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

CULTURAL HERITAGE

Council of Europe Convention on Offences relating to Cultural Property

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European Heritage Days

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Strategy 21

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The Faro Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society

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Herein Network

For information and action

Secretariat Memorandum
prepared by the
Directorate of Democratic Participation
Culture, Nature and Heritage Department

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I. COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONVENTION ON OFFENCES RELATING TO CULTURAL PROPERTY

Background

The Council of Europe Convention on Offences relating to Cultural Property (CETS No 221) was opened for signature on 19 May 2017 at the 127th session of the Committee of Ministers in Cyprus. It replaces the previous "Delphi" Convention of 1985.

As of 2020, the Convention has 12 signatories: Armenia, Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Latvia, Montenegro, Portugal, Russian Federation, San Marino, Slovenia, Ukraine, and one non-member State, namely Mexico. The Convention will enter into force following five ratifications, including at least three member States of the Council of Europe: to date, Cyprus and Mexico have ratified it.

Further to the promotional conference held in Nicosia, Cyprus, on 24-26 October 2019, a conference report was produced, as well as a short conference film. Both products are available online for the Council of Europe's governmental and non-governmental stakeholders and interested partner organisations (see website link).

Conference results achieved

- There was strong consensus on:
  - the pertinence of the Nicosia Convention filling a gap in international legislation and as a complementary tool to international standards by UNESCO and UNIDROIT;
  - the appreciation of possible forthcoming ratifications of the Convention by Armenia, Greece, Italy, Latvia, Slovenia and the Russian Federation;
  - the appreciation of latest research findings on offences related to cultural property and specifically, trafficking in cultural goods (EU study by Neil Brodie);
  - the importance of multi-stakeholder exchange in delivering optimal interaction of self-regulation systems (as are in place with arts and antique dealers), legal standards and law enforcement systems at national and international levels.

- Participants agreed on further needs for:
  - broad alliances and connections between various stakeholders on the basis of trust (governmental bodies, business and civil society);
  - training of specialised services such as law enforcement officers (customs, police and prosecutors) through assistance projects;
  - assessment of the application of the Convention within a limited group of states, exchanging experiences and best practices and creating a dynamic in favour of ratifications;
  - raising awareness of the importance of heritage for society – and of the complexity of the issues related to offences to cultural property;
  - more heritage education in schools in innovative and interactive formats as part of the curricula (possibly as part of democratic citizenship/ HR education);
  - involving tourism, museum, media and education actors as multipliers and awareness-raisers and establishing capacity building programmes for these;
  - involving art market representatives in action towards implementing the Convention and enhancing their self-regulation system (enacting in particular due diligence and transparency provisions) to complement the existing law;
  - a push for action for protecting heritage through political prioritisation, improved national coordination between relevant ministries, intensified international co-operation and cross-referencing among relevant organisations;
  - lastly, participants suggested follow-up activities such as setting up a "group of friends" or coalition of promoters of the Convention, Joint Projects with the EU (on training, promotion); a follow-up conference in 2021 in Cyprus and a possible interim event in 2020.

- Next steps

    - Investigating the possibility of setting up an international “group of friends” or a coalition of promoters of the Convention;
    - Investigating the possibility of a future Joint Project with the EU to enhance training activities and the promotion of the Convention;
    - Preparing for a follow-up conference in 2021 in Cyprus and, if possible, an interim event in 2020;
    - Preparing for further promotional materials including an awareness-raising film on the Nicosia Convention.

Action required

The Bureau of the CDCPP is invited to:

- thank the authorities of Cyprus for having enabled the Nicosia conference of October 2019;
- invite member States to sign and ratify the Nicosia Convention;
- thank [name of member State] for the secondment of a heritage specialist to the Council of Europe Secretariat to further promote the Nicosia Convention among member States.

II. EUROPEAN HERITAGE DAYS

Background

The European Heritage Days is the most widely celebrated participatory cultural event shared by people living in Europe. Launched in 1985 in France, the Programme has been organised as a joint initiative of the Council of Europe and the European Union since 1999.

At the Council of Europe, the European Heritage Days Secretariat now operates directly under the Culture and Cultural Heritage Division.

Progress

Pan-European themes

In recent years, the idea of shared EHDs themes has proved successful in bringing the events together under the same banner, thus emphasising the European dimension.

