

**Summary of the side-event on the capacity-building strategy initiative  
for Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe region  
in the framework of the 37th session of the World Heritage Committee  
19 June 2013**

Capacity-Building is one of the key issues concerning the sustainable conservation of World Heritage properties. In the framework of the implementation of the global World Heritage Capacity Building Strategy (WHCBS) adopted by the 35th session of the World Heritage Committee (UNESCO, Paris, 2011, Decision 35COM9.B) and as a follow-up of the First Cycle of Periodic Reporting, the Europe and North America regional desk of the World Heritage Centre launched an initiative to elaborate a sub-regional capacity-building strategy for Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe region.

In the framework of the 37th session of the World Heritage Committee in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Body ICCROM organized a side-event on 19 June 2013, to present the progress of the ongoing initiative to an audience of World Heritage professionals, members of Delegations and Category-2-Centers.

Joe King (ICCROM) commended the Europe and North America Desk for taking this initiative forward and the participatory approach applied for its implementation. He particularly welcomed the Blueprint as a major result of the work of the Steering group, created in November 2012 during the Periodic Reporting workshop for Focal Points of Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe in Tbilisi, Georgia. In his short presentation, Mr King recalled the main principles of the Global World Heritage Capacity Building strategy which aims at addressing a broad audience including individuals, communities and institutions and enabling them to sustainably manage and protect the World Heritage properties. Furthermore, he emphasized the importance and benefits of a joint management approach for cultural and natural properties.

Petya Totcharova (WHC) explained that this capacity-building initiative is a follow-up of the first cycle of Periodic Reporting. The urgent need for development of such a strategy was recently re-confirmed with the feedback received from the Focal Points of the sub-region to the 2012 5 C's Strategic Objectives Questionnaire. She further explained that the Steering Group was created on a voluntary basis with the participation of national Focal Points, the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre. In May 2013 the Steering Group finalized a Blueprint document for a future Capacity-Building Strategy for Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe which has been shared with the Focal Points for World Heritage of the sub-region ahead of the meeting.

In the absence of Jitka Vlčková, Focal Point for World Heritage of the Czech Republic who coordinated the Steering Group's work on the finalization of the Blueprint Document, Ms Rusudan Mirzikashvili, member of the Steering Group and Focal Point for Georgia, described the work approach of the Steering Group and thanked the World Heritage Center for taking this important step in close collaboration with the States Parties. Mrs Mirzikashvili pointed out that it was important and beneficial to involve the relevant States Parties at the very early stages of this initiative so that the States Parties may appropriate the implementation of the future strategy from the start. Mrs Mirzikashvili gave a brief overview of the outline of the Blueprint document and emphasized the need for cross-professional training in the fields of culture and nature, for more toolkits and training materials and enhanced communication and information exchange between institutions, site managers and communities. Moreover, Mrs Mirzikashvili addressed two of the main challenges for the successful implementation of the future capacity-building strategy: the identification of mechanisms to ensure continuous funding and the identification of suitable coordination (lead) organization/s for the piloting and implementation of the strategy, such as a Category-2-Center.

In particular, the identification of a suitable coordinating organisation was discussed with the Advisory Bodies and other participants. WHC, IUCN, ICOMOS and ICCROM representatives expressed their readiness to act as facilitators and share their experiences, but also stressed that there are no human resources to coordinate the implementation of the strategy on their own. Giovanni Boccardi (WHC, Focal Point for capacity-building and Category-2-Centres) stated that the Secretariat stands ready to provide advice in the process for the creation of a Category-2-Centre. The Permanent Delegate of Slovakia announced that Slovakia has the intention to initiate the process of creation of a Category-2-Center. It was agreed however, that a deeper discussion concerning any particular institution should take place at a later stage when representatives of the whole sub-region is present.

Carolina Castellano (ICOMOS) reiterated the need for more and new innovative ways for capacity-building, since past efforts in training, though large in number, have not yet yielded the expected results. Mrs Castellano encouraged the participants to continue their work.

Due to the limited time, the vivid discussion had to come to an end. The side-event had clearly shown the importance of capacity-building, the interest of various stakeholders in this matter and their will to accompany the process. Petya Totcharova explained that the next steps to move forward would be to ask for more detailed feedback concerning the Blueprint Document from all State Parties from the sub-region and suggested the next consultation meeting for the Focal Points of the sub-region on the Blueprint Document to take place in the framework of the Periodic Reporting workshop for Focal Points from Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe in Baku, Azerbaijan, 29-31 October 2013.

