





South East European (SEE) Heritage is a network of civil society organizations from South East Europe, established in 2006. Since 2010, the SEE Heritage Network has been registered as a civil society organization based in Kotor, Montenegro (in Montenegrin language its official name is “Mreža za nasljeđe Jugoistične Evrope”). Its work is administered by the Secretariat located in Kotor.

SEE Heritage Network gathers all those willing to contribute to protecting and promoting the South East European heritage as part of the common European and world heritage.

The mission of the SEE Heritage Network is to work towards protecting and promoting the common cultural heritage with the aim of encouraging sustainable development of the region.

The vision of the SEE Heritage Network: South East Europe (SEE) - region where people cooperate, understand and respect each other on the basis of their cultural differences, believing that cultural, ethnic and religious diversity is a valuable resource.

Why SEE Heritage Network?

The initiative to establish a network of CSOs (civil society organizations) working on cultural heritage came from the Swedish organization CHwB (Cultural Heritage without Borders). CHwB has started its activities in recognizing the CSOs that will try to create a common ground for acting. Initially, twelve partner CSOs from the region (Albania, BiH, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia) expressed their willingness to meet and exchange views and experiences with their colleagues. In mid-2006, based on the CHwB initiative, these CSOs met in Sarajevo.

The lack of cooperation among CSOs working in the field of cultural heritage in the South East Europe was identified and discussed at the initial meeting. The idea of creating a network for the joint promotion, preservation and sustainable usage of cultural heritage emerged.

At this meeting, the CSOs decided to enhance their own field of activity and to extend their work in the cultural heritage sector beyond the borders of their own countries by establishing links with other regional and international partners.

Issuing of this publication was supported by the Headley Trust, United Kingdom

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In 2006 in Sarajevo, 12 CSOs together with representatives of the CHwB, signed a commitment statement to develop and strengthen a regional network, which they named SEE Heritage (where SEE stands for South East Europe, and also for “to see”, i.e. to see, to recognise, to acknowledge, to look at the heritage).

Membership Declaration

We, the members of the South East European Heritage Network (SEE Heritage), in this Membership Declaration set forth our common vision to develop and preserve the multicultural heritage in our countries in order to promote the SEE region where people cooperate, understand and respect each other based on their cultural differences.

We, as a network of civil society organizations, believe that cultural, ethnic and religious diversity are valuable resources. Our work aims to protect and promote our common heritage as a tool for sustainable and responsible development.

We recognize cultural heritage as:

- An expression of personal and community identities & differences
- A heritage that we all share
- A means for building social capital & cohesion as well as for fostering people's good-will & co-operation;
- A unique resource for the sustainable development of our countries.

We, as promoters of cultural heritage, envision the South East European Heritage Network as a focal point for consolidating and spreading the internationally recognized cultural heritage values. We will work openly and honestly by upholding ethical principles, safeguarding human rights, and respecting individuals' inalienable right to feel and express their differences.

We, as signatories of this Membership Declaration, underscore our Network's role in the alleviation of regional poverty, tension and instability and, above all, in the preservation and promotion of the tremendous wealth and diversity found in SEE's cultural heritage. We, in light of the aforementioned values, commit ourselves to the future development of the Network and to utilizing all of our resources, experience and knowledge to help SEE communities cultivate the values that we support.

Signatories:

Albanian Heritage Foundation, Albania

Albanian National Trust, Albania

Association for Rehabilitation of the Cultural Heritage ARCH, Serbia

Butrint Foundation, Albania

Center for Cultural Heritage Projektor, Montenegro

Civic Association SUBURBIUM, Serbia

Cultural Heritage without Borders, Regional Office in Bosnia and Herzegovina

EC MA NDRYSHE, Kosovo

Europa Nostra Serbia, Serbia

EXPEDITIO – Center for Sustainable Spatial Development, Montenegro

Foundation Open Society – Macedonia, Macedonia

MJAFT! Movement, Albania

Notar – Centre for Preservation and Promotion of Kotor Documentary Heritage, Montenegro

