

MINUTES SEMINAR "EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE OBSERVATORIES"

Finlandia room (Aalto University, Otaniemi Campus)

Date: 18.03.16 (9:00 – 16:00)

1. ATTENDEES:

Attendees	organization
Hannu Linkola	Ministry of Environment
Raija Seppanen	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
Mikko Härö	National Board of Antiquities_Finland
Ulla Salmela	National Board of Antiquities_Finland
Liisa Tyrväinen	LUKE Natural Resources Institute Finland
Sonja Forss	Finnish Environment Institute
Heliölä Janne	Finnish Environment Institute
Henrik Jansson	Forestry Board_Finland
Leena Lahdenvesi-Korhonen	Proagria
Hannele Partanen	Proagria
Arto Kaituri	MARK (Finnish Association of Landscape Architects)
Maunu Häyrynen	University of Turku
Niina Käyhkö	University of Turku
Antti S.Vallius	University of Jyväskylä
Kaisa Raatikainen	University of Jyväskylä
Marketta Kytta	Aalto University (Land Use Planning, Department of Real Estate,
Pia Fricker	Aalto University / ETH Zurich
Juanjo Galan	Aalto University (Department of Architecture)
Iris Humala	Aalto University (Project Services)
Antti Ruotoistenmäki	Aalto University (Project Services)

External experts	organization
Bas Pedroli	Director of UNISCAPE and Professor at 'Universiteit van Wageningen'
Dirk Gotzmann	Director of CIVILSCAPE
Inge Gotzman	Bund Heimat und Umwelt (BHU) and President of CIVILSCAPE
Pere Sala	Coordinator Landscape Observatory of Catalonia
Beneddeta Castiglioni	Osservatorio del Paesaggio del Canale di Brenta and Professor at the University of Padova

2. AGENDA:

09:00-09:30: Coffee and welcoming words

09:30-09:45: Introduction of the invited experts and Finnish attendees

09:45-10:00: Hannu Linkola (Ministry of Environment): *Observations on Finnish Landscapes*

10:00-13:15: Intervention of the 5 invited experts:

- 10:00-10:45 Bas Pedroli (Director of UNISCAPE and Professor at 'Universiteit van Wageningen'): *Landscape Observatories in Europe – a matter of participatory democracy*

- 10:45-11:15 Dirk Gotzmann (Director of CIVILSCAPE): *Civilscape and some practical examples for setting up Landscape Observatories in Europe*
- 11:15-11:45 Inge Gotzmann (Bund Heimat und Umwelt (BHU) and President of CIVILSCAPE): *German Landscape Observatories: an on-going debate on national and regional level from the perspective of the Bund Heimat und Umwelt*
- 11:45-12:00 Coffee break
- 12:00-12:45 Pere Sala (Coordinator of the Landscape Observatory of Catalonia): *The Landscape Observatory of Catalonia: Challenges and perspectives*
- 12:45-13:30 Benedetta Castiglioni (Osservatorio del Paesaggio del Canale di Brenta and Professor at the University of Padova): *The local Landscape Observatory of Canale di Brenta (Northeast Italy): lessons learned*

13:30-14:30: Lunch

14:30-16:00: Questions, answers and open discussion

3. INTRODUCTION & PRESENTATIONS:

- Short introduction by Juanjo Galan: The seminar "European Landscape Observatories" within the framework of the "Landscapes of Finland platform" and distribution of some preliminary documents:
 - Introduction to the first meeting of the "Landscapes of Finland platform" (20.11.15)
 - Some preliminary thoughts about a "Landscape Observatory of Finland".
- **HANNU LINKOLA (Ministry of Environment).**
 - See Pdf presentation (available at <http://we.tl/VPZESqtnzO> before the 29.03.2016)
- **BAS PEDROLI (Director of UNISCAPE and Professor at 'Universiteit van Wageningen').**
 - See Pdf presentation (available at <http://we.tl/VPZESqtnzO> before the 29.03.2016)
- **DIRK GOTZMANN (Director of CIVILSCAPE).**
 - See Pdf presentation (available at <http://we.tl/VPZESqtnzO> before the 29.03.2016)
- **INGE GOTZMANN (Bund Heimat und Umwelt (BHU) and President of CIVILSCAPE).**
 - See Pdf presentation (available at <http://we.tl/VPZESqtnzO> before the 29.03.2016)
- **PERE SALA (Coordinator of the Landscape Observatory of Catalonia).**
 - See Pdf presentation (available at <http://we.tl/VPZESqtnzO> before the 29.03.2016)
- **BENEDETTA CASTIGLIONI (Osservatorio del Paesaggio del Canale di Brenta and Professor at the University of Padova).**
 - See Pdf presentation (available at <http://we.tl/VPZESqtnzO> before the 29.03.2016)

