

CZECH PILOT ACTION – BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

In Central European milieu, cultural landscape becomes frequently a subject of nature protection which is generally perceived as a limit to socio economic development of a particular region. The fact, that nature of high quality could be a comparative advantage to start regional economic prosperity, e.g. thanks to the tourism activities development, is obviously not recognised.

Finding a balance between a relatively new nature conservation paradigm and historically formed land use practices seems thus to be the main precondition of a harmonious development of large scale protected areas, which could secure both protection and sustainable use of local natural and cultural capital. The concept of the UNESCO biosphere reserve, as it was defined by the Seville Strategy in 1995 and reinforced by the Madrid Declaration in 2008, is suggested to be one of most efficient instrument to achieve this goal.

According to the concept, the main objective of the biosphere reserve is to balance its four main missions. Besides conserving biological diversity and enabling scientific research, biosphere reserve should strive to support education and sustainable development. Viewing from this perspective, biosphere reserve could be considered a platform of communication between nature protection authorities and all the other land users, that encourages partnership approaches in the process of decision making on issues important for regional development. Having this theoretical background, the Czech part of the project strives to support implementation of the UNESCO biosphere reserve concept in the Šumava Mts. region. In particular, the project is supposed to:

- Contribute to forming and keeping in operation of a network of key personalities, as a base of regional communication platform
- Formulate a strategy of communication between representatives of nature protection and the other land users in the Šumava Biosphere Reserve



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Life time of the project 2010 – 2013

For dates and up-to-date information, please visit
our website <http://www.vital-landscapes.eu/>



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





PILOT REGIONS

As the extensive exchange of experiences learned in different landscape types is an essential element of the VITAL LANDSCAPE philosophy, seven pilot regions are used in the project by particular partners:



MAP OF PILOT REGIONS

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. 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. To achieve this objective the project is aimed to encourage local dialogue in pilot regions between landscape-maintaining actors such as farmers, tourist operators, investors, environmentalists and, not least, the population in order to raise awareness of the value of vital cultural landscapes.

Pilot regions	Partner institutions
Naturpark Unteres Saaletal (DE)	Landgesellschaft Sachsen-Anhalt mbH, Magdeburg Landesheimatbund Sachsen-Anhalt e.V., Halle
Mühlviertler Kernland (AT)	Universität für Bodenkultur, Wien
Malé Karpaty (SK)	Slovenská Akadémia Vied, Bratislava
Biosférická rezervace Šumava (CZ)	Jihočeská univerzita v Českých Budějovicích, Zemědělská fakulta
Nagyberek (HU)	Budapesti Corvinus Egyetem, Budapest
Mściwojów (PL)	Uniwersytet Rolniczy w Krakowie, Kraków
Ljubljansko Barje (SLO)	Ljubljanski urbanistični zavod – LUZ, d.d., Ljubljana

