



Social and Economic Intecration of Cultural Heritage

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1. SITUATION IN SLOVAKIA

What happened in our country in second half of the 20th century? The environment, settlements, architectural composition and shapes, natural social structure of citizens and social, cultural, historical, environmental and legal awareness was damaged. The problems stay with us today. Our country is trying to find an effective way for decreasing the unemployment, renewal of small and medium entrepreneurs, trades, housing and solving environmental issues. Other characteristics of current stage are as follows:

- non sufficient skills in managing and marketing of goods, buildings and landscape
- no strategy on micro adaptation of the regional and local economy
- underestimation of natural economical, social and cultural potentials of the regions, cities and villages
- not sufficient awareness of renewal of human settlements and of local history, processes, heritage and resources
- highly centralised decision making process, thus devaluation of local and regional social capital and citizens capacity
- protection of cultural heritage is under the umbrella of a technically weak Ministry of Culture. Protection of cultural heritage is above all technical and managerial discipline
- investment into development which outruns regeneration thus development is accepted as a aim not as an outcome of recovering damages and health processes

2. POSITIVES

2.1 Huge cultural, nature and social diversity, wealth and history of the country:

- this provides unique opportunity for human settlements regeneration and biggest asset for sustainable development of the country
- dense network of more than 2870 human settlements (villages and towns) through the country

2.2 Democratic and pro-reform orientation of the current government:

- Slovakia became OECD member, progresses in EU and NATO integration and negotiations.

2.3 Formal adoption of declarations and small legislative improvements:

- Declaration on protection of cultural heritage in Slovakia agreed in Slovak parliament on 28th February 2001
- major update of Building law in 2000 which declared its sustainable development orientation
- New law on Protection of Monuments of the country passed in the Legislative committee of the Government. Now it will be discussed in the Government and later in parliament for final approval

2.4 Progress on developing Sustainable Development concepts

- The National Strategy for Sustainable Development created and now prepared for Government's table and Slovak parliament approval. The Strategy covers far more than general environmental aspects. It combines and integrates social, nature, cultural, historical, economical, institutional and global aspects. For more information, look on sites www.tur.sk or www.rec.sk
- number of case studies on preparation of Regional and Local Agenda 21 realised.

3. NEGATIVES

3.1 88 % of public funds still centralised:

- the need for Reform of public administration and establishing of new regions that will renew natural regional identity of the regions (like Spiš, Zemplin and others) and will enable them to activate their full potentials, thus significantly contributing to solving macro and micro economic and social problems of the country
- the Reform of public administration is the core and most problematic political issue nowadays in the country. The reform is very well prepared from an expert point of view. Left-leaning political parties in the ruling coalition oppose the reform because of the expected lose of the political power in the state administration, thus in the country
- the Reform of public administration is the most significant project of social and economical transformation since Velvet revolution in 1989.

3.2 21 % unemployment – highest in Europe:

- decision making on investment priorities with public funds is very high centralised, thus causing non-sustainable large scale investments into highway roads systems, atom power stations and similar projects rather than focusing on urban regeneration and activating new jobs that the environment naturally provides
- investment of public funds is not a result of a process of knowledge and evaluation of natural local and regional potentials and resources

3.3 The lowest investment into cultural heritage in Central Europe:

- 2millions US\$ spent in whole country from central public funds in 1998 while 11millions in Czech republic and 14millions in Hungary calculated as an equivalent of the 5 millions Slovak population

3.4 Very low proportion of repairs and reconstruction within building industry:

- only 9,5 % in Slovakia, while 16,4 % in Czech republic, 25 % in Poland, 31 % in Austria and 41 % in United Kingdom; no tax benefits for repairs and regular care

3.5 Non-sustainable cultural heritage policies within the country:

- unfair and non-effective system of compensations to owners of registered historic buildings, no open discussion on building sustainable heritage policies

- no state strategy or integration of cultural heritage potential into regional and local development and for building prosperity and wealth of the country

3.6 Low public involvement and public awareness on cultural heritage potentials:

- very low capacity and support of NGOs in cultural heritage field
- very little delegation of tasks to NGOs, almost no public-private partnerships in the field of cultural heritage between state, regions and private sector

