

INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT MECHANISM FOR THE TRANSBOUNDARY PROPERTY “STRUVE GEODETIC ARC”

OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES and RULES OF PROCEDURE

Adopted by the members of Coordinating Committee of the Struve Geodetic Arc
at the Committee meeting in Oshmyany, Belarus, 4th July 2012

Background

The Struve Geodetic Arc is a chain of triangulation survey stretching more or less down the 25th E line of longitude from Hammerfest in North Norway on the Arctic Ocean over 3000 km south to Izmail at the Danube delta in Ukraine. The Arc was set up and measured from 1816 to 1855. The goal was to most precisely determine the geometric dimensions of the Earth, its shape and size. To approach the goal, F.G.W. Struve and other leaders of the arc measurement have set a high level of international co-operation in various directions, from political and administrative to scientific and technical. The arc measurement had unprecedented stretch and accuracy; therefore it made substantial and long-term impact regarding science and practise.

In today's geography the Struve Geodetic Arc passes through ten European countries, i.e. Norway, Sweden, Finland, Russia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine. Each of the ten countries possesses some sites with reliable signs, which mark on the ground the positions of the geographical points where the measurements were performed.

The state representatives (further – State Parties) of the ten countries of the Struve Geodetic Arc have together submitted the “Nomination of the Struve Geodetic Arc for Inscription on the World Heritage List” in January 2004 and the World Heritage Committee inscribed the Struve Geodetic Arc into the World Heritage List in July 2005. The Struve Arc is an trans-boundary serial property with the selection of 34 objects, i.e. original, preserved Arc stations. According to the common procedures and guidelines based on the World Heritage Convention, each State Party is responsible to take care of the preservation and other management of the sites within its territory.

In the section (4) of the Nomination Document the status and procedures of the national legislation, preservation, management, etc. have been described. This kind of activities are solely ruled and guided by each State Party itself, but there is a need for an additional common Management Mechanism agreed and implemented by all the ten State Parties jointly. Establishment of common management mechanism acting in liaison with the national managements would best meet the criteria of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee. “Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention” requires adequate protective management over a inscribed property, for this particular case, a mechanism, which combines national and joint international responsibility of the countries possessing the Struve Geodetic Arc sites.

Statement of Objectives

The main objectives of the State Parties are, by stages through co-operation in the Coordinating Committee, to create and develop the common rules and good practice in order to protect, preserve, present and promote the World Heritage property “Struve Geodetic Arc” as an entire trans-boundary object. This requires active collaboration with the national instruments of management over the separate stations – parts of the monument, as well as effective coordination in making the monument more substantial and more known to the public.

Particular tasks that result from the main objectives will be realized through common management practice agreed by the State Parties. Through the established Coordinating Committee necessary coordination of the ten Arc State Parties is ensured, as well as joint responsibility over the trans-boundary World Heritage property “Struve Geodetic Arc”.

The basic responsibility for all kind of management and actions of individual properties must be taken by the individual State Parties and be carried out by each of them in accordance with their legislative and management systems. The role of the Coordinating Committee is to work out common guidelines for management, to monitor the progress of preservation of the sites.

Activities of the Coordinating Committee

The main activities of the Coordinating Committee are carried out according to the following main topics:

- to maintain preservation of the “Struve Geodetic Arc” (SGA) as an entire World Heritage property, providing professional assistance and support implementing decisions and recommendations of the World Heritage Committee,
- to follow up the state of conservation of the SGA stations and achievements in protection, conservation, presentation and promotion of the SGA in various countries,
- organise Committee meetings, in which each representatives of the State Parties provide national reports, suggestions for common activities, make decisions and actions, and produce the meeting resolutions,
- to give recommendations and instructions to the management bodies of the ten SGA State Parties in order to improve the practice and apply coordinated achievements in protection, conservation, presentation and promotion of the SGA objects,
- to uniform particular designation of the SGA sites and to promote international use of the SGA sites for educational and tourist purpose,
- to promote improvements in national information about the SGA,
- to promote the national exploration and preservation of other than originally selected 34 SGA sites,
- to promote research work and make available for wider public both historical and new records of the SGA as well as related historical geodetic activities,
- to promote geodetic use of the SGA stations, plan and guide trans-boundary measurements with satellite and astronomical techniques.

Structure of the Coordinating Committee

Representatives of the ten “Struve Geodetic Arc” State Parties form the Coordinating Committee. Each State party nominates its primary representative to the Committee. Based on the practice gained within the nomination process, the main actors are the National mapping and cadastral agencies (NMCAs) of the ten states as described in Section 4 “Management” of the Nomination Document. They have professional staff and other means for management purposes.

Participation in the SGA Coordinating Committee meetings are open to national and international experts, representatives of governmental and non-governmental organisations and individuals, whom deal with activities related to SGA or protection of antiquities in field of geodesy in the territories of the State Parties. SGA Coordinating Committee encourages both public and private initiatives that promote further restoration of the material and cultural content of the SGA and may establish technical or advisory groups involving external experts for some particular tasks to be completed.

Ordinary Coordinating Committee meetings shall be organised in frequency of two years, but in case of any need or under special circumstances Committee Chair could call an extraordinary meeting or organise consultation and decisions taken processes by electronic means of communication (email, webinar, etc). The decisions of the meetings are reflected in the Resolutions. The decisions of the Coordinating Committee are taken unanimously and are valid if adopted in presence of not less than majority of members.

One of the State Parties will be elected by turn as Chair of the Committee for a two years term. The Chair represents the Committee officially concerning the objectives and tasks defined above. Chair is in presidency of the Committee meetings, and will take care of other duties defined in the Committee’s decisions.

Expenditures

All participants take care of their own costs within the work of the Coordinating Committee, and in their other management activities described above in this document.