

EUCALAND-Network

European Culture expressed in Agricultural Landscapes

is a new expert network that deals with the cultural and agricultural landscapes of Europe for promoting their consideration and use among their people for preserving their cultural heritage

Webpage: www.eucalandnetwork.eu

contact : secretariat@eucalandnetwork.eu

Network Coordinator : Alexandra Kruse (DE)

Board: Anu Printsman (EE), Michael Roth (DE)

Minutes Biennial Meeting 2010

Place: Riga at the PECSRL(Permanent European Conference for the Study of the Rural Landscape)-conference (23 -27 Aug. 2010, Riga and Liepaja / Latvia, see: <http://www.geo.lu.lv/pecsrl/home/statement>)

Location University of Latvia. 19 Raiņa boulv., Riga

Date Tuesday, 24th August 2010

Time 18:00 (after the presentations)

Minutes by Alexandra Kruse (AK) and Anu Printsman (AP) who have conducted the meeting

Participants 12

Details Please consult the presentation on the Eucaland-Network homepage (www.eucalandnetwork.eu).

Schedule

1. Opening and welcome address by Alexandra Kruse and Anu Printsman
2. Member statistics
3. Report on activities following the last meeting in Óbidos (Portugal) (September 2008)
4. Next activities
5. Organisation incl. formal status
6. Miscellaneous

Topic 1: Opening

AK and AP welcomed everybody and sent the best wishes of all the participants to Michael Roth (board member) who was prevented for urgent family reasons.

Topic 2: Member statistics

The Network is developing fine. At the moment it has 21 official members (by member form) from 17 countries (16 in Europe + Canada) and more than 130 persons and institutions who had been in contact with the Network for various reasons, mainly networking. As it is an informal open network, there is no obligation to fill the member form.

Statistics on the professions and institutions as well as the answers to the questionnaires distributed among members and interested people were presented (see presentation on homepage <http://www.eucalandnetwork.eu>).

Topic 3: Report on activities

Summary of presentations, calls, projects the Network has conducted or participated in. Excerpt of a proposed topic for the ESF, next FP7 round which was transferred via the National Focal Points through the Network together with partners in several countries (for more details: <http://www.eucalandnetwork.eu>).

Topic 4: Next activities

A list of future activities was presented (for more details: <http://www.eucalandnetwork.eu>).

As the Network is a volunteer organisation without own budget, it relies on the participation of the members and their activity. Therefore we need volunteers for the following tasks. A list will be circulated very soon, where you can chose the part, where your want to support the Network and take over some responsibility.

1. Homepage

- Events
- Download section – internal papers
- Download section / links – literature by members
- Photo archive – on agricultural landscapes
- Links
 - related institutions, organisations etc.
 - related projects
 - related EU governmental authorities dealing with landscape
 - related literature

2. Proposals

- FP7
- Culture 2007-2013
- COST
- LIFE?
- ESPON?
- Europe for Citizens (landscape circles)
- others

Furthermore, the following demands came from Network members. Please contact them directly for cooperation or further information:

- National Cultural Landscape Classification (Kulturlandschaftspflegewerk); contact: Hans Peter Jeschke, AT (hans.peter.jeschke@liwest.at)
- An identification and analyses of main reasons of efficiency of all previous measures, tools and approaches in relation to farms and municipalities with a view to the water reservoir pollution; contact: Marie Trantinova, CZ (trantinova.marie@uzei.cz)
- Implementation European Landscape Convention in border areas considering RD plan and LEADER program (LAGs); contact: Marie Trantinova, CZ (trantinova.marie@uzei.cz)

Topic 5: Organisation incl. formal status

At the moment, the EUCALAND Network is an informal network, open to individuals and organisations. The topic of whether to formalise the Network is complex, thus the members asked for an **email voting**. We present briefly the discussion points of formalisation and then four options with explanations from which you should choose.

Pros:

1. The Network as an entity could submit project proposals.
2. The Network would have more possibilities to join to international discussions and organisations making our expert voice more heard.
3. The Network could start looking into publishing and branding itself.
4. The administration of the Network would be easier (upkeep of web page etc.).

Cons:

1. If the Network becomes a formal association, it represents ONE organisation and not many different countries anymore (counterproductive for the original aim).
2. A formal body risks managing itself, but not the aims of the network any longer.
3. Loose network enhances better personal contacts and ideas, people are not forced to work together.
4. Dependent on where the formalisation takes place different requirements are needed to meet, e.g. statutes, first meeting, formal board elections, ability to give electronic signature, bank account with some beginning capital, administration costs like hiring an accountant etc.

Options (for more detailed information see below):

1. Remain as an informal open Network (like PECSRL)
2. Formalisation as a German (or other) association (e.V.)
3. Formalisation as a subgroup of CIVILSCAPE
4. NEW: Founding of a (small) German association with only one aim: fundraising of finances in order to support the EUCALAND Network .

Please give your vote to one of the options above by **Friday 17 September 2010** (this week!) as a simple e-mail to: secretariat@eucalandnetwork.eu

Topic 6: Miscellaneous

No points were brought up by the members and due to the advanced time, the meeting was closed at 19:40.

Option 1: Remain as an informal open Network (like PECSRL)

Positive

- Conserving status quo: democratic, interdisciplinary, open network
- Networking and cooperation with all associations and individuals possible
- Easy to facilitate because there are no formal requirements
- Easy access for people and organisations who are interested
- It represents a large number of different countries
- Easy to take over tasks or responsibility

Negative

- Difficult to get funds and financial support because of a missing legal body
- Difficult to facilitate because of a lack of formal structures
- No formal board and professional administration – in order to serve and assist the members requirements
- Difficult to find members who take over tasks or responsibility

Option 2: Formalisation as a German¹ (or other) association (e.V.)

Positive

- The Network will receive a formal status and therefore will be equal to other European organisations but also “equal” to universities etc. when applying for European funds
- The Association will be able to apply for European funds
- A formal structure requires and facilitates to share tasks and responsibility
- Independent organisation
- Demanded by the members in 2008 (Óbidos)
- To fulfil the Networks aims and tasks is possible

Negative

- The Association will be registered in one country and therefore is not representing several as an organisation any longer
- More, higher administrative tasks/requirements (accountancy, tax declaration etc.) means more work load
- Member fee is needed in order to facilitate the administration if applying for funds does not succeed

¹ It can be also founded in one other member country as long as there is somebody willing to do so!

Option 3: Formalisation as a subgroup of CIVILSCAPE

Background

CIVILSCAPE - a European network

NGO for the European Landscape Convention

- *CIVILSCAPE* is an international association of civil society organizations. These are non-governmental organisations (NGO) which dedicate their work to landscape protection, management and planning, according to the “European Landscape Convention” (Florence, October 20th 2000).

CIVILSCAPE is dedicated to creating an enabling environment for civil society organizations, documenting the civil society organizations community, 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 actors, to advance the public good in Europe and beyond.

- *CIVILSCAPE* has registered as a lobby organization with the EU.
- *CIVILSCAPE* cooperates with two partners on European level. Both European partners are umbrella organisations like *CIVILSCAPE*:
 1. RECEP-ENELC is an international association of local and regional authorities promoting the implementation of the European Landscape Convention continent-wide. It was established in 2006, under the aegis of the Council of Europe’s Congress of Local and Regional Authorities.
 2. UNISCAPE intends to support and reinforce scientific interdisciplinary cooperation among European universities regarding landscape issues, notably in the areas of research and teaching.
- *CIVILSCAPE* has several legal entities, among other: *CIVILSCAPE* Competence Center UG
- More information about *CIVILSCAPE*:
<http://www.civilscape.org/civilscape/content/en/index.html?jid=0o0>
- **EUCALAND Network is already (founding) member of CIVILSCAPE**

Implementation

- Founding a **European Center for Agricultural Landscapes** as coordination office for the ongoing activities (network secretary, organising EUCALAND workshops, meetings and projects) By the end of the year as a daughter of *CIVILSCAPE* Competence Center UG.
- Starting as a virtual office, the Center shall be established with external funding during the next two years.
- The EUCALAND Network (Center) will act as a scientific council of *CIVILSCAPE*
- Members of the steering committee will be elected by the network members

- One EUCALAND board member shall have a seat in the CIVILSCAPE board.
- EUCALAND Network members can additionally become CIVILSCAPE members (not a must)

Positive

- Will remain as a network open to personal and institutional members
- Will have its own EUCALAND website supported by CIVILSCAPE (web space, Content management system etc)
- Will have a EUCALAND annual report published online and with printed copies
- The Center remains independent in scientific content, aims, projects
- EUCALAND can initiate and participate to European projects using
 - CIVILSCAPE (Dutch association) and/or
 - CIVILSCAPE Competence Center UG (German Ltd recognised as a charity, CIVILSCAPE owns this company) as a proxy
- Both bodies are established with a formal infrastructure (fundraising, public relation and formal relations towards CoE and EU) that can be used for further network activities
- “Bigger” and better administration infrastructure; => less work for the network members

Negative

- The Network will be a subgroup of another organisation

Option 4: Founding of a German association² with only the aim of fundraising of finances in order to support the EUCALAND Network

Background

- This option was brought in during the discussion.
- A minimum of 7 persons (members) is required in order to fund a German association. Therefore the idea was brought up to fund this kind of association as a core association with only two aims: 1. fundraising of finances in order to support the EUCALAND Network and 2. to maintain its administration.

Positive

- The Network remains with its informal and open character
- The Network keeps its international character, representing a large number of countries

Negative

- This association needs also some funds for themselves in order to finance its administration. The formal requirements (accountancy, tax declaration etc.) remains the same, no matter, how many member the association has.
- It means a lot of work and responsibility for the members of this small association as it is on them, to keep the Network running.
- You need to find volunteers for that task.

² It can be also founded in one other member country, according to their specific conditions, as long as there is somebody willing to do so!