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Guidelines for the Presentation and Planning of Cultural Heritage in the Municipal Development Plan of Vushtrri (MDPV)

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AMERICAN UNIVERSITY IN KOSOVO
School of Public Service
Masters of Science in Professional Studies

Project Title:

“Guidelines for the presentation and planning of cultural heritage in the Municipal Development Plan of Vushtrri (MDPV)”

“Submitted as a Capstone Project Report in partial fulfillment of a Master of Science Degree in Professional Studies at the Rochester Institute of Technology”

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Abstract

This capstone project addresses the lack of proper presentation of the current state of cultural heritage and the lack of proper planning of cultural heritage in the Municipal Development Plan of Vushtri (MDPV).¹ The project involves a range of activities, such as meetings with the institution responsible for the design of MDPV and the company contracted to draw up the document, visits to cultural heritage sites, and Internet research. This project provides guidelines for amending parts of the MDPV that pertain to cultural heritage. This amendment consists of the comprehensive presentation and planning of the cultural heritage of the Municipality of Vushtri.

¹ MDPV is a spatial plan for the territory of the Municipality of Vushtri.

Problem Background²

MDPV is a strategic document that presents the existing situation in different areas in the Municipality of Vushtrri as well as the planned future developments in the territory of this municipality. One of the most important areas dealt with by the MDPV is cultural heritage. Law No. 02/L-88 on Cultural Heritage proclaims: “The Cultural Heritage within this Law shall include: architectural, archaeological, movable and spiritual heritage regardless of the time of creation and construction, type of construction, beneficiary, creator or implementer of a work”. This law points out that architectural heritage comprises monuments, ensembles of buildings, and architectural conservation areas, and it also shows what they include. Monuments include constructions and structures distinguished by values of historical, archaeological, artistic, scientific, social or technical interest including movable elements as their parts. Ensembles of buildings or the entirety of buildings include groups of urban or rural buildings distinguished by values of historical, archaeological, artistic, scientific, social, or technical interest. Architectural conservation areas are areas comprising the combined works of human hand and nature distinguished by values of historical, archaeological, artistic, scientific, social, and technical interest. According to the law, “Archaeological heritage means constructions, structures and groups of buildings, developed settlements, movable objects, monuments of various kinds and their contents, found on land or under water”. Further, “Movable heritage are objects that are expression or evidence of human creativity or of a natural development, distinguished by values of historical, archaeological, artistic, scientific or spiritual importance and interest”. “Spiritual heritage includes forms of cultural expression of popular traditions or customs, language, celebration, ritual, dance, music, song, and other artistic expression”.

² Assertions in the text under this title result from the analysis conducted to MDPV.

MDPV is composed of five chapters as follows: “Profile of spatial development and analysis of situation”, “Vision, principles and targets”, “Spatial development framework”, “Strategy and actions for implementation” and “Provisions for implementation”. The current situation of cultural heritage of the municipality is presented in chapter one, while the future of this heritage is planned in the other four chapters. The chapter presenting the existing situation has its advantages, as well as its disadvantages. The information provided on cultural heritage represents the advantages of this chapter, while the lack of information on important things represents its disadvantages. This chapter effectively presents a generalized overview of Vushtrri in the context of its cultural heritage. It states: “This area is characterized by heritage with high cultural values, such as castles, bridges, fortresses, town houses, village houses, and archeological localities, which unfortunately are not legally protected”³. It highlights that care for cultural heritage is not at the appropriate level. This chapter shows that Vushtrri is an old settlement dating from ancient times. In the past it was an administrative, military, and cultural center. The population of this settlement “has gone through different cultures, as a result of Roman, Ottoman, Slavic rulings, etc.”⁴ It further states: “Over different time periods, rulers have not only imposed their culture, but they have also invested in the construction of different cultural and religious objects (mosques, churches, fortresses, bridges, Turkish baths, etc.)”⁵. In this chapter, MDPV provides a list of cultural and historical monuments and archeological localities in the territory of the municipality; unfortunately, it is incomplete, because some of these monuments and localities are missing. There is a very short description of four monuments, and the time of their construction was made public only for two of them. The background of archeological monuments and localities is missing. It is said that Old Stone Bridge (Ura e Vjetër

³ MDPV, page 81

⁴ MDPV, page 81

⁵ MDPV, page 81

e Gurit) is protected by the Law on Special Protective Zones No. 03/L-039, while no information is given for the other monuments, regardless whether they are protected or not. Information on their physical condition is also missing, and whether anything was undertaken for their conservation or restoration. MDPV does not show whether cultural heritage buildings are being used by the public or not. It provides no information on the funds allocated by the municipal budget of Vushtrri for cultural heritage and whether there are investments made by different investors for their restoration. This document is covered with photos (see photo in Annex 1) of different cultural heritage buildings. Cultural heritage is also shown on maps, such as the municipal map, in which settlements are shown where cultural, historical, and archeological monuments are located; in addition, another map and two aerial photos of the town of Vushtrri, among others, also show cultural heritage sites. Folk traditions and customs, rituals, dances, music, song, prose, and poetry are important parts of cultural heritage. No word was said in relation to these in this spatial plan.

