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LATVIA AND THE FARO CONVENTION

FARO CONVENTION MEETING

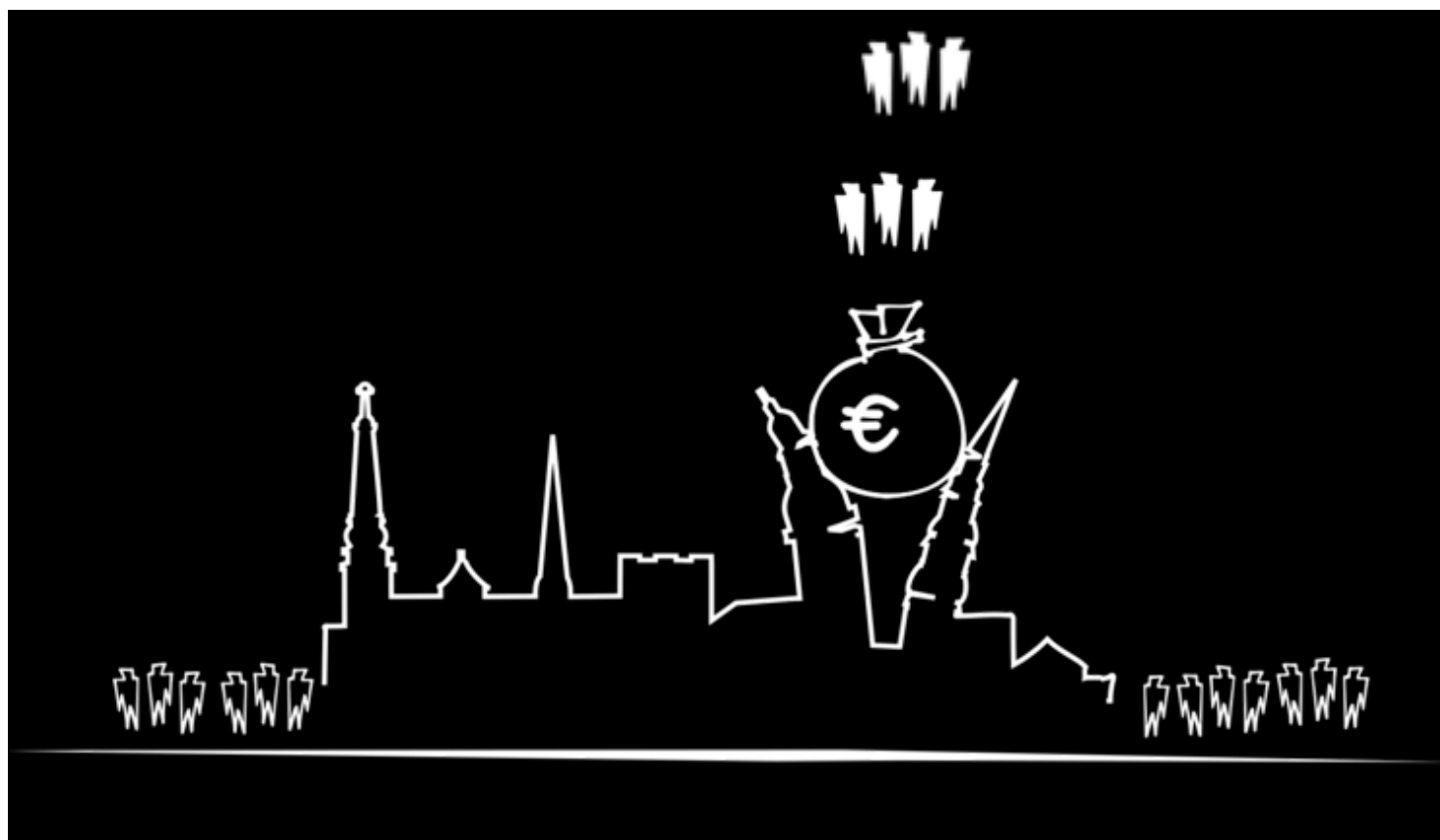
Vilnius, Lithuania

15–16 November 2017



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THE CULTURAL HERITAGE PRESERVATION DEMANDS FINANCIAL RESOURCES, BUT IT CAN BE ENDANGERED IF THE MONEY ARRIVES IN UNPREPARED ENVIRONMENT





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FARO CONVENTION

Due to the technical cooperation and consultation programme of the Council of Europe in 1996 – 2003 Latvia got new knowledge and experience, heritage philosophy and legislation was improved in due time, therefore Latvian legislation in heritage protection complied with the principles of the convention.





