LIVELAND
Liveable Landscapes: a key value for sustainable territorial development

Targeted Analysis 2013/2/22

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This report presents the interim results of a Targeted Analysis Project conducted within the framework of the ESPON 2013 Programme, partly financed by the European Regional Development Fund.

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List of authors

Tecnalia (Spain) Lead partner

Efren Feliu

Gemma Garcia

Alterra (The Netherlands)

Bas Pedroli

Rob Schröder

HHP (Germany)

Gottfried Hage

University of Kassel (Germany)

Diedrich Bruns

Boris Stemmer

NASUVINSA (Spain)

José María Jiménez

Dámaso Munárriz

Nordregio (Sweden)

Rasmus Ole Rasmussen

Lisbeth Greve Harbo

Chirstian Friedricsson

Liisa Perjo

Ryan Weber

REC (Slovenia)

Mateja Sepec Jersic

Milena Marega

Blanka Koron

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Executive summary

The present report outlines the progress and interim results of the LIVELAND project, an ESPON first attempt to address landscape, and in particular landscape planning, as a key territorial value and a potential asset for sustainable development.

Competitiveness and attractiveness of regions have become important aims of territorial and environmental policies in Europe, particularly as contributing to harmonious territorial development.

Moreover, the European Landscape Convention states that landscape "*constitutes a resource favourable to economic activity*" and responds "*to the public's wish to enjoy high quality landscapes and to play an active part in their development*" (Council of Europe, 2003).

The ELC also recognizes the importance of including the landscape concept in promoting the consolidation of the European identity. This is necessary because the development in all sectors of activities accelerates the transformation of landscapes whereby an important component of the identity is at risk of disappearing.

With this premise, the LIVELAND project scientifically assesses how landscape evaluation, planning and management could enrich and improve integrated spatial planning and urbanism towards sustainable development. The project mainly explores the concept of liveability and how it could be apply to policy making for liveable landscapes.

1. LIVELAND project in brief

LIVELAND as a targeted analysis project constitutes a practice oriented research about landscape planning and territorial development in some European planning systems. Six areas are involved in the project: Basque Country (ES), Navarre Region (ES), Midden-Delfland (NL), Offenburg Municipality (D), Thy National Park (DK), and Ljubljana Urban Region (SI).

The project has been structured in five stages and the figure 1 in the next page illustrates the relationship between the different tasks that will be undertaken in the LIVELAND project.

Two main activities have been run in parallel: on one hand, the definition of the project Common Analytical Framework developed on a scientific theoretical basis regarding the concepts of 'landscape' as well as the one of 'liveability'; and on the other, the description of the policy content, planning concepts and operationalization of the landscape concept in the European context.

A third activity consisted of a baseline analysis of the state of the question in the project six case studies, as in-put for a benchmarking exercise to be undertaken in a fourth step. The benchmarking exercise in LIVELAND project is understood as a comparative assessment between the involved regions and it has already started with a preliminary gathering of in-put data primarily from project stakeholders with regard to their best practices, needs, responses and learning goals.

Lessons learned from previous activities and, above all, outcomes from the benchmarking will contribute to the elaboration of key policy messages and recommendations in a fifth and

final stage, with the key focus on responding how landscape approach could enrich and improve integrated spatial planning towards successful territorial development in the project stakeholders´ cases and beyond at EU level.

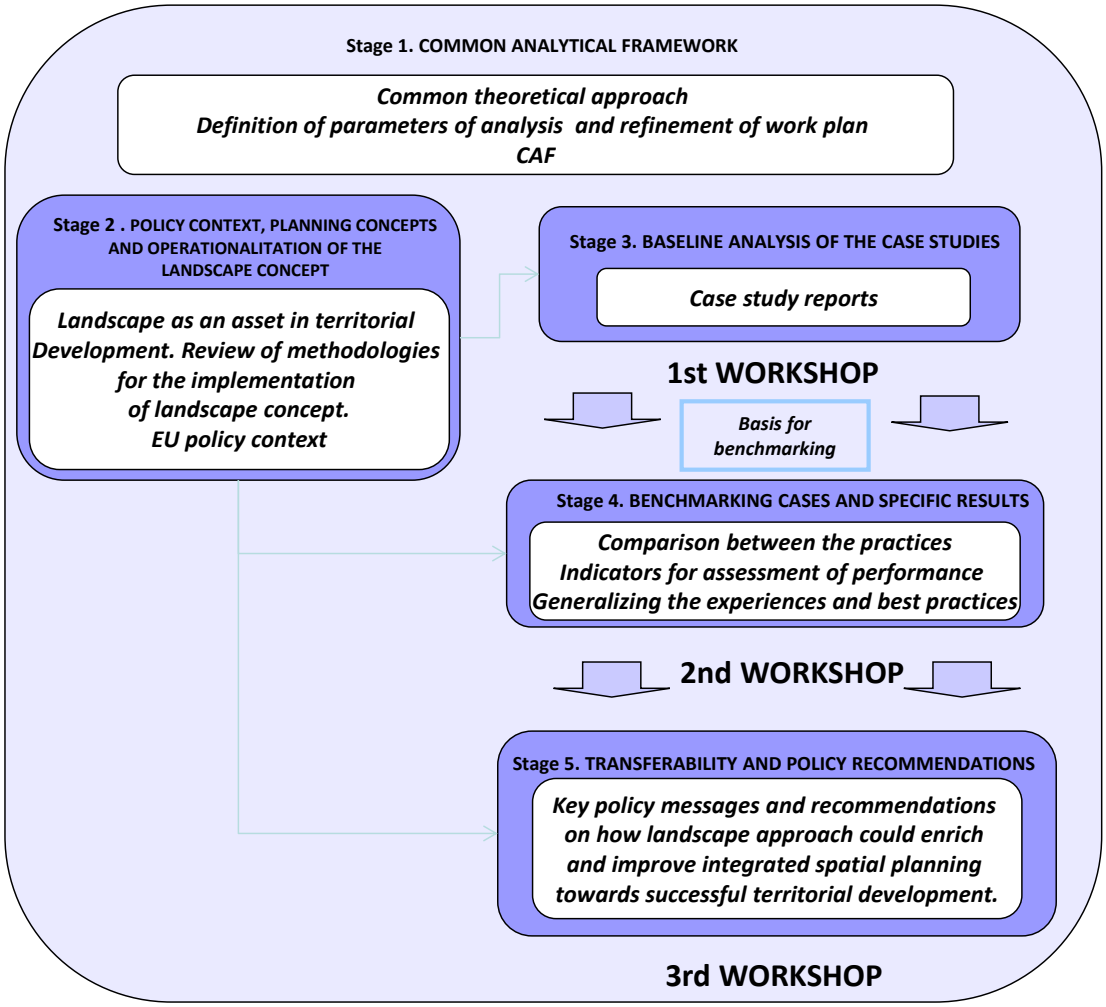


Figure 1 LIVELAND project structure

Stakeholder's participation is seen crucial for a successful project progress and to obtain useful and relevant results. With the goal of bringing up the specific approach to landscape and territorial planning in each case study, the participation of the stakeholders includes:

- Provision of input data, playing an active role by delivering strategies, plans, spatial data, cases and measures and other relevant information about their territories;
- A comparison between the practices of different administrative territorial entities (planning agencies of the involved local and regional authorities) in order to identify examples of good/best practices to be tested and responded to, from both individual stakeholders as through a more general responses from the whole group of stakeholders.

A series of workshops serve as a tool for discussions among the stakeholders and the research group to compare the regions/ area's performance, at three levels:

- Internally, aiming at providing a comparison between different practices (methods, operations and procedures) of landscape and territorial planning within one's own organisation;

- Intermediate by evaluating own practices against the other cases and thereby acquire an important contribution to internal knowledge generation;
- Externally through evaluating the potential usability of the best practices for generalizations beyond their own situations.

Three stakholders´workshops have been scheduled during the project life:

- The first one, already hold in Ljubljana in Octber 2012, right after the submission of the Inception Report, as a first step for the collection of input data for the benchmarking exercise.
- Second workshop which is foreseen for the first quarter of the year 2013 aiming at the validation and adjustment of the benchmarking exercise.
- Third and final workshop that will be held after the submission of the Draft final report and towards the finalization of the policy guidance, recommendations and trasnsferability, also as a project closure event.

2. Key LIVELAND findings so far

A methodological proposal for the assessment of the concept of landscape as an asset in regional development towards sustainability has been developed and materialized in a Common Analytical Framework. The full text has been included in Annex I of the present report.

The definition of the project **Common Analytical Framework** (CAF) refers to:

- a common understanding and shared vision with regard to landscape contributions to liveability,
- a useful model for the systematic classification and assessment of the project case examples,
- a mutually agreed upon understanding of practical applications of the CAF, and
- a format for the presentation of the project results.

The LIVELAND project employs a three tier approach to conceptualise landscape. This approach is situated in a field of tension between constructivist and positivistic landscape concepts:

- **'Landscape as a resource'** refers to everything that is "real" and relates to a materiality found in physical space. The measuring of landscape properties for the purpose of applying pertinent criteria might include, for example, the total number of trees counted in a suburb. Such trees might be taken as an indicator for the amount of green that is available to suburban dwellers (possibly adding to their well-being).
- **'Landscape as institution'** refers to interactions between society and space, and with territory. 'Institution' is the term used here to describe how space/territory is socially ordered and organized, for example by protecting some areas and developing others, by allowing free access to some areas while closing off others, etc. A useful term in analysing landscape as an institution is that of 'cultural landscape'. For analytical purposes the concept of cultural landscape leads to questions such as: What is the history of a landscape, which traditions are related to this landscape, how do people identify with a landscape, etc.?
- **'Landscape as perceived by people'** is a quote from the European Landscape Convention[1]. This quote refers to how people construct landscape in their minds,

[1] *"'Landscape' means an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors;*" Council of Europe (20 Oct. 2000: 1, Nr. a)

both as individuals and collectively. Such acts of constructing are based, on the one hand, upon the 'Landscape as institution' and on the other hand, on individual landscape experience (memory). In order to learn and understand how landscape is perceived by people members of the public must be consulted (for example by conducting interviews). Especially the public landscape perception might vary extremely depending on who is being interviewed (e.g. local public, regional public and tourists) and what role they have to play (e.g. farmer, landscape planer, energy specialist). Part of this category is also the so called 'everyday landscape'.

It is beyond the reach of the LIVELAND project to make use of all possible concepts of landscape "as perceived by people". However, planning sciences should benefit from both, the natural and the social sciences. Planning should also include public perceptions of landscape through participatory processes.

When confronted with 'liveability' the first questions that come to mind are: how might such a vague term be defined and used? How might any definition of liveability become useful in practical application? And finally, with regards to LIVELAND, the question is how landscape might contribute to liveability.

Liveability is subject to policy and it is on the agenda of planning. Pertaining to people's surroundings, the most important measure of liveability appears to be the so called 'self-reported happiness'. For LIVELAND we suggest to use 'happiness' in this narrow conceptualisation.

By defining landscape functions and services landscapes may be analysed and assessed without attempting to take all processes, interactions, species and a multitude of aspects into account that appear irrelevant for making specific decisions. For the purposes of LIVELAND a focus is placed on the basic use of the functions that are important for answering questions about what contributes to liveability.

Within LIVELAND we suggest to mainly make use of the term 'functions'. This term seems to be the most helpful one when it comes to describing and referring to actual uses of a landscape. There appears to be a general agreement on three categories, namely production, regulation and cultural functions.

Landscape function concepts provide useful starting points to perform multi-level assessments. Parameters might vary depending on the scale. Therefore a double entrance matrix has been proposed with liveability parameters on the one hand and landscape functions on the other hand, to identify and describe landscapes contribution to liveability.

An overview of the conceptual development and policy framework regarding 'Landscape' in European planning policy has been elaborated and the full text has been included as Annex II of the present report.

When exploring the evolution of the concept of Landscape in the EU policy context, it seems that EU is in an on-going process of including the landscape as an important and multi-faceted resource in sustainable development.

The evolution of the concept of Landscape within the ESPON research framework revealed that ESPON projects have – parallel to the EU development - increasingly recognizing how landscapes as potential multifunctional entities are important contributors to the objectives of territorial cohesion. In this process, measures of moving from theory to practice have been tested and it has been identified that the planning procedures are in need of including cross-sectoral

policy and public participation as important vehicles in achieving the goals of territorial cohesion and sustainable development.

An examination of if and how the main components of the recommendations for landscape planning of the European Landscape Convention (ELC) have been implemented in praxis in the 5 case study countries has been undertaken. A first conclusion across the national practises shows that the emphasis on protection and conservation of valuable and 'aesthetically pleasing' landscapes are at the forefront while multifunctional land use and the issue of liveability in regard to landscape planning is hardly addressed. The learning process from the LIVELAND project will therefore become crucial in creating a base for new objectives in relation to an EU policy where the landscape is included as an active part.

Baseline analysis of the state of the question in the case studies, outlining how the landscape concepts, approaches and overall policies have been implemented by the LIVELAND stakeholders is included in Annex III. Case status report of practice for each of the participant regions, municipalities and agencies, based on information delivered by the stakeholders, provides:

- Identification of the relevant challenges and potentials to be addressed in each of the participant regions with regard to landscape planning.
- Main sources of information and data needs to undertake the assessment in each of the participant regions.

Preliminary steps towards the definition of the benchmarking criteria have been done by means of the identification of the content and procedure (governance aspects) of landscape plans as well as the mapping at European level of stakeholder regions /areas challenges and further needs, opportunities, and good practices, both in each region / area and in external learning cases.

The first stakeholder's workshop was held on October 2012 hosted by Ljubljana City Hall with the title "Challenges, Opportunities and Best Practices. Common understanding and preparation of analysis good practices and benchmarking". The workshop was intended to share impressions and gain new insights on understandings about landscape approaches and practices in each case study. It helped to establish the basis for outlining next steps for project development, based on stakeholders´ expectations and identification of best practices and learning goals, towards the benchmarking exercise. More specifically, the workshop focused on a review the the current practice of landscape in EU, identify the common denominators such as terms, concepts and practice that are shared among the landscape policy makers and other stakeholders.

Besides, a self-assessment of the case studies for the preliminary identification of their strengths and weaknesses with regard to territorial priorities was undertaken. The workshop also constituted a space for exchanging impressions and stakeholders´ of challenges, potentials and needs in each participant region as a preliminary basis for the identification of best practices and learning goals. Based on stakeholder's expectations and workshop follow-up exercises the research team could better outline the next steps for project development. Summary and conclusions of the workshop and workshop follow-up exercises have been included in Annex IV.

3. Further steps

- A refinement of the CAF will be done right after the formal submission of the Interim Report to ESPON CU:
    - Further investigation upon all of the developed criteria
    - Regarding the need for weighting of the criteria (whether it would be placed based specifically for each case study or general to all EU)
    - Validation with the stakeholder's is expected

- Finalization of the Baseline analysis of the project case studies. This activity will be particularly relevant in the case of Ljubljana case study.
- An overview of good and best practices of landscape and territorial planning, with focus on approaches which can serve as general inspiration for landscape planning in a territorial planning context.
- Examples of actions or measures which have proven successful in challenges of harmonious and sustainable territorial development, like for instance combining landscape protection and socio-economic development.
- Identification of set of criteria and indictors to undertake the benchmarking exercise
    - A set of indicators that can serve as a common base for comparisons and benchmarking performance in landscape and territorial planning entities.
    - Appropriate indicators and examples of good practices that can serve a broader audience in the 'ESPON space'.
- Validation of the benchmarking proposal with the project stakeholders´: The second stakeholder´s workshop foreseen for the first quarter of the year 2013, will serve to formalize and validate the benchmarking exercise with the project participant regions.
- Assessments of benchmarking results

The above mentioned outputs, particularly the outcomes of the comparative assessment will be important inputs to be presented in the Draft Final Report (DFR) due to June 2013 which will present the final results of the project and will focus on relevant conclusions and recommendations, for the integration of landscape into spatial planning and the use of landscape as an asset for territorial development.

One of the key outcomes of the DFR will be a "Draft version of the Guidance towards best practice in landscape and spatial planning". First suggestion on policy messages for the EC to encourage the incorporation of landscape in the territorial cohesion policies will constitute one of the milestones of the project.

A discussion on the knowledge gaps identified through the research to be covered by future ESPON projects will be also included in the DFR.

Main Report

1. Outline of LIVELAND methodology

LIVELAND, as a targeted analysis project, constitutes a practice oriented analysis about landscape planning and territorial development in some European planning systems. Six regions are involved in the project: Basque Country (ES), Navarre Region (ES), Midden-Delfland (NL), Offenburg Municipality (D), Thy National Park (DK), and Ljubljana Urban Region (SI).

The LIVELAND project hypothesis is that landscape approach (assessment, planning and management) - ***"could enrich and improve integrated spatial planning and urbanism in different ways, and be seen and used as an asset for harmonious territorial development and for smart, sustainable economic development"*- considering that:**

- The classification of the landscape requires a global vision of the territory throughout a multi- scale approach, going beyond the merely local interests and points of view.
- Landscape planning could contribute to the process of making decisions about the most sustainable way to use the territory.
    - Improving governance and participation of key actors and stakeholders in the planning process
    - Incorporating landscape as a territorial asset and capital, a key element for territorial development within cohesion policy principles
- The identification of landscape objectives can enhance the improvement and development of both poor or abandoned areas, and landscapes of outstanding beauty.

The project has been structured in five stages and figure 2 illustrates the relationship between the different tasks that will be undertaken in the LIVELAND project.