Parts of MDPV in which the future of cultural heritage of the Municipality of Vushtrri is planned also have their advantages and disadvantages. Chapter two, “Vision, principles and goals”, provides a vision for the future of the Municipality of Vushtrri. This vision is shared in the vision for the urban area and also in the vision for rural areas of the municipality. Part of the vision for rural areas is the goal of “Protection of the environment, natural and cultural heritage”. It is stated that “A clean environment and a rich natural and cultural heritage shall be preserved for future generations.”⁶ The goal “Vushtrri, a modern town with ancient roots” is part of the vision for the urban area of the Municipality of Vushtrri. As explained in the MDPV, this goal means that Vushtrri “will not forget its long history and the ancient roots.” MDPV also states that “Cultural heritage is protected and preserved for future generations, and it is a basis for the

⁶ MDPV, page 125

development of cultural tourism.”⁷ To achieve these goals, it is necessary to make a strategy. This means that goals should be broken down into objectives and then objectives should be broken down into concrete actions or projects. The first goal is broken down into only one objective which is “Development of municipal concept for the protection of natural and cultural heritage.” MDPV has not developed this concept. This goal could have been broken down into more than just one objective and thus it would be made clearer how the goal could be achieved. The second goal, “Vushtrri, a modern town with ancient roots” is broken down into two objectives: one is the same with the objective mentioned above, while the other is to “Raise awareness in the population for cultural heritage”. Concrete actions or specific projects which lead to the achievement of these objectives are missing in MDPV. Chapter three of MDPV, “Spatial development framework” says that the “Majority of historical buildings are located in the central part of the municipality, while archeological sites are located in village areas. This valuable cultural heritage should be preserved as a potential for cultural tourism.”⁸ The tourism map indicates the area with the potential for the development of cultural tourism. The map on environmental protection shows the municipality’s most known cultural heritage sites. This chapter states: “General objectives for the protection and development of cultural heritage are set out in the Spatial Plan of Kosova (SPK).”⁹ However, these objectives that SPK contains are not shown, and neither does it state whether any of them were included into MDPV. The MDPV then states: “Actions to be undertaken by municipal bodies for the protection and preservation of the cultural heritage are:

- Approval of measures for preserving and improving cultural heritage objects;

⁷ MDPV, page 126

⁸ MDPV, page 149

⁹ MDPV, page 160

- Application of legal mechanisms in cooperation with local and central authorities and with local citizens, and
- Completion of the list of valuable objects which need further care”¹⁰

MDPV says that municipal bodies should approve measures for the preservation of cultural heritage, although it has not defined these measures. Another goal is the “Protection of objects and zones of cultural and historical heritage”. We find this goal in chapter four, “Strategy and actions for implementation”. This goal is almost the same with the first goal (the goal in chapter two of MDPV), therefore, we can say that it is repeated here. It is not indicated how this goal could be achieved. The goal is not broken down into objectives or concrete actions for the protection of cultural heritage. This chapter identifies the settlements of the municipality and zones within the town of Vushtrri for which it is said that urban regulatory plans should be drafted.¹¹ In some of these settlements and zones there are also cultural and historical monuments and archeological sites. MDPV has left it for regulatory plans to deal more with these monuments and sites. Urban regulatory plans deal with the positioning of the new buildings over one another, or with their positioning opposite the existing buildings in certain construction plots; in addition, they set conditions that must be met during this positioning and during the construction of these new buildings. Urban regulatory plans do not set objectives, but they only implement objectives and concrete actions which should be set in the municipal development plan (in this case in MDPV), indicating textually and graphically, with drawings, how they should be implemented. The fifth chapter of the MDPV lists a series of conditions that must be met, and the measures to be taken during the implementation of this plan. These relate to

¹⁰ MDPV, page 160

¹¹ MDPV was drafted at the time when Law on Spatial Planning No. 2003/14 was in force. According to this Law, the Urban Regulatory Plan is a document belonging to level of planning for the municipal territory. Article 15 of this Law states: “Urban Regulatory Plans shall determine the conditions for regulation of space as well as the rules for location of building and urban land plots. Urban Regulatory Plans shall define construction zones and shall include regulation lines, building lines, urban technical norms and other requirements regarding the locations of buildings and other buildings on urban land plots.”

all matters covered by the plan. Among them are also “conditions for the regulation of space”¹². One of these conditions states: “In the zones where development is allowed, conditions on site”¹³ should determine the measures for environmental protection and the protection of complexes of natural and cultural heritage.”¹⁴ The MDPV has not determined concrete measures for the protection of cultural heritage, but rather it has left the conditions on site to determine these measures. Another condition for the regulation of space is that the development of settlements should be controlled in “areas rich with cultural and natural heritage”¹⁵, among others. Among the measures listed are also “measures for the protection of landscapes, natural values, and cultural and historical complexes”¹⁶. One of these measures is as follows: “It should be selected elements of cultural heritage that should be protected, and the relevant regulations should be adopted for them”¹⁷. Do we have to protect the whole cultural heritage or only some of its elements?

