

# THE IMPORTANCE OF LANDSCAPE POLICIES IN THE TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT

## IMPORTANȚA POLITICILOR DE PEISAJ ÎN DEZVOLTAREA TERITORIALĂ

**FABIAN Claudia<sup>1</sup>, DOBRESCU E.<sup>2</sup>**

e-mail: klaudiafabian@gmail.com

**Abstract.** *Landscape in recent years has become an important element of territorial policies. This has a priority role in the functional adaptation and harmonization of the European Landscape Convention with national legislation. The landscape holds the role of an identity symbol through its mark of authenticity that leaves on the region and on the local territory. Using landscape as a motor of territorial development led to the adoption of policies to conserve and value the diversity of landscapes. These new policies will influence the remarkable landscape as well as the ordinary landscapes apparently without an evident aesthetic loading. Finally, this study aims to identify both the preservation policy as well as valorization policy of landscape in all his complexity and opens new possibilities on local level.*

**Key words:** landscape policies, the European Landscape Convention, landscape identity, territorial development

**Rezumat.** *Peisajul a devenit în ultimii ani elementul vedetă al politicilor teritoriale. Acesta are un rol prioritar în contextul adaptării și armonizării Convenției Europene a Peisajului cu legislația națională. Peisajul deține rolul unui simbol identitar prin amprenta de autenticitate pe care o lasă asupra regiunilor și a teritoriului local. Utilizarea peisajului ca motor de dezvoltare teritorială a dus la adoptarea de politici care să conserve și să valorifice diversitatea peisajelor. Aceste noi politici vor influența atât peisajele remarcabile, cât și cele banale și aparent lipsite de o încărcătură estetică evidentă. În final acest studiu își propune să identifice atât politicile de preservare, cât și cele de valorizare a peisajului în toată complexitatea sa și să deschidă noi posibilități de abordare la nivel local.*

**Cuvinte cheie:** politici de peisaj, Convenția Europeană a peisajului, peisaj identitar, dezvoltare teritorială

## INTRODUCTION

The use of landscape in the current practice of European territorial policy is due to its entering into public debate and the use of regional policies (Debarbieux, 2007).

With the adoption of the European Landscape Convention (ELC), it got a new possibility of expression at the level of territorial development policy. This document established a common European framework (Donadieu and Perigord,

---

<sup>1</sup> Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iasi, Romania

<sup>2</sup> University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Bucharest, Romania

2005) for the development of landscape, without attempting its uniformity. Landscape enjoys the recognition of its importance at European level and opens new opportunities to express their territories. Considering it an expression of local identity gives the possibility of valorization. The landscape opens new ways of expression for local stakeholders. Creating a unique document to establish the European landscape policies is the recognition of landscapes diversity, but also the guidance for the subscribing States of the Convention to adopt national policies which thus introduce the landscape in their legislation. Through these actions the population and their environment are brought into the center of public life (Donadieu and Perigord, 2005). Nowadays the landscape helps to achieve the political construction of the new European territories in which democratic values and principles of sustainable development are placed in the center of discussions.

## **MATERIAL AND METHOD**

This article examines the impact that the landscape policies have on areas and innovative principles on which they intend to put these policies into practice. As a signatory country of the ELP, Romania must adopt the commitments of this document. Considered as an important component of Europe's cultural and natural heritage, the landscape has a coagulator role for the territorial cohesion policy (Council of Europe, 2006).

Therefore using the European examples of applying public policies at different territorial scales from national to local level will be a support in the development of their national policies. Raising population's awareness regarding the landscape and its closeness are two important elements which lead to valorization and to progress of a territory.

Highlighting the role of landscape and landscape policies in a territory are benefic in a context where there must be taken important steps towards adopting and implementing the ELC as a signatory country.

ELC is one of the democratic ways through which local stakeholders can be included through direct participation in landscape transformations (Auzanneau, 2001). Using European documentation which have the landscape for example as a motor for regional development can become an advantage in the enunciation of new internal regional policy and is a first step towards involving the population in developing their own living space.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS**

The year 2000 brought a change in the landscape approach in terms of rules and conventions. Until then UNESCO was the sole organism which protected and organized a policy of conservation of sites with remarkable natural and cultural landscapes at European and global level. Since 2000, the ELC adoption has opened a new opportunity for European landscape to be appreciated, protected and especially preserved (Rössler, 2001). This occurred due to economic and social changes that led to the trivialization, transformation and degradation of landscapes (Dejeant-Pons, 2001). For Signatories States, the Convention legislates the juridical role of landscape and harmonizes economic law with cultural and social law (Dejeant-Pons, 2001).

The creation of common European policy regarding the landscape was determined by the desire for affirmation of a European identity, and ELC emerged as a result to the awareness of the framework of life deterioration and loss of local image. It is thus supported the desire to live in a non-degraded environment, which has a certain quality of life without restraining the development of economic environment. It gives a life framework to ensure a sustainable development of territories (Council of Europe, 2006), but also economic and social development.

