

REPORT

Meeting of the Focal Points for World Heritage from Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe in the framework of the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting

Baku (Azerbaijan), 28-31 October 2013



Meeting participants in front of the Maiden Tower, Baku, Azerbaijan (picture taken by Mr Zoran Pavlov)

SUMMARY

The meeting gathered National Focal Points of Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, and was generously hosted by Azerbaijan and co-organized by the World Heritage Centre.

The meeting focused on the implementation of the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting for Europe and North America and was designed as a practical training session on the usage of the Periodic Reporting questionnaire. It aimed at preparing the National Focal Points for the organization of national workshops with national authorities and Site Managers, in order to facilitate the completion of the Periodic Reporting online questionnaire, thereby ensuring capacity building and involvement of stakeholders at national level.

The meeting was also an opportunity to brief the Focal Points about the current status and process concerning the preparation of retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value and discuss activities related to the World Heritage Capacity Building Strategy.

Introductory remarks by the Azerbaijani authorities and representative of the World Heritage Centre

The Azerbaijani authorities welcomed the participants and expressed their support to the implementation of the World Heritage Convention and to Periodic Reporting as one of the key processes to support the protection of the World Heritage properties around the world.

Petya Totcharova, chief of the Europe and North America unit of the World Heritage Centre thanked the Azerbaijani authorities for their generous offer to host this workshop and for giving the opportunity to the participants of the workshop to meet in Baku to discuss the Periodic Reporting exercise and to hold consultations on the sub-regional capacity building strategy.

How to appropriate the results of the Periodic Reporting on regional, national and site levels – challenges and benefits

Lessons learned from Group A of the Europe and North America region and other regions

After the participants' presentation in the introductory round, Petya Totcharova clarified the meaning of "appropriation" of the Periodic Reporting exercise, defining it as "ownership by States Parties of data and PR outcomes, for better management and policy making at the national level". In particular, she pointed out that the States Parties are the final beneficiaries of the PR exercise, which should increasingly evolve into a State Party driven process ensuring a higher level of involvement of stakeholders at national level in the implementation of the results of Periodic Reporting. The States Parties are encouraged to use the outcomes of the questionnaire for developing or adjusting World Heritage related strategies, policies, programmes, action plans, etc.

Alexandra Fiebig (Europe and North America unit, UNESCO World Heritage Centre) shared with the participants the main lessons learnt from Group A at the national level, previously presented at the Periodic Reporting Information and Exchange meeting during the 37th session of the World Heritage Committee in Cambodia (Phnom Penh, 2013). The following issues were addressed in particular: selection and training of site managers, formulation and communication of national objectives for the site managers; planning and coordination (especially for the more complex cases of transboundary properties), feedback on the nature of the questionnaire (including the recurrent observation that the comment box was felt to be too small and the issue of filling the questionnaire before the retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value has been approved by the Committee), and other practical tips for addressing issues related to the Periodic Reporting exercise.

Kaori Kawakami (Asia and Pacific unit, UNESCO World Heritage Centre) gave an overview of the Periodic Reporting exercise in Asia and the Pacific, including results, follow-up actions, and challenges. She explained that while management systems, sustainable financial resources, community development and benefit sharing, and better regional cooperation are identified as common goals of the entire region, different sub-regions also have different priorities within capacity building and disaster risk reduction considering the diversity and current capacity of each sub-region, for which different approaches are needed to address different needs. She also underlined the importance and usefulness of joint activities and sharing experiences.

Special Focus: retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value – process and timeline

The participants were briefed about the current status of the review progress of the retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value for the Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe sub-region. 18 draft Statements still have to be submitted to the World Heritage Centre. In view of the phased approach for the evaluation of cultural retrospective Statements with the Advisory Body ICOMOS International, a total of 28 revised draft Statements will be sent to the Focal Points from the sub-region after 31 October 2013. Any Statements agreed and finalised between the State Party and the Advisory Bodies for the deadline of **1 March 2014** will be presented for the 38th

session of the World Heritage Committee. Any Statements finalised after this date will go to the 39th session of the World Heritage Committee.

