



International Council on
Monuments and Sites
Conseil International
des Monuments et des Sites
Deutsches Nationalkomitee e. V.

STIFTUNG BERLINER MAUER



ICOMOS DE, Brüderstraße 13, 10178 Berlin

icomos@icomos.de; Tel. +49 (0)30 80493100

ICOMOS Europe Group Meeting

3–6 June 2017 in Berlin

Border Areas – Encounter Areas

Neighbourhood Conflicts and Neighbourhood Cooperations in Europe

Scientific Colloquium at the Annual Meeting of the ICOMOS European Committees and Preparatory Colloquium for the European Cultural Heritage Year (ECHY) 2018 organised by ICOMOS Germany, in cooperation with the Berlin Wall Memorial

Berlin, 5 June 2017

The fall of the Berlin Wall and the opening of the Iron Curtain fundamentally changed the political landscape in Europe. The consequences of the peaceful revolution for the present demarcations and nation-building in Europe are comparable to the political realignments in Central and Eastern Europe after the Thirty-Years-War (1618–1648), the First World War (1914–1918), including the downfall of the Ottoman, Habsburg and German Empires, and finally after the Second World War (1939–1945). In the newly structured territories art and culture of the previous societies and states have been preserved. Furthermore, the history of war and tyranny, of flight and expulsion has also become manifest in material evidence as well as in the destruction of monuments.

Four hundred years after the beginning of the Thirty-Years-War in 1618 and one hundred years after the end of the First World War in 1918, which was largely a European war, the European Cultural Heritage Year (ECHY) 2018 will be dedicated to the heritage of war and peace and to the idea of transnational understanding and reconciliation. The annual meeting of ICOMOS Europe in June 2017, taking place in Germany for the first time, is meant to advance multinational discussion and help prepare the European Cultural Heritage Year and its thematic focuses in 2018. In the context of the European unification process and the German reunification in 1989, symbolically heralded with the removal of the barbed wire between Austria and Hungary and with the fall of the Berlin Wall, the guiding theme of the **scientific colloquium** in Berlin after the working session of ICOMOS Europe will be **“Border Areas – Encounter Areas. Neighbourhood Conflicts and Neighbourhood Cooperations in Europe” (Leading Topic)**.

In accordance with the slogan of the European Cultural Heritage Year, **“Sharing Heritage”**, the scientific symposium of ICOMOS Europe wishes to afford all participating ICOMOS national committees the opportunity to reflect processes of adopting, rejecting and adapting the joint cultural heritage in the transnational context and to introduce experiences made with bi- and multinational neighbourhood and cooperation projects. For this purpose, activities in transnational European regions (Euroregions) could provide cultural-geographic and historical-geographic reference points. The scientific colloquium wishes to approach the topic of **“Border Areas – Encounter Areas. Neighbourhood Conflicts and Neighbourhood Cooperations in Europe”** mainly from two perspectives: First, the border and connecting line of the Iron Curtain, dividing Europe after the war as insurmountable death strip and today being an important intertwined European area between East and West, is meant to be a thematic focus and to be discussed

as a modern European border landscape with outstanding cultural and natural heritage (**Sharing Europe's Cold War Heritage – the Iron Curtain between the Berlin Wall and Green Belt Europe**). Secondly, bi- and multinational border and encounter areas will serve as framework for discussing historic and current neighbourhood conflicts and cooperations on a European scale (**Sharing the Heritage of War and Peace in Neighbouring European Countries**).

Two papers as keynote lectures will give introductions to each section (two keynotes of 15 minutes each for both sections). Afterwards, the ICOMOS national committees attending are asked to make concise statements in the form of a *Pecha Kucha* presentation (Pecha Kucha style: 20 slides, 20 seconds for each slide = 6 minutes and 40 seconds in total).

Programme Structure

1. **Sharing Europe's Cold War Heritage – Iron Curtain and Green Belt**
 - 1.1 **Axel Klausmeier, Berlin Wall Memorial (keynote speaker):
The Berlin Wall and the Iron Curtain – from a Death Strip to a Memorial Landscape and to a European Heritage Label Network**
 - 1.2 **Barbara Engels, German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation –
Bundesamt für Naturschutz_BfN (keynote speaker):
Iron Curtain and Green Belt Europe – a Multinational World Heritage Study**
 - 1.3 – 1.10 **Statements (H.P. Jeschke, ICOMOS Austria? et al.)**

