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ACTIVITIES FOR THE PROTECTION OF HISTORICAL CULTURAL LANDSCAPES AS A SUPPLEMENTARY TOOL FOR LAND MANAGEMENT WITH THE AIM OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL POTENTIAL

Summary

More and more frequently, one witnesses these days the appearance of a new approach to historical cultural landscapes. Not only do they now embrace objects of historical and environmental value, but also the potential for local and regional development. However, such an understanding of historical cultural landscapes, as a potential for local and regional development, necessitates additional instruments, plans, approaches, and methodologies.

The article presents an analysis of a landscape plan in Germany and a case study on the potential of historical cultural landscapes for local and regional development in Poland.

Conducted studies reveal the usefulness of activities for the protection of historical cultural landscapes in the context of land management. Such activities contribute to the improvement of landscape protection and conservation methods, taking into consideration their potential for local and regional development at the same time.

Key words: Citizen activities, land management, landscape plan, historical cultural landscapes, local and regional development

INTRODUCTION

As a result of the traditional way of land use the valuable cultural landscapes developed. However, due to the present lack of the traditional land use these valuable landscapes are threatened by extinction.

For the protection and preservation of the cultural landscapes the European Council initiated the European Landscape Convention [European Landscape

Convention 2000]. Landscapes should be given a legal status and should be recognized as a base for value of life, shaping regional and local consciousness and expressing natural and cultural diversity. Protection, management and planning of landscape should be guaranteed regardless of whether the landscape is natural, cultural, urban, degraded or if it is characterized by a unique beauty or if it belongs to "everyday" landscapes [Stoeglehner, Schmid 2007]. In accordance with the European Landscape Convention the landscape policy should be put into effect. It includes the main principles, strategies and directives whose aim is to put means of landscape protection, management and planning into practice. The aims for the improvement of landscape quality, distinguished of individual landscapes, have to be adopted. In the first place these matters have to be taken into consideration in spatial planning.

Nowadays the more and more dominant view is a new approach to historical cultural landscapes. These landscapes are no longer protected goods of historical and environmental character but they are also potential for local and regional development [Gawroński 2008, Dixon-Gough 2009, Hernik 2009, Van der Valk 2009]. However, for such an approach to these landscapes, as a potential for local and regional development, additional tools, plans, approaches and methodologies are needed.

Historical cultural landscapes will be a potential for local and regional development when they are properly included in the widely understood environmnetal shaping and spatial economy, including land economy. From the side of land economy historical cultural landscapes can be threatened, underestimated and in this way their potential can be wasted.

MATERIALS AND METHOD

The authors of the article conducted joint study visits in the area of Małopolska voivodeship (province), in particular Wiśniowa community in 2006, and in the Federal States of Nordrhein-Westfalen and Hessen in 2008 in order to collect source materials for a comparative analysis. On the base of the collected materials and beforehand conducted studies the following hypotheses of the development of historical cultural landscapes by landscape planning were worked out:

− Landscape changes continuously due to the economic use of land and its changes,

− To protect and conserve historical cultural landscapes their economic uses have to be taken into consideration,

− A bottom-up process of monitoring, planning and reorganization of land holdings with public participation is needed,

– A legally binding plan and legal proceedings of reorganization of land holdings are required to define targets and measures of landscape developing and to realize them, even if the owner and the owner of any other entitlements of a plot will not agree.

The hypothesis of the article is that the activities for the protection of historical cultural landscapes on one hand can effectively protect and preserve the landscapes, in which there is a reference to old (traditional) forms of land use, and on the other hand the activities are a potential for local and regional development. Having the above hypothesis in mind the main aim of the article is to demonstrate the usefulness of the activities for the protection of historical cultural landscapes in land management for a more effective way of the protection and preservation of these landscapes by means of appealing to the traditional (old) forms of land use. Moreover, the aim of the article is to demonstrate a potential of historical cultural landscapes for local and regional development. With this aim the studies included the analysis of the landscape plan in Germany and the case study on the potential of historical cultural landscapes for local and regional development in Poland. The study method applied in the article is based on logical and comparative analysis with the use of descriptive techniques.

