

# REGIONAL HERITAGE PLAN NORTH

2015 - 2018



## Support to the Promotion of Cultural Diversity

Funded  
by the European Union  
and the Council of Europe



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# **Regional Heritage Plan North**

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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

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\* 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.

## How does Stone Age sound today?

All of those who have learned about the Neolithic archaeological remains near Runik, including a unique ocarina, entered Serbian Orthodox Monastery of Banjska or visited the Trepça/Trepča mine complex, don't really need lectures on the power of cultural and natural heritage – they have experienced it in its best edition: done by the people and for the people!

The fact that such treasures are 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.

Recent presentation of a talented young Kosovo artist Petrit Halilaj in prestigious Punta della Dogana art collection in Venice was inspired by an ocarina! So, when one has to foreword the Heritage Plan for the region of Kosovo North the words about heritage immediately get very concrete colours, shapes and – sounds!

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 northern Kosovo, with important majority of Serb community, such forward-looking approach to the 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. Even in Trepça/Trepča mine the modern evaluation of important industrial heritage shall go hand in hand with contemporary necessity to be inventive in finding joint political solutions, too – in order to enable local communities to use heritage for local development and to improve their quality of life. 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 to other flights through the difficult territories of our 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 North is the 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 a sustainable heritage-led initiatives and tourism component 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 in the 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. In the case of this Heritage Plan for Kosovo North, the entire region (including three municipalities north of the Ibër/Ibar river) could not be studied at an integrated

level due to the circumstances that prevented PCDK team working in the area during the preparation of this plan. The Heritage Plan North, regardless of geographic orientation, provides the foundation for all municipalities. While the PCDK project obtained available data on the municipalities north of the Ibër/Ibar River and offers some initial actions, a methodological approach on the ground is encouraged in these municipalities to ensure a more comprehensive regional plan. In addition, the Heritage Plan could play a crucial role as a platform for dialogue and cooperation between communities for local economic development.

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 local stakeholders. The implementation of the Heritage Plan in the four regions is based on the proven methodology in Kosovo West involving community engagement, data-collection, feasibility assessment, pilot actions, capacity development efforts, heritage plan preparation and implementation.

A systematic, analytical 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 issues all through a facilitated partnership and cooperation process involving all central, municipal, community, heritage and tourism stakeholders and players in the region.

The process has been based on partnership, cooperation and community ownership and in Kosovo North a key partner has been the NGO Mundësia.

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 the local stakeholders as a result of the process and highlights the strategic consideration in development processes. Finally, it sets out objectives and associated achievable actions with a clear 'roadmap' on how to implement the plan while providing brief highlights of each municipality of 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, 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 the Heritage Plan will have a significant impact on the local development of Kosovo North, gradually leading towards the 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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- Fatmir Beka

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- Harmonije Radoniqi
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## List of Abbreviations

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



# 01

*Ekspонат in the courtyard of the Museum of Crystals, Stan Terž/Stari Trg,  
Mitrovičë/Mitrovica Municipality*

# 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 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 heritagemay 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, envi-



*Wedding procession, Vllahi/Vlahinje village, Mitrovicë/Mitrovica municipality*

ronmental and economic value. Through six 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.

The Heritage Plan approach represents a practical, yet sustainable, framework strategy to facilitate and coordinate the five 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, re-

gional 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 three 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

**“ 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. ”**

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.

## 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, 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 par-

ticular 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 en-

vironment. 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 managed 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.



*Artwork associated with Trepča/Trepča mine*

A wide-angle photograph of a museum gallery. The room is filled with rows of red display cases, each containing various mineral specimens. The cases are arranged in a grid pattern, and the floor is a light-colored tile. The ceiling has several square recessed lights. Large windows are visible in the background, and the overall atmosphere is clean and professional.

02

*Exhibition of the Museum of Crystals, Stan Terg/Stari Trg, Mitrovicë/Mitrovica Municipality*

# HERITAGE OF KOSOVO NORTH<sup>1</sup>



The Heritage Plan of Kosovo North (Mitrovicë/Mitrovica region) covers the territory of three municipalities south of the Ibër/Ibar river: Mitrovicë/Mitrovica, Skendëraj/Srbica and Vushtrri/Vučitrn, which are mainly inhabited by Albanians, and the territory of three other municipalities north of the Ibër/Ibar: Zveçane/Zvečan, Zubin Potok and Leposavić/Leposaviq, as well as a part of Mitrovicë/Mitrovica town which are predominantly inhabited by Serbs.

Mitrovicë/Mitrovica is a mountainous district comprised of the Kopaonik, Rogozna and Mokra Gora mountains in the north and northwest, the Drenica and Qyqavica/Čičavica mountains that occupy the southwest part of the region, while in the southeast the territory's border extends to the Plain of Kosovo.

The region is the richest in Kosovo with regard to water, fed primarily by the two rivers of Ibër/Ibar and Sitinicë/Sitinca. Through the damming of the Ibër/Ibar River near the town of Zubin Potok in the 1970s the artificial lake of Gazivodë/Gazivoda was formed, which is the largest reservoir in Kosovo providing water for irrigating the agricultural land which makes up the Plain of Kosovo. The reservoir is also used to provide drinking water and electricity for the industrial activities of the Mitrovicë/Mitrovica and Prishtinë/Priština regions. Gazivodë/Gazivoda has great potential for the development of recreational tourism and fishing as it contains many species of fish. During the summer it is visited by large numbers of tourists coming from Mitrovicë/Mitrovica, Zubin Potok and Novi Pazar, as well as from the remote areas of Kosovo. The area around the lake is characterised by the beautiful landscape of the Mokra Gora and Rogozna mountains.

The area of Vushtrri/Vučitrn is rich with biodiversity and natural heritage. The mountains of Qyqavica/Čičavica and Shala/Šalja are known for their beautiful landscapes, with great potential for development of winter tourism.

The resource with great spa tourism potential is the thermal spring located on the slopes of the village of Banjë/Banja, in Skenderaj/Srbica Municipality. With an average flow of about 15 litres per second and a

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

constant temperature throughout the year (24.8°C), the spring was declared a monument of nature in 2007 with a protected area of 1000 m<sup>2</sup>.

This region had been well known for its mineral resources since ancient times. Trepça/Trepča mines in Stan Terg/Stari Trg near Mitrovicë/Mitrovica town was the biggest mine complex in this part of the Balkans for the exploitation of gold, silver, lead and zinc. The first evidence of ore extraction around Stan Terg/Stari Trg dates back to the end of the 13th and beginning of the 14th centuries by the local Serbian lords who invited Saxons to mine the ore. The lead and zinc extracted were used for the construction of defence structures along the Ibër/Ibar valley to protect the area from the Ottoman army invasion. In the 16th century the Ottomans restricted the export of metals, and until the beginning of the 20th century the extraction of ore was limited. The development of this resource started again in the 1930s when a big exploration programme was undertaken by a British company.

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The oldest findings from the archaeological sites of the region date back to the Neolithic Age. One of the most developed Stone Age settlements that have been ever discov-



*Performing traditional music (Rhapsody), Vllahi/Vlahinje village, Mitrovicë/Mitrovica municipality*

ered in Kosovo is located near the village of Runik, 10 km northwest of Skenderaj/Srbica, where artefacts of the so-called Starčevo culture (6th millennium BC) were discov-

ered. Among many pieces of monochrome and coloured pottery, a unique musical instrument was excavated, known as an ocarina – a fine baked clay wind instrument of small dimensions. Among the findings of the other two Neolithic settlements – Fafos I and II- which have been excavated about 200m apart in the immediate vicinity of Mitrovicë/Mitrovica town, the most characteristic are objects of cult (anthropomorphic figurines) of the Vinca culture. The archaeological site of Zhitcos/Žitkovac, located 3km north of Zveçane/Zvečan town, and the nearby sites of Karagaq/Karagač and Villaç/Valaçare evidence of the continuation of life during both Neolithic cultures of the earlier Starčevo and later the Vinca, as well as during the Bronze and Iron Ages, that is presented by the findings of the settlement and the cemetery in Karagaq/Karagač. Research carried out on the archaeological site in the village of Soçanicë/Sočanica in the municipality of Leposavić/Leposaviq, show that the prehistoric settlement developed into an urban Roman site in the last decades of the 1st century AD. Known by the name of Municipium D.D. (Dardanorum), its geographical position situated on a plateau between the two rivers of Ibër/Ibar and Soçanicë/Sočanica and surrounded by Kopaonik mountain, which is rich in precious metals, enabled the development of the town. The remains of a Roman forum, bath, basilica, cemetery and other urban built structures are testimony to its importance during Roman times when the town was stretched to approximately 30 ha. It is assumed that the villa rustica, the foundations of which were excavated in the village of Pestovë/Pestovo, 4 km from Vushtrri/Vučitrn between Ulpiana and Dardanorum, belonged to a rich family originating from Ulpiana. Two fortresses that had been active for a long period of time (Late Antique and Middle Ages), Stroc (Strov/Strovce) and Duboc/Dubovac Fortresses, situated on the hills around Vushtrri/Vučitrn, illustrate the practice of building fortifications around the ancient urban neighbourhoods. Near the Trepça/Trepča mine, the remains of another two fortresses were discovered - Zveçane/Zvečan and Rashan/Raşane - which played

important roles in protection of the rich mining area. The Fortress located in the centre of the old core of Vushtrri/Vučitrn town was built by the Byzantine emperor Justinian I in the 6th century. Due to its strategic position at the time and during Ottoman rule, the Castle was used for the needs of the military. It also served as a shelter for foreign merchant caravans.

