MONASTERY IN BZOVÍK – VALUE ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

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Content

Introduction

In the year of 2016, debaters from the Lublin University of Technology in Poland, and the University of Matej Bel in Banská Bystrica, Slovakia met in Brussels, while presenting successful projects of the Common Projecting in the field of Cultural Heritage (JPICH PARADE). They discussed the uniqueness of the year 2018, which was declared the European Year of Cultural Heritage. One of the topics concerned an opportunity to create a new Central-European Consortium of researchers and the implementing subjects, who would address the revitalization and sustainability of cultural heritage in a systemic and systematic way. The criterion for uniting on this matter was a broader interdisciplinary cooperation and a direct relation to specific objects of cultural heritage in Central Europe. The researchers' idea was to verify their pilot research findings, and to have the research monitored by professional national and international institutions responsible for the state of cultural heritage in their respective countries.

By December 07, 2017, when the official beginning of the European Cultural Heritage Year was announced at the European Culture Forum in Milan, the consortium of researchers had already been constituted, being formed by the Lublin University of Technology (Poland), Matej Bel University (Slovakia), the Institute of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics (Czech Republic), ICOMOS – Polish National Committee of the International Council of Monuments and Sites (Poland), the city of Zadar (Croatia), Higher Institute on Territorial Systems for Innovation (Italy), Italian Association of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (Italy), Venetian Cluster of Cultural Heritage (Italy), the municipality of Velenje (Slovenia), and the Zadar Development Agency ZADRA NOVA (Croatia). The researchers had already participated in the opening meeting for the project RUINS *Sustainable re-use, preservation and modern management of historical ruins in Central Europe – elaboration of integrated model and guidelines based on the synthesis of the best European experiences.* The project was supported by the European Union, through the supporting program Interreg Central Europe. The objects of the research were medieval ruins, and through them, the ambition to elaborate a plan of their modern management, as well as a plan of revitalization via new socially useful functions. The condition for protection was preserving the historical values and involving the local community in the preservation of the ruins.

The consortium of researchers based their goal on the finding that cultural heritage represents a great potential for economic growth, and it can generate new values for local communities. The problem, however, appears to be finding a better balance between the preservation of cultural heritage and the sustainability of the social-economic development of the regions. The consortium felt a need to develop modern and attractive forms of repeated use, management, and protection of ruins as they are preserved in their current look and shape, while at the same time maintaining their historical informative value. The purpose of the project RUINS was to offer the 'second life' to medieval ruins through modern management, and to assign new, contemporary, and socially useful functions to them. An important tool in achieving this goal was the development and sharing of the transnational standards and the integrated model of use, modern management, and protection of medieval ruins in Central Europe.

The work on the project enabled development and elaboration of complex management plans for the decayed historical localities of Janowiec (Poland), Bzovík (Slovakia), St. Stosija (Croatia), Montagnana and Villa Beatrice d'Este (Italy), and Salek (Slovenia). The elaborated complex management plans will help the owners and managers of historical ruins, local, regional, and public institutions utilize the economic potential of ruins in the economic development of regions, and to preserve the value of cultural heritage.

The significance of the project is based on the fact that in many European countries, historical ruins are endangered for two main reasons. Firstly, all historical ruins are being continuously destroyed, which results from their maintained form and from their insufficient protection. Technical protection assumes minimum interference in the historical form. This means the continuously running activities which, mainly in small localities, are difficult to organize, and this leads to many ruins being irreversibly destroyed. Secondly, the owners, visitors, public opinion, the press, and the local communities are increasingly demanding the reconstruction of ruins. The preserved form of a ruin – a destroyed object – is rarely considered a valid and justified form of existence of the historical object. Ruins are then reconstructed and transformed into hotels, restaurants, museums, offices, etc. This kind of reconstruction destroys the authenticity of the historical ruins irreversibly, while the number of such interventions keeps increasing.

