

## THE VOIVODESHIP'S PROGRAM OF MALOPOLSKA HERITAGE AND CULTURAL LANDSCAPE PROTECTION

JÓZEF HERNIK<sup>1</sup>

**ABSTRACT** - The main goal in the field of landscape management includes the protection and improvement of landscapes' condition and departing from their degradation. This goal is included in the European Landscape Convention. Its aim is to care for continent's landscapes through the processes such as identification, evaluation, protection, management, and planning. The Convention is to apply to all landscapes, not only to the landscapes of a unique value such as national parks or to the landscapes that are on the List of World Heritage UNESCO.

The article includes the analysis of the Voivodeship's<sup>2</sup> Program of Malopolska Heritage and Cultural Landscape Protection from the point of view of the Convention. Due to the fact that Poland has ratified this Convention, certain responsibilities follow. On voivodeship's level, the Voivodeship's Program should be recognized as a device to carry out the policy in the field of landscape in accordance with Article 1 of the Convention.

**Key words:** the Voivodeship's Program of Malopolska Heritage and Cultural Landscape Protection, the European Landscape Convention, cultural landscape, heritage, UNESCO World Heritage List.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

In recent years, the scientific and public interest in European cultural landscape has been increasing. Many of them have been seriously damaged by the inappropriate rules of land management. Currently, the main goal within the management of cultural landscape is determined. It includes the protection and improvement of landscapes' condition. The goal is included in the European Landscape Convention.

The European Landscape Convention was adopted in Florence on October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2000. First of all, it is crucial to understand basic terms used in this document. According to the Convention, "landscape" means an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/ or human factors (The European Landscape Convention, 2004 – Article 1 Definitions). "Landscape policy" means an expression by the competent public authorities of general principles, strategies, and guidelines that permit the taking of specific measures aimed at the protection, management and planning of landscapes (The European Landscape Convention, 2004 – Article 1 Definitions). One has to be aware of the aims of the Convention. First of all, it is to promote landscape protection, management and planning. Second, it is to organize European co-operation on landscape issues (The European Landscape Convention, 2004 – Article 3 Aims). It is significant that each part, a member state, shall implement this Convention (The European Landscape Convention, 2004 – Article 4 Division of Responsibilities).

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<sup>1</sup> Department of Planning, Organization and Protection of Agrarian Areas, University of Agriculture in Cracow, al. Mickiewicza 24/28, 30-059 Kraków, Poland. E-mail: rmhernik@cyf-kr.edu.pl

<sup>2</sup> a geographical unit of administration dating to medieval times ruled by a Voivod

In Poland, there are two organs responsible for adopting the European Landscape Convention on Polish grounds. They are the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Regional Development. To understand the Polish system, one has to be acquainted with the structure of public administration in Poland (Fig.1) and the administrative division of the Republic of Poland (Fig.2).



Figure 1. The structure of public administration in Poland.

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**RZECZPOSPOLITA POLSKA**  
 podział administracyjny  
 stan w dniu 01.01.2006 r.

**REPUBLIC OF POLAND**  
 Administrative Division  
 as of January 1, 2006



**Białystok** miasta wojewódzkie  
 seats of voivodeship authorities

**Chełm** miasta wydzielone (na prawach powiatu)  
 seats of urban counties

**Grajewo** miasta powiatowe  
 seats of counties

— granice państw  
 international boundaries

— granice województw  
 voivodeship boundaries

— granice powiatów  
 county boundaries

— przynależność obszarów powiatów do jego siedziby  
 attachment of the county area to its seat

Podano wyłącznie nazwy powiatów nie pochodzące od nazw ich siedzib  
 The only county names given on this map are those differing from the names of their corresponding seats

opracowanie kartograficzne:cart. design: Maciej Zych  
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Figure 2. The administrative division of the Republic of Poland.