\* \* \*

Among the oldest medieval Orthodox monuments in the region is the Monastery of Banjska which was founded by the Serbian King Milutin between 1312 and 1316 on the location of the seat of the Banjska diocese. At one time the monastery church was the mausoleum of the royal family. The remains of King Milutin, who died in 1321 in Nerodimje/Nerodimlje near Ferizaj/Uroševac, were transferred to Banjska Monastery and stayed there for several decades. His mother, Queen Teodora, was later buried in the church's northern chapel. The main church that was dedicated to Archdeacon Stephan is a monumental, one-aisled building with a dome and side chapels. It was built of dressed stone blocks in three colours which contribute to its decorative facades. The building style of the western part, with two belfries were constructed, as an integral part of the narthex. A relief sculpture of the Mother of God with Christ that was placed above the main portal shows the influence of Romanesque architecture from the Adriatic Coast.

Around 1434, the Serbian ruler Djuradj Branković built the church of Devič Monastery, located in the forest of Drenicë/Drenica, 5 km south of Skenderaj/Srbica. The monastery's church, dedicated to the Presentation of the Virgin into the Temple, was built around the tomb of the local saint, St. Ioannicius, from the 15th century. It was believed that its founder built the monastery in the memory of his virgin daughter recovering from an illness ("virgin" is translated as "devica" in Serbian) which is how the monastery got its name. The monastery was destroyed by the Ottomans and rebuilt after the re-establishment of the Pejë/Peć Patriarchate (1557) during the time of the Patriarch

Macarius. The church was painted in 1578. Fragments of frescoes are still preserved on the east side of the church and in the chapel above the tomb of St. Ioannicius. Dating from about the same period is Sokolica Monastery, in the village of Boletin/Boljetin in Zvečane/Zvečan Municipality. It was named "Sokolica" after the hill at whose foot it is located. Its popularity among local Christians was notably increased after a relief sculpture of the Mother of God with Christ from Banjska monastery was transferred here to be preserved from the Turks. The Monastery of Duboki Potok, situated on the hillside above the villages of Dobroshevinë/Dobroševina and Qitluk/Čitluk in Zubin Potok Municipality, was one of the most-visited Serbian spiritual sites during the Ottoman period, particularly during the 18th century when the holy relicts of the saints of ecumenical importance - Nicetas, Cosmas and Damian - were brought to the monastery from the Pejë/Peć Patriarchate.

The remains of the Catholic Church of St. Peter, built in the 13th century in Stan Terg/Stari Trg, recall the site's heyday when the ore mined in the area enabled its development. The church was built to meet the religious needs of the Catholic community, consisting of Saxon miners, the local Catholic population and merchants from Ragusa (Dubrovnik). On the former monumental building, a basilica-type building was constructed in the Gothic architectural style, of which only a part of the eastern wall, with fragments of frescoes in the Byzantine style, are preserved. According to sources the church ceased to function after the departure of the Saxons following the area's occupation by the Turks. After the 16th century there is no further mention of it as an active church.

\* \* \*

Many of the preserved monuments from Ottoman times reflect the complexity of different cultures and traditions that have met here. This was to be expected, considering the rich natural resources of the region and primarily the mineral wealth of Bajgora Mountain, which attracted many traders

from nearby urban centres. In this sense, some of the towns - such as Mitrovicë/Mitrovica, Vushtrri/Vučitrn and Zveçane/Zveçan - became the most developed cities in the region. The archives of Ragusa (Dubrovnik) and Venice present valuable information about the area of Mitrovicë/Mitrovica (Trepça/Trepça area) being visited and/or settled by many Ragusans, Venetians and Saxons in the 15th century. Later on, the influence of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, which secured military control over the Sanjak of Novi Pazar in 1878 - explicitly including Mitrovicë/Mitrovica (and controlled jointly with Ottoman troops after the Berlin Congress) - can be also seen through the heritage in the area.

Several residential facilities of wealthy Mitrovicë/Mitrovica citizens attest to the remarkable modernisation of the city under the influence of European architecture that cannot be seen in other cities in Kosovo. The oldest of these - the house of Arsim Leniqi, located in the central core of Mitrovicë/Mitrovica and probably built at the end of 18th century - is a two storey structure of the bondruk construction system, with a simple arrangement of façades with large, symmetrical windows facing on to the street. Two houses of Xhafer Deva, a citizen of Mitrovicë/Mitrovica who held important positions in the first half of the 20th century as the Mayor of the town and the Minister of Internal Affairs in the Albanian Government, are among the most representative of these residential buildings and are typical of the urban settlements of this time. The first house, probably built at the end of the 19th century, has a double function: the ground floor was used as commercial facility while the upper floor was for housing. A stucco frieze in the shape of a braid decorates the roof cornice of the façades. The other house, built in 1930, is a massive three-storey building with rich, neo-classical stucco decoration on the façades shaping cornices and pilasters with capitals that are most pronounced at the corners and around the windows.

The most impressive building of this time is the former Jadran Hotel. This monumental

residential building, intended to be an accommodation facility, was built in 1928. The central volume of the building façade dominates, joining two built flanks connected with an arch. Stucco decoration comprised of floral designs that were applied above the windows and on the corner pilasters, with volute ends or with added capitals, show the influence of European Secessionist architecture.

Among the rare and preserved residential buildings of the oriental type is the House of the Koroglu family, built at the end of the 19th century. A characteristic component of the southern side of the house is the porch that is shaped like a prism. Around the house lies a courtyard, itself surrounded by walls characteristic of the typical arrangement of Ottoman residential properties.

Only a few Muslim religious and public monuments from the Ottoman time are preserved in the area of Mitrovicë/Mitrovica. The only mosque, now in ruins, is Mazhiq/Mažić's Mosque - also known as the Mosque of Mujezin Hoxha as well as the Mosque of Trepça - located in the village of Mazhiq/Mažić in the near vicinity of Stan Terg/Stari Trg, 8 km from Mitrovicë/Mitrovica. It is assumed that this was one of the first mosques built in Kosovo in the late 14th century. The Mitrovicë/Mitrovica' Hammam, located in the former core of the old town, was built at the end of the 18th century. According to records, it was built by Suleiman Pasha Berisha and his nephew, Zejnullah Beg. The Hammam was designated to be used only by men. It was composed of three functional parts - the hot, lukewarm and cold sections - for which it remained in use until 1959. Decoration of stalactite patterns can still be seen on its interior walls.

The architectural monuments preserved in Vushtrri/Vučitrn present a more oriental character. It is known that the city was the centre of the oldest Ottoman Empire Sandjak in the Balkans, having great importance due its mines which were rich in gold, silver and steel. Its mosque and the nearby hammam, located in the north western part of

the city, were probably built in the 15th century by Gazi Ali Bey. The section comprised of the three domes of the double hammam is the oldest, originating from the 15th century, while the entrance section built of tuff (volcanic porous stone) was restored in the 17th century. The hammam is one of the best examples of such Ottoman building structures in Kosovo. Two residential houses that still exist and date from the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century are representative buildings of the old city centre. The House of Shaban Aga is an oriental residential facility on two floors. Closed galleries (çardak) are constructed on the frontal elevation, along with an unusually steep, external wooden staircase that leads to the second floor. The House of Mahmut Pasha Gjinolli is distinguished by its architectural decoration influenced by western European architectural elements that were applied on the front façade.

In the rural area of Vushtrri/Vučitrn Municipality, the kulla housing construction is presented. Examples of such buildings are Zymer Musiqi's House in the village of Ceçeli / Cecilia, the interior of which is organised into two separate units with a dominant position afforded to the oda, and the Tower of Kadri Husenin in the village of Ashlan/Ašljane, a two-storey facility built in chiselled stone blocks without mortar joints. The Boletin's Kullas, located in Boletin/Boljetin village in Zveçane/Zvečan Municipality, is the most interesting of the rural complexes. These two kullas, built at the end of 19th century by the rich Boletini family, originally functioned as an Oda e Burrave (Men's Guest Room) and Shtëpia e Zjarrit (House with the Fireplace).

Among the traditional infrastructural buildings recorded in the region, the oldest and most attractive is the Stone Bridge of Vushtrri/Vučitrn which has become a symbol of the town. It is assumed that the bridge, built over the Sitnicë/Sitnica River, was in use from ancient times (Late Antique / Early Medieval). Its characteristic feature is nine arches forming the stone structure of the bridge, although it is supposed that the

bridge originally had twelve arches. Two old stone millstructures preserved in the Municipality of Skenderaj/Srbica, one located near Lower Kopiliq /Kopilič village and owned by Mujë Shala, and the other located near the village of Kuçicë/Kučica, owned by the Beka family, are very modest but had an important function meeting the needs of the local inhabitants in the wider area.

The rich cultural and social life of the local population is demonstrated by the unique wedding ceremonies accompanied by creative games in which many local citizens participate, such as the Bajgora wedding performances that attract the wider public in Kosovo. Among these, the most attractive are the tradition of decorating a bride's face and hands with henna (characteristic of the Vushtrri/Vučitrn area) and a game called Ygdyl (from the Mitrovicë/Mitrovica area), accompanied with traditional rhapsodies (from Skenderaj/Srbica). These practices are particularly associated with residents of the picturesque Shalja Bajgore/Šalja Bajgora area that has absorbed the many influences of different cultures over the centuries, given that its rich mineral resources encouraged visits by many traders from different parts of Europe and the Middle East. In the wider context, this mining culture shaped community life and the labour force outside of mines while at the same time contributing to the rich cultural life of the communities living in this region.



Museum of Crystals, Ekspozat, Stan Terg/Stari Trg, Mitrovicë/Mitrovica Municipality



03

*Old infrastructure of Trepča/Trepča mine (1953.), Mitrovičë/Mitrovica Municipality*

# DEVELOPMENT OF A HERITAGE PLAN FOR KOSOVO NORTH



## 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 including 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.

