

SUMMARY OF EUCALAND PROJECT WP 5.

LANDSCAPE PLANNING: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF EAL CULTURAL VALUES AND HERITAGE

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The main aim of WP 5 is the consideration of cultural values and heritage in the European agricultural landscapes. In particular, it draws recommendations for the broad public expressing the different European views of the cultural values of agricultural landscapes, set up as useful guidelines for the people, politicians, scientists and planners aimed at making the past culture legible at present to a wider audience in Europe, able to better planning its future landscape.

It was aimed at receiving an exemplary overview on the countries situations and to document it by best practise examples. To reach that goal, questionnaires were developed for this purpose answered by selected project partners for their countries.

The participants in the research group have completed 19 questionnaires, whose contents are represented in condensed form in this chapter and are reproduced in only partial extracts.

It must be established that, using this method, the principle of completeness does not take centre stage, but rather that all the participants have incorporated as many descriptive examples and experiences from their own countries as possible, in order to facilitate finding out not only which substantial differences exist, but also to point out existing parallels and features in common.

The Working Package “Landscape Planning” is engaged in planning the future of European agrarian landscapes whilst taking into consideration their manifold cultural and traditional values. So that the European societies can also rely upon this valuable heritage in future, the influences and changes affecting the European agrarian countryside are to be identified and to be pointed out and instilled into the awareness of policy-makers, stakeholders and of the population as a whole. Recommendations in this regard meant as guidelines are intended to render the (still) available values explicit and to build bridges towards the designing of the future European landscapes whilst taking the economic, social and ecological trends into account.

The project partners were thus methodically involved by means of questionnaires, in order to not only pay homage to the diversity of the national approaches, but also to discern and to exploit features held in common.

The significant planning instruments at a national level with regard to the cultural heritage value of agrarian countryside remain available within the fields of landscape planning, spatial planning and Nature conservancy. Further to be kept in mind are also thematic planning instruments. Even at the EU level there exist planning instruments such as ESDP, European Spatial Development Perspective.

The detection of changes in the cultural heritage value of cultural landscapes in general and of rural cultural landscapes in particular depends upon the availability of suitable monitoring instruments.

Changes in demography and method of cultivation influence not only the development of agrarian cultural landscapes, but also how they are perceived. Definitive parameters in this regard are the intensification and/or the extensification of their agriculture as well as their urbanisation and/or their marginalisation.

Delved into in the segment about upcoming planning processes is the question as to which planning processes significant in future influence the agrarian cultural landscapes, such that the emphasis is laid on future planning processes. A number of the planning instruments mentioned already exist.

Agrarian structure and land use are definitively influenced by globalisation. Over recent years and decades this has led to strong changes, which are described with the aid of parameters such as value creation and occupational structure. Additionally to be taken into account are the substantial challenges as defined by the EU: climate change, energy consumption, water management and biodiversity.

Already now there exist various planning schemata and planning instruments that make reference to the cultural and traditional values of rural cultural landscapes. Experience garnered from these models ought to be exploited for the development of approaches that will be successful in the future.

It is becoming clear that, despite increasing efforts and activities towards the improvement of raising awareness, there still exists an enormous need for action. Associated with this is also a level of participation that is to be strengthened, and thus a broader incorporation of the entire population.

Even in the question of the transfer of planning instruments, which are proving themselves and/or have proved themselves at a national level, there still remains a great deal to do. The initial steps between regions and countries are discernible, but also programmes supported by the EU constitute significant measures towards the improvement of the international exchange of experience, especially in the new member countries.

In conclusion, recommendations for future planning processes are being suggested, which are classified into the fields of policy, awareness raising, information and participation, co-operation, monitoring, instruments and general recommendations.