Stage 1: Definition of a Common Analytical Framework

Stage2: Description of the policy context, planning theories and operationalization of the landscape concept.

Stage 3: Baseline analysis of the of the state of the question in the project case studies

Stage 4: Benchmarking understood as comparative assessment between the involved regions.

Stage 5: Transferability and policy recommendations: evidences and lessons learned from project outcomes will contribute to the elaboration of policy messages, guidance and recommendations for planning liveable landscapes in the involved regions and beyond at EU level, in a final stage.

Available ESPON data and results from previous and also current projects will be used to reinforce the project outcomes.

Stakeholder involvement

As a project within the framework of ESPON Targeted Analysis Based on User Demand, the question of stakeholder involvement is crucial, integrated throughout the project developing

supplying very valuable and detailed information and practical know-how and validated the research undertaken.

A series of workshops constitute a corner stone of the LIVELAND project being a valuable tool for discussions among the stakeholders and the research group:

- The first one, already hold in Ljubljana in October 2012, right after the submission of the Inception Report as a first step for the collection of input data for the benchmarking exercise.
- Second workshop is foreseen for the first quarter of the year 2013 aiming at the validation and adjustment of the benchmarking exercise.
- Third and final workshop that will be held after the submission of the Draft final report and towards the finalization of the policy guidance, recommendations and trasnsferability.

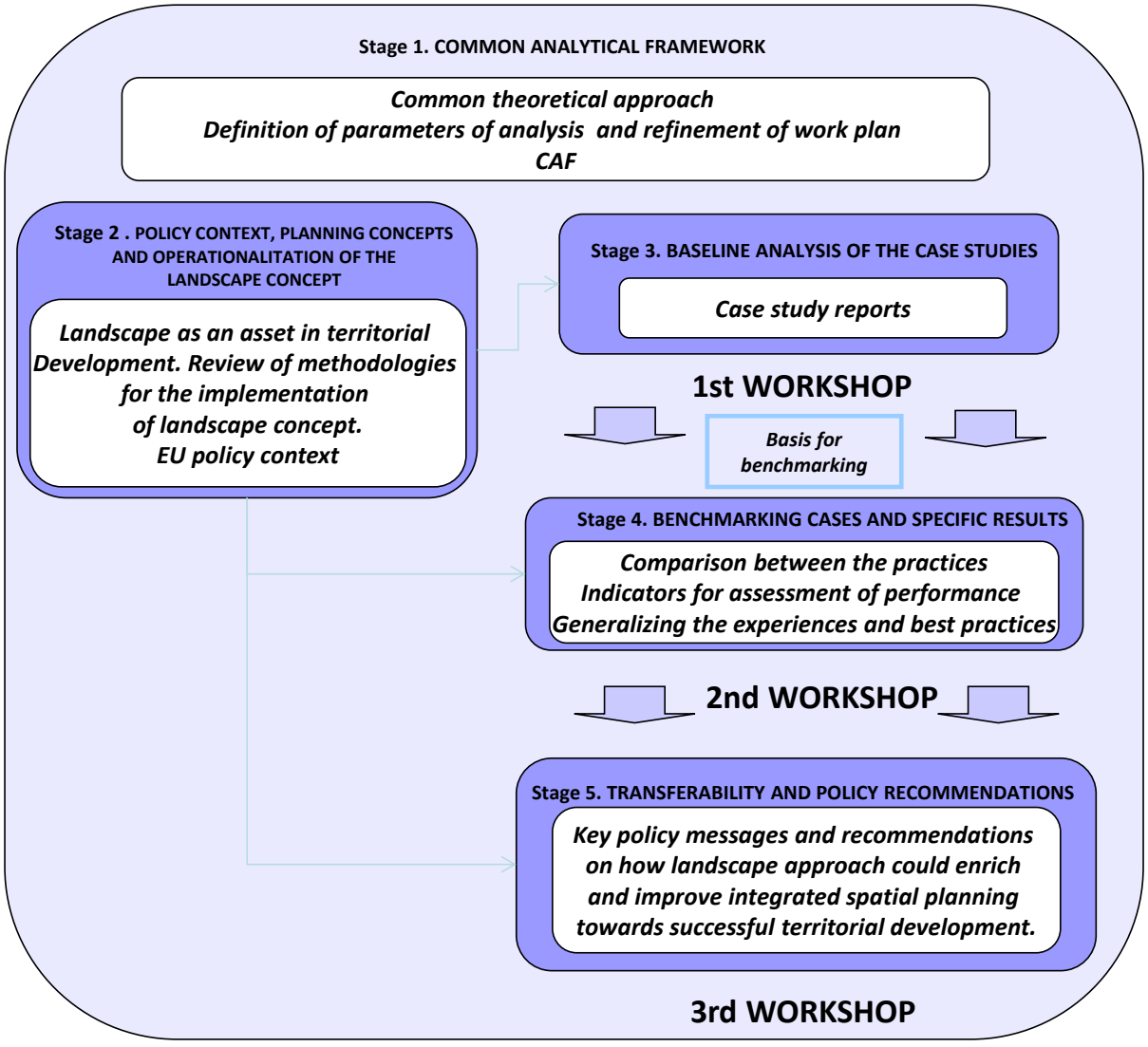


Figure 2 LIVELAND project structure

1.1. Setting a common analytical framework

The first stage is devoted to the project Common Analytical Framework (CAF) aiming at:

- Providing a theoretical background information and common understanding with regard to landscape contributions to liveability
- Giving a useful model for the systematic classification and assessment of case examples, preparing a collection of parameters and criteria
- Helping refining the overall project work plan and standardized format for the presentation of project result.

Concepts of both 'liveability' and of 'landscape' constitute the theoretical basis for developing the CAF (See Annex I). A broad range of scientific discourses (including those of the humanities and the social sciences) have been explored.

In addition, the 'Landscape Services' and the 'Multifunctional Landscapes' theories are employed to screen existing scientific outputs regarding landscape and liveability. Both theories allow for multi-scale and multi-temporal landscape analysis. To produce a useful collection of parameters and criteria that might be included into the CAF two knowledge realms have been investigated. The first are concepts of liveability regarding research on happiness and well-being, while the second are theories of multifunctional landscape and landscape services (**¡Error! No se encuentra el origen de la referencia.**3).

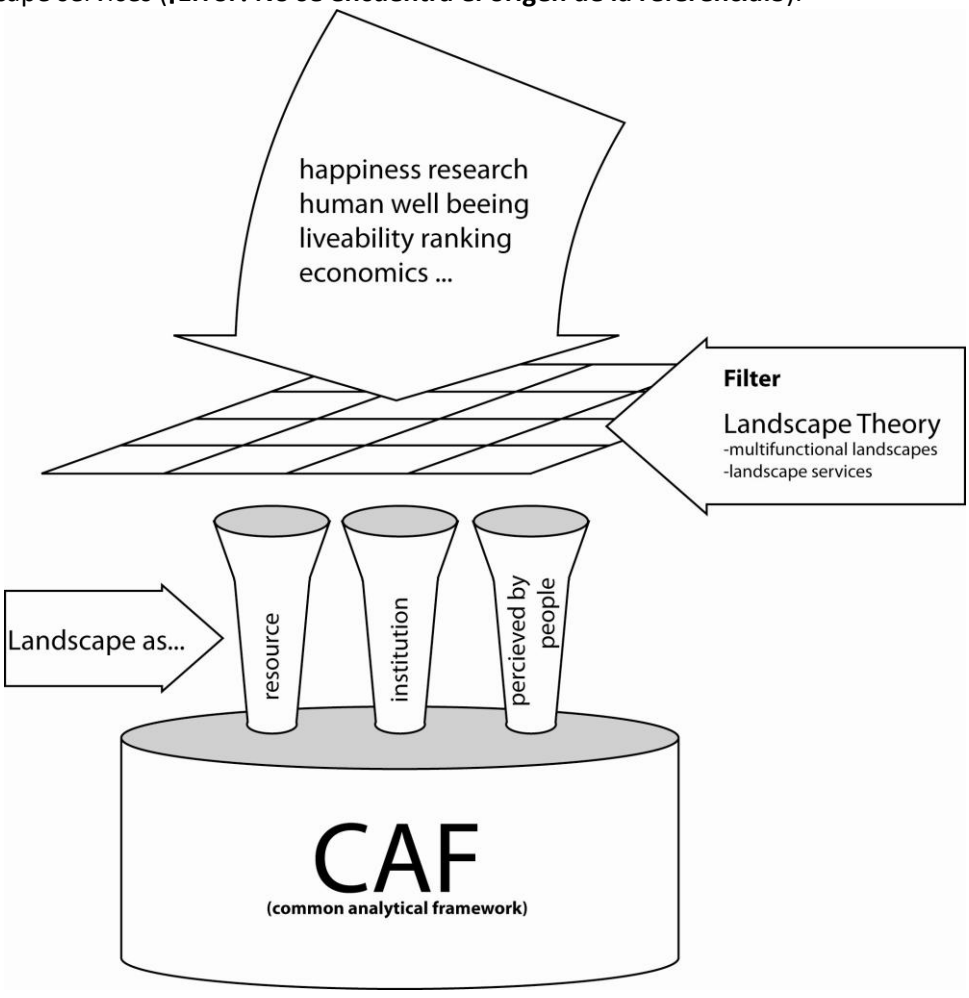


Figure 3 Approach to the definition of a common analytical framework

1.2. Overview of the conceptual development and policy framework regarding 'Landscape' in European planning policy

The use of the landscape concept in practice through European and national Commitments, Guidelines as well as inspirations for types of plans and for regional / local strategies, has been analysed by means of:

- A contextual framework for an analysis of integration of landscape and spatial planning: a) EU and European policy context - European Union: mainly focusing on sustainable development strategies, Territorial Agenda 2020, Europe 2020 Strategy; and Council of Europe: European Landscape Convention guidelines and overviews; b) ESPON context: Project results and data; c) Context of relevant national planning systems and traditions (D, DK, ES, NL, Sl), encompassing: Spatial planning and territorial development ('vision plans' on space incl. landscape)and Landscape planning ('operational plan'): development, protection and management of 'high values'
- A systematic analysis on landscape protection and management in European planning systems: An evidence based assessment of the consideration of landscape planning within territorial cohesion policies will be undertaken considering that there are no overviews at EU level

Besides for the operationalization of the landscape concept, terms, concepts and practice shared among the landscape policy makers have been identified, also the concepts related to practices and procedures constituting the local, national and regional planning and management. Exploration of responsibilities and competences for landscape planning, management and protection of landscape values has been considered remarkably important. And finally assessment on the use of ESPON data, objectives and results from relevant projects and studies has been carried out.

1.3. Baseline analysis of the project case studies

A third stage consists of a baseline analysis of the state of the question in the case study regions outlining how the landscape concepts, approaches and overall policies have been implemented by the LIVELAND stakeholders, being regional and local governments (including agencies and execution boards) by means of their spatial and/or landscape practices. Full baseline reports of the project case studies have been included in Annex III of this Interim Report .

The baseline analysis aims at the Identification of spatial characteristics & landscape types in the cases. It overviews the spatial planning system in each region and area describing categories of formal plans and informal documents and actions. Also qualitatively analyses the relevant documents (especially formal spatial and landscape plans) containing policy measures in relation to Landscape in each case. Offers a description of the practice exercised in the region / area.

Based on the above, an assessment of the role and impacts of relevant plans in each region / area is also undertaken.

The baseline analysis constitutes the basis for the identification of good practices and successful approaches in combining landscape, spatial planning and socio-economic development, in the stakeholder regions, and therefore it will serve as key input to the benchmarking exercise to be undertaken as a next step.

The methodology followed for the baseline analysis of the cases has been:

- Systematic analysis of spatial and landscape characteristics of the case based on descriptions of the case in Inception Report Annex V, where necessary and possible completed by additional information provided by the stakeholders;
- Making reference to the Common Analytical Framework (CAF) (see chapter 3.1 of this Interim Report)
- Making reference to wall-to-wall European overviews and previous mapping exercises of ESPON;
- Defining potential external reference study cases outside the project stakeholders, in fact- sheets.
- Providing an overview of the assessment of criteria for all cases in a separate Table.

1.4. Benchmarking exercise

The benchmarking within LIVELAND project is understood as a process of comparing and evaluating practices with the aim to achieve a higher level of performance, here specifically in spatial and landscape planning, providing criteria for successfully integrate landscape into regional strategies.

The benchmarking exercise aims at bringing up the specific approach to landscape and territorial planning in each case study and exchange experiences and gives feedback between the participant regions and areas. It intrinsically involves a process of interaction between researches and stakeholders (professionals of planning) accomplishing three goals:

1. A **comparison** between the practices of different administrative territorial entities (planning agencies of the involved local and regional authorities) in order to identify the best practices from the given cases. For this objective a common model for the systematic classification and assessment of case examples defined in the Common Analytical Framework (CAF) is used for the comparison.

2. A tool and agenda for the stakeholders to discuss and compare their performance at two levels:
   - Internally, aiming at providing a comparison between different practices of landscape and territorial planning within one's own organization by evaluating own practices against the other cases and thereby acquire an important contribution to the internal knowledge management efforts.
   - Externally through testing (by the research group) and evaluation (by the stakeholders) the usability of as well the best practices as the identified indicators, indicating the options for generalizations beyond their own situations.

3. The generalizations from the previous goal are an input for the transferability assessment and guidance to be addressed in the final stage of the project

The proposed methodology for undertaking the benchmarking exercise is a clock wise process consisting in:

1. **The collection of input data for benchmarking**

The baseline analysis in the stakeholder´s areas constitutes a basic in-put information for the acknowledgement of the state of the question in the participant case study regions, providing and overview of the planning practices and 'plans' , also the policy contexts (European and national), spatial planning systems and results of governmental actions and identification of sources of information, data sets. Valuable information is outlined with regard to the "external reference learning cases" which may provide longer traditions of including landscape plans in territorial planning.

2. **First Stakeholder´s workshop**

The first stakeholder´s workshop held in October 2012 in Ljubljana has been conceived as the interface between the baseline analysis and the benchmarking.

Workshop preparation

As previously explained the participation of the stakeholders´ in the project development is seen crucial. Calling for a successful and fructiferous workshop the stakeholders were asked to prepare for the working sessions in advanced by undertaking three exercises:

- Exercise 1. Reflexion on landscape concept, approaches and practices in each of the participant regions. As supporting material and overview of the key landscape concepts, policies and current practices in Europe were provided.
- Exercise 2. Self-assessment of each of the cases, by means of a SWOT[2] analysis, where Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats are identified. The stakeholders´ were asked to elaborate a short presentation with the key outcomes of the exercise to present during the workshop.
- Exercise 3. Identification of potential learning or reference cases. The description of each of the case studies extracted from Annex V of the Inception report was provided as a working material.

Annex IV includes the guidelines provided to stakeholders with instructions for workshop preparation and supporting materials.

Working sessions during the workshop

With the aims of exchange impressions and stakeholders´ identification of best practices and learning goals, and for outlining next steps for project development, the workshop was designed as follows.

The workshop started with an introductory part presenting Landscape concepts, policies and current practices in EU as a starting point for participant's discussion on common denominators such terms, concepts and practice that are shared among the landscape policy makers and other stakeholders.

It then structured in two main working sessions.

- First session addressing project cases status and outlook: it starts with stakeholders´ discussion on interpretation of landscape and liveability terms, concepts and practice followed by a short presentations of Self-Assessment (SWOT), identification

[2] SWOT stands for Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats

of Key challenges and needs in each territory and discussion on differences and commonalities between cases.
- The second working session devoted to setting the ground for benchmarking: the stakeholders should identify the perceived good practices and learning goals in other regions as well as potential external reference cases to be used also in the project. Ideally they would also discuss the benchmarking criteria.

Finally a wrapping up session serves to close the event with some reflections about transferability and links with the ESPON framework, main workshop outputs and conclusions and decisions on next steps for project development.

Workshop follow-up

As a workshop follow-up, the stakeholders were asked to undertake the following exercises:
- Review of their self-assessment and provision of a detailed SWOT analysis
- Deepen into the exercise of better defining their needs and potential responses to the light of the SWOT exercises and workshop results
- Prioritization of key learning goals from other case studies and reference cases from outside the project

3. Systematization of the in-put information and elaboration of first attempt to benchmarking procedure

The baseline analysis as well as the outcomes of the workshop and follow-up exercises has been used as the basis for the systematization of needs, responses and learning goals in each of the case study regions.

The benchmarking proposal will have the following components:
- Identification of a set of indicators which enables a comparative presentation of practices and plans
- Definition of the benchmarking criteria
- Categorization of the case studies according to benchmarking criteria. This would also entitle the categorization of the case studies according to similarities in the practices of making and implementing local and regional plans, which give guidance to future measures of protection, development and management of space and landscape. The comparison will be guided by relevant indicators, to describe the practices and plans, such as policy context, planning practice and planning culture.
- Identification of successful measures and actions in the protection, development and management of space and landscape in the involved regions.

4. Validation of benchmarking proposal in the Second Stakeholder's workshop

The second stakeholder's workshop (to be confirmed in the spring of 2013) is intended to serve as a key meeting place between practitioners and the research team. The workshop will be a benchmarking exercise between the case regions and the overall insight generated by the research team.

The results of this comparison will be presented through a draft version of "Guidance in benchmarking best practices".

