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BUREAU OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE FOR CULTURE, HERITAGE AND LANDSCAPE (CDCPP)

ANALYSIS OF THE IMPACT OF THE TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION PROJECTS – IMPLEMENTATION STATUS AND PROPOSALS

Secretariat memorandum
prepared by the
Directorate of Democratic Governance
Democratic institutions and governance department

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Introduction

Further to the decisions of the CDCPP, a working group was set up to assess the lessons learned from the pilot projects in the field of cultural heritage carried out under the "Technical Co-operation and Consultancy Programme related to the integrated conservation of the cultural and natural heritage" (TCC).

The objectives of the working group were:

- to assess the extent to which the results achieved at specific sites or in specific regions may offer lessons that are useful for all member states;
- to identify the cross-cutting themes tackled under these projects so that a link can be made with the Council of Europe's political priorities;
- and, if applicable, to offer summaries (to be published) or guidelines or to suggest the drafting of recommendations to the Committee of Ministers.

This working group¹ met on two occasions² to review, initially, 57 projects involving over 250 missions in all and then to analyse them in terms of their primary subject matter, either "historic urban areas", or a "territory".³ A third group of projects (20 or so relating to over 220 monuments and sites and involving over 500 missions) should have been analysed in the same way and appear in the document. To date, this analysis has not been carried out.

Developments

Since the group was set up, the CDCPP has begun drafting the Cultural heritage strategy in Europe for the 21st century which will become the road map for the Committee and the countries of Europe in implementing innovative heritage policies. Accordingly, technical assistance needs to be repositioned in this new context, which will be the reference framework for "heritage" activities with effect from 2017.

The Secretariat is therefore proposing a twin approach.

The work already begun, in particular within the working group, should be pursued, with the help of a consultant in order to exploit and make available to researchers, the material relating to the TCC, for publication or thematic reports. This work could – if the funding can be found – also cover an assessment of the main projects carried out, in the form of a report containing sheets summarising the nature of the request, the situation on the ground, an identification of needs, the way in which the request was dealt with and the recommendations of the Council of Europe.

As regards future work, thought needs to be given as to what new direction could be given to the TCC by linking it more closely with implementation of the Strategy and/or the main Council of Europe Conventions in the heritage field (architectural, archaeological, Faro).

Technical consultancy could become a means of assisting "thematically" states striving to implement the Strategy – in the form of regional thematic seminars, for example, on subjects suggested by states themselves or by the Secretariat – or assistance in framing specific policies or operational measures on a country-by-country basis – or in the form of peer reviews, i.e. sending selected teams of senior national officials who, at a

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¹ The members of the Working Group are the Chair of the CDCPP, Mr Bruno Favel (France), Mr Pierre Paquet (Belgium), Ms Ranka Saracevic-Wurth (Croatia), Ms Malgorzata Fokt-Willmann (Poland), Mr Oliver Martin - HEREIN (Switzerland), Mr Grellan Rourke - ICOMOS (Ireland) and Mr Luc-Emile Bouche-Florin (France).

² In Strasbourg, on 21 and 22 January 2015 and in Paris on 22 October 2015.

³ "Territory" as understood in the context of the Council of Europe's technical co-operation is defined as follows, in the spirit of the Faro Convention: a territory, in its cultural, landscape or other features, is defined by the population that lives in it and perceives it as an area (which may be extensive or small in size) with which the community in question identifies.

country's request, would analyse its planned legislative or administrative reforms, or the innovative measures it intended to put in place and for which it would like to have the informed opinion of its peers.

The technical consultancy approach, strictly speaking, would still be a possibility, based on the technical expertise brought to the management of an operation – not to restore an asset, monument or site, but rather one concerning the integrated conservation of the heritage of a particular territory, in accordance with an approach involving all the local and national players concerned.⁴

Based on the achievements of the past, which deserve to be better known and capitalised upon, the Technical Co-operation and Consultancy programme relating to the integrated conservation of the cultural heritage would undergo a transformation in line with "Strategy 21", of which the TCC – together with HEREIN – would be one of the major monitoring and assistance tools.

Action required

The Bureau is invited to discuss and approve the above lines of approach and agree to a specific item on this issue at the next CDCPP session.

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⁴ See, in this connection, by way of example, the principles of the Nafplion Declaration, adopted at the 16th Session of the Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Spatial/Regional Planning.