2. **Sharing the Heritage of War and Peace in Neighbouring European Countries**
 - 2.1 **Boguslaw Szmygin, ICOMOS Poland (keynote speaker):
Border Regions and Cross Border Activities in/from Poland**
 - 2.2 **Waltraud Kofler-Engl, Department of Heritage Preservation South Tyrol
(keynote speaker):
Linee del fronte. Il patrimonio culturale della guerra nella Regione europea
Tirolo - Alto Adige - Trentino**
 - 2.3 – 2.10 **Statements (Irmela Spelsberg, ICOMOS Germany? et al.)**

3. **Excursion (embassies, military cemeteries, war memorials, Berlin Wall, etc)**

(Last update 14 March 2017)

ESACH

EUROPEAN STUDENTS'
ASSOCIATION FOR
CULTURAL HERITAGE

EIN BEITRAG ZUM

EUROPÄISCHEN
KULTURERBEJAHR 2018

SHARING HERITAGE

ESACH REPORT



**ICOMOS Europe Group Meeting
June 3-5, 2017/Berlin**

Scientific Symposium:
Preparing the European Cultural
Heritage Year (ECHY) 2018

*Sharing Heritage: Border Areas – Encounter
Areas/Neighbourhood Conflicts and Neighbourhood
Cooperation in Europe*

June 5, 2017 – Berlin Wall Memorial Visitor Centre

Through the past years, the European Union has become aware of the unifying potential our common inheritance has had with regard to the development of a common European identity. Cultural heritage plays a considerable role for the European Union and has to be preserved for future generations.¹ To further promote cultural heritage the European Union has declared 2018 as the “European Year of Cultural Heritage (ECHY)”.² In preparation of the upcoming ECHY the scientific symposium organised by ICOMOS Germany in the context of the ICOMOS Europe Group Annual Meeting 2017 aimed at raising awareness of those regions, which are pivotal to a vivid exchange within Europe: Border and encounter regions.

Dated as far back as 1900, Riegl realized that monument protection is rather the result of a commonly shared human appreciation than a nationalist duty.³ Françoise Choay later confirmed the idea that the value of monuments goes beyond changing evaluations of history and art.⁴ In relation to the idea of heritage as an allegory of memory, monuments are the adequate starting point for “select[ing] the

element[s] of cultural heritage”.⁵ Laying a focus on the European border areas as “paths, axes and swathes” is therefore a most constructive way to approach the upcoming ECHY 2018.

The International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) was founded in Warsaw in 1965. One year earlier, in 1964, the Venice Charta was accorded, constituting the international core document on architectural conservation. As international NGO with its headquarters in Paris, ICOMOS is the scientific consultant to the UNESCO when it comes to questions of world heritage.

Welcoming the ICOMOS Europe Group, Berlin’s Mayor and Senator for Culture and Europe KLAUS LEDERER recalled that the German capital is a city enriched by three world heritage sites. He called for a broad participation of civil society and stressed his personal commitment and belief in the motto of the upcoming year “Sharing Heritage”. The Berlin coalition is strongly committed in contributing to the ECHY. The aim is to build a peaceful and solidary Europe. Border areas are of decisive significance for Berlin as the German capital. The senator ended his welcoming message by stating that this becomes particularly apparent when regarding the Berlin Wall Memorial concept “topography of terror” (Lederer’s welcome read by JOHN ZIESEMER).

Directing the warmest welcome to the gathered group of ICOMOS members and guests, GRELLAN ROURKE as speaker of

¹ Council conclusions of 21 May 2014 on cultural heritage as a strategic resource for a sustainable Europe (2014/C 183/08) [http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52014XG0614\(08\)&from=EN](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52014XG0614(08)&from=EN) [accessed 11 June 2017].

² Commission welcomes European Parliament’s backing for European Year of Cultural Heritage [Press release 27 April 2017], http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-17-1111_en.htm [accessed 30 May 2017].

³ Riegl, Alois: *Der moderne Denkmalkultus, sein Wesen und seine Entstehung*, Wien 1903, p. 12-13, 32.

⁴ Choay, Françoise: *The invention of the historic monument*, Cambridge 2001, p. 77-84.