Planning the future of cultural heritage aims to protect it legally, conserve it, and use it. Conservation includes all actions to care for cultural heritage sites such as: maintenance, restoration, reconstruction, and their adaptation for eventual functions different from the initial ones. Cultural heritage sites can be used for tourism or adapted for use by the public for various activities. The municipal spatial plan, as it stands now, could not achieve this aim. Cultural heritage plays an important role in the identity of the people of Vushtrri. Conservation of cultural heritage sites helps to protect the identity of a city’s occupants. Conservation and the proper use of these sites creates a better image of Vushtrri while also attracting domestic and foreign

¹² MDPV, page 207

¹³ Conditions on site is a document that municipal competent body gives to the investor who wants to build and requires a building permit from this body. This document contains conditions to be met by those applying for a building permit, prior to obtaining this permit.

¹⁴ MDPV, page 207

¹⁵ MDPV, page 208

¹⁶ MDPV, page 213

¹⁷ MDPV, page 213

tourists. This creates a new tourism sector, which benefits the local economy. For this plan to become a reality, the cultural heritage section of the MDPV must be amended with a precise plan that clearly states how each objective will be accomplished.

Project Description

This capstone project report contains a review of part of MDPV which deals with cultural heritage of the Municipality of Vushtrri, and guidelines on what should include the presentation of the current situation regarding this heritage, and what should include its future planning. Work on the review of MDPV included the reading of this document and obtaining information from it, and also obtaining additional information on municipality's cultural heritage. From this additional information was made known what lacks MDPV. Additional information was provided on monuments, and other cultural heritage assets and values that has the Municipality of Vushtrri. To get this information that is missing in MDPV were used several research methods. Initially are reviewed all available printed texts. These texts include laws, governmental strategies and publications. In addition, online texts – various documents dealing with conservation and planning of cultural heritage are also reviewed. Part of the research for information was also meeting with the staff of the NGO Cultural Heritage without Borders (CHwB). CHwB / Kosovo Office is an active organization in the Republic of Kosovo in terms of involvement in the protection of cultural heritage. In the last three or four years, collaborations between CHwB, the US Embassy in the Republic of Kosovo, Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport (MCYS) and the municipality of Vushtrri has led to the implementation of several projects in regards to municipal cultural heritage. A visit to cultural heritage sites was another way of obtaining information necessary for the review of MDPV.

After reviewing MDPV, work has continued in issuing guidelines for amending the part of MDPV which deals with cultural heritage. To provide the information needed for issuing these guidelines, were used the same research methods as in the case of a review of MDPV. The difference is that in this case there have been meetings and consultations with more stakeholders. There have been talks and exchange of ideas with the director and staff of the Institute of Spatial Planning (ISP). This institution is under the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning. Since its foundation, 13 years ago until today, ISP has compiled seven spatial plans. ISP staff has experience in drafting spatial plans, so consultation with it was useful. With the purpose of consultation and getting information, two meetings were held in the Directorate of Urbanism and Environmental Protection of the Municipality of Vushtrri (DUEPMV), and other two in the Directorate of Culture, Youth and Sport of the same municipality (DCYSMV). DUEPMV is charged by the Law on Spatial Planning to draft municipal development plans, whereas the latter takes care of the preservation and development of culture in the municipality. Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports (MCYS) takes care of the preservation and development of culture in the Republic of Kosovo, so that meetings with officials from the MCYS and DCYSMV were held to get information about possible plans that these institutions can have in terms of cultural heritage. Another meeting in the series of meetings with stakeholders was meeting with the manager of projects in the Institute for Science and Technology (inTech). This is a private institution that was founded in 2002 in Prishtina. This company drafted the Municipal Development Plan of Vushtrri under contract with the DUEPMV. Meeting with the Chair of the NGO CHwB was a continuation of meetings with the staff of this organization for the purpose of consultation and information to potential projects. At the stage of drafting the guidelines, cultural heritage sites were visited again. During visits to these sites is obtained information on the

physical condition of cultural heritage monuments, interventions that have been made in some of these monuments, and their use. Writing the capstone project report was coupled with regular meetings with the project advisor to get his comments on what is written, and also instructions on how to proceed further.

Project Results

This capstone project provides guidelines for the presentation and planning of cultural heritage in MDPV. The part of MDPV which deals with the cultural heritage of the municipality of Vushtrri will be changed according to these guidelines. Changes will be made by the ones responsible for the revision of MDPV. After a time period, it is expected that this spatial plan, amended, and improved, will bring the most important result which is the enhanced care for cultural heritage and consequently a better preserved and used heritage.

Parts¹⁸ of the municipal development plan, the “Municipality profile”, and also the “Assessment of the situation” are the parts where the current situation of cultural heritage should be presented and assessed. Guidelines for the content of these sections are given below.