The currently existing approach to managing ruins has mainly focused on one aspect – how to preserve historical ruins from the technical point of view. One of the innovations of the RUINS project is to go beyond the narrow technical focus, and create an integrated model which unites the following three elements: the current use of the ruin, modern management, and the sustainability of the ruin. Research, analysis, and visiting studies within the project aimed at the evaluation of the technical conditions of the ruins, and the documentation of tasks relating to the form of the object and land protection. A significant number of research activities focused on the possible contemporary use, as well as modern management, of the historical ruins.

Collaboration of six countries with different traditions and experience in the RUINS project led to development of three universal models of technical, social, and economic management. Researchers from the Matej Bel University, along with the invited experts, decided to further develop a value assessment management plan for the researched ruin of Bzovík, which was chosen by the team for the pilot assessment. It is a wish of all authors who contributed to this publication to enable its application in managing, using, and protecting the Bzovík ruin, as well as for the publication to serve as an inspiration for other medieval ruins, and thus offering yet another added value to the research.

Ivan Murin

Thanks to its location, Slovakia used to be a territory, through which many trade routes were led, which had a significant influence on the life of people and their houses and other buildings. At present, we are proud to possess a diverse architectonic heritage, as well as multiple archeological findings from various historic and pre-historic eras. An example of such heritage is the Bzovík monastery.

The monastery of Premonstrates (the Bzovík castle), is a national cultural monument, registered in the General List of the Monuments Board under the number 1084/1. It is one of the oldest monasteries in Slovakia (Jasov, Kláštor pod Znievom, Bíňa, Šahy), located nearby the main communication route through the Territorial District of Hont, which connected the central parts the Hungarian Kingdom with the mining cities (and through Liptov and Orava regions with Poland).

Within centuries, the functions and parameters of many constructions have been changing, which had a significant effect on their architecture and their appearance. Between the 13th and 16th centuries, Bzovík was permanently attacked, devastated by Tatar invasions, burned out several times, and was repeatedly reconstructed. In 1530, when the Premonstrates had left Bzovík for good, the fortress consisted of four bastions with two levels, and was fortified by a moat. By the fortress a farmstead with a brewery and a distillery were located, along with a toll-gate and a tap-room. Around the fortress, a garden with an empty pond was located, as well as fields with another empty pond.

Not only Middle Ages, but also the beginning of the 20th century meant a destruction for the monastery, as the owners of the estate changed frequently. One of the most significant time periods was the time after WW2, when Slovakia was subjected to a change in regime, and thus the continuity of the ownership relations was broken. It was mainly the residential objects of the nobility that were nationalized and used for, often, inferior purposes, which contributed greatly to their degradation as to their construction and technical condition, as well as their existing cultural and monument value.

After the war, Slovakia (then Czechoslovakia) witnessed an intensive development of a new discipline which focused on protection of monuments. First targeted in situ surveying was performed, along with the inventory of historical objects and their systemic documentation, i.e. their proclamation as National Cultural Monuments. It was characteristic of this period that the used technologies of renovation were subordinated to new fashionable trends, often without analogy and getting inspiration from abroad. Many times the trends did not respect the originally used materials, climatic and natural environment, and meant such intervention into monuments that negatively influenced the authenticity and originality of the objects, thus causing irreversible loss of cultural values. These interventions did not exclude Bzovík. The results were: use of concrete, gunite technology, cement to grout the masonry, inadequate changes of the internal bastion dispositions, removal of the original constructions, and interfering in the architecture or artistic masterpieces.

In 1960s, the fortress was partially reconstructed, while the biggest interventions were performed mainly on its corner bastions

and roofs. However, this was carried out inadequately, ignoring the historical value of the building. Paradoxically, it was only thanks to these interventions that the scope of architectures this national cultural monument presents itself by, was preserved. The reconstruction included the defense walls, which, due to lack of covering and due to use of cement and quarry stone ended up in a critical state within a half of the century. Ten years ago, the fort was purchased from the state by Bzovík municipality, and since then, the most suitable functional use and presentation of the individual cultural and historical values of this medieval ruin is intensively being searched for.