LANDSCAPE PLAN IN GERMANY

Even if the Federal Republic of Germany has not joined the European Landscape Convention of the European Council up to now, in 2006 the Conference of Ministers for Spatial Planning (MKRO) agreed on the general principle "preserve resources, shape landscapes" as one of three strategic general principles for the German spatial development [MKRO 2006].

This general principle supports the spatially relevant elements of sustainability as well as the European idea of territorial cohesion. It clarifies not only the importance of the emergent landscape in the spatial development but also the close relationship between landscape and the requirements of the society. The public authorities have to accommodate these instructions as a part of their planning.

The German landscape planning is dominated by the precautionary principle. The conservation of the ability of the nature is not realizable if there is no possible economic development of the region further.

The general sectoral planning aspects of the landscape protection and the landscape planning, their instruments as well as their contents are regulated in the Federal Nature Conservation Act [BNatSchG 2002]. The federal states have to add supplementary provisions, especially the binding force of the landscape plan.

These targets and measures of nature protection and landscape conservation should be described in a landscape program on the level of a federal state, in landscape framework plans on the level of a region and in landscape plans on the

level of a municipality. They also include information about the actual existing and the expected status of nature and landscape.

The important role of the landscape plan is to specify the targets and measures of the landscape framework plan for a part of the municipality. They have to be adapted to actual changes.

In Germany in general there are two different types of binding force of the landscape plan.

In some Federal States, such as Hessen, the landscape plan is part of the preparatory land-use plan of the municipality (scale 1:10000 up to 1:20000). The local requirements and measures of nature protection and landscape conservation are shown area-wide. If there are conflicts with economic developments, for example preparation of land for building and cultural landscape conservation, public and private interests are to be duly weighed by the municipality. But economic interests will often be favored, especially if there is a local competition between two municipalities for new industrial settlement or citizens.

Although public participation in this planning process is required there are merely small possibilities of the citizens or of the owner of a plot to protect their interests by remedies because the contents of the German preparatory land-use plan are legally binding only upon public authorities. So only those contents which will be part of a subsequent binding land-use plan are legally binding upon all citizens. But there is no legally binding land-use plan in the undesignated outlying area of a municipality. So there is in general no possibility to enjoin a private owner from using his parcel of land contrary to the measures of nature protection and landscape conservation as shown in the preparatory land-use plan.

The defined measures of nature protection and landscape conservation in Hessen can only be realized by contracts with the owner or the owner of any other entitlements to a plot. A valid contract shall only be formed if the owner gets a pecuniary compensation. The extent of the compensation will be part and result of the negotiations between the owner and the public authorities. In case no friendly arrangement is possible, the measures cannot be realized. So it may happen that a measure of an area-wide landscape conservation can only be realized in small discontiguous subareas because merely some of the necessary contracts with the different owners could be provided. The reallocation and consolidation of land holdings can be used to realize the defined measures by swapping plots or leasing contracts in case if all owners agree.

In other Federal States, like Nordrhein-Westfalen, a special legally binding landscape plan is adopted by the county for the undesignated outlying area. A public participation in the planning process is implemented and obligatory. Local measures to realize the targets and the principles of nature protection and landscape conservation are determined in this landscape plan. Such local measures can be:

– Protection and conservation of historical cultural landscapes,

– Conservation and planting of landscape elements, like field margins, hedges, groves, baulks an so on, for a large diversity of these elements in the area for agricultural use,

– Conservation of a grown cultural landscape with its biological and cultural characteristics.

