

New European Network for Landscape

On 23 February 2008, 40 representatives of 26 Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) from Italy, Germany, Ireland, Spain, United Kingdom and The Netherlands met to launch the CIVILSCAPE network. This network of NGOs has been founded to facilitate and encourage people to connect to their landscape and feel a responsibility for it. CIVILSCAPE's objective is to support the Florence Convention (the Council of Europe's Landscape Convention).



The activities to be organised by CIVILSCAPE will include awareness raising for the qualities of landscape, international exchanges of experience and knowledge about landscape management and planning, the development of a common strategy to influence landscape policies, and the identification of joint international projects.



The Tuscany Region offered facilities for the meeting in the Villa Careggi, a 15th Century Medici Villa in Florence. Massimo Gregorini, Director of Landscape in the Tuscan Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Trade stated: 'The foundation of CIVILSCAPE is an essential step in the process of carrying the Florence Convention into society. We are pleased to co-operate and to facilitate this initiative, and we offer working space in the Villa Careggi for the network's office, together with the other two networks around the Florence Convention, ENELC and UNISCAPE.'

The meeting took place in a relaxed atmosphere. Ideas were exchanged between the members, and an action plan was drafted, launching the immediate operation of the European network. In addition to its current members, twelve additional NGOs have expressed an interest in joining CIVILSCAPE in the near future, which will bring the total number of countries represented to twelve. Gerrit-Jan van Herwaarden of Landschapsbeheer in the Netherlands was nominated President, and Bas Pedroli of PETRARCA European Academy for the Culture of Landscape as Secretary*. The other members of the board are Inge Gotzmann (Bund Heimat & Umwelt, D); Pam Moore (ECOVAST, int.); Francesco Alberti la Marmorata (Landscape Observatory Biella, I); Boyana Vasileva (Sandglass, BG); Rita Micarelli (Mediterranean Landscape Atelier, I); Gerhard Ermischer (Spessart Project, D).



For further information, see www.civilscape.org.

* The initiative for CIVILSCAPE was taken by the Landscape Manifesto Group in the Netherlands, was supported by the Netherlands Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, and was facilitated by Alterra Wageningen UR.