



HERITAGE CARE THROUGH ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP

european conference on civil society organisations
active in the field of heritage

MARCH 23-24, 2009 | MECHELEN (BELGIUM)

www.heritageorganisations.eu

GENERAL REPORT



With the support of
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1. Partners



VLAAMS STEUNPUNT VOOR CULTUREEL ERFGOED



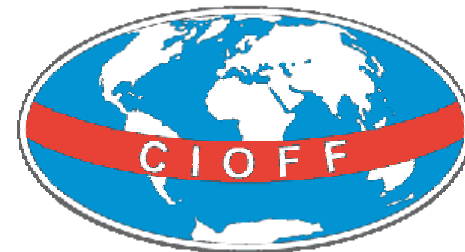
Heemkunde
Vlaanderen vzw



Association Nationale
Cultures & Traditions



EUROPA
NOSTRA



CONTACTFORUM
VOOR
ERFGOEDVERENIGINGEN
vereniging zonder winstoogmerk



CEO
CENTRUM
EDUKACJI
OBYWATELSKIEJ

2. Introduction

The conference 'Heritage Care through Active Citizenship. European Conference on Civil Society Organisations active in the Field of Heritage' took place in Mechelen (Belgium) on March 23-24, 2009. At the conference 180 participants represented the diversity of the European civil society for heritage: local, regional, national and European voluntary organisations, civil society organisations, umbrella organisations, network organisations, foundations, etc.) that are active in the broad field of (tangible and/or intangible) heritage. The conference addressed the questions of active citizenship, civil society and volunteer organisations in the European heritage sector, and provided a platform for exchange of relevant projects and experiences.

During two days the conference offered a varied programme, including several well-known keynote speakers, thematic workshops, an info market and a debate. This report will outline some of the general conclusions that arose from the activities at the conference. It is by no means intended to be exhaustive, as it is impossible to synthesize the input of 40 speakers and 180 participants in a general report. However, the organisers felt the need to briefly summarize some important issues, illustrated by several examples presented during the conference. More in-depth information about the contributions (abstracts and powerpoint presentations) are available at the conference website www.heritageorganisations.eu

The participants list and the complete programme of the conference are added as an annex to this report.

Background

The initiative for this conference has been taken by an existing cooperation network of three Belgian heritage NGOs. This joint action was based on a shared belief in the importance of active citizenship for enhancing democratic values in society, a shared belief in the importance of the role of heritage organisations with regard to local and European policy and a shared commitment to propagating a broader concept of heritage.

In 2005 the three NGOs joined forces to consider the roles, responsibilities, needs and opportunities of heritage organisations in the European context. This resulted in a research project and a survey, which revealed that the information on heritage organisations and non-governmental organisations in Europe is very fragmented, while their diversity, when viewed from the broader concept of heritage, is greater than ever. Using information and communication technology a broad network of heritage organisations was set up: the [Inventory of Heritage Organisations in Europe](#).

Inspired by the results of the 'First European Conference on the Role of Voluntary Organisations in the Field of Cultural Heritage' (Oslo, 2000), the partners felt the need for a new European conference that will strengthen the civil society movement in the field of heritage. The reciprocal relation between active citizenship and commitment to heritage seemed to be an excellent starting point.

Inventory of Heritage Organisations in Europe

There is a great number of heritage organisations in Europe, and their focus is very diverse. The **'Inventory of Heritage Organisations in Europe'** (IHOE) is a handy overview that should facilitate contacts, encourage the exchange of information and experience, enable organisations to link up with similar organisations elsewhere, find project partners, etc. It will become a new tool for an active civil society for heritage care in Europe.

The IHOE project aims at presenting an overview of all **non-governmental organisations** (NGOs) in Europe that are engaged in heritage in the broad sense of the word, ranging in scope from the supra-local to the whole of Europe. Heritage organisations that meet these criteria are asked to register themselves by using the registration form on the four-lingual website www.heritage-organisations.eu.

This joint project is based on:

- a shared belief in the importance of the role of heritage organisations with regard to national and European policy (cf. the Council of Europe's Declaration on the Role of Voluntary Organisations in the Field of Cultural Heritage (Portorož, 2001) and the recent Council of Europe's Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society, Faro, 2005).
- a shared commitment to propagating a broader concept of heritage, cf. recent developments and conceptual shifts in the concept of heritage which received an international expression when UNESCO adopted the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (Paris, 2003).

During the first phases of this project, **more than 350 heritage organisations from 35 different European countries** have already been registered. **Mapping the heritage organisations in Europe is a pioneering venture. You can help us build this inventory by informing as many heritage organisations as possible of this project !**

www.heritage-organisations.eu

Objectives of the conference

- to bring civil society organisations together from the broad field of heritage in Europe as a best practice of active citizenship in Europe
- to represent the power, the enthusiasm and the necessity of bottom up civil society action in Europe, on a public forum
- by doing so, to consolidate, to value and to support the role civil society organisations active in the field of heritage play in 21st century Europe
- by interactive exchange, to improve the output of the work done by heritage NGOs
- to introduce the ideas underlying but also yielded by the Faro Convention which is based on a respectful interaction between different heritage communities in Europe

A post-conference evaluation carried out among the participants indicated that the event was rather successful in meeting these objectives. Some of the results of this evaluation are included in this report. The complete results are available at the conference website.

3. Some general conclusions

In the following chapter some issues that were raised during the 'Heritage Care through Active Citizenship' conference will be highlighted. They will be illustrated with relevant examples and projects that were presented during the conference.

1. A question of scale: local or micro?

Many of the good practices that were encountered during the conference represented smaller organisations or projects. Of course, these 'micro-level' are particularly valuable, but participants had the general feeling that some of these 'best' practices are in a real danger of disappearing 'under the radar' of administration and government.

Nevertheless, it was suggested that the real future of active citizenship could only be guaranteed through the continuation of this kind of 'grassroots' projects.

In general an urgent need was identified for political awareness, both on the national and international level, about these 'micro-level' practices. Governments are expected to adapt their procedures to the needs of smaller NGOs, and not the other way around. Now procedures often seem to be too heavy for smaller organisations, resulting in a risk of filtering out exactly these valuable grassroots projects. In this context, the concept of 'micro-funding' was proposed.

It was suggested that the current 'contract-driven' projects, relying on 'value for money' and 'target setting', often deter the volunteers they want to attract.

EXAMPLES

A handful of citizens of both sides of the Belgium-Dutch border near Maastricht organized themselves in a project group '**Grensschap Albertkanaal**'. This civil society group aimed at protecting landscape values by creating 14 artistic landmarks which communicated those values on the spot by creating a specific panoramic gaze on each location. In the process they also tried to create a cross-border feeling of community in an area deeply separated by the border and the Albertkanaal (Albert canal) itself. The little group of volunteers – 15 in all – succeeded in winning the support of the local authorities, the provincial authorities of both Belgium and Dutch Limburg and eventually the European Union. This resulted in a project budget of €700.000 which they spent in hiring an artist designing and realizing the 14 landmarks, and a project bureau to organize the whole process. The project has proven to have not only cultural and social value but economical as well as it is beginning to play an important role in tourist activities in the region.

The **factory chimneys** in the northern region of France have an important emblematic value, although in recent years these chimneys are disappearing from the landscape at a terrifying pace. In 2004, the association 'Non-Lieu' organised a first event focusing on the chimneys. As 'Cheminées: Totems Roubaisiens', the chimneys paid tribute to the textile workers of the region. The event was very

successful among the local population. As the symbolic value of the factory chimneys is universal, the activities have been extended to a larger region, and eventually even in other countries. As such, the factory chimney became the 'Belfry of Labour'.

2. Practical questions for active citizens

From the discussions among the participants a real need emerged for more practical information or guidance. How to start a project? How to structure your organisation? How to find relevant local-regional networks and how to connect to existing networks? How to find the best use of procedures? How to resolve language barriers? A kind of general manual or practical guidebook for the activities of heritage NGOs would be a partial solution. These needs seem to be even more imminent in Central and Eastern European countries.

There is also a need to build 'horizontal' networks, in a kind of 'bottom-bottom' relationship (as opposed to 'top-down' relations). Many smaller organisations feel the need to connect with other like-minded, similar organisations to share expertise (e.g. about good practices) and experience. Moreover there is a need to establish more in-depth, international networks.

