

Report of President of ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Historic Towns and Villages (CIVVIH)

Naples September ,5, 2012

This report refers to the period of 9 last months.

My priority 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.

MEMBERSHIP and STATUTES

Our committee is widely represented by

86 Expert members

28 Associate members

6 Honorary members (1 new 2011 Honorary member: Ray Bondin as former President of CIVVIH)

Since last December we have welcomed 3 Expert members

And 10 Associate members

After a long process was completed in association with the comments made by ICLAFI implementation of Eger Xian Principles

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

The GILLES NOURISSIER Database has begun to be completed. However each member must paid his fees to its National Committee which must insert before this information in the Database. Otherwise the Database does not allow the registration of members.

COMUNICATION WITH MEMBERS AND INFORMING

This obligation was met in two ways:

A. Through the completion of the Website of the Committee
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.

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

Unfortunately, we were unable to preserve our previous web site, despite the efforts deployed in cooperation with the ICOMOS SITE responsible.

B. Through the institution and regular diffusion of the CIVVIH newsletter, which circulates when there is informative material available, pertaining to the committee's work. **From May 2010** to this day, 18 CIVVIH electronic newsletters have already circulated <http://civvih.icomos.org/?q=node/18>

MEETINGS

Through the status of Acting President, I represented the Committee during the meetings of Scientific Council and the Advisory Committee (Paris November 2011):

CIVVIH have actively participated also in the ISCs Forum during the 17th General Assembly of ICOMOS in Paris and presented its activities with tree banners (see below) and a video.

From last November until today CIVVIH realized 2 Statutory and Business Meetings, combined with 2 scientific open seminars that dealt with different aspects of urban conservation.

A.CIVVIH's 2011 annual meeting took place in Paris, on December 2, 2011

<http://civvih.icomos.org/?q=node/129>, <http://civvih.icomos.org/?q=node/130>.

40 members of CIVVIH and 13 observers participated

The meeting consisted of a business meeting, and two thematic presentations which were arranged and introduced by Samir Abdulac on behalf of ICOMOS France.. These aim essentially at presenting the original initiatives concerning the World Heritage cities undertaken in France (The Association of World Heritage French Cultural Properties, as well as abroad (A collection of Case studies about the Conservation and Management of World Heritage Cities around the world).

The official part of the meeting included information about the Adoption of the Valletta Principles, developments of the work of the CIVVIH Ibero-American sub-committee (CIHIB), developments of the work of the CIVVIH Mediterranean sub-committee, inscription of the members of the Committee in the Membership of the Gilles Nourissier Database, the selection of criteria for honorary memberships, the triennial scientific work plan 2011-2014, as well as the schedule for future CIVVIH meetings

B. CIVVIH Mediterranean Sub-Committee ANNUAL MEETING 18- 21 May 2012, İzmir, Turkey and open scientific seminar on *MULTILAYERED HISTORIC TOWNS*

22 members and 16 observers participated

Special topics

- a. Context and new directives related to multilayered historic towns.
- b. Preservation approaches of Mediterranean's multilayered cities.
- c. Conservation problems and priorities of multilayered historic cities or cores.
- d. Sharing best practices with reference to Mediterranean's multilayered cities, integrated preservation of Historical Centers, Tourism in the Historical Mediterranean Cities.

<http://civvih.icomos.org/?q=node/133>

Other participations of CIVVIH

A. Ravello Workshop, ICOMOS Italy – CIVVIH, 23-24 March 2012

Città storiche e turismo culturale. Città d'arte o città di cultura ?

(Historic Cities and Cultural Tourism. Cities or art or cities of culture)

ICOMOS-Italy and the Italian Committee on Historic Cities and Villages, presided by Teresa Coletta, member of the CIVVIH Executive and General Secretary of ICOMOS-Italy, organized on the 23rd and 24th of March this workshop which took place in the Centro Universitario Europeo Per I Beni Culturali at the Villa Rufolo in Ravello.

The seminar's objective was to place in the center of the debate not only the extraordinary potential of cultural goods and activities, but also Italy's urban heritage and exceptional historic urban landscapes, with all their historic and artistic values.