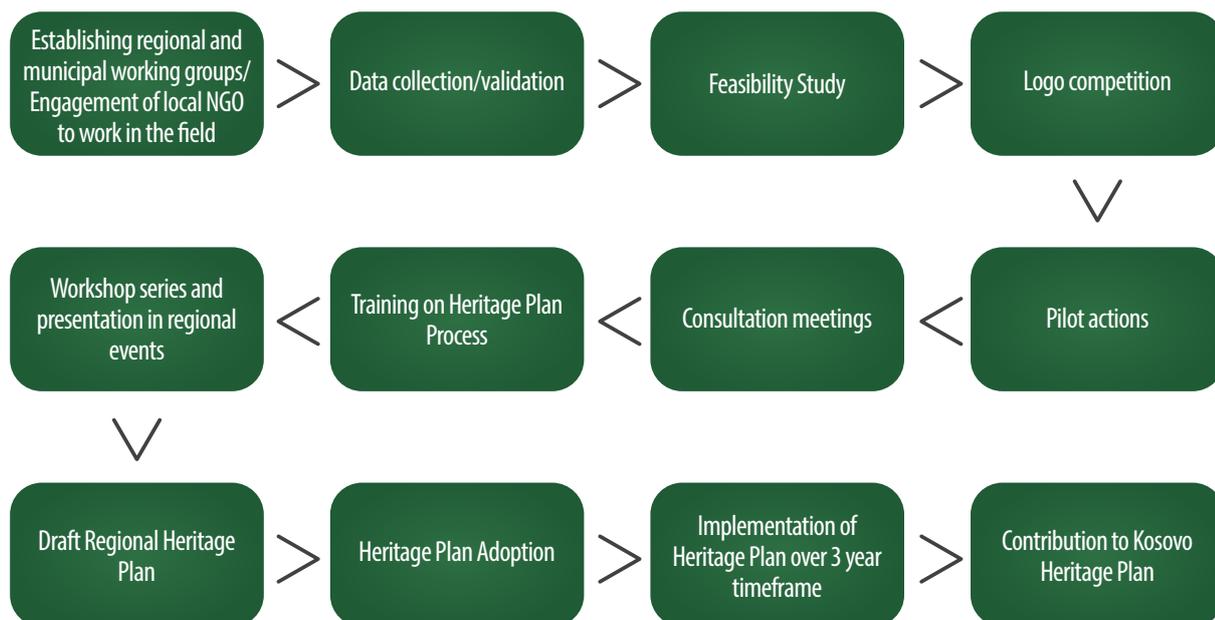
The successful methodology (as developed in Kosovo West) is structured in five phases:

- 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 in 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 Mitrovicë/Mitrovica.

### II. MESP experts provided:

Data regarding the protected natural monuments and areas in the region

### III. NGO Mundësia provided:

1. Information on the current condition of the selected cultural and natural monuments/sites
2. Presentation 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.

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 North 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 North'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 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.*

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**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



*Vernacular architectural complex, Vllahi/Vlahinje village, Mitrovicë/Mitrovica Municipality*

04

*House of Kadri Hyseni, village of Oshlan/Ošljane, Mitrovicë/Mitrovica municipality*

# 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:

- Increased involvement of the local authorities in protection and promotion of cultural and natural heritage as a resource for economic development.
- The expressing of interest in using cultural and natural heritage resources for economic development with a focus on the Shala e Bajgorës/Šalja Bajgore area for the development of a regional recreational centre in accordance with the strategic considerations of Mitrovicë/Mitrovica municipality.
- An initiative for the promotion and use of industrial heritage of the Trepça/Trepča mining centre for local economic and tourism development.
- A change of approach among CSOs 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.





Trepča/Trepča minning complex, Stan Terg /Stari Trg,  
Mitrovicë/Mitrovica Municipality

A landscape photograph of a rural area. In the foreground, a small stream flows through a grassy field. In the middle ground, there is a long, covered walkway or greenhouse structure. The background features a dense forest of bare trees under an overcast sky. The image is overlaid with a dark green rectangle on the right side containing the number '05'.

05

*Landscape of the village Rasha/Raşane, Shala e Bajgorës/Šalja Bajgora,  
Mitrovicë/Mitrovica Municipality*

# 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 North 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 North stands out with its rich minerals and mining areas that have marked the landscape and people's lifestyles over many centuries. Thanks to these resources, Mitrovicë/Mitrovica, Vushtrri/Vučitrn and Zveçane/Zvečan became the most developed cities in the region and were characterised by a specific culture associated with the mining industry. Although the three municipalities in the north of the region were not studied in this plan, there is adequate evidence that life revolved around mining culture in all six municipalities of the region, shaping their relationship to the land and other communities around them, and producing a distinctive sub-culture linked to mining. Historically, this has given rise to a sense of solidarity among these communities, with an identity, distinctive world view and sense of belonging developed from their occupation.*

*Regardless of how the recent political developments might have affected these relationships, the culture of mining communities is deeply rooted within identities. It continues to have great influence in this region, offering opportunities for future economic development beyond the mines themselves, focusing on landscape and heritage. Considering mining culture as part of this region's heritage combined with its distinctive landscape, exploring the opportunities around mining culture and landscape would be the initial starting point and would play a crucial role in linking all other aspects of heritage around this theme. Acknowledged by local communities, civil society and authorities, the presence of significant mines manifests itself as the strength of the region. Therefore, it calls for well-deserved attention in the recommended integrated approach for the region. However, our study and observations around mining culture show that these occupational communities often focus on men's work, sidelining women's involvement in the process who contribute half of the community life and labour force outside of mines. In particular, the role of women in recent years in building bridges between communities through heritage-led work calls for well-deserved and equal attention in designing future actions.*

*The Heritage Plan North recommends that stakeholders work toward an overall vision for development of the region where it presents good practices of an integrated approach using the characteristic mining structures and landscape, with specific focus on gender equality as the main resource ensuring democratic participation of its citizens.*

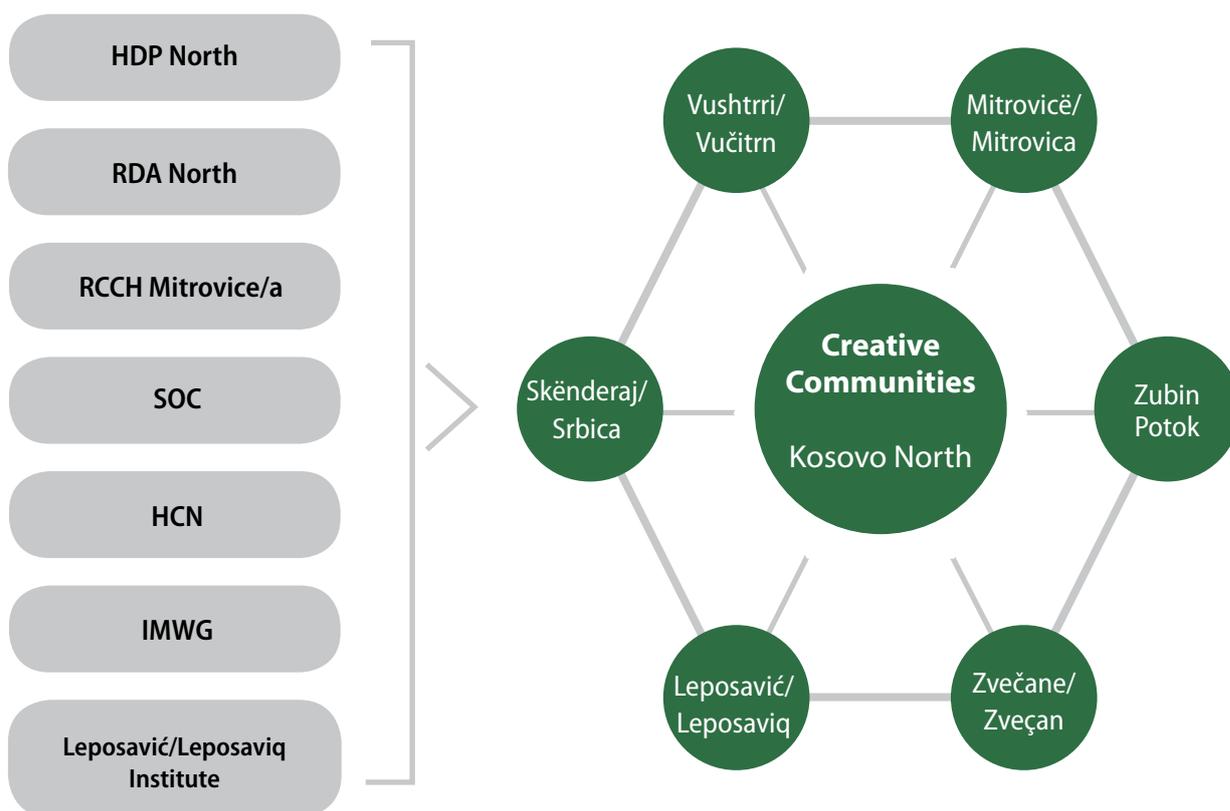
*The Plan encourages communities to focus on heritage assets that have specific meaning to society and a common value, paying specific attention to its development and management, generating creative initiatives. With active municipal and community involvement, the region could play a crucial role in presenting best practices of an integrated approach, combining elements of mining culture, landscape and intangible heritage practices. While the region engages these local resources, it can also utilise built heritage sites for events, bringing meaning to their existence today. Utilisation of old mine shafts could open opportunities where tourism around industrial heritage could be combined with community life, bringing with it with greater engagement of women.*

*Such an approach could bring forward the community and heritage-led initiatives under a Regional Programme, transforming local heritage into economic opportunities for the local population, whilst keeping the principles of democratic participation in mind.*

*The Regional Programme with the recommended vision could begin with each municipality identifying and designating an element of mining culture and developing ideas around it, integrating all elements of the community-based heritage categories. As for assets with importance to community, this could be an industrial heritage building, site, landscape of significance to the local population or a monument, as well as a community practice. This creative process should be inclusive and seek the opinion of all to have effective results.*

*Examples created in the region should integrate all elements, as with the Junik model, and could inspire similar private and public initiatives in the region. (Please see the methodology developed in the Case study on Urban Rehabilitation – Neighborhood of the Tourism Centre in Junik, Stone that Talk Programme in Junik and the Case study on Integrated Conservation – Conservation Basis for the Historic Centre of Prishtinë/Priština in Appendix 3, and follow the development of the case study concept note in the area of Stan Terg/Stari Trg).*

## 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 a 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 the safeguarding of traditional practices and events in line with 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 the length of time spent in the territory, is an asset for society and heritage-led initiatives. Each group / community has its own value sys-

tems 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.

