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**STEERING COMMITTEE
FOR CULTURE, HERITAGE AND LANDSCAPE
(CDCPP)**

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2019 WORK

For information

Secretariat Memorandum
prepared by the
Directorate of Democratic Participation
Culture, Nature and Heritage Department

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Introduction

This document presents some of the key events and achievements of 2019 in the fields of culture, cultural heritage and landscape. Related web links have been included for more detailed information.

Action required

The Committee is invited to take note of these 2019 highlights.

Culture

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/culture-and-heritage/culture>

Work in the sector continued to address the challenges related to increasing digitisation and use of AI, given culture's key role in generating the necessary social intelligence and emancipation to accompany new life practices marked by increasing human-machine interaction. Leading AI artists provided input to the 2019 High-level conference on “Governing the Game Changer – Impacts of artificial intelligence development on human rights, democracy and the rule of law” in Helsinki. The work on arts, culture, creativity and AI also gathered renowned experts to produce a select Council of Europe publication.

A study on Art, Culture, Heritage and Creativity: Intrinsic Qualities of Freedom of Expression and Democracy explored the scope for future work in this area, including with a view to contributing to the 70th anniversary of the European Convention on Human Rights in 2020, by means of a Manifesto and a concept for a future Council of Europe exhibition on this subject.

The [Cultural Policy Peer Review of Moldova](#) contributed to the development of Moldova 2030 Strategy Development. It aimed at making culture a pillar of the national strategy, by highlighting the impact of investments into the culture and creative economy in the overall strategic goals, with transversal effects.

Cultural heritage

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/culture-and-heritage/cultural-heritage>

The Council of Europe Convention on Offences relating to Cultural Property – the Nicosia Convention

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/culture-and-heritage/convention-on-offences-relating-to-cultural-property>

A promotional conference “[Act for Heritage](#)” was held in Nicosia, Cyprus on 24-25 October 2019 on the subject of [the Council of Europe Convention on Offences relating to Cultural Property](#) (CETS No 221). The conference highlighted the pertinence of this new standard, filling a gap in international legislation and as a complementary tool to international standards by UNESCO and UNIDROIT. The event underscored the importance of multi-stakeholder exchange in delivering optimal interaction of self-regulation systems (as are in place with arts and antique dealers), legal standards and law enforcement systems at national and international levels. Raising awareness, enhancing heritage education and training of all stakeholders will continue to be key to progressing in the prevention of cultural property related offences. A short conference film and report are available online for the Council of Europe’s governmental and non-governmental stakeholders and interested partner organisations (see [website link](#)).

On 8 April 2019, the Nicosia Convention was [signed by Montenegro](#), bringing the total number of signatures to 10 and ratifications to 2.

The Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society – the Faro Convention

Under the Joint Project with the European Union "The Faro Way", the [second Regional seminar](#) took place in Maastricht, Netherlands (16-17 May 2019), bringing together 7 member States. A [specific webpage devoted to the Joint Project](#) was launched and a collection of selected Faro inspired initiatives to illustrate possible implementations prepared.

Regarding the Faro Convention Network, the fourth annual gathering took place in Venice (3-4 December 2019), and two assessment visits to initiatives in contact with the Faro Convention Network were organised, namely in Castellon de la Plana (Spain) and in Cap Sizun (France).

A third Faro Convention Research Action workshop took place in Saint-Denis, France (21-22 November), devoted to the topic "Economy of alterity, tourism and hospitality".

On 7 November 2019, the Faro Convention was [ratified by Switzerland](#), bringing the total number of ratifications to 19, while 6 other countries have signed but not yet ratified it.

European Cultural Heritage Strategy for the 21st century

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/culture-and-heritage/strategy-21>

In 2019, under the French Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers (May to November) and together with the French Ministry of Culture, the Secretariat presented "[The golden collection of Good Practices](#)" at the CDCPP plenary session in June. The collection emphasises change, innovation and lessons learnt in the participatory governance of cultural heritage and offers an inspiring read.

The following three workshops were finalised in the first half of 2019:

1. <https://rm.coe.int/producing-and-sharing-heritage-related-knowledge-access-keys-for-strat/168093ad0a>
2. <https://rm.coe.int/citizen-involvement-in-heritage-impact-in-rural-areas-council-of-europ/168093ad0c>
3. <https://rm.coe.int/citizen-involvement-in-heritage-impact-in-deprived-urban-areas-council/168093ad15>

The following four factsheets were finalised and uploaded onto the Strategy 21 website:

- "Gender equality: what has cultural heritage got to do with it" (by Pierrette Pape) that explains how gender stereotypes affect cultural heritage, and details recommendations to implement Strategy 21 with a gender equality perspective;
- "Landscape architects and their role in heritage conservation" (by Ana Luengo, IFLA) that explains the basic concepts and role of this profession and how Strategy 21 can contribute to their practice;
- "The future of religious heritage" (by Michael Hoare, FRH) that explains the challenges and how Strategy 21 may contribute to facing them;
- "Strategy 21 for local museums in Europe" (by Christian Jacques Perazzone) that explains how the Strategy can be useful for small local museums.

