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

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2016 WORK

For information

Secretariat Memorandum  
prepared by the  
Directorate of Democratic Governance  
Culture, Nature and Heritage Department

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## Introduction

This document presents some of the key events and achievements of 2016 in the fields of culture, cultural heritage and landscape. Related web links have also been included for more detailed information. The Bureau is invited to take note of these 2016 highlights.

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### *Culture and cultural heritage*

The Council of Europe's Indicator Framework on Culture and Democracy (IFCD) was launched in October at an event hosted by the European Union: this is an innovative tool that highlights the connections between a strong, well-functioning democracy and an abundance of cultural opportunities for citizens. An interactive data explorer will allow analyses within geographical groups, within and beyond domains (culture, democracy) and using selected components.

<http://tv.coe.int/COE/video.php?v=IFCD-Final-post-event-video>

Recommendation CM/Rec(2016)2 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the Internet of citizens was adopted in February. The 2016 Council of Europe Platform Exchange on Culture and Digitisation "Culture 4D: Digitisation, Data, Disruptions, Diversity", held

on 29-30 September in the framework of the Estonian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers, highlighted the challenges and opportunities of cultural Big Data and the need for critical internet literacy and multi-stakeholder action to address the issues at stake.

<http://www.coe.int/en/web/culture-and-heritage/tallinn>

The Compendium Assembly of national authors was held in the context of the [7th World Summit on Arts and Culture](#) in St Julians, Malta, where the Council of Europe offered a work session on the topic of inclusion of migrants/refugees through arts and culture, and promoted the related Compendium good practice database.

<http://www.culturalpolicies.net/web/seioc-mig-database.php>

A first comprehensive European Cultural Heritage Strategy for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century was prepared by the Council of Europe in 2016 for adoption by the Committee of Ministers at the beginning of 2017. "Strategy 21" will be officially launched in Cyprus under the Cypriot Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers on 6-7 April 2017. This event will allow debate about practical examples of implementation and the need to identify national stakeholders for further promotion.

<http://www.coe.int/en/web/culture-and-heritage/strategy-21>

European Heritage Days (EHD) celebrated a record 70 000 events in 50 European States, signatories to the European Cultural Convention. The events were organised with the European focus on "Heritage and Communities" and visited by more than 30 million citizens. The EHD Strategic Objectives were adopted for 2017-2020, including strengthening cooperation at European, regional and local level; supporting cross-frontier cooperation; empowering communities to take ownership of their everyday heritage; fostering education and Heritage Education through active collaboration with schools and universities; and addressing societal challenges (climate change, migration, radicalisation, education, diversity, identity).

<http://www.coe.int/en/web/culture-and-heritage/european-heritage-days>

The HEREIN network organised two thematic workshops, respectively on analysis of heritage organisations within Europe and on the adaptation of the Thesaurus to the needs of the member States. In view of the increasing requirements of member States, the present IT structure of the HEREIN system was also evaluated to define its future evolution.

<http://www.coe.int/en/web/culture-and-heritage/herein-heritage-network>

The Faro Action Plan emphasised the value of heritage for society in addressing today's challenges, focusing on some of the most discriminated groups in Europe. Projects included Jewish heritage in Poland and Ukraine, work with Roma (in Romania) and migrant communities (in Spain).

<http://www.coe.int/en/web/culture-and-heritage/faro-action-plan>

The Directorate of Democratic Governance (DGII) contributed to the drafting of the Council of Europe Convention on Offences relating to Cultural Property, in cooperation with the Directorate General Human Rights and Rule of Law.

<http://www.coe.int/en/web/culture-and-heritage/cultural-property>

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### *Landscape*

Landscape Award Alliance of the Council of Europe

In June, the [17<sup>th</sup> Council of Europe Meeting of the Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention on "Council of Europe Landscape Award Forum of National Selections - 4<sup>th</sup> Session 2014-2015"](#) took place in co-operation with the Ministry of Agriculture of Hungary. The valuable experiences achieved in the member States were presented and the Ceremony of the 4<sup>th</sup> Session of the Landscape Award was held. A study visit was organised to the area of the winning achievement: *The borderless co-operation of Hungarian and Slovenian local communities, for the landscape of 'Fabulous' Hetés*.

<http://www.coe.int/en/web/landscape/hungary>

National landscape policies

In October, the [18<sup>th</sup> Council of Europe Meeting of the Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention on "National policies for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention: challenges and opportunities"](#) took place in co-operation with the Ministry of Urban Development of Armenia in Yerevan, dealing with: strategies and policy documents; legal and financial instruments; integration, horizontal and vertical co-ordination.

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### *Cultural routes of the Council of Europe (Enlarged Partial Agreement, EPA)*

The Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes welcomed three new member States: Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Georgia, bringing its membership to 27, and accepted four Observer states for one year (Finland, Poland, Ukraine and the Holy See).

The Governing Board of the EPA certified one new Cultural Route of the Council of Europe, "The Fortified Towns of the Greater Region", bringing to 32 the number of certified routes. Five cultural routes were subject to regular evaluation and were recertified: Santiago de Compostela, Via Francigena, The European Route of Ceramics, Iter Vitis, El Llegado Andalusi. Eight new applications from candidate cultural routes were received by the European Institute of Cultural Routes at the EPA headquarters in Luxembourg.

Trainings for cultural routes managers were organised in Strasbourg and Luxembourg and the Annual Advisory Forum took place in Vilnius on 26-27 October. A Memorandum of Cooperation was signed with the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO).  
<http://www.coe.int/en/web/culture-and-heritage/cultural-routes>