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The Committee:

- ***took note*** of the activities carried out.

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* All references to Kosovo, whether the territory, institutions or population, in this text shall be understood in full compliance with United Nation’s Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

INTRODUCTION

This document presents the activities carried out by the Cultural Heritage and Technical Assistance Division (formerly the Regional Cooperation Division) in 2011.

The form and content of the projects implemented as part of the *Technical Cooperation and Consultancy Programme* have, to a large extent, anticipated the new priorities of the Organisation and increased the added value of the Council of Europe activities and cooperation with international partners. The pilot dimension of the field projects was increased, while new types of partnerships allowed the Council of Europe to focus its role on political commitments and multilateral responsibilities. The projects, most of them implemented together with the European Commission, offered an opportunity to provide practical responses to countries needs while contributing to the development of the Organisation's expertise.

In accordance with the Council of Europe's Line of Action V.3., activities were broken down into two main "projects": the Regional Programme for Cultural and Natural Heritage in South-East Europe and the Kyiv Initiative Regional Programme. The general consolidated activity budget of the Division in 2011 for these two "projects" was approximately € 1 800 000, of which almost € 337 560 came from the Ordinary Budget of the Council of Europe. The main part of the budget (81%) still comes, therefore, from external sources, mainly from the European Union (as part of the Joint Programmes) and voluntary contributions (Belgium – Flemish Government, France, Slovenia and Central European Initiative).

1. Regional Programme for Cultural and Natural Heritage in South East Europe (RPSEE)

1.1 Ljubljana Process II: "Rehabilitating our Common Heritage" – Joint Programme with the European Union (2011-2014)



The "Ljubljana Process II" is the new Joint Programme with the European Commission (DG-Enlargement) which began in summer 2011, and which will run until 30 April 2014.

Background

From 2003-2010, the Integrated Rehabilitation Project Plan/Survey of the Architectural and Archaeological Heritage (www.coe.int/irppsah) concerned the rehabilitation of 174 monuments and sites in their environmental, economic and social contexts. The impacts foreseen related not only to the sites themselves, new solutions to long-standing problems and increased national and international funding, but more fundamentally to demonstrating the notion of regeneration that brings local communities, administrative bodies and civil society together in a common cause. The project has provided new management methods for heritage in the region, especially by fostering the concept of "priority" determined by the urgency for interventions, the significance of the monument and its possible re-use. This approach has created synergies between existing resources and initiatives for a number of monuments and sites whose rehabilitation could have a significant impact on communities. It entailed strengthening the capacity of national institutions to initiate these synergies and to manage the elaboration process of the rehabilitation projects (professionally and administratively). Reforms in administrative systems, new practices and changes in attitude were necessary to create new relationships with a wider range of stakeholders, in the spirit of the "shared responsibilities" attached to the concept of "common heritage".

Since May 2008, the “Ljubljana Process” directed the rehabilitation process more towards funding issues. New funding mechanisms were explored and sustained.

At the meeting of the Council of Ministers for Culture from South-East Europe (CoMoCoSEE), held in Cetinje (Montenegro) in April 2010, the Ministers:

- ✓ underlined the importance and success of the activities carried out jointly by the Council of Europe and the European Union in the *Regional Programme for Cultural and Natural Heritage in South East Europe*;
- ✓ declared their wish to continue the Integrated Rehabilitation Projects Plan/Survey of the Architectural and Archaeological Heritage (IRPP/SAAH – Ljubljana Process) after the completion of the Council of Europe and European Union joint action in 2010.
- ✓ expressed their strong commitment to pursuing the cultural heritage rehabilitation process through a transitional phase of three years under the auspices of the Regional Cooperation Council.

In order to gradually transfer responsibility towards the region, thus empowering the countries themselves, the management of the project has been given to the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) who adopted the *Decision on the Establishment of the Regional Cooperation Council's Task Force on Culture and Society* (TFCS) in September 2010. The TFCS is responsible for ensuring the political support necessary to carry out the specific development projects, which will include their promotion, strengthening of co-operation between the beneficiaries, development of partnerships, both for securing funding and the sustainability of the projects.

