



ECOVAST REPORT 54
August 2013

Editor: Phil Turner
46 Hatherley Road, Winchester, Hampshire UK
SO22 6RR
E mail : p.turner@semantise.com

website <http://www.ECOVAST.org>

Discussion sites :
<http://ECOVAST.webs.com/>

<http://www.dorfwiki.org/wiki.cgi?PhilTurner>

<http://www.dorfwiki.org/wiki.cgi?SmallTowns>

Contents of this edition of the Newsletter

Editorial

Report of the President

European Agricultural Policy

ECOVAST 2013 Strategy

News from the Sections

Action to Strengthen Small European Towns

Historic buildings, historic urban districts and energy

Vital Landscapes

Details of events notified to the Editor

EDITORIAL

The important information is that the General Assembly and Conference for 2013 will be in Hungary on

26 - 29 September 2013 ECOVAST in Kozard, Hungary
see page 10.

Please send copy for the next Newsletter to me, at p.turner@semantise.com by 31 October 2013.

Phil Turner

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It has been a busy spring for me, completing the ECOVAST Position Paper 'The Importance of Small Towns' that is now almost ready to send to the Council of Europe and the European Union – DG Agri and DG Regio.

I would like to thank all those who have made contributions and to the International Committee for their work, including the discussions at the IC meeting in in Dammheim / Palatinate Germany in May. The next stage - in early 2014 - is to convert the document into a more informal booklet which we all hope will prove useful to small town networks and to local municipalities who are responsible for planning and other regulatory functions in the small towns in their areas. That will mark the end of the ASSET Project which started back in 2005, at the conference in Retz, Austria.

I have also been involved with the work of Rural Urban Partnerships which is described in a separate article in this Newsletter.

I would like to welcome you all to our General Assembly event in Kozard, Hungary at the end of September 2013. I am looking forward to meeting you there. It will be the first time we have met in Hungary since our Assembly in 2004. I hope it will be convenient for you to travel there.

Valerie J Carter President

European Union. Welcome to Croatia



Goran Soster (second from left) Co-ordinator of the PREPARE Network, with (fourth from right) Višnja Jelić Mück, President of HMRR Croatian Rural Development Network and colleagues from Croatia and Slovenia, celebrate at the border on the bridge over Drava river.

At the opening of the Croatian kažun in the Peak Park, England UK, Valerie Carter spoke a welcome.



ECOVAST was represented by President Valerie Carter, Michael Dower, Past President, Phil Turner, Vice President and Tihana Stepinac Fabijanic, Vice President from Croatia.



(Photos Pam Moore)



Meeting together in the Peak Park: Valerie, Tihana and Pam Moore (Former Secretary General of ECOVAST) (Photo Phil Turner)

European Agricultural Policy

Political agreement by The European Parliament, the EU Council of Ministers and the European Commission was reached on 26 June 2013.

The final legal text of the CAP reform will be available later this year, and there will be different decisions by member states on how much money is allocated to rural development.

“A greener CAP. All Member States, all rural areas and all farmers will take simple, proven measures to promote sustainability and combat climate change. Between 2014 and 2020, over EUR 100 billion will be invested to help farming meet the challenges of soil and water quality, biodiversity and climate change:

- 'Greening' of 30% of direct payments will be linked to three environmentally-friendly farming practices: crop diversification, maintaining permanent grassland and conserving 5%, and later 7%, of areas of ecological interest as from 2018 or measures considered to have at least equivalent environmental benefits.
- At least 30% of the rural development programmes budget will have to be allocated to agri-environmental measures, support for organic farming or projects associated with environmentally friendly investment or innovation measures.
- Agri-environmental measures will be stepped up to complement greening practices. These programmes will have to set and meet higher environmental protection targets (guarantee against double funding).”

Sources:

- http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-13-613_en.htm
- http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-13-613_de.htm
- http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-13-613_en.htm?locale=FR

More on CAP

ARC2020 says:

The main points of the agreement have established a regime, despite the spin, remarkably like the old regime.

In many cases, contentious issues have been left to Member States or left for the future. For example, according to the European Parliament "Decisions still need to be taken on capping direct payments to bigger farms and distributing funds between farmers."

Payments to bigger farmers has been amongst the most ... glaring of inequities, especially at a time of austerity across Europe.

