



EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION
LANDSCAPE AWARD OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

6th Session – 2018-2019

APPLICATION FORM

Presentation

The European Landscape Convention aims to promote the protection, management and planning of landscapes and to bring together European co-operation in this field. It is the first international treaty exclusively devoted to all dimensions of European landscape. Taking into account the landscape, natural and cultural values of the territory, it contributes to promoting the quality of life and well-being of Europeans.

The Resolution on the Rules governing the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe, adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 20 February 2008 at the 1018th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies, draws attention to the fact that Article 11 of the Convention institutes the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe and that it is in keeping with the work carried out by the Council of Europe concerning human rights, democracy and sustainable development. It effectively promotes the territorial dimension of human rights and democracy by acknowledging the importance of measures taken to improve the landscape for people's living conditions.

Opened to the Parties to the Convention, the Award is intended to raise civil society's awareness of the value of landscapes, of their role and of changes to them. Its objective is to reward exemplary practical initiatives aimed at successful landscape quality objectives on the territories of the Parties to the Convention. The Award is conferred every two years and the files presenting applications must reach the Secretariat General of the Council of Europe.

At its meeting held in Strasbourg on 28-29 April 2008, the Steering Committee for Cultural Heritage and Landscape (CDPATEP) decided that applications should be submitted to the Council of Europe Secretariat through the Permanent Representations of the Parties to the Convention.

*We would be very grateful if you could send no later than **30 January 2019** the following elements of the candidature file (20 pages maximum) established for your country on the basis of the proposals forwarded to you by the Ministries:*

- by E-mail, the Application form completed to: maguelonne.dejeant-pons@coe.int; susan.moller@coe.int;*
- by post, a copy of the Application form completed together with a CD-Rom, DVD or USB key, containing the all the additional material to: Maguelonne Déjeant-Pons, Executive Secretary of the European Landscape Convention, Council of Europe, Agora (A4-15V), F- 67075 STRASBOURG Cedex.*

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Please note that:

- participation to the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe is only open to local and regional authorities and their groupings and non-governmental organisations, as stated in the Resolution CM/Res (2008)3, Appendix, Article 2;*
- the application form must be completed in all its parts, in one of the two official languages of the Council of Europe (English or French);*
- the materials submitted must be copyright-free, for use by the Council of Europe in communications aimed at promoting the Award or any other publications or activities relating to the Convention. The Council of Europe undertakes to cite the authors' names;*
- files that are incomplete or fail to comply with the rules will not be taken into consideration.*

For further information please visit the Landscape Award section of the Council of Europe website: www.coe.int/EuropeanLandscapeConvention

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II. PRESENTATION OF THE PROJET

3. Name of the Project

Safeguarding and restoration of the composed Baroque landscape of the Banská Štiavnica Calvary

4. Location of the Project

Slovak Republic, Banská Bystrica Self-governing, Banská Štiavnica District, Town of Banská Štiavnica

5. Summary of the Project (10-12 lines)

The project was implemented by the Calvary Fund with the aim of saving and restoring the Baroque landscape and architectural complex of the Banská Štiavnica Calvary. The complex consists of a total of 23 separate sacral buildings – 3 churches, 17 chapels and 3 other objects in the central axis on the Scharffenberg hill. The Calvary complex is part of a site included on the UNESCO World Heritage List. The project realization began shortly after the Baroque calvary area had been included on “the World Monuments Watch List of 100 Most Endangered Sites” in 2007. The Calvary Fund renewed the dilapidated area of the calvary hill, after its extensive reconstruction, the Calvary has regained its original Baroque appearance. At the same time, the association helped restore life in a symbolic religious landscape that once again serves the faithful and numerous visitors. The implementation of the project has saved incalculable cultural, architectural, artistic and historical values not only of the complex of buildings, but also interior decorations of frescoes and sculptures.

