

Acronym – ECSLAND

Title – European Culture expressed in Sacred LANDscapes

Scientific coordinator – Medardo Chiapponi

Department – Department of Design and planning in Complex Environments

Iuav Role – lead partner

Duration – 24 months

Closure – 31/10/2015

Project budget – € 378.200,00

Iuav budget – € 211.000,00

Funding to Iuav – € 105.500,00

Source of funding – Call EU: Culture Programme 2007-2013

Description – The ECSLAND project builds on innovative studies and publications about sacred landscapes and on the experience of two successful projects of the Culture Programme (EUCALAND and ESLAND), thus completing the trilogy under the Initiative of the Cambridge Centre for Landscape and People (CCLP) on European Culture Expressed in Landscapes (EUCEL).

EUCEL investigates European cultural landscapes, considering them as a common expression of cultural heritage, which is now under pressure from new developments. The EUCEL trilogy intends to provide new directions in landscape research methodology, and cutting-edge tools for landscape science, planning and policy.

By supporting intercultural and interreligious dialogue between European communities, the project forms a unique network to provide data collection, awareness-raising and results dissemination. By stimulating discussion among stakeholders, local communities and scientists at European level, the project helps towards understanding the spiritual nature of European landscapes, tackling the challenging task of interpreting sacred landscape. By considering sacred landscape and cultural heritage as interlinking expressions of European culture, greater attention is given to the need to sensitively manage and conserve these unique landscapes for the future generations of Europe.

As a result, the project intends to make a significant contribution to the implementation of the European Landscape Convention, EUROPE 2020 and other international policies for the future sustainable development of European sacred landscapes.

Objectives – The aim of this research group is to produce a methodology for describing European sacred landscapes of different periods, pointing out their historical features and processes through comparative analysis, and to pass the results on to others.

The objective of this activity is to apply innovative cultural character assessment methods to current European sacred landscapes, considering their distinctive features and recognising their cultural aspects as fundamental to appreciating their unique legacy.

This research group promotes an interdisciplinary approach for the study and discussion of the intangible value of sacred landscapes in order to raise awareness about European cultural heritage and identity, and to foster more interaction with the local communities, the stewards of their landscapes.

In this activity material on archaeological sites and architecture connected to sacred landscapes is collected, analysed and disseminated. This is carried out working alongside stakeholders, governmental organisations and spiritual communities to support future decision-making.

European spiritual and governmental organisations participate in the project workshops to support intercultural and interfaith dialogue on sacred landscapes. They form an indispensable network for European sacred landscapes, raising awareness about the topic and disseminating the results.

Website – <http://ecslanproject.eu>

