

THEMATIC SESSION 3

Climate change and Sustainable Development

9th CDCPP Plenary Online Session

12 November 2020

Francesc Pla and Jovana Poznan
Culture and Cultural Heritage Division
Council of Europe

Council of Europe's High-level Conference - Environmental Protection and Human Rights

- held under the Georgian Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers on 27th February 2020, in Strasbourg (<https://www.coe.int/en/web/human-rights-rule-of-law/human-rights-and-the-environment>)

Aims of the Conference:

- discuss the relation between human rights and environmental protection in the context of national policies
- examine the potential of the European Convention on Human Rights and other Council of Europe instruments for protecting the environment.

A proposal:

- a declaration adopted by the outgoing (Georgia) and incoming (Greece and Germany) presidencies of the Committee of Ministers stressed the **need for a non-binding instrument on human rights and the environment by the end 2021.**

High Level International Conference on HR and Environmental Protection: “Human rights for the Planet”

- held under the Greek Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers on 5th October 2020, in Strasbourg (<https://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/human-rights-for-the-planet>)

Aims of the Conference:

- examine how will the ECHR take account of climate change, loss of biodiversity, depletion of natural resources and chemical pollution in its work
- discuss the new challenges in interpreting the European Convention on Human Rights in future cases relating to the environment.





Standards in the Cultural Heritage Sector dealing with climate change and environment

CM/Rec (2020)7 to member states
on **cultural heritage in the face of
the risks of day-to-day
management**

CM/Rec (2018)3 on **cultural heritage
facing climate change**

CM/Rec **European Heritage Strategy
for the 21st Century (2017)**

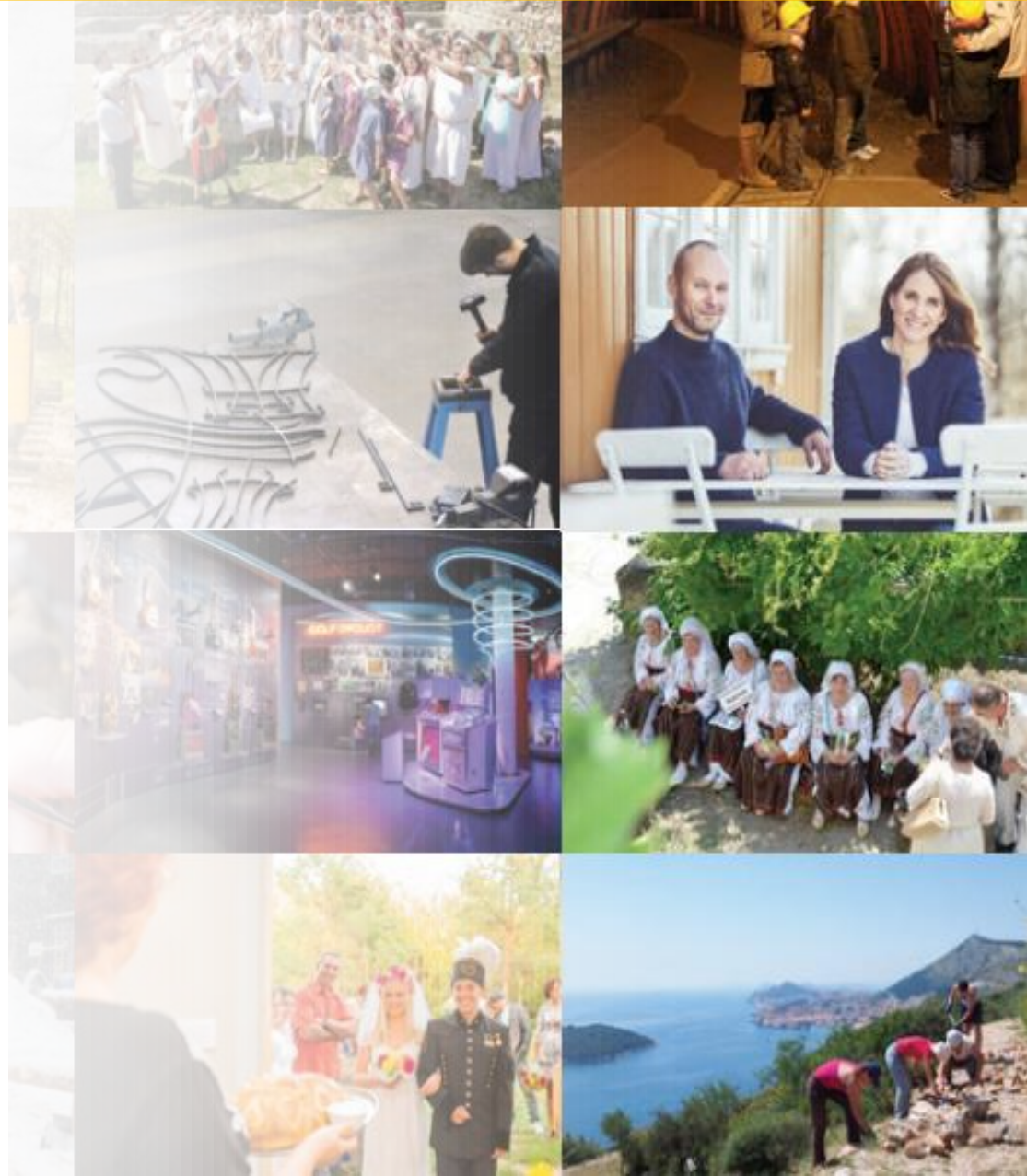


Projects in the Heritage Sector dealing with climate change and environment

- Faro Convention Action Plan and the Faro Way (JP)
- European Heritage Strategy for the 21st Century
- European Heritage Days
- Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes – Routes4You (JP)

