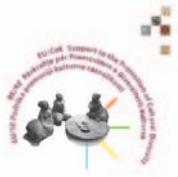




PEJË / PEĆ



EU/ COE JOINT PROJECT –
Support to the Promotion of Cultural Diversity
Local Economic Development component
Pilot Actions



JP - EU/CoE Support to the Promotion of Cultural Diversity (PCDK)

Funded
by the European Union



Implemented
by the Council of Europe

BACKGROUND

The Local Economic Development (LED) component of the European Union / Council of Europe Joint Action Support to the Promotion of Cultural Diversity in Kosovo* (PCDK) has been inspired by and 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 Regional Programme has a wider scope in the sphere of economic development, PCDK / LED focuses specifically on one aspect of the regional programme: heritage tourism. 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 West.

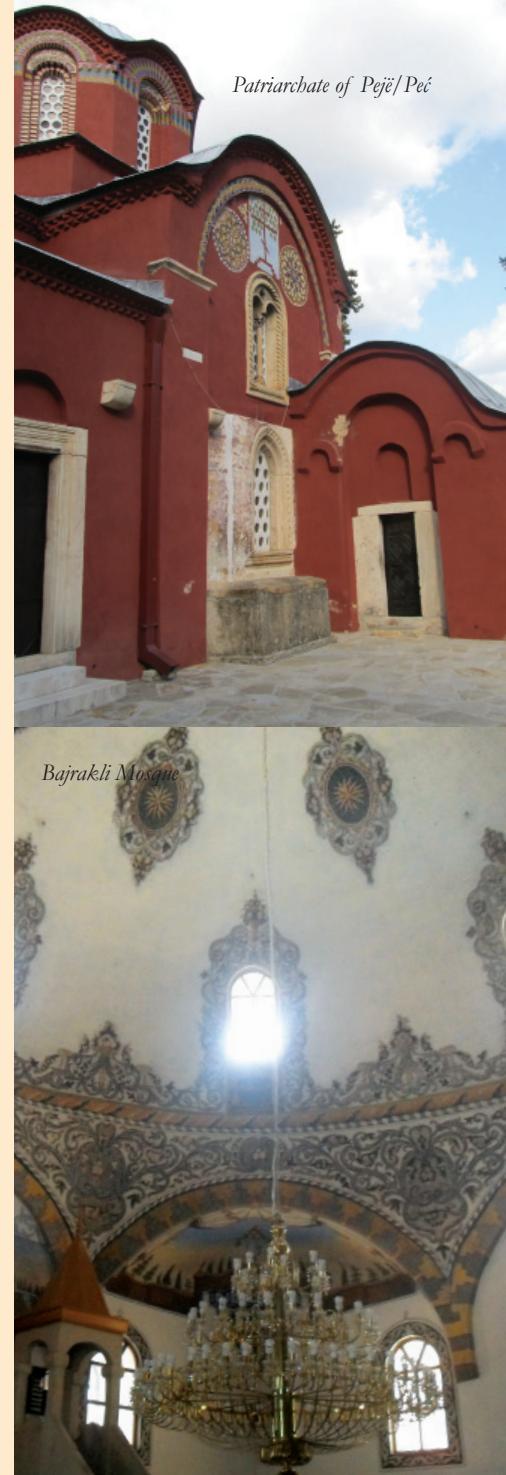
Working with the six municipalities of Kosovo West (Pejë/Peć, Gjakovë/Đakovica, Klinë/Klina, Deçan/Decane, Junik/Junik and Istog/Istok), the PCDK project highlights the importance of heritage protection, maintenance and management with an

integrated approach in the process of local economic development. This pilot project 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 all heritage sites and assets in the region, based on the information provided by local and central authorities and institutions. These 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 booklet has been prepared for stakeholders in the municipality of Pejë/Peć 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 municipality, in coordination with the five other municipalities in the region, as well as with central authorities.