In this Workshop participated the Ambassador Francesco Caruso, member of the ICOMOS Executive Committee, the President of ICOMOS Italy Maurizio Di Stefano, the Director of ICCROM Stefano De Caro, Professor Teresa Coletta, member of the CIVVIH Bureau and General Secretary of ICOMOS Italy, the President of CIVVIH and member of the ICOMOS Executive Committee Sofia Avgerinou Kolonias, and Professor Nur Akin, member of the CIVVIH bureau, as well as numerous members of ICOMOS Italy. A variety of scientific papers were presented throughout the Workshop, followed by a very interesting debate. A round table, with the participation of all participants worked on the conclusions of the proceedings and produced a 'Proposition Document' which will be published on the website of ICOMOS Italy in April.

B. ICOMOS Baku Conference "Heritage under pressure – Perspectives of Historic Urban Landscape"

The ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Theory and Philosophy of Conservation and Restoration (TheoPhilos) organized its 7th annual scientific conference in Baku / Azerbaijan between 26th and 28th of April 2012. Five members of CIVVIH participated in the meeting in Baku: Claus-Peter Echter (Germany), Michal Firestone (Israel), Vladimir Krogus (Russia), Silvio Zancheti (Brasil) Boguslaw Smygin (Poland) and Josef Stulc (Czech Republic).

The main subject of the conference was the contemporary challenges for heritage protection and a new paradigm for heritage protection. The threatening development of urban historic areas and a brutal break of continuity were considered as a crucial issue during the meeting. An important line of the Baku conference concerned the impact of the urbanization process that is the result of human activity on cities where World Heritage Sites are located.

CIVVIH members Michal Firestone, Vladimir Krogus, Silvio Zancheti, Boguslaw Smygin and Josef Stulc gave presentations and Claus-Peter Echter and Michal Firestone chaired a session of the meeting.

The proceedings will be published. The committee decided to formulate future actions in the matter based on suggestions by the members.

C.Bruges Conference

In Bruges, Belgium a conference was organized on May 31st to June 1st, 2012 by the Government of Flanders, the Flanders Heritage Agency and the City of Bruges, in close collaboration with the World Heritage Centre on the subject: Challenges and Opportunities for the Conservation and Management of Urban Heritage [<http://www.wh2012.be/>]. CIVVIH was represented by its members Alvaro Gomez, Samir Abdulac, Elena Dimitrova, Andree Van Beever and Michel Van der Meerschen.

OTHER PARTICIPATIONS

Numerous members of our committee participated in scientific activities pertaining to its subject-matter. We mention some indicatively, asking you to inform us relevantly, so that we can have a more complete image:

VALETTA PRINCIPLES

CIVVIH after five years work and according the ICOMOS procedure of adoption of doctrinal texts proposed in 17th General Assembly *The Valletta Principles for the Safeguarding and Management of Historic Cities, Towns and Urban Areas*.

The document was unanimously adopted as ICOMOS Doctrinal text.

Even though the first version of the document was drafted in French and in English (which are the working languages of CIVVIH) and edited by the ICOMOS France and ICOMOS UK, respectively, the colleagues of CIVVIH have rapidly embraced the document and engaged in its diffusion.

The first translation was made to Spanish on the initiative of Victor Salinas and Angela Rojas, with the participation of the colleagues in the Ibero-American Sub Committee of CIVVIH (CIHIB).

Subsequently, the document was translated to Russian, thanks to Olga Sevan and Vladimir Krogus, and to Greek, thanks to Eleni Maistrou, with the assistance of the students of the Post-Graduate Studies' Programme on the Protection of Monuments of the National Technical University of Athens.

I have also been informed that a translation is being elaborated in Polish by Danuta Klosek-Kozłowska and in Hebrew by Giora Solar.

The document is already posted in the CIVVIHs web site in five languages (<http://civvih.icomos.org/?q=node/6>)

He has also published

in a printed version (ISBN : 978-960-93-4331-2)



WORLD HERITAGE RELATED ACTIVITIES

I am glad to announce that the contribution of the CIVVIH has been broadened in 2010-2011.

