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STEERING COMMITTEE FOR CULTURE, HERITAGE AND LANDSCAPE
(CDCPP)

COUNCIL OF EUROPE FRAMEWORK CONVENTION
ON THE VALUE OF CULTURAL HERITAGE FOR SOCIETY

THE FARO ACTION PLAN 2016-17

For information and action

Secretariat Memorandum
prepared by the
Directorate of Democratic Governance
Democratic Institutions and Governance Department

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Introduction

The Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (Faro Convention) was adopted by the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers on 13 October 2005 and entered into force on 1 June 2011. To date, 17 States have ratified it and five others have signed it.

The "Faro Action Plan" aims to illustrate the richness and novelty of the principles of the Faro Convention, as well as providing possibilities for interpretation in relation to current societal challenges. The Action Plan should generate common references, create mechanisms and tools to foster initiatives in line with the principles of the Convention.

The first "Faro Action Plan 2014-2015" adopted by the CDCPP in May 2013 led to the development of reference frameworks and tools, tested in four case studies. The 2016-2017 Action Plan now offers a more elaborated operational structure and programming, with comprehensive good practices and guidance to showcase practical implementation and benefits of the Convention.

Thanks to the proposed adjustments, the Action Plan 2016-2017 will focus on the following priorities:

1. Increased efforts to promote the Convention and visibility of the actions (20%);
2. Faro Community; an increased number of community members, ongoing discussions to improve interpretation of the faro Convention, appreciation visits (30%);
3. Faro in Action; development of good practices, workshops and creation of a pool of experts (10 %);
4. Research and exploration of new opportunities; linkage with HEREIN and the European Heritage Days (10%);
5. Faro Spotlights; work in selected areas to examine the role of heritage in addressing societal challenges, including Frampol [Poland], Viscri [Romania], Marseille [France] (30%).

Action required

The CDCPP is invited to review and approve the Action Plan for 2016-17 (see Appendix 1).

Appendix 1 - Faro Action Plan 2016-2017

The Faro Action Plan is designed to translate the Faro Convention principles into practice. It provides field based knowledge and expertise for member States to better understand the potentials of the Convention; helps the Secretariat to highlight and study specific cases in line with the political priorities of the Organisation; offers a platform for analysis and recommendations for further steps; encourages member States to sign and ratify the Convention.

The Faro Action Plan was consolidated and structured in the following way in order to work with local, national and international levels. The related glossary of the terms can be found in Annex 3.

Faro Promotion:

There will be increased efforts to promote the Faro Convention at community, national and international levels. Consolidation of the work with HEREIN and the European Heritage Days will increase the visibility and promotional activities in the Action Plan for 2016-2017. The promotional activities include Faro talks, Faro meetings and Faro labs (experiencing Faro through various activities in loco – formerly known as Faro walks).

PROMOTION (main activities in 2016 -2017)

Faro Talks (4 scheduled; more based on requests and opportunities as they arise)

Faro Lab - (experiencing Faro through various activities in loco – formerly known as Faro walks)
(1 in 2017)

Faro Meetings (based on member States' proposals)

Production of introductory films (1 in 2016)

Faro Community:

The Faro Community is a cluster of groups of practitioners and facilitators of community-based actions in towns and territories in the Council of Europe member States who go through a process of valuing their local heritage assets in line with the Faro Convention principles. As a result, the Faro Community is made of a growing number of "local communities" participating in a dynamic pan-European network, offering extensive knowledge, expertise and tools, within a framework for constructive dialogue and cooperation. The Faro Community will accompany (local) heritage communities interested in democratising heritage governance in affiliation with the Council of Europe, bringing these local good practices to European level.

Through the Action Plan 2014-2015, the Faro Community was formed by four members (Marseille, Pilzen, Venice and Viscri) where initial good practices were identified. In 2016-2017 the focus will be on consolidating the existing community and expanding its membership.

How to become a "member" of the Community? To do so, it is expected that self-identified heritage communities (civic initiatives) make themselves known and/or solicit the Secretariat through inquiry and registration in the HEREIN system. Following an initial assessment – based on principles and criteria (annex 4) – and a feedback from the community itself, the Secretariat provides a response to the community, organizes a visit by experts (a pool created by the Secretariat through an open call) and the Secretariat, prepares a report and issues, as the case may be, an invitation to become a participating community in the "Faro community" family. Competent authorities will be informed about the action as indicated in the criteria f.

COMMUNITY (main activities in 2016 -2017)

Assessment Appreciation visits (4 in 2016 and 4 in 2017)
 Expansion of the Faro Community membership based on the visits (2016-2017)
 Establishing a collaborative platform (2016)
 Annual Faro Community meeting (November 2016)

Faro in Action:

Faro in Action is an active learning platform where the Faro Community builds on its good practices, generates dynamic dialogue among practitioners, facilitators and heritage actors. Through ongoing action-process-reflection, the Convention keeps its dynamic elements of redefining its principles and contributing to a better understanding of the Faro spirit and its implications at local, national and international levels.