1. “Municipality profile” provides information and data on cultural heritage of the municipality without analyzing and assessing them. This part should contain, but is not limited to those provided in the items below:

- The part dedicated to cultural heritage starts with a text showing what the territory of the municipality is characterized by with regards to this heritage. A historical overview is given for this area showing those who lived and ruled it during different time periods, and also what cultural and historical monuments or archeological remains were left to the today’s generation as heritage.

¹⁸ It is about the parts which according Administrative Instruction on Sections and Basic Requirements for Design, Implementation and Monitoring of Municipal Development Plan, the municipal development plan should contain.

- Extracts from the List of Cultural Heritage for Temporary Protection issued by the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports (MCYS) are presented that include parts related to the Municipality of Vushtrri. The cultural heritage list of the municipality is placed on a table in the same format issued by MCYS, whereby all elements in the list are grouped according to categories and subcategories of cultural heritage which are in the Law on Cultural Heritage. The list may be completed or may contain only the most known monuments, while the completed list should be given in an annex.
- Historical background (history) for all cultural heritage sites, for which there are historical data;
- Information on what cultural heritage sites are dedicated to, information on their construction materials, rooms and their function;
- Information on the physical condition of cultural heritage sites and on eventual works carried out to improve this condition, to restore, or to reconstruct;
- Information on the use of cultural heritage sites should also be given in this part. Here we have to show whether these sites are brought to the condition that they can be used for in different public activities, in which case, their initial destination is changed, or perhaps they are prepared to be visited by the public as part of cultural tourism. It is important to show whether the authenticity of cultural heritage sites was preserved following the works performed for alteration of destination, and this particularly refers to facades or the external appearance of buildings.
- The following is the information on funds allocated from the municipal budget, but also from the Kosovo Consolidated Budget, for the preservation of cultural heritage of the municipality.

- The municipal development plan should also present the spiritual heritage of the municipality. This means that information should be provided for popular traditions and customs, rituals, dances, music, song, artistic crafts, prose, and poetry written by poets of the municipal area.
 - Cultural heritage sites should be shown in orthophoto (aerial photograph), and also in the map of the municipality's territory, using the GIS (Geographic Information System) software.
 - The text presenting the current situation should be accompanied with photos of cultural heritage sites.
2. "Assessment of the situation" is a part of document where, after analyzing the information and data in the profile of the municipality, assessments on the current situation should be provided. In addition, the trends, needs, projections and forecasts for the future should be presented. This part should contain, but could not be limited to only those given in the items below:
- It is necessary to conduct a SWOT analysis of the cultural heritage of the municipality.
 - Needs should be identified in this part to enable the proper care on cultural heritage. Needs may be needs for professionals of different profiles of the area of cultural heritage, needs for political support, for financial means, etc.
 - Positive and negative trends should be shown, and if there are trends with negative developments for cultural heritage, then causes and their causers have to be identified. Negative trends are for example: the neglect of certain cultural and historical monuments, or archeological localities for a long time; constructions very close to the sites of cultural heritage endangering these monuments and archeological remains; or failing to

implement what has been planned for cultural heritage by local and central government, etc.

- Here, it is necessary to make an analysis and assess what opportunities it offers, and also what benefits can come from the conservation and integration of cultural heritage sites in the life of today's society.

The parts¹⁹ of the municipal development plan in which the future of cultural heritage is planned are as follows: “Spatial development framework” and “Strategic development priorities and the action plan”. Guidelines for the content of these parts are given below:

1. The “Spatial development framework” should show what is desired to be achieved in the future for cultural heritage. According to administrative instruction²⁰ for the municipal development plan, the “Spatial development framework” is composed of the following components: vision, goals, objectives, and the spatial development concept. Based on this, the content of the framework is set out. Therefore, framework should contain, but could not be limited only to the items given below:

- The vision statement presents a vision; an imagination of the desired municipality's future. The statement text reflects goals for the municipality in various areas of life. One or several of these goals should be dedicated to cultural heritage, so it should be part of the vision for the future.
- The goal is the end or a result toward which efforts are directed.²¹ It is made known through a statement which shows what the desired end or result is. The goal is not very specific. It is wide, generalized, and in the long-term, someone can be measured and

¹⁹ It is about the parts which according to Administrative Instruction on Sections and Basic Requirements for Design, Implementation and Monitoring of Municipal Development Plan, the municipal development plan should contain.

²⁰ Administrative Instruction on Sections and Basic Requirements for Design, Implementation and Monitoring of Municipal Development Plan

²¹ <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/goal>

someone cannot. The goal is the “big picture”. Among the goals for the municipality, identified in the municipal development plan, the goal or goals for cultural heritage should occupy a special place. It can be even only one goal, but it should be comprehensive. Such a goal, which is recommended to be appropriated by the municipal development plan, is: *“Protection, conservation and use of cultural heritage”*.