During 2011a monitoring mission was undertaken for the Bulgarian city of Neesbar. CIVVIH have contributed also with desk review or in situ mission for

Rabat (Morocco)

Russian Kremlins (Russian Federation)

Plasencia–Monfrague-Trujillo: Mediterranean Landscape (Spain)

Seville (Spain)

Rio (Brasil)

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

- Village of Doel and surrounding polder, Belgium;
- Jacmel Historic District, Haiti;
- Historic Havelis of Bikaner, India;
- Cospicua a.k.a. Bormla, Malta;
- Saadani Abushiri Village, United Republic of Tanzania;
- Old Town of Testour, Tunisia;
- Chetwode village, United Kingdom;
- GWR Mechanics' Institution, United Kingdom;
- Limmerslease, GF Watts's House and Studio, United Kingdom;
- Charleston Historic District, United States;
- City of Cohoes, United States.

OWHC PROJECT

The CIVVIH represents ICOMOS (**Samir Abdulac**) on the **Steering Committee of the joint project associating OWHC, UNESCO, EU and Getty Conservation Institute** called ***“Historic Cities in Development: Keys for Understanding and Acting.”***

Since 2008, the OWHC and the city of Lyon, in close collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and UNESCO within the framework of the Cities Programme and with the financial and technical support of the France-UNESCO Convention, the Netherlands Funds in Trust, the Council of Europe, the Getty Conservation Institute and ICOMOS, have worked for the development of a Compilation of case studies which will ultimately allow the sharing of knowledge and expertise unparalleled in the world of historic cities

It aims at presenting Case Studies chosen among World Heritage Cities. Within the framework of this project, CIVVIH contributes in the definition of the Scientific Orientations, the identification of political and technical decision makers, the Methodology for the presentation of the Case Studies, etc.

The Steering Committee n°22 took place on 2 and 3 May 2012, in UNESCO, Paris, The *OWHC Project : Case Studies on the Conservation and Management of Historic Cities.Reconciling Heritage Conservation and Urban Development* is being launched on UNESCO web-site, on the link: <http://whc.unesco.org/fr/activites/634>

Furthermore, a scientific meeting entitled «*Projets durables des villes du Patrimoine mondial*» has been planned to take place in Lyon on 22, 23 and 24 May 2013 on the occasion of the Programme's completion.

PARTNERSHIPS

with other Committees and/or affinity organizations:

CIVVIH has an on-going partnership with ISoCaRP – the International Society of City and Regional Planners.

SCIENTIFIC WORK PROGRAMME

(Date adoption of the Scientific Work Programme: 2009/6/23 (updated during 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 2009-011 Triennium, entitled "CHANGING WORLD, CHANGING VIEWS OF HERITAGE: the impact of global change on cultural heritage"

Today, we are called to pursue our scientific research within the framework clearly set by the Scientific Council within the context of its meeting of during 17th ICOMOS General Assembly but also within the principal issues that we believe should preoccupy us.

To this end, I am attaching the up dated (February 20120 proposal of Scientific Council

Some recommendations from CIVVIHs Annual meeting of Paris are the following:

- what 'Integrity' means within the framework of CIVVIH activities, as well as the implications of the HUL Recommendation.
- various heritage management issues as a range of impacts associated with tourism, loss of inhabitants from historic centers and impacts associated with climate change.

THANKS

In closing this concise report, I would like to extend my warmest thanks to our two vice-presidents, Nils Ahlebrg and Michel Bonnette for their suggestions on the inclusion of new members and our general secretary Michal Fierstone for her organizational support.

Special thanks are due to Alvaro Gomez Ferrer for designing the logo of our committee and to Michel Bonnette for his advice and creative observations on the creation of the CIVVIH site.

For the realization of the 18 issues of the CIVVIH Newsletter I extend my warm thanks to CIVVIH Associate member Eleni Oeconomopoulou and ICOMOS-Hellenic member Marioanna Louka for their assistance, as well as to Michel Bonnette and David Logan who were always willing to contribute with their suggestions and assist in the linguistic editing of these issues.

My warmest appreciation is due to Alvaro Gomez and especially to Elvira Petroncelli for their contribution in elaborating the Valetta Principles, to François Godran for his contribution in the linguistic editing of the text, as well as to all colleagues who have helped in the document's completion with their remarks.

Thanks are addressed to Samir Abdulac for his cooperation and participating in representing the ICOMOS CIVVIH in the OWHC project.

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

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