



MONUMENTS BOARD OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

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Your ref.:
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Our ref.:
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Contact: Bratislava
Ing.arch. Pinčíková 31/01/2014

Subject: State of Conservation – Levoča, Spišský Hrad and the Associated Cultural Monuments (Slovakia)

In response to your request CLT/WHC/6864/SK/BL/AS we would like to present information on the implementation of the request from the World Heritage Committee – Decision 33 COM 8B.36 concerning the inscription on the World Heritage List of the property *Levoča, Spišský Hrad and the Associated Cultural Monuments*.

Since 1996 the site has been managed by the *World Heritage Site Management Group for Levoča, Spišský Hrad and the Associated Cultural Monuments* (MG). The MG is currently chaired by the town of Levoča (it was previously chaired by the town of Spišské Podhradie). After the adoption of decision of the World Heritage (WH) Committee no. 33 COM 8B.36, the MG discussed its implementation and adopted measures for that purpose on 18/09/2009. The most important task was the incorporation of the measures into the existing management plan (MP) and the subsequent update of the MP. In 2010 the analytical part of the MP was updated and then reviewed and supplemented by the members of the MG; in 2011 work began on the action plan part of the MP.

The general public was also involved in the preparation of the MP; information on the progress of work was published and there was an opportunity to comment on its content¹. Progress on the document was discussed at the session of the Culture and Tourism Commission of the town council in Levoča on 06/10/2010. On 21/10/2010 the town council in Levoča

¹ Information on the preparation of the MP was provided to the general public through the Levoča monthly newsletter (*Levočský informačný mesačník*), which has a print run of 4,200 copies and is delivered to all households in Levoča; and through the town's website www.levoca.sk. The authors of the MP also consulted major institutions in the whole area in person and via a questionnaire. The MP was published in 2012 allowing approximately half a year for public consultation and comments were taken into account in the officially adopted version of the MP.

passed resolution no. 51/A/6 taking note of the report on the management of the World Heritage Site Levoča, Spišský Hrad and the Associated Cultural Monuments and progress in preparation of the MP. Throughout the preparation of the management plan there has been cooperation between the author of the MP and the MG.

After public consultation, discussion by the Culture and Tourism Commission of the town council, discussion in the town council and amendments by members of the MG, the town council in Levoča approved² the MP by resolution no. 33/53 of 25/10/2012. The updated MP relates to Levoča but also deals with its connection to the whole WH Site of *Levoča, Spišský Hrad and the Associated Cultural Monuments*. The management plan for the originally inscribed WH Site *Spišský Hrad and the Associated Cultural Monuments* was prepared in 2008³ and remains in force.

Both management plans have been published in Slovak on Levoča's official website

http://www.levoca.sk/pamiatky.phtml?id_kat_for_menu=12729

and on the website of the Monuments Board of the Slovak Republic

<http://www.pamiatky.sk/sk/page/levoca-spissky-hrad-a-pamiatky-okolia>

In the first half of 2014 a translation of the content and a brief outline of the MP to English is planned and this will also be published on both websites.

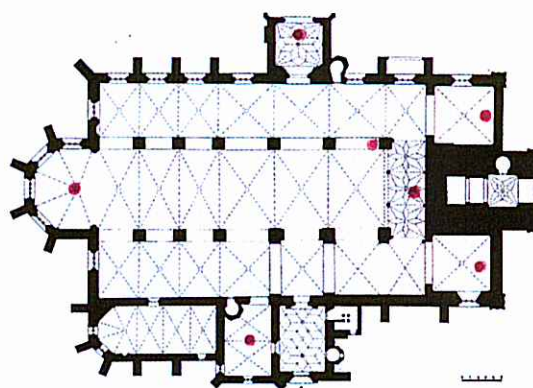
From 2012, the *Management Plan 2012 – 2022 – Levoča – as part of the site Levoča, Spišský Hrad and the Associated Cultural Monuments* has become the basic instrument for the management of the site; it meets all the requirements set forth by the WH Committee in its Decision 33 COM 8B.36.