6. Photo representing the Project (high definition – JPEG 350 dpi) and name of the author of the photo please

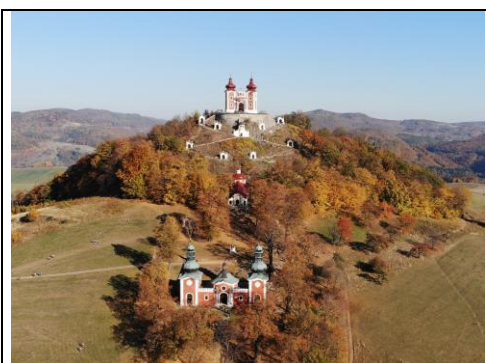


Photo: Vladimír Ruppeldt

7. Website of the Project (if exists)

www.kalvaria.org

III. CONTENT OF THE PROJECT

8. **Start of the Project** month year

The project must have been completed at least three years previously

9. **Partners**

- World Monuments Fund, USA
- Všeobecná úverová banka Foundation
- Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic
- Stredoslovenská energetika, joint stock company (Local electric utility company)
- Roman Catholic Church, Banská Štiavnica parish
- Municipality of Banská Štiavnica
- Slovak Mining Museum in Banská Štiavnica
- Faculty of Architecture of the Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava
- Banská Štiavnica '91 Association

10. **Financing bodies**

- World Monuments Fund, USA
- Všeobecná úverová banka Foundation
- Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic
- Stredoslovenská energetika, joint stock company (Local electric utility company)
- Individual donations and voluntary contributions by individuals from the income tax for NGOs under the law

11. **Central aims of the Project**

The main objective of the project was the overall renovation of the Banská Štiavnica Calvary with its Baroque landscape and architectural complex, with the aim of interpreting the art of high artistic quality from the 18th century and also ensuring sustainable use of the area and the cultural heritage.

Partial targets can be defined as follows:

- **to save the calvary complex** – at the beginning of the project, the calvary was in a serious state of danger, requiring immediate activities to save it, while preserving its cultural values,
- **to coordinate the restoration of calvary monument values.** The plan concerned the restoration of the architectural monuments of the sacral complex, as well as the revitalization of the cultural green area, partial repair of the paths, the supporting walls, the railings, the lighting of the complex, etc.
- **to restore sacred objects, wall decoration of churches, altars and sculptures.** Baroque wall paintings (frescoes) were largely impaired, which required their uncovering, retouching and consolidation.
- **to implement construction and technical modifications** of buildings and to build

technical infrastructure. Due to the location of the churches, it was necessary to prevent the devastation of the sites by water. For this reason, it was necessary to dehumidify the objects,

- **to restore and revitalize the greenery in the area**, because neglecting the maintenance of the greenery has led to the absorption of the original plan by the self-seeding plants,
- **to provide scientific knowledge** from comprehensive research to restore the values of the whole complex and to process a recovery project on their basis,
- **to collaborate with relevant organizations and property owners and landowners** regarding the calvary. The calvary is a national cultural monument and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, which requires consents of many institutions.
- **to engage the general public in the restoration of the calvary**,
- **to secure funds** from donors for the costly recovery of objects,
- **to achieve the original purpose and dignity of the Calvary**, to preserve the spiritual dimension of the sacral landscape,
- **to make the premises accessible to the general public**, to create a background for visitors and to value the phenomenon of the Baroque area in the development of tourism in the region,
- **to maintain the area permanently**,
- **to ensure the promotion** of the calvary area in various forms and to inform the public about the recovery process.

Story of the calvary

The initiator of the construction of the Banská Štiavnica Calvary on the top of the Scharffenberg hill was Father Franz Perger from the local Jesuit community. With a remarkable fervour, he has won over the general public in Banská Štiavnica for his magnificent idea. He managed to excite the inhabitants and the representatives of Banská Štiavnica, who took over the patronage of the building.

The land for the construction of the calvary was acquired by František Perger from a donor of the evangelical religion, which was an extraordinary act in this era in view of the previous period of dispute concerning the questions of faith.

The calvary originated at the time of the culminating Baroque (1744-1751). The complex of sacral buildings on the steep hill of Scharffenberg was built from donations of rich miners, dignitaries, burghers and simple mining families. Donors are remembered by the coats of arms on the façades of the various chapels. Local masons, carpenters, stonemasons, but also woodcarvers or painters worked here. Shortly before the consecration in 1751, Emperor Francis I, Duke of Lorraine visited the calvary.