Renovation of the area of Bzovík monastery has a very individual character which is conditioned by the construction and technical state of the object, the interests and imagination of the owner and the owner's requirements for the object's use, as well as the financial limits of the municipality.

A methodical guideline related to the reconstruction places emphasis on the maximum knowledge of its individual values, acquired through archive documents and the research of monuments, respectively by the restoration research, which is a special type of research focusing on the artistic components of the site, which make up the final esthetic perception.

Zuzana Klasová

PART 1 - DIAGNOSIS

1 Formal diagnosis of the Bzovík ruin

1.1. Historical location and geography of Bzovík

To better understand the historical events which happened at the Bzovík-monastery-fortress, it is necessary to imagine the location of Bzovík in the Hungarian Kingdom, and later in the Augsburg Monarchy. Its geographic location at the beginning of the Štiavnické Mountains, played an important role in accessing the mining towns. Bzovík was located on the main connecting road between the capital of Hungarian Kingdom Belgrade, and the comitatus castle of Zvolen.

1.1.1 Geomorphology of Bzovík surroundings

According to many scholars, history is determined not only be geographical position, but also by the geomorphology of the immediate environment. Bzovík is a part of the geomorphological unit Krupinská Plain, being located in its western part, and is a part of the Bzovík Upland. In the north, is borders the Štiavnické Mountains, in the west, it falls into Podunajská Upland. In the south, it borders the Southern-Slovakia Basin, and in the east, the Krupinská Plain continues by its sub-units: the Modrý Kameň Slope, Dačolomská Plain, and Závozská Upland.

Figure 1 Localization of Bzovík within the Slovak Republic. Author: Pavol Midula

Figure 2 Krupina plain. Origin: wikipédia

Krupinská Plain is of volcanic nature and has a plain-like character. The tallest mountain is Kopaný závoz (755 meters above the sea level) nearby the village of Senohrad. Most common hills are of the height of 500 meters above the sea level. Towards the south, deep valleys continue while the plain gradually declines. The landscape is not rich in water sources, while the most important ones are the rivers Krtíš, Tisovník, the Old River, Krupinica, and Litava, which belong to Ipeľ river basin. The plain belongs to warm and moderately warm climate area, which enables growth of thermophilic flora. The area is characteristic of hillside settlements, which corresponds to the way land is cultivated here. Fertile lands are in the southern part, and plains are mostly used for fruit growing and cattle and sheep breeding. Forests are mainly made of hornbeam and oak trees.

Historically, Bzovík belonged to Hont Comitatus, which excluded itself from the Novohrad Comitatus in the 11th century. Later, it transformed into noble counties (in the 13th century), and in 1848 into state counties.

Figure 3 The Hont commitatus, in later country in Hungarian Kingdom. Source: Wikipedia.

1.1.2 Bzovík and patronal law

Bzovík started as a Benedictine monastery. Even though the community of Benedictines lived in Bzovík for a relatively short time, for better understanding of the context related to the foundation of the monastery, several important cultural and historical facts, thanks to which the Bzovík monastery became the part of our cultural heritage, will be presented here.

a) Bzovík Monastery

The patronal law belonged to the Hunt-Poznanny dynasty since the monastery had been founded until the time around the 14th century, when they gave it up and the patronal law was moved to the monarchal dynasty (during the reign of Louis I of Hungary).

b) Bzovík Fortress

In 1540, Ferdinand I gave the patronal law to Sigmund Ballass, who later gave Bzovík to his wife Barbara Fanchy. In the Fanchy family, it was kept for several decades. The wife of Paul Fanchy Sidonia Ballass left half of her property to the College of the Community of Jesus in Trnava. The other part was gained by Juraj Szelepczeny (Georgius Pohroniz Szelepcheny), at that time a titular provost in the monastery of Šahy, later the archbishop of Esztergom. Since 1685, Bzovík was under the exclusive ownership of the Esztergom Chapter, the time when the last male descendent Gaspar Fanchy, who was the Esztergom canon, dies.

