











Hungarian Report - Consultations for Carpathian Heritage

On 7 March 2008 a consultation meeting relating to Article 11 of the Carpathian Convention, entitled "For the Preservation of Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge" was held in Miskolc, at the headquarters of the Miskolc Academic Committee of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

The Deák Room of this eclectic building provided a sophisticated environment for the participating museologists, regional development specialists, monument protection specialists, environmental protection activists and local government representatives.

The primary aim of the Meeting on Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge was to inform the specialists, organisations and local communities in Northern Hungary that a list of such specialists, organisations and local communities was planned to be prepared in the future, and also to investigate future possibilities for co-operation for this activity.

Another aim of the meeting was to examine, from several professional aspects, the conditions for preparing a List of Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge in the future, the criteria for selection and the requirements relating to supporting the preservation of cultural heritage in the long-term.

With respect to the fact that local communities have the best knowledge of local values, the group discussions were based on their experiences and local knowledge.

An introductory round covering individual and organisational objectives was followed by three thought-provoking lectures.

The first lecture was given by a local specialist, István Paszternák, Head of the Office for the Preservation of Cultural Heritage in Northern Hungary, who talked about the difficulties and important issues for the preservation of cultural heritage – mentioning examples, mostly from Northern Hungary and also describing the difficulties of creating such as register.

The second lecture was given by Mrs. Zsuzsanna Kiss Árokháti, Chief Councillor at the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Water Management. She talked about the history of the Carpathian Convention, about the present stage of progress of the Convention. She gave a detailed explanation of the current issues, the expected developments and the issue of outstanding areas from the aspect of Hungary.

The last lecture was given by Péter Gresiczki, Chief Secretary of the Hungarian UNESCO Committee, who talked about the experience of international preservation projects relating to this issue and about the main elements of the national programme entitled "Preservation of Local Cultural Heritage".

In his lecture István Paszternák set out the following **causes** while discussing the current problems of cultural heritage:

The communities that used to maintain heritage have disappeared (have migrated to town or become elderly etc.). The functions related to heritage have disappeared (e.g. different industrial branches, manufacturing industry, etc.). Large capital investments and the market economy have appeared. There is a crisis within the current system of values, old values have changed, disappeared, and money has become the most dominant factor. The lifestyle of the local people has changed and there is an increasing desire for financial welfare.

"Typical mistakes" in the preservation of cultural heritage:

- "anything that is old is not good enough"
- too much money, too many politicians
- in the case of a successful application there is either too much money or too little money (deficient support, the application systems are not carefully elaborated)
- excessive protection may be harmful: "we protected it so much that we nearly broke our back" (e.g.: Hollókő houses with a swimming pool)
- changing lifestyles, increasing demands (people have stopped heating with wood, there is a demand for under-floor heating, etc.)
- disappearance of intellectual heritage there is no need for old crafts any longer: grazing, , charcoal-burners, and cooper-making
- the set of prohibitions and legal acts provide a poorly supporting system

Tasks:

- we should be happy to have what we have (rather than wanting to come up with something new, we should show, deal with and appreciate what we already have)
- there is a pattern to neglect the 1950s and to forget the architecture of that era, which also has its own special values
- good owner behaviour
- understandable, appreciable and truthful monument restoration
- establishing archaeological parks (e.g.: Kisrozvány, Bodrog-köz)
- socialisation : opening them to the public
- passing knowledge onto children bringing up the following generation

In connection with registration:

- intellectual heritage is difficult to register (it is demonstrated by the fact that anthropologists have been trying to do so for a 100 years with little success)
- the concrete aim of the Register of Cultural Heritage should be defined
- placing the values included in the register under protection

Péter Gresicki, from the Hungarian Committee of the UNESCO said that the UNESCO operates in Hungary like a "watchdog", it monitors and welcomes these efforts and it finds them useful; it especially encourages local decisions about what can be regarded as a value to be preserved. The preservation of traditions is very important, it is upon this that awareness of one's identity is based. Péter Gresicki mentioned a few significant aspects that he recommended to be taken into consideration during the process of creating a register.

Local initiations arising from local communities are based on local democracy. The relations of local knowledge must be examined to see what cultural politics exists in a given settlement, and to what

extent legal acts are known and observed, what cultural activities or priorities the local authority supports.

