



STEERING COMMITTEE FOR CULTURE, HERITAGE AND LANDSCAPE (CDCPP)

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Strasbourg, 6 September 2013

**4th meeting of the Bureau
Strasbourg, 16-17 October 2013**

12TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE HEREIN NATIONAL COORDINATORS, STRASBOURG 1-2 JULY

DOCUMENT FOR INFORMATION

Item 3.2 of the draft Agenda

- The Bureau is invited to take note of the meeting report

1st Session: OPENING REMARKS

1.1 Welcome, introduction and adoption of the Agenda

Gianluca Silvestrini, Head of the Managing Diversity Division, opened the session providing an overview of the revised objectives of the Council of Europe relating to heritage. The reform process resulted in an opportunity to re-boost the role of heritage with regard to the Council of Europe's political priorities and to connect it to the democracy priority.

Mr Silvestrini reported that recently a group of 22 Member States presented the Steering Committee for Culture, Heritage and Landscape (CDCPP) with a Declaration supporting the European Heritage Network. This Declaration emphasized the significance which the Member States attach to this initiative. The text of the Declaration was distributed to the National Coordinators.

Mr Silvestrini recalled that, although the European Heritage Network has as its main task the production of national heritage policy reports, its scope is not limited to these policy reports. The finalisation of the reporting process will allow the Network to consolidate its position and its leadership role in the heritage domain and, as a consequence, opportunities will increase to connect with all other relevant international networks in order to discuss priorities, transversal themes and synergies. The intention of the Council of Europe is in fact to bring important stakeholders together, to establish synergies between them and to carry out joint reflections in order to formulate proposals or recommendations to be forwarded to the European political level.

The draft agenda of the meeting was then presented by **Giuliana De Francesco** and adopted by the participants.

1.2 Update from the Steering Committee on Culture, Heritage and Landscape.

Erminia Sciacchitano (Italy), newly elected Chair of the CDCPP, underlined three main challenges faced by the heritage sector in Europe, as emerged from the debates in the last session of the CDCPP (27-29 May 2013):

1. the social and economic crisis, which implies cuts to funding for culture and heritage, and calls for evidence-based decisions;
2. the reform of the Council of Europe, focussing on innovating its role as a political body;
3. the need for our national authorities to set up new governance models involving local authorities, NGOs and the private sector in the decision-making processes.

In such a context, the role of the European Heritage Network should be seen in its long standing legal framework which evolved across time, starting from the 1996 Helsinki ministerial Recommendation that launched a network in charge of outlining and updating a European landscape of policies on cultural heritage, until the most recent developments, such as the Ministerial Conference which took place in Moscow in 2013, that highlighted the current need for qualitative and quantitative data and indicators.

Substantial progress has been made by the European Heritage Network recently. A key issue for its further development is the exchange with other networks, such as the European Heritage Heads Forum, who recently established a task force on economic data on heritage, the EU Reflection Group on Cultural Heritage, the Creative Europe Programme and the Asia-Europe Foundation.

The potential of our platform (network and data) could be exploited in such contexts.

2nd session – EUROPEAN HERITAGE POLICY REPORTS

2.1 European Heritage Policy Reports 2013: the outcome

Giuliana De Francesco presented an overview of the aggregated data extracted from the national reports that were available (either published or still in draft version) at the time of the preparation of the meeting. A warning was made that the statistical data could still change over time, once all reports were ready and published. The national coordinators expressed their enthusiasm for the results achieved, and because for the first time the output of the collective input of the network of coordinators was made visible.

