



EU ENLARGEMENT FACTSHEET

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PROTECTING CULTURAL HERITAGE

THE IMPORTANCE

The cultural legacy in Europe is one of the world's most diverse, and is an accumulation of past imaginative achievements and an expression of continuing tradition and creativity. Cultural heritage directly contributes to sustainable development in the area as the **rehabilitation** projects enhance the historic environment and support cultural tourism.

Rehabilitation is about the sensitive adaptation of a historic site or building with suitable contemporary use, i.e. a public library, while protecting its heritage values. Therefore it is far more than simply conservation or restoration, as it implies the regeneration of its surroundings and the revitalization of local communities.

Integrated rehabilitation is the enhancement of historic environments. It implies that cultural heritage is included in development plans and policies, thus contributing to sustainable economic and social development.

THE BENEFITS

The EU's support of cultural heritage in the enlargement countries focuses on sustainable development in the region. The **integrated rehabilitation** of cultural heritage sites and buildings has clear benefits for everyone in the area, amongst them:

Citizens and local communities

- It offers new activities and opportunities for local people, enjoy a better quality of life in a more pleasant environment.

- People feel encouraged to support local heritage projects.
- It helps citizens to identify themselves with their own history and to be proud of it.
- It encourages intercultural dialogue and thus strengthens the sense of belonging to the EU.
- It promotes culture as a vital element in EU external relations.
- It creates jobs and uses local services as it stimulates cultural tourism, attracts new business and consequently leads to an increase in income.

Public and private donors

- It helps to increase their credibility and fulfils social obligations.
- It helps them to protect a distinctive image and attracts businesses.
- It associates them with significant environmental, economic and social benefits.

Heritage institutions and experts

- Rehabilitation gives monuments and sites a sustainable future.
- Integrated rehabilitation of cultural heritage encourages the sensible use of heritage and its influence on sustainable development policies.

National and local authorities

- Built heritage is their tool for creating sustainable development policies.
- It enhances the environment in urban and rural areas, and hence increases the quality of life for local communities.
- Recognition of heritage attracts investment and promotes the cultural diversity of South East Europe.

THE ROLE OF THE EU

The European Union has been supporting the protection of cultural heritage monuments and sites in Southeast Europe for more than a decade:

2003

The European Commission (EC) and the Council of Europe set up a joint programme, the **Integrated Rehabilitation Project Plan/Survey of the Architectural and Archaeological Heritage (IRPP/SAAH)**, which:

- encourages the countries in the enlargement region to finance the rehabilitation through public and private, national and international funding
- sets up a methodology to identify sites whose rehabilitation would contribute to an overall economic development of the region through tourism

Among the **26 consolidated projects**, **20 are in Western Balkan countries (Croatia included)**, of which **7** directly benefit from EU financing. A total amount of **more than 12 million EUR** is assigned to these projects under the European Union's **Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA)**.

2004

The **Prioritised Intervention List (PIL)** identifies historic buildings and sites that are of **particular significance** and **urgently require conservation** and restoration in the beneficiary countries.

2009

The **Ljubljana Ministerial Conference** organised by the Council of Europe asked relevant countries and international organisations to continue the **Ljubljana Process** ("Funding heritage rehabilitation in South East Europe" based on the IRPP/SAAH). The conference further recommends that the **Regional Co-operation Council (RCC)** should become a key partner for the transfer of the ownership to the region.

2010

At the **Council of Ministers of Culture of South East Europe (CoMoCoSEE)** a three years transitional period to facilitate the transfer of the responsibility to the countries of the region is recommended.

2011

The regional Task Force "**Culture and Society**" is implemented by the RCC, with the short term objective of implementing the Ljubljana Process.

The Commission supports the international secretariat through a direct agreement with the RCC over a grant of **1.1 million EUR** and contributes another **0.4 million EUR** to the Council of Europe for an expert support to the secretariat's work.

2012

The Commission decides to increase its financial support to cultural rehabilitation of sites in the enlargement region by adding two grants:

- **0.5 million EUR** for preserving and restoring **cultural heritage in conflict areas**
- **2.8 million EUR** for preserving and restoring **cultural heritage damaged by war or other political conflicts**

2013

Three sites have been selected by the Commission with the agreement of the Task Force "Culture and Society", based on a technical assessment done by the Council of Europe experts:

- Franciscan monastery in Bac, Serbia
- Appollonia Archeological Site, Albania
- Kastel Fortress in Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina

