



'Winter fairy tale' in Sumava mountains, Czech Republic (photo: Vladimír Silovský)

TRAINING AND EDUCATION

IMPORTANT TOOLS OF LANDSCAPE PROTECTION AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The sustainable development of Central European regions and landscapes is, above all, an educational task. Even the most carefully devised laws will fail if people don't see the landscape as a concern of their own. This is particularly important for younger generations. Consequently, the European Landscape Convention calls for multidisciplinary training programmes as well as school and university courses 'which address the values attached to the landscape and the issues raised by their protection, management and planning.'

The growing distance (physically and mentally) between people and the natural environment has increasing implications for personal development. Currently, research is being conducted into the personal and social consequences of a disease called 'nature deficit disorder', which describes the behavioural problems resulting from the fact that many people, and children in particular, spend less and less time outdoors.

When planning VITAL LANDSCAPES, these kinds of social challenges are not the first thing we think of. Training and education have, however, been a key part of the project from the very beginning. As we approach the end of our common activities, we wish to use this newsletter to present a number of valuable experiences in this field, ranging from the training of landscape guides to new university curricula, transnational study tours or regional thematic excursions.

Further information is also available on www.vital-landscapes.eu. We would also like to use this opportunity to inform you about the project's Final Conference that will take place in Vienna on 14 February 2013 (see last page).

We wish you a peaceful and recreational end of the year – enjoy the Christmas Holidays and the winter landscape!

Jörn Freyer, Burkhardt Kolbmüller (coordinators)

THE TRAINING OF CULTURAL LANDSCAPE GUIDES

DISCOVERING AND COMMUNICATING THE BEAUTIES OF SAXONY-ANHALT

All around us, the landscape has been touched in some way by human activities. To convey the variety of elements of the cultural landscape and to train people in their care and upkeep, the education of cultural landscape guides was initiated as a core part of the Vital Landscapes project. As the European Norm for the Training and Qualification of Tourist Guides (EN 15565) says, a guide should “represent the area ... research and develop information to provide accurate and relevant commentaries ... interpret for visitors the cultural and natural heritage as well as the environment, and inform visitors on all the relevant aspects of life in the area”.

The main task was to provide the participants with basic knowledge on different aspects of the cultural landscape, for example about the development of our landscape, about historical ways of sustaining ones livelihood and the influence of climate and economy on the shape and appearance of the landscape. The lectures covered themes such as mining, forest use, mills, wine-growing, but also the interpretation of place names and how to use and interpret historical sources.

In two courses – a summer course in Halle and a winter course in Magdeburg – interested participants were able to improve their knowledge of is-

ues concerning the cultural landscape. Nearly all the lectures were held by members of the Cultural Landscapes Work Group of the Landesheimatbund, each of them an expert in a different aspect of the landscape. Prof. Dr. Bernd Reuter (geography) coordinated the courses. Each group consisted of approx. 12 participants from quite diverse backgrounds. The summer course was held as a weekly evening course of 4 lessons while the winter course was structured as a whole-day course once a week. The course was almost fully attended and approximately 80% of the participants took the final exam, which consisted of a presentation on cultural landscape issues and an interview. Almost a third of the participants work as professional tourist guides, and nearly all participants worked for an NGO that will benefit from the knowledge. Most of the participants expressed an interest in attending other follow-up courses.

To conclude, one can say that these courses covered themes which are not usually considered during landscape discussions – partly due to a lack of corresponding knowledge. That correlates with the feedback we received from the participants. Each participant also found personal themes to study further. Overall, the training proved to be an effective tool for inspiring people to engage with the landscape.

Henrik Hass, Landesheimatbund Sachsen-Anhalt



Participants taking part in a regional excursion (photo: Cultural Heritage Association Saxony-Anhalt)

LANDSCAPE IN UNIVERSITY AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING

COMMON STUDENTS WORKSHOP IN KRAKÓW, POLAND

From 29 to 31 October 2012, a seminar for experts and students took place in Kraków as part of the VITAL LANDSCAPES project.

Opened by Prof. Stanisław Małek, Vice-Rector for Research and International Relations, the seminar featured presentations by Prof. Krzysztof Ostrowski, Dean of the Faculty of Environmental Engineering and Geodesy (WIŚiG) and Dr. Andrzej Kwinta, Vice-Dean for Geodesy and Spatial Development Studies at WIŚiG.

The first session on 29 October 2012 was held by speakers from the Institute of Spatial Planning and Rural Development at the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences in Vienna and the Institute for Landscape Planning and Regional Development, Corvinus University of Budapest. The second session of the day was presented by speakers from the Institute of Geodesy at the National University of Lviv and the Department of Environmental Engineering and Land Surveying and Department of Landscape Architecture at the Agricultural University in Kraków.

