



European Landscape Convention

Implementation in Slovenia



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA

MINISTRY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND SPATIAL PLANNING



Introduction

Awareness of the value of the landscape has received a great deal of attention in the past decade. Landscape is the space in which we live; and through our behaviour and activity, we change it, care for it and maintain it. The landscape is the combined result of natural processes and human activities.

In developed countries, ever greater social attention is paid to the landscape. The developed world is becoming intensely aware that the landscape is a limited natural resource and is of considerable value for economic growth; it offers considerable potential for tourism and job creation. A landscape of balanced and harmonious relationships between human activity and preserved nature is an important competitive advantage. In particular, exceptional and recognisable landscapes represent and consolidate a European identity. Society's perceptions of the landscape conditions also landscape management, which has an impact on its appearance.

Intensive social and economic processes and globalisation accelerate transformation of the landscape, making it more uniform. The European Landscape Convention integrates concerns about the loss of landscape values and other qualities that are very important for individuals and society as a whole. The convention was adopted on the initiative of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe in 2000 in Florence.



What is the European Landscape Convention?

The European Landscape Convention is an international treaty devoted to the protection, planning and management of all landscapes and to the raising of public awareness of the importance of landscapes.

How was the European Landscape Convention created?

- It was adopted on 20 October 2000 in Florence.
- Slovenia signed the Convention on 7 March 2001 and ratified it on 15 July 2003.
- It entered into force on 1 March 2004 when it had been ratified by more than ten signatory states.
- So far, the Convention has been signed by 38 countries, of which 31 have ratified it.



The importance of landscapes:

- Landscapes are an important part of the quality of life for both individuals and society as a whole.
- Landscapes play a significant role in cultural, ecological, environmental and social fields.
- Landscapes are a key element in maintaining biodiversity, natural attributes and cultural heritage.
- Landscapes are an essential element of natural heritage; they represent and strengthen European identity.
- Landscapes are indispensable for the development of economic activities; primarily recreation and tourism.

What is the purpose of the European Landscape Convention?

- To form a basic framework for the protection of landscape values;
- To consider all landscapes: everyday, outstanding and degraded;
- To preserve the landscape heritage throughout Europe;
- To ensure the quality of life for people in urban areas and in the countryside by protecting, developing and managing landscapes.

Premises for the protection, management and planning of landscapes

- The quality and diversity of European landscapes are a common resource.
- The landscape is a key element of human and social well-being, contributing to quality of life, the development of local cultures and the strengthening of European identity.



Why a European Landscape Convention?

Landscapes are an important part of the quality of life for both individuals and society as a whole. They are a key component of the natural heritage. Outstanding landscapes represent and strengthen European identity. The development of settlements, agriculture, forestry, industry, mineral extraction techniques, infrastructure, tourism, sport and recreation cause major spatial changes and often result in the loss of landscape values, landscape diversity and, consequently, cause degradation of landscapes.

The purpose of the Convention is to form a basic framework for comprehensive landscape management and the protection of landscape heritage in the whole of Europe. The Convention provides basic guidelines in the field of landscapes, which are binding for signatory states in planning sustainable development within the framework of development policies, strategies, programmes, in sectoral and spatial planning and in international cooperation.

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- The landscape is a basic element of the European natural and cultural heritage.
- Its protection, management and planning are the right and duty of everyone.

What is the aim of the European Landscape Convention?

- To promote the protection, management and planning of landscapes;
- To identify and evaluate landscapes and guide their protection and development;
- To set a common definition of terms, such as “landscape”, “landscape policy” and “landscape planning”;
- To inform and raise public awareness of the importance and value of landscapes;
- To educate in the fields of policy, protection, management and planning of landscapes;
- To establish European cooperation on landscape issues.

What does the term “landscape” mean?

“Landscape” means an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors. (European Landscape Convention)

What does “landscape policy” mean?

“Landscape policy” means an expression by the competent public authorities of general principles, strategies and guidelines that permit the taking of specific measures aimed at the protection, management and planning of landscapes. (European Landscape Convention)

Key emphases of the European Landscape Convention

The aim of the Council of Europe is to achieve greater unity among its members in relation to the preservation of landscapes, which are their common heritage. The Convention aims to achieve awareness that the quality and diversity of European landscapes are a common resource. Joint efforts are therefore required for their protection, management and planning. To this end, Article 5(b) of the Convention introduces a new instrument, i.e., landscape policy, which will be devoted exclusively to the protection, management and planning of all landscapes in Europe. The aim is to encourage Member States to act in the sphere of landscape and establish European cooperation on landscape issues.

Landscape protection

The European Landscape Convention defines the term landscape protection as actions to conserve and maintain the significant and characteristic features of a landscape, justified by its heritage value derived from its natural configuration and/or from human activity.

Landscape management

Pursuant to the Convention, landscape management means activities, from the point of view of sustainable development, that ensure the regular upkeep of a landscape, and which will guide and harmonise changes that are brought about by social, economic and environmental processes.

Landscape planning

Landscape planning under the Convention means strong, forward-looking action to enhance, restore or create landscape.





Protection, management and planning of landscapes

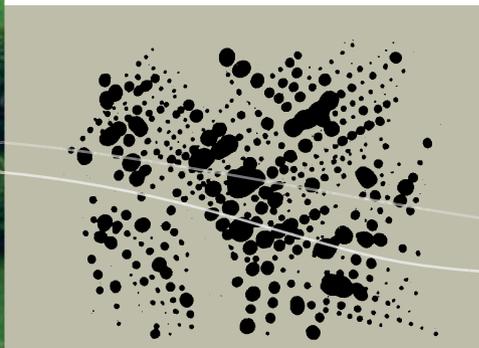
Landscape protection means actions carried out within areas that are identified and selected in advance. In order to carry out landscape protection, thorough identification, an inventory and typological classification of landscapes in the national territory are required, all of which provide a basis for the evaluation of landscapes. Criteria for the evaluation of landscapes are defined on the basis of morphological, structural and symbolic features and the assessment of their testamentary value. Identified areas that can be designated as areas of outstanding landscapes are important for recognition and identity at national level, and they form the national landscape heritage.

Landscape management means actions aimed at preserving the features or the desired state of landscapes. To achieve the desired state of the landscape, a landscape management plan must be prepared, outlining measures to regulate activities and processes in this field.

For landscape areas that are not protected, the desired state of landscape is defined in the procedure of landscape planning through landscape plans, sectoral plans or spatial plans. The procedure is used for determining the land use.

Landscape planning is a constituent part of spatial planning, the aim of which is to determine coordinated use of space. Landscape planning encompasses all processes of the interaction between planned developments and value systems of the landscape. In this context, landscape features and the identity of landscape areas are used as one of the criteria for locating activities in space. Thus, it is possible to optimize and balance two basic, usually conflicting, interests in the social processes of decision-making on development and/or use and protection of space.

All three policies - protection, planning and management of landscape - are mutually complimentary and are combined into integral activity, which provides the basis for comprehensive implementation of the landscape policy.



The implementation of the European Landscape Convention

Each signatory state of the Convention undertakes to harmonise implementation of the Convention with its national legislation, without derogating from the provisions of the Convention.