1.5. Transferability and policy recommendations

The transferability assessment and guidance for policy development will be addressed as a final stage of the project, generalizing the experiences, best practices and benchmarking of content and procedures of landscape and territorial planning and their impact on sustainable development as inspiration for future planning approaches (systems, planning and cultures). The evidences and lessons learned from the outcomes of previous project activities will contribute to the elaboration of policy messages, guidance and recommendations for planning liveable landscapes in the involved regions and beyond at EU level. Available **ESPON data and results** from previous and also current projects will be used to reinforce the project outcomes.

2. Main results achieved so far

2.1. Common analytical framework: theoretical base

2.1.1. Landscape concepts in scientific discussion

Most scientific concepts of landscape are closely linked to specific sectoral perceptions of landscape (and each of them procreates through education and discourse). At the same time, landscape concepts of professionals differ, more or less, from those of the public.[3] While public landscape concepts are mainly holistic, landscape professionals usually divide landscape into different sub-concepts (e.g. ecosystems, biotopes, topography, geology, infrastructure, etc.). Two basically different groups of sub-concepts exist. One group is called 'positivistic'; here landscape is, in short, an object and material reality. The positivistic discourse has its origins in the natural sciences. Another group of sub-concepts pertains to the idea that landscapes are a construction of the mind. The constructivist discourse has its origins in the social sciences.[4]

It is beyond the reach of the LIVELAND project to make use of all possible concepts of landscape "as perceived by people". However, planning sciences should benefit from both, the natural and the social sciences. Planning should also include public perceptions of landscape through participatory processes.

Landscape concept of the European Landscape Convention

The European Landscape Convention aims to initiate public discussion on landscape and landscape related decision making. By defining landscape as areas "perceived by people", the ELC itself is part of constructivist discourses. The Convention has three important messages:

- The concept of landscape is more than the terms natural landscape and cultural landscape might assume. Landscape is not simply the collection of different elements that can be described objectively (historic / cultural or natural).

[3] Hard (1970)

[4] Kühne (2011); Ipsen (2006); Ipsen (2002);

- Landscape it is a reflection of society and its practices (e.g. living, working, travelling, recreating). Practices are organized by society. Often traditions as well as laws are important assets in spatial-temporal regulation; these may vary depending on people and place.
- Landscape is the results of constantly changing perception and identity that result in a political and socially organized entity.[5]

The Landscape Concept of LIVELAND

The LIVELAND-Project employs a three tier approach to conceptualise landscape. This approach is situated in a field of tension between constructivist and positivistic landscape concepts:

- **'Landscape as a resource'** refers to everything that is "real" and relates to a materiality found in physical space. The measuring of landscape properties for the purpose of applying pertinent criteria might include, for example, the total number of trees counted in a suburb. Such trees might be taken as an indicator for the amount of green that is available to suburban dwellers (possibly adding to their well-being).

- **'Landscape as institution'** refers to interactions between society and space, and with territory. 'Institution' is the term used here to describe how space/territory is socially ordered and organized, for example by protecting some areas and developing others, by allowing free access to some areas while closing off others, etc. A useful term in analysing landscape as an institution is that of 'cultural landscape'. For analytical purposes the concept of cultural landscape leads to questions such as: What is the history of a landscape, which traditions are related to this landscape, how do people identify with a landscape, etc.?

- **'Landscape as perceived by people'** is a quote from the European Landscape Convention[6]. This quote refers to how people construct landscape in their minds, both as individuals and collectively. Such acts of constructing are based, on the one hand, upon the 'Landscape as institution' and on the other hand, on individual landscape experience (memory). In order to learn and understand how landscape is perceived by people members of the public must be consulted (for example by conducting interviews). Especially the public landscape perception might vary extremely depending on who is being interviewed (e.g. local public, regional public and tourists) and what role they have to play (e.g. farmer, landscape planer, energy specialist). Part of this category is also the so called 'everyday landscape'.

The landscape theory proposed by the sociologist Ipsen[7] may serve to illustrate how the three terms of the LIVELAND landscape approach relate to each other (**¡Error! No se encuentra el origen de la referencia.**). The three tier approach enables LIVELAND to conduct analysis that covers all aspects of landscape that have been mentioned before.

[5] Olwig (2007: 581)

[6] *"'Landscape' means an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors;*" Council of Europe (20 Oct. 2000: 1, Nr. a)

[7] Ipsen (2006: 77)

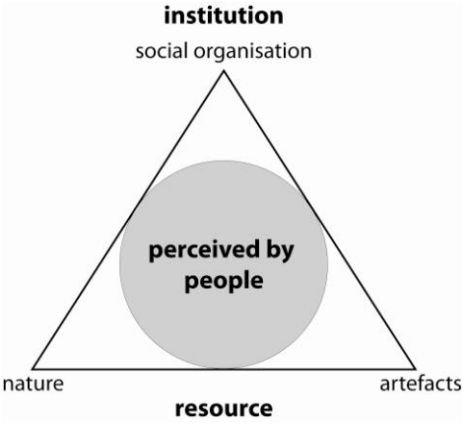


Figure 4 Landscape theory as proposed by Ipsen8

Multifunctional landscape, Landscape Services, Landscape functions and Ecosystem Services theories

A concept that is known as 'Multifunctional Landscape'[9] is used in this project; it closely related to other specific concepts such as the 'Landscape Services Concept'[10]. The latter, in turn, was derived from the so called 'Ecosystem Services Concept'[11]. Multifunctional landscapes are characterized by multiple uses that take place in the same territory, or area, simultaneously as well as asynchronous over certain periods of time. By defining landscape functions and services landscapes may be analysed and assessed without attempting to take all processes, interactions, species and a multitude of aspects into account that appear irrelevant for making specific decisions.[12] For the purposes of LIVELAND a focus is placed on the basic use of the functions that are important for answering questions about what contributes to liveability.

De Groot *et al*. define landscape functions as *"the capacity of natural processes and components to provide goods and services that satisfy human needs, directly or indirectly".*[13] This means that landscape functions *"[…] can be seen as the actual ('functional') processes and components in ecosystems and landscapes that provide the goods and services that have direct or indirect, benefit to human welfare."*[14] Functions provide both, services and goods; services do not include goods. DE GROOT ET AL. do agree that it is often not easy or even possible to clearly distinguish between services and functions.[15] (E.g. water purification is a function that leads to clear water as a product, we might directly make use of by drinking, but it is also a service we make use of, when we treat wastewater). Meanwhile, goods may

[8] Ipsen (2006: 77)

[9] Mander, Wiggering and Helming (2007)

[10] Groot and Hein (2007); Groot, Wilson and Boumans (2002)

[11] Reid (2005); Haber (1971)

[12] Daily (1997)

[13] Groot, Wilson and Boumans (2002: 396)

[14] {Groot 2007 #271: 17 /nopar

[15] *"Admittedly, there are situations where the distinction between function and services is difficult (especially with so-called regulation and supporting services) and considering the complexity of ecological systems and their interactions with human society, a satisfying classifications of functions, goods and services will probably never be found."* Groot and Hein (2007: 17)

be defined as the results of functions that lead to a physical product e.g. crops, animal life or meat.

Within LIVELAND we suggest to mainly make use of the term 'functions'. This term seems to be the most helpful one when it comes to describing and referring to actual uses of a landscape. There appears to be a general agreement on three categories, namely production, regulation and cultural functions. This classification corresponds well with the three tier approach (see above):
- Regulation functions
- Production Functions
- Cultural functions

Landscape functions and services concepts were developed mainly to be able to attach values to landscape based assets. The ultimate measure for such assets would be a 'currency' that may be transferred into monetary systems.[16] Not surprisingly, some of the landscape functions might easily be assessed in quantitative ways. This is especially true for goods that can be evaluated by their market price or insurance value. Attempting quantitative assessments might get difficult, however, when it comes to the evaluation of 'information functions' such as, for example, aesthetic information. DAILY[17] presents different approaches of valuating depending on the category of the services e.g. avoided cost throughout regulation functions (pest control, flood control), direct valuation through market prices for plants and animals with direct use. Other authors have tried to valuate landscape functions by energy flows within the system's functions, services and goods.[18] In contrast to the economic valuation this approach is mainly based upon ecology. Both economic and ecologically driven valuations are extensively criticised by PRITCHARD ET AL.[19]

The main critique points at the fact that such evaluation approaches comply with current economic systems and therefore tend to underestimate real values. In this context an approach by PARACCHINI ET AL.[20] to link indicators of multifunctional landscape to the concept of sustainability is a more elaborated way of valuation. The framework developed aims to evaluate the different policy options on multifunctional landscape with regard to their future impacts. The basic idea is to make different scenarios comparable. For LIVELAND this idea seems useful when aiming at analysing existing plans and policy contexts.

[16] In economics much work was done on valuing environmental and natural phenomena (e.g. van Kooten and Bulte (2000); Pearce David W. and Moran (1994); Hanley and Splash (1993); Pearce David W. and Turner (1990))

[17] Table 3.1. Ecosystem services and valuation methods Daily (1997: 30)

[18] Odum and Odum (2000)

[19] *"Existing methods of valuation accept and validate the current alienation of people from ecosystems and from each other. Accepting economic preferences 'as is' does not include the opportunity for individuals to learn about their environment and to pool their information for beneficial collective decisions, nor does it provide a framework for active social deliberation over desired states of nature."* Pritchard, Folke and Gunderson (2003: 39)

[20] Paracchini *et al.* (2011)

2.1.2. Concepts of Liveability

When confronted with 'liveability' the first questions that come to mind are: how might such a vague term be defined and used? How might any definition of liveability become useful in practical application? And finally, with regards to LIVELAND, the question is how landscape might contribute to liveability.

Happiness, well-Being, Quality of Life and Liveability

Liveability is subject to policy and it is on the agenda of planning. Pertaining to people's surroundings, the most important measure of liveability appears to be the so called 'self-reported happiness'. For LIVELAND we suggest to use 'happiness' in this narrow conceptualisation[21].

What is of interest then, from the realm of happiness research, are conceptualizations of happiness, and its measurement in relation to landscape explanations. Also for the purposes of LIVELAND, we need to turn the attention to the happiness concepts of being.[22] A number of approaches exist that might lead to ideas of how happiness can be 'measured'. One is the idea of direct happiness ranking; another one is the ranking of liveability employing parameters that definitely are closely related to happiness. A third one is the concept of using human well-being indexes; these are mainly oriented towards some of peoples' basic needs (This measure would be one that most closely relates happiness to the concept of possession).

Operationalization of Happiness, pertaining to Liveability

There are different methods to evaluate the influence of environment and human behaviour to happiness. Some methods use self-reported happiness; others would directly ask sources of satisfaction. Willingness to pay (WTP) and willingness to accept (WTA) are also in use. But in most studies methods are triangulated. It is possible to group different types of (research) strategies:

- Liveability rankings make use of outcome of happiness research. It attempts to make findings operational and split up into different factors. These are used to survey certain areas (countries and cities) and compare liveability by the degree of factor fulfilment. For LIVELAND such examples are important sources for operationalization.
- Happiness surveys ask people to report on what makes them happy. These studies report on what is the source of people's happiness. For LIVELAND such examples are important sources for what happiness is for people.
- Sectoral research: The third group starts from a hypothesis to investigate certain aspects that might influence happiness. In many instances the basis for the hypothesis appears to be an utilitarian one For example, FREY[23] assumed that, because many people spend a lot of time watching TV, it is likely that watching TV is of benefit to people's happiness – a hypothesis which the studies did not approve.

[21] "satisfaction of life" is what could be defined as the narrow meaning of the term happiness.

[22] The 'Concept of Being' relates to a definition of happiness that emphasis what is called 'the event driven society. It has recently replaced the 'concept of possession'. In difference to that the basic idea is that purchased goods and services provide a feeling or even a point of identification to people while in former times in happiness research utility was the most important indicator.

[23] Frey (2010: 93–106)

For LIVELAND such examples are important sources for what happiness is for people and how it could be influenced.

Liveability is, in many instances, seen as closely related to quality of life. However, where 'quality-of-life' indexes are based mainly on economic factors, such indices only reflect part of what is important for liveability. Many approaches to integrate qualitative factors into the measuring of quality-of-life have been reported. Two mayor issues have to be taken into account that exceeds what some classic liveability indexes are offering:

- Where happiness is at the basis of quality-of-life any attempt to rely on objective measures need to be supplemented by parameters that reflect subjective aspects; for the purpose of LIVELAND landscape aspects need to be considered (including what people cherish in their surroundings that contributes to their quality of life).

- Where landscape is to be considered, in relation to quality of life, measuring must attempt to include landscape as a holistic entity (as "an area as perceived by people"). The measuring of quality would have to include perception aspects and these would, at least partly, be subjective in nature.

A list of components that are commonly agreed on regarding what is important for measuring liveability in connection to quality of life are included in (Fig. 5).

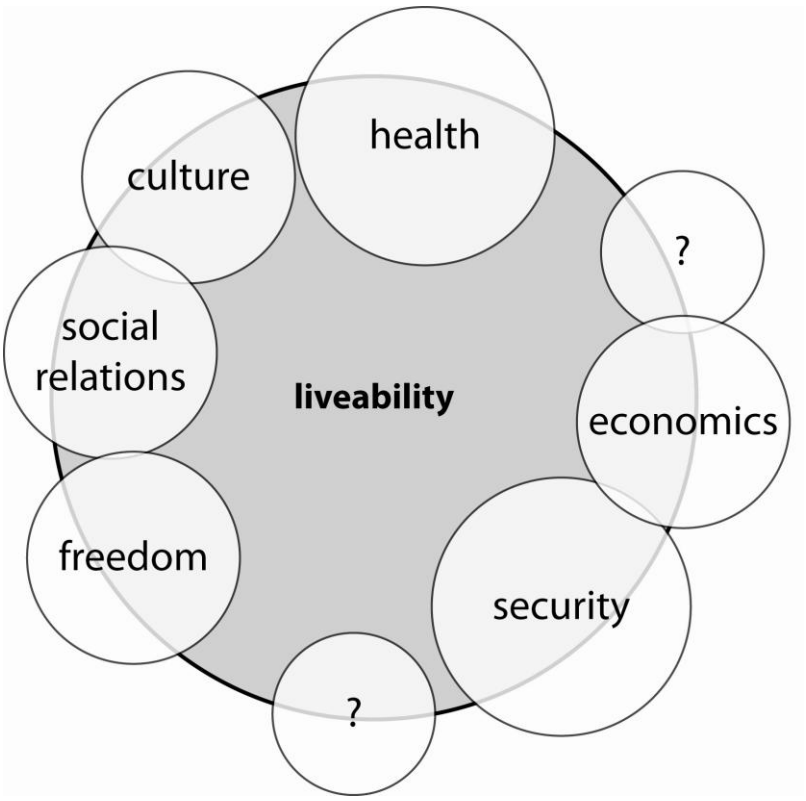


Figure 5 Components of Liveability

2.1.3. Linking Liveability Research and Landscape Concepts

Landscape function concepts provide useful starting points to perform multi-level assessments. Parameters might vary depending on the scale. **Therefore we propose to use a matrix of liveability parameters on the one hand and landscape functions on the other hand, to identify and describe landscapes contribution to liveability (Table 1).**

Functions	Regulation											Production							Culture				
	Gas regulation	Climate Regulation	Disturbance prevention	Water regulation	Water supply	Soil retention	Soil formation	Nutrient regulation	Waste treatment	Pollination	Biological control	Food	Raw Materials	Genetic resources	Medicinal resources	Ornamental resources	Refugium function	Nursery function	Aesthetic information	Recreation	Cultural & artistic information	Spiritual & historic information	Science & Education
Health																							
Security																							
Social Relations / Capital																							
Culture																							
Economics / Work																							
Freedom	Freedom is depending on processes, procedures and decision making																						

Table 1 Landscape- Liveability matrix

Detailing relations between Landscape and Liveability

For this step landscape functions are organized according to three categories; these are regulation, production and cultural functions. Methods are established, parameters and criteria (and indicators) are developed for each function and scales are defined where "measuring" might be useful. Criteria are specified and it is explained how to use them for the purposes of the CAF. Components of liveability have been analysed according to their relation to different landscape functions. Only traceable combinations of landscape functions and liveability are taken into account which:

- show a significant relation between liveability and landscape functions (you might find any direct or indirect relation for all combinations, but only a limited number is relevant),
- could be influenced significantly by planning, especially landscape planning. (There are landscape - liveability relations that cannot be influenced by any know planning instruments),
- comply with the definition of liveability and landscape within the European policy documents and are part of the findings stage 2 of the project.

When detailing the relation between landscape functions and liveability it turned out that the landscape functions concepts might have some shortcomings when related to liveability (e.g. contribution to health or identity). It might be argued that this is caused by a general focus on ecology and economics within many landscape concepts. For LIVELAND it seems most reasonable to take into account all those contributions of landscape to liveability that do not fit in the landscape functions concept by DE GROOT and either extent the functions descriptions or make use of the contribution without directly relating it to the functions.

Landscape and Health

The following contributions of landscape to health could be identified with regard to landscape functions.

- **Production of (healthy) food.** Landscape can be used for the production of organic farmed food that is a contribution to the healthy way of living. By this is meant the farming of the land, therefore it differs from the food production function that is listed by DE GROOT ET AL. (see also Annex) It depends on the sustainable use of regulation functions:
    - **soil formation**
    - **soil retention**
    - **nutrient regulation**
    - **pollination**
    - **water supply**
    - **Biological pest control**
- **Recreation** Landscape is an important resource for recreation. Recreation includes activities like hiking, biking, playing etc. but also relates to experiences (see also aesthetic functions)
- **Water supply**. Clear fresh water is the most important source of life. Landscape filters, gathers and offers clear fresh water. This water is used **directly** for drinking etc. as well as **indirectly** for the production of food.
- **Waste treatment**. Waste treatment contribute to hygienic living environment They help to prevent disease and contamination to spread (e.g. via Water supply)
- **Biological pest control.** This on the hand help to hinder diseases to spread that **directly** affect men, or on the other hand are helpful for the production of healthy food.

