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

CULTURAL HERITAGE

**Council of Europe Convention on Offences
relating to Cultural Property**

European Heritage Days

Strategy 21

**The Faro Convention Action Plan
and Joint Project “The Faro Way”**

Herein Network

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

I. COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONVENTION ON OFFENCES RELATING TO CULTURAL PROPERTY¹

Background

[The Council of Europe Convention on Offences relating to Cultural Property](#) 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 November 2021, the Convention has **13 signatories**: Armenia, Cyprus, Greece, Hungary, 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, Greece, Latvia and Mexico have ratified it.

Progress

Engaging with conferences, seminars, fora and other meetings has been a field of action for the Nicosia Convention since its adoption. In 2021, the Council of Europe participated in the multi-stakeholder webinar organised by the Italian Presidency of the G20 on 9 April 2021 “Protection of cultural heritage and illicit trafficking. The Future will give us back our Past”. The Convention was also presented at the intersessional workshop on culture and human rights and the protection of cultural rights, organised by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on 14-15 June 2021. The subsequent Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights recommended that “States should accelerate the ratification of the Nicosia Convention, as one more ratification is needed for its entry into force.”

Collaboration with the Criminal Law Co-operation Unit of the Council of Europe is ongoing. A [Project](#) entitled “Fight against Offences relating to Cultural Property” supported by Cyprus, is currently being run. The project was designed to provide technical assistance and support to the States Parties to the Nicosia Convention. The project will provide a gap analysis of the legal and procedural issues related to the criminalisation of cultural property offences in the States having signed/ratified the Nicosia Convention and assess the needs in terms of harmonisation of the legislation in line with the Nicosia Convention standards.

To promote the Convention on Offences relating to Cultural Property, a short brochure will be published by the end of 2021. In 2022, a booklet will be produced offering guidelines for member States and other stakeholders on how best the Convention can be approached and its provisions applied.

Action required

The CDCPP is invited to:

- take note of the signing of the Nicosia Convention by Hungary in October 2021 and encourage other member States, and non-member States of the Council of Europe that participated in the elaboration of the Convention, to sign and ratify it;
- promote the Nicosia Convention as an open instrument at relevant European and international events;
- welcome the close collaboration between the Culture and Cultural Heritage Division and the Criminal Law Co-operation Unit of the Council of Europe towards reaching the objectives of the Nicosia Convention;
- welcome the first technical assistance project supporting the States Parties to the Nicosia Convention and thank the authorities of Cyprus for having supported it.

¹ Contribution to SDG: (4) Quality Education (9) Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure (11) Sustainable Cities and Communities (12) Responsible Consumption and Production (16) Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions (17) Partnerships for the Goals

II. EUROPEAN HERITAGE DAYS²

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 action of the Council of Europe and the European Union since 1999.

Progress

Pan-European themes



Since 2015, the idea of shared EHD themes has proved successful in bringing events together under the same banner, thus reinforcing the European dimension of the programme.

In 2021, the European Heritage Days are celebrating inclusive and diverse heritage under the shared theme **“Heritage: All Inclusive!”**, with the participation of 35 countries. Shared themes voted on for the next years are “Sustainable Heritage” (2022), “Living Heritage” (2023), “Heritage of Routes, Networks and Connections” (2024) and “Architectural Heritage” (2025).

The EHD Advisory Panel on Inclusive Heritage has developed a [Heritage: All Inclusive](#) brochure to introduce the theme and to offer event organisers practical tips and ideas for delivering the EHD events. It includes contributions from the EHD National Coordinators across Europe, and case studies from across participating countries.

A toolkit entitled “We Are Culture”, designed to provide practical guidance to EHD National Coordinators on increasing diversity at their events, has also been published.

A strong focus on Sustainable Heritage was given during the EHD National Coordinators online plenary meeting on 4 November to enable discussions with a view to preparing for next year’s EHD celebrations. The brochure to introduce the 2022 theme and offer examples of projects and events around Sustainable Heritage is being developed in autumn 2021.

