

TOWARDS A REINFORCED MINISTERIAL CO-OPERATION AT EUROPEAN AND NATIONAL LEVEL

**STUDY/SURVEY  
ON THE IMPACT OF THE COUNCIL RESOLUTION ON ARCHITECTURAL QUALITY IN THE URBAN AND RURAL  
ENVIRONMENTS  
AND  
ON THE POLITICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE IN PLACE IN THE EU-25 FOR ITS IMPLEMENTATION**

**Introduction**

In November 2000, under the French Presidency, the Ministers of Culture adopted a Resolution on Architectural Quality in the Urban and Rural Environments. The Resolution was formally adopted as a Council Resolution by the European Council on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2001 (OJEC – 2001/c 73/04). Since 2001 significant further initiatives by successive Presidencies have concurred to create today a favourable political environment to reinforce co-operation and co-ordination in the area of Architectural Policies and Urban Policies.

**Luxembourg Presidency of the EU**

The Luxembourg Presidency has included architectural policies as a priority on the official agenda of the activities of the Presidency during the first half of 2005, which include, in particular, a plenary session of the European Forum for Architectural Policies, on 27 and 28 June 2005. An informal session of the Council is scheduled to take place at Luxembourg at the time and it is planned that the Ministers of Culture will have an exchange with the Forum at that occasion.

Five years after its adoption, it is intended that the Ministers of Culture of the EU-25 will review the impact of the Council Resolution on Architectural Quality in the Urban and Rural Environments and will assess the follow-up that has been given to the recommendations it contained, with a view to consider the adoption of a ministerial decision. In particular, it is envisaged that the Ministers of Culture could decide to establish a more formal, regular co-operation between them on architectural policies while fully respecting the national prerogatives and the subsidiary principle. Such a reinforced effort could draw on and benefit from the ongoing informal exchange within the Forum network.

Moreover, it is hoped that the Ministers could also agree to seek to enhance notably inter-ministerial consultations in this policy area at both European level and in the Member States.

**Study/Survey**

In order to give concrete foundation to the intended decision of the Ministers of Culture it is necessary to rely on a thorough knowledge and assessment of the existing situation. This implies that a study should be undertaken of the political and administrative structures currently in place in the Member States, while illustrating in particular, the way in which architectural policy – as a vital element of a coherent and sustainable spatial development for the good of society - is integrated or not in the different States. The Study/Survey, which has never been done, at least not with having in mind the perspective of a reinforced, organised co-operation and co-ordination at ministerial level, is now underway.

**Scope and purpose of the Study/Survey**

The study will cover all the EU-25. It will be pursuing two primary goals:

Firstly, the study will review and assess the impact of the Council Resolution on Architectural Quality in the Urban and Rural Environments to date, by surveying the actions and political developments that the Resolution has generated since its adoption.

Secondly, the study will seek to identify and describe as precisely and accurately as possible, the existing government structures responsible for architectural policy. It will survey the existing liaison and/or co-ordination procedures between the different ministerial departments or absence thereof. The study will also research any existing agencies and other

bodies, whether government ones or by delegation, which play a role in the formulation, development and implementation of any relevant aspects of architectural policies. Finally, it will describe the decision-making mechanisms.

### **Procedure and time-table**

The study/survey is being undertaken on behalf of the Steering Committee of the European Forum for Architectural Policies through the Forum Co-ordination Group by Michael O'Doherty (IE). He was until recently the Chief Architect at the Office of Public Works in Ireland and will be assisted in this task by the Forum Secretariat, Mrs Carole Schmit (LU).

The results of this study must be available before the end of the first quarter of 2005. It will be delivered to the Co-ordination Group of the European Forum for Architectural Policies and will subsequently be transmitted to the Luxembourg Presidency; Mr Guy Dockendorf, Premier Conseiller du Gouvernement; Directeur Générale de la Culture; Chairman of the Committee of Cultural Affairs of the Council during the Luxembourg, for due consideration and use in that context.

### **Request for Information**

To facilitate the speedy collection of information from across the 25 member states, a questionnaire is attached.

All relevant bodies are invited as a matter of urgency to participate i.e. all bodies engaged in the process of formulating and/or implementing Architectural policy or overseeing and/or promoting high standards of architectural quality in the private and public sector.