The following landscape characteristics are important for health promotion within planning and can be addressed in plans on regional as well as local scale.[24]

- **Physical health**
    - **Physical outdoor activity in cities (daily life)**
        - Access and presence of physical activity promoting facilities
        - General functionality of urban districts (e.g. sidewalks traffic regulation, bicycle and walking paths)
    - **Physical outdoor activity in cities (leisure time)**
        - Multifunctionality
        - Street connectivity
        - Traffic safety (e.g. pedestrian zones)
        - Landscape perceived as pleasant / Aesthetically appealing landscapes

[24] Abraham, Sommerhalder and Abel (2010)

        - Nearby parks, playgrounds and sports fields (high quality)
        - Access to places for physical activities (high quality)
    - **Physical outdoor activity outside cities**
        - Aesthetically appealing rural green landscapes (e.g. forests)
    - **Production of healthy food (organic food production)**
        - Fertile soils (see economics / work)
        - Availability of fresh and clean water (see economics / work)
        - Variety of land use
    - **Access to clean fresh water**
        - Surface water bodies
        - Groundwater
    - **Living in an healthy environment**
        - Provisioning of ecosystems to prevent contaminations
        - Diseases prevention
        - Landscape ability to destruct wastes
- **Mental health**
    - **Attention restoration and recovery from mental fatigue**
        - Natural landscapes such as beaches, waters, forests, parks, mountains
        - Availability of public open spaces used for public entertainment and sports
    - **Recovery from stress**
        - Landscape perceived as pleasant / Aesthetically appealing landscapes
        - Easy access to green areas with lower sound levels from road traffic
    - **Positive emotions**
        - Landscape perceived as pleasant / Aesthetically appealing landscapes
        - Open and accessible forests

Landscape and Security

The following landscape functions contributing to security can be identified:

- **Disturbance prevention:** Landscape offers functions of disturbance prevention. This function can be used and maintained by planning.

The following landscape characteristics are related to the landscape functions important for security especially security from disasters within planning and can be addressed in plans on regional as well as local scale.

- **Disaster prevention**
    - General spatial development that is enhancing landscape functions of disaster prevention
    - Variety of land use
    - Sustainable agriculture and forestry
- **Disaster protection**
    - Features of disaster protection

Landscape and Social Relations / Capital

The following contributions of landscape to security could be identified:

- **Recreation functions** offer the opportunity for people to meet with each other and get into contact without regard to status and economic situation it therefore:
    - reduces **inequality**

    - helps to build **bonding and bridging capital**
    - to build **trust** between members of the community

With regard to the before mentioned functions the following landscape characteristics are important for social relation and capital within planning and can be addressed in plans on regional as well as local scale.[25]

- **Promotion of social integration**
    - (High quantity[26] and quality[27]) parks (that provide sufficient level of safety, are attractive and serve multiple purpose[28])
    - Community gardens / allotment gardens
    - Reduce conflicts within society that are a serious threat to security
- **Ability to collectively experience landscape**
    - "Wild nature" as perceived by people
    - Accessibility of landscape
- **Neighbourhood structures that have the potential to build mutual trust**
    - Trust in neighbours, active neighbours

Landscape and culture

The following contributions of landscape to culture could be identified:

- **Cultural & artistic information** and **spiritual & historic information** are sources of **identity**. This information can be found in the landscape. They have to be maintained and carefully developed.
- **Scientific and educational functions** contribute to liveability by keeping alive the knowledge on history and culture as well as natural science.
- **Identity** is built throughout identification with landscape and landscape elements. Individual and community identity help to
    - to **bond and bridge** between members of different communities as well as between members of the same community. This is achieved mainly by distinction.

The following landscape characteristics are important for culture within planning and can be addressed in plans on regional as well as local scale.

- **Identity**
    - Building community identity
    - Elements of identification ('Symbols')
    - Landscape character (e.g. Swanwick[29])
- **Education**
    - Landscape as an asset in education

[25] Abraham, Sommerhalder and Abel (2010)

[26] Finke (2009)

[27] Körner, Nagel and Bellin-Harder (2009)

[28] Abraham, Sommerhalder and Abel (2010); Körner, Nagel and Bellin-Harder (2009)

[29] Swanwick (2002)

Landscape and Economics / Work

The following contributions of landscape to economics / work could be identified:

- **Aesthetic information** are a source of attractiveness and therefore important for tourism and real estate, sustainable management will **secure jobs and income**.
- **Recreation, spiritual & historic information** and **cultural & artistic information** are another source of tourism and the related economy.
- **Production** and **regulation functions** are important for agricultural and forestry economics.

The following landscape characteristics are important for culture within planning and can be addressed in plans on regional as well as local scale. In this context the role of planning as moderator of different interest is of high importance and should be addressed within the planning processes and decisions.

- **Tourism**
    - Landscape as touristic destination
        - Landscape attractiveness in general as an asset in tourism (Scenic value)
        - Elements and symbols of touristic meaning
        - Touristic an recreational infrastructure
- **Real estate**
    - Landscape as an asset in real estate
        - Landscape attractiveness as an asset in real estate (scenic value)
        - Proximity to certain landscape elements and parts
- **Agriculture and forestry**
    - agriculture / forestry
        - Fertile soils
        - Availability of fresh and clean water for growing crops / woods

Landscape and Freedom

There is **no landscape function** directly contributing to freedom. A contribution can only be seen by the planning processes on landscape. Nevertheless this seems of high importance for LIVELAND.

As a conclusion it is stated that a number of landscape functions contribute to liveability and landscape. The summary of the analysis is presented in Table 2. In addition, some indicators are mentioned that might be used in practically use parameters. How indicators may be used during the analysis of cases is discussed below.

2.1.4. The common analytical Framework (CAF)

The common analytical framework provides a set of questions that, when applied to policy and plan analysis, produce comparable responses in a standardized fashion. While scrutinizing a particular policy or plan, this set of questions should lead towards a summary of how liveability aspects are considered within policy documents and planning processes.

As planning is highly complex and, at the same time, is dependent on country, culture, scale etc., it is neither possible nor reasonable to get into very detailed aspects of any policy document with simple yes / no questions or multiple choice questions. A certain degree of

detail it needed for detailed descriptions, for example when it comes to methods applied to landscape assessment. A set of simple questions will provide the starting point to get an overview on liveability aspects before the more detailed analysis sets in. The relevant aspects of liveability have been identified above. A set of simple (yes / no) questions is employed to identify the relevance of a policy or plan to liveability components, following a systematisation in planning stages:

Questions	Answer type
General:	
Does the plan deal with the component of liveability?	Y / N
Is there a map on the component of liveability?	☐evaluation / analysis ☐strategy / vision ☐actions / measures ☐others
Evaluation method:	
Is the evaluation methods for the component of liveability selective or spatially inclusive and comprehensive	☐selective ☐spatially inclusive / comprehensive
Strategy and vision:	
Does the plan provide a strategy and vision for the component of liveability?	Y / N
Actions and measures:	
Does the plan propose any actions or measures with regard to the component of liveability?	Y / N
Are actions and measures regarding the component of liveability spatially explicit?	Y / N
Monitoring	
Is monitoring of measures for the component of liveability a part of the plan?	Y / N
Is an approach or method of monitoring defined?	Y / N
Planning procedures and decisions:	
Are there conflicts of the component with another component of liveability regarding vision and strategy or actions and measures?	Y / N | Description
For each of the components' of liveability landscape characteristics there is another set of standardized questions that are the basis for an individual set of questions. This means not for every landscape characteristic all of the questions might have to be answered. Questions are added others are cancelled:	
Are component of liveability addressed?	Y / N
In which parts of the plan is the topic addressed?	☐evaluation / analysis ☐strategy / vision ☐actions / measures ☐monitoring
Which method has been employed for the evaluation? (Please evaluate method)	Description
Is the evaluation method selective or spatially inclusive and comprehensive?	☐selective ☐spatially inclusive / comprehensive
Is the evaluation method qualitative or quantitative?	☐qualitative ☐quantitative ☐both
Are vision and strategy built upon the outcomes of the analysis? (Please explain)	Description
Are objectives within the vision / strategy defined quantitative or qualitative?	☐qualitative ☐quantitative ☐both
List the objectives (Please list qualitative and quantitative objectives separately)	Description
Is there a schedule or timetable for the achievements of objectives defined?	Y / N
Are objectives defined selective or spatially inclusive and comprehensive?	☐selective ☐spatially inclusive / comprehensive
Do actions and measures comply with vision and	Description

strategy? (Please explain)	
Are actions and measures spatially explicit?	Y / N
Are approaches and methods for monitoring defined? (Please describe)	Y / N | Description
Does monitoring refer to objectives within the visions and strategy	Y / N

Table 2 Systematic questions for every component of liveability

2.1.5. Application of the CAF

The practical application of the CAF is strongly related to the WP 2.3 and also to 2.4. It is suggested that within the baseline analysis a first attempt in answering the questions of the CAF is done. It is proposed to start answering Yes / No questions as well as multiple choices questions as long as this is possible based on the contribution of stakeholders to the baseline analysis. Descriptive questions that will need a deeper insight into stakeholder plans might be addressed later. Reactions and comments from stakeholders given to the interim report should be used for the further refinement of the CAF. As the CAF is taking a wide scope it seems reasonable to reduce the number of questions. Criteria for modifications could be:

- special interest of stakeholders
- impossibility in answering questions in the context of LIVELAND
- other pragmatic decisions

In a final attempt to evaluate stakeholder plans TPG and Stakeholder are asked to cooperatively fill out the CAF questionnaire, reduced to a realistically feasible selection of questions.

2.2. The concept of Landscape in an European policy and plan context

The second stage aimed at providing an overview of the conceptual development and policy framework regarding 'Landscape' in European planning policy. This include an outline of the policy context and the definition of landscape in policy documents at national, European and EU levels as well as the use of landscape in ESPON reporting.

The overview in its full length is available in Annex II, but for the purpose of this summary, we have operationalized the above exploration into three overall themes:

- Evolution of the concept of Landscape in the EU policy context,
- Evolution of the concept of Landscape within the ESPON research framework, and
- An examination of if and how the main components of the recommendations for landscape planning of the European Landscape Convention (ELC) have been implemented in praxis in the 5 case study countries.

2.2.1. Evolution of the concept of Landscape in the EU policy context

While the first decades of planning in the EU were related to the two main issues of economic development and the economic, social and cultural integration of the member states, other issues have appeared on the agenda during the last three decades and resulted in the evolution of planning from land use development by means of economic incentives, towards a more equal concern with economic development, environmental justice, and social and economic equity.

However, this is brought forward with a continued focus on sector development as the determining issue, and without recognition of the role of landscapes in the development process. The rationale for this has mainly been the belief that Europe as a whole can only compete successfully on a global scale by focusing on the strongest candidates in its largest regions, and without recognition of the potential landscape impacts of such strategy.

This goes hand in hand with other efforts such as strengthening polycentric development, networking of agglomerations, and supporting the role of important international clusters. Key aspects also include encompassed urban drivers, demographic and economic mass and power, comparative advantages of agglomerations, global transport hubs and connectivity between major agglomerations, innovation and the creative class, and occasionally also addressing issues such as quality of life. However, these discussions for the most part have missed to explicitly address the processes themselves and their varying economic and territorial effects.

Recognition of the Landscape concept

A break-through in the recognition of landscape as a policy issue was the European Landscape Convention (ELC), adopted on 20 October 2000 by The Council of Europe. The ELC emphasizes that landscapes are important parts of the quality of life in different areas of the European continent since landscapes are contributing to the formation of local culture and is a basic component of the European natural and cultural heritage. The ELC also recognizes the importance of including the landscape concept in promoting the consolidation of the European identity. This is necessary because the development in all sectors of activities accelerates the transformation of landscapes whereby an important component of the identity is at risk of disappearing. So, in order to respond to this increased pressure on the European landscape, it is necessary to:

- Identify and gather existing indicators, propose new indicators, collect data and develop map-making methods to measure and to display the state, trends and impacts of the developments,
- Prepare an inventory of indicators and measures for the identification of natural heritage with regard to the typologies of regions, including the identification of areas with most emerging conflicts between their natural heritage and man-made activities; and
- Identify which type of territorial development patterns would minimize the conflicts between the conservation of natural heritage and economic activities and, therefore, contribute to a better management of the natural heritage.

Territorial cohesion with Landscape as a peculiarity

The introduction of the concept of Territorial Cohesion indicates another important milestone in the EUs internal understanding. Territorial cohesion is about achieving balanced development, focusing on European solidarity, and stressing inclusive growth, fair access to infrastructure and services, and reduction of economic disparities. The key elements here are strengthening the use of development potential outside the main growth poles and ensuring a minimum of welfare provision in all regions.

In this connection it is recognized that every territory has its own distinct set of potentials for further development – its territorial capital or comparative advantages. At the same time, every region and local area also has resources available to make use of its assets and offset deficiencies. The difference between the assets and deficiencies, on the one hand, and the resources available to territories to activate their potentials and respond to deficiencies on the other, results in the strength or fragility of a territory. Supporting equal or fair development opportunities is therefore a key issue, not least expressed in the debate on fair access to infrastructure and services. People and companies in all parts of a territory need to have access to certain standards of services. Their delivery, however, can depend on the territorial context, i.e. the same service can be delivered by different means in different areas.

The 3 main components of the concept of territorial cohesion include:

- Territorial Efficiency: resource-efficiency with respect to energy, land and natural resources; competitiveness and attractiveness of the local territory; internal and external accessibility.
- Territorial Quality: the quality of the living and working environment; comparable living standards across territories; similar access to services of general interest and to knowledge.
- Territorial Identity: presence of "social capital"; landscape and cultural heritage; capability of developing shared visions of the future; creativity; productive "vocations" and competitive advantage of each territory.

It is important to emphasize that any mentioning of the landscape concept in this context is still only inter-related to the cultural heritage concept and thus not an overarching issue.

Territorial cohesion recognizing the Landscape complexity

A more diverse understanding of the complexity of land use functions in the EU discussions have been inspired by UNCED Rio 1992-Agenda 21 where it is emphasized that: "By examining all uses of land in an integrated manner, it makes it possible to minimize conflicts, to make the most efficient trade-offs and to link social and economic development with environmental protection and enhancement, thus helping to achieve the objectives of sustainable development"[30].

This focus on territorial development – and thereby on inclusiveness of the landscape concept in territorial cohesion - represents the core interest of the action emphasized by United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD). Special attention has to be paid to areas where valuable natural ecosystems, environmentally sensitive areas,

[30] UNCED, 1992: United Nations Conference on Environment and Development: Agenda 21. Chapter 10 http://www.un.org/documents/ga/conf151/aconf15126-1annex1.htm

cultural landscapes, monuments and historical sites are endangered by pollution, floods, droughts, erosion, fires, earthquakes and landslides, but also where economic development is excluding – or neglecting – the role of territory AND landscapes. In the discussions it is emphasized how landscape planning and land use planning are synergistic in that landscape planning informs the policy-making and legal structure of comprehensive land use planning.

The larger issues addressed in this stage of the territorial cohesion debate are solidarity, territorial justice, access to services of general interest and infrastructure, territorial diversity, territorial capital, and economic imbalances. Central to this perspective is the idea that no region can be strong unless the major part of its territorial capital (also in the hinterlands) has been successfully harnessed in a balanced development. It also considers that processes of concentration and polarization can be avoided. Key aspects in this include access to services and infrastructure, the emergence and reproduction of territorial inequalities, spatial discontinuities and contrasts at different geographical scales and territorial identity and solidarity.

The future of land use planning and smart growth in this context is recognized as being tied to comprehensive landscape planning in concert with economic development and socio-economic equity planning. This force to some extent planning of communities to include landscape planners in order to provide a scientific rationale for smart growth that encompasses the environmental as well as cultural quality goals, and to recognize that cultural landscapes are the visible result of history on the territory interacting with present activities, and therefore an important topic; not the least in Europe. A balanced and sustainable spatial development can be reached only by protecting and enhancing the landscape through considering a number of aspects: typical rural and urban settlements, ancient agricultural landscapes, the rich network of historical roads with related settlements and infrastructures, the marks left by industrialization and urbanization, etc. As indicated above, cultural heritage is, however, a concept that goes beyond historic heritage, and needs to be inclusive both to the past, the present, and the future. It is the cornerstone of local, regional, national, and European identity. Accordingly, spatial planning should approach this issue in a comprehensive and integrated manner.

Multifunctional landscape and multi-level governance

Territorial cohesion is very much about recognizing the territorial diversity in Europe as well as the importance of the territorial context and its multifaceted dynamics as a foundation for success. This involves endogenous development potentials and fragilities, as well as exogenous factors, such as the impact of developments in other territories, and the effects of different sector policies at various levels of decision making.

