



**ZAVOD ZA VARSTVO KULTURNE DEDIŠČINE SLOVENIJE  
/INSTITUTE FOR THE PROTECTION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE OF SLOVENIA**

**COUNCIL OF EUROPE  
/Directorate General II - Democracy/  
Directorate of Democratic Governance, Culture and Diversity**

**ICOMOS/SLOVENIA**

## **INVITATION AND CALL FOR PAPERS**

# **International Symposium on Cultural Heritage and Legal Issues:**

**International legal standards for heritage protection in a period of  
economic recession and tools for safeguarding protection standards**

**Symposium date and location: 2–4 May 2013 Bled, Slovenia**

### **AIMS**

The aims of the symposium are to revisit the position of cultural heritage in different European legislation systems protecting the historic (cultural) environment, to deliver good examples from different countries and a range of experts and international actors, to disseminate the results to the wider public at a national and international level, and to propose possible follow-up activities.

The National Committee for Monuments and Sites of Slovenia (ICOMOS/SI) and Zavod za varstvo kulturne dediščine Slovenije/Institute for the Protection of Cultural Heritage of Slovenia, with the official support of the Council of Europe/Directorate of Democratic Governance, Culture and Diversity, and the Office of the Slovenian National Commission for UNESCO, announce an international symposium on two main topics:

- to survey and identify the present state of legislation in European countries and present fresh and positive practice concerning the historic environment, learning models based on good practice and experiences,
- cultural heritage legislation issues with regard to standards and their implementation, heritage legislation and education.

## INTRODUCTION

Although culture should be recognised as an integral part of the activities of the EU, the competence of the EU to regulate and manage cultural affairs is limited to supporting and supplementing the actions of the Member States in the area of conservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage of European significance and specifically excludes the harmonisation of national legislation in the Member States. Viewing it from another angle, one can observe the paradox that seems to reflect the ambivalence inherent in modern concepts of what we usually mean by cultural identity. These concepts presuppose culture and cultural heritage of European significance to be important, since the EU has included them under the provisions of the European Treaty. Yet the concepts of culture, cultural heritage and cultural diversity are extremely vague concerning where the focus of any such culture or heritage should lie (English, 2008). In legal terms, an international level of protection does not exist, especially as far as heritage of supranational importance is concerned. In general terms, the main responsibility for protection policies lies with national authorities, particularly in the context of the procedure for inscribing a cultural property, be it a single monument or a site, on the World Heritage List.

Today, during a period of recession, sociopolitical and environmental changes, it is extremely important to preserve the value of UNESCO and the European Conventions, to revitalise the process of monitoring the implementation of conventions and to improve cooperation with the relevant institutions, such as, most importantly, the Council of Europe and the European Union, which act as a link between the Member States, because both prepare standards and implement programmes dealing with issues which are in the interests of heritage.

Environment and heritage are therefore not only components of Europe's much-admired cultural diversity, but also a national resource with a very considerable scientific, educational, economic and amenity value. For this reason, the primary objective of preserving the environment is to ensure that national legislation is in line with conventions, EU directives and other international standards, and that it is operational (in the sense of being implemented at the practical level) to ensure that the national heritage of individual European countries consisting of sites, monuments, townscapes, environment, etc. remains as large and diverse as possible.

Well-managed cultural heritage is a significant issue for the European economy and for sustainable development, but wise heritage management depends on legislation. One of the opportunities of this symposium is therefore the confrontation and dissemination of different European practices in this field, to challenge the present state of legal practice preserving the historic environment in different EU countries and to survey the situation in south-east Europe and elsewhere.

The experience of the Council of Europe in setting standards and in legal support for member countries, especially those in south-east Europe, can be considered a valuable starting point.

The Council of Europe is also developing a systematic follow-up of the conventions that have been adopted within the context of the organisation (the Granada, Malta and Florence conventions) in the form of the so-called European Heritage Network (Herein), in which the third generation of national reports on the implementation of the Council of Europe's conventions is to be put online in the near future (Herein 3). The results of the Technical Assistance and Consultancy Programme should also be presented to the ICOMOS audience, continuing in the spirit of exchange of good practice and synergies in the work of international organisations.

Unfortunately in the present period of recession there is ever-increasing pressure on legislation and on administration systems in the field of cultural heritage in European countries. The result of such changes will inevitably be the reduction of standards concerning the protection of cultural heritage. On other hand in most countries of Europe, heritage management is handled by administrations and is too diffuse. It requires the setting up of a coordination mechanism and consolidation in this field, particularly in central and eastern Europe.

## **THE SYMPOSIUM ORGANISERS:**

ICOMOS/SLOVENIA,  
INSTITUTE FOR THE PROTECTION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE OF SLOVENIA,  
supported by the Council of Europe/Directorate General II-Democracy, Directorate of Democratic Governance, Culture and Diversity and the Slovenian National Commission of UNESCO.

## **IMPORTANT DATES**

- |   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| 1. First call for papers,                           | december 2012 – january 2013 |
| 2. Second call for papers,                          | 1 february 2013              |
| /deadline for the final versions of accepted papers | 25 february 2013             |
| 3. Final programme,                                 | 15 march 2013                |
| 4. Opening symposium registration,                  | 15 march 2013                |

**Symposium, Bled, Slovenia**

**2–4 may 2013**

## **LANGUAGE**

Working language: the official language of the Symposium, for both oral and written contributions, will be English.

## **CALL FOR PAPERS**

The programme of the Symposium will be organised around three main themes, namely:

- A. legal issues concerning integrated heritage management,
- B. legal standards in the field of organisation of heritage institutions and professional work,
- C. implementation of legal standards.

Abstracts on the above themes should be submitted via email to: [icomos2013@zvkds.si](mailto:icomos2013@zvkds.si) by 25 February 2013 in the format appended to the Call.

The Scientific Committee will select the papers to be included in the Symposium Programme by 15 March 2013.

## **SYMPOSIUM PROCEEDINGS:**

Conference proceedings will be published in electronic form along with accepted abstracts provided that: - abstracts are submitted in final form by 25 February 2013  
- at least one of the co-authors registers and pays the fee by 15 April 2013

Full papers for the postprint volume edited by ZVKDS/ICOMOS/SI should be submitted soon after the Symposium. The postprint volume is expected in March 2014.

## **SYMPOSIUM FEE:**

€150–200 for participants from EU member states,  
€70–90 for participants from non-EU member states.

The fee covers Symposium material, refreshments during coffee breaks, welcome reception and farewell dinner.

## **RETURN ADDRESS:**

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**Thank you in advance for disseminating information on the Symposium.**