Young European Heritage Makers



The [Young European Heritage Makers](#) 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.

Revisions have been made to the Young European Heritage Makers initiative to ensure wider participation by school groups rather than by individuals. Mentors have been introduced to identify groups of children interested in heritage, introduce them to their surrounding local heritage and ensure that the activity is practised in line with the [Council for Europe child safeguarding policy](#). The “Listen – Act – Change” Council of Europe Handbook on children’s participation for professionals working for and with children”, as well as [The EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child and the European Child Guarantee](#) |

[European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#) should guide the delivery of activities to ensure clear legal protection at local level.

² Contribution to SDG: (4) Quality Education (5) Gender Equality (8) Decent Work and Economic Growth (11) Sustainable Cities and Communities (12) Responsible Consumption and Production (13) Climate Action (17) Partnerships for the Goals

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the launch of the 2020 edition was delayed to September 2021. This provides an opportunity to align the Young European Heritage Makers initiative with the start of the school year and facilitates the incorporation of this initiative into school activities, as well as with the EHD season. Nine countries (North Macedonia, Latvia, Finland, Montenegro, Russian Federation, Ukraine, Slovenia, Iceland and Spain) are taking part in this activity's current edition. The EHD National Coordinators selected two national winners (one per age category – age 6-11 and 11-17) and the European panel evaluated their entries and selected 10 European winners who were then invited to present and share their entries at an online ceremony on 9 December 2021. All entries received are promoted on the EHD website.

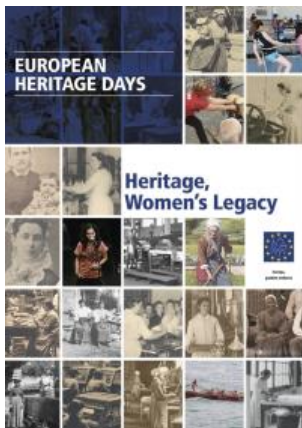
European Heritage Days Stories



The Call for [European Heritage Days Stories](#), the competitive grant award initiative, was 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 guidelines for the Call and following the evaluation by a European panel, up to 10 Stories will be awarded with a grant of up to € 10 000 to carry out their projects. The new edition of the Call was launched on 17 November 2021.

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. The activity provides financial support for a small number of cross-frontier projects organised and led by the EHD National Coordinators. Through these projects, the National Coordinators work together to explore synergies and transmit their shared knowledge to the EHD Network.

Activities are led by the EHD National Coordinator from the applicant country, in co-operation with national coordinators in the partner countries. The recipient of the grant must be a ministry, national agency, institution or association, working together with partner countries to develop European cross-frontier co-operation projects, with a view to reinforcing the European dimension of the Programme and involving wider and more diverse audiences.

In order to apply, EHD National Coordinators are invited to present project proposals and to invite partnerships during the annual EHD Assembly. Brief project proposals may also be submitted to the Secretariat mailbox: jep-ehd@coe.int. Project proposals are examined by the Secretariat, in consultation with the European Commission and the partner EHD NCs.

Two cross-frontier project proposals are currently being assessed with a view to funding activities led by Romania in partnership with UK-Scotland and Ukraine (provisional title: Lived-in Heritage: Perspectives on European Cultural Landscapes from Architectural Schools) and by UK-Scotland in partnership with Latvia, Finland and Switzerland (provisional title: European Heritage Days and Wiki Loves Monuments) respectively.

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

Call for Applications for the support of European Heritage Label sites projects



In co-operation with the European Commission, the set of guidelines has been developed to provide the European Heritage Label sites with a funding opportunity to implement special projects in the framework of the EHD programme. The new edition of the Call was launched on 17 November 2021. Up to 3 of the 48 European Heritage Label sites will be selected to carry out projects with a strong European dimension.

