

## **The Austrian experience**

Austria ratified the Faro Convention in 2015 and has since been very active in identifying and cooperating with initiatives and heritage communities in line with the principles of the Convention. As awareness-raising and the mapping of civil society heritage initiatives are the first steps towards this implementation, the Austrian experience has been exemplary in illustrating how the Convention can be implemented.

This experience suggests the following steps:

### **Step 1: identification of an appropriate institute to carry out the study**

The Federal Chancellery of Austria commissioned the *österreichische kulturdokumentation internationales archiv für kulturanalysen* – an institute for applied cultural research and cultural documentation – to carry out an exploratory study that describes and summarizes the basic content and aims of the Faro Convention.

### **Step 2: analysis of the current situation**

The Institute analysed the role and importance of the Faro Convention in the European and international context. The study/mapping aimed to answer the following questions: What is the Faro Convention? What does the Convention seek to do? What aims are the Council of Europe pursuing? What is the situation in Austria?

Current measures and activities were explored with regard to the importance of cultural heritage for society in Austria and good-practice examples were described.

### **Step 3: selection of good practices in line with the Faro Convention**

The mapping of involved institutions and the relevant stakeholders at national, regional and local levels identified six good-practice examples. These examples of civil society initiatives illustrated some preliminary activities for the implementation of the Faro Convention in Austria.

### **Step 4: organisation of a Workshop on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society**

The Federal Chancellery in co-operation with the *österreichische kulturdokumentation* organised a workshop "[Cultural Heritage - and now? On the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society](#)", addressed to interested stakeholders from relevant ministries, the Federal States, artists, members of NGOs and interest groups, as well as experts from arts, culture and cultural heritage. The workshop provided a starting point for further steps of implementation, and the results and recommendations of the workshop were incorporated into the survey.

### **Step 5: follow-up actions**

On the basis of the Austrian projects from the survey, the importance of cultural heritage was illustrated as a resource for cultural diversity, sustainability, contemporary art and digitization. It was recommended that further structural measures and projects be developed in order to take the implementation of the Convention in Austria forward. Follow-up workshops should be planned to monitor progress.

### **Step 6: networking**

Good practices were identified and presented at the plenary meetings of the Steering Committee for Culture, Heritage and Landscape (CDCPP).