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**TRANSFRONTIER AND INTERTERRITORIAL
CO-OPERATION FOR THE PROTECTION AND
PROMOTION OF THE CULTURAL HERITAGE**

Transfrontier co-operation in Europe, No. 9

TRANSFRONTIER AND INTERTERRITORIAL CO-OPERATION FOR THE PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF THE CULTURAL HERITAGE

Study prepared by

The Select Committee of Experts on Transfrontier Co-operation,
Directorate of Co-operation for Local and Regional Democracy,
DG I – Legal Affairs of the Council of Europe

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I. WHY TRANSFRONTIER CO-OPERATION IN THE FIELD OF CULTURAL HERITAGE?

Cultural heritage represents a collective memory, at local, national, transfrontier and European level. The perpetuation of the collective memory requires the development of special instruments for its conservation and promotion. Transfrontier co-operation emerges as a strategy to mobilise resources in border regions, to enhance their capacity to preserve and promote cultural heritage, which is valuable to the populations living on both sides of the border.

Cultural heritage is a broad concept encompassing such areas as archaeological and architectural heritage, cultural tourism, protection of landscape (including co-operation between nature parks), urban and regional planning and education. The present study, prepared by the Select Committee of Experts on Transfrontier Co-operation, adopted by the Steering Committee on Local and Regional Democracy (CDLR) at its 24th meeting in December 1999, concentrates on transfrontier strategies that are implemented to protect and promote archaeological and architectural heritage. Other aspects of transfrontier heritage are directly or indirectly mentioned within the given examples. The study is based on the replies received to a questionnaire distributed to members of the committee.

Practice shows that territorial communities or authorities also engage in interterritorial co-operation (encompassing non-adjacent regions) in order to promote and preserve cultural heritage. Such activities are frequent in the areas of research, exchange of experience and information. It should be noted that activities in the field of cultural heritage may, in certain cases, be a mixture of both transfrontier and interterritorial co-operation since some of them encompass both characteristics (e.g. cultural routes).

II. CONDITIONS FOR EFFECTIVE TRANSFRONTIER CO-OPERATION

The replies to the questionnaire show that there are, on the whole, five important conditions that have to be met in order to achieve the objectives set to protect and promote the heritage in border areas. These are the collection and exchange of information; establishing contacts; producing ideas and common strategies; co-ordination between various sectors and funding. Intergovernmental and transfrontier agreements on culture, in general, and on cultural heritage, in particular, are factors that facilitate and foster transfrontier co-operation.

Collection and exchange of information concerns not only objects, monuments and buildings of heritage value, but also information on contact persons at local, regional and central levels on both sides of the border, as well as information on relevant cultural institutions. The replies also showed that obtaining information on the national laws and systems of cultural heritage conservation in neighbouring countries is of vital importance for effective transfrontier co-operation.

Transfrontier co-operation in the field of cultural heritage requires the establishment of several partnerships between private and public operators. Local and regional authorities have to co-operate with professional associations (specialists on preserving monuments, art historians, architects and craftsmen), universities, museums, cultural training centres, tourist boards and various other cultural associations and foundations.

Having the right contacts is extremely important in any transfrontier activity. In the case of cultural heritage, such contacts are facilitated through various types of associations and co-operation between cities. Some examples include association of historic cities in the Euroregion and co-operation between cities on a certain theme (e.g. the Roman Foundation).

Once a solid base of information has been created on cultural heritage (including on heritage buildings, contacts and information on national laws), and contacts on an international or a transfrontier scale have been established, the next step is to establish a joint strategy. This is generally based on similarities and complementary characteristics. Border areas which share similar cultural heritages (folk architecture, vernacular architecture, etc.) could unite to promote them. Alternatively, transfrontier co-operation could also be enhanced through benefiting from complementary resources. For instance, for the conservation of aspects of cultural heritage, one country could contribute through technical skills and equipment while a neighbouring one could make a financial contribution.

Common strategies have to take into account the interdependence of the sectors of activity relating to cultural heritage. An effective transfrontier strategy on the promotion and protection of cultural heritage requires co-operation and co-ordination between sectors such as tourism, environmental protection, urban planning and education.

Finally, the conservation and maintenance of cultural heritage can be very costly. Not all local authorities may have adequate resources. A combination of national subsidies and European aid is of vital importance in the preservation of the European heritage. Section IV gives a brief description of European aid given to transfrontier and interregional projects on cultural heritage.

III. THE ROLE OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE IN PROMOTING CULTURAL HERITAGE

The intergovernmental programme on cultural heritage is run by the Cultural Heritage Committee (CC-PAT) under the auspices of the Council for Cultural Co-operation. The three main areas of activity include: heritage and society, technical co-operation and consultancy and the European Plan for Archaeology. Alongside the activities of the Cultural Heritage Committee, an important source of policy orientation of the Council of Europe comes from the resolutions adopted in the regular ministerial conferences concerning cultural heritage as well as numerous recommendations adopted by the Committee of Ministers.

The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities (CLRAE) and the Parliamentary Assembly also contribute to the development of a European heritage policy. The CLRAE has organised a European Symposium of Historic Towns on a regular basis since 1971. Seven such meetings have been held. The final declarations pertaining to these meetings are published in No. 34 [1994] of the CLRAE Studies and texts series of the Council of Europe. On the occasion of the "Europe, a common heritage" Campaign, the Congress also took the initiative in creating a European Association of Historic Towns and Regions, which will bring together national associations.

Since the 1960s, the Parliamentary Assembly has been promoting cultural heritage through its Subcommittee on the Architectural and Artistic Heritage. It has adopted several recommendations addressed to the Committee of Ministers (e.g. on arrangements for reviewing the progress of architectural conservation – Recommendation No. 788 [1976] – and the cultural situation in the former Yugoslavia – Recommendation No. 1239 [1994]).

The Parliamentary Assembly also adopted resolutions addressed directly to the authorities responsible for cultural heritage (e.g. on disused religious buildings – Resolution No. 916 [1989]).

Some important Council of Europe initiatives on cultural heritage include:

- European Heritage Days, organised every September since 1991 in several member states. The objective is to offer Europeans the possibility of discovering different aspects of their heritage, particularly those not normally accessible to the public. Various activities, exhibitions and colloquies are organised for the occasion. This activity is supported by the European Union;
- the Cultural Routes programme which seeks to improve the quality of leisure activities of Europeans while encouraging them to discover their common identity through cultural heritage and cultural tourism. There are three main themes. These include the following: people and migration (Celts, Vikings and Gypsy routes), the spread of ideas in Europe: those developed around artistic periods (the Baroque), religious movements (pilgrim pathways and the monastic influence routes) and the movements concerning technical and economic reasons (silk and textile and Hanseatic cities routes). The practical and organisational aspects of cultural routes are co-ordinated by the European Institute of Cultural Routes, which is based in Luxembourg;
- the Technical Consultancy and Assistance programme involves a technical co-operation and consultancy activity, the aim being to help national, regional and local authorities to tackle the complex issues of enhancing, managing and preserving cultural heritage in an integrated way;
- the European Network of Heritage Crafts is run by the Council of Europe with the help of a number of groups of experts and consultants. The main objective is to promote heritage skills and crafts;
- the European Heritage Information Network (Herein). The decision to set this up was taken at the Helsinki Ministerial Conference. The project calls for computerised, multimedia techniques and is supported by the European Commission;
- the European Plan for Archaeology involves multilateral professional co-operation and awareness-raising activities. Areas covered include: the campaign on the Bronze Age, the First Golden Age of Europe; the European Network of Ancient Places of Performance; the working parties on urban archaeology and archaeological documentation techniques;
- the “Europe, a common heritage” Campaign was launched by the heads of state and government at the Strasbourg Summit on 10-11 October 1997. The campaign began on 10 September 1999 in Bucharest (Romania) and will end in December 2000 in Riga (Latvia). The purpose of the campaign is to make the European public more aware of heritage (be it natural or shaped by human hand), with due regard for our cultural diversity, and to publicise the Organisation’s achievements in the area. The campaign will have a European, national and local dimension in the forty-seven countries which have signed the European Cultural Convention.

Legal instruments

The key texts on cultural heritage are found under the compendium of basic texts of the Council of Europe in the field of cultural heritage – CC-PAT (98) 65 Inf.

The first legal instrument relating to cultural heritage is the European Cultural Convention adopted in Paris in 1954. States which accede to this convention show their determination to pursue a policy of common action designed to safeguard and encourage the development of European culture. These include encouraging the study of languages, civilisation and history, consultations with a view to concerted action in promoting cultural activities of European interest and the facilitation of the movement and exchange of persons and objects of cultural value.

