

Learning Report

Study Visit Gelderland - 26-28 June 2019

Overview of the Study Visit

The third study visit of Innocastle took place in the province of Gelderland in the Netherlands, from the 26th to the 28th of June 2019. It was organized by the Province of Gelderland.

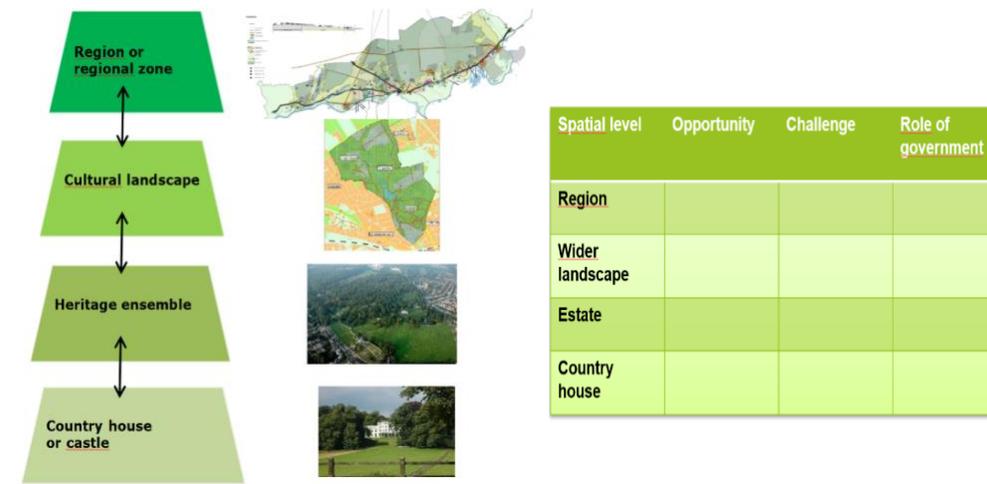
On day 1, the consortium visited parts of the province that are rich in historic castles, manors and estates (HCME). From the bus, HCME-expert Elyze Storms-Smeets explained history, landscape structure of the HCME-zones and especially Gelders Arcadia, a zone of many large and small historic estates dotted with more than 100 castles and manors, on the slopes of a moraine above the lower Rhine river. During four site visits owners, volunteers, local authorities and experts discussed present day challenges in the management of HCME. Each site had its own experiences and challenges.

On day 2, a symposium was organized which brought together the international Innocastle consortium and a wide variety of stakeholders from Gelderland. Speeches, workshops and excursions were organized. On day 3 a cycle tour was held in the Gelders Arcadia, to experience the small scale of the Dutch HCME-landscape and the high density of HCME in Gelderland. The destination was Castle and estate Rosendael, where a thematic seminar on the regional approach was organized.



Thematic seminar - A spatial approach to country estates

The thematic seminar addressed the spatial approach to the management of HCME. In the introduction, Elyze Storms-Smeets stressed the great regional impact of the many HCME in Gelderland, especially in regions such as Gelders Arcadia. In these regions, three of the most important challenges currently affecting HCME are all related to the spatial approach: climate adaptation, heritage tourism and spatial fragmentation. The recommendation was that partners should be aware of the different scales: the country house of castle, the heritage ensemble, the cultural landscape and the region. It is important to distinguish opportunities, challenges and the role of the government at all levels.



In the discussion we had the conclusion was that every partner recognized the importance of the spatial approach, and that working on different scales is useful, but also that in the different regions the character of HCME, the challenges and the governmental system are different.

In Flanders operates a governmental body called Vlaamse LandMaatschappij (VLM), that works from a regional perspective. Strengthening the HCME can be part of the measures, the water system is usually an important element of the work. One of the responsibilities of the provinces in Flanders is in fact an area based approach, that can be implemented by the VLM.

In Romania the Mureş river region has a string of HCME. The challenge on regional scale is to attract more tourists that come visiting the HCME and also enjoy the outdoors. Opportunities on the ensemble scale are there, e.g. a cluster of properties of three brothers. The challenge on the level of the individual HCME is restoration and find strong functions. The challenges of working together are many.

In the Spanish region of Badajoz the collection of HCME has a regional quality: located along the border with Portugal. However, the individual castles/forts are far apart. The potential for tourism, when combined with the beautiful landscape and special nature, are great. The idea of Gelderland making an atlas containing qualities, opportunities and challenges on different scales, good practices and design principles, can be interesting for other partners too.

Key Takeaways from the Site Visits

Middachten Castle and Estate

At Middachten Castle and estate we found out about the close cooperation of this large private estate with local and regional authorities. Middachten was a policy testground on which ideas were developed on managing historical estates, e.g. on simplifying local planning procedures and maintaining monumental gardens and parks.

Middachten showed us how volunteering is an essential part of maintaining garden and parks.

Middachten is a living estate that earns money from woodland exploitation, agriculture and visitors. The estate does not want to be a museum, although heritage is a very important aspect of the estate. After difficult times in and after WW2 Middachten garden and park was step-by-step restored. The owner not only developed good relations with the local and regional authorities, but also with the local community. As a result of that, Middachten has an amazing amount of volunteers working on the estate.



Reuversweerd Manor

At Reuversweerd Manor we met the owner and his advisor, and the building company that is working at the spot. The estate is in the process of a complicated restoration, a radical change of function and a move towards much more durability.

We discussed the involvement of restoration companies, vocational training, and research that has been done by students and tutors from Delft Technical University. At the request of the province the project Reuversweerd is being developed as a ‘living lab’.

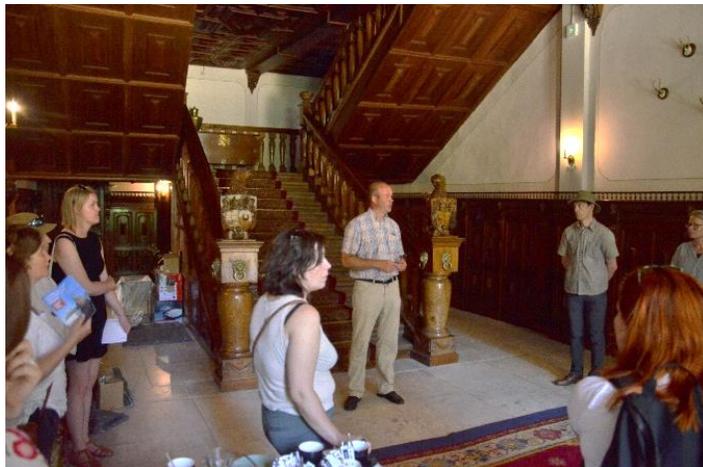
The manor and estate received a lot of people who are part of the heritage network in Gelderland, or who are interested in the practice of working on heritage. A shed on the site, normally used by builders, makes it possible to receive visitors, students, vocational trainees, politicians, members of the Gelderland Trust and others. (The province of Gelderland promotes the building of this kind of sheds at restoration sites - ‘movable sheds’ in which people meet and can learn from each other.)



Hackfort Castle and Estate

At Hackfort Castle and Estate we were the guests of the national trust organization Natuurmonumenten. The estate manager discussed with us the choice that Natuurmonumenten made to transform Hackfort to a place that is attractive to a wide audience and tourists, while other more vulnerable historical estates in the region kept their status of being open to a smaller audience. We discussed the consequences on heritage value of receiving more and more visitors, the necessity of more parking space, and building an elevator in an A-listed building.

Hackfort used to be a castle that was rented out to permanent dwellers, with little appeal to visitors. After the recent transformation Hackfort has opened up, offering tourists the possibility of renting the whole main building or suites in it, a restaurant in the former coach house that serves vegetables and fruit out of the old kitchen garden, and excellent walking and cycling possibilities. In spring Hackfort attracts extra visitors who come to experience the park that has been turned into a paradise of bulb flowers, using old varieties of flower bulbs including a rare species of daffodil that survived the ages in the park.



De Wiersse Estate

At last, at the private estate De Wiersse, the family Gatacre showed us around in the garden and the Victor de Stuers Hall. Especially the challenge of fighting drought as a consequence of climate change was discussed, also with the regional water authority Rijn & IJssel. Too little water affects the quality of not only the ponds, moats and canals, but also the vitality of garden and parks and even the fundamentals of monumental buildings. The neighbouring estates are struggling with the same issues. The regional water authority started a process in which authorities such as the water authority itself and the province and group of estate owners are working together to find solutions on both regional and local level.



Analysis of the policy instrument

General information

The Culture & Heritage policy programme is a self-binding instrument from the Province of Gelderland that is renewed every four years. The current programme runs for the period 2017 through to 2020. Responsibility for drawing up the document lays with the Provincial Executive for Gelderland. The programme is then adopted by the parliament of Gelderland, the Provincial Council of Gelderland. The policy programme is drawn up following consultation with representatives of heritage owners, other government authorities, heritage institutions and experts. It contains the outlines of policy and programming. Implementation including financing may be adjusted annually.

The policy programme operates within political and legal frameworks. In political terms the executive program, the administrative agreement between the parties who share executive responsibility, is of key importance. In legal terms, it is subject among others to the Heritage Act and the Spatial Planning / Environment Act.

A discussion paper on the role of the province towards HCME and other heritage has recently been send to the parliament. In 2020 this must lead to a new policy decision.

Obstacles to the application of the policy instrument as defined by different stakeholders

The owners of historic castles, country houses and estates demand more possibilities to work on sustainability than the policy and instrumentation offer.

Owners and also some municipalities ask for a better coordinated effort of the province, e.g. heritage and nature or heritage and touristic development.



Recommendations for the policy instrument

We think that the regional approach of Flanders is an interesting concept for the province of Gelderland. Our partners within Gelderland could be inspired by the ‘visiteering’ that National Trust offers to visitors and also the multidisciplinary summerschool that Romania organizes.