Concerning the individual points of the decision:

a) Special attention should be paid to monitoring the atmosphere in St Jacob's Church, because of the fragile state of conservation of the polychromatic wooden works of Master Paul, and if necessary to providing ventilation and regulating visits;

Since 2009 atmospheric conditions in the interior of the Roman Catholic St Jacob's Church have been monitored for the following indicators: temperature, moisture and dew point. These data are recorded every hour at seven spots in the building (see figure 1):

- Chapel of St. George
- Main altar
- Nativity chapel
- Baptism chapel



1) Kavid v. J. Jakub, plátno prisma

² "Management Plan 2012–2022 – Levoča – as part of the site Levoča, Spišský Hrad and the Associated Cultural Monuments, town of Levoča, © Štúdio J+J, s.r.o., 2011, author: Magdaléna Janovská, co-authors: Eubica Pinčíková, Antónia Jacková, Ivan Dunčko, Alžbeta Pitoráková, Jaroslav Lizák, Milan Dzurilla

³ © Academia Istropolitana Nova, 2008

- Pulpit
- Royal oratory
- Organ gallery

The locations chosen for the monitoring devices took into account the fragile state of conservation of the polychromatic wooden works of Master Paul. Evaluation of measurements and service of the system is carried out by the Monument Board of the Slovak Republic – Regional Restoration Ateliers in Levoča. A highly qualified team lead by the chief restorer Juraj Maták and Ivan Tkáč, the head of the restoration ateliers, evaluate these measurements and if there is any indication of a problem they take immediate corrective measures in cooperation with the owner and the administrator of the building. An annual report summarising the results of monitoring is submitted to the Monuments Board in Bratislava and the Ministry of Culture’s Interdepartmental Commission for Coordinating Protection of the World Cultural Heritage⁴. Evaluation of the results of monitoring obtained so far indicate that the atmosphere in the church is suitable for conserving the works of Master Paul in Levoča, characteristic of standard operating conditions⁵.

b) Consolidation of financial resources is needed for the works required to renovate and maintain St Jacob’s Church;

Consolidation of financial resources for the renovation and maintenance of the St Jacob’s Church is one of the fundamental tasks in the MP, to which negotiations of the MG are dedicated every year. The owner⁶ makes systematic efforts to obtain financing. It finances basic maintenance from its own funds and admission fees. Necessary conservation and restoration work is paid partly from the owner’s own funds and partly from a range of other sources of financing. The main source of funding from the state budget is the subsidy system of the Ministry of Culture “*Obnovme si svoj dom*” (Let’s renew our house), sub-programme 1.2 intended for World Cultural Heritage sites in Slovakia. The renovation of St. Jacob’s Church is one of the priorities of this subsidy system and it is also a priority in the subsidy schemes of other ministries. Financing naturally depends on the availability of funds in the state budget. The financial resources for the renovation of St. Jacob’s Church in Levoča in the period 2009 – 2013 are shown in the following table:

⁴ The commission was established for the management of the World Cultural Heritage properties at the national level.

⁵ The restoration ateliers in Levoča also carry out the current restoration of parts of the building. An indication of the quality of the conservation and restoration works carried out is given by, amongst other things, two awards:

1/ The Slovak National Museum, the Monuments Board and the editorial board of the review of cultural heritage *Pamiatky a Múzeá* (Monuments and Museums) awarded the annual *Pamiatky a Múzeá Prize* in the category of restoration to the Monuments Board – Regional Restoration Ateliers in Levoča for the restoration of murals and stonework on the interior walls of the presbytery of the Roman Catholic Church of St. Jacob in Levoča.

2/ The Ministry of Culture, Slovenský Plynárenský Priemysel, a.s. and the SPP Foundation awarded the *Fénix Cultural Monument of the Year Prize* for 2012 to the restoration team at the Regional Restoration Ateliers in Levoča for the restoration of murals in the presbytery of the Roman Catholic Church of St. Jacob in Levoča.

⁶ The owner of the building is the town of Levoča and its administrator is the Roman Catholic Church.

Name of project	Amount (EUR)	Funding source
Roman Catholic Church of St. Jacob in Levoča – monument research	20,000.00	Ministry of Culture (state)
Roman Catholic Church of St. Jacob in Levoča – reconstruction of the northern façade	129,903.87	Ministry of Culture
Roman Catholic Church of St. Jacob in Levoča – restoration of murals, historic plasterwork, stonework and stained glass in the interior of the sanctuary	824,620.00	Ministry of Culture
Roman Catholic Church of St. Jacob in Levoča – restoration of the exterior of the sacristy	184,523.00	Ministry of Culture
Roman Catholic Church of St. Jacob in Levoča – monument research	8,300.00	Ministry of Culture
Roman Catholic Church of St. Jacob in Levoča – restoration of the exterior of the sanctuary	74,915.00	SPP (Slovak gas company)
Roman Catholic Church of St. Jacob in Levoča – Damp elimination and technical repairs	194,723.00	Ministry of Culture
Roman Catholic Church of St. Jacob in Levoča – restoration of the exterior of the sanctuary (presbytery) – part II	323,366.00	Ministry of Culture
Roman Catholic Church of St. Jacob in Levoča – reconstruction of the roof	263,000.00	Ministry of Finance (state)
Total	2,023,350.87	