The European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage was opened for signature in 1969 in London (it was revised in 1992 and referred to as the Malta Convention). It foresees the protection of the archaeological heritage by the adoption of statutory measures, to maintain inventories, adopt integrated conservation policies, set up a machinery for consultation and co-operation particularly with cultural associations and the public, development of sponsorship, promotion of training in the various occupations and craft trades, European co-ordination of conservation policies in the form of the exchange of experience and of experts as well as technical assistance.

European Convention on Offences relating to Cultural Property (Delphi Convention) opened for signature in 1985 in Delphi. It is a highly comprehensive international legal instrument, which provides a means to combat the illicit trafficking of cultural property. It has not yet come into force.

The European Charter on the Architectural Heritage was adopted in 1975 by the Committee of Ministers. The charter introduces the concept of integrated heritage conservation. The aim of the principles laid down in the charter is to arrange co-operation between people working in a whole range of occupations in the fields of conservation and urban and regional planning with a view to improving the quality of life.

IV. THE ROLE OF OTHER ORGANISATIONS IN PROMOTING CULTURAL HERITAGE

Numerous European and international organisations promote cultural heritage. A number of responses have mentioned Unesco's World Heritage List. A few transfrontier heritage sites have asked to be considered for inclusion on the World Heritage List. The rules governing the natural or cultural sites that can be considered are outlined in Unesco's World Heritage Convention. A World Heritage Committee meets once a year and examines the nominations on the basis of technical evaluations with the help of advisory bodies. The World Heritage Fund assists in both identifying and preserving world heritage sites.

There are also quite a number of international associations which support transfrontier initiatives. These are intergovernmental bodies such as Iccrom (International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property), non-governmental organisations like Icomos (International Council of Monuments and Sites), Icom (International Council of Museums) and Europa Nostra (a federation of NGOs working for the protection of the architectural heritage and the environment), specialised foundations such as the European Foundation of Heritage Skills, as well as spontaneous, non-official forms of co-operation such as the Most Ancient European Towns Network.

As far as financing transfrontier and interregional (involving non-adjacent regions) co-operation is concerned, the European Union has launched several programmes. Some projects are also funded through the Phare programme:

- Raphael was adopted on 29 March 1995 for a five-year period (1996-2000), with a total budget of 30 million ecus. It aims to give a new impetus to Community activities in the field of cultural heritage, by reorienting and widening the activities developed to date and by presenting a coherent approach for Community projects and policies regarding cultural heritage. It encourages co-operation between the member states and supports and complements their actions concerning the preservation of cultural heritage;
- Kaleidoscope was adopted in 1996 for a period of three years (1996-98) with a total budget of 26.5 million ecus, which aims to encourage, by means of co-operation, artistic and cultural creation in Europe. It also aimed to improve the skills of artists and others involved in the cultural sector and to improve access to culture for all citizens;

- After INTERREG, which was launched in 1990, INTERREG II was allocated 2 400 million ecus for the cross-border co-operation for the 1994-1999 programming period. It has supported cultural projects concerning development of integrated actions on cultural tourism and cultural heritage, a better use of the cultural resources on offer on both sides of the border, improvement of information systems regarding cultural resources on offer, projects, artists and introduction and improvement of small-scale border transport to facilitate socio-cultural contact;
- Article 10 of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) finances innovative activities in the field of culture. These include recognition of the wealth of the heritage (urban, rural, industrial and historical), the integrated development of cultural activities (mainly traditional activities, or the rehabilitation of original know-how in crafts, in an economic activity or in representative buildings) and the use of new technologies (CD-Rom, creation of web sites, etc.).

V. FORMS OF TRANSFRONTIER CO-OPERATION

The following reflect the forms of transfrontier co-operation as they appear in the replies received from the member states. The examples could be easily extended and therefore are not exhaustive.

Exchange of information and skills

- creating transfrontier documentation centres;
- exchange of staff in border regions and between national administrations;
- developing web sites on the cultural heritage of transfrontier regions and jointly producing CD-Roms;
- regular exchange of documents between heritage authorities;
- using an expert from the neighbouring country;
- exchange of scholars;
- provision of financial and technical support and know-how;
- conferences, colloquies and seminars.

Exhibitions

- exchange of or borrowing of art objects and paintings;
- organising joint exhibitions on a theme of common interest to populations on both sides of the border;
- financial contribution to an exhibition organised across the border;
- financial contribution to the preservation of museum collections that are found on the other side of the border.

Preservation, reconstruction and restoration

- jointly conducting archaeological research in border regions;
- conservation and restoration of cemeteries (military or civil);
- revitalising a historic canal or canal networks;
- jointly drafting a reconstruction plan;
- intergovernmental agreement to protect the cultural heritage belonging to the neighbouring country (e.g. Greek heritage in Italy and Italian heritage in Greece);
- joint application (for a “transfrontier site”) to be inscribed on Unesco’s World Heritage List;
- organisation of competition among architects on matters related to reconstruction and restoration.

Promotion

Here “promotion” refers to the promotion of ideas, policies, strategies and political support, which come from intergovernmental agreements, charters and declarations, and from transfrontier and European bodies and organisations.

- transfrontier bodies are active in promoting ideas for transfrontier co-operation in the heritage field (e.g. promotion of local architecture by the Working Community of Alpen Adria, the association of museums in the Carpathian Euroregion, training organised within the framework of the Pyrenees Working Community, also other transborder bodies have cultural committees such as the Conference on Lake Constance, Conseil de Lemman and the Arge Alp);
- intergovernmental bodies are also an important source of promoting and supporting policies: Sar-Lor-Lux Intergovernmental Commission’s working group on cultural affairs adopted a declaration on the promotion of transfrontier co-operation in the domain of culture and industrial heritage; the Baltic Heritage Committee and the Nordic Council of Ministers initiated several transfrontier exchanges of experience and skills and helps prepare a common action plan for common heritage;
- fruitful strategies could also be implemented through effective co-operation between the relevant ministries in a member state. For instance in Lithuania, the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Tourism co-operate to develop transfrontier policies on cultural tourism;
- European associations also promote ideas and policies, one example is given in the case of Croatia concerning the role of the European Council of Villages and Small Towns in promoting cultural heritage values.

Transfrontier networks and structures

- transfrontier archaeological parks, transfrontier nature parks with museums;
- transfrontier associations (e.g. of historical cities);
- transfrontier cultural foundations;
- transfrontier information centres;
- Euroregions, working communities and other transfrontier bodies establish working groups or committees that work to promote cultural heritage in border areas.

Tourism

- transfrontier cultural routes;
- creation of transfrontier cycle tracks and footpaths;
- heritage days (e.g. monument days, *Hansatag*);
- publication of joint books, booklets and maps;
- establishing mediaeval markets in partner towns;
- transfrontier journals which present animations in transfrontier historical sites;
- co-production of films on a common heritage theme (gardens, industrial heritage, etc.);
- common bulletin of information on museums located on each side of the border;
- improvement of signs in historical buildings – written in neighbouring country’s language.
- transfrontier passport for museums.

Training

- exchange between training centres;
- creation of a study centre on transfrontier architecture;
- seminars, workshops and summer schools (on skills for restoration, traditional local skills for conservation);
- co-operation between research institutes (e.g. on techniques used in archaeological excavations);
- exchange between training schools for conservation.

CONCLUSION

The contributions of the member states show that transfrontier co-operation in the field of cultural heritage is extremely active in areas such as the exchange of information and experience, training, cultural tourism (including cultural routes) and in the preservation and restoration of cultural heritage. More initiatives could be taken in organising joint exhibitions and on promoting transfrontier co-operation in heritage education.

The fact that quite a number of transfrontier projects exist on cultural heritage in Europe does not necessarily mean that the field is void of obstacles and problems. Member states have mentioned numerous problems hampering transfrontier co-operation (see “Common problems” in Appendix II). For instance, difficulties in organising common exhibitions arise from customs-related problems. Several member states expressed their wish that firmer action be taken on facilitating the movement of goods and equipment for cultural purposes.

Other administrative obstacles include discrepancies between administrative structures and competencies. Another problem which was mentioned was that the merging of the “culture” sector in certain local departments with other sectors (youth and sports) impedes policy making on cultural heritage. Other problems include limited human resources, lack of experience and lack of specific contact persons. Some member states have mentioned that there is no transfrontier strategy for the promotion of cultural heritage and that even though they have signed intergovernmental agreements in the cultural field, cultural heritage as such was not considered as a priority. Others have mentioned lack of guidelines, regulations and legal framework for engaging in transfrontier co-operation in the field of cultural heritage.

