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FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information, please contact us! You are welcome to subscribe to our quarterly newsletter with information on the implementation of the VITAL LANDSCAPES Project as well as related landscape development topics.

Furthermore, most of the project events are open to the public – feel free to apply and attend.

For dates and up-to-date information, please visit our website www.vital-landscapes.eu

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**VITAL
LANDSCAPES**
CENTRAL EUROPE Project

**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF
LANDSCAPES IN CENTRAL EUROPE
USING INNOVATIVE PARTICIPATION
AND VISUALISATION TECHNIQUES**



**VITAL
LANDSCAPES**
CENTRAL EUROPE Project



EUROPEAN UNION
EUROPEAN REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT FUND

This project is implemented through the CENTRAL EUROPE Programme co-financed by the ERDF.



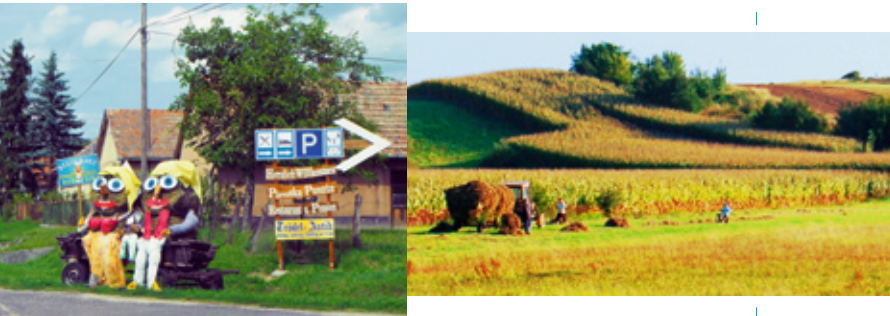
**CENTRAL
EUROPE**
COOPERATING FOR SUCCESS.



EUROPEAN UNION
EUROPEAN REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT FUND

THE BACKGROUND

Cultural landscapes in Central Europe are of great value as evidence of our natural and cultural heritage and part of our common history. They are an important precondition for human well-being, quality of life and regional identity for residents and visitors alike.

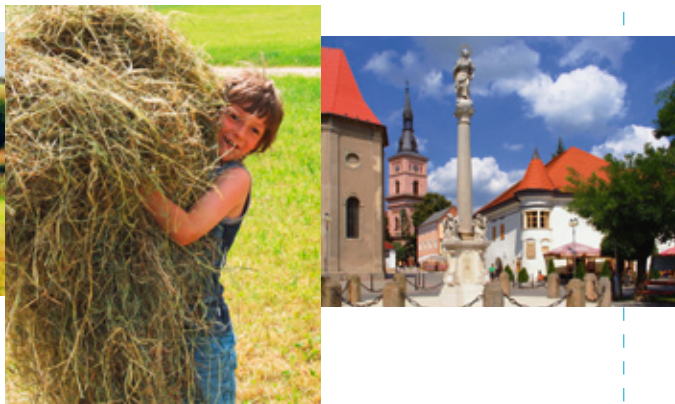


The economic and tourism potential of landscapes forms a source of sustainable regional development. However, landscapes are endangered due to a lack of awareness, insensitive development and rapid change. In addition, many rural areas suffer from population decline due to negative demographic trends and the outward migration of young people. Further problems include the sectoral treatment of landscape issues and the poor coordination of different policy areas (especially agriculture, nature conservation, and economy). Since the year 2000, the European Landscape Convention has been trying to develop and coordinate effective measures for the protection of landscapes. However, its effectiveness in Central Europe has been rather limited to date. This applies similarly to the Territorial Agenda of the European Union adopted in 2006.

Regional approaches combining economic development and landscape protection, e.g. by involving local actors and regional stakeholders from different sectors are still quite rare in Central Europe. VITAL LANDSCAPES is born out of a desire to overcome these deficits.

THE PROJECT

VITAL LANDSCAPES aims to contribute to preserving the quality, diversity and beauty of cultural landscapes as a potential for their future development by introducing cross-sectoral regional strategies and new technologies for visualizing landscape changes.



To achieve these aims, the project will provide knowledge and motivation to local actors and regional stakeholders to support the sustainable development of cultural landscapes by creating regional networks, stimulating dialogue and implementing pilot actions. Each project partner will encourage local dialogue between landscape-maintaining actors such as farmers, investors, environmentalists and, not least, the population in order to raise awareness of the value of vital cultural landscapes. The aim is to jointly search for ways to conserve and shape valuable aspects of the landscape through a process of regional dialogue. An essential element of the VITAL LANDSCAPES philosophy is the intensive exchange of experiences between project partners at a regional and European level.

We are all part of our landscape and its development.
Vitalize your landscape!

ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES



The project consists of 5 Work Packages that follow a clear internal philosophy:

- WP1:** Project management and coordination
- WP2:** Communication / knowledge management
- WP3:** Innovative visualisation and participation
- WP4:** Realisation of exemplary pilot projects
- WP5:** Education and exchange of know-how

WP3 will develop tools and methods (regional development scenarios, using modern moderation techniques and advanced visualisation tools to demonstrate landscape changes), based on the evaluation of existing knowledge.

WP4 will test tools and methods in regional pilot projects, supervised and evaluated by a trans-national working group.

WP5 will disseminate the results of the project and develop related education programmes (curricula).

In this regard, WP2 also plays an important role in the project, for example by developing promotion films, exhibitions and other PR material.