In this context it is important to emphasize that mankind uses land and situate their activities in the landscape for a multitude of purposes. Some of these are directly related to available ecosystems and landscape services. Others are related to the territory due to other constraints. All together these uses obtain a diverse set of functions (economic, environmental and social) from any particular form of land use. The concept of multi-functional land use recognizes that it is often desirable to maximize the benefits obtained from a given parcel of land, and that a more equitable balance of the competing economic, environmental and social demands on land is more sustainable in the long-term than an unbalanced system. To this end, there is a need for evaluation tools which allow a more sensible approach to the assessment of whether competing demands in a multifunctional land use system are sustainable or not. In particular, there is a need to integrate information and data from a wide variety of sources into a single evaluation framework.

The approach to “land use” should not only be seen from the land cover perspective but also from the perspective of “functionality”, which provides linkage with other transversal issues. “Functionality” could be a motivating approach in the integration of land cover, land use management, socio-economics, transportation, energy conservation, water management and climate change. While the concept of “land use” traditionally has been considered (to some extend) to be binary, i.e. one land use activity would exclude other activities, the situation in Europe is that the functionality of land areas has been increasingly diversified: on one hand towards exclusiveness with mono-functional large scale production, and on the other hand towards inclusiveness, which stresses the fact that different activities co-exists. In regards to the latter, policy and planning should develop methods where the question of harmonious and disharmonious functionalities could be a way of improving the planning process.

2.2.2. Evolution of the concept of Landscape within ESPON

The European Spatial Planning Observation Network (ESPON) was launched as a programme jointly managed by the Member States and the European Commission in accordance with the work programme adopted at the meeting of Spatial Planning Ministers in Tampere in 1999. The aim has from the start been to increase knowledge about territorial structures, trends and policy impacts in the enlarged European Union.

As stressed in the first ESPON synthesis report[31], the ESPON programme was designed to improve European knowledge on trends and policy impacts affecting the enlarged European territory and through networking support a further development of a European research community in the field of territorial development and spatial planning. Much in line with the EU policy emphasis the ESPON studies were intended to address:

- Factors relevant to securing a more polycentric Europe;
- Territorial indicators and typologies, capable of identifying and measuring development trends as well as monitoring the political aim of a better balanced and polycentric Europe;
- Tools supporting diagnosis of principal structural difficulties, as well as potential;
- Territorial impacts of European sectorial and structural policies, such as the Structural Funds; and
- Integrated methods to support balanced and polycentric spatial development, including spatial scenarios for 2015 and 2030.

Questions of territorial imbalances were especially emphasized as the EU was in the process of enlargement, so issues such as centre-periphery, polycentric development, functional urban areas, and development poles were critical issues to be covered by the ESPON projects. The landscape concept was included, but in relation to the urban-rural relationship as “consumption landscapes”.

The landscape concept included in this connection reflects two aspects: as a physical backdrop for the on-going changes[32] and a stage for attracting consumption activities[33]. This is elaborated further in relation to the concept of “naturalness” where territorial development is related to how a territory is used; identifying two types of land surfaces:

[31] ESPON synthesis report I (2004). Preliminary results by autumn 2003

[32] ESPON synthesis report I p 36

[33] ESPON synthesis report II p 34

Land use and the naturalness of land, i.e. the absence of the human forming of surfaces emphasizing that landscapes is important in relation to the natural heritage and that "naturalness" can be an asset for territorial development.

Among the conclusions made during the project period 2002-2006, the analyses recognize that every territory has its own distinct set of potentials for further development, as well as resources available to make use of its assets and offset deficiencies[34]. In this connection it is emphasized that: "Environmental quality is another factor in a territory's attractiveness that is strongly affected by current developments. Decreasing environmental quality often implies decreasing quality of life "a*nd increasing difficulties in attracting skilled labour to an area. Currently there are disparities across Europe in pollution, land consumption and care for natural heritage and landscapes. Such differences may well become more important in future decisions on the locating of enterprises and people".*[35]

Similar references to the landscape concept are used in a context where also the concept of liveability is referenced to as being "Quality of life and competitive places"[36]. In this connection there are references to "cultural landscapes" and "cultural heritage"[37] but at the same time it is emphasized how attractiveness and liveability of an area not only depend on tangible factors such as infrastructure, human capital, and the risk of hazards. The concept of "soft location factors" is introduced and it is stressed how this has become a factor of increasing importance for an area, both to attract investments and skilled labour. Furthermore it is also stressed how natural and technological hazards and climate change might put the attractiveness and liveability of a region at risk in the longer term[38].

What is most important in this connection is the following quote: "The strategic objectives for an efficient and modern regional policy contributing to the renewed Lisbon Strategy and its overall aims can be condensed as follows"[39]:

- *Competitiveness*, by building on the existing assets and under-utilised potentials in a region related to its existing economic base;
- *Attractiveness*, by include building new assets in a region that can stimulate new investment and skills, in particular in support of a knowledge-based economy;
- *Liveability,* by ensuring cohesion and sustainable communities, with a high level of quality of life and environment now and in the future, for citizens and businesses.

The landscape – through the concept of liveability – has thereby moved from an external to an internal planning factor.

The INTERACT-ESPON synthesis report[40] provided an overview of INTERREG projects reflecting similar approaches to the landscape concept as described above. The landscape is considered being consumption goods and amenity in the territorial potentials[41]. With specific reference to tourism, recreation, and leisure, landscape and environment are typically connected to the cultural heritage and the open spaces as fields for the rural-urban

[34] Project TIPTAP 2006

[35] ESPON synthesis report III p.21

[36] ESPON synthesis report III p.79

[37] ESPON synthesis report III p.21 and page 80

[38] ESPON synthesis report III p.7

[39] ESPON synthesis report III p.10

[40] INTERACT-ESPON Synthesis Report 2006/2007

[41] INTERACT-ESPON Synthesis Report 2006/2007, p7

relations[42]. In this context it is emphasized that in most of these projects concentrating on landscapes, the built environment, and environmental protection, the focus is on the exploitation, management and/or protection of areas with specific landscape characteristics as well as habitats and/or buildings[43]. In Interreg III project context, the landscape concept is connected to priority 3 projects where the focus is on the environment. This priority contains measures for the protection of nature and the countryside, such as: care for the countryside, preservation of the attraction of the region's cultural landscapes, securing resources, and providing a proper basis for establishing cross-border catastrophe-, disaster- and high-water protection facilities. Further objectives included are the improvement of environmental consciousness and enhancement of the quality of the water in the interior and along the coast[44]. And in relation to the Strategic policy aims formulated in the four cross-border spatial development concepts two main objectives for the future development of the Euroregional territory are included: The strengthening of economic potentials and the lowering of unemployment, while at the same time preserving and developing nature and landscape. These components are considered as active support to the establishment of good neighbourly relations[45].

2.2.3. Implementation of landscape planning in the 5 case study countries

While landscape as a territorial concern of its own is gradually creeping into the policies at European and EU level as well as gaining increasing attention in the conducted ESPON research projects, another important threshold for the realisation of the concept as a planning issue is whether it is being implemented in the national and regional planning acts and processes.

Thus, as a primary exploration of this, the plan processes in the 5 case countries have been reviewed for landscape planning elements based on the four main elements highlighted in the ELC:

- Whether landscape is recognized in law;
- If specific landscape policies are developed (aimed at landscape protection, management and through specific measures);
- If landscape is integrated into regional and municipal/town planning polices; and
- If procedures for public and stakeholder participation in landscape relevant policies are established.

It is beyond this summary to address all aspects here; this is elaborated in the Annex report, and will also be even further elaborated alongside the case studies in the coming project phase. However, some initial findings of the level of implementation of the concept of landscape in national and regional planning are listed below:

[42] INTERACT-ESPON Synthesis Report 2006/2007, p38

[43] INTERACT-ESPON Synthesis Report 2006/2007, p45

[44] INTERACT-ESPON Synthesis Report 2006/2007, p16

[45] INTERACT-ESPON Synthesis Report 2006/2007, p75

2.2.3.1. Denmark

According to the Danish Ministry of the Environment, the Danish practices for landscape planning were already in line with the priorities of the European Landscape Convention when it was officially ratified in Denmark in 2004.

The concept of landscape is included in several plan policies, both a national and local level. Impacts for the landscape should be taken into account when planning for e.g. new infrastructure, but the policies also include landscape perspectives in terms of protection of valuable landscapes, maintenance of the cultural landscape and more loosely on the development potential of landscapes.

The concept of landscape is thus not limited to the protection of valuable landscape, although this is one element. The role of landscape for recreation is to some extent included and particularly the role of attractive landscapes for development potentials is addressed – however not very explicitly.

Public participation plays a central role in the Danish planning procedures and is included in legislation both at national and local level and is also a central part of the planning practices at the local level.

2.2.3.2. The Netherlands

In general, Dutch landscape policy is compatible with the ELC, emphasizing both conversation of landscape and landscape management through the concept of "conservation through development"[46]. The social and economic dimension of including people into landscape planning has been an essential part of Dutch landscape practise highlighting the development approach. Furthermore, the Dutch tradition in spatial planning and a related generations of national spatial policies/acts have established institutional structures relevant for landscape planning and integration with urban planning at local and regional level. Public participation and stakeholder involvement is well-developed in the Netherlands.

One limitation of Dutch landscape policy has been that the landscape has been to large extent focusing on rural areas and the "countryside". The terminology is somewhat different for urban areas focusing more on the "improvement of liveability" and "greening" issues[47].

2.2.3.3. Germany

Germany has not ratified the ELC, and although landscape planning is seemingly strong in Germany, the social dimensions of landscape emphasized by the ELC are not recognised. However, the Federal Nature Conservation Act recognises other issues of the ELC, such as landscape protection and management, as well as implementation of landscape policy in spatial planning practice.

Due to the fact that all policy plans is legally organised and binding within the administrative limits (hierarchal order, top-down) most formal landscape planning is well-developed on local and regional level. The local landscape policies must consider the regional landscapes

[46] Roetemeijer, 2005

[47] Roetemeijer, 2005

plans as well as the national guidelines for landscape, but the regional *länder* have possibilities to shape regional policy and form their own directions for development.

Procedures for public participation are addressed in the German planning acts, but there is no strong tradition for public participation in German landscape planning, and therefore no extra measures are taken to implement this aspect in the planning processes.

2.2.3.4. Slovenia

According to the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning, Slovenian practices were already in line with the priorities of the ELC when it was ratified by Slovenia. On national level, landscape is included in several acts within the Slovenian legislation and also in the most important spatial development document, the Spatial Development Strategy of Slovenia[48].

In the Slovenian policy documents and legislation however, the focus seems to be on protection and reservation of natural and cultural landscape even though for example the Spatial Development Strategy of Slovenia also mentions modernisation and renewal of landscapes[49].

Public participation is included in Slovenian legislation, and participation in the preparation of spatial document and procedures for management of natural resources takes place through public hearings.

2.2.3.5. Spain

While the national level provides the general framework for the planning system, the 17 autonomous communities have full authority to legislate for, regulate and execute spatial development, and thus current practices for landscape planning varies widely across Spain.

Catalonia has been active in implementing landscape policy in line with the ELC and setting up legislation and policy for integrating landscape in different sectors and also been pioneers in developing public participation in landscape management in Spain[50.]

On the other hand, Navarra has not had any procedures for landscape evaluation, and general training for managers of protected landscapes and other stakeholders has been lacking. There is no holistic vision for landscape management and the social and identity dimensions of landscape have not been taken into consideration. Further, there has not been any coordination between instruments and agents, and no public participation. The up-coming Landscape Plan for Navarra is meant to respond to some of these problems, and the ratification of the ELC is seen as an opportunity for the region[51].

In the Basque Country, landscape is recognised as an essential element of quality of life and several steps has been taken in connection to protection and the management of landscape. However, some procedures are still missing and for example stakeholder involvement in planning processes needs to be strengthened52. The Basque Country signed its adhesion to the European Landscape Convention (ELC) in July 2009. A proposal for a new Landscape Law has been launched and it is now in the parliament pending approval.

[48] Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning, 2010

[49] Ministry of the Environment, Spatial Planning and Energy, 2004

[50] The Landscape Observatory, 2010

[51] Marcén/Araujo, 2012

[52] Garcia/Feliu, 2012

2.2.3.6. Summing-up the national practices

The ELC states that the convention should be implemented "in conformity with its constitutional principles and administrative arrangements"[53], and this is clearly reflected in how landscape planning is carried out in the 5 case study countries.

In Denmark, Netherlands and Slovenia where planning is carried out in an integrative but top-down hierarchical manner, the development of landscape policies are primarily a task for the national level, while the strong regional actors in Germany and Spain are the ones with the primary initiative for setting the landscape planning framework here.

It is also clear that while landscape planning is addressed (to at least some degree) in all 5 countries, the concept of landscape varies quite extensively, as do the involvement of the public in the plan processes. A first conclusion across the national practises is, that the emphasis on protection and conservation of valuable and 'aesthetically pleasing' landscapes are at the forefront while multifunctional land use and the issue of liveability in regard to landscape planning is hardly addressed at all.

2.2.4. Conclusions

As shown in chapter 2.2.2 EU is in an on-going process of including the landscape as an important and multi-faceted resource in sustainable development. This is an evolvement from a hitherto more exclusive focus on mono-functional and sectoral divided activities towards recognizing the need of understanding the complexity of the landscapes and their multifunctional qualities. It has been concluded that such a process implies the need for including the landscape as an important concept in both planning and practice.

In this development the ESPON research framework has been – and still is - an important vehicle in testing, evaluating, and suggesting means and measures in relation to the territorial development. As shown in chapter 2.2.3 ESPON projects have – parallel to the EU development - increasingly recognizing how landscapes as potential multifunctional entities are important contributors to the objectives of territorial cohesion. In this process, measures of moving from theory to practice have been tested and it has been identified that the planning procedures are in need of including cross-sectoral policy and public participation as important vehicles in achieving the goals of territorial cohesion and sustainable development.

In this chapter it becomes clear that while landscape planning is addressed (to at least some degree) in the case study countries, the concept of landscape varies quite extensively, as do the involvement of the public in the plan processes. A first conclusion across the national practises show that the emphasis on protection and conservation of valuable and 'aesthetically pleasing' landscapes are at the forefront while multifunctional land use and the issue of livability in regard to landscape planning is hardly addressed at all. The learning process from the LIVELAND project will therefore become crucial in creating a base for new objectives in relation to an EU policy where the Landscape is included as an active part.

[53] ELC, Article 4

The concept of Landscape in planning	Recognition of Landscape in Law	Responsible ministry	National Policy on landscape?	Regional and local landscape plans?	Public participation	Themes / Spatial Elements
Denmark	*Yes, at national level Ratified ELC in 2000*	*Ministry of the Environment*	*Not a specific landscape plan but landscape is part of the national plan reports and the national binding restrictions*	*No specific landscape plans but the municipal plans are to cover both built-up and open land; hereby also taking landscape into consideration, particularly by using the tool of the LCA.*	*Yes, both legally binding, and in tradition and practice.*	*Ideally the Landscape Character Assessment is to cover all types of landscape, but in the planning policies there is some emphasis on the attractive landscape.*
Netherlands		*Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation*		*Regional Landscape plan (Not binding) Interlocal Lanscape plan (Voluntary) – Local landscape plan (Voluntary)*	*Yes.*	*Focus on reserve, managed and strengthened the landscape - preservation through development*
Germany	*Landscape is mentioned but no definition of landscape is provided.*	*Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety*	*No (currently, the BfN is investigating the needs for national landscape policy making to comply with international statutes and strategies).*	*Regional landscape Plan (Binding, except for individual people) Local landscape plan (binding as integrated into local plans and ordinances)*	*Yes (mostly limited to what is legally prescribed)*	*Strong focus on nature conservation. In some instances additional emphasis is on cultural heritage and, more recently, on landscape energy potentials.*
Slovenia	*Yes, at national level mainly in Spatial Planning Act, Nature Conservation Act, Cultural Heritage Act & Construction Act* *Ratified ELC in 2003*	*As of 2012, the Ministry of Infrastructure and Spatial Planning and the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment.*	*Slovenia has prepared a specific document on the Implementation of ELC. Landscape included in relevant policies such as Spatial Management Policy (2001), the Spatial Development Strategy (2004) & the Spatial Order of Slovenia (2004)*	*No regional and local landscape plans*	*Yes, the importance of participation is stated in national level legislation and in national policy documents.*	*Focus on protection and reservation of natural and cultural landscapes.*

Spain	*The national level land law includes landscape protection.* *The national Nature Conservation Act includes natural resource management and natural resources management.* *Ratified ELC in 2007* *The autonomous community of Navarra recognises landscape in several acts and the Basque Country a new Landscape Law will be introduced.*	*No key institution or key planning agency at national level, the autonomous regions have the full competence*	*No; but the autonomous communities have full authority to legislate for, regulate and execute spatial planning. Some of the autonomous communities include landscape management (e.g. Catalonia). The autonomous community of Navarra and the Basque Country are in the process of including landscape management in policy.*	*Especially the autonomous community of Catalonia has been active in landscape planning.* *In Navarra, a landscape plan will be drawn up.* *National level natural resources management plans (binding) manage the development of national parks and nature parks and natural resources. They all above all the other plans on different levels and legally binding.*	*Spain recognizes public participation through formalised measures such as public debate and hearings, and also through principles such as the right of citizens to access information and for the government to provide it.* *Navarra states explicitly that planning should be democratic.* *In the Basque country stakeholder involvement in the planning processes still needs to be strengthened.*	

Table 3 Preliminary findings of the state of practice in the five study countries

2.3. Baseline analysis of the case studies

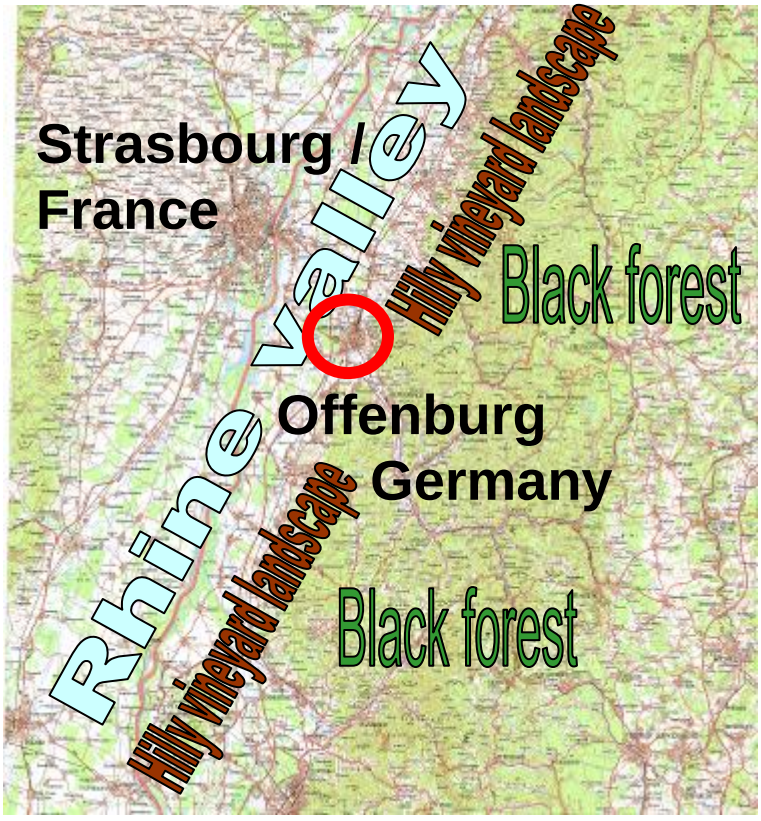
Six case studies are described, comprising three regions: Navarra (ES), Basque Country (ES) and Ljubljana Urban Region (SI), two municipalities: Offenburg (DE), Midden Delfland (NL), and a National Park: Thy (DK).