4. OPEN DISCUSSION:

4.1. General and specific Ideas...

- **RAIJA SEPPANEN (Ministry of Agriculture):**
 - The Ministry of Agriculture has resources to support landscape studies and works in the rural areas (funding for rural development)
- **NIINA KÄYHKÖ (University of Turku):**
 - The economic dimension of landscape should not be forgotten and the chain of landscape value should always be considered. Communities should benefit and participate in that value chain.
 - Social implication is essential and convenient. People are interested in living/working in what they consider a good quality environment/landscape
- **PERE SALA (Landscape Observatory of Catalonia):**
 - The Landscape Observatory of Catalonia is trying to increase the collaboration with the private sector (e.g.: wine makers)
- **MIKKO HÄRÖ (National Board of Antiquities):**
 - Do not forget everyday landscapes. In the end, all landscapes are everyday landscapes for somebody but there is a tendency to concentrate in some specific types of landscapes
 - Landscape Policies should be defined. A bottom-up approach would be advisable
 - Landscape Observatory can serve as a bridge between the Society and the Administrations.
 - Landscape Observatory should deal with everyday landscapes and with democratic participation
 - Public Funding is becoming increasingly restricted due to limited resources
- **HANNU LINKOLA (Ministry of Environment)**
 - Somehow there are already some local organizations working as "local landscape observatories" and developing some landscape planning, identification of landscape values and in the enhancement of landscape belonging
 - In contrast to the traditional Finnish Top-Down approach, Landscape policies, proposals and studies should follow the Scandinavian way (participative democracy and local approach).
- **JUANJO GALAN (Aalto University)**
 - The European Landscape Convention offers an excellent and flexible framework. It emphasizes the importance of participatory processes, no matter the geographical context or nation, and the importance of working in all the scales (local, regional and national). It also advocates from a fluent and open collaboration between people and administrations (the top-bottom and the bottom-up approaches might be quite restrictive if they are not combined).
- **LIISA TYRVÄINEN (LUKE Natural Resources Institute Finland)**
 - Landscape Research in Finland is quite fragmented but many of the key research elements are already there
 - Action Research might be emphasized
- **BAS PEDROLI (Uniscap + University Wageningen)**
 - The work of some of the most remarkable Landscape Observatories is based in a close collaboration between big and small organizations or structures
- **NIINA KÄYHKÖ (University of Turku)**

- Research is needed in "Landscape Services"
- Research should also be based in the expected benefits and not only in the production of information

4.2. A Landscape Observatory of Finland...? How and When

- **MAUNU HÄYRYNEN (University of Turku)**
 - We need to establish Cooperation in a NETWORK based system better than through a specific new structure. The Dutch Landscape Observatory (as a network run by NGO's) offers a very good example. There might be some problems if the Finnish Landscape Observatory/Center/Institute is run by a governmental or academic institution.
 - The Finnish Government is promoting the creation of networks rather than the creation of new structures.
 - The Finnish Landscape Observatory (or similar organization) should be preferably a network and it might start its activity with a specific Project.
- **BAS PEDROLI (Uniscape + University Wageningen)**
 - The Dutch Landscape Observatory was initiated by LandschappenNL, an NGO member of CIVISCAPE with a very strong position in the Netherlands (300.000 donors, 130 years old and in charge of managing 100000 has of environmental and cultural sites). The Dutch Landscape Observatory has also other academic and NGOs partners.
 - In the end, the Dutch Landscape Observatory might need some sort of official and stable structure.
- **JUANJO GALAN (Aalto University)**
 - The Dutch Landscape Observatory is an excellent example of a project born from the society. The long Dutch tradition on NGOs with strong societal rooting, and the frequent multidisciplinary cooperation between different sectors, professions and administrations might partially explain the success of their case.
 - Each country or society has some specific social and organizational conditions and might need to find their "own way".
 - The Landscape Observatory of Catalonia and the composition of its directive and advisory boards might also be a good example of Governmental and Societal collaboration but its creation was based in a Governmental decision and was approved by the regional government.
- **PERE SALA (Landscape Observatory of Catalonia)**
 - The Landscape Observatory of Catalonia has an assigned annual budget of 175.000 euros (75% of the total budget). This budget is paid by the Catalonian Government and goes mainly to pay the salaries of its 7 employees. In addition, the Observatory gets the other 25% of its budget from other Governmental institutions, companies and from local administrations (for example the municipality of Olot has allocated some premises for them). That 25% of the total budget is nonetheless essential to produce and disseminate most of the Observatory works.
- **RAIJA SEPPANEN (Ministry of Agriculture):**
 - We need to find the Finnish way for the Observatory/Centre/Institute
 - Action and a first step might be needed now (take advantage of the momentum)
 - Some additional meetings (with the possible collaboration of external experts) will be necessary