SWOT for the policy instrument (preliminary proposal)

Strong	Weak
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - subsidizing individual owners - networking: knowing the owners and companies - quality in restauration - some innovations: heritage monitor, sustainability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - setting heritage priorities - working on the regional scale - connection heritage to the major general challenges (e.g. urbanization, climate change, economy) - communication

Recommended adjustments for the setup of the policy instrument

- The province of Gelderland is rethinking its role, approach and instruments. The year 2020 will be the year when we study and test new instruments, implement a new approach, find (new) partners and reinvent our role. Lessons learned from the study visits abroad and our learning cases will help us to do so.
- Pilots with new to develop instruments will contribute to both processes. In particular the spatial approach will, we expect, contribute. Connecting the field of HCME to other policy fields like climate adaptation (Baakse Beek), tourism (Gelders Arcadië) and spatial fragmentation (Twello) will too.
- While the learning cases get going we will, at the same time, work with parliament and stakeholders to set our goals for the coming years. The conclusions and results from the learning cases will contribute to the process of policy making. While the discussions in the political arena pilots might give input, and new questions, for the learning cases.
- We trust working on the learning cases in the Innocastle program will help us understand the benefits and challenges of a spatial approach. What we heard about the approach in Flanders, the use of area based instruments, will



help us. The findings of the learning cases will support the province of Gelderland in renewing the Culture & Heritage policy program. The aim is to learn on the basis of current challenges, together with owners and municipalities.

- We will pass on to our partners the ideas and experiences of National Trust on getting visitors and public involved, like the ‘visiteering’. The same goes for organizing summer schools to fight the shortage of skilled craftspeople, like Romania does.

Stakeholder messages (from Participant Questionnaire)

A full report of the data obtained from the participant questionnaires can be found in appendix 2.

Stakeholder	What have you learned in Gelderland about heritage and local economic development issues that can be applied to the Action Plan for your region?	What ideas do you have for improving the PTE of HCME in Gelderland which they can use in their Action Plan?
general	Participants were impressed with how well the Dutch partners are able to work together to achieve positive outcomes for HCME. And they do this across sectors (i.e. heritage, nature conservation, recreation, educational institutions etc) as well as ownership or management models (state, ngo, private, companies).	It appears that Gelderland pays much attention to stimulating new functions and less attention to broadening existing functions. Gelderland should be aware of the fact that existing functions are the most important economic base of HCME.
general	Participants noted the importance of “understanding what you have (as an owner, as a municipality, as a province) which results in a better understanding of the possibilities and connections on different scales	
general	“strong example was the mobile classroom that was temporarily placed on restoration sites, as we saw in Reuversweerd which was a very direct form of efficient knowledge exchange	
Flanders	The practice of involving volunteers like at Middachten is virtually non-existent in Flanders. Maybe a parallel can be made here, such as with social work farms.”	I did not immediately see a clear contribution to the local economy. The surplus value, especially on the tourist-economic level, seems to me to originate more from the very well-developed network between country

Stakeholder	What have you learned in Gelderland about heritage and local economic development issues that can be applied to the Action Plan for your region?	What ideas do you have for improving the PTE of HCME in Gelderland which they can use in their Action Plan?
		estates in the region and from the general landscape flawlessness
Flanders	One estate is owned by mutual owners who all have their standard method of maintaining their property resulting in a fragmented estate. Working towards a shared green management, amongst others, can resolved this fragmentation	There was some concern about Hackfort and whether the transformation of a part of the castle as a hotel function seems to be a pitfall for sustainable conservation.
Flanders	Here it became clear that water conservation will be an important key for the sustainable preservation of estates	
Romania	I learnt that is important to work in partnership, to involve all the interested parts, to be creative, to be open to new ideas while preserving the historic heritage as much as possible. It is also important to try and reconstruct using original materials and techniques and the original plans as much as possible, but sometimes things must evolve in order to insure sustainability of the building or the garden – to introduce electricity or other utilities, to use plants adapted to the current climate and temperatures	
Romania	I learnt that coordinating HCMEs with other sectors such as transport, education, tourism and environment is very important because all these sectors depend on each other and may influence or even determine the success or the failure of certain actions / activities. It is necessary to have access to these estates, to preserve the environment and the landscape, to attract tourists, but also to involve the young generations in these activities and to make them appreciate and preserve/ restore the heritage.	
Romania	Learning by doing: Reuversweerd is a good example of revitalization and reutilisation of an unutilised property, in collaboration with the Technical University, and share the results.'	

Summary Table - good practices identified so far

Organisation in charge/ owner of the good practice	Practice	Geo scope	Short summary of the good practice (including URLs with further information)	Potential for learning or transfer	Evidence of success: What features make it an example of good practice
Bronckhorster Kroonjuwelen Beraad (BKB)	Local country house partnership	Local	Main goal is the conservation of the country houses and estates in the municipality Bronckhorst by working together, sharing knowledge and creating awareness and support at government bodies https://www.strootman.net/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/STOOTMAN-booklet_Bronckhorst.pdf	In other municipalities that are rich in HCME owners don't have a platform that enables to work together and work with local government.	The recognition of the local government that the collection of HCME is of great importance, the active facilitation by the local government of the development of HCME
Five municipalities	Regional country house partnership Gelders Arcadia	Regional	The five municipalities Wageningen, Renkum, Anrhem, Rheden and Rozendaal, the heritage agency The Gelderland Society and local private and institutional landowners have been working together in regional estate research and policy-making and setting up educational and art projects.	Working together on recognizing the qualities of HCME in a wider area. Making a vision that gives direction to developments.	Just the name of the program 'Gelders Arcadia' pops up everywhere.
Castle and Estate Middachten	Working estate that works together...	Local	Middachten developed and maintains strong ties with the local community that resulted in an amazing number of volunteers. Also Middachten was a testing ground for new developments in which national, regional and local governments were involved.	Working with volunteers.	The number of volunteers who act as ambassadors.
Municipality of Voorst	Working on the local quality of HCME	Local	In Voorst lots of HCME makes up an important spatial. In all new developments, the spatial quality and the cultural values are leading. That is why the municipality of Voorst has drawn up policy principles for the consolidation of her country estates.	All municipalities that are rich in HCME can learn from Voorst how to use policy principles when working on HCME, both spatial and economic.	On rural estates developments were made possible that ended long periods of stagnation.
SKBL (Foundation Castles, Historic country houses and Rural estates)	Raising national awareness Exchange of knowledge	National	Enlarging the visibility of HCME through newsletters and social media, and by organising promotional activities and offering practical, informative and interesting information on a website, that includes visitors data, activities and accessibility information for hundreds of Dutch castles and country houses. https://www.skbl.nl/	Feeding the tourist business with the right information on HCME.	Two marketing campaigns on HCME, one national and one regional (Gelderland), rely on information supplied or transferred by SKBL. This prevents the campaigns being too shallow.

Province / Gelders Restoration Centre / private owner	'Movable sheds', learning at the heritage spot	Local	Restoration c.a. of estates and other heritage features, requires different skills. A 'shed' was built on the estate of Reuversweerd, in which craftsmen, vocational trainees, students, heritage specialists, owners and authorities met and discussed. Clinics were organized on topics relevant for the restoration of building, the development of rural estates etc. People from the local community and interested people from elsewhere were welcome.	The formula works as well on other heritage sites.	A lot of different kinds of people visited the site. Discussions were given impulses on themes as varied as how to deal with pre-war asbestos, 'how to show war damage (or not)', 'is hydrogen a suitable energy source in monuments'.
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Comments on the organisation of the study visit:

Balance of site visits and discussion, choice and number of sites, logistical issues, ideas for next study visits (from Post-Study Visit Survey)

"I thought the study visit was REALLY well organised. I still can't quite believe how many sites we managed to visit in such a small amount of time! The dinner at De Wiersse was one certainly of the highlights."

"I had wondered initially about the relevance of the big stakeholder event but it was actually very interesting and, given that we were talking a lot about partnerships and collaboration, a perfect way to 'walk the talk'!"

"Brilliantly organised and good balance and variety of visits."

"I am very satisfied with the organisation of the study visit. For me, the selection of the number of sites was not too high, even though the programme was therefore intense. It was only a pity that we could not hear the owner-manager at Reuversweerd. From this site I would have liked to have received an explanation of the honoured cases that the students of TU Delft had worked out. On the basis of the posters, there seemed to be very interesting examples of this."

"Even more than the search for new destinations for estates, I think the focus should be on broadening functions. In addition to the inclusion of new functions, we must not lose sight of the fact that old functions can also be reintegrated. It strikes me, for example, that we have heard little about revenues from forestry and agriculture, even though these were the former leading income items. Let us not forget these basic values."

"Everything was in balance. It was an excellent opportunity to find out about different approaches and points of view, in different stages of development, but applied at the same subject."

Appendixes

APPENDIX 1 – Report of Innocastle Symposium Conservation and Innovation at castles, manors and estates

APPENDIX 2 - Analysis of Participant Questionnaires



Innocastle

Interreg Europe

INNOvating policy instruments for preservation, transformation and exploitation of heritage CASTLEs, manors and estates

REPORT OF INNOCASTLE SYMPOSIUM 'Conservation and innovation at castles, country houses and landed estates'