As a result the following outcomes:

- Case status report of practice for each of the participant regions, municipalities and agencies, (See Annex III) based on information provided by the stakeholders (See Workshop Report and workshop follow-up exercises in Annex IV)
- Identification of challenges and further needs, opportunities, and good practices, both in each region / area and in external learning cases. (See Workshop Report and workshop follow-up exercises in Annex IV)
- Mapping at European level of stakeholder regions /areas of the good practices and learning cases.

For Offenburg and Midden Delfland a formally approved Landscape Plan (embedded in a territorial planning system) is available, for the other cases the state of the art in developing such landscape policy document is described.

2.3.1. The Offenburg Case



Map 1 Offenburg location map

The city of Offenburg is located in the southwest of Germany between Karlsruhe and Freiburg, very close to the French border, just 20 km to the southeast of Strasbourg and also not far from Switzerland.

Situated in the Federal State of Baden-Württemberg and the region (Kreis) Südlicher Oberrhein, it is a "regional centre" for services and commerce. The city of Offenburg has about 60.000 inhabitants and stretches over an area of 8.000ha (= 80 Km2). The population density is about 750 inhabitants / km^2 (Average in federal state Baden-Württemberg amounts about 301 inhabitants / km^2).

In Germany 'Landscape Plans' are part of the statutory territorial planning system. The wise management of natural resources and cultural landscapes is one of the four main purposes

of spatial planning. (The other three being economic development, public services and living conditions, and the coordination of different interests.) 'Landscape Plans' are obliged for all levels of government, for purposes of policy making regarding nature and landscape. Since comprehensive and environmental planning competences are decentralised, every federal State ('Land') has developed a specific version of Landscape Planning.

The Landscape Plan of Offenburg is multi-sectoral as it deals with many different landscapes related topics, like natural elements, biodiversity, climate, beauty and homeland. These different topics are analysed by sectors, e.g. water, soil, recreation. On basis of analysis the aims of different topics are aligned and measures corresponding to these aims are developed. There are three types of aims: protection, restoration and development. All of those are presence in every topic. Aims are developed for subparts (landscape character areas) of the whole area.

Subsequently concrete measures to achieve the aims are developed. Measures often serve more than one sectoral aim, so there are three action programs ("Handlungsprogramme") in this plan:

- open space structure and experience of landscape;
- functioning of ecosystems and their services and
- nature- and landscape protection.

We especially consider the aims for "landscape" ("Landschaft") which is a very important aspect for Offenburg as well as for the LIVELAND project, as it includes liveability, worked out for recreation and scenic value. The aims for landscape are:

- keeping open spaces free from any build development (settlement, infrastructure);
- developing and protecting the traditional landscape character (small structures, extensive land use / agriculture);
- protecting and maintaining traditional settlement structures and types of building;
- creating a network of green open spaces (aligned with regional open space system);
- protecting and maintaining the forests.

The map on development, protection and improvement of open space (see Map 2 on next page) includes concrete areas with measures for several issues. Recreation regarding it details especially the development and protection of infrastructure of recreational facilities (Parks), paths inside, outside and nearby residential areas for several recreational uses, like walking, cycling or hiking. There are also priority areas for allotment gardens or recommendations on measures to strengthen the recreational functions of forests. Cultural related themes in this map are the development and protection of cultural used landscapes (e.g. wineyards, fruit tree meadows or historical used forests). Moreover the design of settlement borders for better integration into the surrounding landscape is a special issue.

Map 2 Development, protection and improvement of open space in Offenburg

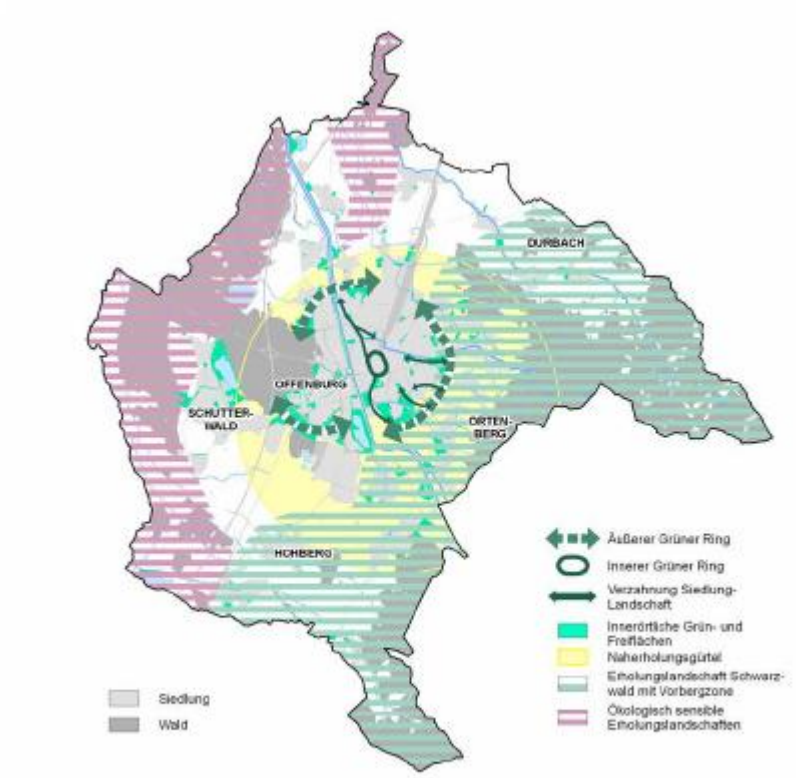
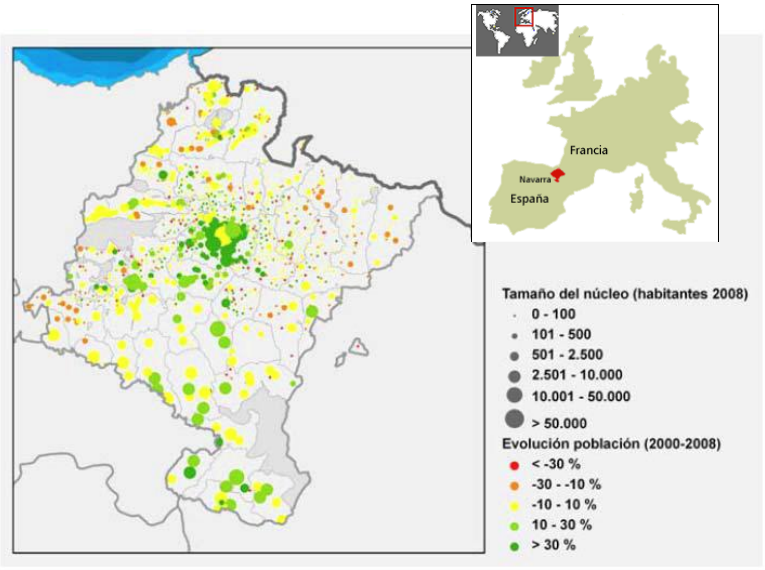


Abbildung 22: Schwerpunktbereiche Freiraumstruktur und Landschaftserleben

2.3.2. The Navarra Case

Map 3 Navarra Region



The Navarra Region is situated in Northern Spain and covers three different bio-geographical regions: Alpine, Atlantic and Mediterranean, which has led to a rich landscape and ecological diversity. It covers an area of 10,421 km^2. The population in Navarra is about 640,000 inhabitants. Current population density of the region is 60.68 inh/km².

Challenge in the Navarra Region is the development of a **Landscape Plan** for Navarra, including:

- Recommendations for the **integration** of landscape within the spatial planning.

- **Guidelines** for the elaboration of landscape plan and their implementation
- Public Specification of "Plan de Paisaje de Navarra" (PPN – **Landscape Plan of Navarra**)

It is considered that the three aspects of spatial planning, scientific, coordination of policies and performer of administrative processes (Council of Europe, Recommendation No R (84) 2 on the European Regional/Spatial Planning Charter, adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 25 January 1984), allow establishing proper criteria, directives and procedures for the management of those elements making for a "liveable" landscape: production, health, quality of life, natural resources, social relationships, etc.

MODERNA is the new "Economic Development Model of Navarra", a strategic plan that promotes change towards a knowledge-based economy, specialised in the areas of health economics, green economics and talent economics, and which seeks to place Navarra among the top 20 European regions in GDP per capita.

Landscape might be a transversal driver towards a green economy as it may plan, manage and optimize the productive aspects of landscape as well as it eases the understanding of the territory and the regional identity. The PPN should integrate landscape to the regional management without becoming an environmental liability.

The Navarra Region has competency in landscape, management of Environmental Units and directives on land use, whereas the urban landscape is a local competency.
The "Protected Landscape" concept (Regional Law 9/1996 on Natural Reserves of Navarra) defines specific areas without a global view of landscape policy. This law is older to ELC yet as it is coincident with its propositions. It is the same with respect to the concept of "Cultural landscape". In other words, forests are a relevant issue in landscape, yet as in the forest laws there is no reference to the concept "Landscape".
POTs (Territorial Spatial Plans see under C) include in their directives for the management of Natural and Cultural Heritage several vague guidelines with regard to landscape. They actually establish relevant landscapes, their relationship with environmental units, guidelines for an in deep analysis, and several criteria within the category "Land not to be urbanized". All of this is not sufficient in relation to the ELC as there is a lack of: social view of landscape, landscape quality criteria and specific directives towards landmark management as well as neither a mission nor a strategic view.

Although there is a regional competence in landscape (local at the urban level), the capacity to legislate and to define strategies is limited. Actually one could speak of a landscape of fragmented protected landscapes.

Administrative issues and competences are divided over several levels which hampers the implementation of a comprehensive approach to landscape.

With the MODERNA plan, a new model for the economic growth of the region is given. Emphasis is on a Development axis of green economy, and an activity cluster of Environment and Sustainable Tourism.

Some other basic issues in the current planning culture are:

- The concept of Urban-region as a polycentric approach to the model configuration. It is not to be mistaken with urban sprawl.
- The coordinated development of an area of economic activities along the Ebro Axis to consolidate its population, centred in the relevant role of Tudela.

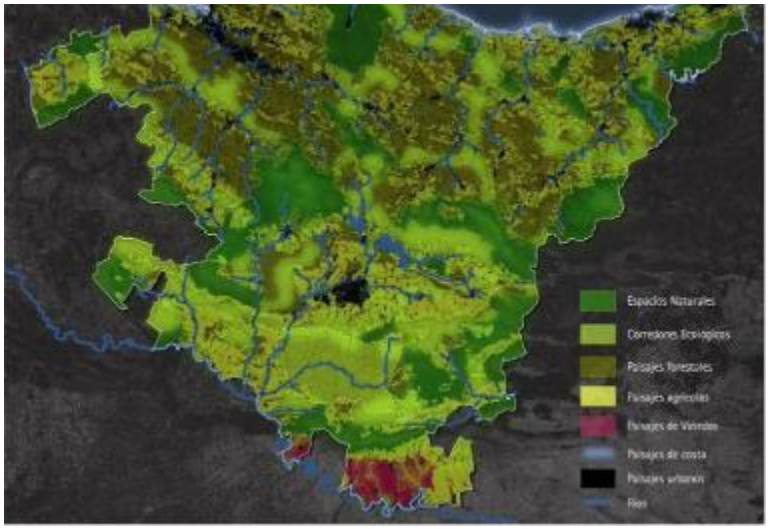
- The integration of the Atlantic spaces of Navarra within the Atlantic Arch in order to improve the development opportunities associated to it.
- The smart and sustainable development of the Pyrenean area and the coordination of intermediate rural areas by mean of population consolidation strategies.

2.3.3. The Basque Country Case

The Basque Country Region, also called Euskadi, is a NUTS2 Autonomous Community located in northern Spain consisting of three provinces:

- Áraba (capital: Vitoria-Gasteiz)
- Biscay (capital: Bilbao)
- Gipuzkoa (capital: Donostia-San Sebastián).

Map 4 Landscape types in the Basque Country



The population density, about 300 inh/km², is just below the EU average, but the distribution of the population is fairly unequal, concentrating primarily around the main cities. Almost half of the population is concentrated in the Bilbao metropolitan area.

Surface and structure of land use is strictly connected with topography of the region (Map 1). The physical structure of land in this region is highly diverse. In the north the region is limited by the coast line of the Bay of Biscay, with big beaches, rocky coasts, estuaries and valleys with small rivers. The south part of region is occupied mainly by a high plateau called the Araba plains. Rivers flow in southern direction from mountains to the Ebro River.

Over 90% of Basque Country could be considered as rural area. A high proportion consists of hilly, rocky and mountain areas which determine the type of vegetation and human activity. On the whole, the region is dominated by agriculture and forest areas; other types of lands constitute just 8%.

Forest covers 31.5% of region's surface. The quality of forest is not the same in each area. Nowadays, there is just 5% of good quality natural oak forest in the whole region. (In the past it was 80%.) Most of the areas, which are classified as forest, is occupied by plantations of trees, usually eucalyptuses and pines.

In the draft bill of the Landscape Law of the Basque Country (currently in parliament for approval) is pointed out that the Basque Country region "*has an exceptional richness and diversity of landscapes mainly due to its geographical location but also the human activities through time (…) Such diversity constitute a resource and a heritage of common interest from the environmental, cultural, social, historical point of view, but also from the point of view of the economic development; and it is currently acquiring a growing consideration within the collection of values demanded by the society of today".*

Landscape is understood as a dynamic element which reflects the interrelationship between people and their environment through time, and therefore its conservation should not be focused only on the preservation of particular views, but to the maintenance and improvement of its quality and diversity, incorporating new elements and uses in the territory. So the effort is placed in boosting and promoting the harmonic evolution of landscape, considering and integrating landscape values in all human interventions on the territory.

In Spain, the regions enjoy a relatively big autonomy. Especially such regions as: Galicia, Catalonia and the Basque Country have even bigger independence in their policy than others. The Basque Country has a Parliament and a Government. For example, in Spain, each region is carrying out its own Rural Development Programme (similarly to Germany or Italy). Each region has its own strategy of regional development and planning.

Regarding Spatial Planning (see Figure 3) the competences in Basque Country are as follows:

(1) The Basque government (department of Environment, Spatial Planning, Agriculture and Fishery) gives guidelines for the content and function of sector planning and territorial planning. It defines also a spatial structure or 'model' of the whole territory, including functions as main cities, main infrastructure and protected nature parks.
(2) The three provincial councils make spatial plans for 15 subregions, so called 'functional' areas.
(3) The municipalities and cities make urban or 'land use' plans.

The Basque Country signed its adhesion to the European Landscape Convention (ELC) in July 2009. A proposal for a new Landscape Law has been launched and it is now in the parliament pending approval. This law, inspired by the ELC, aims at giving "landscape" legal entity and integrating landscape into planning instruments.

During the last decades the Basque administrations at different levels have started to be more conscious about landscape, so there are several documents, plans and strategies which already consider landscape to some extent although in a partial and disperse way.

The Spatial Guidelines are being reviewed. The New Territorial Strategy devotes his chapter D5 to Physical Environment and Landscape and points out that: (…) landscape is the reflection of the care and affection of the inhabitants for its territory, being a conditioning element for the kind of activities on it and the way they are developed.

In the Basque country there are extremely attractive natural landscapes both in the coast and also in-land areas. In fact, for the most important cities in the region, the natural surroundings constitute one of their most relevant assets. There is also a quite extensive net of traditional villages with a relevant landscape heritage, being the rural activities one of the key signals of identity of the region.