According to the Vice-Dean of WIŚiG, Dr. Andrzej Kwinta, the first day marked the beginning of active cooperation between all four universities, for example in the form of regular annual meetings. Additionally, he proposed cooperation in the form of joint research and implementation projects and student and staff exchanges between the universities.

The morning session of the second day of the seminar (30 October) focused on the theme of rural development instruments in Poland and Austria in the context of the Common Agricultural Policy. In the afternoon a trip was organized to the municipality of Jordanów.



Students from BOKU Vienna, UR Kraków and Corvinus University Budapest presenting the results of the workshop (photos: Jacek M. Pijanowski)



Auditorium of the workshop (photo: Magdalena Kowacka)

On the third day of the seminar (31 October), students from Austria, Hungary, Ukraine and Poland presented the results of their joint work based on materials and information gathered during the trip to the community of Jordanów. The students developed a training concept for sustainable rural development and the cultural landscape.

The seminar provided a concrete opportunity to practice and extend cooperation between the participating universities. During the seminar, preliminary arrangements were made for the exchange of students as part of the ERASMUS programme, and for the joint exchange of research staff and implementation of common projects co-financed through European funds for research and technological development.

Dr. Jacek M. Pijanowski

PROJECT NEWS

VITAL LANDSCAPES calendar 2013 just edited

Visualisation of landscapes was one of the main topics of the project, and apart from new visualisation technologies photos have turned out to be one of the most effective and attractive means of communication.

The partners of the VITAL LANDSCAPES project have published some of the best photos from all participating regions in the form of a joint calendar that illustrates the beauty and common values of this part of the Central European heritage.

The calendar is still available free of charge from the Lead Partner (see below).



**VITAL
LANDSCAPES**
CENTRAL EUROPE Project



**CENTRAL
EUROPE**
COOPERATING FOR SUCCESS.



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LANDSCAPES IN CENTRAL EUROPE – CHALLENGES OF SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT

VITAL LANDSCAPES FINAL CONFERENCE, 14/02/2013 VIENNA

For nearly three years, the VITAL LANDSCAPES project team has discussed challenges of sustainable landscape development in Central Europe. As we reach the end of the common work period, we will present the main findings, results and tools in a final conference. Since landscape seems to have 'disappeared' from the European agenda, displaced by more pressing – e.g. financial – issues, this conference also serves as an opportunity to highlight the crucial relevance of landscapes for sustainable development throughout Central Europe. This is especially important now in the planning phase of the next EU funding period 2014 – 2020.

We cordially invite all protagonists of landscape and rural development to take part in this urgent discussion!

The conference takes place on Thursday, **14th February 2013** at University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Peter-Jordan-Straße 82 in 1190 **Vienna**, Austria. Further information is available in the News section of www.vital-landscapes.eu.

10:00 **Opening and welcome**

Gerda Schneider, University of Life Sciences Vienna
Frank Ribbe, Land Company Saxony-Anhalt, Vital Landscapes Lead Partner
Lubor Jusko, Joint Technical Secretariat CENTRAL EUROPE Programme

10:15 **Vital Landscapes – setting the scene**

Jörn Freyer, Land Company Saxony-Anhalt

10:35 **Vital Landscapes – Approaches and results**

Round table talk

Landscape and Spatial Planning: landscape development in legal frameworks

Maja Simoneti, Urban Planning Institute of Ljubljana

Landscape and Participation: Agenda 21 and bottom-up approaches

Gernot Stöglehner, University of Life Sciences Vienna

Visualisation: understanding landscapes in transition

László Kollányi, Corvinus University of Budapest

Landscape in Education: reaching young professionals

Jacek M. Pijanowski, University of Agriculture in Krakow

12:00 Lunch break

13:00 **Vital Landscapes – Tools, methods and experiences**

Market place – Introduction and Overview

Visualisation / Communication

Participation / bottom up approaches / regional networks
Education

15:00 Coffee break

15:30 **Vital Landscapes – Visions and missions**

Principles for sustainable landscape development

Annette Schneider, Cultural Heritage Association Saxony-Anhalt,

Vladimir Ira, Institute of Geography of the Slovak Academy of Sciences,

Jan Těšitel, University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice

16:30 **EU 2014-2020: Opportunities and needs for sustainable landscape and participative rural development in the next funding period**

Burkhardt Kolbmüller, Salve.Consult, Vital Landscapes Project Team

17:00 Tasting CENTRAL EUROPEAN Landscapes