Thursday 27th of June 2019
Villa Sonsbeek, Arnhem, the Netherlands



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund



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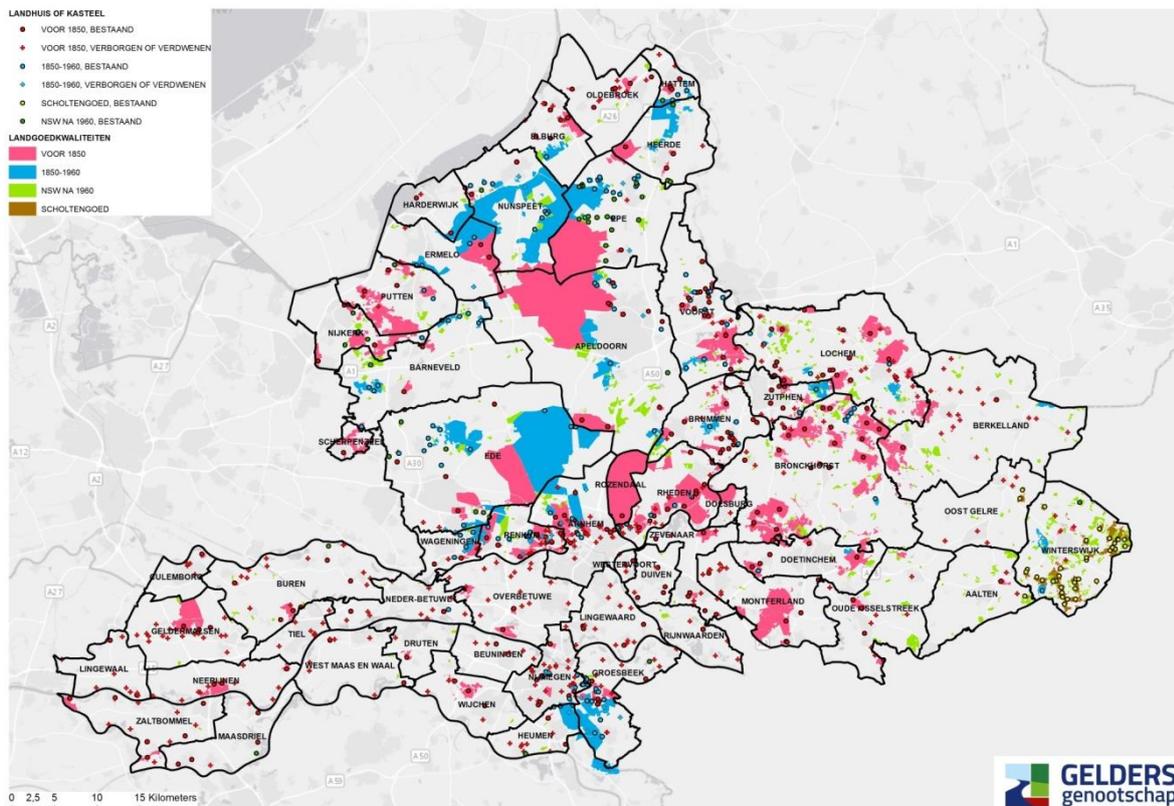
provincie
Gelderland



Since October 2018 the Province of Gelderland is one of the partners in the European project INNOCastle: INNovating policy instruments for preservation, transformation and exploitation of heritage CASTLEs, manors and gardens. The partnership of INNOCastle consists of five European partners: the National Institute for Heritage (Romania), Ghent University College (Belgium), the Province of Badajoz (Spain), the National Trust (United Kingdom) and the Province of Gelderland (The Netherlands). In Gelderland, the province works together with heritage organisation *Gelders Genootschap* and the Technical University of Delft. Cooperation with estate owners and governments is essential.

The main objective is to explore, discuss and improve: the role of government agencies in the processes of maintaining, developing and improving historic country houses, castles and landed estates in the province of Gelderland. Can we work with a spatial approach? What opportunities do we see in regional cooperation? The input of governments, (private) landowners and experts is vital. On this international symposium the European Innocastle partners were present.

Through active workshops we have explored present-day challenges such as sustainability and climate adaptation, spatial fragmentation and multiple-ownership of estates or heritage tourism and spatial quality. With contributions by Province of Gelderland, Technical University of Delft, heritage agency *Gelders Genootschap*, the National Trust, and a large number of stakeholders from Gelderland, including the Gelderland Trust, Middachten castle & estate, Gelders Arcadia, Country House Cooperation Bronckhorst, and many more! The symposium was chaired by Jeanine Perryck, the Gelderland Trust.



In the province of Gelderland over 550 places with 'estate qualities' have been identified.

Source: *Gelders Genootschap*, commissioned by Province of Gelderland, 2018.

PROGRAMME

- 11.00** **Arrival and registration**
- 11.20** **Welcome and opening** by chair **Jeanine Perryck**, *Gelderland Trust/ Geldersch Landschap and Kasteelen*
- 11.25** Introduction 'Innocastle' by **Paul Thissen**, Province of Gelderland, and short introduction film
- 11.40** **Historic country houses and landed estates as a regional quality**, by **Elyze Storms-Smeets**, country house expert of *Gelders Genootschap* (Gelderland Society)
- 11.55** Brief on afternoon programme
- 12.00** **Lunch with poster presentations**
Several partners from Gelderland are present to tell more about their work, experiences and goals in the field of conservation and development of castles, country houses and landed estates:
- Local country house partnership **Bronckhorster Kroonjuwelen Beraad** (*Eelco Schurer, chairman*)
 - Regional country house partnership **Gelders Arcadia** (*Marjolein Sanderman, municipality of Rheden*)
 - Local policies of **municipality of Voorst** (*Paulien Dekker and Willem van Oorschot, Voorst*)
 - **Middachten**, a working estate (*estate manager Age Fennema*)
 - **Private landownership** (*Henk Olthuis*)
 - **Garden archaeology** at Zypendaal estate (*Alco Emaus, BAAC archaeology, and Cynthia Nicholson, Municipality of Arnhem*)
 - A regional approach to the **historic interiors of country houses** (*Marlieke Damstra and Nick van den Berg, Gelderland Society/ Gelders Genootschap*)
 - A **national network** of castles, country houses and estates (*René Dessing, Digital Portal for Castles, Historic Country Houses and Rural Estates Foundation*)
- 13.00** **Working, talking, walking together.** Going into depth in parallel work sessions.
1. Workshop: **Climate adaptation and landscape design** (*Steffen Nijhuis, TU Delft*)
 2. Workshop: **Heritage tourism and spatial quality** (*Ciska van der Genugten, Gelderland Trust*)
 3. Workshop: **Spatial fragmentation and multiple-ownership** (*Elyze Storms-Smeets and Sazya Zeefat, Gelderland Society*)
 4. Workshop: **Policy and the role of governments** (*Paul Thissen, Province of Gelderland, and Marlieke Damstra, Gelderland Society*)
 5. Walk: **Tourism and events at Sonsbeek estate** (*Jeroen Glissenaar, Municipality of Arnhem*)
 6. Walk: **Public country estates in Arnhem** (*Simon Klingen, Advisory Group Sonsbeek, Zypendaal and Gulden Bodem estates*)
- 14.30** Gathering together. **Short tea break**
- 15.00** *Province of Gelderland and Innocastle*, by **Paul Stein**, on behalf of the provincial deputy.
- 15.10** **Lessons learned** from working together – **plenary feedback** from workshops
- 16.00** Reflection by **Eric Luiten**, professor Landscape Architecture at TU Delft
- 16.15** An international reflection by **Catherine Leonard**, the National Trust and INTO (International National Trust Organisation, secretary-general)
- 16.30** Questions and discussions
- 16.45** Networking drinks
- 17.30** **End of symposium**

For more information about Innocastle: www.interregeurope.eu/innocastle/

Photo's by R. Kleering, Province of Gelderland





Introduction 'Innocastle' by Paul Thissen, Province of Gelderland

On behalf of the province of Gelderland: welcome, welcome at the Innocastle symposium. We are delighted to have you here, on a typical Gelders historic estate: Sonsbeek.

Significance of the collection HCME in Gelderland

The province of Gelderland is known for its extensive collection of historic castles, manors and estates. In Innocastle we use the abbreviation 'HCME' (historic castles, manors and estates) or in Dutch KBL (*kastelen, buitenplaatsen en landgoederen*). In fact, we have more HCME than any other province of the Netherlands. We are proud of it. Valuable nature is concentrated in these zones. Nature and cultural landscapes in HCME-zones kept their identity, much more than in other landscapes. And what's more: these HCME's, large and small, are concentrated in zones in which they together form an important regional quality. That's nice, it looks nice of course. But we regard this feature not only as being nice, but as an important asset.

- Valuable nature is concentrated in these zones. Nature and cultural landscapes in HCME-zones kept their identity, much more than in other landscapes.
- The zones offer plenty opportunities for recreation and sport.
- And also: the concentrations of HCME are of high economic value.

In 2012 we asked the University of Rotterdam to conduct research on the economic significance of HCME. It showed that the presence of concentrations of HCME led to a cost-benefit return of 2,5 till 4,4. So every Euro that it costs brings 2,5 till 4,4 Euro's benefit. However, the costs are made by the owners, and the benefits are benefits for tourism-businesses, house-owners etc. Little for the owners themselves, who are supposed to maintain the beauty of HCME and to offer recreational opportunities. The research also concluded that the province could have an important role in supporting maintenance and developing HCME.

Activities since 2012

So, what did we do knowing that HCME's are an important feature in our province? In 2013 we made working on HCME a priority in the provincial heritage program.

- Together with other stakeholders we built a network in which owners and authorities could meet. Working in the network we addressed items such as functional change, sustainability issues, volunteering, craftsmanship, and the costly maintenance of gardens and parks.
- We worked together municipalities, the national authorities and owners granting permits.
- We financed restoration, sustainability measures and accessibility measures. Always on the conditions that the owner should have a solid plan and the economic outlook should improve.

Really important for the success was the cooperation with organisations that work in Gelderland on relevant issues. Some of them were way ahead of us.

- Gelderland Trust, the Netherlands nature trust *Natuurmonumenten*
- Gelders organisation of private HCME owners (Gelders Particulier Grondbezit, GPG)
- Expert organisations such as *Gelders Genootschap* (Gelderland Society) and sKBL, that enhance knowledge and cooperation regarding HCME
- Gelders Restoration Centre and the Monument Watch
- Municipalities such as Rheden, Voorst and Bronckhorst and the Waterboard Rijn&IJssel
- Regional tourist bodies
- The Technical University of Delft.

Of all of these organisations representatives are present here today. Together we achieved quite a lot.

Innocastle

Why do we participate in Innocastle? This Interreg project aims at better cooperation between authorities and stakeholders, and especially to find ways to improve the role of authorities in the cooperation. Improving policy instruments. We are willing to share our experiences with other partners. And we can learn from other partners. We made study trips to lead partner Romania and to the National Trust in the United Kingdom. We are impressed what Romania does on historic castles, country houses and rural estates, in difficult circumstances. We are also impressed by the splendid work of National Trust in England and Wales. This week the European partners are visiting Gelderland. We showed our beauty and discuss our issues. And in the near future we will visit the partners in Flanders and the Spanish region Badajoz. We are looking forward to that.