However, there are also highly antropized areas, characterized by urban sprawl, visual contamination due to very fast and uncontrolled changes in landscape and land uses. This is quite important also in the periurban areas, in the valleys where the population density rates is very high and nearby the main transport networks.

The decline of the agriculture leads to opportunities for restoration but also threats the survival of many traditional landscapes and new land uses not always well integrated in the territory.

The Basque Country established a Territorial Forum for the region, where all institutions are invited to participate and discuss on the regional development. Most of the municipalities participating in such forum consider that the landscape constitute an important assess for the economic development and the quality of life and believe that the landscape in the Basque Country is one of the quality factors that could differentiate the region from others.

However, the local stakeholders also coincide in the fact that several elements exist that are deteriorating the landscape, mainly driven by diffuse urbanization processes, new urban developments and extractive/mining activities.

In the framework of the proposal for a new Landscape Law aiming at integrating landscape into planning instrument, the following instruments for landscape protection, management and planning have been defined:

- Landscape CATÁLOGUES: Analyse and evaluate landscapes in each of the Functional Areas and define quality objectives.
- Landscape GUIDELINES: Legally incorporate the landscape quality objectives into territorial planning.
- Landscape ACTION PLANS: For implementation of specific measures.
- STUDIES OF LANDSCAPE INTEGRATION

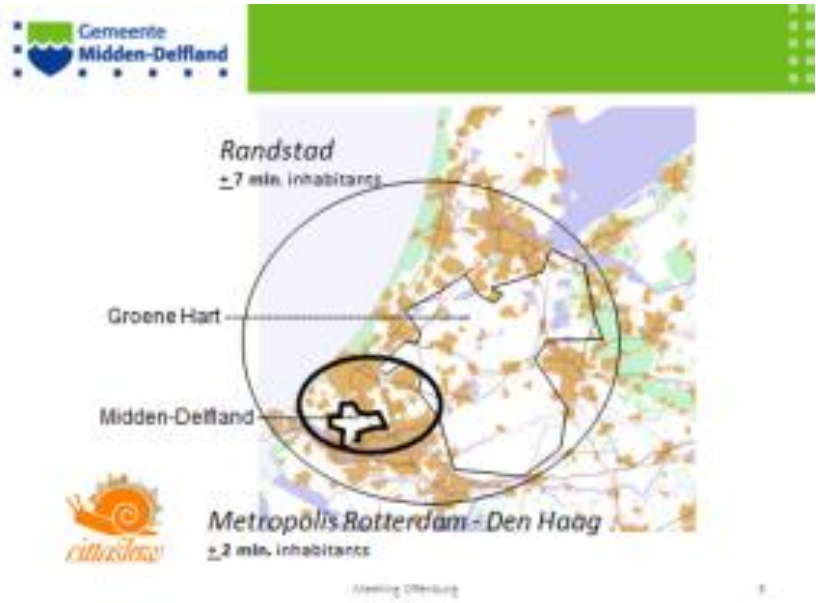
For organization and awareness:

- Landscape Observatory.
- Awareness raising mechanisms and the integration of landscape in educational programmes.

2.3.4. The Midden Delfland Case

The municipality of Midden-Delfland (MD) is located in the West of the Netherlands between the urban conglomerations of Rotterdam, The Hague and Delft. It is a 'buffer zone' between these big cities. MD is also a green space, boarding the Westland, a centre of intensive horticulture under glass near the coast. It is an authentic landscape in the 'South Wing of the Randstad' and consists of peat meadows, old 'polders', low-lying tracts of land enclosed by dikes, which form an artificial hydrological entity. These polders consist of reclaimed land from former flood plains, separated from the sea. The polders now are in use of the dairy agriculture, some recreational areas in de border of the cities and of 2 small villages. The area includes some small protected nature areas.

Map 5 Location of Midden-Delfland in the "Randstad"



Central in the 'good practice' of the municipality of Midden-Delfland is the making of the Local Landscape Plan. (In the Netherlands this kind of plan is called a 'development plan'.) For the making of this plan the municipality worked together with the neighbouring municipalities (including the city of Delft) and the 'Water Board' that is responsible for the water-management. So in fact the Landscape Plan is 'interlocal'.

The area of the Local Landscape Plan has a surface of 6,500 ha (65 km2) and a population of 10,000 inhabitants. In the surrounding big cities live around 2 million people. The Midden-Delfland area is visited by around 1.5 million people per year.

The Netherlands have signed the European Landscape Convention, but not translated this convention in a national landscape law. Dutch politicians assumed that 'landscape' is sufficient integrated in nature- and spatial policies. Nature policy is strictly focused on protected areas and the implementation of sectoral conservation policies and nature management. Landscape (as spatial quality) is since long integrated in the spatial planning on all levels. Landscape (as natural and cultural value and as 'local identity') is often a spatial designation on policy maps.

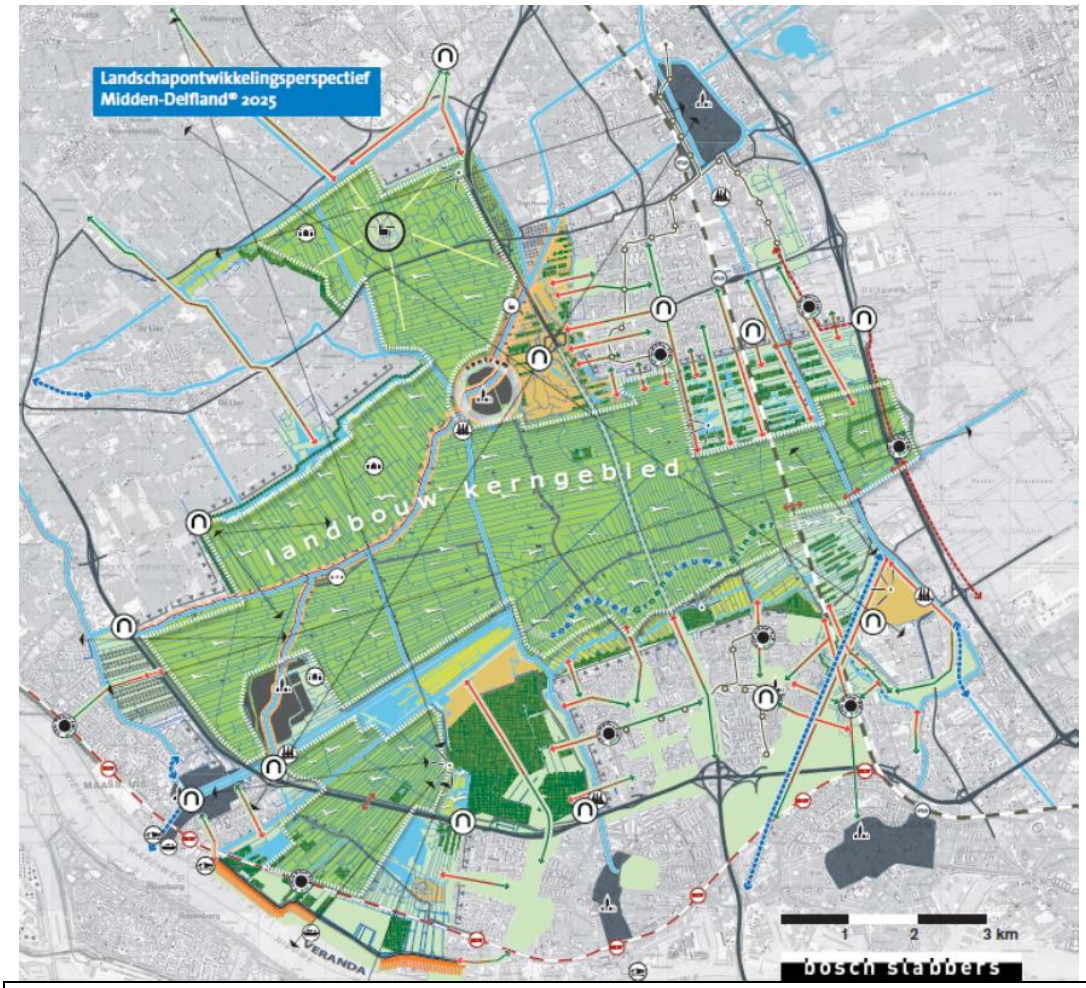
A 'Landscape Plan' is not obligatory in the Netherlands, but a voluntary instrument of municipalities. Spatial plans on regional and local level are obliged. 'Structural visions' on future spatial developments are obliged, but 'form free'. So each region and municipality has its own 'school' of making visions. A 'land use plan' (plan of local designations) is a rather strong regulation of spatial developments.

The making of the Local Landscape Plan (LLP) of MD was done in a process of around 3 years. The complete document of the plan called "Atlas of the development perspective 2025" (published on the website of the municipality) consists of around 250 pages on paper and includes a big amount of maps and photos.

The Landscape Plan is based on an analysis of the planning context (the Regional Spatial Plan) and the 'Vision 2025' (2005) of the municipalities surrounding the area of MD.

Further on a historical analysis of land use and on scenarios of desirable future developments, regarding agriculture, nature and cultural history. Such analysis is integrated in a synthesis map (or 'perspective', see map X), wich gives the main functions and spatial interventions on location. This map is rather detailed (it needs 'close reading') and is the

Map 6 Perspective Midden-Delfland 2025



Legend of map 'Perspective 2025' (selection)
Light green = agricultural area including meadow bird protection
Dark green = nature area
Orange = recreation area
Red / green arrow = realise linkages (slow roads) between city and country side
Black arrows = realise wide views and 'panoramas'

The objectives of the LLP are based on reinforcement of the 'basic qualities' of the Midden-Delfland area: open space, robust water system, nature, heritage and agrarian identity. The objectives are described as tasks:

- Contrast between city and country side: keep the green space open and silent.
- Relations with the broader environment: make green connections with other open areas and rivers and make 'green bridges' over traffic roads.
- Relations with the near environment: make many connections to the surrounding urban areas: 'green fingers' in the city and 'ports' between city and country side.

- Reinforce the quality of the borders between urban and rural areas.
- Realise a zoning of recreation from intensive near the city to extensive and individual in the green core area.
- Agrarian core area: protect the open landscape and the meadow birds (managed by agrarians) and stimulate the diversity of enterprise types.
- Make better use of the recreational qualities of the landscape and the water. Make many connections and public facilities. Stimulate small scale private facilities.
- Reinforce east-west connections as compensation of future traffic developments (new high way, broadening of existing high way and railway).

These objectives are not translated into measurable targets in words, but directly carried on to concrete measures, which are located on the synthesis map. So the 'perspective 2025' is an 'action plan', which includes an overview or synthesis map, 'principles of design' of future spatial developments and additional maps with 'networks' of ecology, water, public transport, walking, cycling and horse-riding.

2.3.5. The Thy National Park Case

Thy National Park is a case differing from the other ones, in that it represents a designation of protected area instead of the territory of integrated competence of a local or regional authority.

Map 7 Thy National Park location map

Thy National Park (NP) lies in the North West of the North Sea coast of Jutland (the most Western part of Denmark) in the rural municipality of Thisted. While 4 small towns are located within the greater area of the NP, they are not formally part of the National Park, and thus the NP is for the most part a large natural area, totalling 244 km^2.

The landscape is shaped by centuries of sand drift and consists of coasts, dunes, heath land, lakes and dune plantations – landscape elements that are both nationally and internationally valuable, since Thy National Park contains natural habitats that are found in only a few other places in the world. But a big part of the dune nature is fragmented.

In this exposed part of Denmark the weather and nature are constantly shifting, ranging from lashing wind on the beaches by the coast, to stillness and warmth in the established forest habitat. At the same time, the National Park is also a testimony of Danish history. The area covers numerous grave mounds from the Bronze Age and German bunkers from the Second World War. The harsh effects of wind and the drift of the sand on land are visible on the abandoned farmlands which today are dune heaths or plantations, and the park's unique historic small fishing colonies also marks how life on the west coast used to be.

The National Park Plan (from April 2010) is based on the Danish Act on National Parks (Lov om nationalparker) from June 2007, which provides the Minister of the Environment with the opportunity to create National Parks. This National Park Plan must respect existing laws and legally binding plans, including international nature protection, conservation regulations, regional development plans and local spatial plans.

The Agency of Thy NP has not the power of a government. It has no authority to enforce protection or to guide developments. This is the task of the municipality or the Ministry of Environment. The Agency has its own staff, council, budget and strategic activities. Currently a large proportion of its activities is focused on communication: establishing the 'brand' of the NP (information materials) and developing information infrastructure like kiosks and signs.Realization of the NP Plan depends on what can be implemented through measures of the municipality, voluntary agreements with landowners and cooperation with the public.

The goals of Thy National Park are:

- to preserve, strengthen and develop nature, its continuity, coherence and free development, especially for the nationally and internationally important dune and dune heath and oligotrophic lakes and wetlands,
- to preserve and enhance the biological diversity of native species in plantations and in cultivated areas,
- to maintain and strengthen the national park's cultural and cultural-historical traces of dunes and dune plantations and in relation to the sea,
- to enhance opportunities for outdoor recreation and special nature experiences in the large undisturbed landscape,
- to strengthen research, education, nature dissemination of the natural and cultural historical and recreational values and
- to support development for the benefit of the community, including business, with respect to protection interests.

Map 8 Thy National Park zonification

Thy National Park is divided into three planning zones:

Zone 1 includes the international nature conservation areas.

Zone 2 covers

- areas that are protected under the Nature Protection Act,
- areas with habitats that are particularly characteristic of the North Atlantic dune heathland, and
- areas where these habitats can be extended and which can ensure consistency between habitats.

Zone 3 covers other areas, ie. cultural landscape associated with the North Atlantic dune heathland and areas which are to ensure consistency in the national park.

Nature protection has priority, but also cultural landscape is an objective: “cultural environments and cultural heritage associated with sand control, light house and rescue service, 2nd World War and the local populations changing use of the dunes and the sea must be preserved, visible, accessible and disseminated, just as knowledge of these environments and traces should be developed”.

The National Park Plan describes how the goals can be achieved, how the expected action is prioritized in the plan period and how the public will be involved in the work.

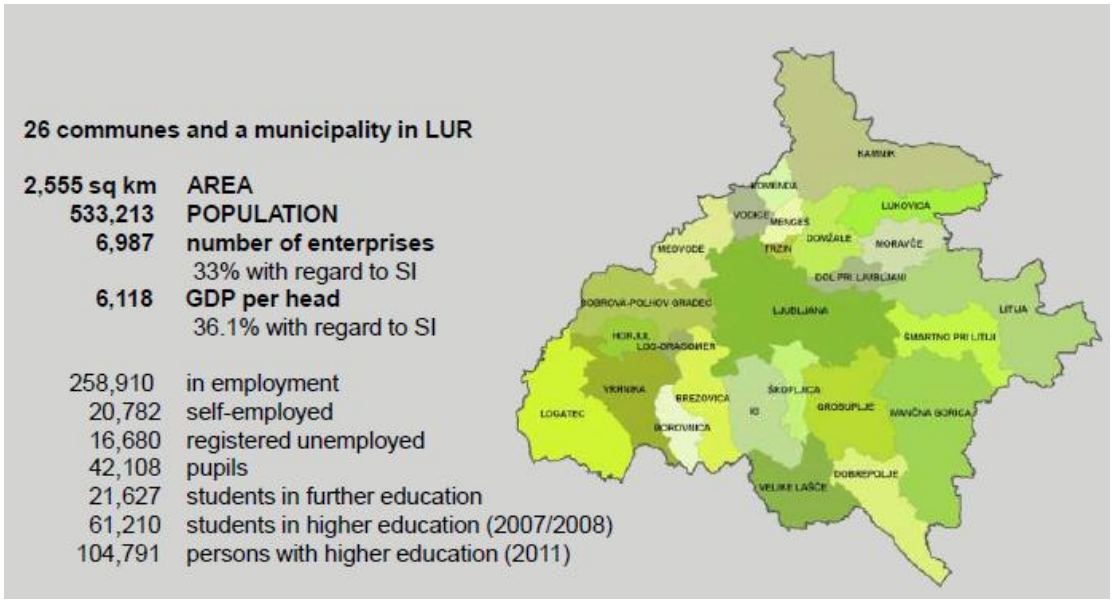
2.3.6. The Ljubljana Urban Region Case

The description of the Ljubljana Urban Region suffers from a backlog in data provision, which will be recovered in a later stage.

The Ljubljana Urban Region is the central region in Slovenia, where most of the country’s population and socio-economic activity are concentrated.