EXAMPLES

GUIDANCE

ECOVAST has pioneered the involvement of citizens in the practical guide '**Landscape Identification - A guide to good practice**'. The purpose of this guide is to help the citizens of Europe to understand, to celebrate and to protect the landscape in which they live; and to assist governments in their work to implement the European Landscape Convention.

http://www.ecovast.org/papers/good_guid_e.pdf

In 2006, the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (UK) began a new five-year project '**Faith in Maintenance**', to run free maintenance training courses for volunteers in England and Wales. The training courses focus on the routine work needed to keep the fabric of historic buildings in good condition and encourage people to clean their gutters, check their drains and repair slipped slates and tiles. 'Faith in Maintenance' aims to promote sensitive and timely maintenance and encourage the many thousands of volunteers who care for historic churches, chapels, synagogues, mosques and

temples to look after their buildings more effectively. By the end of 2011, SPAB will have provided 150 training courses for around 5,000 volunteers through its Faith in Maintenance project. In addition to the training courses, SPAB has put together the Good Maintenance Guide, which contains a wealth of advice about the day-to-day care of historic places of worship as well as many references to related sources of help and guidance. SPAB also runs a telephone help line and the 'Faith in Maintenance' website, which features advice, case studies, an online maintenance forum and details of all the activities.

NETWORKS

Associations interested in the research and safeguarding of **industrial and technical heritage** appeared in Europe more or less 30 years ago. Most of them, however, are isolated, with their only support being voluntary work, since there is no official support in the majority of cases and some of them not very understood by society and government. The European network 'E-FAITH' is trying to create a network of all the existing associations related to industrial and technical heritage and to empower them in this domain. The network also wants to promote the creation of new associations in the areas where they do not yet exist.

SEE (South East European) Heritage Network is a network of non-governmental organizations from South East Europe. The network was established in 2006 and currently has 13 members. The vision of the SEE Heritage Network is South East Europe as a region where people cooperate, understand and respect each other on the basis of their cultural differences. The network and its members believe in cultural, ethnic and religious diversity as a valuable resource. The work of the SEE Heritage network is aimed at protecting and promoting our common heritage which is leading to sustainable and responsible development.

3. Active citizenship and professionals

Ideally there is a complementary or even symbiotic relationship between local initiatives of heritage NGOs and skilled professionals. The heritage NGOs often require a wider, professional view on their activities and study objects, while the professionals often need citizens to develop action through social mobilization. In many cases it's a mixture: some initiatives are undertaken exclusively by local communities or groups, whereas other projects are initiated by professionals within a community. In the latter case, however, the risk exists that the project becomes a top-down initiative in disguise. One always has to keep in mind the criteria and circumstances that determine

the choices, and the political context in which local communities decide which heritage (values) to preserve and pass on to the future generations.

EXAMPLES

During the eighty years war (1568-1648), several defence lines were laid out in the south western part of the Netherlands. In 2000 a number of volunteers from the city of Bergen op Zoom and the surrounding villages founded the association '**Friends of the Fortification Roovere**', which made plans for restoring the remnants of this fort and other parts of the defence line. They collected money and contracted a group of professional institutions to study the possibilities visualizing the defence line and fortifications in a so-called 'cultural main structure'. During the historic reconstruction differences in height, water tables and vegetation will be realized.

In Italy, the academic and professional practice of Museum Anthropology has frequently crossed its path with that of so-called "**spontaneous museography**". Its passionate and charismatic actors, auto-didactic researchers active all over the country since the 1970s, share the objective of preserving and promoting material and immaterial documentation on the Italian pre-industrial way of life. '**Simbdea**' has a long history of dialogue, research, collaboration and reflection on their objectives, aesthetics, methods and realizations. Members of the association are professional, academic as well as "spontaneous" museographers. The reciprocal influence between the two fields contributed to the enlarged and complex vision of "cultural heritage" that Simbdea "naturally" inherited from its anthropological perspective, and that is distinctive of the stand from which they continue exploring and collaborating to national and international museographic practice.

The '**Built Heritage Conservation Training Centre**' at **Banffy Castle** (Romania) teaches traditional building crafts skills. Since its inception the courses have been attended by over 800 students from 13 different countries. The project incorporates the twin approach of "Conservation through Training" and "Training through Conservation" by teaching students directly on the buildings and undertaking the restoration of the castle at the same time. The international dimension offers extensive opportunity for cross-border exchange of knowledge and expertise. The teaching has also been extended into local and regional schools and uses the built heritage to raise environmental awareness.

4. Involving the younger generations

Heritage education and the involvement of younger generation was one of the main themes of the conference. A special workshop was dedicated to this theme, but the importance of the involvement of youngsters was also present in many other contributions. Most participants did not consider heritage education as a classic way to 'inject factual knowledge' in young people. Instead, through education a 'platform of awareness' should be created among young people. The view was expressed that this is only possible when the young people are given the chance to attribute their own values and meanings to our heritage, even if these might often conflict with the values and meanings that we would like them to give.

The potential role of new technologies should not be underestimated, as they form an important part in the daily life of young people. It also became clear that, although it is important to involve the younger generations in heritage care and active citizenship, some socio-economic groups seem very difficult to reach.

EXAMPLES

'Traces of the past – Education for the future' is an educational programme which aims to restore the cultural heritage of Poland. The programme also looks for the connections among cultures and shows common responsibilities. The programme initiates youth actions dedicated to preservation and promotion of local cultural heritage. It is intended for students from middle and high schools, implemented during civic education, history, literature, art classes as well as within extra classes programmes. Students search for a historical monument in their region, learn about its history and take care of it, "adopt" a chosen object. Then, in cooperation with a local government and regional cultural institutions, they provide initiatives toward restoration of the monument. These activities serve to promote cultural heritage of a particular town and region. While participating in the project, youngsters rediscover the history of their home-place.

In the DVD project **'Treasures of Amsterdam'** young people from ethnic minorities living in Amsterdam (Netherlands) started to discover their rich heritage. They got to know the inside and outside of a monument and also the intriguing stories and information associated with it. In each of 11 instalments a different team of young people found out for themselves why monuments are so extraordinary. What made the project unique is that young people look at architecture, history and culture from their own perspective and see these things as they have never seen them before. Moreover, they are able to share that experience with many other young people through the modern-day medium of television.

In 2009, the Allard Pierson museum in Amsterdam (Netherlands) celebrated its 75th anniversary by showcasing new technologies that help to understand and enjoy cultural heritage in the exhibition '**The Future for our Past**'. This exhibition focused not only on innovative ways to digitise and showcase cultural heritage, but provided a rich, visual language that is in line with the current youth culture. The exhibition showed augmented reality on mobile devices (showing for example the Forum in Rome in 320 AD), allowed to walk with an avatar through the ruins and reconstructions of the villa of Livia (the wife of emperor Augustus) or showed the broken statue of a pharaoh being transported to its original state. By focusing on heritage education for youngsters, the exhibition made a firm statement on where the 'Future of the Past' lies.

To encourage young people to become more involved with our cultural heritage is of particular concern to the German Foundation for Monument Protection. In 2002 the foundation initiated the school project '**denkmal aktiv * Kulturerbe macht Schule**' ('Cultural Heritage in Young Hands'). More than thousand pupils belong to the nation-wide network. During the school year they work on and study cultural monuments on site, taking part in restoring and documenting the monument, and so getting to know monument protection first hand. The "Jugendbauhütte" projects (Youth Masonry Guilds) running in nine towns also proved to be a successful model. Over the course of a year of voluntary civic service young adults gained insight into old crafts and historical buildings. Practical activities introduced the participants to the basic know-how and skill demanded by protecting historical monuments and offered a platform for their future vocational orientation.

5. Volunteers and government

It was generally accepted during the discussions that there has to be a synergy between the voluntarism of active citizens and the mitigating professionalism and 'hard power' of governments. Complementarity in the activities of both volunteers and government is the key issue. NGOs should carefully guard their core business and priorities, such as raising awareness among politicians about the importance of heritage care, and playing the role of responsible, 'serious stakeholder'.

They should not become an instrument for the government to legitimate 'top-down' decisions. It is important that volunteers are convinced that their active citizenship as 'serious stakeholders' has the potential to fundamentally alter (and improve) the quality of democratic decision-making.

