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## NEWS: International conference in Cracow

International conference "Historic ruins - protection, use, management" was organised in Cracow (Poland) on 8 - 10 November 2018 by RUINS project consortium in cooperation with external stakeholders: Jagiellonian University in Cracow, Committee of Architecture & Urban Planning of Polish Academy of Sciences and International Committee on Theory & Philosophy of Conservation and Restoration.



The topic of the conference are broadly understood issues of contemporary protection of historic ruins and historical conditions of these activities. This difficult subject has always been present in the reflection on art and in the protection of monuments. At individual stages of the development of these disciplines, the successive generations of art lovers and conservators have tried to determine the place of ruins in cultural heritage and to look for ways to protect these sites. External conditions have changed radically, but there has always been the dominant view that historic ruin - a ruined object shaped in the long-term destruction process, is an outright monument and should be protected. Still, there have also emerged the concept to rebuild the ruins to give them the forms of objects to which utility functions can be introduced. Such tendencies,



significant in the modern era, have intensified again in recent decades, favoured by non-conservation conditions - technical, economic, organisational, ownership, social and cultural. As a consequence, the reconstruction of ruins is becoming more and more common across Europe and conservators have to face this problem again. In the past, many conferences were organised and many publications were issued on the topic of historic ruins. These works intensified in Central Europe after the political transformation started in 1989, when the new economic, social and political situation created wide opportunities and threats in the utilisation of historic ruins. Environmental discussions, research programs, conferences and publications led, among others, to development of a program document entitled Historic Ruins Protection Charter in 2009.



22 speeches were presenting during conference. 105 participants attended the conference.

**Conference programme is available here:**

<https://www.interreg-central.eu/Content.Node/conference-programme.pdf>

## STATE OF ART REPORTS

**Three State-of-Art Reports were published:**

1. Report on the current state-of-art on protection, conservation and preservation of historical ruins
2. Report on current state-of-art of use and re-use of medieval ruins
3. Report on current state-of-art on management of medieval ruins and best practices of risk assessment



## **1. Report on the current state-of-art on protection, conservation and preservation of historical ruins**

“Report on the current state-of-art on protection, conservation and preservation of medieval ruins” is a summary of the task - Activity A.T1.1 - Elaboration of state-of-art on protection of the ruins (based on the literature and case studies). The aim of the task was to collect information, analyse, and synthesize information on the current state of knowledge in the field of conservation protection of the historic ruins. Due to the RUINS project structure, the report is to form the basis for developing further project activities. The report focuses on technical issues and their conditions, because issues related to the use and management of ruins are the subject of other reports developed as a part of the project.

The report has been prepared on the basis of a literature analysis devoted to the protection of historic ruins and information collected during study visits organized as part of the RUINS project.

According to the assumptions of the project, all teams participated in the preparation of the report. Individual teams developed national reports that were included in the preparation of this report. The comprehensive report was developed by a project team from the Lublin University of Technology and ICOMOS Poland. Due to the nature of the issues, the team involved construction engineers and architects specializing in technical issues of protection of the historic ruins.

Due to the scope of the project and its further tasks, the assumptions regarding the nature and structure of the report were adopted. On the basis of the initial analysis of literature and the case studies, it was assumed that the development of the state of knowledge should be focused on the issues that are most important for the conservation problems of the protection of historic ruins.

With this assumption in mind, the structure of the report was adopted, which consists of the following parts:

- "Historic ruin in the scope of the conservation theory"
- "Studies of historic ruins"
- "Repairs of historic ruins"
- "National reports on the conservation of historic ruins"
- "Conclusions and recommendations"



In the part titled "Historic ruin in the scope of the conservation theory", information was presented that depicts a historic ruin from the point of view of contemporary conservation theory. Issues important to choose the form of 4 protection of ruins are presented - the characteristics of the historic ruins as a separate typological group of monuments, the separateness of the so-called "contemporary ruin" and "historic ruin", principles of protection of historic ruins, and terminology.

