



EUROPEAN
a s s o c i a t i o n
Historic Towns & Regions

Report to Bureau Members, November 2002

1. Introduction

Unfortunately, Oracle has withdrawn early from its 2 year sponsorship deal because of difficult economic conditions in the IT industry. They have however, after some period of negotiation agreed to make a final payment of £10,000.

This uncertainty combined with the continuing difficulty of delayed subscription payments, led me to review expenditure over the Summer period e.g. the 2nd newsletter deferred until December.

As a consequence, I have revised the plan for 2002 and prepared a projected budget for 2003.

2. Activities in 2002

Conference Programme

We have now completed our first conference programme covering the following events: -

- “Symposium on the preservation of the urban fabric in Turkey” - 11th February 2002”. This built on earlier contacts and assistance in establishing a Turkish Association of Historic Towns and led to Turkey subsequently becoming a full member of EAHTR.
- EAHTR General Assembly 15th March 2002. The General Assembly reviewed EAHTR’s activities as part of its annual report and agreed its future priorities.
- International Symposium on Cultural Heritage – Kazan 20th – 23rd June 2002. This was EAHTR’s main event in 2002 organised jointly with the Council of Europe. It led to the adoption of a “Kazan Declaration”, dealing with the policy changes required at international, national and local government levels to recognise the importance of cultural diversity in historic cities as a key to a sustainable future. We now need to consider how to take this forward.

- “Investing in Heritage – regenerating Europe’s Historic Cities” - Newcastle upon Tyne, 3rd – 5th July 2002. Organised jointly with the Grainger Town Project this conference has led to a proposal to establish a European Group of cities to be called “INHERIT”. This will be a major priority during the coming months. (see below)
- Participation in the “12th International Symposium of the Walled Towns Friendship Circle”, Soave, Italy, 27th – 31st August 2002. This led to a resolution for the WTFC and EAHTR to organise a joint conference in the future.

Projects

EAHTR has invested considerable resources in building partnerships as part of European bids focusing on culture 2000 and the 5th and 6th Frameworks. While none of these bids, whether led by EAHTR or universities such as the UWE or the University of Florence have proved successful in attracting European funds, they have led to a much greater awareness of the importance of historic cities as a focus for research.

2002 saw EAHTR put together 2 “accompanying measures” projects called FRESH and FORUM. These received enthusiastic support from the European academic community but again were not prioritised by the European Commission. It is clearly very difficult to attract EC funding for Europe wide networks rather than specific projects. We remain convinced however that EAHTR offers considerable added value to European research projects and this is reflected in the invitation from 3 large university networks to participate in their bids for funding under the new 6th Framework. These are CULTUREX, GOV.CULTHER, and NIGHTSCAPE. These networks are extremely large consortia of mainly universities and EAHTR’s role will be to use its network of members to help disseminate the projects outcomes. Decisions on Framework 6 are expected early next year.

EAHTR has also added value to member bids to the European Commission e.g. Chester’s extension of LODIS, Malta’s bid for Tourism Development Funding and the Czech Republic’s bid to administer the European Cultural Heritage Award Scheme.

In addition priority has been given to establishing INHERIT, a project that brings together key European cities who have a track record of successful heritage investment. This project will be funded by the participating cities and will publish examples in depth of good practice in this field. Interest has been received from Newcastle, Birmingham, Edinburgh, Belfast, Cardiff, Gothenburg, Antwerp, Turin, Santiago de Compostella and several other cities. The first meeting of INHERIT is to be held in Paris at the Council of Europe’s Offices in February 2003.

Resources

The Council of Europe has now formalised its relationship with EAHTR and has approved a modest ‘budget line’ giving us some financial support for meetings as well as use of their offices in Strasbourg and Paris. As an affiliated organisation the main benefit of this development is that EAHTR will be formally recognised for consultation purposes with a budget allocation that can hopefully be built on in the future as we help deliver the Council of Europe’s work programme.

Appendix 1 sets out the revised financial plan for 2002 compared to the original plan as well as a projected budget for 2003.

3. Future Priorities

Conference/Meeting Programme

Next year's conference meeting programme now includes: -

- Meeting of INHERIT/Bureau Meeting – Paris, 7th February 2003,
- “The Wooden Town Through the Centuries”, Porvoo, Finland 15th – 16th May 2003, including General Assembly.
- “Regeneration of Historic Urban Cores: learning from experience,” 13th – 15th April 2003, Malta, jointly organised by INTA, the World Urban Development Forum, EAHTR, the Maltese Ministry of Environment and Tourism Authority.
- “13th International Symposium of Walled Towns Friendship Circle”, Waterford, Ireland, 9th – 14th June 2003.
- Joint meeting with Europa Nostra, Strasbourg 19th –22nd June

Projects

The priority project for 2003 will be INHERIT. It is hoped that this project will lead to our first major publication and to a future conference based in one of the member cities as a follow up to the Grainger Town Conference in Newcastle.

Following formal affiliation to the Council of Europe the Congress of Local Authorities and Regions wish to use EAHTR to progress aspects of it's work programme, including working with it's cultural itineraries group based in Luxembourg and working jointly with UNESCO on conservation advice to European World Heritage cities. This work will be discussed at the next Bureau meeting in February 2003.

Exploratory work will take place on the potential of European funding from 3C INTEREG programme where for the first time 20% of funds are to allocated to networks.

Lastly, we await the outcome of the 6th Framework prioritisation of major network projects. If any of the three projects are approved, then this will lead to a review of the EAHTR work programme and budget.

Membership

Expansion of membership remains a priority. I have just launched, in line with a resolution of the General Assembly, a campaign to recruit universities as associate members. 40 Universities have been approached – all contacts we have established through European bids.

Priority will continue to be given to establishing new associations where they do not currently exist and we are hoping that the INHERIT project, which involves cites from Spain, Italy and Sweden will lead to the involvement of these countries in EAHTR. We currently have 12 Associations representing 908 towns and regions plus a small number of Associate members.

Brian Smith
Secretary General

EAHTR Membership - subscriptions							
				Expected		Actual	Expected
				2002		2002	2003
	Full	Slovakia		635.00	Nyr	635.00	635.00
	Full	Scotland					
	Full	English HTF		2780.00	Nyr	2849.00	2780.00
	Full	Russia		2520.00	Nyr	7200.00	4500.00
	Full	Malta		185.00	Nyr	180.00	180.00
	Full	Netherlan ds		1300.00		1281.59	1300.00
	Full	Czech		635.00		650.16	635.00
	Full	Latvia		185.00			
	Full	Romania					
	Full	Turkey		2025.00		2125.40	2025.00
	Full	Slovenia		180.00		176.75	180.00
	Full	Portugal		2025.00			2025.00
	Full	Finland		270.00		365.97	270.00
	Associate	Hungary					
	Associate	Newcastle		350.00		353.60	
	Associate	Conwy County				362.98	362.98
	Associate	Walled Towns		270.00		540.00	270.00
	Cities	Cities					1500.00
	Cities	Inherit					18000.00
	Personal					27.49	
	Universities	Universiti es				210.00	1500.00
				13360.00		16957.94	36162.98