INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Rural Heritage Landscape: Study, Observation and Development

and General Assembly of UNISCAPE

Turin, Italy, 25-26 June 2026



First announcement

The International Conference ***"Rural Heritage Landscape: Study, Observation and Development"*** will take place in Turin, Italy, on 25–26 June 2026, organized by *Università degli Studi di Torino and Politecnico di Torino* and in collaboration with UNISCAPE. The conference will also host the annual meeting of the UNISCAPE General Assembly.

Day 1 – 25 June - Conference and General Assembly

The conference entitled "Rural Heritage Landscape: Study, Observation and Development" will be held at Valentino Castle (Polytechnic of Turin). The programme will include thematic sessions with presentations by national and international experts, as well as a poster session (a call for posters is currently open).

In the late afternoon, the **UNISCAPE 2026 General Assembly meeting** will be held at the Rectorate Building of the University of Turin. The day will conclude with a social dinner in the city centre.

Day 2 – Field Visit

A full-day field visit will take place in the **Terraced Viticultural and Agricultural Landscapes of Mombarone**, located across the municipalities of Borgofranco d'Ivrea, Carema, Nomaglio and Settimo Vittone (approximately 70 km from Turin). Transport by bus will be provided.
Since 2024, the site has been officially recognised as national heritage, following its inclusion in the National Register of Rural Landscapes of Historical Interest, Agricultural Practices and Traditional Knowledge (Italian Ministry of Agriculture, Food Sovereignty and Forestry).
It represents a multifunctional agricultural system that preserves significant historical and cultural values. The terraces are mainly used for viticulture, still based on traditional practices that strongly characterise the site (pergolas supported by stone pillars). The area is an outstanding example of the resilience of traditional agricultural systems and includes numerous elements of interest related to rural architecture.

Registration

Deadline: 30 April 2026
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfM2oMxbKnoxQuZbT1ZzkT79cEo_nOfjRNizXsyQPM6ho4Hjg/viewform

Preliminary Programme

Thursday, 25 June 2026

10:00–16:00
CONFERENCE
Rural Heritage Landscape: Study, Observation and Development
Venue: Valentino Castle (Politecnico di Torino)

16:00–17:00
Transfer to the University of Turin
Walking (approx. 30 minutes) - Public transport (approx. 20 minutes)

17:30–19:30
UNISCAPE 2026 General Assembly meeting
Venue: Rectorate Building, University of Turin

20:00
Social dinner
Venue: Piazza Vittorio, Turin (approx. €40, to be paid directly at the restaurant)

Friday, 26 June 2026

FIELD VISIT
Knowledge, Management and Development of Historic Rural Landscapes: the Mombarone Experience
Venue: Terraced viticultural and agricultural landscapes of Mombarone

08:00
Meeting point
Torino Porta Nuova railway station, departure by bus at 08:15

10:00–18:00
Visit to the historic rural landscape

The visit includes a walk through terraced landscapes with moderately steep slopes.

Lunch, featuring local products, will be served on a panoramic terrace in a terraced valley that cannot be reached by bus. Participants who may have difficulty walking on steep paths are kindly asked to indicate this in the registration form; alternative transport by car to the lunch location will be arranged if needed.

18:15
Departure by bus
Arrival at Torino Porta Nuova at approx. 19:30

** Participants arriving in Turin in advance may wish to note that on 24 June the city celebrates Saint John (San Giovanni) with traditional fireworks.*

Poster Session – Call for Contributions

"Rural Heritage Landscape: Research, Teaching and Public Engagement in the UNISCAPE Network"

A poster session will be organised during the conference to explore the various ways in which universities contribute to the understanding, protection and enhancement of rural landscapes across Europe.

In line with the principles of the European Landscape Convention, contributions are invited that present innovative approaches to research, education and public engagement in the field of rural heritage landscapes.

Rural landscapes are dynamic and complex systems shaped by long-term interactions between human communities and natural environments. Today, they face significant challenges, including climate change, land abandonment, agricultural intensification and broader socio-economic transformations.

At the same time, they offer important opportunities for sustainable development, cultural continuity and community resilience. In this context, academic institutions play a key role in generating knowledge, fostering critical thinking and promoting participatory approaches.

This session welcomes contributions from researchers, educators and practitioners within the UNISCAPE network addressing topics such as:

- Interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research on rural landscapes
- Innovative teaching methods and curricula
- Community-based and participatory initiatives
- Tools and methods for landscape observation and monitoring
- Activities linking academic work with policy-making and public awareness

By presenting ongoing projects, case studies and experimental practices, the session aims to provide a platform for exchange and collaboration among UNISCAPE members. It encourages dialogue on how research and education can effectively support the stewardship of rural heritage landscapes and strengthen the role of universities as active contributors to society.

Deadline for submitting proposals: 7 June 2026

References

- Pomatto, E., Devecchi, M., Larcher, F. (2022). Coevolution between Terraced Landscapes and Rural Communities: An Integrated Approach Using Expert-Based Assessment and Evaluation of Winegrowers' Perceptions (Northwest Piedmont, Italy). Sustainability, 14(14), 8624.
- Pomatto, E., Devecchi, M., Larcher, F. (2022). Assessment of the Integrity of Terraced Landscapes: A GIS-Based Approach in a Potential GIAHS-FAO Site (Northwest Piedmont, Italy). Land, 11(12), 2269.
- Application dossier for the "Terraced Viticultural and Agricultural Landscapes of Mombarone" to the National Register of Rural Landscapes of Historical Interest, Agricultural Practices, and Traditional Knowledge can be viewed: Paesaggi Terrazzati Viticoli e Agricoli del Mombarone

Scientific and Organising Committee

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