In the part entitled "Studies of historic ruins", the research has been presented, which should be the basis for the assessment of the ruins technical condition and which determine the scope of conservation works. The presented scope of research is of a comprehensive nature as it covers the diagnostics of all elements and damages that are important in the historic ruins. After further development of the project, this part of the project may be a separate publication.

In the part titled "Repairs of historic ruins", selected issues related to securing the historic ruins were presented. Two key issues for the technical protection of the ruins have been presented: protection of a wall top and structural protection of walls.

In the part entitled "National reports on the conservation of historic ruins", the reports prepared by individual project participants were presented. The reports present issues recognized by the project participants as the most important and possible to elaborate due to the specificity of their qualifications.

In the part entitled "Conclusions and recommendations", the postulates regarding the directions of further works under the project were collected. The scope of issues (publications) was defined, which should, within the framework of the project, create an appropriate substantive basis for the protection and conservation of historic ruins.

It should be emphasized that some parts of the report have been developed in a way that allows them to be published. Thanks to this, it will be possible to widen the dissemination of the results collected to the report.

**To get more details about this report visit**

<https://www.interreg-central.eu/Content.Node/D.T1.1.1-Report-on-state-of-art-final-version-4-copy.pdf>



## 2. Report on current state-of-art of use and re-use of medieval ruins

This report represents a first operative development of WPT2, dedicated to the theme of sustainable use and re-use of medieval ruins. The aim of the workpackage is finding the balance between the needs of stakeholders and public expectations concerning use of medieval ruins on one hand, and on the other hand preservation of authenticity and historical value of medieval ruins (as historical monuments). The basic assumption is that a lack of functionality of medieval ruins leaves limited opportunities for establishing a viable economic future of these sites. Giving new functions to ruins can result in broad, economically profitable ways of using the medieval ruins. In economy market conditions a building with a beneficial use is far more likely to survive than one that has no use at all. Reuse is surely one of the best ways to ensure the preservation of an antique object: a function-free monument deteriorates rapidly, while keeping one ineffective remains alive.

Activities within this WP involve analysis of literature concerning modern methods of use of historical ruins and analysis of practical experiences and best examples of how to use ruined medieval objects while preserving their authenticity and historical value.

The report has been elaborated starting from bibliographic sources, such as monographs dedicated to the theme of the restoration of historic monuments and, in particular, of ruins. Much of the consulted texts are conferences proceedings that have taken place very often in the last years all over Europe; this demonstrates the importance of this topic at European level from a scientific and cultural point of view. At the same time, very important have been the texts on restoration history, supported by international charters such as the International Charter for the Conservation and Restoration of Monuments and Sites (The Venice Charter, 1964) or the Declaration of Amsterdam (1975). In this sense, the dissertations of history and theory of the restoration of the Italian school emerge a prime reference, given the rich contribution that experts such as Camillo Boito, Cesare Brandi and Gustavo Giovannoni have had internationally.

Concerning the search for case studies, they have been partly taken from the above mentioned texts, partly from international magazines, periodicals and websites dedicated to architecture and design and archaeology. Furthermore some case studies have been selected thanks to the direct knowledge by each project partner, including the sites included in the project itself.

This collection of the state-of-art constitutes the fundamental and indispensable phase of knowledge, without which it could not be possible to move to the following phase, represented by the development of transnational models of contemporary use of medieval ruins.



This report represents the basis contents for the drafting of the handbook dedicated to the use and re-use of medieval ruins while preserving their authenticity and historical value, which represents the final output of WPT2.

The report is organized in four chapters. The first one deals in general with the theme of use and re-use of cultural heritage, highlighting those that are the key concepts that underpin the interventions on monuments, namely that of authenticity, compatibility and sustainability. Theoretical references to this are borrowed from the universally recognized restoration theory at the European level.

The second chapter focuses the project's object of study, namely the medieval ruins, presenting a short historical excursion devoted to the theme of the reuse of ruins, starting from nineteenth-century theories.