The calvary speaks to us by its position in the landscape. It is located on a significant morphological dominate over the town – the preserved lava neck. The shape of this ridge is one of the reasons for the visual distinctiveness and exposure of the calvary in the landscape. The visual dominance of the calvary is given, in addition to the conical shape of the hill, by its horizontal and vertical projections in the landscape image.

This feature was also used by a guard tower that stood on this hill before, in turbulent times of Turkish invasions, and warned of an approaching enemy.

The calvary location is connected not only to the calvary hill. It includes an access road – a pilgrimage route that started at a parish church in the middle of the town. Overall, the pilgrimage route has a length of 10 stretches of 163 m. The link between the historic town and the calvary hill was a linden alley.

An interesting visual parameter of the calvary is the main axis of symmetry facing west. This aspect makes it possible to see an overall symbolic intent from the beginning of the

pilgrimage route, created from the arrangement of paths and chapels.

The calvary building has given the whole landscape its content and importance. The calvary names the landscape and makes it unique, unrepeatable. Its compositional scheme in the landscape is a materialised prayer. This idea triggered activity, its material and artistic expression in architecture, sculptures and paintings. The hill of Scharffenberg became Sacro Monte (sacred hill).

With its conception, the Banská Štiavnica Calvary goes beyond the usual use of the Cross in the form of fourteen stations. The structure, spatial layout, and the character of the illustrated scenes symbolize the message of salvation originally, munificent and at a high artistic level. The Passion story is dramatized into a scenic position enhanced by the introduction to the real landscape. The architectural complex consists of 17 chapels, three churches (the Lower Church, the Sacred Stairs and the Upper Church), the Ecce homo station and the Holy Grave, the only building on the opposite, eastern side of the hill, and the last station of the Our Lady in Sorrows under the Cross.

Each of the chapels represents one of the key moments of Jesus' torture or events of his life through artistically processed wooden reliefs with typical Baroque theatricality.

An exceptionality of the Calvary, along with its delicate compatibility with the natural environment, has always been the cause of its favourableness among pilgrims and visitors.

The Calvary context with the town and time in the first half of the 18th century

The rapid blossoming and glory of the free royal town of Banská Štiavnica was directly related to its rich ore veins and the possibilities of their exploitation. The direct evidence of the importance of the town is not only its considerable area already in the Roman period, but also the exhibition of architecture.

The wealthiest year in the history of the Banská Štiavnica mining district was the year 1690 when 29,000 kg of silver and 605 kg of gold were produced in the smelters. This was followed by decades when the town and its inhabitants were greatly tested. Development of the town was influenced by the anti-Habsburg uprisings (until 1711), which greatly aggravated the status of miners. They showed their dissatisfaction with strikes. Mining companies were in a crisis. Since the middle of the 17th century, Banská Štiavnica had to overcome disputes over issues of faith and religious property. The plague epidemic in 1710 claimed 6,000 victims in the town, accounting for 50% of the town's population. A constant threat was the flooding of mines. At this time, the idea of building a calvary was formed.

The expansion of mining was enabled by the construction of new water-powered pumping equipment that helped to drain water from the flooded mines and expand the network of the ingenious water management system of artificial water reservoirs ("tajchy"). In the 18th century, Banská Štiavnica belonged to the technically best equipped mining centres in the world. In 1762, Maria Theresa established a mining academy in Banská Štiavnica, the first college of its kind in the world, which became the centre of mining science and technology in Europe. World-renowned scientists were working at the school. In the second half of the 18th century, Banská Štiavnica was the third largest town in the Kingdom of Hungary (including its vassal villages, it had 23,192 inhabitants in 1782).

The mining activity has significantly shaped the landscape character of the whole territory. The town's monument fund includes not only a representative town centre and Calvary, but also extensive complexes of technical works that are related to the extraction and processing of polymetallic ores such as shafts, adits, mining towers, clapper, a sophisticated water management system forming a part of the landscape environment. The values of this area were the reason for its inclusion in the UNESCO World Heritage List under the title

“Historic Town of Banská Štiavnica and Technical Monuments in its Vicinity” in 1993 (the core zone has 20,632 hectares).

Development periods of Calvary in the 20th century

During its existence, the Calvary has gone through several development periods. During World War II, it was damaged by artillery fire.