Membership

The members of the SEE Heritage Network are, at the moment, 20 civil society organizations which deal with cultural heritage protection or have one part of their programme activities dedicated to cultural heritage protection, and which are registered or work in the South East Europe countries:

- Albanian National Trust, Tirana, Albania www.butrinti.com
- Albanian Heritage Foundation, Tirana, Albania <http://albanianheritage.net>
- Association for Rehabilitation of the Cultural Heritage ARCH, Belgrade, Serbia
- Butrint Foundation, Tirana, Albania www.butrint.org
- Center for Cultural Heritage Projektor, Tivat, Montenegro www.projektor.chc.org
- Civic Association SUBURBIUM, Petrovaradin, Serbia www.suburbium.org
- Cultural and Natural Heritage, Konjic, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Cultural Heritage without Borders /CHWB/, Regional Office in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina www.chwb.org/bih
- EC MA NDRYSHE, Prishtina, Kosovo www.ecmandryshe.org

- Europa Nostra Serbia, Serbia, www.europanostraserbia.org
- EXPEDITIO, Kotor, Montenegro www.expeditio.org
- Foundation Open Society - Macedonia, Skopje, Macedonia www.soros.org.mk
- GENIUS LOCI, Zagreb, Croatia www.geniusloci.hr
- Gjirokastra Conservation and Development Organization, Gjirokastra, Albania www.gjirokastra.org
- Heritage - Association for the Care and Preservation of Cultural Heritage in Macedonia, Skopje, Macedonia
- MJAFT! Movement, Tirana, Albania www.mjaft.org
- Mozaik, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina www.mozaik.ba
- Notar - Centre for Preservation and Promotion of Kotor Documentary Heritage, Kotor, Montenegro www.cdknotar.org
- Kupreška visoravan, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- PRO TORPEDO, Rijeka, Croatia www.torpedo150rijeka.org
- Transylvania Trust, Cluj-Napoca, Romania <http://transylvaniatrust.ro>



Besides the members, the Network has a **group of supporters** of its work. Supporters of the Network can be from or outside the SEE region: civil society organizations, individuals, organizations, state/government institutions, media, or private sector, that support the vision and mission of the SEE Heritage Network.

How to become the SEE Heritage Network member?

Visit our web site www.seeheritage.org and look for SEE Heritage Membership Criteria and SEE Heritage Member Application Form

Organizational Scheme



Joint Activities

Workshops and Conferences

Public debate “Misuse of cultural heritage in political, ideological and other causes” - July 2, 2007, Skopje, Macedonia

The event, organized by the Foundation Open Society - Macedonia, had a regional character including key speeches by three experts from the SEE region. The following issues were discussed: The age of nations: from academic discourse to cultural tourism; Economy of ethnisation: misuse of the ethnic component of cultural heritage; the Ohrid Declaration (2002) and the relation among the cultural heritage and the “catastrophes”; cultural heritage of one ethnic community being refuted beyond its border even when that community extends beyond it; heritage being misused for the purpose of politics and development, especially in tourism; how we can avoid abusing culture and using it for reconciliation of communities.



Workshop “Devastation of cultural heritage” - February 8-10, 2008, Kotor, Montenegro

The workshop, organized by Expeditio and Notar, focused on one of the crucial problems when the heritage of

Montenegro, as well as of other countries is concerned. The first part of the workshop consisted of the tour around the Boka Kotorska Bay aimed at mapping the zones of heritage devastation. It was followed by presentations on heritage devastation in the participants' countries. As the workshop conclusion, the participants adopted a joint Appeal to stop the indifference towards the devastation of SEE heritage, which was sent to the authorities and responsible institutions of the SEE countries. A press conference was organized, followed by a public presentation of cultural heritage of the two participating countries: Azerbaijan and Albania. Two Azerbaijan civil society organizations were present as guests of the SEE Heritage Network: CSO for Islam, Democracy and Human Rights and Association of Protection Women's Rights.



