

Protection , Documentation and Popularization of Cultural- Historical and Natural Heritage of Canton Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

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1. Introduction

Practically, the activities on heritage legal protection in B&H as one of the federal states of ex-Yugoslavia started at the end of World War Two.

For the first time the special services with the task of registration, valorization, legal protection, reparation, restoration and revitalization of real estate heritage were established.

In 1945 was founded, as a department of the National Museum, the Institute for Protection and Scientific Study of Cultural Monuments and Natural Rarities in B&H. It became independent as the institution in 1947. Also, in 1947 the first Law on Protection of Monuments and natural Rarities was passed.

From 1945 to 1992 in the main B&H cities as Sarajevo, Mostar, Tuzla and Banja Luka were founded another four institutes for heritage protection. The several laws on legal heritage protection were passed too, that were compatible to all international conventions, among these The Convention of Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage passed at UNESCO General Conference at 1972, in Paris.

In 1985 was passed the latest Law on Protection and Usage of Cultural, Historical and Natural Heritage at the state level of B&H that defined as heritage not only individual cultural monuments but also the ensembles, archeological sites and movable properties. According to that law expert institutions had right to do registration, valorization and legal protection proposals, while Assembly of B&H announces the monument listed. The idea of previous protection that means recording and other protection measures for unlisted monuments appeared.

In 1993 B&H, now as the independent country, ratified the conventions and continuity of membership in all international bodies concerning the questions of heritage.

Dayton Agreement (signed in November, 1995 Dayton, USA), defining B&H as an administratively decentralized state and by Annex 8 of the Agreement the cultural administration, primarily, the cultural and natural heritage determines on the Canton¹ level.

Burdened by postwar difficulties, mainly in the social and economic sphere, B&H doesn't fully succeed in "covering" its state space by adequate services for protection of cultural and natural heritage. Therefore at this moment at the area of B&H exist and act the Institutions of entirely unequal quantity and quality, as follows:

1. Heritage Center - Institute for Protection of cultural, Historical and natural Heritage of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the successor of former B&H Institute
2. Institute for Protection of Cultural, Historical and Natural Heritage of Canton Sarajevo
3. City Institute for Protection of Cultural, Historical and Natural Heritage Tuzla
4. Two city institutes for protection of heritage in Mostar

¹ Administrative unit, B&H consists of 10 Federal Cantons and Republic Srpska

5. Institute for protection of heritage of Republic Srpska with two branches in place Pale near Sarajevo and Trebinje

In the rest of the Cantons (10 is the total number) of B&H Federation the protection of cultural and natural heritage is reduced to problems of “daily maintaining “ which is carried by municipality organs as the lowest administrative units.

Extremely bad state of cultural heritage fund that we faced in 1996, also absence of strategy of reconstruction, protection and usage in general, surely led to the negative consequences in the recent period of reconstruction.

Apart from the enormous war destruction, first of all, we must mention the individual interventions that caused devastation of monuments, ensembles, and natural areas. (Parallel to this negative events it is necessary to mention extraordinary efforts and significant results in renovation, sanation, reconstruction and restoration of cultural heritage individual edifices.)

The present state of the fund of cultural and natural heritage in B&H points out the urgent need of forming the adequate Services for Heritage Protection in all Cantons.

Prerequisite of implementation of this action is passing the law on protection of cultural heritage both at the levels of Cantons, and the level of state B&H in the sense of general agreement compatible to European laws on heritage protection.

2. Protection of heritage in the region of Canton Sarajevo

By millennium continuation in existing of Sarajevo since period of Neolithic settlements identified as “ Butmir Culture “ westward, through a Roman colony named “ Aqua S ...”, then through the first defined urban core formed during XVI century eastward, and also densely concentrated material trails and evidences of historical frictions in this area, almost entire territory of Sarajevo may be considered as Cultural Heritage zone.