Using the landscape in spatial policies showed a higher closeness of living space by population, in which the development projects were more easily accepted (Davodeau, 2005). With the acceptance of major regional projects due to the landscape, the actions become more credibility at local level.

Adopting ELC showed that the actions on the development and protection of the territories are more readily applicable and the territories management is evolving. Now there is a moving from planning field of gardens and parks to a higher level of planning as the new area of application of landscape projects (Davodeau, 2005). We can illustrate here the creation of *Atlas of Flemish landscape*, a first step towards identifying the patrimonial landscape and shaping future development scenarios of landscape. The first form of Flemish landscape atlas was elaborated in 2001 and established three types of contemporary Flemish landscape characteristics (Antrop and Van Eetvelde, 2008). These were classified according to importance and socio-cultural impact in: patrimonial landscapes (traditional landscapes, rural landscapes and scenery, parks and gardens historic landmark), urban landscapes and the third category of the processed agricultural landscapes. In 2005 this document was improved, but it has remained a perfectible instrument through the need to include the entire Flemish landscape. The landscape atlas is an instrument subjected to continuous transformation in the context of rapid territorial dynamics as that of Flanders. Although it did not integrate all the principles of the ELC, this document was quickly used for Territorial Planning policies and patrimonial policies (Antrop and Van Eetvelde, 2008).

The landscape policies support the treating in a consistent and global form of the territory. This leads to the strengthening of links between each society and the space they live in, by reinforcement of natural and cultural values of each territory. Landscapes are considered a richness of the European territory exactly through their natural and cultural diversity. Maintaining and protecting the rich European landscape represents the wishes of unity in diversity through the protection of cultural and natural heritage of Europe (Council of Europe, 2006). Landscape policies enrich the European Spatial Planning goals by strengthening socio-economic cohesion, because the landscape is actually the result of a fortunate combination between richness and variety of natural and traditional cultural elements specific to each European territory basis. By defining a coherent European landscape, this becomes an inestimable potential stock for sustainable development planning, in accordance with the directories principles adopted at the

CEMAT meeting in Hanover in 2000 (Council of Europe, 2006). Landscape policies are thus awareness tools for different local stakeholders in a form of concerted management planning (Dubois, 2009).

The strengths of landscape policies are the multidisciplinary involvement and the participatory character through which local actors are recruited for their application. Through active participation of population and administrative actors the landscape was able to democratize the management of life framework (Dubois, 2009).

The democratic dimension of the landscape is highlighted through the possibility of involving citizens in the selection of landscapes considered valuable as well as their active participation in decision-making regarding the landscape transformations, from management to its protection and evolution. Introducing these actions with regard to landscape is one of ELC's innovative components, as it calls for creation of mechanisms for protection and management at all decision-making levels from local to European level and leaves open the way for all actors to express on the landscape, from experts to ordinary citizens (Fairclough, 2002). Through democratization of landscape a change was made in the accessibility field: landscape no longer belongs to an elite, it can now be approached by the simple citizens.

Introduction of landscape policies in the development planning as active elements revealed three basic characteristics that are expressed through keywords: protection, management, planning of the landscapes. Each of these terms is clearly defined.

"Landscape protection" means the preservation of significant elements which are recognized as patrimonial values created by nature or made by human intervention (Ouériat S., 2006). As example is the case of Switzerland, which following the modification of legislation to protect nature and landscape in 2007, introduced in the federal legislation the concept of Regional Nature Park (Gerber et al., 2007). This instrument created based on the French model recognizes the importance of landscape as part of economic impulse made by tourism, and especially it recognizes the value and importance of landscape preservation. In Romania, an action of protecting the landscape is the creation of the Natural parks, as specific instruments to protect the natural areas with remarkable flora and fauna as well as specific cultural elements of the protected space. The role of a Natural park in Romania is to maintain in its perimeter the natural and cultural elements in a form slightly altered by accelerated economic activities of the territory.

"Landscape management" will describe the actions of transforming the landscape, trying to define the concept of sustainable coagulant evolution of social, economic and environmental actions in the aspects of a territory (Ouériat, 2006). Maintaining the principles of sustainable development in landscape management, a relevant example may be given by rapprochement the banks of the river Rhone in the French city of Lyon. This project succeeded to bring closer the residents to the river banks, which were until then inaccessible, through the

transformation of urban parking in a green promenade. The stakes of the project was to improve quality of life and sustainable conversion of the urban landscape.

"Landscape planning" describes instead in an active form the changes and landscape evolution covered in the action of restoring, rehabilitation and innovation of landscape (Ouériat, 2006). As an example we mention the rehabilitation of Carbonia city of Sardinia, Italy. The concern for conservation of cultural heritage, and restoring of the urban center determined its choosing as an example of good practice. The project was awarded by the Council of Europe with the 2010-2011 prizes for landscape.