<http://www.arc2020.eu/front/2013/07/political-agreement-for-the-cap-towards-2020/>

ECOVAST 2013 Strategy

On 13 November 2013 the first European Rural Parliament (ERP) will take place in Brussels.

The plenary will agree the content of an ERP policy statement. Contributions were requested to be posted on the ERP website.

ECOVAST has responded on the basis of a paper drafted in July 2013 entitled "A Global Strategy for Rural Europe" to update the Strategy for Rural Europe, last revised in 2008. The full wording is available to download:

<http://dorfwiki.org/upload/PhilTurner/2013ECOVASTGlobalStrategyforEurope.pdf>

ECOVAST proposes that the European Rural parliament should make a decision on the following issue :

Europe should take a leading role in addressing and improving responses to global processes, based on an approach that recognises the unique identity of the many different parts of the continent and on experiences drawn from history, culture and agriculture. A focus on localism and regionalism may mitigate effects of global markets, depletion of oil and gas resources, and consequential rising food costs.

The proposal to the ERP has three Principles:

Competitiveness, applied globally, can be seen to be damaging the unique qualities of rural places, people and their activities. The imperative for rural areas is not competition but collaboration, partnership and joint working, not least between farmers and others in local communities. Rural areas have to compete, for political support and funding, with urban areas that have more votes per hectare. For small enterprises, both rural and

urban, the challenge is to be viable, not to be globally competitive.

Cohesion requires recognition that the trend of rural de-population is now seeing reversal, in some parts of Europe. This 'counter-urbanisation' can lead to a disparity, between relatively wealthy incomers from urban areas and the indigenous rural people, that requires to be addressed. It has some benefits – for example the people moving from urban areas, or from other states, can use and repair traditional rural buildings. They can bring new skills to a locality that can be harnessed for civil society activity. Migration across continents, probably intensified by climate change, may become a greater challenge in the longer term.

Sustainability implies the assurance of continuity and quality in rural settlements, landscapes and habitats, while acknowledging that landscapes have been subject to change throughout history. Climate shifts will cause change. Blinkered spatial policies, founded on a priority to settlements that have public transport, can lead to clustering of services in larger urban areas and the withering away of hitherto viable rural places. The landscape, itself a valuable spiritual and economic resource for tourism and an incentive for economic investment, needs local people to manage the animals and vegetation essential to its appearance and habitat. If people are less present in rural areas, the countryside as we know it will degenerate.

Phil Turner

NEWS FROM THE SECTIONS

Austria

For the "Green Belt" project, six workshops have been successfully conducted. For the GA in Hungary a poster presentation is planned. There will be a report about the whole work at the General Assembly in Hungary. Slovak, Hungarian and Croatian colleagues might be interested since as well the "Green Belt" as the "Blue Belt", namely the Danube landscape, both concern their countries.

ECOVAST Austria is invited and will present the finalised six workshop results of the six project regions in Grad, Slovenia, at the conference of the project partners on September 10. to 11.

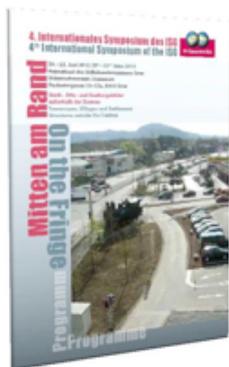
Whilst this, landscapes and historic small towns, also can be related to the Danube Strategy, as the two "belts" are meeting in project region three, Bratislava South, on the latter there had been no progress to our knowledge.

Nevertheless, talks in this behalf have begun between ECOVAST Austria and the Landscape Fund of the Lower Austrian Government about assessing the landscapes and historic small towns along the Austrian part of the Green Belt.

Arthur Spiegler and Brigitte Macaria

Austria and Germany.