Plan for 2014:

Name of project	Amount (EUR)
Roman Catholic Church of St. Jacob in Levoča – restoration of the exterior of the southern façade – part I (east)	314,582.00
Total	314,582.00

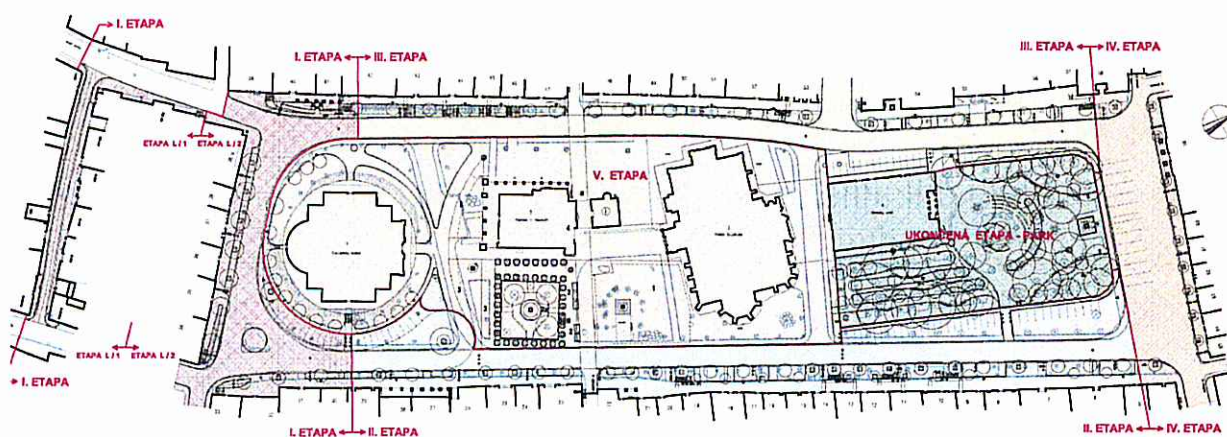
The MP, in accordance with national legislation, anticipates that the conservation tasks performance is financed by the owners of buildings in the site, multi-source financing of the site including assistance from the state, the use of subsidy schemes and various EU funds with specification of time sequence and priorities. The financing plan for St. Jacob's Church in Levoča is updated every year at the meeting of the MG.

c) The traffic and transport plan should be strengthened, in order to ensure better expression of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property and improved conditions for visitors;


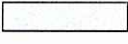
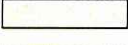



The problem of the traffic and transport plan receives an equally thorough analysis in the MP, including the definition of a set of measures for the whole transport infrastructure, which must be addressed by set deadlines. The MG checks implementation. Forecasts of transport

growth have shown that even if, as planned, 85% of transit and 30% of out-bound and in-bound external traffic can be moved to the motorway and the motorway feeder and traffic on the overloaded route I/18 is reduced by 40 to 60% from year 2000 levels by 2020, traffic within the town will be only 16 to 18% lower. On the current route II/533 (Novoveská Cesta), a reduction of around 22% is expected. The condition of civil engineering works, the width and the layout of streets make it impossible to increase capacity within the current transverse arrangement. For this reason it is necessary to create circular collector roads that would allow not only the diversion of traffic but also open up new parts of the town territory and allow access to areas cut off by the motorway route, while at the same time avoiding deterioration of the World Heritage Site.