EXAMPLES

In 2007 the Dutch Governmental Service for Archaeology, Cultural landscape and Monuments (RACM) selected 100 intact **buildings from the reconstruction period** in the Netherlands for future incorporation in the Governmental List of Protected Monuments. Although this was considered as an interesting start, the private volunteer organization for cultural heritage 'Heemschut' stated that the selection was not representative. Particularly the absence of special categories, such as town halls and ensembles of houses, was the reason to start a proper inventory. Although some communities had made surveys of reconstruction buildings themselves, most of the work had to be done by volunteers. The results were compiled in a booklet. The brochure and this project evoked attention of the government and local authorities and public awareness by articles in the press and items on local and regional television stations. In the near future a second phase of this project will deal with the guidance of activities in individual cases, developing of a format for a survey and all types of media contributions to propagate the significance of the reconstruction period.

In several European countries the **conservation of the industrial heritage** relies heavily on groups of enthusiasts, research by Pam Moore (TICCIH) has shown. This is particularly true in the United Kingdom, where projects to restore and maintain such sites as wind and watermills, and the heritage of the water supply industry, would be unlikely to succeed without volunteers who devote both time and expertise to this task. Similar groups can also be found in other parts of Europe, for instance in Flanders and Denmark. Another way in which civil society helps to protect the industrial heritage is through the support of individual communities. In Sweden, for example, many sites in rural areas are cared for by the local people. This can take the form of renovation and preservation work, with subsequent presentation to visitors, or if a site cannot remain in its original use, in assisting in its adaptation to enable the building at least to survive.

A place on the Unesco representative list of intangible cultural heritage is the ultimate acceptance of any specific (intangible) tradition. This is also true for the **Old Limburgian Schuttersfeest** (OLS), an annual event involving some 170 local historical guilds. The event exists for more than several centuries in the Netherlands and Belgium. Unlike the Flemish government, however, the Dutch government didn't yet ratify the Unesco convention on intangible cultural heritage. So, the organisers of the OLS event plan to mobilise everyone that is involved with the event: the 7.000 participants, the thousands of visitors, the Flemish government, the provincial authorities of Dutch and Belgium Limburg. All these actors should convince the Dutch government to agree upon the convention, after which a nomination of the OLS event for the inscription on the Unesco list would be possible.

In the UK, **Black Environment Network** (BEN) is seen as the key representative of the interests of ethnic minorities in the context of the built and natural heritage. They are represented in key governmental and voluntary sector policy committees. The network significantly contributes to the policy and strategies for ethnic inclusion. BEN, as an organisation, is focused on ethnic minorities, but ethnic minorities are only one of many socially disadvantaged groups, and many key issues and solutions are generic. The BEN network therefore often speaks out on behalf of the interest of all socially disadvantaged groups. In order to strengthen the effect of policy development, BEN also produces discussion papers to fuel debate, publishes guidance and good practice examples, and provides a consultancy and advice service to support organisations working for change.

6. Heritage care and development

Several contributions demonstrated that heritage care can have obvious advantages for the development of local communities, both on a socio-economic and a cultural level. We should, however, try to prevent that heritage care becomes a mere instrument for a purely economic story. The line between catering the interest of heritage care and social cohesion on the one hand and economic interests on the other hand, often seems to be rather blurry. Heritage care should not become an empty façade for a series of (economic) activities that are detached from a community's true heritage.

EXAMPLES

Historic Revivals, such as the **Medieval Rose Festival in Rhodes** (Greece) have the dynamic to interact with the local communities and become very important for civil societies since they have a number of impacts on the host city, ranging from cultural, economic, social and environmental. The economic role of major historical events is to act as a catalyst for attracting visitors and increasing their average spend and length of stay. They are also seen as image-makers for the destination, creating a profile for destinations, positioning them in the market. They contribute to the conservation and promotion of heritage culture and heritage monuments while they enhance voluntarism and give the possibility to people of accessing active citizenship. Historic revivals are the outward manifestations of the identity of the community and provide a distinctive identifier of place and people.

Manx National Heritage has created a model for multi-site, interdisciplinary heritage management for defined territories of Europe. This model in the Isle of Man has attracted international attention from

many other European countries and has been recommended as “a model” by the Council of Europe’s “European Landscape Convention” committee. This model has been a vital factor in a new “national branding” strategy for economic and community benefit, linked to the promotion of a positive national identity. The case proves that a co-ordinated strategy for heritage promotion and management can result in a “revaluation” by the community of how it values its heritage assets. Such revaluation added the basis of added community stability and economic stimulus, while preserving the integrity of national or local identity as a positive aspect of “added value” for the future.

The activities at the **abbey domain of Roosendael** (Belgium) involve a great social commitment. Whenever possible, the association ‘Roosendael vzw’ looks for combinations with community work and community training, voluntary work, social employment, integration of mentally disabled persons and ex prisoners, activities with youths and young adults who received an alternative punishment, fighting poverty, integration of cultural minorities, development of independence, etc. Exactly because of the combination of concrete care for the heritage on the one hand and the social commitment on the other hand, Roosendael is known in Flanders as a pioneer. The reason is the integral, durable and socially integrated approach.

7. Local worlds and global village

Although the conference aimed at putting heritage care in a European setting, it became clear that the ‘local identity’ is a key issue in the activities of heritage volunteers. Active citizens seem to become interested in heritage care, when it is ‘localised’ or connected to a clear sense of place. This fits in the phenomenon of ‘glocalisation’: as a reaction to the globalising world, people tend to re-discover their local heritage and to appreciate the value of the heritage in their direct environment. Both evolutions are considered to be complementary.

However, some risks were identified in these evolutions. Firstly, there seems to be a risk of creating “cells of anti-modernist nostalgia”, when creating a local story that is complementary to the globalised world. Secondly, active citizenship in heritage care is supposed to create more (intercultural) dialogue with other groups and people, but a narrow view on local heritage has the danger to achieve exactly the opposite.

EXAMPLES

The collection and recording of the remains of the authentic **folk arts and folk culture in Hungary** is currently an important current issue. The traditional handicrafts, folk music and folk dance can be kept alive only if enough people are volunteering to take part in such activities. Civil organisations, such as the **Living Tradition Foundation**, have always been vital in popularizing and maintaining folk arts in Hungary. These organizations, once started as a hardly tolerated movement under the socialist regime, nowadays are confronted with the problems raised by the globalization.

The project '**Masques et Mascarades**', initiated by ANCT Gannat, has permitted to establish the foundations for a network for the safeguarding and promotion of 'mask' traditions in Europe. Nowadays, the project focuses on extending the reflection about these exchanges, as the ambivalence of masks permits the dialogue and the confrontation of viewpoints between generations, artistic disciplines, religions, territories... The mask potentially allows to uncover the common 'racines' of certain traditions, and at the same time it can be the support for a greater, shared imagination. The European Union is situated just there, in between historical links and a newly constructed project. The project aims to explore this parallel: meet the 'multiple faces' of Europe, confront them and interact with them, in order to construct something common.

Building on the growing cooperation between various Flemish cities and communities around tranquillity as heritage, Centrum Waerbeke launched in 2007 a digital platform, in which the various **manifestations of stillness or tranquillity** are opened up to a broad audience, including professionals and policymakers. The website is conceived and will in the near future be further developed as an inspiring 'digital tranquillity area', an open site and a democratic meeting-place for many different communities of practice with information and activities on silence and on tranquillity areas both in Flanders and abroad, on the environmental and cultural values of silence, on heritage, education, landscape care, accessibility...

The ASSET project (**Action to Strengthen Small European Towns**) has generated thought about the key role of towns related to the surrounding landscape and villages and the future importance of 'Localness' - food, energy and services - especially health, housing, retail, education and transport.

8. Motivating our volunteers

There are a whole series of potential reasons for people to engage in voluntary work:

- social contacts
- improving skills

- improving their social position/networking
- community building
- active interest in heritage
- ...

It is very important to know and understand these underlying motivations, as it is the key to stimulate the uptake of voluntary work and to motivate these volunteers more efficiently.

However, during the discussions it became clear that the attitude towards the status of volunteers and voluntary work is not universal.

EXAMPLES

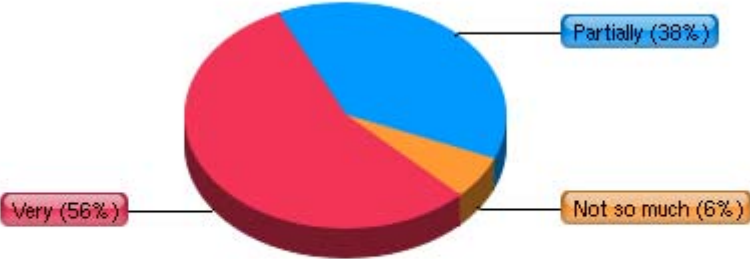
In the Flemish project '**Westhoek imag(in)es**' (Dutch: 'Westhoek verbeeldt'), volunteers play a very important role. Locals of the rural area search for pictures, postcards, posters and stories that have a public significance within their villages. They digitize the material independently and save it to a central database. Most of this material becomes accessible immediately via www.westhoekverbeeldt.be. This idea of providing volunteers with the technical tools to digitize their own cultural heritage turned out to be a great success. The main focus on images owned by private persons or organisations and the enhanced organisation which allows volunteers to deal with all aspects of the workflow, is what makes this project unique. The commitment and motivation of both volunteers and professionals is the foundation of the project.

