

**1. Community policies impacting on the landscape: objectives and instruments.** The landscape is never expressly mentioned within the Treaties instituting the European Community and the European Union: yet, though hardly ever the "focus" of community policies, it is often affected by said policies. Such policies may have far-reaching effects, depending on the amount of financial resources involved and the sizes of the territories thus affected; on the whole, the effects community policies tend to have on the landscape are at present somewhat contradictory.

Among the main intervention sectors and instruments, mention should be made of the following:

**1.1 Common Agricultural Policy (CAP).** The European Commission has drawn up specific guidelines so as to ensure agricultural policies take into account also environmental and landscape issues. For the first time ever, landscape is viewed as an important element affording a synthetic interpretation of the rural context and playing a major role in the development of sustainable agriculture.

**1.2 Environmental Policy.** Following the adoption of the Amsterdam Treaty, environmental preservation has taken on a transnational role all community policies should take into consideration when considering sustainable development. Landscape preservation and conservation is viewed as one of the ways in which natural resources and biodiversity can be preserved.

**1.3 Competition Protection.** Though ensuring competition protection in order to allow for the creation of a single European market, the European Union approves of State Aids directed at promoting heritage and conservation measures (tax relief for the owners of sites having a historical and cultural value, to those engaging in cultural activities, etc.).

**1.4 Culture.** There are very few instruments available for the pursuit of a cultural policy (incentives and recommendations); however, a limited number of projects of a demonstrative nature aiming at the promotion of the exchange of experiences and know-how are now underway.

**1.5. Strengthening of economic and social cohesion.** This policy (which is very important in terms of funding) makes use of Structural Funds, financial instruments some of which are relevant also to the landscape: suffice it to think of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF), the European Social Fund (ESF).

**1.6. External relations.** The European Union has embarked on a policy of cooperation with third countries aimed at promoting peaceful cooperation and sustaining the development of less-favoured regions, with specific objectives related to a number of very large geographical areas. The Euro-Mediterranean Partnership fosters both bilaterally-based activities and multilateral regional activities: cultural heritage is acknowledged to be an element of common identity.

**1.7. Research.** In more recent years research and development policies have also extended the field of social sciences, and more specifically to culture, cities, natural development, the development of the Information Society. In this respect, policies can concern also the evolution of landscapes, above all in two respects: in terms, that is, of both knowledge (data collection, analysis, classification of landscapes) and planning (innovative management techniques).

**2 European Spatial Development Perspective : (ESDP) and landscape.** The European Spatial Development Perspective (ESDP) was born of an intergovernmental concertation enlarged to the European Commission and sets forth joint objectives and guidelines for the future development of European spaces. It provides guidelines for both community and national policies impacting on the territory and for regional and local partners and promotes better coordination and integration of said policies so as to ensure they all actually contribute to the achievement of balanced sustainable development. Within the priority axis dedicated to careful management of the natural heritage, one also finds the creative management of the urban cultural heritage and the European cultural landscapes.

**3 Programmes**  
**3.1 Rural development programmes.** Actions to support rural development are implemented by programmes, one for each European region, covering the years 2000-2006. Most of them include landscape preservation measures, above all in the guise of aid and funding for farmers preserving or reintroducing natural terraces, traditional stone hedges, typical crops, etc.; measures for the maintenance, preservation and requalification of natural protected and/or areas; maintenance and improvement of wooded areas. Also foreseen are measures for the restoration and enhancement of rural villages and smaller settlements (aid being foreseen for home-owners, for the upkeep of public buildings, for the requalification of open spaces and of urban furnishing).

**3.2 Environmental programmes.** Now underway is the Sixth Pluriennial Environment Action Programme (2001-2010). It identifies four priority areas: climate change, biodiversity, environment and health, natural resources and waste management. Landscape is dealt with in relation to biodiversity protection. The LIFE programme finances demonstrative and experimental projects and action plans, so as to help in both the development of community directives and guidelines and in the mainstreaming of environmental policies falling under programmes and projects financed for other policies.

**3.3. Cohesion strengthening programmes**  
**3.3.1. Programmes for Objectives 1 and 2.** The implementation of cohesion policies takes place through the funding of regional programmes devised by referring to the major objectives of the Structural Funds. The guidelines for the 2000-2006 programmes cover also the landscape, which falls under the heading of rural development.

**3.3.2. Community initiatives**  
**3.3.2.1. Interreg.** The initiative promotes trans-European cooperation: it co-funds transborder, transnational and interregional cooperation programmes so as to foster a harmonious and balanced development of the community territory. Interreg, now the primary field for ESDP, explicitly covers landscape issues.

**3.3.2.3. Leader** The initiative was activated in the 1990s to test the new rural development policy promoted by the Community following CAP reform. The Leaders have made it possible to finance a number of projects for the enhancement of natural areas, villages and rural settlements, mainly for tourist and recreational purposes.

**3.4. Cultural programmes.** The five-year *Culture 2000* (2000- 2004) five-year programme, though foreseeing meagre limited funds, plays a major strategic role, inasmuch as it is the first programme ever to consider culture as important in *itself*

**3.5. Programmes within the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership.** *Euromed Heritage* is the programme implementing cooperation policies between the European Union and the countries on the south coast of the Mediterranean. The *Delta* project deals with the landscape.

**3.6. Programmes for Technological research and development.** Now in force is the Fifth Framework Programme (1998- 2002), which identifies four priority issues, and "key actions" for specific problems; it explores most of the issues related to landscape preservation and management issues, though without ever actually mentioning the landscape.

By way of example, the essay also sets out a series of measures foreseen and projects financed.