Visibility and communication



The [digital animation](#) explaining how to participate in the EHD events, released in September 2020, was translated into five additional languages in June 2021 and widely shared.

A new documentary film, [European Heritage Days chronicles](#) highlighting stories and events from the EHDs communities, was recorded during the EHD 2020 season in Georgia, UK-England and Slovenia. The production was finalised in July 2021 and the film was used during the

promotional campaign for the 2021 season. The subtitles in multiple languages were also provided.

An increased number of regular news articles are being published on the programme's website, and twice-yearly e-mail newsletters and press releases are being issued.

The EHDs' 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 2021, synergies with the European Commission are being reinforced as the EHD Programme is participating in the promotion of the 2021 European Year of Rail through its communication channels.

COVID-19 and the EHD

At the EHD online Assembly in March 2021, a number of National Coordinators presented their experiences in organising the EHD 2020 season, including on physical events with visitor numbers limited and strict sanitary measures, and also on alternative ways of engaging public participation in heritage, in particular on digital offering. These digital initiatives have provided a long-term legacy for many thousands of monuments and sites and have resulted in an EHD programme which is now both local-led and truly accessible across the entire globe. It was encouraging to see the National Coordinators across Europe reaching out to each other for support and ideas.

In response to the National Coordinators feedback, the series of online workshops for the National Coordinators and event organisers on digitalisation of their EHD events took place between May 2021 and July 2021 on Creating images, Making videos, Virtual tours and Going live online. The participants were provided with the necessary knowledge for promotion of the EHD 2021 season in their countries. After a year marked by the COVID-19 pandemic, the EHD celebrated the re-opening of heritage sites in 2021, but multiple digital initiatives remained, giving a boost to local stories, enabling them to resonate at European and global level.

Action required

The CDCPP is invited to:

- welcome the progress made in the implementation of the 2020-2021 European Heritage Days Programme;
- congratulate the network of EHD National Coordinators for the successful organisation of tens of thousands of European Heritage Days events under the most difficult of circumstances;
- encourage member States to participate in the 2022 European Heritage Days pan-continental theme of “Sustainable Heritage”.

III. STRATEGY 21³



Background

Strategy 21 (ST21) 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 with the help 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 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, including obstacles encountered and lessons learned. Change and innovative approaches are emphasised in this work and lines of convergence with the principles of the Faro Convention and the 2018 report [Participatory Governance of Cultural Heritage](#) of the OMC working group of EU member States' experts highlighted.

Progress

Good practices

Following the COVID-19 lockdown, member States and the 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. In 2020, special attention was given to heritage education best practices and projects. The related call generated 45 new best practices (from Greece, Croatia, Poland, Georgia, France, Italy, Belgium, Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Spain and Turkey) and contributions are still being received.

³ Contribution to SDG: (1) No Poverty (4) Quality Education (5) Gender Equality (8) Decent Work and Economic Growth (9) Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure (11) Sustainable Cities and Communities (12) Responsible Consumption and Production (13) Climate Action (17) Partnerships for the Goals

