

REGIONAL HERITAGE PLAN SOUTH

2015 - 2018



Support to the Promotion of Cultural Diversity

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Regional Heritage Plan South

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Foreword

Communities around the globe are increasingly seeking ways to become more active in local governance and have a say on the management of their local resources. Democratic participation with an inclusive approach to all, ensuring the right to practice one's own culture, is essential to wellbeing of communities where multiple identities and diversity are considered important assets.

Heritage, as one of the foundations of contemporary life, plays a crucial role in local economic development as responsible care and management of heritage resources could offer opportunities for communities. The European Union/Council of Europe Joint Project - Support to the Promotion of Cultural Diversity in Kosovo* (PCDK) has been very innovative in engaging local communities with their heritage, while developing locally appropriate methodologies and programmes, based on agreed standards.

With its integrated approach to heritage and diversity, this Heritage Plan brings together the distinguished elements of the communities in a regional framework. Besides the well-known heritage assets, it tries to bring the intangible aspects of contemporary community life and ties the diverse ways in which heritage plays a role. The participatory nature of the development of the Heritage Plan encouraged local actors to play an increasingly important role at an early stage and planning for its future. The entire process paid a particular attention to sustainability and took necessary measures by providing concrete examples and guidance as well as training human resources to carry on the actions.

The Heritage Plan is a useful tool that will create a platform for local stakeholders to join their forces together under a regional strategy and pave the path for a stronger relationship between grassroots action and central level policy making, offering a dynamic and systematic approach to local development process through utilisation of existing heritage resources.

While encouraging a coordinated action among municipalities of Kosovo South, the plan also sets a common framework between Kosovo regions as they all followed the same process in their respective areas. In line with the principles of democratic participation, diversity and innovative actions, the process is aimed to lead the development of Kosovo Heritage Plan that will assist Kosovo authorities with their objective to become closer to European norms and standards.

I hope that the work of the Joint Project PCDK in setting an example through its technical assistance will provide stimulus for authorities to facilitate the work of local actors and create conditions for communities to better appreciate, protect and manage our common heritage.

Claudia Luciani

Director of Democratic Governance Directorate
Council of Europe
Strasbourg

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

Lights, Camera, Action!

All of those who have seen at least one documentary screening at some of the most attractive settings at Prizren's Dokufest, from the river banks to the fortress walls, don't really need lectures on the power of the culture and cultural heritage – they have experienced them combined in the best possible edition: not only audio-visual, but literally "3D"!

It is with contemporary documentaries that the old city centre of Prizren, whose heritage is protected with a special law, gets new life. The audio-visual images not only bring new light to the walls and spaces, it is also in strong coalition with the audience, the citizens and civil society, that another particular venue such as the Lumbardhi open-air cinema can be protected as a future heritage. The fact that such treasures can be found all around Kosovo is not just a question of tradition. Many of such discoveries were also the concrete result of a very contemporary joint programme of support to the Promotion of Cultural Diversity in Kosovo (PCDK), mainly funded by the European Union and implemented by the Council of Europe.

That's exactly why such plans are conceived, drafted, discussed, approved and published: in order for the past to get life again. Or even more ambitious: for people to get an idea of a possible change by reinventing some old near-forgotten values, like dialogue and mutual understanding. When we are talking about Kosovo, with the youngest population in Europe, such forward-looking approach to heritage is essential. You can call it diversity, sustainable development or simply quality of life: the point is that citizens should always benefit from good ideas being put into practice. Documentaries do not only document, they create new perspectives. The creativity of the festival brings together decision-makers from the region and new, joint political solutions can be found. By doing so, the awareness of joint heritage becomes very, very tangible: it begins to create new knowledge, new jobs, new business opportunities and – above all – new ideas among new generations.

I sincerely hope this Heritage Plan will encourage all stakeholders to prove they can be proudly anchored in the inherited past and well oriented into the future. With such understanding, they would all participate in a process that is not just another "pilot project", but a process that can serve as an inspiration for brighter projections – and actions! - to get us all out of the darkness of the contemporary crisis.

Samuel Žbogar,

Head of the European Union Office and
EU Special Representative in Kosovo

Introduction

All who have been engaged with the Support to the Promotion of Cultural Diversity in Kosovo (PCDK) project have been working towards progressive transformation of societies through participatory democracy, utilising heritage as a common value. We strive towards ensuring the wellbeing of communities, as a key contributory factor to fundamental human rights, through improved quality of life and living environments. By improving quality of life and living environments, we mean to encourage community life based on active individuals, committed through free and democratic participation in the process of development. This democratic development process should be based on the sustainable use of local heritage resources, on the creation of opportunities for equal access to these resources, and on the fair distribution of benefits among peoples in a dignified manner.

Genuine involvement of communities in their daily life practices, where they are active participants of decision making processes for economic and social development, is vital in helping us to approach the complexities of living together. Through intercultural dialogue we have the opportunity to create the necessary mutual understanding to relate to each other and redefine our relationships. Our existence today and our future perspectives are often influenced by our own past and what we inherit from the past.

Heritage might simply be described as the cultural and natural assets and resources that civilisations inherit from the past; at a local level, heritage is a woven montage of communities, places, stories and landscapes. How we personally perceive heritage largely depends on our age – children tend to associate heritage with anything “old” or historical, adults may associate heritage with identity, while those more senior might associate heritage with the “golden past” and a “loss” of values. But all ages recognise the importance of heritage at some level.

Recognising the importance of heritage does not always translate into valuing and understanding heritage. Heritage has also been subject to destruction; sometimes consciously, for complex reasons, or unconsciously, having been left to deteriorate, disintegrate and disappear.

Acknowledgement of the value of diverse heritage, honouring and placing it in the right place in history, is a challenging but exciting process, if managed responsibly.

The Heritage Plan for Kosovo South is a product of a regional community initiative of the Local Economic Development component of the EU/CoE Joint Project - Support to the Promotion of Cultural Diversity in Kosovo (PCDK) and follows on from a pilot project already completed in Kosovo West. It provides a framework for the identification of the most appropriate strategies to advance the objectives, in the context of developing sustainable, heritage-led initiatives and tourism components within an overall tourism strategy for the region.

The Local Economic Development (LED) component of the PCDK project has been inspired by and is closely associated with the Local Development Pilot Project (LDPP) of the Council of Europe’s Regional Programme for Cultural and Natural Heritage in South East Europe.

While the PCDK I & II project followed a more specific focus on heritage-led initiatives and heritage tourism, it always sought to maintain linkages with the regional programme to complement efforts made across other countries in the region. Our heritage-led work creates platforms where transversal issues relevant to the communities are brought together around concrete actions, setting examples for the type of society we aspire to build.

As a result of the success of the heritage plan process in Kosovo West, it was extended to the other four regions of Kosovo.

The development of a Heritage Plan as a concept was influenced by the successful example of the Irish Heritage Council model, and experts from the Irish Heritage Council have assisted the process of shaping the Heritage Plans as well as providing support for capacity development of the local stakeholders. The implementation of the heritage plan in the four regions is based on the methodology proven in Kosovo West involving community engagement, data-collection, feasibility assessment, pilot actions, capacity development efforts, heritage plan preparation and implementation.

A systematic, analytical and structured approach was adopted based on the local strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats in relation to the development of sustainable heritage-led initiatives and tourism in the area. Pilot actions that took place simultaneously in the regions made a significant contribution to the formulation of the heritage plan.

The underlying strategy involves the integration of heritage-led initiatives and heritage tourism development with the development of the general tourism sector in the region.

The strategy focuses on awareness-raising, education, training and suggested actions in relation to cultural and natural heritage, and addresses practical issues embracing ongoing data collection/validation, site conservation, restoration, signage, heritage information and site security, all through a facilitated partnership and cooperation process involving all central, municipal, community, heritage and tourism stakeholders and actors in the region.

The process has been based on partnership, cooperation and community ownership, and in Kosovo South key partners have been the NGOs Ec Ma Ndryshe, Omladinski Savez Gore (OSG), Katedra Slobodnog Uma –(KSU), and Durmish Asllano, working with all communities.

The Heritage Plan contains eight sections, emphasising the essence of heritage at the heart of community life, providing an overview of the heritage of the region, introducing the idea of heritage and a heritage plan, and describing how this heritage plan was developed. Further, it reflects upon changing attitudes and approaches of local stakeholders as a result of the process, and highlights the strategic considerations in the development process. Finally, it sets out objectives and their associated achievable actions with a clear 'roadmap' on how to implement the plan while providing brief highlights from each municipality in the region in relation to the heritage plan.

The PCDK project's efforts to highlight the organic linkage between heritage and diversity manifests itself by minimising the distinction between tangible and intangible cultural heritage and natural heritage through a holistic, participative and integrated approach where all the communities have a voice and place. It also encourages the inclusion of contemporary arts as a form of expressing heritage, diversity and multiple identities of the region. This is essential for social inclusion and sustainable economic development.

At the PCDK project, we believe that this regional Heritage Plan will have a significant impact on the local development of Kosovo South, gradually leading to Kosovo Heritage Plan and presenting a positive example for other regions in Europe.

Hakan Shearer Demir
PCDK Team Leader

Terry O'Regan
CoE Expert

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- PCDK Regional Working Group members
- Regional Centre for Cultural Heritage in Prizren
- Mayors of Prizren, Suharekë/Suva Reka, Malishevë/Mališevo, Rahovec/Orahovac Dragash/Dragaš and Mamushë/Mamuša
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List of Abbreviations

BIOFOR-IQC	Biodiversity and Forestry Indefinite Quality Contract
CHL	Cultural Heritage Law
CHwB	Cultural Heritage without Borders
CoE	Council of Europe
CRIS	Comparative Regional Integration Studies
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
EP	European Partnership
EPAP	European Partnership Action Plan
ERA	Environmentally Responsible Group
EU	European Union
EU CARDS	European Union Community Assistance for Reconstruction, Development and Stabilisation
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
IMWG	Inter - Ministerial Working Group
GTZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit
HDP	Heritage and Diversity Programme
HCN	Heritage Community Network
IMPWG	Inter-Municipal Working Group
LDPP	Local Development Pilot Project
LED	Local Economic Development
LSP	Law on Spatial Planning
MAFRD	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development
MCYS	Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports
MEST	Ministry of Education, Science and Technology
MESP	Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning
MLGA	Ministry of Local Government Administration
MTI	Ministry of Trade and Industry (Department of Tourism)
MTT	Ministry of Transport and Telecommunication
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
PCDK	Promotion of Cultural Diversity in Kosovo
RCCH	Regional Centre for Cultural Heritage
RWG	Regional Working Group
SOC	Serbian Orthodox Church
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

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Musa - Efendi Shehzade House, 19c., Prizren



HERITAGE AT THE HEART OF COMMUNITY LIFE



1.1 What is Heritage?

Heritage is everything we have inherited from the past including monuments, archaeological and other heritage objects, architectural heritage, religious heritage, flora, fauna, wildlife habitats, geology and topography, landscapes, genealogy, traditional music, games, events and performances, folklore, folk-life artefacts, oral heritage and local history.

Heritage is a vital part of our identity and sense of place. It is an intrinsic part of our daily lives, and an exceptional resource contributing to societies' wellbeing including employment, recreation, health, learning and enjoyment. The social value of heritage is priceless in terms of providing a focus for community engagement and cooperation, inspiring pride in the character of our streetscapes and landscapes, and encouraging us to care for our everyday environment.

There is sound economic rationale in supporting heritage, as heritage-led initiatives and heritage tourism in particular have a vital role to play in developing economies. Heritage-led initiatives and tourism deliver employment and sustainable financial income when it is integrated as part of a comprehensive development programme.

“ Heritage embraces both tangible and intangible elements that reflect the culture and creativity of human communities since time immemorial as well as the rich diversity and beauty of natural environments. ”

Heritage embraces both tangible and intangible elements that reflect the culture and creativity of human communities since time immemorial as well as the rich diversity and beauty of natural environments.

1.2 The Value of Heritage

In the past, heritage was often wrongfully perceived as solely being the responsibility of governments and academics. But just as there is central ownership of heritage, there is also communal and even personal



"Phelivan", traditional game

ownership of heritage. Most households will have treasured 'family heritage' by way of furniture, ornaments, books and documents, photographs, stories, songs, history, and even clothes that have been handed down from generation to generation. Heritage is a vital ingredient in educational programmes throughout the world. It is thus recognised at all levels of society as having a value not always measurable in monetary terms.

The complex ownership and associated values of heritage may explain why it is so often under threat. Its symbolic values can sometimes result in targeted destruction in conflict situations. Its perceived lack of monetary value can result in ill-informed destruction or overlooked deterioration, particularly where its significance has not been officially recognised, researched, identified and protected from interference and environmental damage. An awareness of such threats to heritage must be built into any strategy aimed at placing heritage at the core of the value system of all societies. Responding to such threats and realising the maximum value of heritage for all citizens requires adequate funding and a versatile approach to sourcing and justifying the necessary funds.

It is fortunate therefore that throughout the world today, communal heritage has an acknowledged important economic value at central, municipal and community level as a focus for small enterprises, an attraction for tourists and, increasingly, for investors. Most, if not all, states have heritage sites of international significance - but usually these are few in number and whilst their very significance ensures a flow of visitors, they usually have capacity constraints and in themselves rarely provide the basis of a viable, sustainable

national heritage tourism sector. All progressive, responsible communities therefore have a strong incentive to engage proactively and creatively with their wider heritage.

Taking action in the field of heritage involves identifying its social, cultural, environmental and economic value. Through four essential steps, communities can:

- identify and record their heritage,
- ensure that it is safeguarded,
- develop their heritage and landscape,
- integrate it into the living culture of today, and where possible assign it a new sustainable use while respecting and accepting responsibility to pass their heritage intact to future generations.

This requires a strategic structured approach at the central, regional, municipal and community level and is at its most successful and sustainable where it is based on local communities sharing their valued heritage with visitors, rather than being solely based on commercial interests exploiting a cultural and natural heritage resource as a tourism product.

Face painting in the village of Lubinjë e Ulët/Donje Ljubinje



The Heritage Plan approach represents a practical, yet sustainable, framework strategy to facilitate and coordinate the four key actions identified above in order to realise the full communal value of heritage for society.

1.3 What is a Heritage Plan?

A Heritage Plan is a strategy for the identification, protection, conservation, enhancement, interpretation and sustainable management of heritage, and applies at central, regional and municipal levels. It is an agreed, realistic action plan, with reference to delivery mechanisms and budgetary requirements. At the different levels, actions can be undertaken by one group or body, or by a number of groups in partnership. At a regional level a heritage plan can take the form of an overall strategic regional plan accompanied by a number of municipality-based plans. Whatever the scale, it should identify priorities for action by all stakeholders over a three year period, and should include a mechanism for review and evaluation.

A Heritage Plan is an opportunity to identify heritage issues and needs at central, regional and municipal level, and to address them locally. It is intended to influence the actions and activities of all the key players and stakeholders involved with heritage, and to raise awareness of that heritage, its value and its potential. It is therefore both a strategic statement about what the population wants to achieve in terms of heritage management and conservation over a 3 year period, and a list of actions to be undertaken to achieve the strategic aims and objectives.

1.4 Why have a Heritage Plan?

Heritage conservation and management is the responsibility not just of central authorities or local municipalities, but of everyone within the community. It often works best when undertaken as a partnership involving all interested groups and individuals. A Heritage Plan is an effective way to reach consensus on how best to conserve and manage

heritage collaboratively in a way that focuses a range of collective energies and initiatives for the benefit of that heritage and the participating communities. It is a coordinating mechanism that provides a strategic context for communal actions, to ensure the greatest benefits are afforded to the heritage resource.

The efforts and initiatives of local groups and central authorities can find a broader context within a Heritage Plan and facilitate agreement on the identification of priorities for the distribution of available funding for the conservation and promotion of heritage.

1.5 Who is a Heritage Plan for?

A Heritage Plan is for the people, for all of the relevant agencies and groups of the region, and for municipalities. It is underpinned by the principle of shared responsibility for and ownership of heritage.

“ A Heritage Plan is an opportunity to recognise and acknowledge the presence of heritage all around us, rather than viewing it as something that is just visited on holidays or at weekends. ”

1.6 What is the Aim of a Heritage Plan?

A Heritage Plan aims to secure benefits for the local community through increased awareness, appreciation, enjoyment and sustainable use, economic and otherwise of their rich cultural and natural heritage. The plan can also be used to gain the support of key players and to forge new partnerships in protecting, raising awareness of, and presenting heritage. It enables a range of actors to engage in a discourse on the importance of heritage in terms of its global, cultural, ed-

educational, academic, economic, recreational, aesthetic and personal values, in addition to its own intrinsic values. The plan also recognises the value of sharing information and responsibility in relation to that heritage.

The Heritage Plan is based upon an integrated approach to the identification, protection, conservation, management and presentation of the heritage assets. It should seek to holistically incorporate the various aspects of that heritage, looking at the historic, natural, cultural, social and economic environment as a whole, rather than attempting to deal with them in a compartmentalised way. This is a fresh, dynamic concept of heritage.

1.7 How is the concept of heritage embodied in a Heritage Plan?

A Heritage Plan is an opportunity to recognise and acknowledge the presence of heritage all around us, rather than viewing it as something that is just visited on holidays or at weekends.

In putting forward such a concept, the Heritage Plan should deal with the environment as a whole, rather than seeking only to protect the best – or most obvious – examples of heritage.

To date, legislation, funding and administrative efforts have tended to concentrate on the protection of the most ‘significant’ aspects and examples of heritage. Whilst the importance of these sites, structures and species justifies their careful protection, the heritage plan also recognises heritage outside these designated areas. It acknowledges the impact of the past and its peoples on every aspect of our lives and landscapes, tangible in its appearance and its morphology.

It is often the undesignated or ‘ordinary’ portion of the landscape that provides the context for important designated sites and structures - both in terms of space and meaning – allowing them to be more fully understood. Such a concept of heritage is closer to

the principles of sustainable development, representing a wider understanding of heritage and making it more relevant to our modern lives. It also allows for a more coherent understanding of the environment, the interactions between the different aspects of heritage, and greater public participation in the debate about what is important, what should be protected, and how it should be presented to local, national and international visitors. Such a holistic approach invites a wider set of values to inform the debate.

1.8 What does a Heritage Plan contain?

A Heritage Plan reviews the actions that may have already been undertaken and features a list of further actions which might be undertaken by a range of actors over the three-year period covered by the plan. It contains a list of broad strategic objectives which such actions will help to achieve. Insofar as possible the plan indicates who will carry out each action and may indicate the anticipated timescale for each. The plan may indicate possible funding sources.

The Heritage Plan does not necessarily include actions which are specific to a building, site or place, or the stabilisation of a particular monument. In general the Heritage Plan contains actions which reflect priorities identified in relation to collecting data, raising awareness, promoting best practice and presentation.

1.9 Sustainable Heritage

The economics of heritage is a double-edged sword. Protecting, restoring and managing heritage is an expensive process, and few governments in the world have the resources to fund such important work unless central funding is augmented by income generated by the heritage resource. Internationally, heritage-led initiatives and heritage tourism have become vital mechanisms for generating much needed direct and - more importantly - indirect income to support the heritage sector.

There is a substantial and proven tourism market for professionally-presented, sustainably-managed heritage tourism products. In many developing countries tourism in many cases generates over 20% of a state's GDP, and it is the primary source of foreign exchange for the countries with lesser economic means in the world.

In Ireland, a small country comparable in certain respects with Kosovo, 40% of tourist expenditure is attributable to the historic environment. Annually some 2.5 million people visit its houses and castles, and some 2 million people visit its monuments. The income generated by heritage tourism arises directly by way of admission fees and other associated merchandise sales, but the real economic benefit arises indirectly from the local spend on food, accommodation and other services.

It must be noted, however, that sustainable tourism - where the attraction is man-

aged and protected while its value is being realised in a responsible manner - requires a planned approach from the beginning of the development of a heritage tourism product. It has to be recognised that heritage tourism gives rise to extra wear and tear on the heritage resource and increases the level of maintenance and care required.

It is also essential to note that the small and medium business enterprise (SME) sector has been the backbone of the European economy, and this reality is embodied in the approach of this plan.

While larger corporations may tend to selectively and intensively exploit the prime heritage sites at the expense of extensive development throughout the wider community, the SME sector thrives in a heritage tourism environment and is inherently more sustainable at a local level and smaller scale.



Brezna Lake Dragash/Dragash Municipality

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Picturesque view of the Stone bridge in Prizren

HERITAGE OF KOSOVO SOUTH¹



The Heritage Plan of southern Kosovo, also referred to as the Prizren region or Kosovo South, covers the territories of 6 municipalities: Prizren, Suharekë/Suva Reka, Malishevë/Mališevo, Mamushë/Mamuša, Rahovec/Orahovac and Dragash/Dragaš. The majority of the population is ethnic Albanians, except the predominantly Turkish inhabitants of the small Mamushë/Mamuša Municipality. Identifiable minority groups are represented by Serbs, Bosniaks, Gorani, Turks and Roma. The biggest town in the region is Prizren, located on the slopes of Sharr/Šar Mountains. It is the administrative centre of the eponymous municipality and the second largest city in Kosovo.

The Kosovo South region is known for the natural beauty of the Sharr/Šar Mountains which form both a natural border with the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Albania. The mountain borders extend from the city of Prizren and follow the two rivers of the Lumbardhi/Bis-trica and Lepenci/Lepenec. An area of 147 square kilometres forms the Sharr/Šar National Park, rich in flora and fauna endemic to the region, such as *Pinus Peuce* (Macedonian Pine), White-Bark Pine and Alpine Rose. Several glacial lakes are located on higher mountain areas. Large rocks and caves that surround some of the lake areas provide an ideal environment for lynx, bear, chamois, wolf, roe deer, wild boar and bird species. The remarkable landscape of Brezna Lake, located 25 km from Prizren town in Dragash/Dragaš municipality, is a tourism destination in the summer for a large number of visitors from all over Kosovo. The thermal waters of *Banja* in Malishevë/Mališevo municipality, have long been visited as a therapeutic, health and recreational centre.

One of the main water resources of the region is the Lumbardhi/Bis-trica River, with its springs on the slopes of Prevala/Prevallaci mountain. Edging the river is a gorge rich in vegetation and relict plant species. It is also home to a hydropower plant (*Prizrenasja*), built in the early 20th century. Architectonic features of the main building's facades imitate the stone structures of *kullas*, with rectangular framed windows and crenelations on the upper walls. Along with the preserved original mechanical equipment in the plant, the facility was declared a cultural monument and has been transformed into a museum of industrial heritage.

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¹The PCDK project refers to the regions as North, South, Central, East, West based on Regional Development Agencies' definition.

According to artefacts uncovered by archaeological excavations carried out near Prizren, Dragash/Dragaš, Rahovec/Orahovac and Suharekë/Suva Reka, the area was already settled by the Neolithic era. Written sources mention the towns of Theranda (today, Suharekë/Suva Reka) and Petrizen. Situated on a rocky outcrop 6km west of Prizren, the archaeological site of Vlashnje/Vlašnja represents one of the richest multi-layered settlements in the region. Among the many findings, the most characteristic are the fragments of painted pottery and anthropomorphic figurines from the Neolithic period. In the immediate vicinity of the site, a unique example of rock art has been discovered comprised of a drawing of two spirals painted on a rock, which suggests that the place was used by Neolithic populations for cult rituals. During the Late Antique-Early Mid-



St. Nicholas Church, Hoçë e Madhe Velika Hoca, the iconostasis, 16th c.

dle Age, the settlement of Vlashnje/Vlašnja was a fortified site, known as Gradishta. One kilometre from this site, near the village of Poslishtë/Poslišće, the remains of a Roman guesthouse, a bath and other Roman dwellings have been documented. The site was a station on the ancient Roman road between Lissus and Naissus. Excavations carried out on other fortified settlements located near

Prizren (such as Korishë/Koriš) have revealed the foundations of dwellings and fragments of pottery from the Bronze Age, as well as the foundation of an early Christian church that confirms the settlement's existence during the 4th- 6th centuries AD. Two statuettes of bronze that were found at unknown locations in the city of Prizren are considered masterpieces of art from the Bronze Age. One of these is a running female figurine, named the "Prizren Maenad", dated between 520-500 BC which is today included in the British Museum's Greek and Roman Antiquities Collection. The other statue is a zoomorphic figurine dating from the 6th century BC that represents a seated goat, which was accidentally discovered in the suburban area of Prizren and is now exhibited at a museum in Vranje .

Set on the banks of the Lumbardhi/Bistrica, the city of Prizren was protected by a sturdy fortress built on the hill above the town. Among the uncovered remains from the medieval fortification that was located here, late classical forms have been identified. Structures of three sections comprising the Upper Town, Lower Town and Southern Town are located within the fortress which was in regular use from the Late Antique to medieval times, continuing through to the Ottoman period and undergoing many changes throughout its history.

Across the wide area of Suharekë/Suva Reka municipality several archaeological sites are recorded, some of which are excavated from time to time. The archaeological site of Reshtan/Raštane is known as a settlement dating from 4200-3800 BC where two Neolithic cultures (Vinca and Danilo Adriatic) existed. The archaeological site known as *Hisar*, set on a plateau of broad, flat terrain between Suharekë/Suva Reka town and Prizren, is recognised as having been an important site of the Dardanian population. It existed from the Late Neolithic to the Iron Age and was known for being a prosperous area in the Copper Age. This is confirmed by the many artefacts made of copper or iron used for land cultivation or for rituals. The Necrop-

olis of Gjinoc/Çinovce, situated 200 metres on the left side of the road from Suharekë/Suva Reka to Prizren, is marked by a burial mound (Illyrian tumulus) which is a unique discovery of the Dardanian culture that was constructed during the Late Iron Age, according to the Kosovo Archaeological Guide. A similar archaeological site was discovered near the village of Shirokë/Široko, 1.5 kilometres south of Suharekë/Suva Reka, and indicative of typical tumulus grave construction, shaped into a circle and constructed of earth and river stones. Impressively ornamented armlets, bracelets and pendants were excavated from this necropolis dating to the 6th-8th century BC. Mostly represented by findings from the Copper Age is the fortified settlement of Kasterc/Kastrc, located 1.5 kilometres northwest from the town of Suharekë/Suva Reka. It was rebuilt in the time of Justinian and reused as a necropolis during the Middle Age. The foundation of a Christian church and many distinctive items of jewellery and iron working tools have been excavated from an area of 500 square metres around this site.

In addition to the significant thermal water resource of *Banja* in Malishevë/Mališevo municipality, this area is also known for the archaeological site of *Trojet a Vjetra/Stare Zemlje* ("Old Lands"), which is a burial mound dating from the Iron Age. Interesting findings of jewellery are evidence of its reuse in the Early Middle Age.

Near the stream of the Drini e Bardhë/Beli Drim (White Drim) River, around the area of Çifllak/Čiflik in the municipality of Rahovec/Orahovac, the foundations of a Roman bath, dated between the 2nd and 4th century AD, have been excavated and presented. Above Zatriq/Zatrić, (known as *Gradishta*) a multi-layered settlement from the Iron Age and Late Antique/medieval periods is documented. Among the remains of this fortified settlement, painted symbols and signs have been discovered which, according to researchers, are characteristic features of rock art created seven millennia ago. Two recorded archaeological sites in the territory of

Dragash/Dragaš municipality - the fortified structures of Krushevë/Kruševo and Brrut/Brut - are preliminarily dated from the Neolithic and Late Antique-Middle Age.

* * *

From the 830s, the whole region formed part of the Bulgarian Empire. In 1208 the region was occupied by Grand Prince Stefan II Nemanjić, and for the next two centuries it formed an integral part of the medieval Serbian state.



Cult Vase, discovered in Reshtan/Raštane, Municipality of Suharekë/Suva Reka, Neolithic time (photo: MCYS)

The most famous medieval monument in the region is the *Ljeviška Church of the Holy Virgin* located in the old town of Prizren, which it is believed was built on the foundations of a Roman temple. The church was rebuilt in 1306-1307 by King Milutin and became a five-aisled building: a combination of the original three-aisled basilica and a five-domed cruciform church with an external vestibule and two-level belfries above. The frescos were painted by the Salonika painting workshop led by Michael Astrapa. Scenes of the Great Holidays, Christ's Passion, Miracles and Parables, the life of St. Nicholas, as well as individual images of Christian saints and a composition of the royal family are dominant in the naos of the church. These wall paintings represent the achievements of Byzantine Court Art from the early 14th century. The church has been on the UNESCO World Heritage in Danger list since 2006.

In 1331-32, one of Prizren's noblemen, Dragoslav Tutić and his wife Bela, donated the building and the decoration to the *Church of St. Nicholas* ("Tutić' Church") which is located in the centre of the town's Historic Zone, in the so-called *Papasçarshi* area. Another church, built at the same time (around 1330) is nearby in the area of Nënkalaja/Podgrađe (literally translated as "below the fortress"), and is dedicated to the Holy Saviour, the endowment of a local nobleman, Mladen



Two handle urn from the Shirokë/Široka Archaeological Site, 8th to 6th century BC, Municipality of Suharekë/Suva Reka (photo: MCYS)

Vladojević. The interior was painted in 1335 by the same artist who was responsible for the fresco decoration of Tutić's Church, and was completed one decade later by other local painters who were skilled and educated in Byzantine traditional art.

Ruins of the *Holy Archangels Monastery* are located 2.5km to the south-east of Prizren. The monastery complex comprises a castle on top of a neighbouring hill that served for its protection. Inside the complex were two churches dedicated to the Holy Archangels and to St. Nicholas, both built in the Rascian architectural style. After the death of Emperor Dušan in 1355, he was buried in a tomb located in the south-western part of the nave of the Holy Archangels Church which was a unique innovation of the time. According to the Founding Charter of the Emperor, he gave the monastery 93 villages, an iron mine in Toplica, fertile land and vineyards. The revenue of the rich Prizren market also belonged to the monastery.

* * *

The army of the Ottoman Empire occupied the city of Prizren in 1455. Even with the arrival of troubled times for the Christian population, the building tradition of Orthodox churches continued as inhabitants were able to secure funds in the absence of Christian rulers or wealthy noble Christian families to individually support such projects. There is material and written evidence that many churches were built during the Middle Ages in Rahovec/Orahovac and Velika Hoča/ Hoça e Madhe. Located in a valley of vineyards between Bjeshkët e Nemuna (Albanian Alps)/ Prokletije (Cursed Mountains) and the Sharr/Šar Mountains, the population of these areas had been engaged in wine production for centuries. The peak of development of Velika Hoča/ Hoça e Madhe was attained in the Middle Ages when the local Serbs built around 20 churches and two monasteries. Velika Hoča/Hoça e Madhe's vineyards belong to the Veliki Dečani/Dečan Monastery, whose monks even today use the same ancient wine cellars for production and storage. Among the several preserved monuments, the churches dedicated to *St. John and St. Nicholas*, built in 14th century and repainted at the time of Ottoman domination, can be mentioned as remarkable examples of post-Byzantine painting tradition in the Balkans. It is believed that the 14th century Church of St. Nicholas, located in the graveyard of Velika Hoča/Hoça e Madhe, was built by the parents of a local landowner, Gradislav Sušenica. Preserved portraits of local cults from the time of the church's construction testify to the cherished local traditions, while the rich cycles of saints, such as the Akathistos of the Holy Virgin and the life of its patron, St Nicholas, painted in the 16th century, are evidence of the theologically well-educated painters.

Several rural churches, preserved in the villages of Mushnikovë/Mushnikova, Bogoshevcë/ Bogoševci and Drajçiq/Drajčići are typical of the religious architecture of the 16th and 17th centuries. They are small, one-aisled structures with a classical iconographic programme of wall paintings, representing the main subjects of the Old and the

New Testament, scenes of Christ's Life and Passions, and portraits of holy saints of ecumenical importance. Belonging to the same type of religious building is the endowment of the Runović brothers - the Church of St. George, built between the 14th and 16th centuries, and which is located in the Historic Zone of Prizren, in the courtyard of the 19th century Episcopal Church dedicated to the same saint. Recent restoration works have returned the splendour of the wall paintings, which had been done by a skilled local painter in the 17th century.

After the Ottoman army captured Prizren, the wider region was administratively organised into a sanjak (*sançagi*), known as Prizren Sanjak, with the city of Prizren as its capital. Several centuries later, due to its strategic political and economic position, Prizren Sanjak became a central part of Prizren Vilayet (1871), and later a part of the newly established Kosovo Vilayet (1877).