Strategy 21

- Principles of sustainable development are clearly shown in the best practices examples within the chapter dedicated to Territorial and economic development component (D)
- “The Golden Collection of Good Practices” (<https://rm.coe.int/european-heritage-strategy-for-the-21st-century-the-golden-collection-/1680966dda>)



Strategy 21: initiatives tackling climate change and environmental aspects

- “Territorial and economic development component ” focuses on the relationship between cultural heritage and spatial development, the economy and local and regional governance with due regard for the principles of sustainable development

REUSE OF RURAL BUILDINGS IN SLOVENIA IN THE EXECUTION OF THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (SLOVENIA)

The project aims at developing Europe’s prosperity by drawing on its heritage resources, ensuring that Europeans enjoy a **high quality of life, in harmony with their cultural and natural environment**; implementing the principles of **integrated conservation** and ensuring that heritage is taken into account in sustainable spatial development strategies and programmes.

The focus is on safeguarding cultural heritage that was perceived as valuable, to preserve its core values and nature and consequently to **revitalise our own environment**. The initiative aims to achieve positive effects for society, i.e. **sustainability, regional (rural) development**.



CULTURAL HISTORY AS KNOWLEDGE SOURCE FOR THE CLIMATE STRESS TEST (NETHERLANDS)

In the Netherlands, the soil and the water have always played a major role when making decisions.

The Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands (RCE) has presented a simple step by step method, to help **integrate cultural historic knowledge in climate adaptation stress tests**, through meetings, conferences and workshops with municipalities and Water Authorities.

The programme is aimed at raising the awareness on the **benefit of using historical information** for these types of projects.



European Heritage Days

“Sustainable Heritage” – European Heritage Days theme for 2022

- **“When we decide what to preserve, we are making decisions that will affect future generations.”**
- The 2022 theme will create an opportunity for EHD communities/organisers to:
 - Raise awareness of and respond to challenges presented by climate change, in terms of both the management of physical heritage assets, and in enabling a broader discussion about the role of culture in building a more sustainable/resilient future
 - Invite people of all ages and backgrounds to participate in events and activities to promote the importance of preserving tangible, intangible and natural heritage for future generations
 - Contribute to a collection of good practices and share their knowledge and skills through the EHD network.



European Heritage Days

Giornate Europee
del Patrimonio



Cultural Routes – Routes4You

- Cultural Routes encourage “slow tourism » through the means of transportation promoted by the different Routes: walking paths such as Santiago de Compostela or St Olav Ways, walking with a donkey on R. L. Stevenson’s trails, cycling along the Iron Curtain Trail, among others
- The promotion of less well-known destinations through the Cultural Routes programme, with some 90% of sites in rural areas, also insure a better distribution of visitors both throughout the year and throughout the regions, with the promotion of year-round activities such as olive picking in winter in the Mediterranean with small local producers
- One of the key for successful sustainable tourism, is the involvement, from the planning stages, of the local communities and local heritage.





FARO CONVENTION

on the value of cultural heritage
for society



- **Faro Convention Principle 2 : Improving the living environment and quality of life:**

“Parties to the Convention should aim at reinforcing people’s sense of belonging, by fostering shared responsibility for the common environment in which they live” (article 8).

- The Faro Convention aims at raising the awareness of Faro communities on the importance of tackling the effects of climate change on their environment and reflect this aspect in their own work.
- Climate change, often the source of increased frequency/intensity of disasters, is exposing cultural heritage to new threats and/or increasing the vulnerability of sites already at risk.
- In addition to endangering their visitors, heritage degradation has a negative socio-economic impact on local communities, involving a loss of identity-generating values and cultural diversity.

- The webinar *Faro Convention Principles and the 2030 Agenda*, which was held in May 2020, and in which 23 participants in on-the-ground heritage projects took part, gave impetus to further discuss the links between the Faro and UN processes.
- The integration of cultural and natural elements as part of the same process, is precisely one of the aspects that can most enrich the processes of localization of the 2030 Agenda.



Faro initiatives tackling climate change and sustainable development

The **CASA & BOTTEGA** project emerged as the **consequence of the 2009 earthquake** that damaged the village of Fontecchio (Italy) and its small community.

The focus of the project is on **civic education and citizen participation to restore the village and its environmental value**, with the aim of spreading the knowledge about the use of cultural heritage and landscape for **sustainable development, resettlement and social cohesion**.

THE CENTOCELLE FARO COMMUNITY has been promoting activities (i.e. heritage walks, civic collaboration days, collaborative services, digital campaigns, heritage bike tours) in the park of Centocelle in Rome (Italy) since 2015, to encourage the appreciation and **reuse of cultural and archaeological heritage**, that is perceived as a tool for stimulating a **heritage-based inclusive sustainable development** at the neighbourhood and district level.

The main methodology used in this project is co-governance, allowing the citizens of the Centocelle district to actively participate in the **collective and sustainable use of the park**, in line with the Faro Convention principles.



HEREIN

- Participative surveys at the disposal of the Coordinators and the national institutions in order to mobilise the network of the public administrations participating into the HEREIN System with the view of collecting thematic or specific information.
- The topic of sustainable development was not explicitly addressed in previous participative surveys but emerged already in the responses at the 2015 consultation on ST21 preparation.
- General survey to assess the state of the art in member countries: general questions on existing policies and the inclusion of CH in it and on insight on topics for future development.
- 20 countries responded so far: will extend until end of November the deadline and then analyse in detail the responses in collaboration with HEREIN AISBL.





Thank you for your
attention!