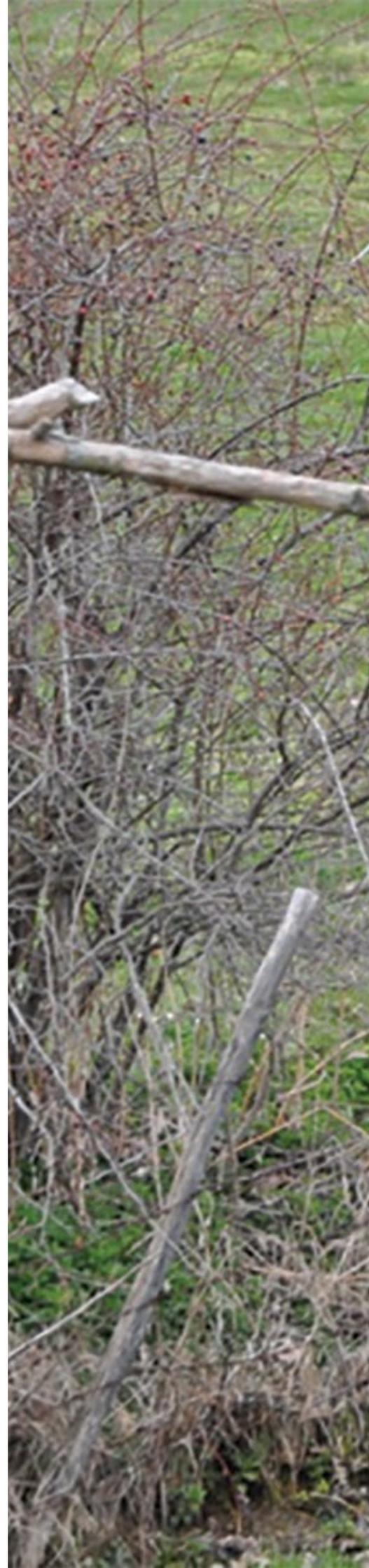
Heritage Education Programmes in schools are not intended only to introduce the importance of heritage to the younger generations but also to raise the overall level of heritage awareness in the community, encouraging respect for diversity and creativity

**“ 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. ”**

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.

## 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.





*Working in the field, village Rasha/Rašane, Mitrovicë/Mitrovica Municipality*



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*Landscape of Shala e Bajgorës/Šalja Bajgora, Mitrovicë/Mitrovica Municipality*

# 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 North

## 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, industrial 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-North, local schools, municipal Directorates of Education, practitioners, experts in heritage, MCYS)

**1.4 Promote the Regional Heritage Plan and its implementation results through a number of awareness activities working with local, regional and central partners, with particular focus on women's NGOs.**

(HDP, municipalities, RDA-North, women's NGOs)

**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 North

### 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)

#### 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-North)

#### 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) with special attention on the exhibition of minerals of the Trepça/Trepča mining centre collection.

(Museum of Kosovo, Crystal Museum, 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, MCYS)

## Objective 3

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

### 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 North”, 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 North.

### 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 three 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 North.

### 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 North)

#### **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 programme, working towards 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.





*Ruins of St. Peter Church, Stan Terg/Stari Trg, Mitrovicë/Mitrovica Municipality*



07

*Old dormitories of the Trepča/Trepča miners, Stan Terg/Stari Trg,  
Mitrovicë/Mitrovica Municipality*

# THE MUNICIPALITIES OF REGION NORTH



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 North.

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.

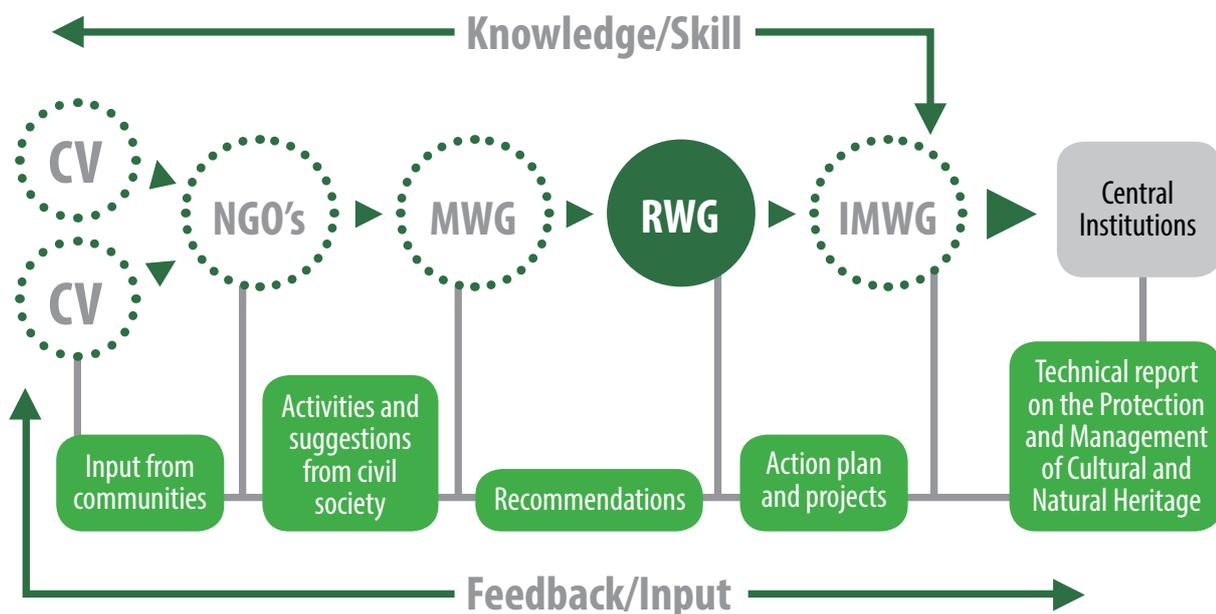
Piloted and recommended actions, however, have focused on attractions and features that are currently accessible and presentable to the general public and visitors for the purpose of heritage tourism.

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 Mitrovicë/ Mitrovica
  - 3 municipalities of Region North
  - NGO Mundesia
  - 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 Mitrovicë/ Mitrovica.
- 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 the participation of:
  - Elementary school teachers
  - Pupils
  - Parents
  - Artisans
  - Elders
  - Local communities
  - Local NGOs

### **Recommended immediate actions for the municipalities of the region**

- Identify areas for development of case studies on heritage
- Create a community action group to support the activities on heritage
- Discuss possibilities of municipal authorities' involvement
- 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 North.
- Develop a concept note to be endorsed and supported by the municipal authorities for implementation of the plan
- Work together with the HDP coordinator who will assure coordination and cooperation between municipalities and a regional approach.
- Seek the support of other organisations that are operating in the region for future implementation.
- Encourage the CSOs operating in the municipalities of Zvečane/Zvečan, Zubin Potok, Leposavić/Leposaviq and Mitrovicë/Mitrovica North to study the heritage plan and to seek opportunities for including the recommended activities in their working plans.



*Trepça/Trepča mine complex, detail, Mitrovicë/Mitrovica Municipality*

# Mitrovicë/Mitrovica Municipality

Mitrovicë/Mitrovica Municipality is located in the northern part of Kosovo, set on the Ibër/Ibar River. The town of Mitrovicë/Mitrovica is the economic and tourism centre of Kosovo North region.

The municipality of Mitrovicë /Mitrovica has 50 settlements with a population of around 71,909 inhabitants. The inhabitants are mostly Albanians (69%), Ashkali (0.89%), Roma (0.73%), Turks (0.73%), Bosniaks (0.57%), Gorani (0.31%), Serbs (0.19%), Egyptians (0.12%), Other (0.65%) and not Specified (2.9%). In Mitrovicë/Mitrovica municipality, Albanian, Serbian, Bosnian and Turkish are the official languages. It borders the municipalities of Zubin Potok, Vushtrri/Vučitrn, Podujevë/Podujevo, Zveçane/Zveçan and Skenderaj/Srbica.

## Tangible heritage

- Archaeological site Fafos I and Fafos II, near Mitrovicë/Mitrovica town (Neolithic)
- Ruins of St. Peter's Church, Stan Terg/Stari Trg (13th/14th century)
- Ruins of the Old Town, Vidishiq/Vidišić village (Medieval)
- Old Trepça/Trepča town, Zaselë/Zaselo village (Medieval)
- Ruins of medieval building complex, Mazhiq/Mažić village
- Mazhiq/Mažić Mosque (in ruins), Mazhiq/Mažić village (14th/15th century)
- Hammam, Mitrovicë/Mitrovica town (18th century)
- Arsim Leniqi's House, Mitrovicë/Mitrovica town (18th century)
- Tower of Sherif Gashi, Mitrovicë/Mitrovica town (18th century)
- Houses of Xhafer Deva, Mitrovicë/Mitrovica town (19th - 20th century)
- The House of the Korogly family, Mitrovicë/Mitrovica town (19th century)
- The House of Avni Boletini, Mitrovicë/Mitrovica town (19th century)
- The House of Florim Zeneli, Mitrovicë/Mitrovica town (19th century)
- The House of Nevzat Abrashi, Mitrovicë/Mitrovica town (19th century)
- The House of Spiro Budimiri, Mitrovicë/Mitrovica town (19th century)
- Tower of Ymer Ymeri, Mitrovicë/Mitrovica town (20th century)
- Jadran Hotel, Mitrovicë/Mitrovica town (1928)

## Natural heritage

- Mineral resource of Trepça/Trepča mines
- Landscape of Bajgorë/Bajgora village
- Landscape of Koshtovë/Košutovo village

## Intangible heritage

- Ygdyl- traditional game during weddings
- Plisi- traditional hat
- Saddle making
- Weaving/loom
- Kerlan me duqa- traditional dish



*The former "Jadran" Hotel (1928), Mitrovicë/Mitrovica city*

## Recommended priority actions contributing to regional plan and programming

### To raise awareness and promote appreciation of heritage in Kosovo North

- 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 protection of heritage in Kosovo North

- Research and identify unique practices of traditions, games and heritage in Mitrovicë/ Mitrovica 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
- Research and identify industrial heritage and make inventory according to developed guidelines
- List the buildings at risk in the municipality and report to the RCCH Mitrovicë/ Mitrovica region and the municipality



*Ruins of the mosque near the Mazhiq/Mažič village, Mitrovicë/Mitrovica Municipality*

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

- 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 North.
- 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 North**

- 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 North**

- Support Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) initiatives, including Bed & Breakfast
- Identify an example of landscape in the municipality to participate in the regional plan
- Invest in cultural products(industrial heritage) items based on local cultural heritage practices.
- Make Mitrovicë/ Mitrovica a tourist destination for unique industrial heritage accompanied by gastronomy and traditional events.