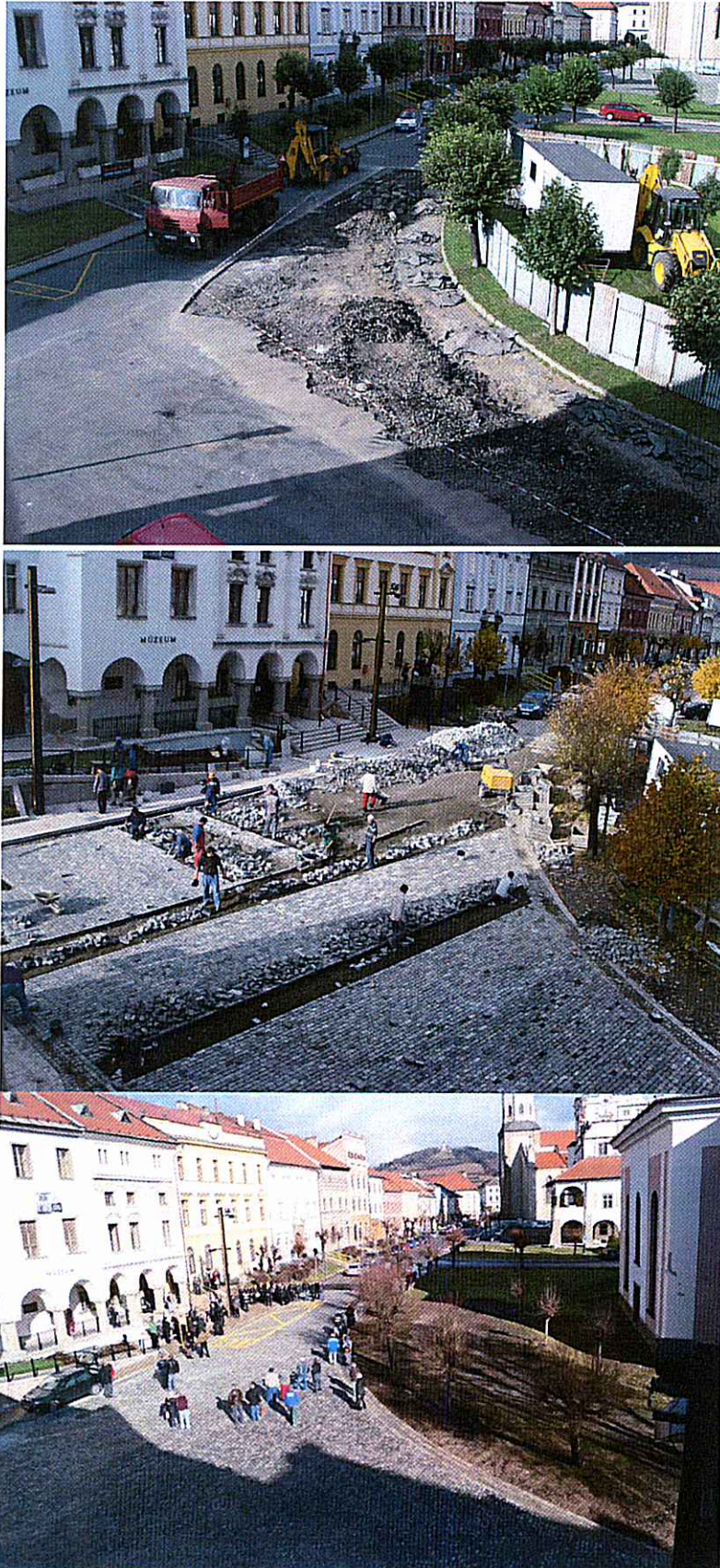
The draft land-use plan recommends the gradual construction of a radial and circular road system as opposed to the present purely radial system that was historically directed at the town's central square, while fully retaining the existing street network. Within the area of the World Heritage Site, the aim is to limit traffic and reduce parking spaces on the central square, Námestie Majstra Pavla, so that it gradually becomes traffic-free. This objective has been incorporated into the plan for the restoration of the square, which consists of the five stages shown in the map below.



LEGEND

	I. STAGE
	II. STAGE
	III. STAGE
	IV. STAGE
	V. STAGE
	FINISHED STAGE, 04 - 08/2005

Implementation of the first stage of renovation of the square Námestie Majstra Pavla



Implementation of the first stage of renovation of the square was completed on 6 November 2013.

The second stage is planned to take place this year; a project has been submitted to obtain funding from the ROP Measure 4.1 Settlement Regeneration and is currently being assessed.

The town walls and fortifications are under stress primarily from the first class road no. 18. Relief is expected after completion of the section of the D1 motorway between Jánovce and Jablonov, which is expected in 2015.