Progress

At the meeting of the CoMoCoSEE, held in Bucharest (Romania) on 15 April 2011, the Ministers endorsed the launching of the project and confirmed their commitment for its success. The TFCS secretariat was set up in Cetinje (Montenegro) in May 2011. Methodological and documentary handover was carried out by the Council of Europe to the TFCS Secretariat.

The launching / constitutive meeting of the TFCS took place in Cetinje in June 2011. The first plenary meeting took place in Montenegro on 18-19 October 2011. A detailed action plan was adopted, based on the General Reference Framework prepared by the Council of Europe. Participating countries were invited to set up their “National Task Forces”.

The Council of Europe signed a Joint Programme with the European Commission (DG-Enlargement) aiming at organising and providing international expertise to the Secretariat of the RCC Task Force for Culture and Society as well as to the beneficiary countries.

1.2 Local Development Pilot Projects (LDPP)



PROJETS PILOTES DE DÉVELOPPEMENT LOCAL (LDPP)

Programme régional pour le patrimoine culturel
et naturel dans le Sud-est de l'Europe

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PILOT PROJECTS (LDPP)

Regional Programme for Cultural
and Natural Heritage in South East Europe

Background

The LDPPs are implemented in territories where authorities face difficulties in improving living conditions and creating social cohesion or economic activities. The projects aim at examining the long-term potential of territories, and institutional and legislative frameworks that determine regional policies and decentralisation mechanisms. The LDPPs foster local development based on the enhancement of the cultural, heritage and natural resources which distinguish these territories from others, and which

could make them economically competitive. The authorities in the pilot territories in crisis or depression wish to come up with visions or innovative ideas in their search for other options to enable development mechanisms to start moving again. The LDPP process is effectively based on the principle that a community must be able to decide how it wants to live in the future in the territory that it occupies and on which it has imprinted its political and cultural identity. The choices and decisions which have to be made are cultural by definition, because they determine the shape and significance of the community and the extent to which citizens recognise it as their own and enjoy living there.

Initiated in 2008 (see www.coe.int/ldpp), seven “pilot territories” are currently engaged in this innovative holistic process that focuses on reconciling economic efficiency, cultural diversity, social cohesion and ecological balance through the active participation of all the stakeholders involved in the decision-making processes. These pilot territories, covering in total more than 7682 km² and including about 231 000 inhabitants, have the commitment of over 56 ministries and 35 municipalities: Bosnia and Herzegovina in the Donja Donila-Bardaca region, Bulgaria in the Strandja region, Croatia in Cres island, Montenegro in the Skadar Lake region, Romania in the Rupea-Cohalm region, Serbia in the Morava-Mlava-Resava region and “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” in the Debar and Reka region.

The LDPP in Kosovo* (Pejë/Pec region) was integrated into the project “EU/CoE Support to the promotion of cultural diversity in Kosovo*” in 2009.

Progress

The adoption of a “political note” has strengthened the Project Coordinators’ position when presenting or negotiating with partners in their countries. Efforts were invested to prepare information about what priorities the pilot project could concretely respond to and how this could be achieved in a reasonable time period in each country.

The involvement of new institutional partners is now breathing renewed life into the process, increasing the political potential of the pilot project and contributing to the consolidation of partnerships. It is noticeable that, throughout the process, the municipalities concerned have been the partners who have played a major role in raising the interest of the national institutions.

The major progress achieved in 2011 concerns the setting up of the Project Implementation Units. These are more “institutionalised” in some countries, with designated offices, staff and equipment. In some others they are still modest and personalised by the Project Manager. However, the fact that the practical and daily activities are carried out locally or in closer contact with the local authorities has considerably changed the dynamics of the pilot projects.

