



## STEERING COMMITTEE FOR CULTURE, HERITAGE AND LANDSCAPE (CDCPP)

CDCPP-Bu(2013) 12

Strasbourg, 11 October 2013

4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Bureau  
Strasbourg, 16-17 October 2013

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### **ACTION PLAN FOR THE PROMOTION OF THE FARO FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON THE VALUE OF CULTURAL HERITAGE FOR SOCIETY – additional proposals**

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#### **DOCUMENT FOR DISCUSSION**

Item 4 iv) of the draft Agenda

The Bureau is invited to:

- examine and approve the proposals for completing the Action Plan, and discuss priorities for promoting the Faro Convention;
- discuss which member States could host the activities mentioned under points 3, 4 and 5.

## Introduction

The *Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society* (the *Faro Convention*) was drafted between 2003 and 2005 by a select committee of experts. It was adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on 13 October 2005 and opened for signature to member States in Faro (Portugal) on 27 October of the same year.

The *Faro Convention* entered into force on 1 June 2011. To date, 15 member States have ratified it: Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Georgia, Hungary, Latvia, Luxembourg, the Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Norway, Portugal, Serbia, Slovenia and “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”. In addition, 6 States have signed the Convention: Albania, Belgium, Bulgaria, Italy, San Marino, the Slovak Republic and Ukraine. The signing process is underway in a number of other member States of the Council of Europe (Austria, Poland).

The Secretariat of the Council of Europe has launched a first series of initiatives aimed at promoting the *Faro Convention* [document CDCPP(2013)16, “Action plan for the promotion of the Faro framework Convention on the value of cultural heritage for society” adopted by the CDCPP at its 2<sup>nd</sup> plenary meeting in May 2013]. The Action plan aims to encourage member States to ratify and ensure the implementation of the Faro Convention. This document describes the first results and proposes further complementary action.

## Background

Several texts have been circulated over the last few years to illustrate and present the objectives of the *Faro Convention*. All underline the richness and novelty of its principles. The *Faro Convention* is a “framework convention” which defines issues at stake, general objectives and possible fields of intervention for member States to progress. Each State Party can decide on the most convenient means to implement the convention according to its legal or institutional frameworks, practices and specific experience. Compared to other conventions, the “framework convention” does not create specific obligations for action. It suggests rather than imposes. The “framework convention” is also flexible in terms of follow-up. It considers the follow-up as a dynamic and voluntary best-practice sharing and development process, more than an obligation to produce *regular reports*. It invites the State Parties to develop cooperation networks for the exchange of experience and launching of new projects.

The role of the Secretariat is to increase the visibility and understanding of the *Faro Convention*, and to generate common references and indicators to appreciate the value of the different initiatives taking place in the countries.

## Latest developments

1. The Secretariat has published (May 2013) the first **brochure** in a series, proposing a partial and provisional interpretation of the *Faro Convention* focusing on three priorities which constitute a coherent explanation of the expected contribution of this convention according to the political objectives of the Council of Europe. The three priorities shaping the current approach are:
  - a. Strengthening social cohesion by managing diversity;
  - b. Improving people's living environment and quality of life;
  - c. Expanding democratic participation.
2. The first “**Faro Steps**” took the form of the “Marseilles Forum on the social value of heritage and the value of heritage for society” which took place in Marseilles (France) from 12 to 13 September 2013 (co-organised by the Council of Europe and the European Commission).

The Forum was based on numerous local citizen initiatives that have developed since 2005 using the Faro Convention as a reference. A brochure has been published on the experience of citizens' experiences in Marseilles. The challenge of the Forum was twofold:

- a. to become aware, through experience on the ground, of what the spirit and principles of the Faro Convention when taken up by citizens can do for local communities facing social and economic problems;
- b. to test a way of thinking that inverts the traditional relationship between European standards set by international institutions and their application in the field, in order to focus on the "ownership" of the principles by citizens, and to support subsequent practical implementation and provide input for developing standards.

The international panel of ambassadors (to the Council of Europe), European and national parliamentarians, representatives of ministries, institutions, NGOs from 21 countries also contributed to this innovative approach. For the participants, it was about discovering a specific situation and extracting useful lessons.

In fact, the Marseilles Forum allowed a deeper interpretation of the most innovative aspects of the framework Convention, especially as regards the "social value of heritage" and "value of heritage for society". A common reference framework emerges from the Marseille experience for understanding on-going initiatives, or encouraging future initiatives in European countries that could contribute to the implementation of the principles of the Faro Convention.