There are also quite a number of financial concerns, such as variations in the amounts of subsidies given by national governments, lack of knowledge on the functioning of European programmes, and limited amount of resources devoted to the protection of cultural heritage in some countries unless it is considered heritage at risk.

Other obstacles that were mentioned include difficulties in obtaining visas, language barriers, differences in attitudes in the treatment of cultural heritage and long waiting periods at the borders.

Transfrontier networks and structures are an important basis for establishing contacts and improving communication channels across the border. Enhanced communication between partners is a panacea for reducing or eliminating obstacles to transfrontier co-operation. It is also noticeable that transfrontier bodies at local or intergovernmental level can be the motors for initiating ideas and strategies to develop a transfrontier perspective on the protection and promotion of cultural heritage.

A combination of legal instruments of the Council of Europe could be used in the pursuit of facilitating transfrontier co-operation in the cultural field. The Outline Convention on Transfrontier Co-operation between Territorial Communities or Authorities and its two protocols could be used simultaneously with other legal instruments, such as the European Cultural Convention, European Convention on Archaeological Heritage and the European Charter of the Architectural Heritage.

Attention should also be drawn to the risks of illicit trafficking of cultural property. In this regard, the Council of Europe drafted the European Convention on Offences relating to Cultural Property (Delphi Convention) opened for signature in 1985 in Delphi.

APPENDIX I

I. EXAMPLES OF TRANSFRONTIER CO-OPERATION IN CULTURAL HERITAGE

a. Cultural routes

Croatia

“Heritage roads – along the banks of the river Kup”: transfrontier co-operation between Croatia, Slovenia and Italy. Dolenjska and Bela Krajina has established co-operation with the counties of Primorsko-Goranska and partly with Karlovacka; organised by ICAM association in Rijeka and the Croatian section of ECOVAST and supported by the administration of the Risnjak National Park and the communities of Cabar and Delnice.

Czech Republic

The Czech centre for holiday traffic joined the castle routes project (*Burgenstrasse*), which is a tourist route connecting castles between Rhineland and Prague.

France

Abbey routes across Saar, Luxembourg, Lorraine and Wallonia.

Proposals to create a Schieckhardt routes project; a book on this architect was published by French and German writers.

Latvia

“Roads of War and Peace in the Eastern Baltics and Pskov Oblast”. The project started in 1999. Its activities are: to investigate the historical links of three medieval castles – Alūksne, Vastseliina and Izborska, to produce informative and methodological educational publicity material, to provide suggestions for the preservation of ruins and to design joint tourism routes. The experience exchange activities for specialists of historical object preservation and local lore students of the regions of the neighbouring countries are included.

Portugal

The project on heritage routes, which includes the Algarve and the Spanish Province of Huelva, foresees the identification of monuments and archaeological relics, studies, demarcation of thematic routes (Roman, Islamic, medieval, the period of discoveries, baroque, etc.).

Spain

The historical route of *Camino de Santiago*.

Switzerland

Transfrontier itineraries in the framework of the European Heritage Days.

Revalorisation of archaeological routes: routes of artists of the lake (Tessin and Lombardy); the “Vallis Triensis” archaeological route between Vallorcine (Haute-Savoie, France) and Trient, Finhaut, Salvan, and Vernayaz (Valais, Switzerland);

“Route Napoleon” between Valais, Switzerland and Val d’Aoste, Italy.

Religious route: “de la Cité de Calvin ... à l’arrière pays catholique”, between Geneva, Switzerland and Pays de Gex, France.

The “former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”

Co-operation between the State Institute for Protection of Cultural Monuments in Skopje and the Institute of Protection of the Republic of Albania in Tirana on the Via Egnatia Road. The aim is to find material proof and to define the route of the Roman main road on the territory of both states.

United Kingdom

Participation in various “Viking routes” initiatives with other countries which share this history (such as Sweden).

- b. Exchange of experience and information (conferences, joint research, exchanges between schools and universities, co-operation between museums and research institutes)**

Austria

A series of conferences within the framework of the Working Community of the Arge Alp on themes such as “Tombs and Cemeteries in the Alps”, “Inventories of cultural heritage”, “Touristic architecture in the Alps” and “Craftsmanship and the Preservation of Monuments”.

Belgium

Partnership between the historic towns of Mons, Tournai, Binche and Laon where each town organises a seminar on subject matters of common interest.

Bulgaria

Transfrontier association of Mesta-Nestos between Bulgaria and Greece. This first Euroregion in south-east Europe also has the purpose of co-operating on touristic products within the Euroregion (exchange of information and publicity).

A series of international symposia organised on cultural heritage within the programme “The Rhodops and man”.

Organisation of a meeting with central, regional and local representatives and the members of the national committees of Icomos of the Balkanic countries on the question of the legal framework for the preservation of cultural heritage.

Czech Republic

National office of Raphael and the Euroregion Nisa organised a lecture in Liberec (North Bohemia, 3 February 1999) aimed at European Union programme Raphael and the selection of projects.

Finland

“Cultural network and project management for cultural tourism managers of the Barents Euro Arctic region” targeted at people working in the cultural field in the Barents region (Finnish Lapland, Norrbottens county, northern Norway, Murmansk and Arkhangelsk oblast). The aim is to create close co-operation links between partners.

France

Meetings on the promotion of cultural tourism in the Grand Region (Saar, Luxembourg, Lorraine, Wallonia, Trier and Western Palatinate) bringing together public and private operators in cultural tourism.

Meetings between specialists in the preservation of monuments under the initiative of the General Council of Savoie and the Italian mountain community of Val Chisone and Germanasca.

Transfrontier student exchanges in order to get acquainted with historical and cultural heritage. Partners: Department of Savoie and the Italian mountain community of Val Chisone and Germanasca.

Germany

In Schleswig-Holstein, a Danish expert from the Viking Ship Museum in Roskilde measured the Uelvesbüller ship. Regular meetings for exchanging experiences are held in the border region between *Land* Brandenburg and Poland, organised, *inter alia*, by the Euroregion Pomerania or other transnationally active institutions. An example of a recent activity: in order to exchange experience with a view to conserving cultural heritage, a Polish expert was due to report on the results of the church excavations during the 2nd *Frankfurter Archäologentag* (meeting of archaeologists) in Frankfurt/Oder on 5-6 June, 1999.

The association of the Polish archaeological department in Szczecin organised the “International Scientific Session” in May 1999. The meeting was entitled “The archaeological excavations in Poland and Germany – the legal situation, problems, and achievements”.

Co-operation of Bavaria with the Czech Republic: Exchange of experience and restoration standards in connection with the restoration of the plague column in Olomouc and the portal on the westward facade of Regensburg Cathedral.

Exchange of experience and documents in Bavaria with the heritage authorities in Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovenia, Croatia, Austria, South Tyrol and Switzerland. These countries are invited to attend the biannual Bavarian heritage conferences.

“Handicrafts in the Alpine region”, a project organised within the framework of Arge Alp to promote the exchange of experience and the further training of junior craftsmen in historic techniques that are typical of the alpine region.

Greece

Within the framework of the “Living castles” project (Raphael programme), a scientific meeting will be organised in Greece where the results of the research will be examined and experiences will be shared.

The Museum of Byzantine Civilisation is organising, in the framework of the Raphael programme, an international conference on medieval ceramics in the Mediterranean basin. Neighbouring states will also be invited to the conference.

Hungary

Regular organisation of a summer school on the protection of cultural heritage, where representatives from neighbouring countries participate.

Every year a conference is organised in Békés on folk architecture.

The county museum of Zala initiated the organisation of a meeting on “Folks by the Mura” which deals with the protection of cultural heritage.

There are common programmes between schools and exchanges between pupils. Regular contacts between the universities of Miskolc and Selmechanya, as well as between the school pupils of Komárom and Komarno, exist.

Ireland

Co-operation between the Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands with cultural and heritage agencies, North and South, on a “Time Trail to the Millennium”. This is a programme that will trace the evolution of architecture in the northern half of the island over the past 2000 years.

Latvia

Regular exchanges of experience and culture activity programmes take place between the Jēkabpils region of Latvia and the Rokiški region of Lithuania (culture days, exhibitions and concerts).

Netherlands

The State Service for Archaeological Investigations (ROB) co-operates with several border regions. A common project was initiated with North Rhine-Westphalia, that focuses on the exchange of information regarding methodology and technique (Niers-Kandel project). Furthermore, the ROB co-operates with the relevant authorities in the province of West Flanders (Belgium), Pas-de-Calais (France) and the counties of Kent and Sussex (United Kingdom) in a project that receives money from the European Union.