In the period of socialism, almost no attention was paid to the Calvary. It was not taken care of it systematically. In the period of 1978-1981, a state-funded renovation was implemented, most of the works were voluntarily carried out by the believers from Banská Štiavnica and the wider area. By neglecting the maintenance of the greenery, the original plan was absorbed by the self-seeding vegetation.

The original idea of the Baroque complex was completely obscured by new buildings in the 70s and 80s of the 20th century. The first three chapels (preparatory) disappeared between residential buildings. For this reason, they were moved a few dozen meters higher.

Even the fall of Communism in 1989 did not improve the situation for the Calvary. On the contrary, this period was characterized by vandalism, destruction of interiors, stealing of sculptures and even copper roofs in churches. In the years 1996 - 1998, about 20 Baroque statues were stolen from the Calvary. Most of them have not been found yet. Two of them were found in antique shops. The almost life-sized sculpture of a scoffer was even offered by an auction company. Experts recognized it during a random browse of an internet auction of the auction company, the statue was then secured by the police and returned to the owner. There is no register of stolen artworks and monuments in Slovakia so far.

The balance of the loss of the cultural-historic value of Calvary in the period 1989-2004 is incalculable. Paradoxically, it was during this period (1993) when the Calvary has become part of the UNESCO World Heritage List.

The state of the Calvary in Banská Štiavnica in the middle of the first decade of the 21st century reflected the insufficient interest of the public in the fate of one of the most precious baroque monuments in Slovakia. Calvary was not only marked by the passing of time but also became a victim of human indifference and anger. Part of its artistic decoration and mobiliari was stolen, others became the target of vandals.

This fact should have been not only a reminder, but rather an impulse to prevent the further devastation of the Calvary, to take steps to restore it and to save the most endangered original parts.

With the effort of local activists, at the beginning of 2007, Baroque calvary area had been included on “the World Monuments Watch List of 100 Most Endangered Sites” (World Monuments Fund in New York, USA). Early in 2008, a Memorandum of Cooperation was signed between the involved institutions and the Calvary fund civic association was established to ensure and coordinate the monumental restoration of the Calvary complex. This was based on the meritorious activity of the association with the same name, operating since the establishment of the Calvary (1751) until its abolition under the Communist regime (1951).

12. Outcome

The results of the project implementation can be defined as follows:

- **the preservation of cultural monuments** before their devastation, in accordance with the requirements of the Monuments Board of the Slovak Republic. Incalculable cultural, architectural, artistic and historical values not only of the complex of buildings were saved, but also rare interior decorations and valuable sculptures. The Monuments Board of the Slovak Republic supervised the reconstruction process,
- **the whole area of the calvary hill was restored** – the exterior, the interiors and the original Baroque style was returned to the Calvary,
- **restoration of sacral buildings** – chapels and churches were restored,
- **restoration of wall decoration of churches and chapels (frescoes)** – the discovery of original baroque sceneries and the restoration of frescoes was preceded by the removal of cement plasters as well as paintings from the 70s of the 20th century,
- **restoration of altars and sculptures,**
- **execution of building and technical works on churches** – the external *drainage* of the surrounding monuments was carried out in order to eliminate the effect of earth humidity on the perimeter walls of the monuments. Rising water caused the destruction of precious baroque frescoes,
- **construction of technical infrastructure in the area** – sewerage, electrification, illumination of the upper part of the complex,
- **revitalisation of the surroundings**, partial repair of the paths, supporting walls, railings, etc.
- **restoration and revitalization of green vegetation** – reconstruction of the historic linden alley, removal of non-original and self-seeding vegetation and also monuments threatening green, tree treatment,
- **realization of scientific research** – numerous restoration and architectural-historical researches focused on historical architecture (churches and chapels), sculptures and paintings as well as dendrological, landscape research were carried out . The knowledge was a prerequisite for the professional renewal of the complex. In 20014, the civic association organized an international scientific colloquium entitled “Calvary of Banská Štiavnica – 7 years of intensive restoration and prospects for further revitalization”, with the technical guarantee of the Faculty of Architecture of the Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava,
- **the processing of an architectural restoration project and a greenery restoration project** that provided an unavoidable legal framework for the restoration and implementation of the project,
- **cooperation with relevant organizations, property owners and landowners who have entered into the Calvary recovery process.** The **owner** of the Calvary objects and parts of the land is the Roman Catholic Church. The majority owner of the premises of the site is the state enterprise Lesy Slovenskej republiky (Forests of the Slovak Republic), which resulted in certain complications in ensuring the restoration and accessibility of the monuments resulting from the laws (the transfer of ownership of forest land owned by the state to other persons is not legal and the possibility of transferring forest management is very limited). The members of the civic association also cooperated with the municipality of Banská Štiavnica, the Slovak Mining Museum, the Monuments Board of the Slovak Republic and other organizations,
- **the involvement of the general public in the reconstruction of the site** was carried

