

European Landscape Convention: Cultural Landscape and Sustainable Development of the Region

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In 2000, the landscape became one of the most important research matter in scientific research based upon the European Convention on Landscape.

The concept of “Landscape” in the Landscape Convention of Council of Europe is interpreted as follows: “Landscape” means the area perceived by people, and its nature is the result of impact and interaction of natural and/or social factors (Council of Europe, 2000).

Historically, the deep and multifaceted understanding of the concept of “Landscape” took place in geography, primarily in physical one, and in recent times in behavior and culture ones. However, the landscape is the object of deep interest in different fields of science or arts: in aesthetics, architecture, painting, poetry, history, even in psychology. Thereafter, the landscape expresses the invariant characters and is interpreted in different expressions of culture.

Against the background of the Council of Europe's Landscape Convention, Professor M. Grodzynski (2005) provides a more unifying representation of different definitions of landscape, he describes the landscape as a general cultural concept: the landscape is a space that is shaped by the configuration of the place, which is occupied and changed by its own elements.

Sharing the values of the European Convention of the Landscape and the experience of the Professor N. Beruchashvili's Scientific School we think that as a general cultural concept the landscape is the homogenous space, containing certain components and perceived by humans the face of which is shaped by configuration of the territory and its nature is the result of impact and interaction of natural and/or social factors.

With the understanding of “Landscape”, the concept of “cultural landscape” has now gained an unusual popularity. The 1992 UNESCO Convention of World Heritage examines the concept of “cultural landscape” as “the common creature of the nature and the human”. An interesting and acceptable interpretation of the concept of “cultural landscape” seen in this view, has been provided by Professor M. Grodzynski. He says: cultural landscape is the type of space that has been assimilated spiritually and materially by a certain carrier of culture and its importance and configuration is attached at the level of collective consciousness and subconscious. The contemporary performance of the “cultural landscape”, which combines interesting, different definitions, has been provided by Professor T. Krasovskaya (2017). According to Professor T. Krasovskaya, “cultural landscape” is the natural complex, which has been transformed and used by a human as a result of permanent interaction for clear acceptance of material, ecological and spiritual values.

The new European approach is different from traditional approaches. Thereafter, many of the landscape sciences and research are to be revalued, a new vision is to be developed.