Internationales Städteforum Graz was a founding member of ECOVAST. On 18th - 19 April 2013, Salzburg, Austria and Regensburg, Germany the Forum organised a Seminar on architecture and historic preservation with an excursion to the UNESCO World Heritage city of Regensburg 20th - 22



On the Fringe. In June 2013 the International Symposium of the ISG, in Graz, Austria was on the topic of 'Urban and city outskirts and townscape'. This focused on demographic shifts affecting the urban edges of towns, where no formative protection instruments are effective, and show in a negative sense "Shapeless agglomeration" of strip malls, house carpets mixed with industrial sites

Source:

<http://www.staedteforum.at/Gertraud/Termine/isgTermine.pdf>

Croatia

- Nikša Božić, President, Aleksandar Lukić and Ives Vodanović, Secretary, participated in a conference about perspectives of EU-funded projects for rural development in Croatia in Ludbreg (March 2013).
- Aleksandar Lukić presented experiences of ECOVAST in protection of rural and small towns heritage in a conference in Tivat, Montenegro (April 2013), organized by PREPARE (Partnership for Rural Europe) and South East Europe Heritage Network.
- As of March 2013 Nikša Božić from ECOVAST is a new member of HMRR Managing Board.

On an interesting note, *ECOVAST Report* publication will use as a model to create a similar newsletter within the HMRR with the purpose of better and easier exchange of news between the network members.

Project *Heritage – Driver of Development (Dubrovnik and Boka Kotorska region – joint cross border activities in applying new methodologies in natural and cultural heritage protection and management)* is approved and will see participation of Croatian Section of ECOVAST as associate organisation. (Lead partners are Municipality of Tivat and Planning Institute of the Dubrovnik-Neretva County.) Project is funded through IPA Cross-border programme Croatia - Montenegro and will last for 23 months (until early 2015).

The overall objective of the project is contribution to establishing cooperation between institutions in charge of natural and cultural heritage protection through implementing joint programs, education, know-how transfer and awareness raising activities. The specific objective the action aims to achieve is improving collaboration between actors dealing with protection, planning and management of natural and cultural heritage through joint activities in applying new methodologies in the cross-border area of Dubrovnik and Boka Kotorska. The project also aims to enlarge professionals' knowledge and increase citizens' awareness of how heritage can be used as a driver of development.

Several workshops and conferences are planned in Dubrovnik / Tivat area, including *The Landscape Days* conference in the spring of 2014. Web domain www.bastina.eu is reserved, but creation of the website is still underway.

Croatian Section of ECOVAST will be responsible for networking and will take part in working groups related to cultural landscape protection and management.

A much smaller project was approved by the City of Zagreb, responsible partners being Croatian Network for Rural Development (HMRR) and ECOVAST. The title of the project is ***Perspectives for development of rural areas on the fringe of the City of Zagreb.*** Several research studies are planned (demographic, sociological, economic; study of urban functions, landscape character assessment) as well as several workshops and a final exhibition. Because the proposed budget was drastically cut, at the moment we are making adjustments to the proposed project activities, the plan is to start in June this year. The project will focus on settlements located in south-west periphery of Zagreb where (sub)urban functions overlap with traditional ones, creating new possibilities for development (organic food production, weekend-getaway tourism etc.)

Nikša Božić

Croatian kažun in the Peak Park, England UK



Croatian and British dignitaries gathered in the Peak District to celebrate Croatia's accession to the European Union through the shared tradition of dry stone walling.

Croatian assistant minister of culture Sanja Šaban and ambassador Dr Ivan Grdešić officially opened a new dry stone roundhouse beside the High Peak Trail at Parsley Hay as a symbol of our shared European heritage.

Known as "kažun," the roundhouse is a gift of the Republic of Croatia, constructed by Istrian craftsmen using Peak District limestone in a style created 200 years ago by farm-workers.

The official opening ceremony was attended by Peak District National Park leaders and representatives of ECOVAST – the European Council for the Village and Small Town who supported the scheme – as well as the Lord Lieutenant of Derbyshire Willie Tucker and the High Sheriff of Derbyshire Derek Mapp.

Culture minister Sanja Šaban congratulated the partners for sharing their knowledge and skills during the construction: "I'm so pleased to be here to celebrate with you through our shared traditions," she said. "Throughout history relations between countries have been improved by cultural links that create stronger links than short-term political alliances."

Ambassador Grdešić added: "It's a symbolic structure of partnership and friendship between our nations that is built to last for hundreds of years."

He paid tribute to Nenad Bicanic, emeritus professor of civil engineering at Glasgow University, who designed the scheme, and Branko Orbanic, specialist in dry stone wall restoration, who led the team of Istrian stone masons.

Peak District National Park Authority chair Tony Favell praised the teams from both nations for working together to create a building that was both beautiful and useful for shelter and education.