#### ***Rehabilitated industrial heritage site – Stan Terg/Stari Trg***

The old mining centre of Stan Terg/Stari Trg and picturesque landscape of Bajgorë/Bajgora mountain with its villages represent an attractive tourism potential of the region. Mixed cultures and religions over the generations who have met in this area primarily due to the development of the mining centre of Trepça/Trepča, are the inspiration of the community-based initiative for integration of people through their cultural traditions.

Actions: Restoration and rehabilitation of a designated area including the ruins of the Catholic Church of St. Peter and the residential buildings of the “English mining colony” in Stan Terg/Stari Trg; Adaptation of well secured mineshaft of Trepça/Trepča for visiting; Promotion of the Crystal Museum’s unique collection of minerals; Support traditional events and practices of village communities located on the slopes of Bajgorë/Bajgora.

Partners: Municipal authorities, members of the communities, RCCH, local NGOs, Regional Development Agency, Trepça/Trepča mining centre.

# Vushtrri/ Vuçitrn Municipality

The municipality of Vushtrri/Vuçitrn covers an area of approximately 344 km<sup>2</sup> and includes Vushtrri/Vuçitrn town and 66 villages. The total population is estimated at 69,870. Its ethnic composition is as follows: Albanians (98.5%), Serbs (5.4%), Turks (3.9%), Ashkali (2.0%), Roma (0.9%), Bosniaks (0.4%), Gorani (0.04%), Egyptians (0.01%), Other (0.7%). The municipality of Vushtrri/Vuçitrn has a border with the municipalities of Mitrovicë/Mitrovica, Podujevë/Podujevo, Skendëraj/Srbica, Obiliq/Obilić and Drenas /Glogovac.

## Tangible heritage

- Fortress of Stroc, village of Strovç/Strovce (Late Antique - Middle Age)
- Fortress near Vushtrri/Vuçitrn, village of Samadrexhë/Samodreža (Late Antique - Middle Age)
- Fortress (Castle) of Vushtri/Vuçitrn, old core of Vushtrri/Vuçitrn town (Early Byzantine, 6th century)
- Ruins of medieval buildings – Ceçan/Čeçani hill, village of Duboc/Dubovac (Roman - Medieval)
- “Te jorgovanet/Kod Jargovana” Archaeological Site, village of Novosellë/Novoselo (Late Antique - Middle Age)
- Ligata Archaeological Site, village of Stanovc i ulët/Donji Stanovac (Roman)
- Selishte Archaeological Site (Ceremidehane), Balince village (Roman)
- Villa Rustica, Pestovë/Pestovo village (Roman)
- Hammam, Vushtrri/Vuçitrn town (15th century)
- Stone Bridge, Vushtrri/Vuçitrn town (Late Antique - 19th century)
- The Church of St. Lazar, village of Samadregjë/Samodreža (14th century)
- Gazi Ali Beut Mosque, Vushtrri/Vuçitrn town (15th century)
- The House of Shaban Aga, Vushtrri/Vuçitrn town (19th century)
- The House of Mahmut Pasha Gjinolli, Vushtrri/Vuçitrn town (19th -20th century)
- The House of the Pantina family, Vushtrri/Vuçitrn town (20th century)
- Zymer Musiqit house, village of Ceceli/Cecelija (19th century)
- The Tower of Kadri Hyseni, village of Ashlan/Ašljane (19th century)
- Tower of Zejnullah Beu, village of Balincë/Balince (20th century)



*Old bridge in Vushtrri/Vuçitrn*

### **Natural heritage**

- Qyqavica/Čičavica and Shala/Šalja forests

### **Intangible heritage**

- Henna adornment (bridal decoration), Vushtrri/Vučitrn
- Tinsmith artisanship, Vushtrri/Vučitrn
- Wheelwright

## **Recommended priority actions contributing to regional plan and programming**

### **To raise awareness and promote appreciation of heritage in Kosovo North**

- 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 protection of heritage in Kosovo North**

- Research and identify unique practices of traditions, games and heritage in Vushtrri/Vučitrn 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 Mitrovicë/ Mitrovica region and the municipality

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

- 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 regional website regularly updated for others to be informed on upcoming events.
- Provide input to annual regional report on “Our Common Heritage” in Kosovo North
- 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 diverse 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 North**

- 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 North**

- Identify a landscape in Vushtrri/Vučitrn municipality to participate in the regional plan
- Invest in promotion and safeguarding of traditional practices
- Support Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) initiatives, including Bed & Breakfast



***Promotion of the region as a trade centre of minerals: Museum with interactive education programme to be located in the Castle of Vushtrri/ Vučitrn***

It is well known that along with Mitrovicë/Mitrovica, Vushtrri/Vučitrn developed due to the mineral wealth of the area. This is evidenced by many of the fortified structures constructed nearby, which served to protect the resources, the two old stone bridges that allowed circulation of the trade market, as well as some of the most important structures located in the old centre of the town, such as the medieval castle that was a station of foreign merchant caravans during Ottoman times.

Action: Development of a interactive museum programme for the promotion of mining culture in the region. This could be located in the Castle of Vushtrri/Vučitrn, which is in the process of being restored.

Partners: Municipal authorities, RCCH, Museum of Kosovo.



*Foundations of villa rustica, village of Pestovë/Pestovo, Vushtrri/Vučitrn Municipality (Photo: MCYS)*

# Skenderaj/Srbica Municipality

The municipality of Skenderaj/Srbica covers an area of approximately 378 km<sup>2</sup> and includes Skendëraj/Srbica town and 52 villages. The total population is 50,858, with an ethnic composition of Albanians (99.66%), Serbs (0.9%), Bosniaks (0.8%), Ashkali (0.1%), Egyptians (0.01%), Turks (0.01%), Others (0.09%). The municipality of Skendëraj/Srbica has a border with the municipalities of Mitrovicë/Mitrovica, Zubin Potok, Vushtrri/Vučitrn, Istog/Istok, Klinë/Klina and Drenas/ Glogovac.

## Tangible heritage

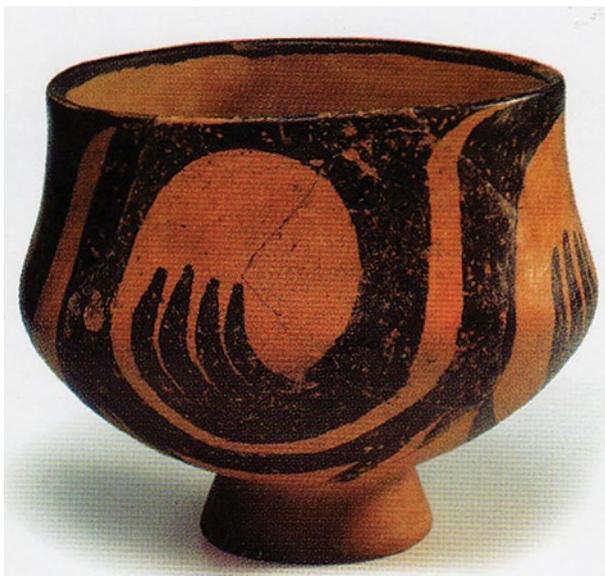
- Archaeological Site of Runik, village of Runik (Neolithic)
- Gradina Fortress, village of Tushilë/Tušile (Neolithic)
- Roman Necropolis, village of Upper Kopiliq/Kopilič
- Ruins of St. George's Church, village of Runik (Medieval)
- Ruins of St John's Church, village of Leçinë/Lećina (Medieval)
- Ruins of the "Nuns Church", village of Leçinë Lećina (Medieval)
- Devic/Devič Monastery, in the vicinity of Skendëraj/Srbica town (15th century)
- Old mill of the Mujë Shala Family, village Kuçica/Kučica (early 20th century)
- Old mill of the Beka Family, village Kuçica/ Kuçica (early 20th century)
- Residential complex of the Jashari family (Jasharaj neighborhood), village of Prekaz (20th century)

## Natural heritage

- Thermal mineral water spring, village of Banjë/Banja

## Intangible heritage

- Rhapsody traditional songs, Skenderaj/Srbica



Neolithic vase, Archaeological site of Runik, Skenderaj/Srbica Municipality (Photo: MCYS)



Ocarina, Neolithic music instrument, Archaeological site of Runik, Skenderaj/Srbica Municipality (Photo: MCYS)

## **Recommended priority actions contributing to regional plan and programming**

### **To raise awareness and promote appreciation of heritage in Kosovo North**

- Organise neighbourhood / heritage walks to raise awareness among the local population, familiarising them 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 North**

- Research and identify unique practices of traditions, games and heritage in Skenderaj/Srbica 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 Mitrovicë/Mitrovica region and the municipality

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

- 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 regional website regularly updated for others to be informed on upcoming events.
- Provide input to annual regional report on "Our Common Heritage" in Kosovo North
- 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 diverse 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 North**

- 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 North

- Identify a landscape and/or industrial heritage in the Skenderaj/Srbica municipality to participate in the regional plan.
- Invest in cultural product items based on local cultural heritage practices, such as traditional Rhapsody songs.
- Support Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) initiatives, including Bed & Breakfast

### *Spa tourism development: Thermal mineral water spring near the village of Banjë/Banja*

The great capacity of the spring as well as the rocky ground from which hot water flows creates a unique landscape that is recognised as having potential for the development of spa tourism. The greatest benefit of this natural wealth could see local residents developing initiatives for the promotion of their traditional achievements.