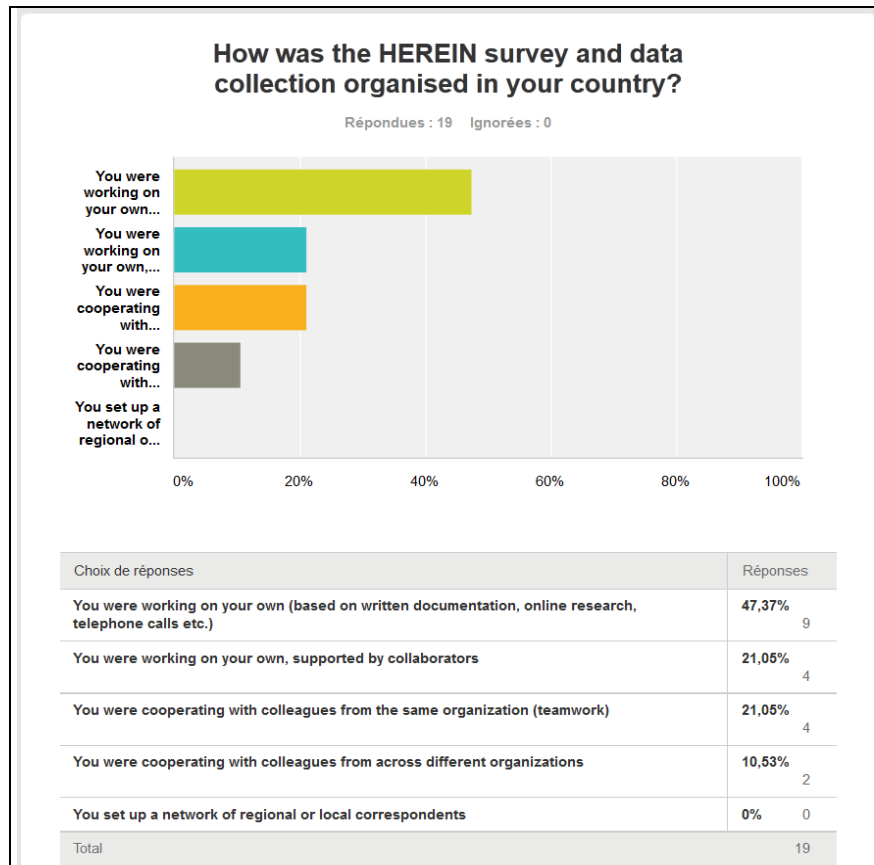
The outcome presented was considered valuable and worth publishing as a reliable source of information for the cultural sector as a whole.

The main issue at stake is the fact that the reporting activity is a work in progress, due to the constant evolution of the national frameworks, which requires update of information on a regular basis.

2.2 European Heritage Policy Reports 2013: the feedback

This session was aimed at enabling exchange of experiences related to the national reporting across the National Coordinators, such as problems met and solutions found, good practices in HEREIN data collection-related organisational issues to provide ideas, support and encouragement to those having still to finalise their work.

First, the results of a survey on the national **organisation** of the data collection were presented (they are displayed in the image below).



Afterwards, some National Coordinators presented their national experience:

Spain (Cristina Lafuente) expressed positive feedback on the Questionnaire implemented in HEREIN 3, which she found clear and exhaustive; her main concern was related to the exclusion of several heritage fields, such as museums. In Spain, Regions enjoy a certain degree of autonomy and because of this, meetings with and training for the 19 Regions were organised and a brief Guide was prepared to facilitate the work and explain the Questionnaire to the heads of the Regions' cultural sections. The workload was heavy for only one person, but if the report succeeded in Spain despite the number of Autonomies, it could be achieved by all.

Also, other countries, such as **Hungary**, prepared a selection of questions to be submitted to target institutions in order to facilitate the collaboration and the data collection.

Croatia (Igor Maroević) outlined the difficulties related to gathering financial and statistical data, as Ministries usually collect such data in a different format to that of the HEREIN Questionnaire. A very good collaboration was provided by all of the Croatian Ministry's departments.

“The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” (Goran Sanev) stressed that the main difficulties were due to the limited interest for HEREIN shown by the national administration, which wasn't keen on providing data. The hope is that the European Heritage Network will soon be upgraded from recording policy reports to influencing policies at national level.

France (Orane Proisy) did not encounter relevant problems, except for the formulation of some questions. France has a centralised administration so that she had to contact directly all colleagues responsible for each area within her Ministry, and then fill in the questionnaire basing on the information provided.

In **Bosnia and Herzegovina** (Tarik Jazvin) the main concern is that, even if all the Council of Europe's Conventions on cultural heritage have been ratified, Bosnian legislation has not yet incorporated them into the national legal system. As a matter of fact, there is no specific law on heritage in Bosnia and Herzegovina. This lack of information was explained in the Commentary section.

