

Europe's Living Landscape

Essays exploring our identity in the countryside

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Living landscapes

Landscape is one of the most fascinating assets of Europe. The great diversity in landscapes reflects a multitude of historical layers. Europe's living landscapes, an attractive new book by KNNV Publishing, presents the story of some of the most expressive European landscapes. It explores how engagement may safeguard and improve landscape identity for the future.

European landscape is diverse, however it is changing rapidly. The old activities still reflected in the landscape are no longer efficient, and new functions tend to be dominated by new consumer demands, followed and enhanced by national and European policies.

Balancing the existing assets of the European landscape against the societal need for change is the challenge. For this book, members of the Landscape Europe, international network of expertise on landscapes give their experiences

Growing up in a Greek fisherman's village gives a person a different identity than growing up in the English countryside, even in our globalised world. Our sense of belonging is largely determined by the environment in which we feel at home. Europe's living landscapes is a tribute to this valuable contribution that landscapes make to our lives. It is a rich collection of some 25 essays on various European landscapes, ranging from the splendid baroque hunting castle of Moritzburg, with its forests where Saxon dukes and kings once hunted, to Norway's summer pastures, and from the French cheese landscape of Saint-Nectaire to the Hungarian Great Plain.

Europe's living landscapes also describes how this diverse European landscape is under threat by agricultural intensification, fragmentation by roads and urbanisation, or abandonment. In their essays, recognised landscape specialists focus on landscapes as they perceive them, on the practical problems they experience, and on the solutions they have found, often together with local inhabitants. They explore the identity of these landscapes, and the way it can be regained and reinforced.

Each chapter focuses on a unique European region, describing its geographical features, historical functions and present characteristics. Many colourful maps and photos, as well as striking historical photos and literary impressions, make Europe's living landscapes an attractive book. It is meant as a source of inspiration for policy makers, landscape managers, researchers and citizens in the pursuit of sustainable living landscapes in Europe.

Europe's Living Landscapes (*Chapters available to Download*)

1. Introduction: Europe's living landscapes at a turning point
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