2. PRINCIPLES OF THE VOIVODESHIP'S PROGRAM OF MALOPOLSKA HERITAGE AND CULTURAL LANDSCAPE PROTECTION

Malopolska is the region where history is clearly connected with the European cultural landscape. Malopolska is distinctive among other regions due to its big number of cultural achievements. Out of about fifty thousand historic complexes and objects that can be found in the area of Malopolska, more than five thousand the most treasured objects have been put on the voivodeship's list of vintage buildings. The biggest attractions of Malopolska voivodeship are wooden churches, Orthodox churches and unique art collections (www.malopolskie.pl). Due to the fact that there is a big number of wooden churches, a wooden architecture trail has been established. One can find wooden churches in places like Debno Podhalanskie or Lipnica Murowana (Fig. 3).

The cultural heritage of Malopolska is acknowledged, recognized, cultivated and preserved by inhabitants of the region. At the same time, it constitutes a strong expression of regional identity. The need for the protection of native heritage triggers an initiative on the part of curators and historic buildings' owners: parishes, institutions, non-governmental organizations, self-governments, as well as individuals.

The fundamental context of drawing up the Voivodeship's Program of Malopolska Heritage and Cultural Landscape Protection is the recognition of regional cultural heritage collections as the fundamental factor influencing the shaping of regional identity. These collections determine and

define the multifaceted determinants of voivodeship's development, popularization of culture, and tourist attraction.

The main goal of Program's formulation is the aspiration for the significant improvement of the state of regional cultural heritage collections, as well as for the preservation of Malopolska cultural landscape, through the determination of basic conditions and organizational, financial, and educational determinants that serve for this protection. In addition, the Program is to care for the rational use of cultural heritage collections.



**Figure 3.** *Wooden church in Lipnica Murowana.*

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Malopolska is the region with unique national heritage. In cities such as Krakow (Fig. 4), Tarnow, and Nowy Sacz, together with their closer and further vicinity, there are monuments and collections that are extremely valuable from the point of view of Polish cultural achievements. However, many of them are still not well recognized, which causes immense problems when it comes to their correct maintenance, protection, exposition, and promotion. The curators of forgotten places face many difficulties when it comes to collecting sufficient funds for a proper restoration, not to mention their promotion.

Not only monuments constitute the heritage of Malopolska, it is also the culture of the region—craft, folk customs, traditions, folklore, cuisine, and unique landscape, different from the rest of Poland. The need for the protection of native heritage is indisputable and is carried out with a great success by many institutions: central, self-governmental, social, or even private.



**Figure 4.** *Market Square in Krakow.*

Combining an active protection and exciting not only with interesting objects, but also with the history and the culture of the region and the closest vicinity, is one of the principles of the Voivodeship's Program in Malopolska voivodeship. The Program was initiated by the self-government of Malopolska voivodeship. The Program serves for creating and enriching such a picture of Malopolska voivodeship as described above.



**Figure 5.** *The goals of the Voivodeship's Program of Malopolska Heritage and Cultural Landscape Protection.*

### **3. STRATEGIC GOALS OF THE VOIVODESHIP'S PROGRAM OF MALOPOLSKA HERITAGE AND CULTURAL LANDSCAPE PROTECTION**

There are three strategic goals of the Voivodeship's Program of Malopolska Heritage and Cultural Landscape Protection (Fig. 5). First of them is to maintain and manage the regional cultural heritage. Second is to protect and shape the cultural landscape. Third is living heritage, that is promotion, education, and documenting the values of cultural heritage (the Voivodeship's Program of Malopolska Heritage and Cultural Landscape Protection).

The Voivodeship's Program of Malopolska Heritage and Cultural Landscape Protection was adopted on the basis of the Resolution of Voivodeship's Parliament on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2005. The legal base for developing the Voivodeship's Program of Malopolska Heritage and Cultural Landscape Protection is the Act of 1998 (the Act of 1998) concerning the Voivodeship's Local Government and the Act of 2003 (the Act of 2003) concerning the historical monuments protection. The Voivodeship's Board, alike the County Board and the administrative officer of the commune (the mayor, the president of a city) are obliged to prepare the Voivodeship's Program for the Protection of Historical Monuments for the period of 4 years (for a county and for a commune, respectively).