Cultural heritage has become an important factor for identity building. In all aspects of research, communication and management civil society can play an important role and people can engage themselves, as it shown in the **Spessart project** in Germany. This can be done through prospection projects, archaeological excavations, heritage management programmes, the construction of cultural paths and many other activities. Such projects help to inform people about their own landscape at their own doorsteps and make them wardens for a good landscape management and heritage protection. The Spessart project shows the potential of (cultural) landscape as a place for civil society to engage and give examples of how a positive engagement of people for their landscape can be achieved.

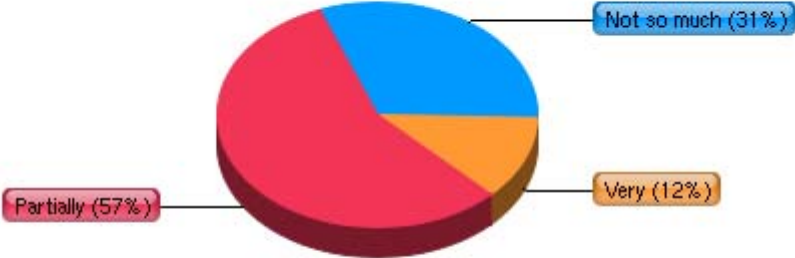
5. Evaluation of the conference

All participants of the conference 'Heritage Care through Active Citizenship' were invited to fill out an online questionnaire at the conference website. 86 people completed the survey. Some of the results are shown below.

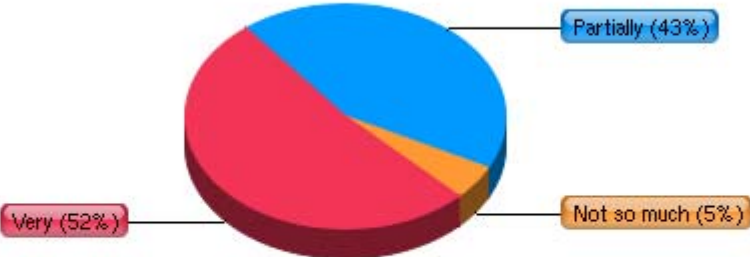
Did the conference fulfil your expectations?



Did the conference change your perception and attitude towards heritage and active citizenship?



Are you more convinced that the Framework-convention on the value of cultural heritage (Council of Europe, Faro, 2005) is of crucial importance for inspiring heritage policies in European countries?



Do you think it relevant to pursue international cooperation concerning voluntary work in the field of heritage?



6. Annexes

1. Conference programme

Monday 23 March

PLENARY SPEAKERS

Dag Myklebust (Directorate for Cultural Heritage, Norway)

From Oslo to Mechelen - via Portoroz

Annick Schramme (University of Antwerp, Belgium)

Civil society action in the field of heritage in Europe: strengths and weaknesses

Marc Jacobs (FARO. Flemish Interface for Cultural Heritage)

The Republic of Heritage. Citizenship, sustainable formal and informal networks and cultural dynamics

Simon Murray (National Trust, UK)

The National Trust's new approach to Heritage Care through Active Citizenship

WORKSHOPS

Workshop I: The local connection - Heritage, place & communities (chair: Philip A. Turner)

Philip A. Turner (ECOVAST - European Council for the Village and Small Town)

Citizen engagement in the Heritage and future of Small Towns and Landscapes

Paul Van Schoors (vzw Roosendael, Belgium)

An integral, durable and socially integrated approach: the Roosendael domain

Anna Achiola (Medieval Rose Association, Greece)

Historic Revivals and their Influence on Local Communities - Showcasing the Medieval Festival of Rhodes

Alexandra Kapetanovic & Snezana Pejovic (Montenegro)

Activities of NGOs in the field of cultural heritage in Montenegro: EXPEDITIO & NOTAR

Stephen Harrison (Manx National Heritage)

The Story of Mann – an expression of local, national and international value for heritage identity

David Baxter (Built Heritage Conservation Training Centre, Banffy Castle Bontida) & Csilla Hegedus (Transylvania Trust, Romania)

Community building through revitalising cultural heritage. Case Study: Transylvania Trust, Romania

Dirk Sturtewagen & Joris Capenberghs (Centrum Waerbeke, Belgium)

Communities of Practice around Silence, Quiet and Open Space in Flanders

Gerhard Ermischer (Spessart Projekt, Germany)

Cultural landscape as place for civil society engagement in heritage management

Workshop II: The people connection - Heritage & volunteers (chair: Marc Jacobs)

Sara Crofts (Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, UK)

Faith in Maintenance – Helping Volunteers Care for Historic Places of Worship

Holger Rescher (German Foundation for Monument Protection)

So that the past has a future - the German Foundation for Monument Protection

Ans van den Berg (Stichting Vrienden van de West Brabantse Waterlinie, Netherlands)

Restoration of historic defence lines originating from the eighty years war

Philipp Breidenbach (Stowarzyszenie Wspólnota Kulturowa "Borussia" (culture community), Poland)

Between open-air museum and modern times

Pam Moore (TICCIH)

The Role of Volunteers from Civil Society in the Conservation of the Industrial Heritage of Europe

Liesbeth Thiers (CO7, Belgium)

'Westhoek imag(in)es': a regional image base made by volunteers

Tihana Stepinac Fabijanac (ECOVAST Croatia)

Restoring traditional buildings in Croatia

Gergely Palla (The Living Tradition Foundation, Hungary)

Civil organisations in the Hungarian folk culture

Workshop III: The trans-border connection - Heritage & networks (chair: Angus Fowler)

Angus Fowler (Germany)

Transnational Networks

Joan Munt & Adriaan Linters (EFAITH)

EFAITH: a network of European Industrial and Technical Associations

Pieter Caljé (Grensschap Albertkanaal, Netherlands-Belgium)

Grensschap Albertkanaal: a gaze protecting landscape values and creating cross border unity

Raphaël Souchier (ADD Europe, France)

Heritage Care through Active Citizenship: what does it take?

Tijl Vereenoghe (Belgium)

Towards an inventory of heritage organisations in Europe

Olivier Muzellec (Le Non Lieu, Roubaix)

Des 'totems roubaisiens' aux 'belfrois du travail/belforten van de arbeid'

Anne-Sophie Buffat (Réseau Art Nouveau Network)

Réseau Art Nouveau Network: increasing civil society awareness of Art Nouveau heritage

Aleksandra Kapetanovic

South-East Europe Heritage Network (SEE Heritage)

Piret Noorhani (Baltic Heritage Network, Estonia)

Networking the Cultural Heritage of the Baltic Diaspora

Orane Proisy (Ministère de la Culture, France)

HEREIN - Le Réseau européen du patrimoine

Workshop IV: The transmission of cultural heritage: intangible heritage and heritage education (chairs:

Renaud Albasini & Marianna Hajdukiewicz)

Pierre-Julien Canonne (ANCT Gannat, France)

Masques et Mascarades - Faces multiples d'Europe

Cyrill Renz (CIOFF Suisse)

Système d'Inventaire des expressions traditionnelles

CIOFF - Cultural Commission

Revitalisation des jeux traditionnels

Renaud Albasini (CIOFF)

Mutra Fondation for traditional music - Three countries one culture

Marianna Hajdukiewicz (Center for Citizenship Education, Poland):

Traces of the Past - Education for the Future

Darko Babic & Zeljka Miklosevic (University of Zagreb / Wind Rose Association, Croatia)

Heritage literacy

Daniel Pletinckx (Visual Dimension, Belgium)

The Future for our Past: ICT supports cultural heritage understanding

Karel Loeff (Netherlands)

Treasures of Amsterdam

Tuesday 24 March

PLENARY SPEAKERS

Hervé Glevarec (CNRS, France)

Le souci patrimonial amateur comme enracinement

Sneška Quaadvlieg-Mihailović (Europa Nostra)