- The work of the Observatory/Centre/Institute should produce new and imaginative solutions and visions for the future and should consider the legal implications of their proposals.
- **DIRK GOTZMANN (Civilscape)**
 - Finland should not go for blueprints of other Landscape Observatories
 - Visit other Landscapes Observatories in Europe to understand their works and realities
- **BAS PEDROLI (Uniscape + University Wageningen)**
 - Universities can contribute with their research activity and with students works
 - It is essential to get societal support
 - The core of the network should quite probably be integrated by a group of 5-7 people.
- **MAUNU HÄYRYNEN (University of Turku)**
 - In 2014 a National Nature-Environment Strategy was initiated in Finland and many universities and institutions were involved. That can be a good reference for us

4.3. For whom and some discussion about Indicators

- **KAISA RAATIKAINEN (University of Jyväskylä)**
 - Landownership should be considered. Land is owned and this elemental fact is sometimes forgotten.
- **DIRK GOTZMANN (Civilscape)**
 - Citizens can end up ruling the rural areas since most of the voters are in the cities. That can create some serious conflicts within rural communities. The concept of democracy should be used in a wider and more careful sense.
- **JUANJO GALAN (Aalto University)**
 - Municipalities can play a role in favour of rural communities. A balance is needed between regional and local administrations, between individuals and collectives (governance)
 - Landscape Management is essential and can only be developed by working closely with the communities that inhabit the landscape and by considering their needs and expectations.
- **NIINA KÄYHKÖ (University of Turku)**
 - The "client" perspective tells us that in an increasingly global world, landscapes might be owned and "used" by people from the most diverse and distant places.
- **BENEDETTA CASTIGLIONI (Landscape Observatory of Canale di Brenta)**
 - Landscape indicators have been quite important for the activity of the landscape Observatory of Canale di Brenta.
 - Those indicators are needed but in the "right measure": not too little, not too much
 - Indicators for community feelings and wellness are very important
- **DIRK GOTZMANN (Civilscape)**
 - Evidence and indicators are essential to have some real impact and influence. Landscape Observatories should work on that
- **MAUNU HÄYRYNEN (University of Turku)**
 - We might need to define more precisely some landscape indicators
- **PERE SALA (Landscape Observatory of Catalonia)**
 - The Landscape Observatory of Catalonia held a seminar about landscape indicators and produced a specific publication about that topic.

- The definition of Landscape Quality Objectives might be based and supported in the use of landscape indicators and might become key indicators themselves.

4.4. Back to the Landscape Observatory of Finland...? How and When

- **MIKKO HÄRÖ (National Board of Antiquities):**
 - We might start by creating a network and by defining a kick-off project, ("landscape Indicators" might be one good topic). The implication of the civil society and a participative approach would be crucial.
 - The network should not be an extension of existing administrations
 - The initiator and leader might be the Society of Cultural Environments and Aalto University might act as host institution.
- **MAUNU HÄYRYNEN (University of Turku)**
 - We might also consider the possibility of creating a consortium
 - Funding from the Academy of Finland is only available for academic research and therefore it could cover just part of the Observatory activities.
 - We should study other funding possibilities (e.g. EU Horizon Projects: deadline March 2017)
 - September 2016 seems to be a key month in terms of funding applications (Academy of Finland with an open "topic" call, Baltic Sea projects, etc)
- **JUANJO GALAN (Aalto University)**
 - Considering that September 2016 might be an essential month to initiate some projects, our next meeting should be organized in April or May.

4.5. Next Steps

- Circulate the minutes, seminar presentations (in pdf) and contact details to all the attendees and external experts
- Set day and time for the next meeting in MAY