*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.



Patriarchate of Pejë/Peć

Bajrakli Mosque



OBJECTIVES



Local Economic Development activities and pilot actions focused on the:

- Assessment of the capacity of natural and cultural heritage of the region;
- Creation of a strategic planning instrument for heritage protection and revitalisation;
- Development of effective partnerships between different stakeholders and encouragement of public/private initiatives on heritage;
- Establishment of a community based regional coordination office for heritage management.

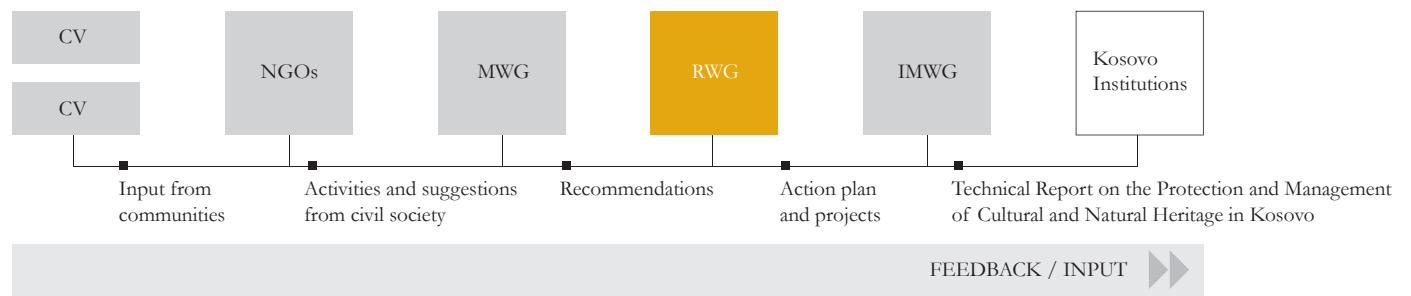
Lumbardhi/Bistrica river, Rugova gorge

METHODOLOGY

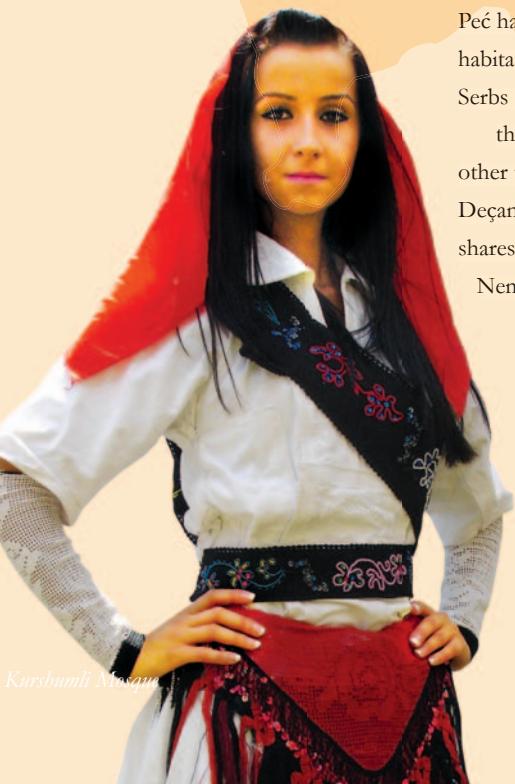
The Heritage Plan is a dynamic process to provide a strategic context for community actions with existing resources to ensure the greatest benefits to the local communities in the region; facilitating joint actions in identification of priorities for the distribution of available funds for the conservation and promotion of the heritage in coordination with the central authorities, the municipalities and other interested parties. To ensure active engagement of stakeholders, the PCDK project adopted the following methodology and workflow where there is continued feedback and input from communities to policy making while regular knowledge and skill transfer is encouraged to community level.