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FARO CONVENTION

Latvian heritage system is based on international conventions, charters, recommendations. Its legal basis is formed by two special laws, specific regulations in other laws, several regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers. The responsible authority is the State Inspection for Heritage Protection.





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MISSION AND DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVE OF THE INSPECTION

MISSION:

preserve the cultural heritage as a significant factor of qualitative human life – examine, preserve and include in our everyday life material cultural heritage, facilitate public awareness about culture historical values.

OBJECTIVE:

The objective is to create and develop society friendly, professional state authority of cultural heritage protection which helps the owners and users of cultural heritage properties to protect cultural heritage in qualitative manner according to the international principles. The inspection involves in activities to prevent the degradation of culture historical values.



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STATE PROTECTED CULTURAL MONUMENTS IN LATVIA

NUMBER OF CULTURAL MONUMENTS – 8865

INCLUDING ARCHAEOLOGY - 2507 -29%





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STATE PROTECTED CULTURAL MONUMENTS IN LATVIA

NUMBER OF CULTURAL MONUMENTS – 8865

INCLUDING ARCHITECTURE - 3457 -40%



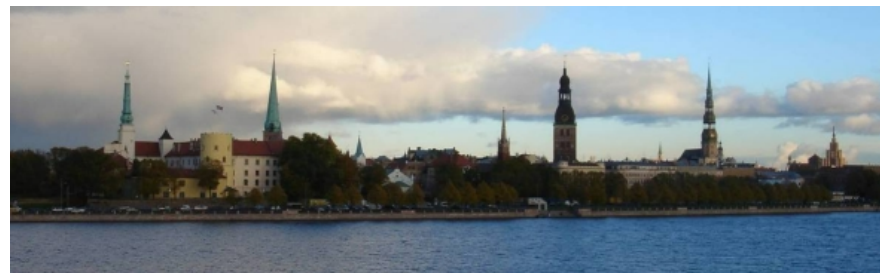


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STATE PROTECTED CULTURAL MONUMENTS IN LATVIA

NUMBER OF CULTURAL MONUMENTS – 8865

INCLUDING URBAN MONUMENTS - 46 -0,5%





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STATE PROTECTED CULTURAL MONUMENTS IN LATVIA

NUMBER OF CULTURAL MONUMENTS – 8865 INCLUDING ART - 2701 -30%





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STATE PROTECTED CULTURAL MONUMENTS IN LATVIA

NUMBER OF CULTURAL MONUMENTS – 8865

INCLUDING HISTORY - 135 -1,5%





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STATE PROTECTED CULTURAL MONUMENTS IN LATVIA

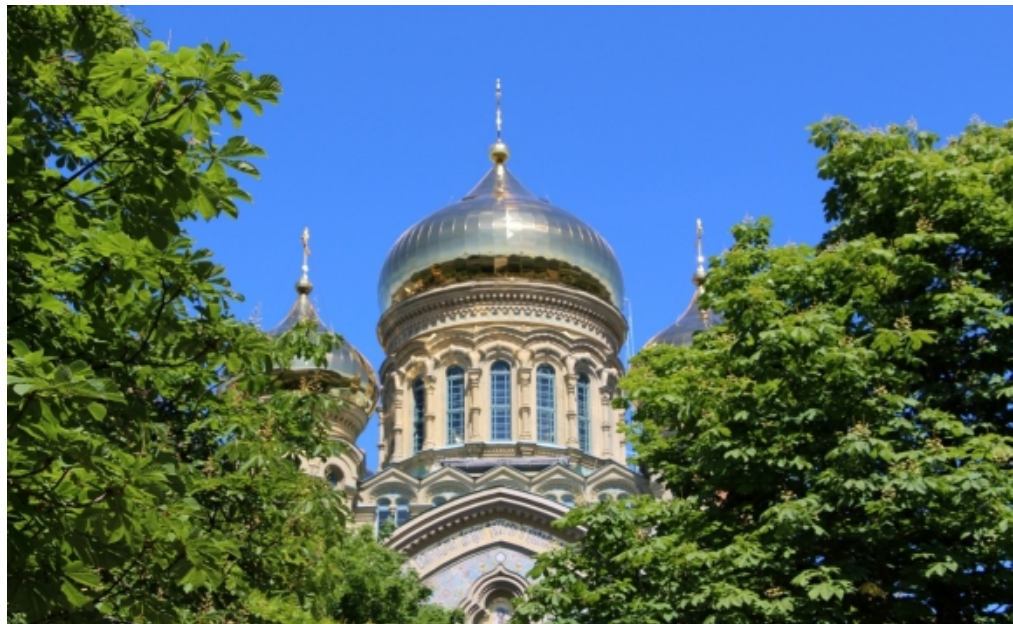
NUMBER OF CULTURAL MONUMENTS – 8865

INCLUDING INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE - 19 -0,2%





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Changes

due to FARO CONVENTION:



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1. New definition of heritage, giving new understanding based on society involvement and opinions;



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2. Quality of human life becomes the central issue in the work of heritage preservation;



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3. During the economic crisis using the force of the convention heritage field was preserved from total destruction;




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4. Significant argumentation in heritage preservation solutions is to take into account requirements of people with special needs;