Portugal (Rita Gonçalves) highlighted the problem of staff shortages and work overload. Professionals contributing to the report should get back some kind of reward, starting from the possibility of seeing their work well presented online.

In cases where the work of the National Coordinator is not adequately supported by the hierarchy, it is underlined that the Council of Europe can prepare and send formal letters of support.

The second part of the feedback session concerned the **content issues** possibly emerged through the direct engagement with the questionnaire and/or with external actors.

Michele D'Addetta focussed on HEREIN as a monitoring system of the Council of Europe's heritage conventions. In particular, he presented a brief overview of conventions' provisions that do not seem to be covered by the current HEREIN 3 Questionnaire.

The discussion which followed highlighted the need for integrating the approach of the Faro Convention into the Questionnaire, such as the empowering of local communities, as well as the monitoring some of its provisions. This should be accompanied by a collection of good practice across Member States on the local implementation of the Faro Convention.

It should be kept in mind that HEREIN was conceived as a tool for the soft monitoring of the implementation of the conventions (mainly Granada and Valletta) and is in no respect meant to provide for an evaluation of the national policies, also given the fact that not all participating countries ratified all the Conventions monitored by HEREIN 3.

2.3 Analysis and interpretation of the outcome of the European Heritage Policy Reports

The discussion finally moved to identifying the steps to be undertaken in order to analyse the outcome of the European Heritage Policy Reports.

The Network considers these aggregated data useful both in order to steer the vision and mission of the HEREIN network, as well as to provide a useful source of information to other networks

In order to provide a meaningful outcome, the analysis and comparison of the figures should take into account the size of the countries, the population, the national budget, the GDP etc.

A working group made up of national coordinators and scientifically supported by external experts could approach the analysis and interpretation of data.

3rd Session – DEVELOPMENT

3.1 Pilot for a Knowledge Base of the European Heritage Network

The HEREIN 3 system is up and running, and data entry and publication of reports is ongoing. However, as explained in detail in the Progress Report, the system isn't flexible and it is not recommended to further develop it.

As the National Coordinators had expressed their wish for update the Questionnaire, carry out surveys, and to collect additional information relevant for the domain of heritage policies, an attempt is being made by the Secretariat to develop a more user-friendly website based on Drupal, a widely used content management system that provides for flexibility and modularity. The full migration of the HEREIN 3 questionnaire and data is already planned; the feedback of the Network is required in order to make progress.

Traian Muresan presented the pilot and its main features, specifying that any detail can be modified or added according to what is agreed by the Network. The National Coordinators expressed their enthusiasm about the pilot and the new perspectives it opens to the Network for the heritage policies database and the thesaurus that could be integrated into this system. After some questions concerning technical and security issues of Drupal, it was agreed to progress with the development of the Knowledge Base.

3.2 The HEREIN Questionnaire: Proposal for amendments

The structure of the questionnaire proved useful and well-conceived and in use demonstrated a high quality level. Statistical data, even if difficult to be gathered because of the different formats in which they are collected at national level, were considered very important for their evaluation by policy-makers.

Some Coordinators highlighted that the main problems were not caused by questions, but by the limited set of foreseen answers, in particular the YES/NO answers, which do not allow for capturing the complexities. Nevertheless, statistical data is more easily extracted from this type of question.

The main need for update concerns the integration of the Faro Convention approach and its provisions.

4th Session – FOLLOW UP FROM THE 2012 PLENARY AND THE BERN MEETING

4.1 The European Heritage Network and trends in cultural heritage

Past activities of working groups identified the need for the Network to carry on, alongside the main policy database, analyses, case studies, surveys based on specific needs. Some topics had already been suggested on the occasion of the plenary meeting 2012. The Bern working group recommended addressing in priority the issue of the heritage management in times of crisis.

A rich introduction to this topic was given by **Irina Oberlander-Tarnoveanu** (Romania). An extremely difficult situation was outlined, therefore the main question for the Network is: what can the European Heritage Network do in order to positively influence governmental decisions?

Drafting a recommendation to be distributed by the Council of Europe to the member States would encourage governments to invest in heritage preservation and enhancement in times of crisis.

