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TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION AND  
CONSULTANCY PROGRAMME RELATED  
TO THE INTEGRATED CONSERVATION  
OF THE CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

PROGRAMME DE COOPÉRATION  
ET D'ASSISTANCE TECHNIQUES RELATIVES  
À LA CONSERVATION INTÉGRÉE  
DU PATRIMOINE CULTUREL ET NATUREL



## ACTION FOR A CHANGING SOCIETY



**FRAMEWORK CONVENTION**  
ON THE VALUE OF CULTURAL HERITAGE  
FOR SOCIETY

**LA CONVENTION-CADRE**  
SUR LA VALEUR DU PATRIMOINE CULTUREL  
POUR LA SOCIÉTÉ

**Council of Europe**  
Directorate of Democratic Governance, DG II  
Managing Diversity Division  
<http://www.coe.int/regional>



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European societies are transforming under the combined effects of the economic crisis, energy transition, demographic or migration factors and a reduction in resources. This situation calls for new development models.

Europe needs to innovate in order to create the framework for a new society driven by greater democracy, strengthened citizen participation and better governance based on more open, reactive and transparent institutions.

In this context, the Council of Europe's Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society is innovative in several ways. In particular, it reinforces the concept of the "common heritage of Europe" by linking this to human rights and the fundamental freedoms for which the Council of Europe remains one of the historic guardians.

Through its conventions and the expertise acquired from practical field action, the Council of Europe

provides an original contribution to the issues related to "living together", quality of life and the living environments where citizens wish to prosper.

The framework convention is part of this *acquis* and should now be made known and actively promoted. It is up to member states, policy makers, public authorities and representatives of civil society to engage resolutely in the ratification and implementation of the framework convention.

The Council of Europe would like to support this action with a series of information and public awareness-raising actions. This brochure is a first working tool which I hope will be widely disseminated.

I hope the reader will enjoy discovering this important convention, which has the potential to really change the way we live, and create a more welcoming, diverse and sustainable society.

**Thorbjørn Jagland**  
*Secretary General of the Council of Europe*

The Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (the Faro Convention) was drafted between 2003 and 2005 by a select committee of experts. It was adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on 13 October 2005 and opened for signature to member states in Faro, Portugal, on 27 October of the same year.

The Faro Convention entered into force on 1 June 2011. To date, 16 member states have ratified the convention: Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Georgia, Hungary, Latvia, Luxembourg, the Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Norway, Portugal, Serbia, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Ukraine and “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”. In addition, five states have signed the convention: Albania, Belgium, Bulgaria, Italy and San Marino. The signing process is under way in a number of other member states of the Council of Europe.

**The Faro Convention is first and foremost a convention about society, for society.** It is one of the ways that the Council of Europe can help member states to address the societal challenges they are facing, individually or collectively. The originality of the Faro Convention is that it asks the question: “why and for whose benefit should we enhance cultural heritage?” It thus complements the previous Council of Europe conventions (Granada and Valletta), which provide answers to the question of how to preserve cultural heritage.

**The Faro Convention outlines a framework for considering the role of citizens** in the definition, decision-making and management processes related to the cultural environment in which communities operate and evolve. Citizen participation has become an ethical obligation and a political necessity. It revitalises society, strengthens democracy and creates governance that can renew the conditions for “living together”, encouraging well-being and a better quality of life.

**The Faro Convention proposes heritage as a resource** that can be mobilised for and by citizens as part of public action. Inherited from the

past and shaped by everyday life, it is the expression of the values, beliefs, knowledge and traditions derived from the experience gained through progress and past conflicts that have formed towns and territories from the continuous interaction between people, communities and places. The common heritage of Europe provides coherence to European societies. It is the foundation of identity on the basis of which Europe today is being built. It is a fundamental reference, a factor of stability and continuity in an ever-changing world that is facing, in particular:

- a crisis relating to political representation, where heritage can provide some of the answers by fostering citizen participation;
- a crisis relating to economic models, where heritage can provide new resources whose potential is rooted in continuity and sustainability;
- a cultural or identity crisis, where heritage has a role as a factor of dialogue and mutual understanding, a source of respect and cohesion.

**T**hree main themes allow for a political interpretation of the Faro Convention and connect and highlight the priorities of the Council of Europe. These three themes provide principles or objectives through which the member states and stakeholders who are determined to implement the Faro Convention can generate their actions. The six priority objectives proposed below

do not exclude others that stakeholders may spontaneously come up with when tapping into the abundance of ideas to be found in the Faro Convention in order to respond to their specific needs. The Council of Europe has been focusing on these six objectives since 2013 in order to promote the convention, support activities in the member states and measure its impact.

