

### **BoC003**

## **CERES' RESPONSE TO THE BALANCE OF COMPETENCES REVIEW, CULTURAL SECTOR REQUIREMENTS**

CERES is a voluntary-sector Cornish group which provides cultural heritage links between Cornwall and the wider Europe. It seeks out European developments of interest to Cornwall and then assesses and reports on what is found to the cultural heritage groups in Cornwall,

It welcomes the opportunity to respond to this review and provide comment to some of the questions raised in the call for evidence.

Cornwall is one of Europe's historic regions, on the Celtic fringes of Europe's western seaboard. It has cultural heritage connections into Europe. During the European Iron Age the ancient Celts covered most of Western and Central Europe and part of Eastern Europe and central Anatolia. There are still Celtic connections and Cornwall can claim a Celtic heritage and identity. In more modern times through the industrial development within Cornwall there have been significant impacts on other European countries, particularly related to mining. Cornwall's distinctive character was acknowledged in the report of the Kilbrandon Royal Commission on the Constitution, where Paragraph 329 noted that "The early inhabitants of Cornwall were of Celtic origin. The Anglo-Saxon settlement of England did not extend to their territory and the people of Cornwall continued to be Celtic". The paragraph made reference to Cornwall's strong sense of regional identity and the wish of Cornish people that Cornwall's separate identity within the United Kingdom and within its historic boundaries should be recognized.

An understanding of its history is of great importance to retaining a Cornish identity and in turn the maintenance of distinctive customs and culture. CERES' experience is that currently these wishes are better understood and appreciated in the wider Europe than is evident nearer home, and its belief is that the Balance of Competences in respect of cultural heritage lies firmly with Europe and should remain there.

EU actions in the area of culture and tourism benefit Cornwall as celebrating culture helps to communicate a sense of place and distinctiveness for a visitor destination. The value of tourism to the Cornish economy cannot be underestimated with £1.4 billion in visitor spending in 2010, representing c.12% GVA and 20% GDP and supporting 1 in 5 jobs (2010). There would be added value to Cornish tourism in EU activity to co-operate with non-EU countries tourism sectors. There are significant opportunities to develop links with the Cornish Diaspora communities in South America, North America, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa who all have a shared Cornish mining heritage.

Much of CERES' work thus far has been associated with the Council of Europe. But this work has been made possible by the United Kingdom's membership of the Council and its signature on relevant Conventions and Charters. Ongoing work on the Disadvantaged Neighbourhoods Programme (integrating young people from deprived areas into Cornwall's society) and the creation of a Cornish Landscape Observatory (initiative from the Council of Europe's European Landscape Convention looking at the appreciation of landscapes and their history in the modern context) would not have been possible without such membership and actions.

A key organization that CERES works with is The Heartlands Trust. This is a regeneration charity, established in 2010 to operate the £35 million Heartlands project. Heartlands has transformed an industrial wasteland in Pool, Cornwall, into a vibrant visitor attraction (with over 385,000 visitors in its first 16 months), community hub and World Heritage Site Gateway. Situated at Robinson's Shaft, the site is part of the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site and is of great historic significance.

Heartlands was launched in April 2012 and has acted as the catalyst for the wider regeneration of the area, with residential developments already in progress around the perimeter of the site. Heartlands is being featured as a live case study at the forthcoming EDEN (European Destinations of Excellence) conference in Brussels in November 2013.

Heartlands is a significant example of how EU funding is extremely important to the Cornish tourism and cultural sectors. The development of the Heartlands project was led by Cornwall Council and the Big Lottery Fund's Living Landmarks programme provided £22.3 million core funding. However EU intervention was critical to the success of the project as it provided vital match funding in the form of a £2.8 million grant through the 2007-2013 Convergence Programme. In 2010 Cornish Mining World Heritage was awarded a £2.3 million RDPE grant, which has supported marketing campaigns and a range of improvements and interpretation at mining attractions through the 'Discover the Extraordinary' programme. This funding contributed to the development of a WHS interactive map in the Heartlands visitor centre to signpost other WHS mining attractions in Cornwall and Devon. Cornish delegations have also benefitted from Leonardo da Vinci Mobility funding to participate in vocational tourism training projects in Italy and Iceland in 2011 and 2013.

The EU's focus on shared cultural heritage is extremely beneficial to Cornwall as it shares a Celtic and mining heritage with other regions in Europe. In 2012 Heartlands worked in partnership with other with mining attractions and the Cornish Mining World Heritage Office to create the Cornish Route of Industrial Heritage as part of the pan-European ERIH network. As a new ERIH route, there is an opportunity to work with more experienced European counterparts to further develop the route. Heartlands is also keen to participate in a MINET II project, which will bring together a European network of former mining sites to consider the shared cultural legacy of mining.

It is difficult to imagine how Cornish leadership of a MINET II project could be maintained were there to be a United Kingdom withdrawal from the European scene. MINET II is to follow on from the Commission funded MINET I programme, in which CERES played a core role, and which created a European network of former mining sites in the setting of their tourism, educational and intrinsic potential and embraced sites in Cornwall, Ireland, Spain, France and Italy. MINET II will look at the shared European cultural heritage derived from mining and reflected in music; poetry and literature; and art.

There is an opportunity to simplify the application process for EU funding and for the EU to provide more funding for cultural initiatives. The Heartlands' Trust experience of developing an INTERREG application with Cornish and Breton partners found the process to be complicated and bureaucratic. The application process acts as a barrier for many SMEs who do not have the time, resources or expertise to develop the application. The advantages of direct funding through the EU rather than national programmes is that national priorities do not always reflect local and regional priorities.

By definition the work of CERES is European-related and the group would regret deeply any United Kingdom withdrawal from the European Union and from the Council of Europe. Whilst it is possible to envisage a continuation of our work in isolation it is unlikely that such work could continue in effective manners, our key relationships with the wider Europe being embedded as strongly as they are within our existing international partnerships.