The first monument of Ottoman culture - *Namazxhah Kërëk* ("Broken Mosque"), located close to the main Prizren-Gjakovë/Çakovica road - was built immediately after the occupation of the city (1455) by Isa Bey, the commander of Fatih Sultan Mehmed army, with the aim to serve the religious rituals of the Ottoman army during its invasion of the territory. In this early period of Ottoman domination two mosques were built in a very short period of time: the mosque of *Suzi Çelebisë* (1513.) and the mosque of *Kukli Mehmet Bey* (c.1535), which primarily served as a masjid. According to the inscription on the main mosque's gate, it was reconstructed in 1897 by Mehmet Bey.

One of the most impressive monuments of the 16th century is the complex of buildings situated around the *Gazi Mehmed Pasha Mosque*, built between 1563 and 1575. The complex is composed of a mosque, shrine, medrese, library, *dershane* (classroom), hammam and other supporting facilities that were usually established as religious and educational centres in the developed Ottoman towns. The Mehmed Pasha Mosque complex

has great historical importance for Albanians because it was the place where the Albanian national movement - the Albanian League (Prizren League) - was established in 1878. Its flag was set on the mosque building so that the local population named the mosque *Bajrakli* ("bearer of the flag"). The recently reconstructed building, which originally served as a *dershane* (classroom), now functions as a museum (Prizren League Museum). The shrine, located in the mosque's yard, was intended to be the eternal home of its founder, but Mehmed Pasha died somewhere in Pannonia (Hungary) and was buried there. Nowadays it is used as a library of oriental manuscripts. The inscription on the marble plaque above the main entrance of the other building in the complex, the *Mehmed Pasha Hammam*, indicates that it was built at the time of the mosque's construction and was restored in 1833. Since the year 2000, the "cold" premises of this double (*çifte*) hammam are used for various cultural events.

Another hammam facility, built at the end of 15th century, is today a seat of the Archaeological Museum of Prizren. It is known that in the mid-19th century the hammam did not serve its original function as Eshref Pasha built a clock tower on the top of its "warm" premises.

With its dominant position in the centre of the Historic Zone of Prizren, the *Sinan Pasha Mosque*, built in 1615 by a donation of Sofi Sinan Pasha - a well-known, educated individual who occupied important positions in the Ottoman administration - is the most representative religious monument of the Ottoman time in Prizren. The mosque was



built of river stones jointed with lime mortar, and faced externally with carved stones assumed to be taken from the ruins of the Monastery of Holy Archangels. The painted decoration of the interior, made at the time of its construction and added to later in the 19th century, is of floral motifs. Marble decoration is used on the structure's surface in the *mahvil* and *minber*. In the northern part of the mosque there is a decorated marble fountain used for religious rituals. During construction of the mosque, in the central part of the city's square, a fountain – *shadërvan* - was installed to provide refreshment and a gathering place for artisans and merchants who worked or traded in the once well-known Prizren market. Built of chiselled grey marble, with geometric decoration on the upper part of its octagonal shape, the fountain today is considered one of the town's main symbols.

The oriental character of old Prizren can be recognised by other preserved or restored structures, mostly residential or commercial facilities. This includes the *Halveti Tekke (masjid)*, built in the 17th century and restored in 1835, a complex of buildings of religious and educational character with remarkable ceramic decoration applied in the prayer room's interior. There are also several houses of rich merchants that represent traditional oriental urban architecture, including the Shehu Family House, located close to the Tekke; the house of Musa-Efendi Shehzade (today, the Ethnographic Museum), located in the residential part of the town; "Old Saraj"; the Adem Aga Gjoni House, located on the western boundary of the Historic Zone; and the Pomaku Family House, located in the old *Saraç* (saddler) neighbourhood. These are large, two-storey or three-storey houses with characteristic frontal façades of symmetrically positioned windows and wooden open- or closed-balconies (*çardak*), while the interiors are decorated with wood-carved furniture.

Situated at the crossroads of important trade routes, the town of Prizren became a trade centre in the Middle Ages and hence

developed into a large town, well-known among the merchants of Kotor, Dubrovnik, Venice and Genoa. One of the oldest and most popular crafts that was developed in Prizren was *tabak* (leather processing). A complex of facilities for processing leather, called *Tabakhana*, was built on the right bank of the Lumbardhi/Bistrica River. The main facilities of the *tabakhana* complex were several leather workshops and a mill that does not exist anymore. The other craft for which Prizren is renowned even today is *filigree* (filigrani/filigran), using fine, mostly silver, thread to produce astonishingly intricate and beautiful lace-like works of art. Historic sources suggest that filigree arrived in Kosovo during the 15th century.

As an important administrative, trade and cultural centre in the late 19th century, Prizren obtained a modern municipality building – *Belediye* - situated in the *Tabakhana* neighbourhood. The two storey house is a unique example of the neo-classical style of public buildings that could be seen throughout urban, late-Ottoman towns as a reflection of European architecture of the time.

In 1871 a Seminary (Orthodox Theological School) was founded in the near vicinity of the Episcopal Church of St. Nicholas, the prominent monument in the centre of the old city of Prizren, built and decorated in the period between 1856 and 1887. The church is a monumental building with a dome at the crossing of the nave and the transept, with a narthex with gallery and belfry on the western part. The lavish wood-carved iconostasis was made by the masters of the famous Debar/Dibra region workshop. It is worth mentioning that the representative building of the guest house located in the courtyard of the church served as the seat of the Russian consul at the end of the 19th century.

Buildings of traditional vernacular architecture influenced by Ottoman architecture and represented particularly by the characteristic "*çardak* type" dwellings can be still seen in the rural areas of the region. One of them, today in ruins, is located near the vil-

lage of Llopushnik/ Lopusnik on the road between Dragash/Dragaš and Prizren, and functioned as a guesthouse/inn (han). There are still preserved traditional building complexes in Zlipotok (in the municipality of Dragash/Dragaš) and in Velika Hoča/Hoča e Madhe (municipality of Rahovec/Orahovac), made of stone, timber and mud, with specific organisation of the walled space used for living and for the keeping of livestock.

* * *

The complex heritage of this region, generated by different ethnic and religious communities living together through centuries,

is evidence of the mingling of cultures and customs. Even today remarkable items of filigree, once a very popular craft in the old Prizren trade market produced by skilled masters, can be seen. Richly decorated costumes and rites of the Has Region presented at the

Hasi Jehon Folk Festival, traditional games such as the Pehlivani wrestling competition and horseracing that take place in Dragash/Dragaš, traditional wedding rites that are still practiced, and the beautiful song Ballades of the Gorani community are part of the rich and living tradition of the people of the region.



Traditional costumes



Filigree craft, Prizren



Traditional performances, 'Hasi Jehon' festival in Dragash/Dragaš

03



Gazi Mehmet Pasha Hammam, 16th c., Prizren



DEVELOPMENT OF A HERITAGE PLAN FOR KOSOVO SOUTH

3.1 Towards a Heritage Plan – Research and Assessment

The Heritage Plan evolved as an output of the PCDK project component on Local Economic Development, first in the Kosovo West region as a pilot action and extended to other regions in 2013 and 2014. The Heritage Plan process focuses on heritage management and heritage-led initiatives/tourism development, effectively drawing together a range of proven community engagement activities and pilot projects into an integrated strategy for the region, with an initial two year development phase laying the foundations for an action plan to be implemented over a further three year timeframe.

The successful methodology (as developed in Kosovo West) is structured in five phases:

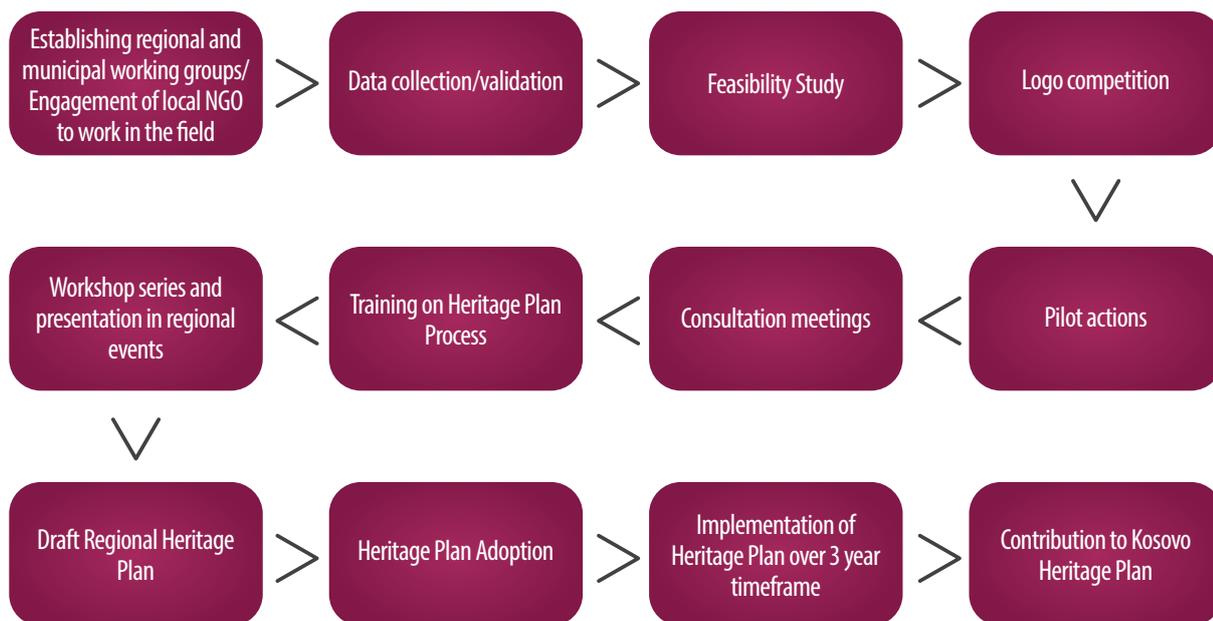
- 1. Diagnosis Phase**
- 2. Feasibility Study**
- 3. Pilot Actions**
- 4. Plan for Regional Heritage Management & Heritage-led Initiatives/Local Economic Development**
- 5. Introduction and installation of the Heritage and Diversity Programme and its coordinators**

The project's progress responds to the dynamics of the region, with the focus of the process being on cultural and natural heritage and its related development potential including heritage-led tourism.

A priority throughout the process has been the engagement of communities with their common heritage, by means of awareness-raising, promotion, education, and capacity development activities.



The workflow adopted included the following actions:



The initial diagnosis phase involved a wide-ranging data collection and survey undertaken by different entities, presented on an online database application designed by a local expert.

I. MCYS & Regional Centres for Cultural Heritage provided:

1. Official list of immovable cultural heritage in the region protected by the Cultural Heritage Law, presented by the MCYS – Department of Cultural Heritage
2. Data concerning the selected immovable cultural heritage of the region – provided by the Regional Centre for Cultural Heritage in Prizren.

II. MESP experts provided:

Data regarding the protected natural monuments and areas in the region

III. NGO Ec Ma Ndryshe provided:

1. Information on the current condition of the selected cultural and natural monuments/sites
2. Presentation by the NGO of recognised intangible cultural heritage elements
3. Photo and video documentation on the reported activities on immovable and intangible cultural heritage and natural heritage.

The feasibility study evaluated and assessed the data collected, and confirmed the strategies and options identified that might be pursued to sustainably realise the value of the rich heritage of the region in social, cultural, educational and economic terms. In addition, data collected by other organisations in this period, including the NGO CHwB, was also included in the plan.

Pilot actions were undertaken in parallel with other phases to inform the process and to draw the communities of the region into active participation in the process.

This Heritage Plan represents a practical yet sustainable framework to facilitate a strategy that builds on the work completed to date, and underpins the implementation of the actions identified as desirable in the feasibility study.

3.2 Towards a Heritage Plan – Guidelines & Field Work

From the experience acquired in the Kosovo West region, the regional capacity assessment and data-collection undertaken in Kosovo South during 2013, and guided by the feasibility study conclusions, the PCDK project team, working with the communities of the regions, have identified actions that aim to realise the potential of Kosovo South's heritage and its environment in the wider context of strategic planning.

The development of the Heritage Plan has involved the active engagement of all actors of the region including local NGOs, with contributions from the Centres for Cultural Heritage, with specific reference to establishing a current inventory of heritage in accordance with criteria provided by the PCDK project team.

In selecting heritage sites and assets for the pilot actions, all of the known heritage and diversity of the region were considered as potential attractions that could initiate the development of "alternative tourism sub-sectors", e.g. cultural, spiritual or eco-tourism. The criteria for the selection of natural and cultural landscapes and historical monuments, sites and living traditions have been implemented according to the assessment of:

- Condition of the heritage asset, i.e. its presentation to the wider public
- Appropriate access to the heritage asset
- Availability of data of evaluated features of the heritage asset
- Infrastructural capacity of the surrounding/environment
- Interest and willingness expressed by the practitioners for safeguarding and transmitting of living traditions to the next generations.

In addition, a workshop series on heritage, carried out in conjunction with the other regions, accompanied the engagement of local stakeholders in processing the plan and establishing connections with their colleagues, keeping the larger picture in mind.

“ This Heritage Plan represents a practical yet sustainable framework to facilitate a strategy that builds on the work completed to date, and underpins the implementation of the actions identified as desirable in the feasibility study. ”

The following diagram illustrates the weaknesses in the heritage sectors of the region, identified in the SWOT analysis undertaken as a core action in the feasibility study:

.....
IMMOVABLE CULTURAL HERITAGE:
.....

- Archaeological sites and monuments not properly presented to the wider public
- Absence of signage of archaeological sites and built heritage
- Poor road signage to areas of natural and cultural heritage
- Urgent need for an updated and approved comprehensive inventory on building heritage and cultural landscapes
- Urgent need of conservation measures on building structures according to established priorities
- Need for an integrated approach to heritage within spatial planning
- Absence of appropriate management and rehabilitation programmes

.....
MOVABLE CULTURAL HERITAGE:
.....

- Urgent need for an integrated comprehensive inventory of museum collections
- Appropriate promotional materials urgently required
- Urgent need for a systematic approach to the conservation, storage, display and interpretation of museum collections.

.....
LEGAL INSTRUMENTS AND TOOLS FOR PROTECTION OF HERITAGE:
.....

- Revised Cultural Heritage Law and Law on Spatial Planning
- Appropriate Regulations derived from the Cultural Heritage Law
- Appropriate Guidelines derived from the Cultural Heritage Law
- Appropriate guidelines for implementation of the Law on Nature

.....
INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE:
.....

- Absence of inventory
- Promotional materials on traditional lifestyles of communities absent or inadequate
- Few organised events and performances
- Inadequate support for the practitioners of traditional handicrafts, performances and related intangible cultural heritage products

.....
NATURAL HERITAGE:
.....

- Insufficient information of the natural biodiversity and landscape resource
- Inadequate conservation measures
- Weak infrastructure for satisfactory public access;
- Lack of an integrated approach towards landscape management & planning in all areas including high value natural heritage areas
- Poorly developed infrastructure for the overall management of natural heritage



Plane tree in Marash complex, Prizren

04

Teqja e Tarikatit Halveti shek. XVII
Tekija Halveti XVII vek
Halveti Tekkesi XVII y.y.
The Halvet's Tekke XVII c.

*Halveti teke, 17th. c. (restored in 1835),
Prizren, entrance part*

CHANGING ATTITUDES AND APPROACHES



During the course of the PCDK II project, a range of activities took place in the region with the active involvement of local stakeholders. A preliminary ongoing assessment that was undertaken on the impact of the work conducted by the PCDK project identified changing attitudes and approaches towards local development and heritage as a resource. According to these local stakeholders, the PCDK II project contributed to:

- Change of approach among CSO and NGOs from desiring to act more on regional initiatives rather than solely local actions.
- Increased cooperation with and appreciation for multiple stakeholders, including international partners, in methodology and approach.
- Enhanced relationships and cooperation between local NGOs, communities, local authorities and institutions, including Regional Centres for Cultural Heritage.
- Increased interest and involvement of the RCCH in initiatives on intangible heritage practices, which is beyond the current mandate.
- Increased interest and willingness of the local artisans to transmit their knowledge and skills to new generations and provide organised workshops for the sake of preserving and continuing the traditions, rather than solely financial benefit.
- Increased awareness of local institutions and NGOs on the continued necessity for professional development on cultural heritage.
- Acknowledgement of the importance and power of small and meaningful actions by local communities, promoting and using local heritage resources for local economic development.
- The acceptance and support for the launch of the HDP programme by all stakeholders as a necessity for the region.
- Understanding and interest in continued platforms for dialogue and cooperation, which was initiated as a Regional Working Group, where all municipalities are represented.
- Awareness and willingness of all local stakeholders for cooperation with all other regions in the spirit of a network on heritage.
- Increased awareness and readiness of local stakeholders and authorities to link and merge project activities from different international organisations under a commonly shared vision and programme.
- Increased awareness that cultural and natural heritage work requires more community and volunteer engagement.
- Understanding the necessity of multidisciplinary collaboration of people from different sectors in the region alongside experts from different fields and levels.
- Increased knowledge and awareness among teachers in elementary schools about communicating the value of cultural heritage and diversity at an early age to students.