Action: Programme and projects for development of spa tourism infrastructural capacity to be enriched with attractions of local cultural events, practices and products.

Partners: Municipal authorities, community members.



*Spa, village Banjë/Banja, Skenderaj/Srbica Municipality*

# Leposavić/Leposaviq Municipality

The municipality of Leposavić/Leposaviq covers an area of approximately 750 km<sup>2</sup> and includes Leposavić/Leposaviq town and 72 villages. According to the municipal administration the total population is estimated at 18,600. Its ethnic composition is approximately 96.77% Serbs that inhabit the town of Leposavić/Leposaviq and the surrounding villages; Albanians (approximately 1.61%) residing in the villages of Koshtovë/Košutovo, Bisticë e Shalës/Šaljska Bistrica and Cerajë/Ceranje; Bosniaks (1.61%), Roma (0.06%) residing in Leposavić/Leposaviq and Kamen village; Ashkali (0.04%) residing in Leposavić/Leposaviq. The municipality of Leposavić/Leposaviq borders with the municipalities of Zveçane/Zveçan, Podujevë/Podujevo and Mitrovicë/Mitrovica.

## Tangible heritage

- Municipium DD ("Dardanorum") Archaeological Site, Soçanicë/Sočanica village (Roman)
- Ruins of the "Mramor" Church, Ceranska Reka/Cerajë (Medieval)
- Ruins of Borjani Church, Kamen, Leshak/Lešak (Medieval)
- Ruins of St. Constantin and Helen Church, Sllatinë/Slatina village (Medieval)
- Ruins of the Cemetery Church, Kajkovë/Kajkovo village (Medieval)
- St. John's Church, Soçanicë/ Sočanica village (Medieval)
- Church of St. Vasilije Ostroški (Medieval)
- Ruins of the Turkish Watchtower (Karaula), Ostraqë/Ostraće village (19th century)

## Natural heritage

- Spa/ mineral spring, Vernic / Vrnjica

## Intangible heritage

- Information is not available at the moment. Recommended to be researched

## Recommended priority actions contributing to regional plan and programming

### To raise awareness and promote appreciation of heritage in Kosovo North

- Organise neighbourhood / heritage walks to raise awareness among the local population, familiarising them 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 North

- Research and identify unique practices of traditions, games and heritage in Leposaviq/ Leposavić 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

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

- 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 regional website regularly updated for others to be informed on upcoming events.
- Provide input to annual regional report on “Our Common Heritage” in Kosovo North
- 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 diverse heritage-led initiatives are diverse, inclusive and distinctive to attract the community members and visitors



*Fibulae discovered in Municipium DD.  
(Photo: MCYS)*

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

- 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 North

- Support Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) initiatives, including Bed & Breakfast



*Municipium D.D. (Dardanorum), 1st century AD, Municipality of Leposavić/Leposaviq (photo: MCYS)*

# Zubin Potok Municipality

The municipality of Zubin Potok covers an area of approximately 333 km<sup>2</sup> and includes Zubin Potok town and 64 villages. The total population is estimated at 14,900. The ethnic composition is Kosovo Serbs (approximately 93.2%) residing in the town and surrounding villages and Albanian (approximately 6.7%) residing in Çabër/Čabra village. The municipality of Zubin Potok borders with the municipalities of Skenderaj/Srbica, Istog/Istok, Zvečan/Zveçane and Mitrovicë/Mitrovica.

## **Tangible heritage**

- Ruins of the small church in Jasenovik / Jasenovik, Jasenovik village (Medieval)
- Monastery of Duboki Potok, above the villages of Dobroshevinë/Dobroševina and Qitluk/Čitluk (14th century)
- St. Nicholas Church, Crepullë/Creputa village (14th-15th century)

## **Natural heritage**

- Gazivodë/Gazivoda artificial lake

## **Intangible heritage**

- Information is not available at the moment. Recommended to be researched

## **Recommended priority actions contributing to regional plan and programming**

### **To raise awareness and promote appreciation of heritage in Kosovo North**

- Organise neighbourhood / heritage walks to raise awareness among the local population, familiarising them 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 North**

- Research and identify unique practices of traditions, games and heritage in Zubin Potok 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

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

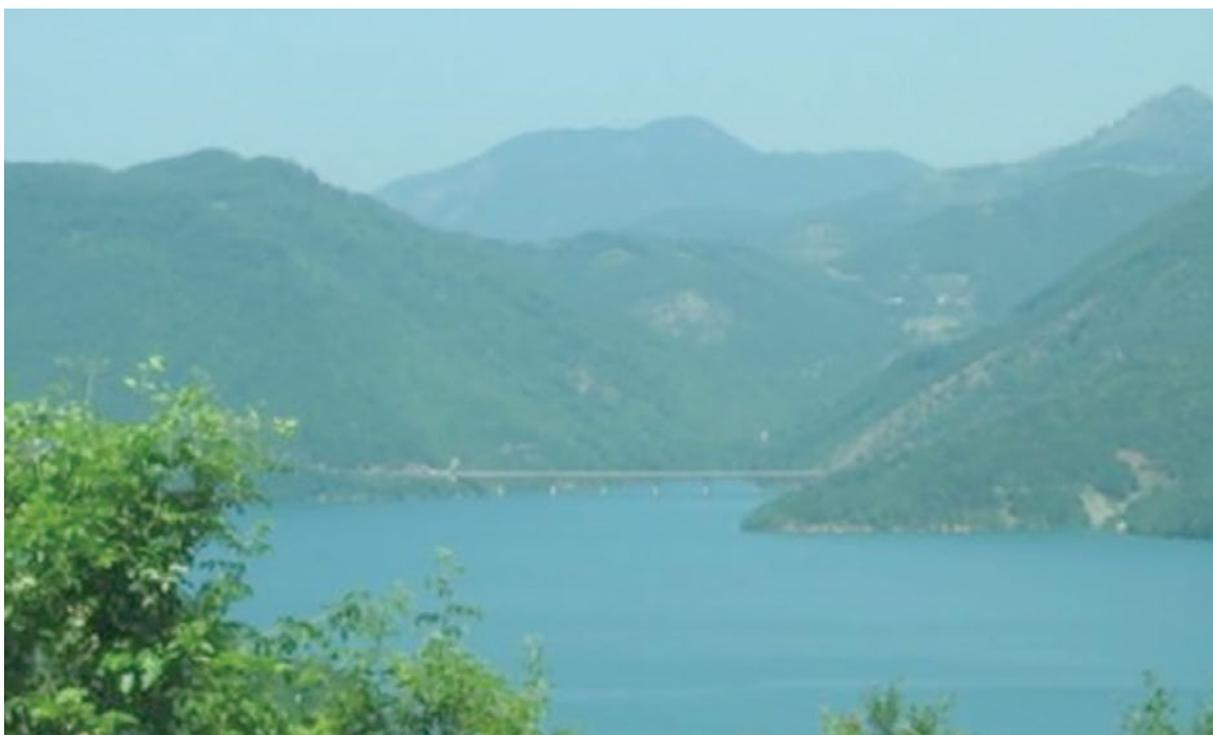
- Identify necessary tourism service delivery standards and provide training to local service providers
- Have a clear updated heritage tourism map of all assets that are ready for visitors.
- Keep regional website regularly updated for others to be informed on upcoming events.
- Provide input to annual regional report on “Our Common Heritage” in Kosovo North
- 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
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### **To develop and coordinate appropriate management practices for the care of heritage in Kosovo North**

- 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 North**

- Identify a landscape and industrial heritage in Zubin Potok municipality to participate in the regional plan
- Support Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) initiatives, including Bed & Breakfast



*Gazivodë/Gazovoda artificial lake, Zubin Potok Municipality*

# Zvečane/Zvečan Municipality

The municipality of Zvečane/Zvečan covers an area of approximately 122 km<sup>2</sup> and includes Zvečane/Zvečan town and 35 villages. The total population is estimated at 16,650 inhabitants with the following ethnic composition: Serbs (over 96.09%) residing in the town Zvečane/Zvečan and in 32 villages; Albanians (approximately 2.10%) residing in Boletin/Boljetin, Lipë/Lipa, and Zhazhë/Žaža villages, Bosniaks, Roma and Gorani (approximately 1.80%). The municipality of Zvečane/Zvečan borders with the municipalities of Leposavić/Leposaviq in the east, Mitrovicë/Mitrovica in the south and Zubin Potok in the west.