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An aerial photograph of Riga, Latvia, taken from a high vantage point. The sun is shining brightly in the sky, creating a lens flare effect. The city's skyline is visible, including the spires of the Riga Cathedral and the spire of the St. Peter's Church. The Daugava River flows through the city, with several bridges crossing it. The city is densely packed with buildings, and the surrounding area is green with trees.

**5. Modern technologies,
namely digitisation, 3D
scanning, become more
important;**



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6. Support for internationally recognized principles and formation of a bridge between heritage and contemporary architecture and design in Latvia since 2000;



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7. Encouragement to develop more active dialogue and cooperation between different groups of interest. Due to impulse from the convention it was the heritage sector which suggested and created non-governmental cooperation network between professional cultural sectors of Latvia, establishing association „Time for culture” and involving also professional cultural organisations, thus creating cultural alliance.





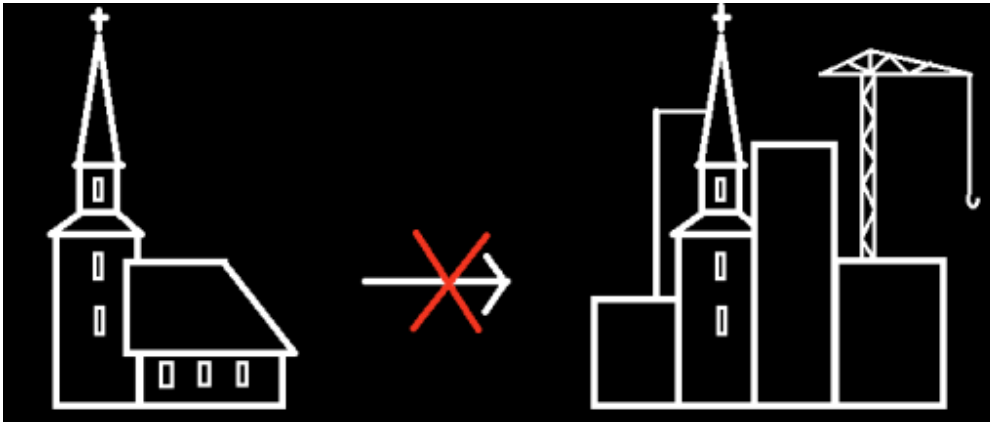
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8. Several objects in Latvia have become state protected in the situation when experts of national heritage authority do not recognize enough value, whereas the certain interest group of society does.



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9. New heritage policy prevents the degradation of heritage values.





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**10. Already 22 years
Latvia is participating
in the European
Heritage days**



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Problems:

- Given that the convention is created as a system of overall principles, there is a lack of best practice examples in international context.
- What can we do, if heritage argumentation and the convention is used for hidden political objectives of a certain group, which has actually nothing to do with heritage preservation?



A man has always wished to live and work in a comfortable, rational, aesthetically valuable environment which gives inspiration, completes, creates atmosphere, as well as in a place with the history. Each period of time leaves marks in the space – monuments which makes it richer. Heritage should not become a dogma, but for the sake of the quality of human living space it can not be ignored. Heritage is an entirety of human achievements – a huge, often undervalued power and energy, which can be effectively used for the site development.



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Thank you!

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Restoration of the Sacred Heritage

