Rural Landscape And Quality Of Life: The Case Of Italy– M. Agnoletti, A. Santoro, M. Venturi (IT)
4. The Management Of Cultural Heritage Landscapes As New Challenge In Wallonia – Serge Schmitz, Laurent Bruckmann (BE).
5. Changing Connections Between Landscape, Tradition, And Identity: The Case Of The Czech Borderlands – Zdeněk Kučera (CZ)
6. Perception Of Landscape And Its Changes In A French-German Transboundary Area – Éva Konkoly-Gyuró (PL/DE) (Figure 1.)



Figure 1. Introducing the next speaker, Éva Konkoly-Gyúró by the actual chair, Hans Renes (further chairs were: Zdeněk Kučera, Alexandra Kruse and Csaba Centeri) (Photo: Centeri, Cs.)

7. Cultural Identity In The Historic Settlement Landscapes Of Flanders – G. Verbrugge, V. Van Eetvelde, W. De Clercq (BE)
8. Waterways As A Factor In The Transformation Of The Cultural Landscape Of The Vistula Delta – Anna Rubczak (PL)
9. The Geul Valley: A Traditional Landscape In Transition, From A Farmers' Arcadia To A Multifunctional Landscape – Michiel Purmer (BE)
10. The National Estate Of Chambord (France): Traditional Landscapes Or A Political Willingness To Make Re-Emerge The Past? – Amélie Robert, Sylvie Servain (FR)
11. Cultural, Historical And Vineyard Landscape. Paradoxes? Case Study: Tokaj Wine Region, Hungary – Krisztina Albert (HU)
12. How To Manage Agricultural Landscape As A Heritage Category? Insights From Three Historic Agricultural Landscapes In Italy (Soave, Cinque Terre And Amalfi) – Dana Salpina (IT).
13. The Role Of Local Products In Preserving Traditional Farming Landscapes In The Context Of Developing Peripheral Regions – The Lubelskie Voivodeship, Eastern Poland – Ewa Skowronek, Teresa Brzezińska-Wójcik, Andrzej Tucki, Andrzej Stasiak (PL)
14. The Hollerroute – Landscape Awareness As A Driving Factor In Regional Development – Alexandra Kruse, Bernd Paulowitz (FR/DE).

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15. Strengthening The Relationship Between The Farmer And The Countryside. Challenges Of The Erasmus Ka2+ Project FEAL – Martina Slámová, Alexandra Kruse (SK/FR)
 16. Intangible Benefits From Grazing Farm Animals To Landscape And Quality Of Life – Ingrid Sarlöv Herlin (SE)
 17. Traditional Communities, Traditional Landscapes? Afro-Descendant Landscapes In The Colombian Pacific Region – C. Nancy Aguirre (COL, USA).

The article of Frolova et al. (also included in this special issue) was presented in the following session: Renewable energy and landscape quality.

For more information about the authors and the abstracts, please consult the abstract book: https://pecsrl2018.sciencesconf.org/data/pages/FASCICULE_PEC SRL_2019.pdf.

The session was organized by the Institute for Research on European Agricultural Landscapes e.V. (EUCALAND) in cooperation with the Historical Geography Research Centre, Charles University, Faculty of Science, Prague, Czechia. EUCALAND is an expert network that deals with cultural and agricultural.

Alexandra Kruse
insitu World Heritage consulting
10bis, rue du Haras, 78530 Buc
Email address: akruse@whconsult.eu