Establishing the service for protection of cultural heritage in the region of Sarajevo started by founding The Fund for Regulation of Baščaršija (monumental core of the Old City of Sarajevo from middle age) in 1963. In 1965 The City council founded The Institute for the Protection and Regulation of Cultural Monuments of Sarajevo. In the next decades it developed into a well organized and equipped specialistic institution that records significant results in the protection, recording, inventorying and reconstruction of the monument fund. Trying to get the deserving place and importance for cultural-historical and natural heritage in the life of community, and its protection to be included in programs of general planning, Institute is guided by the laws on the field of heritage protection passed in B&H from 1985¹ up today and by regulations of international conventions on heritage.

Its main activities are:

- Recording and valorizing of heritage (movable, unmovable, ensembles and natural)
- Making the programs, studies and elaborates on protection measures, sustainability and usage of heritage within the urban planning documents (Within this a complete survey of the area is made. In the methodology of surveying a type of questionnaire is used.)
- Making the projects of reconstruction, restoration and revitalization
- Providing the expert opinions, recommendations and permissions on projects made for the area of heritage
- Valorization of the modern art pieces and approvals for exit out of the country
- Supervision of the works on monuments

¹ At the beginning of 2000, the Law on Protection of Cultural Heritage of Canton Sarajevo was passed. Natural heritage is not treated by this Law, so we also use the B&H Law from 1985.

- Interpretation and popularization of the heritage
- Informative, inventory and documentation activities

The Institute has 22 employees: architects, historian and historian of art, biologist, experts for oriental studies, computer expert and librarian, also auxiliary staff. (We must say that the number of existing personnel is critically low.)

3. Inventory, documentation and informative activities¹

Many decades of activities of the Institute today results in obtaining an extraordinarily valid and detailed documentation of monuments of Cultural Heritage in Sarajevo.

Documentary fund of Institute contains about 20.000 documentary units sorted as "sub-funds": evidence carts of monuments, photo-carts, photographs, plans and projects (copies and originals), copies of projects permitted by the Institute and the archive with all records of reconstruction and restoration works on monuments. There are monographic and serial publications, too.

Even the library fund is of internal type, access is enabled to the students, scientist and experts in the Heritage Protection.

All precious material is protected by microfilms and stored. This job had been already done when war in 1992/95 started. Thanks to that fact documentation remained preserved during the war.²

Appearing of the great number of documents that are unavoidable base for all activities of Institute, also necessary linking of all forms of activities, especially, in the process of information and data exchange at internal and external level, made using informatic technologies indispensable.

Preparations for automatic data processing began in 1990 parallel with the process of reorganization of documentary and library funds.

However, the general circumstances, war and several times moving, limited financial resources considerably slew down this process.

The Project of Informative System of Institute was worked out and its implementation started by the end of 1998.

By the way of the Intranet (internal network) it is possible to all associates to have access to internal information and all documentation in digital form. Also, gathering and exchange of information about protection of Cultural Heritage within the frame of worldwide information via Internet networks, is usual activity of Service today.

We may say, that the Institute is approaching new millennium as a modern Service for the Protection of Cultural Heritage with extremely large quantity of very precious informative-documentary material and with strong preposition for integration into the wider information system.

¹ All informative, inventory and documentation activities are carried by two persons only, Amela Lipa, librarian and Amra Buturovic, professor of mathematics.

² There is a very interesting note that the building, where the one copy of microfilms was stored away and protected under the specially regulated conditions, was completely burned in 1992. But, two other copies stored away privately by the institute workers (one for example in the garage) were saved and later stored away in the Presidency safe-room. Fortunately also a greatest part of original Institute documentation was saved, while the fund (not even protected by microfilms) of the some very important national cultural Institutions, like National Library and Oriental Institute, was burnt and completely lost.

4. Standardization of the B&H database

Regarding the development of scientific approach in the field of heritage, also the development of inventory funds which are scattered through the scientific institutions, museums and galleries, the need for unique data base of the heritage field appeared at the level of the state B&H. It should enable the knowledge about cultural heritage to be accessible not only to users included directly in protection of heritage by the way of Institutes, but also to all professional and scientific public.

One of first steps is to make a unique list of national monuments of B&H.