KNOWLEDGE / SKILL



MUNICIPALITY OF PEJË/PEĆ



Kurshumli Mosque

The city of Pejë/Peć is situated on the banks of Curse Mountains rising over the Rugova Mountains. It is the main economic and cultural center of the north-western part of Kosovo. The municipality of Pejë/Peć has a population of around 130,000 habitants, composed of Albanians (95%), Serbs (1%), RAE (1.9%) and others (2.1%).

the municipality of Pejë/Peć with the other two neighboring municipalities of Deçan/Dečane and Gjakova/Đakovica shares the values of the Bjeshket e

Nemuna/Prokletije National Park with the spectacular six km. long Rugova Canyon of the Lumëbardhi/Bistrica River.

Pejë/Peć offers a lot of cultural heritage assets of different historical periods. The preserved, most attractive ones are located in the center of the town: Bajrakli mosque (XV c.) Haxhi Bey Hammam (XV c.), Great

Bazaar (first time mentioned in the XV c.), and several characteristic urban residential buildings - „kullas“, of the wealthy and influential citizens of Pejë/Peć in the XIX c., such as Haxhi Zeka, Zenel bey, the Goska's and Limani's families. The monastery complex of Pejë/Peć Patriarchate (XIII-XVII c.), an important ecclesiastical seat of the Orthodox Serbs and a great Byzantine artistic center, is located near to the city centre at the entrance of Rugova Valley.

The tradition of the reach social life of the population of the area is expressed by performing of many traditional events and handcraft production, among which the Rugova games and the men's hat artisanship are recognised by the PCDK working groups as important to be developed by the practitioners and attractive to be visited by the tourists.

INVOLVEMENT OF PEJË/PEĆ MUNICIPALITY IN LED ACTIVITIES

In the context of the PCDK project, a number of actions were carried out with active involvement of local stakeholders of Pejë/Peć municipality.

- Opening the Office of the Promotion of Cultural Diversity
- Research on cultural and natural heritage assets and their heritage tourism capabilities were undertaken through surveys, interviews and semi structured meetings with stakeholders, with the participation of:
 - UBO Research Company
 - NGO – Intersos
 - NGO – 7 Shtator
 - Community volunteers
 - Centre for Cultural Heritage Pejë/Peć
 - Municipality of Pejë/Peć
- Round table on Heritage Plan
- Pilot actions were implemented simultaneously in six municipalities of Kosovo West. These pilot actions had three components which played crucial role for community engagement in preparation of the Regional Heritage Plan.

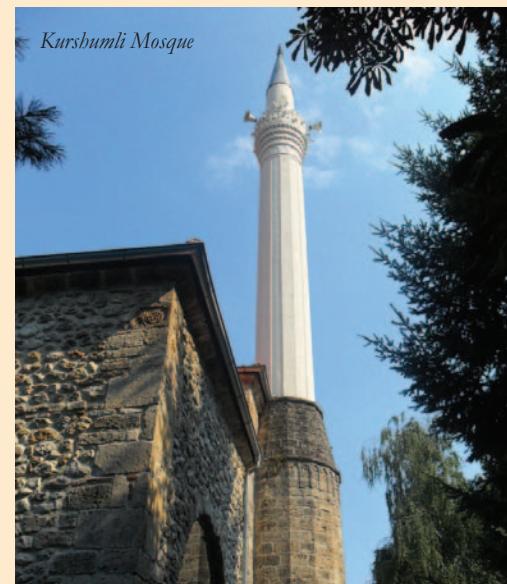
Big lake in Bjeshkët e Nemuna/Prokletije



