

LANDSCAPE EUROPE PhD Course – Nitra (Slovakia), 14-15/06/2018

The course is organised by LANDSCAPE EUROPE network and is linked with the PECSRL2018 conference in Clermont-Ferrand and Mende (3-9/09/2018), where the below described sessions will be organised (<https://pecsrl2018.sciencesconf.org>). This is an opportunity for PhD students to present their research in the fields of landscape transitions, agricultural landscapes or landscapes of tourism and interact with experienced senior researchers. The PhD students can gain knowledge from other presentations, receive feedback on their own presented work, discuss research results with the LANDSCAPE EUROPE members and other participants and they have a chance contributing to a joint publication planned after the PECSRL2018 conference. Part of the course is a field trip to selected places in the Nitra region.

Note: participation at PECSRL2018 is NOT precondition to attend this PhD course

Venue: building of Slovak Academy of Sciences, Akademická 2, Nitra, Slovakia

Date: 14-15/06/2018

Fee: 90 EUR (includes participation fee, dinner on 13/06, lunch and dinner on 14/06, lunch on 15/06, coffee breaks and field trips on 14-15/06)

Deadline:

11/03/2018 - Deadline for submission of abstracts (identical to PECSRL2018)

09/04/2018 - Confirmation of acceptance (identical to PECSRL2018)

30/04/2018 – Registration and payment

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This course is funded by:



Topics

European landscape transition across Europe: the challenge of Central and Eastern Europe

Land take, land use intensification and land abandonment appear as major processes in the landscape, driven by market competition, land ownership conditions, changed opportunities for work and mobility. Global trends, facilitated by EU policies and measures, visibly change local landscapes and livelihoods. While the north-western and Mediterranean parts of Europe experienced comparable landscape changes earlier, for countries of Central and Eastern Europe such landscape transition is now occurring as an unintentional and inevitable side-effect of socio-economic progress, to the good and to the bad. Is Central and Eastern Europe making the same mistakes as experienced in other parts of Europe earlier? How landscape transition is monitored, where are the hotspots of transition and what are the mechanisms of change? How are changes in the landscape perceived and influenced by communities in the East and the West? Is there an opportunity for modern commons to arise?

Intangible benefits of agricultural landscapes

Although multi-functional role of agriculture has been known for a long time, recent trends in EU agriculture shows increase of farm and field sizes, increase of arable farming and decrease of mixed farms leading to farming homogenisation. It appears that farm management is strongly influenced by global policies while local needs tend to be less prioritized. There is an unsolved imbalance between economic purposes and social or/and ecological consequences. Could this be due to a lack of documentation, stakeholder engagement or simply linking of benefits to the land? Is this another variety of the “tragedy of the commons”? Exactly what are

the most valued intangible benefits of the agricultural landscape? And what are the most suitable instruments to measure and monitor these many various functions of agricultural landscapes and their link to quality of life?

Landscapes of tourism destinations: which quality of life?

Tourism represents an important driver of and target for cultural and environmental change—both positive and negative—at the destination landscapes. Well-being, gastronomy, and various other special visitor interests, highly related to and dependent on landscape resources, are currently instigating exponential tourism growth in Europe and elsewhere. As visitors' priorities and consumption patterns evolve, how do tourism impacts and interplay with the destination landscapes affect quality of life in/ through/ for the landscape (new challenges, potential, threats and constraints)? Increasingly, Europeans opt for 'green' tourism and 'slow' traveling — how do these trends affect destination landscape quality? At the same time, certain European destinations suffer from uncontrollable tourism growth and new flexible forms of accommodation, increasingly displacing locals from their homes and places of residence (Barcelona, Venice, Mykonos etc)— which quality of life at the destination landscapes, then, and for whom?

Programme

13/06/2018 (Wednesday)

- Arrival of participants
- Guided tour in the Nitra city, including joint dinner

14/06/2018 (Thursday)

- 8.00 – 8.15 Welcome, introduction
- 8.15 - 10.00 Presentations of contributions to the PECSRL2018
- 10.00 – 10.20 Coffee break
- 10.20 – 12.00 Presentations of contributions to the PECSRL2018
- 12.00 – 13.00 Lunch break
- 13.00 – 14.00 Presentations of contributions to the PECSRL2018
- 14.00 – 15.00 Discussion, wrap up (improvements towards PECSRL2018)
- 15.00 – Coffee / LANDSCAPE EUROPE General Assembly
- 16.30 – field trip to Zobor hill* (land use transitions in the Nitra urban and peri-urban area), dinner in the city centre

15/06/2018 (Friday)

- 8.00 – 10.00 Presentations of PhD students
- 10.00 – 10.20 Coffee break
- 10.20 – 12.00 Presentations of PhD students
- 12.00 – 13.00 Lunch break
- 13.00 – 14.30 Panel discussion with PhD students (reflection on their research work)
- 14.30 Coffee
- 15.30 field trip to Nová Baňa region* (dispersed settlement, extensive agriculture, tourism)

16/06/2018 (Saturday)

- optional field trip to the selected places (on demand, not included in the costs)

*in case of bad weather the planned schedule of the field trips can be changed