INTRODUCTION

CHANGE OF GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE AND BUSINESS MODEL

At the end of 2017, the partnership between the Council of Europe Secretariat and the European Institute for Comparative Cultural Research (ERICarts) to manage the Compendium was replaced by a new and larger governance structure in the form of a non-profit association. Set up in the Netherlands under Dutch law with the kind assistance of the Netherlands government, the "Compendium Association" is now open to the membership of a wide range of stakeholders. The Council of Europe and ERICarts, both representing the legacy and intellectual property of the Compendium, have a special, statutory role as the Founding Members of the new Association.

OFFICIAL INAUGURATION OF THE ASSOCIATION ON NOVEMBER 2017

The official inauguration of the Compendium Association took place in Prague on 9 November 2017, during the 16th Assembly of Compendium experts, at the first public General Assembly.

To date, the governments and leading public institutions of 10 countries have joined the Association, namely: Albania, Belgium, Croatia, Finland, France, Iceland, Latvia, Romania, Sweden and Switzerland; the European Association of Cultural Researchers e.V. has joined as a Standing Member, while the Council of Europe and ERICarts are permanent members. More new members, both countries and non-profit organizations, will join shortly. In addition, the Association and its work are sponsored by the Netherlands Government.

The Association’s Statutes ensure the unique character of the Compendium system and of its community of more than 100 experts from all over Europe, but also facilitate the participation of new actors in the Compendium, either as stakeholders, as standing members or as experts providing content. A copy of the statutes can be sent on request (see contacts below).

ELECTED BOARD FOR 2018 - 2020

From among the association’s members, the first Board of the Association was elected, and comprises:

Marjo MÄENPÄÄ (Finland) - chair
Siobhan MONTGOMERY (Council of Europe) – vice chair
Anna VILLARROYA (European Association of Cultural Researchers e.V.) - treasurer
Jean-Cédric DELVAINQUIERE (France) - secretary
Carmen CRITOROU (Romania) - member
Kimmo AULAKE (Chair of the Steering Committee on Culture, Heritage and Landscape (CDCPP) of the Council of Europe) - member
Andreas WIESAND (ERICarts) - observer
NEWS FROM THE BOARD

MEETING
Since its inaugural meeting in November 2017, the Board has had three subsequent meetings, including via a conference call, on the 8 December, 26 January (in Paris: see picture) and 5 March 2018. Marielle Hendriks, director of the Boekman Foundation was also invited to participate.

ACHIEVEMENTS
A service contract has been negotiated for the day-to-day management of the Compendium with the Boekman Foundation, Institute for arts, culture and related policy, in Amsterdam. The services comprise inter alia the coordination and implementation of the core Compendium project, including the preparation and required updates by experts of the cultural policy country profiles from 43 countries; the technical development, maintenance and enhancement of the online information system; the development and implementation of specific Compendium projects (summary profiles, comparative tables, thematic sections, etc.) as well as the organisation of the next Assembly of Compendium Experts in Croatia (see below for further information).

With regard to the service contract, a budget has been set up on the basis of the planned incoming membership fees for 2018.

In order to finalise the setting up of the Association, the Board has also had to prepare the Rules of procedure for the Association’s 3 organs (Board, General Assembly and Assembly of Compendium Experts) and a Membership Charter. All documents shall be made available soon on the Compendium website.

Finally, a new official invitation to join the Association was addressed to all countries which are not yet members. On behalf of all members of the Association, as well as of the whole Compendium Community of authors and experts, the Board warmly welcomes you to encourage your country’s government to join the Compendium Association, if not yet a member, and similarly other institutions involved and interested in cultural policies in Europe.

AGENDA, FORTHCOMING TASKS AND EVENTS

• Official signature of the contract will take place during the Boekman Foundation Board meeting, on 26 March; the contract will start to run as of 1 April: the Compendium will then be fully back on tracks!

• The priority tasks that will be undertaken in the work plan include: the updating of Country profiles with a strong focus on countries lacking a recent profile; summary profiles; work to redesign the methodological grid (with the setting up of a dedicated working group and the consultation of all Compendium authors and experts) and, as previously mentioned, the preparation of the annual meeting scheduled on October.

• The 2018 Assembly of the Association of the Compendium of Cultural Policies and Trends, including the meeting of its General Assembly, its Assembly of Compendium Experts and its Board will take place from 9-11 October in Rijeka, Croatia under the Croatian Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe. Please save-the-date!

CONTACT
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