

## Discords around heritage landscapes

A comparative study of Apulia and Wallonia

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Heritage and landscape are permanent social constructions (Harvey, 2015). Therefore, several scientist fields have been examining the public participation in landscape planning (Egoz, Jørgensen & Ruggeri, 2018), leading to an interest in the governance of cultural landscapes and the implication of the population in the decision-making process (Hernández-Morcillo et al., 2017; Sánchez et al., 2020). The preamble of European Landscape Convention mentions that *“the landscape is a key element of individual and social well-being and that its protection, management and planning entail rights and responsibilities for everyone”* (Council of Europe, 2000: p.1). While landscape protection relies on a multitude of protected area tools (Brown et al, 2005), what about the rights and responsibilities of the population? Considering the functions that landscapes fulfil and the multiple representations they reflect (Antrop & Van Eetvelde, 2019), it is not uncommon for inequities and conflicts to arise in the development of landscape policies (Olwig & Mitchell, 2009).

Our communication proposes a comparison between landscape and heritage policies in Apulia (Italy) and in Wallonia

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(Belgium) – two regions characterized by their Latinity, which facilitates the comparison when talking about landscape, but contrasted by their climate and their agricultural, industrial and tourist development. We question the actors involved in landscape protection, the roles of the population in the decision-making process as well as the intentions of those who make decisions and the way people who “use” the landscape experience these intentions. Based on the analysis of legislative documents and semi-structured interviews with stakeholders, we present our first results of the studies of the “Boucle de l'Ourthe” and the “Valle d'Itria”.

In 2015, the landscape of the “Boucle de l'Ourthe” was listed as an exceptional Walloon heritage due to natural and historical values certified by diverse experts. This protection area includes previous protection status and gives a new framework for this management (Schmitz & Bruckmann, 2020). In 2013, the “Piano Paesaggistico Territoriale della Regione Puglia (PPTR)” was approved. Based on a heritage vision, the “PPTR” offers a new strategic scenario for the entire territory and regulates all the landscapes of Apulia, including the “Valle d'Itria”. While the “Code Wallon du Patrimoine” considers citizens as actors of heritage and the “PPTR” promote a social management of the landscape, some inhabitants remain perplexed about their influence in decision-making process, question the future of their landscape and perceive sometimes the restrictive directives as a “violation of their freedom” and their heritage. We question the capacity of the above mentioned tools to stop or favour the landscape grabbing, as say the *rapid* and *drastic* reshape of the landscape caused by the radical change of rural lands and urban spaces by new actors, and that can cause considerable social opposition (Ciervo & Cerreti, 2020).

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