President of the Conference of INGOS

Name Gerhard Ermischer

Nationality Austrian

Contact gerhard.ermischer@civilscape.eu

Mobile +43 776 26 80 297 Age born in 1963

Languages German, English, Italian (fluent) French (passive)



 2000 First contact with the CoE through the European Landscap Convention. Representing a European Network of NGOs on land the Conference and Workshops of the Landscape.

Conference of INGOs

- 2010 Representative of CIVILSCAPE, an INGO for landscape and civil society, at the CoE (CDCPP, Landscape Convention) and the Conference of INGOs
- 2017 elected as Vice-President of the Committee for Democracy of the Conference of INGOs. Representing the Conference in the CDDG, the Stakeholders Platform, participating in several Working Groups of the CDDG, the Youth Platform, World Forum of Democracy, World NGO-Day and other events of the Conference. Chair of the Drafting Group for the revision of our Code of Good Conduct in co-operation with the Congress of the Regions. Member of the DG for the revision of our Rules of Procedure.
- April 2021 elected President of the Conference of INGOs

Affiliation with NGOs and European entities

- Since the start of my professional career I have been active in professional associations for archaeologists and cultural sciences on national and European level. With them I have advocated for the introduction of e.g. the Valetta Convention of the CoE in Germany, participated in consultation processes on cultural heritage and participatory rights in the EU and in court cases against the violation of European Law and Conventions of the CoE as well as in planning processes in Germany.
- With my own association and institute (the ASP) I have participated and organized a number of EU funded research projects on landscape in Citizen Science.

Profession

- As a trained archaeologist and historian, I started to work as a museum curator and city archaeologist in Aschaffenburg, Germany in 1991.
- After a regional project I founded the Archaeological Spessart-Project (ASP), an association for landscape research in Citizen Science, in 1998
- In 2006 I signed a treaty between the ASP and the University of Würzburg
- In 2007 I left the public service to concentrate fully on the ASP
- In 2010 the ASP became an institute at the University of Würzburg

CIVILSCAPE

- After working with landscape since 1998 my association was a co-founder of CIVILSCAPE, a network of NGOs dealing with landscape in citizen participation. I became Secretary General in the first days of CIVILSCAPE, later I served as Vice-President for two consecutive terms and now I am a board member of the organization and liaison officer to the CoE.
- CIVILSCAPE was registered in the Netherlands as an NGO in 2008 and applied for participatory status in 2009. Since 2010 I have always been the representative of CIVILSCAPE to the Conference of INGOs.

A Personal Remark

In my life I have experienced many unforeseen changes. I started to study medicine and later changed to history and archaeology. I got the chance for terms in Southampton and Rome and finally got a job as a museum curator and city archaeologist in Germany. I worked with professional associations and became an advocate for European conventions and solutions. I founded an association to deal with the archaeology of the region where I lived and it turned



into a holistic research project on landscape and one of the first citizen science projects in Germany – before we even knew the term. This brought me in contact with the CoE through the European Landscape Convention and finally to the Conference of INGOs – where my interests ever more turned from landscape to citizen participation, citizen rights and human rights. As a cultural scientist I became an advocate for civil rights. It has been a fascinating journey and I feel that I still change and learn something new at every step. This is why I would love to commit myself to this task as a new challenge.