Péter Gresicki found it very important to pass on local knowledge in the local schools and to elaborate local education materials. It is also important to find out what other institutes there are in a given settlement and how they operate. UNESCO is against the use of culture as a commercial product. They find information supply and the participation of the civil society important, as this is what local democracy is based upon.

The lectures were followed by workshop discussions in small groups that could be chosen optionally. The participants were divided into two groups and they were given the task to answer previously prepared questions. We used a method that made it possible for everybody to express their opinions and experience. After answering the first group of questions the small groups changed tables and worked on answering the questions of the previous group. This 'world-cafe' technique proved useful, as everybody was able to share their opinion in connection with the questions. Each table had a host to facilitate the discussions (they were Balázs Kalydy from UNESCO and Veronika Kiss from CEEWEB).

In the scope of the workshop discussions, in small groups, the following questions were discussed:

A) What existing registers do we know about? (for details see point 2)

(Cultural Heritage Office): register of monuments, register of buildings to be protected, register of archaeological sites

County museums: data warehouses with a digital catalogue according to topics, HOM: archives of folk architecture

National Parks Management: unique landscape registers

Registers included in town and settlement plans

Ministry of Agriculture and Regional Development Agricultural Marketing Centre: HIR program register

Data of Hungaria Nostra member associations

B) What is our experience in connection with already existing registers?

According to specialists the present registers have been developed to different extents, and they partly overlap each other. Some of the registers are not updated or publicly available.

C) What categories could a register of Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge contain within the Carpathian Convention?

Preferably the register should contain definable territorial units, with special respect to regions extending over borders.

The limits should be defined, taking into consideration ethnological and geographical units (e.g. the Palots, the region of Mezőkövesd, Gömör, Bodrogköz, Hegyköz).

The strong features of Northern Hungary should be taken as a basis for international comparison. First of all these features should include cultural heritage, sustainable agriculture and forestry; for example we cannot compete in the category of high mountains.

D) What should be the basis for criteria for recommendations for the register?

No new register is needed, the already existing surveys which should be regarded as a basis, the criteria used by the UNESCO could be used for example, in a simplified form.

The selection of regional units should include several of the already existing registers.

E) What support does a community with protected values need?

Apart from financial sources, a background of specialists, training, communication, etc. is needed.

F) A unit of cultural heritage may strengthen the awareness of identity of the local habitants. Do you know about any local communities where cultural heritage had a community developing effect?

Unity often becomes stronger when difficulties and dangers occur. For example unions of settlements along certain rives – floods; the settlements with world heritage sites, e.g. Tokaj-hegyalja, the straw power-plant of Szerencs; the settlements and wine-growers of a wine region, e.g. Bükkalja.

G) Do you know of a settlement where the uniting force of a community could be asserted in the interest of a certain aim, or where a community was able to collaborate with the local authority?

Yes, everybody had a concrete example demonstrating the unity of the inhabitants, but in most cases they acted against something. E.g.: Kisgyőr – combining against the construction of a mobile phone transmission tower.

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Annex No. 2 - Overview of the Experts, Local Materials and Knowledge on Cultural Heritage and its Links to Sustainable Development in the Hungarian Carpathian Region

Between 4 - 7th February 2008, in Miskolc, in the Northern Hungarian Office of the Office Cultural Heritage and CEEWEB carried out consultations with István Paszternák, Head of the Office.

In the course of these discussions it became clear that they were ready to collaborate in the process of setting up the List of Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge, related to the Carpathian Convention. At the same time it was pointed out that the current basis should be used a starting-point, there is no point in starting new research, but as a first step the already existing registers should be collated.

In order to define criteria a decision should be made on what we want to protect: non-existent or still existing built and intellectual cultural heritage (e.g.: charcoal-burning). Also there should be an examination of what is recorded in the registers already. Furthermore, values not included in the registers should also be placed under protection. He recommended the unique landscape register, and that the National Parks should perform this task.

István Paszternák pointed out the responsibility of local authorities, because they have the possibility and also the legal power to provide appropriate support for the preservation of cultural heritage. Experience has shown at sites where the main architect from the local authority was involved, built heritage was successfully taken into consideration. He also stated that local protection should be given more attention and it should be regarded as more significant. It was also pointed out that support should be provided carefully, only for those who need it or ask for it.