In view of the very tight timescale, all questionnaires should be returned by email to the [secretariat@architecture-forum.net](mailto:secretariat@architecture-forum.net) by **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2005**.

## **IDENTIFICATION OF RESPONDENT**

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**Date:** 8.4.2005

**MINISTRY/ORGANISATION:** Ministry of Education

**POSITION:** Director

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**PART I** To discover the organisational and administrative arrangements at **national** and **devolved** level for overseeing and promoting high standards in architectural design in both the private and public sector.

1. **Country** Finland

2. **Does a specific department exist in charge of Architectural Policy?**

YES / NO  for the follow-up and promotion there is a nominated body being responsible (see the resp.3)  
for the execution/ implementation there is no specific department

If **YES**, can you please specify:

a) Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Website: \_\_\_\_\_

b) The Ministry responsible? \_\_\_\_\_

c) When was it formally created? \_\_\_\_\_

d) Its terms of reference?  
\_\_\_\_\_

e) Describe Liaison / Co-ordinating procedures with other Ministries/Departments/Bodies Central or decentralised:

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**3. If the answer to Question 2 is NO please list the Departments responsible for Architectural Policy <sup>x)</sup> or Architectural Quality <sup>y)</sup>.**

<sup>x)</sup> concerning the monitoring and enhancing of the Architectural Policy Programme

Name: **National Council for Architecture, Finland  
(Valtion rakennustaidetoimikunta)**

Address: **Maneesikatu 7  
PO Box 293  
FI-00171 Helsinki  
Finland**

e-mail: **tktinfo@minedu.fi** Telephone: **+358 - (0)9 - 1607 7921 (?)**

Website: **www.taiteenkeskustoimikunta.fi**  
> Arts Council of Finland > National Art Councils > National Council for Architecture

Name: **Ministry of Education**

Address: **P.O. BOX 29  
FI-00023 GOVERNMENT  
FINLAND**

e-mail **firstname.familyname@minedu.fi** Telephone: **+ 358-9-16004**

Website: **www.minedu.fi**

Outline of Primary Responsibilities

**The operational core and catalyst in the creation and monitoring of the Finnish Architectural Policy Programme has been and is the National Council for Architecture (NCA)**

An expert body subordinate to the Ministry of Education. The State Art Councils are composed of members appointed by the Government for a three-year term after having consulted major art organisations.

**The general support and follow-up of the work rests with the Ministry of Education that has delegated the work to the NCA .**

Within the Finnish Government the Ministry of Education is responsible for developing educational, science, cultural, sport and youth policies as well as international co-operation in these fields.  
There are two ministers at the Ministry of Education: the Minister of Education and the Minister of Culture.

Describe Liaison / Co-ordinating procedures with other Ministries/Departments/Bodies Central or decentralised:

**The work is co-ordinated with the Ministry of the Environment (see the resp.4)**

<sup>y)</sup> The Finnish Architectural Policy Programme obliges all governmental actors to enhance architectural quality in their projects and to offer good models in procurement and implementation practices.

*(other names may be added)*

**4. Details of other Ministries/Departments/Procurement Agencies bearing responsibility for Architectural Policy or Architectural Quality, if any:**

**A:** Name: **Ministry of the Environment**

Address: **PO Box 35  
FI - 00023 GOVERNMENT  
Finland**

e-mail: **firstname.familyname@ymparisto.fi** Telephone: **+358 – (0)9 - 160 07**

Website: **www.environment.fi**

Outline of Primary Responsibilities

**One of the major parties in the preparation and monitoring of the Finnish Architectural Policy Programme.**

**The ministry has implemented and advanced the goals of the programme especially in land use planning through an active monitoring of the renewed legislation and by offering education and creating good practices.**

The Finnish Ministry of the Environment is responsible for ensuring that the environmental perspective is given proper consideration in society, international co-operation and at all levels of government. Remit includes steering environmental protection, nature conservation, housing, land use and building

**B:** Name: **The National Board of Antiquities,  
Department of Monuments and Sites**

Address: **House of Culture,  
Sturenkatu 4, Box 169  
FI - 00511 Helsinki  
Finland**

e-mail: **firstname.familyname@nba.fi** Telephone: **+358 –(0)9 - 40501**

Website: **www.nba.fi**

Outline of Primary Responsibilities

**One of the active parties in the preparation and monitoring of the Finnish Architectural Policy Programme.**

**According to the Action 7 in the Architectural Policy Programme a National Strategy for Built Heritage was prepared and accepted by the government in 2001. The monitoring report dealing with the strategy was finished at the beginning of the year 2004.**

In both cases the Ministry of Environment has been the responsible body to organize a large working group to prepare and discuss the task. Concrete aims and tasks have been set for different organizations. Priorities in the monitoring report have been especially information (home pages and other digital information), inventories, legal instruments and better resources for the National Board of Antiquities.