out in various forms for different age groups – voluntary work, donations, program of adoption of chapels and statues, etc.,

- **bringing back the original purpose and dignity of the Calvary**, while preserving the spiritual dimension of the sacral landscape. The civic association has been cooperating permanently with the liturgical activities on Calvary since 2013 (annual pilgrimages and other liturgical celebrations throughout the year),
- **making the entire area open to the public** – the civic association created conditions for the recreational and educational use of the site and raising public awareness for the protection of the landscape and its monuments. The association provides guided tours in the Calvary for visitors and creates background for them. The attendance is increasing every year since 2012,
- **building a natural amphitheatre** for liturgical purposes and cultural and social events in the former parish garden,
- **organizing cultural and social events** in the Calvary area,
- **permanent maintenance** – the area requires permanent care. According to the revitalization plan, the mowing, removal of the self-seeding vegetation, landscaping, etc. are carried out, as necessary,
- **implementation of various information and promotion activities** – documentaries on DVD (2013, 2015) were processed, articles and documents in print and electronic media were published, information on the social network Facebook and the website of the association are continuously updated,
- **publishing activity:**
 - Putovanie banskoštiavnickou kalváriou - “Tour of Banská Štiavnica’s Calvary” (by K. Vošková, 1st edition 2009, 2nd supplementary edition 2014),
 - Katalóg chýbajúcich sôch a prvkov z banskoštiavnickej kalvárie, adopčný katalóg - “The adoption catalog – the missing statues of Calvary” (by K. Vošková, 2011),
- **exhibiting activities:**
 - cooperation in securing the permanent exhibition “Calvary in Asylum” in the exhibition spaces of the Slovak Mining Museum at the Old Castle in Banská Štiavnica, where original elements of art decoration (reliefs and sculptures of churches and chapels) are placed,
 - concept and implementation of the exhibition “History and Present of the Calvary in Banská Štiavnica” in the Lower Church on the Calvary (from 2013).

IV. RESPECT OF THE CRITERIA OF THE ATTRIBUTION OF THE AWARD

13. Sustainable territorial development

Is the project part of a sustainable development policy?

Does it contribute to the enhancement of environmental, social, economic, cultural or aesthetic values of the landscape? How?

Has it successfully countered or posed a remedy to any pre-existing environmental damage or urban blight? How?

The submitted project is a part of a sustainable development policy. Its implementation has resulted in an increase of landscape quality. The project's activities were based on the participation of all interested parties, contributing to the stable and sustainable development of the town.

The project is based on the sustainable use of the landscape, maintaining the harmony of man and the landscape, and also protecting the cultural and historical values of the landscape.

Evidence of this policy is the preservation of the characteristic features of the landscape, the functionality and the prosperity of the landscape.

Environmental aspect

Preventing total devastation of buildings and restoring the values of the calvary complex is a part of environmental care. The area of Calvary represents a protected site within the meaning of the Act on Nature and Landscape Protection of the Slovak Republic. The Calvary of Banská Štiavnica protected area was declared in order to protect the basalt lava neck (the inlet to a surface volcano of smaller dimensions) from the last volcanic phase of the Štiavnica strato-volcano.

Social aspect

The project represents the rescue of a symbolic religious landscape. The activities of the implemented project supported the development of local communities and created an appropriate environment for cooperation, which is very beneficial to the landscape and its people. The Calvary safeguarding and restoration project has brought it to its original purpose. It serves people, believers, pilgrims and tourists again.

