

IN THIS ISSUE

Discovering magic landscapes: 5th partner meeting in Karpacz/PL | Page 1

First project outputs available on the project website | Page 2

Implementing the green infrastructure approach in central Europe and beyond | Page 3

Interview with documentary filmer Lenka Ovčáčková: Documenting the history of near-natural green spaces and their present use by people in central Europe | Page 4

Registration now open: MaGICLandscapes Final Conference & Green Infrastructure Symposium | Page 6

DISCOVERING MAGIC LANDSCAPES: 5TH PARTNER MEETING IN KARPACZ/PL

On the 8th to 10th of October 2019 MaGICLandscapes partners met in Lower Silesia/PL in the town of Karpacz at the foot of the Karkonosze Mountains. The key issues discussed were the visualisation of current connectivity and functionality values of the GI network at local level in form of maps to enable stakeholders to invest where GI is most needed, e.g. to reduce soil loss, to mitigate climate extremes or for better water management. The maps provide answers to questions such as “Where will a new GI element increase the ecosystem services of a certain landscape patch?” The partners agreed upon a connectivity-functionality index assessing each GI element according to the MSPA analysis software provided by the [Joint Research Centre \(JRC\)](#) of the European Commission.

GI elements were assessed by a value from 0 (no landscape function) to 5 (high function). Furthermore, the partners worked together to produce a consistent symbology of landscape units throughout central Europe.

DISCUSSING THE RESULTS OF CONNECTIVITY & FUNCTIONALITY ANALYSES

The functionality assessment results provide an interesting overview of ecosystem services that certain GI elements currently do or do not provide. Based on the functionality mapping and consultation with local stakeholders regarding the needs for GI the core benefits of GI were analysed and will be presented at case study area level. Areas with limited GI functionality serve as the starting points for the strategies and action plans to demonstrate

how and where to invest in green infrastructure and to increase the benefits. The partners discussed the structure of the strategies and action plans being developed in the coming months. The key themes for GI improvement were presented: they range from complementing GI elements in the planning framework of the Czech Territorial System of Ecological Stability, improving the perception and communication of the GI concept, planting GI elements in urban areas, GI as part of river restoration and conservation projects facing climate extremes, amongst others. The GI strategy and action plans are key outputs of the project and are primarily targeted at regional and local policy makers as a guide and to provide detailed information as to where to invest in GI in the future. Beside the work package oriented discussions the



Left: MaGICLandscapes partners discuss strategies of GI enhancement in their case study areas; right: Common field trip on top of Karkonosze Mountains

partners were introduced to the Bukowiec area, part of a network of landscape parks in the Jelenia Góra basin and an important element of GI providing ecosystem services e.g. for recreation, cultural tourism and biodiversity. The [Valley Foundation Palaces and Gardens Jelenia Góra Basin](#) manages the historical buildings and GI in the Bukowiec area's landscape parks. Their aim is to establish a centre for historic-cultural and environmental education for both visitors and local people.



Left: Autumnal green infrastructure at Bukowiec estate; right: Marta Mejer from the Valley Foundation Palaces and Gardens Jelenia Góra Basin introduces the partner consortium to GI management approaches in the cultural landscape park Bukowiec

On the third day MaGIC partners explored parts of Karkonosze Mountains where they discovered locally important GI such as sub-alpine heath vegetation and meadows. Sandra Nejranowska from Karkonosze National Park introduced them to the spirit of Krakonoś/Liczyrzepa, the so-called lord of the mountains, the subject

of many a Czech, German and Polish legend and fairy tale. We would like to thank the team from Karkonosze National Park for their hospitality and Marta Mejer from the Valley

Foundation Palaces and Gardens for sharing her knowledge with us.

FIRST PROJECT OUTPUTS AVAILABLE ON THE PROJECT WEBSITE

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE HANDBOOK - CONCEPTUAL & THEORETICAL BACKGROUND, TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

The [Green Infrastructure Handbook](#) reflects the definition of Green Infrastructure (GI) and related terms, GI and its relationship to European, national and regional policies of the project partner countries Austria, the Czech Republic, Germany, Italy and Poland. It introduces the project's nine case study areas which provided the base

on which to identify and feedback needs for GI and best practice for assessment. The publication covers the territorial needs for a GI approach and its contribution to sustainable development in central Europe and beyond and shows how a GI approach can address specific territorial and common challenges.

The GI Handbook provides practice oriented information based on a literature review and legislation as well as integrating the experiences of local stakeholders.



Green Infrastructure Handbook: Conceptual and Theoretical Background, Terms and Definitions



New Outputs & Tools
for analysing and assessing
Green Infrastructure



Manual of Transnational Green Infrastructure Assessment - Decision Support Tool

MANUAL OF TRANSNATIONAL GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE ASSESSMENT - DECISION SUPPORT TOOL

The [Manual of Transnational GI Assessment](#) provides guidance in analysing the structure and types of GI at transnational level. It evaluates available data, e.g. provided by the [European Copernicus Programme](#), regarding their suitability for assessing GI, and demonstrates the process and methods of generating transnational GI maps.