05



Archaeological Museum exhibition, Prizren' hammam from the 15th c.

STRATEGIC CONSIDERATIONS

An Integrated Approach to Heritage Planning and Management

The development of viable heritage planning and management in accordance with European norms and standards, with a strong emphasis on community wellbeing through the active participation of all stakeholders and civil society, requires a sustainable and integrated approach.

The Heritage Plan approach will facilitate the incorporation of heritage-led initiatives within the wider economic development with particular focus on tourism sector and products. The strategy will not focus solely on cultural tangible/intangible and natural heritage issues (including site preservation, restoration, signage, heritage information and site security), but will also involve the heritage authorities operating in partnership and cooperation with other tourism and community stakeholders and actors. Further it will encourage incorporating contemporary arts into heritage work as a form of expressing heritage, diversity and the multiple identities of the region.

This approach, as promoted by the PCDK project, has the potential to address conflicting demands, including the reconciliation and integration of diverse ethnic communities through mutually beneficial, sustainable economic and tourism development, whilst maintaining the integrity and pre-eminence of dynamic cultural heritage over time. This expectation will depend on the impetus of the commercial momentum being responsive to communal sensitivities throughout the process.

These strategic considerations are closely inter-connected, and the successful protection of heritage in Kosovo South will depend on the effectiveness and cohesion of the level of cooperation that is achieved between the public and private partners. For protection to succeed, it is vital that local communities are fully aware of the importance of what is being protected, why it has this importance, and how the activities of local people can impact on protection. A sound heritage management plan must embrace diversity, which requires a careful design and planning process. Well-protected, designed and managed heritage assets with proper promotion are essential for the development of sustainable, successful heritage tourism.

The heritage plan framework will be an important catalyst in achieving this desirable outcome through a range of specific strategic approaches.

Recommendations for Potential Integrated Regional Approach

The Region South stands out with its rich and diverse built heritage, both archaeological and architectural, spread across the territory. While Prizren is home to a significant number of heritage assets, all six municipalities of the region have great potentials of built heritage on which they could join forces, making this aspect of heritage the centrepiece of their regional plan. Built heritage would be the initial starting point and would play a crucial role in bringing all other aspects of heritage, landscape and diversity together in order to represent the region in complementarity with other regions of Kosovo, both locally and internationally. Acknowledged by local communities, civil society and authorities, the presence of significant built heritage manifests itself as a major strength of the region based on the extensive work conducted in the preparation of this plan. Therefore, it calls for well-deserved attention in the recommended integrated approach in the region.

Consequently, the Heritage Plan South recommends that stakeholders work towards an overall vision of the development of the region, **where the region presents good practices and of an integrated approach using its built heritage as the main resource ensuring democratic participation of its citizens.**

It encourages communities around selected heritage sites (sites that have specific meaning to society and possess a common value) to pay specific attention to their development and management, generating creative initiatives. With active municipal and community involvement, the region could play a crucial role in the revitalisation of rural, vernacular architecture while ensuring that the richness and diversity of historical sites remains compelling, attracting religious and rural tourism. It can also utilise built heritage sites for events, bringing contemporary significance and value to their existence today. Utilisation of some sites is already underway in Prizren (such as during Dokufest), and has received positive feedback.

Such an approach could bring forward the community and heritage-led initiatives under a **'regional programme'**, transforming local heritage into opportunities for the local population.

Through this programme, with the presence of the Beledije Training Facility in Prizren, the region could be an inspiration and resource to the rest of Kosovo, using CoE tools and in line with the principles of the Council of Europe Valetta and Granada Conventions. The cooperation being built between Pristina University (and Prizren University), the Junik Programme, MCYS and the Beledije Training Facility could be an important resource in this process.

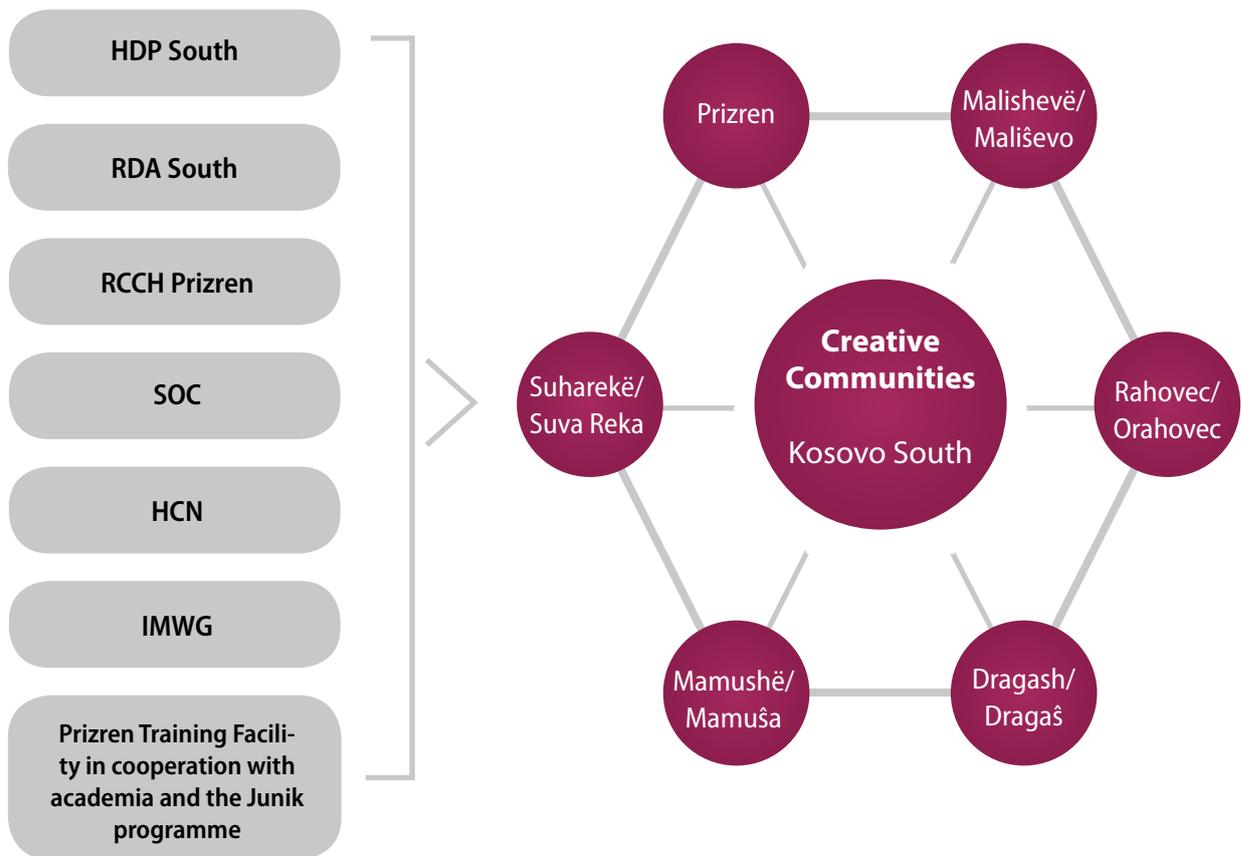
The regional programme, with a recommended vision, could begin with each municipality identifying and designating a site and developing ideas around it, integrating all elements of its community-based heritage assets. This site, relating the importance of the place to the community, could be a vernacular building, an archaeological site or a monument. This creative process should be inclusive and seek the opinions of all to have effective results.

Funding possibilities could further focus on the recent partnerships that were formed in the region between international NGOs, the municipality and central authorities, which could be an avenue to explore further in order for municipalities to attract additional funds.

Based on the selected site, each plan could also exhibit good practices of the Special Protected Zone recommendations, if applicable.

Examples presented in the region should integrate all elements as developed from the Junik model and could inspire similar private and public initiatives in the region. (Please see information on the methodologies developed in the Case study on Urban Rehabilitation – Neighborhood of the Tourism Centre in Junik, Stones that Talk Programme in Junik and the Case study on Integrated Conservation – Conservation Basis for the Historic Centre of Prishtinë/Priština, in Appendix 3)

Integrated Regional Approach through Built Heritage



5.1. Considerations in conceptualising an integrated approach

- **Preserving and protecting the resources:** Development of a plan for the preservation and protection of special places, sites and traditions that attract the local population and wider range of visitors. The plan should consider the meaning and value of heritage assets to society and should be in accordance with all applicable local and national laws/regulations in line with international standards. It should also be focused on the development of initiatives for landscape protection and development, as well as on safeguarding of traditional practices and events following the interest of the individuals, groups of people or communities in the area.
- **Focusing on authenticity of sites, living traditions, expressions and effective presentation:** The contributions of previous generations and diverse groups shape

the history and culture of a place and community today, making it unique and an attraction point for visitors. In order to value the present we must understand our past and find creative and attractive ways to present it in order to build the relationship between places, individuals and communities, as well as with visitors. Authenticity of places, people and their stories distinguishes one from the other and offers distinctive experiences.

- **Making the sites come alive with quality of interpretation:** A destination is a place with a story! Using creative methods in interpreting the stories, special cultural sites, traditions, events and personalities, as well as the beauties of the natural environment, make the community or region distinctive. There should be an inclusive approach by respectfully telling the story of all groups that have made contributions to common heritage.

- **Finding the balance between community life, preservation of heritage and tourism development:** A community that values and protects its heritage will contribute to the development of a successful project, with funds, volunteers and political support required. Awareness and knowledge among the community about heritage preservation and tourism opportunities is crucial for sustainable development. The specific value of any given heritage asset to the community should be carefully considered as their well-being should not be sacrificed in the name of preservation of heritage or tourism development. Particular attention should be given to balanced community-oriented programmes for the development of landscapes, in accordance with its importance to the local people. A comprehensive community consultation process is key to an effective dialogue in order to find a balance.
- **Gender mainstreaming:** Mainstreaming gender means ensuring equal opportunities and non-discrimination practices in all policy development and implementation. If gender is mainstreamed, all actions should be planned, implemented, monitored, reported on, and evaluated with a gender perspective in mind. While women represent a strong social link in Kosovo society and play a crucial role in transmitting heritage to younger generations, they have limited recognition in the labour market and decision-making power in policies and community actions. Techniques with a direct positive impact on women at society level such as gender-sensitive project objectives, gender budgeting, a gender impact assessment and gender disaggregated data are the most powerful measures to promote gender equality through actions. Gender mainstreaming and promoting gender equality in heritage-led initiatives should be one of the main considerations, as a sustainable and political goal for cultural rights and democratic participation.
- **Inclusion of marginalised groups / communities:** The presence of diverse groups, irrespective of their number and length of time spent in the territory, is an asset for society and heritage-led initiatives. Each group / community has its own value systems and unique contributions to the common heritage of a place, and should be able to have its rightful place in all stages from the conceptualisation of actions, taking into consideration their needs, culture, beliefs and ways of living. Marginalisation of groups based on their age, ability, gender, ethnicity, socio-economic background, geographic origin, etc. widens the gap and brings inequality, contributing to tensions between groups. Heritage-led initiatives create constructive platforms and should consider all groups / communities in the territory.
- **Collaborating for sustainability of management:** Preservation of heritage and tourism development demand the participation of numerous individuals and organisations. There is a need to create partnerships to broaden support and the chances for success through, for example, packaging sites and traditional events in the community or region, the promotion of natural beauty where access and infrastructure meet standards, and encouraging cross-promotion with other sites to maximise exposure. These preconditions are crucial for heritage tourism to be a sustainable form of economic development. Collaboration between the central authorities and Regional Centres for Cultural Heritage, as well as the responsible entities for environment/nature protection, academia and educational institutes, is essential. This also encourages heritage owners to understand the importance of working with the local authorities in conservation and safeguarding of heritage resources while developing mechanisms for education and the sustainable management of heritage resources.

5.2. Considerations in planning and designing an integrated approach

A - Assessment of the potential of heritage – determine the current resources using inventories

The goal of the assessment is not just to list resources but to evaluate potential quality and level of services. Creation of inventories is imperative in order to begin with an objective appraisal of assets including existing attractions and events or practices and those with potential for development. Historical importance, physical state of immovable cultural heritage, the traditional heritage elements, the attractions of natural heritage and landscape are essential data for characterising sites, practices and activities in the inventory process. The inventory information helps to identify the overall framework of a heritage development plan.

B- Ensuring ongoing professional development - protection, maintenance and management

Consideration of *plans for protection, maintenance and management* in order to achieve long term results is one of the important preconditions for developing objectives for actions to be highlighted within the Heritage Plan. *Preservation* of assets, maintenance of natural heritage and characteristic landscape areas, as well as the safeguarding of traditional practices and stories passed down through generations, are essential issues to be considered for preserving the character of the community and its living environment.

Preservation involves producing “tangible” improvements to historic or natural sites or traditional practices and events, ensuring the protection of all assets and artefacts, and the telling of their story through interpretation.

Research is important to compile and/or update information, which will prove necessary when restoring the structure or traditional practice and interpreting them to the visitors.

As a process of returning the asset to a state of utility through repair or alteration which makes efficient contemporary use without attacking its historic and cultural value, *rehabilitation* is expected to be considered in the heritage plans. Standards pertain for all types of historic buildings and also encompass related landscape features, the environment and natural heritage sites. The standards are applied to specific rehabilitation projects taking into consideration technical and economic feasibility.

C - Local Economic Development through Heritage Resources and potentials

(Heritage Planning and Creative Industries Development)

Cultural heritage and the creative capacity and inventiveness of the human race have been closely integrated throughout the ages. On the one hand, our most valued heritage has often been the creative output of different cultures over time. On the other hand, cultural heritage has served as an inspiration and resource for artists and craftspeople throughout the world.

Today, creative enterprises are drawing their inspiration from local tangible and intangible heritage, providing employment and support for local economies often in quite remote locations. Such heritage-led initiatives enhance the attractiveness of areas for tourists and highlight the value and diversity of local heritage, while not being necessarily dependent on a local tourism market to sell their products.

D - Increasing Public Awareness and Education

Heritage awareness begins with education. An understanding of what heritage encompasses is essential to the appreciation of the different heritage issues in the region, municipality and among communities.

A successful heritage plan reaches out to the community in order to gain support. In return, heritage knowledge and awareness will be raised, which will then encourage community members to contribute to ongoing heritage efforts. This is a cyclical, ongoing process, as the community grows and new residents want to be involved and learn more about the unique identity of the place in which they are living.

Heritage Education Programmes in schools are not intended only to introduce the importance of heritage to the younger generations but also to raise the overall level of heritage awareness in the community, encouraging respect for diversity and creativity to better express it. Contemporary arts play a powerful role to express heritage, diversity and the multiple identities of heritage where individuals and communities are able to define themselves with the changing reality of the world today.

“ Heritage awareness begins with education. An understanding of what heritage encompasses is essential to the appreciation of the different heritage issues in the region, municipality and among communities. ”

E - Active community engagement and citizen participation

While the legislative and technical protection measures are regulated by central and local authorities, communities play a crucial role for the planning and management of heritage in their respective regions. Active citizen participation is crucial to understand the meaning of heritage and pay necessary attention to its importance at a local level, where communities have increased appreciation of their common heritage and treat it with care and respect. All planning and design of heritage plans and projects should actively seek community engagement and encourage citizen participation with an inclusive approach.





*Complex of Albanian League of Prizren,
Historic Museum (reconstructed in 20th c.)*

06

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS

The Feasibility Study recommendations focused on the delivery of the project objectives in relation to cultural diversity, the communal cultural and natural heritage resources, and the potential for heritage-led initiatives and heritage tourism in the region – all integrated with local economic development with a focus on tourism, whilst taking practical account of available resources, authorities and legislative or other constraints.

The Action Plan that is central to the Heritage Plan focuses on addressing the heritage weaknesses in a manner that recognises the relationship between heritage, community wellbeing and the local economy for an improved quality of life and living environment. This includes tourism potentials, and represents a continuation and diversification of actions already completed or facilitated by regional and municipal working groups.