## Tangible heritage

- Archaeological Site - Medieval city of Zvečane/Zvečan
- Remains of St Panteleimon Church, Zvečane/Zvečan town (Medieval)
- Monastery of Banjska, Banja e Mitrovicës/Mitrovička Banja (15th century)
- Sokolica Monastery, village of Boletin/Boljetin (15th century)
- The Church of the Holy Virgin, Zvečane/Zvečan (Medieval)
- The Church of St. Paraskevi, Zvečane/Zvečan (Medieval)
- Kulla of Isa Boletini, Boletin/Boljetin village (19th century)

## Natural heritage

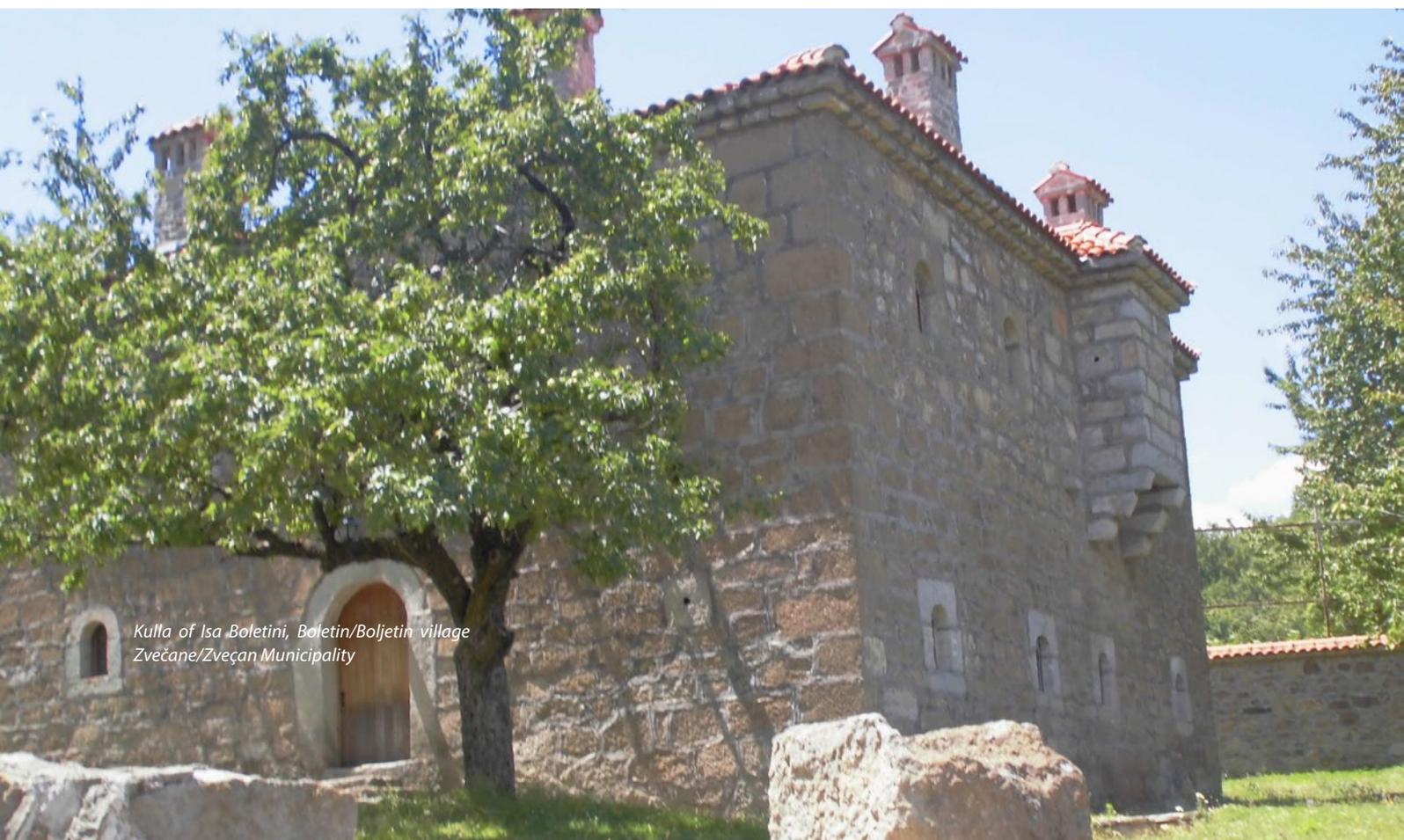
- Information is not available at the moment. Recommended to be researched

## Intangible heritage

- Sewing and knitting – Necovanje lacework

## Recommended priority actions contributing to regional plan and programming

### To raise awareness and promote appreciation of heritage in Kosovo North



*Kulla of Isa Boletini, Boletin/Boljetin village  
Zvečane/Zvečan Municipality*

- Organise neighbourhood / heritage walks to raise awareness among the local population, familiarising them 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 North**

- Research and identify unique practices of traditions, games and heritage in Zveçane/ Zveçan 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

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

- 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 regional website regularly updated for others to be informed on upcoming events.
- Provide input to annual regional report on "Our Common Heritage" in Kosovo North
- 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 diverse 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 North**

- 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 North**

- Identify a landscape and /or industrial heritage in the Zveçane/Zveçan municipality to participate in the regional plan
- Support Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) initiatives, including Bed & Breakfast

#### ***Promotion and safeguarding of Sewing and Knitting – Lacework ("Necovanje")***

Once a popular practice among women of the Municipality of Zveçane/ Zveçan, "Necovanje" (lace-work) is slowly dying. One of the first steps in safeguarding this attractive practice as an expression of the creativity of its practitioners could be the organisation of training sessions with interested young women. The products could become one of the brands of the region as well.

Action: Programme for training course on "Necovanje" to be run by the two women that are still practising the craft.

Partners: practitioners, municipal authorities, NGOs



08

*Mill of Z. Beka, detail, village of Kujičë/Kučica,  
Mitrovicë/Mitrovica municipality*

# 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.

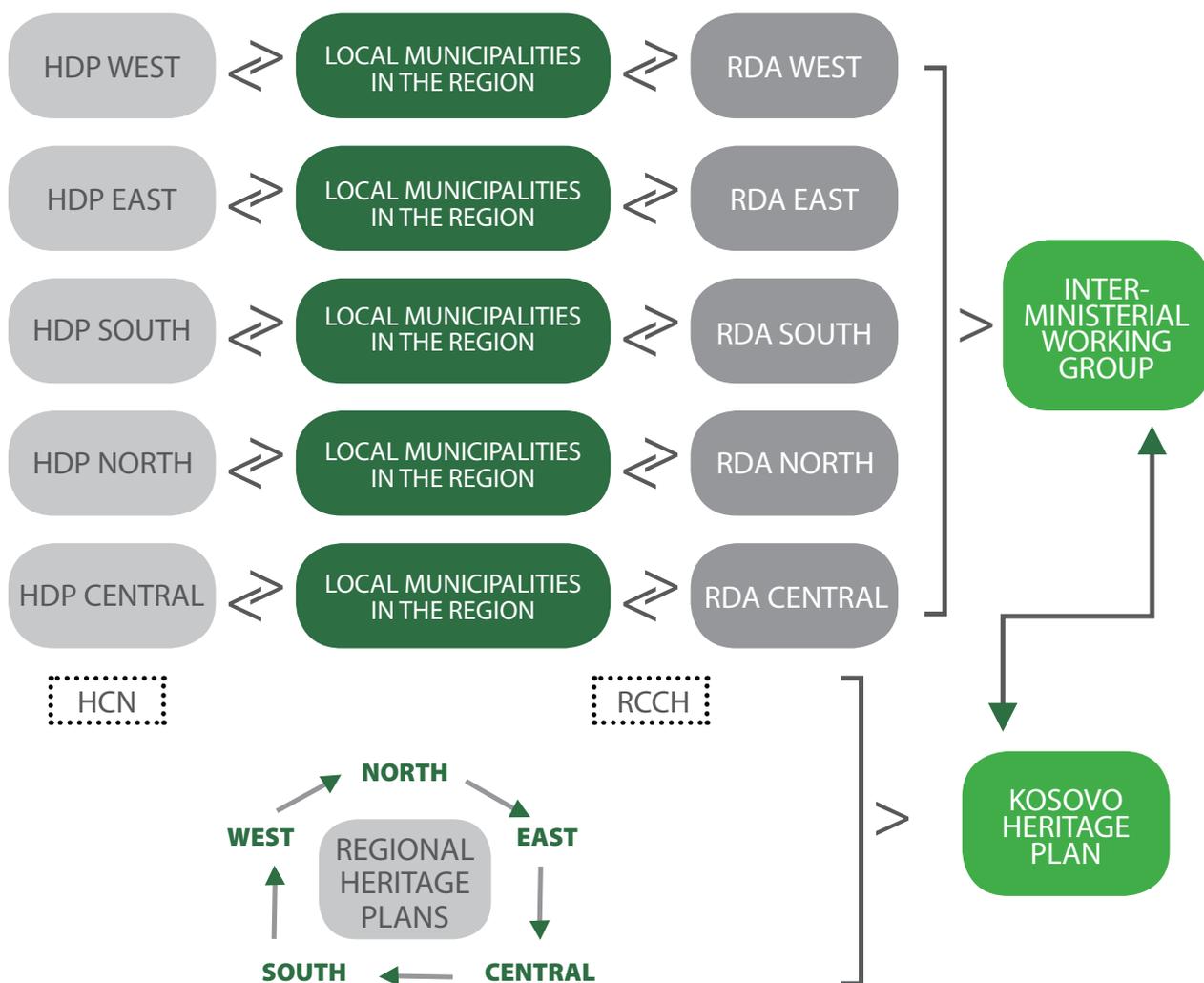
To coordinate the process a Heritage and Diversity Programme (HDP) Coordinator has been recruited for each region. They will facilitate, coordinate and monitor the implementation of the Heritage Plan, which offers possible regional initiatives with the contribution of respective municipalities. Therefore, 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 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.