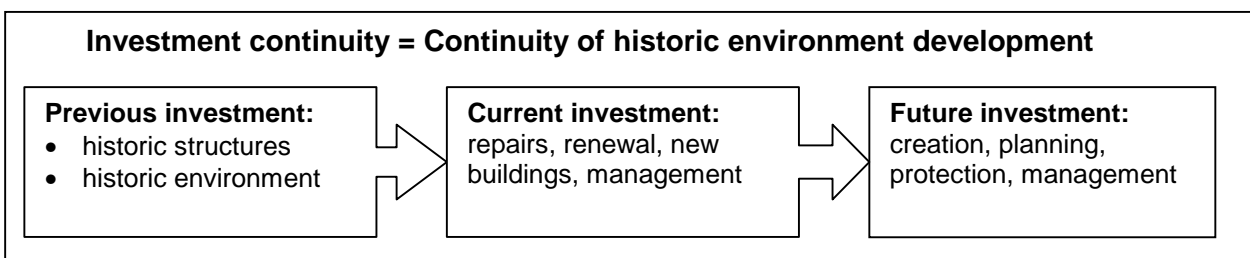
4. POTENTIALS AND BENEFITS

There is a strong relation of cultural heritage with Agenda 21 in chapter “Support of sustainable development of human settlement”. Human settlements provide unique natural potentials for people’s activity and investment. **Natural potentials** of the human settlements and landscapes are:

1. cultural heritage and resources and other assets of historic environment
2. nature heritage and resources and other assets of nature environment
3. social capital and resources, people’s knowledge
4. culture of the settlements in all its forms

These natural potentials provide huge potential for new jobs, thus the social and economical benefits from cultural heritage use, protection and evaluation. The current job structure in Slovakia is not acceptable, and new job creation is the challenge of all sectors of society. This can be done only if the potentials of the country are recognised, evaluated, accepted and involved in the market. The Reform of public administration should cause positive increase (three to four times) of regional and local budget. This will increase public investment on a local and regional level. More people will stay in the settlements because of new jobs in renewal and restoration. In Slovakia it means a potential of 250 000 new jobs, thus possible decrease of unemployment rate within next five years to level of 10 to 12 %.

Such investment causes improvement of public and private properties and public spaces, which are then more attractive on the market. People and their wealth are looking for such places to live, work, recreate and further develop enterprises in such areas. Next scheme explains the relation with continuity of investment:



5. USE AND EVALUATION OF NATURAL POTENTIALS

As we approach a particular property or zone for its protection, regeneration or reuse, we have found that the following general procedures are desirable:

- A) understanding and knowledge of local resources, the property(ies) itself, cultural and historical significance of the property, and the local environment and processes. Participation of local experts, stakeholders, decisions makers, and citizens is essential,
- B) evaluation of the property by interdisciplinary teams and assessing the development potential and limits, ever keeping in mind sustainability,

C) integration of this evaluation and assessment into practical principals, limits and priorities. Some factors to be considered are:

- legislation and land-planing documentation on all levels,
- integrated strategies of development and development policies,
- integrated urban, heritage preservation and environmental practise,
- education and activating citizens and public involvement,

D) evaluation of the end-use benefits of such properties and spaces. These factors include enhancing the environment, improving the quality of life, and adding to economic growth and stability.

Under a special research done for National Strategy for Sustainable development in Slovakia we found several challenges that today's cities and communities are faced with that are crucial for securing sustainable protection and use of buildings, spaces and cultural heritage:

1. renewal of principle of historic, cultural and social continuity,
2. renewal, protection and revitalisation of local and regional identity,
3. building understanding about complexity and totality of the heritage,
4. decentralised management and decision making in use of local and regional resources and potentials,
5. enforcing and increasing quality of management of public and private infrastructure and goods,
6. enlarging capacity of heritage sector and cross-sector and interdepartmental co-operation, communication and co-ordination,
7. building motivating conditions and environment for genuine civic involvement and naturally motivated responsibility for ours actions and responsibilities,
8. encouraging public-private partnerships in cultural heritage and support of networking organisations, sites and experts.
9. securing institutional framework for a stable and sustainable environment for education as an elementary mean of increasing quality of human potential and enforcing social, cultural, historical, environmental a legal awareness.