In 2011, the consolidated budget was still quite modest (less than € 200 000 in total for the seven participating countries, including the Council of Europe’s budget and countries’ contributions). However, the efficiency and effectiveness of action implemented has enabled sufficient progress to maintain the LDPP potential. This strengthened the target to set up a tool, mechanisms and methodology for the national and local institutions that are totally fundable from existing national resources. It is only if the process is feasible with a limited budget, which can be secured by the participating countries, that it could be replicable on a larger scale in all European countries. Nevertheless, the financial limitations are posing a threat to the pilot project. Not all the local potential has been explored, nor has the possible combination of the existing national programmes. The LDPP should be revealed as a tool to rationalise existing resources in a coherent direction in the pilot territories, before being capable of generating additional investment.

* See note on page 2.

The application to the TBC European Programme (1.8 million euros) by Bulgaria, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia and “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”, with the support of Italy, illustrates the additional opportunities which could be exploited through a regional approach to needs. This however means designating precisely how these projects or activities funded externally could fit into the global process in order to stimulate it, and to anticipate the phases when the funds could be invested. This shows the maturity reached by the participating country in terms of regional cooperation, coordination and management.

1.3 EU/CoE Support to the Promotion of Cultural Diversity in Kosovo* – Joint Programme with the European Union (2009-2012)



Background

The Programme "EU/CoE Support to the Promotion of Cultural Diversity in Kosovo*" (PCDK) is a Joint Programme in cooperation with the European Union Office in Kosovo* (www.coe.int/pcdk). Phase I was launched on 15 October 2009 and was initially supposed to end in April 2012. The total budget is € 2 775 000, of which 90% is being financed by the European Union and 10% by the Council of Europe.

The main objectives are to increase activities relating to cultural heritage rehabilitation with all the relevant institutions, using cultural heritage as a tool for reconciliation and dialogue between communities, and to begin developing the economic potential of this particular sector. It concentrates on four main strands of activity:

- (i) Finalisation of the outstanding IPA 2007 activities of the Reconstruction Implementation Commission's (RIC) rehabilitation project;
- (ii) Institutional capacity development;
- (iii) Educational development and awareness raising;
- (iv) Pilot project for regional economic development.

The Programme is developing partnerships with different institutions, actors and civil society organisations. It also benefits from the IRPP/SAAH and LDPP projects in which Kosovo* fully participates.

Progress

In general, the "EU/CoE Support to the Promotion of Cultural Diversity in Kosovo*" programme intensified work in 2011 to strengthen the human infrastructure. The concept of a "culture of community practice", introduced at the beginning of the project, was channelled into the "Heritage Community Network" (HCN) involving over 1,000 individuals, 70 entities, and reaching out to approximately 15,000 persons in Kosovo* where all stakeholders found a role in the process and assumed ownership in their respective positions. The increasing role of the HCN in the implementation of the project, where the issues related to cultural heritage and diversity are addressed to all layers of society has generated steady progress in all the components of the project.

Regarding the Reconstruction Implementation Commission (RIC), all the works have been completed at the eight remaining Orthodox religious sites. A proposal for a new mechanism acceptable by all with a wider mandate, including both religious and non-religious sites, with increased attention to tangible and intangible cultural heritage, as well as natural heritage, and with an integrated approach for the well-being of all communities in Kosovo*, was shared with the RIC members and the EU Facilitator. Consultations with the stakeholders and the EU Facilitator are ongoing, as the Ministry of Culture

* See note on page 2.

Youth and Sport (MCYS) has shown a reluctance to continue with the RIC while expressing interest to cooperate with the Serbian Orthodox Church (SOC) on a different platform. The SOC and the Institute for the Protection of Monuments (IPM) Belgrade, as part of the RIC, have both shown interest in continuing with RIC activities, as there are still works to be completed from the original assessment conducted in 2005.

