



**Report of the President
of ICOMOS International Scientific Committee
on Historic Towns and Villages (CIVVIH)
Syros /Greece 18th of September 2015**

This report refers to the period of the last year from the Meeting of Florence (November 2014 until 18th September .

My priorities for CIVVIH are still to :

- Continue the work of our committee within the framework of friendship, understanding and scientific cooperation that we have all built together from the establishment of the committee to this day.
- Continue working at a high scientific level on an update three-year scientific program watching the current phenomena and challenges concerning the historic towns and urban areas
- Working for the protection and management of historic towns and against the menaces threatening urban identity and heritage
- Cooperate with other International Scientific and National Committees of ICOMOS in a interdisciplinary context
- Continue to develop partnership with other international organizations with whom we have common interests, especially to empower the collaboration with international organizations in the field of historic towns such as UNESCO, OWHC, EU, UN etc

1.MEMBERSHIP and STATUTES

Our committee is widely represented by

109 Expert members including honorary members

35 Associate members

10 Honorary members (4 new 2012 Honorary members :)

Since last year, we have welcomed 8 Expert members, 2 Associate members and 3 Associate members were evaluated from the relevant Committee and became Expert members.

The Statutes of CIVVIH were completed according the Eger Xian principles and the comments made by ICLAFI <http://civvih.icomos.org/?q=statutes>

The GILLES NOURISSIER Data base is working. However, each member must pay their fees to their National Committees and must first enter this information in the Database. Otherwise, the Database does not allow the registration of members.

2.COMMUNICATION WITH MEMBERS AND INFORMATION

This obligation was met in two ways:

- The Website

Through the completion of the Committee's Website www.civvih.icomos.org, after numerous efforts and volunteer work by new members of ICOMOS-Hellenic; despite its eventual imperfections, I believe that this site offers fairly satisfactory information on the history and goals of our committee, its activities and programs.

However I believe that we can further develop our presence and communication via ICOMOS WEB Site and to exploit the possibilities offered by the social media.

Moreover, provisions have been made to post, when they request so, our members' scientific publications.

We have to empower the work of CIVVIH with young professionals.
We need also to unreach our information about your scientific work.
Don't hesitate to send as articles and news from the work and activities.

CIVVIH newsletter

Through the institution and regular diffusion of the CIVVIH newsletter, which is published when there is informative material available, pertaining to the committee's work. From May 2010 to September 2013, 23 CIVVIH electronic newsletters have already been released.

Following the decision of the Executive (6/9/2012) a working group was created, which took collectively the electronic CIVVIH Newsletter as follows:

Co-ordinator/Coordinatrice: Sofia Avgerinou Kolonias.

Editors/Rédacteurs: Elene Negussie and David Logan.

French editing/Version française: Santiago Hidalgo. Assistant to the editors/Assistants de rédaction: Samir Abdulac et Santiago Hidalgo.

Format and layout/Format et disposition: Elene Negussie.\

Recently a new volunteer Hanna Ishac Siame from France enhanced the pension group with extremely effective way.

Another major success was that CIVVIH Newsletter gained an international registration number ISSN 2306-6482. For this reason the CIVVIH Newsletter obtained more prestige. Thanks to the collective work the new upgraded version was edited in French and English.

The 23th is dedicated to the Florence Meetings (More information on <http://civvih.icomos.org/?q=node/18>)

3.MEETINGS

From November 2014 to date, CIVVIH has convened 3 Statutory and Business Meetings, and active participations of many meetings with different aspects of urban matters.

CIVVIH's 2014 annual meeting,

CIVVIH during the 18th General Assembly in Florence, Italy developed a significant activity and held its annual meeting, in 2014/11/13.

CIVVIH was represented in the Scientific Council Meeting by me in my capacity as President and member of SC coordinators, while Vice Presidents Teresa Colletta, Samir Abdulac and the Secretary General Claus Peter Echter also participated in the discussion.

CIVVIH took part in the Forum of ISCs and in the Networking ISCs presentation on November 11th .

