Study visit in Croatia

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Project – Support to the Promotion of Cultural Diversity

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Photo 1. (standing from left: Luan, Julia, Xhemajl, Bujar, Vjollca, Milot and seating from left: Kreshnik, Avni and Nijazi)

Main meetings:
- Ministry of Culture of Croatia - Zagreb
- Conservation Department – Split
- Cultural Heritage in island of Hvar

Remarks: The report is the result of notes taken from discussions of the case, which in the shape how they are received may be even with no dose of accuracy. While the pictures presented in the report are original and accomplished during the field visit.
General data's for Croatia

- **Capital city**: Zagreb (inhabitants: 800,000)
- **Surface**: 56,542 km²
- **Inhabitants**: 4.5 million (2009)
- **Language**: Croatian
- **Religion**: 85% are Christians, 5% orthodoxs and 1.3% Muslims and others;
- **Longevity**: Total: 78.65 years (sex m: 75.66 year; sex f: 81.81 year (2005))
- **State organization**: Parliamentar Democracy
- **Currency**: Kuna
- **Political parties**: Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ), Social Democratic Party of Croatia (SDP), Croatian People's Party - Liberal Democrats (HNS), the Croatian Peasant Party (HSS) - Croatian Liberal Party (HSLS) coalition
- **Head of state**: Ivo Josipovic
- **Prime minister**: Jadranka Kosor

Member of international organizations -


What was presented and what was discussed?

The study visit was organized from Council of Europe Vizita studimore u organizua nga Këshilli i Evropës respectively Project – Promotion of Cultural Diversity in Kosovo, which main aim was capacity building in the field of cultural heritage in Kosovo. Through meetings and conversations that took place, was offered the opportunity to closely be informed about the situation in the sector of cultural heritage in Croatia, so that advice and experiences gained to serve us to consolidate the situation of cultural heritage in Kosovo.

First day

**Meeting in the Ministry of Culture** – According to the agenda meeting was held at the premises of the Ministry of Culture of Croatia in which were present State Secretary of Ministry (Mr. Shikiq) and Director of the Directorate for the Protection of Cultural Heritage (Ms Matica Bland) with her staff. After the formal part of the basic information exchange, Ms. Matica was introducing in detail the cultural heritage sector with all constituent units. According to the Secretary and Director the biggest problem are to ensure the finances. The current budget of the Ministry is 125 mil. €, which actually represents 1% of the total budget of the Government of Croatia. From this amount, only 12.5 mil. € are dedicated to the directory for the protection of Cultural Heritage from which benefit mostly sacral buildings and a symbolic (1.2mil. €) is dedicated to the spiritual heritage. Having into consideration that Ministry is the main investor and the fact that the protection of Cultural Heritage has high cost, it is clear that this budget is not sufficient. Therefore, the focus of activities is oriented to the promotion of Cultural heritage and numerous economic opportunities that provide a proper treatment of cultural heritage. This should actually be the key with which with the less means to achieve great results. Awareness of the population is higher and the interest of owners is greater because an object treated well is an opportunity for greater economic benefit. In this regard every year is organized competitions open to all interested people who have ideas and projects to the appropriate treatment of cultural heritage in general.
During the discussion it was understood that the Law on Cultural Heritage is currently approved and Cultural Heritage sector is in the process of finalizing the Strategy for Cultural Heritage. Currently, an important activity is to fulfill the UNESCO list of new content that will directly make possible benefit of needed funds.

According to the information in the sector of Cultural Heritage are currently employed approximately 500 people of whom half are distributed to field workers in the three institutes (Split, Trogir and Imotski) and several scattered units for conservation in all major centers, which mainly deal with the preservation and use of Cultural Heritage.

In 1999 the spiritual heritage is introduced as a significant category of cultural heritage in general, which even today is a challenge for those who are responsible. Criteria for identification and treatment are still not properly defined, according to reporter (Ms Bianka Kavur unit responsible for movable heritage and spiritual) in some of the criteria even in UNESCO are not clear. Therefore, the preparation of the lists is very difficult and requires patience and high professionalism. In 2009 from the responsible of the field is prepared a list of 16 out of which 7 nominations were received. Based on the rules, each state has the opportunity to do just 2 nomination per year.

Education - as one of the most important issues in the field of cultural heritage has been and is still a challenge in Croatia. There is no adequate offer of employment, which directly affects the interest to deal with this profession. According to reporters more stable forms of education is shown and is continuing to show the form of so called - "learning by doing" (capacity building at work).

Cultural heritage and urban/spatial planning in Croatia - the phenomenon of cross-sectorial no cooperation including vertical and horizontal form of cooperation is still present. In many cases the main obstacle for the sustainable development of various projects appears due to no coordination. One such no coordination has existed among the field of cultural heritage and urban / spatial planning. Today the situation between these sectors is favorable, there is a mutual effort for activities and more coordinated actions that are positively affecting the proper treatment of cultural heritage. For this purpose the Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning and Construction of Croatia, has changed its law in favor of protection of cultural heritage.

