

Acronym – ESLAND

Title – European Culture expressed in Island LandScapes

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Department – Department of Design and planning in Complex Environments

Sector – ICAR/20

Iuav Role – Lead partner

Duration – 24 months

Closure – 31/05/2013

Project budget – € 400.700,00

Iuav budget – € 360.700,00

Funding to Iuav – € 163.390,00

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

Description – The general concept is to consider the European Island Landscapes as part of our cultural heritage, including the unique identity and values they have for European people. The main goal is to improve consideration of cultural heritage in European island landscapes of different size. Accordingly, this pilot project aims to describe the evolution of European island landscapes and their present conditions, in view of an interdisciplinary approach for a common discussion and agreed methodology on their concepts, classification and identity, leading to publications, mapping and e-tools for a future development of these landscapes which should be more culturally and sustainable oriented than at present. The ultimate goal is to contribute to the implementation of European policies such as the Council of Europe European Landscape Convention, UNESCO World Heritage Convention, IUCN Biocultural Diversity Journey, EC Maritime Spatial Planning & Integrated Coastal Zone Management, UNEP Mediterranean Action Plan and G8 Siracusa Charter.

Objectives – The history of European island landscapes is fundamental for the understanding of present day landscape features, for preserving their heritage and for conveying traditional practices to modern developers. The aim of this research group is to produce a methodology for characterising European cultural island landscapes during different periods, pointing out their historical features and processes through a comparative analysis, and to pass the results on to others.

Existing landscape character assessment in Europe has mainly focussed on physical and natural aspects. However, it is recognised that it should also include cultural aspects as a contribution towards the understanding of its heritage. The project aims to apply innovative cultural character assessment methods of the current European island landscapes, considering their distinctive features, in order to capture their unique legacy.

Cultural heritage and identity are precious values that need to be preserved. They are unique to each place and in islands they embed a strong character. This group aims to promote an interdisciplinary approach to outline island landscape values in order to raise awareness about European cultural heritage and identity, and to support more interaction between local communities, the stewards of their landscapes.

The use of different scenario studies in landscape planning has increased in the last decades. Many of these share key characteristics: visualising future developments and utilising participatory approach. In this way the ESLAND researchers aim to produce scenarios for planning European island landscapes, in order to preserve as well as to develop them with a more culturally-oriented approach.

Progress in technology and modern information systems require new tools to support community operators and policymakers in shaping future landscape strategies. The aim of the project is to provide a toolkit to not only facilitate the implementation of the project's goals and activities, but also to promote intercultural dialogue and provide support for future decision-making in Europe.

Website – www.eslandproject.eu/index.php