Rugova traditional games event

Activity	Local stakeholders
A. IDENTIFICATION OF NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSETS	
I. Data-collection of selected natural and cultural heritage assets	
<i>Data-collection of immovable cultural heritage assets</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bajrakli Mosque (XV c.) • Haxhi Zeka's Mill (XIX) • Goskaj's Tower (XIX c.) • Haxhi bey's Hammam (XV c.) • Tahir bey's guest house (XIX/XX c.) • Qamil Limani's Tower (XIX/XX c.) • Zenel bey's Tower (XIX/XX c.); • Kurshumli Mosque (XVI c.) • Pejë/Peć Patriarchate (XIII-XVII c.); • Old Trade Market (XIX-XX c.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regional Centre for Cultural Heritage in Pejë/Peć; - NGO "Marimangat e Pejes" ("Spiders of Pejë/Peć"); - PCDK project team.
<i>Data-Collection of intangible cultural heritage assets</i>	
Hat maker artisan	NGO "Marimangat e Pejes" ("Spiders of Pejë/Peć")
<i>Data-Collection of natural heritage assets</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drini i Bardhë/Beli Drim (White Drini) spring • Grand Gorge Cave • Rugova Gorge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NGO "Marimangat e Pejes" ("Spiders of Pejë/Peć"); - Valmira Gashi (MESP)
II. Promotional material	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design of Heritage Map of Pejë/Peć • Design of Heritage Tourism Information Panel for a group of selected natural and cultural heritage assets • Design and production of information panels for each of the selected natural and cultural assets 	NGO "Marimangat e Pejes" ("Spiders of Pejë/Peć")
B. INTANGIBLE HERITAGE PRACTICE	
I. Identification	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hat's handicraft • Rugova games 	NGO "Marimangat e Pejes" ("Spiders of Pejë/Peć")
II. Training	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training on traditional hat making (3 students) • Training on man's traditional costumes (5 students) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> by Mr. Afrim Lata, traditional hat maker by Ms. Valmira Husaj, man's traditional costumes maker
III. Organisation of event on intangible cultural heritage	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organisation of the <i>Traditional Games of Rugora</i> (07.08. 2011), held in Rugova's valley - Kucishtë/Kučište • <i>Rugova games</i> - Documentary film and brochure 	NGO "Marimangat e Pejes" ("Spiders of Pejë/Peć")
C. JOINT REGIONAL EVENTS ON CULTURAL TOURISM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Participation on the Regional Autumn Festival</i> – held in Gjakova/Đakovica (25 November 2011) and in Pejë/Peć (26 November 2011). The Pejë/Peć municipality was represented by artisans, local food producers and traditional music performers. • "<i>HAJDE</i>" - <i>Train Heritage Tour</i>: Pristinë/Priština - Pejë/Peć, October 2011 (every weekend). More than 500 tourists visited selected cultural and natural heritage of Pejë/Peć in organised train tours. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NGO "Marimangat e Pejes" ("Spiders of Pejë/Peć "); - Artisans, producers and performers of Pejë/Peć; - PCDK project team. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regional Centre for Cultural Heritage in Pejë/Peć; - NGO "Marimangat e Pejes" ("Spiders of Pejë/Peć"); - PCDK project team.

Activity	Local stakeholders
Education and Awareness Raising	
Course design on Heritage and Diversity for elementary schools	Students, parents and teachers from the elementary school "Azdreni" - Pejë/Peć municipality
Dialogue session on Heritage and Local Development	RWG and MWG representatives of Pejë/Peć municipality, president of handicraft association "Mehmet Shoshi" in Pejë/ Peć, entrepreneur of touristic center 'ArtDesign' Rugova, photograph, NGOs
Hajde tours - site visits	Students from "Azdreni" elementary school; groups from minority communities; people with special needs
Teacher Training on Heritage and Diversity	2 teachers from "Azdreni" elementary schools in Peje/ Peć municipality
Institutional Capacity Development	
Design of guidelines for implementation of the Cultural Heritage Law	Director of Regional Centres for Cultural Heritage in Pejë/Peć
Study visits to the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Albania, Montenegro, Belgium, Switzerland, Ireland, Turkey, Venice, Slovenia.	RWG, MWGs, Director of CCH Pejë/Peć, NGOs
"Connections: Regional Conference on Intangible Cultural Heritage" March 2012 Prishtinë/Priština	NGO Intersos, NGO 7 Shtatori



RECOMMENDED PRIORITY ACTIONS FOR PEJË/PEĆ IN LINE WITH THE REGIONAL HERITAGE PLAN 2012-2015

The following is a list of recommendations for actions in Pejë/Peć that are in line with Regional Heritage Plan for Kosovo West 2012 - 2015 and with other municipalities in the region.