What are the requirements that the European Landscape Convention imposes on signatory States?

1. At the national level:

- to recognise landscapes in law;
- to identify and assess all the landscapes (outstanding, everyday and degraded) throughout the national territory;
- to define landscape quality objectives;
- to introduce instruments aimed at protecting, managing and planning the landscape;
- to establish and implement a landscape policy;
- to integrate landscape into all policies with possible direct or indirect impact on landscapes;
- to establish procedures for the participation of the public in the implementation of landscape policy;
- to raise public awareness of the value of landscapes and to promote training and education.

2. At the international level:

- to consider landscapes within international policies and programmes;
- mutual assistance and exchange of information;
- to promote joint efforts for the protection, management and planning of landscapes;
- to encourage cross-border cooperation on local, regional and national levels;
- to monitor the implementation of the Convention.

Resolution on the rules governing the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe CM/Res (2008) 3

<https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?id=1253605>



Landscape Award of the Council of Europe

Pursuant to Article 11 of the European Landscape Convention, the Committee of Ministers on 20 February 2008 adopted Resolution CM/Res(2008)3 on the rules governing the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe. The Landscape Award of the Council of Europe is an honorary distinction, in the form of a diploma, rewarding the process of implementation of the Convention at national or transnational levels resulting in effective and measurable achievement. It aims at encouraging those receiving the award to ensure the sustainable protection, management and planning of landscape areas; that they may serve as an example to other territorial authorities in Europe. The Landscape Award of the Council of Europe is conferred every two years, the first time in 2009. The Landscape Award Competition at European level include the best projects selected at national level.

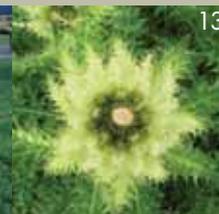


Basic criteria for conferring the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe:

- sustainable territorial development (the project should be part of a sustainable development policy);
- it should demonstrate environmental, economic, social, spatial, cultural and aesthetic sustainability, counter or remedy any damage to landscape structures; enhance and enrich the landscape and develop new qualities);
- exemplary value (must set an example of good practice for others to follow);
- active public participation;
- awareness-raising of the importance and value of landscapes and the changes within them.

The distinction or award may be conferred on:

- local or regional authorities and their groupings, i.e., national authorities,
- non-governmental organizations.





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Convention in Slovenia

The status of landscapes in Slovenia

Slovenian landscapes are distinguished by a remarkably rich morphological diversity resulting from natural conditions, diverse morphology, different climatic regions and human impact, i.e., land use, historical development and a diversity of cultural environments. A basic characteristic of Slovenian landscapes is the great variety and diversity of landscape patterns. In general, landscapes are divided into natural, cultural and urban.

A natural landscape develops in accordance with natural dynamics, in remote areas, where human development is limited due to the prevailing natural characteristics and dynamic natural processes.

A cultural landscape consists of a mosaic of forests, agricultural landscape patterns and settlement structures. It is illustrated by a traditional cultural landscape, which is particularly diverse in conjunction with varied relief. An agricultural cultural landscape of plains and large cultivated areas is different, in particular, if due to intensive farming.

An urban landscape is characterized by built structures interspersed with open public spaces and green areas.

Particular attention should be devoted to degraded landscapes, which emerge in places as a result of various intensive land uses.



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Presentation of Slovenian landscape regions

Alpine landscapes

are in north-western and northern Slovenia. The area is characterized by high mountains, rocky slopes above and below the tree line, mountain grasslands and plateaus and modest farming on the mountain grasslands. Its main features are: deposits of glacial moraine, occasional dispersed settlements in the Alpine valleys, wooded slopes, larger level and populated river deposits and remote mountain plateaus.

Sub-alpine landscapes

stretch from the extreme west to the east of central Slovenia and are the largest landscape macro-unit. They feature hilly, undulating or varied uplands, river valleys and vast alluvial plains passing into flatlands. A distinctive trait of the landscape is the sharp contrast between forests, which provide the framework, and open agricultural areas.

Sub-pannonian landscapes

are in the northeast and east of Slovenia. The main features are: vast plains without distinctive edges, varied landscape, wine-growing hills with small relative differences in altitude, valleys situated within hills, watercourses with extensive riparian vegetation and flood plain forests.

Alpine landscapes

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Sub-alpine landscapes

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Sub-pannonian landscapes

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Landscape regions in Slovenia

There are five basic landscape regions in Slovenia, characterized mainly by the climate and geology: Alpine, Sub-alpine, Coastal, Karst landscapes of interior Slovenia and Pannonian.

(Regional Distribution of Landscape Types in Slovenia, 1998)

Karst landscapes

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Coastal landscapes

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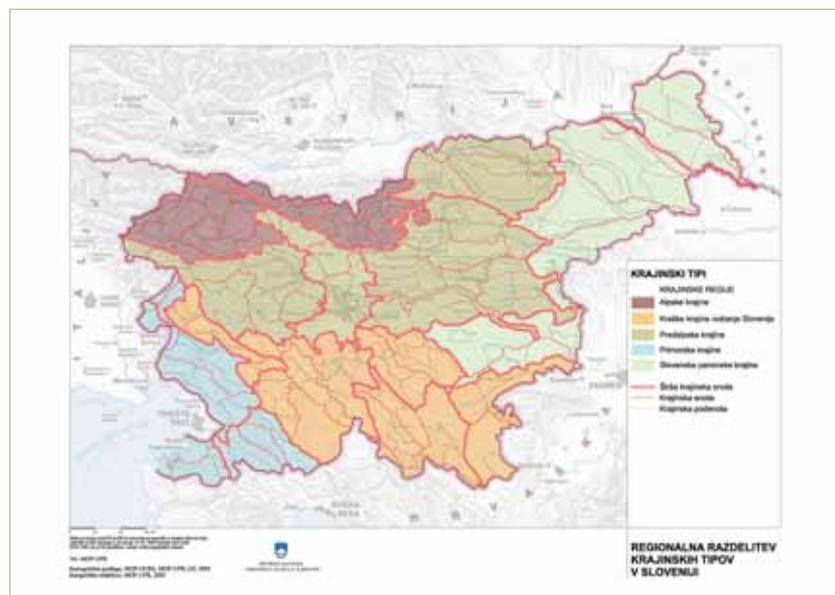
Karst landscapes

of interior Slovenia form a vast area south of the Ljubljana basin, areas in the south-eastern part of Slovenia and upland plateaus in the west. They are dominated by a wide variety of karst phenomena, which determine the shape and diversity of the surface at micro- and macro-level.

Coastal landscapes

feature flysch hills, the edges of the karst plateaus, spatial fragmentation, a large proportion of forests, karst fields, plateaus and the sea coast. The cultural landscape of the coastal region is characterized by vineyards and orchards, terraced slopes, coastal plains, and, in some places, the remains of salt pans. The hinterland is hilly, with streams running along the bottom of valleys. The northern part of coastal landscapes is a dry karst plateau with typical architecture.

Map 1: Typical landscape patterns in Slovenia (Regional Distribution of Landscape Types in Slovenia, source: Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning - MESP).