We face new challenges, that we will explore in Innocastle, with our European partners and our stakeholders in Gelderland. In Gelderland we are exploring the regional approach. Solving problems and seizing opportunities in

HCME-zones require a regional approach; the scale of one building is not enough. In a moment Elyze Storms will tell you more about this. A regional approach requires new partnerships: groups of municipalities, provincial or regional groups of owners, waterboards. Next year we will propose a plan on these issues. By the way: it will be work in progress, we have to seize the opportunities that occur in the meantime.

One more thing

There is one more thing I want to stress: the importance of cooperation. On working on HCME every stakeholder has its own role. Of course there are opposing interests, or: apparently opposing interests. Find out! Talk to each other. Share information, share successes and less successful outcomes. I am convinced that contact and cooperation was the key factor in the successes we had in the years since 2012.

Historic country houses and landed estates as a regional quality, by Elyze Storms-Smeets, country house expert of Gelders Genootschap

Dutch country houses and landed estates are much smaller than most European counterparts. Whereas, for instance, in Britain estates are regarded as over 1200 hectares, in the Netherlands the most country estates are between 5 and 200 hectares, with some great landed estates of over 1000 hectares as exceptions. Nevertheless, similarities exist as estate building was traditionally dominated by nobility, as it was in other European countries. Furthermore, the rise of new elites have led to the creation of new country estates, as also seen elsewhere. Broadly three important phases of estate building can be identified:

- Middle Ages-1600: castles with large landed estates for nobility (landed elite)
- 1600-1800: country houses and estates for city regents
- 1800-1940: smaller country houses for elite borne of finance, commerce and industry

Despite the modest estate sizes, there is a great regional impact as country houses and estates are often located closely together in estate zones, such as Gelders Arcadia (the area around Arnhem), along the river IJssel and along the stream Baakse Beek.

At the first stakeholder meeting in March 2019 we invited a representation of estate owners and governments.

The main objective is to explore, discuss and improve: the role of government agencies in the processes of maintaining, developing and improving historic country houses, castles and landed estates in the province of Gelderland. Together with approximately 25 participants we explored three present-day challenges in relation to country and landed estates: A. climate adaptation; B. heritage tourism; C. spatial fragmentation. We mapped and listed good practices and present-day challenges (long list), from which we chose three potential learning cases per theme. Since March we have spoken to direct stakeholders and together we have made our selection of learning cases. Three Gelderse estate zones have been chosen to participate in Innocastle. The choice was announced during the Innocastle Symposium. These learning cases will be further elaborated in the near future. The Province of Gelderland hopes to learn more about the role of governments in relation to other parties in maintaining and developing castles, country estates and estates. The cases were chosen together with local estate owners, governments and heritage professionals.

All three have their own focus:

- In the **Gelders Arcadia** estate zone, the municipalities of Arnhem, Renkum, Rheden, Rozendaal and Wageningen and owners such as Middachten and the Gelderland Trust will work on finding a good balance between strengthening heritage tourism in the estate landscape and preserving heritage values.
- In the municipality of Voorst, the municipality and owners around **Twello** will learn about strengthening the spatial cohesion of the estate zone in the middle of the Apeldoorn-Zutphen-Deventer urban triangle.
- In the **Baakse Beek area**, the province together with the Rijn & IJssel Water Board, the municipality of Bronckhorst and the estate owners look at the significance of the heritage on estates for water issues. In particular climate adaptation: how to deal with long periods of drought and occasional heavy rain in the estate environment.

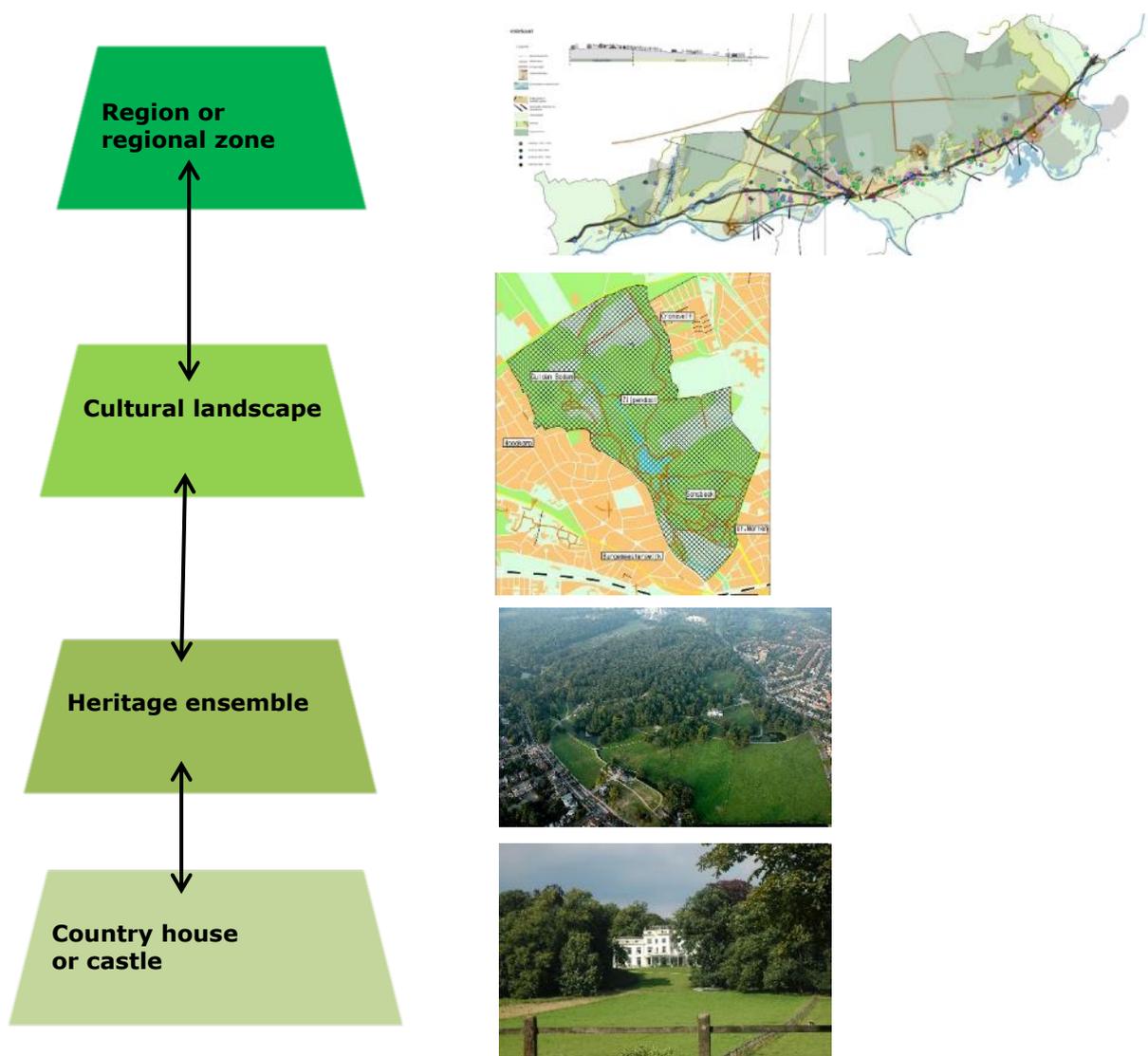
The findings will support the province of Gelderland in renewing the Culture & Heritage policy program. The aim is to learn on the basis of current challenges, together with owners and municipalities. A learning case will have a spatial focus, but will always be seen through the spatial approach (scaling up and down the levels, from local to regional).



A spatial approach

For this project we use a spatial approach, analysing challenges/ opportunities/ stakeholders on various spatial levels:

1. A **region** or regional zone to which the country/ landed estate belongs to;
2. The country or landed estate as a part of a wider **cultural landscape** (including neighbouring country and landed estates, villages, etc.);
3. The country or landed estate as a **heritage ensemble** (including a country house or castle, side buildings, parklands, woodlands, farms, etc);
4. The **country house or castle** as the main building, the core of the country or landed estate.



PARTNER POSTERS (creative content)

Several partners from Gelderland are present to tell more about their work, experiences and goals in the field of conservation and development of castles, country houses and landed estates. These can be seen as 'good practices', not because there are no issues or challenges, but because of the way challenges are solved through cooperation between estate owners, governments and heritage professionals. The posters are the Innocastle 'creative content'.



Innocastle

Innocastle is a joint project of the National Institute for Heritage Research, the Dutch Society for Nature Conservation, the Province of Gelderland, the National Dutch Heritage Agency and the Province of Gelderland.



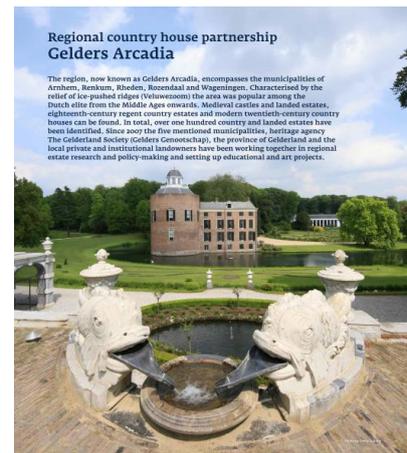
Local country house partnership Bronckhorster Kroonjuwelen Beraad (BKB)

The *Bronckhorster Kroonjuwelen Beraad* was founded in 2013 by the owners of country houses and estates within the municipality of Bronckhorst, Gelderland. It concerns the nationally enlisted country estates (so-called 'complex rijksbeschermd buitenplaatsen'), both privately and institutionally owned. Thus, the Dutch Society for Nature Conservation (Natuurmonumenten) and the Gelderland Trust (Gelders Landschap en Kasteelen) take part. Main goal is the conservation of the country houses and estates in Bronckhorst by working together, sharing knowledge and creating awareness and support at government bodies. By joining forces we can create new economic models and business plans, and thereby distribute the costs and benefits more evenly. The estate owners wish to work in a transparent coalition within agreed frameworks. The BKB is both a plea to the outside world and to the owners themselves.

