INTRODUCTION

The physical, anthropological, biological and ethnic backgrounds of a territory represent the most evident characteristics of its landscape. However, the perception of the landscape itself depends also on the observer and his life. In the European Landscape Convention, also known as Florence Convention, it is clearly established that “landscape means an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors” (European Community, 2000).

This agreement defines also a series of countermeasures that Member States should undertake for the recognition and safeguard of landscapes. In particular, the agreement contains the policies, objectives, the preservation and management of the landscape which is recognized as a fundamental component of the European heritage and a key element for ensuring the quality of life.

The safeguard of landscape is not dependent on generally prescribed standards of beauty or originality, being determined by peculiar aspects such as magnitude of the territory, cultural, environmental and social characteristics and, last but not least, historical frame. Some regions are in fact characterised by a unique combination of human and natural landscapes where many small historic towns are located in a peculiar geomorphology. Being aware that these centres are authentic “places of memory,” as they result from a slow economic and cultural process and preserve the identity of communities, each analysis is performed trying to relate each element of the cultural heritage to the surrounding natural and environmental context. These historical towns, most of which established during the medieval age, are often exposed to human factors of degradation including, among others, the risks of soil overexploitation and natural factors such as the physical vulnerability determined by considerable seismic and volcanic activities, and by the peculiar geomorphological and hydrogeological pattern of the territory. These risks need to be mitigated by means of a careful analysis of the criticity levels in the different geographical areas and by developing strategies based on requirements and operational guidance (Pelliccio, 2013).

Starting from the idea that a damage generally involves complex systems, with large numbers of variables, determining physical and social consequences, the risk assessment cannot be just started from statistic data or from the analysis of “harm post event.” The quantification of these criticity levels is based on a holistic analysis of the landscape, in which elements are regarded as open sets and continuous dynamic relationship are established among them. The holistic approach allows to analyze both the quality of the visual perception and the physical features and the cultural peculiarity of landscape or, in addition, all the factors which make these realities particularly vulnerable and prone to degradation.

In order to achieve this goal, an investigation procedure has been set up where the results of large and small scale analyses are included in a flexible and easy to use tool, able to combine information of different nature. The operational support for this study is provided by the information technology and, more specifically,
REFERENCES


INGV. DPC, Interactive Seismic Hazard Maps. Continuation of assistance to DPC for improving and using the seismic hazard map compiled according to the Prime Minister “Ordinanza” 3274 of 2003 and planning future initiatives, Project SI, 2004-2006.


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**ADDITIONAL READING**


Preliminary activity has been carried out at local frame in Cassino. The team designed and created GIS aimed at the whole territorial and landscape knowledge, then urban sector and individual architectural reality, testing consistency and functionality of these systems at different scales of representation.
KEY TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

Cultural Heritage: Cultural heritage sites include hundreds of historic buildings and town sites, important archaeological sites, and works of monumental sculpture or painting. We can consider tangible Cultural heritage: architecture, paintings, drawings, prints, sculptures, and objects of the decorative arts (furniture, glassware, metalware, textiles, ceramics, and so on).

Geographic Information System (GIS): Is a system that integrates hardware, software, and data for capturing, storing, managing, analyzing, and displaying all forms of geographically referenced information. GIS allows to view, understand, question, interpret, and visualize data in many ways that reveal relationships, patterns, and trends in the form of maps, globes, reports, and charts.

Historical Town: is the typical designation of a historic or original core of a city or town.

Landscape: Landscape means an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors.

Restoration: Any attempt to conserve and repair tangible cultural heritage that have been adversely affected by negligence, willful damage, or, more usually, the inevitable decay caused by the effects of time and human use on the materials of which they are made.

Safeguard: A measure taken to protect someone or something or to prevent something undesirable.

Survey: In Architecture is is the science determining a fully understanding the metrical, geometrical and historical aspects of an architectural work, penetrating the deepest and most hidden nature of an architectural organism, bringing to light the historical events of which it has been protagonist, original form and subsequent transformations over different eras, and providing us with full graphical imagery.