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Quality of Slovenian landscapes

Slovenian landscapes have not undergone modern large-scale reorganisation that would significantly change their appearance. They are characterized by relatively high diversity, a high level of natural conservation and the preservation of cultural elements of the landscape.

In the last decade, Slovenian landscapes have been affected by major infrastructural developments, such as the construction of roads, gas pipelines, transmission lines, and the planned construction of railway corridors. In particular, major infrastructural developments have had a considerable effect on the structural characteristics of the landscape and the quality of experiencing it.

A considerable number of smaller degradations can be observed, such as unregulated or poorly regulated quarries and gravel pits, clay pits, over-regulated watercourses, in some places inadequately designed infrastructure (big cuts and dams), inappropriate land reclamation, dispersed settlements. Landscapes in the valley parts of Slovenia are heavily influenced by intensive human activities and interventions.

The implementation of the Convention in Slovenia – an opportunity and a responsibility

Slovenia signed and ratified the European Landscape Convention because it already largely complied with the provisions of the Convention and wanted to upgrade its activities on this issue. Slovenia thus committed itself to implementing the landscape policy through the protection, planning and management of landscapes, recognizing landscapes in law, evaluating them and including them in education and awareness-raising.

There are no enacted independent landscape documents in the Slovenian legal system, except for the landscape plan at the operational level. Landscape elements are integrated into spatial and sectoral documents. The development, protection and management of landscapes are defined by documents in the field of spatial planning, nature conservation, protection of the cultural heritage and rural development.

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Identification and assessment of landscapes in Slovenia

Slovenia is an extraordinarily varied and rich country in terms of its landscapes. For this reason and because of expectations of socio-economic impacts and, as a result, possible changes in the landscape, Slovenia identified the need for typological definition of all Slovenian landscapes and their assessment, long before the Convention.

Consequently, a project was undertaken, entitled "Regional Distribution of Landscape Types in Slovenia" describing landscape areas, including landscape types and patterns, and guidelines for planners were developed according to individual landscape regions or typological units. The guidelines are based on special features of the landscape structure, taking into account expected landscape processes and the desired state of these landscapes. The project was commissioned by the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning, the National Office for Spatial Planning, and developed by the University of Ljubljana, Biotechnical Faculty, Department of Landscape Architecture. It commenced in 1993 and was completed in 1997. The achievements of the project were presented in a publication in 1998.

The aforementioned project was followed by a survey entitled Outstanding Landscapes of Slovenia (1996, amended 1999), which entailed the evaluation and definition of 93 outstanding landscapes as the most valuable and typical landscapes in Slovenia, that represent the Slovenian identity and are well recognised in Europe and, in some cases, globally. The basic identification and assessment of landscapes in Slovenia was already completed before the European Landscape Convention.



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Regional Distribution of Landscape Types in Slovenia (1998) – inventory and typological definition of all landscapes in Slovenia. The achievement of the project is an atlas of landscapes, which defines five landscape regions divided into typological units, with a description of the landscape characteristics and landscape patterns. The project also provides guidelines for landscape planning according to landscape typological units.

The project aimed to:

- prepare material for a National Spatial Plan to be used as one of the professional tools for landscape planning;
- enforce landscape conservation by directly defining outstanding landscape regions;
- implement indirect landscape conservation by integrating knowledge of landscape qualities into assessments in various land developing activities;
- give practical directions to everybody involved with land development activities;
- develop general guidelines on how to behave within the landscape environment.

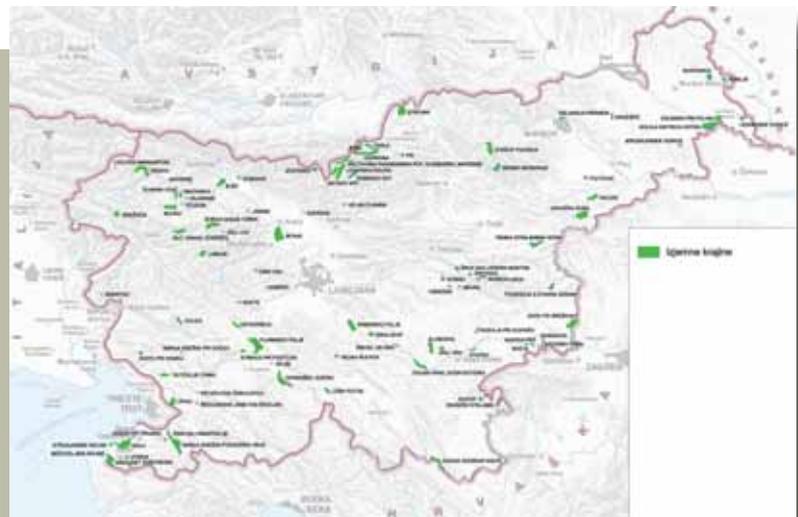


Protection, management and planning of landscapes in Slovenia

Three policies - protection, landscape planning and landscape management, required by the European Landscape Convention - were established in Slovenia long before its adoption. In the 1970s a range of plans were implemented in the field of spatial planning, which, in terms of content and topics, are also considered to be landscape documents.

There are three Ministries involved in the development, protection and management of landscapes: the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning, the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food. "Landscape" is defined in the Spatial Planning Act (2007, amended in 2009) in terms of spatial planning and in the Nature Conservation Act (2004) in terms of the importance of landscapes for biodiversity conservation. Cultural aspects of landscapes, important for preserving the cultural heritage, are defined in the Cultural Heritage Protection Act (2008). In addition to the cited laws, other laws that take landscape into account indirectly are also essential for the protection and development of landscapes: the Construction Act (2002, 2007, amended in 2009), the Forest Act (2007), the Agriculture Act (2008), the Agricultural Land Act (2003, 2008), the Environmental Protection Act (2004, 2008, amended in 2009) and implementing acts in the fields of spatial planning, environmental protection and nature conservation.

Map 2: - Outstanding Landscapes of Slovenia (Source: MESP)



Outstanding Landscapes of Slovenia (1999)

Outstanding landscapes are a selection of rare and unique Slovenian landscapes, which stand out with one or more especially valuable characteristics, such as: unique pattern of land use, typical landscape structures, harmonized spatial relations, appropriate share of natural elements, special settlement patterns, typical emphases in the manifestation of a distinctive spatial structure.

Spatial Planning

The majority of the requirements and recommendations established by the European Landscape Convention, such as protection, management and planning, have already been included in the spatial planning documents at the local and national level.

The vision of the development, protection and management of the landscape are defined in the Spatial Management Policy of the Republic of Slovenia and the Spatial Development Strategy of Slovenia.

Definition of “landscape” in the Spatial Planning Act

Landscape is a space characterised by the prevailing presence of natural components and is the result of the interaction and influence of natural and human factors.

Definition of “landscape” in the Nature Conservation Act

Landscape is a spatially defined part of nature, with a specific distribution of landscape components resulting from the characteristics of living and non-living nature and human activity.

Definition of “cultural landscape” in the Cultural Heritage Protection Act

Cultural landscape means immovable heritage which is an open space with natural and created components as parts of the structure, the development and use of which, are mainly determined by human operation and activities.



