

ICOMOS
International Scientific Committee on Historic Towns and Villages (CIVVIH)
Annual Meeting
November 6, 2020
Via Zoom

Participants included the following:

PRESIDENT: Claus-Peter ECHTER, GERMANY

VICE-PRESIDENTS:

Samir ABDULAC, FRANCE

Faïka BÉJAOUÏ, TUNISIA

David LOGAN, AUSTRALIA

Danuta KLOSEK-KOZŁOWSKA, POLAND

Zhang JIE, CHINA

SECRETARY GENERAL: Kathleen CROWTHER, USA

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Paula CORDEIRO, BELGIUM

Elena DIMITROVA, BULGARIA

Yüksel DINCER, TURKEY

Hae UN RII, KOREA

Pal Anders STENSSON, SWEDEN

Gergerly NAGY, HUNGARY

HONORARY EXPERT MEMBERS:

Sofia AVGERINOÛ KOLONIAS, GREECE

Alvaro GOMEZ-FERRER BAYO, SPAIN

Teresa Colletta, ITALY

Expert Members:

Alicia Leonor Cahn, ARGENTINA

Robyn Christie, AUSTRALIA

Helen Wilson, AUSTRALIA

Betina Adams, BRAZIL

Riin Alatalu, ESTONIA

Antoine Bruguerolle, FRANCE

Hanna Ishac, FRANCE

Heleni Maistrou, GREECE

Smriti Pant, INDIA

Paolo Motta, ITALY

Jose Maria Garcia de Miguel, SPAIN

María Rosa Suárez-Inclán, SPAIN

Eti Akyuz Levi, TURKEY

Associate Members:

Ruben Garcia Miranda, Uruguay

Mariella Russi, Uruguay

Juan A. García Esparza, SPAIN

Susana Mora Alonso-Muñoyerro, Spain

Rocío Marcela Chávez Acosta, Mexico

Josefina del Carmen Campos Gutiérrez, Mexico

Also in Attendance:

Margaret Lann, USA

Jobadiah Christensen, USA, CIVVIH Website Manager

Rugile Puodziuniene, Observer

1. Approval of the Agenda: The agenda was approved.
2. Approval of Tunis, Beijing and virtual Executive Meetings: The minutes can be read on the CIVVIH website except the virtual Executive meeting. The minutes of the meetings were approved.
3. Working Group Recommendation on SDGs, HUL and Climate Change: Claus-Peter opened this discussion by introducing Sofia AVGERINO KOLONIAS and Alvaro GOMEZ-FERRER BAYO who are chairing CIVVIH's Working Group (WG) which is charged with updating the Valetta Principals to include reference to the SDGs, the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) approach, the reality of climate change, and now a pandemic. This matter has been discussed at three previous meetings in order to clarify the mandate. Claus-Peter recommends the approach which will now be proposed.

Sofia discussed that the Valletta Principles are still cogent but aged. Given new challenges and new tools that have been developed, the documents need to be updated. For example, the preamble needs adjustment and there are new definitions to be added. The WG now needs clear direction in order to continue its work. A proposed timetable with dates regarding deadlines for inputs of the committee has been sent. Alvaro reiterated that the Valetta Principals document is still good and supports the approach that the updates be introduced within the existing structure. Claus-Peter quoted from the proposal from Sofia and Alvaro which recommended an update to Valletta Principles (rather than a doctrinal update).

Zhang JIE emphasized the need to have clear direction on how to judge authenticity and integrity as fundamental criteria for heritage. He believes there is a challenge in solving this matter from a philosophical perspective since we are facing a rapidly changing world. He referred to the interesting example of the case in Bordeaux where the HUL approach is deployed. There needs to be more definition in the urban areas and clarification of how to allow reasonable changes to historical elements. He hopes the new version can provide a standard and rules to protect authenticity in urban areas. Betina Adams agrees to update the principals within the existing structure. She mentioned that Brazil has a new national CIVVIH committee and offered to provide assistance from the Latin American and Caribbean perspective. She opined that updates will always be needed, that we do not need perfection, but something that is adequate for this time. Big issue is how to see the city and its

surroundings, the city as a living structure. Paolo Motta emphasized that there are new conditions for both cities and villages, especially Covid, remote learning and working, and the outmigration from cities into villages. CIVVIH now must reinforce the section on smaller settlements, he is willing to contribute. He and Teresa Colletta are creating a CIVVIH Italy.

Sofia reiterated that she and Alvaro would like approval to update, not revise, the Valletta Principles. All ideas are acceptable to the WG. She asks that all send their ideas in writing to her. A special meeting can be organized for a discussion on the update, after all ideas have been collected. A draft for discussion can be the topic of the meeting. Alvaro asked if the timetable is acceptable.

Heleni Maistrrou agrees with the idea of an update. She said that the city is a linked structure. The principals must speak to the capacity of cities facing tourism. Perhaps each country could report on their respective problems in this area. Sofia suggested that the CIVVIH subcommittees could provide this information. There is a need for the use of metrics. Inputs from the WG are requested until the end of November so that there is time to write the text. Sofia said she hopes there will be a draft document at the end of January, 2021.

