

# Slovakia

## Spišský Hrad and its Associated Cultural Monuments

### Brief Description

Spisky Hrad has one of the largest ensembles of 13th- and 14th-century military, political and religious buildings in eastern Europe, and its Romanesque and Gothic architecture has remained remarkably intact.

### 1. Introduction

**Year(s) of Inscription** 1993

#### Agency responsible for site management

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### 2. Statement of Significance

**Inscription Criteria** C (iv)

#### Justification as provided by the State Party

Spišský Hrad, and cultural monuments in its environs correspond to criteria of § 24, Sections (I) and (IV) of the UNESCO Guidelines, and to those pertaining to natural criteria as per Section (III) [...]

According to § 21 (I) of the Guidelines, the area forms a unique urban - architectonic, and natural - landscape integral unit of high artistic and aesthetic

value, a true masterpiece of creative genius. The Castle and the settlements beneath form a singular set documenting in addition to archaeological values the development of fortifications, town-building and sacral architecture from the 12th to the 20th centuries. In addition, the unit is a characteristic structural type set in the sense of Section (IV) of the Guidelines, expressively representing cultural, social and artistic development while being comparatively intact, containing military, political, ecclesiastic and social components in close interlinkage with inherent relations to the anthropogenic surroundings. Cultural values of the area are multiplied by natural values, meeting Section (III) criteria of the Guidelines as they contain exceptional natural phenomena of considerable scientific value. These are represented by the nearby Dreveník and Sivá Brada reservations as well as by other protected natural occurrences (travertine findings at Sobotisko, the Pažica travertine lake, a small geyser with eruptions in 5 - 6 hourly intervals, calciferous marshland). The surrounding meadows represent important botanical locations with rich xerophytic plant communities.

#### As provided in ICOMOS evaluation

That this property be inscribed on the World Heritage List on the basis of criterion iv:

*Criterion iv:* The castle of Spišský Hrad and the associated sites of Spišské Podhradie, Spišská Kapitula, and Žehra constitute a remarkable ensemble of military, political, and religious elements of a type that was common in medieval Europe but of which almost none have survived in so complete and unaltered a state.

#### Committee Decision

Bureau (1992): The Bureau deferred the examination of this property to allow the competent Czech and Slovak authorities to establish a management plan for this ensemble.

Bureau (June 1993): The Bureau requested the competent Slovak authorities to provide detailed information on the management plan of the property. This complementary information should be received before 1 October to permit ICOMOS to carry out an evaluation which will be submitted to the next session of the Bureau in December 1993.

Bureau (December 1993): Additional information on the management plan was provided by the authorities which was evaluated positively by ICOMOS. The Bureau, therefore, decided to recommend to the Committee to inscribe this site under criterion (iv).

Session (1993): The Committee inscribed the site on the World Heritage List under criterion (iv).

- Statement of Significance adequately defines the outstanding universal value of the site
- Proposal for changes to the Brief Description is given by the State Party

#### **Boundaries and Buffer Zone**

- Status of boundaries of the site: adequate
- Buffer zone: adequate

#### **Status of Authenticity/Integrity**

- World Heritage site values have been maintained

### **3. Protection**

#### **Legislative and Administrative Arrangements**

- Acts: protection and development of territory of Banská Štiavnica and its surroundings (2001); Building Act No. 50 (1976)
- Laws: on protection of monuments and historic sites (2002); on Landscape and Nature Protection (2003)
- At the European level, the site is listed for protection under NATURA 2000
- Changes to legal status: the Act of the NC SR 302/2001 Col. and self-government of higher territorial units (act on self-governmental regions) is valid with efficiency from 1.12.2001. Within the Act, new territorial-administrative division of Slovakia has been established, dividing previous territory of region of eastern Slovakia to two regions – region of Prešov and region of Košice, whose borderline leads cross world heritage locality of Spišský hrad and its associated cultural monuments. Also, significant change in proprietary relations is represented by a purchase of real estate in the locality of National Nature Reserve Sivá Brada by a private owner, who realized in the lot an enlargement of parking area with bituminous surface and small construction of sanitary facility. In the present, a plan from re-purchase of the realty by State Protection of Nature for EU funds is being prepared
- The protection arrangements are considered sufficiently effective

#### **Actions taken/proposed**

- To complete and approve a developmental plan of town of Spišské Podhradie and developmental plan of Žehra
- Timeframe: 2007

### **4. Management**

#### **Use of site/property**

- Visitor attraction; urban centre; religious use; rural landscape; seat of Spiš diocese in Spišská Kapitula; Theological Institute of Comenius University in Spišská Kapitula

#### **Management /Administrative Body**

- Steering group: does not exist at this time. However, all bodies and institutions that are active in the locality agreed on a necessity of establishment of a managing group
- Site manager: Responsibilities have been added to an existing job
- Levels of public authority who are primarily involved with the management of the site: national; regional; local
- The current management system is sufficiently effective