⁵ European Cultural Heritage Year 2018, *Sharing Heritage*, concept paper, http://sharingheritage.de/wp-content/uploads/ECHY_DraftPaper_EN.pdf [accessed 28 December 2016], p. 7.

the ICOMOS Europe Group remembered his personal experiences and impression during the time of the fall of the Berlin Wall. Remains of the painted Berlin Wall that separated not only Germany have been collected all over the world and make visible what it means to be a European citizen. The objectives and topics of the ECHY 2018 underlie the potential in a reunited Germany in a united European Union, the speaker expressed. Directing his gratitude to the key note speakers of this day, the ICOMOS Europe Group speaker invited to see the contributions to the scientific symposium as a preparation for the day's excursions to the sites of a shared European unification history. ICOMOS as a cross-border association is united by its mission and the strong expertise of its volunteer members. The speaker concluded with directing his gratitude towards the ICOMOS national committees for their participation. Their commitment guarantees the future of our past for coming generations. In the name of all participants, the ICOMOS Europe Group speaker thanked the team and the directive board of ICOMOS Germany for the hospitality and organisation of the 2017 annual meeting.

Opening the first thematic block "Sharing Europe's Cold War Heritage – the Iron Curtain from the Berlin Wall to the Green Belt Europe" AXEL KLAUSMEIER, president of the Berlin Wall Foundation, welcomed the participants in the foundation's premises. This institution, he expressed, was a paradigmatic example of how civic commitment in the field of heritage management issues could contribute to a peaceful future. In addition, the speaker underlined the foundation's potential as a think-tank for the ECHY 2018. Few decades ago the GDR regime suppressed all kinds of creativity in the

name of antifascist defence that did not value human life at all. The Berlin Wall Memorial is also a site of commemoration for the innocent victims of the GDR regime. Today, one million visitors deliver the message of the Berlin Wall to all parts of the world. As heritage site posted most frequently on social media, the Berlin Wall Memorial might have the potential to become a first World Heritage site of the Cold War. The 1990s were marked by a zeitgeist that favoured the demolition of all the relicts of the GDR terror. Late in the 2000s, a new consciousness evolved toward the material evidences of this part of German history in Europe. The speaker reminded the audience that such paradigm shift is not a new phenomenon. Furthermore, it has already become visible in the context of the Storming of the Bastille on July 14, 1789. Since the value of the relicts of the Berlin Wall is generally recognised as material evidence or rather historic source, conservation movements spread along the former inner-German border to preserve them. Here civic commitment was the rescue as a political engagement seemed to be impossible in the political context. The *Bernauerstraße* is an extraordinary spot for a Berlin Wall Memorial – this street marked the border between the French and the Soviet sector. Developed in 2006, the Memorial is characterized by a decentralized system. When in 2009 the foundation was finally established, no reconstruction of the GDR border system had taken place. Instead of creating fake material evidence the relicts were integrated in the existing exhibition concept. In 2011 the Berlin site was awarded the European Heritage label. Since 2006 this label illustrates European monuments and sites, which paradigmatically represent the shared heritage of Europe. From such, the evolvment of a European identity,

regarding to the speaker, is evolving. The Berlin Wall is an important historic evidence to the terror spread when Germany was still divided. Contrary to other epochs of history, a lot of contemporary witnesses are still alive. This heritage site shapes what can be considered a European identity, concluded the host.

As second speaker, BARBARA ENGELS from the German Federal Agency of Nature Conservation depicted the potential of the so called "European Green Belt" to be listed as World Heritage. In the context of an assessment conducted by this federal authority it became evident that the former iron curtain has become a lifeline passing numerous European countries. The speaker pointed out that this belt is not only an important element of Europe's green infrastructure but also a monument of shared European history. The speaker particularly emphasised the value of intangible cultural heritage: passing by national boundary, the Green Belt reflects the consequences of the ended Cold War.

As following speaker HANS-PETER JESCHKE illustrated this potential, referring to the Neusiedler Lake as cultural landscape. Considering these landscape as a site of associative value for contemporary history the speaker outlined how these mute witnesses of the cold war can be reactivated.

Right in the beginning of his short presentation MICHAEL FALSER pointed out that borders are a constituting element of daily life on both sides of such. The speaker illustrated how people individually cope with such separating elements presenting graffiti which can be found on the border between the United States of

America and Mexico. Departing from this example the speaker unveiled the paradox of Europe: open borders from the inside and closing borders from the outside. Therefore, the speaker asked to consider the "ECHY 2018 Net" as a question regarding the direction in which heritage will be shared. Is it only from the borders towards the inside or from the inside towards the outside?

