

November 12, 2009 | Kotor

## **Report on the SEE Heritage Network Meeting & Conference “Cultural Landscapes and the Implementation of the European Landscape Convention in South East Europe – the Role of NGOs”**

**Novi Sad/Belgrade, Serbia - October 11-14, 2009**

The seventh SEE Heritage Network meeting and conference entitled **“Cultural Landscapes and the Implementation of the European Landscape Convention in South East Europe – the Role of NGOs”** was held on 11-14 October 2009 in **Novi Sad/Belgrade, Serbia**.

The organizers of the event, on behalf of the SEE Heritage Network, were Suburbium and Europa Nostra Serbia. The project was supported by **Cultural Heritage without Borders** and the **Assembly of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina**.

At the Meeting & Conference in Novi Sad/Belgrade, the following SEE Heritage network members took part: the Albanian Heritage Foundation from Albania; CHwB – regional office in BiH; Pro Torpedo from Croatia; EC Ma Ndryshe from Kosovo; from Montenegro, the Center for Cultural Heritage Projektor and EXPEDITIO – Center for Sustainable Spatial Development were present; from Serbia organisations included ARCH, Europa Nostra Serbia and Suburbium. Representative from the Macedonian National Committee of ICOM took part as a potential member. As a guest, Adrienne Blattel from the Quebec-Labrador Foundation/Atlantic Center for the Environment (QLF) took part.

Two days of the Meeting & Conference were held in Novi Sad, at the Assembly of Vojvodina, and one day was held in Belgrade, where sightseeing was organized by Europa Nostra Serbia and Arch. A detailed description of the Meeting & Conference can be found below.

During the last day of the Meeting, there was a sightseeing tour in Belgrade, which included Kalmegdan fortress, as one of the most significant historic heritage monuments in Belgrade from the 18<sup>th</sup> century. After that, participants visited the Museum of Science and Technology. The museum is situated in the building of the first public power plant in that part of Belgrade, and is therefore part of the city's industrial heritage.

After working hours, an unofficial cultural programme was organized focused on presenting the heritage of Serbia. There was a Rock 'n' Roll evening in the Lower Town of the Petrovaradin Fortress from the 18<sup>th</sup> century, and a farewell dinner in the village of Krchedin, in a restaurant that was redecorated in the style of old agriculture estates which have existed in the northern part of Serbia (Vojvodina) for centuries.

The programme of the conference and the list of participants are enclosed.

## I Conference

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**A Conference** with the topic “Cultural Landscapes and the Implementation of the European Landscape Convention in South East Europe – the Role of NGOs” was held on the **first working day**. The president of the Assembly of Vojvodina, Sandor Egeresi, greeted the participants and guests of the Conference. As a host, Bojana Karavidić from Suburbium introduced the topic. Lejla Hadžić, from the CHWB Regional Office in Sarajevo, spoke about the SEE Heritage Network. Serbian Deputy Minister of the Environment and Spatial Planning, Radomir Momirov, greeted participant and guests. The Ombudsman of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina explained the role of his colleagues in the region through concrete examples in Greece and Spain.

In the second part of the conference, representatives of the SEE Heritage Network gave short presentations about their experiences related to landscape protection and the implementation of the European Landscape Convention in their countries.

The Novi Sad Meeting & Workshop gathered representatives from institutions that are involved in the topic of landscape and in the European Landscape Convention, including the Serbian Institute for Nature Protection – Department in Novi Sad, the Secretariat for Education, the Secretariat for Urbanism (both in the Vojvodina Executive Council), the Ludaš Nature Reserve in Palic, the public enterprise “Urbanizam” in Novi Sad, the Ombudsman of Vojvodina, the Department of Architecture and Urbanism from the University of Novi Sad, Vojvodina’s Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments, the Faculty of Sport and Tourism in Novi Sad, and the Forestry Faculty from Belgrade.

SEE Heritage Network members together with guests worked on the preparation of a public appeal regarding the protection of cultural landscapes and the implementation of the European Landscape Convention in South East Europe, with a focus on the role of NGOs in this process. The appeal will be distributed at a later date in the SEE region.

