

Faro Convention of the Council of Europe

The Faro Convention is a Framework convention of the Council of Europe whereby states agree to protect cultural heritage and the rights of citizens to access and participate in that heritage. The Convention was signed in 2005 in Faro, Portugal. It has so far been ratified by 18 states.

The Faro Convention has several guiding principles:

- Cultural heritage is a means and not an end in itself.
- Involvement of social groups and organisations while taking into account the different backgrounds, responsibilities and capacities of each group or organisation.
- Cultural heritage is about the relationship between people, places and stories; the feeling of belonging.
- Social cohesion can be strengthened by creating shared responsibility towards cultural heritage.
- Cultural heritage can contribute to protecting and maintaining cultural diversity and locality (sense of place) in a time of standardization.

Faro-programme of the Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands

The Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands (RCE) has started a Faro-programme to learn what the Faro guiding principles mean for the Dutch heritage field. In close cooperation with heritage organisations and communities we are going to explore how to best facilitate citizen initiatives. A Community of Practise will connect initiatives and experiences. Together we create effective methods and instruments to reach our common goal of connecting people, places and stories through heritage.

The aim of the Faro Convention Meeting

On 16 May international professionals in the field of heritage management and citizen participation will introduce you to the principles of the Faro Convention. The two foundations of this Convention are: the value of heritage for society and the participation of citizens in cultural heritage activities. The central themes of the meeting are: how to better involve citizens and their initiatives in the development of heritage? And in what way can heritage play a role in tackling societal challenges?

The meeting will present a reflective view on the guiding principles of the Faro Convention and is filled with inspiring and active sessions on participation coming from different heritage fields. Speakers with first-hand experience will guide you through successful examples of participation in built heritage, spatial planning, archaeology, intangible heritage, collections and cultural landscapes. Input of participants will be an important aspect of the day. Your input during the field visits will be brought together by several 'correspondents' during the final session and contributes to the conclusions of the event and the way the Faro-programme of the Ministry of Cultural Heritage can take shape in the Netherlands. The meeting will be the starting point on the road towards possible ratification of the treaty by the Netherlands.

For whom?

The intended participants of the conference are those who work at heritage organisations which connect people, places and their stories in the broadest sense. You will meet participation experts, policy makers, local, regional and national public authorities, owners and managers of heritage, heritage professionals and heritage researchers, both national and international.

The conference will be held in English.