**C:** Name:

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Website: \_\_\_\_\_

Outline of Primary Responsibilities

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**5. Details of other bodies with a remit for the promotion or development of Architectural Policy or Architectural Quality** e.g. Arts Councils, Architectural Centres, Foundations, Professional Institutions (Orders):

**A:** Name: **The Finnish Association of Architects (SAFA)**

Address: **Runeberginkatu 5 A  
FI-00100 Helsinki  
Finland**

e-mail: **safa@safa.fi** Telephone: **+358 – (0)9 - 5844 48**

Website: **www.safa.fi**

Description of Role:

**An active partner and initiation maker in the creation and promotion of the Finnish Architectural Policy Programme, representing approx. 80% of architects and physical planners in the country. The architectural policy work, principally financed and directed by the Ministry of Education /dep. of Culture (and managed by the NCA), has partly been organized via or/and by the assistance of SAFA. In the monitoring and enhancement of the programme SAFA has hosted several projects, e.g.**

- editing the illustrated publications of the Architectural Policy Programme in five languages
- promotion and PR-work concerning the launching of the programme among authorities and professionals throughout Finland
- a survey and publication on architectural education for children and youth; enhancing the production of educational material and fostering networking in the field (seminars, publications etc.)
- being the responsible body in organizing the seminar "Discussing Architectural Quality" in Helsinki in 2002. (in the context of the European Forum for Architectural Policies; also one of the co-operators of the forum meeting in Paris in 1999.)

**B:** Name: **The Museum of Finnish Architecture (MFA)**

Address: **Kasarmikatu 24  
FI-00130 Helsinki  
Finland**

e-mail: **mfa@mfa.fi** Telephone: **+358 - (0)9 - 8567 5100**

Website: **www.mfa.fi**

Description of Role:

**One of the original parties in the preparation and monitoring of the Finnish Architectural Policy Programme. Founded in 1956 the Museum of Finnish Architecture acts as the national information centre for Finnish architecture promoting the appreciation of good quality in architecture by organizing exhibitions, lecture series and other related programmes. One vital task of the museum is to collect and distribute knowledge about architecture and increase the understanding of it among the general public (of all ages) as well as among experts.**

**C:** Name: **Alvar Aalto Academy**

Address: **Tiilimäki 20  
FIN-00330 Helsinki  
Finland**

e-mail: **academy@alvaraalto.fi** Telephone: **+358 (0)9 480 123**

Website: **www.alvaraalto.fi**

Description of Role:

**Founded in 1999 as part of the Alvar Aalto Foundation, the Alvar Aalto Academy is an international discussion forum in the field of environmental culture, particularly contemporary architecture, and a promoter of further education in architecture.**

This new party in the field saw the light in the context of the Architectural Policy Programme work. In this context a series of international conferences for architectural educators of children and youth is worth to be mentioned (a third one under work).

**D:** Name: **Centre for Traditional Building Techniques - foundation  
(Rakennustekniikan keskus –säätio)**

Address: **c/o Rakennustieto  
P.O.B 1004  
FI - 00101 Helsinki  
Finland**

e-mail: **petri.neuvonen@rakennustieto.fi** Telephone: **+ 358 –(0)40 - 700 7862**

Website: **www.rakennustekniikakeskus.fi**

Outline of Primary Responsibilities

**The Centre for Traditional Building Techniques was established in 2001 (Decision 10 in the Architectural Policy Programme). The aim of the centre is to produce and disseminate information on the Finnish construction techniques from different periods and to foster good construction, renovation and maintenance practices and increase the general appreciation of the field.**

**E:** Name: **ARMI -coalition for creating a common Information Centre of Architecture and Design.**

Address: **c/o The Museum of Finnish Architecture (MFA) /Severi Blomstedt**  
(Chair of the board of the ARMI association)

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Website: \_\_\_\_\_

Outline of Primary Responsibilities

**This initiative emerged in the wake of the Architectural Policy Programme, aims at uniting the forces of different organizations in order to manifestate the role of good planning and design in society. The final target of the project is a common interactive information and exhibition centre for architecture, design and building in the very heart of Helsinki.**

An architectural competition was organised in 2001, and the next few years will show if the plan will be realized.