"It blends in magnificently with the surrounding countryside," he said. "I'd like to thank the people of Croatia and their government for taking the initiative of gifting this wonderful building to us. We congratulate Croatia on their accession to the EU and to have this as part of their celebrations makes us very proud."

The ceremony was marked by English folk dancing from the Winster Morris Men, Croatian folk dancing from the Derbyshire Dancers, and Croatian and English folk music from the String Ensemble and Senior Wind Band of Lady Manners School, Bakewell.

The building, which was at no cost to the Authority, used limestone from the nearby Once-a-Week Quarry and sandstone roof tiles from Wellfield Quarry, near Huddersfield. The stone was sourced by a local business, Natural Stone Sales of Rowsley.

For a video of the kažun under construction go to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jzw13WwgVCQ>



Official Photo (Michael Dower 2nd right)

Croatian culture minister Sanja Šaban (2nd left) with Peak District National Park Authority chair Tony Favell (3rd left), Croatian ambassador Dr Ivan Grdešić (4th right) and leaders of the Croatian and Peak District teams who brought the kažun project together.

**Barbara Crossley communications officer,
Peak District National Park Authority**

Germany

Denkmal, Leipzig 22 – 24 November 2012

ECOVAST Germany, in association with Europa Nostra implemented the international seminar on timber and timber-framed churches on the Denkmal Messe in Leipzig. Other activities have included a board meeting, attending seminars at the "Green Week" in Berlin as well as the excellent organization of the meeting of the International Committee, visits and Seminar in Dammheim / Palatinate.

The "Förderkreis Alte Kirchen Marburg", a founding member of ECOVAST, this year celebrates its 40th anniversary. From 15th - 17th June besides holding its AGM the Förderkreis organized a meeting of the new international network "Future for Religious Heritage" in Marburg together with a tour for the foreign guests to churches, chapels and former synagogue sites and buildings in Marburg, as well as an excursion to churches looked after by the Förderkreis in the region around Marburg. The guests were greeted by the Lord Mayor of Marburg as well as the Deputy Chief Executive of the District Marburg-Biedenkopf.

Angus Fowler

Hungary

ECOVAST's Annual Assembly and Conference will be hosted by Pál Hajas in Kozard, Northern Hungary near to the Slovakian border. Dr. Pál Hajas is himself a farmer of some 250 hectares and the force behind active rural development in the village.

Small Towns in Hungary were developed and founded in the historic Kingdom of Hungary which also included the present Slovakia (Upper Hungary) and Transylvania from the 12th and 13th centuries onwards as in the rest of western Europe, populated in particular by immigrants from Germany and the Low Countries who brought important skills with them (mining etc.). They flourished and prospered up to the time of the Ottoman invasions and then conquest in the 15th and 16th centuries.

They survived and continued albeit in difficult circumstances in western and northern Hungary including Slovakia which came into and remained in the possession of the Habsburg King of Germany, Ferdinand I, on the death of his brother-in-law Ladislaus at the Battle of Mohacs or its aftermath in 1526.

Many settlements were founded/refounded in the 18th and 19th centuries after they were recovered by the Habsburgs after 1683, a considerable number received town rights (Stadtrecht) in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

Besides administrative functions, also serving their hinterland, many small towns have an agrarian background with important market and production functions (agricultural machinery, sugar factories etc.).

Suffering from the changes since 1989, factories have been closed, resulting in unemployment, often with few alternatives for other employment. Interesting historical industrial complexes have been allowed to decay, their stock and machinery has been plundered and dispersed. Younger people have often moved to Budapest and the few other large cities.

Really old historic small towns with important medieval and later (Renaissance/Baroque) architectural heritage survived only in western and northern Hungary (for instance Sopron/Hungarian Burgenland). Towns east of the Danube often have interesting architectural heritage from the 18th to 20th centuries. Some towns may have been able to renovate their architectural heritage since 1989. The Hungarian State Conservation Authority was in

the past able to help monitor and partly finance the restoration of important buildings but has been increasingly restricted in its work and possibilities in recent years partly as a result of frequent administrative changes.

contributed by Angus Fowler

Poland

ECOVAST Polish section, Conference "Specification of regional space – its protection, preserve and evolution"

The scientific conference is designed for academics, professionals and local government, dealing with the problems of widely understood development of the regions. The aim of the conference is to exchange experiences and discuss problems of the activation of rural areas, where the effort of the residents, local governments, architects and urban planners is combined, taking into account the specificity of the regional space, its protection, conservation and use, so as to enhance its quality, with particular emphasis on cultural heritage.

