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

**CDCPP Strategy and Future Priorities  
2022-2025**

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**For adoption**

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

[www.coe.int/cdcpp](http://www.coe.int/cdcpp)  
[cdcpp@coe.int](mailto:cdcpp@coe.int)

## I. Introduction

The CDCPP Strategy will provide policy guidance and a broad political roadmap, or mission statement, for the period 2022-2025, and will offer a framework within which the next quadrennial culture, heritage and landscape programmes will be implemented. This new Strategy has been drafted in general terms so that its policy orientations can be adapted to changing circumstances. It is based on the Council of Europe's core values of **democracy, human rights and the rule of law, and the CDCPP's confirmed standards, work and approaches.**

The Strategy development process:

- took into account the democratic mission of the Council of Europe;
- considered the latest political context of the Council of Europe, the interests of its member States and traditional stakeholders, and the changing profile of the culture, cultural heritage and landscape sector and its stakeholders;
- focused on an integrated approach to tackle current societal needs and challenges.

This Strategy derives from the main priorities defined by the four-year Strategic Framework of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe (23 November, 2020) and the Secretary General's 2021 report "[A democratic renewal for Europe](#)" on the state of democracy, human rights and the rule of law; integrates findings and recommendations provided in the Final Report of the Evaluation of the Intergovernmental Committees (16 April, 2019) that was carried out for the Council of Europe by the Centre for Strategy & Evaluation Services (CSES); Resolution CM/Res (2011)24 on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of references and working methods, in particular, working methods of the CDCPP and future work in 2021, prepared by the Culture, Nature and Heritage Department of the Directorate of Democratic Participation.

## II. Current Context

The environment, landscapes and natural diversity are increasingly degraded and threatened by climate change, pollution and irresponsible development. Equally, cultural diversity is threatened. The COVID-19 pandemic is also having a lasting impact on all aspects of our societies and must be taken into account in 2022-2025 planning processes. Civil society consultation and involvement in policy development, through a democratic participatory process, ensures ownership and responsibility in policy governance. Still, many citizens do not feel concerned by governmental policies and, as a result, these are not properly implemented and effective. Moreover, Europe is witnessing an upsurge in manifestations of intolerance, racism, hate speech and the dissemination of misinformation. Social disparities are growing.

Culture, Nature and Heritage play a key role in fostering respect for diversity, tolerance, understanding and inclusion, and in ensuring the full enjoyment of human rights and well-being. Investing in culture and heritage serves to promote freedom of expression and freedom of creation – and hence innovation and change – as well as those competencies required to deal with ever more complex life practices, inclusion, combating climate change and fostering sustainable development. Landscape contributes to the formation of local cultures and is a basic component of the European natural and cultural heritage. Biodiversity and landscape fundamentally determine the quality of life. A harmonious landscape with flourishing biodiversity underpins the right to life, well-being and health, by preventing pandemics and fostering sustainable development.

The Council of Europe has developed a set of conventions in the fields of culture, cultural heritage, nature and landscape: the European Cultural Convention, the Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, two Conventions for the protection of archaeological and architectural heritage, the European Landscape Convention, the Faro Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society, the Council of Europe Nicosia Convention on Offences relating to Cultural Property, the European Convention for the Protection of the Audio-visual Heritage, and the Council of Europe Convention on Cinematographic Co-production (revised). Through their follow-up and monitoring mechanisms, cooperation and technical assistance, research activities and dedicated information systems, the Organisation helps member States to promote access to culture and creative expression, respect for the diversity of cultural and natural heritage, improve its policy development (or cycle) and to tune spatial/regional planning with sustainability-driven landscape policies. Governments hence have the means to care for the common surroundings for present and future generations, without discrimination, based on the right of non-regression.

The fight against environmental degradation and climate change, through a holistic and cross-sectoral approach, ensures the sustainable management of biodiversity, landscape, cultural and cultural heritage assets in an integrated manner and with the active participation of civil society. The objective is that member States strengthen their environmental, cultural and cultural heritage policies in favour of an open and diverse cultural space, enabling a historic perspective and a safe and sustainable environment, accessible to all as a fundamental basis for democratic societies. Living in a healthy environment is indeed a human rights requirement. Innovative participatory governance should be promoted to ensure the participation of citizens and civil society in the decision-making process. The entering into force of the Convention on Offences relating to Cultural Property is expected in 2022-23, with related follow-up processes to be set up.

### **III. The key strategic priorities of the Council of Europe over the next four years<sup>1</sup>, and the relevance of culture, cultural heritage and landscape to these priorities**

#### **1. Implementation of the European Convention on Human Rights**

Culture, cultural heritage and landscape are crucial for the construction, development and preservation of cultural identities and, thereby, of the dignity of peoples, communities, and individuals.

#### **2. Ensuring freedom of expression**

Artistic creation, cultural and creative sectors and cultural heritage plays an important role in our democratic societies. Freedom of artistic expression is facing growing pressure.

#### **3. Fighting growing social inequalities and poverty**

Culture and participation in culture is important for social cohesion and social integration. Culture, cultural heritage and landscape contribute to liveability, small scale business, job opportunities and vocational training and is important in a strengthened focus in fighting social inequalities and poverty.

