

**A report from the SEE HERITAGE NETWORK PRIZREN MEETING AND WORKSHOP
“CULTURAL TOURISM AND LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT”**

23–26 January 2009 – Prizren, Kosova

From 23 to 26 January 2009, in **Prizren**, **NGO EC Ma Ndryshe** hosted the **sixth meeting of SEE Heritage Network**. The first part of this meeting was dedicated to the internal organizational matters of the Network, during which the member organizations discussed the legal, functionality and sustainability aspects of the Network.

At the beginning of the meeting the project “Development of the SEE Heritage Network - for the period November 2008-December 2009”, financed by CHwB, was presented by the representative of NGO Expeditio. This organization is responsible for the implementation of the project until December 2009. The presentation offered an overview of all activities planned by the project, including the activities done so far.

The ensuing discussion focused on the following issues:

- Registration of the Network and organizational aspects, Statute of the Network
- Membership, Database of the Network’s members and Network’s Archive
- PR material and promotion of the Network and the site
- Secretary of the Network
- Internet presentation and mailing list
- Other topics

Registration of the Network and organizational aspects

In order to prepare all that is needed for the **registration of the Network** in Montenegro Expeditio engaged a lawyer and so far her activities included:

- **Analysing SEE context and Montenegrin legal system** and possibilities to register an NGO network in Montenegro
- **Analysing models of networking**
- Finding about the **existing NGO networks**, analysing their organizational structure
- Drawing up a draft **statute of the Network**
- Drawing up a **founding act** of the Network

The draft statute, which had been drawn up and sent by e-mail to the members before the meeting, was discussed at the meeting. The most important parts of statute were presented to the attending members who later discussed all articles and some disputable issues within the statute. Some changes to the statute were made on the spot. Other proposed changes

will be made soon, after which the statute will be sent to the members for reviewing and comments.

After the final adoption of the statute we will proceed with the registration of the Network. It will include the signing of the founding act which has already been drawn up. Since the HQ of the SEE Heritage network will be in Montenegro, also the statute was drafted according to the NGO Law of Montenegro. The process of registration in Montenegro usually takes about 15 days.

Membership, Database of the Network's members and Network's Archive

The meeting gave a short overview of the Network's members. All the members were listed in a chart, indicating which of them completed their membership application form. The chart also indicates which organization applied for membership, together with those which are interested in applying for membership.

Considering that some member organizations have not been much active in the recent period it was decided to send them a letter, informing them about the recent activities of the network and finding out if they want to continue membership in the network.

It was also decided that in the coming period we should concentrate on attracting new members from the countries that have not yet been represented in the Network, such as Bulgaria and Romania, including Macedonia, knowing that the member from this country has not been much active in the network lately.

The database of the Network's members containing information about the members and the archive of the network /containing information about the activities of the Network and press clipping/ will be completed and set up on the network's website.

PR material and promotion of the Network and the site

Our colleagues from EC Ma Ndryshe prepared wonderful PR material for the Prizren meeting. In addition, 2009 SEE Heritage calendar was presented and distributed. It has been decided that the next step after the adoption of the statute and launching of the website should be to produce a promotional leaflet of the network containing more information than the previous one and also other PR material. Until then, the existing leaflet will be electronically distributed to all members for using in their everyday activities.

All members agreed to enforce their attempts to inform as much stakeholders as possible in each respective country about the existence of the network and its activities.

The activities aimed at promoting the network should be continuous although the most important part of the promotion will be after the adoption of the statute and launching of the website.

It has been proposed that in the coming period contacts should be established with various international organizations including:

- Europa Nostra (Europa Nostra Serbia)
- TICCIH – (Pro Torpedo)
- DOCOMOMO – (Pro Torpedo)
- ICOMOS
- ECOVAST
- CIVILSCAPE
- ICA – International Council of Archives – (Notar)

The need for establishing contacts with EU NGO platforms, such as House for Culture in Brussels, has also been emphasized

Internet presentation and mailing list

It has been concluded that the site is active but that there is still much missing information that should be uploaded. The conclusion is that in the coming period we should concentrate on the site. It was emphasized the potential of the website both for the network and the region as a whole. In addition, the official language of the website will be English, while each member is responsible for translating the materials in their own language.

In connection with the mailing list, it has been concluded that:

- see-heritage@googlegroups.com regularly distributes information about the activities referring to cultural heritage of the region
- Currently, the mailing list has **more than 60 members** and its existence has proved to be very useful. It is necessary to **define “instructions for the mailing list use”** and to place them on the site.
- Alongside this mailing list which will be open to all users, a technical solution will be found for a **working/operative mailing list to be used only by the Network members**.

Secretary of the Network

After presenting general activities and responsibilities expected to be performed by the network secretary and after the meaningful discussion, it has been concluded:

- that the proposed activities are well-founded for the future secretariat of the network, but that they are too ambitious for the secretary for the period until the end of 2009
- that we should define priorities and activities that are realistic to be conducted by the end of 2009
- that we should define requirements and job description regarding qualifications/competences for the position of the the network’s secretary

Other topics

Presentation of the SEE Heritage network at the “Heritage Care through Active Citizenship” European Conference on Civil Society Organisations active in the Field of Heritage | March 23-24, 2009 | Mechelen

- Ms. Irina Subotic from Europa Nostra Serbia has already informed Europa Nostra members about SEE Heritage network and arranged with them to hold a presentation of the network at the Europa Nostra Annual Assembly to be held in Italy in June 2009
- It has been agreed that the next meeting of the network will be held in Serbia. The colleagues from Suburbium and Europa Nostra Serbia offered to host the meeting in Novi Sad and Belgrade. A general topic of the meeting will be: “Towns built by Water – Water as Part of Cultural Landscape”
- We should check the date of the CHwB camp in Gjirokastra, as well as the obligations of other members in order to decide on the exact date of the networks meeting. The proposed period is the end of September and beginning of October 2009
- The network’s 2010 meeting will be held in Croatia and its topic will be industrial heritage

The final part of the meeting was dedicated to the discussion about some possible regional projects that could be conducted jointly by the Network’s members. The member organizations have stressed the importance of strengthening the cross-border cooperation through joint activities that would be implemented under Network’s umbrella, while creating strong basis for upcoming projects in cultural heritage field.

Finally, SEE Heritage issued a Joint Statement inform the media about the meeting as well as appealing to all institutions and other relevant actors to support cities with special cultural heritage and cultural tourism as a mean of economic development. The Joint Statement was distributed to all media in all countries of the region.

Some of the **ideas for the regional projects are:**

- forgotten cities (Bojana, Suburbium)
- visiting tours, SEE itineraries (Naim, CHwB)
- SEE itineraries, education of young people (Irina, Europa Nostra Serbia)
- twinning projects (Srđan, Europa Nostra Serbia)
- address tourist organisations (Miljenko, Pro Torpedo)
- focus on education (Ilir, Albanian Heritage)
- interactive map on web page, PR campaign (Alexa, Mjaft)
- photographs of the region (Srećko, Projekor)
- Different itineraries – for example Lord Byron
- Youth exchange on cultural heritage (Irina)
- SEE Heritage Youth Assembly (Iliri, Albanian Heritage)

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