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Regional Co-operation for Cultural Heritage Development

1st International Capacity Building Workshop – “Heritage for Society”

18-20 September, 2012

RECOMMENDATIONS

With reference to the Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage, the Faro Convention (2005)

Participants of the 1st International Capacity Building Workshop – “Heritage for Society”, organised by ICOMOS Georgia and partners from Armenia, Georgia, Armenia, Norway and Ukraine in Tbilisi 18-20.2012, within the framework of the Regional Co-operation for Cultural Heritage development:

Commend the European Union and Riksbankens Kulturförordningen for its support to the event;

Acknowledge the need for new strategies within legislation and administrative systems of heritage sector with the aim of strengthening dialogue and supporting the civil society to the benefit of our common European heritage.

Also acknowledge the need for harmonization of national legislations in the countries of participants with the provisions of the Convention;

Participants in the workshop recommend action on regional networking and communication, capacity building, participation, accessibility, and policy making as follows:

Regional Networking

A regional network for the implementation of the Faro convention must be established

Communication and Capacity Building

Effective tools need to be developed for negotiation, communication, and education with the goal to gain consensus and resolve potential conflicts through:

- targeted workshops, and trainings for different stakeholders. The training modules should target actual problems, investigated through different perspectives (both tangible and intangible) and include innovative solutions
- establishing educational programs at all levels (secondary, vocational, continuing education, higher education)
- exploring various conflict resolution tools such as: public hearings, public-based system of arbitration, etc.

Participation

1. Decision making on cultural heritage must include all stakeholders, such as: experts, state authorities, users, local community, students, politicians etc.
2. Public participation tools and mechanisms must be used in a transparent way, such as: open information exchange, public forum and debates, working groups between experts and non-experts, and conflict resolution workshops, all of which must be based on sound ethics
3. Public participation tools and mechanisms must take into account the unique context of the heritage in question

Accessibility

1. Special attention should be taken to provide access to all stakeholders through conservation/integrated planning with special emphasis on education, access for the disabled, global outreach online, social context, as well as sensitive political, economic, and ethnic circumstances, etc.

Policy

1. To improve heritage policymaking with emphasis on targeted activities such as raising awareness, studies, analysis, strategic concept papers, and thematic proposals to:
 - initiate amendments in local law on self-government in order to achieve public participation in heritage
 - create adequate tools for monitoring heritage conservation, including wider public participation

Tbilisi. 20 September, 2012

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