Zvezda Kozelj (Slovenia) presented the Conclusions of the *International Symposium on Cultural Heritage and Legal Issues*, co-organised by ICOMOS, Council of Europe, UNESCO and the Institute for the Protection of Cultural Heritage of Slovenia, which took place in Bled on 2-4 May 2013. The Symposium had addressed similar issues and had recommended, among others: to renew the traditional mission of ministries for cultural heritage and to develop new skills and experience; to involve the civil society in the governance, together with the competent institutions; to suggest new types of interventions through a pro-active policy. The Symposium finally recommended generating contributions and letting them converge for analysis and systematisation towards the European Heritage Network.

Some National Coordinators expressed their favour for setting up a working group focused on how to evaluate the economic value of cultural heritage, in order to demonstrate to policy-makers the potential economic revenue. Erminia Sciacchitano stressed the fact that the assessment of the economic value of cultural heritage is already the subject of investigation in other international fora, such as UNESCO or the Task Force of the European Heritage Heads Forum. The social value of cultural heritage is, on the contrary, specific to the Council of Europe, and should be rather investigated in such a context. There is general consensus across the National Coordinators on this approach. The social impact of heritage, for example on the quality of life and well-being of people, is a less debated topic in the international arena.

Gianluca Silvestrini illustrated the next steps that will be taken in the Marseille Forum on the Social Value of Culture in the autumn, explaining the intertwining between social and economic aspects.

4.2 The European Heritage Network and the collection of good practice in cultural heritage policies and programmes

The collection of good practice on specific issues had been identified as a relevant activity by the Working Group on Vision and strategy (2012).

The discussion underlined the need for collecting good practice across Member States:

- on the local **implementation of the Faro convention**
- on **digitisation** and access to culture and on the use of digital tools to make heritage preservation and enhancement more cost-effective.

4.3 Follow up of the activity of the working groups

It was decided to establish two working groups during 2013.

WG 1 Social and economic values of heritage, which should also deal with the update of the questionnaire in the view of Faro Convention's follow up;

WG2 Promotion of the European Heritage Network, which should build upon the communication plan outlined by the corresponding WG in 2012, in order to develop the promotion of the Network and of HEREIN 3. This WG should also deal with the Knowledge Base for the European Heritage Network, providing feedback and input, monitoring its development and ensuring its correspondence to the needs of the Network.

A call for National Coordinators to volunteer to participate in the groups gave the following provisional outcome:

- WG1: Belgium/Wallonia, Croatia, Italy, Republic of Moldova, Portugal, Spain, Sweden;
- WG2: Belgium/Flanders, Bosnia and Herzegovina, France, Montenegro, Netherlands.

Volunteers would be asked to confirm their participation upon consultation with their directors. Participation in the groups would be opened to those who could not take part in the plenary meeting. Experts might be included if requested and proposed by the participating countries. However, in order to ensure efficiency, the number of working group members should not exceed ten. It was agreed that the meetings of the groups would last up to two days, would not require interpretation and would take place between September and October of the current year. The precise date and location would be decided at a later stage.

5th Session: COOPERATION AND INFORMATION

5.1 The HEREIN AISBL: presentation of activities and proposals for further collaboration

Gislaine Devillers and **Orane Proisy** illustrated the progress made by the association in the previous year. The first issue of the Carnet HEREIN was amended and was ready for circulation. The second issue would be devoted to actors in the field of heritage. A detailed table of contents was commented on and distributed to all participants. The content of this publication would be mainly derived from the HEREIN 3 database. The presentation was well received by all members of the Network.

The Network proposed to include a reference to the official lists of experts that are sometimes available at national level. Reference to the academic institutions dealing with heritage would be useful as well. However, this was considered to be a too wide field to be added in this publication. Skills and training could be the subject of a another issue of the Carnet Herein.

5.2 The Compendium of Cultural Policies in Europe

The objectives, methods, participants and content of the initiative for the Compendium of cultural policies in Europe were presented in detail by **Kathrin Merkle** and **Oliver Goebel**. The Compendium is available at the URL <http://www.culturalpolicies.net/>. The aim of this presentation is to enable the two networks to establish a contact and share mutual first-hand information.