What is the basic procedure? - It is imperative that prior to urban/spatial planning of one zone to ensure a **conservation plan** for the area in question. Such a plan provides a list of conditions and measures for construction, which will directly affect the final solution of the relevant plan. Further such a plan is subject to public review process during which, all participants will be informed in detail about the conditions and criteria for construction. If
there are disagreements and objections they will be reviewed by experts who will make the approval or additional arguments to decide for their opposition. And finally, such a plan is ready for approval and depending on the level of the plan - final approval will make the appropriate institution. After this successful meeting was a visit to a conservation unit in Zagreb, which are demonstrated in practical forms of conservation of movable heritage (currently being done restoration of some paintings and church buildings).

Photo 3. The method of restoration of an painting of a church

Second day

Visit in Diocletian Palace – The palace was built in IV century by King Roman Guy Aurelije Valeriy Dioklecijan and today represents one of the most beautiful evidence of the Roman era in this part of Dalmatia. Palace and buildings developed during the Middle Ages represent very valuable archaeological complex which in 1976 was included in UNESCO list of world cultural heritage.

Photo 4. Dioklecian Palace
Within this complex is important to visit the Ethnological Museum which in its framework of content has copies of movable heritage originating from Kosovo and Macedonia (currently registered as samples originating from southern Serbia).

From the responsibilities of this institution was emphasized the need for cooperation with the responsible and expert from Kosovo in order to make identification and clear definition of multiple copies in the collection of this museum.

Photo 5. View from the Ethnographic Museum– Split (in the left samples arms decorated in the style that is only used in Kosovo)

Third day

Vizitë në Manastirin e Konventës Benediktiane – Ujdhesa Hvar

The reason for the visit is nuns work of the sisters that using plant fibers "Agava" (Aloe) have worked weave which are known throughout the world. For the first time such an activity is listed in the XVII century, and generation after generation has been transferred to today's generations. This is one of tourist attractions that makes island of Hvar well known and the only one in the world regarding this heritage.

Photo 6. Agave plant and a copy of weaving

Visit in the city theatre – that according to the representative of the Institute for Protection of Monuments, after Padova and Genoa Theatre, Theatre of Hvar is the oldest theater in the World. At the beginning, (XIV century) facility has served the needs of ship construction, which later (XVII century) it was added a floor for the purpose of organizing the first
manifestations of the shape of carnivals. Currently is in the phase of reconstruction (reconstruction project is done by well-known professor of the Faculty of Engineering and Architecture in Zagreb) and soon will be an important center for organizing theatrical and international events.

Photo 7. Internal view of the Hvar Theatre building.

At the conclusion of the visit –the group meeting was organized in which participants expressed their first impressions of each participant and experiences that will be used to improve the situation in the field of cultural heritage in Kosovo.

What were some of the conclusions and recommendations?

- All unanimously concluded that cultural heritage is not only a monopoly of an institution or individual but is the responsibility of all institutions in one form or another are faced with this important area of Kosovo society. Of course the burden falls largely on the Ministry of Culture and its units, which adamantly must determine the necessary steps of the activities and responsibilities as per hierarchy.

- It was concluded that conservation plans are the basis of which begin urban /spatial plans. Currently, their absence represents one of the main shortcomings of current urban regulatory plans. In no plans so far are not given the conditions and criteria for protection of an object of cultural heritage value (in the best cases are made only identification of the objects).

- It is imperative that in a short term to work in providing guidance for the formulation of conservation plans;

- It proposed the establishment of a mixed group that could provide recommendations on the experience gained on this visit;

- It would be preferred that at the inter-ministerial level to be established a group, which will deal with the integration of cultural heritage, including spatial planning;

- Such a group should be responsible for providing information about current conditions and requirements in terms of human capacities in the field of cultural heritage;

- Instruments of inventory that is used in Croatia to be imbibed as ready in Kosovo;

- To initiate to the relevant responsible in Kosovo a meeting with representatives of the Ethnological Museum of Split in order to provide professional information for a collection that still remains unidentified and which is thought that belongs to the Kosovo region.
- In some cases of the visit was proved the need for increasing the promotion of cultural heritage in favor of tourism development;
- We must insist on the continued raising of awareness for the preservation of CH at all levels;
- It was found that the system of protection of cultural heritage in Croatia is very similar to the system in Kosovo. This fact should be used maximally in terms of applying proven methods and not to lose time unnecessarily in discovering them
- All were agreed that the experience gained will transmit to colleagues;

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Prishtina, 13.06.2011