1.1.2.1. Monasteries in Western Europe and Hungarian Kingdom

First it is necessary to return back to the times of Saint Benedict – the turn of the 5th and 6th centuries, when the first Regulation of the Monk Community was written. The Benedictine Order was established as a reaction to so called monk-hermits, who live in total seclusion from the people, and were devoted to prayers. Saint Benedict did not fancy total seclusion of the hermits, and their asceticism as their isolation did not provide any benefit or goodwill to the Christian community. The relation to asceticism was rather ambivalent in the medieval Christian society. On the one hand, there was an admiration to complete devotion to prayer and God, on the other, many ecclestical scholars realized its destructive influence on the society. Within the ages, European Christianity has addressed the question of asceticism several times, and Saint Benedict was one of the first. Although St. Benedict considered prayer to be important, at the same time he wished for the monks to work and create, because: *„Idleness is the enemy of the soul. Therefore, during certain hours, brothers should be occupied by physical work, and during other, by saint reading."* (48th article, Everyday Physical Work). Inspired by his experience and with unique understanding of the needs of communal life, he wrote the rules – regulations (from Latin regula – rule) for monks living in the monastery. The moto became "*Ora et labora*" – "*Pray and work*". Another important moment in the history of the Benedictine Order was its enlargement during the reign of Charles the Great and his son Ľudovít Pobožný, who within the monks' reform, enforced the Benedictine Order at the Synod in Aachen (817) as a binding text for all monasteries in the French Empire. Thus the Benedictine Order, mainly after the end of the 10th century, participated in Christianization of new territories, such as Czechia, Moravia, the contemporary Slovakia, and the territory of Hungary and Poland.

The biggest change, which resulted from the monks' reform, was abandoning the exclusive isolation. In principle, the order (regulation) stayed closed in within the monastery, where the monks were protected from the outer world.

However, through the monastery superior – the Abbot, they got in contact with the surrounding world. The evidence of this is the image of an ideal monastery, as it has been preserved on the plan kept in the library of the Abbey in Sankt Gallen. On the plan, we can

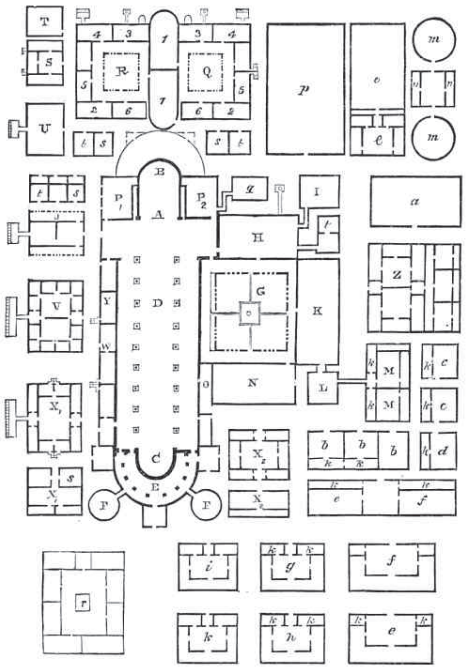


Figure 4 Ground plan of St. Gallen monastery from 9th century. Origin: wikipédia

see the layout of the monastery buildings. The main building is the monastery church, and the cross corridor leading to it, which connected the church with the most important spaces of reclusion, i.e. the rooms that were used solely by monks. The openness to the world is proved by the ground plan of the school, the room for travelers and the poor, the home of the gatekeeper – porter, who welcomed and announced the incoming visitors. Farm buildings and workshops of different kinds – blacksmith, jewelry, illuminative – were a part of the monastery, as well as the later established scriptoria, where many works from Late Antique Period were preserved by rewriting. An integral part of each monastery was a library. The Benedictines understood books and knowledge as the main spiritual 'equipment', without which the community would be defenseless. Books – not only liturgical and theological, but also historical and scientific accompanied monks in their everyday life. When dining, the chosen texts used to be read.