HEREIN Network

<http://www.coe.int/en/web/culture-and-heritage/herein-heritage-network>

Following the update of the Country Profiles, the present content of the National Reports was fully revised to adjust to the needs of future users, and a draft questionnaire structure prepared via two meetings of a dedicated working group to collect updated detailed information.

Concerning the thematic content, the promotion of the “Rendez-Vous aux Jardins” initiative (devoted to “Animals in the garden” in 2019) was continued through the dedicated website, and a new report on “The Europe of gardens” prepared by HEREIN AISBL published online. A participative survey on heritage signage was launched to obtain an overview of the various practices in member States and to serve as possible inspiration for future initiatives.

European Heritage Days (EHDs)

<http://www.europeanheritagedays.com>

- In 2019, an estimated 60 000 official European Heritage Days events were organised and celebrated under the common theme [Arts and Entertainment](#) in 47 out of the 50 European States Parties to the European Cultural Convention. It is thought that several thousand *unofficial* locally organised events are also held each year in addition to the official programme.
- The [Assembly of the EHDs](#) met in Strasbourg on 16-18 October 2019, with the participation of national coordinators and experts, the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe, as well as Mr João Delgado from the European Commission.
- At the 2019 Assembly, the ten winners of the [European Heritage Days Stories](#) presented their projects and were awarded with certificates of excellence by the Director of Democratic Participation, Matjaž Gruden. A brochure detailing these ten winning stories was produced “[Everyone has a story to tell](#)”, with a foreword by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Marija Pejčinović Burić.
- Later in December, the [European Heritage Makers Week](#) initiative for young people celebrated the ten winners of 2019, with an [exciting cultural visit to Strasbourg, France and Germany](#). This was a real highlight for the young people who enthusiastically presented their stories to each other and discussed the European dimension of cultural heritage in a relaxed context.
- A number of European cross-frontier co-operation projects were also carried out throughout the year, including ‘We Are Culture: Strategies for More Inclusive European Heritage Days’ led by UK-Scotland, ‘Discover the Artist inside You’ led by Republic of Moldova, and ‘The Bridges over the winding Drina River’ led by Bosnia and Herzegovina. Through these projects, National Coordinators from several countries work together to explore synergies and transmit their shared knowledge to the EHD Network.
- All these highlights, and hundreds more, were shared on social media which expanded rapidly in 2019.

FaceBook www.facebook.com/EHDDays
 Instagram www.instagram.com/europeanheritagedays
 Twitter www.twitter.com/JEP_EHD
 YouTube www.youtube.com/channel/UCnoazY5ZN-NHBwkqy6JRm1w

European Landscape Convention

www.coe.int/en/web/landscape

1) *Parties to the Convention*: Iceland ratified the European Landscape Convention on 11 December 2019. www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list/-/conventions/treaty/176

2) *Recommendations of the Committee of Ministers*: on 16 October 2019, the Committee of Ministers adopted the following texts:

- Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2019\)7](#) Landscape integration in policies relating to rural territories in agricultural and forestry, energy and demographic transition;
- Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2019\)8](#) Landscape and democracy: public participation.

3) *National landscape policies*: Development of national landscape policies of the States Parties to the Convention, presented in the [Information System of the European Landscape Convention](#); [Information Platform of the European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe](#).

4) *Council of Europe meetings*

- 10th Council of Europe Conference on the European Landscape Convention (Palais de l'Europe, Strasbourg, 6-7 May 2019), under the auspices of the Presidency of Finland of the Committee of Ministers. The Report of the Conference (document [CEP-CDCPP \(2019\) 20E](#)) was transmitted to the Committee of Ministers, in accordance with Article 10 of the Convention on "Monitoring the implementation of the Convention", in the context of the abridged report of the CDCPP. On 16 October 2019, the Committee of Ministers took note of it;
- [22nd Council of Europe Meeting of the Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention on "Water, landscape and citizenship in the face of global change"](#) (Seville, Spain, 14-16 March 2019) – [European spatial planning and landscape, No 116](#);
- [National Days on the implementation of the European Landscape Convention in France on "Landscapes from here and elsewhere: diverse perspectives on some landscape approaches at different scales, on both sides of borders"](#) (Strasbourg et Vosges du Nord, 26-27 November 2019) – [European spatial planning and landscape, No 117](#).

5) *Landscape Award of the Council of Europe*:

- Decisions of the Committee of Ministers concerning the 6th Session of the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe (2018-2019), according to Resolution CM/Res(2008)3 on the rules governing the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe, adopted on 16 October 2019, at the [1357th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies](#);
- Presentation of the [Landscape Award Alliance of the Council of Europe](#) in an exhibition, a publication, and on the website of the Convention.

6) *International Landscape Day of the Council of Europe*: Celebration of the Third International Landscape Day of the Council of Europe, on 20 October 2019, on "[Landscape and Water](#)".