

RETROSPECTIVE STATEMENT OF OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE

# BRIEF SYNTHESIS

Workshop of National Focal Points  
of Central, South-East and Eastern European Countries  
Prague 26-27 May 2011  
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# CONTENT OF SOUV

1. **Brief synthesis**

- Summary of description**

- Summary of values and attributes**

2. Criteria

- (values and attributes which manifest them)

3. Integrity (all sites)

4. Authenticity (criteria i-vi)

5. Management and protection necessary to sustain OUV

- Overall framework

- Specific long-term expectations



# BRIEF SYNTHESIS

It is essential that there is a clear and shared understanding of what OUV is for individual properties and how it is manifested in the property

Brief synthesis is the overall statement for the property that encapsulates what it is, why it has OUV, and the main attributes that reflect OUV

**A SHORT DESCRIPTION ABOUT WHAT THE PROPERTY IS  
AND WHY IT HAS BEEN INSCRIBED**



# Use of the brief synthesis

It can be used in many ways when a short explanation is needed, in UNESCO and national websites, in information and decision-making documents

It should enable anyone unfamiliar with the property, as well as those who know it well, to understand immediately its scope, its significance and what has to be protected

It should be equally relevant to politicians, to academics and to the general public.



# Contents of the brief synthesis

- A summary of factual information that includes its location, scale and what type of property it is
- Why it has been inscribed on the World Heritage List
  - *and the stories associated with it*
- The text of the brief synthesis should be clear, memorable and, ideally, inspirational
- It is based on WH Committee decision, AB evaluation, Nomination
  - *but reflects the present image of the property*



# Examples..

Røros Mining Town and the Circumference is linked to the copper mines, established in the 17th century and exploited for 333 years until 1977. The site comprises the Town and its industrial-rural cultural landscapes; Femundshytta, a smelter with its associated area; and the Winter Transport Route. Completely rebuilt after its destruction by Swedish troops in 1679, Røros contains about 2000 wooden one- and two-storey houses and a smelting house. Many of these buildings have preserved their blackened wooden façades, giving the town a medieval appearance. Surrounded by a buffer zone, coincident with the area of privileges (the Circumference) granted to the mining enterprise by the Danish-Norwegian Crown (1646), the property illustrates the establishment and flourishing of a lasting culture based on copper mining in a remote region with a harsh climate.

# Examples..

The pyramid-shaped, wooded mountain of Monte San Giorgio beside Lake Lugano is regarded as the best fossil record of marine life from the Triassic Period (245–230 million years ago). The sequence records life in a tropical lagoon environment, sheltered and partially separated from the open sea by an offshore reef. Diverse marine life flourished within this lagoon, including reptiles, fish, bivalves, ammonites, echinoderms and crustaceans. Because the lagoon was near land, the remains also include land-based fossils of reptiles, insects and plants, resulting in an extremely rich source of fossils.

# Guidance on the preparation of retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value for World Heritage Properties

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July 2010



ICOMOS