**“ 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. ”**

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:

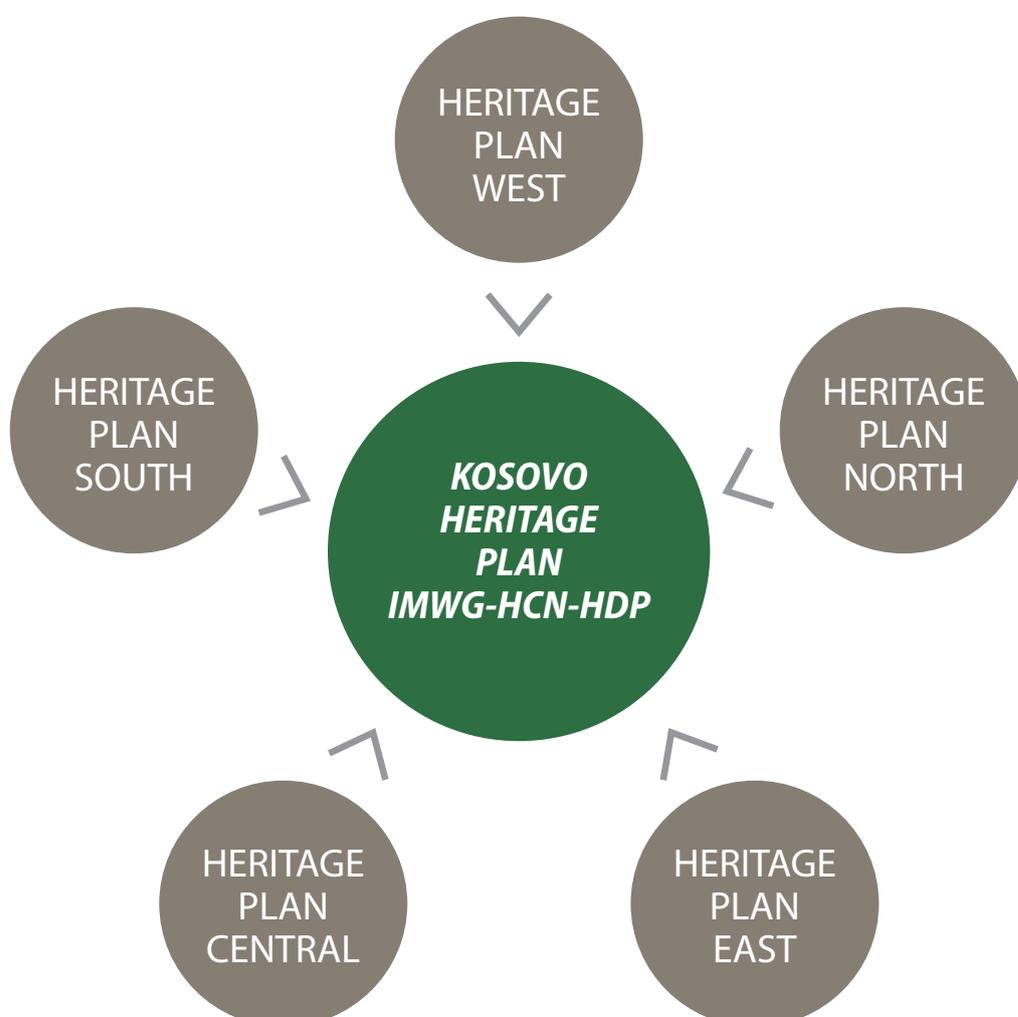
1. Heritage and Diversity Programme and coordinators will be specific to each region and guided by the same shared handbook.
2. Sample regional joint programmes such as Cultural Itineraries (already being implemented by PCDK in the west, along with other initiatives) will be initiated by the HDPs in 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 North, 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 Group<sup>2</sup>, 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.



<sup>2</sup> Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development, Ministry of Trade and Industry (Tourism Division), Ministry of Local Government and Administration.

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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 north included;

- Intangible Heritage Days: “Renewing traditions” including:
  - Ygdyl traditional game, Mitrovicë/Mitrovica: a competitive game organised during wedding ceremonies by the head of the groom’s family, who hides items to be found by the guests on the wedding day. Those who find the hidden items receives a gift.
  - Henna adornment (bridal decoration), Vushtrri/Vučitrn: decoration of the bride’s face with henna on the day before the wedding, according to the belief that she would be protected from the “evil eye” on the wedding day.
  - Rhapsody traditional songs, Skenderaj/Srbica: traditional local songs that are sung continuously for at least two days during the wedding ceremony.

## Appendix 2 – Members of Working Groups

### Main partners

Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports  
Regional Centre for Cultural Heritage in Mitrovicë/Mitrovica  
NGO Mundësia

### Regional Working Group members

Rreze Loxha, director of RCCH in Mitrovicë/Mitrovica; Hajrullah Mustafa, Director of the Museum of Mitrovicë/Mitrovica, Mirsad Ferati, Director of the Theatre of Mitrovicë/Mitrovica, Fahri Jashari, Department of Culture, Municipality of Mitrovicë/Mitrovica; Hylki Salihu, architect, RCCH in Mitrovicë/Mitrovica; Shukrane Begu, Ethnographic Museum Vushtrri/Vučitrn; Qazim Nimani, teacher; Xajë Peci, Agency for Tourism UNION; Mirvete Kukaj – Maqedonci, NGO Mundësia; Arjeta Uka, Tourism Department; Hylmi Veseli, Iber Lepenc Water Company.

### Inter-municipal working group members

Qamil Sahiti, Director of the Department for Culture, Youth and Sports, Municipality of Vushtrri/Vučitrn; Xhylsime Feka, Department of Education, Municipality of Vushtrri/Vučitrn; Shukrane Begu, Ethnographic Museum Vushtrri/Vučitrn; Bujar Surdulli, teacher, municipality of Vushtrri/Vučitrn; Musa Prokshi, Director of the Department for Culture, Youth and Sports, Municipality of Skenderaj/Srbica; Lirie Derguti, ethnologist, municipality of Vushtrri/Vučitrn; Faton Zeka, Department of Education, Municipality of Skenderaj/Srbica; Blerina Bejtullahu, Ethnologist, municipality of Vushtrri/Vučitrn; Bahri Sejdiu, responsible for Museum and Cultural Heritage; Vlora Vojvoda; Economic Development Department, Municipality of Skenderaj/Srbica; Mirvete Kukaj – Maqedonci, NGO Mundësia.

### Volunteers & Surveyors

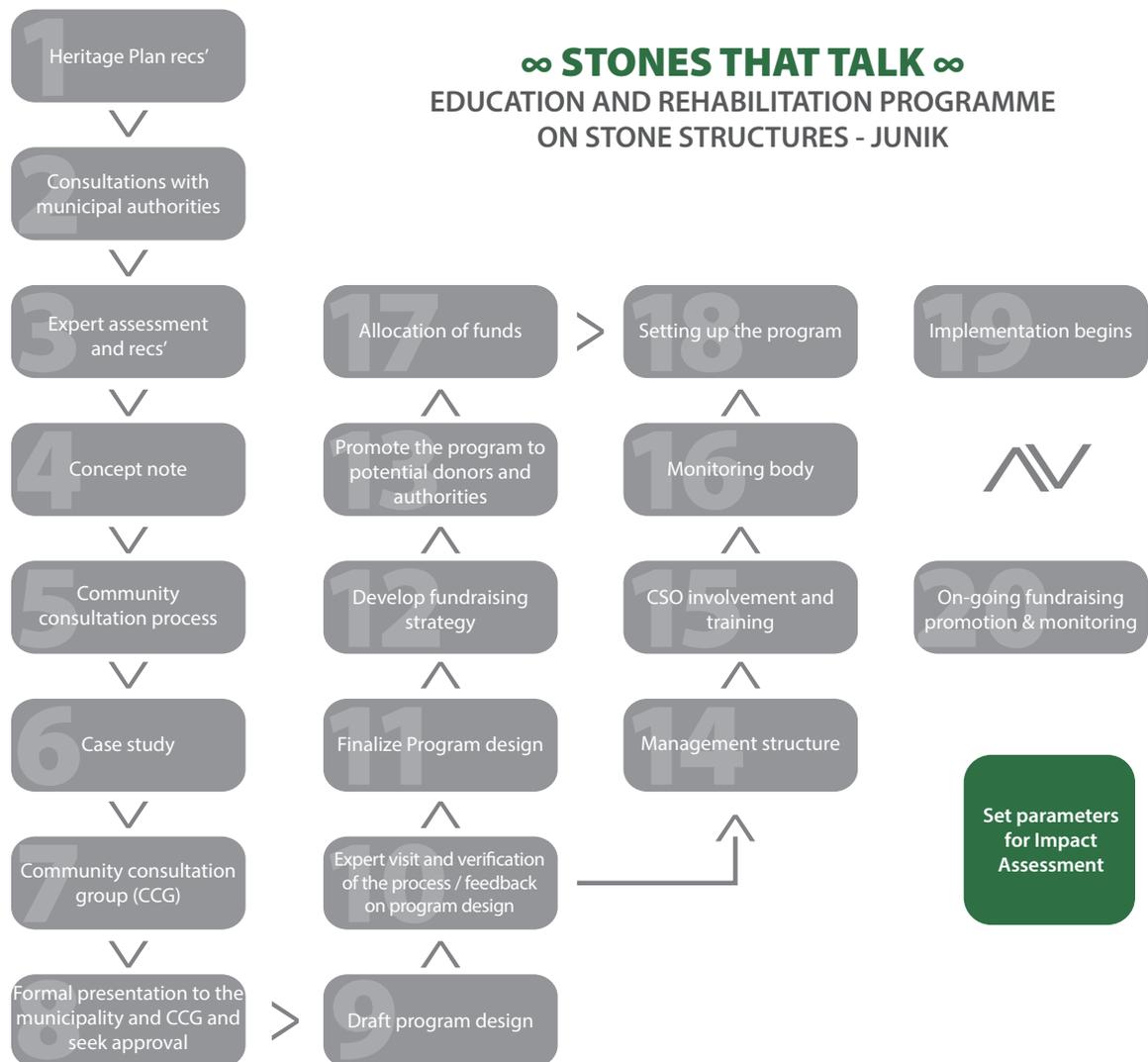
Isuf Imeri  
Bashkim Krasniqi  
Nenad Pantić  
Perparim Behrami  
Bahri Gashi  
Burim Tahiri  
Vesel Krasniqi

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

Terry O'Regan, Council of Europe expert – Ireland  
Liam Scott, Heritage Council of Ireland  
Julija Trichkovska, PCDK Specialist in Cultural Heritage  
Valmira Gashi, expert from MESP  
Fadil Bajraktari, expert from MESP  
Nora Arapi, PCDK focal point from MCYS  
Uragan 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](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](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 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 on 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.

[www.coe.int](http://www.coe.int)

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>

### Support to the Promotion of Cultural Diversity

Funded  
by the European Union  
and the Council of Europe



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