*(other names may be added)*

**6. Please indicate below the staff resources which are engaged either full-time or part-time by the bodies at 2 and/or 3 above:**

**The National Council for Architecture (being a representative organ) has in its use a specialist expert (Tiina Valpola) from the summer 2004 (6 months). The work will continue:**

- in 2005 (9 months)
- in 2006 (12 months) when also additional part-time assisting personal will be employed for the international meeting and conference.
- (1999 – 2003 there was a part-time secretary /co-ordinator for the monitoring work)

**Additionally to the staff resources belong the periodical input of the Chair of the National Council for Architecture (Anna Brunow, part-time and not paid contribution) and the part-time monitoring input of the Ministry of Education (Director Rauno Anttila).**

**7A Are the financial resources which are utilised by the staff in the work on an annual basis readily identifiable in either case?**

YES  / NO

**7B If YES, please indicate the approximate amount of such expenditure in 2004 or 2003?**

2004 €...**40 000**.....

2003 €...**40 000**.....

**8A** Is there separate revenue funding available to the organisations undertaking activities to implement the policy?

YES / NO

**8B** If YES, can you please indicate the approximate amounts available in:

2004 €.....

2003 €.....

**9** Please use this space to describe any Country specific Structures e.g. Decentralised functionaries, which you may feel have not been adequately covered

In Finland there are two ministries involved in the creation and monitoring of the Architectural Policy Programme. At the moment the responsibility for follow-up has been delegated by the Government to the Ministry of Education, who has devolved it to a representative organ within it: the National Council for Architecture. On the other hand, the Ministry of the Environment promotes the policy programme in its daily work, especially as to the land use planning.

The work for creating a national architectural policy programme was boosted and supported by the simultaneous renewal process of the Land Use and Building Act (approved by Parliament in 1999) that radically increased the interactivity and transparency of the planning processes and moved the emphasis in the planning and supervision of the built environment and land use onto regional and municipal level. Therefore the (characteristic Finnish) trend to promote the objectives of the national programme in regional and local Architectural Policy Programmes is of great importance.

The first regional programme was made for the Province of East-Finland in 2000, at a quick tempo after the national programme was published. Two years later the pioneer programmes for municipalities were made by the cities of Jyväskylä and Oulu.

Presently there is much interest in making architectural policy programmes at the municipal level. The cities of Vantaa, Helsinki, Turku and Kuopio have initiated their own programme work, and many other towns, e.g. Tampere, Espoo, Vaasa, Rauma, Seinäjoki, Hämeenlinna, Uusikaupunki, Tuusula, Tyrnävä and Lumijoki are seriously considering it, as well as some regions, e.g. Häme.

The trend can be explained through the new requirements of participation and good environment in the renewed constitution and legislation as well as through inspiring earlier examples, but also as a result of active promotion work by the National Council for Architecture from the summer 2004.

**PART II** In the context of the **Resolution for architectural quality in Europe**, to discover what official statements of **architectural policy\*** exist and what actions/political developments the Resolution has generated since its adoption.

**10 Do you have an official publication outlining Government Policy on Architecture?**

YES  go to Q11 NO  go to Q10A

**10A. Is there any plan to develop such a policy?**

YES  / NO

If YES, can you please give an indication of:

i) Who is in charge of it?

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ii) Who are the main advocates of the policy?

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iii) Is it a voluntary initiative or based on legislative or other obligations?

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iv) The current status?

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v) Is there cross sectoral co-operation?

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**11. When was the Policy created?**

**1996-98**

The Finnish Architectural Policy was adopted by the Government in December 1998. In 1999 it was printed in Finnish, Swedish, English, French and German.

