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Introduction

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The European cultural landscape is a product of environmental conditions and historical and present land use. Human impact on the land has changed it into the landscape that we know now with all its characteristics. The peculiarity of Europe compared to most other continents is that the European landscape is characterized by a long-term relatively stable development and long traditions in culture and land use. Nature and culture are mutually adapted. Visions on what the landscape is and how it should be valued differ regionally among its users and this diversity led to a great cultural diversity in landscape, however, with always the same building blocks. In the past the vision on the land and landscapes has been influenced by farmers, landowners, painters and writers, but now more and more 'global' and 'urban' influences such as television, marketing strategies, health visions, animal welfare and internet have an impact on the vision of the landscape. Will the European cultural landscape be a vanishing past, will it be a product to be conserved, will it be adapted to future uses or will it be used as a sales product for tourism? How will our landscapes then develop? The landscape that we discussed in the workshop is the landscape of Europe where changes might be expected to happen varying from abandonment to intensification of production and intensification of consumption: natural, cultural, industrial and 'McDonalds' landscapes.

The development of knowledge and land-use skills has taken place through general approaches in management and regional specialization. This led to regional characteristics, regionally adapted but efficient production processes, and prosperity. Present development creates new perspectives and new problems: globalization is adapting the landscape to globally comparable scales, mechanization is adapting landscapes to the size and the capacities of machines and in this way regional characteristics are threatened to disappear.

There is not yet a strong body of interdisciplinary concepts and research to give a firmer foundation to ideas about landscape development and its sustainability. Landscape-development questions relate to complex problems with plural objectives, larger scales in space and time, inherent uncertainties and local or regional sentiments. Insight can come from intensive discussions between different fields of science and stakeholders. Common aspects of landscapes are not always accepted as being important for general understanding. As with their own home, for many stakeholders and even scientists the own landscape is unique and not comparable with other landscapes; its main characteristics are made up by their own management. Still all these unique landscapes adapt to the same global processes, and comparable elements or land uses disappear in the same way.

The landscape structure is still the basis for the historical regional diversity of landscapes. This is its attractiveness, but it also causes a systems crisis: a misfit of

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structure and societal needs. It is known from history that artificially steady states in economic and ecological systems such as a fully planned economy or an isolated island can maintain themselves for long periods, but they are fragile and susceptible to external influences and lack resilience. This is also the case for artificially maintained cultural landscapes. They are not sustainable if they are under pressure of modern developments; they have to change in order to survive economically. Parts will disappear as the traditional corn-windmills have disappeared and new structures will be part of the landscape through the introduction of new functions such as new windmills for electricity production. The building of motorways to remote areas or an airport will also have immense impact. In this context planning as a control tool is important for organizing structure and functions in a harmonious way.

The workshop and this book are built around the different aspects of the present-day landscapes. In the first part Kevin Parris describes the outlook for European agriculture until 2020 and its implications of trends in supply and demand for agricultural landscapes. He also examines the recent and future impacts of the reform of agricultural policies on European agricultural landscapes. Jerry Kaufman in his chapter brings us to the United States where interesting developments are ongoing. He discusses ways of achieving better planning of the food system in the US, with the primary focus on strengthening the capacities of more fragile and vulnerable *local* food systems as a diversifying power against the dominance of the market-driven, mainstream food system. To improve local food systems in the US it is important to understand what is happening in the dominant mainstream food system, because that system poses formidable constraints to how much success local food systems can achieve. This sector of the American economy affects the contemporary American landscape, and what happens here can teach us in Europe how to deal with global aspects and local food systems. Peter Smeets emphasizes that the southern and central regions of The Netherlands are part of the Northwest-European Delta Metropolis with numerous demands that must be met in a period of structural decline in yields and under the permanent pressure of a shortage of land. The agrarian cultural landscape, for centuries a by-product of traditional agriculture, is under increasing pressure. Smeets argues that the problems of the future of the landscape in Northwestern Europe should be tackled outside the traditional framework of the agrarian production.

