Conclusions of the ARCCHIP Workshop A01

"Social and Economic Integration of Cultural Heritage"

Prague/Liblice, April 2001

1. Introduction

The ARCCHIP workshop, organised by ITAM "Social and Economic Integration of Cultural heritage" held in Prague during April 2001, brought together participants from 15 European countries including 7 associated countries. The purpose of the workshop was to identify opportunities for collaboration and research in the field of the economic and social benefits of cultural heritage.

2. General conclusions

It was clear from the papers presented at the workshop, that the economic and social benefits of cultural heritage is an issue which is over very great relevance to each country. The participants presented and discussed experiences, problems, ideas and data in this field.

There some important common themes emerged:

- The idea of cultural heritage is continuously widening.
    - from single monument to landscape
    - from cultural heritage to historic environment
    - from isolation to closer integration with environment as a whole
    - from preservation to managing change
- As well as being important for cultural reasons, the heritage is also important for
    - quality of life – cultural heritage makes a contribution to quality of life
    - economic value - it can make a positive contribution to wealth creation, to regenerating cities
    - social value – cultural heritage is an important source of creativity, identity and inclusion
- Cultural heritage is central to idea of sustainable development
- We need to better integrate social and economic aspects of cultural heritage in future environmental strategies.

Strategies must be developed for research, management, partnership and networks.

POSSIBLE DELIVERABLES

Network on Sustaining the Value of the Cultural Heritage or, better, of historic environment, especially:

- economic values for wealth creation

- social value for identity and inclusion
- risks to the value of cultural heritage

Themes

- Concepts for sustaining value of cultural heritage – what are the current ideas and frameworks(e.g. values, identity, idea of historic environment)
- Data and Research – what data already exists about
  - Economic values
  - Social Values
  - Risks to historic environment
- Strategies and expertise
  - Examples of public/private partnership
  - Examples of community participation
  - National strategies for sustaining cultural heritage
- Methodologies
  - the inclusion of cultural heritage in environmental impact assessment
  - decision making for managing change
- Future directions
  - Project ideas
  - Research ideas

Work Programme

1. Develop ideas and identify issues
2. Gather existing data and research
3. Conference and technical publication
4. Sexy publication for politicians
5. Research projects