3. The appeal for "Faro Initiatives" launched at the plenary meeting of the CDCPP on 27-29 May 2013 only resulted in two contributions. The call was not launched on the website due to limited possibilities for setting up appropriate follow-up mechanisms. However, the template developed would appear to be suitable.

### **Prospects/new proposals**

The results since May 2013, and mainly those obtained and discussed during and after the Marseilles Forum, suggest the possibility to develop further the ongoing action plan (for 2014):

1. The Report and Synthesis of the Marseille Forum will be drafted and disseminated, once it has been validated by the panel members. A brochure (expected before the end of 2013) will take up the main ideas from the Forum; the website will be updated and include video clips / films.

The Marseille Synthesis will provide concrete benchmarks and practical implementation / monitoring tools (see § 4 below).

2. The "Faro walks" concept will continue in at least two other Forums focusing in particular on the economic and social values of heritage. Specific experiences will be used to identify benchmarks that could encourage other concrete initiatives, or measure the impact of initiatives that claim to uphold the principles of the Faro Convention.

3. The appeal for "Faro Initiatives" will be targeted in particular on the social value of heritage and the value of heritage for society depending on the Marseilles Synthesis. The appeal for contributions from member States and observers (see Appendix) will aim at gathering as much information as possible on ideas, experiences and projects carried out or in progress which can illustrate and explain the principles and objectives of the *Faro Convention* in relation to the three priorities. These are projects which have been promoted at national, regional or local level, at the initiative of ministries, local elected representatives, specialised institutions, associations, groups of enterprises or artists or ordinary citizens in all member States, even those that have not signed the convention. The collection of examples will allow a definition of the different interpretations proposed for the *Faro Convention*, the situations to which these initiatives respond, and may gradually help in defining indicators to follow up the implementation of the convention in member States.

4. The Marseilles Synthesis will be used to evaluate the initiatives carried out in other European towns, or to verify the answers that an approach inspired by these principles could help identify in demanding social contexts. Two missions will be conducted in two towns where a prior agreement has been reached to carry out this experimental work. The Marseille Synthesis could ultimately be enriched and adjusted to correspond better to the challenges and priorities of the towns or territories where the political priorities of the Organisation should be applied.

5. "Faro workshops" will be proposed to those member States wanting to start a debate on the Faro Convention with a view to ratifying it. They will provide an interpretation of the text of the Convention related to both the priorities of the Organisation (from the three priorities) and also to the local experiences and initiatives that are recognised according to the principles/indicators developed as part of the "Faro walks". Five workshops, built around a specific model, will be made available to member States.

## APPENDIX

### “Faro Initiatives” template

Project leaders (ministries, local elected representatives, specialised institutions, associations, groups of enterprises or artists, ordinary citizens) are invited to present their projects or initiatives by completing the template below, in accordance with its guidelines. The total contribution should not exceed one page. The completed template should be sent to the Council of Europe Secretariat (e-mail: [CDCPP@coe.int](mailto:CDCPP@coe.int) - please indicate “Faro Initiatives” in the subject line) and accompanied by:

- The name(s) of the person(s) who have completed the template (with the date);
- Address of the web site for additional information on the initiative;
- A high-definition photo of the project or initiative, indicating the title, place, all relevant information, and photo credits to be indicated in all publications, as well as authorisation for the Council of Europe to use the photo.

Explanations or references related to the three main objectives can be found in the brochure on the *Faro Convention* published by the Council of Europe.

Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society	<b>FARO INITIATIVES</b>	
	<p><b><i>Heritage dimension of a [to complete]... (for example : social, economic, cultural, urban, planning, etc.) project</i></b></p> <p>Title :...</p>	
	<i>[to complete : Description (facts) 50 words]</i>	<p><i>[to complete: General conceptualisation; summary or synthesis for publication 150 words]</i></p>
Objective 1 : Strengthening social cohesion by managing diversity	<i>[to complete if relevant: Problems; Issues at stake; Themes 50 words]</i>	
Objective 2 : Improving people’s living environment and quality of life	<i>[to complete if relevant: Problems; Issues at stake; Themes 50 words]</i>	
Objective 3 : Expanding democratic participation	<i>[to complete if relevant: Problems; Issues at stake; Themes 50 words]</i>	
	<i>[to complete: Results (or expected); Impacts (foreseen); Effects (targeted) 50 words]</i>	<i>[to complete: Links / recommendations for public policies 50 words]</i>