During the Florence Meetings and General Assembly of ICOMOS three meetings were held:

- a. CIVVIH Bureau Meeting on November 10th with the participation of Denis Ricard, Secretary General of OWHC. During this meeting a reviewing of the existing MOU with CIVVIH / ICOMOS and OWHC took place. Regarding new activities, the cooperation of OWHC with CIVVIH on a regional level was discussed
- b. CIVVIH Executive Lunch Meeting on November 11th. All the topics on the agenda of the CIVVIH Business Meeting were discussed and prepared during this meeting.
1. CIVVIH Business Meeting on November 13th , which had a large participation, as, besides from the five members of the Bureau (Sofia Avgerinou Kolonias, Samir Abdulac, Teresa Colletta, Danuta Klosek Kozłowska, Claus Peter Echter) and the six members of the Executive (Saleh Lamei, Gergely Nagy, Angela Rojas, Giora Solar, Olga Sevan, Jeff Soule)

Honorary members Nils Ahlberg, Michel Bonnette, Elvira Petroncelli, twenty seven members including Brazil, Estonia, Dubai, Argentina, Belgium, Israel, France, U.K, Australia, Norway, Italy, Korea, Costa Rica, Bosnia-Herzegovina, India, Czech Republic, Turkey, USA, Greece, Peru and twelve observers also participated.

During the business meeting organizational issues were debated and the next CIVVIH meetings were defined.

Official matters the following main topics were discussed:

- The of CIVVIH participation in 2014 scientific symposium of the General Assembly of ICOMOS in Florence in 2014, “Heritage and Landscape as Human Values”
- the Scientific program and the Tri-annual plan of CIVVIH on the basis of Naples resolutions
- the collaboration with OWHC within the MOU (including the Jean Paul L' Allier award)
- ICOMOS as Associate Partner of the World Urban Campaign / UN-Habitat and the participation in the contribution of ICOMOS on SDGs
- Newsletter
- the preparation of CIVVIH annual meeting 2015 and the next meetings,
- Scientific program and tri-annual work plan with the Naples resolution about “Culture as a driver of social and economic development of historic towns, cities and urban areas” as the basis
- Promotion and Development of Twentieth Century Heritage Guidelines (ongoing development of the Madrid Document)

and finally

- the supporting of four resolutions for the 18th ICOMOS General Assembly by CIVVIH
 - a. Safeguarding of cultural heritage in Syria and Iraq
 - b. Urban Cultural Heritage Protection in Moldova
 - c. SDG resolution: Ensuring that culture and cultural heritage are acknowledged in the proposed Goals and Targets on Sustainable Development for the Post-2015 Development Agenda.
 - d. Promotion and Development of Twentieth Century Heritage Guidelines (ongoing development of the Madrid Document)

CIVVIH members have increasingly participated in the ICOMOS international bodies after the Florence elections. Alfredo Conti as, reelected V. President , Nils Ahlberg and Victor Salinas, with whom I now have the pleasure of collaborating at the ICOMOS Board.

I would also like to felicitate the CIVVIH Vice President Samir Abdulac on his tenacious efforts to protect the culture of Syria and Iraq as well as on his new responsibilities as President of the ICOMOS Working Group for Safeguarding Cultural Heritage in Syria and Iraq.

More in detail

Once again the decision of Annual meeting of Budapest /Visegrad CIVVIH (2013), concerning the 2015 annual meeting at the island of Syros Island/ Greece was confirmed.

For its annual meeting in 2016 CIVVIH received an invitation from the Seoul Metropolitan Government in Korea. This meeting will be held around May 2016. The Mediterranean Sub-Committee 2016 meeting will be held in Nazareth, Israel.

The Committee expressed its concerns on its scientific program. It is going to pursue its scientific research within the framework clearly set by the Scientific Council within the context of the meetings of the 17th and 18th ICOMOS General Assemblies, but also under the principal issues that it believes the Committee should be preoccupied by, as expressed by the Naples resolutions. To this end CIVVIH will elaborate a declaration regarding the creativity in the future modern policies for the preservation and revival of historic cities, towns and urban areas. The research of the creative approach and of innovative ways is the driving value of the urban culture and heritage. The Committee recognizes the role of cultural heritage specifically and culture in general in sustainable development through the explicit inclusion of cultural heritage and culture related targets in the Sustainable Development Goals and the Post-2015 development Agenda of the UN and UNESCO. A declaration about the integration of cultural heritage in the Post-2015 Urban Development Agenda including the recognition that safe, resilient and sustainable cities each have a unique identity and sense of place which protects cultural heritage as key to unlocking creativity fits into the framework of the tri-annual program of CIVVIH. The main topic is represented by historic cities as a model for sustainability and cultural heritage as the fourth pillar of sustainable development. The Committee is about to work on the Habitat III project and hereby review our "Valletta Position paper on Historic Cities and Sustainable Urban development policies".

The report of CIVVIH from the executive member Jeff Soule about UN Habitat and Andrew Potts, Vice Chair of US/ICOMOS, ICOMOS Focal Point on the issue of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), were both very enlightening and constructive. Andrew Potts also gave a report on the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

MEETING of CIVVIH BUREAU in Warsaw, 21/22 June 2015

During the Meeting of the European National Committees of ICOMOS in Warsaw, 21/22 June 2015 the CIVVIH Bureau has an official meeting. All the members were present : Sofia Avgerinou Kolonias Danuta Klosek-Kozłowska Samir Abdulac and Claus-Peter Echter. Teresa Colleta was not present, but being informed she agreed also. Several official matters was discussed and decided in unanimously ,especially:

- the membership
- the scientific content of the annual meeting 2015 and the challenge of SDGs and HABITAT III
- the collaboration with OWHC
- the conflict in Syria and Irak
- and the electoral process of CIVVIH for 2015 in detail

CIVVIH SUB COMMITTEES

Having 8 years presidency in Committee I recommended to take a new president. Therefore CIVVIH VP Teresa Colletta was nominated as the new President of the CIVVIH Mediterranean Sub Committee. (More information on <http://civvih.icomos.org/?q=node/175>) The next meeting will be held meeting in 2016, in Florence Italy

CIVVIH V.President Danuta Klosek- Koslowska announced during the meeting of ICOMOS Europe on 24 June 2015 in Wilanów, Warsaw the establishment of the Sub Committee for Central and East Europe. The first meeting of the subcommittee will be held next year in Cesky Crumlow, Czech Republic,

4. OTHER PARTICIAPTIONS

Many members of CIVVIH participated in the following scientific meetings, seminars, and symposium:

- The ‘1st Conference of Cities of River and Wine / Memory, Heritage and Rehabilitation’ on 26- 27 March 2015, organized by the Municipality of Vila Nova de Gaia/ Portugal , a special protection zone of the Porto wine and part of World Heritage site on “*Safeguarding the Historic City - International conference in Gaia*”, where I have participated in my capacity as CIVVIH President as the Honorary Members of CIVVIH Alvaro Gómez-Ferrer Bayo and João Campos
- Meeting of ICOMOS National Committees and the Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of ICOMOS, hosted by the Polish National Committee of ICOMOS. A celebration meeting entitled ‘*Heritage in Transformation: Heritage Protection in the 21st Century: Problems, Challenges, Predictions*’ was held on 22-24 June 2015 in Wilanów, Warsaw. Many CIVVIH members were present as mentioned above the members of the Bureau, Alfredo Conti, hon member Nils Ahlberg etc. Jae Heon Choi and Hae Un Rii, Josef Stulc, Giora Solar and Samir Abdulac contributed to the Scientific Conference with valuable communications

NEXT MEETINGS

- CIVVIH is participating actively in collaboration with the ISC THEOPHILOS in the forthcoming Scientific Meeting hosted by ICOMOS India on “*Conserving Living Urban Heritage: Theoretical Considerations of Continuity and Change*”, 26–28 November 2015, Bangalore, India

The objective of the proposed conference is to examine theoretical and philosophical approaches to conserving urban heritage in cities where historic forms and meanings intersect with cultural practices on the one hand, and contemporary needs as places for living and working on the other. Reflections on the principles of the Venice Charter and other

normative documents including the Historic Urban Landscape Recommendation will be relevant in this context.