The EHD shared themes voted on for the next three years are:

2021: “Inclusive Heritage” (“Heritage for Everybody”)
2022: “Sustainable Heritage”
2023: “Living Heritage”

In 2020, the EHDs are celebrating education under the theme **“Heritage Education: Learning for life”**. Voted on at the EHD Assembly in Madrid in 2016, a large number of countries have already pledged to participate in this pan-European theme.

The annual 101 Event Ideas brochure focusing on the shared theme was published in early March, along with an expanding online Useful Resources guide for heritage education. This is being followed by regular online promotion on the EHD and Council of Europe websites, as well as on social media. In preparation for the year, a special session on sharing good practice in heritage education was also organised at the 2019 EHD Assembly in Strasbourg.

An information document was prepared in spring 2020 for the Steering Committee for Educational Policy and Practice (CDPPE), setting out various activities of the heritage sector that bear an educational component, including the EHDs, and suggesting enhanced co-operation between the two sectors.

Young European Heritage Makers (formerly European Heritage Makers Week)

This initiative has been recognised as a unique opportunity to involve the **youngest members of society** in heritage activities, both online and in their immediate surroundings. It started as a pilot initiative in 2018 as part of the European Year of Cultural Heritage and aims to inspire young people to engage with their heritage, collect experiences and stories of how they understand the European dimension of local heritage, to identify and promote young communities interested in heritage, bring future #HeritageMakers into the spotlight and connect them with their peers in other parts of Europe.

Following regular review of the initiative over the past two years, various modifications to the activity have been agreed, as follows:

- The Call will be open both to individuals and groups of young people;
- The new timeline will be adjusted to correspond with the school year:
  - ✓ January 2020: advisory panel working group set up;
  - ✓ May 2020: guidelines ready and countries sign up;
  - ✓ September 2020: the Call is announced;
  - ✓ March 2021: deadline for pre-selection;
  - ✓ May 2021: winners announced and awards to coincide with Europe Day.
- Two sets of guidelines will be produced – one for mentors of young people participating in the activity and one for the national/local coordinators;
- The name of the initiative will be "Young European Heritage Makers" to underline the connection with young people.

European Heritage Days Stories

The European Heritage Days Stories competitive grant award initiative was also set up in 2018 as part of the European Year of Cultural Heritage. The activity seeks to identify the European dimension of heritage sites and heritage work undertaken by **communities** in Europe. Communities are invited to share their stories, great and small, and potentially develop them into grant-funded projects to contribute to the heritage of their communities today. The selection process is described in the current Guidelines, a summary version of which can be found here.

This year, to ensure that successful entrants will be given as much time as possible in which to complete their projects, the competition opened a month earlier on 12 February. The closing date for submitting Stories and summary project proposals was 20 March.

A total of 81 Stories were received, out of which 70 submitted an initial project proposal. These 70 applications are currently being assessed by a team of evaluators, following which the 20 highest scoring Stories will be invited to prepare and submit a comprehensive grant application for their project. Following a 2nd round of evaluation, the top 10 Stories will be awarded a grant of up to € 10 000 to carry out their project.

The winners will be announced in late June, and the projects will start to be implemented from 15 July. If it can be arranged, there will be an award ceremony for the winners organised in Strasbourg to coincide with the CDCPP plenary meeting.

European cross-frontier co-operation projects

The European cross-frontier cooperation projects initiative, aimed at fostering the European dimension through direct grants, was also launched in 2018 as part of the efforts to support and boost the EYCH. This initiative has also continued successfully in 2019 and 2020. The activity provides financial support for cross-frontier projects organised and led by the National Coordinators of the European Heritage Days.

Priority is given to projects which a) involve a minimum of three countries; b) actively develop policy for the European Heritage Days, particularly on future pan-European themes; c) promote diversity and inclusivity; d) promote education and youth involvement in heritage e) promote cross-border cooperation, particularly in post-conflict regions and/or with EU accession states; and/or f) highlight the European dimension of the European Heritage Days.

In 2020, two projects are being supported:

Heritage, Women's Legacy
Spain (in partnership with France, Italy, Romania, Slovenia, UK-England)

Discovering European Heritage together
Romania (in partnership with Ukraine and possibly Republic of Moldova)

In addition, a small number of cross-frontier exchange visits between National Coordinators will be funded to facilitate and encourage sharing of best practice.

