

**World Heritage Summary Report of the
First Joint European and World Heritage network meeting
(Nicosia, Cyprus, 7 to 11 May 2003)**

1. Introduction

The First Joint European and World Heritage network (Nicosia, Cyprus, 7 to 11 May 2003) was co-organized by the Council of Europe and UNESCO's World Heritage Centre. The main objective of the meeting was to bring together the national coordinators for the Council of Europe's HEREIN programme and the national focal points for UNESCO's periodic reporting exercise. Representatives from 33 European countries, including 49 Herein coordinators and 28 UNESCO/WHC periodic reporting representatives, attended the meeting.

2. Background

The HEREIN programme is a European network, which started in 1996 to develop a coordinated database with information about the cultural policies of the Member States of the Council of Europe. The Periodic Reporting Exercise is a process established by the World Heritage Committee to review the implementation of the World Heritage Convention by the States Parties. The adopted format provides two sections: In section I general aspects of heritage legislation and the application of the Convention are covered; in Section II the State Parties have to provide details about the measures taken for the preservation of each of their sites inscribed on the World Heritage List. As section I is close to the HEREIN programme, a partnership was formed by the World Heritage Centre and the Council of Europe to share this information and to work on the adaptation of the electronic HEREIN tool to the needs of World Heritage. The conference in Nicosia was the first joint meeting of both organisations in this field.

3. Summary of the meeting and its workshops

Besides training for HEREIN national coordinators to learn how to use the electronic tool, several presentations were made of both the aims and the state of art of the electronic database and the periodic reporting exercise. In the first session an overview was given on the co-operation between the Council of Europe and UNESCO in the field of Cultural Heritage; the development of the HEREIN programme was presented; and explanations were given on the multilingual thesaurus of the HEREIN tool. Furthermore, general information was given on the World Heritage Periodic Reporting exercise, which included a detailed explanation of the structure of the reports and the timetable foreseen for its completion. In three parallel sessions emphasis was put on the monitoring of European conventions, the role of national administrations in the preservation of World Heritage (see Annex I) and on the activities carried out by the HEREIN network.

During the second session, the World Heritage Centre provided details and explanations on the first section of the periodic report, as well as on the experiences acquired during the development of this section. A general review was given of the possible development of section II of the report, which was illustrated with three case studies from Poland, Spain and Belgium respectively. The lessons learnt from the past

in other regions of the world that already completed their periodic reports were also presented to the participants, such as questionnaires to facilitate the exercise. In two sessions questions concerning the identification of heritage, its protection, conservation and preservation were presented, as well as specific questions concerning cultural, and natural heritage relating to section II.

4. Conclusions and recommendations

The meeting agreed to the following conclusions and recommendations concerning World Heritage in its closing session:

- 1. The meeting agreed to establish an open *Working Group* to provide advice and support throughout the European Periodic Reporting process and to be chaired by the current President of the World Heritage Committee (Mr. Tamas Fejerdy) with Rapporteur (Mr. Christopher Young) and Secretariat (Europe unit, UNESCO World Heritage Centre) designated and with the participation of European countries and the advisory bodies;**
- 2. The meeting welcomed the Europe Periodic Reporting web-page developed at the Centre as focal point for dissemination of information and requested the Centre to add relevant supporting documentation;**
- 3. An on-line discussion forum is to be established through the WHC web-page <http://whc.unesco.org/reporting/europe/>;**
- 4. The Asia/Pacific/LAC questionnaire should be on the web-page for comments in order to contribute towards the development of a questionnaire for Europe;**
- 5. The Centre is asked to distribute all CD-Roms with nomination files to the coordinators concerned for dissemination;**
- 6. The meeting encouraged cooperation and integration of all online tools to simplify the work of States Parties in entering data. Specifically the meeting encouraged the ongoing HEREIN/WHC cooperation;**
- 7. The meeting endorsed the proposal for sub-regional meetings (Central Europe, Russia & CIS countries, German-speaking countries, Nordic countries, Western Europe, south-eastern Europe) and welcomed invitations already made by States Parties;**
- 8. The meeting encouraged individual State Parties to establish national timetables for Periodic Reporting.**

ANNEX I

Summary of the workshop on the role of the national administrations in World Heritage preservation

Representatives of around 20 countries took part in the workshop. The workshop focused on collecting and comparing information and best practice from different European countries. The workshop was chaired by Mr Tamas Fejerdy (Hungary), Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee and the Rapporteur was Mr Christopher Young (United Kingdom).

Representatives from Croatia, the Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, the Holy See, Hungary, Latvia, Norway, Rumania, Russia, Serbia/ Montenegro, Slovenia, Sweden, and the United Kingdom reported on the situation in their country. The workshop also heard from ICOMOS and from the UNESCO World Heritage Centre. A wide range of ways of approaching the nomination and management of World Heritage sites was described, but a number of common issues were defined:

At national level:

- Responsibility for World Heritage is often shared between several ministries or other bodies. The most obvious split is between nature and culture, but a division between the bodies responsible for the sites themselves and those responsible for urban planning and wider issues is also common
- Federal or semi-federal governments and regional devolution can also complicate the management of world heritage issues
- Many countries have formed or are forming coordinating mechanisms such as committees or commissions at national level but these are often still quite rudimentary
- The role of the UNESCO national commission with regard to World Heritage varies very widely in different countries

At site level:

- Responsibility is often divided at site level. In many countries, the site in single ownership and single management is the exception rather than the norm
- There is often a lack of recognition at local and site level that World Heritage inscription brings responsibilities as well as honour and benefits
- There is often a need to establish an appropriate balance between conservation and sustainable economic use
- Tourism can bring both risks and benefits

Conclusions:

- Need for clarity of roles
- Need for each State Party to have a long term vision on the purpose and use of World Heritage
- Need to balance conservation and sustainable economic use

- Need to raise awareness at all levels of the responsibilities of World Heritage inscription as well as the benefits
- Need to improve coordination between agencies at national level, and between stakeholders at site level
- Periodic reporting will be of great use to state parties themselves and to those involved with World Heritage sites within each country

Finally, the workshop noted that many countries will be familiarizing themselves with herein at the same time as periodic reporting