All mentioned aspects had transformed the Benedictine monasteries into important centers of culture, education, and the economic growth. Especially in the Early Medieval Era, the Benedictine monasteries became the bearers of new technologies. People took over a lot of impulses for improving agricultural techniques or technologies used by blacksmiths from the monks, who also greatly contributed to strengthening Christianity and Christianization in the newly forming Central European countries – Czechia, Poland, and Hungary, and to their integration into western Christian civilization and cultural circle, despite the fact that the contemporary Slovak and Hungarian territory had had contact with Christianity at a relatively early time. Mainly in the 4th century, the ideas of Christianity were not unknown to the surviving Roman inhabitants. In the 9th century, southern Moravia and southwest Slovakia belonged to places where Christianity was rooted quite strongly. However, the region of Hont and Novohrad did not belong to those territories which would systematically maintain the new religion. Hungarian Kingdom was forced to advocate for Christianity since the very beginning. Bzovík is located in a region where there was almost no older tradition of Christianity; it had practically been untouched by Christianity before. The Benedictines thus greatly contributed to strengthening its position through their numerous activities.

First the Benedictine monasteries were established by the then-ruling Arpád Dynasty. Before the institution of Kingdom of Hungary was even established, in 996, Gejza found the first Benedictine Monastery in Pannonhalm, which later, during the reign of Steven, became an important religious center. Benedictines came to Pannonhalm from the Czech Principality Benedictine Monastery in Břevnov. During the 11th and the 12th centuries, several Benedictine monasteries were found in the Hungarian Kingdom. First, it was monasteries initiated by the monarch dynasty of Pécsvarad (1000),

Tihany (1055) or Hronský Beňadik (1075), and Diakovce (1090). In the next wave, aristocratic monasteries came to existence, e.g. Bzovík, later Ludanice, and within the 11th-13th centuries, multiple Benedictine monasteries were found in the area of contemporary Slovakia, e.g. Hronovce-Čajakovo, Kližské Hradište, Krásna nad Hornádom, Nitra – Zobor, Prievidza, Rimavské Janovce, Skalka nad Váhom, and Štôla.

In the time of early Middle Ages, important aristocratic families liked to establish their own churches or monasteries. Their motivation was not only social prestige and love for God, but also an effort to preserve a memory about themselves for the future. One of the roles of a family monastery was in maintaining the memory of its founders.

It was mainly the monarch who had interest in building monasteries. Medieval monasteries were not only the centers of spiritual culture, but also became extremely important economic centers in the individual localities. Monasteries were often built in such localities which were previously uninhabited or abandoned. Thanks to their contacts with mother-monasteries, monks used modern farming technologies, had excellent knowledge in the field of fruit and wine-growing, cattle breeding, and fishing. Their presence always contributed greatly the economic growth of the particular region, such as Gemer, thanks to the monastery in Rimavské Janovce. In the 12th century, the Benedictine Order experienced a crisis, the result of which was creation of new orders, such as Premonstrates and Cistercians. Many Benedictine monasteries in the Hungarian Kingdom were taken over by Premonstrates, but there were many new one established as well. Bzovík belonged among those Benedictine monasteries, which were taken over by the Premonstrates. Premonstrates in fact continues in similar activities as Benedictines: they tried to strengthen Christianity in the region, but also develop the land culturally and economically. On the territory of contemporary Slovakia, several Premonstratensian monasteries were founded, e.g. in Bíňa, Šahy, Kláštor pod Znievom, Leles, Nižná Myšla, and in Jasov. Besides economic and pastoral activities, Premonstratensian monasteries were engaged in education. They established libraries in their monasteries, founded schools, and dealt with scriptural activities. Premonstrates excelled in mining. In the forming Kingdom of Hungary, many Premonstratensian monasteries (Šahy, Jasov) were assigned the role of a public-legal institution, i.e. credible places which could verify and issue legally binding documents. This activity played an important role in Middle Ages, if we realize that the ability writing was not as common as today, and especially verified documents had a much stronger informative value.