The landscape plan in Nordrhein-Westfalen (scale 1:500 up to 1:2.000, Photo 1) includes:

– Descriptions of the development targets of the landscape like conservation, accumulation, restoration, extension, temporary conservation, perpetuation of functions, conservation of open space, ensuring and developing of natural habitat,

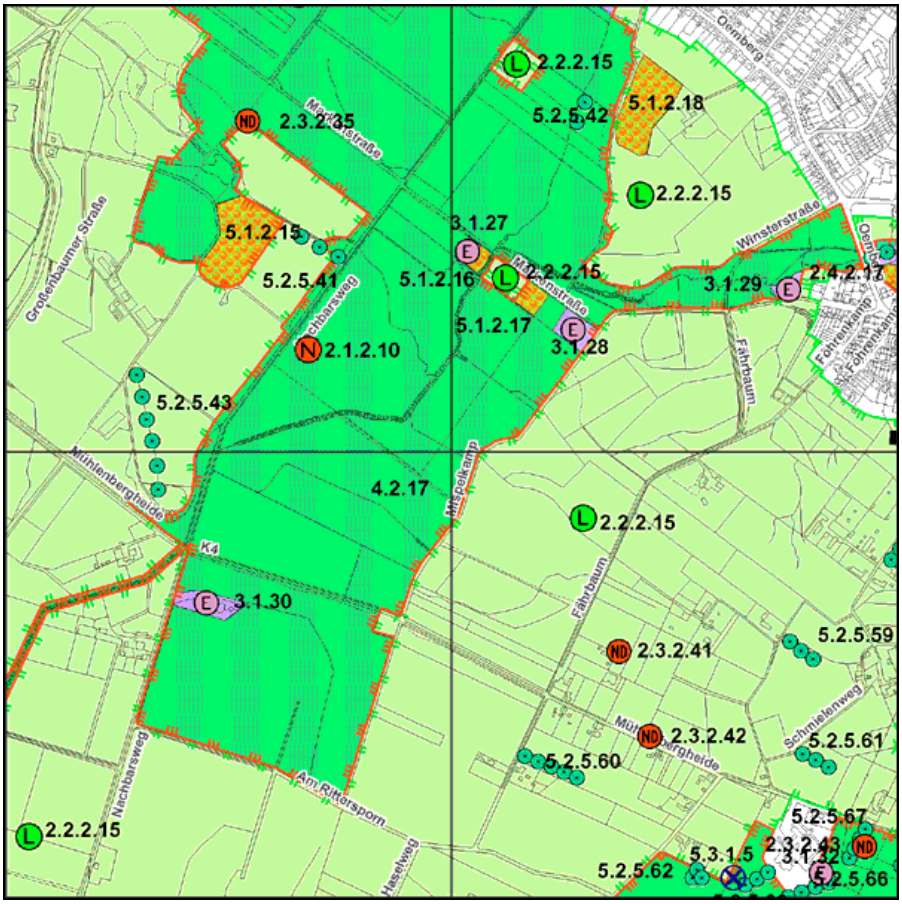

Photo 1. Part of a landscape plan of a city in Nordrhein-Westfalen (not to scale)

– Legally binding arrangement for the protection of special parts of nature and landscape, like nature protection area, landscape protection area, natural monument, protected element of landscape,

– Specific functions of fallow land,

– Measures for developing, preserving and opening up.

– The consequences of a legal landscape plan in Nordrhein-Westfalen are:

– All public authorities must regard the legally binding arrangements of the landscape plan during their planning processes. They have to adapt their plan,

– There is a large scope for the realization of the planning targets and development measures of the landscape plan. If it is necessary for the realization of these targets and measures, the use of the private plots can be restricted. Bans and rules as well as the right of pre-emption are possible. An owner of a plot can be pledged to correct existing defects if it is reasonable for him. For example he has to plant hedges or groves. Owners of a plot and the owner of any other entitlements have to accept cultivating and developing measures for nature protection and landscaping,

– First of all the public administration has to verify if a contract with the owner or the owner of any other entitlements to a plot for the realization of the measures is possible. If a compensation has to be provided it is part of this contract. The realization can also be done in a reallocation and consolidation of land holdings,

– But, if necessary, it is also possible to expropriate. In the case of agricultural or forestry land affected by nature protection measures in a large-scale, reallocation and consolidation proceedings may be initiated under Section 87 paragraph 1 of the Farmland Consolidation Act [Flurbereinigungsgesetz 1976]. The land loss, which the aggrieved party has to suffer, is to be distributed among a larger group of landowners, or adverse effects for agriculture as a whole resulting from the nature protection measure are to be prevented.