**11A Who were the initiators and formulators of the Policy?**

**Initiator: The Finnish Association of Architects (SAFA) <sup>XX)</sup>**

**Formulators: Members of the two preparation and work committees representing National Council for Architecture, Ministry of Education, Ministry of the Environment, The National Board of Antiquities, The Museum of Finnish Architecture, The Association of Finnish Local Authorities, the Technical Universities of Finland, Senate Properties, Ministry of Finance**

<sup>XX)</sup> Briefly, it can be stated that it was the architects who initiated the process. The issue was raised in the 1980s at the UIA World Congress in Montreal, and a discussion about the need for a national architectural policy continued within the profession in Finland for some time, however, without any visible result then. The next step was taken in the middle of 90's, when the ACE White Book was worked out and published. The Finnish Association of Architects (SAFA) had a central role. The National Council for Architecture, a special organ within the Ministry of Culture, was involved in the discussion, and among the key officials in the Ministry of Environment a certain enthusiasm was raised.

**11B Was the Policy formally adopted at Government Level?**

YES  / NO

**17.12. 1998**

**12. What processes were used to develop the policy?**

**Work in two cross-sectoral preparation committees (appointed by the Ministry of Culture), hearing of experts, seminars, statistical studies, research and development projects, political and professional lobbying...**

**The programme came about in two stages. The first committee started its work in 1996. It produced a thorough report that a new committee, after an extensive round of comments and discussion, polished and worked up into a politically usable programme form.**

**The first version, written in 1997 under the lead of the National Council for Architecture, was used as a tool in lobbying the Government. Publicity was gained mainly through newspapers and TV, by keeping the issue in the air whenever interviews were given or articles written by architects.**

**The renewal process of the 40 years old Planning and Building Act, being in strong political tail wind after a strong economic recession, was used to support the architectural policy work. A very significant detail in the process was the updating of the Finnish Constitution: it was written that one of the citizens' constitutional rights is the right for good environment.**

**The Finnish Architectural Policy was adopted by the Government in December 1998, after which it was actively marketed all over the country. (See also the resp. 5 A and 15)**

**In 1999, the Government nominated a follow-up committee for a period of three years. The same actors who worked out the policy were represented in the committee having a mission to make recommendations for the next stages in putting the policy into effort.**

*\* Architectural policy - for safeguarding and promoting cultural and architectural quality in building, urban design, landscape and cultural heritage.*

**13. What are the main objectives of the policy?**

**The Finnish Architectural Policy Programme charts the central development and maintenance measures with regards to what makes a good built environment and condenses them into 24 actions (Decisions) mainly aimed at actors in the public sector. In most cases the responsible body is clearly specified.**

**In the programme there are three strong tendencies: Strengthening the expertise and specialist organizations; producing obligations and willingness that guarantee a good cultural quality of built environment; increasing participation and information related to the rights and responsibilities of the citizens.**

**The main objectives, originally expressed in 24 actions, being grouped together are:**

- To create opportunities for the realisation of the constitutional rights of the citizen to have a good environment
- to facilitate the citizen's rights and his/her responsibilities for his/her own environment by promoting architectural education and public awareness
- to set high standards for public building and property management and in turn
- to set an example for the whole construction sector
- to encourage the use of procedures that will enhance architecture and high quality building
- to promote innovation through architectural education and research and development work
- to improve the care of our architectural heritage and development of the built environment as a part of a broader approach to cultural history and architecture

**14. Is there cross sectoral co-operation and what Ministries are actually engaged?**

**Yes, there is.**

**In the creation (1996-1998) and monitoring phase (1999-2002) there was three official working committees appointed by the Ministry of Education where the Ministry of the Environment was actively involved.**

**From the 2002 the responsibility was devolved to the National Council for Architecture as a specialist body for the Ministry of Education.**

**At the moment there is a voluntary collaboration phase with no cross sectoral administrative body for the implementation of the programme, but a renewed co-operation form between the two ministries and other central supportive actors is under development.**

**15. What specific initiatives/actions have been undertaken in support of the policy and/or Resolution objectives in terms of:**

- a) Improving knowledge and promotion of Architecture, urban design, landscape and cultural heritage?