PETER WALDHÄUSL reminded the audience that borders are data, collected through measurements and agreed upon by several parties. Looking at the Franciscan Cadastre of Charles VI of December 12, 1817 the importance of boundaries and their monuments becomes most evident. Boundary stones are a special heritage of peaceful agreements between neighbours. Furthermore, the speaker pointed out that these historic sources and their potential are often forgotten and at risk.

SERGEY GORBATENKO illustrated the potential of sharing heritage in the Baltic region. As a first example the speaker named the Fortress of Nyenschantz. Thanks to a civic upheaval a construction project could be stopped, which would have destroyed much of this regional monument. Another example of the shared heritage in the Baltic region is the city of Sankt Petersburg, the "European Oasis in the North-West of Russia". It's avant-gard architecture as the Red Banner Factory of Erich Mendelsohn is evidence for this evaluation. Further north the speaker presented with Vyborg a shared heritage city at the Russian-Finish border. There are cross-border commitment works on the conservation of the city's architectural heritage.

With his closing remarks, MICHAEL CRAMER delivered a pedagogical example for the necessity of history awareness for the building of a European future. With the Berlin Wall Trail as a role model, the concept of the Iron Curtain Trail was developed in 2005. Connecting emblematic sites for common European history the Solidarność Memorial in Gdańsk is the symbol for the origin of German reunification. As touristic heritage tour the Iron Curtain Trail, according to the speaker, is an experience which makes the benefits of our European capable.

The first thematic block ended with the acknowledgments by JÖRG HASPEL, president of ICOMOS Germany and host of the 2017 annual meeting to all the speakers.

The second thematic block "Sharing the Heritage of War and Peace in Neighbouring European Countries" was introduced by BOGUSLAW SZMYGIN. Considering heritage and heritage protection, the speaker referred to the 1975 European Year of Architectural Heritage as a role model for the upcoming ECHY 2018. Contraposing architectural heritage and cultural heritage, different approaches are possible, so the speaker. Heritage can among others serve as material or a tool. Without any doubt, the speaker pointed out that heritage is independent from national states and a source for cooperation. As the history of Poland is a history of changing borders he made clear that the heritage sites within Poland have a special potential. An outstanding heritage site for shared heritage is the city of Zamość. It was built as an ideal renaissance city at the trading routes to the Black Sea. Malbork Castle with its brick-built structure renovated by Germans in the 19th century was once a

symbol of German militarism. Today it is conserved by Polish. As heritage categories must change in time and space, the ECHY 2018 is of special importance. The speaker pointed out that 2018 could be an opportunity to reconsider the relation between historic material as European heritage and European identity. Three conclusions for this reassessment were made: 1. Diverse heritage is the evidence of a European identity 2. Accepting heritage is an evidence of a European identity and 3. Protection is an evidence of a European identity.

How border conflicts are most visible until today in the Euroregion Tyrol, WALTRAUD KOFLENER-ENGL explained. Until WW I this region was a region marked by cooperation and trade. What was determined as the border between the Republic of Venice and Habsburg in 1753 would later become the so called "Wallo Alpino" of the Fascist regime. Re-armed during the Cold War this polylingual European border region today rediscovers the heritage of this moved history. Re-used as hiking trails, former military routes render the relativity of European interior borders feasible. Soldiers' everyday objects now exposed by the melting glaciers are the relicts from which the absurdity of this "glacier front" is paradigmatic for the potential of "Sharing Heritage".

IRIT AMIT COHEN illustrated the shift of paradigms in heritage conservation as reality in Israel. Today, social and less material values are focused on. With an enlarged heritage definition, cultural heritage is part of the movement aiming at a sustainable development in rural spaces.

Slovenia and Croatia as former states of Yugoslavia also deal with the heritage of

war. Croatia looks back on a history of a former Habsburg border territory. Fortified historic towns and their military architecture manifest the struggles for the maintenance of peace by force, DRAZEN ARBUTINA pointed out. How for seventeen years now the Walk of Peace along the former WW I Isonzo front communicates the shared heritage in Slovenia, TATJANA ADAMIČ and MARKO STOKIN explained. Thereby, this trail links the different heritage sites along a 320-kilometre-long path.

For ANDRAS VEÖREÖS Sopron an extraordinary example of architectural heritage is present in Hungary. Socialist confiscation of the historic buildings lead to radical interference in the historic substance. Large apartments were cut into social flats. After the towns' small businesses left the historic city centre in the 1970s the substance faced great danger due to negligence and uncontrolled modifications.