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Landscape planning is a part of spatial planning that regulates the spatial interventions in an open landscape and green areas within settlements or urban areas. (Spatial Planning Act, 2002)

The Spatial Management Policy (2001) stresses as a specific task the preservation of significant features of rural landscapes and indigenous rural settlement characteristic patterns. It also includes the preservation of agricultural areas and active protection of the cultural landscape. One of the priorities is to preserve rural areas as a quality living environment. It is thus necessary to guide development in these areas so as to best preserve the landscape and urban heritage and to ensure coordination of primary and other land uses. Particular attention should also be devoted to degraded landscapes, which are emerging in places as a result of various intensive land uses.



The Spatial Development Strategy of Slovenia (2004) is the main strategic spatial development document, setting basic objectives, priorities and guidelines for the development and protection of the Slovenian national space. In addition to settlements and infrastructure, landscape development is one of the three integrated systems of spatial development policy. One of the main objectives set by the spatial development policy is to preserve and develop the recognizable features of an area. In addition to the preservation of the cultural heritage and identity of Slovenian settlements, the strategy defines and determines "recognizable landscape areas at the national level" (71 areas), which provide a basis for further spatial planning at the local level, for tourist programmes and the development of protective measures.



The Spatial Order of Slovenia (2004) sets out detailed rules for spatial planning in the areas of settlement, infrastructure and landscape. These rules apply to spatial development planning and the construction of buildings, taking into consideration the rules on economic infrastructure and the construction of buildings outside settlement areas. Landscape planning should ensure cultural heritage protection and protection against natural and other disasters, nature conservation, preservation of outstanding landscapes and quality spatial structures, while considering the actual use, function and appearance of the landscape, and landscape potential, for strengthening economic and social benefits.

Landscape planning

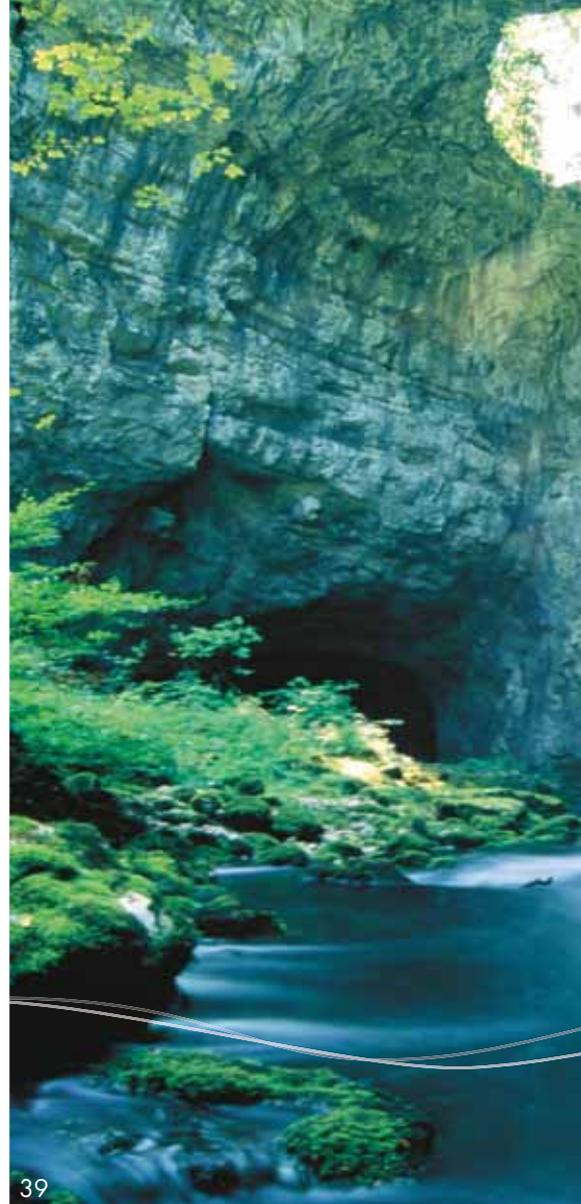
Landscape planning at the implementation level is defined within the framework of the Construction Act, in particular Article 36, which determines the types of plans, including landscape architecture plans: landscape concept and conceptual landscape design plan and detailed landscape plans.

Urban and architectural proposals for public use buildings and spatial arrangements owned by the state or local community must be sought and approved through public tender. Public tender rules define the architectural and landscape architecture buildings for which a public tender must be held. A public tender is organised by the awarding authority in cooperation with the competent professional chamber - the Slovenian Chamber of Architecture and Spatial Planning (ZAPS). Landscape architects can thus participate in tenders to design arrangements provided by the tender, or as members of the commission for the implementation of a public tender under the Chamber.

Environmental Protection

In the area of environmental protection, and in regard to European law, a series of instruments have been developed, called "environmental impact assessments". These are aimed at implementing the principles of sustainable development, integrity and prevention, the ensuring inclusion of environmental aspects within plans and programmes, as well as findings relating to significant effects of these plans and programmes or activities affecting the environment, i.e., the reduction of harmful effects and prevention of activities with destructive effects. The procedures of Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment (SEA) are defined in the Environmental Protection Act (2004, amended in 2008, amended in 2009), the Nature Conservation Act (2004) and the Spatial Planning Act (2007, amended in 2009).

The procedure of SEA attaches key importance to an environmental report, that defines, describes and evaluates likely significant environmental effects of the implementation of a plan or programme and its variants, taking into account the aims of the plan or programme. An environmental report presents likely significant effects on the environment, including biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material attributes, cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape, and the inter-linkages between these factors.



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Nature Conservation

In the Nature Conservation Act (2004), "landscape is treated as one of the natural values. The definition of landscape as a natural value provides the basis for the preservation of essential landscape characteristics through protection measures. Article 35 of the Nature Conservation Act considers landscape as well as elements of biodiversity through the term "landscape variety," which is very important for the preservation of biodiversity.

Based on the Nature Conservation Act, a system of directives and requirements has been established as a guide for sectoral planning. These stipulate that all developments in nature must be planned and implemented in such a manner as to, among other things, conserve landscape characteristics that are significant for the preservation of biodiversity and the natural values of a landscape. The Strategy for Biodiversity Conservation in Slovenia (2001) defines the conservation of landscape diversity as a measure for achieving biodiversity.



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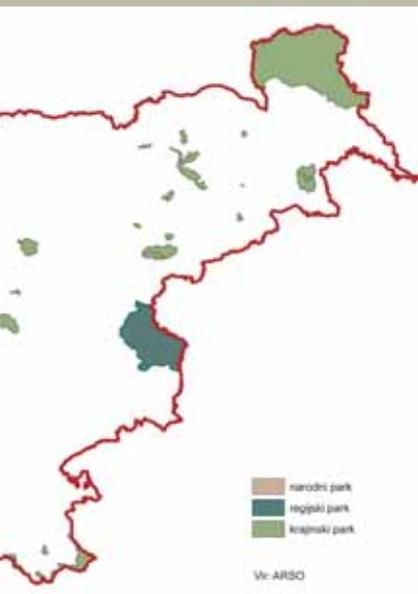


Map 4: Protected areas of Natural parks of Slovenia, November 2008 (Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning, ARSO)

Slovenia has a relatively high level of nature conservation. The European network Natura 2000 covers almost 36% of State territory, while the network of natural parks covers 11% of Slovenian territory. Today, Slovenia has one national park, Triglav National Park, three regional parks, Kozjansko Regional Park, Notranjska Regional Park, Škocjanske Jame Regional Park, and 43 landscape parks. Kamniško-Savinjske Alps Regional Park and Radensko Polje Landscape Park are in the process of establishment.