Building a structured dialogue between civil society and European decision makers

Kristin Kuutma (University of Tartu, Estonia)

Cultural Heritage and the Empowerment of Communities: Challenges of Representation and Politics

Daniel Thérond (Council of Europe - Directorate of Culture and Cultural and Natural Heritage)

Innovative approaches of the Faro Council of Europe Convention and shared responsibility for cultural heritage

WORKSHOPS

Workshop V: Call for action - Active citizenship in the field (chairs: Paul Van Schoors)

Judy Ling Wong (Black Environment Network)

Making (heritage) policy relevant for ethnic minorities and other disadvantaged groups

Aytekin Imranova ('Protection of historic-cultural and natural heritage' Public Control Committee, Azerbaijan)

Protection of historical-cultural and natural heritage in Azerbaijan and activities of NGOs

Elisabeth Seip (Fortidsminneforeningen, Norway)

Heritage Care and NGOs in a Changing Society

Karel Dendooven & Eva Van Hoye (Belgium)

Heritage NGOs in Flanders and the Flemish heritage policy

Workshop VI: Call for action - Active citizenship in the field (chairs: Rupert Strachwitz)

Bernhard Furrer (Switzerland)

L'ancrage des organisations volontaires dans la législation - un élément important pour leur perception par la société

Sandra Ferracuti (Simbdea, Italy)

Small, rebellious museums. Heritage awaiting a succession

Willem Heijbroek (Cultural Heritage Organization Heemschut, Netherlands)

Future listed buildings and ensembles from the reconstruction period (1940-1965) in the Netherlands

Peter Ressen & Luc Wolters (Oud Limburgse Schuttersfederatie, Belgium-Netherlands)

Push your government. The Old-Limburgian Schuttersfeast as intangible cultural heritage

Johan De Vriendt (Belgium)

Heritage Community Doel



2. Intervention de Daniel Thérond

Council of Europe – Conseil de l'Europe

Mechelen, 24 mars 2009

At the end of such an outstanding conference involving many representatives of the European civil society I am expected to provide information about the innovative approaches of the Faro Council of Europe Convention and comment upon shared responsibility for cultural heritage. In fact, bearing in mind the title of your conference and the examples brought up during its plenary and parallel sessions it clearly appears that there are direct links between the input of this event and the “spirit of Faro”.

While the 1972 UNESCO Convention underlines the concept of the “outstanding universal value” of certain sites which means they need to be preserved as part of the heritage of humankind, the Council of Europe’s action has, from the outset, involved a comprehensive approach to the built heritage encompassing urban and rural architecture and the interstitial elements of the heritage fabric in their diversity. From this angle the Granada Convention on the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe emphasized, as we know, the fundamental pillars of heritage policies: inventory, legal protection, sanctions, integrated conservation strategies, information, awareness-raising and training. The co-operation undertaken thereafter broadened the areas covered and led to substantial changes in the concepts. The 1992 Valetta European Convention on the Archaeological Heritage still dealt with the legal protection and conservation of cultural remains. However, the scope of the European Landscape Convention adopted in Florence in 2000 was not restricted to the protection but extended to establishing quality standards covering all areas.

The Faro Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society, opened for signature in Faro in October 2005, takes a different approach from the previous international instruments. It does not challenge the Council of Europe and UNESCO existing conventions on heritage, but supplements them. The text focuses on individuals, alone or collectively, not on objects. It alludes to the process of looking after and exploiting these objects. The updated holistic approaches of heritage as implied in

the Faro and Florence conventions take us beyond the physical preservation of historic assets. They reflect the interaction between people and their world but also the social and cultural interactions amongst and between people. The goals concern the management of change throughout the whole environment.

What are the main benefits of the text in conceptual terms?

First of all, the Faro Convention does not describe protective mechanisms, which are already covered in other reference texts. Instead, it is an instrument which sets out some strong principles and creates a common think-tank for European countries about the use and value of heritage in the light of globalisation and various hazards. It links the states which have ratified it in joint efforts to find the ways and means of establishing a democratic culture for people's living environment.

1. Article 1 sets the tone; the *"rights relating to cultural heritage"* are recognised as being inherent in individuals' right to participate in cultural life within the meaning of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It does not grant these rights which existed before the Convention but offers an opportunity to facilitate the responsible exercise of these rights.

2. One innovation is to be found in Article 2, which proposes a ***novel, cross-sectoral definition: cultural heritage is a group of resources inherited from the past which people identify, independently of ownership, as a reflection and expression of their constantly evolving values, beliefs, knowledge and traditions. It includes all aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time.*** In a promotion book of the Convention of Faro which is being prepared by the COE, Graham FAIRCLOUGH observed that there are no significant temporal boundaries or limits to heritage in such a definition. It can begin as recently as yesterday and there is even an emerging concept of future heritage, as a way to inject quality and historic durability into new developments. Therefore this Convention paves the way for removing or re-constructing some of heritage's traditional frontiers. In the past heritage has been mainly referred as an "asset" like capital in a pensions fund vault. Considering heritage as a resource means that there are users and people who will benefit from the use, individually or within living communities.

3. Paragraph b of the article also introduces the concept of ***heritage communities*** consisting of people *who value specific aspects of cultural heritage which they wish, within the framework of public action, to sustain and transmit to future generations.* The new heritage approach of the Convention tries to put these people at the centre not on the periphery of the debate. Awareness of heritage may therefore result not only from "sovereign" decisions but also from the aspirations of population groups which are not necessarily linked by a language, ethnicity or even a common past but are, in any event, bound by a deliberate, shared commitment. By the way we realize this afternoon that members of such communities are sitting in this room, not to mention all those working in the field for the success of local development projects.

There is an implicit distinction however between awareness of a heritage interest by a particular population group and recognition by the relevant authorities of the public interest that could justify legal protection and public funding. Over decades has been, developed the assumption that heritage was only that which could be afforded, financially speaking and that state funding was the only way to protect heritage. This is a “serious confusion of ends and means” (Graham FAIRCLOUGH): “Not all heritage needs public subsidy, and not all heritage needs designation”. The inherited aspects of a place may be valued by the local community before and irrespective of its designated status.

4. The concept of heritage communities must be related to the *shared responsibility for cultural heritage and public participation*. Section III sets out in much greater detail than other texts the principles of shared responsibilities and the arrangements for access and participation. This is a plus of the convention, which does not just mention the decentralisation of decision-making but also refers to the effective participation of individuals and heritage communities in the processes of identification, interpretation and conservation. In particular, this involves recognition of the role of voluntary organisations as constructive critics and the need to establish structures facilitating dialogue and effective partnerships (Articles 4, 11 and 12).

The relevant provisions should lead to an interesting debate about the respective roles of the public and experts and about changes in the profiles of certain professionals who are required, much more frequently than in the recent past, to act as interpreters and facilitators, without, of course, that involving an overall decline in the essential technical expertise and know-how. This is a long-term undertaking but one which deserves real effort if we want to encourage awareness of the value of “their” heritage among new generations of voters and taxpayers in the perhaps not too distant future.

5. An other conceptual innovation lies in the definition for the first time of the *common heritage of Europe* (Article 3), which is said to comprise not only all forms of cultural heritage which together constitute a shared source of remembrance, understanding and creativity but also the intangible heritage of ideals, principles and values which underpin the development in Europe of a peaceful and stable society, founded on respect for human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

The advantage of this concept can be seen particularly in regions of Europe affected by political changes and movements of borders. Trends in migration, including within individual countries, are breaking down the supposed traditional links between given regions, communities and cultures. The emergence of multicultural societies calls for other angles of approach to the heritage concept. From this point of view, heritage can be adopted as well as inherited. In line with the approach of heritage communities, all individuals have the option of identifying with one or more forms of tangible or intangible heritage, which reflect their past or present, the only conceptual restriction being of course respect for the fundamental values reflected in particular in the case-law of the European Court of

Human Rights. In the context of a multiple cultural affiliated Europe the question seems to become not “whose” heritage but “which” heritage.

Dans un souci de diversité culturelle continuons à présent ces remarques en français.

Mais par delà ces grands principes à quoi s’engagent encore les parties ?

L’esprit de Faro se réfère au partage de responsabilité et au partenariat. Les pouvoirs publics ne sont pas toutefois déchargés de leur propre responsabilité. Il leur revient en effet de fixer les règles du jeu et d’être les garants moraux de l’intérêt que représente les patrimoines pour toute la société.

