



Extension nomination of Dry Stone Construction

Crit. 2: Contribution to visibility, awareness, dialogue and sustainable development by bearers and practitioners from

Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Ireland
and Luxemburg



“It is important because it is part of our cultural heritage. This is something that is sometimes difficult to understand. We usually think of heritage only in terms of tangible goods, not as these slightly more intangible things. That is why it is important to keep it, because it is part of our territory, it is part of our landscape, it is part of us”.

“És important perquè forma part del nostre patrimoni cultural. És una cosa que de vegades costa d’entendre. Normalment pensem en patrimoni només en termes de béns materials, no pas com aquestes coses una mica més intangibles. Per això és important mantenir-ho, perquè forma part del nostre territori, forma part del nostre paisatge, forma part de nosaltres”.

Jaume Rifà, technical architect and
dry stone builder



"Inside these walls there is life: the birds that nest there, the lizards that protect themselves there, the rats, the mice, the snakes... There is a whole biodiversity inside".

"Dins d'aquestes parets hi ha vida: els ocellets que hi nien, els llangardaixos que s'hi protegeixen, les rates, els ratolins, les serps... Hi ha tota una biodiversitat a dins".

Jordi Rich, rural agent and
dry stone builder

"Dry stone walling also promotes a form of community in which political, ideological and other differences can be overcome by working on a common project. On an individual level, this work offers relaxation, healthy physical engagement, and the fulfillment of a project that is done from start to finish with one's own hands and without the aid of machinery."

"Der Trockenmauerbau fördert auch eine Form der Gemeinschaft, in der politische, ideologische und andere Unterschiede durch die Arbeit an einem gemeinsamen Projekt überwunden werden können. Auf individueller Ebene bietet diese Arbeit Entspannung, gesunden körperlichen Einsatz und die Erfüllung eines Projekts, das von Anfang bis Ende mit den eigenen Händen und ohne Hilfe von Maschinen durchgeführt wird."

Christian Göbel, Dry-stone wall builder and Professor at the University of Vienna



"A dry stone wall provides habitat for heat-seeking animals and drought-loving plants. This is due to its structures and joints that serve as niches. The ecological value is therefore considerable. Protection and longevity are embodied by them. For many people, dry stone walling stands for traditional craftsmanship and more and more people appreciate this earthy, relaxed work."

"Eine Trockensteinmauer bietet Lebensraum für wärmebedürftige Tiere und trockenheitsliebenden Pflanzen. Das ist bedingt durch ihre Strukturen und Fugen die als Nischen dienen. Der ökologische Stellenwert ist demnach beachtlich. Schutz und Langlebigkeit wird durch sie verkörpert. Das Trockensteinmauern steht für viele Menschen für traditionelle Handwerkskunst und immer mehr Leute schätzen diese erdverbundene, entspannte Arbeit."





"Ce qui me frappe, c'est ce qu'il y a autour de la pierre sèche, c'est la dynamique qu'il a pu y avoir et qu'on a pu entretenir dans le village pour restaurer ces murs. C'est tout ce côté citoyen et participatif."

Danielle Gaspar
Membre de l'association
les 'Murayîs'

"La pierre sèche est une technique durable qui permettrait à terme, en cas de problème d'approvisionnement énergétique, de relocaliser la main-d'œuvre. Il y a des intérêts agronomiques, grâce à ce côté drainant et accumulateur de chaleur. Elle permet aussi l'utilisation d'une ressource locale, avec de la pierre de l'endroit."

Jean-Philippe Piret
Formateur en pierre sèche





“Dry stone walls the world over have always provided a habitat for wildlife and a carbon-neutral form of field boundary. They are constructed wholly of materials that are already in the landscape and do not generally have to be transported in. In more recent times, dry retaining walls have been used for erosion control and for landscape-wide anti-flooding projects. The ancient road-building technique of stone pitching has also been adapted for upland trail use (...) in Ireland in the last ten years...”

Theo de Búrca
Stonemason, upland, conservation, and trails contractor

"Dry stone walls are an important biodiversity habitat for many plants and animals, and stone walls are an inherently sustainable and environmentally-friendly type of structure. The stone to build these walls come from the ground local to the wall; it does not need to be transported nor does it need any modern materials or mortar to make it function. The simplicity of dry stone walls is part of their beauty, along with the fact that no two walls will ever look the same."



Tríona Byrne
Conservation Engineer



„Building dry stone walls is a fascinating craft. Only stones and very few hand tools combined with the right skill result in extremely durable, stable and sustainable constructions.“

„Drechemauern ze bauen ass e faszinéierend Handwierk. Nëmme Steng a ganz wéineg Handwierksgeschir kombinéiert mam richtege Geschéck ginn extrem langlieweg, stabil an nohalteg Konstruktiounen.“

Jo Goergen
Dry stone waller

„The art of building dry stone walls is a technique that is thousands of years old and adapts to the local conditions. It currently enjoys great popularity in courses throughout Europe.“

„Die Kunst des Trockenmauerbauens ist eine Jahrtausende alte Technik, die sich den Begebenheiten anpasst. Sie erfreut sich europaweit in Kursen großer Beliebtheit.“

Martin Lutz
Dry stone waller