The World Heritage Centre drew the attention of the participants to the latest decision of the World Heritage Committee concerning Statements of Outstanding Universal Value (Decision: [37.COM.8E](#)), in particular concerning the use of gender-neutral language. The Focal Points were informed that all unnecessary time-bound references should be avoided within the Statement to keep it valid in the long-term future. In the review process, attention should be paid to the adequate level of detail, avoidance of excessive use of acronyms for ease of comprehension and clarity of the text, ensuring that no part of the text is ambiguous, unclear and leaves room for interpretation.

It was also stressed that the process of agreeing on the final draft Statement between Advisory Bodies and the State Party, often entailing numerous exchanges, may take place over a long period of time. However, this process should be considered as beneficial to the identification and addressing of potential threats to the Outstanding Universal Value. It may, in some cases, be preferable to work longer on the draft Statement in order to arrive at a Statement in the end that will serve as a strong basis for the adequate conservation and management of the World Heritage property.

Link to the presentation: <http://whc.unesco.org/document/125562>

Latest World Heritage highlights

Representatives from the World Heritage Centre presented the following World Heritage tools, together with representatives from the Advisory Bodies, focusing on the new thematic programmes and initiatives.

- Alexandra Fiebig / WHC / The SOC Data base (<http://whc.unesco.org/document/125623>)
- Isabelle Longuet / ICOMOS / World Heritage Resource Manual “Preparing World Heritage Nominations” (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/activities/643/>)
- Boris Erg / IUCN / World Heritage Resource Manual “Managing Natural World Heritage” (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/activities/703/>)
- Katri Lisitzin / ICCROM / World Heritage Resource Manual “Managing Cultural World Heritage” (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/activities/827/>)
- Isabelle Longuet / ICOMOS Guidance on Heritage Impact Assessments for Cultural World Heritage properties (http://www.icomos.org/world_heritage/HIA_20110201.pdf)
- Boris Erg / IUCN World Heritage Advice Note: Environmental Assessments and World Heritage (https://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/iucn_world_heritage_advice_note_environmental_assessment_draftfinal_060613rev.pdf)

Link to the presentation: <http://whc.unesco.org/document/125564>

Recent statutory developments

Mrs Totcharova briefly summarized the changes to the Operational Guidelines that were adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 37th session. These modifications, which are meant to simplify and increase the efficiency of certain statutory processes, were made to paragraphs 127, 128, 132, 150, 161, 162 and 240. They include: simplifying the procedure for submitting and evaluating “factual error” letters by making these available as an annex to the documents for the relevant agenda item (§150); improving the procedure for emergency inscriptions by clarifying the meaning of an “emergency situation”, emphasizing the need for an immediate decision by the Committee and ensuring the examination of the nomination at the next session (§161 and 162); establishing a more coherent timeframe for the Chairperson of the Committee to review the balance in the allocation of resources obtained through international assistance (§240); specifying

map requirements (§132) and making precisions to the deadline and format for the submission of draft nominations (§127). Mrs Totcharova also discussed proposals for future amendments (namely suggested changes to paragraphs 177, 175, 174, 112, 68), as well as the modifications to item 22.7 of the Rules of Procedure, which now stipulates that a State Party presenting a nomination to the Committee can comment on that specific nomination once the Advisory Bodies have presented their evaluation.

Link to the presentation: <http://whc.unesco.org/document/125622>

Consultation meeting for the Capacity-Building Strategy for Central, Eastern and South Eastern Europe

The following items were discussed:

- Short overview of the Blueprint document and the feedback from the States Parties
- How to move from Blueprint to Strategy Document
- Implementing partners and time line
- Discussion and drafting of a prioritised CESEE Capacity-Building Action Table

A separate report on the consultation meeting will be circulated among the Focal Points.

DAY 2: WEDNESDAY, 30 OCTOBER 2013

Showcasing national World Heritage initiatives

The participants were invited to present a national World Heritage initiative of their choice to the workshop participants in a 5 minute presentation. The presentations have been shared via file depot with the participants. Below is the list of presentations.

