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# Historic Centre of Florence (Italy) No 174ter

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## 1 Basic data

### State Party

Italy

### Name of property

Historic Centre of Florence

### Location

Metropolitan City of Florence of Florence  
Tuscany Region

### Inscription

1982

### Brief description

Built on the site of an Etruscan settlement, Florence, the symbol of the Renaissance, rose to economic and cultural pre-eminence under the Medici in the 15th and 16th centuries. Its 600 years of extraordinary artistic activity can be seen above all in the 13th-century cathedral (Santa Maria del Fiore), the Church of Santa Croce, the Uffizi and the Pitti Palace, the work of great masters such as Giotto, Brunelleschi, Botticelli and Michelangelo.

### Date of ICOMOS approval of this report

12 March 2020

## 2 Issues raised

### Background

The Historic Centre of Florence has been inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1982 on the basis of criteria (i), (ii), (iii), (iv) and (vi). The property encompasses the core of the historic city and the settled area on the opposite side of the river Arno formerly enclosed by the city walls (505ha). The landscape of the city is framed by the hills that border the city to the north (the Hills of Careggi, Fiesole and Settignano) and to the south (the Hills of Bellosguardo, Arcetri, Poggio Imperiale and San Miniato).

An extensive buffer zone (10,480 ha) for the property was developed based on the complex research and analytical work and was approved by the World Heritage Committee in 2015 (39 COM 8B.44).

A Retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value has been adopted in 2014 (38COM.8E). The statement of Outstanding Universal Value is the key reference of the State Party to propose a minor boundary modification of the property, aiming to align the world heritage area to the attributes mentioned in the approved SOUV.

### Modification

In 2019, the State Party submitted to the World Heritage Centre a request for a minor boundary modification of the property in order to incorporate the San Miniato al Monte complex, the Abbey area, the area embedded within the walls of the homonymous Fort and its surrounding environment (cemetery, San Salvatore al Monte Church, Veterans Memorial Park and Ramps) into the property boundary.

The Basilica and the Abbey of San Miniato bear the name of Saint Minas, who lived in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century and is considered to be the first Florentine Martyr. The construction of the present basilica started in 1018, and was completed and enhanced in the following centuries. The story of Saint Minas and spiritual bonding of the hill to the river Arno has made San Miniato a place of pilgrimage during the Renaissance period.

The proposed minor boundary modification is justified by the fact that San Miniato is mentioned among the attributes of the property under criterion (i) already at the time of inscription of the property.

Indeed, criterion (i) reads as follows: *The urban complex of Florence is in itself a unique artistic realization, an absolute chef-d'œuvre, the fruit of continuous creation over more than six centuries. In addition to its museums (the Archaeological Museum, Uffizi, Bargello, Pitti, Galleria dell'Accademia), the greatest concentration of universally renowned works of art in the world is found here – the Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore, the Baptistery and the Campanile of Giotto, Piazza della Signoria dominated by Palazzo Vecchio and the Palazzo Uffizi, San Lorenzo, Santa Maria Novella, Santa Croce and the Pazzi chapel, Santo Spirito, San Miniato, and the Convent of San Marco which houses paintings of Fra Angelico.*

Thus, the proposed modification aims to correct an existing error in graphical representation and to incorporate the San Miniato al Monte within the boundary of the property as an important attribute which convey the Outstanding Universal Value and contribute to enhance the integrity of the property.

The area of the proposed minor boundary modification to the World Heritage property is of 27 ha, i.e. an increase of 5,3% of the inscribed property. The territory is currently within the Buffer Zone of the property. The proposed modification increases the total property area

up to 532 ha, hence diminishing the Buffer Zone respectively from 10,480 ha to 10,453 ha.

The perimeter of the proposed modification is guided by the route of the ancient city wall (still partially existing) and follows the roads adjacent to the perimeter. The proposed boundary stretches from the San Miniato gate, through the *Viale dei Colli* up to the Abbey of San Miniato al Monte with its cemetery and the *Parco della Rimembranza* (Veteran's Memorial Park), *Piazzale Michelangelo*, and joins the property's current boundary passing through the San Niccolò tower.

The proposed minor boundary modification is located within the administrative territory of the Municipality of Florence. Hence there are no modifications or implications to the current management measures and mechanisms.

The territory has been regulated by a number of legal acts at the national, regional and municipal levels. Ultimately, the proposed extended area is protected as a Landscape Asset (art. 143 of the Legislative Decree 42/2004, the Ministerial identification code 90066). At the regional level, it is regulated by the PIT (*Piano di Indirizzo Territoriale*) - which, from a legal point of view, has the same value as the Landscape Plan - art. 21 of Regional Law 65/2014, nowadays in force, which was approved by Regional Council on 02.07.2014 by deliberation n. 58.