- CIVVIH will be represented in the XIII World Congress of the Organization of World Heritage Cities, Arequipa/Perou , 3-6 November 2015. The theme is “*World Heritage Cities: Resilient Cities and the Congress*” will address the following issues: -Understanding resilience and assessing vulnerabilities; -tools and mechanisms to achieve resilience;- enhancing resilience through learning and knowledge-sharing;- enhancing resilience through governance structures and civil society action. The members of CIVVIH Perou will be invited to attend as the members from South and North America
- The first meeting of the subcommittee on Central and Eastern Europe in 2016 on the theme “Quality of Public space in World Heritage Cities. Opportunities and Threats” in Cesky Crumlow, Czech Republic,
- Annual meeting 2016 in Seoul, Korea
- Mediterranean Sub-Committee meeting in 2016, in Florence Italy
- A special meeting will be held in Nazareth, Israel.
- A next annual meeting in Brazil

5. WORLD HERITAGE RELATED ACTIVITIES

Each year CIVVIH's experts participate in the evaluation of World Heritage nominations giving the high professional opinions for WH and I am glad to announce that the contribution of CIVVIH expanded in 2014-15.

CIVVIH was invited to contribute in the evaluation of the 2015 nominations:

- Delhi's Imperial Capital Cities/India
- Christiansfeld a Moravian Settlement/ Denmark
- Arab-Norman Palermo and the Cathedral Churches of Cefalú and Monreale/Italia
- The Ahwar of Southern Iraq and the Relict Landscape of the Mesopotamian Cities/ Iraq

In my capacity as expert and Claus Peter Echter represented CIVVIH within the WH panel. Angela Rojas, Alvaro Gomez Ferrer Bayo, Pal Anders Stensson, Joseph Štulc , Wang Lijun contributed with mission reports and desk reviews

CIVVIH was invited to contribute in the evaluation of the 2016 nominations:

Antigua and Barbuda Antigua Naval Dockyard and Related Archaeological Sites

Montenegro	Historic Center of Cetinje
Panama	Archaeological Site and Historic Centre of Panama City
Turkey	Ani Cultural Landscape

CIVVIH is invited to participate again in the WH Panel of 2016. The procedure is on going

Also, CIVVIH members have performed evaluations for the **World Monuments Fund (WMF)** on the following sites

- Korçë Houses/Albania(Maria Daniil/Greece)
- Ladeira da Misericórdia/Bahia Salvador(Betina Adams/Brasil)
- Terreiro de Jesus/Bahia Salvador(Mario Ferrada Aguilar/Chile)
- El Vedado/Havana Cuba(Angela Rojas/Cuba)
- Beelitz-Heilstätten Medical Complex/Brandenburg, Potsdam-Mittelmark, Beelitz, Germany(Paula Cordeiro/Belgium)
- Historic Urban Landscape of Rajim/Chhattisgarh State, Gariabandh District, India(Jae Heon Choi/Korea)
- Amedy/Dohuk Governorate, Iraqi Kurdistan,Iraq(Eman Assi/Dubai)
- Kilkenny/County Kilkenny, Ireland(Paula Cordeiro/Belgium)
- Sabbioneta Historic City/Lombardy, Sabbioneta (Province of Mantua),Italy(Heleni Porfyriou/Italy)
- Old City of Tripoli/Tripoli,Libya(Sonia Slim/Tunisia)
- Historic Center of San Cristóbal de Las Casas/Chiapas, San Cristóbal de las Casas,Mexico(Betina Adams/Brasil)
- Arts Centre of Christchurch/New Zealand(Helen Wilson/Australia)
- Bucharest/Romania(Pal Anders Stensson/Romania)
- Vyborg Historic Center, Leningrad Oblast, Vyborg ,Russian Federation(Giorgos Tsilimigkas/Greece)
- Bo-Kaap/Cape Town, South Africa(Helen Wilson/Australia)
- Conventos de Sevilla/Andalusia, Seville,Spain(Angela Rojas/Cuba)

6. PARTNERSHIP AND COLLABORATIONS

CIVVIH collaborates with other other NGOs and affinity organizations. And it has an ongoing partnership also with ISoCaRP – the International Society of City and Regional Planners

ISCs of ICOMOS as the ICORP,ISCEC,ClAV,ICLAFI,ICOMOS IFLA,ISC20C and the ICOMOS working group on Syria and Iraq.