1

### Managing cultural diversity for cohesive societies

- Determine the public interest in heritage in order to stimulate the right investment for preserving and enhancing the social and economic value of the different kinds of heritage (Articles 5a, 5b and 10a).
- Promote conciliation and reconciliation in order to bring together within a community the stakeholders who are defending divergent interests, and to allow dialogue to become one of the main forces for sustainable development (Articles 5f, 7a, 7b and 7c).

2

### Improving the living environment and quality of life

- Encourage a high quality architectural and urban design enriched by the cultural diversity of the territories and their traditions (Articles 5e and 8d).
- Bring together the objectives related to economic efficiency, social cohesion and ecological balance within heritage-led strategies that allow for the combined action of public authorities, investors and civil society (Articles 5g, 8a, 8b, 9a, 10b, 10c, 11a, 11b, and 11c).

3

### Developing democratic participation

- Implement “shared responsibility” involving citizens and civil society in mechanisms integrated with public action in order to identify values, define priorities and manage heritage-led projects (Articles 5c, 5d, 11d, 11e, 12a and 12c).
- Encourage a sense of responsibility in all social stakeholders so that they act on the basis of feeling they belong to a community which is enriched by its diversity (Articles 8c, 9b, 9d).

**The Faro Convention provides a tangible contribution to the political objectives of the Council of Europe.**

These objectives aim at building a peaceful and democratic society, and the consolidation of sustainable development processes which are necessary conditions for human

development and improving the quality of life in Europe. Under these conditions, the member states of the Council of Europe are invited to ratify the Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society.

## Examples of initiatives inspired by the Faro Convention



Heritage walk (photo Jelka Pirkovic)

The Slovenian Network of NGOs for the interpretation of Heritage (SMID) is based on a new concept of networking, inspired by the principles of the Faro Convention. Each partner generates a local network of “heritage communities”. The members of these communities are trained to be able to apply for national and international tenders and to run their own business around the interpretation of heritage. As a result, the number of quality heritage projects is increasing and, what is even more encouraging, a growing number of people who have had training are joining the regional development boards where they can promote heritage as an asset for local development and thus participate in drawing up innovative development strategies.

More information:  
[www.smid.si](http://www.smid.si)



Local working group. The town of Ronse (photo ENAME)

