

EUROSCAPES

Thematic Seminar: “GIS and e-tools as efficient approach for the management activities on landscapes”

TRIKALA 16 & 17 June 2011

Report

Day 1: Thursday 16th June 2011

Welcome speeches

Welcome speech from Vasiliki Voka, president of DEKA Malonis Konstantinos and Vice Mayor Kolotsios Apostolos. All three of them outlined the interest the Municipality of Trikala in Euroscapes project as well as the importance given to urban and peri-urban green management by the new City Council. In a context of serious crisis, planning and development are crucial, contributing to the improvement of the image of the environment.

Project coordinator Charlotte Dessandier spoke on behalf of all partners thanking the Municipality of Trikala for the welcome and analyzing the meeting’s purposes



Municipality of Loures’ Landscape Management Plan presentation

Municipality of Loures presented the progress made in the development of their landscape management plan.

First, this partner announced the dates and programme of a seminar that will be held on 10 and 11 May 2012, under the theme “Landscape management of peri-urban areas: active agriculture and land abandonment”.

Five topics will be discussed during the two days:

- Active agriculture
- Social and demographic dynamics
- Land abandonment and biodiversity
- Economic dynamics
- Cultural landscape

Five Euroscapes' partners confirmed their presence and participation: DPTU, City of Granollers, City Region of Canary Islands, City Region of Gießen-Wetzlar, and the host, City of Loures. Other partners interested in the topic are welcome to attend (this is not a partner meeting forecasted in the AF, so participation is optional).

The presentation continued with the LMP presentation and progress, focused on Landscape and built heritage, GIS and sociological approach. This partner presented the results of the fieldwork surveys, analysis, evaluation and proposal of one of ten priority cultural landscapes to be object of an inventory and diagnosis, "Dry stone all fields landscape of Casaiños".

The themes presented were:

- establishment of cultural landscape limits based on cultural values and visual limits;
- cultural paths establishment;
- land use related with active agricultural, land abandonment and biodiversity, and forest areas;
- built heritage, its value and conservation interest (wells, windmills, terraces and walls, all of them made of dry stone walls).

As regards sociological analysis of the studied area, it was presented the methodology and results of the surveys applied to the population, in order to identify expectations on the future of local agricultural sector and their views on development for the rural settlements. 116 individuals were interviewed.

Some results:

- the main images associated to agricultural landscapes are food production and proximity to nature
- lack of interest of the younger generation to work in the agricultural activity

One of the aim of the LMP is to change that and to make the population active in taking care and restoring the cultural landscapes.

Finally there was a discussion made on the conclusions and goals of the project progress presented. The questionnaire addressed to the population and results will be put on the website.



LMP common methodology presentation

Charlotte presented a first analysis of partners' LMPs descriptions highlighting the following important elements:

1. Structure
2. Aim
3. Results
4. Implementation and evaluation

Then there was a presentation on a first draft of common LMP strategy and methodology, in view of the final output of the project and to help partners developing their own LMP. The different phases of a LMP methodology were presented and discussed by the partners. Some phases needed to be explained and/or reworded. The Italian partner posed its thoughts on the methodology process on terms of the chronological order of the phases, proposing a different model.

1. Diagnosis
2. Evaluation
3. Operational phase
4. Monitoring phase

A partner suggested talking about environmental diagnosis rather than ecological diagnosis in order to keep the global aspect of an environmental approach. It was also said to take into account the context, the different scales depending on partners and to highlight the common features. It is also necessary to include stakeholders, investors in the diagnosis phase.

Charlotte suggested a further discussion between the breaks so as the partners end up with a new more suited methodology.

Partners were then asked to talk about the progress of their LMP.

In **London**, was of the challenge is getting the companies taking responsibilities. An agreement is under discussion with them to be signed.