The organ responsible for monitoring and assessing the accomplishment of the program is the Voivodeship's Board, which will present the report on the advancement level of the program accomplishment to the Voivodeship's Parliament every 2 years.

### **4. PROTECTION AND SHAPING CULTURAL LANDSCAPE**

The goal number two of the Voivodeship's Program of Malopolska Heritage and Cultural Landscape Protection covers protection and shaping of cultural landscapes. Its priority is forming the spatial structures. When forming the cohesive space of the Malopolska network of natural links is the way of actions, this goal consists of:

- Determining the area of *NATURA 2000* and *ECONET – PL* network in Malopolska;
- Increasing the tendencies for developing the settling terrains;
- Maintaining and specifying the existing aesthetic and scenic values;
- Creating new national and landscape parks, as well as nature reserves;

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- Development and making the archaeological places accessible;
- Supporting the traditional agricultural forms.

When the way of actions is formulating the rules of protection and forming the cultural zone, the strategic goal number two consists of:

- The creation of the programs of the complex revaluation of old-town complexes;
- The implementation of the program of wooden architecture historical monuments protection
- Various renovation tasks;
- The assurance of historical buildings security;
- The implementation of tasks resulting from the system of archaeological cultural heritage protection;
- The enforcement of renovation advice;
- The creation of investment offers and the solicitation of users for historical buildings;
- The architectural recomposition;
- The protection of the most valuable buildings "in situ";
- The development of outdoor museums;
- The preservation of the regional balanced architectural landscape.

### 5. SUMMARY

The main action in the field of heritage and cultural landscape protection on the level of Małopolska voivodeship is the Voivodeship's Program of Malopolska Heritage and Cultural Landscape Protection. There are around 50 thousand historical buildings in the historical monuments register managed by the Voivodeship's Historical Monuments Curator. Market Square in Krakow (Fig. 4), well-known all over Europe, may place Malopolska voivodeship in a favorable light. One has to mention a big number of historical places acknowledged by the President of the Republic of Poland as Historical Monuments in the area of Małopolska voivodeship. Just to name a few of them: Krakow (a historical city complex), Wieliczka and Bochnia (salt mines), Kalwaria Zebrzydowska (the mannerist landscape complex of pilgrimage park), Raclawice (the area of the battle). Their significance is best proved by the fact that many of them are on the UNESCO World Heritage List. The characteristic elements of the cultural landscape of Malopolska voivodeship are wooden churches. Therefore, a wooden architecture trail has been established. One can find wooden churches in places like Debno Podhalanskie or Lipnica Murowana (Fig. 3).

Since Poland has ratified the European Landscape Convention, certain responsibilities follow. On voivodeship's level, the Voivodeship's Program of Malopolska Heritage and Cultural Landscape Protection shall be recognized as a device used to carry out the policy in the field of landscape in accordance with Article 1 of the Convention. It also shall be recognized as an expression by a competent public organ of broad principles, strategies, and directives that support taking specific measures aimed at protection, management and planning of landscape.

### REFERENCES

- Act of 2003 concerning the historical monuments protection.  
Act of 1998 concerning the Voivodeship's Local Government.

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([http://www.coe.int/t/e/cultural\\_co%2Doperation/environment/landscape/presentation/9\\_text/02\\_Convention\\_EN.asp#TopOfPage](http://www.coe.int/t/e/cultural_co%2Doperation/environment/landscape/presentation/9_text/02_Convention_EN.asp#TopOfPage))

Voivodeship's Program of Malopolska Heritage and Cultural Landscape Protection.  
[www.maloposkie.pl](http://www.maloposkie.pl)