

## **Preface**

The European Landscape is under stress of changing land use and a changing attitude of its users. Globalization, the disappearance of the iron curtain and the recent EU enlargement to 25 countries have changed the economic and environmental dimensions of Europe. Europe is changing its face from a western and eastern part to one European Union and to fast connections between its centres of activity. The rural and cultural heritage of Europe has to be adapted to cope with this change. However, its landscape is worth to be conserved as well, because it represents the European history in the same way as castles and churches. It even more represents the history of the common people, because it has been the tradition of the rural population that made these landscapes.

It cannot be prevented that Europe is changing and it is good that Europe adapts to the new dimensions of the world. We, in Europe, have to define what we think is important and what must be conserved, what can be adapted to be used for new functions and what can be abolished because it has no value. These decisions will determine the new dimensions of the European landscapes.

The Frontis Workshop on the New Dimensions of the European Landscape was held on 10-12 June 2002. Wageningen University and Research Centre organized this workshop aiming to develop visions on the landscape in Europe, its development and design in the future and to strengthen the international network in landscape planning.

A selected group of experts in the field were invited to present their vision. All participants were asked to write an essay regarding the developments they see and the ideas they have about future developments and to present that essay in the workshop; all received a specified request for their contribution. The workshop ended with a round-table discussion among the participants on the different aspects of the European landscape and the perspectives for research and landscape planning. This book contains the majority of the contributions; only a few have not been included due to various reasons.

The workshop was organized in themes on status and trends, on cultural landscape and conflicts, on landscape functions and on the organization of the new landscape. The workshop had two round-table discussion sessions.

This publication is organized in the same way, but has been adapted according to the output of the workshop. It has sections on socio-economic trends, planning and policy, on multifunctionality and on perspectives. It ends with a report of the conclusions of the workshop. Editors are Rob Jongman (scientific editor of this volume) and Rob Bogers (Frontis Series editor).

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