1. Albania / Sonila Kora/ *Cultural resources management - Towards effectiveness and sustainability in regard to the historic centers of Berat and Gjirokastra*
2. Azerbaijan / Samir Nuriyev / *Icherisheher – Living heritage: balanced conservation & development*
3. Azerbaijan / Malahat Farajova / *Gobustan rock art: cultural landscape and society*
4. Belarus / Alla Stashkevich / *Capacity-building activities in Belarus*
5. Bosnia and Herzegovina / Milijana Okilj / *Heritage Impact Assessment of Kamengrad*
6. Bulgaria / Tsvetelina Ivanova / *The development of a sustainable tourism development strategy and the case of Pirin National Park*
7. Bulgaria / Dolya Yordanova / *Management plan of Nessebar*
8. Czech Republic / Jitka Vlčková / *World Heritage properties in the Czech Republic and sustainable tourism*
9. Georgia / Rusudan Mirzikashvili / *Implementation of the World Heritage Convention*
10. Hungary / Gábor Soós / *Steps in the implementation of the Hungarian Law on World Heritage*
11. Poland / Anna Marconi-Betka / *How the National Heritage Board of Poland deals with the protection of World Heritage not fully covered by Polish legislation*
12. Russian Federation / Nadezhda Filatova / *Russian World Heritage initiatives and practices: legislation, regional cooperation and properties of religious interest*
13. Slovak Republic / Lubica Pincikova / *Improvement of management and monitoring of the World Cultural Heritage Sites in the Slovak Republic as an asset of the First Cycle of the Periodic Reporting*
14. The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia / Zoran Pavlov / *Lake Ohrid region – World Heritage property?*
15. Ukraine / Daryna Nedzelska / *Cultural planning for the City of Lviv: culture development strategy to 2025*

Technical training on the online questionnaire – Section I and Section II

The World Heritage Centre provided the participants with an overview of the technical features of the Periodic Reporting questionnaire Section I and II and the available guidance tools. A practical training session on the Periodic Reporting platform was carried out, using an interactive and individual approach.

Link to the presentation: <http://whc.unesco.org/document/125625>

Exchange Forum for National Focal Points of Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe for the development of a joint approach to the Periodic Reporting Exercise

Following the Workshop in Georgia (2012), the Focal Points had been asked to fill out a preparatory questionnaire based on the issues relevant to the implementation of the “5C” Strategic Objectives in CESEE and exchange information on the existing national level measures and instruments for protection, conservation, monitoring and management of the World Heritage properties implemented since the First Cycle of Periodic Reporting.

In the questionnaire the Focal Points had also been asked to present ideas how the raw data provided in the Periodic Reporting questionnaire, could be analyzed and presented in the Regional Europe report, to render the analysis most useful for the protection, conservation and management of World Heritage properties.

Anna Sidorenko presented an analysis of the information provided by the Focal Points with focus on the implementation of “the 5Cs” Strategic Objectives in the Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe with support of the WH Thematic Programmes and Initiatives.

She highlighted that, in response to this questionnaire, the Focal Points provided an important overview of the sub-regional context, and in particular of the national strategies, achievements, challenges, needs and proposals concerning the implementation of the Convention in the sub-region and in particular the use of the Second Cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise as an important instrument to improve the existing process in the protection of heritage.

Major obstacles identified are (i) lack of understanding by CESEE heritage professionals/decision-makers/site managers of core concepts of the World Heritage Convention such as Outstanding Universal Value, integrity, and authenticity; (ii) lack of cooperation between stakeholders; (iii) lack of funds; (iv) lack of involvement of local communities; (v) lack of integration of heritage issues into broader planning and development schemes (which causes major conflicts between development and conservation); (vi) lack of institutional continuity/memory.

Networking is pointed out as a vital tool, which could be developed for example per World Heritage category as there are for example already existing network for World Heritage cities.