#### **4. Non-discrimination and ensuring the protection of vulnerable groups**

Culture, cultural heritage and landscape are crucial for the dignity of peoples, communities and individuals, and for democratic dialogue and understanding.

#### **5. Fighting inequality, racism, xenophobia and discrimination**

Culture, cultural heritage and landscape are important drivers of social cohesion, sustainable development and economic growth, and contribute through educational and participatory activities to fighting inequality racism, xenophobia and discrimination.

#### **6. The independence, efficiency and resilience of the judicial systems of our member States**

The work of the CDCPP is less relevant for this priority.

#### **7. The fight against corruption and money laundering, as well as combating cybercrime**

Culture and cultural heritage are at times used for illicit trafficking or money laundering and may hence be relevant here in the wider sense.

#### **8. The fight against human trafficking**

The work of the CDCPP is less relevant for this priority.

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<sup>1</sup> Strategic Framework of the Council of Europe.

### **9. Artificial intelligence (AI)**

The digital revolution is not only a technical revolution – it is also a social and cultural revolution. Digitisation must be accompanied by cultural policies tuned to human rights, democracy and the rule of law, avoiding any discrimination. Culture and the arts are vectors to generate the necessary social intelligence and emancipation to accompany new life practices marked by increasing human-machine interaction.

### **10. The fight against environmental degradation and climate change**

Cultural heritage and landscape are both affected by climate change, but are also, along with culture, an important part of the solution in combating climate change and degradation of biodiversity, as well as fostering sustainable development. Addressing the challenges caused by climate change, as related to enacting and protecting human rights is a priority.

### **11. Supporting the role and diversity of civil society**

Civic initiatives and participative governance enable institutions and communities to develop decision-making capacities and to manage their development processes, ensuring that culture, cultural heritage and landscape contribute to the social, cultural and economic dynamics of the communities.

### **12. Education for democratic citizenship and empowerment and strengthening of young people's role in decision-making**

Culture, cultural heritage and landscape are important for stimulating lifelong learning, self-development and civic engagement as a basis for social cohesion and political participation.

## **IV. Possible main deliverables for member States in the Culture, Cultural Heritage and Landscape sectors**

The activities of the Committee listed below are geared towards building further synergy and added value across the Committee's three subject areas (culture, heritage, landscape). In this overview it is shown that these activities are intrinsically linked to the societal challenges and to Council of Europe priority work areas, as set out in chapters II and III.

### **Culture and Cultural Heritage**

- Member States are provided with policy guidelines and co-operation tools developed by the CDCPP and its experts to address the challenges related to the digitisation of culture, the impact of AI, cultural diversity, participation, inclusion.

This contributes to the following key strategic priorities listed in chapter III:  
1, 3, 4, 5, 9, 11, 12

- The digital exhibition “Free to Create – Create to be Free” is extended to include a maximum number of member States and the “Manifesto on the Freedom of Expression of Arts and Culture in the Digital Era” widely promoted and good practices of related cultural activities collected.

This contributes to the following key strategic priorities listed in chapter III:  
1, 2

- Member States are provided with integrated culture/nature/landscape guidelines based on the Council of Europe's human rights and participatory approach, consisting of a number of principles for inclusive policy making by governments.

This contributes to the following key strategic priorities listed in chapter III:  
1, 10, 11

- Contracting Parties are supported in the implementation of the cultural heritage conventions of the Council of Europe, among which the Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society and the Council of Europe Convention on Offences relating to Cultural Property, through regional cooperation and policy recommendations and additional relevant measures and tools.

This contributes to the following key strategic priorities listed in chapter III:  
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 9, 10, 11, 12

- Member States are provided with policy guidelines, good practices (Strategy 21), cooperation and information tools (on-line platforms: Compendium, HEREIN, ELCIS) and technical assistance to strengthen democratic participation and governance of cultural heritage.

This contributes to the following key strategic priorities listed in chapter III:  
1, 3, 4, 5, 10, 11

- The general public is mobilised through awareness-raising events in the culture and heritage sector (European Heritage Days, Cultural Routes), with wide outreach, including heritage education and sustainable tourism initiatives.

This contributes to the following key strategic priorities listed in chapter III:  
1, 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12

## **Landscape**

- The general public has access to information about the policies developed to implement the European Landscape Convention at national, regional and local level through an International Landscape Observatory (Information System Glossary; Information Platform).

This contributes to the following key strategic priorities listed in chapter III:  
1, 10, 11

- Exemplary initiatives to protect, manage and develop the European landscapes are acknowledged through an extended Landscape Award Alliance of the Council of Europe, which is promoted with publications.

This contributes to the following key strategic priorities listed in chapter III:  
1, 10, 11

- Events organised on the occasion of the International Landscape Day of the Council of Europe support national initiatives and highlight the work and achievements in these fields.

This contributes to the following key strategic priorities listed in chapter III:  
1, 10, 11

- Contracting Parties are supported in the implementation of the European Landscape Convention through thematic recommendations, guidelines, awareness-raising activities, the two-yearly Conferences organised by the Council of Europe and thematic workshops.