Following the project development, called Carbonia Landscape Machine, it achieved the harmonious combination between urban rehabilitation through enhancement of architectural, socio-economic and environmental heritage. This project followed closely the landscape spatial principles by restoring and innovate transformation of the city landscape of Carbonia, but in the spirit of sustainable development. The project enjoyed large public participation, involving different social groups in the success of the project, who were attracted and sensitized by information and knowledge campaigns. Thus the use of landscape policies involved in managing and preserving territories causes a major asset in applying regional development policies with direct impact on social and economic environment. By applying management, conservation and protection policies, the decision at regional and local level is made transparent. Involving local actors will bring about a democratic and participatory framework life by local government. So, we find at European level the different models of landscape integration into public policies, but also legislative difficulties which delay the adoption of Convention principles. The Romanian legislation does not give an independent definition of the landscape, but this is found mentioned in the legislation and urban planning, environmental legislation or legislation dealing with the heritage problem. Because it is not legislated, the landscape fails to make its place in the territorial projects. For now the role of environmental and natural landscape prevails through its involvement in various types of protected areas, but the cultural role and the importance of traditional image are not yet fully exploited.

## CONCLUSIONS

1. The importance of implementing the landscape policies at the local level comes as a counterbalance to territorial development based only on infrastructure development and increasingly present intervention of the anthropogenic factor into territory.

2. Highlight the value of a landscape and awareness of landscape leads to a greater ownership of the people and more involvement in the protection and controlled progress of the landscape. The participation in the landscape transformations is thus democratized. Residents are aware of their role in their planning projects. As a result, a greater sensitivity to their environment is developed.

3. Maintaining the sustainability of the territory and taking into account the management / preservation / landscape planning.

4. Finding local identity offers new ways of development with the help of landscape, so this leaves the conservation area and becomes an innovative element in land use.

*Acknowledgements: This work was supported by the European Social Fund in Romania, under the responsibility of the Managing Authority for the Sectoral Operational Programme for Human Resources Development 2007-2013 [grant POSDRU/88/1.5/S/47646]*

## REFERENCES

1. **Antrop M., Van Eetvelde V., 2008** - *D'un atlas des paysages à des paysages patrimoniaux intégrés dans l'aménagement du territoire. La situation en Région flamande, Territoire(s) wallon(s), Séminaire de l'Académie Wallonie-Bruxelles* juin 2008, p. 203-214.
2. **Auzanneau V., 2001** - *Le paysage, expression d'une culture au plurielle* in *Patrimoine et paysages culturels*. - Actes du colloque international de Saint-Emilion, 30 mai-1er juin 2001 p. 151-156.
3. **Davodeau H., 2005** - *La sensibilité paysagère à l'épreuve de la gestion territoriale* Cahiers de géographie du Québec, 49-137, <http://id.erudit.org/iderudit/012299ar>, p. 177-189.
4. **Debarbieux B., 2007** - *Actualité politique du paysage*, Revue de géographie alpine, 95-4, <http://rga.revues.org/382>, p. 101-114.
5. **Dejeant-Pons M., 2001** - *La Convention Européenne du Paysage Florence, 20 octobre 2000*, in *Patrimoine et paysages culturels*. - Actes du colloque international de Saint-Emilion, 30 mai-1er juin 2001 p. 25-30.
6. **Donadieu P., Perigord M., 2005** - *Cles pour le paysage*, Ed. OPHRYS, Paris, p. 367.
7. **Dubois C., 2009** - *Le paysage, enjeu et instrument de l'aménagement du territoire* – , Biotechnologie, Agronomie, Société et Environnement (BASE), Gembloux Agricultural University 13-2, <http://www.pressesagro.be/base/text/v13n2/309.pdf>, p. 309-316.
8. **Fairclough G., 2002** - *Une Convention tournée vers l'avenir: des paysages européens pour le XXI-e siècle*, Revue Naturopa, 98-2002, Conseil de l'Europe, p. 5-7.
9. **Gerber J-D., Rodewald R., Knoepfel P., 2007** - *Gestion durable du paysage*, Revue de géographie alpine, 95-3, <http://rga.revues.org/index300.html>
10. **Lowenthal D., 2008** - *Passage du temps sur le paysage*, Ed. Infolio, p. 334.
11. **Ouériat S., 2006** - *Les figures d'une pays. Les paysages wallons à la lumière de leurs artialistion*, in **Gucht D. V., Varone F., - Le paysage a la croisée des regards**, Ed. La Lettre volée, Bruxelles, p. 208.
12. **Rossler M., 2001** - *La Convention du patrimoine mondial au travers les paysages culturels*, in *Patrimoine et paysages culturels*. - Actes du colloque international de Saint-Emilion, 30 mai-1er juin 2001 p.17-21.
13. **\*\*\*, 2006** – *Landscape and sustainable development – Challenges of the European Landscape Convention*, Council of Europe Publishing, Strasbourg, p.279.  
<http://www.premiopaesaggio.it/il-premio/risultati.html>  
<http://www.parcjuravaudois.ch/>  
[www.rhone-alpes.ecologie.gouv.fr](http://www.rhone-alpes.ecologie.gouv.fr)