FARO IN ACTION (main activities in 2016 -2017)

Creation of a pool of practitioners and facilitators (2016)
 Good practices (additional 4 in 2016 and 4 in 2017)
 Workshops (based on the requests; 2 planned in 2016)
 Production of a Faro handbook

Faro Research:

Faro Action Plan will be linked to potential partner entities, particularly academia where comprehensive studies on the impact of the Faro Action Plan will be carried out in order to assess its role in the democratisation process through heritage. Results of the studies, articles and publications that are relevant to Faro Action Plan will be produced for the wider audience.

FARO RESEARCH (main activities in 2016 -2017)

Identification of potential partners and ToR (2016)
 Conception of an impact assessment methodology (2016-2017)
 Collection of Faro related articles, research studies (2016-2017)

Faro Spotlights:

Through the Faro Action Plan as described above, the Secretariat takes a leading role with a more political tone, examining the role of heritage in addressing societal challenges in line with the Organisation's priorities set by the Secretary General. With its specific methodology and action on the ground, the Secretariat delivers with first-hand experience, offering sound recommendations to member States.

FARO SPOTLIGHTS (main activities in 2016 -2017)

Frampol, Poland ; Viscri, Romania; Marseille, France (2016)
 Identification of potential places to further examine societal challenges

In view of the foregoing, the respective roles of the various actors can be summarised as follows:

Role of the Secretariat:

- To accompany the entire process, identify promising actions, and assist in meeting the criteria;
- Provide knowledge (through Faro good practices) and offer a variety of expertise based on local and national knowledge;
- Examine the methodology through spotlights and promote the Convention in member States.

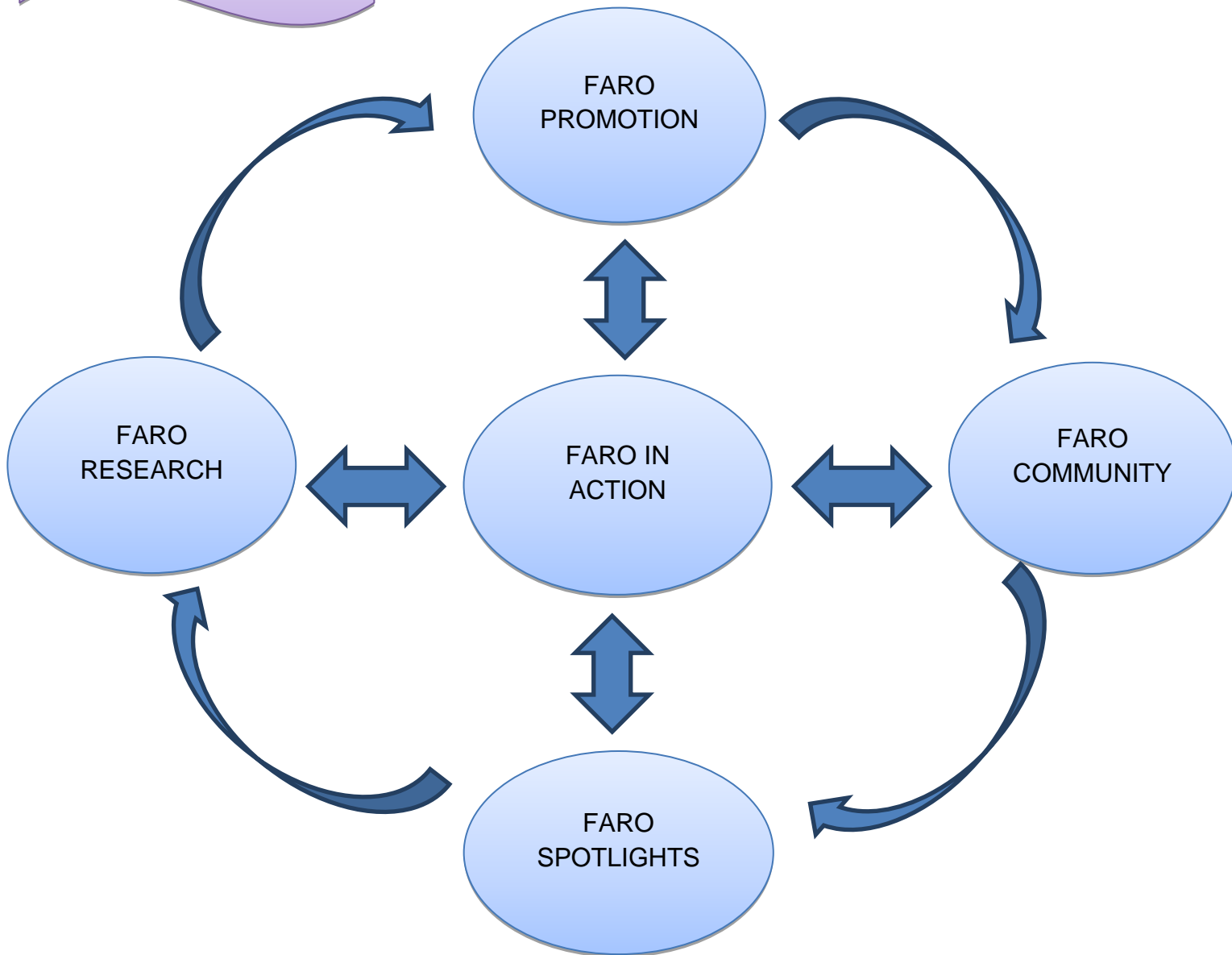
Role of the CDCPP:

- Through the CDCPP Bureau, review and advise on the Faro Action Plan, particularly those with a more political dimension;
- Offer political guidance and policy suggestions, advocate for the increased role of heritage in addressing societal challenges;
- To provide feedback on updates about the Faro Action Plan implementation.

Role of the Faro Community:

- Contribute to the promotional actions at local, national and international level (through Faro Talks, Meetings, Labs, Multimedia);
- Provide feedback to new inquiries about Faro good practices;
- Endorse the good practices and invite new members to the Community;
- Act as a resource centre (Faro in Action);
- Act as a panel to endorse the stages in the development of common references;
- Provide the Secretariat with recommendations on specific project ideas for the Faro Spotlights.

Appendix 2 – FARO
OPERATIONAL STRUCTURE



The operational structure is conceived with a logical order of promotion of the Faro Convention and Action at local, national and international level, encouraging civil society based initiatives (heritage communities) to work with the Faro Community members. Through this process, local community initiatives align themselves with the Faro principles, gradually becoming part of the Faro Community. The Secretariat, through lessons learnt, focuses on some of the actions in line with the political priorities of the Organisation, putting them in the spotlight through projects. All the efforts are documented and studied to understand the impact of the work done, offering recommendations for further actions, and feeding into the promotion of the Convention. Faro in Action, symbolically located in the centre plays the crucial role of learning platform, offering knowledge, examples and expertise that are utilized by all aspects of the Faro Action Plan.

Appendix 3 Glossary of terms used in the document

Faro Promotion:

Faro Talks – presentations of good practices, inspirational talks at high political level as well as local level (in person and multimedia) to introduce the spirit of Faro;

Faro Meetings – at the invitation of a country, stakeholders meeting to introduce the Convention, its principles and possible actions;

Faro Labs – a series of events organised in relation to specific aspects of the Convention in order to exhibit, analyse and reflect on Faro principles and criteria;

Faro Multimedia – short introductory films, articles and other multimedia products that will be used for the promotion of the Faro Convention and Action. In addition, short and attractive films explaining the process and good practices will be produced by the Faro Community members and shared on the CoE website.

Faro in Action:

Good practices – Community-based initiatives in line with the Faro principles will be identified, studied and promoted, bringing these experiences from local to European level;

Practitioners – Interested locally based individuals and groups who apply and produce good practices, and who demonstrate the necessary competences to share these experiences, will be invited to the pool of practitioners;

Facilitators – Locally based individuals with a good understanding of the Faro Convention and its principles, and who play a pivotal role in bringing relevant stakeholders together for Faro Action;

Workshops – Faro Community based practical workshops to test, improve and promote specific actions in focus. Initially, these will be organised among the Faro Community members, including potential candidates.

Faro Spotlights:

Faro narratives – Acknowledgment and understanding of the existence of diverse narratives on a given heritage asset;

Shared vision for action – With particular attention to narratives, the search for a common thread to develop a shared vision on the heritage asset in focus;

Common point of action - projects – Together with the Community members, elaborate specific projects to be implemented by the Community members, with specific emphasis on social inclusion, education, local economic development, anti-discrimination measures;

Projects – focusing on some of the most discriminated groups in Europe today, for example migrant communities in Marseille, Roma Communities in Viscri, and Jewish heritage in Frampol.

Faro Research:

Partners – development of partnerships with academia, research organisations etc. that carry out studies on Faro related topics;

Publications – Relevant academic research papers, articles, documentaries to be shared with a wider audience;

Impact assessment – Periodic assessment of the outcomes of the Faro Action and projects, in relation to today's societal challenges.

Appendix 4 Principles and Criteria

Principles

- Connection to the community and landscape (territory) determines a sense of belonging
- Social cohesion is founded on various forms (levels) of participation and commitment
- Local democracy reinforced by developing civil society's capacities for action

Criteria

- a. Presence of an active civil society that has a common interest in a specific heritage
- b. Emergence of a consensus on expanded common vision of heritage
- c. Existence of a mainstream perception of a defined territory
- d. Readiness of the group to engage in the process of developing narratives based on people and the territory
- e. Presence of people who can convey the message
- f. Engaged and supportive political players
- g. Consideration of an alternative local economic model
- h. A willingness to cooperate between local authorities and civil society
- i. Openness to consider the civic action as an empowering act for democracy for all parties involved