- Objective is something that one's efforts or actions are intended to attain or accomplish.²²

Unlike the goal, which is a very general target and also long term, the objective is a precise, specific target, and is medium-term or short-term; moreover it is always measurable. It also differs from the goal because it is very tangible and clear, features which are not found within the goal. To be able to achieve the goal, as a very general target, it must be broken down into several specific targets, that is, into several objectives, the achievement of which is easier and faster. The goal for cultural heritage recommended above can be broken down and achieved through the following objectives: *legal protection of cultural heritage; institutional protection of cultural heritage; conservation of cultural heritage; increase public awareness on cultural heritage and its understanding; economic benefit through the development of cultural tourism*

These objectives should be elaborated textually to provide an additional explanation of what they mean. For legal protection, it is necessary to complete the legislation on cultural heritage with the issuance of bylaws and various regulations, and to apply the law. Institutional protection means that institutions of cultural heritage, such as those of central level as well as the local level ones should undertake actions under their competence to take care of heritage. In order to perform this work as effectively as possible, it is necessary that these institutions be strengthened continuously. This means

²² http://www.diffen.com/difference/Goal_vs_Objective

the professional development of staff, the increase of staff efforts to protect the heritage, and improving the physical infrastructure of institutions.

The third objective concerns the measures for the preservation of cultural heritage. The Law on Cultural Heritage gives the following definition: “Conservation means measures and actions taken to preserve the cultural heritage without losing its authenticity, significance, cultural, historical, and artistic importance.”

The objective to increase public awareness and understanding of cultural heritage will be achieved through the interpretation and presentation of cultural heritage, thereby transmitting to the public the importance of the preservation of this heritage in order to be better understood, and appreciated, and as a result, be more willing to commit to the preservation of cultural heritage. The ICOMOS²³ Charter for the Interpretation and Presentation of Cultural Heritage Sites gives definitions for interpretation and presentation. According to the Charter: “Interpretation refers to the full range of potential activities intended to heighten public awareness and enhance understanding of the cultural heritage site. These can include print and electronic publications, public lectures, on-site and directly related off-site installations, educational programmes, community activities, and ongoing research, training, and evaluation of the interpretation process itself.” “Presentation more specifically denotes the carefully planned communication of interpretive content through the arrangement of interpretive information, physical access, and interpretive infrastructure at a cultural heritage site. It can be conveyed through a variety of technical means, including, yet not requiring, such elements as informational

²³ The International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) is a professional association that works for the conservation and protection of cultural heritage sites around the world. Now headquartered in Paris, ICOMOS was founded in 1965 in Warsaw, and offers advice to UNESCO on World Heritage Sites.

panels, museum-type displays, formalized walking tours, lectures and guided tours, and multimedia applications and websites.”

The objective for the development of cultural tourism has to do with the use of cultural heritage for the development of cultural tourism. Numerous activities that enable visits to cultural heritage sites and attract local and foreign visitors are needed. Information should be disseminated to inform potential visitors to cultural heritage sites of the municipality. It should enable visitors to enter cultural heritage sites at any time and must be provided to accompany visitors to these sites by persons trained for this job.

- The spatial development concept should show where spatial developments will be dispersed in the future in the territory of the municipality, or what parts of the territory for which developments will be used. The concept should also designate areas which should be protected from construction and other developments that are harmful to these areas. Among the latter are certainly areas where cultural heritage sites are. So the concept in its text on cultural heritage sites should foresee the preservation and protection against harmful developments, while in the cartographic part, it should present these areas in the conceptual map.

2. The “Strategic development priorities and action plan” is part of the municipal development plan, where objectives with high priority are set out from those identified in the previous part of the plan. These priorities should be elaborated as required by the Administrative Instruction MESP-No. 11/2015 on Sections and Basic Requirements for Design, Implementation and Monitoring of the Municipal Development Plan. The action plan should be also presented in this part of the municipal development plan. As the name shows, the action plan should identify the actions and concrete measures to be undertaken or

projects to be implemented for each objective separately, in order to achieve these objectives. The following is what is recommended to contain the municipal development plan. The action plan should contain, but could not be limited only to actions or concrete measures which are given for each objective in the following items:

- Objective – Legal protection of cultural heritage

Actions:

- Completion of legislation with issuing legal acts deriving from the Law on Cultural Heritage;
- Effective inspection by the Inspectorate of Cultural Heritage of the implementation of legislation and prohibition of illegal actions against cultural heritage;
- Making proposals to be included in the List of Cultural Heritage under the Temporary Protection²⁴ objects, monuments, or localities of cultural heritage which so far have not been included;

- Objective – Institutional protection of cultural heritage

Actions:

- Professional advancement of the staff of the cultural heritage institutions and also of those carrying out conservation and restoration work through: funding from MCYS and from municipality for studying and specialization abroad; organization of meetings, debates, workshops, seminars and international conferences; training programs for the staff, such as guide trainings and museum curators, managers, laboratory technicians

²⁴ According to the Law on Cultural Heritage, List of Cultural Heritage under Temporary Protection includes cultural heritage inventoried and selected for temporary protection and conservation by the Ministry on the recommendation of the responsible institutions. Cultural heritage in this list enjoys one year protection which may be extended for at most one more year, and after this period, it is processed for registration in the National Register of Cultural Heritage under Temporary Protection.

