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COUNCIL OF EUROPE FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON THE VALUE OF CULTURAL HERITAGE FOR SOCIETY

CONDITIONS FOR GRANTING THE “FARO LABEL” Initial proposals

Secretariat Memorandum
prepared by the
Directorate General of Democracy
Democratic Institutions and Governance Department

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Introduction

The Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (Faro Convention) was adopted by the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers on 13 October 2005 and entered into force on 1 June 2011. To date, 17 States have ratified it and five others have signed it.

At its plenary session on 27-29 May 2013, the CDCPP adopted the "Faro Action Plan 2014-2015", tasking the Council of Europe Secretariat to run initiatives to promote the Faro Convention. As part of a second action plan (2016-2017), the tools elaborated and tested through four case studies will allow:

- on the one hand, to continue building on the reference framework and tools through discussions of the issues that have been identified and remain to be analysed and,
- on the other hand, to establish mechanisms for providing heritage communities with political or strategic support, or otherwise confirming their course of action.

For this purpose, the granting of a Council of Europe "distinction" to the most representative "Faro Initiatives" will enable the setting up of a "Faro Community".

The "Faro Label"

Objective

The granting of a "Faro Label" aims at recognising and making known those civic actions that are implementing the "Faro Principles". This recognition targets a process in progress. It is not about judging contents or results.

Beneficiaries

- An action carried out by citizens, associations or institutions;
- An action carried out in villages, towns or territories where "heritage communities" are set up.

Modalities

- a. The action referring to the "Faro Principles", or wishing to be associated with the Council of Europe's Faro Action Plan, must firstly be identified through the online HEREIN questionnaire dedicated to the "Faro Initiatives" (www.coe.int/faroconvention). The Council of Europe Secretariat then checks the information to confirm that the action is a "Faro Initiative";
- b. Those "Faro Initiatives" that demonstrate the appropriate conditions can be the subject of a "Faro Appreciation". The mission of the experts appointed by the Council of Europe at the request of the "Faro Community" aims at revealing the value and originality of the action in relation to the "Faro Principles";
- c. The appreciation reports are examined by the "Faro Community" which determines if a "Faro Initiative" can be granted a "label". The proposals are presented to the Council of Europe Secretariat which follows up the proposals. The Secretariat confirms the granting of the "label" to the project managers;
- d. The granting of the "label" is for a specific duration. It can be renewed upon simple notification by the "Faro Community";
- e. The actions which have received the "label" are included on the Faro web site. The Secretariat presents a report for information to the plenary meetings of the Steering Committee for Culture, Heritage and Landscape.

Criteria

- The action must be carried out by a “heritage community” acknowledged as such, according to the definition given by the Faro reference framework;
- The action must be recognised and supported by public institutions and/or local elected representatives who are committed to applying the “Faro Principles”;
- The action (targeting one heritage component, a site or a specific place) must be implemented in the framework of cooperation between a “heritage community” and the public institutions (local, regional or national).

Responsibilities

An action that has been granted the “label” integrates *de facto* the “Faro Community”, and its representative participates fully in its activities, in particular with a view to developing and enriching the common reference framework.

The action commits therefore to developing its capacity to be disseminated at regional, national or European level and to act as a resource centre for the implementation of the “Faro Principles”. Moreover, the action commits to promoting the Faro Convention through public events or publications, and to finding ways of developing its activities in connection with other Faro Initiatives.

The Council of Europe for its part commits, as part of its programme of activities and within the limits of the resources available, to providing international visibility to those actions that have received the label through its support to the “Faro Community”. The information gathered about these actions will be used in the Council of Europe HEREIN data base on heritage policies.

Action

The Bureau is invited to take note of the proposals and suggestions above and provide guidance to the Secretariat as to the aspects and modalities to be clarified before finalisation.