Active participants are: Hackfort, Suideras, Kasteel Vorden, Wientjesvoort, 't Medler, De Wildenborch, De Wiersse, 't Zelle, De Kieftskamp, Enghuizen, Den Bramel, 't Enzerinck and Keppel.

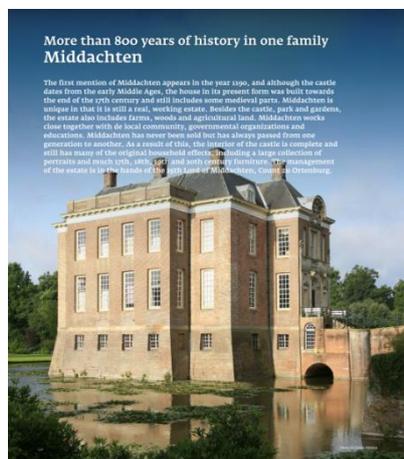
Regional country house partnership Gelders Arcadia

The region, now known as Gelders Arcadia, encompasses the municipalities of Arnhem, Renkum, Rheden, Rozendaal and Wageningen. Characterised by the relief of ice-pushed ridges (Veluwezoom) the area was popular among the Dutch elite from the Middle Ages onwards. Medieval castles and landed estates, eighteenth-century regent country estates and modern twentieth-century country houses can be found. In total, over one hundred country and landed estates have been identified. Since 2007 the five mentioned municipalities, heritage agency The Gelderland Society, the province of Gelderland and the local private and institutional landowners have been working together in regional estate research and policy-making and setting up educational and art projects. Partners: The municipalities of Arnhem, Renkum, Rheden, Rozendaal and Wageningen, and the Gelderland Society (*Gelders Genootschap*), in cooperation with the country house owners and the Province of Gelderland.



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Middachten. More than 800 years of history in one family

The first mention of Middachten appears in the year 1190, and although the castle dates from the early Middle Ages, the house in its present form was built towards the end of the 17th century and still includes some medieval parts. Middachten is unique in that it is still a real, working estate. Besides the castle, park and gardens, the estate also includes farms, woods and agricultural land. Middachten works close together with the local community, governmental organizations and educations. Middachten has never been sold but has always passed from one generation to another. As a result of this, the interior of the castle is complete and still has many of the original household effects, including a large collection of portraits and much 17th, 18th, 19th and 20th century furniture. The management of the estate is in the hands of the 25th Lord of Middachten, Count zu Ortenburg.

Municipality of Voorst

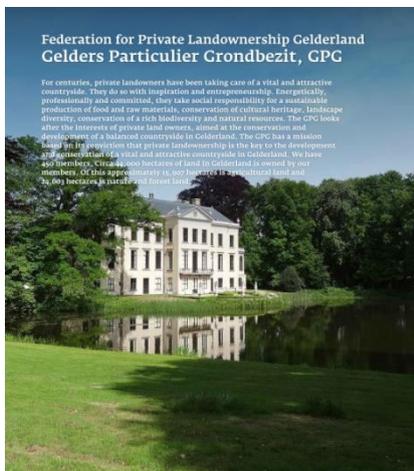
Voorst is described as "the green heart of the "City triangle" (*Stedendriehoek*) enclosed by the cities of Apeldoorn, Deventer and Zutphen. The area offers a wide variety of landscapes in the high sand transition area from the Veluwe to the IJssel Valley. The beauty of this rural area was recognized early on. In the eighteenth and nineteenth century wealthy families from the surrounding cities bought plots of land to build country houses and country estates. Voorst therefore has a wide-ranging estate zone (also called the Green Carré), full of monumental buildings in a park-like landscape. This rich cultural history is a crucial part of the identity of Voorst that it wants to retain and - where possible - strengthen. In all new developments, the spatial quality and the cultural values are leading. That is why the municipality of Voorst has drawn up policy principles for the consolidation of her country estates.



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Innocastle



Federation for Private Landownership Gelderland Gelders Particulier Grondbezit, GPG

For centuries, private landowners have been taking care of a vital and attractive countryside. They do so with inspiration and entrepreneurship. Energetically, professionally and committed, they take social responsibility for a sustainable production of food and raw materials, conservation of cultural heritage, landscape diversity, conservation of a rich biodiversity and natural resources. The GPG looks after the interests of private land owners, aimed at the conservation and development of a balanced countryside in Gelderland. The GPG has a mission based on its conviction that private landownership is the key to the development and conservation of a vital and attractive countryside in Gelderland. We have 450 members. Circa 44,000 hectares of land in Gelderland is owned by our members. Of this approximately 15,907 hectares is agricultural land and 24,603 hectares is nature and forest land.

Federation for Private Landownership Gelderland (*Gelders Particulier Grondbezit, GPG*)

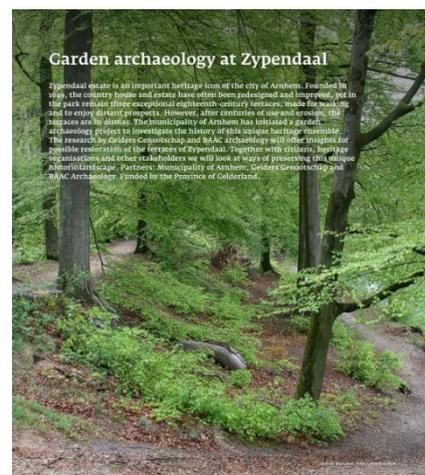
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Garden archaeology at Zypendaal

Zypendaal estate is an important heritage icon of the city of Arnhem. Founded in 1649, the country house and estate have often been redesigned and improved, yet in the park remain three exceptional eighteenth-century terraces, made for walking and to enjoy distant prospects. However, after centuries of use and erosion, the terraces are in disarray. The municipality of Arnhem has initiated a garden archaeology project to investigate the history of this unique heritage ensemble. The research by Gelders Genootschap and BAAC archaeology will offer insights for possible restoration of the terraces of Zypendaal. Together with citizens, heritage organisations and other stakeholders we will look at ways of preserving this unique historic landscape. Partners: Municipality of Arnhem, Gelders Genootschap and BAAC Archaeology. Funded by the Province of Gelderland.



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Innocastle





A future for historic interiors in the East Achterhoek!

The municipalities of Aalten, Winterswijk, Oost Gelre and The Gelderland Society (Gelders Genootschap) have joined forces for a new research project on historic interiors in the east of the Gelders region Achterhoek. The area is (among other things) known for its small-scale scenic landscapes with large farm estates, the so-called *scholtengoederen*. These farm estates often still have beautifully decorated rooms. The project does not only focus on farming estates, but also on industrial, religious and residential architecture. The aim of the project is to map the diversity and richness of historic interior or interior elements in the region and in doing so we hope to enthuse owners with the 'interior treasures' they have in their homes. We have chosen this regional approach because it enables us to not only research an interior or element on object level, but to look also at the interiors in the broader context of the region.

Innocastle

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Partners: Municipalities Aalten, Winterswijk, Oost Gelre, Gelders Genootschap, Province of Gelderland, National Cultural Heritage Agency (RCE), Radboud University Nijmegen.

sKBL. The Dutch national platform for castles, historic country houses & rural estates

The Netherlands is astonishing beautiful with many places of great rural beauty. These areas are often abundant with castles and historic country houses. They appeal strongly to the imagination of its spectators and they significantly contribute to the beauty and uniqueness of our landscape. The foundation for Dutch Castles, historic Country Houses & Rural Estates (sKBL) aims to contribute to the preservation of this valuable landscape and monumental heritage. sKBL has two objectives. One is raising more national awareness about 650 castles, historic country houses and rural estates by enlarging their visibility through newsletters and social media, and by organising promotional activities and offering practical, informative and interesting information on our website, that includes visitors data, activities and accessibility information for hundreds of Dutch castles and country houses. The second objective is to stimulate mutual collaboration and the exchange of knowledge between the different owner groups, by organising study days and stimulating the exchange of knowledge. Indeed, collaborating and sharing knowledge promotes the preservation of these wonderful places. sKBL has a growing group of 200 donators who share our objectives. Together we form a strong and active network with public aims and as partner of regional governments regarding this type of heritage.



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WORKSESSIONS

1. Workshop: **Climate adaptation and landscape design** (Steffen Nijhuis, TU Delft)

This workshop addressed regional landscape design as a multiscale approach for climate adaptation of country estates landscapes. Key to this approach is that understanding estate landscapes as systems is the basis for identifying spatial design principles that address multiple scales ranging from individual estates, ensembles of estates, to regional structures and processes. Research through design is put forward as a method to explore possibilities for future development, and a design atlas as an instrument to facilitate the stakeholder process with dedicated and practical knowledge input.



Adapting to climate change in historic landscapes can be challenging and is helped by a spatial approach. Photos: R. Kleering, Province of Gelderland.

The group acknowledges that an area/ landscape approach is key to integral solutions and helps to overcome silo's in policy and expertise. It is also stressed that for addressing the challenges and future development a regional perspective ('helicopter view') is important to understand the systemic relationships amongst the country estates and find common grounds amongst the stakeholders to collaborate. Solution focussed analysis of the involved landscape systems is needed to identify and explore spatial design principles of estate landscapes. A spatial design atlas for estate landscapes is put forward as a tool that connects knowledge with practical solutions. This idea is considered by the group to be an innovative and useful tool for facilitating stakeholder processes and inform policy development, planning and design. Such an atlas could provide an overview of challenges and opportunities through mapping relationships in the landscape, cataloguing spatial design strategies and principles, and showcase spatial possibilities through design explorations. Such an atlas should not be used in a process of blueprint planning, but facilitate the development of a regional perspective that safeguards coherence through the development of strong/robust green-blue and recreational landscape structures while allowing flexible infill according to the needs and possibilities of the individual estates. An international comparative perspective is seen as inevitable in addressing water challenges (abundance and shortage of water) and for energy. Best practices in Gelderland, the Netherlands and Europe are important learning cases that provide inspiration and indicate success factors. In the follow up strategically chosen learning cases will be elaborated via research-through-design to explore landscape architecture principles for sensitive water management, landscape coherence, ecological development, recreation and energy transition at multiple scale levels. The brochure by the Dutch Cultural Heritage Agency [Ruimte voor water en erfgoed](#) offers insight into heritage solutions for present-day challenges of water management.

