



STEERING COMMITTEE FOR CULTURE, HERITAGE AND LANDSCAPE (CDCPP)

CDCPP(2015)14

Strasbourg, 22 May 2015

**4th meeting
Strasbourg, 1-3 June 2015**

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

CDCPP WORKING GROUP

Report of the first meeting, Strasbourg, 21 and 22 January 2015

DOCUMENT FOR INFORMATION AND DECISION

Item 5.2 of the draft agenda

The Committee is invited to:

- validate the guiding principles and methodology;
- extend the Working Group's terms of reference up to the CDCPP's 2016 session.

1.0 Introduction

At its 3rd meeting from 19 to 21 March 2014, the CDCPP entrusted the Bureau with the task of setting up a working group to assess the lessons learned from the pilot projects on cultural heritage implemented under the *Technical Co-operation and Consultancy Programme related to the integrated conservation of the cultural and natural heritage*. The Working Group was set up by the Bureau of the CDCPP at its meeting on 24 and 25 June 2014 [document [CDCPP-Bu\(2014\)3 rev.](#)].

The Working Group's aims are as follows:

- to assess the extent to which the results achieved at specific sites or in specific regions may offer lessons that are useful for all member States;
- to identify the cross-cutting themes tackled under these projects so that a link can be made with the Council of Europe's political priorities;
- if applicable, to offer summaries (to be published) or guidelines or to suggest the drafting of recommendations to the Committee of Ministers.

The Working Group comprises the following members:

- the Chair of the CDCPP, Mr Bruno Favel (France);
- a rapporteur appointed from within the Bureau, Mr Pierre Paquet (Belgium);
- three members of the CDCPP, Ms Ranka Saracevic-Wurth (Croatia), Ms Malgorzata Fokt-Willmann (Poland), Ms Maria Jose Festas (Portugal);
- a representative of the HEREIN network, Mr Oliver Martin (Switzerland);
- a representative of ICOMOS and observer with the CDCPP, Mr Grellan Rourke (Ireland);
- a representative of the European Council of Spatial Planners and observer with the CDCPP, Mr Luc-Emile Bouche-Florin (France).

The Working Group met for the first time on 22 January 2015.

2.0 Background

Institutional, legislative and technical co-operation in the area of cultural heritage is structured and organised at the Council of Europe under the *Technical Co-operation and Consultancy Programme related to the integrated conservation of the cultural and natural heritage* ("the Programme"). The Programme is an ongoing activity, which was set up by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe in 1977 in the wake of European Architectural Heritage Year (1975). The arrangements for its implementation are determined by the programme rules (which were last revised in 1992). Its purpose is to provide practical assistance to local, regional and national authorities. In line with the constant transformation of European society and the political priorities of the Council of Europe, its overall contribution is connected with matters such as enhancing skills, devising policies, harmonising countries' laws and methodology and exchanging experience and good practices between countries.

Since the launch of the Programme, 128 projects have been implemented in 33 member States (and in Kosovo¹) through 807 missions/activities (and over 2 275 expert reports) carried out by around 400 experts.

The Programme was reviewed by the CDCPP in 2010-2011 [document [CDPATEP\(2011\)8](#)] and this prompted it to revise its reference framework [document [CDPATEP\(2011\)16](#)]. The main conclusions were as follows:

¹ All reference to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population, in this text shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

- a. the Programme is the main contribution to the Council of Europe's work in the field of heritage;
- b. the Programme must be maintained and further developed, including through allocation of increased resources, to meet the needs/challenges/problems that member States may face when implementing the European Conventions related to heritage;
- c. the Programme has proved a useful and effective tool for promoting the role of heritage in society, especially as a factor enabling pragmatic integration of cultural, social and economic issues into the Organisation's values, with a direct impact on the improvement of the daily life of citizens;
- d. thanks to the effective implementation of targeted projects in the field, the Programme forms an essential complement to the Organisation's standard-setting activities. Their pilot dimension is a means of reflecting and demonstrating the Organisation's principles and priorities and pooling experience from the field at pan-European level.

The list of activities and projects carried out under the Programme since 1977 reflects the changes that the concept of heritage has undergone over the years. Since the central and east European countries joined the Organisation in the 1990s, the Programme has been progressively built on by the representatives of the successive steering committees responsible for the cultural heritage in order to meet the growing number of co-operation requests. Flexible and varied forms of intervention (such as technical co-operation missions, audit missions, professional workshops, pilot projects, specific action plans, monitoring programmes, legislative assistance, and regional programmes) have been implemented as tailored responses to the varied range of requests made by member states.

3.0 Results of the Working Group meeting

3.1 Guiding principles

The Working Group, meeting in Strasbourg on 21 and 22 January 2015, took note of the issues at stake and discussed the working method to be devised to process the available material. It was agreed from the outset to assert that the Working Group's mandate amounted to an acknowledgment of the importance of the Programme, the feedback from which was liable to provide material for the work of the CDCPP and hence demonstrate how the three areas which the Committee was required to work in (culture, heritage and landscape) formed part of the Council of Europe's priorities.

