

COMMISSION C4

WORLD HERITAGE AND ASTRONOMY

*PATRIMOINE MONDIAL
ET ASTRONOMIE*

COMMISSION C.C4 WORKING GROUP 2: WINDOWS TO THE UNIVERSE: CLASSICAL AND MODERN OBSERVATORIES

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TRIENNIAL REPORT 2018–2021

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1. Forming the WG

Starting in 2019, this WG has been established as a combination of two former WGs: “*Classical Observatories from the Renaissance to the 20th Century*” and the Inter-Commission B7-C4 WG “*Windows to the Universe: High-Mountain Observatories, and other astronomical sites of the late 20th and early 21st centuries*”.

These former WGs were established in close cooperation with C4 to support the development and coordination of nominations of classical and modern astronomical observatory sites from the Renaissance to the 21st century for inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage List (WHL).

2. Aims and Planned Future Activities

The aim of the WG is to advance the WHL nomination project “*Route of astronomical observatories*”, which focuses on the possible serial (multi-site) transnational nomination of a number of classical observatories all over the world, combining observatories in different continents, connected by architectural and landscape features, by comparable scientific instrumentation or by scientific cooperations.

Due to the pandemic situation worldwide there had been only few activities in 2020. Recently, the observatories of Kazan university were placed on the national tentative

list of the Russian Federation. Also, a study was made for preparation of the intended nomination of Hamburg observatory for the national tentative list of Germany.

For the future, it is intended to support observatories in sensitizing the public for the heritage issue by means of talks, guided tours, observing nights, exhibitions and other activities (in cooperation with C1 “*Astronomy Education and Development*”). In this connection, also the preservation of a dark and quiet sky above the more modern observatories should be addressed.

Matthias Hünsch

Chair of C4 WG2 Windows to the Universe: Classical and Modern Observatories

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