

# UNISCAPE 2020 CONFERENCE

20th Anniversary Celebration of the European Landscape Convention  
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## **Cultivating the Continuity of European Landscapes**

*New Challenges, Innovative Perspectives*

*Session C – Observating Landscape*

*Topic 2 Landscape Observatories: post 2020 agenda and future role*

*Keywords: public participation, perceived landscape, bottom-up practices*

## **THE OBSERVATION OF INFORMAL LANDSCAPE PUBLIC PARTECIPATION**

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The contribution suggests a specific argumentation: the discussion about Landscape Observatories might take advantage of an analysis about what civil society currently does and relates to the landscape. Only if we understand the actual practices of citizens towards the places they live, we could develop more effectively an important platform of public participation such as Landscape Observatories. In this perspective, the paper will illustrate a research on some citizens' actions which give some places meaning, make connection with them, develop empathy and belonging towards them. If many surveys state the individualism, the urban sprawl, the consumerism in contemporary society, this study has registered instead an increase in citizens' awareness and common activity, testing new ways of relating to the world around us. The research was conducted in 2019 and focused on some cases studies located in the Venetian area of Italy. The paper will describe the specific languages and features of these cases, thus it will illustrate how they create narratives, involve and connect people, make symbolic and physical transformation. The thesis is that these actions can be assessed as innovative landscape practices from which institutional platforms can understand more about the perceived and social landscape, as well as be inspired with methods and solutions. Indeed, the paper will argue how the Landscape Observatory can support and govern these informal movements and groups.