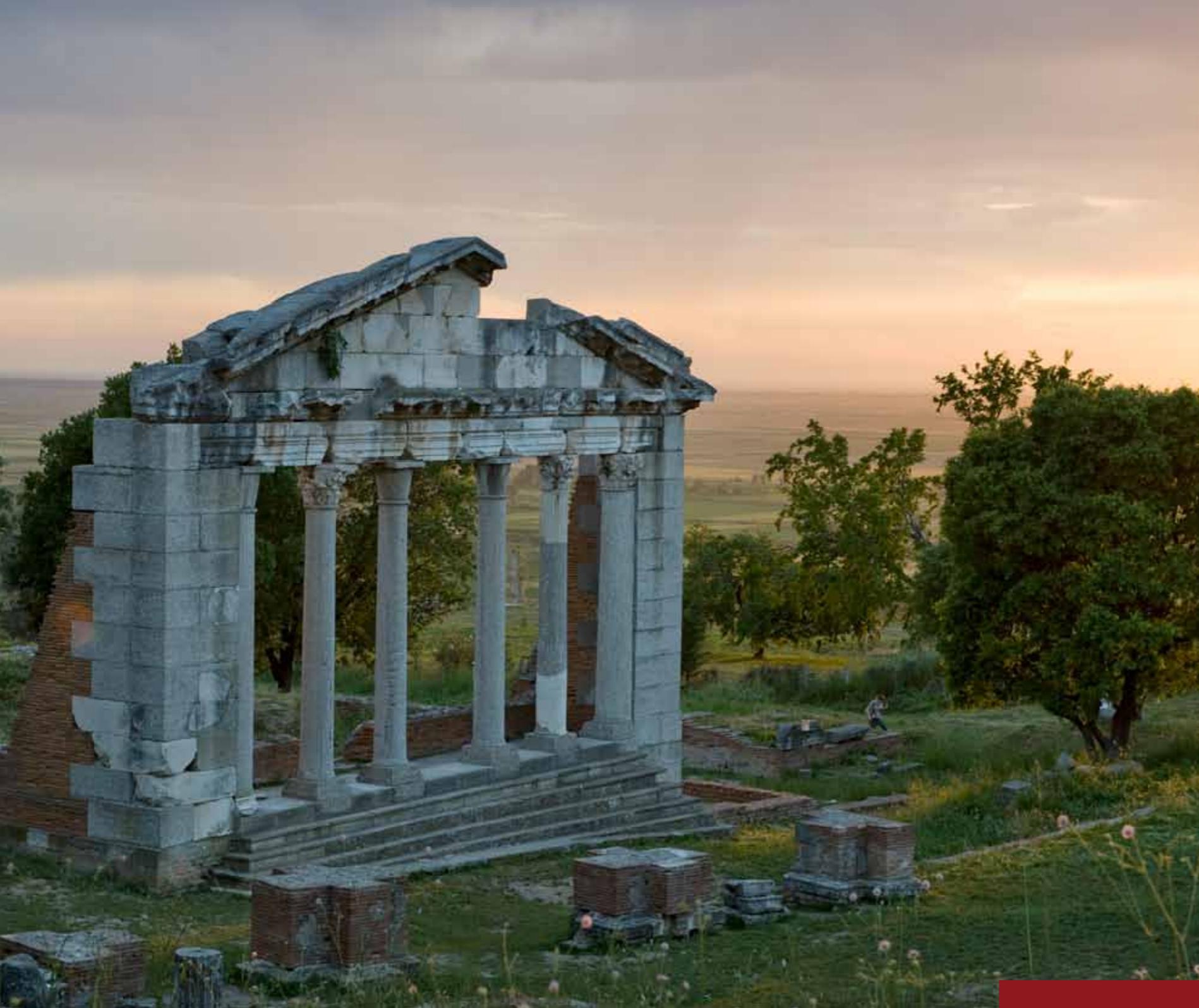
Following the decline of the textile industry in the 1950s, Ronse has become an economically depressed historic town with various social issues such as poverty, immigration and unemployment. In response to this situation, the local population and social organisations, citing the town’s rich and diverse history as a major resource to be used for reviving the town’s development, have managed to convince the city council to launch an usual participatory process. This has encouraged a broad discussion among local stakeholders to develop a shared vision for the future, based on the enhancement of local heritage in line with the wishes of the local people. An innovative, long-term policy has finally been adopted which includes urban renovation, a mobility strategy and an increased role for citizens in the decision-making process through a “heritage council” to improve quality of life and the way communities live together in the town.

More information:  
[www.enamecenter.org](http://www.enamecenter.org)



The town of Marseille (photo Hôtel du Nord)

Electing representatives from the 2nd, 7th, and 8th districts of Marseille and the Mayor of Vitrolles are endorsing the principles stated in the Faro Framework Convention in order to give a European dimension to the local social initiatives. Tenants’ associations, groups of enterprises, associations, artists’ collectives, or ordinary citizens have initiated these “heritage-led” projects which emphasise the environment and the quality of life in neighbourhoods. Some of the initiatives have enabled projects to be set up as part of the Marseille-Provence 2013 European Capital of Culture. The experience in Marseille has inspired similar initiatives in other European cities, such as Venice (Italy) or Košice (Slovak Republic).



## Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society

### Preamble

The member States of the Council of Europe, Signatories hereto,

Considering that one of the aims of the Council of Europe is to achieve greater unity between its members for the purpose of safeguarding and fostering the ideals and principles, founded upon respect for human rights, democracy and the rule of law, which are their common heritage;

Recognising the need to put people and human values at the centre of an enlarged and cross-disciplinary concept of cultural heritage;

Emphasising the value and potential of cultural heritage wisely used as a resource for sustainable development and quality of life in a constantly evolving society;

Recognising that every person has a right to engage with the cultural heritage of their choice, while respecting the rights and freedoms of others, as an aspect of the right freely to participate in cultural life enshrined in the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) and guaranteed by the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966);

Convinced of the need to involve everyone in society in the ongoing process of defining and managing cultural heritage;

Convinced of the soundness of the principle of heritage policies and educational initiatives which treat all cultural heritages equitably and so promote dialogue among cultures and religions;

Referring to the various instruments of the Council of Europe, in particular the European Cultural Convention (1954), the Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (1985), the European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (1992, revised) and the European Landscape Convention (2000);

Convinced of the importance of creating a pan-European framework for co-operation in the dynamic process of putting these principles into effect;

Have agreed as follows:



## Article 1 – Aims of the Convention

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The Parties to this Convention agree to:

- a. recognise that rights relating to cultural heritage are inherent in the right to participate in cultural life, as defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
- b. recognise individual and collective responsibility towards cultural heritage;
- c. emphasise that the conservation of cultural heritage and its sustainable use have human development and quality of life as their goal;
- d. take the necessary steps to apply the provisions of this Convention concerning:
  - the role of cultural heritage in the construction of a peaceful and democratic society, and in the processes of sustainable development and the promotion of cultural diversity;
  - greater synergy of competencies among all the public, institutional and private actors concerned.