Lesson learned: Area approach 'the landscape' is key to integral solution and design principles are helpful to connect knowledge with practical solutions.

2. Workshop: **Heritage tourism and spatial quality** (Ciska van der Genugten, Gelderland Trust/ Geldersch Landschap & Kasteelen)

Castles, country houses and landed estates have a positive effect on regional economic benefits and can strengthen regional heritage tourism. Heritage tourism can also be a valuable source of income to estate owners, thus helping to sustain these estates. Mostly located in rural and remote areas, historic castles, manors and estates are often unknown to the general public and tourists. They have the potential to become powerful drivers for rural development and innovation. However, this requires a shift of paradigm in governance and support. What is needed to enable heritage tourism at a country estate, such as parking, infrastructure, routing and tourism policy? And how do we prevent negative outcomes, like a breach of privacy, damage to historic landscapes or noise nuisance in nature? Together we looked at opportunities and challenges.

- The workshop started with a walk in the Sonsbeek estate park. During this walk, Ciska pointed out some notable aspects of the park and some dilemmas of present situation:

- The park had to adapt to accommodate more visitors (it used to be a private park, now it's a public park). This led to changes in the original park design and its landscape essence. What do we think of these changes? Do they fit or distract?
 - Ciska believes that in a monumental park the materials should be chosen with care. It's a park, so the most practical solution isn't necessarily the most fitting. For example, the asphalt road, the big stones here and there, the parking lot, maintenance of grass and vegetation. Should this be handled from a more cautious heritage perspective, or a more practical perspective?
 - The park is a popular place among visitors but how do you make them aware of the historical essence and maintenance of this heritage park?
 - How do you keep the park as an ensemble, especially when parts are rented out to third parties? For example: When a building site is rented to a café, the interventions by the café can affect the overall view. For instance: the umbrella's on the terrace block the view of the historical façade, the signage used by the restaurants each have their own style, etc. Also there is no official space for bikes or garbage, which leads to placement around and distraction of historic buildings.
- The next part of the workshop was inside the conference room and two case studies were briefly discussed.
 - The challenge of maintaining authenticity:

The first case study was a terraced garden established in the nearby area in 1914 (Warnsborn, Arnhem). This garden was restored to its original form and with the original plants. It was intended to be maintained in an authentic way but there are a few difficulties. The cost of maintenance is too high with a lack of earning from the garden. There is only one gardener at present to look after the whole place, where originally there would have been 5 or 6. Also, the exact same species of plants are faced with maintenance problems. So they are thinking of replacing them with present day alternatives that are more sustainable but provide the same spatial and aesthetic impact.

 - Introducing new elements for the future:

The second example was Rosendaël park. Part of this park was left alone for a period of time and people started treating it like a forest area. But with the intervention of the Heritage management authorities, the initial set up has been revived with addition of some new foci and routing in the park. At present the park is popular among the users and the adoptive redesign is proving to be successful.
 - In the end there was a discussion about raising funds for maintenance by initiating area fees. Also it is important to educate the public about these heritage sites so that they feel a connection and belongingness to these areas.

Lesson learned: parks develop through time, you have to develop with them!



Discussing the changes to parks as a result of new uses, such as tourism and recreation.

Photos: R. Kleering, Province of Gelderland.

3. Workshop: **Spatial fragmentation and multiple-ownership** (Elyze Storms-Smeets and Sazy Zeefat, Gelderland Society/ Gelders Genootschap)

In the workshop on spatial fragmentation two issues were studied more closely: multiple-ownership and urbanisation. Important questions were:

- What is the problem? What is the goal?
- Stakeholder analysis: Who is or should be involved?
- Do we have the needed data/ information?
- What tools do we need?
- What is the role of the government?
- How do we create joint commitment? What makes coherence and cooperation possible vs difficult?



Workshop members discuss spatial fragmentation through various case studies in Gelderland.

Photos: R. Kleering, Province of Gelderland (left), and E. Storms-Smeets, Gelders Genootschap.

Multiple ownership

Particularly processes in the 20th century, such as succession taxes and lower income, lead to the breaking-up of a large number of landed properties. As a result many country and landed estates are currently owned by numerous owners, all with their own management strategy. This multiple-ownership with differences in management has led to spatial fragmentation, sometimes very bluntly through the erection of fences splitting lanes in two, sometimes through lack of knowledge and cooperation. Using the cases of Rosendael estate and Avegoor estate the issue of multiple-ownership was further explored.

Rosendael is currently owned by three trust-like organisations, two municipalities and several private owners. One of the results of this, and a possible problem, is that the former estate of circa 1000 hectares is managed in various ways and not as a whole. For example: fences run through the former estate grounds of Rosendael. The workshop starts with a discussion whether shared ownership is a problem or not. If it is a problem, a common goal is needed. However, this might be difficult when different owners with different interests are involved. A stakeholder analysis is important: who is involved? Know the owners, their policy, goals, wishes, etc.

How can the history of a former estate be presented? It is important to realise that common goals and spatial strategies are two different things. The shared ownership is causing variety within the management and properties, but this can also be used as an advantage: a rich cultural patchwork is created. Thus, a common goal for the owners could bring the estate parts together, but with variety. There are larger elements that can cross the ownership-borders, for instance lanes and manorial landmarks, and that can show the historic size and coherence of the former estate. In addition, fences don't permanently damage estates. Furthermore, fragmentation might not be permanent

At Avegoor, at first there was no collaboration, but by making a historic analyses and a vision for the entire estate much awareness was created amongst the 13-14 owners. Currently, the owners are slowly becoming aware of their responsibilities to contribute to the estate. Awareness, a common goal and knowledge are therefore vital. However, despite a common goal it turned out to be difficult to actually realise this goal, because who is responsible, who takes the lead? A municipality can perform as a platform that brings parties and owners together, to connect and collaborate, to create a framework. Preferably with a time limit. The community can also be involved, as the investments in the estate are a benefit for the community as well.

Urbanisation and infrastructural expansions

Spatial fragmentation has also occurred through infrastructural and urban expansions. Around the town of Twello, within the municipality of Voorst, a zone of estates is clustered. People want to build new houses in and around Twello. The goal is to keep the estate landscape as a whole as there is a risk that fragmentation increases and quality disappears. New legislation is needed to reinforce the character of the area, to be able to recognize it as a quality zone. But also: how to integrate housing expansion in a zone with an estate quality?

Therefore it is vital to create awareness amongst the community and involvement of the public. Creating a meaning for the individual owners and the municipality. Creating awareness of the history and future of the area (the potential opportunities). It is crucial to bring the different parties together. This can be used as a base to develop the area, considering that the community loves the area. However, it is important to not only talk about quality, but other interests as well. Economics, for example, can convince some people who are not interested in the heritage argument. In addition, collaboration on the maintenance is cheaper.

in processes of conservation and innovation at castles, country houses and landed estates. Which roles, which stakeholders have an impact on these processes and how do stakeholders work together? Subsequently, the participants discussed about they have learned about the roles of stakeholders, specifically the government. How can developments in national, provincial and local policy stimulate and help conservation and innovation at country houses and estates?

The role-playing game was rather hilarious and showed that understanding each other's role is not obvious. Serious talks can help understand each other's motives and built trust!

Lesson learned: Know each other's roles! It starts with empathy.

5. Walk: Tourism and events at Sonsbeek estate (park manager Jeroen Glissenaar, Municipality of Arnhem) Sonsbeek is Arnhems most famous and loved park. The municipality of Arnhem bought the estate in 1899. It survived as a city park until now. Sonsbeek is used by inhabitants of Arnhem, tourists, school kids, sport clubs and event organisations. In the recent years the number of events has increased, leading to discussions about the use of the park. Together with park manager Jeroen Glissenaar the participants walk around Sonsbeek, discussing events and tourism, leading to a huge increase of the use of the park.



Sonsbeek park borders the city centre of Arnhem.

Park manager Jeroen Glissenaar.

Photos: E. Zijlstra, Gelders Genootschap (left) and R. Kleering, Province of Gelderland.

Sonsbeek Park has a centuries-old bond with the city of Arnhem. What is special is that the importance of that relationship is now greater than ever. On a beautiful day around 10,000 people come to Sonsbeek who stay here for an average of 4 hours and all do their own thing and go home with a good feeling. It is comparable to an event for your city without having to organise artists, podiums or roads in the city center. The costs of keeping the park clean are € 200 per day. But, can an old park, such as Sonsbeek, cope with this much visitors? There are certainly a number of conditions attached to visits and events, the park is too valuable and vulnerable to jeopardize.

Events are a nice addition to the people who visits the park. But soon there is a danger that there will be an event every weekend and that the walker will experience the park with the feeling of being at a food truck festival. Also, the park manager always determines what is or is not possible and in which locations. It is crucial to make clear rules and agreements, that are not deviated from. Making exceptions can mean that the trees die a few years later. We are also vigilant that it is not the park that makes the event more beautiful. But the event the park.

Looking at visitors, the municipality has decided not to make the park 'hooligan proof', thereby giving the benevolent user the feeling that he is welcome and it feels safe. This also means that the maintenance budget must at least be such that you can keep the park clean and tidy. If this does not work, people will regard the park as unsafe and do not like to come here and it will attract people who cause vandalism and leave rubbish.

Youth and parks is a development we hadn't dared to think for a number of years ago. Boys and girls around the age of 15 stay in the park well into the night. By not sending them away but by making them feel welcome, you see that a sense of ownership is created and they are going to take care of their place in the park and they themselves point out to other groups that they must keep it clean. We no longer judge what is a good nature experience; every experience is good and unique, as long as it does not damage the site or cause nuisance to other users. The remarkable thing is that you can communicate this. Nobody wants to destroy nature in principle.