Par delà la reconnaissance de l’intérêt public de certains éléments patrimoniaux, qui peut justifier des soutiens publics, les parties s’engagent à **reconnaître la valeur du patrimoine culturel situé sur les territoires relevant de leur juridiction, quelle que soit son origine**. Il existe des patrimoines devenus orphelins du fait de changement des frontières ou de bouleversements politiques. Ils sont pourtant une richesse et un atout pour les régions où ils se trouvent. Il appartient aux pouvoirs publics, selon la convention, à la fois de faciliter l’identification et la valorisation aux yeux de tous de l’ensemble du potentiel patrimonial des territoires et de mettre en œuvre des politiques et stratégies intégrées servant les objectifs simultanés de la diversité culturelle et du développement durable. Selon une expression de la société de la connaissance (knowledge based society) on parlerait ici « d’intelligence territoriale » à savoir une démarche revenant à tirer le meilleur parti possible des savoir et savoir faire d’un territoire dans les perspectives d’un progrès collectif équilibré créant non seulement de l’emploi mais encore du lien social.

Ce qui a été écrit en 2005 par les rédacteurs de Faro a aujourd’hui une singulière résonance en observant aussi bien les incidences de l’actuelle crise économique mondiale que des perspectives de risques écologiques tels que les effets du changement climatique. A l’évidence l’esprit des Conventions de Florence et surtout de Faro conduit à penser que les patrimoines culturels et paysagers vont avoir un rôle à jouer non pas seulement en tant qu’objets mais en tant que sujets et facteurs actifs dans le débat sur l’imagination de nouvelles formes d’économie et de société.

Les Parties ratifiant Faro s’engagent à concevoir et à mettre en oeuvre des politiques intersectorielles à travers une synergie d’interventions (publiques, privées, bénévoles et associatives) développées désormais le plus souvent en partenariat. Evoquons en rapidement quelques aspects.

Afin que les citoyens soient en mesure d’exercer leur « droit au patrimoine » l’article 7 vise **l’éducation au patrimoine** et l’aptitude au **dialogue interculturel** en respectant la diversité des possibles interprétations, en particulier dans des situations où des valeurs contradictoires sont attribuées au même patrimoine par diverses communautés. La démarche ne devrait pas être limitée à quelques

projets de démonstration mais relayée aux stades divers de l'éducation et de la formation tout au long de la vie.

D'autres articles (8 à 10) visent l'usage durable des ressources et la créativité dans l'environnement contemporain. La Convention de Faro rappelle ainsi un éventail de mesures telles que l'entretien régulier, l'élaboration de normes techniques adaptées au patrimoine dans le secteur du bâtiment, l'étude et l'amélioration des matériaux traditionnels ainsi que le réexamen des compétences, des systèmes de qualifications ou d'accréditation des professionnels. Les auteurs de la Convention ne sont pas entrés par contre, pour éviter toute confusion, sur le terrain des industries culturelles couvert par la Convention de l'UNESCO sur la protection et la promotion de la diversité des expressions culturelles. Pour autant qu'elle n'épuise pas le potentiel des ressources patrimoniales la création (ou la re-création) s'inscrit cependant d'emblée dans la philosophie de Faro.

Notons d'ailleurs à cette occasion que la relation entre patrimoine, innovation et créativité est le thème choisi en 2009 du Forum européen des Journées Européennes du Patrimoine, action conjointe du Conseil de l'Europe et de la Commission Européenne.

En vue d'aider les divers partenaires ayant une responsabilité partagée dans la suite du processus, la Convention de Faro fait plus de place que d'autres instruments à son propre mécanisme de suivi. Elle invite au développement d'un système structuré d'information et d'échange de bonnes pratiques (benchmarking). Cette fonction d'observatoire est d'ores et déjà préfigurée par le Conseil de l'Europe avec le renforcement en 2009 du système HEREIN servant au suivi de conventions très largement ratifiées et en vigueur. On comprend d'autant mieux l'importance d'outils d'assistance et de suivi partagé que l'intérêt de la Convention de Faro est de resituer le patrimoine dans la gestion du changement et dans une vision prospective. Il s'agit de travailler sur la valeur ajoutée que représente le patrimoine culturel et paysager pour les territoires, ce qui appelle ainsi une collaboration européenne continue pour mieux analyser et comprendre ensemble des données multiples, parfois contradictoires et en constante évolution. Il s'agit par ce travail collectif de rechercher des indicateurs et des critères d'intervention face à des enjeux devenus de plus en plus complexes. La place de la société civile devrait être croissante dans un exercice transversal qui ne peut se limiter à impliquer les seuls professionnels du secteur.

Ainsi la Convention de Faro, cadre de référence évolutif et fédérateur en Europe pour toutes les communautés patrimoniales, traite en définitive plus de l'avenir que de la simple actualité du patrimoine. Espérons, de ce point de vue, qu'un mouvement d'opinion favorable en facilitera la diffusion et surtout dans les prochains mois la ratification puis l'entrée en vigueur. Les participants à la présente conférence ont un rôle à jouer dans la promotion de l'instrument.

Pour conclure comment ne pas toujours rappeler que le patrimoine, au sens de Faro, est moins un projet fini et rétrospectif qu'une construction sociétale en perpétuel recommencement.

3. Declaration on the role of voluntary organisations in the field of cultural heritage

5th European Conference of Ministers responsible for the cultural heritage

Portoroz, Slovenia, 5-7 April 2001

Introduction

The Ministers responsible for the cultural heritage decided at their 4th European Conference in Helsinki in 1996 to look into the situation of voluntary organisations dedicated to cultural heritage protection. The Cultural Heritage Committee of the Council of Europe followed this up, and included such an activity into its working programme. This led to the First European Conference on Voluntary Organisations in the field of Cultural Heritage, which was hosted by the Council of Europe, the Norwegian Ministry of Environment, the Norwegian Directorate for Cultural Heritage and Fortidsminneforeningen, the latter being probably the oldest association of its kind still active, having been founded in 1844.

The Conference gathered 170 participants from 34 countries, and was considered by many as a great promotion of voluntary work concerning our heritage. However, the true results can only be measured by how the ideas of this conference are followed up in the member countries of the Council of Europe. The participants had extensive discussions, which resulted in a general agreement on some basic principles for the voluntary sector in modern democratic societies. There was also a proposal to put these principles into a formal document. In the perspective of the forthcoming 5th European Conference of Ministers responsible for the cultural heritage, in Slovenia in April 2001, this has been given the form of a Ministers' declaration.

The principles formulated in the following draft are all based on the general principles for respecting human rights, the rule of law and pluralist democracy that all member States of the Council of Europe already have committed themselves to through their membership of the Council.

Declaration on the role of voluntary organisations in the field of Cultural Heritage.

Meeting in Portorož (Slovenia) on 6-7 April 2001 for their 5th European Conference, the Ministers responsible for the Cultural Heritage of the States party to the European Cultural Convention,

- referring to Article 11 of the European Convention on Human Rights, granting everybody the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and to freedom of association with others,
- taking into account also Article 10 of the same Convention concerning everyone's right to freedom of expression,
- reiterating the statement made by the Ministers responsible for the cultural heritage at their 4th European Conference in Helsinki in 1996 that "the role of voluntary organisations should be more effectively promoted, used and encouraged by taking into account the major contributions made by voluntary initiatives in building a democratic society",
- pointing to the fact that the year 2001 has been proclaimed the International Year of Volunteers by the United Nations,
- referring to the UNECE Convention on access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters,
- referring to Recommendation 1496 (2001) adopted by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on 24 January 2001 on Improving the status and role of volunteers,
- underlining the important conclusions made by the First European Conference on voluntary organisations in the field of cultural heritage held in Oslo on 21-24 September 2000,
- at the same time acknowledging that the main responsibility for the protection of the cultural heritage remains with governmental authorities,

ADOPT THE FOLLOWING DECLARATION ON THE ROLE OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS IN THE FIELD OF CULTURAL HERITAGE:

WE, the European Ministers responsible for the Cultural Heritage, AGREE that the general principles valid for all voluntary organisations are also valid for those working in the cultural heritage field;

REQUEST public authorities in our member states to base their action regarding voluntary work upon the following principles;

1. The existence of voluntary organisations is important to building and consolidating societies based on pluralistic political democracy.
2. Voluntary organisations run according to democratic principles are essential in educating people in true democracy.
3. The right to establish voluntary organisations is an integral part of human rights and should be encouraged by all governments.
4. Voluntary organisations should be granted full freedom of speech, whilst respecting the normal limitations necessary in a

democratic society.