## Article 2 – Definitions

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For the purposes of this Convention,

- a. cultural heritage is a group of resources inherited from the past which people identify, independently of ownership, as a reflection and expression of their constantly evolving values, beliefs, knowledge and traditions. It includes all aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time;
- b. a heritage community consists of people who value specific aspects of cultural heritage which they wish, within the framework of public action, to sustain and transmit to future generations.



### **Article 3 – The common heritage of Europe**

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The Parties agree to promote an understanding of the common heritage of Europe, which consists of:

- a. all forms of cultural heritage in Europe which together constitute a shared source of remembrance, understanding, identity, cohesion and creativity; and
- b. the ideals, principles and values, derived from the experience gained through progress and past conflicts, which foster the development of a peaceful and stable society, founded on respect for human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

### **Article 4 – Rights and responsibilities relating to cultural heritage**

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The Parties recognise that:

- a. everyone, alone or collectively, has the right to benefit from the cultural heritage and to contribute towards its enrichment;
- b. everyone, alone or collectively, has the responsibility to respect the cultural heritage of others as much as their own heritage, and consequently the common heritage of Europe;
- c. exercise of the right to cultural heritage may be subject only to those restrictions which are necessary in a democratic society for the protection of the public interest and the rights and freedoms of others.

### **Article 5 – Cultural heritage law and policies**

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The Parties undertake to:

- a. recognise the public interest associated with elements of the cultural heritage in accordance with their importance to society;
- b. enhance the value of the cultural heritage through its identification, study, interpretation, protection, conservation and presentation;
- c. ensure, in the specific context of each Party, that legislative provisions exist for exercising the right to cultural heritage as defined in Article 4;
- d. foster an economic and social climate which supports participation in cultural heritage activities;



- e. promote cultural heritage protection as a central factor in the mutually supporting objectives of sustainable development, cultural diversity and contemporary creativity;
- f. recognise the value of cultural heritage situated on territories under their jurisdiction, regardless of its origin;
- g. formulate integrated strategies to facilitate the implementation of the provisions of this Convention.

### **Article 6 – Effects of the Convention**

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No provision of this Convention shall be interpreted so as to:

- a. limit or undermine the human rights and fundamental freedoms which may be safeguarded by international instruments, in particular, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms;
- b. affect more favourable provisions concerning cultural heritage and environment contained in other national or international legal instruments;
- c. create enforceable rights.



## Contribution of cultural heritage to society and human development

### **Article 7 – Cultural heritage and dialogue**

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The Parties undertake, through the public authorities and other competent bodies, to:

- a. encourage reflection on the ethics and methods of presentation of the cultural heritage, as well as respect for diversity of interpretations;
- b. establish processes for conciliation to deal equitably with situations where contradictory values are placed on the same cultural heritage by different communities;
- c. develop knowledge of cultural heritage as a resource to facilitate peaceful co-existence by promoting trust and mutual understanding with a view to resolution and prevention of conflicts;
- d. integrate these approaches into all aspects of lifelong education and training.

### **Article 8 – Environment, heritage and quality of life**

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The Parties undertake to utilise all heritage aspects of the cultural environment to:

- a. enrich the processes of economic, political, social and cultural development and land-use planning, resorting to cultural heritage impact assessments and adopting mitigation strategies where necessary;
- b. promote an integrated approach to policies concerning cultural, biological, geological and landscape diversity to achieve a balance between these elements;
- c. reinforce social cohesion by fostering a sense of shared responsibility towards the places in which people live;
- d. promote the objective of quality in contemporary additions to the environment without endangering its cultural values.



## **Article 9 – Sustainable use of the cultural heritage**

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To sustain the cultural heritage, the Parties undertake to:

- a. promote respect for the integrity of the cultural heritage by ensuring that decisions about change include an understanding of the cultural values involved;
- b. define and promote principles for sustainable management, and to encourage maintenance;
- c. ensure that all general technical regulations take account of the specific conservation requirements of cultural heritage;
- d. promote the use of materials, techniques and skills based on tradition, and explore their potential for contemporary applications;
- e. promote high-quality work through systems of professional qualifications and accreditation for individuals, businesses and institutions.