About 5000 volunteers took part in the restoration in various forms. Through voluntary work, schoolchildren and employees of different companies helped in the form of team-building activities that strengthened social ties and their relationship to values. Volunteers were also involved through ERASMUS1 program.

One of the results of the project implementation is the fact that worships and the calvary pilgrimages have been held again at the Calvary since 2013 onwards (the main calvary pilgrimage takes place on September 14th). The citizens of Banská Štiavnica are grateful for this fact and are proud of the restored Calvary. During the year, especially during the Lent, the faithful from the Banská Štiavnica parish, but also from other regions, organize ways of the Cross.

The restored calvary area also serves the public for cultural and social activities (concerts, sports events, school competitions, etc.). One of these places is also the natural amphitheatre that the association built in the former parish garden.

Economic aspect

An important part of the association's activities includes the care of cultural heritage and the valorisation of the Calvary phenomenon in the development of the region. The results of the safeguarding and restoration of the Calvary have a significant impact on the development of the tourism of Banská Štiavnica and the whole region, contributing to the economic growth of the town. Calvary attendance as a town symbol is steadily increasing. The project, by its promotional activities, also increases the publicity of this site while creating the conditions for making this complex available to the general public. While in 2012 the civic association registered an annual visit of about 20,000 visitors, in 2017, 70,000 visitors visited the Calvary. It is a cultural sustainable tourism.

Cultural aspect

The Calvary in Banská Štiavnica is a characteristic feature of this mining landscape and represents an important cultural heritage, belonging to the representative Baroque calvaries of the 17th-18th centuries. Calvary has been listed in the List of Monuments in Slovakia as a National Cultural Monument since 1955 (total number of monumental objects is 26, including the group of statues, supporting walls and the alley).

The intention of the Calvary Fund was not only to physically restore the chapels and churches of the complex, but also to return them to the original art form of the unique Baroque scenery created by wooden and stone sculptures in life-size with the New and Old Testament scenes.

Thanks to the activities of this project, incalculable cultural, architectural, artistic and historical values were saved not only of the complex of buildings, but also interior decorations and valuable sculptures.

Throughout the duration of the project, the civic association has been taking care of the expertise and cutting edge technology of calvary restoration. It first collected scientific evidence and then, based on the results of the historical, restoration, dendrology, landscaping research, began with the restoration of the Calvary. In the preservation and restoration of the cultural heritage, the cooperation with the Monuments Board of the Slovak Republic (Banská Bystrica Regional Monuments Board) and other cooperating institutions was significant.

The original elements of the artistic decoration of the Calvary (wooden reliefs and statues) were placed in the exhibition grounds of the Slovak Mining Museum at the Old Castle in Banská Štiavnica and make an exhibition entitled "Calvary in Asylum" which offers a unique opportunity to learn about the collection of art pieces attributed to the works of the important Baroque sculptor Dionysis Stanetti (1710 - 1767).

This move was made on the basis of events related to stealing of sculptures and the devastating attack of vandals in 2004. The chapels and churches of Calvary, though relocation of the original reliefs and sculptures, were deprived of their original movables, but this is a necessary price for its preservation.

Aesthetic aspect

The project unambiguously contributes to preserving the landscape values and the characteristic features of the landscape.

Its location and character have been the decoration of Scharffenberg hill since the middle of the 18th century and it is an indispensable symbol of the town. The project brought back its Baroque form to this remarkable but dying monument. The project activities were devoted to the whole area of the calvary hill – the exterior, the interior of the buildings, but also the renovation and maintenance of the paths, etc. A project of illumination of the upper part of the calvary hill was carried out. Based on dendrological research and bioindication methods of the original alley's position from the 18th century, reconstruction of the linden alley and

vegetation treatment was proposed. The self-seeding vegetation was removed from the area, which revealed the original Baroque intention.

The Calvary rescue and restoration project is an example of remedying the damage that has occurred in the sacral landscape.

During the period of socialism, almost no attention was paid to the Calvary, it fell into oblivion and decay. It has not been taken care of it systematically. In the period of 1978-1981, a state-funded renovation was carried out, most of the works were voluntarily done by the believers from Banská Štiavnica and the wider area.