Visibility and communication

A new EHD Portal is currently under development and should be ready for release in early June. As the website is currently available in English language only, the next phase of development will be to introduce a French language website, followed by French social media sites, to facilitate reaching out to many thousands of additional EHD stakeholders.

Concerted efforts are continuing in 2020 to increase the visibility of the European Heritage Days within and between all participating countries. A short digital animation video is currently under development which will be released to mark the launch of the 2020 EHD season. Regular news articles are published on the programme's website: www.europeanheritagedays.com and quarterly e-mail newsletters are issued.

Our reach on social media has continued to grow across various platforms:

FaceBook – www.facebook.com/EHDays
Twitter – www.twitter.com/JEP_EHD
Instagram – www.instagram.com/europeanheritagedays
YouTube - www.youtube.com/channel/UCnoazY5ZN-NHBwkqy6JRm1w

In addition, a wide range of promotional materials are being designed, produced and distributed to all participating countries.

COVID-19 and the EHDs

Clearly, the current Covid-19 situation is a concern for National Coordinators currently planning their EHD events for September. Regular contact is in place with the Secretariat as to how this issue can be addressed. Many creative proposals are being made, and it is encouraging to see NCs across Europe reaching out to each other for support and ideas. Some countries are planning to hold their events later in the year, whilst others will disperse them over several weekends, instead of just one. There is much optimism that the EHD season will go ahead as planned – though realistically with fewer events than normal.

Action required

The Bureau of the CDCPP is invited to:

- welcome the progress made in the implementation of the 2020 European Heritage Days Programme;
- encourage member States to continue with their preparations for the 2020 EHD season, and to focus their efforts on alternative ways of engaging public participation in heritage during the Covid-19 pandemic.

III. STRATEGY 21

Background

Strategy 21 provides guidelines to promote good governance and participation in heritage identification and management. It disseminates innovative approaches to improving the environment and quality of life of European citizens. The Strategy was officially launched in Cyprus in April 2017.

The Strategy offers recommendations and concrete courses of action on managing heritage as part of its three components: Social; Territorial and Economic Development; and Knowledge and Education. A ST21 related webpage (in English and French) offers its basic tools, such as challenges, recommendations, lines of action and good practices related to heritage interventions, together with the reference texts and factsheets.

CDCPP member States, observers and other stakeholders have provided examples of good practices in 2018/2019 that implement Strategy 21's recommendations using a participatory and interdisciplinary approach, notably in relation to the initiatives carried out during the European Year of Cultural Heritage, and also for "The Golden collection of Good Practices" publication, issued in June 2019.

The comprehensive approach chosen for the good practices includes a brief analysis of the impact and results of heritage interventions (the obstacles encountered and, equally important, the lessons learned). The importance of change and an innovative approach are emphasised. The criteria for good practices are compatible with the latest European Agenda for Culture publication 'Participatory Governance of Cultural Heritage', and will be updated on the ST21 dedicated website.

Progress

(2020) Good practices

In order to mitigate the bad news about COVID-19 and to maximize the quality of the confinement time, the member States and a wider heritage community have been invited to share new inspirational best project examples/practices in the framework of the ST21 work, to be published on the website. This year, special attention is being given to **heritage education** best practices and projects, one of the three main components of ST21 being education and knowledge and in support of the main theme of the 2020 European Heritage Days - "Heritage and Education: learning for life".

Factsheets

Factsheets drafted by experts to explain the implementation of Strategy 21 in different professional fields are also being translated and uploaded onto the Strategy 21 website:

In 2019, the following four factsheets were presented: "*Gender equality: what has cultural heritage got to do with it*"; "*Landscape architects and Strategy 21*"; "*The future of religious heritage*" and finally "*Strategy 21 in small museums*".

In 2020, the following factsheets will be uploaded: "*Strategy 21 methodology for government officials and project managers"; "Strategy 21 and Innovation"; "Strategy 21 and AI issues" and "Strategy 21 and migration".*

To assist both government officials and project managers, a new **methodology factsheet** will be available by the end of April, showing the main approaches to ST21, and proposing implementation methods, as experienced by various actors. The factsheet will offer responses to the questions raised below, and provide further guidance:

1. Who are the actors that can use strategy 21 – public, national, regional, local, professionals, associations, museums, communities, citizens, owners, etc?
2. What are their roles regarding cultural heritage?
3. How can they use/implement Strategy 21, taking into account the principles of participation, sustainability and the aim of producing a transversal impact (society/territory/knowledge) and be in line with, and respond to, migratory, climatic and innovation challenges (taking into account the UN 2030 sustainable development goals)?