In the **Institutional Capacity Building** component, as the reorganisation process and the appointment of new civil servants at the MCYS have not yet been finalised, the training sessions foreseen for the MCYS were organised for other ministries participating in the project, for different working groups and civil society, targeting a total of 155 persons. Two further Council of Europe conventions: the *Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (Faro Convention)* and the *European Landscape Convention (Florence Convention)* were translated into Albanian and Serbian, published and disseminated at two seminars attended by 130 persons. Two more guidelines on *Conservation Measures of Protection and Preservation of Movable Cultural Heritage Assets* and on *Integrated Conservation* were drafted. Sixty members of working groups and ministries had the opportunity to participate in 6 study tours to witness good practices in the field cultural heritage and diversity.

The **Educational Development component** completed its work in fourteen elementary schools across Kosovo* for course design on cultural heritage and diversity. The designed course was made available at the end of 2011. Furthermore, extensive work was carried out with students and professors from Pristina and Mitrovica universities for the development of a university module on heritage and diversity. In close co-operation with local and international experts, working groups have participated in periodic site visits in Kosovo*, concluding their work with a joint workshop in Italy, leading to the finalisation of the module. The PCDK project organised seven dialogue sessions among intellectuals, and has been producing articles for the general public to encourage public debate on issues relating to cultural heritage and diversity. The articles are accompanied by illustrations produced by a local artist, which will be compiled in a final publication. Through eight partner NGOs, over 9,000 individuals have participated in site visits.

Within the **Regional Economic Development** component, a feasibility study on Cultural Tourism Development has been produced following an extensive period of research. In line with recommendations from the feasibility study, six pilot actions on intangible cultural heritage were carried out by local NGOs. A dynamic process has been initiated, with a wide participation of local communities and institutions, actively involving over 600 individuals and reaching out to over 5,000 individuals through a number of activities.

While training sessions on heritage management are being designed, a strategic document providing local and central authorities with essential considerations and a heritage plan for the region is being produced in the first half of 2012. Furthermore, a temporary signage of the cultural and natural heritage sites is being discussed with the stakeholders.

In conclusion, through positive examples, a constructive approach towards cultural heritage and diversity has been a common practice for all components of the project. The involvement of all layers of society brings the issues of cultural heritage and diversity to public debate, where an integrated approach can lead to creative opportunities for local development. A no-cost extension of the project until the end of June has been submitted to the EU office in Kosovo*. The draft of the covenant for the second phase of the project (July 2012-December 2014) has been shared informally with the EU and should be adopted by mid May.

* See note on page 2.

2. The Kyiv Initiative Regional Programme

Background

The Council of Europe's Kyiv Initiative Regional Programme (www.coe.int/kyiv) was initiated in Bucharest in December 2006 by the Ministers of Culture of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine.

2.1 Pilot Project for the Rehabilitation of Cultural Heritage in Historic Towns – Joint Programme with the European Commission (Preliminary Phase: 2009-2011)



Background

The project has been proposed in small and medium-sized historic towns maintaining a close connection with their surrounding environment to define geographically coherent territories where local stakeholders face difficulties in improving living conditions and creating social cohesion or economic opportunities. It aims to assist national, regional and local authorities in implementing revitalisation of small and medium-sized towns and to contribute to their socio-economic sustainable development. In this approach, the built heritage is considered as an economic and social factor, going beyond simple conservation and restoration, to encourage and facilitate new uses and new possibilities for the local population while integrating with the planning of the built environment's future shape.

The preliminary phase of this project ran from autumn 2009 to the end of 2011 thanks to the signature of two covenants between the Council of Europe and the European Union (DG-EAC). This Joint Programme secured the necessary budget for initiating activities in the five participating countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine (see www.coe.int/histowns). Unfortunately, EU funding for the Operational Phase was not confirmed at the end of 2011.