The participants of the meeting found that the following specialists and authorities could be involved in the registration process:

Association for the Protection of Towns and Villages: Europa Nostra – the largest international civil organisation in Europe – admitted this association as a member in 1991, by the name Hungaria Nostra. Its aim is to preserve the natural and built values of Hungarian settlements; increase the number of developments suited the landscape, history and the settlement structure; revive and extend culture and solve the current issues of national cultural heritage and communities.

Village-House Association (Jósvafő) – Péter Szabjár, chairperson – the significance of village-houses and the meetings organised by them was pointed out several times (there is a network of village-houses in Hungary)

Miskolc University – Department of Cultural and Visual Anthropology - József Katic, Head of the Department

Chamber of Architects in Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County

Museum of Sárospatak

Museum of Putnok

Ottó Herman Museum - Gyula Viga and Arnold Tóth (ethnographer), many registers have been made, and which the museum stores. Furthermore, significant research has been performed by the museum staff in the field of folk arts, landscape management, traditions and folk customs. They are ready to provide access to their materials.

Local authorities

Aggtelek National Park http://anp.nemzetipark.gov.hu/, Bükk National Park http://www.bnpi.hu

Office for the Preservation of Cultural Heritage - The Northern Hungarian Office - István Paszternák and Erzsébet Dörgő (in charge of Heves County) http://www.koh7.hermuz.hu/

The organisation's main fields of activity include: monument protection, archaeology, establishing a database, building and official licences, monument environment. They have prepared a non-official archaeological database, and although the register of monuments of BAZ county is not yet at the printing phase, the Miskolc Office for the Preservation of Cultural Heritage has prepared a database, which may be an important basic document in the course of surveying the cultural values of BAZ county.

Green Actions Association -Miskolc: www.greenaction.hu

It is a civil professional organisation, and its aim is to facilitate solutions for environmental problems by environmental protection and nature preservation activities, professional research and by working for environmental awareness.

Ecological Institute for Sustainable Development Foundation - Miskolc: www.ecolinst.hu

The mission of the Ecological Institute for Sustainable Development (est.: 1992) includes the promotion of sustainable development, the improvement of the ecological culture, education for global thinking, and – throughout all these – the elaboration of fundamentals for the realisation of sustainable development in practice, promotion and awareness raising.

Holocene Association – Miskolc – civil environmental protection association

UNESCO – Hungarian Focal Point (Balázs Kálydy, Péter Gresicki)

ICOMOS – Hungarian National Committee Association

The organisations aims are to promote the preservation, protection and use of monuments and historical complexes at the national and international level, asserting their values. At a national level the Committee elaborates and implements its own action programme, in compliance with the aims and efforts of the ICOMOS; promotes internationally recognised principles and methods relating to the protection of monuments and historical complexes, as well as national and international exchange of opinions relating to the improvement and application of such principles and methods.

Hungarian Academy of Sciences

Museum of Ethnography

Museums of Nógrád, Heves and BAZ counties

Monument Protection Authorities

Local materials:

Register of the monuments of Nógrád and Heves counties (not yet digitalised)

Register of the organisations of the Association for the Improvement of Towns and Villages

Register of the Budapest Association for City Preservation

Church history publications

Acts on Nature Preservation: register of ex lege protected areas, protected species

The Office for the Preservation of Cultural Heritage finds that it is its responsibility to take part in the registration process of the Cultural Heritage of the Carpathian Mountains, and the database and registers collected by them is a great help during this process.

Ottó Herman Museum they are ready to provide us with ethnographic, gastronomic, folk art, archaeological materials.

The previous publications of the museum (no longer published) which may be useful in revealing local cultural heritage.