These actions have included:

- The establishment and training of the regional and municipal working groups.
- The overall data collection and validation exercise.
- Heritage data assessment and validation projects in each municipality.
- Pilot projects focusing on cultural events/traditions in each municipality.
- Heritage-led initiatives and tourism demonstration pilot projects.
- Workshop series on heritage

Based on the strategic considerations already outlined, the following are objectives and associated actions planned for the next three years:

Objective 1

To raise awareness and promote appreciation of heritage in Kosovo South

Actions & potential partners

1.1 Organise ongoing data collection and validation of the cultural and natural heritage of the region including of local practices and traditions, sites, movable heritage and cultural products.

(HDP, CSOs, RCCH, academia, respective municipalities)

1.2 Organise diverse heritage promotion activities with active community involvement, highlighting the local practices, sites and cultural products in the region

(HDP, media, practitioners, CSOs, RCCH, business community, municipalities)

1.3 Develop and adopt a joint regional education and awareness-raising strategy with all municipalities involved, including competitions, events and workshops

(HDP, CSOs, municipalities, RDA-South, local schools, municipal Directorates of Education, practitioners, experts in heritage)

1.4 Promote the Regional Heritage Plan and its implementation results through a number of awareness activities working with local, regional and central partners as appropriate

(HDP, municipalities, RDA-South)

1.5 Improve awareness of the integrated approach to heritage among authorities and the general public

(HDP, RCCH)

1.6 Maintain the website promoting the region and ongoing activities

(HDP)

Objective 2

To take necessary measures for the protection of heritage in Kosovo South

Actions & Potential partners

2.1 Ensure ongoing data assessment of heritage

(HDP, CSOs, RCCH, municipalities)

2.2 Initiate the compilation of an inventory on intangible cultural heritage elements in cooperation with the scientific institutions and/or experts and with participation of the practitioners.

(HDP, CSOs, municipalities, owners, practitioners, Ethnological Museum of Prizren)

2.3 Initiate projects for the conservation of archaeological and other heritage artefacts following consultations with central institutions.

(MCYS, Institute of Archaeology, municipalities, RCCH)

2.4 Initiate a rural assessment with particular attention to biodiversity and natural heritage assets, including identification of species of highest conservation concern in the region.

(MESP, municipalities, CSOs, RDA-South)

2.5 Carry out an inventory of landscape areas from a heritage perspective.

(HDP, MESP, municipalities, CSOs)

2.6 Create a database for the museums and their collections (movable cultural heritage)

(Museum of Kosovo, Ethnological Institute, Archaeological and Ethnological Museum of Prizren, municipalities, CSOs)

2.7 Compile a "Heritage at Risk Record".

(HDP, CSOs, RCCH)

2.8 Create a map of protected built cultural heritage assets, intangible cultural heritage elements, movable heritage items and natural heritage sites based on comprehensive study and research

(HDP, RCCH, CSOs, municipalities)

Objective 3

To develop and encourage thorough assessment, integrated project and design, a sound heritage management planning in Kosovo South

Actions & potential partners

3.1 Encourage coordination and cooperation between all heritage and spatial planning agencies, interested bodies and individuals in the region

(HDP, RCCH, CSOs, municipalities, MESP)

3.2 Utilise the conservation and management tools introduced in the Ljubljana Process of the CoE/EU Regional Programme, the EU/CoE PCDK project as well the other successfully implemented projects and programmes supported by respective international organisations.

(HDP, RCCH, municipalities, MESP)

3.3 Organise regular regional heritage forums to keep all stakeholders updated.

(HDP)

3.4 Issue an annual publication “Our Common Heritage – a Civil Society Review in Kosovo South”, sharing research and assessment results.

(HDP, Heritage Forum)

3.5 Provide regular and appropriate access to the selected heritage sites with a tourism perspective, including signage and guidance services.

(RCCH, municipalities, MCYS, Ministry of Transportation and Communication)

Objective 4

To develop and coordinate appropriate heritage management practices in Kosovo South.

Actions & Potential partners

4.1 Coordinate annual reviews of the implementation of the Heritage Plan and the preparation of the next Heritage Plan in 2018 for a further 3 year period.

(HDP, Heritage Forum)

4.2 Ensure improved-quality services for heritage-led initiatives and/or tourism through professional development.

(IMWG, HDP, CSOs, municipalities)

4.3 Develop tools and mechanisms for an integrated approach to the rehabilitation of heritage, enterprise/tourism and education programmes with multiple partners.

(HDP, municipalities, CSOs, RCCH)

4.4 Plan tailored programmes in light of current and potential tourist flow.

(municipalities, CSOs, business community)

4.5 Initiate plans for the rehabilitation of selected immovable cultural heritage, intangible heritage and natural heritage through active intercultural dialogue among all stakeholders (central and local), including marginalised communities

(Projects operating in the region, RCCH, NGOs)

4.6. Provide the HDP coordinators with operational, financial and political support, as well as technical assistance.

(municipalities, RCCH)

Objective 5

Develop locally appropriate and sustainable heritage-led tourism initiatives in Kosovo South.

Actions & potential partners

5.1 Initiate a training programme for local part-time heritage guides in each municipality.

IMWG, HDP

5.2 Participate in heritage-led tourism projects

(HDP, municipalities, CSOs, business community)

5.3 Conduct cost/benefit analysis on proposed projects in order to prioritise applications for funding in a coordinated manner.

(HDP, RCCH, municipalities, research companies)

5.4 Ensure coordinated action in order to utilise diverse heritage assets and practices spread across the region.

(CSOs, municipalities, HDP, RDA South)

5.5 Improve basic tourism services based on SMEs (family-based businesses)

(loan companies, banks, municipalities, community members)

5.6 Support intangible cultural heritage practices through responsible application of creative industries – as a link to contemporary arts initiatives / events in the region

(CSOs, artists, municipalities, HDP, business community)

5.7. Together with other municipalities in the region develop a joint regional program, working toward branding the region with its regional logo

The Action Plan will be monitored by the Heritage and Diversity Programme coordinator with the support of participating municipalities of the region.





Sinan Pasha Mosque interior decoration,
17th-19th c., detail, Prizren



07

Holy Virgin - "Ljeviska" Church,
14th c., Prizren, south-eastern view

THE MUNICIPALITIES OF REGION SOUTH



While the LDPP Regional Programme has a wider scope in the sphere of economic development, PCDK / LED focuses on heritage-led initiatives in relation to heritage tourism with the principles of democratic participation in the development process. In this capacity, PCDK / LED aims to create conditions to facilitate social cohesion and economic development through utilising the potential of cultural and natural heritage for the region of Kosovo South.

The suggested integrated approach sets a feasible structure, methodology and examples of how, if managed effectively, heritage could be an asset of great benefit to local communities as part of a dynamic social and economic development process.

In preparation for the Regional Heritage Plan, the PCDK project acknowledges the existence of all heritage sites and assets in the region, based on the information provided by local and central authorities and institutions, as well as local communities and CSOs.

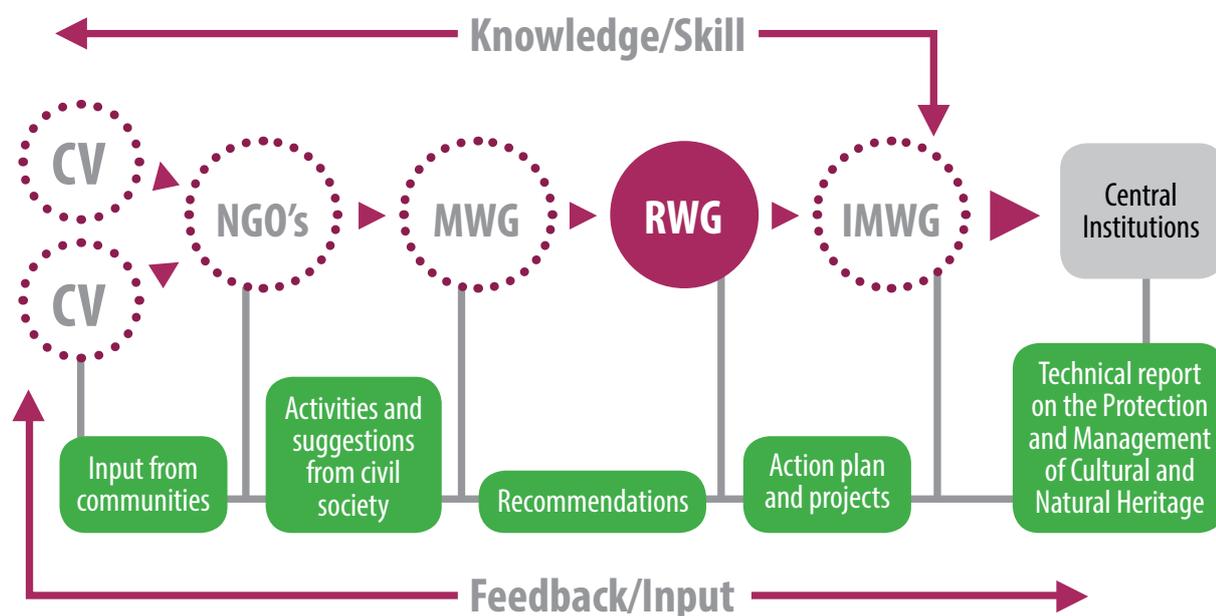
Piloted and recommended actions, however, have focused on attractions and features that are currently accessible and presentable to the general public and visitors for the purpose of heritage tourism.

This chapter has been prepared for stakeholders in the respective municipalities to accompany the Regional Heritage Plan and its recommendations. It encourages the active involvement of local communities and stakeholders in the implementation of priority actions in the respective municipality, in coordination with the five other municipalities in the region, as well as with central authorities.

Suggestions provided are not exhaustive and by no means suggest the exclusion of other initiatives and resources which are detailed in the annexes. The Heritage Plan, offering a viable way forward, encourages the use of these heritage assets in coordination with all stakeholders, taking into account the strategic considerations highlighted in Section 5.

The Heritage Plan is a dynamic process providing a strategic context for community actions with existing resources to ensure the greatest benefit to local communities in the region. It aims to facilitate joint actions in the identification of priorities for the distribution of available funds for the conservation and promotion of heritage, in coordination with the central

government, the municipalities and other interested parties. To ensure active engagement of stakeholders, the PCDK project adopted the following methodology and workflow, ensuring there is continuous feedback and input from communities into policy-making, while regular knowledge and skill transfer is encouraged at the community level.



Involvement in the PCDK project included:

- Research on cultural and natural heritage assets and identification of the intangible heritage elements with the participation and contribution of:
 - MCYS – Department of Cultural Heritage
 - Regional Centre for Cultural Heritage in Prizren
 - Municipalities of Region South
 - NGO Ec Ma Ndryshe
 - NGO Omladina Gora
 - NGO Katedra Slobodnog Uma
 - NGO Durmish Asllano
 - NGO CHWB
 - Community volunteers
 - Local experts on Natural Heritage
 - Local expert on development of the database application
- Pilot actions with the active participation of communities in the region in presenting and promoting their common intangible heritage elements and practices.
- A workshop series on heritage in processing the plan and establishing a platform for co-operation within and between regions.
- A Heritage Forum with the participation of all communities, contributing to the development of the Regional Heritage Plan.
- Inventory of movable heritage assets with the participation of representatives of the Regional Centre for Cultural Heritage in Prizren.
- Development of regional logos.

- Study visits and training sessions exposing local stakeholders to good practices in order to equip them with an understanding and knowledge-base on local economic development processes, community involvement and democratic participation.
- Gatherings of the Heritage Community Network with the involvement of a wide range of individuals and entities who value specific aspects of heritage.
- Awareness-raising activities through site visits and training sessions on cultural and natural heritage with participation of:
 - Elementary school teachers
 - Pupils
 - Parents
 - Artisans
 - Elderly people
 - Local communities
 - Local NGOs

Recommended immediate actions for the municipalities of the region

- In the first forum following the launch of the Heritage Plan, and together with HDP coordinators, identify areas in the municipality where an asset could potentially be identified as a designated area.
- Create a community action group on this issue.
- Discuss possibilities with the municipal authorities.
- With the endorsement of the municipal authorities, carry out a community consultation process involving community members from the designated area.
- Explain the Heritage Plan and the importance of the joint regional action in the context of each respective Kosovo region and the whole of Kosovo.
- Together with the communities, develop a common shared vision and an integrated action in line with the recommendations of the Heritage Plan South.
- Develop a concept note to be endorsed and supported by the municipal authorities.
- Work together with the HDP coordinator who will assure the coordination and cooperation between municipalities and regional approach.
- Seek the support of other organisations that are operating in the region for future implementation.

Dragash/Dragaš Municipality

Dragash/Dragaš municipality is situated in the southern region, 22 km southwest of Prizren. The municipality comprises 37 villages and spreads throughout the regions of Opoja and Gora, with a population of around 33,997 inhabitants composed of Albanians (59.67%), Goran (26.34%), Bosniaks (12%) and others (2.06%).

Dragash/Dragaš is one of the most remote areas in Kosovo, preserving old traditions and a way of life carved out from the surrounding nature. It is surrounded by the Sharr/Šar National Park, Koritnik Mountain, and the mountains Gjallica/Đalica and Cylen in the direction of Prizren.

Tangible heritage

- Fortress of Hisar, Krushevë/Kruševo village (Neolithic/Late Antique/Medieval)
- Fortress of Brrut/Brut (Neolithic/Late Antique/Medieval)
- Ruins of religious monument (Namazxhah) in Buzez village (16th c.)
- Kukli Bey Mosque in Bresanë/Brodosavce (16th c.)
- Selim Deda Tyrbe (mausoleum) in Restelicë/Rastelica (18th c.)
- Village mosque (Berat), in Zlipotok village (16th c./20th c.)
- Tyrbe in Dragash village (17th c.)
- Large grave (Sallatash) in Kapre/Kapra village (18th c.)
- Old mill in Dragash village (19th c.)
- Old mill and valavica (mill tool for the processing of wool to make traditional male clothing) in Bellobrad/Belobrad village (19th c.)



*The fulling mill in Bellobrad/Belobrad village,
Municipality of Dragash/Dragaš*

Natural heritage

- Koritnik mountain
- Brezna (Opoja) lake
- The Gorge of Rastelicë/Restelica
- Radeshë/Radeša river
- Sharr/Šar Mountain National Park

Intangible heritage

- Village games (Pelivani)
- Ballads of Gora
- Traditional bridal umbrella
- Face painting rites

Recommended priority actions contributing to Regional Plan and programming

To raise awareness and promote appreciation of heritage in Kosovo South

- Organise neighbourhood / heritage walks to raise awareness among the local population, familiarising residents with the diverse concepts of heritage including community life itself.
- Support school-based awareness-raising activities in the municipality.
- Utilise the regional logo for branding.
- Ensure regular waste collection and awareness-raising on the importance of a clean environment.

To take necessary measures for the protection of heritage in Kosovo South

- Research and identify unique practices of traditions, games and heritage in Dragash/ Dragaš in order to document these according to guidelines
- Map all the built, movable, intangible and natural heritage assets with relevant information and regularly update the central authorities
- List the buildings at risk in the municipality and report to the RCCH Prizren region and the municipality.

To develop and encourage thorough assessment, integrated project design and planning with a sound Heritage Management Planning in Kosovo South

- Identify necessary tourism service delivery standards and provide training to local service providers.
- Have a clear updated heritage tourism map of all assets that are ready for visitors.
- Keep the regional website regularly updated for others to be informed of upcoming events.
- Provide input to the annual regional report on "Our Common Heritage" in Kosovo South.
- Ensure proper signage for sites that are ready for tourism.
- Test cultural products and marketing styles in your respective area of work in the region.
- Ensure that heritage-led initiatives are diverse, inclusive and distinctive to attract community members and visitors

To develop and coordinate appropriate management practices for the care of heritage in Kosovo South

- Organise capacity development for increased heritage management skills, including local guides.
- Participate in regular meetings / forums to share developments and be informed about the regional programme.
- Send locally produced brochures and promotional materials to the HDP coordinator.