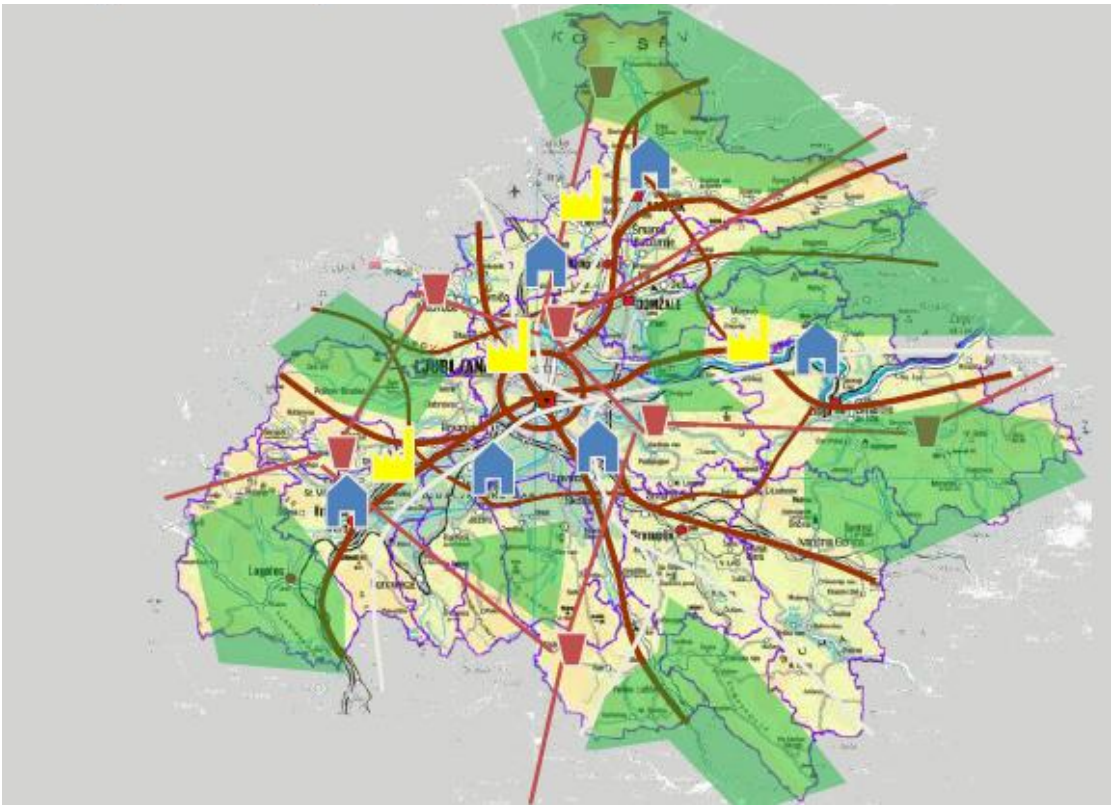
Map 9 Administrative regions of Slovenia

Map 10 Municipalities of the Ljubljana Urban Region



There exists a regional spatial plan of the Ljubljana Urban Region, based on expert information about road infrastructure, agriculture and forestry areas, protected areas and NATURA 2000 sites, water protection zones and urbanisation issues (including urban sprawl). This map should however be adapted to the Ljubljana Urban Region, and further interpreted in terms of landscape issues.

Map 11 Region Spatial plan of Ljubljana Urban Region



The Ljubljana Urban Region is an informal mutual consultation body. Its council consists of the 26 majors of the municipalities included in the Region, chaired by the major of Ljubljana. The council formally cannot decide but its recommendations are generally followed by the municipalities.

The data presented in the case study reports on the Baseline Description of Case Studies are summarised in Table, included in Annex III of the present. Below, an overview is given of the information embedded in these Tables, referring to the criteria defined in the Analytical Framework.

	Offenburg	*Navarra*	*Basque Country*	*Midden Delfland*	*Thy*	*Ljubljana Urban Region*
Planning level	Municipality	Region	Region	Municipality	National Park (part of municipality)	Urban Region
Landscape Plan considered	Local Landscape Plan (LLP)	Regional landscape guidance (?)	Regional landscape guidance	Local Landscape Plan (LLP)	Park Management Plan	Regional development plan
Status of plan	Adopted; not legallybinding	Guideline	Guideline	Adopted; not legally binding	Not legally binding	Guideline
Stage in planning cycle	Implementation, monitoring	study	study	Implementation	Implementation	study
Planning System (obliged, voluntary)	Obligated LLP, obligated spatial plan	Obligated subregional landscape studies [?]	Obligated subregional landscape studies	Voluntary LLP, obligated spatial plan	Obligated PMP; implementation by Agency + municipality	Voluntary regional spatial plan
Planning Culture (funding)	Little funds	No funds	No funds	Little funds	Little funds	No funds
Planning Culture (consultation)	Top down, room for consultations	Top down	Top down	Cooperative implementation	Cooperative implementation	Consultative
Aspects of Liveability covered						
Health	+		+	+		
Security	X	+		X		
Social Relations	X			+		X
Culture	+	+	+	+	+	X
Economics / Work	X	X	X	X		X

Table 4 Overview table of the case studies

2.3.7. External reference cases

The authorities in the case studies have been asked to mention potentially interesting external reference cases.

The reference cases are described according to the following structure:
a) Location (including location map);
b) Reason for inclusion as a reference case;
c) General geographical and demographical information;
d) Characterisation of landscape or spatial planning approach;
e)Headlines of the landscape or spatial plan, and current status (methodology, instruments and planning culture);
f) Short history of the development stages of the plan;
g) Crucial success factors of the landscape or spatial policy; h) Stakeholders who identified this reference case

The following Reference Case Studies are described in facts sheets and provided in the Annex III of the present report.

1) Reference Case Province South Holland: guidelines spatial quality
2) Reference Case Catalonia
3) Reference Case Västra Götaland
4) Reference Case England
5) Reference Case Switzerland.

2.4. Preliminary inputs to benchmarking

The outcomes of the in-depth baseline analysis of the project case studies, and the "reference cases" alongside the outputs of the 1º Stakeholders workshop and workshop follow-up exercises, constitute the basis for the benchmarking exercise. (See Annexes III and IV of the present report).

The following tables summarize the learning goals identified by each stakeholder in the project case studies and the external reference cases, structured by the stages of planning as parameters of analysis defined in the CAF.

OFFENBURG Municipality	Internal good practice						Learning Goals	External reference cases	Learning Goals
	BC	*MD*	*OFF*	*THY*	*LJU*	NV			
Planning culture									
1.Methodologies of assessment/ analysis of landscape									
2. Planning system and competences with regard to landscape		x					Integration of landscape issues into spatial planning on regional and local level How can landscape planning and land-use planning better be integrated? How do sectoral planners work together not against each other?		
a) Planning processes & participation									
b)Planning procedures & decisions		x					How landscape issues and landscape planning can be better integrated in spatial planning, or how landscape issues could in another way get a higher influence on landscape planning (e.g. informal plans and action		
3. Challenges, vision & Strategy		x					Keeping open space in a highly agglomerated surrounding. Awareness rising within public for raising acceptance of specific measures How to work with strong economic growth? (Pressure on open space) How can this be done? Which strategy?		
4. Specific actions and measures (formal and informal)		x					Therefore the question of how the implementation measures and actions can be managed exceeding the limits of legal obligations? For a successful implementation of landscape related measures and actions, public acceptance seems to be of high importance. Any landscape related measures are depending on the public willingness to support or at least accept the measures conducted by the landscape administration. So besides the question of implementation in general, the question of awareness raising and public acceptance is highly interesting.		
5. Impact measurement				x			How can specific goals be developed and established in the plan? Which are the benchmarks? The evaluation and monitoring can only be conducted successfully if a benchmarking system is available.		

Table 5 Offenburg internal and external reference cases and learning goals

NAVARRE	Internal good practice						Learning Goals	External reference cases	Learning Goals
	BC	*MD*	*OFF*	*THY*	*LJU*	NV			
Planning culture	X						Treatment of territorial and sectoral scales	England and Scotland	Holistic vision of landscape.
		X	X	X			Tradition in making plans	English heritage	Developing specific measures to promote the historical aspects of landscape
					X		Role of national level and the integral vision from national to local.		
1.Methodologies of assessment/ analysis of landscape	X						Mapping/ cartography, landscape catalogues, and experience in guidelines Territorial scales and proceduresto incorporate yet the landscape guidelines in every instrument of spatial planning)		
		X					Guidelines		
2. Planning system and competences with regard to landscape					x		Coordination of different policies and actions of ministries with competences. Comprehensive approach to landscape. Incorporate the vision of the landscape in the system of territorial governance, culture and general education of citizens, and the management of other policies.	Switzerland	Coordination of different policies and actions of ministries with competences. Comprehensive approach to landscape. Incorporate the vision of the landscape in the system of territorial governance, culture and general education of citizens, and the management of other policies.
		X					Integration of landscape issues into spatial planning on regional and local level How do sectoral planners work together not against each other?	England and Scotland	References to Landscape Character Assessment in Planning Policy Guidance
		X	X	X			Particularly results on bottom-up approach		
a) Planning processes & participation		X					Relation between rural and metropolitan areas, Management and concrete guidelines	Catalonia	Landscape Observatory of Catalunya (mechanisms of participation and monitoring)
b)Planning procedures & decisions		X			X		Outlook of strategy with regard the steps to follow		
3. Challenges, vision & Strategy		X					Implementation of e.g. “guidelines of spatial quality”. How these can made accepted within public and therefore conducted?	France	Usefulness of landscape as a resource (territorial asset)
4. Specific actions and measures (formal and informal)		X						Galizia	Incorporating landscape guidelines to planning tools
5. Impact measurement									

Table 6 Navarre internal and external reference cases and learning goals

BASQUE COUNTRY	Internal good practice						Learning Goals	External reference cases	Learning Goals
	BC	*MD*	*OFF*	*THY*	*LJU*	NV			
Planning culture		x					Institutionalise Landscape approach to the spatial planning system. Integration between different public administrations and sectorial policies. Key activities to preserve the landscape, and recognize their value Rural areas near densely populated metropolitan areas.	England and Scotland	Holistic vision of landscape.
1.Methodologies of assessment/ analysis of landscape		x					Spatial planning map and image plan (municipalities) in two different scales. Reach a "maturity" in the municipalities, so that they would be able to put some territorial rules by themselves.		
						x	Data: opportunity for exploring a series of indicators to monitor landscape development.		
				x			Nature conservation areas		
					x		3 levels of planning, national, regional and local: need of regional boost.		
			x				Comprehensive analysis of a wide range of territorial elements and references that take part in the assessment of landscape		
2. Planning system and competences with regard to landscape		x					Co-participation between public stakeholders. Reduce particular interests or competences` importance, and boost a holistic approach to the territory.	England and Scotland	References to Landscape Character Assessment in Planning Policy Guidance
a) Planning processes & participation		x					Development plan: Start planning from spatial quality.		
		x					Interactive and participative process; institutions and stakeholders working together with professionals	Catalonia	Landscape Observatory of Catalonia (mechanisms of participation and monitoring)
				x			Decentralized management with a board which prepares a plan for the park development		
					x		Basis for regional spatial plan which includes a general landscape plan, but it is not officially accepted		
			x				The shown interest in getting the awareness of the population for the need for a sustainable development.		

b)Planning procedures & decisions		x					Guidelines for spatial quality, made by the municipalities, local governments working together. Municipalities own planning tool. Different stages (their scales) of planning are well linked. Operative Planning and strategic content (not only legal).		
	X					x	Law-basis to implement landscape strategies.		
				x			National plan which defines areas to be protected, where to locate recreation and how to manage agriculture and forestry		
			x				The decision of achieving the reconciliation between economic development and preservation of natural resources		
3. Challenges, vision & Strategy		x	x	x					
4. Specific actions and measures (formal and informal)	x	x	x	x	x	x	Need of learning from other experiences and create “nets of knowledge”.	Galicia	Incorporating landscape guidelines to planning tools
5. Impact measurement			x				Need of measure indicators: recreation of open spaces, protection of nature qualities, remediation or improvement of natural balance.		

Table 7 Basque country internal and external reference cases and learning goals

MIDDEN DELFLAND	Internal good practice						Learning Goals	External reference cases	Learning Goals
	BC	*MD*	*OFF*	*THY*	*LJU*	NV			
Planning culture				X			Strong planning culture.		
			X				Strong planning culture. How to organize financial support for high quality planning? What arguments can be used in discussions about budget cuts?		
	x						How can Midden-Delfland further improve the support and relationship of citizens and countryside?		
					x		Bottom up commitment for regional scale of planning. How can Midden-Delfland and South Holland further improve multi-scale cooperation? How to organize regional commitment and cooperation (without the formal structure of a region!) between municipalities?		
1.Methodologies of assessment/ analysis of landscape	x						Landscape catalogues and regional guidelines. Can these indicators be used in the definitions of 'spatial quality' of South Holland?		
						x	European Spatial Development Perspective Integration with heritage How integrate these goals on subregion scale		
2. Planning system and competences with regard to landscape	x					x	Socioeconomic instruments made suitable for landscape planning Inspiration for new socioeconomic instruments for the quality development of Midden-Delfland? Which elements of these plans are applicable for Midden-Delfland? Inspiration for better integration in the Midden-Delfland case?	Catalonia Germany : Frankfurt, Ruhrgebiet Italië: Milano	How to protect surrounding agricultural area's from urban development Landscape development and open spaces in urban areas
					x		Cooperation city of Lj with surrounding municipalities How effective is the informal interaction between Lj and the smaller surrounding municipalities? What's the most effective mix and why?		
			x				High integration of landscape plan and land use plan		
a) Planning processes &	x	x	x	x	x	x	Long term cooperation in multilevel planning. How to get and keep		

participation	x	x	x	x	x	x	commitment for long term goals during the process of implementation? (without participants withdrawing from the shared responsibility) speed in procedures and making decisions		
b)Planning procedures & decisions	x	x	x	x	x	x	What is needed in the process and procedure to make good and democratic decision as quick as possible? More freedom, less rules and still good spatial and landscape quality in an urban area: what are key elements for success?		
3. Challenges, vision & Strategy				x			How to attract private investors, but protect the quality of the landscape		
	x						How have Mungia and Lekeitio the implemented key elements of Citta slow in their local land use plans?		
	x				x	x	How can N2000 rules be an advantage for finding new socio-economic carriers of the landscape?		
4. Specific actions and measures (formal and informal)			x				Offenburg (challenge): how to mobilize actors to implement measures?	Plurel- research programme: assessment and development of instruments peri-urban area's: (especially Montpellier land policy)	Which instruments are successful in developing the quality of the peri-urban area's
5. Impact measurement			x				Offenburg (challenge): implementation and performance of monitoring		

Table 8 Midden- Delfland internal and external reference cases and learning goals

Thy National Park	Internal good practice						Learning Goals	External reference cases	Learning Goals
	BC	*MD*	*OFF*	*THY*	*LJU*	NV			
Planning culture		X					How to motivate local micro-actors, e.g. for maintaining cultural landscape types (dunes, farming)?		
					X		Strategies for utilising local (micro-) actors in the maintenance/development of attractive/desired landscape types.		
1.Methodologies of assessment/ analysis of landscape									
2. Planning system and competences with regard to landscape								Fulufjället, SE	How to balance protection and other uses of landscape, e.g. recreation/tourism? How to measure the upper and lower limit on each function? Can this be estimated in advance?
a) Planning processes & participation		x					Tools and ideas for improving public involvement. How to achieve/maintain a high level of public participation?	Exmoor/Dartmoor NP, UK	How to balance various stakeholders'differing views and demands for the same area? How to make the most ‚fair'decision in regard to the needed compromise? How to avoid that one particular voice is being taken to represent the opinion of the quiet masses?
b)Planning procedures & decisions		x					Tools for managing multifunctional landscapes.		
						x	Navarra's competences on landscape management.		
3. Challenges, vision & Strategy									
4. Specific actions and measures (formal and informal)					x		Strategies on the utilisation of the surrounding landscape as an economic driver and actions for involving other municipalities		
		x					Work on producing printed material		
			x				Measures for how to make their citizens respect plans		
	x						How to do good communication/ branding/ promotion of plans, regions, strategies and visions/goals		
5. Impact measurement			x				Tools for monitoring: how to measure progress (of e.g. strategies)?		

Table 9 Thy National Park internal and external reference cases and learning goals

2.5. Further proceeding towards the Draft Final Report

Refinement of the CAF will be done, right after the formal submission to ESPON CU:

- Further investigation upon all of the developed criteria
- Regarding the need for weighting of the criteria (whether it would be placed based specifically for each case study or general to all EU)
- Validation with the stakeholder's is expected

In parallel, the Baseline analysis of the project case studies and the external reference learning cases will be completed with the fulfillment of the refined CAF. This activity will be particularly relevant in the case of Ljubljana case study.

An overview of good and best practices of landscape and territorial planning, with focus on approaches which can serve as general inspiration for landscape planning in a territorial planning context.

Examples of actions or measures which have proven successful in challenges of harmonious and sustainable territorial development, like for instance combining landscape protection and socio-economic development.

Identification of set of criteria and indictors to undertake the benchmarking exercise

- A set of indicators that can serve as a common base for comparisons and benchmarking performance in landscape and territorial planning entities.
- Appropriate indicators and examples of good practices that can serve a broader audience in the 'ESPON space'.

Validation of the benchmarking proposal with the project stakeholders´: The second stakeholder´s workshop foreseen for the first quarter of the year 2013, will serve to formalize and validate the benchmarking exercise with the project participant regions.

The above mentioned outputs, particularly the outcomes of the comparative assessment will be important inputs to the findings and recommendations to diverse actors and will be presented in the Draft Final Report (DFR) in June 2013 submitted which will present the final results of the project and will focus on relevant conclusions and recommendations, for the integration of landscape into spatial planning and the use of landscape as an asset for territorial development.

One of the key outcomes of the DFR will be a "Draft version of "Guidance towards best practice in landscape and spatial planning. First suggestion on policy messages for the EC to encourage the incorporation of landscape in the territorial cohesion policies will constitute one of the milestones of the project.

A discussion on the knowledge gaps identified through the research to be covered by future ESPON projects will be also included in the DFR.

Annexes

Annex I Common Analytical Framework
Annex II Policy context and the definition of landscape in policy documents at the European and EU
Annex III Baseline analysis of the case study reports
Annex IV Preliminary results towards the benchmarking analysis

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