This contributes to the following key strategic priorities listed in chapter III:  
1, 10, 11

## **V. Action Proposals for Enhanced CDCPP Working Methods:**

### **1. Goal: Increased effectiveness of the CDCPP Secretariat, Bureau and the Committee**

- 1.1. Complementary meetings of the Bureau and the Committee in online format and increased use of virtual participation in addition to regular physical meetings, as appropriate;
- 1.2. CDCPP Statements on international platforms made on all relevant issues;
- 1.3. Distribute specific roles and tasks among Bureau members for stronger involvement and efficiency;
- 1.4. Active engagement of the CDCPP Bureau -and other- members at international forums, conferences, webinars, roundtables, etc.
- 1.5. Members of the CDCPP (delegates) are well placed to promote Council of Europe programmes at national level and promote the ratification and implementation of Council of Europe standards and instruments;
- 1.6. Engagement of CDCPP members/delegates in various thematic/expert working groups;
- 1.7. Engagement with Ministerial conferences (as appropriate);
- 1.8. Launch thematic actions and campaigns across the different Council of Europe programmes and networks for a better information process and to foster complementarity;
- 1.9. Increase synergies with relevant international organisations, eg the EU as well as with the observers to the CDCPP. Seek sustainable partnerships for long-standing cooperation, where relevant;
- 1.10. Conduct periodic polls and surveys to evaluate the pertinence/impact of CDCPP activities among its members, as appropriate.

### **2. Goal: Increased awareness and improved targeted communications among member States and other stakeholders concerning the CDCPP and its activities**

2.1. Developing more systematic communication, tuned to the Council of Europe's overall strategy and the CDCPP priorities by underlining Culture/Heritage/Landscape's contribution to offering solutions: it is vital to highlight what art and culture, heritage and landscape can do to tackle environmental, social, economic and other important societal needs and address human rights challenges;

2.2. Enhance the ways in which the Committee communicates its activities and interacts with key stakeholders and members.

### **3. Goal: Strengthened co-ordination with other intergovernmental committees of the Council of Europe to ensure reflection on key strategic priorities and the Strategic Framework**

3.1. Promote transversal horizontal themes and identify synergies in order to reinforce coordination and cooperation between the intergovernmental committees:

- Artificial Intelligence (AI) and culture, creativity and cultural heritage (CAHA);
- Climate change and sustainable development – fight against environmental degradation and climate change (Bern Convention, EUR-OPA Major Hazards);
- Education for democratic citizenship and empowerment and strengthening of young people's role in decision-making (CDPPE, Youth Committees);
- Freedom of Expression (CDMSI - Media and Information Society; CDPC - European Committee on Crime Problems; CDADI - Steering Committee on Anti-Discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion);
- Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic (transversal);
- Creative Economy – creative sector (EURIMAGES, European Audiovisual Observatory);
- Globalisation and the need for multilateral action (transversal).

3.2. Take part in joint meetings of the Committee chairs and Secretariats organised by the Council of Europe.

**4. Goal: Extra resources (budgetary and extra budgetary) are mobilised to support the work of CDCPP and ensure sustainability and funding of its programmes**

- 4.1. Help build capacity for resource mobilisation to support CDCPP activities;
- 4.2. Explore any other funding possibilities, as appropriate.

**Action required**

The CDCPP is invited to:

- take note of the CDCPP Strategy for 2022-2025 which is tuned both to the Strategic Framework of the Council of Europe's Secretary General and to the CDCPP's Terms of Reference for the same period;
- adopt the Strategy as set out in this document and use it, as appropriate, in the Committee's work and communication.

## APPENDIX I

### Work output by the CDCPP in 2021

**Draft of a future Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers** to member States on the essential role of culture, cultural heritage and landscape in helping to address the global crises (democratic, economic, health, climate, social), with special consideration of the impact of AI in these areas.

**Draft Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers** to member States with a view to the implementation of the European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe – Landscape and responsibility of stakeholders for sustainable and harmonious development.

**Draft Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers** to member States with a view to the implementation of the European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe – Landscape integration in sectoral policies.

**Draft Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers** to member States with a view to the implementation of the European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe – Town Planning and Landscape.

**Draft Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers** to member States with a view to the implementation of the European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe – Landscape and Agriculture.

**Draft of future integrated culture/nature/landscape guidelines** (feasibility/ first preparations) based on the Council of Europe's human rights and participatory approach, consisting of principles for inclusive policy making for governments.

**Digital #Exhibition** "Free to Create - Create to be Free".

**Cultural Heritage Peer Review/Technical Assistance** in Ukraine.

**Technical assistance to the Republic of Moldova** on Film Law and Funding.

**MooC on Strategy 21** – 10 modules.

**Faro Convention** – online serious game "Find your Faro Way".

**Nicosia Convention on Offences relating to Cultural Property** – promotional activities.

**European Heritage Days shared theme "Heritage: All Inclusive"** – brochure, documentary film; European Heritage Days Stories, Young European Heritage Makers activity.