Poland

Transfrontier working team created between the former voivodships of Szczecin, Gorzów and Zielona Góra with Brandenburg (*Land*) comprising working groups on archives, libraries, literary relics, museums, archaeology and preservation of historical monuments.

Czech-Polish co-operation in the field of archaeology between the museum in Nysa and the District Museum in Jeseník.

Scholarly conferences targeting Polish-Slovak frontier regions on common cultural heritage, currently conducted art conservation efforts and co-operation among museums.

Exchange of information on the preservation of architectural relics and historic monuments, conducted by the Regional Studies Department of the Biała Pówoł District Library in co-operation with partners from Belarus (Brest).

Scientific expedition to the Borussia Cultural Community Association in 1992 to study the existing state of historic monuments in Kaliningrad (in areas not readily accessible after 1945). International conference "Frontier-Regions-Nations" held in Goldap in 1994 and devoted to architectural relics in former East Prussia.

Co-operation between the former voivodships of Warmia and Masuria with Sweden's Halland region involving a joint programme entitled "the Halland Model of Monument Conservation" aimed at preserving monuments and disappearing occupations as well as reducing unemployment.

Joint Polish-Danish underwater research at the mouth of the River Odra in the field of maritime archaeology. Co-operation is undertaken between the National Museum of Szczecin and the National Museum of Denmark, Centre for Maritime Archeology in Roskilde.

Scholarly co-operation between the Silesian Institute in Opole, the Silesian University's Faculty of History and Museology in Poland and the Silesian Institute in Opava and the University of Ostrava in the Czech Republic.

Co-operation between Opole Polytechnic and the Technical Universities in Ostrava Brno on a joint project entitled "Durability of buildings".

Conducting historical studies also on architectural relics in the multicultural borderland areas of Spisz and Orawa, conducted on an international scale by the Polish Academy of Sciences (comprising Polish-Slovak Commission for Humanities) and the Association of Art Historians.

Portugal

Transfrontier documentation centre between the Algarve and Andalucia on the cultural heritage of these regions. It includes the creation of a computer-based data basis on current information and information to be collected.

Russian Federation

The Russian State Committee on Ecology, together with other departments of the member states of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), plans to publish "the Red Book" of CIS member states, which will include all major historical works of art in the border regions.

Switzerland

Co-operation between canton Thurgovie and the Office of Historical Monuments of Baden-Württemberg on the project *Unterswasser-/Pfahlbauarchäologie Gaienhofen/Hemmenhofen*.

Common research project between canton Thurgovie and Baden-Württemberg on the project *Wandel von Landschaft und Siedlungsweise imübergang vom Subboreal zum Subatlantikum im Bodenseeraum*.

Various scientific colloquies (for instance international congress "Medieval Europe Basel 2002").

Awareness-raising programmes for youth on cultural heritage, for example, publication of the *Guide Mutard* (cantons of Swiss Romande, Vallée d'Aoste, regions of Rhone-Alpes and Franche-Comté).

Exchange of staff working in the services on culture and the protection of heritage (north-west Switzerland, Baden-Württemberg and Alsace).

Transfrontier contacts to establish an inventory of historical monuments (general inventory in Strasbourg).

Strong co-operation between the Schwab museum (Bienne) and the IRRAP (Compiègne, France) concerning the restoration of metallic objects and study of this material.

United Kingdom

Transfrontier co-operation between Ireland and Northern Ireland: an intergovernmental working group on underwater archaeology proposes a survey of underwater, intertidal and land archaeology in the vicinity of Carlingford Lough, which straddles the geographical border.

Also the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Waterways met to promote best practice on management, conservation and sustainable development of inland waterways (including the historic Irish canals network).

The Irish Association of Professional Archaeologists and the Irish Museums Association meet regularly to discuss a broad range of cultural heritage issues.

Leonardo-funded project involving staff exchanges with Spain, Italy and Portugal to look at building site management projects

Cost Action C5 – Urban Heritage: Building maintenance involvement, along with Belgium, Netherlands, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Sweden, Spain and Slovenia. This examines evaluation criteria for determining the historic importance of buildings and the effectiveness of methods and techniques used in preservation work.

c. Exhibitions (co-operation between museums and cultural institutes)

Austria

Important common exhibitions involve those in Stams Monastery and in Tyrol Castle in co-operation with Bundesland Tyrol and South Tyrol in 1995 and in Bruck Castle in Lienz, Brixen Castle and Beseno Castle near Rovereto (for 2000).

Belgium

Illustrations of Christ in the art of the Euregio (Euregio Meuse-Rhin: between the bordering towns of Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands);

Croatia

Exchanging works of art for exhibitions between Cremona and Pula.

Czech Republic

Exhibition dedicated to Saxon Renaissance prepared by the Monument and Relics Institute in Usti nad Labem and Rabštejn Castle.

Germany

Transfrontier co-operation between Bavaria and Hungary: exchange of exhibitions on the restoration of Regensburg Cathedral

Greece

The Museum of Byzantine Civilisation in Thessaloniki (in co-operation with bodies in Cyprus) organised an exhibition entitled "Byzantine and Medieval Cyprus. Empress of the East, Queen of the West" in Thessaloniki and in Nicosia.

The Museum of Byzantine Civilisation in Thessaloniki participated in the exhibition, by lending works, *Romana pittura. La pittura romana dalle origini all'eta bizantina* in Rimini, Italy.

The Byzantine Museum in Athens participated by lending works to the exhibition *Sumptuosa tabula picta. Pittori a Lucca tra Gotico e Rinascimento in Lucca*, Italy.

Ireland

Co-operation between galleries and museums in the Republic and Northern Ireland for the exchange of exhibitions.

Poland

Presentation of collections from Polish and Czech museums.

Exchange of exhibitions between Warmia and Masuria Museums and the historical Museum in Troki near Vilnius and the Museum of Little Lithuania in Klaipeda.

Co-operation between Olsztyn's Museum of Warmia and Masuria with the Kaliningrad Museum and the Kaliningrad Art Gallery concerning the exchange of exhibitions.

Russian Federation

The following activities were held in September 1999 and planned for the year 2000: joint activities of the museums in Ivangorod (Leningrad Oblast) and Narva (Estonia) in the framework of the European Cultural Heritage Days; arrangement for holding the Ivan Kupala holidays in the Ivangorod Fortress; joint exhibitions "Facing the city" in the Ivangorod historical, architectural and art museums.

Slovenia

There are forms of cross-border co-operation financed by the Slovene budget and contributions from partners in neighbouring countries. In particular, these apply to the area of museums (preparation of individual exhibitions and exchanges), and archaeological and other research of cultural heritage including Slovene border regions and Friuli-Venecia Julia, and Carinthia.

Using funds from the budget, the Ministry of Culture has been co-financing the preservation of the architectural heritage in neighbouring Friuli-Venecia Julia in the form of museum collections, which are important to Slovenes living in the cross-border region.

Switzerland

Collaboration with foreign archaeological museums (Thurgovie with Baden-Württemberg, Basle with Freiburg im Breisgau, Stuttgart, Karlsruhe, Colmar, Strasbourg, Mulhouse).

Various exhibitions of Swiss cantons in foreign countries (Museum of Bienne, de Vody – Lausanne and Avanches and Lons-le-Saunier – Jura, France).

Exhibition and historical book *Die Habsburger zwischen Rhein und Donau*.

d. Networking between cities and regions and transfrontier structures for cultural heritage in border regions

Belgium

Group ATEAR is established in Attert (province of Luxembourg) and is made up of the region Wallonia, the south of the German-speaking community, Alsace-Lorraine, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and the *Land* Rhineland-Palatinate. The purpose of this group is to co-operate in all the domains of transfrontier cultural heritage (restoration of modern constructions within the range of heritage buildings, colloquies, competitions and exhibitions).

Bulgaria

The development of the idea of establishing a regional Balkanic centre to collect information on the themes linked to cultural tourism, which will also try to combine cultural routes.

France

Fortified cities network: United Kingdom (Canterbury, Dover ...), Belgium (Ypres ...) and France (Boulogne-sur-Mer, Calais, Montreuil, Berg, Gravine, Cassel ...). Main activities: joint promotion of fortified cities and restoration.

Association of historic cities of the Euroregion. Brings together the cities in Nord Pas-de-Calais (France), Kent (United Kingdom), Vlaanderen and the Hainaut (Belgium). Activities: to improve internal (between members) and external communication (joint promotion activities, developing an internet site).

