



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

**CDCPP(2015)4**

Strasbourg, 12 May 2015

**4<sup>th</sup> meeting**  
**Strasbourg, 1-3 June 2015**

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## **CONSIDERATION OF THE CDCPP'S WORK BY THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS**

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### **DOCUMENT FOR INFORMATION**

Item 3.3 of the draft Agenda

The Committee is invited to take note of the information in this document.

## **Introduction**

This document provides information regarding the consideration of the CDCPP's work by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.

The Committee is invited to take note of the information provided. .

## DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS

Meeting and date	Committee of Ministers' decision in respect of the CDCPP	Reference document	Action by the CDCPP
<p><b>1217th CM meeting</b> <b>21 January 2015</b></p>	<p><b>Parliamentary Assembly</b> <b>Recommendation 2049 (2014) Identities and diversity within intercultural societies</b></p> <p><i>Decision</i> "The Deputies adopted the reply to Parliamentary Assembly Recommendation 2049 (2014) on "Identities and diversity within intercultural societies" (Appendix 10 to the volume of Decisions).</p> <p style="text-align: center;">***</p>	<p><a href="#">Recommendation Identities and diversity within intercultural societies</a></p> <p>Reply from the Committee of Ministers <a href="#">CM/AS(2015)Rec2049 final</a>.</p>	<p>For information.</p>
<p><b>1211th CM meeting</b> <b>12 November 2014</b></p>	<p><b>Congress of Local and Regional Authorities</b> <b>Recommendation 365 (2014) Promoting diversity through intercultural education and communication strategies</b></p> <p><i>Decisions</i> "The Deputies 9. Concerning Recommendation 365 (2014) – "Promoting diversity through intercultural education and communication strategies" a. took note of Recommendation 365 (2014); b. agreed to bring it to the attention of the <b>Steering Committee for Culture, Heritage and Landscape (CDCPP)</b>, the Steering Committee for Educational Policy and Practice (CDPPE) and the Steering Committee for Media and Information Society (CDMSI), for information and possible comments by 31 January 2015; c. invited their Rapporteur Group on Education, Culture, Sport, Youth and Environment (GR-C) to prepare a draft reply for adoption at one of their forthcoming meetings;"</p> <p style="text-align: center;">***</p>		<p>Following a written consultation of the CDCPP members, their comments were sent to the Committee of Ministers Secretariat in December 2014. The Committee of Ministers will decide on this question in June.</p>

Meeting and date	Committee of Ministers' decision in respect of the CDCPP	Reference document	Action by the CDCPP
<p><b>1220th CM meeting 18 February 2015</b></p>	<p><b>Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Heritage in Namur on 23 and 24 April 2015</b></p> <p><i>Decision</i> "The Deputies</p> <p>1. approved the holding of the Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Heritage in Namur on 23 and 24 April 2015;</p> <p>2. decided to entrust the Bureau of the Steering Committee of Culture, Heritage and Landscape (CDCPP), in co-operation with the Belgian authorities, with the preparation of the conference and instructed it to keep them informed of the progress thereon."</p>		<p>The Committee of Ministers will shortly be examining the Report of the Secretary General on the Conference of Ministers and will decide on the follow-up.</p>

## APPENDIX

### PROMOTING DIVERSITY THROUGH INTERCULTURAL EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES

#### RECOMMENDATION 365 (2014) OF THE CONGRESS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES

1. The population of Europe is rapidly diversifying, and it is now the case that not just major cities, but also small municipalities and authorities more and more frequently have local populations of a very wide range of ethnic, cultural and religious origins. Ethnic minorities, foreign residents, migrants, asylum-seekers, refugees and residents of migrant origin form a European population which is not only growing more strongly than in the previous decades, but has also become an integral part of the fabric of our societies. They are now a major force, thanks to their economic, social and cultural contribution.

2. Their diversity represents a wide-ranging resource for innovation, growth and local economic, social and cultural development, making possible an opening up to other cultures and an inflow of new knowledge, methodologies, skills and ideas which increase a society's creativity and make it better able to face up to new situations, crises and challenges. In the cultural sphere, diversity is a source of enrichment which is perceptible in literature, films, the arts, sport, cookery and fashion, and in many forms of expression and types of activity. That creativity is also a source of job creation, attracting industries and firms in search of innovative ideas.

3. Thus the paradigm for society-building in Europe has changed. Whereas, in the past, we sought to achieve social cohesion on the basis of homogeneity, we now find ourselves in an intercultural society. The Report of the Group of Eminent Persons of the Council of Europe entitled *Living together. Combining diversity and freedom in 21st-century Europe*, identified European diversity as the main challenge facing modern democracy. That same report highlighted the crucial role played by local and regional authorities in responding effectively, as well as their role in building harmonious intercultural relations between the different population groups.