Proposed actions: to elaborate development planning documentation (2007)

### **5. Management Plan**

- Management plan is being implemented
- Implementation commenced: 2003
- Title: “Revival of town of Spišské Podhradie in the years 2003-2006“; “Program of revival of NCM Spišský hrad in 2003-2006“, “Program of revival of Žehra municipality in 2003-2006“ – recovery projects as part of programme of revival of Slovak localities listed in the UNESCO World Heritage List for period from 2003 to 2006”
- Adequate
- Responsibility for over-seeing the implementation of the management plan and monitoring its effectiveness: Town of Spišské Podhradie and Žehra municipality

### **6. Financial Resources**

#### **Financial situation**

- State Budget: many state sources are mentioned such as the Pro-Slovakia Programme and ‘Let’s Renew Our House’ Programme
- WHF
- Bi-lateral: some money comes from owners within the site, particularly the Roman Catholic Church
- Insufficient

### **7. Staffing Levels**

- Number of staff: 2

Rate of access to adequate professional staff across the following disciplines:

- Good: conservation, education
- Average: management, promotion, interpretation, education, visitor management

### 8. Sources of Expertise and Training in Conservation and Management Techniques

- Scientific institutions: include Monuments Inspections (national), Museum of Spiš in Levoča, Archaeological Institute of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, Slovak Association for Landscape Ecology headquartered in Faculty of Natural Sciences UK Bratislava, Academia Istitopolitana NOVA universities
- Museum conservation facilities: Slovak National Museum, State District Archive in Levoča, Archaeological Council (national)
- Training on site management: Spiš Regional Developmental Agency

### 9. Visitor Management

- Visitor statistics: (2004) 155,533
- Trend: since inscription on the WH list, visitors have tripled
- Visitor facilities: information centres, souvenir shops, accommodation, conference space
- Visitor needs: unified visitor centre, guide service, expansion to present services available to public

### 10. Scientific Studies

- Risk assessment, site value studies, monitoring exercises, condition surveys, archaeological surveys, visitor management, transportation studies, environmental studies, human use studies
- Studies used for management of site: planning and decision-making in site care

### 11. Education, Information and Awareness Building

- An adequate number of signs referring to World Heritage site exist
- World Heritage Convention Emblem are used on publications
- Adequate awareness of World Heritage among: visitors, local communities, businesses, local authorities, etc.

- Need for awareness raising: need to encourage local interest in World Heritage and local entrepreneurial activity
- Events: children's events, national and European heritage days, theatre & arts activities
- Web site available: 222.spisskyhrad.sk
- Local participation: administration of the locality is realized through elected representatives of citizens. Inhabitants have all chances to influence both elections of members of local councils in particular self-governments as well as partial approaches in the locality

### 12. Factors affecting the Property (State of Conservation)

#### Reactive monitoring reports

- World Heritage Bureau sessions: 26<sup>th</sup> (2002)
- World Heritage Committee sessions: 25<sup>th</sup> (2001); 27 (2003); 28<sup>th</sup> (2004)

#### Conservation interventions

- Reconstruction and restoration projects on Spis castle, Holy Spirit church; various Roman Catholic Church buildings
- Present state of conservation: described as "patchy"

#### Threats and Risks to site

- Environmental, development, visitors and tourism, agriculture and forestry
- Specific issues if mentioned: growing number of visitors threatens natural values of the locality
- Emergency measures have been taken to address some human use pressures, as well as natural threats such as lightning, floods and fire

### 13. Monitoring

- Formal monitoring programme
- Measures taken: the Regional Monuments Board Prešov, local branch Levoča and Regional Monuments Board Košice have created "passport" cards of immovable national cultural monuments and monuments objects in monitored territory and passport cards of objects supplementing monuments as well as realize monitoring of entire territory. Data on the passport cards is thoroughly evaluated and used as basis both for periodical report, that is elaborated by the Monuments Board of the Slovak Republic and submitted to the Ministry of Culture SR once a two years, as well as for procedure in the matter of protection of monuments and historic sites in the case of

wrong condition of protection of national cultural monument

- Measures planned: brief description of changes having influence on authenticity and integrity and evaluation of significant interventions into protected locality with respect to increased or decreased threat to said aspects; full risk assessment; evaluation of the conservation of values; a central list of regulations and measurements adopted for protection

#### **14. Conclusions and Recommended Actions**

- Main benefits of WH status: conservation, social factors, and education
- Strength of management: increased interest in territory as well as restoration of particular monuments shown by owners and investors at national level, restoration projects, access to funding possibilities, increased tourism revenue, education activity, services
- Weaknesses of management: continued low awareness in the community, lack of funding, absence of overall management plan, transport issues

#### **Future actions:**

- Education programmes for local community, increased services and security, transport problem to be addressed, elaboration of the management plan, elaboration of protection measures