Projects were responses to requests made by member states. They were designed to provide specific solutions to specific problems but also to have knock-on effects in the countries concerned, to fuel political debate at national level and to contribute to the development of norms and good practices at European level.

The projects carried out (which have been highly diverse in their form and content) can be approached in terms of the four main stages in the implementation of the Programme:

- 1977-1992, increase in the number of specific requests, relating primarily to the protection and conservation of monuments;
- 1992-2002, ever more varied requests involving more integrated and more complex approaches, making it possible in particular to address questions connected with the economic, political and social transitions taking place in the Organisation's new member states;
- 2002-2012, implementation of regional projects, including ones involving co-operation with the European Union. The Programme's reference framework was systematised. Areas of activity became more diverse and updated the Council of Europe's approach, particularly through "pilot projects";
- Since 2012, realisation of a desire to capitalise on past achievements and develop new areas of expertise establishing links with major European issues and fostering partnerships.

Our work on these projects (on heritage, cities and regions) must therefore allow us to draw lessons from them in terms of more political cross-cutting themes (such as strengthening European identity while fully acknowledging its diverse features; mutual understanding and tolerance; post-conflict reconciliation and reconstruction; democratic participation and governance; access to social rights, education and culture; improvement of living conditions and quality of life; the emergence of a model of integrated development based on the sustainable use of cultural, natural, landscape and heritage assets; local development policies and strategies; and territorial cohesion, etc.).

The Working Group agreed on certain guiding principles:

- Bearing in mind CoE priorities when deciding on cross-cutting analytical themes (for example, notions of public space and spatial management are key means of dealing with issues of quality of life);
- Insisting on the pan-European dimension of CoE activities (in the interest of all 47 member states);
- Favours a thematic approach that is compatible with the subjects dealt with by the European Union so as to highlight the special benefits of the Council of Europe;
- Working primarily on the basis of “pilot projects” which have been devised to capitalise on past achievements and explore new fields of expertise;
- Seeking mainly to identify the “niches” in which the CoE could position itself most firmly in future.

3.2 Potential methodology

The Working Group plans to proceed step by step:

1. Examine projects in order to extract the useful information: the Secretariat is invited to highlight certain factual elements pertaining to the 128 projects identified so as to facilitate understanding of each individual project and, in time, gain an overview of all the projects. The “fact sheets” prepared will be forwarded to the Working Group members in time for the second meeting. Layout of the fact sheets:
 - Title of the project (place, country, dates);
 - Requesting country: date of accession, conventions ratified at the time of the project;
 - Purpose of the request; information about the national context (issues raised through the request);
 - Position of the main stakeholders on these issues (legislation, strategies, financing, professional competences);
 - Missions / activities: list, dates, experts involved;
 - Themes addressed; positions of experts on these themes and position of the mission (expert report, advice, methodological support);
 - Key words (words used during missions and links with current CoE priorities);
 - Follow-up material (internal – e.g. report to the Steering Committee, external – e.g. local, national, EU);
 - Main documents available (forms – notes, reports, etc., languages, dissemination – e.g. official communication, conference, publication, etc.);
 - Main new positions adopted;
 - Results / impacts (placed in a local, national, or international context);
 - Budget / costs of the project.
2. Second Working Group meeting: the Working Group will be invited to discuss and decide on the main subjects or themes to focus on (those relating to protection, conservation and management of cultural heritage; those relating to historic urban environments; those relating to rural areas, etc.) so as to group together the main projects (the most symbolic and the most representative) and establish a classification on which the analysis can be based; guidelines for the analysis (results and impacts in terms for example of improvements in managing diversity, identifying governance models or notions of improved coexistence or social cohesion).

3. In accordance with the “guidelines” for the analysis and “standard-setting material” (Council of Europe reference texts) provided by the Secretariat, the Working Group members will identify the useful information.
4. At the third Working Group meeting, experts involved in the various types of project will be invited to describe their experiences. The Working Group will extract the following key information:
 - Permanent features, repetitions, mistakes and digressions;
 - The Council of Europe’s overall contribution to the themes/issues;
 - Principles and values of the Organisation promoted as part of the Programme (e.g. multidisciplinary, cross-sectoral and integrative approaches; partnership, etc.);
 - Societal issues raised and expressed through the Programme (field observatory role);
 - Identification of new themes or confirmation of existing ones to meet challenges (e.g. landscape, spatial management, public spaces);
 - Overall appraisal of investment (how much has been invested under the Programme and what results has this yielded?).

The Working Group’s final report should preferably be a short text, to be presented to the CDCPP for adoption at its 2016 plenary session. The report should make it possible to establish guidelines for the preparation, implementation and follow-up of future projects, to suggest ways of improving links with other Council of Europe sectors or priorities and to identify a subject to be covered by a potential motion for a Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers.