



Združenje za ohranjanje spomenikov in spomeniških območij

ICOMOS/SI

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**Group Meeting of Presidents and Representatives of the ICOMOS
National Committees: Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Hungary, Italy, Macedonia,
Montenegro, Serbia and Slovenia
Ljubljana 6th -8th October 2011**

The first regional co-operation meeting of ICOMOS National Committees from the South-East European Region was taking place in Ljubljana, between the 6th and the 8th October 2011.

It was organised on the basis of the first preliminary discussion about the need of a regional collaboration meeting of South-East European space started unofficially at the Dublin meeting in 2010 by the ICOMOS national representatives of Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia, Macedonia and Slovenia. The aim was to follow the long declared goal of Valetta-Dubrovnik Principles through which ICOMOS develops and serves its worldwide goals. At the South-East European Group Meeting in Balatonfüred (Hungary) on 3rd June 2011 some guidelines for regional active co-operation have been adopted.

Following the programme the main points were discussed:

1. **Legislation, conservation and management**
2. **Cooperation, common policy and 17th General Assembly of Paris 2011**
3. **Establishing regional Scientific Committee**
4. **Tentative list and nominations of monuments and sites from the region**
5. **Preparation for an agreement or a letter of active cooperation**

Introduction:

According to Valetta principles the task of regional ICOMOS is supporting connections and cooperation between national committees within a region. Especially important is international cooperation of their scientific committees.

1. **Legislation, conservation and management**
2. **Cooperation, common policy and 17th General Assembly of Paris 2011**

The representatives reported about legislative systems in their particular countries. They confront the following dilemmas:

- In some countries there is a need to implement and create the unified legislation system for all regions or federation.
- Standing legal frameworks are outdated, but the preparation of new proposals is in progress.
- Some countries have recently adopted new legislature, which is mainly divided into administrative procedures and work on monuments themselves.
- In some countries legislature is in place but the implementation is problematic.
- In countries with federal national setups, the legislature can vary between the particular territories.
- In some countries the legislature doesn't include cultural landscapes, space, rivers, seascapes etc.



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- In some countries the conservation plan and management plan are not included in the national legislations.
- In some countries implementation of management plans is difficult although they are in place and prepared for particular areas of cultural and natural heritage.

Financial constraints are a major issue in all countries. Financial support by the public and private sectors has diminished. Therefore safeguarding of heritage has to be integrated in economic development, of course in a responsible and respectful manner (not as a kind of "Disneyland"). Tourism is also not the only solution. People have to become aware that by safeguarding cultural heritage they can live in a better society/environment.

Conclusion:

1. Preparation of general framework and check list for all legislative systems in Europe.

The following steps were proposed:

- Determine the needs for proper conservation-legislation.
- Prepare the comparative analyses,
- Prepare national legislations.

To prepare the check list a smaller international group dedicated to the issue will be organised.

3. Establishing the Regional Scientific Committee

Some of the national ICOMOS also have their own scientific committees, in others individual members are represented in various scientific committees. A future symposium about scientific committees was proposed. This is simultaneously the next item of cooperation between countries, which includes mutual support and exchange of knowledge. Such cooperation is already an ongoing activity between some countries, as well as the exchange of experts. A list of experts was proposed (at least between the countries of former Yugoslavia) that could cooperate. Coordination will be taken care of by the representative from Croatia. Cooperation would include joint research of various issues, also on the theoretical level. Thus ideas and experiences could be shared.

4. Tentative list and nomination of monuments and sites from the region

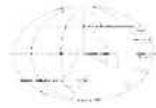
A proposal was presented about cooperation between countries in the preparation of a regional tentative list. In particular countries often politics runs separate from the profession. Nominations are prepared by political bodies even though the professionals (ICOMOS) tend to disagree. The regional group could prepare opinions. The idea of an EU based tentative list was also presented, which would nevertheless need an established list of principles. The culture and cultural heritage in our countries is similar with extensive influence from the Mediterranean region.

The goal of international cooperation is also support for national committees.

Discussion about Management plans

Experts working on a monument or dedicated to it should be included in all phases of the preparatory process of Management plans. This also includes monitoring. Particular countries should themselves perform monitoring on sites that are on the World heritage list or Tentative lists. Monitoring is part of the management plan. Some countries (Poland, Austria, ...) have already established monitoring on the national level. They operate strictly on their particular national level and but the reports are send to the ICOMOS headquarters in Paris.

Although some countries have already included Management plans in their legislature and adopted them for particular areas it is still quite unclear what the Management plan is and how successful it will be in the future.



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5. Preparation for an agreement or a letter of active cooperation

A Letter of intent was prepared, which represents the start of the process of establishing common policy amongst the present countries in Southeast Europe. Following this meeting Slovenia was officially installed as the coordinator of the sub-region including countries whose representatives were present at the meeting. Expansion of the group with Romania and Bulgaria was suggested.

Informal cooperation between the countries was thus formalised, which will be able to have their voice heard at the ICOMOS headquarters and will be able to influence decisions taken by the umbrella organisation or take part in decision making.

In the second part of the meeting the countries presented their tentative lists and particular areas that have potentials to be nominated. The conclusion of the discussion concerning tentative lists was that regional representatives will be sincere in their mutual assessments and support for proposals. In the last years trends in nominations have changed. Castles, churches, monasteries etc. have had less successful prospects since they are already well-represented in the list. Better prospects are in new categories and joint trans-boundary nominations. Mutual assistance in nominations represents an important segment of the newly established cooperation between the countries, represented at the meeting.

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