Balanced regional and human settlements development in Slovakia depends now on these principal concepts and reforms:

Reform of public administration

Concept of territorial development of Slovakia 2001

National Strategy for Sustainable Development of the Slovak republic

Tax reform

Reform of public funds and finances,

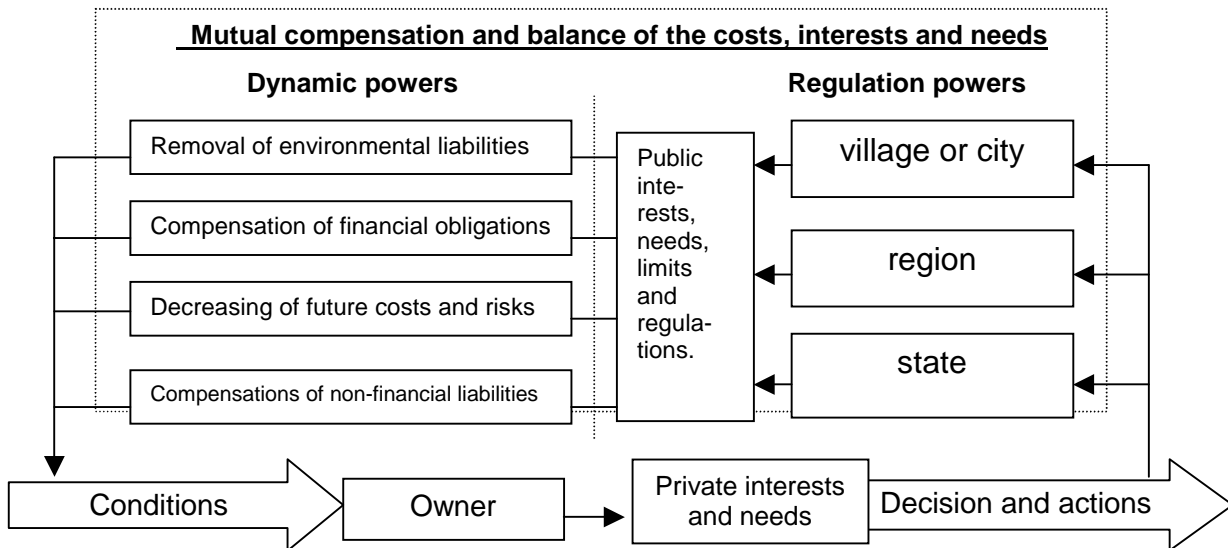
other related development strategies and plans.

Principles of sustainable funding of cultural heritage are:

- fair distribution of public funds
- true funding of project and activities of public interest, including cultural heritage protection as a declared public interest

- fair compensations of financial and non-financial obligations to the owners
- removal of environmental and social liabilities and debts
- investment into technical prevention, training and education

Sustainable and fair balance of the heritage protection system explains the scheme:



6. STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABLE USE AND PROTECTION OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS AND LANDS

While there was no concept in the country for integration of historic environment and cultural heritage potential to country's development, the National Trust of Slovakia undertook pioneering role in establishing such concept. With support of Small Grants Program (REC, UNDP, Ministry of Environ.) for developing concepts of Local agenda 21 the trust developed in an interactive process the Strategy for sustainable use and protection of historic buildings and lands between October 1999 and February 2001. The following structure of the Strategy explains its orientation and possible uses.

