



BALTIC LANDSCAPE FORUM

24 – 25 APRIL 2014, TALLINN, ESTONIA

The forum will concentrate on the importance of the European Landscape Convention (ELC) for national landscapes. The aim of the event is to raise awareness about the ELC and its implementation in Estonia.

The forum will contain open discussions, a field trip and presentations delivered by the ELC developers and promoters from the Council of Europe and CivilScape network, as well as by specialists from the Baltic countries who are dealing with landscape protection, management and planning on a daily basis. The forum will be the place where we ask, share ideas, make arrangements and cooperate interdisciplinary.

Baltic Landscape Forum is one of the possible channels to promote ELC in Estonia, to share the acknowledgment of the value of landscape on the global, European and national level, to catalyze cooperation between ministries, organizations, governments and people who use landscapes in their daily lives. We hope it helps to initiate a signing procedure.

Landscape Forums are being organized in the frame of CivilScape all over Europe. It is an international association of civil society organizations dedicated to landscape protection, management and planning. The first Baltic Landscape Forum took place in December of 2013 in Vilnius, Lithuania. The second Baltic Landscape Forum is organized by the Estonian Landscape Architects' Union.

The forum is bilingual, with EE-ENG-EE simultaneous interpretation.

24th of April: seminar + discussion

On the first day, we have speeches about the European Landscape Convention, international implementation practices and landscape treatment in Estonia.

Our keynote speakers are Maguelonne Dejeant-Pons, Head of the Cultural Heritage, Landscape and Spatial Planning Division at the Council of Europe; Pere Sala i Marti, Coordinator of the Landscape Observatory of Catalonia and Gerhard Ermischer, Vice-President of CivilScape and Kathryn Moore, Birmingham City University professor, International Landscape Convention guardian.

During the second session different Estonian specialists share their experience of dealing with landscapes in such fields as environmental protection, spatial planning, architecture and urbanism, cultural heritage, agriculture, and landscape architecture. Speeches will be followed by open discussion.

25th of April: field trip + discussion

The second day is built on contrasts: site visits to cultural and natural areas, agricultural and mining landscapes, Soviet brownfields and contemporary landscape architecture. Again, the field trip will be followed by an open discussion, the focus of which is on international case studies, the experience of our neighbors and the future of landscape.

Target group of the forum

- landscape architects and designers, architects, spatial planners, urban specialists, environmentalists, engineers, geographers;
- teachers, researchers and students;
- politicians, policy makers, local governments representatives, leaders of elected authorities;
- NGO representatives and entrepreneurs;
- active citizens and all who feel the need to educate themselves about landscapes or share their landscape experience.

Website: www.balticlandscapeforum.ee. Join our [mailing list](#) to keep up to date so far.

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ORGANIZERS AND PARTNERS

The second Landscape Forum is organized by Estonian Landscape Architects' Union (ELAU), which is a professional organization of Estonian landscape architects founded in 2003. Its main purpose is to represent and promote the profession of a landscape architect in Estonia and to introduce Estonian professionals in the world. ELAU is a non-profit organization; since 2011 it is a full member of the International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA) and a member of CivilScape since 2013.

www.maastikuarhitekt.ee

The forum is funded by Estonian Cultural Endowment and Estonian Ministry of Culture.

It is organized in cooperation with Estonian Ministry of the Environment, Estonian Ministry of Culture, Estonian Ministry of Agriculture and Estonian Ministry of the Interior.

Baltic Landscape Forum is part of the CivilScape forum series:

<http://www.civilscape.eu/civilscape/content/en/events/pages/1386154464.xml>

CIVILSCAPE is setting up a series of landscape forum events that aim to increase a dialogue between civil society, regional and national authorities. CIVILSCAPE is dedicated to creating an enabling environment for civil society organizations, documenting the community of civil society organizations, strengthening the infrastructure of the citizen sector, and promoting collaboration, both among civil society organizations and between civil society organizations, political or administrative bodies and other public figures, to advance the public good in Europe and beyond.

EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION

The European Landscape Convention (ELC) is the first international convention to focus specifically on landscape. Created by the Council of Europe, the convention promotes landscape protection, management and planning, and European co-operation on landscape issues. The ELC is the first international convention to focus specifically on landscape. Its scope is very extensive: the convention applies to the entire territory of its members and relates to natural, urban and peri-urban areas, whether on land, in water or at sea. It therefore concerns not just remarkable landscapes but also ordinary everyday landscapes and blighted areas.

Since its creation at the Council of Europe in 20 October 2000, 40 out of 47 countries have signed the convention. There have also been 38 ratifications and entries into force at national levels. After a decade, Estonia has neither signed nor ratified the document.

The ELC defines landscape as “an area as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors” (Council of Europe 2000). It highlights the importance of developing landscape policies dedicated to the protection, management and creation of landscapes and establishing procedures for the general public and other stakeholders to participate in policy creation and implementation.

All documentation: http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/heritage/Landscape/default_en.asp

ELC is a key tool for setting up the general policies and regulations leaning on what is possible to create national landscape politics and cooperate internationally. Our neighbors have signed and ratified ELC (Latvia, Lithuania, Finland, and Sweden). ELC has full support by Nordic Council of Ministers.

The convention does not set any obligations as for implementation activities and every country has the freedom and challenge to work out the methods for achieving the main goal. Joining the ELC, Estonia will share a message to others that landscapes, as a living environment and ecosystem, are important for us and that we are ready to take action to save their values and improve their existence.