**The Finnish Government's Architectural Policy Programme was published as an illustrated version in Finnish, Swedish, English, French and German, which greatly supported the domestic promotion efforts but also worked as a model or source of inspiration in other countries.**

**The publication was disseminated largely to the Finnish Parliament, ministries, organizations in the building sector, regional and provincial administration, municipalities, Employment and Economic Development Centres, Arts Councils, libraries, art organizations, even Finnish embassies and institutes abroad. People can order it from NCA or SAFA as many schools, citizen movements, courses etc. have done.**

**The programme and its contents have been introduced in several special seminars and events in different parts of Finland (and abroad). Also articles, interviews etc. related to it have been numerous.**

**The architectural education of children and youth has been supported through the Architectural Policy Programme, which has resulted in a remarkable amount of new educational material. In the last few decades the number of different projects in schools and in the context of voluntary civic education has been notable. A comprehensive nation-wide educational website is under work.**

**At present the focus is on supporting and encouraging the local actors to create their own architectural policy programmes and to intensify the lobbying of the decision makers.**

- b) Promoting awareness among the general public in appreciation of Architectural, urban and landscape culture?

**A part-time co-ordinator/secretary was chosen in 1999 to edit a 'public-friendly' version of the programme and to enhance PR work.**

**The limited resources were focused on the civic education, promotion work and producing information (publications, seminars, articles).**

(See also the resp .15 a)

- c) Promoting awareness and training among contracting authorities?

**Objectives of the Architecture Policy Programme have been included in the annual training occasions and meetings of local and regional authorities organized by the Ministry of Environment.**

A transparent preparation process in the creation phase of the programme with broad participation opportunities increased the general awareness and knowledge among authorities and other actors in the field.

Ministry of the Environment has widely informed on the participation practices related to the new legislation and arranged plenty of supplementary information and training for the municipal and regional actors.

d) Fostering a culture of best practice in procurement of Architectural projects?

**Partly the objectives of the Architectural Policy Programme were changed over direct to administrative praxis, e.g.**

Catalyzed by the national policy programme the Senate Properties (earlier State Real Property Agency) has developed its own quality programme

- being committed to exemplary activities through lifecycle and environmental building in line with the principle of sustainable development
- aiming at favour architectural competitions and quality-price criteria as procurement methods

Also some other governmental and public parties use in their projects quality criteria that emphasize cultural values.

Linked with several architectural competitions, the objectives of the Finnish Architectural Policy programme have been included as built-in requirements for good architecture in many development projects of the Ministry of the Environment (e.g. "Modern Wooden Towns" and "Low rise and high density")

**Also certain non-governmental actors support Architectural Policy and Quality work actively, e.g. The Finnish Association of Architects (SAFA) and The Building Information Foundation (RTS)**

SAFA has been and is an active actor in the promotion of architecture regarding all of its aspects.

RTS Foundation, originally founded by architects, is a private non-profit-making Foundation, whose task is to foster good planning and building methods and sound property management practices. Owning a publishing house it produces the major professional information in the field in Finland. Its Board and an Assembly represent the entire building and construction industry through 43 associations and organizations.

e) Fostering exchange of information and experience in the field of Architecture and Architectural procurement?

**Not yet active enough in the policy work, but this is an incoming item. The Finnish Museum of Architecture, financed by the Ministry of Education, is an evaluator accepted by all Finnish architects and the field in general. This is a valuable source for further dissemination of information.** (See also the resp. 15 d)

f) Any other initiatives/actions?

**The Architectural Policy Programme, being a pioneer among policy documents, has had an effect on other cultural policy programmes in Finland and parts of it has been included in them.**

(Government Decision-in-Principle on Finnish Design Policy, Art Policy Programme and Cultural Policy Programme for Children)

**16. What have been the successes of the policy or which initiatives have been the most successful?**

**The high level (governmental) status of the policy**

**The good achievements in architectural education of children and youth** (see also the resp.15 a) (original Decision 13)

**The progress in the cultural heritage sector**

(original Decisions 7, 8, 9, 10)

- The creation of the National Strategy for Built Heritage approved by the Government in 2001. (see the resp. 4 B)
- The intensive action policy of the National Board of Antiquities and the Ministry of the Environment in advancing local level management and projects. (60 municipalities have made their own cultural environment programmes in order to support land use planning and stimulate local economy. The regional level cultural environment programmes cover the whole of Finland.)
- The establishment of the Centre for Traditional Building Techniques in 2001. (see the resp. 5 D)
- A special thematic year for built heritage held in 2003, linked with the European Heritage Day, has resulted in a portal for built heritage (created by the Ministry of the Environment and National Board of Antiquities) that will be opened in September 2005.
- A lot of work has been done to make legal instruments for the protection work more effective: inventory systems for built environment has been developed, the economical support for the renovation of private owned heritages given by the state is nowadays larger than before etc.