6.1 Content of the Strategy

1. Introduction

- 1.1. A need for the Strategy
- 1.2. Historic buildings and land regeneration and Social challenges
- 1.3. Current trends
- 1.4. International experiences
- 1.5. Explanation of some expressions

2. Identification of participants of the process

- 2.1. Main participants – owners, managers, users, investors
- 2.2. Experts, Institutions, Authorities and companies
- 2.3. Non formal groups – public and citizens
- 2.4. Non-governmental and non-profit organisations

3. Identification of historic buildings, objects and lands

- 3.1. Cultural, historical and social topography
- 3.2. Identification of spaces, areas and zones
- 3.3. Evaluation
- 3.4. Regulation
- 3.5. Restriction and liabilities
4. Evaluation of benefits and internal potential
 - 4.1. Principles of wealth creation
 - 4.2. Successful realisation of reforms – condition of wealth growth in Slovakia
 - 4.3. Urban regeneration
 - 4.4. Potentials for job creation
 - 4.5. Benefits from regeneration and uses of internal potential of the country
 - 4.6. Examples of calculations of economical return of investment into urban regeneration and regeneration of historic buildings
5. Historic buildings management
 - 5.1. Managing property
 - 5.2. Managing change
 - 5.3. Administration
 - 5.4. Prevention – tools of prevention
 - 5.5. Financing and costs evaluation
 - 5.6. Capabilities
 - 5.7. Protection of historic values and items – tools of protection
 - 5.8. Interpretation and Presentation
6. Training and Education
 - 6.1. Awareness and attitudes of participant of the processes
 - 6.2. Training, qualification schemes, educational programs, application of traditional skills
7. Capacity building for protection and use of cultural heritage
 - 7.1. Co-ordination
 - 7.2. Co-operation
 - 7.3. Partnerships
 - 7.4. Campaign – action planing and motor of Strategy implementation
8. Strategic aims and program areas
 - 8.1. Our vision
 - 8.2. Strategic aims and middle term tasks
 - 8.3. Program areas for Strategy implementation
 - 8.4. Summary
9. Additions
 - 9.1. Problematic tasks of participants the process for improvement of cultural heritage policies

9.2. Relevant indicators for evaluation of sustainability of human settlements and regional development and for protection of historic buildings

9.3. Used literature and information resources

6.2 Some indicators for evaluation:

- level of preparation of the owners and historic structures for investment
- % of used and maintained historic structures
- existence of national cultural heritage preservation policies and its open evaluation and monitoring processes
- existence of individual public-private partnerships and policies creation in cultural heritage field on national level
- integrated human settlements functions index
- completed infrastructure index and others

6.3 Some strategic aims:

- implementation of tax benefits system from proper care, maintenance and use of the historic buildings and structures including fair system of compensation for the owners of registered historic buildings
- involving regeneration of human settlements and landscapes into local, regional and national policies and programs for job creations, housing and SME development
- creation of technical prevention programs for historic buildings owners and educational programs on all level
- improvement of quality human settlements and historic buildings management
- improvement of quality human settlements and historic buildings interpretation
- to implement integrated planning and practise in human settlements development

6.4 Program areas for implementation of the Strategy:

1. Area of management and technical prevention of historic buildings and landscapes
2. Area of human settlements regeneration
3. Area of building capacity for heritage protection and sustainable use
4. Area of training and education

7. NATIONAL TRUST OF SLOVAKIA

The National trust of Slovakia is non-governmental organisation established in 1996. Our mission is to support sustainable use and protection of cultural and natural heritage of the country for the benefit of Slovakia and its people. We are active in conservation work, support heritage education and training, provide consultations to various groups and owners, encourage the development of heritage organisations and their capacity throughout the country and support creation of implementation of sustainable heritage policies. We believe that these activities to be vital and to have great practical benefits in the economic development of regions, towns and villages.

We are happy that the role non-governmental organisations in cultural heritage field was recognised by the last conference of ministers responsible for culture heritage of Council of Europe held in Portoroz, Slovenia. They agreed on Declaration on the role of voluntary organisations in cultural heritage field.

8. SUMMARY

Historic objects, buildings and landscapes create historic environment. It is measurable by spaces, sizes and other numbers. They create unique natural development potentials of the country, region and human settlements. If we would like to activate these potentials within the country we have to realise the regeneration of human settlements, land or particular objects, where it is needed. Thus we can then remove environmental and social liabilities and to renew cultural, social and historical continuity. By doing this, we will significantly improve conditions for further sustainable development of human settlements that have positive impact to the regions and whole country as well.