Local inhabitants’ input in Landscape Architecture students’ projects

Background
Described activities in Landscape Architecture Workshops are (besides being a compulsory course for students of landscape architecture at Mendel University in Brno) a part of an Education for Competitiveness Operational Programme named “Consequences and risks of breaking the European Landscape Convention”. The project aims at implementation of the European Landscape Convention into practice through cooperation among partners.

Key project activities are reciprocal internships at partner institutions and cooperation with foreign experts, interactive seminars and above mentioned intensive workshops - all focused on problems with the ELC’s implementation.

Participating institutions and projects areas

1. Veltrusy – baroque and romantic designed landscape, cultural heritage protection, danger of floods
2. Štěkeň – baroque designed landscape, harmonic landscape, a bit “forgotten”
3. National Park Podyjí – area of natural values, with strong natural protection and iron curtain heritage
4. Lednice-Valtice Area – Romantic designed landscape, listed on UNESCO both as cultural value and biosphere reserve
5. Holíč (CZ)/Kopčany (SK) – Baroque designed landscape, nowadays much dilapidated


About the projects
- based on the real life case studies,
- activities closely connected to the ELC’s implementation
- cooperation with both stakeholders and locals affects the final proposal,
- locals as the “users” of the landscape - crucial both for proper understanding of the landscape and accepting proposals for its enhancement.

Examples of public
Adult inhabitants of the area, both old and new residents, mothers with children, children (primary school students), retirees’ club, firemen, people in the pub, local authorities (mayor, director of the school), people working in landscape, stakeholders (e.g. municipal councils, nuns from the Institute of Beatified Virgin Mary, representatives of protected areas, cultural heritage protectors, tourists).

Tools of research
- public inquiry, both questionnaire and interview,
- mental maps with discussion,
- maps of feelings towards landscape,
- evaluation of photographs,
- children’s drawings.

Results
- knowledge of places in landscape, places where they go, ways of their using, reasons of usage, frequency of visiting the area, perception of natural and cultural-historical elements in landscape,
- identification of: values in the area, positive and negative dominants, changes in landscape, characteristic features of landscape, things/places they like and don’t like,
- favorite free time activities, relations of locals to tourism, what facilities they would appreciate in landscape.

http://umlvaokrajine.cz/