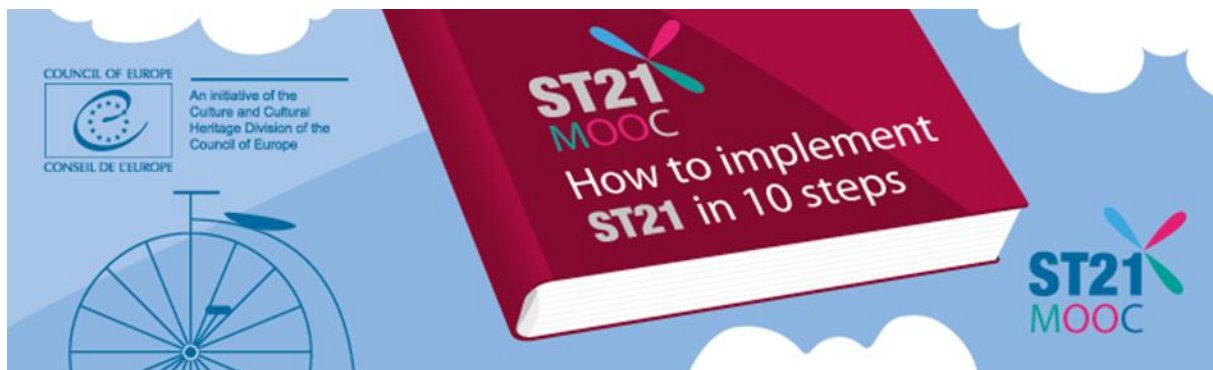
Factsheets

[Factsheets](#) by experts to explain the implementation of Strategy 21 in different professional fields are being drafted, translated and uploaded onto the Strategy 21 website. Nine factsheets are already available and a new factsheet on "Artificial Intelligence for Cultural Heritage" will be added to the collection in February 2022.

Methodology guidelines

[Methodology guidelines](#) for Strategy 21 are now available and complement the factsheets and other pedagogical materials to enhance the implementation of the Strategy.

ST21 MOOC: How to implement Strategy 21 in ten steps – e-learning platform



- A [new interactive ST21 MOOC \(Massive Open Online Course\)](#) is available from October 2021, allowing user-friendly exploration of the three Strategy 21 components, tackling its various subjects and recommendations and offering creative features. It introduces participants to the origins and content of the Council of Europe [Recommendation CM/Rec\(2017\)1 to member States on the "European Cultural Heritage Strategy for the 21st century"](#), which sets out Strategy 21.
- The MOOC trains participants in the evaluation of their own heritage activities so that they can become part of the pool of Strategy 21 good practices. It also promotes networking by exchanging experiences and information among participants, teachers and the Council of Europe Strategy 21 team.

The MOOC Training is based on 10 modules⁴ complemented by multiple resources. Each module offers a specially designed video, a brochure offering links to relevant publications and websites to facilitate a deeper understanding of the subject, and quizzes for self-evaluation.

MOOC participants should be stakeholders of at least one heritage related event that is still ongoing or has taken place no longer than two years ago. They will practise using Strategy 21 modules by analysing and comparing their activity with the learning outcomes as proposed in the e-learning course.

⁴ The 10 modules are: 1. Introduction to Strategy 21; 2. Social cohesion component of Strategy 21; 3. Territorial and economic development component; 4. Knowledge and education component; 5. How to use the Strategy 21 website; 6. Introduction to soft monitoring for cross-sectoral impact; 7. Learning from good practices – social cohesion at Budapest100 festival; 8. Learning from good practices – spatial development, local economy and governance in Dusheti and Chiatura (Georgia); 9. Learning from good practices – Tandem and L'art de parler educational projects; working for democracy; 10. Applying to join the Collection of good practices.

The ST21 MOOC will be available in French in spring 2022. In addition, [a ST21 MooC Toolkit for member States](#) will be available shortly to facilitate translation and editing of all available ST21 MOOC materials into national languages.

Strategy 21 in your country

The ST21 website hosts a space called "ST21 in your country" where examples of good practices can be found, as well the translation of ST21 documents, such as the toolkit, manual, methodology.

Communication / new Website features

The promotion of ST21 includes:

- re-organising the website content for optimal user-friendliness and updating existing resources, including the good practices collection;
- offering ST21 in focus examples – for easy information and exchange on lessons learned and project methodologies applied;
- creating social media accounts to increase visibility, networking and accessibility of the Strategy 21 work.

Action required

The CDCPP is invited to:

- welcome the progress made on the follow-up to Strategy 21;
- participate in the implementation of Strategy 21, in particular by:
 - widely promoting the new MOOC at national/regional/local levels;
 - providing Strategy 21 good practices/initiatives and helping their exchange at national and international level;
 - translating and adapting available promotional material into national languages.