and other field professionals²⁵, as well as training on using technologies and technical apparatuses for the documentation and contemporary treatment of cultural heritage²⁶;

- Raising the level of cooperation between cultural institutions at the municipal level and those at the central level;
 - Creating partnerships and cooperation with counterpart institutions of different countries in specialist areas of cultural heritage (digging, conservation/restoration, inventory, budgeting, education)²⁷;
 - Inventory²⁸ and documentation²⁹ of cultural heritage ;
 - Drafting management plans for the Old Castle, Old Hammam and Old Stone Bridge;
 - Improving the physical infrastructure of the institutions³⁰, which means improving the buildings of institutions and ensuring optimal working conditions;
- Objective – Conservation of cultural heritage

Actions – Setting the actions through which this objective could be achieved depends on the needs on the ground for various interventions in cultural heritage sites. The situation on the ground shows that there is a need for the following interventions:

- Maintenance and consolidation of parts added to the Old Castle during its adaption for the new use, as well as maintenance of this monument as a whole;
- Maintenance of: Old Hammam, Mosque of Gazi Ali Beu, House of Mahmut Pashë Gjinolli, Fortress (Kulla) of Zejnullah Beu, Fortress (Kulla) of Kadri Hyseni, House of

²⁵ This activity is foreseen in the document “National Strategy for Cultural Heritage 2015-2025”

²⁶ This activity is foreseen in the document “National Strategy for Cultural Heritage 2015-2025”

²⁷ This activity is foreseen in the document “National Strategy for Cultural Heritage 2015-2025”

²⁸ Definition on inventory which is given by the Law on Cultural Heritage is: “Inventory” is an official research for registration and documentation of Cultural Heritage. Inventory presents the basis on which an evaluation is made (a) to determine whether cultural heritage must be protected by law and (b) to prepare the conservation plan.”

²⁹ Definition on documentation is given by the Law on Cultural Heritage: Documentation is presentation of typological and factual values by graphic, photographic, audiovisual means and written records.

³⁰ This activity is foreseen in the document “National Strategy for Cultural Heritage 2015-2025”

Zymer Musiqi, House of Pantina family in Vushtrri, the courtyard of the Fortress of Azem Bejta in Galica;

- Defining the boundaries of the historical zone of the town of Vushtrri and drafting the conservation plan;
- Restoration of: Old Stone Bridge (Vushtrri), Old Stone Bridge (Vri), House of Shaban Agë Haxhiu (Vushtrri), Church of Saint L Lazar (Samadrexha), Fortress (Kulla) of Adem Isa, old taps (Vushtrri) – “Restoration is appropriate only if there is sufficient evidence of an earlier state of the fabric.”³¹ This means that, as stated by one of the principles of the ICOMOS Charter, “Principles on Analysis, Conservation and Structural Restoration of Architectural Heritage”, studies, and proposals should be conducted prior to the restoration commencing, and should be developed in several steps, such as: research for significant data and information, individuation of the causes of damage and decay, choice of the remedial measures, and the control of the efficiency of the interventions. This charter, as well as some other charters adopted by ICOMOS has listed principles dealing with conservation and restoration. The restorers should follow these principles.
- Adaptation of the House of Mahmut Pashë Gjinolli to use it as a museum in Vushtrri;
- Adaptation of Old Hammam in Vushtrri to use it as a gallery of arts;
- Drafting a project for the regeneration of the area around the Old Castle for the development of cultural activities;
- Laying of causeway along the road that connects the Castle, Hammam, and Stone Bridge;
- Consolidation of the Fortress (Kulla) of Mehmet Karaqa;
- Recording all archeological sites which are under legal protection, marking them, and prohibiting actions in these sites which are contrary to their conservation. It is about

³¹ Article 19 of the Burra Charter

Ancient Archeological Locality Ligata (Stanoc i Poshtëm), Archeological Locality Selishtë–Çeremidëhane (Banjicë), Ancient and Medieval Archeological Locality te Jorgovanët (at Jorgovans) (Novosellë), Ancient Fortress – Gradina e Malokëve (Samadrexhë), Ancient Fortress – Gjyteti (Strofc), Archeological Locality Selishtë – te shpija (at the house) (Vërnice), Medieval Ruins of the Complex in the Hill Çeçan (Duboc), Archeological Locality (Dobërllukë), Archeological Locality (Mirash), Traces of Roman Mansion (Pestovë), Pre-historic settlement and Late Antiquity (Zhilivodë), and Pre historic and Medieval locality (Samadrexhë).

- Objective – Increase public awareness on cultural heritage and its understanding

Actions:

- Realization of print and electronic publications on cultural heritage³²;
- Promotion of these publications and of cultural heritage in general through written and electronic media, by broadcasting programs in radio and TV, and broadcasting them also abroad through satellite transmission;
- Promotion of cultural heritage via Internet;
- Inclusion of cultural heritage in curricula of educational system;
- Organization of pupils' and students' visits to cultural heritage sites;
- Organization of competitions between schools in terms of knowledge on cultural heritage;
- Organizing and holding public lectures in cultural heritage sites, associated with exhibitions of pictures on big screens and video recordings;
- Organization of concerts, theatrical plays and other activities in cultural heritage sites;

³² Cultural heritage to this action and to other actions under this objective means all categories of cultural heritage which according to the Law on Cultural Heritage are: archaeological heritage, architectural heritage, movable heritage, spiritual heritage and cultural landscapes.