It is nice to see how we were able to solve a problem, people barbequing, in the park by placing a fire bowl where young people can light a fire here. The fire bowl was adopted within a week by a group of young people who made an appointment via Facebook to find out who was there and kept the place tidy. By looking at the need and making this possible at a location that we approve off, things worked really well.

Lesson learned: Do's and Don'ts for events, make plans and look for appropriate new functions and events, like health.

6. Walk: Public country estates in Arnhem (*Simon Kligen, chairman of the Advisory Group Sonsbeek, Zypendaal and Gulden Bodem estates*)

Previously, the three estates Sonsbeek, Zypendaal and Gulden Bodem were privately owned. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, they were successively purchased by the municipality and have been public parks ever since. The parks are very well visited. In 1992 a management plan was drawn up for the three country estates of Sonsbeek, Zypendaal and Gulden Bodem by a broad group of concerned citizens, government officials and external experts. This group continued to exist and has been thinking about the management of the parks ever since. The participation of the users of the parks is given shape in the so-called *Schouwgroep*, an advisory group with nature, water and heritage experts, but also representatives of local restaurants and inhabitants of nearby residential areas. Formally, this so-called *Schouwgroep* has no status, but both politicians and citizens attach great value to its judgment. During the tour, management issues such as the replacement of old trees and the role of the *Schouwgroep* were explained.



Simon Kligen takes the participants through the public-owned country estate of Sonsbeek.

The *Schouwgroep* meets twice a year to visit the estates and discuss current issues. The agenda is drawn up by the chairman in consultation with the park manager, but other members can also contribute. The meetings are of an informal nature. The findings are recorded in a simple report, which is communicated with municipal administrators and officials.

There is a need for an update of the Management Plan for various reasons. Climate change forces us to reflect on the tree species that are chosen for replacement. A point of concern is the excessive use of the park for events. In addition to physical damage, there is also image damage: do events fit in a historic park? A (small) part of the tree population shows signs of aging: the question is whether you, for example, replace tree groups or avenues that have become incomplete in their entirety or in phases.

During the walk we visited the so-called French avenue. The old oak trees that still remain from the original avenue are surrounded by a 40 m high beech forest. The avenue is far from complete and suggestions are made to reconstruct this avenue and replant it with oak. That would mean that a full 30-meter strip should be felled on either side of the avenue to get enough light for the young oaks. The *Schouwgroep* has advised not to do this and to accept and appreciate the new situation, namely a high and complete beech forest. Rejuvenation would be a disproportionately large infringement.

Due to its long existence and the wide appreciation for the *Schouwgroep*, it can be seen as a successful participation model. It works because it bundles all the opinions of the stakeholders. A second explanation for the success is the emphasis on management practice, especially by combining discussions with site visits. The maintenance of parks and country estates by means of collaboration between the municipality and a *Schouwgroep* appears to work well here.

Lesson learned: the model of an advisory group (*Schouwgroep*) with various stakeholders is crucial and works!



Province of Gelderland and Innocastle, by Paul Stein, on behalf of the provincial deputy.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Partners in the Innocastle-project, partners in our province, stakeholders

On behalf of the provincial government of Gelderland, and of behalf of my colleagues and myself working in the heritage department, welcome again to this symposium. My name is Paul Stein, policy advisor. I should not be standing here; you should be looking at and listening to Peter Drenth. Peter Drenth is the “gedeputeerde”, the provincial minister responsible for culture and heritage.

After the provincial elections in March a new coalition has been formed this month. Mr Drenth will be responsible for the next four years. You might understand he has a very full agenda. I’m sure you will meet him later on in the Innocastle-project. Talking about this new coalition: The coalition agreed on a program for the next four years called “Samen voor Gelderland”, together for Gelderland.

A few quotes from the program:

- Estates and forest areas are the pearls of our province.
- Estate and forest owners therefore deserve space to do business.
- Our windmills, churches, castles and estates help us to tell and experience the history of Gelderland.
- They tell us where we come from, who we are and how we develop
- The preservation of our cultural heritage is of great importance for historical awareness and our shared identity.
- The preservation of cultural heritage requires not only that buildings are maintained and restored, but also that the knowledge about the preservation of historic buildings is transferred to future generations.

The coalition plans to invest €40 million extra over the next four years on restoring historic buildings, including castles manors and estates. This includes energy efficiency!

The province of Gelderland will also continue to support organizations that are committed to the preservation of monuments. We need them, and we need the municipalities, the estate-owners, the contractors, the schools and universities, everyone involved. And we do need our Innocastle-partners,.

To preserve our heritage for the next generations. And today, again, we enjoyed working with you. Thank you

An international reflection by Catherine Leonard, the National Trust and INTO (International National Trust Organisation, secretary-general)

Over the past days we have seen the very best of Gelderland’s heritage – the ‘Pearls of the Province’, as quoted by Paul Stein earlier. Our site visits took us first to Middachten where we met some of the 120 volunteers and learned of the close collaboration with the Province. From there to Reuversweerd and the incredible restoration project, also supported by the Province, which is being used as a location for vocational training. Next stop was Hackfort, where *Natuurmonumenten* are exploring new functions to diversify their sources of income, such as the new holiday lets, and we learned about issues related to opening to the public, such as the number of volunteers needed and the new car park. Lastly, we visited the fairy tale De Wiersse garden. Here we learned about the rerouting of rivers due to environmental change and how the large garden depends on subsidies alongside income from the small estate.

This incredible experience, added to today’s fascinating workshop has left me with three lasting impressions which will feed into Innocastle, our work at the Trust and with our international partners through INTO. Firstly, I remember Dame Fiona Reynolds coming to an earlier symposium at Middachten and talking about ‘arms open conservation’. Well, your arms are wide open! Your warm welcome and willingness to find a way to make things work shows that your minds are open too. Which leads onto the second lesson I draw from today: innovation. Our work is as much about the future as it is about the past and your solution-finding which has resulted in barbecues and sleepovers in the park here at Sonsbeek is as impressive as your approach to introducing modern water management techniques in historic settings.

Lastly, we have all been struck by the incredible levels of collaboration and cooperation here in Gelderland. That you are able to work in partnership at all levels: state/ngo; urban/rural; private/public; locally, regionally, nationally and internationally has been an inspiration to all the Innocastle partners.

The organisations involved in the project, like at INTO, are all very different but they do share the same ideals, values and priorities. What inspires us and the challenges we face are essentially the same. And one thing we can all agree on is that we can't do anything without collaboration or learning from each other.

We live in an uncertain world at the moment and being open, reaching out and connecting with other people is so important. You seem to have stumbled on a winning formula here in Gelderland: A supportive, catalytic and supportive provincial government; a willingness to collaborate and a magnificent historic and natural environment. It has been wonderful to be here with you to learn from your work in Gelderland and to share ideas from across the world. I'm so happy to be part of this project and at times like these, we need good networks more than ever.

Reflection by Eric Luiten, professor Landscape Architecture at TU Delft

Heritage as sector, factor and vector: conceptualizing the shifting relationship between heritage management and spatial planning

Professor Luiten presented a framework for heritage, based on a paper he has written with Joks Janssen, Hans Renes and Eva Stegmeijer. The paper can be downloaded via this [link](#). Heritage is a highly malleable concept that is constantly in flux and whose substance and meaning are continuously being redefined by society. From such a dynamic perspective, it is inevitable that new approaches and practices have developed for dealing with heritage in the context of planned development. While most scholars acknowledge the existence of various heritage approaches, one of the major defining features is often neglected: their distinctive outlook on spatial dynamics. In this article, the shifting role and purpose of heritage conservation in Dutch spatial planning is analysed. A conceptual framework is introduced that frames three approaches to the planning treatment of heritage; the sector, factor and vector approach, respectively. Although these approaches have developed in a historical sequence, the new did not replace the old but rather gained ground amongst different actors. Thus, three quite different ways of treating the past in the present now coexist in Dutch planning practice. Although this coexistence can raise conflict, we argue that contemporary heritage planning does not call for a one-size-fits-all approach, but rather for a mixed-mode model.

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Join the conversation!
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APPENDIX 2

Gelderland Study Visit (25 – 28 June 2019)

Analysis of Participant Questionnaires

15 questionnaires were completed by the participants on the Innocastle study visit to Gelderland: a pre-study and a post-visit survey. The key findings are summarised below. It should be kept in mind that quantitative scores are subjective and provided by the respondents. Qualitative comments are therefore important indicators for the performance of the project.

PRE-VISIT EXPECTATIONS

Many participants said that they were hoping to learn more about how HCMEs are managed in Gelderland and particularly the way they manage multiple ownership of sites and the collaboration and partnership that entails.

There was interest in how private and public bodies cooperate in the management of HCME. Along with ways to involve community stakeholders in different management and financing models.

Some participants highlighted learning more about landscape conservation and the diversification of economic activities at heritage gardens.

Everyone hoped to take home some good practices that could be applied at local and regional level.

SOME LEARNING RESULTS

Throughout the study visit, there was a strong focus on learning about a spatial approach to the challenges, opportunities and collaborations at country houses and landed estates. The spatial approach works at various interlinking levels: country houses as the main building or core of the estate; the estate as an ensemble; a wider cultural landscape with several estates; a region with villages; numerous country houses and estates and so on.

- Average levels of experience and understanding of the spatial approach rose from 2.0 before the study visit to 3.0 afterwards (with 4.0 being highly experienced).
- Related to this, participants' knowledge of co-ordinating HCMEs with other sectors such as transport, education, tourism, environment were low to begin with (1.7) but 2.7 at the end of the study visit.
- Levels of experience and knowledge of diversifying economic activities at HCMEs and using HCMEs to stimulate the local economy rose from 2.0 to 3.0.
- The question showing the least change was:

What is your current level of experience and knowledge of partnership working for HCMEs?

Respondents rated themselves 2.6 at the beginning of the study visit and 2.8 afterwards.

- Similarly, participants' knowledge of working with volunteers at HCMEs elicited an average response of 2.3 initially, rising to 2.7 following the study visit.

