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***COUNCIL OF EUROPE FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON THE  
VALUE OF CULTURAL HERITAGE FOR SOCIETY***

***(FARO CONVENTION)***



**Council of Europe - European Union Joint Project**  
***The Faro Way: enhanced participation in cultural heritage***

**Fourth Regional Seminar**  
**“Faro Convention: from words to action”**

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14-15 October 2021

***Organised in collaboration with***



MINISTERUL CULTURII



Institutul  
Național al  
Patrimoniului  
Ministerul Culturii

# LIST OF SPEAKERS

## SPEAKER



**Mr Matjaž Gruden** is Director of Democratic Participation at the Council of Europe, which includes Council of Europe activities and programmes in the area of education, including education for democratic citizenship, youth cooperation, culture and cultural heritage, landscape and biodiversity. The Directorate also includes the Platform for the protection of Journalists, the Eurimages film fund and the North-South Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity. Matjaž Gruden previously served as Director of Policy Planning, Deputy Director of the Private Office of the Secretary General, political adviser and speechwriter for the Secretary General and President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. Prior to his career at the Council of Europe, he was a diplomat at the Slovenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, posted in Brussels. He holds a law degree from the Law Faculty of the University of Ljubljana, as well as a post-graduate degree in EU law from the College of Europe in Bruges, Belgium.

## SPEAKER



**Mr Demeter András István** has a vast experience in management of cultural projects related to the theater field. At the age of 23, he was appointed Director General of the Hungarian State Theatre in Timisoara (Romania), becoming the youngest Manager Director of a public theatrical institution in the whole culture history, and the first in Romania to be appointed based on a selection of management projects. From 1993 to 2005, he turned that minority institution on the brink of closing into an internationally renowned theatre. He was even the founder and director of the *Comedians' Feast* of Timisoara, which was one of the most important International Street-Theatre Festivals in Central Europe, from 1996 to 2002. From July 2010, until July, 3 of 2012, he worked as the President Director General of Romanian Radio Broadcasting Company. In 2013, Demeter András István has become the Head of the TVR Production House at the Romanian Television. His aim was to re-organize the traditional "National Theater of Television - Romania", and after three years, his aspirations for receiving back the brand of "Teatrul National de Televiziune" on the ground of its merit, has also succeeded. He established an open-air theater in the garden of TVR in 2015 named *Theater in TVR*. In 2021 he becomes a State Secretary of the Ministry of Culture.

## SPEAKER



**Mr Ștefan Bâlici** is an architect and, since 2016, director general of the National Institute of Heritage, the main public institution in Romania dealing with the research, documentation and protection of the cultural heritage. Specializing in the preservation of built heritage, he has a rich experience in architectural restoration, being the author or co-author of many projects dealing with the restoration and enhancement of historic monuments. From 2000 he is teaching at the "Ion Mincu" University of Architecture and Urban Planning, where he is coordinating the architecture conservation studio, and teaches documentation of architectural heritage and the Architecture and Archaeology course.



#### **SPEAKER**

**Ms Kathrin Merkle** heads the Culture and Cultural Heritage Division of the Directorate of Democratic Participation at the Council of Europe and as Secretary to the Steering Committee for Culture, Heritage and Landscape, coordinates the intergovernmental work of 50 states party to the European Cultural Convention. She oversees the work on Culture and Democracy Indicators, Culture and Digitisation/ AI, Freedom of Expression of the Arts and Culture and the Council of Europe's heritage standards, including the Faro and Nicosia Conventions and the European Cultural Heritage Strategy for the 21st century. Trained as a sociologist and political scientist, Kathrin worked for UNESCO Statistics before joining the Council of Europe in 1993. More recently, she studied Public Sector Modernisation and Internet Governance issues and remains curious about ancient, contemporary and future cultures, and how everything is interrelated.



#### **SPEAKER and ORGANISER**

**Mr Francesc PLA CASTELLTORT** is an economist by training and an Andorran citizen that, after working as civil servant in his homeland, joined the Council of Europe in 2002 and has served from 2005 to 2016 as Deputy Executive Secretary of the European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Open Partial Agreement (EUR-OPA) of the Council of Europe. He joined in 2017 the Culture and Heritage Division of the Council of Europe to deal more specifically with cultural heritage issues, and in particular the Faro Convention follow-up both in terms of promotion and implementation.