At the municipal level, the territory is regulated by the Structural Plan (Municipal Executive Committee Resolution no. 2015/C/00025, 02.04.2015, updated by the deliberation no. 2019/C/00018, 18.03.2019), the Town Planning Regulations (Municipal Executive Committee Resolution no. 2015/C/00025, 02.04.2015, last update in October 2019) and the Building Regulations of the Municipality of Florence (Municipal Executive Committee Resolution no. 2019/C/00014, 11.03.2019).

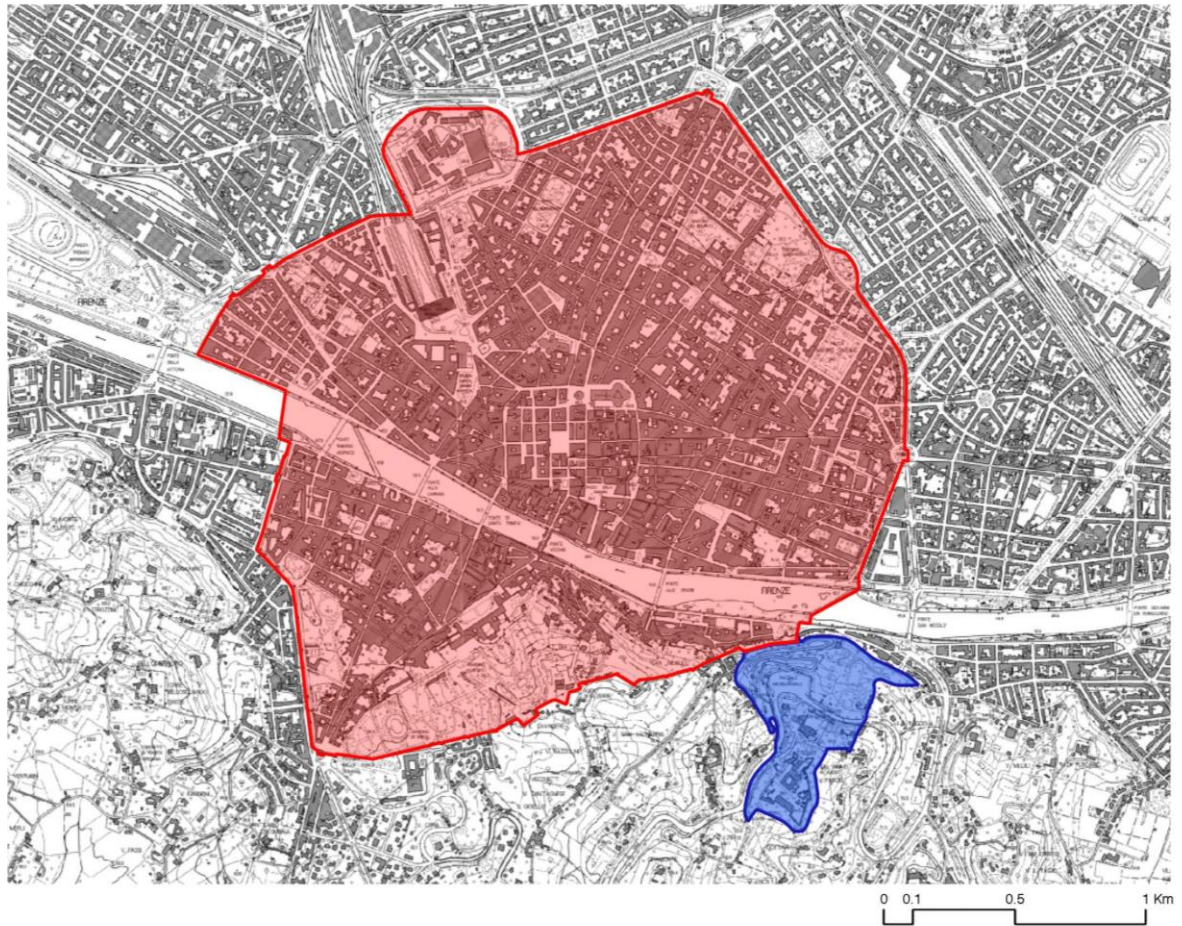
Referring to the Retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value of the Historic Centre of Florence, and noting the extensive regulatory and management system in place, ICOMOS considers that the proposed minor boundary modification is appropriate.

ICOMOS considers that the proposed modification to the property boundary will contribute to the protection of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property and strengthen its integrity and management.

### **3 ICOMOS Recommendations**

#### **Recommendation with respect to inscription**

ICOMOS recommends that the proposed minor modification to the boundary of the Historic City of Florence, Italy, be **approved**.



LEGEND | *LEGENDA*

- Historic Centre of Florence (505 ha)  
*Centro storico di Firenze*
  
- Minor boundary modification (27 ha)  
*Minor boundary modification*

Map showing the revised boundaries of the property