### **Reinforcing the state subsidized system of regional architects**

(original Decision 6)

The network of regional architects for municipalities with not too much expertise in their use has grown from less than 10 to almost 30 regions and 115 municipalities. The aim is to support the opportunities of small municipalities to cope with the obligations of the new legislation. The financing of the action is shared equally between the state and the respective municipalities.

### **The qualification of architects**

(original Decisions 19, 20)

The competence criteria for planners and designers have been defined through legislation and the qualification systems have mainly been introduced.

## **17. What have been the areas where success has not been achieved?**

### **A widespread adoption and appreciation of good architectural quality**

(original Decisions 2, 14, 15, 18)

Unfortunately quality awareness has not generally penetrated the municipal administration and private sector. Far too often the method of the cheapest offer is used referring to EU directives. Planners who lack a cultural orientation are often favoured for economical reasons.

Especially in the smaller communities with minor resources it is difficult to find sufficient means to get the local decision makers convinced of the values of cultural and social aspects in building projects. This concerns also many commercial projects and private housing in all places in the country.

### **Evaluation of the effects in the preparation of laws and regulations**

(original Decision 4)

Concerning the regulations there still are plenty of cross sectoral hindrances and frictions.

At the regulation level good architecture is advanced through The National Building Code of Finland, section A2 : Building designers and plans (regulations and guidelines), issued in 2002. Yet, the statements guiding construction and building (e.g. the statements on energy requirements) have not been evaluated or renewed particularly from a view of promoting of architecture.

### **Architectural research and development work**

(original Decisions 17, 18)

Still a lot of structural hindrances both in financing and attitudes.

### **Funding and resources are not in balance with the status of the national Policy Programme and the importance of the work.**

(e.g. original Decisions 17, 18, 22)

There are a lot of institutions and actors (as it can be seen in the responses of this formula) doing good work with minimal resources (e.g. in comparison with other art institutions or universities).

### **A weak commitment of the administration in certain areas**

The domination of the technocratic point of view in the decision making and interpreting the statements.

Already the first monitoring report indicated that part of the actions (Decisions) in the Architectural Policy Programme will be weakly realized or are overlooked, since the body nominated as responsible is not the right one, or has not been defined clearly enough.

## **18. Has the implementation of the policy been formally reviewed? If so, please specify any changes/ emphasis in policy or implementation process:**

**Yes, in some amount.**

**In 1999, a cross sectoral committee was nominated for a period of three years to evaluate and monitor the implementation of the programme measures. The monitoring report (delivered to the Minister of Culture in 2002) emphasized the participation in the European Forum for Architectural Policies, the importance of the continuation of policy work, better commitment at the regional and local levels, needs to actively catalyze the research and development work as well as the role of architecture in the school education and the training of decision makers. The report also pointed out the original actions (Decisions) being realized only partly or not at all. (See also the resp. 12)**

In 2003, according to the monitoring report the responsibility was devolved to the National Council for Architecture that has had, from the summer 2004, a special expert in its use for the concrete policy work.

Along and with this, a new development phase has been initiated, where municipalities and regions play an active role and new means for organizing cross sectoral co-operation are studied. In order to support the municipalities and regions in making their own local Architectural Policy Programmes (see the resp.9) a series of seminars and the compilation of a publication has been started.

19. **If you have any further information or observations which you feel have not been adequately covered in the above questions, please comment here:**

At the local level there are several voluntary and administrative bodies offering architectural education and promoting good architecture and care of built heritage.

E.g. the local organizations and clubs of The Finnish Association of Architects organize local activities and initiate projects, campaigns and networks for good built environment.

The Regional Arts Councils have vacancies of regional artists open also to architects. E.g. in the region of Uusimaa one of the regional artists is an architect as her task to promote and organize architectural education for children and youth in the region.

20. **If you wish to make any further observations or comments on the impact of the Council Resolution for architectural quality in your country or specific area of operation, please comment here:**

The general aim of the renewed Land Use and Building Act in Finland is to ensure that planning is of high quality and interactive, that expertise is comprehensive and that there is open provision of information on matters being processed. The Architectural Policy Programme is one tool to support the implementation of the principal guidelines of the legislation. On the other hand the merely economically or technically oriented actors in the field together with the harmonization and other legislative processes in the EU context make it difficult to get attention to the cultural dimensions in the implementation and maintenance of built environment.