Mielnik, the capital of the southernmost municipality of Podlasie voivodship, situated on the right bank of the Bug River, on rich deposits of Cretaceous, so far extensively exploited, stands out because of its specific microclimate. The centuries-long development of the different cultures in an environment of valuable natural assets is the characteristic of the place. As part of a field session we want to invite you to explore the beautiful natural spots on the Bug River and villages located around it to look at their present shape.

The conference will take place at the Centre for History of the Mielnik Land (Ośrodek Dziejów Ziemi Mielnickiej). 14 and 15 September 2013 in Mielnik on the Bug River.

Further information:

dr inż. arch. Halina Łapińska: tel. (+48) 85 746 99 28 or (+48) 506 866 100 h.lapinska@pb.edu.pl

dr inż. arch. Katarzyna Asanowicz: tel. (+48) 85 746 99 17 akat@pb.edu.pl

Halina Lapinska

Romania

Representing ECOVAST at the Romanian Embassy in London, on 12 March 2013, I was impressed with the work of the MIHAI EMINESCU TRUST which was celebrating its 25th anniversary.

Founded by Jessica Douglas-Home to support Romania's national heritage and based on her experience of the country in the Ceausescu era, its initial role was to support dissidents' contact with liberal civilisation through visits by philosophers and historians and the clandestine provision of academic material. The Trust was one of the first to alert the West to the imminent destruction of hundreds of medieval villages and towns by the

Communist bulldozers. After the fall of the regime in December 1989 and the lifting of Securitate restrictions the Trust evolved to advise communities how they might best preserve their frail architecture and unique village systems.

Mihai Eminescu (1850-1889) is Romania's national poet. Much of his writing was inspired by his travels through Transylvania and reflects the extraordinary way of life of this part of Eastern Europe. To this day, thanks largely to over a thousand projects undertaken by the Trust, much of the environment remains intact; but it is still very much under threat. Recent plans funded and often managed by the Trust contribute to the natural environment, infrastructure and revival of forgotten skills and craftsmanship which in turn provide economic stability to this uniquely beautiful region.

Source:

www.mihaieminescutrust.org

Phil Turner

Russia

A disastrous fire in the 18th century Lyadiny ensemble has resulted in the destruction of one of the two churches and the belltower. Wooden churches are very vulnerable, but all too often the situation is compounded by neglect and indifference, says Matilda Moreton of Open Democracy Russia.

During Soviet rule, the single-minded persecution of the Church, its buildings and clergy meant that every destructive method was employed. Churches were dynamited, burned to the ground, chopped down with axes. Priests and their families were exiled, imprisoned, executed. Icons were heaped on to bonfires, chopped up for firewood, made into sledges, window shutters, cattle troughs, and sometimes even faced firing squads.

Besides all this, wooden churches also suffered the usual deterioration of any abandoned wooden building. As architectural historian and campaigner for wooden churches Mikhail Mikheev makes very clear in his frequent and impassioned speeches, their main enemy is indifference and neglect.

Today, last remaining wooden churches of Russia are in grave danger. The creation of the Soviet state in 1917 did not help their cause, but they are now in crisis. Much of this has been documented by [restorers](#) within Russia and [travellers](#) from abroad.

The Easter fire

Wooden churches have also often been destroyed by fire. Sometimes the cause is a carelessly discarded cigarette end, sometimes a crumbling brick stove or chimney and more often than not, it is lightning. This year, disaster struck on Sunday 5 May, Russian Easter Sunday (the most important day in the Orthodox Church calendar), when two

parts of a unique three-part ensemble at Lyadiny, near Kargopol, (Arkhangel Region) were destroyed by fire. The three-piece wooden masterpiece known as a *troinik* (a summer church, a winter church and a bell tower) was the only one still intact in the Kargopol district and one of only four remaining ensembles in the whole of Russia. Now there are three.