- Enriching the library of the Museum of Vushtrri with literature on cultural heritage of the country and the region³³;
- Enriching the Museum of Vushtrri with ethnographic and historical exhibits³⁴;
- Training people for organizing various activities for public awareness-raising;
- Support and stimulation from MCYS and the Municipality of Vushtrri for the establishment of ensembles that cultivate dances and folk music by funding their establishment, their work and their professional development;
- Maintaining existing video and audio recording and realization of new recordings with folk dance and folk music;
- The appropriate presence of folk dance and folk music in the media, especially on TV;
- More frequent concert plays with folk dance and folk music;
- Proper and continuous promotion of the work of craftsmen and artistic crafts in print and electronic media, especially on television;
- Stimulation of artisans by freeing them from taxes;
- Objective – Economic benefit through the development of cultural tourism

Actions:

- Promotion of cultural heritage³⁵ via Internet;
- The realization of publications on cultural heritage, development of informational brochures (tourist guides) for the Municipality of Vushtrri, and their distribution within the country and abroad;

³³ This action was taken from Local Cultural Heritage Plan of the Municipality of Vushtrri

³⁴ This action was taken from Local Cultural Heritage Plan of the Municipality of Vushtrri

³⁵ Cultural heritage to this action and to other actions under this objective means all categories of cultural heritage which according to the Law on Cultural Heritage are: archaeological heritage, architectural heritage, movable heritage, spiritual heritage and cultural landscapes.

- Establishment of a touristic information office which will provide the visitors with information about touristic offers of the municipality, information on cultural heritage and provide a guiding service for tourists throughout the cultural heritage sites;
- Training touristic guides;
- Building walking paths at cultural heritage sites;
- Placing accompanying objects at cultural heritage sites where traditional food would be served, souvenirs with national motives, books, brochures, maps, CDs containing information on cultural heritage, and information about tourist offerings of the municipality of Vushtrri would be sold;
- Marking and placing informative panels on cultural heritage sites;
- Setting signposts on the streets of Vushtrri to reach the cultural heritage sites

Administrative Instruction³⁶ states that for each of the actions listed above, the action plan should indicate:

- Implementation priority (high, medium, low);
- Implementation timeframe (short, medium, long-term);
- Financial implications (minimal, small, medium, large);
- Arrangements for implementation, such as public-private partnerships etc.;
- Human, technical and other resources, necessary for implementation of the action;
- A rough budget and the budget category for expenditures;
- Roles and responsibilities for each responsible organization, implementing partner or stakeholder.

³⁶ Administrative Instruction MESP-No. 11/2015 on Sections and Basic Requirements for Design, Implementation and Monitoring of Municipal Development Plan

Conclusion and recommendation

After reviewing the part of the cultural heritage in MDPV, it is concluded that this document lacks proper handling of this heritage. This plan, as in the section where it presents the current situation, as well as in the section where it plans the future of cultural heritage, has its advantages and disadvantages or deficiencies. In the part where the current situation is presented, the positive thing is that it informs the reader with the existence of cultural and historical monuments and with cultural heritage localities in the territory of the Municipality of Vushtrri. This part provides a list with names of monuments and localities and a short description of some of these monuments. The text is accompanied by photos of some monuments, and the municipality map shows where cultural heritage sites are located. Deficiencies in this part of the municipal development plan are represented with the lack of a range of information for cultural heritage that mainly dealing with the legal status of cultural heritage sites, description, their treatment, and also their use by the public. The spiritual heritage represented by traditions and folk customs, rituals, dances, music, song, prose and poetry is not presented at all in MDPV.

Advantages of the MDPV part where future planning is conducted are as follows: inclusion of cultural heritage in the future vision for the Municipality of Vushtrri, identification of some of the goals, objectives and actions related to the protection of cultural heritage. On the other hand, the negative side of this part of the plan is represented by the lack of a proper strategy, which would enable the achievement of goals for cultural heritage. Drafting this strategy means breaking down each goal into objectives and then breaking down each objective into concrete actions or projects which lead to the achievement of objectives and goals. This work is left undone in MDPV. We see that one goal is broken down only into one objective, another one into two objectives, and one goal is not broken down at all. These objectives available do not

sufficiently cover what is entirely needed to be done for cultural heritage in the future. In addition, the plan does not show how to achieve these objectives, so they are not broken down into concrete actions. The document lists only three actions, of which only two are concrete and do not address any specific objective.