Claus-Peter concluded the discussion by stating that a resolution has already been reached in Tunis. Perhaps the timetable it is a little too short but Sofia and Alvaro are to proceed as mentioned. Already the discussion was three-quarters of an hour and if someone opposes, he/she were asked to speak. There were no objections.

4. Report of the President: Claus-Peter Echter presented a report on the activities of CIVVIH since the previous Annual Meeting in 2019 in Tunis. A copy of the presentation is available upon request. Highlights of the report include the following:
 - a. Bylaws: A proposed revision has been sent on time to the Secretariat. Thanks to David Logan and others for leading this important effort. This was a much smoother process than in the past. Claus-Peter expects that the Board will approve of the Bylaws soon. CIVVIH is one of only 8 ISCs that have completed this task on time and whose drafts were recommended by the Scientific Council for approval.
 - b. English version of CIVVIH name: The English name of CIVVIH has been changed to add the word "cities." This was very important to the English-speaking members and to assure CIVVIH's place among other ICOMOS ISCs.
 - c. Membership: CIVVIH is a growing ISC, especially with the additional of the Ibero-American group. Helen Wilson asked about Emerging Professionals. It was acknowledged that David Logan thinks CIVVIH needs more young members. Claus-Peter discussed the need to activate the existing Emerging Professionals.
 - d. Communication: There have been 4 primary methods to communicate: website, newsletter, Information of the President and Facebook. Claus-Peter reported that UNESCO received the Information of the President and has requested adding an item to it.
 - e. Meetings: There have been several meetings of the Bureau and Executive since Tunis. CIVVIH sponsored a very important webinar on the topic of urban resiliency during Covid. The webinar was over-subscribed. Because of this, CIVVIH was asked to participate in additional webinars, those of the SDG Working Group and ADCOM.

- f. CIVVIH is cooperating with many working groups, including Syria and Iraq, SDG and Climate Change. Ege Yildirim has been succeeded by Gabriel "Gabe" Caballero from the Philippines. There are other collaborations and partnerships.
 - g. Claus-Peter was elected as Co-Chair Partner Constituent Group PCG 10 Professionals of the World Urban Campaign. He was congratulated on winning this election.
 - h. CIVVIH is accustomed to providing input in the evaluation of World Heritage nominations, and has provided input in past years on certain nominations. However, for the meeting during this last year, ICOMOS was not given a seat. There were no missions due to COVID. Claus-Peter hopes that in the future, CIVVIH will be a part of the evaluation of World Heritage nominations.
 - i. The updating of the Valetta Principals is the primary work program of CIVVIH.
 - j. CIVVIH is evaluated by the Scientific Council based upon its annual report, the strength of its membership, its fair elections and good administration of its bylaws. CIVVIH fulfills all of these important pillars and is one of only 8 ISCs to do so.
5. Comments: The following members made comments:
- a. Paula Cordeiro has arranged for the next Annual Meeting to be in Brussels, if the pandemic will allow an in-person meeting. Ideas of the symposium should be sent to Paula. Perhaps the meeting will be a hybrid meeting.
 - b. Elections will be held next year and several CIVVIH officers cannot stand for candidature again. All should consider if they would like to become a candidate for office.
 - c. Samir Abdulac gave a report of his work in Syria, Iraq and Lebanon. He recommended that the updating of Valletta Principles include guidance on reconstruction after disaster.
 - d. Teresa Colletta discussed that ICOMOS Italy is establishing an Italian CIVVIH. They are considering a webinar regarding small villages, a new approach to tourism, including a digital approach.
6. New Meetings: Very interesting reports from the recent Subcommittee meetings are soon available in the CIVVIH newsletter. Claus-Peter asked whether there are meetings planned for subcommittees in 2021. Danuta KLOSEK-KOZLOWSKA recommended the next meeting be from the Mediterranean region. As to important topics for CIVVIH, she recommends examination of the social dimensions of heritage, the problems of divisions in society and the plight of poor people. In the center of Warsaw there is small quarter endanger of demolition. But life there is very interesting, it should be considered as an acceptable alternative way of living. CIVVIH could look at the values they present. ICOMOS does support a rights-based approach to heritage. Teresa would like to share her research on the very acceptable social life of small villages. Village life could be a topic for webinar or a symposium of Mediterranean Subcommittee. Claus-Peter assured Teresa that members of the subcommittee will cooperate for this meeting.
7. Ibero-American Group: This group has been now integrated into the CIVVIH as a subcommittee, thanks to many people. This group is warmly welcomed. Many applications for membership to CIVVIH came from this group, perhaps 20. They are now accepted and have been communicated with by Claus-Peter. There will need to be clarification of their regulations from ICLAFI in the future. However the members can have meetings and begin their work. They are now a Subcommittee of CIVVIH. Alvaro said it will take time to develop a strong committee, and elections as the regulations

are finalized. This subcommittee can also contribute to the update of the Valletta Principles. Positive comments came from Suzanna, Marcela Acosta and Betina Adams.

8. Others: No other topics were discussed.

The meeting was concluded.

Written by Kathleen H. Crowther, Secretary General

Approved by Claus-Peter Echter, President

DATE: January 25, 2021