Source:

<http://www.opendemocracy.net/od-russia/matilda-moreton/easter-fire-descends-on-lyadiny>

see also:

The tragedy of Russia's abandoned wooden churches

<http://www.opendemocracy.net/od-russia/alexander-mozhayev/tragedy-of-russias-abandoned-wooden-churches>

The death of the Russian Village

<http://www.opendemocracy.net/od-russia/matilda-moreton/death-of-russian-village>

United Kingdom Europa Nostra

Phil Turner says: "As ECOVAST representative on the committee of Europa Nostra UK, I was present with Pam Moore (formerly of that committee) and EN UK Chairman Dr Peter Collins on 9 July at the celebrations and unveiling of the plaque. This lovely 18th century building Gothic Revival building is not in a village or small town, but in suburban London."



The Strawberry Hill Trust was awarded the prestigious **Grand Prix of the 2013 European Union Prize for Cultural Heritage/Europa Nostra in the conservation category** at a special ceremony at the Odeion of Herodes Atticus in Athens, Greece on 16 June 2013.

The Europa Nostra Grand Prix award provides a prize of €10,000 for the Strawberry Hill Trust. A special plaque was given by the European Commission and Europa Nostra to mark the 2013 European Union Prize for Cultural Heritage/Europa Nostra. The awards in the Conservation category recognise the Strawberry Hill Trust's achievement in the 2007 to 2010 restoration of Strawberry Hill, Horace Walpole's house in Twickenham, Middlesex. Strawberry Hill is internationally famous as the birthplace of the Gothic Revival in domestic architecture in the 18th century.

"My warmest congratulations to everyone associated with the restoration of Strawberry Hill for its 'well-deserved 'Grand Prix' in the 2013 EU Prize for Cultural Heritage /Europa Nostra awards. **This distinction places Strawberry Hill on the European map for the best heritage projects, thanks to the outstanding work of its volunteers and professionals.** The European Commission is committed to supporting projects like this through our new 'Creative Europe' programme, as well as through other EU funding. Cultural heritage is not just about protecting sites from the past which we hold in trust for future generations: it is also a catalyst for job creation and skills developments," said Androulla Vassiliou, European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Multilingualism and Youth.

The awards were celebrated at a special ceremony at Strawberry Hill on 9 July 2013 with the unveiling of the Europa Nostra plaque by Baroness Andrews of Southover, OBE, Chair of English Heritage. The ceremony was attended by representatives from the Strawberry Hill Trust, major donors and supporters, local and national European government. The awards mark the first time that the high quality restoration, led by the Strawberry Hill Trust Chairman, Michael Snodin, with Project Architects Peter Inskip and Stephen Gee of Inskip + Jenkins, has been **recognised on the European stage.**



Left Michael Snodin, Strawberry Hill Trust, centre Baroness Andrews, English Heritage Chair, right Dr Peter Collins, Europa Nostra.

Baroness Southover said, "English Heritage is proud to have been able to make a significant and timely contribution to this important and exemplary project. Strawberry Hill is the most famous example of Gothic Revival architecture, which represents one of England's most important contributions to European culture. Horace Walpole, the creator of Strawberry Hill, was one of the greatest dilettantes of the eighteenth century, and it is entirely fitting that a house created with so much sensitivity has now been so sensitively restored.

"It is hard to believe today that only a couple of years ago Strawberry Hill was included on English Heritage's "Heritage at Risk" Register. The 2007 to 2010 restoration has now been recognised by the award of the 2013 European Union Prize for Cultural Heritage. I would like to congratulate all those who have been involved in this amazing project."

Michael Snodin said, "We are delighted to be awarded the Grand Prix by Europa Nostra which is a tremendous accolade to the amazing restoration of Walpole's villa. **The high quality of conservation at Strawberry Hill has been recognised in the UK but never before on the international stage.** This prize will enable more people from the UK and around the world to discover Horace Wapole's house and encourage them to visit Strawberry Hill and find out for themselves about his legacy."

Source:

<http://www.strawberryhillhouse.org.uk/news-item.php?newsid=45>

ECOVAST project ASSET: Action to Strengthen Small European Towns

Since the report in Newsletter 53 detailing the proposed ECOVAST/ASSET workshop in conjunction with DG Regio it has not proved possible to have a Small Towns focus at the Open Days in Brussels 7 - 10 October 2013.