The issue of strengthening the traffic and transport plan, in order to ensure better expression of the outstanding universal value of the property and improved conditions for visitors is also addressed by the new Economic and Social Development Plan. The preparation of this plan included an analysis of the current situation in Levoča and work in working groups of professionals in relevant areas – demography, social affairs, health, education, housing, security, sport, transport, culture, tourism etc. The final document will combine measures to develop tourism with protection of the outstanding universal value of *Levoča, Spišský Hrad and the Associated Cultural Monuments*. The deadline for completion and adoption of this strategic document is March 2014. Other tasks laid down in the MP include the preparation of a detailed land-use plan for the zone town centre and a transport master plan.

d) The tourist accommodation inside the property and the buffer zone should be analysed, and that specific directives should be considered to control its development and recommend rules of good practice;

The MP includes a detailed analysis of tourist accommodation inside the property and the buffer zone and also catering and other facilities for tourists. Numbers of visitors are also monitored and an assessment of satisfaction of their needs is also carried out, having regard for the property's OUV.

Special attention is given to the elimination of pressures that could result from the development of tourism, alongside measures to create adequate capacities.

The numbers of tourists visiting the property is shown in the following statistics on admissions to selected locations:

Spiš Museum in Levoča

Criterion	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
SNM Levoča (other than the castle)	33,552	32,447 - 3.3 %	36,808 + 13.4 %	34,822 - 5.4 %	28,064 - 19.4 %

Information bureau:

Criterion	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Visitors to IB	14,074	13,538 - 3.8 %	18,567 + 37.1 %	19,015 + 2.4 %	19,120 + 0.5 %

Church of St Jacob:

<i>building</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>2010</i>	<i>2011</i>	<i>2012</i>	<i>2013</i>
Church of St Jacob:	36,320	41,146 + 13.3%	45,359 + 10.2 %	43,523 - 4.04%	34,061 - 21.74%

This shows that there has been a fall in number of visitors to the town. An increase of the number can be expected after completion of restoration of the square.

The number of overnight stays is shown in the following table:

<i>Year</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>2010</i>	<i>2011</i>	<i>2012</i>	<i>2013</i>
Number of overnight stays	23,124	25,198 + 9 %	25,467 + 1 %	29,474 + 15.7 %	25,100 - 14.8%

The increase in overnight stays in 2012 was connected with the International hiking congress and the event “Leader Fest”.

The analysis of accommodation capacity in parts of Levoča found 275 beds within the property and a further 411 in the buffer zone. This number is accordance town of Levoča adequate. Plans for the future envisage an increase in the quality of accommodation rather than quantity.

Increases in capacity in the wider area will be connected with its potential for other types of tourism such as recreational activities at the Kováčova Vila water reservoir or in Javorina, the former military reserve in the Levoča Hills. This process will be managed by the town of Levoča with control by the town and the MG.

In order to share experience and exchange examples of good practice the towns of Levoča and Spišské Podhradie have become members of the Slovak UNESCO Heritage Association (*Slovenské dedičstvo UNESCO*). The association’s aims include creating a positive image of the World Heritage sites and encouraging tourists to visit them, cooperating in the preparation of development plans, transferring experience, knowledge and innovations and supporting the quality of human resources with a view to development, coordinating the development plans of the World Heritage sites and on a common approach to legislation affecting development, carrying out or arranging specialised analyses and studies, monitoring and evaluating statistics and trends, supporting cultural, social and business life, participating in cross-border projects and proposing and implementing projects financed or co-financed from EU funds or grants, the state budget, local government budgets and other sources.

e) In connection with the management plan the policy for receiving visitors and for the economic development and interpretation of the property should be made more specific;

The policy for receiving visitors and for the economic development and interpretation of the property was the subject-matter of specific analytical and action plan sections of the MP focusing on proposals for sustainable tourism at the site.

Implementation of the MP includes the gradual construction of a comprehensive information system for the site. In 2011 the town established an information system with unifying elements including street signs, signposts giving directions to important locations in the town, information panels at the entrance to the town showing a map of the town and the UNESCO logo as well as photographs of the main sights and natural and cultural attractions in the area, and signs showing the function of buildings belonging to the town. This was carried out as part of a cross-border cooperation project: *Stary Sacz and Levoča Carpathian towns with atmosphere. An innovative cross-border tourism product*, carried out as part of the cross-border cooperation programme of Poland and Slovakia 2007 – 2013. The project also included the creation of an interactive tourist guide to Levoča based on mobile web technology, which is accessed via the Internet and mobile devices with GPS navigation. Direction signage of access to monuments based on the brown signs that are standard in Slovakia is being prepared and implemented.