(By Dayton Agreement, Annex 8 a special board for cultural heritage has been formed whose basic aim should be protection of cultural-historical heritage in the state B&H. The part of these activities is making the unique list of national monuments of B&H.

This job has been given to the Services for Protection from all B&H and their expert teams. The methodology and nomenclature has commonly been fixed and the preliminarily list of national monuments has been made.)

This Institute has made complete evidence of cultural monuments on the territory of Canton Sarajevo according to the fixed methodology and nomenclature, and carried out a classification by which each monument, with the aim of data standardization, will get the identification code. (There was made a registration form for the list of national monuments.)¹

5. Popularization of cultural-historical heritage

If we start with a postulate that Cultural Heritage belongs to everyone, that it has been inherited from the past, determining our present and future, Heritage must become, in order to avoid falling into the trap of formalism and becoming purpose for itself, a true property of its co-existing generations. In that sense, Service for Protection is trying to make B&H Heritage closer to current population of Sarajevo and wider.

Popularization is directed towards promotion, affirmation and awareness of its values:

- At address: www.internet.ba/spomenici-sa has been made web site of Institute for the Protection of Cultural-Historical and Natural Heritage of Canton Sarajevo. Via more than 100 pages the user can get information about Heritage and activities in Protection.
- Presentation of The Restoration Projects
- Using public media and press to introduce The Cultural Heritage
- Organizing and participation in international project of protection of cultural heritage
- Publishing of booklets, publications, catalogues and photo-monographs
- Revival of publishing special thematic magazine editions or annual books called " Nase starine" (B&H Institute)
- Exchange of information between libraries, archives and museums
- Active work with graduate students of Faculties of Architecture and Art
- Helping in realization of courses and organization of the elementary school children expositions on Heritage topic²

¹ State of movable heritage is partly unknown, especially when it is a part of private property. (But it is completely preserved in the museums, galleries and institutions.) We must note that there is no central database in this segment, also for Canton Sarajevo

² It's interesting to say that new Elementary School Program includes a Course of Cultural Heritage

The most important form of popularization is the great number of expositions with the subject from the field of heritage:

- 1992 - exposition of "Hadji Sinanova Tekija"

Tekija in Sarajevo is a sacral ensemble with the cemetery dating from XVII century that consists of the valuable calligraphy, written documents, library and articles that belong to the Islamic religious rite.

- 1991/92 - exposition of the " Old Jewish cemetery in Sarajevo" - a cemetery that belongs to Sephard Jews from XVII/XVII century.
- 1996 - exposition included into international manifestation " Bosnian Jews, Legend-Tradition and Life" organized by Ministry of Culture of Republic Austria in Vienna, completed by photos of destroyed tombs and the chapel. Exposition got a new dimension that recorded the testimonies about the demolition of cultural monuments in Sarajevo in the war-years 1992/95.
- 1998 – exposition: " Old Cemeteries in Sarajevo "

In the region of Sarajevo a numerous cemeteries are located that represents the complex spiritual symbols of the past and continuity of existence. Present through the centuries picturing the traditions and culture cemeteries have obtained the status of monuments. Exposition was displayed with the aim to present this less known segment of heritage.

- 1998 - exposition of "Facade Relieves in Sarajevo" displayed the two basely quite opposite poles in the development of architectural styles through the Austria-Hungarian period of XIX/XX century. They were created during the short interval by the same authors. On the one side is rich decorative plastic of "Secession" facades and on the other side the final style phase of the period called " Bosnian mixed style".
- 1999 - exposition " Structural Repairs and Reconstruction of Sacral Edifices Destroyed in 1992/95 War "

The sacral objects as the symbols of religious and spiritual life of the nations in B&H in their century-old survival, exposed to the winds from East and West, North and South have shared the fate of whole Cultural-Historical Heritage of B&H. The exposition was to try to show only a fragment of voluminous works of repairing, reconstruction and restoration carried out in the period from 1996 to 1999. The Heritage Center of B&H, The Institutes of Mostar and Tuzla also took part.

- 2000 - participation of The Institute projects of reconstruction and restoration in the Faculty of Architecture exposition