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WORKSHOP 2

Management plan for the development, preservation and improvement of the cultural landscapes of Sumadija vineyard region, Serbia

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The proposed draft of the “Management plan for the development, preservation and improvement of cultural landscapes of Sumadija vineyard region” represents the continuation of the project entitled “Capacity improvement of Sumadija and Pomoravlje region for the implementation of the European

Landscape Convention. Landscape character-assessment of the Sumadija and Pomoravlje region”, whose first phase entitled “Classification and description of the character of landscape of Sumadija and Pomoravlje region” was completed at the end of 2015. Types of character of landscapes were for the first time recognised, mapped and described by this project. The identified landscape character types pointed to a large overall diversity of landscapes, contrasting with respect to natural features, the potentials of natural and cultural heritage, resource development, and in relation to the degree of their preservation and recognition. The result of the project is the textual description and graphical charts of the selected landscape types and units, formed database, the project website and the published brochure. The results of the first phase of this project are the basis for the continuation of the second, much more detailed phase. Therefore, further elaboration of this project is proposed through the development of the above mentioned Management plan and it is planned to be drafted.

Background for drafting the Management Plan

Sumadija vineyard region is territorially located in the “Vineyard region of Central Serbia”, which includes valleys and hilly parts of the territory of the central part of the country, that is, the territory of Central Serbia. It occupies an area of 248,282.80 hectares, it has 38,954 farms, of which 5,000 are farms with vineyards. The total area under the vineyards is 1,119.79 ha, of which 534.21 ha are for wine, and 585.58 ha are for the table. Most of the region is at altitudes from 80 to 400 m, but the areas where vineyards are located are mostly located at altitudes of 150 to 350 m.

The climatic conditions are exceptionally good for cultivating vines and the tradition originates from the period when the Roman legions ruled in Sumadija region, who, in this impenetrable and inhospitable region, recognised the huge potential for cultivating vines, calling the toponyms of this region precisely by the vines, give the possibility to produce high-quality extractive wines. Wine is produced using modern production technologies, supplemented with traditional methods that have been used for centuries in the Sumadija region. Grape processing and wine production take place in the production facilities of 16 wineries which are members of the association of Sumadija winemakers.

In the first phase of the project entitled “Classification and description of the character of landscape of Sumadija and Pomoravlje region”, in the Sumadija vineyard region the following three types of landscapes with high potential and tradition of vineyard cultivation were selected: Tc1 19: Hilly-undulating landscape of river and lake terraces (surfaces); Tc1-20: Undulating hilly terrain – fruit growing priority; Tc1-21: Hilly-undulating landscape – farming/fruit growing.

Common key characteristics of these landscapes are: their great potential for fruit growing and wine growing; preserved old plantations of plums, apple trees, vines; the occurrence of modern plantation orchards; landscape geometrisation; fragments of deciduous forests in chutes and along watercourses; presence of thermal and mineral springs with high therapeutic value; potentials of mineral raw materials; artificial small accumulations; large number of buildings of architectural heritage, archaeological sites; communication of historical and cultural significance; presence of several types of morphology of the settlement. The above mentioned characteristics point to the presence of traditional cultural landscapes of Sumadija region.

On the other hand, there are many influences that modify these traditional cultural landscapes, such as:

Spreading of locust trees and devastation of former vineyards; Noticeable outflow of the population, aging of households; Cultivation of field crops on terrains suitable for fruit growing and wine growing; Polluted watercourses; Unused resources of mineral and healing waters; Destruction of construction heritage. Therefore, reasons for drafting a management plan are the following:

- strengthening of the regional identity and recognizing cultural landscapes of this region on a wider, global level;
- determined by previous project, economic, tourist, historical and other value of the area covered by management plan, has high demands for protection of landscape scene and sustainable use of cultural landscapes as a whole;
- character of the landscape effects on the development of tourism, real estate prices and the potentials of employment of the population, which is crucially important for the local and regional economy;
- cultural areas are prone to dynamic changes. Depopulation and abandonment of agricultural land strongly modify traditional cultural landscapes.

Mission and objectives of management plan

The goal of the management plan is to develop general guidelines and concrete projects for the development, protection and improvement of cultural landscapes that shape and make recognisable Sumadija vineyards.

Working method

The design of the project implies work in the office and fieldwork. The management plan contains textual and graphic part. Existing database, defined in the project "Classification and description of the character of landscapes of the Sumadija and Pomoravlje region", will be supplemented with new data on types of cultural landscapes and data of "Cadaster of elements of identified types of cultural landscape".

General content of the management plan

General content of management plan is as follows:

- extract from relevant studies, plans, historical maps, images etc.
- identification and assessment of the cultural landscapes of Sumadija vineyard (types and elements of cultural landscapes);
- proposal of general recommendations and concrete projects for development, preservation and improvement for individual identified and assessed types and elements of cultural areas of Sumadija vineyard;
- general recommendations as support of decision-making in new requirements for space occupying;
- development of concrete projects;
- recommendations for the implementation of the Management plan.

Indicative users of management plan

Indicative users of the management plan are the following: urban and spatial planning; economic development and tourism; protection of monuments and the environment; public enterprises; interested public, professional associations, municipal administration, educational institutions.