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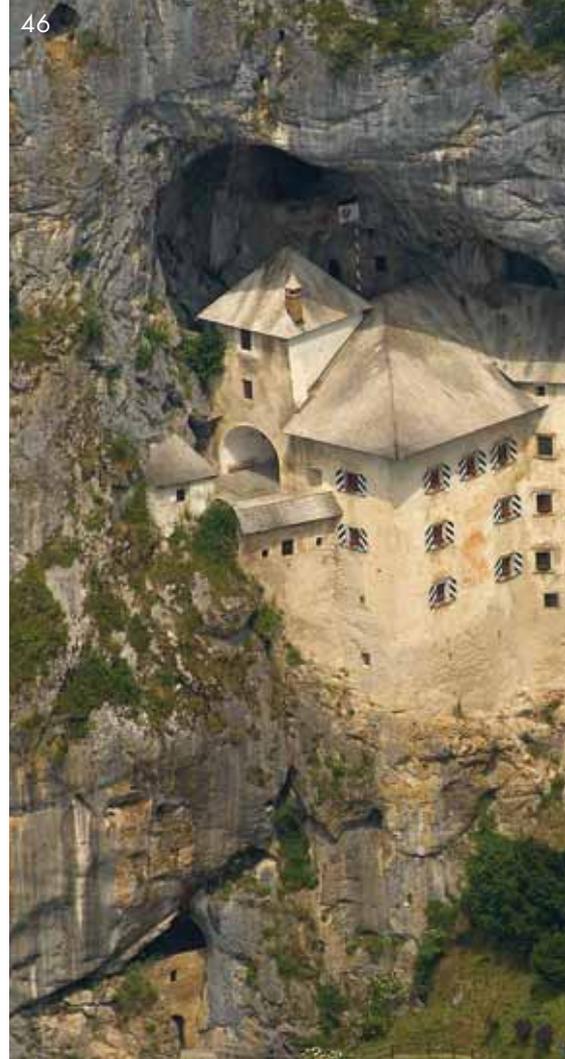
Cultural Heritage

The main elements and objectives of cultural heritage protection, including the cultural landscape, comprise the maintenance and restoration of the cultural heritage, prevention of threats to its preservation, public presentation and fostering awareness of its values. According to Article 3 of the Cultural Heritage Protection Act (2008), the term “cultural landscape” means immovable heritage that is an open space with natural and created components, the structure, development and use of which, are chiefly determined by human interventions and activities.

An area of cultural landscape can be listed in the heritage register if it has heritage value as a whole and if it is sufficiently interconnected to compose a topographically identifiable entirety of immovable heritage.

Cultural landscape that is a significant part of the space and is a source for understanding historical processes, occurrences, and their connections with the present day culture, and which constitutes a valuable contribution to cultural diversity, may be proclaimed a monument site.

An additional instrument of protection, introduced by the aforementioned Act, is a proclamation based upon an agreement between the Government and the municipality, about the joint conservation of an area. Other entities with important developmental tasks or responsibilities in the area may accede to the agreement. The latter includes obligations and rights of signatories in relation to protection and revitalisation, development planning, spatial planning, and the implementation of international treaties. Under the provisions of the





Cultural Heritage Protection Act, a protection system has been set up to ensure protection in procedures for preparing and adopting spatial plans, by drawing up guidelines and opinions and in works affecting protected values, by issuing cultural protection conditions and approvals.

When preparing a spatial implementation act for the reconstruction of an area that is a protected area of cultural landscape, a conservation plan for regeneration must be drawn up, justifying the protected units, defining their potentials for development and their vulnerability and determining protection guidelines in terms of the approach to conservation through maintenance, rearrangement or management.

In planning and implementing interventions in the cultural landscape, a protection regime applies, prescribing the conservation of the following landscape features: landscape structure and the recognisable spatial image, patterns of settlement in the landscape, relations between open space and settlements, the traditional use of land and patterns of land allotment, characteristic vegetation, spatially dominant features and panoramic views, land forms, commemorative sites, cemeteries, and the remains of structures. For garden-architectural heritage, the concept, designed elements and related features must be conserved.



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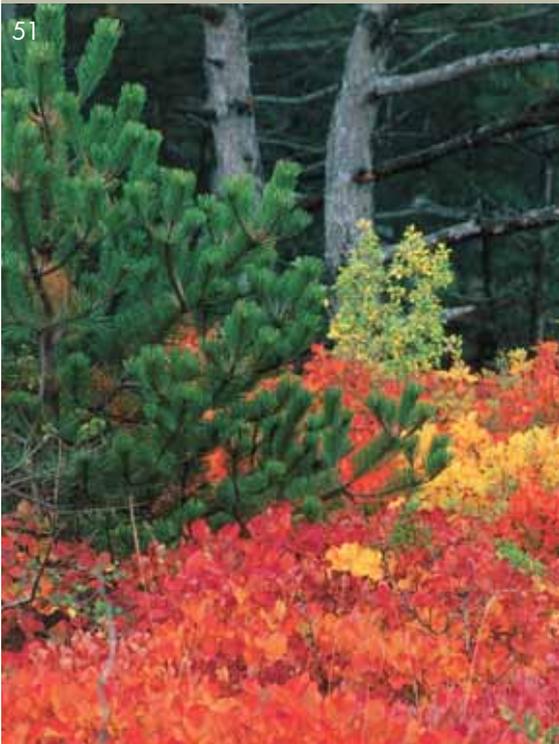


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Agriculture and Forestry

Due to their large surface area and spatial distribution, forests and agricultural land are the most important elements of the landscape. Traditional farming has caused the emergence of certain types of agricultural landscapes, many of them classified as outstanding landscapes. Forest and agricultural land management has a decisive impact on the preservation of numerous landscape patterns and on the preservation of quality landscapes.

The development of agriculture and forestry is regulated by agricultural policy. The EU common agricultural policy stresses agriculture's multi-purpose function, ensuring the preservation of the environment, natural and cultural resources. On the basis of the Agriculture Act (2008) and Council Decision on Community strategic guidelines for rural development (Council Regulation (EEC) No 1698/2005 adopted by the European Parliament), the Rural Development Programme of the Republic of Slovenia 2007 - 2013 was adopted. The programme provides, among other things, for the improvement of the environment and countryside and aims at preserving agricultural landscapes and agriculture under unfavourable conditions, enhancing nature friendly agricultural practices and improving the well-being of domestic animals.