Municipality of **Trikala** LMP presentation

(By Vasiliki Voka and Thanasis Mpalis)

The aims of the project (cultural places – green space connections for the public) were presented earlier this week to the local authorities as well as to the public. The survey has not yet come to an end but the ways of implementing it are already set (use of GIS and photographs). Despite the loss of time due to administrative reform, the municipality of Trikala will find ways to rapidly progress on the project.

The municipality of **Sigulda** outlined the similarities between their and London's project setting on the same time their aim, which is to find a legal way to coordinate private and public use of lands.

The Romanian partner – **SERDA** – expressed the problems they face while working on the diagnosis of the landscapes. These problems are on municipality level and linked to the coordination between local authorities and landscape management experts. The LMP will focus on an area of industrial abandonment with the challenges of involving private-public actors and developing management action groups.

The Polish partner – **Torun** – said that they have integrated the inventories and diagnosis phase and have entered the operational phase, where the thematic layers will be developed. They face problems with the GIS implementation and asked for help from the rest of the partners.

There were some questions on GIS in terms of level of development for each partner, its use and its purposes, discussed later on during the GIS workshop.

Presentation of Matsopoulos Mill complex and its historical review

- Purpose of built
- Use
- Plan to renovate and restructure the area introduced

All partners took a walk around the complex before continuing with GIS workshop.



GIS Workshop – Plenary session

E-Trikala presented their methodology using questionnaires.

The questions included were:

- GIS usage
- GIS type
- Free internet access
- Expectations

The results would help on evaluating the situation between the partners. Charts representing in which phase of their LMP partners are could be good. The presentation ended with a discussion on how GIS can be used for landscape management and how the coordination between the partners that use GIS and those who don't will take place.

A: Working group on GIS

Mr A. Mpalis presented the GIS that has been designed, developed and implemented by e-Trikala S.A. In addition, he gave a short presentation of the GIS that other

partners use and described the different applications that have been put in place by the 14 partners in their local authorities. The main software programs used are: *ArcGIS*, *MapInfo 9.5*, *AutoDesk*, *GeoMedia*. The workshop concluded with a broad discussion with all partners followed by a final Q&A session. The topics discussed were as follows:

- ✘ *A. Mpalis (e-Trikala S.A.)*

The partner from e-Trikala S.A. stressed the fact that the company uses *MapInfo v9.5* software. In total, three e-Trikala IT technicians work on the task of developing and maintaining the GIS as a tool for LMP development. He underlined that it will initially covers only the city of Trikala, however it will eventually cover all the incorporated villages and towns in the new enlarged Municipality of Trikala. The goal is to find a good way to do that: what should be the procedure and who is going to do it.
- ✘ *Paul Morrissey (East London Grid and Thames Gateway London Partnership)*

The partner raised the issue of using such a GIS for decision making purposes. He described the sophisticated 3-D urban simulation modeling system, which is linked to a GIS, and has been developed for East London covering an area of 2.7m population in collaboration with 11 Unitary Authorities in East London as well as some of the Academic Institutions and Universities of the area. It was questioned *whether* (and if yes, *how*) one comprehensive tool could ultimately be used by decision makers for Landscape Management taking account socio-economic and environmental factors. Briefly the integrated tool used by TGLP already:

 - Models education needs (schools, colleges or Universities)
 - Simulates socioeconomic growth (population increase, new businesses established, infrastructure expansion)
 - Gives the advantage of political and decision making uses of the system
 - Gives the advantage of improving business environment for private sector companies
 - Reduces GIS staff (from 140 down to 10)
- ✘ *Judit Fekete Paris (Lake Balaton DCA)*

The partner from Hungary underlined that Lake Balaton DCA uses the ArcGIS program as well as Google for developing and maintaining their GIS. Applications of the system are environmental and urban regulation and legislation imposition in the wider area of Lake Balaton, an area of great environmental and touristic significance for the whole of the country.
- ✘ *Dariusz Adamczyk (Municipality of Torun)*

The polish partners stated that they use of OpenGIS software. For cost and convenience reasons, they have assigned that task to a private company. The main usage of the GIS is for publications. In total, it contains 27 levels of management, which are grouped in 7 big thematic levels of information.
- ✘ *Christian Haissat (SAN val maubuee)*

In SAN, they use grouped thematic levels (infrastructure, buildings, and green spaces) and dissemination is made only on intranet, for the members of SAN

team only. Key point is the training of 6 users for the scopes of GIS, to cooperate with the rest of the team and validate/insert/edit/ the data.

