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STEERING COMMITTEE FOR CULTURE, HERITAGE AND LANDSCAPE
(CDCPP)

HEREIN NETWORK AND INFORMATION SYSTEM

For information and action

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

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Introduction

In the biennium 2016-2017, the priorities of the Cultural heritage sector within the CDCPP activities have refocused around the drawing up and (future) implementation of the Strategy for the European cultural heritage in the XXI Century (Strategy 21), the implementation of major conventions and specifically the Faro Convention (through the Faro Action Plan) and the consolidation of HEREIN.

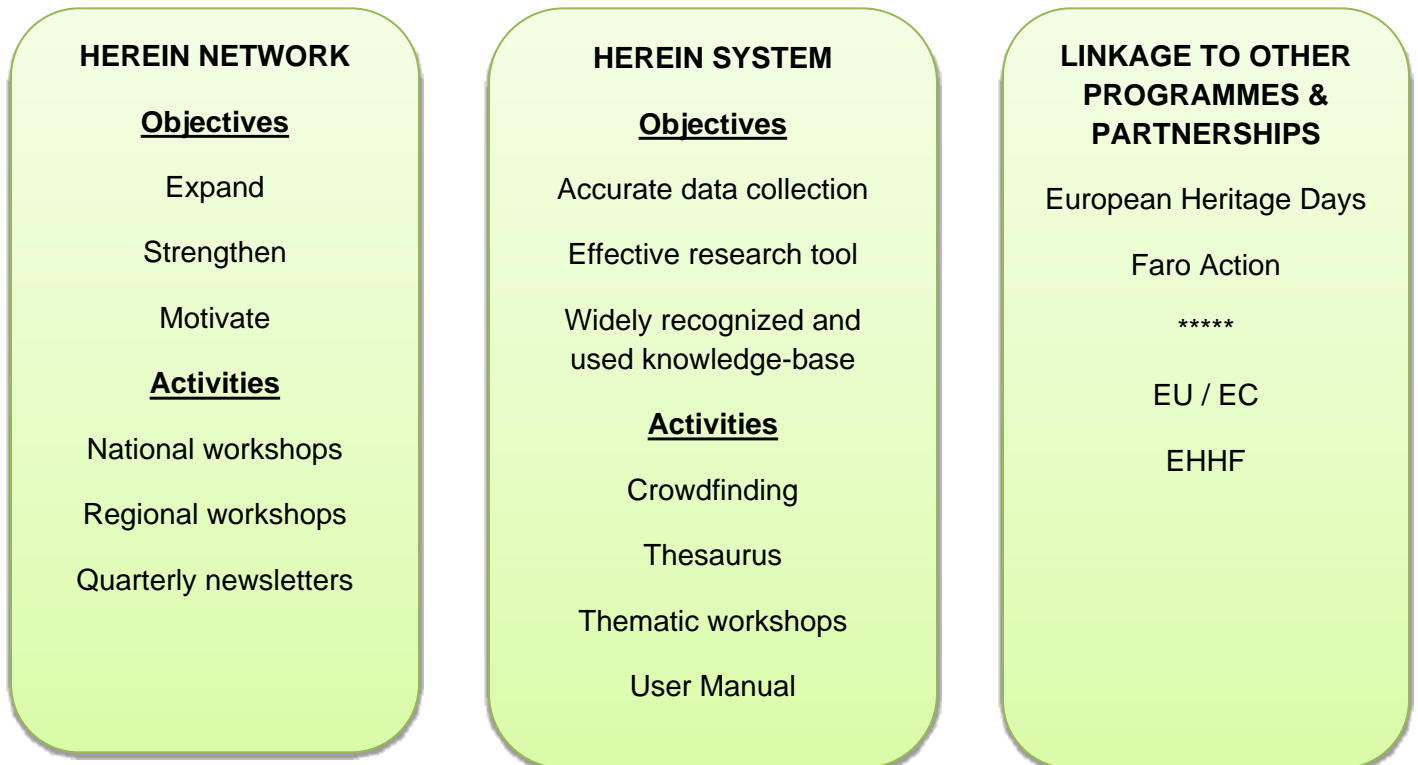
The objectives to be pursued as regards HEREIN are the following: to strengthen its capacity to act as a forum and network for member States professionals and to make the database an efficient and effective tool for collecting and sharing not only information but knowledge.

In 2016 it has been possible to secure the contribution of an additional staff member based in Brussels who works specifically on the reinforcement of HEREIN.

The proposed actions are in line with the core founding objectives of HEREIN including:

1. a tool to collect data and information;
2. a tool for dialogue and exchange between national coordinators;
3. a tool for clarification of terminology in the field of heritage – Thesaurus;
4. an 'observatory' tool that follows up the implementation of European heritage conventions;
5. a platform for public administrations from 44 member States responsible for national policies in the field of cultural heritage.

HEREIN Outlook



Activities:

1. HEREIN NETWORK

- A) National / Regional workshops: Based on the request from the countries, national or regional workshops will be organised in order to assist with the data collection process and emphasise cooperation within and between relevant entities, in line with the objectives stated above. *(Quota of 2-3 workshops are feasible for 2016)*
- B) Quarterly newsletters: 1-2 page newsletters will be sent to the network in order to inform them about the state of the work and developments. *(June, September, December 2016)*

2. HEREIN SYSTEM

- A) Thesaurus: Together with the national coordinators and technical consultant, existing work on the Thesaurus will be improved and made more user-friendly.
- B) Thematic Workshops: In line with the assessment process of conventions' implementation and work on the Thesaurus, workshops will be organised with a focus group of national coordinators. *(2 thematic workshops in 2016: Mapping, Thesaurus)*
- C) User manual: In order to assist the countries with data collection and entry in the HEREIN system as well as responding to the crowdfunding efforts, a practical manual will be finalised and made available to the member States. *(English and French)*
- D) Crowdfunding: In addition to the ongoing project on Strategy 21, the crowdfunding activity will focus on data gathering relevant to two thematic workshops. Additional requests will be reviewed for possible action, but will not be encouraged in 2016.
- E) Website: The technical expert will continue his work on the website to make it more user-friendly, and advise on the possible actions needed as well as potential linkage with other programmes of the Division. *(Strategy 21 and Faro Action are available and require monitoring)*

3. LINKAGE TO OTHER PROGRAMMES AND PARTNERSHIPS

Linkage with other Division programmes: Faro Action Plan and European Heritage Days are in the process of harmonising their actions and use a common heritage portal. A link will be made to the HEREIN website for the time being, and potential for further harmonisation will be sought.

4. EVALUATION OF THE HEREIN SYSTEM

Following extensive discussions with partners and having regard to the prospective role of HEREIN in the further implementation of Strategy 21, the Secretariat has decided to launch an evaluation of the HEREIN system around the following three pillars: use and function of the database as per the fixed objectives, level of satisfaction and expectations of beneficiaries (individual users, administrations), scope for improvement as per current/perceived needs. The results of the evaluation – to be conducted by external evaluators with the assistance of the team of the Department of Internal Oversight of the Council of Europe – will inspire the new (modalities of) work as from 2017, in time for the start of the implementation of the Strategy 21.

The draft Terms of Reference for the evaluation will be presented in an Addendum.

Action required

The CDCPP is invited to take note of the above information and formulate comments and guidance as appropriate, in particular as regards the Terms of Reference of the evaluation.