



# CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

## newsletter



Protecting Historical Landscapes to Strengthen Regional Identities and Local Economies  
INTERREG IIIB CADSES Neighbourhood Programme 2000 - 2006

### EDITORIAL

Dear project partners, dear friends of Cultural Landscapes,

the project year 2007 was characterised by an intensive exchange of experiences at meetings and excursions in three project regions. Today you can read about the International workshop in the Valley of Lafnitz in Austria, hosted by the Grazing Association Ramsar Site Valley of Lafnitz.

Furthermore we report about two events in Latvia and in Romania which stand exemplarily for the growing number of activi-

ties beyond our project partner regions: the sustainable valorisation of European Cultural Landscapes is still at the very beginning!

By producing and distributing this newsletter we intend to support the European network between professional and laymen experts which are involved in the urgent future tasks to preserve and to develop cultural landscapes. It will be our all chance and responsibility to care about this network in the future too.

We hope you will enjoy reading,

Ulrike Jurrack

Typical elements of European Cultural Landscapes, examples from Malopolska, (PL)



1 roadside shrine



2 wooden church



3 lynchet

### PROJECT NEWS

#### „Landscape and Rural Patrimony”

##### International Conference in Sibiu/Romania (Hermannstadt)

In 2006 the CULTURAL LANDSCAPE project got already the opportunity to present its activities at the annual conference of the European Landscape Convention (ELC), organized by the Council of Europe. Many interesting contacts and feedbacks caused by this presentation enriched our project since then.

This year the annual ELC conference took place from the 19<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>th</sup> September in Sibiu (Romania), the European Capital of Culture 2007. The CULTURAL LANDSCAPE project was introduced by representatives of PP9 (Babes Boyai University Cluj-Napoca) and PP5 (Heritage Association Thuringia) who illustrated the project activities and first results in several workshops.

In fact, the topic of „Landscape and Rural Patrimony” proved to be very close to the content of our INTERREG project. Thus, many speakers from all over Europe presented activities and research results related to a cultural focus on landscape perception and landscape

conservation. Furthermore, to maintain landscapes by introducing or safeguarding economic uses as the basic approach the CULTURAL LANDSCAPE was broadly recognized. Finally, an excursion introduced the culture of the German minority in Transsylvania.

Altogether it can be stated that manifold new contacts established during these days will help to implement the CULTURAL LANDSCAPE project during the next few months and to intensify the perception of our activities also outside the CADSES area.

Dr. Burkhardt Kolbmüller



For more than 700 years, German farmers settled in Transylvania and shaped the regional cultural landscape with their typical buildings.

PROJECT  
NEWS**Projects in the Valley Lafnitz -  
International Workshop and Excursion****18<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> of October 2007****CULTURAL LANDSCAPE International experience exchange and excursion in Austria**

The Grazing Association Ramsar Site Valley of Lafnitz - the smallest of all CULTURAL LANDSCAPE project partners - invited to an international meeting for cultural landscape experts in Buchschachen, Burgenland, Austria. During the recent 10 years the Grazing Association realised several very interesting examples for redeveloping former cultural landscape in a highly sustainable way. Among others a holistic approach concerning matters of nature conservation as well as aspects of regional culture and economy belong to their factors of success.

The various impressive projects were presented to the 45 participants from Poland, Austria, Romania and Germany in form of lectures, discussions and visits on site.

Mr. Wolfgang Pelikan explained how the Grazing Association Ramsar Site Valley of Lafnitz actively takes care of the traditional cultur-



Project presentations by lectures and visits on site.

al landscape of the river valley. The original flood plain is characterized by a high biodiversity but nowadays endangered because of an increasing draining and the extensive agricultural use of the recent five decades.

To start working in 1997 an association had to be found which enabled to buy the areas along the river. Today the land is back in private hands but the owner group is continuing these sustainable approaches:

All presented projects like the sustainable grazing management in form of live mother cow farming (a traditional regional race) follow the principles of "wise use" which protect both the "public water property" and the cultural landscape.

In a similar way the eco-tourism aims at the preservation of the landscape by the combination of typical agricultural landuse and the promotion of traditional high quality products made of wine, pumpkin seed oil and meat.

Furthermore some other aspects were introduced too, for instance the Austrian system of a cultural landscape register. In particular the use and the accessibility of GIS-data are exemplary because the internet-portal for Geo-data summarizes all data crossing districts borders.

