



## COMBINING SCIENTIFIC EXPERTISE WITH PARTICIPATION: THE CHALLENGE OF THE EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION

*28 & 29 April 2014*

*Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB), Brussels - Belgium*

### CALL FOR PAPERS & SAVE THE DATE

The adoption of the European Landscape Convention (ELC) in 2000 represents a major event in taking landscape into account at the European level. As of June 2013, 38 Council of Europe member states have ratified the Convention.

By specifying that landscape is an essential component of the quality of life of Europeans, the Convention is, first and foremost, in line with a territorial dimension. Moreover, a strong foundation of the ELC lies in its specific definition of landscape, notably based on the notion of perception by populations. One of the scientists' major concerns is therefore how to reconcile objective scientific approaches with the subjective aspect of citizens' perception.

After more than a decade of practice, the Conference will be an opportunity for scientists who have been working in line with the ELC to present the tools developed and to reflect on their tangible, measurable and observable effects.

Landscape atlases e.g., as well as numerous studies provide policy makers and practitioners with a language and a common foundation. **The main practical question is how to understand the real scope of scientific inputs into landscape management.**

The Conference will also be an opportunity to **examine how tools are developed in landscape characterization and how they can help to act in accordance with societal needs.**

In addition to the selected papers and posters, the conference will feature **eminent keynote speakers** enriching the conference with their specific perspective:

- Prof. Dr. Marc ANTROP, Universiteit Gent, Belgium
- Dr. Yves LUGINBÜHL, Senior researcher emeritus, CNRS, France
- Prof. Ingrid SARLÖV HERLIN, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Sweden

### Language

The conference languages will be English or French (no translation provided).

Participant are requested to take this into consideration when preparing their presentations.

## SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Dr. Dimitri BELAYEW, geographer, Belgium

Dr. Mireille DECONINCK, Université Libre de Bruxelles and SPW, Belgium

Prof. Marie-Françoise GODART, Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium

Prof. Laurence LE DU-BLAYO, Université de Rennes 2, France

Prof. Frank LOHRBERG, RWHT Aachen University, Germany

Prof. Isabelle PARMENTIER, Université de Namur, Belgium

Prof. Lionella SCASSOZI, Politecnico di Milano, Italy

Prof. Veerle VAN EETVELDE, Universiteit Gent, Belgium

## ORGANISING COMMITTEE

G. DEVILLERS, SPW

Prof. M-F GODART, ULB

Prof. I. PARMENTIER, UNamur

IGEAT-ULB : GESTe team (L. Bellefontaine, E. Castiau, V. Cawoy, A. Coppens, X. Courtois, S. De Muyneck, M. Haine, C. Patris, T. Pons et S. Queriat).

## SESSION TOPICS

The Conference scope will be approached by 4 topics raising questions that serve as a frame of reference and orientation for the authors.

### ***SESSION 1 – TOOLS AND METHODOLOGIES***

The ELC calls on signatories to identify and assess landscapes in their territories. The introductory session will discuss the type of tools developed and the scientific methodologies proposed. The session will be focused on the position taken by research institutes in framing this topic objectively, at different scales and with a plurality of approaches. What are those methods, their strengths and weaknesses? How can quality objectives be defined in evolving territories?

### ***SESSION 2 – CONTRIBUTION OF HISTORICAL APPROACH IN UNDERSTANDING LANDSCAPES***

Landscape as perceived exists only through the eyes of populations, at a given moment. This historical relativity takes its full meaning when this evolution is analysed on the basis of the changes in landscape planning.

How can the study of this evolution and its interpretation be useful to landscape management or protection and meet the present and future generations' aspirations? What do we learn from our ancestors' achievements, and how can these be integrated into the current landscape management?

### ***SESSION 3 – CONTRIBUTION OF POPULATION TESTIMONIES WHILE CONSTRUCTING LANDSCAPE DECISION TOOLS***

It is currently accepted that a comprehensive knowledge of landscapes cannot ignore the way they are perceived by the inhabitants. The latter's knowledge (sometimes gained over generations) is a precious source of information to elaborate management tools and help decision making. When and how can this knowledge be integrated? Are there some "universal" decision tools that can be developed from such testimonies?

How can one combine those feelings with more systematic and measurable observations? Are landscapes and testimonies in coherence? Which system of meaning are we setting up through these places lived, loved, hated or ignored?

### ***SESSION 4 – LESSONS DRAWN FROM MORE THAN A DECADE OF PRACTICE***

Which lessons can be drawn about the real and tangible influence of the tools developed while studying landscape? How can their impact on the decisional sphere be assessed? How are landscape atlases used in territorial policies? Finally, the different types of appropriation of those tools, their use – also in education – and support for other types of research will be highlighted.

This appraisal should allow identifying unsatisfied expectations as well as questioning ways of improving.

### ***POSTERS***

In addition to the sessions, a room will be available for a poster exhibition. To upload a poster abstract you need to log in or register (Deadline **15 November 2013**).

The study, organisation, and management of landscapes, as well as their changes, are not only the prerogative of "scientists". Field stakeholders also have a rich experience to be shared. Their knowledge will also occupy a significant place in the reflections and exchanges resulting from this Conference. A "poster space" will be devoted to those skills, and will equally be open to the interested scientists.

There will be sufficient opportunities to view posters during breaks.

## ABSTRACTS & CALL FOR PAPERS

There is an open call for papers at the conference. Abstract submissions for oral and/or posters presentations are welcome from people working in research, policy and practice.

Abstracts may only be submitted online at:

<http://igeat.ulb.ac.be/en/colloque-elc-2014/soum-comm/>

by the deadline: **15 November 2013**.

You are welcome to contact the conference organizers to discuss your ideas or if you are not sure which session you should submit your paper to ([igeatlandscape2014@ulb.ac.be](mailto:igeatlandscape2014@ulb.ac.be)).

## GUIDELINES

Authors are requested to conform to the following guidelines for submission of abstracts.

- Only abstracts [submitted online](#) will be considered for inclusion in the programme.
- The abstracts must be submitted in English or French.
- All abstracts will be reviewed and may be selected for oral or poster presentation.
- Notification of acceptance or rejection by the Scientific Committee will be mailed to the presenting author by **16 December 2013**
- Limitation of number of words per abstract: 300 words.
- Keywords: max. 5

Selected abstracts and program will be published on the conference website by January 2014. More information regarding presentations & papers guidelines will be sent to the authors.

## IMPORTANT DATES:

Abstract Submission deadline:	<b>15 November 2013</b>
Notification of acceptance:	16 December 2013
Registration opening	16 December 2013
Abstracts & program publication on conference website	January 2014
Conference	28-29th April 2014

## CONTACTS

All enquiries, comments and suggestions are welcome by email: [igeatlandscape2014@ulb.ac.be](mailto:igeatlandscape2014@ulb.ac.be)

You can find out more about the conference at:

<http://igeat.ulb.ac.be/en/elc2014>