- Overall, participants registered an increased familiarity with heritage laws and policies in the Netherlands. 100% respondents said they had no knowledge of Dutch heritage laws before the study visit. And afterwards, they all said their understanding had increased.
- Just under half the participants already had good contacts in the Netherlands before the study visit. Following the programme, this rose to 100%.

NOTE: The number of participants completing the post-visit questionnaire was lower than the pre-visit survey.

ACTION PLANS

The visit gave further opportunity to think ahead to the formulation of Action Plans. In response to the question, “What did you learn from the Dutch study visit that will help you as you develop your Action Plan?”, respondents referred to issues such as:

- Trust and honesty will be vital as we prepare the action plans
- The importance of working together
- There is much that we can learn from each other about involving civil society
- The importance of a wider, spatial and holistic approach

“What stood out for me from the Dutch study visit was the positive attitude of all those involved and a willingness to work together to make good things happen. At Sonsbeek for example, we saw how taking some (small) risks could make people feel welcome and reap benefits that far outweigh any perceived risk.” – *Catherine Leonard, National Trust*

“The level of co-operation between the local authority, government and owners was inspiring. The tax and grant system supported this well.” – *Emma Thompson, National Trust*

“The value in honest conversations at an early stage to help manage expectations and co-operation and find ways to find an outcome that supports all.” – *Emma Thompson, National Trust*

“I gained more insight into the structured policy approach at the provincial level, in Gelderland as a good example of regional area operation. I also noticed the efforts of volunteer movements in the area of management and access to sites.” – *Koen Himpe, Agentschap Onroerend Erfgoed – Vlaamse Overheid*

“The most important thing I learned was that we should use a spatial approach starting from the country house or castle to the estate level, then to a wider cultural landscape up to the regional level and to take into consideration various aspects and all the parts involved or possibly affected by our decisions or actions.” – *Adriana Scheau, Regional Development Agency Centru*

“I saw an ‘appetite’ for involvement as voluntary, unforced, and as a common form of involvement in activities, without expecting anything in return, which has a great importance in managing a HCMEs property. Your civic spirit actually is already being conducted in this respect. Without this support, some properties would have been considerably degraded, even with negative effects on long term run.” – *Iuliana Gyarmati, Mureş County Council*

KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM THE GELDERLAND STUDY VISIT

Key takeaways from the site visits centred on the following seven themes:

1. Partnership working

Participants were impressed with how well the Dutch partners are able to work together to achieve positive outcomes for HCME. And they do this across sectors (i.e. heritage, nature conservation, recreation, educational institutions etc) as well as ownership or management models (state, ngo, private, companies).

They took home tips for making these partnerships work, such as “setting out partners’ expectations and wants at the start and being open to changes and others’ ideas” (Emma Thompson, National Trust) and “all the different parties have a certain objective in mind [...] the challenge is to align these to one common goal” (Bert de Roo, UGC).

Another “strong example was the mobile classroom that was temporarily placed on restoration sites, as we saw in Reuversweerd which was a very direct form of efficient knowledge exchange” (Koen Himpe. Agentschap Onroerend Erfgoed – Vlaamse Overheid).

2. Involving local communities, volunteers and civil society

All the partners and stakeholders involved in the study visit were interested the volunteering examples they saw. Particularly at the privately-owned Middachten and De Wiersse. It was felt that this was unusual. Indeed, during the UK study visit delegates had asked the owner of Eastnor Castle about using volunteers and he had discounted it. Yet at Middachten, we saw it working very well, particularly for park management and garden maintenance.

Koen Himpe also said that “As far as I know, this practice is virtually non-existent in Flanders. Maybe a parallel can be made here, such as with social work farms.”

There was definitely a takeaway around “openness to new ideas and ways of working that the Netherlands exhibited, not only on the visits, but generally during the week” (Emma Thompson, National Trust). And extending volunteering to privately owned HCMEs could be one of these new ideas!

3. Economic diversification

In the UK study visit, balancing money, conservation and civic engagement had been highlighted as an important issues. This was further explored in Gelderland.

It was interesting to the participants to see the many different events and activities that were organised at HCMEs: “exhibitions, local fairs, and visits of the estates’ gardens, the opportunity to organize events, to rent apartments in a castle or even to organize summer schools for students or workshops on different topics” (Adriana Scheau, Regional Development Agency Centru).

They were intrigued by the Natuurmonumenten site at Hackfort with its multiple functions and diversification. Some thought the holiday lets beautiful. Others that “diversification had been imposed, and which Natuurmonumenten, as an organisation, did not seem to fully support. This felt as if the tourism sector also exerted a strong indirect influence on site management organisations that own heritage” (Bert de Roo, UGC).

Another interesting takeaway was the government subsidy model. Mary Gatacre said that De Wiersse relied heavily on subsidies. There is a tendency to think of an either/all solution: a private, NGO, ‘national trust’ approach or public investment and ownership. It was good to see Gelderland successfully blending the two.

4. Transforming HCMEs for new uses

Again, delegates were intrigued by the variety of owners and users they had been shown. They were particularly intrigued by the approach at Reuversweerd. The property will be used as a retreat in future (which is similar to one of the proposed uses for the Romanian site, Marghiloman Manor in Hagiesti). It is being restored to an incredibly high standard (and with some government funding) and as an exemplar project, with lots of student learning opportunities. The conversations about how to interpret the World War II part of the house's story were also interesting to hear.

“Reuversweerd is a good example of revitalization and reutilisation of an unutilised property, in collaboration with the Technical University, applying the principle of ‘learning by doing’.” (Iuliana Gyarmati, Mureş County Council)

On the other hand, there was some concern about Hackfort and whether the “transformation of a part of the castle as a hotel function seems to be a pitfall for sustainable conservation” (Bert de Roo, UGC). Although others thought the connections to the tourist/culinary/hotel industries were more positive.

Collaboration is vital to this as well: “I learnt that is important to work in partnership, to involve all the interested parts, to be creative, to be open to new ideas while preserving the historic heritage as much as possible. It is also important to try and reconstruct using original materials and techniques and the original plans as much as possible, but sometimes things must evolve in order to insure sustainability of the building or the garden – to introduce electricity or other utilities, to use plants adapted to the current climate and temperatures (Adriana Scheau, Regional Development Agency Centru).

5. Benefits to the wider economy

In terms of wider economic benefit, there seemed to be different views amongst the participants. Some felt that whilst the HCMEs were splendid and successful “I did not immediately see a clear contribution to the local economy. The surplus value, especially on the tourist-economic level, seems to me to originate more from the very well-developed network between country estates in the region and from the general landscape flawlessness” (Koen Himpe, Agentschap Onroerend Erfgoed – Vlaamse Overheid).

On the other hand, others felt that “the local economy is stimulated in a region by using the HCMEs properly, in many ways described above, because all the activities and events organised in these locations can attract tourists, the people from the local communities, and also different sponsors” (Adriana Scheau, Regional Development Agency Centru).

The fact that a high-quality living environment which is “friendly and green is a point of attraction for people to live, increasing the value of properties the number of people that pay taxes and with a higher administrative capability to financing activities that increase living standards” (Iuliana Gyarmati Mureş County Council).

6. Co-ordinating with other sectors

Delegates were interested in the examples of cross-sectoral collaboration, particularly around the issues of climate change, for example. “I thought it was impressive how the water board was working with estates including De Wiersse to alleviate the impacts of climate change by re-routing rivers” (Catherine Leonard, National Trust). “Here it became clear that water conservation will be an important key for the sustainable preservation of estates” (Koen Himpe, Agentschap Onroerend Erfgoed – Vlaamse Overheid).

“I learnt that coordinating HCMEs with other sectors such as transport, education, tourism and environment is very important because all these sectors depend on each other and may influence or even determine the success or the failure of certain actions / activities. It is necessary to have access to these estates, to preserve the environment and the landscape, to attract tourists, but also to involve the young generations in these activities and to make them appreciate and preserve/ restore the heritage.” (Adriana Scheau, Regional Development Agency Centru)

7. The importance of a spatial approach

The spatial approach was highlighted as the key to the successful management of estates and long term sustainability. “One estate is owned by mutual owners who all have their standard method of maintaining their property resulting in a fragmented estate. Working towards a shared green management, amongst others, can resolved this fragmentation” (Bert de Roo, UGC).

After the study visit to Gelderland, the delegates said they understood the spatial approach a lot better. “I can see the benefit of this thinking but it was also interesting to hear from Paul Stein that it costs a lot and takes time” (Catherine Leonard, National Trust).

Everyone was impressed by the strong connection between the country estates and the surrounding cultural landscape in Gelderland. The work of Gelders Genootschap was particularly highlighted.

Participants noted the importance of “understanding what you have (as an owner, as a municipality, as a province) which results in a better understanding of the possibilities and connections on different scales” (Bert de Roo, UGC).

COMMENTS ON THE PRACTICAL ORGANISATIONS OF THE STUDY VISIT

“I thought the study visit was REALLY well organised. I still can’t quite believe how many sites we managed to visit in such a small amount of time! The dinner at De Wiersse was one certainly of the highlights.”

“I had wondered initially about the relevance of the big stakeholder event but it was actually very interesting and, given that we were talking a lot about partnerships and collaboration, a perfect way to ‘walk the talk’!”

“Huge thanks to everyone involved!”

“Brilliantly organised and good balance and variety of visits.”

“I am very satisfied with the organisation of the study visit. For me, the selection of the number of sites was not too high, even though the programme was therefore intense. It was only a pity that we could not hear the owner-manager at Reuversweerd. From this site I would have liked to have received an explanation of the honoured cases that the students of TU Delft had worked out. On the basis of the posters, there seemed to be very interesting examples of this.”

“Even more than the search for new destinations for estates, I think the focus should be on broadening functions. In addition to the inclusion of new functions, we must not lose sight of the fact that old functions can also be reintegrated. It strikes me, for example, that we have heard little about revenues from forestry and agriculture, even though these were the former leading income items. Let us not forget these basic values.”

“Very interesting visit and well organised.”

“Everything was in balance. It was an excellent opportunity to find out about different approaches and points of view, in different stages of development, but applied at the same subject.”