European archeological park of Bliestruch-Reinheim, archeological excavations and a common archeological journal between the Saar, Lorraine and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.

Luxembourg

“Atelier transfrontalier pour les études et actions en milieu rural” (ATEAR) is a subsection of the international association “Ruralité-Environnement-Développement” (RED). One of the activities of ATEAR covers the conservation of cultural heritage in rural areas. The Grand Duchy of Luxembourg in association with RED, has organised four transfrontier routes with Saar, Lorraine, Eifel and Wallonia.

Portugal

Transfrontier park (Geres/Xures) which includes a joint museum and upgrading infrastructure in places of historical interest.

Switzerland

Co-operation between the cities with Roman foundations of the Upper Rhine (Augusta Raurica, Biesheim).

Several independent groupings which facilitate contacts in the cultural and touristic domain (such as the groupings of museums in the region of the Jura Mountains (*arc jurassien*)).

Creation of the Regional Cultural Foundation (trinational foundation) in the region of the Upper Rhine.

United Kingdom

Intergovernmental Steering Committee on Historic Thatch (Ireland-Northern Ireland) which will lead to the conservation of historic thatched buildings through survey, research and practical technology.

e. Preservation, reconstruction and restoration of transfrontier cultural heritage (including identification, scientific documentation and publication)

Czech Republic

Close co-operation between the State Institute for Care of Historical Monuments and the Monument and Relic Institute in Pilsen on the Czech side, and the Documentation office of Cultural Monuments of Historical German-populated areas of Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia established in Munich (*Sudetendeutsche Landsmanschaft*) on the German side. Bilingual volumes of districts Jablonec (Gablonz) and Tachov (Tachau) will be published.

German-Austrian and Czech Co-operation Dombauakademie St. Stephan, renovation of cathedral and church steeples (1997-99).

Czech-German co-operation: Preserving and Reconstruction of Ancient Buildings of Wood, 1997.

Restoration of the Renaissance mural paintings in Cesky Krumlov Castle (second court). Participants: the Monument and Relic Institute in Ceske Budejovice, Cesky Krumlov Castle and the German Bayerisches Landesamt für Denkmalpflege, Munich.

Germany

The Arbeitsgemeinschaft Ochsenweg e.V. is working to explore and evaluate the archaeological and, to a larger extent, the historical-geographic heritage. This also includes measures for the conservation of such heritage along the *Ochsenweg* (ox path), as well as tasks related to the fields of archaeology, history, geography, such as organising events at the historically important route between Denmark and Germany.

The Fürst-Pückler-Park Bad Muskau Foundation is considered as a project of particular national interest and is promoted by the Federal Government Commissioner for Cultural Affairs and the Media. The Federal Government joins in the financing of the reconstruction of the historic buildings and the park, and subsidises the personnel and material expenses of the foundation. The historic park stretches out along both sides of the River Neiße, which today marks the border between Germany and Poland. When the bridges in the park are restored, it is envisaged that Germany and Poland together will apply for the inclusion of the park as a whole in Unesco's List of World Cultural and Natural Heritage.

Brandenburg stated that between the border towns of Frankfurt/Oder and Slubice (Poland) consultations on town planning and urban development, occasionally including architectural heritage matters, are held five to six times a year. For example, both sides are examining whether the Kleist-Tower in Slubice, which had been destroyed during the second world war, can be restored. Poland is planning a competition among architects which will be organised by the city of Frankfurt/ Oder, such as *Stadt, Land, Fluß* (town, country, river), *Grünflächengestaltung – das Erbe Lennés* (design of green areas – the heritage of Lenné).

In addition, there are numerous other projects being organised in which the German or Polish know-how is used in the conservation of historic buildings, for instance in working out the plans for the old town centre of Kostrzyn which was heavily destroyed in the war, or in the reconstruction of St Mary's in Chojna (Königsberg).

Mecklenburg-Vorpommern mentions co-operation with the Department for Underwater Archaeology at the ROB (*Rijksdienst voor het Oudheidkundig Bodemonderzoek*) in the Netherlands, concerning the question of how ship wreckage found on the ocean bed can be secured, maintained in its current state or relocated. In this context, co-operation activities are also carried out with the Department of the National Museum of Copenhagen in Roskilde, carrying out research in the history of shipping.

Transfrontier co-operation between Bavaria and Hungary: financial and technical support in connection with the restoration of Nadasdladany Castle, which will be converted into a cultural centre in the future.

Technical and financial support for the exemplary renovation of a farmhouse in Fertörakos; technical consultancy in connection with the restoration of stone sculptures excavated in Pecz and of the gothic church in Jak.

Transfrontier co-operation of Bavaria with Croatia: support for the redevelopment of Dubrovnik; technical and financial support for the restoration of Ludbreg Castle, which is being converted into a restoration centre with support from Bavaria.

In the framework of the Raphael programme of the European Commission, there has been co-operation with Slovenia, the Czech Republic and Austria on the restoration of decorative facade elements.

Greece

Restoration of monuments in the border region of Albania – monuments of Molivoskepastos, the cells of Parigoritissa Church in Arta, fortresses and monuments in Paramithia, Taxiarches Church in Kostaniani.

Hungary

Co-operation between Mátészalka and Munkacs/Munkacséve (Ukraine) and Mátészalka and Nagykaroly/Care (Romania). The purposes are: reconstruction of the Károlyi Castle (mansion), and the Munkács Castle, as well as the reconstruction and utilisation of the synagogue in Mátészalka.

The reconstruction of the Saint Imre Church in Felsörönök had been made as a joint programme of the Bishop of Szombathely and Burgenland.

Hungarian architects participate in the reconstruction of architectural heritage destroyed due to the Croatian war.

Hajdu-Bihar County (Hungary) and the Bihar County (Romania) submitted an application to the Phare Programme for the restoration of historic monuments.

The Cultural Association of Bodrogköz and the Eastern Slovakian Office for Monuments are in charge of the reconstruction of the Rakoczi Castle Borsi (Borsa).

The protection of the folk-historic building in the Örség area in Slovenia is provided by County Vas Museum and the conservation of the building is being carried out by Slovenian experts.

Italy

Upgrading and enhancement of cultural heritage in Puglia and western Greece. It includes in Greece the recovery of Venetian fortresses and monuments dating back to the Roman age, the restoration of buildings characterised by Italian architecture and painting. In Italy, it involves the upgrading of the cultural and historical heritage of *Grecia Salentina* whose territory is characterised by historical and architectural remains, clearly connected with Greek history and culture.

Italian-French INTERREG II Programme covers (Toscana-Corsica): the restoration of the old fortress in Livorno; improvement of the access to the new fortress in Livorno in view of its utilisation for exhibitions, events and tourism initiatives; landscaping of the castle park in Piombino, including the restoration of the castle itself; rehabilitation of St Peter's Fortress as an exhibition centre.

Latvia

Cross Hill reconstruction project jointly organised by Sauli Regional Council of Lithuania and Vilce Rural District Council of the Jelgava region of Latvia. The project envisages the reconstruction and development of Cross Hill in order to attract tourists to the border region.

Luxembourg

Project entitled "Conservation and restoration of external coatings, elements of cultural heritage and identity" is being launched by RED-ATEAR – Nord (see section *d.* on transfrontier networks and structures for cultural heritage).

Netherlands

The Dutch Ministry of Culture and the German *Länder* of Niedersachsen and Nordrhein-Westfalen contributed financially towards an employment project in the province of Overijssel. The main aim of the project was to retrain unemployed building workers as renovation and conservation specialists to improve their chances of finding employment. Secondary aims were the restoration of objects and sites of importance for cultural heritage, as well as reinforcing the tourist industry in the region and the preservation of certain restoration skills. The project is a private initiative and administrated by a private foundation (RIBO) which receives funding from both private and public sources.

Poland

Transfrontier co-operation with Germany includes: reconstruction and preservation of the historic park and palace complexes at Stolec/Stolzenberg and Lecnica/Bad Muskau; rebuilding of the Gothic church of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Chojna, destroyed in the second world war; rehabilitation of an eighteenth-nineteenth century park and manor complex at Kulice, adapted for use as the seat of the European Academy at Kulice-Kulz, including a conference and training centre.

Transfrontier co-operation between the Polish Academy of Sciences' Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology (scholars from Krakow and Przemyśl) and the Institute of Ukrainian Studies of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences (scholars from Lviv) on archaeological research in the border region.

Excavation research in Side, Ukraine; participation of Ukrainian conservationists in renovation work in churches of the Eastern Orthodox Deanery of Przemyśl, clearing of the Uniate Cemetery at Basznia Dolna carried out by the Lubavshchizna Society of Lviv.