B: Working group on LMPs improvement and advice

Partners formed small groups discussing on LMPs improvement. Three groups were formed. **Group 1:** Spain, Portugal, Greece **Group 2:** Poland, Belgium, Germany, England, Romania **Group 3:** Italy, Hungary, Latvia. Afterwards the results of the discussion of each group were presented to the rest of the partners.

German Partner (Lutz Adami, Group 2) outlined the changes made around EU, on the economical basis, and proposed new ideas to lower the cost as much as possible. He also wants to see the partners to motivate local people involved in a LMP more motivated.

Spanish Partner (Xavier Romero, Group 1) outlined the importance of citizen participation in an LMP, especially those who manage the landscape, implying that they should be part of the methodology procedure for the landscape identification. He also referred to the importance of finding places with great interest as the economical aspect is also of a great matter.

Italian Partner (Claudio Bordi, Group 3) shared his thoughts on the realistic aspect of a LMP and how partners should work on this as EU Conventions only can't preserve this aspect.

Hungarian partner (Group 3) mentioned that due to different characteristics between the partners the methodology used in some cases has to be altered as to fit the structure of local communities so as the results will be beneficial for the people living in those areas, on terms of evolution of the quality of life.

United Kingdom's Partner (Anne, Group 2) referred to the problems and difficulties matched while implementing an LMP. People involved should get trained so there will not be difficulties on communication between people involved in an LMP. That should end up to coordination with the technical staff, though it's not easy to change the views of a technical expertise. On this case accepting change is much more useful. Also, people should start thinking of how they define the term "green space", what they gain out of it, how they take care of it and how they need to manage it. There should also be an economic dimension, so as to understand how to lower the cost and on the same time to maximize the results. More over she introduced the idea of "how the landscape contributes now and what reaction there will be after the LMP". This seems to be crucial part, as this will lead to gathering correct data you need so as to come with the best solution needed. Concluding, she mentioned that there should be an evaluation on how close to LMPs the partners are on this phase and being careful on the approach between differences between the partners meaning that there must be a relation between strategy and analysis.

At this point Day 1 of the seminar came to an end. Partners headed to lunch and afterwards they visited Meteora. Later in the afternoon, there was a short tour around the old city of Trikala and its Castle before all together heading for dinner.

Day 2: Friday 17th June 2011

LMP methodology – first draft reviewed

Charlotte presented the result of a small working group that took place at the end of the day 1 to review the LMP Methodology guidelines. She first reminded some definitions like “landscape” and “landscape management” based on the European Landscape Convention. There should be a glossary developed for those terms. The term of “Landscape management plan” was also discussed as it appears that framework, programme or guidelines could better fit the reality of it.

A new presentation of phases of an LMP was introduced:

- Data collection: environmental, sociological, economical, historical data (citizens participation important)
- Landscape characterization/analysis: through data understanding the problems and the needs of the landscape (citizens participation important)
- Definition of operation program: Define scenario and indicators.
- Implementation: Monitoring the results (citizens participation very important)

The Hungarian partner questioned on who will participate in between the methodology, especially in data collection and whether an executive sponsor is needed (question of stakeholders and who is involved at in which phase). And the Greek partner (Vasiliki Voka) added that the term “framework” should be preferred to “programme” on basis of flexibility and national law frameworks.

Workshop on citizens ‘participation initiatives and community involvement in landscape management’ – coordinated by Simona Pascariu SERDA

First part with a presentation of a case study by the German Partner (Lutz Adami)

In this presentation, different forms of citizens’ participation were presented. Public should take part in political decisions made for land use planning either as members of the community or via citizens societies and clubs. The conclusion made was that citizens and stakeholders must be active during the process of an LMP.

