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BUREAU OF THE
STEERING COMMITTEE FOR CULTURE, HERITAGE AND LANDSCAPE
(CDCPP)

IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGY 21 FOLLOWING THE ADOPTION BY THE COMMITTEES OF MINISTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

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

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Introduction

The draft Committee of Ministers recommendation on a European Cultural Heritage Strategy for the 21st Century was approved by the CDCPP at its June 2016 meeting. As agreed at the meeting, delegations were given additional time until 1 July 2016 for submitting further examples of good practice to be mentioned in the Appendix to the recommendation.

Following final editing and legal review, end of August 2016 the draft was transmitted to the Committee of Ministers for adoption.

The Committee of Ministers' Rapporteur Group on Education, Culture, Sport, Youth and Environment considered the draft recommendation and the appendix thereto (the Strategy) at its meeting on 3 November 2016 and decided to resume consideration of this item at its next meeting (13 December 2016). As a consequence, the draft recommendation will not be considered for adoption by the Committee of Ministers before that date and possibly only in early 2017.

Only once adopted the recommendation would become a living legal instrument and start producing its effects. For member States – and non-member States, Parties to the Cultural Convention – this would mean start "embracing and implementing" the Strategy as appended to the recommendation.

Strategy 21 implementation measures

For the CDCPP, this would also mean taking steps towards the setting up and making use of the tools and working methods that it has already agreed. These include:

- an ad hoc platform with a view to exchanging best practices and submitting an annual report to the CDCPP,
- the identification of suitable indicators to monitor the implementation of the Strategy,
- the holding of a dialogue with other European and International Organisations,
- delivering technical assistance and peer reviews.

Finally, member States should be encouraged to use the HEREIN system for exchanging information, experience and examples of local and national good practices.

The Bureau could hold an initial exchange of views on the possible composition and tasks of the ad how platform with a view to making a proposal to the CDCPP for consideration at its forthcoming meeting in 2017. It is recalled in this connection that the 2016 meeting was held somewhat late in the course of the year (June) in order to allow sufficient time for the preparation of the Strategy. In 2017, this requirement will no longer be valid therefore the plenary meeting could be held earlier on also with a view to setting up quickly the Strategy's implementing measures.

The Bureau could also have a discussion on the "indicators" that would be used for the purpose of monitoring the implementation of the Strategy. The latter document already contains (Appendix A) a section on modalities for the evaluation which explicitly refers to an "indicator system" to be developed. The Bureau could give the Secretariat guidelines

for further action, such as requesting a consultant to develop an easy-to-use indicator framework based on the said Appendix A.

The holding of a dialogue with other European and international Organisation is already one of the tasks of the CDCPP. At its next meeting, the European and International Organisations present could be invited to participate in a “tour de table” where the respective actions in support of the Strategy could be discussed.

Technical assistance and peer reviews can be delivered upon request by the Secretariat with the participation of member States. The Bureau could recall this possibility and propose simple modalities to be followed by member states in order to identify needs and request assistance as the case may be.

A launching event in Cyprus

On several occasions during the preparatory works leading to the Strategy 21, the delegation of Cyprus mentioned the intention of her country to host a “launching event” for the Strategy and the recommendation, in the framework of the Cyprus chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers (November 2016-May 2017). This event is now officially listed among the activities of the chair.

The event should ideally last one and half/two days and include a formal launching session (in Nicosia) and a visit to nearby villages with interesting examples of “living heritage”.

The purpose being to raise awareness of the Strategy and its implications for member states, participants in the event should primarily include senior civils servants in charge of heritage, representatives of local authorities, professionals, civil society. Major European and international organisations would be invited too.

Countries wishing to be represented at junior minister level would be allowed to do so.

The event should allow participants to become aware of the Strategy and of its implications, as a legal instrument of the Council of Europe, for their respective member states, in terms of dissemination, awareness-raising and effective promotional measures, stakeholders’ identification and involvement, collection of examples, etc.

The formal session could include, in addition to usual welcome speeches, two or three technical presentations followed by discussion. Participants would be encouraged to present good practice and examples of policies and initiatives meeting the goals of the Strategy.

The Secretariat will report on the results of a preparatory mission to Cyprus in order to provide the Bureau with additional information.

Action

The Bureau is invited to take action along the lines presented above and give the appropriate guidance and instructions to the Secretariat.