Develop locally appropriate and sustainable heritage tourism initiatives in Kosovo South

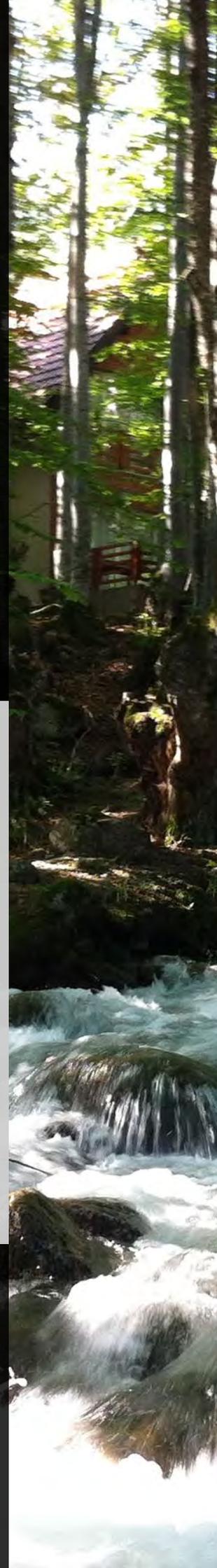
- Identify an example of built heritage in the municipality to participate in the regional plan
- Invest in cultural product items based on local cultural heritage practices, such as the making of traditional bridal umbrellas and face painting.
- Support Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) initiatives, including Bed & Breakfast
- Make Dragash/Dragaš a tourist destination for unique traditional agricultural structures accompanied by gastronomy and traditional events.

Agricultural and Landscape Area development - *Old mills & Landscape of Bellobrad/Belobrad, Bresanë/Brodosavce, Kruševo/Krushevë, Kuk/Kukovce, Radeša/Radeshë, Mlike/Mlikë villages*

As traditional agricultural structures, the mills that still exist in the villages of Dragash/Dragaš Municipality, could become an attractive tourism destination representing specific construction techniques, the physical context of their location as well as the traditional lifestyle of the local population.

Actions: Comprehensive assessment of the current condition of the stone structures of the mills and their wooden mechanisms in the immediate environment; Strategy for rehabilitation of the areas in question for tourism purposes; Project applications (fundraising) for the restoration of the mill structures and the environment/landscape according to developed criteria and standards.

Partners: the municipality's sectors for planning, culture and tourism, local communities, stakeholders/owners, MCYS (RCCH – Prizren), MESP – protection of nature and environment, local NGOs.





Lumbardhi/Bistrica river in Prizren

Malishevë/Mališevo Municipality

The municipality of Malishevë/Mališevo is located in the southern region of Kosovo, 44 km from the city of Prizren. It has 43 villages with a total population of around 54,613 inhabitants, composed of Albanians (99.9%) and Roma (0.01%). Malishevë/Mališevo borders with the municipalities of Klinë/Klina and Glogovc/Glogovac in north and the municipalities of Lipjan/Lipjane and Suharekë/Suva Reka in south. Its territory is mostly hilly and is characterised by the mountain of Drenica, with the highest peak of Koznik and Kosmaç/Kosmač. The river Mirusha/Mirusha runs through the town of Malishevë/Mališevo creating unique and beautiful waterfalls. Agriculture is one of the main pillars of economic development and income generation for the inhabitants of municipality.





*Old Bridge near the village of Bubel,
Malishevë/Mališevo Municipality*

Tangible heritage

- Archeological site *Trojet e Vetra/Stare Zemlje* ("Old Lands")
- Arabaxhi bridge in Buble/Bublje village

Natural heritage

- Banja thermal springs
- Panorc Cave
- Mirusha/Mirusha waterfalls

Intangible heritage

- Epic songs (rhapsody)

Recommended priority actions contributing to Regional Plan and programming

To raise awareness and promote appreciation of heritage in Kosovo South

- Organise neighbourhood / heritage walks to raise awareness among the local population, familiarising communities with the diverse concepts of heritage including community life itself.
- Support school-based awareness raising activities in the municipality.
- Utilise the regional logo for branding.
- Ensure regular waste collection and awareness-raising on the importance of a clean environment.

To take necessary measures for the protection of heritage in Kosovo South

- Research and identify unique practices of traditions, games and heritage in Malishevë/Mališevo in order to document these according to guidelines.
- Map all the built, moveable, intangible and natural heritage assets with relevant information and regularly update the central authorities.
- List the buildings at risk in the municipality and report to the RCCH Prizren region and the municipality.

To develop and encourage thorough assessment, integrated project design and planning with sound heritage management planning in Kosovo South

- Identify necessary tourism service delivery standards and provide training to local service providers.
- Have a clear and updated heritage tourism map of all assets that are ready for visitors.
- Keep the regional website regularly updated for others to be informed on upcoming events.
- Provide input to the annual regional report on "Our Common Heritage" in Kosovo South.
- Ensure proper signage for sites that are ready for tourism.
- Test cultural products and marketing styles in your respective area of work in the region.
- Ensure that heritage-led initiatives are diverse, inclusive and distinctive to attract community members and visitors.

To develop and coordinate appropriate management practices for the care of heritage in Kosovo South

- Organise capacity development for increased heritage management skills, including local guides.
- Participate in regular meetings / forums to share developments and be informed about the regional programme.
- Send locally produced brochures and promotional materials to the HDP coordinator.

Develop locally appropriate and sustainable heritage tourism initiatives in Kosovo South

- Identify an example of built heritage in Malishevë/Mališevo municipality to participate in the regional plan.
- Invest in cultural product items based on local cultural heritage practices, such as traditional epic songs.
- Support Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) initiatives, including Bed & Breakfast.
- Prepare Malishevë/Mališevo to take its place in the southern region as a tourist destination with its mineral water sources, caves and archaeological sites accompanied by traditional events.

Inclusion of Cultural and natural heritage of the Municipality on a tourism map of the region

The Banja thermal springs have already been promoted as a potential for economic and tourism development of the municipality. A programme for walking tours to the archaeological site of Trojet e Vetra/Stare Zemlje ("Old Lands") the old Arabaxhi bridge in Buble/Bublje village and Panorc Cave promotes a wider range of attractions to the visitors of the thermal springs.

Action: Conduct a research project into the possibilities to integrate the attractions in a tourism offer for different ranks of visitors

Partners: the municipality authorities, the local business sector, the Institute for Archaeology.

Mamushë/Mamuša Municipality

Mamushë/Mamuša is the smallest town located in the northern part of Prizren, with an area of only 11 km² and a population of around 5,507 inhabitants. It borders the municipalities of Gjakovë/Đakovica and Suharekë/Suva Reka. The inhabitants are composed of Turks (93.1%), Albanians (5.9%) and others (0.9%).

Mamushë/Mamuša municipality is composed mainly of flat terrain with a rural character, and is ideal for agriculture development.

Tangible heritage

- Mahmud Pasha Clock Tower in Mamushë/Mamuša

Natural heritage

- Toplluha river
- Tërnja/Trnja river

Intangible heritage

- Tomato festival

Recommended priority actions contributing to Regional Plan and programming

To raise awareness and promote appreciation of heritage in Kosovo South

- Organise neighbourhood / heritage walks to raise awareness among the local population, familiarising communities with diverse concepts of heritage including community life itself.
- Support school-based awareness raising activities in the municipality.
- Utilise the regional logo for branding.
- Ensure regular waste collection and awareness-raising on the importance of a clean environment.

To take necessary measures for protection of heritage in Kosovo South

- Research and identify unique practices of traditions, games and heritage in Mamushë/Mamuša in order to document these according to guidelines.
- Map all the built, movable, intangible and natural heritage assets with relevant information and regularly update the central authorities.
- List the buildings at risk in the municipality and report to the RCCH Prizren region and the municipality.



Mahmud Pasha's Clock Tower

To develop and encourage thorough assessment, integrated project design and planning with sound heritage management planning in Kosovo South

- Identify necessary tourism service delivery standards and provide training to local service providers.
- Have a clear updated heritage tourism map of all assets that is ready for visitors.
- Keep the regional website regularly updated for others to be informed of upcoming events.
- Provide input to the annual regional report on “Our Common Heritage” in Kosovo South.
- Ensure proper signage for sites that are ready for tourism.
- Test cultural products and marketing styles in the respective area of work in the region.
- Ensure that heritage-led initiatives are diverse, inclusive and distinctive to attract the community members and visitors.

To develop and coordinate appropriate management practices for the care of heritage in Kosovo South

- Organise capacity development for increased heritage management skills, including local guides.
- Participate in regular meetings / forums to share developments and be informed about the regional programme.
- Send locally produced brochures and promotional materials to the HDP coordinator

Develop locally appropriate and sustainable heritage tourism initiatives in Kosovo South

- Identify an example of built heritage in Mamushë/Mamuša municipality to participate in the regional plan.
- Invest in cultural product items based on local cultural heritage practices, such as the traditional tomato festival.
- Support Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) initiatives, including Bed & Breakfast.
- Prepare Mamushë/Mamuša to take its place in the southern region as a tourist destination with its unique festival and agricultural products.

Development of a “mobile market” in the area of the old Clock Tower

The programme of the one-day “Tomato Festival” that is organised every year in summer in the centre of Mamushë/Mamuša could be enriched with a specific market offer of branded agricultural products, specific to the area and presented on well-designed mobile stands. The products that have a long shelf life could be displayed for sale in the interior of the Mahmud Pasha Clock Tower – the most representative cultural monument of the town.

Action: Considering the bad condition of the monument it could be a good opportunity to develop a complex project integrating the protection of heritage and economic development through activities related to the conservation and restoration of the Clock Tower and the rehabilitation of the area around the building, with a view for it to be used as a mobile market for local branded products.

Partners: Municipality, MCYS/RCCH-Prizren, business and tourism sector

Prizren Municipality

Prizren is an ancient city situated on the slopes of the Sharr/Šar Mountains and along the river Lumbardhi/ Bistrica. It is the administrative centre of the municipality and the main economic and heritage tourism centre of the west - southern part of Kosovo.

The municipality of Prizren has 76 settlements with a population of around 178,000 inhabitants making it the second largest city in Kosovo. The inhabitants of Prizren are mostly Albanians (81.97%), Bosnians (9.5%), Serbs (0.13%), Turks (5.1%), Roma (1.63%) and others (1.65%). In Prizren municipality, Albanian, Serbian, Bosnian and Turkish are the official languages.

The municipality of Prizren shares a border with municipalities of Dragash/Dragaš, Rahovec/Orahovac, Gjakovë/Çakovica and Shtërpce/Štrpce, and national borders with Albania and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Tangible heritage

- Vlashnje/Vlašnja archaeological site (Neolithic/Late Antique/Early Medieval)
- Korishë/Koriša archaeological site (Bronze Age/Early Medieval)
- Poslishtë/Poslište archaeological site (Roman)
- Fortress of Prizren (Late Antique/Ottoman)
- The Church of Holy Mother of God *Ljeviška* (14th c.)
- St. Nicholas (Tutić) Church (14th c.)
- The Monastery of the Holy Archangels (14th c.)
- The Holy Saviour Church (14th c.)
- St. George (Runović) Church (14th c.)
- Namazxhah - Kërëk ("Broken") Mosque (1455)
- Suzi Çelebi Mosque (1513)
- Kukli Mehmet Bey Mosque (1535/1897)
- Gazi Mehmed Pasha Mosque (1563 – 1575)
- Gazi Mehmet Pasha Hammam (16th c./1833)
- Archaeological Museum of Prizren - Hammam (end of 15th c.)
- Sinan Pasha Mosque (1615)
- Shadervan fountain (17th c.)
- Halveti Tekke (17th c./1835)
- Complex of Albanian League of Prizren/Historic Museum (reconstructed in 20th c.)
- St. George Church /Synodal church (1856-1887)
- Belediye/Seat of the Municipality of Prizren (late 19th c.)
- Shehu Family House (19th c.)
- Musa-Efendi Shehzade House/Ethnographic Museum (19th c.)
- *Prizrenasja* hydropower plant (early 20th c.)





Hydro Power Plant – near Prizren
first half of 20th c., frontal façade

Natural heritage

- Sharr/Šar Mountain National Park
- Lumbardhi/Bistrica river
- Plane tree (Rrapi i Marashit / Platan od Maraš)

Intangible heritage

- Filigree (*filigran*)
- Blacksmith tradition
- *Zambaku* Festival
- *Hasi Jehon* Traditional festival
- *Sculpfest* Cultural artistic event
- Traditional costumes of the Has region
- Face painting in the village of Lubinjë e Ulët/Donje Ljubinje

Recommended priority actions contributing to regional plan and programming

To raise awareness and promote appreciation of heritage in Kosovo South

- Organise neighbourhood / heritage walks to raise awareness among local population, familiarising communities with diverse concepts of heritage including community life itself.
- Support school-based awareness raising activities in the municipality.
- Utilise the regional logo for branding.
- Ensure regular waste collection and awareness-raising on the importance of a clean environment.

To take necessary measures for the protection of heritage in Kosovo South

- Research and identify unique practices of traditions, games and heritage in Prizren in order to document these according to guidelines.
- Map all the built, moveable, intangible and natural heritage assets with relevant information and regularly update the central authorities.
- List the buildings at risk in the municipality and report to the RCCH Prizren region and the municipality.

To develop and encourage thorough assessment, integrated project design and planning with sound heritage management planning in Kosovo South

- Identify necessary tourism service delivery standards and provide training to local service providers
- Have a clear and updated heritage tourism map of all assets that are ready for visitors.
- Keep the regional website regularly updated for others to be informed of upcoming events.
- Provide input to the annual regional report on "Our Common Heritage" in Kosovo South.
- Ensure proper signage for sites that are ready for tourism.
- Test cultural products and marketing styles in the respective area of work in the region.
- Ensure that heritage-led initiatives are diverse, inclusive and distinctive to attract community members and visitors.

To develop and coordinate appropriate management practices for the care of heritage in Kosovo South

- Organise capacity development for increased heritage management skills, including local guides.

- Participate in regular meetings / forums to share developments and be informed about the regional programme.
- Send locally produced brochures and promotional materials to the HDP coordinator.

Develop locally appropriate and sustainable heritage tourism initiatives in Kosovo South

- Identify an example of built heritage in Prizren municipality to participate in the regional plan.
- Invest in cultural product items based on local cultural heritage practices, such as traditional face painting, filigree, Sculptfest, Dokufest.
- Support Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) initiatives, including Bed & Breakfast.
- Develop Prizren as a tourist destination in cooperation with other municipalities of the region, attracting diverse interests the regional offers.

Educational and business centre of Prizren - "Tabakhana" complex

At one time this complex was considered a place of the traditional leather-processing craft (tabak). However, most of its valuable features are not visible at the moment. The sections that remain – the mill and the leather storage facilities - could be restored and adapted to provide a workshop of filigree practitioners, bringing them together in a cooperative as well as to support the running of educational programmes on this traditional handcraft. Together with the other built heritage in the vicinity - the Beledije building and the secondary school Ruzhalie (in ruins at the moment) - a new complex providing an attractive centre which represents the industrial, architectural and intangible heritage of Prizren could be presented to the wider public.

Action: Project for the reconstruction of damaged structures with a vision to develop an educational and commercial centre based around traditional handicrafts.

Partners: Coordination between the MCYS/RCCH-Prizren and the Municipality of Prizren.



Beledije building, Prizren

Rahovec/Orahovac Municipality

The municipality of Rahovec/Orahovac contains 35 villages with a population of around 56,208 inhabitants composed of Albanians (97.8%), Serbs (1.66%) and others (0.54%). The municipality of Rahovec/Orahovac shares a border with municipalities of Klinë/Klina, Suharekë/Suva Reka Prizren and Gjakovë/Đakovica.

The municipality is known for its religious heritage and has 23 mosques and 12 churches and monasteries in use that are mostly concentrated in the village of Velika Hoča/Hoçë e Madhe. It is also known as a city of vineyards and delicious, good quality wine.

