The Future of Dutch Landscape Research: EUROPE

Bas Pedroli
Degrading landscapes
Bulk commodities and energy crops
Sustainable development?
what is landscape?

- Champagne landscape, Walachian landscape, Moravian landscape
- objective ↔ subjective
- landscape perception (and –valuation) strongly variable
  - between groups of people (hunters, farmers, tourists)  
    "Filius et al., 2000"
  - in time: from hiking through farmland to farming in a leisure landscape  
    "Buijs et al., 2004"
- Landscape = value-laden reality consisting of objectively registrable objects  
  "Jones, 1991"
need for regional identity + sustainable rural development

- Growing demand in Europe for quality of life based on healthy and specific environment
- European Landscape Convention:
  
  Landscape – mirror of our innermost selves
- Participation in landscape: a right and a responsibility, and the only guarantee of sustainability
- New consciousness required: e.g. estate management, shared gardens, care farms
- no landlord anymore guaranteeing identity
- stakeholders: inhabitants, users, authorities
- new commitment through observation of and action in the landscape itself
- workshops, artist impressions
12 March 2008 - Bas Pedroli

WLO for Europe?
Towards a common European research agenda?

Various environments:
- Anglo-Saxon: bio-ecological, quantitative aspects
- Central European: geographic, land use aspects
- French: sociological approach
- What do the people themselves think? Is landscape perception also differing in the different countries? EU-effects?
- Challenge for a Dutch perspective
typically European sense of

**Loss and Grief**

Pedroli et al., 2006

- Landscape: a European peculiarity (at least differing from WTO dominants like USA, Canada, Australia)
- increasingly simplified landscapes where we feel cut off from our roots
- a strong call for landscape preservation with a reference image of around 1900

better:
- engage science in the construction of new visions
  Nowotny et al., 2001
- allow for evolutionary change within agreed upon boundaries conditions: integrity and identity
  Pinto-Correia, 2000; Van Mansvelt & Pedroli, 2003
Managing change

- combine local information and perception (landscape character) with globalised requirements
- involve both local actors and global onlookers, local space and global flows

Swaffield & Primdahl, 2004
Landscape demand?

- diversity in meanings of landscape, but landscape remains much associated with nature and with everyday life

- analysis of social demand reveals an open scene for the social significance of the landscape! something interesting for Europe?

- policy to be directed to mobilise both material and immaterial values

- include landscape values in spatial planning!

*Luginbühl, 2001*
Dutch niche in landscape research

- landscape perception to be better studied
- landscape values to be substantialised (emotional, economical, esthetical)
- involvement of local public and stakeholders
- sustainability by innovative new functions of the landscape, instead of mere conservation
- public policies to be supported to safeguard effective bottom-up involvement
From landscape knowledge to landscape action

- facilitating the understanding and appreciation of various perspectives in the landscape,
- learning from examples of good landscape practice, inspired by the local people,
- turning landscape degradation into revitalisation of the European landscape, one of our most precious assets.
- overcoming the feeling of loss and grief by taking action!
European networks

- LANDSCAPE EUROPE (www.landscape-europe.net)
- Landscape Research Group (www.landscaperesearch.org)
- Landscape Tomorrow (www.landscape-tomorrow.org)
- IALE Europe (wwwlandscape-ecology.org)
- ECLAS (www.eclas.org)
- EFLA (www.efla.org)
- UNISCAPE (www.uniscape.org)
- AESOP (www.aesop-planning.com)
- etc.
Reframing the Future of the European Landscape:
Policy Visions and Research Support

Seminar in Stresa (Italy)  May 23rd-24th 2008
Why?

- landscape affected by EU policy but not within EU competence
- therefore: put landscape on the EU agenda
- LANDSCAPE EUROPE as an established knowledge network: independent initiator & mediator
- PEER backing up
Who?

- invitational seminar ca 60 participants
- high level policy makers at EU, national and regional level
- landscape research community
How

- prepare headlines for debate
- discuss these with persons to be invited, to increase commitment
- identify *their* key issues
- prepare blueprint for EUROSCAPE 2020 (including thorough empirical evidence of landscape change as a consequence of EU policies)
- high level debate on key issues, well facilitated, good ambiance in Stresa, 23 May
- well prepared excursion 24 May to show and discuss some achievements in the field
- official presentation of EUROSCAPE 2020 blueprint to a minister
Blueprint for EUROSCAPE 2020 to present three concrete proposals for developing European policies (and research strategies) that are firmly rooted in regional and local approaches:

(1) an integrated and bottom-up *reporting mechanism* that builds upon landscape services while involving people and decision-makers;

(2) a *spatial vision* for Europe that links different sectors and policy objectives into coherent frameworks; and

(3) *new forms of governance* that allow regional and local authorities to pro-actively contribute to European policy development and implementation.
landscape towards diversity in unity by research at European level