Workshops

A new working group on **ST21 evaluation** (methodology) is to be set up in 2020 to meet physically or by video-conference. The ambition is to translate the existing complex evaluation methodology into an accessible tool for wider use. The workshops' results will be made widely available to interested stakeholders.

ST21 e-learning platform

A new interactive ST21 e-learning platform is being envisaged (currently in its conceptual phase) for enhanced user-friendliness, allowing exploration of the three Strategy 21 components and various subjects and recommendations through several MooC modules, and including new creative features.

The following activities are foreseen in 2020, depending on available resources and developments regarding the COVID-19 situation

Strategy 21 in your country

- co-organise with member States promotional events for the implementation of the Strategy in Poland and Georgia;
- further promote the translation of the ST21 toolkit into European languages (containing the full text of Strategy 21, a manual, general and methodology factsheets, posters, criteria form for good practices and other downloadable promotional material)[1];
- prepare a Strategy 21 online Reader and paper toolkit folder for interested stakeholders.

Communication / new Website features

- re-organise the website content for optimal user-friendliness;
- prepare a ST21 interactive e-learning platform (several Mooc/modules envisaged);
- offer ST21 in focus examples – for easy information and exchange on lessons learned and project methodology used;
- update the existing resources as well as materials on the Strategy's website on good practices;
- prepare ST21 toolkit folders and disseminate these with interested stakeholders;
- create social media accounts to increase visibility and accessibility of the Strategy 21 work.

COVID-19 and ST21

COVID-19 is dominating all the news at the moment and the wider heritage sector is being heavily affected. Planned meetings and events are taking place via video conferencing and many have had to be postponed or cancelled. The whole sector is being further challenged to be as creative as possible and forced to turn to "digital participation" demonstrating its ability to adapt and respond immediately in new ways - many creative proposals are being made, and it is encouraging to see online exhibitions and virtual tours being created. The Call for ST21 best practices, dedicated to heritage education, was not only a way of mitigating the bad news, but also to remind member States of the great richness of projects/initiatives being carried out on their soil and beyond, and may be inspirational for further exchanges across borders.

[1] The full text of the toolkit/Strategy 21 has been translated into Georgian, Croatian, Spanish, Slovenian, Romanian, Polish, Lithuanian and Dutch. It will also be available soon in Finnish and Estonian.

Action required

The Bureau of the CDCPP is invited to:

- welcome the progress made on the follow-up to Strategy 21 and invite member States to promote it at national level, provide good practices/initiatives and report on the implementation of the Strategy;
- translate the promotional material into national languages, help disseminate it at regional and local levels, thus widening the ST21 network;
- contribute to the organisation of promotional events at national level;
- advise on possible future work on Strategy 21;
- encourage member States to continue sharing good practices and assist in engaging public participation in heritage during the Covid-19 pandemic.

IV. THE FARO CONVENTION ACTION PLAN AND JOINT PROGRAMME "THE FARO WAY"

Background

The Faro Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society outlines a framework to define the role of civil society in decision-making and management processes related to cultural heritage. It emphasizes the important aspects of heritage as they relate to human rights and democracy and promotes a wider understanding of heritage and its relationship to communities and society. The Convention encourages people to recognise that objects and places are not only, in themselves, what is important about cultural heritage, but that they are important because of the meanings and uses that people attach to them and the values they represent.

This legal instrument 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. It entered into force on 1 June 2011 and presently, 19 countries have ratified it and 6 others have signed it.

The Faro Action Plan has the following goals:

- to provide field-based knowledge and expertise for member States to better understand the potential of the Convention and fully apply it;
- to help the Council of Europe to highlight and study specific cases in line with the political priorities of the Organisation;
- to offer a platform for analysis and recommendations for further action on Faro;
- to encourage member States to sign and ratify the Convention.

The focus of the Faro Convention Action Plan has thus been placed on the following main points:

- Democratic heritage governance – communities' central role;
- The role of heritage in addressing societal challenges;
- Setting a framework for cooperation, as well as for integrated and inclusive policies.