Joint excavation research and analysis of artefacts by Polish archaeologists from Lublin Voivodeship and the Ukrainian archaeologists from Volhynia.

Conservation and restoration of cemeteries and churches in Poland and Ukraine.

Polish-Belorussian co-operation in the revitalisation of the Augustow Canal, a unique hydrotechnical relic from the first half of the nineteenth century, linking the water systems of the Rivers Vistula and Niemen.

Portugal

Rehabilitation of architectural sites between Alentejo and Extremadura, with the objective of creating tourist routes with thematic paths covering the sites in Alto Alentejo, Central and Western Alentejo and Extremadura.

The renovation of castles in Belmonte and Pinhel and urban planning of a part of the historical zone of Tracoso.

Rehabilitation of cultural amenities in border zones.

Russian Federation

A number of meetings with the representatives of the Ministry of Education of Finland were held at the Russian Ministry of Culture between June and December 1999. During these meetings the questions of Russian-Finnish transfrontier co-operation in the field of culture, in particular projects on the reconstruction of the Monrepo Park and Alvara Aalto Library were discussed. A number of meetings have also been planned for the year 2000.

Slovenia

The primary form these initiatives take are Phare cross-border programmes which incorporate co-operation between border regions in Italy and Slovenia (the Štanjel revitalisation project and the commemoration of the thousandth anniversary of Gorica, the restoration of the praetorian palace in Koper and Apolonio Palace in Piran). Furthermore, there are projects being carried out in north-eastern Slovenia (the restoration of Grad Castle and Rakican Castle) and a few other minor projects. This year, co-operation with Austria within the Phare cross-border programme will be put into action.

The second most important form is the programmes which result from bilateral intergovernmental agreements on cultural co-operation. Such is the case with the restoration of Lendava Castle, the plan for which aims to adapt it for use as a regional museum in the area of the Hungarian minority (Hungary is carrying out archaeological research, Slovenia is financing the restoration work). The restoration of Manzioli Palace stems from the intergovernmental agreement between Italy and former Yugoslavia.

Slovenia has signed special agreements with Austria and Italy, on the basis of which the maintenance of military cemeteries from the first and second world wars is carried out.

Switzerland

Renovation of the Landkron Castle.

Renovation of Lucelle Abbey: creation of a European meeting place.

Activities concerning the restoration of objects of historical interest (for instance, the restoration of a steamship by the International Bodensee Konferenz).

f. Promotion of transfrontier cultural heritage (agreements, declarations, nominations for world heritage)

Bulgaria

Intergovernmental agreement signed with Turkey for the preservation of the cultural heritage including cultural monuments (places of cult, places with religious connections and public buildings). A joint study is being carried out to establish an inventory of cultural heritage in both countries with a view to implementing appropriate protection measures. Also negotiations took place with Romania (1992-1993) on the preservation of cultural monuments (the mausoleum in the Bulgarian village of Grivitsa) and the sepulchre of the Evlogi brothers and Christo Guergiev in Bucharest, Romania.

Croatia

Initiatives are generally taken by the Croatian section of the European Council of Villages and Small Towns and mostly aimed at emphasising cultural heritage values.

France

The Saar-Lor-Lux Intergovernmental Commission's working group on cultural affairs launches several transfrontier projects in the field of cultural heritage. The commission is also extended to Trier and Western Palatinate and Wallonia. This is referred to as the "Grand Region". The same group has adopted a charter on transfrontier co-operation. A declaration was adopted in 1996 (text signed in 1998) on the promotion of transfrontier co-operation in the domain of culture and industrial heritage. The signatories are the Foundation for Industrial Culture (Völklingen, Saarland), the Industrial and Railway Park of Fond-de-Gras (Grand Duchy of Luxembourg) and the Centre de culture scientifique, technique et industrielle du bassin houiller Lorraine in Petite-Roselle.

Greece

The Ministry of Culture of Greece participates in the Raphael project entitled "Living castles" with Italy and Spain. The objective is to raise public awareness of the cultural heritage of medieval castles (starting from a representative monument on the territory of each party in the project). The material gathered will be presented in the form of a CD-Rom which will be available in the museums and publicly. It will also be available on the Internet. An educational programme will also be organised concerning the monuments.

Hungary

Presenting transfrontier areas as world heritage: the nomination of the Fertö Lake and its environment (Austrian and Hungarian settlements) as a world heritage site is in progress.

The nomination of the combination of the Slovakian and Hungarian cavern system by Aggtelek as a world heritage site.

The Carpathian Euroregion has established the Museum Association with a view to promoting direct contact with museums and other institutions; it also works as an expert committee dealing with the cultural heritage of the member countries.

Lithuania

Regular meetings of the Baltic Heritage Committee gather specialists in monument protection of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, with a view to discussing transfrontier projects, co-ordinating viewpoints and exchanging information about current projects and sharing experience.

Meeting of the Ministers for Culture of the countries of the Baltic Sea region (September 1999). The meeting will focus on cultural heritage protection issues. One of the goals of the meeting is to work out a strategy for co-operation in the sphere of cultural heritage protection.

The Ministry of Tourism is responsible for tourism development and strategies to attract tourists to cultural heritage sites. The Ministry of Culture co-operates with the Ministry of Tourism.

Luxembourg

In connection with the of the Council of Europe "Europe, a common heritage" Campaign, Luxembourg is launching the project "Places of memory, Millennium 2000". In all twelve cantons of Luxembourg, a memorial site will be chosen, each having a partner across the border.

Organisation of competitions in the field of architecture and preservation of cultural heritage.

Since 1985, the Association RED (see item *d.* concerning Transfrontier structures for cultural heritage) regularly publishes brochures, specially on the themes: "Old buildings, new uses", "Contemporary rural architecture" and "External coatings – reflection of territories".

Slovenia

Some promotion activities are undertaken by the Alps-Adriatica Working Community. In addition to Slovenia and Croatia, it includes several regions in Austria, Italy, Germany and Hungary. Within this framework, a sub-commission for historical centres is active, and a project which examines the situation of local architecture in the Alps-Adriatic region has been going on for several years.

The programme to rehabilitate Štanjel also covers the establishment of an information centre, which aims to promote heritage.

Sweden

The Nordic Council of Ministers and the National Heritage Boards in the Nordic countries promote transfrontier co-operation in the field of cultural heritage.

The transfrontier cultural heritage co-operation in the Baltic Sea area is at the moment organised with a secretariat in Sweden (within the National Heritage Board), whose task is to present to the Ministers for Culture at their annual meeting in 1999, an action plan for common heritage in the Baltic Sea area.

Special Nordic working groups have also been created on the topics of common interest. Currently there is a working group on traditional building materials and skills as well as a working group on rock art preservation. Both of them have been enlarged and converted into European Union projects. The latter also studies the effects and possible action to avoid damage from air pollution on rock art.

Switzerland

Cultural committees of the Working Community Arge Alp, of the Conference of Lake Constance and of Conseil du Léman promote transfrontier co-operation in cultural heritage.

g. Tourism (cycling routes, heritage parks, heritage days)

Belgium

Transfrontier cycling routes between the Dutch province of Limbourg, the region of Aachen, and the north of the German-speaking Community.

Ename Archeological Park which tells the unique tale of a cross-border site from the Middle Ages. It is a centre of attraction for cultural tourists.

A Monument Day for the two provinces of Limbourg (Dutch and Flemish) is organised every year to highlight the monuments in the two provinces.

The creation of a network of walking and cycling routes within the territory of the Euroregion Meuse-Rhine, including the municipalities of Riemst, Maastricht, Theux and the Kreis Düren.

Publication of a joint book on urban and architectural identity of Charleroi, Mons and Valen.

Seasonal animation of historic sites: Mons, Tournai, Laon and Binche co-operate to establish a transfrontier medieval market in each town and the organisation of walks by night.

A joint transfrontier journal which will publicise shows in each frontier town (Mons, Tournai, Laon and Binche).

Co-operation between the towns of Binche, le Quesnoy, Maubeuge and Avesnes-sur-Helpe on the development of transfrontier tourism (organisation of transfrontier heritage days, establishment of annual joint action programmes, publication of a common agenda on activities in each town, co-ordination of castle shows)

Bulgaria

Instruction of the development of archeological tourism in Smolian within a transfrontier perspective.

France

A common brochure where one archaeological site per country is presented.

The European Heritage Days in partnership with the regions of Lorraine and Wallonia, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and the *Land* of Saar.

The co-production of three films between Lorraine, Wallonia and Luxembourg on a common heritage theme (gardens, industrial heritage, civil heritage and its continuing utilisation).

