



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

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*“Management of Historic Cities and Landscapes:
Different Cultures. Common Goals.
Intercultural Perspective”*

International Baltic States - South Caucasus Workshop

19-22 June

2005

Vilnius, Lithuania

FINAL COMMUNIQUE
AND
RECOMMENDATIONS

I. Introduction:

As a follow-up of the Recommendations of the Round Table organized on 3 to 8 June 2003 in Vilnius, Lithuania, in the framework of the cultural week *“Dialogue among Civilizations. Caucasus”*, and of the UNESCO multidisciplinary Project *“Caucasus”*, with a view to promote intercultural dialogue and co-operation between Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and recommended by the participants to strengthen cooperation in *“Management of Historic Cities and Landscapes, set-up a policy to restore monuments in an intercultural*

perspective, and favour exchanges in restoration techniques and policies”, an interregional workshop entitled “*Management of Historic Cities and Landscapes: Different Cultures. Common Goals. Intercultural Perspective*” was held from 19 to 22 June 2005 in Vilnius, Lithuania.

The international workshop was organized by the Lithuanian National Commission for UNESCO, the Vilnius Old Town Renewal Agency (OTRA), the Sector of Culture of UNESCO, Division of Cultural Policies and Intercultural Dialogue, the UNESCO Office in Moscow, in close co-operation with the National Commissions of the relevant countries.

Based on the example of the restoration of the Vilnius Historic Centre, it consisted of debates and visits to some representative sites of Old and Contemporary Vilnius.

Experts in the field of cultural heritage preservation management from the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Estonia, Georgia, the Republic of Latvia, the Republic of Lithuania, and from the Republic of Belarus, the Russian Federation and the Republic of Moldova shared experience and knowledge, explored ways of co-operation, and come-up with concrete recommendations, with a view to tighten inter-regional professional dialogues and co-operation.

III. Recommendations:

Recalling the pertinence of the Recommendations of the participants in the Round Table held in Vilnius in June 2003 in the framework of the cultural

week “Dialogue among Civilizations. Caucasus” and of the project “Caucasus” with a view to promote inter-regional dialogue and co-operation;

Recognising that the countries represented, experiencing a multipartite challenge of transition, unique urban and architectural historic centres of their capital cities face the highest threat of being not properly maintained and annihilated, and that in the context of rapid growth, distinctive valuable characteristics of the historic city centres appear under the highest damage risk;

Highlighting the necessity to combine contemporary urban (re-) development and appropriate restricted use of Historic Centres, through building a proper and publicly recognised balance between urban conservation and development of the cities;

Noting that each particular Historic Centre carries highest potential that can ensure lasting sustainability for urban growth of the city and significantly influence general evolution of the country;

Recognizing the necessity of taking into account the human factor in the development and conservation of the Historic Centre and the necessity to consider the town as a place of conviviality and of dialogue;

Made to the national and municipal authorities, decision makers, authorised managers and UNESCO, the following recommendations:

1. Set-up integrated strategy/strategies for the protection and the development of Historic Centres with the participation of the communities and in close co-operation with/between national and local authorities;
2. Use regularly and properly update documentation on the protection of cultural heritage areas and the protection of buffer zones in the Historic Centres, as a basis for documents of urban planning;
3. Create a Communication Network/Information Centre (Portal of information on the protection of Historic Centres);
4. Assist the creation of funds for more effective and consolidated use of state and municipal financial resources also engaging private sector financing;
5. Create effective and continuous mutual co-operation between State and Municipal administration with the participation of public organizations;
6. Assist the improvement of legal base and optimisation of tools for effective execution;
7. Give special attention to upgrade qualification of specialists in the field of management, conservation and development of cultural and natural heritage of Historic Centres;

8. Set-up a system of general education and knowledge on cultural and natural heritage and the responsibility for its safeguarding. Assist the spread of knowledge and increase awareness on the importance and responsibility for cultural and natural heritage;

9. Elaborate policies on cultural tourism combining urban development and conservation, development, respect for cultural heritage, environment and mutual appreciation variety and intercourses of culture.