In 2020, in accordance with available resources and bearing in mind the complications that the current Covid-19 pandemic is creating in terms of carrying out events and attaining goals, the activities foreseen are along the following lines:

Promotion

Continue to promote the Faro Convention, both at authorities' level and among communities, notably through:

- The Joint Project with the European Union "The Faro Way":
    - Two regional seminars: Tbilisi, Georgia (tentative dates; 20-22 May) and Bucharest, Romania (autumn);
    - Final conference of the Joint Project (Portugal, spring 2021);
    - Booklet on selected examples of the Faro Convention inspired initiatives;
    - Faro Interactive Toolkit, consisting of videos, interactive maps, quiz and a simulation game “Find your Faro Way”. The Toolkit will aim at increasing the engagement by civil society in heritage governance and amplifying the support for the Convention by the member States;
    - Booklet on guidelines for authorities interested in Faro Convention promotion and implementation.

- A New Faro Convention Brochure

- Faro meetings addressed to regional/local authorities and initiatives:
    - Seminar “Faro Convention: cultural heritage and heritage communities”, Naples, Italy, 17 January 2020,
    - Workshop on Invisible archives, Marseilles, France, 21-22 February 2020;
    - National Seminar on Faro Convention, Spain (place and dates tbc);
    - Heritage Walks Conference/ECOC workshop, Novi Sad, Serbia, 19-20 September 2020;
    - Faro Convention Film Festival, Venice, Italy, October 2020;
    - Strategy 21/ Faro Convention workshop in Poland, autumn 2020.

- Improvement of the communication tools (revision of the Faro website, films, etc.)

Faro Convention Network (FCN)

Consolidate and enlarge the initiatives included in the Network to address more diverse issues, notably through:

- Fifth Faro Convention Network annual gathering (December 2020);
- Assessment visits (2) to initiatives in contact with the Faro Convention Network;
- Bi-lateral cooperation among FCN members in selected topics. Auto-evaluation and definition of Action plans by each member of the network;

Positioning the Faro Convention on the regional level

- Congress Reflection Group for the preparation of the report “Cultures without borders: cultural heritage management as a tool for local and regional development”, Strasbourg (postponed from 19 March 2020);
- Exhibition/Side Event on the Faro Convention in the margins of the 39th Congress Session, Strasbourg, October 2020

Research

Provide new insights into ways to address the challenges faced by heritage communities, notably through:

- Publication of the Second Faro Convention Research Action outcomes;
- Dissemination of the conclusions of the Third Faro Convention Research Action workshop (summary film, selected papers);
- Fourth Faro Convention Research Action workshop (topic and dates to be defined).

Action required

The Bureau of the CDCPP is invited to:

- welcome the progress made on the implementation of the Faro Convention Action Plan and the Joint Project with the EU "The Faro Way";
- exchange and advise on the activities foreseen in 2020 and beyond;
- work towards the signing and ratifying of the Faro Convention in countries that have not yet done so;
- support the Faro inspired initiatives on local, regional and national levels;
- translate the promotional material (namely the new Faro Brochure) into national languages;
- contribute to the organisation of promotional events at local, regional and national levels.

V. HEREIN NETWORK

Background

HEREIN was established by the Council of Europe at the request of member States to take stock of the changes in legislation and practices in the participating countries and to provide a forum for pooling and sharing information on cultural heritage. At the 5th session of the European Conference of Ministers responsible for Cultural Heritage, held in Portoroz, Slovenia in April 2001, the adopted texts, specifically Resolution 2, defined the aims and objectives of the HEREIN network.

The objectives to be pursued as regards HEREIN are thus to:

- Strengthen its capacity to act as a forum and network for member States' professionals in the heritage field;
- make the database an efficient and effective tool for collecting and sharing, not only information, but also knowledge.

In 2020, subject to available resources, activities foreseen are:

- Diffusion of the new questionnaire associated with the HEREIN National Report;
- Updating the website concerning the National Reports with collected information;
- Promotion of new thematic pages to enrich the HEREIN website;
- Collection of specific information within the HEREIN Network associated to thematic pages;
- Meeting of the National Coordinators (if resources allow) to discuss future developments.

Action required

The Bureau of the CDCPP is invited to:

- welcome the progress made with the implementation of HEREIN activities and support future efforts at consolidating the project.