IV. THE FARO CONVENTION ACTION PLAN AND JOINT PROGRAMME “THE FARO WAY”⁵

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, as such, what is important about cultural heritage, but it is rather the meanings and uses that people attach to them and the values they represent that are of relevance to societies.

Adopted in 2005, with its entry into force in 2011, currently 21 countries have ratified this legal instrument and 7 others have signed it.

The [Faro Convention Action Plan website pages](#) explain its main goals and the focus on democratic heritage governance involving local actors; the role of heritage in addressing societal challenges; and setting a framework for cooperation, as well as for integrated and inclusive policies.

Action in 2021 includes:

Signatures and ratifications

Following the ratification by Italy on 15 December 2020, 2021 has proved a fruitful year, with three new member States having ratified and/or signed the Convention:

⁵ Contribution to SDG: (4) Quality Education, (5) Gender Equality, (8) Decent Work and Economic Growth, (9) Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure, (10) Reducing Inequality, (11) Sustainable Cities and Communities, (12) Responsible Consumption and Production, (13) Climate Action 15) Life On Land, (16) Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions.

- **Cyprus** signed the Convention on 19 February 2021;
- **Estonia** signed the Convention on 18 March and ratified it on 15 April 2021 (entering into force on 1 August 2021);
- **Poland** signed the Convention on 10 May 2021.

The Council of Europe/European Union Joint Project "The Faro Way"

This Joint Project has been extended by both partners to 15 December 2021. Finalised, or still ongoing activities to be highlighted are:



The Faro Regional Seminars

The Third seminar took place online (in co-operation with the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth of Georgia, and the Georgian National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation) on 10 and 11 June (see <https://www.coe.int/en/web/culture-and-heritage/third-faro-regional-seminar-10-11-june-2021>);



The Fourth seminar was jointly organised with the National Institute of Heritage of Romania and the Romanian Ministry of Culture on 14 and 15 October in Bucharest (Romania) in a hybrid format (see <https://www.coe.int/en/web/culture-and-heritage/fourth-faro-regional-seminar>).

Online role-playing game "Your Faro way"

The final version of the game will be presented at the final conference of the Joint Project in December 2021.



The chosen technology allows for development of the game over time, including new scenarios and choices suggested by its users.

Final Conference of the Joint Project in Lisbon (Portugal)

- Bringing together all member States, the final conference on the Joint Project will celebrate the commitment to the Faro Convention principles by its various stakeholders, and invite ever more partners to engage with it -, based on dedicated guidelines and concrete illustrations of the Faro principles at work.
- Preparations with the Portuguese counterpart are ongoing, favouring a face-to-face meeting on 3 December 2021, but at the same time allowing for digital participation, given the circumstances.

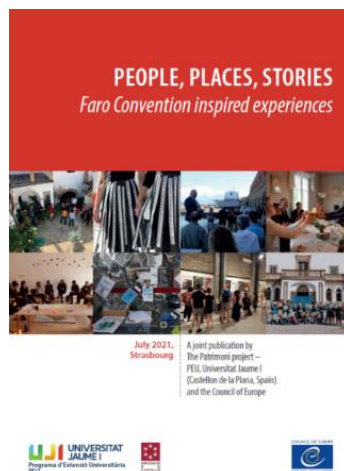
The Faro Action Plan

Translation of the Faro Convention brochure into national languages

- Thanks to local initiatives and/or national authorities, the bilingual English/French brochure is now also available online in German, Italian, Serbian, Lithuanian, Dutch and Portuguese. In addition, Romanian and Russian versions are being prepared.
- [A video from February 2021 by the Director General of Democracy](#), Snežana Samardžić-Marković, emphasizes the importance of promoting the Convention's principles and particularly citizens' and communities' participation in decision-making.