#### **MODERATOR and ORGANISER**

**Ms Jovana Poznan** is a Project Assistant at the Culture and Cultural Heritage Division of the Directorate of Democratic Participation at the Council of Europe since 2019. She is currently working on *The Faro Way: enhanced participation in cultural heritage* - a Council of Europe/ European Commission Joint Project aiming at promoting the principles of the Council of Europe *Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society*. Previously, she worked in the sector of youth policy as a Project Officer at the International Youth Organisation for Ibero-America in Madrid, Spain. She was also part of the team of Serbian Permanent Mission to the European Union in Brussels and International and Security Affairs Center in Belgrade. She holds Master's Degrees in International Relations from the University of Kent and in European Law from the European University Center, University of Lorraine. Prior to this, she graduated in Political Science from University of Belgrade and University of Salamanca.



#### **SPEAKER**

**Mr Prosper WANNER**, Engineer, co-operative manager, anthropologist Phd student on a research contract in partnership with the University of Paris, Laboratory of Digital Anthropology, on the issues of digital tourism with regards to cultural rights and cooperative economy. Manager of the residents' cooperative Hôtel du Nord in Marseilles and co-founder of the association Faro Venezia. Member of the Faro Convention Network



#### **SPEAKER**

**Dr. Simona Pinton**, Ph.D. in international law University of Padua, LL.M University of Berkeley, California, JD University of Ferrara, is a senior researcher and lecturer in international law, international and European law on cultural heritage, international criminal law, and human rights. She taught at Ca' Foscari, where she is still associate at the Center Study on Human Rights. She is also serving as a researcher at the Venice Foundation for Peace Research on issues dealing with redress to victims of genocide and other gross human rights violations in international law. At the same Foundation she is part of the research group on "the safeguarding of heritage and cultural identity/diversity in armed conflicts", also encouraging a bottom-up implementation of the CoE Faro Convention via the cooperation with local heritage communities. She is a member of Faro Venezia and of the working group on cultural heritage of the Italian Society of International Law. Since 2000 she is consultant for NGOs with projects on education and cultural heritage, children and women's rights, health and community development. She is currently Regional Coordinator for Europe, Mena, and North Asia of the Cadre of Technical Advisers, at the Rotary Foundation.



#### **SPEAKER**

**Ms Aleksandra Chabiera** is a coordinator of international and national heritage projects, editor/ author of publications and articles on the role of heritage and its socio-economic values in local development. Trainer on heritage entrepreneurship, new functions of monuments, heritage education and interdisciplinary approach to the role of heritage in development. Co-author of concepts and scenarios of social surveys on heritage. Member of the HEREIN network (European Heritage Network). Focuses her interests on the developmental potential of heritage, its recognition in local policies and its practical use in communities. Expert assessing proposals in national and EEA programs, consulting local government units on heritage-related planning and projects.

#### SPEAKER



**Ms Violeta Đerković**, MA in Sociology and Cultural Management, started her career during her studies as a television journalist and editor in the news program of TV Novi Sad. She has continued to work in the field of marketing as a private entrepreneur, managing her own company specialized in outdoor advertising for twenty years. Since 2018, Violeta Đerković has been the coordinator of the Svilara Cultural Station, and is currently the coordinator of Cultural Stations Network for the Novi Sad European Capital of Culture project. She has been an activist of the Almašani Organization for the protection of cultural heritage for the last 15 years - whose mission is to preserve and interpret the cultural heritage of the Almaš region – the oldest part of Novi Sad. Within the organization, Violeta

Đerković has coordinated the process of joining the Faro Convention Network of the Council of Europe, which brings together active local communities dedicated to the preservation and interpretation of their own cultural heritage. In this process, following the examples of many active communities across Europe, she has become extensively familiar with the abundance of opportunities that cultural heritage provides for the general development of local communities, especially through the development of cultural tourism based on the authenticity that each community carries. Violeta Đerković is currently a PhD student in the field of Cultural Tourism.

#### SPEAKER



**Mr Ángel Portolés Górriz** coordinates the accompaniment of projects in rural areas of the University Extension Program - PEU of the Jaume I University of Castelló (Spain) and coordinates the network of heritage communities of the Patrimoni - PEU project of the same university. Member of the Faro Convention Network of the Council of Europe on behalf of the Jaume I University. Portolés accompanies participatory processes based on the knowledge and socialization of cultural heritage and investigates the creation, development and interactions of heritage communities (Phd in progress). In 2018, he coordinated the collaborative project "People, places, stories - #peopleplacesstories" in the framework of the Faro Convention Network of the Council of Europe (activity recognized for the European Year of Cultural Heritage). In 2020, Portolés participated in the Heritage Education Plan of the Community of Madrid (Spain) as an independent expert and he contributed to the publication How to educate on heritage with the chapter "People as protagonists. Ten keys to achieve citizen participation.