She presented an overview of main thematic categories of the World Heritage properties in this sub-region (cities, properties of religious interest, palace/fortresses/castles, cultural landscapes) to better profile issues across properties in order to avoid lack of coherence, to enlarge thematic networking, as well as facilitate development of country-specific or site-specific thematic activities.

Regarding the data analysis, she explained that the Focal Points expressed their opinion that the PR data should be analyzed in priority by (i) type/category of properties; (ii) sub-region; (iii) type of threats.

Link to the presentations: <http://whc.unesco.org/document/125624>
<http://whc.unesco.org/document/125626>

Evaluation of the meeting

Evaluation forms were distributed to the participants at the end of the workshop of which 16 were returned to the World Heritage Centre. Eight statements concerning the overall organization, objectives and content of the meeting were asked to be graded on a scale from 1 to 5. The medium of these questions was 4.3.

The participants mentioned that they benefitted especially from the clarifications on the Periodic Reporting questionnaires, the exchange of World Heritage experiences amongst Focal Points and the general atmosphere of open debate.

ANNEX I: PROGRAMME AGENDA

ANNEX II: PARTICIPANTS LIST

ANNEX I: PROGRAMME AGENDA

Monday 28 October 2013

Arrival of the participants

18:30 Reception

Tuesday 29 October 2013

08:30 Registration

09:00 Opening and introductory round

Representative of the Ministry of Culture of Azerbaijan
Representative of the World Heritage Centre

09:15 How to appropriate the results of the Periodic Reporting on regional, national and site levels – challenges and benefits.

Presentation of lessons learned from Group A of the Europe and North America region and other regions

Representatives of the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies

10:30 Coffee break

10:45 Special Focus: retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value – process and timeline

Representatives of the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies

11:15 Latest World Heritage highlights

- Available World Heritage tools and presentation of the new Manual on Managing Cultural World Heritage
- Recent statutory developments
- Thematic programmes and initiatives

Representatives of the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies

12:30 Lunch

Afternoon: Consultation meeting for the Capacity-Building Strategy for Central, Eastern and South Eastern Europe

Chair: Petya Totcharova, Chief of Europe and North America unit, World Heritage Centre

14:00 Consultation meeting for the Capacity-Building Strategy for Central, Eastern and South Eastern Europe

16:00 Coffee break

16:15 Consultation meeting for the Capacity-Building Strategy for Central, Eastern and South Eastern Europe continued

18:00 Baku City sightseeing

Wednesday 30 October 2013

Chair: Tarana Gambarova, Focal Point of Azerbaijan

08:30 Showcasing national World Heritage initiatives and good practices

Participants were invited to give a presentation on a chosen topic such as legislation, community involvement, risk management (i.e. fires, floods, earthquakes), sustainable tourism, etc., including good practices or lessons learnt.

09:30 Coffee break

09:45 Showcasing national World Heritage initiatives and good practices continued

11:00 The Periodic Reporting online platform for Europe and North America and technical features of the Periodic Reporting Questionnaire (Section I and II)

Representative of the World Heritage Centre

11:30 **Practical exercise: Section I** of the Questionnaire

Focal Points of Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe

12:30 Lunch

14:00 **Practical exercise: Section II** of the Questionnaire

Focal Points of Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe and Azerbaijani site managers

16:30 Coffee break

16:45 Exchange Forum for National Focal Points of Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe for the development of a joint approach to the Periodic Reporting Exercise – organization, cooperation, knowledge sharing and information exchange