The publication provides a method for ground-truthing and shows its application in the nine case study areas. The manual introduces a coordinated GI classification

scheme by providing GI maps of central Europe as well as of each case study area and provides some refinement examples to the national and regional level e.g. using more detailed biotope data.

The Manual is a useful tool for regional stakeholders dealing with GI mapping. The maps contained within it provide a well-founded basis for further GI analyses, for example on the provision of ecosystem services, biotope connectivity and functionality etc.

In addition to the English versions the overall series of project publications will also be available in the national languages Czech, German, Italian and Polish.

IMPLEMENTING THE GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE APPROACH IN CENTRAL EUROPE AND BEYOND

In the framework of 10th World Congress of the [International Association of Landscape Ecologists \(IALE\)](#) in Milan/Italy this summer with around 1,000 participants MaGICLandscapes arranged a workshop on the perspectives of green infrastructure in central Europe.

The main aim of the workshop was to introduce and discuss the potential of green infrastructure (GI) with respect to future challenges such as biodiversity loss and climate extremes. The participants shared ideas and knowledge regarding the development of unified and easy-to-use methods for mapping, evaluating and assessing GI, its functions, and public benefits.

The workshop depicted examples of implementing GI in urban, peri-urban and rural landscapes and to deploy and visualise the GI concept by means of geospatial information as well as tools to evaluate the benefits of GI. Around 100 participants listened to 12 presentations covering a broad thematic field starting from an introduction to the GI concept, reflections on the needs for a sound GI assessment and good practice examples of GI management and the challenges of communicating the concept at a national, regional and local scale.

The participants stressed potentials of integrated GI investments e.g. in-line with railway tracks or cycle paths constructions, in implementing the German Federal Concept of Green Infrastructure or the Czech Territorial System of Ecological Stability or in regard to climate adaption measures e.g. reducing wind erosion from arable lands by means of hedgerows in the Kyjovsko region (CZ) or in the Weinviertel area (AT).

The Green Infrastructure workshop at IALE was organised by following MaGICLandscapes partners: the Italian National Agency for New Technologies, Energy and Sustainable Economic Development (ENEA), the Leibniz-Institute for Ecological Urban and Regional Development (IOER), the Division of Conservation Biology, Vegetation Ecology and Landscape Ecology (CVL) of the University of Vienna and by the Silva Tarouca Research Institute for Landscape and Ornamental Gardening (VÚKOZ).



Above: Hana Skokanová from VÚKOZ introduces the audience to regional examples of GI planning in South Moravia (CZ); below: central European researchers, authorities and organisations exchanged their knowledge and ideas regarding GI during the MaGICLandscapes workshop at IALE 2019 in Milan.

DOCUMENTING THE HISTORY OF NEAR-NATURAL GREEN SPACES AND THEIR PRESENT USE BY PEOPLE IN CENTRAL EUROPE

We spoke to Lenka Ovčáčková who is producing short documentary films for MaGICLandscapes. In these films she is reflecting on people's relationship with their environment in the nine project case study areas from a historical and contemporary perspective and their ideas of sustainably managing green infrastructure.

What is your motivation to film people and their relationships to their (natural) environment in a documentary film format?

Lenka Ovčáčková: I spent my childhood and early youth in the White Carpathians, a border area between Moravia and Slovakia. It was there that I began to feel a deep connection with nature. My studies in Environment at the Masaryk University Brno and my doctoral studies in Philosophy and History of Science at the Charles University Prague served to further increase my knowledge and deepen this bond with nature. In 2006 I started to produce documentary films inspired by a philosophical-lyrical attitude to the holistic perception of nature, the landscape, and the people living in the diverse border regions of central Europe. After 13 years I have produced 9 bilingual films, and more will follow.

What do you want the films to communicate?

Lenka: I hope to make films that help motivate people to understand nature and landscapes in a holistic way, both from a historical and contemporary perspective. I want the

films to guide people in appreciating their own living space and in safeguarding and shaping their environment in a sustainable way. The project documentaries are enhanced by philosophical and poetical texts. My wish is to enrich the personal reflections of the interviewees with not by literature to better communicate the multifaceted perceptions of nature and landscapes.

This sensible and harmonious connection between people and nature represents a great force that has often influenced the course of history is in my opinion of vital importance to safeguard our environment and manage our green infrastructure sustainably.

Where exactly did the filming take place?

Lenka: The filming took place in all of the MaGICLandscapes case study areas. I spoke to people in the Dübener Heide and Upper Lusatia in Germany, in the Liberec region and the Jizera Mountains in the Czech Republic as well as in the Polish-Czech border landscape of the Giant Mountains. Further filming and interviews were carried out in



Lenka Ovčáčková | Photo: J. Reisinger

the Kyjov region of South Moravia, in the Austrian Waldviertel and Weinviertel, along the River Thaya on the Austrian-Czech border and in the Italian Piedmont in the hills around Chieri near Turin and in the riverine landscapes of the Po around the cities of Vercelli and Alessandria.

