



Strasbourg, 9 November 2021

CDCPP(2021)22
Item 8 on the agenda

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

**PREPARATION OF AN IMPLEMENTATION REPORT ON
RECOMMENDATION No. R (2000) 13
OF THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS TO MEMBER STATES
ON A EUROPEAN POLICY ON ACCESS TO ARCHIVES**

For information

Secretariat Memorandum
prepared by the
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Introduction

[Recommendation No. R \(2000\) 13 on a European policy on access to archives](#) was adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 13 July 2000. This Recommendation was agreed upon on the basis that archives form an essential and irreplaceable part of cultural heritage. It belongs to a series of instruments developed and adopted by the Council of Europe in the early 2000s for fostering transparency and promoting confidence between peoples.

It formulates several principles, with a view to inspiring a policy of the member States on access to archives by adopting legislation or by bringing existing legislation into line with the principles set out in the Recommendation.

On 31 March 2021, in reply to a question by a parliamentarian on access to archives, the Committee of Ministers asked the CDCPP to consider conducting a study on the implementation of this Recommendation. The envisaged follow-up will provide an insight into the situation of access to archives in Council of Europe member States twenty years after the adoption of Recommendation No. R (2000) 13. This work has been listed as one of the deliverables under the CDCPP's Terms of Reference for 2022-2025.

Background

Following adoption of the Recommendation, Mr Charles Kecskeméti, at that time Secretary General of the **International Council of Archives** (ICA) and Mr Iván Székely, senior professor at the **Open Society Archives** at the Central European University in Budapest, both key participants in the drafting and development of the Recommendation, initiated a pan-European survey on European states' compliance with the Recommendation.

The scope of the survey was extended to the member States of the Council of Europe and also to the three non-member signatories of the European Cultural Convention, namely Belarus, the Holy See and Kazakhstan. There were three target groups: national archival institutions, organisations representing academic users and non-governmental organisations. The work involved collecting over 500 questions and answers from 184 partners.

The results of the survey were published by the Council of Europe in 2005 under the title "[Access to archives. A handbook of guidelines for implementation of Rec No \(2000\) 13 on a European Policy on access to archives](#)".

Almost twenty years after this first monitoring exercise, and building on the experience, the Secretariat held a number of meetings with relevant stakeholders – including those involved at the time – to prepare for a second study on the implementation of the Recommendation. Mr Iván Székely will once again help with the concept of the study and a specialist team from a relevant applied research institute will lead the exercise, collect and analyse data and prepare the final report. The Secretariat is currently working out the operational details of the forthcoming study and will keep the CDCPP informed of progress made.

Action required

The CDCPP is invited to:

- welcome the preparation of an implementation report on Recommendation No. R (2000) 13 on a European Policy on Access to Archives, further to the invitation by the Committee of Ministers.