Workshop “Cultural tourism and local economic development” - January 23-26, 2009, Prizren, Kosovo

A thematic workshop, organized by the EC Ma Ndryshe, revealed and discussed the potential of cultural tourism and local development, as a common opportunity and need

of many South East European cities and rural areas. The discussion was mainly focused on the city of Prizren and its potential to attract tourist through its rich cultural heritage, contributing thus to the local economic development of the city. The workshop brought two positive examples of civil society engagement in utilizing the cultural and heritage potential of Prizren and Kosovo (restoration works of the Cultural Heritage without Borders, office in Prishtina and DokuFest film festival).

Conference “Cultural heritage tourism as a tool for sustainable development” - June 21-23, 2008, Berat, Albania

The conference organized by Butrint Foundation/ Albanian Heritage Centre expounded upon through country presentations coupled with two professional lectures delivered by international experts. Significant threats, the most prominent of which is the potential destruction of cultural heritage resources through the irresponsible development of tourism, emerged through the discussions. The inclusion of local communities in the development of cultural heritage tourism was deemed one of the most important preventative measures to be taken to control this threat.



Conference “Cultural landscapes and the Implementation of the European Landscape Convention in South East Europe - the role of CSOs” - October 11-14, 2009, Novi Sad and Belgrade, Serbia

The Conference, organized by Suburbium and Europa Nostra Serbia, involved speeches of representatives of the regional and national authorities of Serbia. The discussions regarded the topics of the role

of CSOs in putting the European Landscape Convention into practice, the South East European cities in the natural environment, experiences of Ombudsmans of Vojvodina,

Greece and Spain, Canadian experience and approach related to the stewardship of cultural landscapes. Representatives of the SEE Heritage Network gave short presentations about their experiences related to landscape protection and the implementation of the European Landscape Convention in their countries.

4th International conference on industrial heritage “Rijeka and shipbuilding heritage: Yesterday-Today-Tomorrow” - April 23-23, 2010, Rijeka, Croatia

The Conference was organized by Pro Torpedo, in the Rijeka Maritime and History Museum of the Croatian Littoral. The SEE Heritage Network members participated, presenting posters on the industrial heritage in their countries. The conference gathered 55 authors from Croatia, Austria, Germany,



Hungary, Italy, Slovenia, Serbia, the United Kingdom and the USA. The programme consisted of two general themes: Ships and shipbuilding heritage and General topics of industrial heritage. The participants had an unique opportunity to explore the City of Rijeka and the area of Istria and their historical and industrial monuments.



Appeals

A joint APPEAL to stop the indifference towards the devastation of the SEE natural and cultural heritage - February 10, 2008, Kotor, Montenegro

The appeal was sent to the local and central governments of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia. It emphasized the uncontrolled urban development and inadequate urban planning, mass tourism, expansion of industry and infrastructure in touristic areas, lack of correct management of heritage sites. The appeal urged for the implementation of principles of protection of cultural heritage in planning and development processes, involving experts in those processes and active public participation in the decision making concerning the abovementioned subjects.



A joint APPEAL about the Implementation of the European Landscape Convention in South East Europe - October 13, 2009, Novi Sad, Serbia

The Appeal emphasized the importance of interdisciplinary work in treating this topic, as stressed in the European Landscape Convention, adopted by the Council of Europe in Florence in 2000 as the first international document which promotes a unique approach in landscape protection, management and planning. Due to the transition processes in the SEE region, the landscape is at constant risk of uncontrolled urbanization. The appeal urged the decision makers and political structures in the region to ratify the Convention, and begin its implementation. Regardless of whether the Convention is adopted or not, it is necessary

to raise awareness of the landscape values, and its adequate protection, management and planning.

Suggestions for the Plan for detailed regulation of the Petrovaradin Fortress in Novi Sad, Serbia - October 12, 2010, Novi Sad, Serbia

The SEE Heritage Network and some of its members individually, together with the European Movement in Serbia, appealed to the local and national authorities in Serbia to reconsider the planning documentation that envisages building a new bridge on the foundations of the former "Franz Josef" bridge and new tunnels under the Petrovaradin Fortress, which could permanently destroy the landscape values of the area and this important cultural site. The suggestions included concrete measurements and sustainable approach for management of protected cultural heritage and landscapes.