Strasbourg is well-known for its cathedral with pan-European influences from Speyer and Prague. CLAUS-PETER ECHTER illustrated that the Neustadt district in Strasbourg was a model for German and Austrian urban planning. Initiated due to the idea of the city's transformation into an imperial capital after the German-French war, this unique example of European urban planning is a kaleidoscope of European architecture.

Looking at the French-German-Polish shared heritage IRMELA SPELSBERG compared three special heritage sites in two EU member states. The Château du Haut-Kœnigsbourg in the French Bas-Rhin, Metz-Ville Train Station with the so called "Kaiserpavillion" and the Malbork Castle in Poland are marked by the

imperial aspiration of the German emperor William II. Nevertheless, these sites paradigmatically illustrate what shared heritage means. The Roland statues at the Metz-Ville Train Station changed their heads according to the alterations in European history. The Pomeranian castle – once a symbol of the "Germanity" – was once turned into the mayors' offices. The legitimating effect of such a taking into possession or a transfer of heritage within Europe becomes visible.

This report on the European scientific symposium makes clear that neighbourhood and European perspectives enable the necessary amplified discussion regarding the development of the European cultural heritage. European borders were marked by deathly conflicts throughout history, separating neighbours. Today this regions' heritage and monuments document the common European ties beyond changing borders. The contributions make clear that "Sharing Heritage" means to understand that cultural heritage is on the one hand a historic source and on the other hand a source for new perspectives, especially for the young generation. Cultural Heritage therefore has a decisive influence on the reality surrounding us. Last, the ICOMOS Europe Group's scientific symposium illustrates that the commitment for the conservation of the cultural heritage crosses borders even beyond Europe.

Programme

Thematic Block 1: Sharing Europe's Cold War Heritage – the Iron Curtain from the Berlin Wall to the Green Belt Europe

- Axel Klausmeier, Berlin Wall Memorial (keynote speaker): The Berlin Wall and the Iron Curtain – from a Death Strip to a Memorial Landscape and to a European Heritage Label Network
- Barbara Engels, German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation/ Bundesamt für Naturschutz (keynote speaker): The Iron Curtain and Green Belt Europe – a Multinational World Heritage Studies

Short Presentations

- Hans Peter Jeschke: From the Fertö/Neusiedlersee Cultural Landscape to the European Cultural Landscape of the Iron Curtain
- Michael Falser: Conceptualizing Trans Border Landscapes in a Global Perspective
- Peter Waldhäusl: The Network of Boundaries and its Monuments (Boundary Marks – Boundary Stones)
- Sergey Gorbatenko: Sharing Heritage in the Baltic Region and North- West of Russia Closing Remarks:

Closing remarks

- Michael Cramer, MEP: Along the Iron Curtain Trail – my idea for a European heritage and tourism project

Thematic Block 2: Sharing the Heritage of War and Peace in Neighbouring European Countries

- Boguslaw Szmygin, ICOMOS Poland (keynote speaker): Border Regions and Cross Border Activities in/from Poland
- Waltraud Kofler-Engl, Department of Heritage Preservation South Tyrol (keynote speaker): Front Lines and Cooperation Lines – the Heritage of War in the Euroregion Tyrol – Alto Adige – Trentino

Short Presentations

- Irit Amit Cohen: Conservation of Encounter Rural Space – the Case of Agricultural Cooperative Settlements and Open Space in Israel
- Drazen Arbutina: Croatian Heritage of Borders – Conflicting Narratives but Shared Pain
- Tatjana Adamič and Marko Stokin: The Walk of Peace from the Alps to the Adriatic Sea
- Andras Veöreös: The Historical City Center of Sopron after the Population Exchange
- Claus-Peter Echter: The Strasbourg Neustadt
- Irmela Spelsberg: French-German-Polish Shared Heritage

©

European Student's Association for Cultural Heritage (ESACH)
Hochschulgruppe an der
Universität Passau
Innstraße 41, 94032 Passau

Deutsches Nationalkomitee
von ICOMOS e.V.
Brüderstraße 13, 10178 Berlin

Author:
Marius Müller

Web:
esach.jimdo.com

Twitter:
twitter.com/esach_spirit

Facebook:
facebook.com/studentsforculturalheritage

Mail: esach.unipassau@gmail.com

Citation:
ESACH Report I (2017): ICOMOS Europe Group Meeting, Scientific Symposium: Preparing the European Cultural Heritage Year (ECHY) 2018, June 5, 2017, Berlin Wall Memorial Visitor Centre.