Benedictines were invited to Bzovík by Lampert of the Hunt family, with his wife Sofia and son Nicolas. It happened between 1127-1131, during the reign of Béla II (1131-1141). Unfortunately, very soon after finding the monastery, its founder and his son were killed in the battle for the Hungarian throne. The sudden death of the founders created a need for the monks to have the given property of the monastery officially verified (on paper). The Bzovík Abbot thus, in 1135, acquired the founding charter of the St. Steven monastery. The property that Lampert gave to the monastery, were mostly located in the immediate surroundings, but there were some which were tens of kilometers distant. Thanks to the charter, we are learning about the settlement in the first half of the 12th century in the given region, as well as about the properties of the Hunt family.

Benedictines did not stay long in Bzovík, presumably due to a crisis within the religion, which resulted in establishing new orders, such as Premonstrates (1126) and Cistercians (1098). Sometime around 1180 or 1181, Premonstrates from Klášterní Hradisko by Olomouc in Moravia, came to Bzovík. Premonstrates continued in the work of Benedictines. Later in the 14th century, the Bzovík monastery was awarded the patronal law of the Royal Dynasty. Several

records were preserved of visiting Bzovík by Louis the Great (1326-1382) during his trips to Zvolen. Premonstrates stayed here until 1530, when they were forced to leave by the protestant magnate Sigmund Balassa, who rebuilt the monastery into a fortress. After that, monks never returned to Bzovík.

1.1.2.2 Description of the ideal Monastery

The monastery is formed by a system of buildings which is often referred to as convention. The most important building is the church with the sacristy, the canonry network for meetings, library, study room, bedroom – dormitory, kitchen with food storage, and the dining room – refectory. A convention may also be equipped with other buildings of different functions, such as: hospital, gatehouse, or other farm buildings. The terms convention and monastery are often considered to be synonyms. The word monastery is derived from Latin claustrum – closed space. The church, along with other buildings, mostly formed a square ground plan, while the buildings were linked with a cloister. The space inside was adjusted to serve as a garden – also called paradise yard. The layout of the buildings around the square yard with arcades was also adopted by medieval universities.

1.1.3 Bzovík as an anti-Ottoman fortress

Literature often describes the ending of the monastery rather negatively in relation to Sigmund Balassa, the Borsod District Administrator, who killed a number of monks and only five were able to escape to the monastery in Hronský Beňadik. It is, however, necessary to realize certain historical circumstances to understand this behavior better.