Publications of Ottó Herman Museum in Miskolc:

- 1) Small monographs of Borsod County
- 2) Archives of Architecture
- 3) Manufactories in Hungary
- 4) Documents of the history of the town of Miskolc
- 5) Ethnographic publications of Ottó Herman Museum of Miskolc
- 6) Town history publications of Miskolc
- 7) Natura Borsodiensis
- 8) Publications of the Visual Culture Research Department

Presently published museum series:

- 1) Animals in Hungarian folk art Márta Fügedi
- 2) The glass-works of the Bükk mountains László Veres
- 3) Vineyards Ownership in Miskolc in the 16th Century
- 4) Threefold boundary Studies about the shifting folk culture of the Bodrogköz region Gyula Viga
- 5) Ottó Herman, Member of Parliament József Szabadfalvi
- 6) Myths and Reality: folk art of the Mezőkövesd region Márta Fügedi
- 7) The achievements of five and a half decades József Szabadfalvi
- 8) Pottery in Miskolc in the 16-19th Century Gabriella Vida
- 9) History of Agriculture in the 18th Century: selected studies by Imre Wellmann selected and edited by Tamás Csíki and Tibor Rémiás
- 10) Roads and Encounters Gyula Viga
- 11) Miscellanea museologica Gyula Viga
- 12) Capitalising Economy- Society with a Developing Bourgeois Mentality. The population of Tokaj in 1869 János Bencsik

The values of the region:

There are certain values characteristic to the region including cave houses, mansion-houses, press-houses, wine cellars, monuments, spa culture, village-houses, which hold (or can hold) a role in maintaining the awareness of identity, in a given settlement, monastery economies, traditional crafts, folk customs, folk costumes, etc.

Annex No. 3 - A Summary Plan for the Establishment of the Carpathian Culture and Heritage List

Proposals put forward include:

- 1. The Unique Landscape Register has been mentioned several times, on several occasions the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Water Management would like to regulate the basis on which locations are included into the register (the National Parks has not dealt with this)
- 2. Town and settlement planning requires heritage protection impact studies (examined from the archaeological and architectural aspects)
- 3. Should there be a time limit for the drawing up of the Register of Cultural Heritage of the Carpathian Mountains? Should the register include activities which no longer exist? (e.g. Cserehát ceramics, or charcoal burning which the locals no longer carry out, only the guest workers). The specialists involved should find answers to these questions
- **4.** The specialists involved with cultural heritage proposed that settlement environmental protection should also protect cultural interests, as at present environmental protection has more importance than cultural values, so this could be included in a given case.
- **5.** Efforts should be made to concentrate on specifically Hungarian features, primarily taking consideration of Hungarian traditions
- **6.** Concentration on special Carpathian features, and examination into what is typically characteristic of a given area, or element, and whether these may be found elsewhere (e.g. abroad)
- **7.** A minimum register should be drawn up, as this may be more effective, as too many items would make selection between the elements more difficult, we should not think on too great a scale.
- 8. When setting up the register an overly diverse list is probably not the best idea
- **9.** The goal should be a selective tradition-preserving register, into which the affected elements on the existing lists would be placed along with the natural, cultural, ethnographical and archaeological values
- 10. The meeting point for several aspects and several elements should be sought (as many different things as possible and should be in one place), even from several lists, and the connection points of these should be examined
- **11.** Building on existing materials (searching for a frame), in one line, e.g. a source of income, gastronomy, the keeping of livestock, land use, the existence of orchards and searching for the relationships of these with other elements and each other
- **12.** Compiling the data from various existing lists for the given settlement and comparing them from the purpose of the realisation of various aspects
- 13. Setting up settlement Local History registers, sources that can be evaluated from the aspect of the community, as the local population is on many occasions not aware of the local values or of its protected elements
- **14.** The role undertaken by the local authorities is very important, as they are able to do something in the interest of the objective

