

Institute for Research on European Agricultural Landscapes (European Culture expressed in Agricultural Landscapes)

EUCALAND

12th Workshop (Online) on reclamation landscapes

13 January 2023

Participants: Alexandra Kruse (AK), Martina Slamová (MS), Csaba Centeri (CC), Pierre-Francois (PF), Mateja Smid Hribar (MSH), Nadja Penko Sidl (NPS), Tomaž Pipan (TP), **Martina Kaup (MK)** (Germany), Lena Athnasiadou (LA), Jana Spulerova (JS) (minutes)

Workshop Content

9:00 Welcome

9:15 Definition, Germany, some impressions about other areas in the world (UK, DK, SE, evtl. South America) (Alexandra)

10:00 Netherlands (Hans with Alexandra)

10:30 France (Pierre-Francois)

11:00 Slovakia (Jana)

11:30 Slovenia (Mateja)

14:00 Hungary (Csaba)

14:30 Greece (Lena)

15:00 Slovenia (Tomaž, Nadja): A view on multidisciplinary assessment of industrial degraded areas in the Alps

15:00 Discussion and Summary

Reclamation landscape was the subject of an Online Workshop on reclamation landscapes which took place on January 13, 2023. Ten participants took part in the meeting and presented case studies of reclamation landscape from 8 European countries. Workshop participants focused on the state of the art, development and history, current use and cultural values of reclamation landscapes in various European countries such as Germany, Netherlands, France, Slovakia, Hungary, Slovenia and Greece.

The meeting was opened and led by Alexandra Kruse. She presented Reclamation landscape from Germany with some impression from further countries of the world, including Poland, South-east UK, Denmark, France, Colombia and Canada. There are many definitions of reclamation landscape, the common feature is that had been different before and had been changed by men. Alexandra presented four types of historic and recent examples of reclamation which impact on landscape differs:

- Land that had been too wet for agriculture (and/or) settlement and which had been "reclaimed" from the water (from the sea (coastal); along rivers; other wet or swampy areas, incl. Moor)
- Land that had been reclaimed from forest (hage-settlements)
- Reclamation as re-use of landscape after large exhaustion activities, including coal, iron, mineral mining or other large mining activities or garbage-dump/landfill

- Exploitation of resources in grass- and swampy land like bog iron ore: from Iron Age until 19th century in fens and gley; freshwater calcareous mud: in moors since Roman times, especially 13.-14. Jh.; clay for bricks or turf.

From these definitions we can see a broad perception of reclamation, which was also presented by other participants, but the main emphasis was on reclamation landscape, which were created in connection with agricultural production and most of the presentation concentrated on them. Reclamation in Germany has been started from 12th century by Dutch settlers and engineers and highly persistent landscape character. Its long history is also indicated by the fact that since 2022 „The Oderbruch: Men make landscape“ was awarded by European Cultural Heritage Label, based on its history/ genesis as reclamation landscape.

Next presentation was devoted to reclamation landscape in Netherlands prepared by Hans Renes that gave us an interesting overview of history, presented the most important types of colonisation and reason why reclamation take place. Traces of history and colonization can also be seen on historical buildings of towns (e.g. fortified churches) as these towns were not only centres of culture and trade, but also had defensive purposes. Examples of reclamation landscape from Western Europe were complemented the presentation from France by Pierre-Francois and from Greece by Lena Athanasiadou. Focus of presentation from Greece was on example from Thessaloniki Delta area, which effort on changing a natural marshland of high salinity into agricultural land. In addition to agricultural production, she emphasized the importance of marshland as very important bird areas and attractive for recreational activity.

Other presentation brought examples of reclamation from Central Europe including Slovakia, Slovenia and Hungary, where reclamation was designed during socialism as a result of farmland collectivization aimed at intensification of agriculture, resulted in large-scale fields. Jana Spulerova distinguished in her presentation three examples of agricultural reclamation landscape in Slovakia, including large-block fields, terraced vineyards or modern intensive orchards. According to satellite images, the average parcel size in Slovakia is 12 hectares that is the largest of all EU countries and significantly exceed the average size in EU (3.9 ha) (Gális, 2020; OneSoil, 2018). Mateja Smid Hribar presented examples of reclamation landscape from Ljubljana in Slovenia, which include agro melioration and marshland reclamation. Mateja emphasized that, in addition to agricultural production, nature is getting more important in landscape planning today. Other example of reclamation from Slovenia was presented by Tomaž Pipan and Nadja Penko Sidl, who provided a view on multidisciplinary assessment of industrial degraded areas in the Alps – transformation of Alpine Industrial Landscapes on 4 pilot sites (presented results of Interreg Alpine Space project). Csaba Centeri presented various definitions of reclamation in Hungarian dictionaries and synonyms. The main type of reclamation in Hungary were related to water regulation/flood protection of Danube, Tisza, Balaton lake, as Hungarian landscape faced lots of flooding in the past.

Landscape reclamation and agrarian collectivization in Central Europe in the second half of the twentieth century resulted in the transformation of small farmland to large block fields that considerably impacted environmental conditions of farmland. Extensive drainage and too much regulation caused in Hungary the problem of drought, salinization and loss of biodiversity associated wetlands and marshlands. Similarly, in other post-communist countries, reclamation agricultural landscape were aimed at modification of the physical and chemical properties of the soil to improve agricultural production, but they were often not very sensitive to the environment and has not resulted in the improvement of the biological quality of the landscape. We are

delighted that ecology is getting more important and is emphasised by the European Union through the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) on greening to enhance biodiversity and mitigate biodiversity loss.

15:00 Discussion and Summary,

- CC – put attention on overlap of different types of landscape – subtypes of agricultural landscape
- We decided to prepare a common publication; AK suggested creating a folder on Google for sharing and exchanging the presentation. The folder will be deleted after 1 month.
- JS, CC and LA volunteer for preparing common publication. HR will be willing to write the historical overview. AK is willing to make a chart with different types
- Other discussion was focused on 2 ways of manuscript preparation: one simple with only the types one more elaborated with connected settlement types, field types, houses, products etc.
- We decided to consider reclamation/melioration landscapes; but also to have first discussion on various types of reclamation landscapes which can be include - an email exchange/ or shared document that we can have a discussion on which types to include
- Second option: to have an overview of different types of landscape, definition using shared document