#### SPEAKER



**Ms Irina Cios** is cultural manager, curator, art writer and lecturer based in Bucharest. Since November 2014 she is director of the Administration of the National Cultural Fund – AFCN, the main public funder of cultural projects in Romania. Since 2007 she is guest lecturer of the Photography and Dynamic Image Department, The National University of Arts Bucharest. She managed for over 15 years the International Center for Contemporary Arts, Bucharest, initiated a gallery space / program focusing on new media and experimental art, organized and curated contemporary art events, AIR, symposia, conferences, workshops etc. Involved in several European cultural networks she acquired an important experience in international collaborations, partnerships and funding management. Member of the International Art Critics Association – AICA (president of the Romanian section 2006 – 2012), she contributes with studies, interviews, essays in art magazines, catalogues, art publications in Romania and internationally. She is currently developing a research on participatory practices in Romanian contemporary art.

## SPEAKER



**Ms Simona Fiț** has various experiences of more than 20 years in the NGO sector, in the areas of culture, education, civic and community engagement. She developed specific strategies and coordinated and contributed to the elaboration of Timișoara 2021 bid-books. She was part of the team supporting Timișoara's candidacy before the European jury for the pre-selection and selection stages and for the first official monitoring meeting. She coordinated Științescu Timișoara program, a funding program of the Timișoara Community Foundation, which encourages and supports educational projects in STE@M fields. The first two editions in Timișoara had 23 projects, with over 8,400 children and youngsters and 220 mentors and volunteers involved. The third edition of the program, in 2020, had been adapted to the pandemic

restrictions. She coordinated the national training program of the Advocacy Academy, with 800 participants, representatives of employers, trade unions and non-governmental organizations from all Romanian regions. She was actively involved in the organization's projects and campaigns as a researcher, curriculum expert, lecturer, author, public hearing expert and transparency consultant. She contributed significantly to the amendment of the Transparency Law no. 52/2003 and to the standardisation of lobbying and advocacy activities in Romania. She is currently the personal advisor to the mayor of Timișoara for the fields of culture and education.

## SPEAKER



**Mr Lucian Alexandru Găvozdea** founded the architectural office a. plan (2006). He graduated from the University of Architecture and Urbanism Ion Mincu in Bucharest in 2004 and received a Master degree in Conservation of Built Heritage in 2007. He is a certified urban planner by the Romanian Urbanists' Register (2007; 2009) and assessor for the court of law, certified by the Ministry of Justice (2011). He served as treasurer of the Sibiu-Vâlcea branch of the Romanian Order of Architects from 2010 to 2013 and treasurer of the OAR between 2013-2014, president of the Sibiu-Vâlcea branch from 2014 until May 2018. As member of the National Council of the OAR from 2010 to 2018, he contributed significantly in the workgroups for internship definition, internal control mechanism, branding, transformation process and the Cost Information System with its pre-calculus model for architectural fees. He was elected president of the Romanian Order of Architects on the 1st of July, 2018. Jury member for the International Young Architect's Meeting 2017, competition organized by the Architects' Chamber of Antalya, Turkey, he stood as chairman of the most recent two

editions of the international architecture and engineering forum and conference SHARE and as member of the board of the most recent edition of the Romanian Building Awards.

## **SPEAKER**



**Mr Levan Kharatishvili** - worked at the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of Georgia in 2013-2021 as a Deputy Minister. He was responsible for Culture, Cultural Heritage and Creative Industries, Strategy Development and International Relations. His name is associated with elaboration and adoption of the first culture strategy document – Culture Strategy 2025 and its action plans. He is the co-author of the first Cultural Policy document in Georgia as well as the first National Strategy and Roadmap for creative industries in Georgia. Levan has been elected as a Chair of the Steering Committee for Culture, Heritage and Landscape of the Council of Europe as well as Vice-Chair of the Governing Board at the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe. He is

the author of the study on the best practices of applying the Faro Convention principles by Georgian public, private and civil society sectors for the Council of Europe. After more than a decade leading numerous cultural projects, creating strategies for the cultural and creative sectors within the public sector in Georgia, Levan embarked on setting up his own creative enterprise – Creative Strategies Lab.

## **SPEAKER and RAPPORTEUR**



**Ms Caroline Fernolend** represents the Mihai Eminescu Trust, a Romanian NGO, which has developed a participatory and integrated process to revitalizing local communities through cultural and natural heritage and by taking a sustainable development approach. The practical experience they bring offers tried and tested approaches, such as achieving community responsibility for local heritage management, have been showcased within the Faro Convention Network. Of particular note is Fernolend’s contribution to community cooperation and sustainable development of community-based tourism in Georgia/Tusheti. With a background in finance and education, Caroline was a member of the Local Council in the commune of Bunesti, between 1992 and 2016 (having been the only woman councillor between 1992 and 2008) and served in the Brasov County Council for a four-year mandate, among other functions as chairwoman of the urbanism and heritage committee.

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