The state of the Calvary after the collapse of Communism was a serious threat to it. Vandalism, robbing the interiors of sacral objects. Unfortunately, the laic care of a couple of enthusiasts also brought destruction, in an effort to “make the church interior prettier” before Easter, which meant, in fact, re-painting of the baroque frescoes with a white coat.

The balance of the loss of the cultural-historic value of the Calvary in the period 1989-2004 is incalculable. The project began shortly after the Baroque calvary area had been included on “the World Monuments Watch List of 100 Most Endangered Sites” in June 2007.

14. Exemplary value

Can the project be considered of exemplary value? Why?

Which are the good practices that it implemented?

The implementation of the project meant a reversal in the development of calvary status and the prevention of irreversible damage to the objects. The project implementation brought not only the physical form of the Calvary, but also the depth and meaning of everything it symbolizes. The life of the sacral landscape was revived.

The project illustrates the fact that it is possible to change the status of the monument or the whole complex by a suitably chosen management type and involving the relevant institutions and the public in the renovation and maintenance.

The project represents a good example in a number of ways – its meaningful mission, management systems, ways of engaging the public of all ages, saving the historical and cultural heritage, returning life to the sacral landscape, making Calvary accessible to visitors, and capitalizing its phenomenon in town development.

Examples of good practice can be defined as follows:

- rescue of incalculable historical and cultural values on the initiative of the civic association, i.e. bottom-up initiative,
- the civic association was able to obtain funds for costly repair of churches and chapels, construction work including drainage, research, restoration work on baroque frescoes and sculptures,
- exemplary cooperation of the subjects who agreed to define the target quality of the landscape and were decisive in the implementation of the project: the Roman Catholic Church as the owner of the Calvary objects and parts of the lands, the state enterprise Forests of the Slovak Republic as the majority owner of the grounds, the municipality of Banská Štiavnica, Slovak Mining Museum and other partners and donors,
- The civic association is a model of professionalism for its ways of implementation. The activities were based on expert knowledge of scientific research, which was a guarantee of professional security for demanding works for the renovation of

churches and the restoration of interiors. It was based on the findings of the international scientific colloquium (2007) titled „Banská Štiavnica Baroque Calvary - Perspectives of Revitalization”, which identified the direction of the calvary restoration. In 2014, the civic association organized an international scientific colloquium entitled “Banská Štiavnica Calvary – Seven years of intensive conservation and perspectives of revitalisation”, with the technical guarantee of the Faculty of Architecture of the Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava,

- the public, volunteers and donors have been involved in the process of restoration of the Calvary since its very beginning. Public engagement has been diverse, including innovative forms such as “The Adoption of Chapels and Statues”. It organized voluntary works of major companies as well as school voluntary works in the form of team-building. The funds were also raised by the association in the form of fund-raising or the implementation of public collections,
- successful funding - the civic association provides financial resources for the entire reconstruction and restoration process. It has submitted more than 200 project applications, half of which have been successful and implemented. The total amount of funds invested during the reconstruction of the entire complex was 2.8 mil. Euro.
- making the Calvary accessible to the public – the civic association provides guided tours in the Calvary, organizes cultural and social events, it built the natural amphitheatre. These and other promotional activities contribute to the development of tourism in the region.

15. Public participation

Does the project actively encourage the public's participation in the decision-making process? How?

Is the project in line with the wider policies implemented by national, regional or local authorities?

The project originated on the initiative of members of the civic association who took over patronage over the whole area of the Calvary. It was an expression of trust of the organizations involved, landowners and owners of sacral objects. The civic association provides financial resources for the entire reconstruction and restoration process.

Since the beginning of the project, members of the civic association have also been supported by the general public, as Calvary is an unimaginable dominant and a symbol of the town, part of the identity of its inhabitants. The process of rescue and restoration of Calvary has involved the public and volunteers in various forms.

The program “Adoption of Chapels and Statues” has been successful, through which the involvement of families, companies in the care of individual objects ensures the sustainability of the Calvary restoration. This programme is based on history, when private and corporate donors provided the construction of individual chapels and churches in the 18th century.

The association organized voluntary works for companies as part of team-building events as well as voluntary works for schools. In this way, a lot of maintenance work, e. g. cleaning the area from the debris and its removal, casting of the shingles to the chapels, moving the scaffolding to the necessary places, mowing the site, cleaning from the self-seeding vegetation, cleaning the interior of the chapel, was carried out.