5. Voluntary organisations should have access to the information necessary to facilitate their role of monitoring and constructive criticism of the heritage protection policies of public authorities.

6. Voluntary organisations should be given an appropriate opportunity to participate in decision-making processes, for instance in spatial planning and the selection of monuments and sites for protection.

7. Voluntary organisations should be encouraged to supplement governmental and other public work, taking on responsibilities that do not normally or naturally fall within the responsibilities of such agencies.

8. Governments should encourage voluntary organisations to take an active part in preventing conflicts by respecting cultural diversity and encouraging the protection of the culture of others.

9. The establishment and work of voluntary organisations should not in any way be hindered by bureaucratic mismanagement.

10. So far as possible, public authorities should implement financial measures to encourage and assist the development of voluntary organisations.

11. Financial measures should be available without limiting the ability of voluntary organisations to fulfil their role as constructive critics of government policies.

12. Financial measures should be transparent and easily accessible in order to achieve democratic accountability in the distribution of available resources.

13. Voluntary organisations are essential for disseminating knowledge to the public at large in the framework of their mission.

14. Co-operation between cultural heritage and other organisations should be encouraged, in order to secure a trans-sectoral and coherent policy for the conservation of the environment as a whole.

15. Voluntary organisations should establish their credibility through their achievements, standards and ability to take responsibility.

16. Voluntary organisations should respect legislation in their field, but should be encouraged to propose improvements if need be.

17. Voluntary organisations should have access to training in order to enhance their competence as active participants in society's protection of the cultural heritage.

WE, the Ministers responsible for the cultural heritage URGE the Council of Europe to:

- set up a twinning system where associations are made between new voluntary cultural heritage organisations and well established ones;
- secure a regular contact forum in the form of European conferences for voluntary organisations in the cultural heritage field by utilising existing structures, when possible;
- develop the European heritage network (HEREIN) as a portal to an electronic forum where voluntary organisations can communicate and liaise.

Final Declaration

The European Ministers responsible for the cultural heritage, on the occasion of their fifth conference, held in Portoroz on 6-7 April 2001, express their warm gratitude to the Slovenian government for all its efforts, which ensured the success of the Conference, and their congratulations on the perfect organisation of the event.

4. Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (Faro, 2005)

Preamble

The member States of the Council of Europe, Signatories hereto,

Considering that one of the aims of the Council of Europe is to achieve greater unity between its members for the purpose of safeguarding and fostering the ideals and principles, founded upon respect for human rights, democracy and the rule of law, which are their common heritage;

Recognising the need to put people and human values at the centre of an enlarged and cross-disciplinary concept of cultural heritage;

Emphasising the value and potential of cultural heritage wisely used as a resource for sustainable development and quality of life in a constantly evolving society;

Recognising that every person has a right to engage with the cultural heritage of their choice, while respecting the rights and freedoms of others, as an aspect of the right freely to participate in cultural life enshrined in the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) and guaranteed by the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966);

Convinced of the need to involve everyone in society in the ongoing process of defining and managing cultural heritage;

Convinced of the soundness of the principle of heritage policies and educational initiatives which treat all cultural heritages equitably and so promote dialogue among cultures and religions;

Referring to the various instruments of the Council of Europe, in particular the European Cultural Convention (1954), the Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (1985), the European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (1992, revised) and the European Landscape Convention (2000);

Convinced of the importance of creating a pan-European framework for co-operation in the dynamic process of putting these principles into effect;

Have agreed as follows:

Section I – Aims, definitions and principles

Article 1 – Aims of the Convention

The Parties to this Convention agree to:

- a recognise that rights relating to cultural heritage are inherent in the right to participate in cultural life, as defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
- b recognise individual and collective responsibility towards cultural heritage;
- c emphasise that the conservation of cultural heritage and its sustainable use have human development and quality of life as their goal;
- d take the necessary steps to apply the provisions of this Convention concerning:
 - the role of cultural heritage in the construction of a peaceful and democratic society, and in the processes of sustainable development and the promotion of cultural diversity;
 - greater synergy of competencies among all the public, institutional and private actors concerned.

Article 2 – Definitions

For the purposes of this Convention,

- a cultural heritage is a group of resources inherited from the past which people identify, independently of ownership, as a reflection and expression of their constantly evolving values, beliefs, knowledge and traditions. It includes all aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time;
- b a heritage community consists of people who value specific aspects of cultural heritage which they wish, within the framework of public action, to sustain and transmit to future generations.

Article 3 – The common heritage of Europe

The Parties agree to promote an understanding of the common heritage of Europe, which consists of:

- a all forms of cultural heritage in Europe which together constitute a shared source of remembrance, understanding, identity, cohesion and creativity, and
- b the ideals, principles and values, derived from the experience gained through progress and past conflicts, which foster the development of a peaceful and stable society, founded on respect for human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

Article 4 – Rights and responsibilities relating to cultural heritage

The Parties recognise that:

- a everyone, alone or collectively, has the right to benefit from the cultural heritage and to contribute towards its enrichment;
- b everyone, alone or collectively, has the responsibility to respect the cultural heritage of others as much as their own heritage, and consequently the common heritage of Europe;
- c exercise of the right to cultural heritage may be subject only to those restrictions which are necessary in a democratic society for the protection of the public interest and the rights and freedoms of others.

Article 5 – Cultural heritage law and policies

The Parties undertake to:

- a recognise the public interest associated with elements of the cultural heritage in accordance with their importance to society;
- b enhance the value of the cultural heritage through its identification, study, interpretation, protection, conservation and presentation;
- c ensure, in the specific context of each Party, that legislative provisions exist for exercising the right to cultural heritage as defined in Article 4;
- d foster an economic and social climate which supports participation in cultural heritage activities;
- e promote cultural heritage protection as a central factor in the mutually supporting objectives of sustainable development, cultural diversity and contemporary creativity;
- f recognise the value of cultural heritage situated on territories under their jurisdiction, regardless of its origin;
- g formulate integrated strategies to facilitate the implementation of the provisions of this Convention.

Article 6 – Effects of the Convention

No provision of this Convention shall be interpreted so as to:

- a limit or undermine the human rights and fundamental freedoms which may be safeguarded by international instruments, in particular, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms;

b affect more favourable provisions concerning cultural heritage and environment contained in other national or international legal instruments;

c create enforceable rights.

Section II – Contribution of cultural heritage to society and human development

Article 7 – Cultural heritage and dialogue

The Parties undertake, through the public authorities and other competent bodies, to:

a encourage reflection on the ethics and methods of presentation of the cultural heritage, as well as respect for diversity of interpretations;

b establish processes for conciliation to deal equitably with situations where contradictory values are placed on the same cultural heritage by different communities;

c develop knowledge of cultural heritage as a resource to facilitate peaceful co-existence by promoting trust and mutual understanding with a view to resolution and prevention of conflicts;

d integrate these approaches into all aspects of lifelong education and training.

Article 8 – Environment, heritage and quality of life

The Parties undertake to utilise all heritage aspects of the cultural environment to:

a enrich the processes of economic, political, social and cultural development and land-use planning, resorting to cultural heritage impact assessments and adopting mitigation strategies where necessary;

b promote an integrated approach to policies concerning cultural, biological, geological and landscape diversity to achieve a balance between these elements;

c reinforce social cohesion by fostering a sense of shared responsibility towards the places in which people live;

d promote the objective of quality in contemporary additions to the environment without endangering its cultural values.

Article 9 – Sustainable use of the cultural heritage

To sustain the cultural heritage, the Parties undertake to:

a promote respect for the integrity of the cultural heritage by ensuring that decisions about change include an understanding of the cultural values involved;

b define and promote principles for sustainable management, and to encourage maintenance;

c ensure that all general technical regulations take account of the specific conservation requirements of cultural heritage;

d promote the use of materials, techniques and skills based on tradition, and explore their potential for contemporary applications;

e promote high-quality work through systems of professional qualifications and accreditation for individuals, businesses and institutions.

Article 10 – Cultural heritage and economic activity

In order to make full use of the potential of the cultural heritage as a factor in sustainable economic development, the Parties undertake to:

a raise awareness and utilise the economic potential of the cultural heritage;

b take into account the specific character and interests of the cultural heritage when devising economic policies; and

c ensure that these policies respect the integrity of the cultural heritage without compromising its inherent values.