In December 2011, the Ministers of Culture of Armenia, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine reiterated their commitment to the "Pilot Project for the Rehabilitation of Cultural Heritage in Historic Towns" to explore solutions to social and economic challenges, in line with democratic governance and citizen participation. As the countries themselves are thus insisting on pursuing the activity, which is still on the Eastern Partnership Programme's list of activities, a transitional plan has been set up in order to continue and develop the huge potential of the project.

Progress

The participating countries have confirmed their strong political commitment to making this project a national priority. This has created the right conditions for *experimentation* by developing new methodologies with an inclusive dynamic process involving all stakeholders in the urban and rural environment according to the management rules of international projects. It confirmed their desire to *explore* new methods for creating and implementing projects, using a *local dynamic* relying on high *citizen participation* rather than a centralised decision-making mechanism.

Interministerial commissions involving several Ministries in each country, competent coordinators and managers were appointed at national and municipal levels; professional networks were set up in each country; common objectives were defined as regards urban rehabilitation processes; *ad hoc* integrated methodology for urban development issues has been endorsed.

Multi-disciplinary National Working Groups were set up to draft Heritage Assessment Reports, which have been published online (www.coe.int/histowns). These Reports describe with clarity the context into which the pilot projects could be implemented successfully, as well as the issues that should benefit from the activities in order to be improved. The reports identify where problems are occurring,

where processes are insufficient or not working or otherwise. Four coordination meetings and direct exchanges between the countries through the collaborative platform took place; concepts and criteria were elaborated to identify the pilot towns; 44 Priority Intervention Towns were selected by national authorities; files describing the urban and heritage situation in each town were drafted; at the end, 39 Pilot Towns out of the 44 PITs were selected, committing them to implement the methodology through the setting up of local technical teams. The pragmatic process sought to avoid the traditional cost and time wasting approach of collecting large quantities of statistical information, and focused rather on the urban reflection in order to identify what is really at stake in each town. This represented a break with classical analytical methods, especially in terms of the integrated approach and the number of issues involved.

The *pilot dimension* of the project made it possible to explore new approaches and methods in matters of direct concern to the public authorities. It therefore aimed at helping to make State and local authority practices more effective, while reinforcing the role of the local population and civil society in the decision-making process. Local Technical Teams were set up in each Pilot Town; the Diagnosis Methodology, aimed at identifying the main heritage and urban issues at stake, was defined through permanent dialogue and consensus with national stakeholders; 10 training workshops took place on the drawing up of the Preliminary Technical File and the Analysis process; the Preliminary Technical Files were published.

As part of the pilot project, the preservation of the cultural heritage has been better perceived, not as an end in itself, but as a mechanism which is geared towards *wider objectives*: the celebration of diversity; the encouragement of constructive dialogue between peoples; the promotion of mutual respect for the identities of those peoples, leading subsequently to the encouragement of greater well-being and an improved quality of life. Within the constraints of sustainable development, the integrated conservation of this heritage is based on a vision which encompasses physical, social, economic, cultural, ethnic and religious elements. The project was promoted within the countries and amongst partners; the general brochure and country brochures presenting the Pilot Towns were published; the dedicated web page was regularly updated; a Collaborative Platform provided an effective management tool for the project.

2.2 Wine Culture Tourism Exchange



Background

Wine has played a significant role in the development of civilization. Places of worship, learning, cultural and commercial exchange have, for thousands of years, been linked to the agricultural exploitation of the vine. Vine/cultural routes criss-cross Europe, pre-dating by centuries modern state frontiers. This creative economy project is based on a partnership between the wine, cultural and tourism sectors with the object of stimulating cultural and commercial exchange in a way that is advantageous for all partners.

All of the participating states either have wine routes or wish to develop such routes on the basis of existing vineyard activity and they all recognise the importance of reaching beyond the purely commercial exploitation of wine routes and linking in the cultural dimension.