Nine representatives from newspapers, television and radio stations were present, and reports were broadcasted nationally and locally. Some of the participants were invited as guests in the morning and afternoon program of TV Vojvodina (CHWB, Pro Torpedo, Suburbium). The meeting was announced in “Dnevnik”, the most respected newspaper in Vojvodina. Members of the media are anticipating the adoption of the final version of our public appeal, which will be published, thus further promoting the SEE Heritage Network.

After the conference, a publication including the conference proceedings will be prepared, with summaries in the original languages as well as in English. This will be put together by Suburbium, as the meeting organizer, in cooperation with Network members.

## II The Meeting

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The meeting of SEE Heritage Network was held on second working day.

The meeting component of the SEE Heritage Network conference was moderated by Aleksandra Kapetanović from the NGO EXPEDITIO which has been engaged to coordinate activities related to the network’s development until December 2009.

At the beginning of the meeting, a short report on the activities implemented after the last meeting

in Prizren in January 2009 was presented. The most important activity during this period, aside from the organizational development aspects, was the presentation of the SEE Heritage Network at the European Conference of Civil Society Organizations Active in the Field of Heritage, held in Mechelen, Belgium.

### **Registration of the Network**

After a long process, the registration of the network has been finalized. Founders of the network cannot be NGOs. Individual founders must be from Montenegro. It was therefore determined that it was easiest to have natural persons as Network founders who represent two member NGOs from Montenegro, EXPEDITIO and NOTAR. (The founders are therefore: Joško Katelan, Notar; Snežana Pejović, Notar; Tatjana Rajić, Expeditio; Biljana Gligorić, Expeditio and Aleksandra Kapetanović, Expeditio.)

The non-governmental association SEE Heritage Network has been recorded in the Registry of Non-Governmental Organizations in Montenegro under the ordinal number 4882, on October 12, 2009. Enclosed is the Decision on the Network's registration.

### **Organization**

In accordance with the adopted Statute of the Network, which enters into force with the registration of the Network, the organs of the Network shall be:

1. The Assembly
2. The Managing Board
3. The Secretariat

The **Managing Board** shall consist of one representative from each member country. At the meeting, the following members of the Managing Board were selected:

- Albania – Albanian Heritage Foundation
- Bosnia and Herzegovina – CHwB
- Croatia – Pro Torpedo
- Kosova – Ec Ma Ndryshe
- Macedonia - FOSIM
- Montenegro – Notar
- Serbia – Suburbium

The Secretariat of the Network shall be composed of a secretary and, depending on needs, other members. Since the Network's secretary has not yet been selected, this role will be temporarily performed by Adrienne Blattel from QLF, an organization in Canada, who will be working as a volunteer in EXPEDITIO's office until the end of November 2009. In the upcoming period, we will start looking for a permanent secretary of the network, and Adrienne will perform this role until a permanent secretary is found.

### **Membership**

Several organizations demonstrated their interest or applied for membership in the Network.

- Gjirokastra Conservation and Development Organization, Albania – they have sent us their application form, to which we have not yet responded because we have not yet received

confirmation from all members of the evaluation committee. However, we need to respond as soon as possible.

- Trust Transylvania, Romania – they sent their application form to which we need to respond
- ICOM Macedonia, Macedonia – they are interested in membership in the Network and a representative of this organization attended the meeting in Novi Sad as a guest
- Heritage Macedonia, Macedonia – they are interested in membership in the Network, and we expect to receive an application from them
- Blago Fund, Serbia – they are interested in membership in the Network and a representative of this organization attended the conference in Novi Sad
- Heritage Foundation, Dubrovnik, Croatia – they are interested in membership in the organization. We sent them the application form to fill in.
- The conference in Novi Sad was attended by a representative of Mondo d'arte from Serbia, a potential new member of the Network

At the meeting, it was decided that the role of the Evaluation Committee, which has existed up until now and has considered applications for membership in the Network, would be taken over by the Managing Board.

### **Communication**

For the purpose of easier and more efficient communication, a new mailing list entitled *SEE Heritage MEMBERS Group*, with the address [see-heritage-members@googlegroups.com](mailto:see-heritage-members@googlegroups.com), has been launched.