Section III – Shared responsibility for cultural heritage and public participation

Article 11 – The organisation of public responsibilities for cultural heritage

In the management of the cultural heritage, the Parties undertake to:

- a promote an integrated and well-informed approach by public authorities in all sectors and at all levels;
- b develop the legal, financial and professional frameworks which make possible joint action by public authorities, experts, owners, investors, businesses, non-governmental organisations and civil society;
- c develop innovative ways for public authorities to co-operate with other actors;
- d respect and encourage voluntary initiatives which complement the roles of public authorities;
- e encourage non-governmental organisations concerned with heritage conservation to act in the public interest.

Article 12 – Access to cultural heritage and democratic participation

The Parties undertake to:

- a encourage everyone to participate in:
 - the process of identification, study, interpretation, protection, conservation and presentation of the cultural heritage ;
 - public reflection and debate on the opportunities and challenges which the cultural heritage represents;
- b take into consideration the value attached by each heritage community to the cultural heritage with which it identifies;
- c recognise the role of voluntary organisations both as partners in activities and as constructive critics of cultural heritage policies;
- d take steps to improve access to the heritage, especially among young people and the disadvantaged, in order to raise awareness about its value, the need to maintain and preserve it, and the benefits which may be derived from it.

Article 13 – Cultural heritage and knowledge

The Parties undertake to:

- a facilitate the inclusion of the cultural heritage dimension at all levels of education, not necessarily as a subject of study in its own right, but as a fertile source for studies in other subjects;
- b strengthen the link between cultural heritage education and vocational training;
- c encourage interdisciplinary research on cultural heritage, heritage communities, the environment and their inter-relationship;
- d encourage continuous professional training and the exchange of knowledge and skills, both within and outside the educational system.

Article 14 – Cultural heritage and the information society

The Parties undertake to develop the use of digital technology to enhance access to cultural heritage and the benefits which derive from it, by:

- a encouraging initiatives which promote the quality of contents and endeavour to secure diversity of languages and cultures in the information society;
- b supporting internationally compatible standards for the study, conservation, enhancement and security of cultural heritage, whilst combating illicit trafficking in cultural property;

c seeking to resolve obstacles to access to information relating to cultural heritage, particularly for educational purposes, whilst protecting intellectual property rights;

d recognising that the creation of digital contents related to the heritage should not prejudice the conservation of the existing heritage.

Section IV – Monitoring and co-operation

Article 15 – Undertakings of the Parties

The Parties undertake to:

a develop, through the Council of Europe, a monitoring function covering legislations, policies and practices concerning cultural heritage, consistent with the principles established by this Convention;

b maintain, develop and contribute data to a shared information system, accessible to the public, which facilitates assessment of how each Party fulfils its commitments under this Convention.

Article 16 – Monitoring mechanism

a The Committee of Ministers, pursuant to Article 17 of the Statute of the Council of Europe, shall nominate an appropriate committee or specify an existing committee to monitor the application of the Convention, which will be authorised to make rules for the conduct of its business;

b The nominated committee shall:

– establish rules of procedure as necessary;

– manage the shared information system referred to in Article 15, maintaining an overview of the means by which each commitment under this Convention is met;

– at the request of one or more Parties, give an advisory opinion on any question relating to the interpretation of the Convention, taking into consideration all Council of Europe legal instruments;

– on the initiative of one or more Parties, undertake an evaluation of any aspect of their implementation of the Convention;

– foster the trans-sectoral application of this Convention by collaborating with other committees and participating in other initiatives of the Council of Europe;

– report to the Committee of Ministers on its activities.

The committee may involve experts and observers in its work.

Article 17 – Co-operation in follow-up activities

The Parties undertake to co-operate with each other and through the Council of Europe in pursuing the aims and principles of this Convention, and especially in promoting recognition of the common heritage of Europe, by:

a putting in place collaborative strategies to address priorities identified through the monitoring process;

b fostering multilateral and transfrontier activities, and developing networks for regional co-operation in order to implement these strategies;

c exchanging, developing, codifying and assuring the dissemination of good practices;

d informing the public about the aims and implementation of this Convention.

Any Parties may, by mutual agreement, make financial arrangements to facilitate international co-operation.

Section V – Final clauses

Article 18 – Signature and entry into force

- a This Convention shall be open for signature by the member States of the Council of Europe.
- b It shall be subject to ratification, acceptance or approval. Instruments of ratification, acceptance or approval shall be deposited with the Secretary General of the Council of Europe.
- c This Convention shall enter into force on the first day of the month following the expiration of a period of three months after the date on which ten member States of the Council of Europe have expressed their consent to be bound by the Convention in accordance with the provisions of the preceding paragraph.
- d In respect of any signatory State which subsequently expresses its consent to be bound by it, this Convention shall enter into force on the first day of the month following the expiration of a period of three months after the date of deposit of the instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval.

Article 19 – Accession

- a After the entry into force of this Convention, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe may invite any State not a member of the Council of Europe, and the European Community, to accede to the Convention by a decision taken by the majority provided for in Article 20.d of the Statute of the Council of Europe and by the unanimous vote of the representatives of the Contracting States entitled to sit on the Committee of Ministers.
- b In respect of any acceding State, or the European Community in the event of its accession, this Convention shall enter into force on the first day of the month following the expiration of a period of three months after the date of deposit of the instrument of accession with the Secretary General of the Council of Europe.

Article 20 – Territorial application

- a Any State may, at the time of signature or when depositing its instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, specify the territory or territories to which this Convention shall apply.
- b Any State may, at any later date, by a declaration addressed to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, extend the application of this Convention to any other territory specified in the declaration. In respect of such territory, the Convention shall enter into force on the first day of the month following the expiration of a period of three months after the date of receipt of such declaration by the Secretary General.
- c Any declaration made under the two preceding paragraphs may, in respect of any territory specified in such declaration, be withdrawn by a notification addressed to the Secretary General. The withdrawal shall become effective on the first day of the month following the expiration of a period of six months after the date of receipt of such notification by the Secretary General.

Article 21 – Denunciation

- a Any Party may, at any time, denounce this Convention by means of a notification addressed to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe.
- b Such denunciation shall become effective on the first day of the month following the expiration of a period of six months after the date of receipt of the notification by the Secretary General.

Article 22 – Amendments

- a Any Party, and the committee mentioned in Article 16, may propose amendments to this Convention.
- b Any proposal for amendment shall be notified to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, who shall communicate it to the member States of the Council of Europe, to the other Parties, and to any non-member State and the European Community invited to accede to this Convention in accordance with the provisions of Article 19.
- c The committee shall examine any amendment proposed and submit the text adopted by a majority of three-quarters of the Parties' representatives to the Committee of Ministers for adoption. Following its adoption by the Committee of Ministers by the majority provided for in Article 20. of the Statute of the Council of Europe, and by the unanimous vote of the States Parties entitled to hold seats in the Committee of Ministers, the text shall be forwarded to the Parties for acceptance.
- d Any amendment shall enter into force in respect of the Parties which have accepted it, on the first day of the month following the expiry of a period of three months after the date on which ten member States of the Council of Europe have informed the Secretary General of their acceptance. In respect of any Party which subsequently accepts it, such amendment shall enter into force on the first day of the month following the expiry of a period of three months after the date on which the said Party has informed the Secretary General of its acceptance.

Article 23 – Notifications

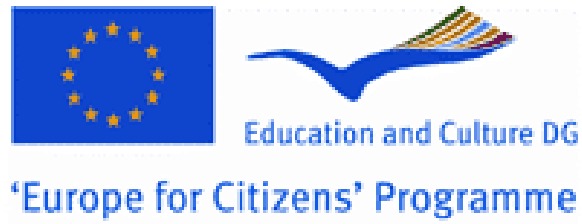
The Secretary General of the Council of Europe shall notify the member States of the Council of Europe, any State which has acceded or been invited to accede to this Convention, and the European Community having acceded or been invited to accede, of:

- a any signature;
- b the deposit of any instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession;
- c any date of entry into force of this Convention in accordance with the provisions of Articles 18, 19 and 20;
- d any amendment proposed to this Convention in accordance with the provisions of Article 22, as well as its date of entry into force;
- e any other act, declaration, notification or communication relating to this Convention.

In witness whereof the undersigned, being duly authorised thereto, have signed this Convention.

Done at Faro, this 27th day of October 2005, in English and in French, both texts being equally authentic, in a single copy which shall be deposited in the archives of the Council of Europe. The Secretary General of the Council of Europe shall transmit certified copies to each member State of the Council of Europe and to any State or the European Community invited to accede to it.

7. Sponsors of the conference



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