Legislation in the fields of protection, management and planning of landscapes

International and European regulations	Adopted
Act Ratifying the Convention on the Protection of the Alps (Alpine Convention) (MKVA)	Ur.l. RS* No.19/1995
Act Ratifying the Convention on Biological Diversity (MKBR)	Ur.l. RS No. 7/1996
Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment	Official Journal L 197 27 July 2001
Act Ratifying the European Landscape Convention (MEKK)	Ur.l. RS No. 74/2003
Protocol on the implementation of the Alpine Convention of 1991 relating to the conservation of nature and landscape	Ur.l. RS No. 123/2003
Act Ratifying the Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Mediterranean (ICZM Protocol, Barcelona Convention)	Ur.l. RS-MP, No. 16/2009
Implementing legislation and programming documents at national level	
Laws	
Spatial Planning Act (ZureP-1)	Ur.l. RS No. 110/2002
Nature Conservation Act (ZON-UPB2)	Ur.l. RS No. 96/2004
Decree laying down the content of an environmental report and on the detailed procedure for the assessment of the effects of specific plans and programmes on the environment	Ur.l. RS No. 73/2005
Spatial Planning Act (ZPNačrt)	Ur.l. RS No. 33/2007
Cultural Heritage Protection Act (ZVKD-1)	Ur.l. RS No. 16/2008
Act Amending the Construction Act (ZGO-1C)	Ur.l. RS No. 108/2009
Act amending the Environmental Protection Act (ZVO-1C)	Ur.l. RS No. 108/2009
Programming documents	
Spatial Management Policy of the Republic of Slovenia	Government Decision 20 December 2001
Assessment of Spatial Development in Slovenia	Government Decision 20 December 2001

* (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia)

Ordinance on the Spatial Planning Strategy of Slovenia (OdSPSS)	Ur.l. RS No. 76/2004
Decree on Spatial Order of Slovenia	Ur.l. RS No. 122/2004

Indirect legislation and programming documents at national level relating to the contents of landscape

Laws

Act Amending the Forest Act (ZG-B)	Ur.l. RS No. 110/2007
Agriculture Act (Zkme-1-UPB1)	Ur.l. RS No. 45/2008
Agricultural Land Act (ZKZ-UPB1)	Ur.l. RS No. 55/2008
Act Amending the Waters Act (ZV-1A)	Ur.l. RS No. 57/2008
Act Amending the Mining Act (ZRud-B)	Ur. l. RS No. 68/2008

Programming documents

Biodiversity Conservation Strategy of Slovenia	Government Decision 17 December 2001
Resolution on the National Environmental Action Programme 2005–2012 (ReNPVO)	Ur.l. RS No. 2/2006
Natura 2000, Site Management Programme - Operational Programme (2007–2013)	Government Decision 11 October 2007
Rural Development Programme of the Republic of Slovenia 2007–2013 (2007–2013)	Government Decision October 2008





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Competences of the State – cooperation and partnership

The implementation of the Convention in Slovenia is the responsibility of the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning. The Ministry covers the areas of spatial planning, environment and nature conservation. It actively cooperates with other line ministries in the preparation of plans and programmes that influence the development and protection of landscapes in Slovenia, informs them of activities related to the implementation of the Convention and agrees on common activities.

Other areas include:

- cultural heritage Ministry of Culture;
- agriculture and forestry Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food;
- transport and infrastructure Ministry of Transport;
- energy, tourism Ministry of the Economy;
- regional development Government Office of the RS for Local Self-Government and Regional Policy development;
- education and science University of Ljubljana, University of Maribor, University of Primorska, University of Nova Gorica;
- civil society Non-governmental organisations involved in the field of landscape, nature, environmental protection, culture and spatial planning.



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International cooperation

International cooperation involves the exchange of experiences among signatory states of the Convention, through international professional conferences and workshops. Since bringing the Convention into force, they have focused on issues that are essential for the implementation of the Convention. Each meeting is underpinned by proceedings containing the contributions of experts. Most events and expert meetings have been organised within the framework of the Council of Europe, in cooperation with individual signatory states of the Convention.



International workshop “Landscape and Society”, held in Slovenia in 2006

The international conference “Landscape and Society” was the 4th Meeting of Workshops for the Implementation of the European Landscape Convention.

It was organised by the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning and the Council of Europe, in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture, the University of Ljubljana/Biotechnical Faculty, Department for Landscape Architecture, Slovenian Association of Landscape Architects and under the auspices of the Ljubljana Municipality.

A two-day international conference was held 11 - 12 May 2006 in Ljubljana. The programme was carried out within four thematic workshops: the Identification and Assessment of Landscapes, Society and the Need for Quality Landscapes, Landscape Protection and Management for Society, Specialist Training and Public Awareness-Raising. The conclusions and all contributions of the international conference were published in *Landscape and Society*. In cooperation with Škocjan Caves Park, the Municipality of Loški potok, a professional excursion was organised to illustrate Slovenian landscapes.

Reporting on the implementation of the European Landscape Convention

The implementation of the Convention is monitored by the Council of Europe's Conference on the European Landscape Convention, organised every two years. At the conference, representatives of all signatory states report on the implementation of the Convention in their own states. The last Council of Europe Conference on the European Landscape Convention took place in Strasbourg in March 2007.

In addition to oral reporting on the implementation of the Convention, the Council of Europe has introduced written reports based on the standard form of a questionnaire and all signatory states of the European Landscape Convention are under an obligation to complete these questionnaires.

A report on the implementation of the Convention in Slovenia was completed in 2007, submitted to the Council of Europe and published on their website. Since the content of the questionnaire on the implementation of the Convention concerns not only the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning, addressing spatial planning, nature conservation and environmental protection, but also the Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food and the University of Ljubljana in relation to education in the field of landscape architecture, architecture and geography, the questionnaire for Slovenia was completed in cooperation with all the stated institutions.

National reports on the implementation of the Convention are available on the website of the Council of Europe: http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/Source/Conventions/Landscape/T-FLOR_2007_7rev.pdf.



The Council of Europe, in cooperation with individual signatory states of the Convention, has held numerous workshops, conferences and seminars, highlighting key issues related to the implementation of the Convention.

A complete list of conferences, workshops and national seminars and workshop materials is available on the website of the Council of Europe, European Landscape Convention:

http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/Conventions/Landscape/meetings_en.asp#TopOfPage



A landscape architect is an expert engaged in spatial planning and landscape design. A landscape architect has knowledge that is important for coordinating different interests concerning spatial development and protection, land-use planning, environmental protection, protection of the natural and cultural heritage and in urban planning and landscaping.

Guidelines for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention

The Guidelines for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention were drafted in 2007, discussed at the Council of Europe Conference on the European Landscape Convention and adopted by the Council of Ministers on 6 February 2008.

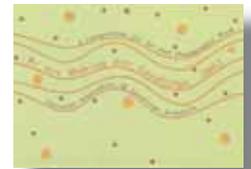
Recommendation of the Council of Ministers to Member States on the Guidelines for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention, CM/Rec(2008) 3:

<https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?id=1246005>

Public involvement

In Slovenia, the public can participate in the preparation of spatial document procedures and in planning of the management of natural resources through legally prescribed procedures of public exhibition and with providing public hearing. There is increasing participation of non-governmental organisations in raising public awareness. In this area, the Slovenian Association of Landscape Architects is particularly active; it organises and carries out national and international expert conferences and meetings, workshops, exhibitions and projects; it also publishes professional publications.