Tangible heritage

- Archaeological site in Pozhigë, Bellacerkë/ Bela Crkva village (Roman)
- Thermal Bath in Çifllak/Čiflik village (Roman)
- Ruins of the fortified settlement in Zatriç/Zatrić village (Iron Age/Late Antique)
- Stone bridge fortress, Rahovec/Orahovac (Roman)
- The castle in Gexhë/ Geđe village (Late Antique)
- Cemetery in village Celinë/Celine (Medieval)
- Cemetery in Vranjak village (Mediaeval)
- Church of Bernjaçë/Bernjaće (14th c.)
- St. Nicholas Church in Velika Hoča/Hoçë e Madhe (14th -16th c.)
- St. John Church in Velika Hoča/Hoçë e Madhe (13th and 14th c.)
- Halvetiye teke (masjid), centre of Rahovec/Orahovac (18th c.)
- Old fountain, Rahovec/Orahovac (18th and 19th c.)
- Melamive Teke (masjid), Rahovec/Orahovac (1887, rebuilt 1970)
- The village mosque in Zatriq/Zatrić (18th c.)
- The village mosque in Pastasellë/Pastaselo (18th c.)
- The village mosque in Drenoc/Drenovac (18th c.)
- The village mosque in Xërxe/Zerza (18th c.)
- House of Qamil Vuçitërna, Rahovec/Orahovac (19th c.)
- Kula (tower) of Hajrullah Çanta, Rahovec/Orahovac (19th c.)
- Konak (guest house) of Deqan/Veliki Dečani Monastery, in Velika Hoča/Hoçë e Madhe (19th c.)
- House of Spasić family in Velika Hoča/Hoçë e Madhe (19th c.)
- Kula (tower) of Ismet Çmega (19th c.)
- Kasumi mosque, Rahovec/Orahovac (1826)
- Sokoli Mosque, Rahovec/Orahovac (1824)
- The Monastery of Zoçishtë, village of Zoçishtë/Zočište (Mediaeval/19th c.)

Natural heritage

- Mirusha/Miruša waterfalls

Intangible heritage

- Wine festival

Recommended priority actions contributing to Regional Plan and programming

To raise awareness and promote appreciation of heritage in Kosovo South

- Organise neighbourhood / heritage walks to raise awareness among local population, familiarising communities with diverse concepts of heritage including community life itself.
- Support school-based awareness raising activities in the municipality.
- Utilise the regional logo for branding.
- Ensure regular waste collection and awareness-raising on the importance of a clean environment.

To take necessary measures for protection of heritage in Kosovo South

- Research and identify unique practices of traditions, games and heritage in Rahovec/ Orahovac in order to document these according to guidelines.
- Map all the built, movable, intangible and natural heritage assets with relevant information and regularly update the central authorities.
- List the buildings at risk in the municipality and report to the RCCH Prizren region and the municipality.

To develop and encourage thorough assessment, integrated project design and planning with sound heritage management plan in Kosovo South

- Identify necessary tourism service delivery standards and provide training to local service providers.
- Have a clear and updated heritage tourism map of all assets that are ready for visitors.
- Keep regional website regularly updated for others to be informed of upcoming events.
- Provide input to the annual regional report on “Our Common Heritage” in Kosovo South.
- Ensure proper signage for sites that are ready for tourism.
- Test cultural products and marketing styles in your respective area of work in the region.
- Ensure that heritage-led initiatives are diverse, inclusive and distinctive to attract the community members and visitors.



A Fragment of a capitol of a column from the archaeological site of Čiflak/Čiflik, Roman period, Municipality of Rahovec/Orahovac (photo: MCYS)



Jewelry from the necropolis of Shirokë/Široko, Late Iron Age (photo: MCYS)

To develop and coordinate appropriate management practices for the care of heritage in Kosovo South

- Organise capacity development for increased heritage management skills, including local guides.
- Participate in regular meetings / forums to share developments and be informed about the regional programme.
- Send locally produced brochures and promotional materials to the HDP coordinator.

Develop locally appropriate and sustainable heritage tourism initiatives in Kosovo South

- Identify an example of built heritage in Rahovec/Orahovac municipality to participate in the regional plan.
- Invest in cultural product items based on local cultural heritage practices, such as traditional wine festival.
- Support Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) initiatives, including Bed & Breakfast.
- Develop Rahovec/Orahovac as a tourist destination combining wine, religious tourism and nature.



Rural tourism and religious journeys in Velika Hoča/Hoçë e Madhe and Rahovec/Orahovac

Ensembles of folk architecture of Velika Hoča/Hoçë e Madhe, numerous medieval churches that are still well-preserved and in regular use, as well as the initial successful efforts made to establish Bed & Breakfast accommodation for visitors in traditional homes, gives the area great potential for the development of a specific tourism offer.

The lovely landscape of the vineyards in the area, the creative work of the Decane/Decani monks in the production of wine of good quality, and the support of Rahovec/Orahovac Municipality in the organisation of the Wine Festival, make the area one of the most attractive destinations for wider range of visitors.

Action: Programme and plan for supporting the community-based initiatives, particularly in the revitalisation of the selected traditional residential facilities to be used for Bed & Breakfast accommodation.

Partners: Municipality of Rahovec/Orahovac; owners of traditional residential facilities in Velika Hoča/Hoçë e Madhe and Rahovec/Orahovac; business and tourism sector, MCYS/RCCH-Prizren.



Clock tower in Rahovec/Orahovac

Suharekë/Suva Reka Municipality

Suharekë/Suva Reka is a town and municipality in the southern region located 18 km from Prizren city. The municipality of Suharekë/Suva Reka has a population of around 72,000 inhabitants, composed of Albanians (99.3%), Serbs (0.01%), Roma (0.57%) and others (0.12%).

The name Suha Reka means “Dry River” in Serbian. Later, the city was referred to as Theranda, the name of the ancient fortress of Theranda, located near Prizren.

Tangible heritage of Suharekë/Suva Reka municipality

- Archaeological site in Hisar, Suharekë/Suva Reka
- Archaeological site of Reshtan/Raštane (Neolithic period)
- Burial mounds (Illyrian tumulus) of Gjinoc/Ĝinovce (Late Iron Age)
- Burial mound (Illyrian tumulus) near the village of Shirocë/Široko (Late Iron Age/6th-8th c. BC)
- Archaeological site – fortified settlement of Kasterc/Kastrc (Copper Age/ Middle Age)
- Old mill of Buzhala family, Suharekë/Suva Reka

Natural heritage of Suharekë/Suva Reka municipality

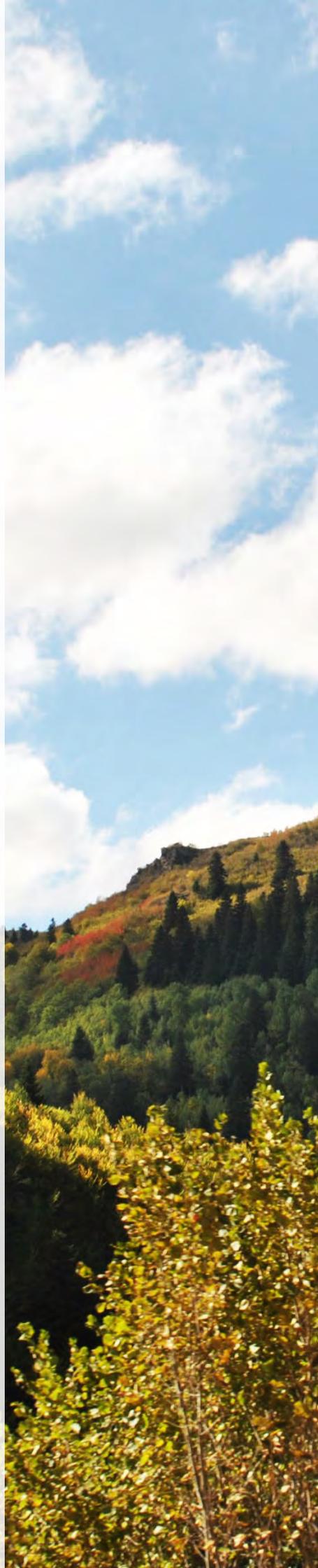
- Stone of Delloc
- Mineral water source in Reqan/Rečan
- Rushenica/Rušenica nature reserve
- Rahavane natural park
- Oak tree in Bllacë/Blace
- Sharr/Šar Mountain National Park

Intangible heritage of Suharekë/Suva Reka municipality

- Traditional music with bagpipes and flute

To raise awareness and promote appreciation of heritage in Kosovo South

- Organise neighbourhood / heritage walks to raise awareness among local population, familiarising communities with diverse concepts of heritage including community life itself.
- Support school-based awareness raising activities in the municipality.
- Utilise the regional logo for branding.
- Ensure regular environment.





Sharr Mountain landscape

Recommended priority actions contributing to regional plan and programming

To take necessary measures for protection of heritage in Kosovo South

- Research and identify unique practices of traditions, games and heritage in Suharekë/Suva Reka in order to document these according to guidelines.
- Map all the built, moveable, intangible and natural heritage assets with relevant information and regularly update the central authorities.
- List the buildings at risk in the municipality and report to the RCCH Prizren region and the municipality.

To develop and encourage thorough assessment, integrated project design and planning with sound heritage management planning in Kosovo South

- Identify necessary tourism service delivery standards and provide training to local service providers.
- Have a clear updated heritage tourism map of all assets that are ready for visitors.
- Keep the regional website regularly updated for others to be informed of upcoming events.
- Provide input to the annual regional report on “Our Common Heritage” in Kosovo South.
- Ensure proper signage for sites that are ready for tourism.
- Test cultural products and marketing styles in the respective area of work in the region.
- Ensure that heritage-led initiatives are diverse, inclusive and distinctive to attract the community members and visitors.

To develop and coordinate appropriate management practices for the care of heritage in Kosovo South

- Organise capacity development for increased heritage management skills, including local guides.
- Participate in regular meetings / forums to share developments and be informed about the regional programme.
- Send locally produced brochures and promotional materials to the HDP coordinator.

Develop locally appropriate and sustainable heritage tourism initiatives in Kosovo South

- Identify an example of built heritage in Suharekë/Suva Reka municipality to participate in the regional plan.
- Invest in cultural product items based on local cultural heritage practices, such as traditional bagpipes and flute music.
- Support Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) initiatives, including Bed & Breakfast.
- Develop Suharekë/Suva Reka as a tourist destination combining archaeology, education and music.



Vase from the archaeological site in Reshtan/Reštan



Jewelry from the necropolis of Shirokë/Široko, Late Iron Age (photo: MCYS)

Archaeological Research Camp of Ancient Cultures

Several sites that have been recognised as important places, representing the cultures of local populations from the Neolithic period to the Middle Age, could make this area an exciting field of work to young researchers as well to enthusiasts of archaeology and history.

Action: A well-designed research programme, accompanied by lectures/storytelling and other attractive camp-gathering activities in open, natural spaces, could be recommended.

Partners: Municipality, Institute for Archaeology, RCCH-Prizren, local NGOs

08

Old Mill in Dragash/ Dragaš

HERITAGE PLAN IMPLEMENTATION GOING FORWARD



The ongoing implementation of the Regional Heritage Plan is an essential part of the process and active involvement of local stakeholders will play a crucial role for its effectiveness.

Since the Heritage Plan process has been tested and proved to be functioning well in Kosovo West, the linkage between regions, looking into best practices of Kosovo West in particular, is essential for the implementation. In addition, it is hoped that the professional relationships established with the Irish Heritage Council, the Regional Natural Park of Vosges North in France and the Balkan Heritage Foundation in Bulgaria may assist professional exchanges during the implementation phase in the upcoming period. In addition, the participating countries in the Council of Europe LDPP regional programme remain part of the network that allows exchanges between ongoing projects.

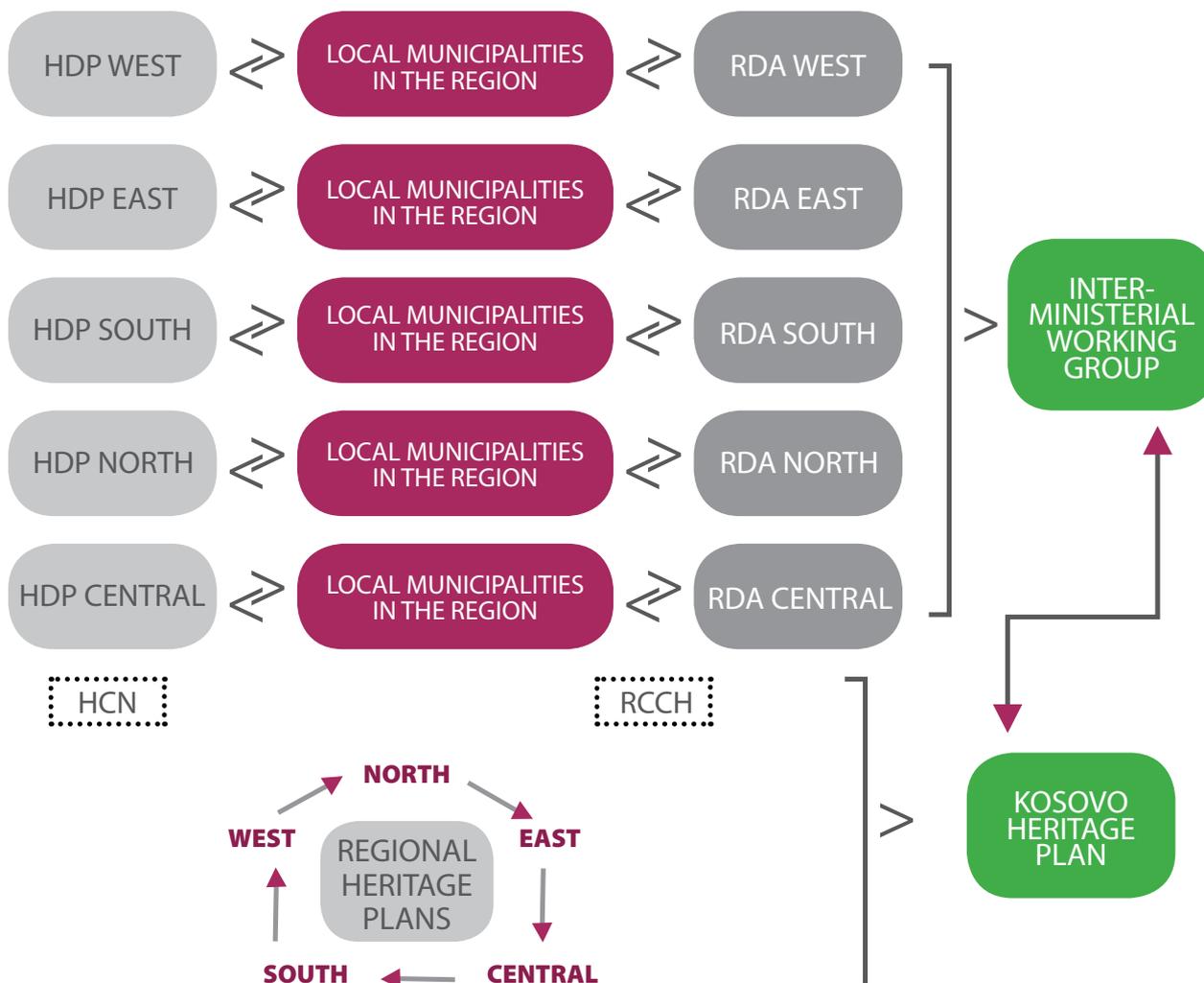
To coordinate the process a Heritage and Diversity Programme (HDP) coordinator has been recruited for each region. They will facilitate, coordinate and monitor the implementation of the Heritage Plan, which offers possible regional initiatives with the contribution of respective municipalities. Therefore, the HDP coordinator, with the support of the municipalities, institutions and communities, works for the benefit of the entire region. Ongoing capacity development and consistent improvement of knowledge

“ The ongoing implementation of the Regional Heritage Plan is an essential part of the process and active involvement of local stakeholders will play a crucial role for its effectiveness. ”

and skills in this field are crucial to the implementation process. The HDP coordinator ensures the assessment of capacity development needs and addresses these needs by encouraging linkages and constant dialogue between entities and communities. While the Heritage Plan and its recommended actions acts as a guiding tool, the promotion and advocacy of cultural and natural heritage in the development of heritage-led initiatives could vary based on the means and willingness of the participating municipalities. This initial plan plays an essential role in bringing municipalities and communities of the region together around a shared common vision, gradually becoming an effective part of local structures.

From this point on, the Heritage Plan encourages a dynamic process where all stakeholders work in the spirit of solidarity and synergy to contribute to their regional objectives in their respective municipalities and further their engagement with other municipalities to benefit from this process in the most positive way. The dimensions of these benefits go beyond financial means and include monitoring of the democratic participation of all communities in the development process and relative increase in the quality of life and living environment.