4. When it comes to accepting cultural diversity as an enriching factor, there is still a degree of resistance and reluctance among the local population, fuelled by prejudice and misconceptions based on rumours, stereotyping and misinformation. That prejudice, often stemming from ignorance of other cultures, continues to affect the way in which people regard others. That resistance also comes from a more subjective and unconscious perception that the concept of cultural diversity is linked to the idea of the "foreign", "immigrant" or "minority" culture constituting a threat to the majority culture. Ignorance of the benefits of diversity is thus a major obstacle to intercultural action.

5. The Congress is certain that the diversity and cultural heritage of populations represent two of the main assets of European societies, and that a precondition for a change in attitudes to diversity is a better knowledge of its advantages in both populations and authorities, necessitating the development of policies encompassing all social, ethnic and cultural groups and an educational effort based on intercultural communication and teaching.

6. In this respect, the Congress reaffirms the relevance of its Recommendations 261 (2009) on "Intercultural cities", 304 (2011) on "Meeting the challenge of inter-faith and intercultural tensions at local level", 347 (2013) on "Migrants' access to regional labour markets" and 343 (2013) on "Integration through self-employment: promoting migrant entrepreneurship in European municipalities", as well as of Recommendation CM/Rec(2010)7 on the Council of Europe Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education and of Parliamentary Assembly Recommendation 2005(2014) on "Identities and diversity within intercultural societies".

7. The Congress notes the work under way within the Council of Europe to draft a recommendation to member states on intercultural integration, and awaits with interest its adoption by the Committee of Ministers, in the firm belief that its implementation will also contribute to local and regional action in this sphere.

8. In this context, the Congress draws the attention of the Committee of Ministers to the initiatives already started at local and regional level, amongst them its own European Local Democracy Week (ELDW) and the Council of Europe programme on "Intercultural cities", the Practical guide for applying the *Urban model of intercultural integration*<sup>9</sup> produced in the frame of that programme, as well as associated projects such as: Shaping Perceptions and Attitudes to Realise Diversity Advantage (SPARDA), Communication for Integration (C4I) and Diversity in the Economy and Local Integration (DELI).

9. The Congress also refers to the project Attitudes to Migrants, Communication and Local Leadership (AMICALL) and to the action plan drawn up by the European Coalition of Cities against Racism (ECCAR), as well as to numerous other campaigns and initiatives by authorities, such as the Cosmopolitan Strasbourg in France, the "anti-rumour" campaign in Barcelona and in other cities in Spain, as well as other "demystification campaigns", Radio Diversity projects, and so on.

10. In the light of the foregoing, the Congress asks the Committee of Ministers to adopt as soon as possible the recommendation to member states on intercultural integration, and to invite the member states of the Council of Europe to:

a. produce an overall intercultural vision based on the experience of, and with a contribution from, the authorities;

b. formulate intercultural communication and education strategies of a general nature, with a view to promoting a consistent approach to diversity amongst the different government structures and the different levels of governance, and to raise society's awareness of the advantages of diversity in order to derive maximum benefit from it;

c. to develop the curriculum, textbooks and teacher-training courses for schools, higher education establishments and schools of journalism, so as to improve intercultural skills and the vision of diversity;

d. set up a system of intercultural mediation at every level of governance, with a sustainable budgetary allocation;

e. stop using political discourse about immigration as an instrument, and emphasise instead in politics and discussions about migratory movements the processes of mutual adaptation and migrant integration;

f. encourage the commitment of cultural and arts institutions to the promotion of diversity, and provide support to cultural projects which highlight diversity;

g. establish partnerships for the introduction of programmes relating to diversity, inter alia with authorities, players from civil society, national media and businesses;

h. support local and regional action in this sphere and provide continuity of budgets for the introduction of relevant programmes on the ground;

i. work in general against negative stigma, taking account of different dimensions which affect social reality, both objective (work, housing, access to public services) and subjective (feelings of belonging).

**Explanatory Report:**

[https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?Ref=CG%2827%296&Language=lanEnglish&Ver=original&Site=COE&BackColorInternet=C3C3C3&BackColorIntranet=CACC9A&BackColorLogged=EFEA9C#P116\\_16365](https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?Ref=CG%2827%296&Language=lanEnglish&Ver=original&Site=COE&BackColorInternet=C3C3C3&BackColorIntranet=CACC9A&BackColorLogged=EFEA9C#P116_16365)

**Text prepared on the basis of the comment received from the CDCPP members (written consultation), approved by the Chair of the CDCPP, and sent to the Secretariat of the Committee of Ministers on behalf of the Committee**

*“The Steering Committee for Culture, Heritage and Landscape (CDCPP) took note with interest of the Recommendation 365 (2014) “Promoting diversity through intercultural education and communication strategies” of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, and proposed that the conventions under its responsibility could serve, as appropriate and subject to budgetary allocations, as a basis with a view to developing a global approach for a society founded on mutual respect and harmonious living.”*