As the landscape plan of Nordrhein-Westfalen is legally binding the citizens or the owner of a plot have remedies to protect their interests. They have the possibility to control if the law court has duly weighed up public and private interests.

CASE STUDY OF THE POTENTIAL OF HISTORICAL CULTURAL LANDSCAPES FOR LOCAL AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The essence of the studies on landscape changes is also the analysis of landscape historical sources. Considering past times in the analysis allows a more clear perception of landscape, which experiences a ceaseless change. It also allows a discovery of forgotten elements of landscape character, and in such

a way a more conscious decision as to what "value" should be assigned to given cultural landscape elements, and what attempt of protection and creation is accepted and justified for a given cultural landscape type [Schmidt 2007].

At the beginning of the methodological approach to studies, within the case study on the potential of historical cultural landscapes for local and regional development, there was created an extensive table with the data on the cultural landscapes of the urban-rural and rural communities of the area of Małopolska voivodeship (extensive approach). On the base of this analysis there were chosen two characteristic communities of Małopolska for detailed studies: the urban-rural community of Miechów and the rural community of Wiśniowa. Next from the cultural landscapes of the community of Miechów and the community of Wiśniowa there were selected the landscapes of a special character for the development of a given community within pilot projects (selective approach). Among others on the base of frequent field visits and numerous source materials the following were worked out: local spatial development plan, study of conditions and directions of spatial development, community development strategy, cartographic materials, including historical ones, land and building records, and also tourist maps as well as guides. As a consequence the selection was once more considerably changed. The cooperation with many people from these communities also contributed considerably to this modification. Hence, "external research look" at landscapes was supplemented with "internal look" of the local population. It allowed the selection of the best pilot projects, for the preservation of the cultural landscapes of the communities, for the international project "Protecting Historical Cultural Landscapes to Strengthen Regional Identities and Local Economies" within the EU Interreg III B Cadses program [www.cadses.ar.krakow.pl]. There were selected activities concerning renewable source of energy in Miechów community and farm tourism in Wiśniowa community.

Within the above-mentioned project in the communities of Miechów and Wiśniowa there were conducted pilot activities, which aim was to show on model examples the connections between the activities for cultural landscape protection and specific business enterprises on local level. The most important direction of the development of Wiśniowa community, which results among other things from the strategy of the development of the community, is the development of farm tourism. The community realizes its development program getting involved in the tasks on tourist infrastructure considering a rich historical and cultural heritage and an attractive submontane landscape. At present, in the period of an economic development and a sudden decrease of agricultural production due to its low profitability, the protection of landscape and cultural heritage has gained a special significance. A water reservoir created within the project is used for the needs of tourism and recreation. The reservoir has influenced the increase of tourist attractiveness of the community and at the same

time preserved the typical cultural landscape of this area. Miechów community has got an agricultural character and contends with serious problems such as for example: a high unemployment, causing depopulation of rural villages, and an economic recession, affecting agricultural to a considerable degree. Therefore, a few years ago Miechów started works on the promotion and implementation of the solutions based on renewable source of energy. The main goal of the implementation of the solution based on renewable sources of energy in the community was an improvement of the economic situation in agriculture and a reduction of the cost of energy for individual consumers and community institutions. At the same time the community achieves notable "ecological-energy" results. Moreover, the point was to acquire energy from biomass, above all from straw and oat grains (not suitable for consumption). Therefore, the biomass comes exclusively from the area of the community and its source, arable fields, is an important element of the cultural landscape. Arable fields are characterized by a picturesque mosaic-like nature, which is characteristic for the Małopolska voivodeship, numerous trees and baulks as well as a very high biodiversity. Making an effort to meet the expectations and needs of the society within the subject project in Miechów there was created the centre of renewable energy together with the demonstrational devices for the production of cheap and clean energy. The center is used for the promotion of biomass and other sources of renewable energy as well as for the promotion of their influence on the preservation of historical cultural landscape.

The activities in the two communities rely on the assumption that a big potential for the development of rural cultural landscape in Małopolska is not used because of infrastructural lacks. The examples from Miechów and Wiśniowa show as well that it is worth investing in the places where it is possible to revive squalid surroundings and also to preserve historical cultural landscapes.