Information sheets on Abbeys (1997) and fortifications (1998) were produced in co-operation with Lorraine and the *Land* Saar.

A transfrontier pocket guide on twenty sites in the regions of Saar, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, Lorraine and Wallonia.

Co-operation between the region Franche-Comté and the canton Jura on the "Invitation to museums" project which concerned twenty-seven French and Swiss sites (a joint information booklet was prepared, joint exhibitions organised).

Programme INTERREG Hainaut-Nord-Pas-de-Calais-Picardy; Euraphis animation of heritage of historical cities in the Euroregion.

Germany

Along the border between Germany and Denmark, a new museum project is evolving. The Danish brickwork museum – Catherinesminde Teglvaerks Museum – and the incorporated association – Industriemuseum Kupfermühle e.V. – have worked out a concept for a joint network of museums with a thematic focus on the industrialisation of the former dukedom of Schleswig. This initiative is supported by Sønderjylland District Office and the Museum Department of Schleswig-Holstein

The Archaeological Museum of Mecklenburg-Western is co-operating with the group *Intervento di Archologia Subaquea* in Palermo, where in the context of the project “Mare Nostrum”, funded by the European Union (Rapahel project), it is intended to establish a network of underwater-archaeology tours corresponding to a similar project on the coast at Rügen.

In Prenzlau, a town in *Land Brandenburg*, signs in historic and listed buildings and sites are written in German, English, and Polish. These signs contain information about the most significant dates of the project.

Similar activities are carried out in other cities, too. The cities of Frankfurt/Oder and Slubice are members of the *Hanse der Neuzeit* (Hanseatic League of Modern Times). In 2003 both cities will jointly host the 23rd International *Hansetag* (diet). At the same time, the border towns celebrate the 750th anniversary of their foundation. All town planning activities, including the integration of the architectural heritage, will be co-ordinated in line with that event. Today, architectural monuments and areas within the historic town centre are used as venues during the annual German-Polish *Oderfest* (celebration at the River Oder) in early June, and during the *Hansefest*. If requested, sightseeing tours, with the focus on architectural heritage, are also organised in neighbouring towns.

The open air museum Finsterau (Bavaria), which in its foundation and building-up phase (1979-99) re-erected on its premises some key examples of houses and buildings from the Bavarian Forest, is planning an interesting project. The museum intends to intensify co-operation with partner institutions in the Bohemian Forest which are also concerned with collecting and/or conserving rural monuments: Chanovice (Klatovy County) and Chalupy (Prachalice County). There are plans to link the museums through a road that will be off limits for motor vehicles and reserved for hikers, cyclists, horse-riders and carriages. This itinerary will also serve to highlight some aspects of the cultural history of the region.

Latvia

Pskov – Livonia – Info (Phare Credo) – Polva and Voru regions of Estonia, Pechori region of Russia. Content of the project: using modern information technology in assessing and advertising transfrontier region tourism objects, including cultural and historical inheritance.

“Development of Tourism in Borderline Regions” (financed by SIDA). Several pilot projects consulted by tourism specialists from the University of Dalarn (Sweden), including possibilities to carry out excavations at some sites of castle ruins (town of Alūksne, Latvia), preservation of the culture of the Seto ethnic group and its traditional buildings, co-operation of Seto museums in Estonia and Russia.

Sweden

Since the independence of the former Soviet countries, a non-profit organisation, the Baltic Sea Tourism Commission (BTC) has been created to develop tourism in the Baltic Sea states. BTC promotes the development of transnational tourism projects like Hanseatic cities, Viking routes, the amber route, etc.

Switzerland

Annual booklet on parks and gardens (*Mois des jardins*) jointly produced by the Regional Cultural Affairs Directorate of Alsace and the participation of the Upper Rhine Conference (Swiss cantons of Argovie, Basle-urban and Basle-rural and Baden-Württemberg in Germany).

Joint publication of a map of French and Swiss museums in the region of the Jura Mountains (*arc jurassien*).

Creation of a passport for museums for the region of the Conference of the Upper Rhine (Alsace, Southern Palatinate, Swiss cantons of Argovie, Basle-urban and Basle-rural and Baden-Württemberg).

Publication of a book on *Kulturraum Oberrhein*.

Joint tourist guides in the Upper Rhine area.

Booklet entitled *Reisen auf den Spuren der Habsburger*.

United Kingdom

Transfrontier co-operation between Ireland and Northern Ireland on a joint marketing strategy: "Heritage Ireland". Groups and bodies providing cultural experiences are assisted by the Northern Ireland Tourist Board. A cultural tourism partnership involving the NITB, the Arts Council, the Museum Council and the Film Commission will promote a broader cultural experience, with an integrated marketing plan ready for implementation by 2000.

h. Training

Austria

As a result of the conference on Craftsmanship and the Preservation of Monuments, co-operation between the Arge Alp countries will increase through exchanges of craftsmen and short training facilities.

Belgium

Training for craftsmen organised by the German-speaking Community with participation from Belgium, Germany and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.

Training on restoration techniques in the Meuse-Rhine (establishing an inventory of obstacles that hamper transfrontier co-operation in restoration, harmonisation of professional qualifications, preparation of a Euroregional certificate, exchange of experience in construction, renovation and restoration).

Czech Republic

The Renaissance project was started in 1998 within the framework of the Commission's Raphael programme. It aimed at training and education of apprentices in conservation, restoration and repairs of national architecture. The Monument and Relic Institute in Usti nad Lebem and Goerlitzer Fortbildung Zentrum (Lusitania, Germany) are taking part in the project.

Ireland

Projects linked to Council of Europe heritage skills initiative and funded under Leonardo, Adapt and Raphael programmes. These projects involve partnerships between experts and trainees from European countries including Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Latvia

Within the framework of a project financed by SIDA (Sweden) for the border region municipalities of Latvia, Estonia and Russia, training seminars are organised for officials in the fields of culture and museum management on the preservation of cultural and historical heritage.

Lithuania

The Lithuanian Department of Cultural Heritage Protection, in co-operation with ICCROM, is organising regional training courses entitled "Integrated Monument Protection". The project has been going on for three years and includes Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Belarus and Ukraine.

Poland

A summer school for conservationists is held in Zamosc under the auspices of Poland's Unesco Committee and is attended by specialists from Belarus, Lithuania, Poland and Ukraine.

A conservationists' workshop is also conducted in Jelenia G?ra-Czarne in co-operation with the Euroregion Nysa.

Antikon monument conservation fair in Szczecin.

Co-operation between the National Museum of Szczecin and the Centre for Maritime Archaeology in Roskilde has led to the training of Polish specialists in the documentation and conservation of wet archaeological timber.

Portugal

Exchange of experts in the field of archaeological heritage between the northern region of Portugal and the Spanish region of Castille and León.

Russian Federation

The Russian Ministry of Culture with the participation of Unesco, the Council of Europe and Novgorod Oblast Administration held an international training seminar for specialists from central and eastern Europe (Novgorod, 11-18 September 1999). Experts from Norway, Belarus, Lithuania and Ukraine took part in this seminar.

Slovenia

Activities of this type were conducted under the aegis of bilateral cultural co-operation with Hungary (annual expert exchanges based on a special programme). In recent years efforts to establish a training centre in Manzioli Palace in Izola for heritage preservation in Primorje and Istria have been in the forefront. Slovenia is providing funds for the restoration of the palace, while Italy will finance the training and provide experts.

Spain

Meeting between the Spanish and Portuguese archaeologists and architects of the Extremadura and Alentejo regions in 1994 and the “Iberian days of cultural heritage and cities” in 1995.

Exchange between training centres focused on cultural heritage.

In Olivenza (Extremadura) a study centre is being created on transfrontier architecture.

With France, *ad hoc* initiatives are taken concerning training within the framework of the Pyrénées Working Community and the Euroregion Cataluña-Midi Pyrénées-Languedoc-Roussillon.

Sweden

Transfrontier co-operation with the Baltic Sea states deals with traditional building materials and skills, especially those concerning wooden structures and wooden towns. A series of seminars and workshops on the conservation of wooden houses has been held in Estonia and Russia, also with participation from the other Baltic states. Some of these seminars and workshops have been financed by the Nordic Council of Ministers, others by the Swedish Government and the Swedish Institute. Participants included architects and craftsmen. Training in skills for restoration is also a future action that the Baltic Sea Working Group will propose to the Ministers for Culture in the Baltic Sea area for the coming years.

The Swedish National Heritage Board has also, as part of a training programme for the Baltic Sea area, translated policy documents and guidelines into the different languages existing in the Baltic Sea area.

