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Item 3 of the agenda

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

**PREPARATION OF THE AUTUMN PLENARY SESSION AGENDA  
AND ITS THEMATIC SESSIONS**

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

At its 8<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting in June 2019, and following previous reflections on its working methods, the Steering Committee for Culture, Heritage and Landscape held a first thematic exchange on climate change and sustainable development as related to human rights and democracy, and specifically, culture, heritage and landscape resources in this context.

Given the interest in the format, as stimulated by the presentations of top experts in the field, the Committee held three further thematic sessions in autumn 2020, namely:

- “The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic”;
- “AI and culture, creativity and cultural heritage”;
- “Climate change and sustainable development”.

The Committee expressed its appreciation for the presentations by invited experts and statements by delegates and observers on how challenges can be addressed, including through Council of Europe activities and tools.

Following the debates, the CDCPP suggested preparing dedicated Council of Europe Committee of Ministers’ Recommendations to member States on the essential role and impact of culture, creativity and creative industries, cultural heritage and landscape in addressing global crises (democracy, economy, health, climate, social), with special consideration of the impact of AI in these areas. This work would naturally also consider the impact human beings can have on AI developments, including through culture and creativity.

### **Next steps**

The CDCPP also underlined the importance of cultural heritage education as a part of education for democratic citizenship and human rights in the digital era. It suggested holding a working session in 2021 on the exchange of best practices relating to AI in archaeology, considering the [European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage](#) (revised, Valletta, 1992).

AI applications in the cultural heritage sector are promising and their use includes, *inter alia*, the safeguarding of threatened languages, the offer of digital access to sites and their reconstructions, as well as possibilities for analysing cultural heritage sites with a view to identifying offences to cultural property.

The expert invited in November 2020 could be asked to address the CDCPP once more and provide an overview on the latest technological developments and related projects on AI and Archaeology run by relevant research and international institutions, and their potential and challenges. Delegates would be invited to prepare the thematic session in good time and offer short oral or written reports on developments and steps taken at national level with regard to the issue. Once more, the thematic session of autumn 2021 may inspire the subsequent preparation of a Council of Europe policy Guideline or draft Recommendation to member States.

In its work, the CDCPP will naturally consider links to Council of Europe tools and strategies addressing the climate emergency and working towards the SDGs, as well as connections to the work of other organisations and professional associations, including the *Europae Archaeologiae Consilium* (EAC) and the European Association of Archaeologists (EAA), with a view to creating the best possible synergies and responding to current needs in the field.

### **Action required**

The CDCPP is invited to:

- welcome the organisation of thematic sessions held in the framework of its plenary meetings since 2019 and specifically the 2020 thematic sessions, which led to proposals for new draft recommendations to member States that will address topical societal issues;
- re-iterate its wish to hold a thematic session in 2021 on the exchange of best practices relating to AI in archaeology, considering the [European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage](#) (revised, Valletta, 1992);
- invite member States to prepare the session, with a view to offering short oral or written briefings and submitting proposals for future thematic sessions, making the most of the intergovernmental cultural co-operation framework offered by the Council of Europe.