In 2004 and 2005, the Slovenian Association of Landscape Architects (SALA) carried out a special education and awareness-raising project; "We are Making Landscapes". The project was aimed at disseminating knowledge about landscapes, learning about Slovenian landscapes and motivating children and adults to observe the environment and better perceive qualities in the landscape. This helped the public develop a more informed attitude towards the landscape, space and environment around them.



Education

The University of Ljubljana has played an important role by including the landscape in spatial, and other forms of planning, and in raising awareness in Slovenia; as early as the 1970s, a full-time undergraduate university study programme of landscape architecture was established at the Biotechnical Faculty in Ljubljana, Department of Landscape Architecture. A postgraduate level programme was subsequently introduced. Professionals are thus educated; they promote expert knowledge in the area of landscape protection and planning in public administration (at national and local levels) and within companies.

The way forward

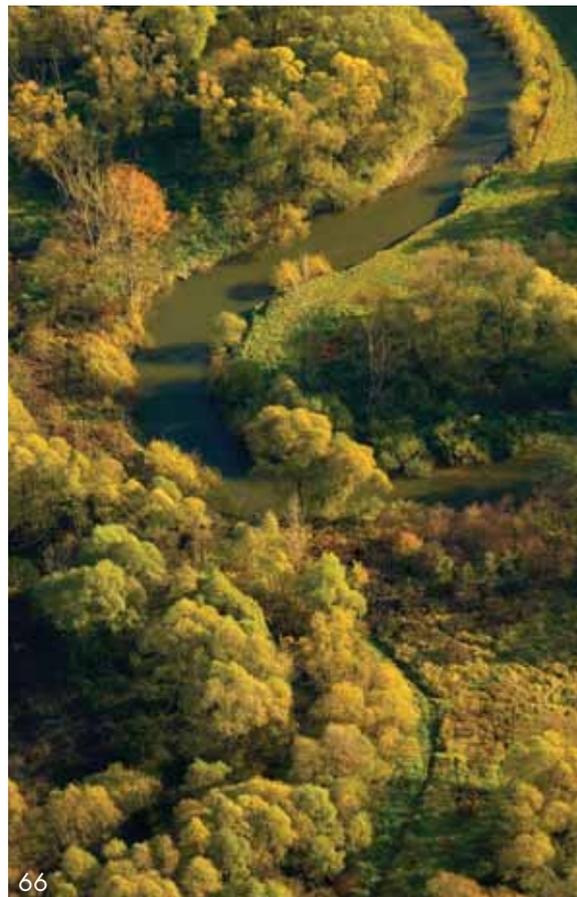
Quality landscapes are undoubtedly one of the conditions for the healthy development and stimulation of various activities, because, on the one hand, they provide the potential for this to happen, and on the other hand, increase an area's identity, and enhance its visual appearance and the desire to people to reside there. Quality is a landscape's inherent potential that can be utilised in developing society and a competitive economy.

In future, more attention must be devoted to the inclusion of landscape content into spatial planning, policies and programmes within individual ministries. Additional mechanisms and instruments will have to be identified with a view to implementing planning and protection. A number of mechanisms fall under the remit of the agricultural sector, nature conservation and protection of the cultural heritage. Better systemic solutions for inter-ministerial coordination, and comprehensive landscape management must be found.

The desired state of the landscape in Slovenia must be defined at a strategic level and landscapes should be treated on an equal footing within all spatial planning processes.

The active participation of the public, in particular the local public, in formal procedures would enable them to have a stronger and more creative influence on important spatial decisions. Efficient public participation will only be possible if the public is better informed and educated.

Because balancing spatial interests and appropriate land use are the two main purposes of landscape planning, it is the basic instrument for achieving a quality landscape. The basic principles of landscape planning are: integrity, primarily from the viewpoint of an interdisciplinary approach to problem solving; the consideration of environmental, social, economic, cultural and spatial aspects of development and protection; transparency of spatial solutions and cooperation with various public bodies in creating and adopting solutions. Landscape planning is thus the creative fusion of development needs with protection mechanisms into a functional and harmonious urban and natural environment that produces a quality landscape.



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The Slovenian Association of Landscape Architects (SALA) is a professional association of landscape architects and other experts engaged in spatial planning and in the protection of the environment. The work of landscape architects covers various levels and areas of spatial planning, research and education. The Association was established in 1992. Under its auspices, landscape architects respond visibly, creatively, critically and sometimes controversially to developments within the environment and society that are reflected in landscapes. They usually cooperate with related organisations and explore ways of efficiently intervening in planning and housing projects. The Association has consistently taken an active part in the process of adopting spatial, construction, environmental and other sectoral legislation, and has cooperated with professional associations and the Chamber of Architecture and Spatial Planning of Slovenia. SALA is a member of the European Federation of Landscape Architects (EFLA), which is part of the International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA). Members of SALA have contributed significantly to the visibility of landscape architecture in Slovenia through their practical work, participation in numerous design contests, publishing activities and organisation of expert meetings. Individual members are also engaged in international, professional and commercial activities. Members of SALA have received numerous distinguished awards for their projects.

Association's website:
<http://www.dkas.si>



Trajekt is a web portal aimed at promoting spatial culture. It is intended for all who are in any way associated with spatial planning and creating spatial cultures. It features articles associated with spatial culture, i.e.: living in urban areas, architecture, landscape architecture, urban planning, design and related topics. Published articles and comments foster professional communication and exchange of information.

The Trajekt website aims to:

1. generate independent, critical, problem and research oriented discussion on design, social, material and other phenomena related to spatial culture.
2. enable the circulation of information and stressing everyday professional problems and issues.
3. forging links between professionals and other interested people.
4. disseminating knowledge, promoting the exchange of experiences and the breaking of taboos.
5. linking with related institutions, worldwide.

Trajekt website:
<http://www.trajekt.org>



A Series of five posters – Slovenian Landscapes – was prepared as a part of the project We are Making Our Landscape (Slovenian Association of Landscape Architects; 2004-2005).



Conclusion

The European Landscape Convention provides an opportunity for comprehensive consideration of landscapes and their inclusion into the development and protection planning processes. The convention provides opportunities and offers a basis for improving established practices and upgrading cross-sectoral cooperation; it also promotes the active involvement of the public in addressing landscape topics, raising awareness of the significance and value of landscapes and their appropriate management, aiming at attaining the desired state of cultural landscapes. It will enable the preservation of the landscape identity as our heritage and, consequently, the identification of space in Slovenia and Europe.

