



13th Council of Europe Meeting of the Workshops for the implementation  
of the European Landscape Convention

*“Territories of the future: Landscape identification and assessment, an exercise in  
democracy”*

# NETWORKING EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE OBSERVATORIES THE FLORENCE CHARTER

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# 1.A Changing Context

- The European Landscape Convention (ELC) in 2000 has, by general consensus, indicated a profound change in concepts, paradigms and political and cultural attitudes concerning the relationship between society and landscape
- The objectives set down by the ELC:
  - Expansion of landscape policies, in terms of protection and enhancement on the entire territory.
  - The strengthening of landscape policies, in terms of knowledge and awareness of structural factors, public interests and values at stakes
  - Effective participation of the stakeholders and local communities, based on their expectations and perceptions.

## 2. Mission of the Observatories

- The Guidelines for the implementation of the ELC (CoE 2008) identifies “**landscape observatories, centres and institutes**” as one of the main instruments for landscape policies implementation. Their mission is the collection, production and exchange of information and studies protocols between states and local communities.

## 2. Mission of the Observatories



- 3 “sister” networks **RECEP-ENELC**, **UNISCAPE**, **CIVILSCAPE** gather local authorities, universities and civil society for the implementation of the ELC



The observatories have a double mission:

- on the one hand, they constitute **instruments of defence** and local, regional and national enhancement,
- on the other hand, they are configured as **points of intersection** that branch off at different scales, maintaining a territorial anchorage and a “system” approach.

# 3. Open questions and research prospects

- A first requirement concerns the **coordination** of initiatives, experiences and activities underway or planned (in particular, the bottom-up initiatives), to ensure that they can stimulate and nurture ideas and shared reflections, and be useful for policies of innovation (for, on) the landscape.
- A second need concerns the role that the Observatories can play in support of policy intervention, as instruments of knowledge, assessment and social communication, as **meeting places**, where expert knowledge intersects with ordinary and common knowledge.

# 3. Open questions and research prospects

- A third need concerns the attempt to develop landscape policies effectively extended to the territory as a whole and not – exclusively – to individual objects of particular prestige, as single cultural or landscape goods. This shift from **single properties to wide landscapes** applies in all European countries, albeit in different ways due to the various mechanisms of protection and consolidated cultural administration in the countries and regions.

### 3. Open questions and research prospects

- A fourth need concerns the **“alliance” between the policies of landscape conservation and nature conservation**, in particular the conservation of parks and protected areas, both inside and outside the city.
- A fifth need concerns the **“right to landscape”**: that new citizenship rights should be protected by public authorities, against any limitation or incapacity. At the same time, public regulation, as required by the ELC, must strengthen the role of local communities in creating and managing their landscapes.





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**“Landscape Observatories in Europe: from ELC  
Recommendations to Local Initiatives 2000-2013”**

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## 4. The Florence Charter

- As a conclusion of the Seminar, the **“Florence Charter” for the Coordination of European Landscape Observatories** was signed, suggesting the activities to be made networking the Landscape Observatories.



- The representatives of the Università di Torino and Politecnico di Torino (Italy) have been encharged to manage the organizational aspects of the following initiatives. A collaborative research project on the topic has been draft.