



'European Dimension' Event Summary

Event title:

Stećci – Medieval Tombstones

Initiator of the project:

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Partner countries:

Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia.

Event background:

Considering argument of science and trade, Ministers of culture of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia, signed in Sarajevo on 2 November 2009, a Letter of intentions on establishment of cooperation for preparation and realization of the joint project "Nomination of Medieval tombstones for inscription on UNESCO World Heritage List". Four countries established working groups which are in charge of complete process for nomination of medieval tombstones.

Today, Stećci – medieval tombstones are on the Tentative list of UNESCO and four groups are in a process of making of Management plan for their locations.

As a part of the event history, this year there was an international exhibition in all four countries, supported by UNESCO and aimed to promote Stećci as part of the World cultural heritage, on the occasion of UN day. During the exhibition, 32 necropolis were presented, which will be nominated on the UNESCO list.

Origins of the event proposal:

Since the medieval tombstones represent common cultural heritage of four countries with outstanding value and their unique cultural phenomenon stands today before a great challenge of being nominated as a part of world heritage as well, an idea for their presentation through EHDs is the adequate way of getting acquainted and connecting public to their history and cultural heritage that is common with their neighbors. Stećci – medieval tombstones are part of immovable cultural heritage.

Short description of the event:

Having in mind low awareness of medieval tombstones' significance, the idea is to organize a set of activities which will contribute to increase the awareness through getting the public, especially young people, acquainted to the tombstones that represent a part of cultural heritage of these countries and wider European community.

Activities should be organized in appropriate way for the specific groups of people, for example children in elementary schools, students of architecture, young people, etc. Some of the groups would have a task of developing sustainable and adequate ways for presentation, protection and promotion of stećci.

Event will be implemented through the set of activities, such as workshops, lectures, roundtables, exhibitions, tours and organized visits, publications and other projects. The activities themselves will take place on the locations of stećci, then in schools, faculties and municipalities.

Each country participating in the event would identify core actors that will be involved in the event on local, national and European level. The activities organized will share the same thematic concepts and the exhibition planned will be done in all four countries at approximately the same time (month) and with the same artistic material. Successful examples of this cross border cooperation will be promoted in all four countries simultaneously. Promotional material that will come out from this event will be part of the communication campaign and will be distributed within one country and between all partner countries. The campaign will include information materials, final CD-ROM, regular press releases, articles, TV programmes and possible website.

European dimension of Stećci:

Stećci are monoliths tombstones found throughout present day Bosnia and Herzegovina and in parts of Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia. The primary interpretative context of stećci is the region of Central and South-Eastern Europe as a transnational European cultural zone, characterized by the intermingling of cultural influences from Eastern and Western Christianity and located between the mediaeval European East and West.

The outstanding value and European Dimension of the stećak as a tombstone and as a specific mediaeval funerary art are framed by its triple historical context: Western European, Byzantine and Southern Slav. Emerging as a work of art, as sculpture, with the intention of creating a perpetual memorial to the deceased, as an organic component of European funerary practice, the medieval stećak tombstone is a distinct phenomenon and a specific synthesis of language and script, faith and custom, history and chronology, culture, art and aesthetics.