Progress

In 2011, concrete results were achieved in the Wine Culture Tourism Exchange Training of Trainers Programmes and International Forum. In order to create a broad dissemination of information and institutional support for the capacity building programme, a two-part summer training programme took place in Lviv and Transcarpathia, Ukraine, involving about 60 persons. This programme was proposed as a capacity building activity for the European Cultural Routes. A further two-part training of trainers programme took place in Odessa, Ukraine in November.

The Capacity Building Programme carried out in Lviv and Transcarpathia, Ukraine in June 2011 focused on both the development of a strategic plan of action in the form of a 'guide for the development of sustainable tourism projects' as well as the definition of a replicable training course, focusing on:

- Understanding alternative tourism
- Entrepreneurial skills – business plans
- Cultural maps – data
- Technology – markets
- Networks – exchanges
- Visibility – branding – promotion

For further information:

Council of Europe website

http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/cooperation/Kyiv/WCTE/default_en.asp

Training website

<http://act-e.org/training/>

3. Specific cooperation projects

3.1 The Limassol traditional wine villages local development pilot project (Cyprus)

The pilot project launched in June 2011, for a duration of about 24 months, at the request of the Department for Town Planning and Housing (DTPH) is experimenting a new approach of place-based development which comes under the wider agenda of territorial cohesion. The methodology shall also contribute to the DTPH objectives to improve the planning procedures and participatory practices. It shall also provide a case-study example in the context of the EU Presidency by Cyprus (starting in July 2012). The LDPP is placed at a wider strategic level of reflection, within which:

- The achievements of the Council of Europe's Local Development Pilot Projects programme implemented in European regions will be considered as a different way of establishing an innovative programme of sustainable development.
- The potential of the specific LDPP approach will be examined as a European instrument which can contribute to the objectives of social cohesion by applying the principles of democratic governance.
- The LDPP approach will be evaluated as a tool for future multi-sectoral planning and projects in Cyprus and for improving existing procedures for preparing Development Plans (especially in terms of public participation, place-based planning and the socio-economic dimension).

The region of wine-producing villages of the Limassol District has been chosen for the LDPP in Cyprus; it is a region in decline, yet it possesses a rich cultural and natural heritage as well as a potential for sustainable development. The LDPP's pilot methodology which is to be applied for this project, based both at the spatial and multi-sectoral level, aims to fill the above-mentioned gaps.

The LDPP for the Limassol Traditional Villages, based on the general LDPP frame of reference, with special interest on broad participation and a holistic approach, is an exercise in preparing a regional or local Plan. The process is looking to be innovative for the spatial planning mechanism in Cyprus, and to enable planning, based on the specific characteristics of the area, to highlight heritage (natural and cultural) with a view to sustainable development.

3.2 Rehabilitation of Lorca (Spain)

The expert report presented after the mission organised by the Council of Europe on 3-5 October 2011, proposes strategic recommendations for implementing the reconstruction process of the town, heavily damaged during the earthquake of May 2010.

The mission allowed the main issues at stake to be assessed as well as the potential to be developed by the town. The importance of its heritage, its strong identity, the mobilisation of its authorities and the determination of its population, associated with the regional, national and international mobilisation, offer much more ambitious perspectives than just the reconstruction of what existed before the earthquake. Lorca has the possibility to decide on a different future, richer, unique, more attractive for the citizen and visitors. Lorca can choose to enhance its heritage instead of simply protecting it, and in doing so, to offer another way of living in the town, which would place it on the list of European towns which are facing the same questions in a socially and economically difficult international context, and which would like to have the means to achieve something different.

Lorca initiated this reflection prior to the earthquake, but it may now be easier, or indeed, more essential, to summon up the necessary will to carry out a sustainable transformation. Experts underlined in their report that this is an opportunity to be taken; the context is favourable for the development of an original political project. The reconstruction of Lorca, which is requested by its inhabitants, should mean the social and economic revitalisation of the town, and the tool for carrying out this objective is the integrated rehabilitation of the old town.