In order to ensure visitor access to the Calvary, the association involved volunteers through ERASMUS1 program (“Youth in Action”).

The civic association involved also the school youth in the form of various competitions and other age categories by organizing cultural-social events.

In order to secure the finances, the civic association organized a public collection and gained the donors for the project in the form of fund-raising.

The civic association members collaborated to save the Calvary with all the organizations involved, i. e. the owner of the Calvary (the Roman Catholic Church), the owners of the grounds of the whole area (state enterprise Forests of the Slovak Republic), the municipality of Banská Štiavnica, the Monuments Board.

The Calvary safeguarding and restoration project is in conformity with policies – national, regional and local.

Pursuant to the Act on the Protection of the Monument Fund 49/2002 Coll., the Calvary has been a national cultural monument since 1955 and since 1950 it has been a monument reservation, for which principles of protection of the historical, architectural, urban, art, landscaping and cultural and social values of the town have been elaborated by the Monuments Board of the Slovak Republic.

A separate Act no. 100/2002 Coll. on the protection and development of the territory of Banská Štiavnica and its surroundings was adopted.

As the Calvary is part of the site included on the UNESCO World Heritage List entitled “Historic Town of Banská Štiavnica and Technical Monuments in its Vicinity”, its rescue and restoration is embedded in the management plan of this site.

Calvary renewal is also part of the medium-term strategic document of Banská Štiavnica's Economic and Social Development Plan, which is being prepared with the participation of the general public.

The project is in compliance with spatial planning documents at all levels - Slovak Spatial Development Perspectives (2001, as amended in 2011), Regional Spatial Plan of the Banská Bystrica Self-Governing Region (1998, as amended in 2009, 2014), Spatial Plan of town Banská Štiavnica (2006, as amended 2008, 2009, 2013, 2015) and their binding regulations.

16. Awareness-raising

Is the project effectively increasing public awareness of the importance of landscape in terms of human development, consolidation of European identity, or individual and collective well-being? How?

The fact that the civic association made the salvation and restoration of the Calvary possible, demonstrates the value of this landscape for the inhabitants of the town and for the general public. Since its inception, the project has increased awareness of the importance of the landscape and the need to protect cultural heritage. The Calvary as a perfectly conceived blend of architecture, works of sculpture, painting, and artisanal craft in unity with the natural environment forms a part of the identity for the town's and the surrounding area's inhabitants. Maintaining the authenticity and character of Calvary is also important from the European point of view.

The Calvary was financially and professionally supported by local residents and believers during construction as well as during its restoration. Participation in rescue and reconstruction of Calvary is proof of what this site means for believers, pilgrims, inhabitants of the town and for people all over Slovakia. Through team-building events, many volunteers have formed a relationship with this site, cultural heritage, landscape values. The result is also a sense of belonging of a landscape to a man, developing a sense of initiative, European awareness and solidarity.

The project brought the Calvary back to the country and to the people. The restored Calvary brings admiration of pilgrims and the astonishment of visitors over the magnificence of this work and respect and thankfulness to those who participated in its rescue and restoration.

For both Calvary and Banská Štiavnica town, the European aspect is also significant. At the time of Calvary's building, the territory was multicultural. First came the Czech miners, later German settlers who brought new technologies of ore mining and processing. The town attracted artists from different countries, and there were significant representatives of European technical intelligence.

The European dimension of the project is also supplied by the fact that the main sponsor of the reconstruction of the Calvary is the Všeobecná úverová banka Foundation and its owner is the Italian banking group (Intesa Sanpaolo).

The implementation of the project is beneficial for the public good. Calvary has regained its worth, which it had for centuries, for its pilgrims, believers, or visitors.

Thanks to the successful project, we can continue to claim that this impressive Baroque sacral ensemble is among the most beautiful of its kind in Europe.

V. ADDITIONAL MATERIAL

Together with the printed version of the Application form, additional material in digital format should be included in one CD-Rom, DVD or USB key, and returned by post or courier to:

Maguelonne Déjeant-Pons

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- Photos (10): *JPEG format*
- Poster (1): *PDF format*
- Video: *mpeg 2 format*

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