## **Article 10 – Cultural heritage and economic activity**

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In order to make full use of the potential of the cultural heritage as a factor in sustainable economic development, the Parties undertake to:

- a. raise awareness and utilise the economic potential of the cultural heritage;
- b. take into account the specific character and interests of the cultural heritage when devising economic policies; and
- c. ensure that these policies respect the integrity of the cultural heritage without compromising its inherent values.



### **Article 11 – The organisation of public responsibilities for cultural heritage**

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In the management of the cultural heritage, the Parties undertake to:

- a. promote an integrated and well-informed approach by public authorities in all sectors and at all levels;
- b. develop the legal, financial and professional frameworks which make possible joint action by public authorities, experts, owners, investors, businesses, non-governmental organisations and civil society;
- c. develop innovative ways for public authorities to co-operate with other actors;
- d. respect and encourage voluntary initiatives which complement the roles of public authorities;
- e. encourage non-governmental organisations concerned with heritage conservation to act in the public interest.

### **Article 12 – Access to cultural heritage and democratic participation**

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The Parties undertake to:

- a. encourage everyone to participate in:
  - the process of identification, study, interpretation, protection, conservation and presentation of the cultural heritage;
  - public reflection and debate on the opportunities and challenges which the cultural heritage represents;
- b. take into consideration the value attached by each heritage community to the cultural heritage with which it identifies;
- c. recognise the role of voluntary organisations both as partners in activities and as constructive critics of cultural heritage policies;
- d. take steps to improve access to the heritage, especially among young people and the disadvantaged, in order to raise awareness about its value, the need to maintain and preserve it and the benefits which may be derived from it.



### **Article 13 – Cultural heritage and knowledge**

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The Parties undertake to:

- a. facilitate the inclusion of the cultural heritage dimension at all levels of education, not necessarily as a subject of study in its own right, but as a fertile source for studies in other subjects;
- b. strengthen the link between cultural heritage education and vocational training;
- c. encourage interdisciplinary research on cultural heritage, heritage communities, the environment and their inter-relationship;
- d. encourage continuous professional training and the exchange of knowledge and skills, both within and outside the educational system.

### **Article 14 – Cultural heritage and the information society**

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The Parties undertake to develop the use of digital technology to enhance access to cultural heritage and the benefits which derive from it, by:

- a. encouraging initiatives which promote the quality of contents and endeavour to secure diversity of languages and cultures in the information society;
- b. supporting internationally compatible standards for the study, conservation, enhancement and security of cultural heritage, whilst combating illicit trafficking in cultural property;
- c. seeking to resolve obstacles to access to information relating to cultural heritage, particularly for educational purposes, whilst protecting intellectual property rights;
- d. recognising that the creation of digital contents related to the heritage should not prejudice the conservation of the existing heritage.



### Article 15 – Undertakings of the Parties

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The Parties undertake to:

- a. develop, through the Council of Europe, a monitoring function covering legislations, policies and practices concerning cultural heritage, consistent with the principles established by this Convention;
- b. maintain, develop and contribute data to a shared information system, accessible to the public, which facilitates assessment of how each Party fulfils its commitments under this Convention.

### Article 16 – Monitoring mechanism

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- a. The Committee of Ministers, pursuant to Article 17 of the Statute of the Council of Europe, shall nominate an appropriate committee or specify an existing committee to monitor the application of the Convention, which will be authorised to make rules for the conduct of its business;
- b. The nominated committee shall:
  - establish rules of procedure as necessary;
  - manage the shared information system referred to in Article 15, maintaining an overview of the means by which each commitment under this Convention is met;
  - at the request of one or more Parties, give an advisory opinion on any question relating to the interpretation of the Convention, taking into consideration all Council of Europe legal instruments;
  - on the initiative of one or more Parties, undertake an evaluation of any aspect of their implementation of the Convention;
  - foster the trans-sectoral application of this Convention by collaborating with other committees and participating in other initiatives of the Council of Europe;
  - report to the Committee of Ministers on its activities.

The committee may involve experts and observers in its work.



## Article 17 – Co-operation in follow-up activities

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The Parties undertake to co-operate with each other and through the Council of Europe in pursuing the aims and principles of this Convention, and especially in promoting recognition of the common heritage of Europe, by:

- a. putting in place collaborative strategies to address priorities identified through the monitoring process;
- b. fostering multilateral and transfrontier activities, and developing networks for regional co-operation in order to implement these strategies;
- c. exchanging, developing, codifying and assuring the dissemination of good practices;
- d. informing the public about the aims and implementation of this Convention.

