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Item 11 of the agenda

**STEERING COMMITTEE
FOR CULTURE, HERITAGE AND LANDSCAPE
(CDCPP)**

THEMATIC SESSION

Archaeology and digital technologies

**Exchange of best practices, with particular reference to the
European Convention on the Protection of the
Archaeological Heritage (revised, Valletta, 1992)**

For information and action

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

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Background

The CDCPP has been holding annual **thematic sessions** at its plenary meetings since 2019 on topical societal issues to further enhance the work of the Committee, in view of its role as a pan-European intergovernmental structure with responsibility for unique culture/heritage/landscape conventions.

At the CDCPP's plenary session in November 2020, Arianna Traviglia presented a [Report on "AI use in cultural heritage and archaeology"](#).

The CDCPP delegates subsequently agreed to organise a thematic session in 2021 on the subject of archaeology and digital technologies, with particular reference to the [European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage](#) (revised, Valletta, 1992) that will celebrate its 30th anniversary in 2022.

The Valletta Convention is the result of a process that began with the original European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage opened for signature in London in 1969. The inclusion of archaeology in the spatial planning process was one of its most important contributions. Furthermore, the text dealt with the fundamental issue of *in situ* conservation.

The provisions of the Valletta Convention have become part of the practice of current archaeology. With the arrival of the new century and digital technologies, a range of new opportunities has opened up. Technology plays an important role in research, inventory, mapping, protection, conservation and preservation, dissemination and co-operation.

Structure and expectations

The CDCPP plenary meeting in December 2021 will offer a thematic session on how digital technologies can inform and contribute to the implementation of the Valletta Convention. The aim is not only to examine the successes, but also the obstacles and challenges along the way, as well as the future prospects and opportunities regarding the provisions of the Valletta Convention and digital technologies.

Presentations will be given by:

- a representative of the Europae Archaeologiae Consilium (EAC);
- a representative of the European Association of Archaeologists (EAA);
- Ms Arianna Traviglia, Italian Institute of Technology.

Whilst the above experts will introduce the themes, the thematic session will not be overly structured to facilitate more exploratory exchanges and provide an opportunity for participants to engage in a Q&A exchange, test ideas, report on their experiences and suggest further Committee action.

Action required

The Committee is invited to:

- welcome the organisation of the thematic session on archaeology and digital technologies and take an active part in the debates, including on how Council of Europe activities and tools can be of help in addressing the challenges examined;
- suggest possible follow-up activities of interest to the Committee and beneficial to policy makers, thus adding value to the CDCPP's work for member States.