Switzerland

Exchange of traineeships in archaeological research between Institutes in Basle, Paris, Autun (Mont Beuvray), Lyon, Lübeck, Tübingen, Vienna, Helsinki, Munich, Passau, Frankfurt on Main; between the Grisons and the Valteline and Tirol.

United Kingdom

Initiatives to promote exchanges internationally – such as that with Schloss Trebsen Conservation Training School in Leipzig, Germany – on the conservation of stone and plaster and the building of lime kilns.

II. COMMON PROBLEMS OF TRANSFRONTIER CO-OPERATION IN THE FIELD OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

a. Administrative

Most of the major difficulties are directly linked with customs requirements. Long and complex administrative procedures have to be followed during the transporting and exchanging of objects of historical and cultural interest across the border (customs, forms, packaging). Administrative difficulties arise mostly during the exchange of exhibitions when highly valuable architectural objects have to be borrowed. Permission generally comes from central administration (in centralised countries). Due to the time required for a reply and demands which cannot be met, the movement of objects for an exhibition is very difficult.

When objects are transformed (restoration, cleaning, etc), in some cases the procedures to be followed for customs administration are also extremely lengthy. These procedures are similar to those followed for the importation and exportation of commercial goods and therefore are very expensive. Moreover, the procedures are not in line with the resources of cultural institutions (public funds).

In the same vein, a number of states have indicated difficulties in using suitable equipment (e.g. for archaeological research) and organising transfrontier exhibitions due to problems encountered in customs clearance. Several countries expressed the wish that rules be adopted to facilitate the movement of cultural goods and equipment to be used for cultural purposes.

Another important problem concerns the discrepancies in local administrative structures and competencies. A particular problem was mentioned concerning the structure of "cultural services" in local and regional authorities. These services are generally merged with other sectors such as sports, tourism and general promotion of the region, which makes the definition of objectives in the cultural field very difficult.

Another important concern generally mentioned is the limited human resources and/or lack of experience for instance in the formulation, planning, programming and management of tasks in the domain of the conservation of cultural heritage in a transfrontier context. One region complained that there was no direct contact person in the field of cultural heritage in the local administration across the border. This makes it more difficult to exchange views on current and future projects and means of financing them.

b. Legal

Several responses mentioned the lack of proper regulations pertaining to co-operation with partners abroad. In some countries, there are no established rules and mechanisms to promote transfrontier co-operation in this field. Also no rules exist on the participation of governmental or non-governmental bodies.

Although intergovernmental agreements exist in the cultural field, the preservation and management of cultural heritage does not have a priority (e.g. Dutch-Flemish agreement). Most responses showed that there is no clear policy or strategy to preserve transfrontier cultural heritage at national level, nor is it promoted (Finland). In some countries very few activities exist in the preservation of transfrontier cultural heritage. This is, however, not the case in all the member states. For instance, the directives and guidelines from the Swedish Government to the National Heritage Board show that transnational co-operation is considered a high priority.

A legal problem, which directly concerns local authorities, is that in some national legislations their jurisdiction in cultural heritage is acknowledged only if the heritage in question is not under national or international protection (e.g. the Hungarian Act on the Formation and Protection of the Architectural Environment). The legal definition of “local heritage” and “national heritage” may hamper transfrontier initiatives in the reconstruction and conservation of cultural heritage.

As in all areas of activity, there are discrepancies in national legal frameworks. This may not always cause a problem, but a lack of knowledge of the heritage protection system of the neighbouring country may create obstacles to transfrontier co-operation.

Finally, a legal problem was mentioned concerning the difficulties in finding the appropriate legal structure for transfrontier co-operation bodies (e.g. the European Archaeological Park of Bliestrach-Reinheim).

c. Financial

The replies generally mention limited resources at local level and in some cases at national level for transfrontier co-operation in cultural heritage. Several projects are mentioned (both transfrontier and interterritorial) which are financed by the European Union (such as INTERREG, Phare, Raphael and Leonardo). General problems concerning financing from the European Union were related to lack of knowledge on how INTERREG functioned, very long and complicated procedures to obtain funds for projects and difficulties to manage a transfrontier project with a single common budget. Other complaints included the differing amounts granted for a project and an overall problem of inadequate financial support.

Some replies made a link between the availability of financial assistance and the existence of a local or national strategy for transfrontier co-operation in cultural heritage. In some countries, there are no strategies either at local or at national level to promote cultural heritage. Territorial authorities sometimes do not use heritage promotion as a means for economic development (through attracting more tourists). Moreover, some of their projects might be superficial, inadequately geared to cultural demands. Territorial authorities in some countries give priority to transfrontier infrastructure and economic development.

In some countries, at national level, greater attention is paid to the heritage at risk (which sometimes comprises a large portion, such as in Slovenia) and therefore the potential benefits of other types of heritage are overlooked and less money is invested in them.

Finally, another obstacle that hampers the financing of projects relates to the shortage of skilled professionals, which would contribute to a more integrated conservation of heritage, as well as designing transfrontier marketing and management strategies.

d. Other

Several technical obstacles were mentioned, such as lack of technical equipment to serve the information network established in the domain of cultural heritage and the absence of special products, of know-how and experience, which are vital to implement an integrated approach to the conservation of cultural heritage in a transfrontier context.

Differences in attitudes (conservative or progressive) in the treatment of cultural heritage could also hamper co-operation. One response stated that the differing attitudes affected the creation of joint exhibitions, since not all neighbouring countries agreed that their subsidies could be grouped under one body.

Other problems mentioned include difficulties in obtaining visas (time consuming since they have to be obtained in the capital and not at the border), heavy traffic on the border due to few crossing points and the language barrier (difficulty in translating documents due to their technical character).

APPENDIX II**List of contacts****COUNCIL OF EUROPE**

Mr José-Maria Ballester
 Head of Cultural Heritage Section
 Directorate of Education, Culture and Sport
 Palais de l'Europe
 F - 67075 STRASBOURG CEDEX
 Tel: 00 33 3 88 41 22 50
 Fax: 00 33 3 88 41 27 55
 E-mail: jose-maria.ballester@coe.int

EUROPEAN INSTITUTE OF CULTURAL ROUTES

Mr Michel THOMAS-PENETTE
 Tour Jacob
 Plateau du Rham
 L - 2427 LUXEMBOURG
 Tel: 00 352 241 250
 Fax: 00 352 241 176

EUROPEAN FOUNDATION FOR HERITAGE SKILLS

Mr Daniel THEROND
 Executive Director
 Directorate of Education, Culture and Sport
 Council of Europe
 Palais de l'Europe
 F - 67075 STRASBOURG CEDEX
 Tel: 00 33 3 88 41 22 52
 Fax: 00 33 3 88 41 27 55
 E-mail: daniel.therond@coe.int

EUROPEAN UNION

Mr Moray Gilland
 Unit A1
 DG Regional Policy
 Community Initiative Co-ordination
 B - BRUSSELS
 Tel: 00 32 2 296 9289
 Fax: 00 32 2 296 3273
 E-mail: moray.gilland@dg16.cec.be

Unesco

Mr Lyndel V Prott
 Chief International Standards Section
 Division of Cultural Heritage
 1 rue Miollis
 F - 75732 PARIS CEDEX 15
 Tel: 00 33 1 45 68 44 40
 Fax: 00 33 1 45 68 55 96
 E-mail: lv.pratt@unesco.org

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF MUSEUMS (ICOM)

Secretariat

Maison de l'Unesco

1 rue Miollis

F - 75732 PARIS CEDEX 15

Tel: 00 33 1 47 34 05 00

Fax: 00 33 1 43 06 78 62

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF MONUMENTS AND SITES (ICOMOS)

49-51 rue de la Fédération

F - 75015 PARIS

Tel: 00 33 1 45 67 67 70

Fax: 00 33 1 45 66 06 22

E-mail: secretariat@icomos.org

INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF THE PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION OF CULTURAL PROPERTY (ICCROM)

13 via di San Michele

I - 00153 ROME

Tel: 00 359 6 585 531

Fax: 00 39 6 5855 3349

E-mail: iccrom@iccrom.org

EUROREGIONS

Secretary General

Euregio Maas Rhine

Postbus 5700

NL - 5202 MAASTRICHT

Tel: 00 31 43 89 74 92

Fax: 00 31 43 61 75 22

Euregio Saar-Lor-Lux-Rhein

IRI

1 avenue de la Gare

L - 1017 LUXEMBOURG

Tel: 00 352 48 70 31

Fax: 00 352 40 41 61