OWHC PROJECT and the MoU with OWHC/OVPM

As it is well known in Collaboration with Samir Abdulac and the former ICOMOS VP Kristal Buckley have prepared on behalf of ICOMOS in Collaboration with OWHC a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed finally in Oaxaca/Mexico on November 2013. The main objective of this MoU is to establish a general framework of cooperation for activities to be planned and implemented jointly by OWHC and ICOMOS concerning the joint areas of interest for the conservation of Cultural Heritage of World Heritage cities. The main possible areas of collaboration are

1. Exchange of information and research concerning the conservation of cultural heritage and urban areas
2. Reinforcement of the current collaboration between OWHC and ICOMOS with the support of the relevant bodies of ICOMOS (Scientific Council and ICOMOS International Scientific Committees, **in particular CIVVIH**)
3. Cooperate in research and development of improved approaches to the conservation of the heritage of cities and urban areas, in particular in the next steps on the project "*Historic Cities in Development: Keys to Understand and Act*";

A synthesis of case studies of historical cities has been finalized. The project report came in two parts – Volume I being an analytic report and Volume II the collection of fact-sheets for the 40 case studies..

The *OWHC Project: Case Studies on the Conservation and Management of Historic Cities - Reconciling Heritage Conservation and Urban Development* is completed and it is posted on UNESCO website, at: <http://whc.unesco.org/fr/activites/634> and <http://www.ovpm.org> for the final report. .

UNESCO World Heritage Centre (Publisher) edited the last year (2014) in English, French and Spanish the report on "*Developing Historic Cities. Keys for understanding and taking action. A compilation of case studies on the conservation and management of historic cities*",

A new cycle began at September 2013. As a follow up of the project above – besides a data bank – OWHC undertakes a survey under its member cities. The aim of this endeavour is to measure a better evaluation of the work of OWHC. CIVVIH will be informed about the results of the survey.

CIVVIH will contribute again in the Allier award of 2015. OWHC will further cooperate with CIVVIH on a regional level. The next General Assembly of OWHC 'World Heritage Cities, Resilient Cities' will be held on 3-6 November 2015 in Arequipa, Peru. CIVVIH members of Americas (especially of South) are invited to attend this conference.

ICOMOS as associated partner of World Urban Campaign

During the WUF VI, Naples, Italy, 1-7 September 2012 three International Scientific Committees of ICOMOS: ISCEC, CIVVIH and ICLAFI conducted in parallel (3/5 September) a Joint meeting on "The role of Integrated Conservation of Cultural Heritage for a Creative, resilient and Sustainable City". They participated also in a special event named "ICOMOS at World urban Forum" moderated by Prof. Luigi Fusco Girard President of ISCEC.

Following the discussion within the Executive Committee of ICOMOS and finally the decision of the ICOMOS Bureau, Gustavo Araoz ICOMOS President has signed the Statement of Commitment by ICOMOS as Associate Partner of the World Urban Campaign

The main purposes is to establish a collaborative arrangement between UN HABITAT and ICOMOS to achieve common objectives, and to provide a basis for cooperation on the World Urban Campaign and its various component projects and initiatives.

This collaboration regards the insertion of the *role of the culture in the New Agenda* and the aim to explain the sense of the culture in the field of Conservation of Urban Heritage. The objective of this collaboration is to affirm that the role of culture is important.

ICOMOS is interesting to participate in the New HABITAT Agenda procedure regarding the creativity in the future modern policies for the preservation and revival of historic cities, towns and urban areas. The research of the creative approach and of innovative ways is the drawing value of the urban culture and heritage.

UN-Habitat cooperation is proposed to be based on the ISCs in those areas that correspond to UN Habitat interests as CIVVIH, ISCEC, ICLAFI etc.

CIVVIH Executive Member Jeff Soule (USA) is representing CIVVIH and ICOMOS in the World Urban Campaign. On this matter is working also CIVVIH Secretary General Claus-Peter Echter (Germany) and CIVVIH Vice-President Teresa Colletta represented CIVVIH.