Second part: discussion in which partners shared their thoughts and experiences on citizens’ involvement (see workshop detailed note and report in annex)

Romania:

They face the problem with communities not having any papers proving their land ownerships (Roma communities). Sometimes they face problems arising by different dogmas and religions among the citizens. (That could be a problem more

than one partner might face). Moreover, Simona Pascariu, introduced the importance of introducing indicators showing the level of success of the LMP.

Portugal:

People in general are not used to be involved in landscape management.

However, when the sociological surveys were applied to the population of the landscape under study, the interest in answer the questionnaire was very high.

By the end of June there will be a public presentation of the results followed by discussion, and it's expected a great public participation, because of the previous contacts made during the field work of sociological characterization.

Greece:

Ideas from all parts of the community (people, stake holders, chambers) were collected and mixed so as to find the best solution for the study of Lithaios river. There have been projects in the municipality of Trikala that the community either supported or did not want their realization. Either way, citizens' participation was thought to be really good and Municipality of Trikala is looking forward for more citizens to involve in common affairs, regarding LMPs

France:

They try to develop more public participation, which is not easy in a local context where it's not a tradition. They do quite a lot of public consultation but participation is not really happening. Some focused and limited initiatives are launched, for instance in the framework of landscape management with the help of an ethno-sociologist. Hearing more of the problems and complaints is essential but sometimes it's hard to coordinate the needs of different places.

Italy:

They presented citizens' participation on different projects, such as proposing designs for an ex-quarry renovation (students in Toscana). Citizens were also involved in photo expo projects, to preserve the historical heritage of the city. They also questioned how close with renewable energy matters people are and how experts should help them coming even closer.

Poland:

Both municipalities and citizens worked together for transformation projects on ex-quarries. Public should send constant feedback of their needs to the municipality and on site meetings with the public is more preferred.

Latvia:

They face low level of public participation and try to make people understand their power within the municipalities. They want students to organize workshops informing the citizens. Concluding they stated that they have to keep in touch with people in places where LMPs are organized, as only students took participated happily.

United Kingdom:

Introduced the term "flexi project" outlining some problems around London and how they deal with them. People are motivated and interested in such projects (flexi-LMPs) despite sometimes facing problems due to different needs of the people.

Finally examples where given of citizens' participation and demands for their landscapes.

A partner highlighted the fact that we should talk about people's engagement rather than citizens' participation as it is very restrictive. It looks at individuals and their relation to place/government. And what about children, businesses, visitors... ?

And this partner stressed the importance to start with the purpose of people' engagement:

- communication
- influence decision making (surveys, workshops...)
- lead decision making
- deliver (management trust agreements)

Two partners present a case study to be analyzed by partners in a brainstorming session

Latvia:

Presented the transformation of Castle Street, Municipality of Sigulda (total new green areas as well as the idea to transform the street to 100% pedestrian road) via plans and photographs of the area showing how to be and how it will be after the implementation. They asked for help and ideas from the partners on how to extend the development of the project. One of the main aim is to give more an idea of city centre.