To raise awareness and promote appreciation of heritage in Kosovo West

- Participate in regional annual festivals to raise awareness among the public and funds for activities
- Support school-based awareness raising activities in the municipality
- Continue the organisation of the Rugova Games, with timely promotional materials
- 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 West

- Research and identify unique practices of traditions, games and heritage in Pejë /Peć in order to document 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

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

- 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
- Provide input to annual regional report on 'State of the Heritage' in Kosovo West
- 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

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

- Organise capacity development for increased heritage management skills, including local guides
- Participate in regular meetings / forum to share developments and be informed about the regional program
- Send your locally produced brochures and promotional materials to Regional Coordination Office

Develop locally appropriate and sustainable heritage tourism initiatives in Kosovo West

- Identify a stone tower (kulla) structure in the municipality to participate in a Cultural Routes initiative
- Invest in one cultural product item based on local cultural heritage practices, such as traditional hat-making, and identify another product.
- Support Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) initiatives, including Bed & Breakfast
- Make Pejë/Peć a tourist destination for outdoor/adventure sports including hiking, biking, snowshoeing, camping etc.

INVOLVED PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS

Main partners

Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports
Municipality of Pejë/Peć
NGOs Intersos, Marimangat e Pejës, 7
Shtatori, Hana and Briga

Regional Working Group members

Avdyl Hoxha, Director of the Regional Centre for Cultural Heritage - Pejë/Peć
• Osman Gojani, Director of the Regional Centre for Cultural Heritage -Gjakovë/Đakovica • Shpresa Gjonbalaj, Director of Cultural Department - Pejë/Peć municipality
• Engjëll Berisha, Director of the Library - Gjakovë/Đakovica municipality • Musa Kaliqani, Head of Economic Department - Istog/Istok municipality • Hajdin Morina, Education officer - Klinë/Klina municipality
• Nimon Tofaj, Vice Mayor of Junik/Junik

municipality • Shkëlzen Shehu, Urbanism Department - Deçan/Dečane municipality
• Kujtim Rrahmani, NGO Arteza - Gjakovë/Đakovica • Shasimete Selimaj, NGO 7 Shtatori - Pejë/Peć • Rexhep Maksutaj, NGO Agimi - Deçan/Dečane

Municipal Working Group members (Pejë/Peć)

Xhevrat Nikçi, Regional Centre for Cultural Heritage - Pejë/Peć • Shpresa Gjonbalaj, Cultural Department - Pejë/Peć municipality
• Virtyt Morina, Tourism Information Office - Pejë/Peć municipality • Aver Husaj, Cultural Department - Pejë/Peć municipality • Bashkim Lajçi, Ethnological Museum - Pejë/Peć municipality • Izet Musa, Education Department - Pejë/Peć municipality • Emine Tolaj

Women's Association - Pejë/Peć • Shasimete Selimaj, NGO 7 Shtatori - Pejë/Peć • Nizara Skenderović, NGO Hana - Pejë/Peć • Miroslavka Simonovi, NGO Briga - Pejë/Peć • Ejup Kastrati, Craftsman - Pejë/Peć • Agim Kelmendi, Handicraft Association, Pejë/Peć

Volunteers

Nizara Skenderović, NGO 7 Shtatori • Radovan Krstović, NGO Intersos • Sladana Mara, NGO Intersos

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

Terry O'Regan, Council of Europe expert - Ireland • Liam Scott, Heritage Council of Ireland • Bob Charmburry, Freelance

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