



# PROTECTION OF MONUMENTS AND HISTORIC TOWNS



Erasmus+

# **PROTECTION OF MONUMENTS AND HISTORIC TOWNS**

## **TRANSFORMATION OF HERITAGE PROTECTION SYSTEM /POST-COMMUNIST COUNTRIES/**

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**There is a close relation between the country's reality (economic, social, cultural, etc.) and heritage preservation system.**

**Heritage protection system**  
**is the set of all the**  
**elements and factors that**  
**determine the condition of**  
**heritage existence (from**  
**single objects up to the**  
**whole historical cities).**

# Criterion

- the conservator's possibility to influence the shaping of particular elements of heritage preservation system.

# Levels of heritage preservation system:

**1<sup>st</sup> level** – conservation theory (doctrine)

**2<sup>nd</sup> level** – organization, financing, law, education, etc. (directly regarding heritage protection)

**3<sup>rd</sup> level** – country's politics, government, culture, economy, demographics, GNP, history, geographical location, level of development, etc.

1<sup>st</sup> Level is entirely controlled by conservators

2<sup>nd</sup> Level is partially controlled by conservators

3<sup>rd</sup> Level is entirely beyond the control of conservators

**What heritage preservation system is emerging from the transformation in post-communist countries)?**



**In post-communist countries  
the transformation continues  
– a new heritage protection  
system has not been  
established yet.**

**At the first stage of transformation a disintegration occurs; the managers of heritage protection system lose control over it.**

**When the new foundations have been laid (3rd. Level) it becomes possible to introduce a new heritage protection system (1st. and 2nd. Level); specialists regain control over the system.**

# Elements of heritage preservation system /before and after 1989/

Element of discipline	Communist system /before 1989/	Market economy & democracy /after 1989/
<b>Form of ownership</b>	<b>national ownership of monuments</b>	<b>private ownership of monuments</b>
<b>Responsibility for and financing of monuments</b>	<b>government is responsible for and finances historical monuments protection</b>	<b>owners are responsible for and finance monuments protection</b>
<b>Status of historical monument /heritage/ object</b>	<b>monuments are not commercial– their financing is not considered an investment</b>	<b>monuments are commercial - their financing is considered an investment</b>
<b>Position of conservation service</b>	<b>active role of conservation service</b>	<b>passive and limited position and role of conservation service</b>

**The market economy and democracy is probably a necessary, but not sufficient condition for a heritage protection system to be effective.**

**The transformation of the political system carried out in Poland (post-communist countries) does not guarantee the creation of effective heritage protection system.**

## **The transformation of the heritage notion:**

- **Very intensive and radical reshape in cultural environment, on a scale previously unknown.**
- **Emancipation of numerous social, ethnical, cultural groups worldwide.**
- **Recognition of equal value of all cultures and types of heritage**
- **Development of different forms of utilization of heritage as facility for economical growth or means of creating and strengthen identity**
- **Development of mass tourism and utilization of heritage as a very important factor in this process**
- **Common acceptance for liberal doctrine – decrease in states influence on many affairs**
- **Development of democracy and self-government**
- **Common commercialization in use of heritage**
- **Common adaptation of patterns and esthetics of mass culture**

**Traditional (objective)  
understanding of “historical  
monument” is replaced by  
a very broad (subjective)  
understanding of “heritage”**



# **Ontological status of heritage and of monument is different:**

- monument has the status of a past element**
- heritage has the status of a contemporary element**

**Heritage is an cultural product (not peace of art) that belong to the present (as far as its utilization and treatment), assessed according to various value systems.**

**According to the new,  
more broad meaning of  
heritage, new aims and  
methods of  
conservation should be  
formulated.**

**The new definition of heritage has been created, but the aims and methods remain the old.**

**In Poland (communist countries) has functioned a MONUMENTS preservation system**

**In Poland (communist countries) has functioned a MONUMENTS preservation system**

**Poland (other countries) needs a HERITAGE preservation system**

**A MONUMENTS preservation system cannot easily be transformed into a HERITAGE preservation system.**

# Conclusions:

**The transformation of political system (from communism to capitalism) caused the necessity of creation of a new heritage preservation system in the post-communist countries.**



# Conclusions:

**The new heritage preservation system must be adopted to the new political, economic and cultural system at all the 3 levels.**

## Conclusions:

**If conservators do not work out an integrated conception of a new heritage preservation system at the levels 1 and 2, then it will be shaped under the influence of the non-conservation conditions (3. level).**

## Conclusions:

**The transformation of the notion “monument” into “heritage” forces conservators to the creation of a new “heritage preservation system” (replacing a “monuments preservation system”).**





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