Facilitation: Representative of the World Heritage Centre

18:00 Wrap up, conclusions and closing remarks

ANNEX II: PARTICIPANTS LIST

	State Focal Point	Prefix	Last Name	First Name	Email	Title / Function
1.	Albania	Ms	Kora	Sonila	sonila.kora@mtkrs.gov.al sonila-kora@hotmail.com	Expert for cultural monuments
2.	Azerbaijan	Ms	Gambarova	Tarana	tg_bay@hotmail.com	Chief-consultant
3.	Azerbaijan	Ms	Farajova	Malahat	malahat@mail.ru	Director
4.	Azerbaijan	Mr	Nuriyev	Samir	office@icherisheher.gov.az	Head of the Administration
5.	Belarus	Ms	Stashkevich	Alla	as.belicom@gmail.com	Head of the Department
6.	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Ms	Okilj	Milijana	milijana.okilj@gmail.com	Architect-conservator
7.	Bulgaria	Ms	Ivanova	Tsvetelina	tzvety@moew.government.bg	State expert
8.	Bulgaria	Ms	Yordanova	Dolya	u.maleeva@mc.government.b g	Director/Architect/Chief/Expert
9.	Croatia	Mr	Diklic	Bruno	bruno.diklic@min-kulture.hr	High expert advisor/Conservator
10.	Czech Republic	Dr	Vlckova	Jitka	vlckova@up.npu.cz	National Focal Point for World Heritage
11.	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Mr	Pavlov	Zoran	z.pavlov@uzkn.gov.mk	Head of Department

12.	Georgia	Ms	Mirzikashvili	Rusudan	r.mirzikashvili@gmail.com	Head of UNESCO and International Relations Unit
13.	Georgia	Ms	Koridze	Salome	salome_koridze@yahoo.com	Coordinator
14.	Hungary	Dr	Soos	Gabor	gabor.soos@forsterkozpont.hu	Head of Division of World Heritage and International Cooperation
15.	ICOMOS	Ms	Longuet	Isabelle	longuet@mission-valde Loire.fr	Directrice
16.	ICCROM	Ms	Lisitzin	Katri	katri.lisitzin@gmail.com	Consultant, researcher
17.	IUCN	Mr	Erg	Boris	boris.erg@iucn.org	Director
18.	Lithuania	Ms	Balkaite	Rugile	rugile.balkaite@unesco.it	National Focal Point for World Heritage
19.	Poland	Ms	Marconi-Betka	Anna	amarconi@nid.pl	Focal Point Poland, Section for World Heritage
20.	Russian Federation	Ms	Vladimirovna Filatova	Nadezhda	filatova@mkrf.ru	Senior specialist/Expert
21.	Russian Federation	Mr	Anatolievich Tsvetnov	Vladimir	tsvetnov@mkrf.ru	Director, Russian Focal Point for World Cultural Heritage
22.	Russian Federation	Mr	Vladimirovich Maksakovskiy	Nokolay	nmaks2007@rambler.ru	World Heritage expert
23.	Russian Federation	Mr	Yudin	Pavel Evgenevich	yudin75@bk.ru	Director
24.	Serbia	Ms	Stojković Pavelka	Brana	brana.stojkovic@yuheritage.com	Architect Conservator

25.	Serbia	Mr	Dzamic	Vladimir	vladimir.dzamic@heritage.gov.re	Art historian/consultant
26.	Slovakia	Mr	Ambros	Ladislav	ambros.ladislav@enviro.gov.sk	National Focal Point for World Heritage
27.	Slovakia	Ms	Pincikova	Lubica	kosova.katarina@pamiatky.gov.sk	Director General
28.	Slovenia	Ms	Spanzel	Spela	spela.spanzel@gov.si	Conseillère, Direktorat pour le patrimoine culturel
29.	Ukraine	Ms	Nedzelska	Daria	protocol_lavra@ukr.net	National Focal Point for World Heritage / Research worker
30.	UNESCO	Ms	Fiebig	Alexandra	a.fiebig@unesco.org	Consultant, Europe and North America unit, WHC
31.	UNESCO	Ms	Sidorenko	Anna	a.sidorenko@unesco.org	Programme Specialist, Europe and North America unit, WHC
32.	UNESCO	Ms	Totcharova	Petya	p.totcharova@unesco.org	Chief, Europe & North America Unit, WHC
33.	UNESCO	Ms	Dauge	Veronique	v.dauge@unesco.org	Head of Culture Unit, UNESCO Venice-office
34.	UNESCO	Ms	Kawakami	Kaori	k.kawakami@unesco.org	Consultant, Asia and Pacific unit, WHC