The Network's meetings

The meetings are opportunities for the members to meet each other, to exchange news, experiences, and to agree upon further functioning of the Network and its future activities. So far the SEE Heritage Network has held the following meetings:

- 20-22 September 2006, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- 06-10 December 2007, Gjirokastra, Albania
- 02-04 July 2007, Ohrid, Macedonia
- 08-10 February 2008, Kotor, Montenegro
- 21-23 June 2008, Berat, Albania
- 23-26 January 2009, Prizren, Kosova
- 11-14 October 2009, Novi Sad and Belgrade, Serbia
- 23-25 April 2010, Rijeka, Croatia

Publications



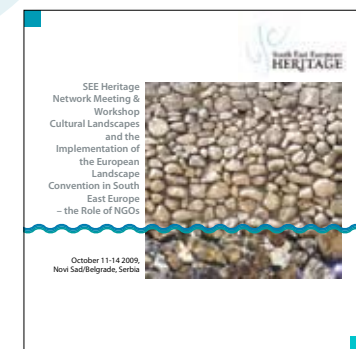
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Web page



Booklet "Cultural Heritage and its Misuse in Political and Ideological Causes"
- Presentations and discussions from the Public debate, held in Skopje on July 2, 2007



Booklet "SEE Heritage Network Meeting & Workshop, Cultural Landscapes and the Implementation of the European Landscape Convention in South East Europe - the Role of NGOs" - Presentations and discussions from the Conference, held in Belgrade and Novi Sad on October 11-14, 2009



Calendars

Cooperation

The SEE Heritage Network cooperates with:

- Europa Nostra
- European Commission-P2P Programme
- Quebec-Labrador Foundation (QLF), Canada
- Is an Associate partner in the CSE in Heritage Project funded by the European Commission

Donors

So far the SEE Heritage Network meetings and activities have been financed by:

CHwB through funds provided by Sida



Open Society Institute (*The East- East: Partnership Beyond Borders Program*) via the Foundation Open Society – Macedonia and the Foundation Open Society Institute, Representative Office in Montenegro



The work of the SEE Heritage Network and its Secretariat is financially supported by the Headley Trust, United Kingdom, and Sida, Sweden



Presentation by Adrienne Blattel from QLF

SEE Heritage Network INFO
Vol. 1, Issue 1, January-April 2011

STUDY TOUR: The contribution of civil society to the preservation of cultural heritage

Representatives of the SEE Heritage Network members (Griekanta Conservation and Development Organisation (Griekanta), Lepidat (Montenegro) and Sabarban (Serbia), the CHWB Regional Office in Poznan, and SEE Heritage Secretary, took part in the People to People (P2P) study tour in Brussels (Belgium) on 29 March - 1 April 2011. The meeting was organized by the European Commission, DG Education. The aim of the study tour was to introduce to the participants the EU policies and programmes related to cultural heritage, and to offer them exchange and networking opportunities among themselves and with other European-level civil society organisations active in the field.

SEE Heritage Network—Associate member of the CSE Project

SEE Heritage Network became an associate member of the project "Civil Society Engagement in community building through the understanding, development, management and preservation of the built cultural heritage of the Western Balkans: CSE in Heritage", supported by the European Commission - DG Education under the FP7 2007 - Civil Society Facility - Multi-beneficiary Programmes "Support to Partnership Actions between Cultural Organisations". The project is implemented by the EU and Western Balkan NGOs: Yonachina Trust (Romania) as project leader, Europa Nostra Netherlands, Cultural Heritage without Borders (Sweden), ENCEPEDIA (Montenegro), Europa Nostra Serbia, and Emancipat Civil Ma Nalozha (Kosovo).

SEE Heritage Calendar 2011

The new SEE Heritage Calendar for 2011 is already on your desks, displaying the rich heritage of our region. We would like to thank to our friends and members who sent us their photos for the Calendar, although not all of them could be used for this version of the Calendar. However, we enjoyed photos and will keep them in our data base.

Thank you for devoting your time to read this Newsletter!!!
Questions or comments? E-mail us at secretariat@seeheritage.org or call +382 32 10 25 20

E-newsletter



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