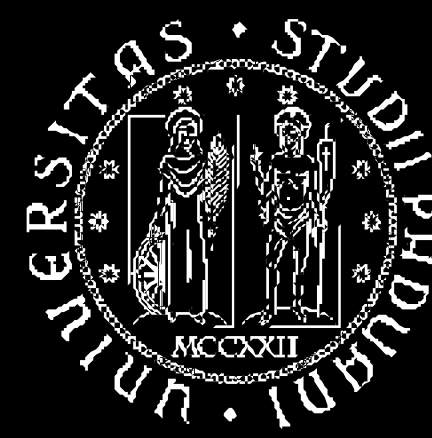




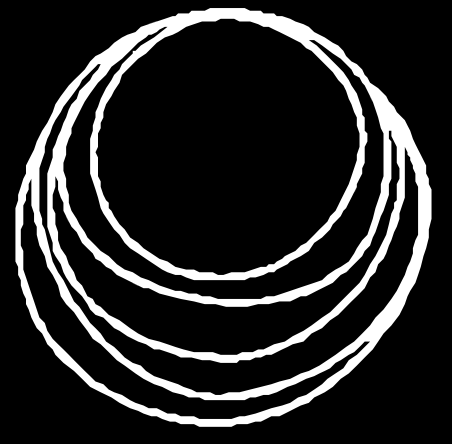
REGIONE DEL VENETO



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COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE
Under the auspices of the
Secretary General of the Council of Europe
Mr Thorbjørn Jagland



TERRACED
LANDSCAPES
CHOOSING
THE FUTURE

Montenegro | Boka Kotorska

The Bay of Boka Kotorska

Hidden and endangered terraced World Heritage landscapes



The Bay of Boka Kotorska is situated on the eastern Adriatic coast in Montenegro, cutting deeply into the land, surrounded by steep limestone mountains whose highest peaks are around 1800 m high. Specific natural characteristics of the Bay, especially its vertical jaggedness, make it a unique bay of the Mediterranean. This natural harbour provided conditions for a continuous life from prehistoric times on, while under the influence of diverse cultures an exceptional cultural landscape has been created. The Natural and Culturo-Historical Region of Kotor, covering with its buffer zone the whole Bay of Boka Kotorska, has been inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List since 1979. Its Outstanding Universal Value is embodied *"in the quality of the architecture in its fortified and open cities, settlements, palaces and monastic ensembles, and their harmonious integration to the cultivated terraced landscape on the slopes of high rocky hills."*

The Region has a specific vertical structure composed of coastal settlements with defined coastline and groups of houses, and arable land, i.e. terraced fields, occupying the upper zones of steep hillsides featuring forests or rocky landscape. Furthermore, in upper zone of the Bay the remains of older settlements with terraced fields can be found. Cultivated terraced landscape has been recognized as one of the important characteristics of the Kotor World Heritage region. Vineyards, olive groves and orchards grown on the hillsides have been mentioned in the medieval and Venetian archival sources, with its characteristic landscape that preserved its appearance and function until the mid-20th century. However, the excessive and uncontrolled urbanization that has been taking place over the last decades, occupying primarily the old terraced fields, threatens to endanger the Regions' Outstanding Universal Values.

Text: EXPEDITIO
Photo: Historic postcards (1,2), EXPEDITIO



1 - Kotor part of the Bay with arable hillside fields, the beginning of the 20th century



2 - Arable terraced fields above Prčanj, a photograph from the beginning of the 20th century



3 - Transformation of terraced fields and preserved fields at Glavati cove, Prčanj



4 - Preserved terraced fields with olive groves, Gorinji Stoliv



5 - The process of urbanization of zones with the remains of terraced fields, Dobrota



6 - The remains of terraced fields in the upper zone of Dobrota



7 - Preserved terraced fields at Mala estate, Risan



8 - Arable fields below Gorinji Stoliv



9 - Neglected, but preserved terraced fields with olive groves, Gorinji Stoliv



10 - Activities of restoring dry-stone walls - retaining walls of olive groves, Gorinji Lastva



11 - A traditional group of houses with the preserved terraced fields, Mala, Risan