



# **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  $\leftrightarrow$  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 land lord anymore guaranteeing identity
- stakeholders: inhabitants, users, authorities
- new commitment through observation of and action in the landscape itself
- workshops, artist impressions



# 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

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- 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 *Luginbühl, 2001*
- 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!

# Dutch niche in landscape research

- landscape perception to be better studied
- landscape values to be substantiated (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

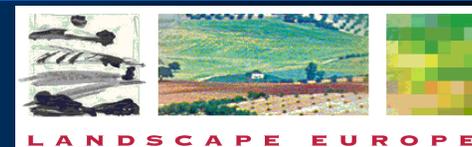
- facilitating the understanding and appreciation of various perspectives in the landscape,
- learning from examples of good landscape practice, inspired by the local people,
- turning landscape degradation into revitalisation of the European landscape, one of our most precious assets.
- overcoming the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

# European networks

- LANDSCAPE EUROPE ([www.landscape-europe.net](http://www.landscape-europe.net))
- Landscape Research Group ([www.landscaperesearch.org](http://www.landscaperesearch.org))
- Landscape Tomorrow ([www.landscape-tomorrow.org](http://www.landscape-tomorrow.org))
- IALE Europe ([www.landscape-ecology.org](http://www.landscape-ecology.org))
- ECLAS ([www.eclas.org](http://www.eclas.org))
- EFLA ([www.efla.org](http://www.efla.org))
- UNISCAPE ([www.uniscape.org](http://www.uniscape.org))
- AESOP ([www.aesop-planning.com](http://www.aesop-planning.com))
- etc.



# EUROSCAPE 2020



Reframing the Future of the European Landscape:  
Policy Visions and Research Support

Seminar in Stresa (Italy) May 23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> 2008



O fo



# 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

## Headlines



*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**