Any Parties may, by mutual agreement, make financial arrangements to facilitate international co-operation.



### Article 18 – Signature and entry into force

- a. This Convention shall be open for signature by the member States of the Council of Europe.
- b. It shall be subject to ratification, acceptance or approval. Instruments of ratification, acceptance or approval shall be deposited with the Secretary General of the Council of Europe.
- c. This Convention shall enter into force on the first day of the month following the expiration of a period of three months after the date on which ten member States of the Council of Europe have expressed their consent to be bound by the Convention in accordance with the provisions of the preceding paragraph.
- d. In respect of any signatory State which subsequently expresses its consent to be bound by it, this Convention shall enter into force on the first day of the month following the expiration of a period of three months after the date of deposit of the instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval.

### Article 19 – Accession

- a. After the entry into force of this Convention, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe may invite any State not a member of the Council of Europe, and the European Community, to accede to the Convention by a decision taken by the majority provided for in Article 20.d of the Statute of the Council of Europe and by the unanimous vote of the representatives of the Contracting States entitled to sit on the Committee of Ministers.
- b. In respect of any acceding State, or the European Community in the event of its accession, this Convention shall enter into force on the first day of the month following the expiration of a period of three months after the date of deposit of the instrument of accession with the Secretary General of the Council of Europe.



## Article 20 – Territorial application

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- a. Any State may, at the time of signature or when depositing its instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, specify the territory or territories to which this Convention shall apply.
- b. Any State may, at any later date, by a declaration addressed to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, extend the application of this Convention to any other territory specified in the declaration. In respect of such territory, the Convention shall enter into force on the first day of the month following the expiration of a period of three months after the date of receipt of such declaration by the Secretary General.
- c. Any declaration made under the two preceding paragraphs may, in respect of any territory specified in such declaration, be withdrawn by a notification addressed to the Secretary General. The withdrawal shall become effective on the first day of the month following the expiration of a period of six months after the date of receipt of such notification by the Secretary General.

## Article 21 – Denunciation

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- a. Any Party may, at any time, denounce this Convention by means of a notification addressed to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe.
- b. Such denunciation shall become effective on the first day of the month following the expiration of a period of six months after the date of receipt of the notification by the Secretary General.

## Article 22 – Amendments

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- a. Any Party, and the committee mentioned in Article 16, may propose amendments to this Convention.
- b. Any proposal for amendment shall be notified to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, who shall communicate it to the member States of the Council of Europe, to the other Parties, and to any non-member State and the European Community invited to accede to this Convention, in accordance with the provisions of Article 19.
- c. The committee shall examine any amendment proposed and submit the text adopted by a majority of three-quarters of the Parties' representatives to the Committee of Ministers for adoption. Following its adoption by the Committee of Ministers by the majority provided for in Article 20.d of the Statute of the Council



of Europe, and by the unanimous vote of the States Parties entitled to hold seats in the Committee of Ministers, the text shall be forwarded to the Parties for acceptance.

- d. Any amendment shall enter into force in respect of the Parties which have accepted it, on the first day of the month following the expiry of a period of three months after the date on which ten member States of the Council of Europe have informed the Secretary General of their acceptance. In respect of any Party which subsequently accepts it, such amendment shall enter into force on the first day of the month following the expiry of a period of three months after the date on which the said Party has informed the Secretary General of its acceptance.

### **Article 23 – Notifications**

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The Secretary General of the Council of Europe shall notify the member States of the Council of Europe, any State which has acceded or been invited to accede to this Convention, and the European Community having acceded or been invited to accede, of:

- a. any signature;
- b. the deposit of any instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession;
- c. any date of entry into force of this Convention in accordance with the provisions of Articles 18, 19 and 20;
- d. any amendment proposed to this Convention in accordance with the provisions of Article 22, as well as its date of entry into force;
- e. any other act, declaration, notification or communication relating to this Convention.

In witness whereof the undersigned, being duly authorised thereto, have signed this Convention.

Done at Faro, this 27th day of October 2005, in English and in French, both texts being equally authentic, in a single copy which shall be deposited in the archives of the Council of Europe. The Secretary General of the Council of Europe shall transmit certified copies to each member State of the Council of Europe and to any State or the European Community invited to accede to it.