

Original Contribution

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## MONITORING OF THE STATUS OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SITES

## Sabin Ivanov

KONSTANTIN PRESLAVSKI UNIVERSITY OF SHUMEN, SHUMEN 9700, 115 UNIVERSITETSKA ST.

e-mail: s.ivanov@shu.bg

Abstract: The topic of cultural heritage and its preservation has always been part of the public and professional debate about the development of the regions and their future. In the territorial planning of modern settlements as the duty of specialists is the entry of history into the modern urban structure and spaces. The problems in the management of territories occupied by cultural monuments are dictated rather by the lack of a single and sustainable practice valid for all sites, which ensures security and sustainable development with a balanced protection of the interests of all those affected

Key words: cultural heritage, treasure-hunting, cultural policy, exploitation

## **INTRODUCTION**

In 2002 practical manual for World Heritage Site Managers showed how a balance can be obtained between new economic opportunities and protection and conservation of natural and cultural heritage. This methodology is important for planning and decision-making and includes the influence of indicators and standards that are important in determining changes in cultural sites and their natural environment. These changes may refer to:

- The environment: to some extent ecosystems allow human intervention (tourism) while maintaining sustainable functioning;
- Society: there is a limit to the number of visitors to cultural sites, which can cause a decline in the quality of tourist entertainment, as well as opportunities for damage to cultural sites;
- The physical conditions that most often relate to the territorial scope of human activities.

## THEORETICAL STAGING

Changes in environmental, physical and social conditions must be monitored through selected performance and impact indicators. Indicators should not be seen as a comprehensive measure of impact or problem, but as a system of continuous monitoring of the state of the QES. Recommended performance requirements include:

- Quantitative be measurable;
- Easy and inexpensive to measure;
- Relative, significant and sensitive this will reflect the concern (concern) that is being tracked for the cultural site;
- Reliable over time monitoring can be repeated during each monitoring cycle.

Here are some examples: loss of surface artifacts, active erosion of archaeological sites, destruction of archaeological sites, inclusion of modern or incompatible additions to the landscape element, number of people per month, day and time, satisfaction of visitors, etc.

For the proper preservation of QEs, I believe that it is a prerequisite to include in the management plans the development of an individual programme for the operation of each individual cultural and historical site. Paleoecological studies, environmental monitoring, tourist search study, conservation planning and restoration of cultural monuments, analysis of the balance between the preservation of the authentic natural environment and the creation of conditions for normal cultural recreation and tourism, the design and development of routes for visitors, analysis of the degree of modernization of the environment and other factors must be carried out in advance, which affect the authenticity of cultural monuments and the associated natural environment. Tourist demand should be in line with the forecast for the optimal number of visitors who can visit the monument without harm. This means controlling and managing visits, as well as the composition and number of visitors.

In this way, each monument of cultural heritage will be adapted to tourist visits as much as possible, and the problems for its preservation will find specific complex solutions. It should be added here that the above actions must be carried out in strict compliance with the system of regulations and prohibitions, and also in their development, the institutional authorities should be guided by both the promotion and preservation of cultural monuments without taking into account certain tourist interests.

From everything said so far, in order not to lead to the destruction of cultural monuments due to the impact of time, natural elements or man, continuous monitoring and control of their condition is necessary.

Territorial planning as a tool for the preservation and management of cultural heritage.

Building or urban norms must not be contrary to cultural monuments. Their preservation is not only our moral obligation, but also obtaining knowledge of the past, because cultural heritage reflects the development of society and the era of which it belongs. Preserved historical buildings, open spaces (arenas, squares, gardens, etc.), different cultural layers reveal the past most often of today's major cities and contribute significantly to their value and identity. Often the locals are proud of their heritage and create a positive image and significance of the settlement. This is of course important in order to preserve the identity of cultural heritage and to strengthen the future sustainable development of cities. The importance of the settlement is a major factor in the global competition to attract tourists.

Research on cultural heritage, its place and importance for the development of modern cities is becoming more relevant not only in Bulgaria, but also on a European and global scale. The preservation and "entry" of heritage in the process of modern and inevitable changes in cities is achieved with an acceptable balance between preservation, reconstruction and integration. This balance is also necessary for the development of the modern city and the urban environment. This should be considered not only by urbanites, whose main task is to protect the character of the urban environment and its "spirit". but also to keep in mind the opinion of the inhabitants - those who live in the city and for whom it represents a living environment.

The problem of the preservation and socialization of cultural and historical monuments in the conditions of modern urban development is particularly exacerbated today and in Bulgaria. The major cities of the country are developing very intensively. Their central territories are saturated with cultural and historical monuments of different eras, which should be preserved and at the same time must perform numerous functions characteristic of urban life. On the other hand, the dynamic increase in tourist flow increases the interest in these values, with which cities acquire a different identity and a new vision. All this creates numerous and serious problems in preserving the different types of cultural and historical heritage that cities possess. In our country, the opportunities of territories that hold cultural values and identity have not yet been fully exploited.

The development plans defining the territorial development of the urban territories with cultural heritage are: the plan for the preservation and management of cultural values, the Municipal Development Plan, the General Development Plan of the city, the detailed development plan of the cultural heritage zone and the specific rules and norms.

The previous practice related to the preservation and management of cultural heritage, as far as it existed, has always been related to the planning of

the territories in which there are cultural monuments. Most often the territorial sign is a separate settlement, complexes, separate buildings. For easy management of such territories, it is established practice to monitor cultural heritage and accordingly be restored and preserved by municipalities. The issue of imposing such a model in addition to financial is related to the political will of the government.

The lists of real cultural values with category "National Importance" are compiled by districts and settlements and are maintained by the Ministry of Culture. So far, there is only the mentioned information system "Archaeological Map of Bulgaria", introduced in 2011 with a description only of the archaeological sites in the country. According to the automated information system on our territory, more than 16 000 archaeological sites are known with a tendency to increase their number. Unfortunately, here the word "map" is not appropriate, because the information system is not of the type GIS, which also represents the spatial location of the sites that represent cultural heritage.

Here it is important to emphasize the need to create specialized cards of QIn. The existence of representative, accessible and easy-to-rely by the public, including all relevant digital information, would not allow for the "lawful" construction of "illegal" construction within the meaning of SDS constructions, especially when cultural monuments are threatened.

# Tourism and cultural heritage

Tourism today is one of the most important sectors of the economy globally and accounts for 9% of global GDP. In recent years, the United Nations World Tourism Organization has consistently reported an increase in tourist travel and billions in revenue.

At the same time, tourism is very careful in terms of the use of natural resources and its impact on nature and culture. Tourism itself is becoming an increasingly complex phenomenon, with political, economic, social, cultural, educational, environmental and aesthetic dimensions. Sustainable development in tourism can only be achieved if tourism is compatible with the social, cultural and environmental environment.

Tourism is closely related to the presentation of tourist places. It is among the most important means of cultural exchange not only from a historical cultural point of view, but also of modern life and society, of other cultures and people. Domestic and international tourism is therefore increasingly assessed as a positive force in support of natural and cultural protection.

The link between culture and tourism makes a visible contribution to the economic development of the regions. Of course, attracting tourists makes not only financial sense, although in recent times it is strongly emphasised precisely this country of tourist visits. Visitors to archaeological sites and historical sites have specific requirements and needs. Visiting the cultural and historical

heritage sites of tourists satisfies their intellectual, emotional, cultural and even physical needs of the individual, for example, a walk.

Tourism brings benefits to local communities and provides an important tool and motivation for the care and maintenance of its heritage and cultural practices.

### CONCLUSION

In 2001, UNESCO established a tourism programme with a specific objective to address "growing threats to World Heritage sites from tourism, which, if sustainably managed, can offer opportunities for socio-economic development". The programme focuses on developing common principles for sustainable tourism within the framework of the World Heritage Convention and an effective training programme for world heritage protection by building a system of websites.

The link between cultural and tourism sites is dynamic, often complex and can have a positive impact on maintaining or improving the two areas – culture and tourism. The impacts of visitors do not depend on whether the tourist places are local, national or international and whether they are visited by individual tourists or groups. The protection of cultural heritage consists in preventing the misuse and development of tourism within the cultural monument or its surrounding area.

The long-term preservation of cultural values requires careful planning, including tourist studies on impact and demand, as well as the establishment of a monitoring system.

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