HERITAGE & DIVERSITY PROGRAMME (HDP) AND ITS CONNECTION TO HCN AND IMWG



The chart above broadly indicates the main issues. Ideally, it is envisaged that each HDP coordinator will be financed by the involved municipalities in their respective regions (following the Memorandum of Understanding to be signed, as already finalised in Kosovo West). They should conduct their work along five themes as follows:

- Research
- Promotion
- Innovative Actions
- Professional Development
- Support to Strategy-making and Heritage Plan

Some suggested steps are as follows:

1. Heritage and Diversity Programme and coordinators will be specific to each region and guided by the same shared handbook.
2. Sample regional joint programmes such as Cultural Itineraries (already being implemented by PCDK in the west, along with other initiatives) will be initiated by the HDPs in other regions.
3. Annual gathering of HDPs together with HCN and IMWG.
4. Annual Report – Our Common Heritage: this civil society review will be produced each year as a key output of the heritage plan process, promoting and monitoring its progress.
5. Periodic Review of Regional Heritage Plans (to be reviewed and updated subsequently every 3 years)
6. A Kosovo Heritage Plan will in time be produced by local stakeholders with HCN and IMWG, under the guidance of the HDP coordinators.
7. Kosovo Report on Heritage to be produced by local stakeholders with HCN and IMWG, under the guidance of the HDP coordinators.

This is an outline scenario. The heritage plan process is self-regenerating but it is also a dynamic process that will respond to the level of community interest, engagement and commitment. The ownership of the process will, over the course of the next year, pass to the local stakeholders and they will refine and adjust the future scenarios over time.

Long term strategy

With Heritage Plans being introduced into four other regions in Kosovo, today all five regions - west, south, east, north and central - have regional plans. Through the methodology, tools and sample programmes, developed by the PCDK project as well as through the installation of the Heritage and Diversity Programme coordinators, a long term operational model has been introduced.

While the Heritage Plan concerns the entire region of Kosovo South, linkage between municipal, regional and central level is imperative for an effective and efficient implementation period. In this capacity, close cooperation and coordination between the Inter-Ministerial Working Group², Heritage Community Network and HDP coordinators in the five regions will ensure the integrity of the process and will feed into the development of a Kosovo Heritage Plan.



²The PCDK project refers to the regions as North, South, Central, East, West based on Regional Development Agencies' definition.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Pilot Actions

As part of the integrated approach, and in addition to the research conducted on built cultural heritage and natural heritage, the intangible heritage practices listed below were evaluated in 2014. This was essential part of the integrated field work phase and the feasibility study report which has created a good platform for development of the Regional Heritage Plans. The Intangible Heritage listed has been identified and recognised as being of heritage value to communities, samples of the rich and diverse heritage of the region. The ongoing work under the Heritage Plan will add to this list on a progressive, incremental and planned basis.

During August – October 2014, pilot actions on Intangible Heritage practices were implemented in all four regions, encouraging active involvement of the community. These pilot actions have presented diverse intangible elements to the local stakeholders, making each region very specific and unique while also complementary to each other. The pilot actions of the Region South included;

- “*Hajde*” Intangible Heritage Days including:
 - Filigree workshop in Prizren
 - Face painting from the Zhupë/Župa region
 - Rhapsody songs from Malishevë/Mališevo
 - Traditional costumes and rites from the Has region
- Flag day event, Roma community
- *Čader za mlajnesta*, traditional umbrella for weddings, Gorani community
- Traditional music and *Nibet* instrument, Bosniak community

Appendix 2 – Members of Working Groups

Main partners

Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports
Regional Centre for Cultural Heritage in Prizren
NGO EC Ma Ndryshe

Regional Working Group

Hasan Hoti, Director of RCCH in Prizren; Samir Hoxha, Director of Department for Tourism and Economic Development, Municipality of Prizren; Sherife Qengaj, Department for Tourism and Economic Development, Municipality of Prizren; Bajram Basha, Department for Tourism and Economic Development, Municipality of Prizren; Demir Zekolli, Department for Cultural Heritage, Municipality of Suharekë/Suva Reka, Lydra Hoxha, student in architecture, Suharekë/Suva Reka municipality; Sefer Basha, NGO 'AIPK', Suharekë/Suva Reka municipality; Xhavit Sopaj, expert in cultural heritage, Municipality of Malishevë/Mališevo; Mevludin Mazreku, Director of Department for Culture, Municipality of Malishevë/Mališevo; Izet Shala, NGO KPA, Municipality of Malishevë/Mališevo; Ylber Kastrati, Adviser, Municipality of Mamushë/Mamuša; Erol Morina, Head of Department of Culture, Municipality of Mamushë/Mamuša; Valon Xhabali, NGO Ec Ma Ndryshe, Prizren municipality.

Inter-Municipal Working Group members (Prizren & Suharekë/Suva Reka)

Shpresa Siqeca, RCCH in Prizren; Medisa Sagdadi, Tourism Information Centre, Prizren municipality; Bajram Basha, Department for Tourism and Economic Development, Municipality of Prizren; Sherife Qengaj, Department for Tourism and Economic Development, Municipality of Prizren; Urim Ukimeri, Department for Culture, Youth and Sports, Municipality of Prizren; Vesel Hoxha, archaeologist, Prizren municipality; Demir Zekolli, Department for Cultural Heritage, Municipality of Suharekë/Suva Reka; Xhavit Mala, biologist, National Park of Sharr/Šar; Refki Gollopeni, NGO Elena Gjika, Suharekë/Suva Reka municipality; Sefer Basha, NGO AIPK, Suharekë/Suva Reka municipality; Lydra Hoxha, student in architecture, Suharekë/Suva Reka municipality; Qazim Voci, teacher, Suharekë/Suva Reka municipality; Enesa Xheladini, NGO Ec Ma Ndryshe, Prizren municipality.

Inter-Municipal Working Group members (Malishevë/Mališevo & Mamushë/Mamuša)

Lindita Koqbashliu, RCCH in Prizren; Muharrem Morina, Mayor's Office, Municipality of Malishevë/Mališevo; Blerta Krasniqi, Director of Department for Culture, Municipality of Malishevë/Mališevo; Kushtrim Morina, Department for Culture, Municipality of Malishevë/Mališevo; Naim Avdijaj, Department of Administration, Municipality of Malishevë/Mališevo; Mehdi Krasniqi, Youth Department, Municipality of Malishevë/Mališevo; Hana Bytyqi, Head of City Library, Municipality of Malishevë/Mališevo; Izet Shala, NGO KPA, Malishevë/Mališevo municipality; Mevludin Mazreku, civil society, Malishevë/Mališevo; Ylber Kastrati, adviser, Municipality of Mamushë/Mamuša; Erol Morina, Head of Department of Culture, Municipality of Mamushë/Mamuša; Resat Mazrek, Procurement Department, Municipality of Mamushë/Mamuša;

Volunteers & Surveyors

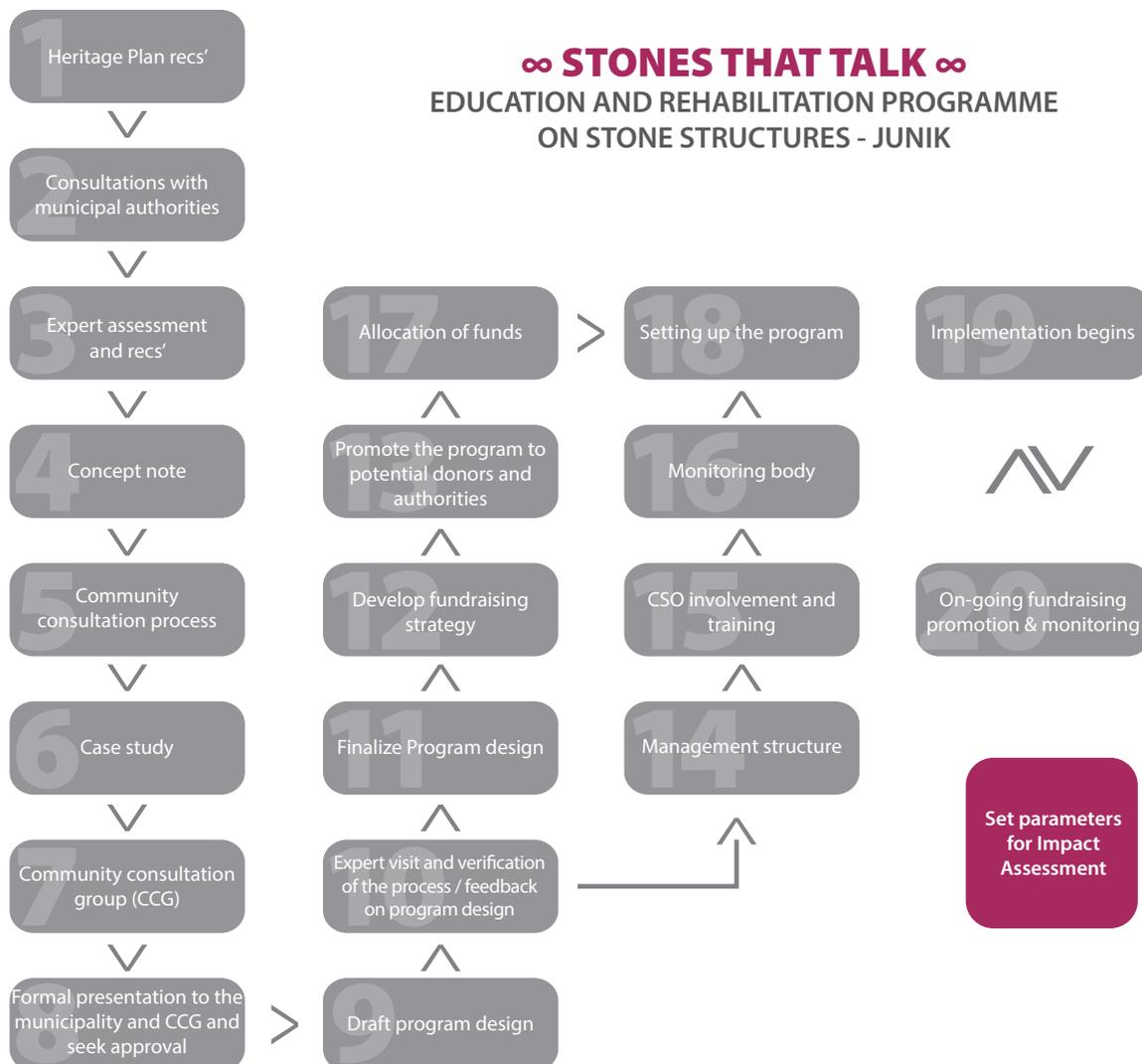
Leonita Kovaqi
Bekim Krasniqi
Suad Tosuni
Fatlum Kryeziu
Sheilla Avdiq
Laura Lutfiu Hoxha
Ardian Muqaj

Expert, representatives of institutions/authorities and private companies involved:

Terry O'Regan, Council of Europe expert – Ireland
Liam Scott, Heritage Council of Ireland
Valmira Gashi, expert from MESP
Fadil Bajraktari, expert from MESP
Nora Arapi, PCDK focal point from MCYS
Urgan Alija, local expert on data collection analysis
Rexhep Kqiku, web software developer
ASHA Company

Appendix 3 – Community based development methodology (Junik)

a. Chart



b. Junik case study

http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/cooperation/Kosovo/Publications/Junik-Case-Study_en.pdf

c. Stone that Talk Programme brochure

http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/cooperation/Kosovo/Publications/Stones_en.pdf

d. Prishtinë/Priština case study

<http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/cooperation/Kosovo/Publications/20130129-PristinaCS.pdf>

Appendix 4 - Strategic Considerations Checklist in implementing an integrated approach

A. Community Engagement and Awareness Raising

- Extensive ongoing data collection and validation to recognised international standards.
- Assessment of local structures, influences and issues to better understand the stakeholder's needs and wants.
- Building capacity among stakeholders to raise local/regional awareness of heritage and diversity issues.
- Cooperation, and guarantee of a certain level of coordination and consistency of approach with relevant partners.
- Promotion of effective knowledge-sharing based on research and facts.
- Ensuring the inclusion and participation of all communities, and accommodation of diverse ideas.
- Planning and undertaking of simultaneous awareness-raising activities with effective outreach to all communities and authorities, with necessary cultural appropriateness.
- Provision of strategies and resources for local awareness campaigns, which are both fun and educational.
- Provision of mechanisms to evaluate impact.

B. Protection measures

- Ensure the effective implementation of comprehensive and up-to-date legislation for the protection of heritage.
- Utilise heritage expertise.
- Develop proper management policies, programmes and plans.
- Maintain ongoing inventory preparation and detailed recording of different categories of cultural heritage in accordance with the criteria provided in the Cultural Heritage Law and the Guidelines on Inventory of Cultural Heritage Assets.
- Monitor the implementation of conservation projects in accordance with established criteria and procedures, and in balance with the reasonable requirements of the owners/occupants and local authorities' programmes and plans.
- Be aware of the "Archaeological Map" of the region so that preventive action can be taken if construction or other activities are intended to be undertaken in areas with archaeological features.
- Support the development of guidelines to encourage the retention, integration and enhancement of existing cultural and natural heritage.
- Be vigilant, and utilise all opportunities to encourage partnerships in the revitalisation of built heritage between responsible institutions, local authorities and owners.
- Focus on the long term impact in developing an integrated approach towards a sustainable and integrated network of national parks and reserves.

C. Planning and Design

- Thorough assessment with all stakeholders, particularly local communities.
- Realistic analysis of the organisational and operational capacity.
- Increased cooperation and coordination between institutions, civil society and local authorities.
- Comprehensive Heritage Management Plan: prioritisation, technical assessment, and feasibility study.
- Specific attention to the inclusion of marginalised communities.
- Intercultural sensitivity towards existing groups based on age, geographic location, ability, gender, race, ethnicity.
- Comprehensive analysis of fundraising options and market trends.
- Effective Public Information campaign
- Well-planned monitoring and evaluation mechanism, with the follow-up phase in mind.
- Timely and accurate documentation.
- Appropriate professional development opportunities.

D. Management measures require:

- Remaining loyal to the set parameters agreed by stakeholders.
- Ensuring systematic quality control of goods and services.
- Maintaining a balance between tasks and process.
- Treating monitoring and evaluation as a learning process.
- Careful balancing of financial and human resources, and programme activities.
- Undertaking of regular assessment and data analysis to be able to adapt to changes.
- Awareness of the potential linkages and possibilities of cooperation to save resources and build partnerships.
- Provision of regular updates to stakeholders on the project progress to reinforce engagement.
- Promotion of the completed works to demonstrate progress and attract internal and external donors, partners and investors.

5.5 Cultural Heritage and Tourism involves:

- Recognising that Heritage Tourism can be a major contributor to local economic development.
- Recognising that heritage projects can increase heritage tourism when they are carried out as part of an integrated heritage tourism package. It would be beneficial to prioritise projects which are allied to good tourism infrastructure and commercial developments such as restaurants and accommodation provision.
- Ensuring involvement and integration of local populations with local heritage sites and the associated heritage tourism development.
- In developing and presenting heritage tourism, be sensitive at all times to the cultural diversity of local populations and tourists.
- Striving to present a balanced narrative of the heritage and history of the region, ensuring that presentations and information provided is based at all times on sound professional knowledge and research.

- Ensuring that a reasonable proportion of the income derived from heritage tourism is channeled back into heritage conservation.
- Recognising the inherent risk that exploiting one dimension of heritage as a tourism attraction in an area may threaten the conservation or even very existence of other heritage resources in the area.
- Recognising that heritage tourists will expect internationally-recognised standards with regard to the local physical and hospitality infrastructure.
- Prior to presenting heritage sites as tourism attractions, ensure that the requisite heritage protection measures are in place.
- Prior to presenting heritage sites as tourism attractions ensure that the associated health and safety issues have been addressed.
- Recognising that uncoordinated heritage tourism can give rise to negative impacts on local populations such as loss of privacy, increased traffic congestion, damage to property and the local public environment and disruption of local lifestyles.

Within the framework of the European Union and the Council of Europe Joint Programme "Support to the Promotion of the Cultural Diversity", this Heritage Plan maps a road of reconnection, re-joining and reconciliation between people, their land and their heritage. The plan reaches out to the wide diaspora of each municipality to write a joined-up story of wisdom, understanding and progress, providing all citizens with a dynamic process for sharing that story with their neighbours and visitors."



The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organization. It includes 47 member states, 28 of which are members of the European Union. All Council of Europe member states have signed up to the European Convention on Human Rights, a treaty designed to protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The European Court of Human Rights oversees the implementation of the Convention in the member states.

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The European Union is a unique economic and political partnership between 28 democratic European countries. Its aims are peace, prosperity and freedom for its 500 million citizens in a fairer, safer world. To make things happen, EU countries set up bodies to run the EU and adopt its legislation. The main ones are the European Parliament (representing the people of Europe), the Council of the European Union (representing national governments) and the European Commission (representing the common EU interest).

<http://europa.eu>

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