The real differences in landscapes are not only economic but also cultural; they can be found in the planning system and the way regional policies have been developing over time. Gary Fry discusses the integration of cultural and natural heritage aspects of landscapes. He presents arguments for the further integration but also points to the potential for conflicts between cultural and natural heritage interests. According to him the polarization between intensification and extensification and the distinction between urban and rural is becoming diffuse. Problems involved with the multifunctional use of small spaces are manifold but also offer new opportunities. Marc Antrop shows us that the landscape is in a fast transition. Different societal groups are forcing to make their values 'hard' in rules and legislation. The most widely used and effective technique is becoming the owner of the land. In many countries of Europe only fragments of traditional landscapes remain. He emphasizes the need for creative, long-term and holistic visions of the future of our landscapes. Selman looks at factors influencing the maintenance of cultural landscapes in developed countries, especially in the UK. He considers the driving forces, the role of management plans and land-use plans, the 'barriers' and 'bridges' that hinder or facilitate the implementation of plans and the use of plans to facilitate sustainable

development of these landscapes. In their contribution Primdahl et al. state the role of social processes. In agricultural landscapes, decisions on landscape structures and functions play a fundamental role with the farmers as the key actors. The relationship between farmers' landscape-management decisions, landscape change and public policies is analysed in respect to the main driving forces, with emphasis on different types of policy interventions, farmers' decisions and agricultural regions.

European landscapes are multifunctional landscapes. They combine production, consumption, outdoor recreation, biodiversity and scenery. Mander and Kuuba argue that the landscapes of Europe are the result of thousands of years of human impact. As a product of human intervention in natural processes, they have always been changing. A degradation of landscape diversity into rather monotonous and uniform areas of intensive agriculture on the one hand and a-specific wilderness on abandoned land on the other hand, is the result of recent policy regarding the European landscape. Pinto Correia and Vos present an extensive analysis of the characteristics of some of the remaining traditional landscapes in the Mediterranean region, which result from complex land-use systems often combining agro-, silvo- and pastoral production systems. Despite some current changes, in some areas these landscapes still maintain the multifunctionality at field, farm and landscape level. But also here the systems are changing, and the existing instruments that should support them are only helping to maintain part of the system – which will not avoid their decline. In their contribution Wrbka et al. discuss the special position of Alpine farming. Especially, in the Alpine regions traditional mountain peasantry based on dairy farming can be found. Therefore many Austrian farmers are facing a great economic pressure caused by recent socio-economic changes, but there is also a growing awareness for the high non-market values produced by these small family farms. Jongman discusses the changes in landscape linkages and their relation with the historical and environmental context of a landscape. He argues that history has had an impact on the regional diversity.

The perspectives for the future are just slowly getting clear. Landscapes will change, that is without doubt. Bridgewater and Bridgewater argue that the key issue for the future is: what policy settings are needed to ensure their survival in the face of environmental homogenization, as part of the general process of globalization? Klijn tries to identify these driving forces behind landscape transformation. His questions are i) what are the direction and rate of changes; ii) how to value these; iii) whether or not to intervene; and iv) if so, how? The concept of driving forces is explained and elaborated, specifically for landscapes. He uses two related conceptual models; the first based on the DPSIR (Driver-Pressure-State-Impact-Response) concept and – more targeted – a 'mental map' for landscape change. Moss and Okey make the comparison with Europe from a distance, from Northern America. To provide a broad perspective, cultural landscapes are examined with particular reference to the province of Ontario, Canada. Here the consequences of a landscape structure onto which human attributes of landscape have been imposed are used as a basis for comparison with the longer, organic evolution of landscape as is manifest in Northwest Europe. More specifically landscape processes are examined with respect to the traditional agricultural practices of the Mennonite community of Southern Ontario, where many indicators of landscape sustainability show negative attributes. Finally, Wascher considers the large diversity of landscape aspects that are characteristic for specific regions as one of the key cultural heritage elements of Europe. Being strongly rooted in earth sciences as well as social sciences, landscape indicators can play an essential role when assessing sustainability of Europe's rural and peri-urban land. He explores

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some national approaches to 'Landscape Character Assessment' as references for the practical application of indicators. He ends with a set of conclusions and recommendations addressing scientists and policymakers.

The workshop ended with intensive discussions on the question how research might support landscape policy and management. Actually here the diversity in views was as great as in the European landscapes. Still, there were common grounds, common understanding and common approaches that can be shared and generalize the issue of the development of future European landscapes on the political agenda in Europe.