

**GRANTING OF OBSERVER STATUS WITH THE STEERING COMMITTEE
FOR CULTURE AND HERITAGE (CDCULT)
AND ITS SUBORDINATE BODIES**

CRITERIA AND PROCEDURE

Adopted by the CDCPP¹ at its 14th plenary meeting (18-20 November 2025)

Criteria

Intergovernmental committees and their subordinate bodies can benefit from the participation of observers from States and other organisations under the rules of Resolution [CM/Res\(2021\)3-consolidated](#) on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods. Organisations which can be granted observer status include civil society; associations of public institutions, authorities and communities; representatives of business; technical, professional and academic communities.

Any organisation requesting observer status with the CDCULT or any of its possible subordinate body/ies should:

- Have proven ability to share and promote the values and principles of the Council of Europe.
- Have a Europe-wide membership or representation in their area of competence.
- Have (and demonstrate that) culture, cultural heritage, and landscape are one of the central priorities in the applicant organisation's mission, as well as in its strategic priorities or activities.
- Have a broad experience in the working areas of the CDCULT or its subordinate body/ies in line with the CDCULT's Terms of Reference.
- Demonstrate evidence that their activities will contribute to supporting member States in implementing Council of Europe cultural, cultural heritage and landscape conventions.
- Demonstrate that their contribution will bring tangible added value and high-quality contribution(s) to the work of the CDCULT and/or its subordinate body/ies.
- Demonstrate evidence of incorporation of the principles of the democratic and societal value of culture, heritage, landscape, cultural participation and cultural rights into the applicant organisation's mission.
- Demonstrate commitment to a longstanding active participation and contribution into the work of the CDCULT.

The list of criteria above is not exhaustive

Application for observer status

In order to request observer status to the CDCULT or its subordinate body, a letter should be addressed to the secretariat (addressed to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe or to the Chair of the

¹ The CDCPP became the CDCULT on 1 January 2026

CDCULT) explaining the reasons for the request for observer status and providing any documents in support of the application, through the Committee's official address (CDCULT@coe.int). Such requests would be considered by the CDCULT for decision during its plenary meetings, according to its working annual calendar (one plenary session per year).

Decision-making process

The CDCULT or its Bureau may request the applicant organisation to submit any (additional) documents to show that it meets the criteria for observer status listed above, with a view to facilitating the decision-making process. Before making a decision, the CDCULT may ask its Bureau to conduct hearings or organise a hearing at its plenary session, according to its working annual calendar (one plenary session per year).

According to Article 8 of Resolution [CM/Res\(2021\)3-consolidated](#) on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods, observers shall be admitted to the CDCULT and any subordinate body answerable to it on the basis of a **unanimous decision**. Where unanimity is not reached, the matter may be referred to the Committee of Ministers at the request of **two-thirds of the members of the CDCULT**. In cases of requests for observer status with a possible subordinate body which operates under the supervision of the CDCULT and another steering committee, a joint decision of both steering committees would need to be taken pursuant to the conditions set in Article 8 of the Resolution.

The CDCULT will review the status of the observer organisations at a regular interval at the end of each Council of Europe programming and budget cycle and possibly decide on the continuation of attributed statuses.