This issue is also a theme in the Economic and Social Development Plan, which is being harmonised with the MP as part of its regular update. The plan is expected to be completed in March 2014.

f) The municipal fire-fighting plan should be strengthened by means of a detailed intervention scheme for the historic town.

This question is also addressed in the MP. The town council in Levoča has approved fire regulations under Directive No. 1/2010 - Fire Regulations of the Town of Levoča, which is in accordance with Act No. 369/1990 Col. on municipal government and Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic No. 314/2001 Col. on protection against fire. The town's fire regulations entered into effect on 25/02/2010.

In the period 2013 – 2014 signs marking of above-ground and below-ground hydrants will be installed to assist firefighting in accordance with section 8(8) of Decree of the Ministry of Interior no. 699/2004 Col. on the provision of water for fire extinguishing. Measures to prevent fires include checks of compliance with fire prevention regulations, regular inspections of selected technical equipment (electrical, gas, pressure), fire extinguishers, hydrants and chimneys.

Levoča has an emergency committee that functions as the authority for management of emergencies as defined in section 10 of Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic no. 387/2002 Col. on the government of the state in emergencies outside wartime and a state of war. The relevant regulations will be updated in February 2014, during its regular review.

The Monuments Board of the Slovak Republic has recently participated in intensive cooperation with the fire prevention directorate of the Ministry of Interior on measures to ensure the highest possible level of protection for monuments, especially the World Heritage sites. The most vulnerable locations were identified, on-the-spot inspections of fire safety were carried out and a plan and training of firefighters' intervention is now being prepared including corrective measures to be taken when deficiencies are found.

Conclusions

The Monuments Board of the Slovak Republic carries out annual monitoring and evaluation of the conservation of the site in accordance with its OUV. It also organises working meetings with the authors of monitoring reports and representatives of the management of all World Heritage sites in Slovakia, to which Czech colleagues are also invited. These meetings are an opportunity to discuss current problems and to share experience. The Monuments Board organises several specialized international events, including, amongst others, a summer school for world cultural heritage managers from the V4 countries (the fifth annual summer school took place in 2013). In connection with the current issue of eliminating the negative impact of tourism on the OUV of the World Heritage sites, the Monuments Board, the Ministry of Culture, the town of Bardejov, the Slovak Commission for UNESCO and UNESCO Paris organised the *European Meeting for Improvement of Tourism and Visitor Management Skills, Bardejov Town /World Heritage Site/, March 23 – 27th, 2010, Slovakia*. The aim of the event was to improve the management of tourism highlighting theoretical and especially practical examples of good practice having regard for the conservation of the outstanding universal value of the WH sites. UNESCO was represented by Hervé Barré, Culture, tourism and development Programme Specialist /Culture Sector, Paris, France/. The meeting included presentation and discussion of Principles for Sustainable Tourism at World Heritage Properties, the World Heritage Sustainable Tourism Initiative. More than 80 participants from 15 countries took part in the event. World Heritage properties managers attend all events.

We would like to conclude by quoting from the preamble of the statutes of the Town of Levoča⁷, which chairs the Management Group for the World Heritage Site *Levoča, Spišský Hrad and the Associated Cultural Monuments*

“The town of Levoča, known from the earliest times and exalted thanks to the work and spirit of many generations to a supranational significance, a free royal town with its own historical and cultural heritage, its town conservation reserve, inscribed as part of the World Heritage Site *Levoča, Spišský Hrad and the Associated Cultural Monuments* in the UNESCO World Heritage List, known around the world for the work of Master Paul, having the wish to promote its further all-round development and improve its quality of life through the exercise of self-government by its citizens and the free will of their representatives **declares its will** to preserve and develop the heritage of its ancestors, the property and territory of the town for the good of all its citizens and in the interest of the sustainable development and prosperity for future generations. *Pulchritudo civitatis concordia - The beauty of the town is concordia.*”

⁷ Regulation of general application of the town of Levoča no. 09/2010. The statutes are the fundamental legislative and organisational regulation for the town. The activities of the town of Levoča are regulated by *Act of the Slovak National Council no. 369/1990 on municipal government and the Statutes of the Town of Levoča*.

Preserving the outstanding universal value of *Levoča, Spišský Hrad and the Associated Cultural Monuments* requires systematic, long-term work, which is already underway. Inscription in the World Heritage List has clearly helped to improve conservation of the property. If you require further information, you are welcome to contact us at any time.

Best regards

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