



STEERING COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, HERITAGE AND LANDSCAPE (CDCPP)

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EVALUATION OF THE LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE FIELD PILOT PROJECTS IN SOUTH-EAST EUROPE, CAUCASUS AND BLACK SEA REGIONS AND SELECTED EU MEMBER STATES, AND PREPARATION OF POLICY GUIDELINES

DOCUMENT FOR DISCUSSION

Item 6.7 of the draft Agenda

- the Committee is invited to consider the Secretariat's proposal and provide any appropriate guidance for the implementation of the activity.

Introduction

The *Technical Co-operation and Consultancy Programme related to the integrated conservation of the cultural heritage* (the Programme) has been operational since 1975 (date of the decision by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe). Its purpose is to provide practical assistance to local, regional and national authorities. The value and impact of the Programme have undergone regular evaluation by the Steering Committee. The most recent evaluation exercise took place in 2011 [Final Report [CDPATEP\(2011\)8](#)] and led to the adoption of a new Reference Framework concerning the future direction to be given to the Programme [[CDPATEP\(2011\)16](#)].

The Programme constitutes one of the main contributions to the work of the Council of Europe in the sphere of heritage and an ideal instrument for devising and implementing integrated projects drawing on a range of expertise developed in other sectors. Thanks to the effective implementation of pilot projects in the field, it forms an essential complement to the Organisation's standard-setting activities.

The projects help the countries to implement the Organisation's principles and priorities, and foster the exchange of field experience at a pan-European level. Greater attention should nonetheless be paid to the expected results and impacts, the exemplary value of the projects and their financial feasibility.

In this context, the Programme's principal objectives and its expected contribution to the programme of activities for 2014-2015 have been defined as follows:

- a. developing the projects so as to meet the needs, challenges and problems with which member States are faced when implementing the European Conventions linked to heritage;
- b. expressing a "European solidarity" between member States through sharing of experience and good practice;
- c. becoming a "laboratory" for fuelling new ideas and serving as a practical, non-binding tool for assessing and evaluating progress and for implementing the Conventions.

To fulfil these objectives, one of the tasks of the CDCPP is to assess the lessons learned from pilot projects. The idea is to capitalise on the expertise and experience amassed under the various projects that have been recognised and given a positive evaluation (by the States concerned and/or by the European Union). The aim will be to identify the lessons of these projects and the added value of the action taken by the Council of Europe in the fields concerned. The HEREIN database should be used to gather and disseminate this information.

Description

To date over 1 500 experts' missions have been carried out, covering about 150 projects run in 36 member States since 1977. Growth in the number of projects over time, their increasingly strategic and political content and their ever-greater diversity (e.g. capacity building, policy formulation, legal and methodological harmonisation, exchange of experience and good practice, reconstruction and development processes, intercultural dialogue, and so on) have generated a wealth of information that has so far been insufficiently harnessed to a pan-European purpose.

The most recent generations of projects systematically re-utilise and build upon the achievements of earlier projects. There is accordingly no need to envisage conducting a full evaluation of all the projects implemented from the very outset. The efforts should focus on a few particularly emblematic projects, even if further consideration is given to other projects on more specific subjects at a subsequent stage:

- a. The "Ljubljana Process on Heritage Rehabilitation", implemented in South-East Europe since 2003 jointly with the European Union, will end in 2014. Its evaluation will cover ten years' co-operation in eight countries. This project addresses a range of subjects involving a number of fields of expertise: documentation and inventorying, project development and management, promotion and funding, site management, rehabilitation policies and strategies, restoration techniques, professional skills and cross-sectoral co-ordination, etc.
- b. The launch in 2014 of the project "Community-led Urban Strategies in Historic Towns" (COMUS) in the six countries participating in the European Union's Eastern Partnership programme is part of a long series of actions. An assessment of these projects will be an opportunity to take stock of a number of years' co-operation in urban management.
- c. The local development pilot projects, also implemented in South-East Europe as well as in Cyprus, deal with territory-based issues and integrated social and economic development processes. The evaluation of these large-scale projects covers a number of fields of expertise: democratic participation mechanisms, the social and economic values of heritage, territorial planning, and so on.

The various themes raised by the principal pilot projects referred to above reflect the fundamental European challenges in development matters and potentially constitute as many themes to be pooled at European level:

- Identifying **areas of convergence and links** between the economic, social and ecological sectors of activity and the various players which participate in the living environment transformation;
- **Historic towns, territories** or regions, places where people live on a daily basis are the footholds for the development and fulfillment of the people who live in them.
- Population and social trends, the environmental impact of human activities and the energy crisis, strongly encourage **projects** which are better suited to local resources, respect the traditions and skills of communities and help ensure a fairer distribution of wealth for the common good;
- Capitalizing on **local cultural resources** is a factor which helps to bring about renewed social and economic drive within communities, to find the energy to take charge of their own destinies and advance European values and national priorities through projects geared to the future;
- The bonds which unite each community are also key factors in encouraging them to **open up to other communities** and respect differences, and fostering changes in attitudes through skill-building, networking and the conduct of joint activities which contribute to social and territorial cohesion;
- Changes in societies are driving changes in democratic models to ensure **more effective and more transparent governance**, underpinned by more efficient institutions and dynamic public and private partnerships.

Work proposal

With a view to conducting this assessment, the CDCPP is invited to decide on the establishment of a group of experts, responsible for determining a detailed methodology and a list of projects to be examined and for carrying out the assessments, with a view to submitting a report to the CDCPP at its plenary session in 2015. The group should include representatives of the CDCPP (2), of the HEREIN correspondents (2), of the CDCPP partners / observers (2), and experts/consultants (2).

This group of experts, which will come under the authority of the Chair of the CDCPP, should hold a maximum of three meetings. The task of reviewing the documents, prepared by the Secretariat possibly with expert assistance, would be entrusted to the members between meetings.

The criteria to be used in assessing the projects and developing the guidelines should be determined in accordance with the objectives pursued by the projects [see the Reference Framework CDPATEP(2011)16] and in line with Organisation's values and priorities:

a. Political:

- Building a European identity founded on recognition of local diversities;
- Contributing to mutual understanding, tolerance, conflict prevention or post-conflict reconstruction and reconciliation;
- Implementing the democratic principles through participatory citizenship.

b. Social

- Facilitating access to social rights for all;
- Improving living conditions and the quality of life.

c. Economic

- Proposing a new sustainable development model based on sustainable use of cultural and heritage resources;
- Playing a role in local development policies;
- Mobilising the economic potential of heritage.

d. Environmental

- Increase the quality of the environment;
- Protect and develop the biological and landscape diversity;
- Favour territorial cohesion on the European continent.

e. Cultural

- Safeguarding Europe's memory and heritage;
- Preserving and enriching the diversity of the cultural environments of Europe;
- Guaranteeing the right of access to culture and heritage.