But the participants got also an impression of the cultural heritage of the region e.g. by visiting the Monastery Vöru and last but not least by tasting specialities of food and wine.

Prof. Hans-Heinrich Meyer,  
University of Applied Sciences Erfurt, DE

PARTNER  
ACTIVITIESPROJECT  
CALENDAR**3<sup>rd</sup> Trans-regional Development Tour**

Once again the international workshop and excursion was accompanied by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Trans-regional Development Tour.

This time students from the Technical University of Dresden and local experts from Thuringia used the chance to get in personal contact with international experts in the Valley of Lafnitz.



students - regional development tour

**Project Calendar**

**28<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>th</sup> of November 2007 Multilateral conference LIFE-Nature project 'Lafnitz – cross-linking habitats along an Alpine-Pannonian river' Loipersdorf, AT.**

*programme*

„What did the LIFE project Lafnitz achieve in terms of nature conservation and water management?“

„International experience with combined water management-nature conservation projects in river basins“

“Opinions of stakeholders from the Lafnitz valley about the LIFE project“

„The future of European river basins“

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**9<sup>th</sup> of December 2007 Rural market in Reinstädt** the annual advent market opens from 10am - 5pm. The rural markets in Reinstädt are part of the pilot project of the Heritage Association Thuringia (PP5).

**5<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> of May 2008 Final International Conference CULTURAL LANDSCAPE** in Krakow, Poland

**Threatened: European Meadows and Grazing Lands**

**Report from the TRINET – a conference initiated by the Grazing Association Ramsar Site Valley of Lafnitz in Sigulda, Latvia.**

35 people from 12 European states met from the 10<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> of October in Sigulda, a place north-east of Riga under the title “TRINET”. The conference concentrated on the experience exchange about the question how agriculture, nature protection and water management can preserve the ecologically and aesthetically valuable meadows and grazing lands as part of the European cultural landscapes.

The participants – a mixture of farmers, nature conservationists but also representatives of governments – dealt with several very practical perspectives of the subject.

Many examples illustrated technical and thematic specifics in terms of use and maintenance (care) of meadows and grazing lands to support biodiversity and ecological river management.

Besides the aspects of (European) regulations, funding and subvention had been discussed intensively too. Regarding the financial support of sustainable approaches (and thereby the motivation) it surprised the participants how big the differences between their countries are. On the other hand the negative effects of over ruling and generalizing of regulations, e.g. the restrictions of mowing periods in summer time, were pointed out.

Due to their experiences the conference stressed again the necessity of holistic and integrated solutions with regional specifics which have always to include, beside the natural and the cultural aspects, the economic base of every measure on a long term.

The fruitful cooperation between the participants will be continued!



Dr. Anton Gazenbeek with the TRINET-project group



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staff members of the Environment Management Austria

*About the Environment Management Austria*

Environment Management Austria (UMA) is a non-profit association which was founded in 1996. There are two offices in St. Pölten and in Vienna. It is the intention of the Environment Management Austria to protect the natural basics of life and to promote sustainable development. The UMA works effectively in practice as well as in a targeted and useful way to take preventive nature protection in the policy of entrepreneurship but also of local and regional authorities.

To reach these objectives the UMA holds education offers in different forms like one-day-seminars and workshops to actual subjects but also the internationally recognised annual MSc-course called "Management & Environment". Furthermore the UMA is involved in research projects concerning subjects like sustainable waste management, preservation of cultural landscape, environmental education and development of mobility.

The involvement in socio-political discussions about actual questions of the environmental policy is the third „main pillar“ of the association. To do so the UMA holds workshops and meetings, elaborates experts reports and written comments and participates at media debates. Furthermore the association is entrusted with the attendance of campaigns or the organisation of big events.

The Environment Management Austria is working with a powerful team of only five staffers, lead by the director Prof. Dr. Reinhold Christian. This team is supported in word and deed by a group of more than 100 specialised external experts, decision-makers and practitioners.

*Tasks and objectives within the project*

- compiling experiences and results of the Austrian cultural landscape research and distributing to the project partners by
  - an academic paper,
  - the survey, analysis and description of examples showing the successful preservation of cultural landscapes including a positive economical development at the same time (best practices),
  - demonstrating these best practices in educational offers for local experts, inhabitants and decision-makers,
- elaboration of two curricula as educational offer for different target groups (transferable to the project partner regions),
- holding a 2-days International Meeting for project partners and guests including the excursion to best practices in Austria.



The institute in St. Pölten

This newsletter is edited by the

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