From now on, we will use this group for communication between SEE NGO members. The old group, [see-heritage@googlegroups.com](mailto:see-heritage@googlegroups.com), will remain active for all information we wish to share with both network members and other people, especially in relation to heritage issues in general.

It was also agreed to create a new e-mail address, which would serve as a contact address for the Network and for receiving membership applications. The Network's secretary will be responsible for managing this e-mail address. This address will be [info@seeheritage.org](mailto:info@seeheritage.org) and/or [secretary@seeheritage.org](mailto:secretary@seeheritage.org)

### **Presence on the Website**

The website of the SEE Heritage Network was improved technically, but one section of it still needs to be finished and information about some countries uploaded, as well as information related to the activities of the network in general. This will be done over the upcoming period.

Due to technical problems, the site was not in function for a couple of days, but now it is active again.

Sasa Stanojlovic from Suburbium offered to help with searching and updating news related to the heritage of South Eastern Europe.

### **Cooperation of the SEE Heritage Network with Europa Nostra**

The last topic of the meeting was the cooperation of the SEE Heritage Network with Europa Nostra. Ms. Irina Subotic, from Europa Nostra Serbia, which is a member of the SEE Heritage Network, is a member of the Europa Nostra board of directors as a representative of the SEE Heritage Network. Based on her initiative, the issue of possible cooperation was launched again.

On September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009, in Dubrovnik, an initial meeting of representatives of the SEE Heritage Network and Europa Nostra was held (the meeting was attended by: Lejla Hadžić, per Arne Storberg

and Aleksandra Kapetanović on behalf of the SEE Heritage Network; Irina Subotic as a representative of both the SEE Heritage Network and Europa Nostra, John Sell as a representative of Europa Nostra and Csilla Hegedus from the Transylvania Trust, Romania). It was concluded that the issue of possible cooperation between the SEE Heritage Network and Europa Nostra should be further considered and discussed at the Network's meeting in Novi Sad and that a letter of intent which would contain the description of possible projects the SEE Heritage Network would like to implement in the following period should be sent to Europa Nostra. Europa Nostra would then try to assist with raising funding for these projects from EU institutions and organizations.

Irina Subotić reported what was discussed at the meeting in Dubrovnik and presented its conclusions, and also proposed some possible forms of cooperation and fields of activity in which Europa Nostra could assist the SEE Heritage Network:

- fundraising for projects
- capacity building, expertise, educational programs
- mapping of monuments at risk in the SEE region
- cross border activities
- presentation in Europa Nostra Review of some specific topics related to SEE heritage or network activities
- proposals for the Europa Nostra award
- exchange links with the Europa Nostra web site

After the ensuing discussion, the following ideas for possible projects were proposed:

1. forgotten cities/ heritage sites in the SEE region
2. mapping and promoting of industrial heritage in the SEE region
3. SEE heritage at risk
4. SEE regional educational activities for young people

Also discussed was the idea of SEE Heritage Days / celebration / festival ... or a common heritage event that would include, during the same period, various activities of the Network members in all member countries. The longest day of the year, i.e. June 21<sup>st</sup>, was proposed as a possible date of such an event.

It was agreed that a short concept note should be written for each of the four selected topics, which include:

1. forgotten cities/ heritage sites in SEE region – Bojana and Sasa, Suburbium
2. mapping and promoting of industrial heritage in SEE region – Kule, Arch and Miljenko, Pro Torpedo
3. SEE heritage at risk - Lejla, CHwB and Sandra, Expeditio
4. SEE regional educational activities for young people – Kaća, Projektor and Hajrulla, EC Ma Ndryshe

All materials should be completed by October 30<sup>th</sup> and forwarded to Adrienne, who will sort them out and send them on to Irina Subotic, Lejla and all other members.

### **The Next Meeting of the Network**

At the meeting in Prizren it was proposed that after the meeting in Serbia the next meeting of the Network could be held in Croatia. Since Pro Torpedo, currently the only member of the Network from Croatia, deals with industrial heritage, it was suggested that this should be the topic of the meeting. On April 23-24, 2010, Pro Torpedo will host a conference on industrial heritage. The idea is that the Network meeting might be held before or after the conference, with the Network members participating in the conference. This proposal will be put in the format of an official letter and sent to the new president of Pro Torpedo.