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<http://www.mop.gov.si>



Landscape park Ljubljansko barje

List of institutions operating in the field of landscapes and implementation of the European Landscape Convention:

Organisations in Slovenia:

Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning; <http://www.mop.gov.si/>
Ministry of Culture; <http://www.mk.gov.si/>
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food; <http://www.mkgp.gov.si/>
Ministry of Transport; <http://www.mzp.gov.si/>
University of Ljubljana, Biotechnical Faculty; <http://www.bf.uni-lj.si>
Department of Landscape Architecture; <http://web.bf.uni-lj.si/ika/index.htm>
University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Architecture; <http://www.arh.uni-lj.si/>
University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Arts; <http://www.ff.uni-lj.si>
Department of Geography; <http://www.ff.uni-lj.si/oddelki/geo/index.html>

Non-governmental organisation in Slovenia:

Slovenian Association of Landscape Architects; <http://www.dkas.si/>

International organizations:

Council of Europe; <http://www.coe.int/>
UNESCO; <http://portal.unesco.org/>
ISOCARP; <http://www.isocarp.org/>
ICOMOS; <http://www.icomos.org/>
UNEP; <http://www.unep.org/>
IUCN; <http://www.iucn.org/>

International non-governmental organizations:

EFLA – European Foundation of Landscape Architecture; <http://www.efla.org/>
IFLA – International federation of Landscape Architects; <http://www.iflaonline.org/>
ELAN – European Landscape architecture Network Le Noire; <http://www.e-lan.org/>
ELASA – European Landscape Architecture Students Association; <http://www.elasa.org/>
CIVILSCAPE – Non governmental organisations for the European Landscape Convention; <http://www.civilscape.org/>
UNISCAPE – European Network of Universities for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention; <http://www.uniscape.eu/>
RECEP ENELC – European Network of local and regional Authorities for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention; <http://www.recep-enelc.net/>

List of signatory states of the European Landscape Convention (as at 24 May 2010)

– States that have signed and ratified the European Landscape Convention (31 states):

Armenia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Moldova, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom.

– States that have signed the Convention but have not yet ratified it (7 states):

Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Malta, Serbia, Sweden, Switzerland.

Act Ratifying the European Landscape Convention / Zakon o ratifikaciji Evropske konvencije o krajini (MEKK), /Uradni list RS (Official Gazette), No. 74/2003; <http://www.konvencije.mop.gov.si/krajina.pdf>

List of expert conferences and workshops organised in Slovenia on protection and development of the landscape:

- Tipološka klasifikacija krajine (**Typological Landscape Classification, Landscape Typology**) international conference, Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning – Office of the RS for Spatial Planning, Biotechnical Faculty – Institute of Landscape Architecture, Ljubljana, 1993
- Načrtovanje in izbor variant daljinskih cest s poudarkom na presoajah vplivov na okolje (**Design and Selection of Variants of Highways with a Focus on Environmental Impact**), Načrtovanje avtocest (**Designing Motorways**), international seminar, Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning – Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Spatial Planning, Biotechnical Faculty – Institute of Landscape Architecture, Portorož, 23-25 May, 1994
- Oblikovanje avtocestnega prostora (**Designing Landscape along Motorways**), Načrtovanje avtocest (**Designing Motorways**), international seminar, Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning – Office of the RS for Spatial Planning, Biotechnical Faculty – Institute of Landscape Architecture, Portorož, 1-3 December, 1994
- Aktualna dejavnost stroke (**The Profession at Present, Slovenian Association of Landscape Architects**) Lendava, 1994
- Varstvo narave zunaj zavarovanih območij (**Nature Conservation outside Protected Areas**), international conference at the European Nature Conservation Year, Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning – Office of the RS for Spatial Planning and Biotechnical Faculty – Institute of Landscape Architecture, Ljubljana, 9-10 November 1995
- Vode in varstvo narave (**Waters and Nature Protection**), Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning – Administration of the RS for the Protection of Nature, Ljubljana, 23 March 1995
- Degradacije v prostoru (**Landscape Degradation**), Slovenian Association of Landscape Architects, Topolščica, 27-28 October, 1995
- Urejanje odprtega prostora v urbanem okolju na ravni planskih in prostorsko izvedbenih projektov (**Planning Open Spaces in Urban Environments in Spatial Planning Projects**), Slovenian Association of Landscape Architects, November 1996
- Okoljska vzgoja in izobraževanje – pot k spremembam (**Environmental Education – the Path to Change**), Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning – Administration of the RS for the Protection of Nature, Ljubljana, 8 March 1996
- Presoja vplivov kot načrtovalski postopek za varstvo okolja (**Impact Assessment as an Environmental Protection Planning Procedure**), Slovenian Association of Landscape Architects, Ljubljana, 1997
- Strmca, Varstvo kulturne krajine (**Strmca – Conservation of the Cultural Landscape**), ELASA 98, international workshop, 17-25 July 1998
- Prostorsko planiranje na državni in regionalni ravni (**Spatial Planning at the National and Regional Levels**), international expert conference marking the 30th anniversary of organised spatial planning in Slovenia at the national level (1968-1998), Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning – Office of the RS for Spatial Planning, Bled, 1998
- Voda – raba, varovanje, oblikovanje (**Water – Use, Protection, Design**), Slovenian Association of Landscape Architects, Čateške Toplice, 1998
- Kulturna krajina v dinamiki razvoja in varstva (**Cultural Landscape and Development and Conservation Dynamics**), Slovenian Association of Landscape Architects, Portorož, November 1999
- Narava v mestu (**Nature in the City**), expert meeting, Slovenian Association of Landscape Architects, Ljubljana, 2000
- Etika urejanja prostora (**The Ethics of Spatial Planning**), Slovenian Association of Landscape Architects, Rogaška slatina, 2001
- Krajinsko planiranje v dobi globalizacije (**Landscape Planning in the Era of Globalization**), international conference, Biotechnical Faculty, Department of Landscape Architecture and Slovenian Association of Landscape Architects, Portorož, 2002
- **Landscape Architecture Summer School**, joint programme between the University of Ljubljana and the University of Ohio, 15 June -27 July 2003
- Krajinska arhitektura med danes in jutri (**Landscape Architecture Between Today and Tomorrow**), Slovenian Association of Landscape Architects, 30-31 January 2004
- Mi urejamo krajino (**We Are Making Our Landscape**) – expert consultation meeting, Slovenian Association of Landscape Architects, 5 November 2004

- Project: Mi urejamo krajino (**We Are Making Our Landscape**) – a series of posters of the Slovenian landscape, expert consultation meeting, a competition for art and photographic works intended for primary schools and kindergartens – Slovenian Association of Landscape Architects in cooperation with MESP, September 2004 - May 2005
- Pomen strokovnih podlag pri izdelavi prostorskih aktov (**The Importance of Expert Groundwork in Drawing up Spatial Planning Documents**) – expert consultation meeting, Slovenian Association of Landscape Architects – 14 April 2005
- Krajina in družba (**Landscape and Society**), international conference, Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning and the Council of Europe, 11-13 May 2006, Ljubljana
- Odprti javni prostor: načrtovanje, upravljanje, vzdrževanje (**Public Open Space: Design, Management, Maintenance**) – international conference, Slovenian Association of Landscape Architects – 10-11 April 2008, Ljubljana
- Dileme v sodobni krajinski arhitekturi (**Dilemmas In Contemporary Landscape Architecture**), international conference, Department of Landscape Architecture, Biotechnical Faculty, University of Ljubljana, November 20, 2009, Ljubljana
- Prihodnost slovenske krajine (**The future of Slovenian Landscapes**) – round table discussion, Slovenian Association of Landscape Architects, Ljubljana, Slovenia, April 13, 2010
- Razstava Slovenske krajine (**Exhibition – Slovenian landscapes**) – Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning, April-May 2010
- Ljubljansko Barje – krajina na pragu Ljubljane (**Ljubljansko Barje – Landscape on the doorstep of Ljubljana**) – presentation and visit of Landscape park Ljubljansko barje, Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning, April 22, 2010