Planning the future of cultural heritage aims to protect it by law, to conserve, and use it. This is so because cultural heritage is an important part of the identity of the people of Vushtrri. Preservation of cultural heritage assets would at the same time maintain this identity, while on the other hand it would create a good image for Vushtrri and would attract local and foreign visitors to visit these assets. In this way, cultural tourism would be developed as a branch of economy, and local population would consequently benefit from it. The chances are greater that the goal will be achieved if planning is comprehensive. Due to its deficiencies, the current MDPV is not distinguished for comprehensive planning, and as a result, the chances are lower for the goal to be achieved, and this is a problem that must be solved. In order for the problem to be solved it is necessary that part of the cultural heritage in MDPV be changed for the better. This capstone project gives instructions as of how this change should look.

This capstone project gives guidelines as to each part should contain in the separate municipal development plan. The following is a brief version of what these parts should contain according to these guidelines. Contents of the first part, “Profile of municipality”, should be supplemented with information which is missing in the current municipal plan. This part should contain a complete list of cultural heritage sites, including information on: the historical background of these sites, construction materials, rooms of cultural heritage buildings and their function, their physical condition, interventions made in these buildings, possible adaptation of them, the use of cultural heritage sites, funds allocated for cultural heritage from the municipal

budget, and information on the spiritual heritage of the municipality. Part “Assessment of the situation” should contain: SWOT analysis of the municipality’s cultural heritage, needs to be met in order to enable the proper care for cultural heritage, positive and negative trends, as well as an assessment of what opportunities it offers and what benefits the preservation and integration of cultural heritage sites in the life of today’s society can bring. A vision statement for the future of the municipality, part of which should be the cultural heritage, followed by the goals and objectives for this heritage and a concept of the future spatial development, should be the content of the third part of the municipal development plan, which is “Spatial development framework”. This capstone project has identified the goal and objectives for cultural heritage, and it has also recommended for these to be in the contents of this part of the plan. The project also gives a description of the goal and for each objective separately, showing what they mean, and further recommends that this description should also be part of the framework’s contents. Following, this project shows what the concept of spatial development means. The project indicates that the concept of spatial development determines the distribution of developments in space. It designates spaces where construction is allowed and those where it is not allowed. “Strategic development priorities and action plan” is part of the municipal development plan, which in its content, according to the guidelines of this project, must have objectives that are considered higher priorities than others, and also the action plan, which takes the biggest part in this contents. The action plan for each objective should identify concrete actions and measures to be taken or projects to be implemented, so that these objectives can be achieved. This project has identified these actions and recommended them for the municipal development plan. Actions relate to the legal and institutional protection of cultural heritage, conservation of this heritage,

the increase of the public awareness of cultural heritage, and the development of cultural tourism.

From what is stated in the previous paragraph, it follows that this capstone project shows precisely what should be done with the cultural heritage of the municipality of Vushtrri. Now, with the change of the municipal development plan under the guidelines of this project, the local government has provided a plan which highlights the actions needed to be done; in addition, it remains to be seen who will ensure the financial means and find professionals who will carry out these actions. With the plan available, a possibility was provided to the local government, that by presenting it to local and international, nongovernmental, or governmental organizations that are willing to donate for cultural heritage, tell them exactly what it wants to do with cultural heritage. Each action required by this municipal plan is a separate project. So, the funds, except those that can be provided by municipality itself and by the central government, can also come from organizations that traditionally donate for cultural heritage projects. Without presenting a concrete plan with concrete projects, there would hardly be any money coming from these donors. The latter ones can also find professionals and thus create all conditions for a more significant intervention than has been intervened thus far for the preservation and use of cultural heritage, through which, as was stated earlier, the community would benefit in general, and also the private owners of cultural heritage properties, in particular. According to the altered municipal development plan, these properties must be preserved, and the implementation of this plan means that private owners will be assisted financially towards the restoration, reconstruction or maintenance of their properties.

The change made in the contents of the part of cultural heritage in the municipal development plan of Vushtrri, for the company which has drafted this plan means more

experience in the planning of cultural heritage. The company can use this experience in the future for the eventual design of other municipal development plans. In addition, this project, together with its instructions, may be published in order to get into the hands of all those who deal with spatial planning, part of which is the planning of cultural heritage.

The result of this capstone project is foreseen for the future, and after the change of the municipal development plan, the next step is to implement all the envisaged actions within, and thus improve the situation of cultural heritage, to preserve it, and use it more. After a period of time, it will be possible to assess whether the result envisaged is achieved. The assessment will be done by using the comparative method. The data and information on the existing situation of cultural heritage available in the revised municipal development plan will be compared to the data and information to be provided at some time in the future, upon which case, one will see whether the actions are executed and whether the objectives pointed out by this municipal plan are achieved.

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Annex 1



Photo 1. The Castle of Vushtrri



Photo 2. Within the walls of the Castle



Photo 3. The Old Hammam in Vushtrri



Photo 4. The Old Stone Bridge in Vushtrri



Photo. 5 "Kulla" of Zejnullah Beu



Photo. 6 Old city house



Photo 7. "Kulla" of Azem Bejta



Photo 8. "Kulla" of Kadri Hyseni