The third chapter is the main point of the report, that is, the analysis of international best practices on projects and achievements in the use and re-use of medieval ruins. At first, the method used for collecting case studies is presented, followed by the sequence of elaborated sheet and finally a reasoned summary of the various functions identified is implemented. Case studies provide a varied and consistent overview for the implementation of the next steps of the project. All the partners have actively contributed to the collection of case studies, and it can be said that much of the competence area of Central Europe and even beyond has been included in the study.

The last chapter is devoted to the bibliography, which is a very important source concerning the extensive theoretical and projected dissertation that has been carried out on this theme in recent years.

Given the contents of the analysis, it should be emphasized that this document is innovative, as there is no text in literature that deals in such a specific and detailed way with the use of medieval ruins, especially with an international overview.

**To see the entire report click below**

<https://www.interreg-central.eu/Content.Node/D.T2.1.1---Report-on-the-current-state-of-art-on-contempo-1-.pdf>

### **3. Report on current state-of-art on management of medieval ruins and best practices of risk assessment**

Conservation, in favour of the next generations, of our CH\_M\_Ruins (Cultural Heritage Medieval Ruins) is one of the main tasks of the societies, they represent the reference points of our identity, whether current or future.



The value of CH\_M\_Ruins is established case by case, by popular opinion, by organizations, by experts from the field and by the public body. They are recognized, catalogued and inventoried; buildings, collections, archives, as well as individual objects of any size and of every age. The responsibility for objects is assumed by whom is in charge of their care and protection, whether they are these single individuals or institutions.

Which methods and means are the most appropriate for the protection of cultural heritage it is often the subject of discussions, opinions are divergent. These guidelines are intended to be a look at the possibilities of protection from dangers through an optimum risk management, especially in case of catastrophe. These directions are directed personally to those who are directly or indirectly responsible of the conservation and protection of cultural goods.

About cultural goods, the term 'Protection' is complementary to terms such as 'Conservation', Restoration and Care.

The protection therefore constitutes the implementation of all the measures necessary to avoid damage before they occur (prevention), or, in the case of a lesion, to minimize it are to call the specialists of the cultural heritage (conservatives and restorers) or agents ready intervention (firemen, civil protection, etc..).

Well-coordinated intervention is the indispensable premise for the cultural good damage to be reduced to the least possible damage (recovery).

Cultural assets are threatened in different ways. These guidelines give some crisis management tip which may arise in the event of fire, high water and / or other natural disasters.

**The whole report is available here:**

<https://www.interreg-central.eu/Content.Node/D.T3.1.1-Report-on-current-state-1.pdf>

## ABOUT THE PROJECT

Topic of project are medieval ruins. In Europe there are at least several thousand historical ruins. Owners and managers of these sites struggle with the same problems: protection of ruins is problematic due to ongoing process of destruction, and modern use of ruins is limited. **Project objective is to give “the second life” to medieval ruins** through modern management and attributing contemporary, socially useful functions, while preserving historical value of these sites.

Project aims to develop and disseminate transnational guidelines and integrated model of contemporary use, modern management and protection of medieval ruins in Central





Europe in order to enable elaboration of comprehensive management plans for ruined historical sites. Elaborated comprehensive management plans will help owners and managers of historical ruins, local, regional and public authorities exploit economic potential of this heritage in economic development of regions, and to preserve value of medieval ruins as cultural heritage.

Traditional approach to preservation of ruins has been focused on only one issue - how to maintain historical ruins from technical point of view. Innovation of project is to go beyond technical problems and to create integrated model that brings together 3 elements: contemporary use, modern management and sustainable preservation of ruins. Activities undertaken within project will be combination of research tasks concerning documentation and evaluation of technical state of ruins, conservation tasks concerning the form of protection of ruins and, most of all, activities aimed at contemporary use and modern management of historical ruins.

**Cooperation of 6 countries with various traditions and experiences will result in development of universal models that could be applied for management, use and protection of medieval ruins all over Europe, providing European added value.**

## CONTACT

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