In case such historical cultural landscapes have been detected, a preservative use is to be found for them. In Germany, for example fruit tree meadows (Streuobstwiesen) are an endangered, species-rich, semi-natural habitat that can be found in cultural landscapes near villages (Photo 2).

A traditional area of this extensive grassland-orchard management system consists of a meadow with scattered fruit trees (normally tall-growing, traditional varieties) is to be mown usually once or twice a year. But today there is no real economic possibility for using such areas. An economic production of fruits like apples, plums or cherries needs a high density of low-growing trees achieving high yields. As a consequence meadows with old fruit trees will be destroyed because the tall-growing trees will often not be pruned and the grassland will not be mown. To prevent such areas from destruction the activities of a group of local inhabitants with an interest in maintaining such historic practices of land use are normally needed. In this way the protection of such a historical land use

will be a part of social events. Such an event could be for example harvesting fruits in autumn and the selfproduction of natural juice or fruit brandy. This is often combined with a local festival, like thanksgiving, and also offered to visitors from city regions. In that manner the problem of the lacking economic benefit is transformed into a social benefit. Therefore, it is necessary that the historical land use is legally protected and that the development of a network of people interested in using such areas is initialized.

Photo 2. Non-pruned fruit trees in Hessen

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The comparison of the legal situation of landscape planning of Hessen and Nordrhein-Westfalen shows that a sustainable development of cultural landscape needs legally binding arrangements of the landscape plan as well as land management proceedings for the realization of the specified targets and measures. The administrative responsibility competence for the development of the landscape plan for the undesignated outlying area of a municipality should not be assumed by the municipal because of the economic and ecological conflicts as well as the developing cross-community. It should be the task of the county or a special public authority. However, the concerned municipalities should be involved in the developing process of the landscape plan.

The activities in Miechów and Wiśniowa are interesting pilot activities showing on examples the connections between activities for cultural landscape protection and business enterprises. The example of Miechów community shows a possibility to acquire biomass for renewable sources of energy, which is an

important stimulus for the development of rural areas and also, as a consequence of that, for the protection of traditional lively agricultural landscapes of Miechów community. Increasing prices of energy and ecological reasons give biomass a chance to become a common source of energy in rural areas. Whereas, in Wiśniowa community, within the project, there were realized activities for sustainable farm tourism as a part of the reconstruction of the reservoir together with the development of the adjoining lands with small tourist infrastructure. The investment influences the preservation of a typical community landscape and at the same time increases the attractiveness of these areas for economic development.

CONCLUSIONS

Poland as well as Germany stands out in rural areas because of their great diversity and identity of cultural landscapes. The diversity, which is potentially the most important factor of the development of these areas, should be preserved. The Polish pilot projects in the two communities show that it is possible to preserve cultural landscape and gain economic profits at the same time.

On the base of the carried studies there was shown the usefulness of the activities for the protection of historical cultural landscapes in land management for a better way of the protection and preservation of these landscapes and at the same there was included their potential for local and regional development.

A sustainable development of cultural landscape requires a continuous circuit of monitoring actual developments of the cultural landscape, developing and adapting legally binding arrangements of the landscape plan as well as land management proceedings for the realization of the specified targets and measures by public authorities. The legally binding plan has the function to define and localise different categories of historical landscape protection areas. There will be areas under nature protection as well as areas with less or higher biodiversity for which new forms of land use can be found. These land management proceedings have to be supplemented by financal aid programs in order to sustain land uses which play an important part for the cultural landscape, but have no economic benefit at present. Financing measures to preserve the landscape can be part of such a financial aid programm or, moreover, the compensation of the lower financal benefit of an owner, and furthermore, the initial funding of a network of people which are interested in such a historical land use.

Nevertheless, the owners of the plots as well as the citizens have to be involved in the planning process of a new landscape plan and their interests have to be considered and duly weighed up. Moreover, it is important to acquaint citizens with the importance of cultural landscape protection so that the corresponding measures are accepted, supported, implemented and practised by them.

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