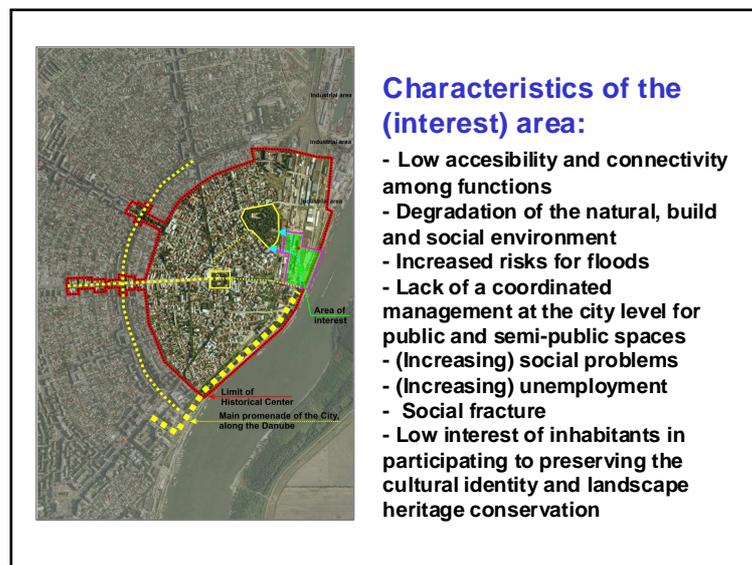
Through the discussion, partners came to the conclusion that first they should try increasing the pedestrians in the area with different attractions so as to realize if the street is needed to become 100% pedestrian road. Otherwise there is risk that shops will collapse. The Greek Partner gave the example of Asklipiou road and how things chanced when it became a pedestrian road.



Romania:

Presented the LMP for the Historical Center of Braila. After introducing the characteristics of the area as well as certain situations and problems occurring, Simona presented the potential changes this LMP will bring. Identification and

classification of the area is not yet done and they need help on how to better preserve and put in value landscape assets as well as how to organize local action in coordination with the LMP.



On the discussion that followed Portugal proposed to organize national and international acts involving people living in the area and United Kingdom proposed to bring events attracting more people in the area as well as reestablishing green routes towards the river.

=> Partners are asked, if possible, to think further about these 2 case studies, with the documents and maps they've been given, and to come up with other ideas, advice, on these projects.

Group A: Working group on analysis of best practices

Partners from DATA (Claudio Bordi and Silvia D'Astoli) discussed how and in what context a project - or a case study - can be presented as best practice and defined the *criteria* that are used in best practices methodology *i.e.*:

1. Project realized
2. Project not realized
3. Project under construction
4. Citizens participation
5. Funding (including economic impact)
6. Social aspects (social impact)
7. Safety of the project
8. Urban benefits
9. Transferability (conclusions)

A discussion followed and partners agreed to add an “economical impact” criterion. Best practices should be linked to the different phases of LMP methodology. In fact, it should help write the LMP methodology and illustrate it.

They asked for examples of brown fields' projects to cover all of the projects possibilities and the Spanish partners offered to send one area.

The asked for partners to re-write their best practices in the last version of the template, with illustrations.

The best practices plan should be schematized and improved until October.

Group B Session on the “Economic value of landscape tool”

The goal of this session was how to include economic dynamics in an LMP. There was also a short presentation of the tool that is used.

Through analyzing landscape and environment there is always creation of the frame “Money VS Green”, so there must be the economic value of “green areas” must be set. So we have:

- Monetary terms
- Quantitative terms
- Qualitative terms

Also the main challenge faced is cost VS value.

Afterwards there was a demonstration of the tool, using the example of the “Parc de Noisel” presenting all its stages of preparation and data collection.

Parc de Noisel

- Area description
- Characteristics
- Historical details
- How people in close habitat gain from it

These are all data collected for this LMP.

Conclusions were categorized again on monetary, quantitative and qualitative terms. There was also an analysis on the benefits.

Main discussion was set upon LMP benefit VS LMP cost as well as how public participation can become stronger. Anne also presented the way of thinking in London on coordinating benefits and cost during a new LMP.

Before the session was over French Partner, Christian, made clarifications on the way they used the tool on this LMP and the difficulties that aroused and the way they worked with Anne on terms of feedback. He was also interested to know if the other partners are willing to use this tool for their LMPs.

Before the end of the seminar an administrative and financial session took place, with a presentation by Charlotte Dessandier of a global financial follow-up of the project and of important things to have in mind in preparing the 3rd progress report, on which partners should already be working!

There was also a small presentation of the next seminar taking place in Rome.

End of the seminar