

SEMESTRE DI PRESIDENZA ITALIANA DELL'UNIONE EUROPEA  
SEMESTER OF ITALIAN PRESIDENCY OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

*Territorial information systems for the conservation, preservation and management of  
Cultural Heritage*

*Draft - Conclusions*

**Naples 23/24 October 2003**

The delegates of the 15 Member States of the European Union met in Naples on 23 and 24 October 2003, with the presence of members of the European Commission. The delegates of the 10 Observer States took part in the works of the meeting.

**The delegates,**

- BEARING IN MIND the Council Resolution (June, 2002) on a new work plan on European cooperation in the field of culture;
- RECALLING the Paris Convention (November, 1972) for the protection of the world Cultural and Natural Heritage, the Granada Convention (October, 1985) for the protection of the Architectonic Heritage in Europe, the La Valletta Convention (January, 1992) for the protection of Archaeological Heritage, the Florence Convention (October, 2000) on the European Landscape, as well as the European Spatial Development Perspective signed in Potsdam, 1999 by the Ministers for environment management;
- RECALLING ALSO the Council Resolution of 21 January 2002 on culture and the knowledge society that called, among other, for digitisation of cultural content;
- AND the ICOMOS Recommendations for the analysis, conservation and structural restoration of the architectural heritage approved in Paris 2001 and reviewed in May 2003,

AIMING to intensify further the cultural links between Member States in order to promote a knowledge of the European common cultural heritage and its cultural diversity.

CONSIDERING THAT:

- Movable and unmovable cultural heritage is a major ingredient for the well-being and development of local, regional, national and European communities;
- Geographic information is already considered an important instrument of management, as well as for the dissemination and the use of information for the benefit of citizens and good practices in Public Administration;
- Cultural heritage provides information which are generally produced and owned by PA;
- Those information are part of PSI;
- The recently passed directive on PSI will be taken into account in terms of impact and use of GI on cultural heritage;
- the interaction of cultural heritage and Geographic information can acquire, through the European collocation, the energy to address political lines;

REFERRING to the following items:

- *Plurality of sources: documentary and cartographic*
- *Spatial information systems for the conservation and preservation of cultural heritage.*
- *Strategies for the risk management of the European Cultural Heritage*

**They agreed that:**

1. Geographic information makes contextualisation concrete, in other words, it creates a net of qualitative and quantitative relations, those relations which each single heritage item establishes with the territory, contributing to the definition of the item itself;
2. GI has now become an important part of the general information on cultural heritage, as well as a systematic view, adding value to heritage in itself;
3. GI is an indispensable tool for administrative work, related to the regulation, operation and promotion of cultural heritage at local and central government level.

**Furthermore, they agreed on the common need, at European level, to:**

- Adopt common lines for the conservation and management of cultural heritage, based on the shared principles of good practices, with particular reference to the integrated conservation and planning of actions on cultural heritage, with the aim of granting access, respect of public sector needs and sustainable long term use;
- create a geo-referenced cadastral inventory with access to information by competent institutions and private users, within security terms established by single Member States;
- define common rules for a better use of geographic data on cultural heritage;
- adopt common standards on the collection of information for the acquisition in Member states of legal instruments;
- adopt common standards on data and systems based on interoperability and integration practices;
- analyse user requirements for setting up a *data infrastructure*, based on geographic address to cultural heritage;
- define common rules for a better use of geographic data of cultural heritage;
- integrate in Geographic information systems the largest number of spatial information and representations in various formats;
- strengthen, at European level, the role of Geographic information systems for the management of risk and intervention priorities;
- operate to reduce the costs for data management software and GI production costs both *open source* and re used existing data base;
- promote specialised training, at European level, of experts for the use of new technologies applied to the ambits of research and management of cultural heritage.

**In conclusion, stressing the will to operate at Community level, they agreed on the promotion of two operative initiatives:**

1. Establish a **working group** to:
  - Examine existing EU actions and initiatives regarding the use of Geographic Information for Cultural Heritage;
  - Create an adequate forum for sustaining and promoting the activities of EC and Member States regarding the geographic address of cultural heritage;
  - Promote the dissemination of best practices, common standards and quality of GIS and geographic information.
2. Present, within the ambit of Culture 2000, a **project** to promote specific initiatives for the knowledge and development of the Geographic Information for cultural heritage, in order to develop common strategies and initiatives to realize a European GI data infrastructure of cultural heritage for a better public service to European citizens.

ANNEXES:

Workshop 1- Conclusions

Workshop 2- Conclusions

Workshop 3- Conclusions

List of delegates