However, our President, Valerie Carter, on DG Regio's invitation, has joined in discussions with the organisers of another workshop, organised by the state of Brabant, Netherlands, to be held Tuesday, 8 October 2013 12.00 – 15.00 at the House of the Dutch Provinces, Trierstraat 59-61 Brussels

The theme is "Smart, sustainable and inclusive economic growth through territorial linkages The example of food as a binding element" An interactive debate with food and visuals.

Nowadays, more and more people live in cities and metropolitan areas. This number will increase rapidly in the future. Within these metropolitan areas the distinction between urban, peri-urban and rural areas seems to be fading. The city,

metropolitan area and the peri-urban area are interdependent, with a common goal: to create and maintain a sustainable, competitive and attractive region for living and working. But there are challenges too, how we keep the rural areas (economic) viable?

Territorial linkages are gaining increasingly of interest. They are no longer separate worlds, but a perspective to achieve integrated policy. Governance in territorial linkages has opportunities for integration across a broad spectrum of policy in the fields of resource efficiency, spatial planning, capacity for added economic value and growth, innovation, competitiveness and viable rural areas.

The members of the European networks of urban, metropolitan, peri-urban and rural areas give their visions on this important theme of territorial linkages based on practical examples. By the example of food as a binding element, we will illustrate how territorial linkages contribute to the EU2020-goals of smart, sustainable and inclusive economic growth. Representatives of the European Commission and the OECD will reflect. We invite you to participate in this lively debate!

The debate will be held with participation of AEIAR, CEMR, ECOVAST, EUROCITIES, METREX, PURPLE, Malopolska Region and the European projects PURE HUBS & URMA.

The debate is organized by Amsterdam (member of EUROCITIES, METREX and PURPLE) and BrabantStad (member of EUROCITIES).

Please register: brabantstad@brabant.nl

Phil Turner

Report Recommends that market towns of 10 - 40,000 population should be covered by LEADER in future

A Review of the Leader Approach for Delivering the Rural Development Programme for England
A Report for Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) by Lincoln Business School University of Lincoln UK

This report, commissioned by the Rural Communities Policy Unit at Defra, sets out the findings of a review of the Leader approach in England. The focus of the review is the impact of Leader in contributing to the delivery of the Rural Development Programme (RDP) in England, in

order to inform the future Leader approach to delivering rural policy.

In terms of the territorial shape of the new programme we have identified that, if all of rural England is to benefit from Leader, there will need to be a radically different approach to the current model. This is likely to involve LAGs with a larger population threshold or smaller budgets, the latter being undesirable if Leader is to have sufficient resource to be effective. We also feel there is definite merit in including market towns with a population of 10,000 - 40,000 in Leader areas.

Contact: Dr Gary Bosworth
gbosworth@lincoln.ac.uk

Historic buildings, historic urban districts and energy

The EFFESUS project. The term historic urban district means, in the context of EFFESUS, a significant grouping of old buildings, built before 1945 and representative of the period of their construction or history. These buildings do not necessarily have to be protected by heritage legislation.

Europe can become the leader in CO₂ emissions reductions by applying innovative solutions to its built cultural heritage. EFFESUS will develop and implement new and adapted technologies and systems which are cost-effective and technically and visually suitable for use in historic buildings and urban districts.

EFFESUS will produce the Decision Support System, a software tool to help make informed decisions about improvement measures suitable for historic urban districts. The decision making will be supported by a multiscale spatial data model, a categorisation of historic buildings and urban districts and a repository of energy efficiency retrofit solutions, for which EFFESUS will collate data on:

- existing building stock and its energy use and heritage significance
- local climatic conditions including regional climatic change predictions
- economic, life-cycle and technical assessments of improvement measures

Source:

www.fffesus.eu

Vital Landscapes

This project, completed in March 2013, contributes to preserve the quality, diversity and beauty of cultural landscapes in Central Europe. Therefore we test innovative participation and visualization techniques in order to introduce cross-sectoral development strategies for selected regions.

The project is carried out jointly by eight international partners comprising scientists and practitioners. VITAL LANDSCAPES is implemented within the Central Europe Programme co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

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. In addition, many rural areas suffer from population decline due to negative demographic trends and the outward migration of young people. Further problems include the sectoral treatment of landscape issues and the poor coordination of different policy areas (especially agriculture, nature conservation, and economy).

