

I. INTRODUCTION

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This monographic volume is the second collection of articles, describing miscellaneous aspects of cultural landscapes in Poland and other European regions. Scientific research and practical implementations presented here were realized within the international project “Protecting Historical Cultural Landscapes to Strengthen Regional Identities and Local Economies”. The project was part-financed by the European Union Programme INTERREG III B CADSES and its aim was to analyze and possibly adjust approaches to cultural landscape shaping and protection in the entire CADSES area. Project activities led to the elaboration of comprehensive strategy for cultural landscapes active protection and shaping. The introduction of this strategy into processes of regional development and the systems of spatial planning in the particular countries of the region will substantially contribute to the raising of social and political awareness concerning the importance and role of cultural landscapes in the sustainable development and identity building of the CADSES countries - mainly in rural communities.

This monographic volume is one of the means of cultural landscapes promotion and, as far as the essential content is concerned, it is an attempt to systematize and review selected methods of active protection and cultural landscape shaping. Opening chapter provides detailed overview of results and products created through CULTURAL LANDSCAPE Project activities. International cooperation between Project Partners resulted i.a. in the development of a register to survey and assess valuable cultural landscapes, setting up an Internet platform “Landscape Wikipedia” and the development of teaching curricula. Moreover, numerous meetings and seminars with local experts were organized, which aims and covered areas are briefly described.

An important element of this monographic volume are papers discussing the aspects of the European Landscape Convention implementation in chosen regions belonging to CADSES area. The specificity of this Convention is presented in the light of the objectives assigned by the Council of Europe. Landscape conservation, including cultural landscapes, is there considered as an important contribution to the improvement of Europe citizens’ life quality. Since the implementation of the Convention will be further supported by the Council of Europe, especially in a sustainable development perspective, it is important to attract local communities in the processes of landscape protecting and shaping. Identification and evaluation of landscape serve as a means of raising awareness of local communities in the field of the protection of their natural and cultural heritage. The publication presents numerous methods and major components of landscape valorisation and

evaluation processes, exemplified by the research activities conducted in the Municipality of Wiśniowa (the Malopolskie Voivodship).

The comprehensive part of this monographic volume is dedicated to the issues concerning landscape shaping and protection, especially in the rural areas. The publication reviews their cultural landscapes potentials and problems in rural space development. Basic instruments of landscape creation, such as spatial planning, village revival, agricultural and forest development plans are discussed with the purpose of their exploitation in landscape protection planning, landscape planning, or landscape management. Research on cultural landscape valorisation, conducted by our Project Partners from Transylvania (Romania), emphasize the role of such activities in raising awareness of the value of these landscapes in the society and developing rural tourism. An excellent example of the local communities involvement in cultural landscape conservation is also the Welsh Tir Gofal Agri-Environment Scheme, which was designed to support the farmers throughout Wales in helping to care for the environment, historical and cultural features on their land. The assumptions and achievements of this scheme are presented, with the intent to give an idea of the opportunities to assist the planning and management of the cultural landscape arising from EU Directives.

Pilot projects, directed to strengthening regional identities and local economies, are very important constituents of this volume. The pilot actions within the INTERREG III B CADSES Project were particularly aimed at presenting the relationship between activities for cultural landscape protection and specific economic undertakings, through model examples. This publication provides a survey on them, since the conceptions of successful pilot projects may serve as a templates and be implemented in the other rural regions. The experiences from the Carpathian region of Malopolska, Thuringia region in Germany and Lviv region in Ukraine are described, with a stress put on the research methodology and potential benefits for rural landscape planning and protection.

Furthermore, the volume brings up the issues concerning associative premises of cultural landscapes and cooperation with local communities. The chosen examples portray the importance of both protecting and creating of cultural landscapes from sociological point of view. Educational and training activities are also considered, since these are the preconditioning factors for successful preservation of cultural landscapes.

The cultural landscape register, worked out during the INTERREG III B CADSES Project and included in this volume, presents a representative selection of typical cultural landscape elements in the partner countries of the CADSES region. Together with a supporting glossary, its aim is to facilitate the identification and categorisation of objects that need recording.

As the originators and initiators of this publication we hope that the CULTURAL LANDSCAPE project, through the impulses presented in this volume,

will become an important element of official cooperation joining the Malopolskie Voivodship, Freistaat Thüringen, the Cluj-Napoca Region and the Lviv Region. Numerous activities between our partner regions little have dealt so far with the issues of rural area development - both at the scientific as well as practical and even political levels. We would also like to mention here the person of Dr. Burkhardt Kolbmüller, the President of Heimatbund Thüringen, who actually initiated the project CULTURAL LANDSCAPE and is very strongly committed to it.

It is necessary to mention that this important project is realized with significant involvement of the University of Agriculture in Krakow, for which we would like to express our sincere gratitude to His Magnificence Prof. Janusz Żmija, the Rector of the Agricultural University in Krakow, and Prof. Jan Pawełek, the Dean of the Faculty of Environmental Engineering and Land Surveying at the Agricultural University in Krakow.