How do you organise the filming on the spot - from making the first contact until the last scene?

Lenka: During my research for potential interviewees I was grateful for the support from the project partners. Due to language difficulties they contacted people and arranged appointments and locations for the interviews and filming in Italy and Poland. In those regions where I could speak



Lenka documents people and landscapes of the MaGICLandscapes case study areas, among others Nature Park Dübener Heide/Germany (1), Western Weinviertel/Austria (2), Kyjovsko/Czech Republic (3) and Upper Po Plain/Italy (4).



in Czech, German or English I contacted the people myself - either recommended by the project partners or contacts I found myself. During our first appointment, I introduced them to the MaGICLandscapes project and discussed with them the possibility to take part in my films. The pure landscape shots I made before and after the interviews or I returned once more to the respective region to record nature and landscape in different atmospheres.

How would you describe the interaction between the interviewees and yourself during the film interview?

Lenka: During filming it is important for me to have a friendly and natural interaction with the interviewee. This atmosphere is essential for a good documentary film. When I contacted interviewees I always stressed my holistic approach to the topic of green infrastructure and requested that they reflect on their own subjective views and experiences. The meeting with each interviewee was and is very enriching for me and I really appreciate their openness and willingness to participate in the documentaries.

In your opinion which is the most challenging stage of film production and why?

Lenka: After contacting the interviewees the filming takes place with a view to realising interesting and enriching interviews. This second phase requires high concentration on my part, as

I am responsible both for the interviewing and for the filming and technical implementation (camera, sound, direction).

The major challenge for me is the time when I need to select the best interview sequences, music, philosophical-poetical quotes and the harmonising and most representative landscape shots. The raw material for the MaGICLandscapes documentary films already amounts to approximately 15 hours (effective end of October 2019) and the rough versions of the respective regional films are currently around 2 hours long. Now these versions have to be reviewed and edited again and again to be able to communicate the underlying "essence" of the films in the end.



Until now what was the most interesting experience for you during the film shootings for MaGICLandscapes?

Lenka: It's difficult to pick out just one experience of so many. Perhaps the most impressive experience was connected to the possibility to discover new landscapes and new people, not only concerning the interviewees but also the project partners who supported me greatly

when arranging the filming in the case study areas. During the filming I discovered new landscapes like the Italian Piedmont around Torino and the River Po Plain and the Polish side of the Giant Mountains. Apart from these new experiences, the intensive involvement in the regions I already knew provided me with additional perspectives to those I already had. This held true for the Czech-German-Polish tri-border region, the Czech Giant Mountains and the Austrian Weinviertel and Waldviertel. Visiting the case study area around the town of Kyjov was very interesting for me as this region is nearby my birthplace.

Where and when will the short documentary films be presented in 2020?

Lenka: The films will be premiered at the MaGICLandscapes Final Conference on 27th May 2020 in Dresden. After the presentation there will be time to discuss the films with interested attendees. In addition, the partners will screen the region-specific films in the respective national languages in their case study areas. In this context it would be desirable to show on occasion all five films in each region at one go, which will stimulate discussion not only based on the comparison of regional similarities and differences but which also support the broadening of perceptions and ideas in terms of interconnecting regions and people throughout central Europe.

Interview: Anke Hahn

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN: MAGICLANDSCAPES FINAL CONFERENCE & INTERNATIONAL GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE SYMPOSIUM

On 27th and 28th of May 2020 MaGICLandscapes will be holding its [Final Conference](#) and hosting an [International Green Infrastructure Symposium](#) at the Technische Universität Dresden, with guest speakers from across Europe.

On the first day the outputs and tools of the project will be presented as will the results of implementing them in its nine case study areas. The documentary films produced by Lenka Ovčáčková will be presented at the Final Conference as well.

The second day will be an International Green Infrastructure Symposium, bringing together GI professionals from across Europe to share their experiences and best practice from implementing green infrastructure. All information regarding the two day event and the registration link can be found on the [MaGICLandscapes website](#).



Looking forward to meeting you in Dresden at the MaGICLandscapes Final Conference & Green Infrastructure Symposium next spring!
Illustration in the background: Anja Maria Eisen

MaGICNEWS

Published by TU Dresden, Chair of Remote Sensing, Prof. Dr. Elmar Csaplovics, Lead Partner of Interreg Central Europe Project MaGICLandscapes

Editorial staff: Simone Ciadamidaro, Anke Hahn, Christopher Marrs, Sven Riedl, Hana Skokanová, Dorota Wojnarowicz

For any suggestions, requests or to unsubscribe from the newsletter please feel free to contact us:

Communication Management
anke.hahn@tu-dresden.de
+49 (0)351 463 32812

Project Coordination
christopher.marrs@tu-dresden.de
+49 (0)351 463 37563

MaGICLandscapes is implemented by the Interreg Central Europe Programme co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