Since the year 2000, the European Landscape Convention has been trying to develop and coordinate effective measures for the protection of landscapes. However, its effectiveness in Central Europe has been rather limited to date. This applies similarly to the Territorial Agenda of the European Union adopted in 2006.

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.

Source:

www.vital-landscapes.eu

EVENTS NOTIFIED TO THE EDITOR

14 and 15 September 2013 in Mielnik on the Bug River, Poland.

ECOVAST Polish section, Conference "**Specification of regional space – its protection, preserve and evolution**" The conference will take place at the Centre for History of the Mielnik Land (Ośrodek Dziejów Ziemi Mielnickiej).

Further information:

dr inż. arch. Halina Łapińska: tel. (+48) 85 746 99 28 or (+48) 506 866 100 h.lapinska@pb.edu.pl

dr inż. arch. Katarzyna Asanowicz: tel. (+48) 85 746 99 17 akat@pb.edu.pl

26 - 29 September 2013
ECOVAST General Assembly and Conference in Kozard, Hungary

Contact Dr Pal Hajas

hajas@cserhatalja.eu

or hajas@euragro.hu

Mobile: +36-30-7180912

Tel: +36-30-210-4308

+36-30-718-0912

There will be a day excursion with an opportunity for Landscape group work

Participants who are interested in becoming acquainted, informally, with the ECOVAST method of landscape identification are welcome to register before the start of the excursion. There are not more than three preconditions:

1. The group should not be bigger than 12 persons,
2. Every participant of this landscape identification group should make notes throughout the excursions concerning the landscape on a small pad and

3. This landscape group will have to do some two hours indoor work on the results of the excursion and everyone's personal notes.

The results of the landscape identification workshop including the photos taken at the excursion can be put on our website later on.

Arthur Spiegler will lead the workshop and will give a brief introduction at the beginning of the excursion in the bus.

This specific method of identifying landscapes through their character has been developed by ECOVAST but until now never was carried out in any of our official gatherings.

Any questions in advance are welcome and should be directed to Arthur Spiegler (a.spiegler@reflex.at).

7 - 10 October 2013 Open days, Brussels

In October 2013, regions and cities will be finalising preparations for the 2014-2020 cohesion policy, rural development and fisheries programmes. The OPEN DAYS will offer EU institutions, managing authorities and final beneficiaries a chance to exchange and network on new approaches even before the new operational programmes (OPs) are implemented in 2014.

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/conferences/od2013/main_programme.cfm

Tuesday, 8 October 2013 12.00 – 15.00 at the House of the Dutch Provinces, Trierstraat 59-61 Brussels

The theme is "Smart, sustainable and inclusive economic growth through territorial linkages
The example of food as a binding element"

23 - 25 October 2013 BOLOGNA, ITALY

OECD 9th Rural Development Policy Conference
"Rural-Urban partnerships: an integrated approach to economic development"

Please visit <http://www.oecd.org/gov/regional-policy/ruralconferencebologna> for more information

24-27th October, 2013 Martfű

(Hungary), International film festival.

Films on the topic of rural life and the future of the rural world. Preliminary information: AGRARIA-APURE Egyesület: agraria@vipmail.hu Europe Direct Szolnok: szolnok@europedirect.hu

7 - 9 November, 2013 European Rural University, Périgueux, Dordogne, France "Rural areas, areas of innovation and the future of Europe."

'Employment, social inclusion and training in rural areas'

'New information and communication technologies'

'Environment, management of cultural and natural heritage'

<http://www.cg24.fr/>

Contact: Bali István [<mailto:agraria@vipmail.hu>]

13 November 2013 European Rural Parliament Brussels.

This will be an exciting and engaging process, involving many representatives from the local level, as well as policy makers and politicians from the European Union. There will be presentations on key rural development issues and experiences, and the findings of the pre-ERP survey. Workshops will enable full discussion on the main issues raised. The plenary will agree the content of the ERP policy statement, and the responsibilities for taking forward the consequent actions, including the organization of the next ERP. The final program will be announced later

Participation in ERP will be limited to 150 people and it is important to get a broad representation of the European rural movement.

Maximum three participants from each country's national rural movement and network, and two representatives from each European rural network.

An application form will be available from August 15, where your network or organisation can apply for seats. The criteria for selection will be published in July.

<http://europeanruralparliament.com>