## List of Participant

**Side-event Capacity Building Strategy Initiative  
for Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe region  
in the framework of the 37th session of the World Heritage session**

**19.06.2013, 1.15-2.30pm**

|     | <b>Name</b>            | <b>Title</b>   | <b>Organization</b>   | <b>Country</b> |
|-----|------------------------|--|---|----------------|
| 1.  | Igor Grexa             | Delegate to UNESCO   | Ministry of Foreign Affairs                                   | Slovakia       |
| 2.  | Bogustaw Szmygim       | Delegate to 37 <sup>th</sup> session of the WHC              | ICOMOS Poland   | Poland         |
| 3.  | Slawomir Ratajski      | Secretariat General<br>Polish National Commission for UNESCO | Polish National Commission for UNESCO                         | Poland         |
| 4.  | Anna Marconi-Betka     | Focal Point Poland   | National Heritage Board of Poland                             | Poland         |
| 5.  | Thol Chanthan          | Secretariat  | Secretariat   | Cambodia       |
| 6.  | Sok Sangvar            | Cambodian Organizing Committee                               | See title   | Cambodia       |
| 7.  | Duška Dimović          | Serbian Delegation /<br>Expert on Natural Heritage           | WWF – DCP   | Serbia         |
| 8.  | Brana Stjković Pavelka | Serbian Delegation /<br>Focal Point For Periodic Reporting   | Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments            | Serbia         |
| 9.  | Besiana Kadare         | Ambassador   | Permanent Delegation of of Albania to UNESCO                  | Albania        |
| 10. | Daria Wedzelsca        | Focal Point Ukraine  | Kyiv-Pechersk Preserve  | Ukraine        |
| 11. | Li Hong                | Program Specialist   | World Heritage Institute of Training and Research (WHITRAP)   | China          |
| 12. | Soos Gabor             | National Focal Point /<br>WH Hungary                         | Foster National Center  | Hungary        |
| 13. | Barbara Fogarasi       | World Heritage and International Cooperation                 | Gyula Foster National Center for Cultural Heritage Management | Hungary        |
| 14. | Isvetelina Ivanova     | Expert in National Heritage                                  | Ministry of Environment                                       | Bulgaria       |
| 15. | Zeki Kayz              | Professor  | Middle East Technical University of UNESCO Turkey             | Turkey         |
| 16. | Şule Ürün              | Assistant  | Turkish National Commission for UNESCO                        | Turkey         |
| 17. | Halka Kaiserova        | Permanent Delegate   | UNESCO  | Czech Republic |

|     |                       |  |  |           |
|-----|-----------------------|--|--|-----------|
| 18. | Gamini Wijesuriya     | ICCROM   | ICCROM   |           |
| 19. | Giovanni Boccardi     | WHC  | WHC  |           |
| 20. | Carolina Castellanos  | ICOMOS   | ICOMOS   |           |
| 21. | Christopher Young     | Head of International Advice                     | English Heritage                               | UK        |
| 22. | Rohit Jiqyasu         | Professor  | ICOMOS   |           |
| 23. | Marrine Mizandari     | First Deputy Minister of Culture of Georgia      | Ministry of Culture Georgia                    | Georgia   |
| 24. | Nato Tsintsabadze     | Secretary General ICOMOS Georgia                 | Secretary General ICOMOS Georgia               | Georgia   |
| 25. | Ivo Goldstein         | Ambassador of Croatia / UNESCO - Paris           |  | Croatia   |
| 26. | Ouliana Maleeva       | Director Cultural Heritage Directorate           | Ministry of Culture                            | Bulgaria  |
| 27. | Alida Matković        | Minister Counselor                               | PD of Croatia to Paris                         | Croatia   |
| 28. | Mart Kalm             | Professor  | Delegation of Estonia                          | Estonia   |
| 29. | Viliqm Pichler        | Professor Doctor                                 | Faculty of Forestry Technical University Zuden | Slovakia  |
| 30. | Arunas Gelunas        | Dr. Ambassador                                   | Lithuanian Delegation to UNESCO                | Lithuania |
| 31. | Jan Ilavsky           | Deputy Minister                                  | Ministry of Environment                        | Slovakia  |
| 32. | Pudarno Binchin       | Manager  | Brunei Museum                                  | Brunei    |
| 33. | Dr. Britta Rudolff    | ICOMOS World Heritage Advisor                    | ICOMOS   | ICOMOS    |
| 34. | Mariana Pereira       | Student of World Heritage Studies / Intern WHC   | BTU Cottbus Germany                            |           |
| 35. | Claudia Grünberg      | Student of World Heritage Studies /Intern ICCROM | BTU Cottbus                                    | Germany   |
| 36. | Joseph King           | ICCROM   | ICCROM   |           |
| 37. | Rusudan Mirzikashvili | Focal Point Georgia                              |  | Georgia   |
| 38. | Petya Totcharova      | WHC/EUR  |  |           |
| 39. | Maider Maraña         | WHC/EUR  |  |           |
| 40. | Alexandra Fiebig      | WHC/EUR  |  |           |