<http://www.unhabitat.org>

<http://wuf7.unhabitat.org/theworldurbanforum>

<http://www.worldurbancampaign.org/>

<http://wuf7.unhabitat.org/medellin-declaration>

THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDG)

CIVVIH recognizes the role of cultural heritage specifically and culture in general in sustainable development through the explicit inclusion of cultural heritage and

culture related targets in the Sustainable Development Goals and the Post-2015 development Agenda of the UN and UNESCO.

A Resolution about the integration of cultural heritage in the on the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). including the recognition that safe, resilient and sustainable cities each have a unique identity and sense of place which protects cultural heritage as key to unlocking creativity fits into the framework of the tri-annual program of CIVVIH.

The main topic is represented by historic cities as a model for sustainability and cultural heritage as the fourth pillar of sustainable development . The Committee is about to work on the Habitat III project and hereby review our “Valletta Position paper on Historic Cities and Sustainable Urban development policies”.

7.SCIENTIFIC WORK PROGRAMME

(Date of adoption of the Scientific Work Programme: 2009/6/23 (updated in May and June of 2010, <http://civvih.icomos.org/?q=node/63>)

Through this approach, our committee’s scientific work has been included in the triennial Interdisciplinary ISC Scientific Theme for the 2009-2011 Triennium, under title “*CHANGING WORLD, CHANGING VIEWS OF HERITAGE: the impact of global change on cultural heritage*”

During the 17th General Assembly in Paris the Scientific Council formed a threeyear program (2012-14) of scientific symposiums within the context of the annual meetings of the Advisory Committee in regard to the risks threatening the cultural tangible and intangible heritage with the title *Tangible Risks, Intangible Opportunities: Long-Term Risk Preparedness and Responses for Threats to Cultural Heritage*

Within this context CIVVIH participated in the scientific symposium of 2013 “*Reducing Risks to Cultural Heritage from Uncontrolled Development in a Globalized world*” (a. Identifying, Understanding and Characterizing the Landscapes, b. Measures and Strategies for Mitigating Risks from Population Growth, Urbanization and Immigration, c. Tourism and Commercialization), as well as the symposium of the next General Assembly of ICOMOS in Florence in 2014, “*Heritage and Landscapes as Human Values*”.

CIVVIH, being fully aware that the current changes in the life of towns and urban areas take place rapidly and within the multidimensional modern environment, will continue its concern for and make its recommendations in view of these developments and challenges. CIVVIH needs to consider in the future the most progressive opinions and, mainly, proposals for the protection and revival of historic towns, such as those relating to creative and smart cities, thus continuing the thirty-year tradition of the Committee.

THANKS

In closing this concise report, I would like to extend my warmest thanks to the vice-presidents, Teresa Colletta, Danuta Klosek-Kozłowska and Samir Abdulac for their suggestions on the inclusion of new members and our general secretary Claus -Peter Echter for all his organizational support.

For the realization of the new release of CIVVIH Newsletter I extend my warm thanks to our Editors Elene Negussie and David Logan, and Santiaga Hidalgo and Hanna Ishac Siame. For his very efficient assistant to the editors/ and the translation in French. Special thanks to Elene Negussie for the esthetic format and layout

Special thanks are addressed to Samir Abdulac for his cooperation and participating in representing the ICOMOS CIVVIH in the OWHC project, to Danuta Klosek-Kozłowska for her initiative to create the CIVVIH Sub Committee on The Cities Heritage of Central and East Europe, to Teresa Colletta for her efforts to publish the Acta of the Naples symposium and to accept the presidency of Mediterranean sub Committee..

I would like to warmly thank CIVVIH Honorary members, and the members of CIVVIH Executive for having enriched the CIVVIH with their ideas and concerns, as well as all our active members for their interest and participation in our activities.

Finally, special thanks are addressed to our co- organizers: ICOMOS Hellenic and Syros Institute for all their efforts and support, the sponsorship of the Municipality of Hermoupolis-Syros and the South Aegean Region, and the auspices of the Hellenic National Commission for Unesco and Hellenic Republic Ministry of Culture, Education and Religious Affairs.

In closing, I am wishing for our committee to maintain its friendly and collective-colleague character, while strengthening its scientific work in the future.

Sofia Avgerinou Kolonias

President of CIVVIH