“People, places, stories” publication

In collaboration with the Universitat Jaume I of Castellon (Spain), a selection of articles by heritage communities, experts and associations on their activities and projects inspired by the Faro Convention principles at European level has been collected and is now available in paper copy and online (<https://rm.coe.int/people-places-stories-faro-convention-inspired-experiences/1680a3e6a0>)



Compilation of country-specific studies mapping the initiatives applying the Faro Convention in the member States

These studies aim to map heritage initiatives that are already applying the Faro Convention principles and demonstrate the added value of signing the Convention.



- A first study by Poland is [available online](#) and similar studies by Romania, Georgia and France will be soon be added to the website;
- Experts in other countries were invited to produce similar studies in the future.

Faro Convention Network (FCN) activities (selection)

- Online talks on Faro related topics (SDGs impact, self-evaluation of initiatives, gamification, collaboration with museums, ...) take place regularly among members to maintain an active network and discuss future collaboration;
- Reflections on the role of Faro inspired initiatives in sustainable tourism development were initiated in April after participating in an e-conference on responsible tourism and continued in September on the occasion of the 2021 ITACA festival (Sardinia);
- The fifth European Faro Convention Network gathering will take place in December 2021 in Venice (Italy), following the annual gathering of the Italian Faro Convention Network.

Action required

The CDCPP is invited to:

- encourage member States of the Council of Europe to sign and ratify the Faro Convention;
- welcome the progress made in the implementation of the Joint Project with the EU "The Faro Way" and the Faro Convention Action Plan and participate in this work, particularly by:
 - disseminating promotional materials and translating into national languages;
 - promoting the new Faro role-playing Game;
 - taking part in the final Conference of the EU-CoE Faro Joint project in December in Portugal;
 - identifying national representatives and also potential experts for producing country-specific studies on the Faro Convention inspired initiatives;
 - supporting the local, regional and national heritage initiatives applying the Faro Convention;
 - exchange and advise on the activities foreseen in 2022 and beyond.

V. HEREIN NETWORK⁶

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. Following the conclusions of the [5th session of the European Conference of Ministers responsible for Cultural Heritage](#) (Portoroz, Slovenia, 2001), the objectives pursued by HEREIN are to:

- make the database an efficient and effective tool for collecting and sharing, not only information, but also knowledge;
- provide country-based information on specific topics of concern to the Steering Committee dealing with Cultural Heritage;
- strengthen its capacity to act as a forum and network for professionals in the heritage field.

⁶ Contribution to SDG: (4) Quality Education, (5) Gender Equality (8) Decent Work and Economic Growth, (9) Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure (13) Climate Action (17) Partnerships for the Goals

Progress

In 2021, activities included the:

- dissemination of the bilingual publication on heritage signage, edited in 2020 and resulting from a participative survey;
- analysis of the responses to the participative survey on cultural heritage and climate action, launched at the end of 2020 in view of the CDCPP thematic debate on climate change;
- online meeting of the “HEREIN at the Garden” correspondents (12 February 2021, 23 participants) to discuss the European edition of Rendez-vous aux jardins (promoted by this network) to which 24 European countries participated;
- new thematic enquiry on specialised training in the field of parks and gardens and collection of latest information on Historical Gardens national policies to update the dedicated webpage;
- launch of a new participative survey on heritage-related training to enrich the HEREIN website;
- final adjustments by the HEREIN National Report Group of the newly proposed questionnaire and consultation of National Coordinators before its actual implementation;
- preparation of a face-to-face meeting of National Coordinators in 2022 to discuss future developments for HEREIN;
- confirmation and/or nomination of national HEREIN coordinators by member States to enlarge the information system's coverage and consequently the sample of responses, enriching in turn the HEREIN-based analyses.

Action required

The CDCPP is invited to:

- encourage all member States to participate in HEREIN activities and initiatives by nominating (where necessary) a National Coordinator as focal point;
- take advantage of the potential contribution of the HEREIN Network to the CDCCP debates through collection and analysis of pertinent information;
- engage with the activities and support efforts to consolidate the HEREIN project, including through voluntary contributions.