- **15.** The large role undertaken by schools: in a settlement the school collects together several generations, and various different employment, religious and ethnic groups. The schools are meeting points, greater attention should be paid to this possibility
- **16.** The local schools should put together a textbook on all the local culture and this should appear in the curriculum as compulsory teaching material. Through this the future generations may become aware of the values (in today's diminishing values), which may strengthen their awareness of identity
- **17.** The List should be created by public servants (e.g. Cultural Heritage Offices, museums) are known of by few, they need to be digitised. They need to be accessible on the Internet, so that as many people as possible have access to these materials
- **18.** The List should be based on regional units, e.g. the country borders should not be an obstacle, such as the Gömör region, which stretches over onto the Slovakian side
- 19. If an element is typical only here, then it should have primary importance and we should "show" this
- 20. The organic relationship between mountain and plain, the establishment of close relationships between them in the past, micro-regions are built in steps from the field to the mountains (Gömör cooking pots were brought from Slovakia, and people went all the way to Szeged to sell them, as there was no clay suitable for pot production on the great plain; and the raw material for the special occasion Matyó and Palóc folk costume was also brought from Slovakia, interdependence in households, which, today, has disappeared)
- **21.** In the case of danger the register will be necessary, e.g. a danger may be construction work, demolition or road building, etc.
- **22.** The LEADER programme organised along funding/political lines, it is possible that a new opportunity will replace this
- 23. Regarding support the experience is that the very complex systems and the necessity for own resources makes the chances for the applicants impossible, it is worthwhile looking at the support from this point of view as well
- **24.** Not only comprehensive things need to be placed on the register, if a cultural or natural value exists in itself it should be placed on the register, complexity should not be a reason for exclusion; complexity may be a specific feature as well
- **25.** Ensuring the flow of information in the media, on the Internet, on local authority websites, etc. The media may be used for education purposes
- **26.** The setting up of the register should be something concrete: penalty-support, protection should be implemented in Hungary, according to the domestic legal acts, the appropriate legal background should be set up and asserted
- 27. Complex questions may be applied as a filter when setting up the register
- 28. It is practical to set up a system of criteria, e.g. how many a year, or should a regional limit be set? Regulation is necessary, the role of UNESCO could enter into effect here: serious justification: in a given area, in a given year X items may be proposed: with photographs, e.g. with a 3-page supportive description and registration fee (e.g. HUF 5000)

- **29.** The system of criteria should be complex, comprehensive and view the primary point of view as the provision of value
- **30.** When putting together the register several people and several points of view should work together, it should be possible for anyone to propose initiative coming from below, so that the values proposed by the local population can be taken into consideration
- **31.** The existing registers should be analysed: which are important and about which can it be said they are real Carpathian features, how original are they and whether they have something unique that is characteristic of the region
- **32.** It is a question that is an economic activity in the past was not favourable, should we preserve it now just because it is a tradition? (e.g. bad grape production which was common in the past, however, from today's point of view the quality is bad, the question is whether it should be treated as something of value)
- **33.** An important point of view is whether we want to list living things, or things that are in need of protection
- **34.** Examination of archiving, museums, as value centres
- **35.** The role of the media is very important at every level and in every form, we should mainly concentrate on passing on things to the children
- **36.** Culture policy is very important in the settlements, whether they are aware of the law and on what level they use it
- **37.** Every settlement should work out a concrete heritage programme, even within the scope of the environmental protection programme
- **38.** Setting up a register from the specialists and comparing it with the list put together by the locals
- 39. The cultural values should not be turned into goods
- **40.** It is important to put together a checklist, for which the checklist used by UNESCO could be used as an example
- **41.** What cultural activities does the local authority support?
- **42.** Local education has a significant role in the passing on of knowledge (setting up educational material about the settlement and even about the region as well)
- **43.** What institutions exist in the settlement?
- **44.** Are there any outstanding personalities? Are/were there any folk customs, folklore in the settlement?
- **45.** Is there a local radio, TV, newspaper, Internet café, library in the settlement?
- **46.** A list should be made of local values and published on CD and the website
- **47.** The local authorities should issue questionnaires in the settlements, so that the elements the locals feel to be of value are identified these then are examined by filtering specialists

- **48.** The landscape for the locals is a given, customary environment, they do not treat it as something of value, therefore light should be thrown on the economic potential within their own values and the community should be made aware of this.
- **49.** Folk crafts and products have almost completely disappeared, partially due to the changed lifestyle and on the effect of the economic environment, and also partially due to loss of function. The numbers of traditional pottery centres, weaving workshops, carpenters, coopers, smiths etc. have diminished. When performing comprehensive settlement planning they could be taken into consideration and they could be built upon. The support could finance education of this kind or the organisation of regular programs around operating workshops
- **50.** The issue of tourism has occurred carefully, as the specialists are aware of its dangers, over popularity, over-marketing and turning values into goods that destroy the local values. It is important to make the public aware of cultural and natural values with moderation and proper specialist knowledge, as it is not the market that should be the decisive factor.
- **51.** Ensuring the local market conditions for the local craftsmen, e.g. based on a kind of Styrian Buschenschank law (as practiced in Austria), where the locals could sell their products locally.