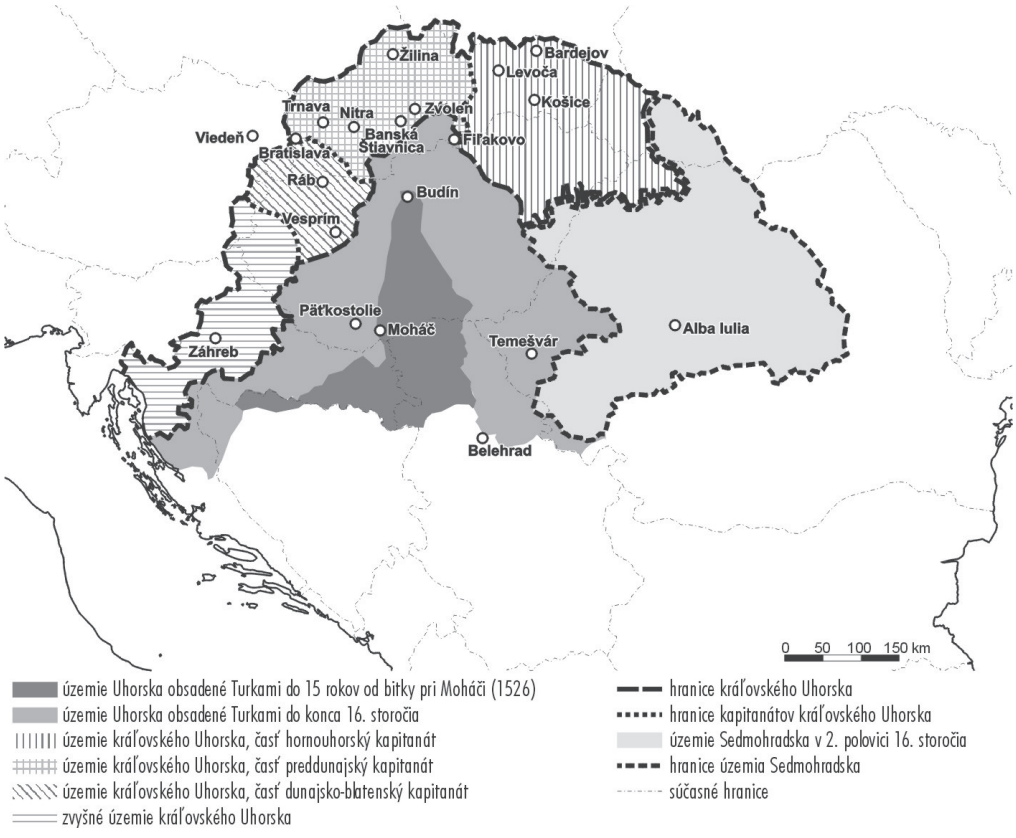


Figure 5 Division of the Hungarian Monarchy after the Moháč battle in August 1526. Source: Jozef Hajko: Sentenced to Agreement. Common millenium of Slovaks and Hungarians. Published by Slovart in 2011.

Situation after 1526 was rather dramatic in the Hungarian Kingdom. The Monarchy lost its independence, mainly its territorial integrity, while it was still threatened by the expanding Ottoman Empire. It was the effort to defend Hungary that led Sigmund Balassa, who was originally the Borsod District Administrator from Ballass Ďarmoty, to forcing Premonstrates out of the monastery and transforming it into an Anti-Ottoman fortress, in order to protect the Hungarian mining towns. Despite protests of Premonstrates, the order never returned back to the monastery. However, Ferdinand Habsburský I awarded patronal law over the provost to Sigmund Balassa in 1540, and tolerated the change from catholic to protestant religion, since Sigmund Balassa had invited in reformed preachers.

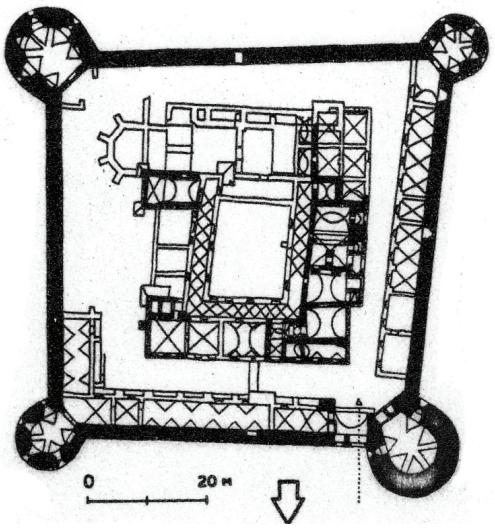


Figure 6 Bzovík as an Anti-Ottoman fortress. Source: Fialová, H. - Fiala, A.: Hrady na Slovensku. 1966

Sigmund Balassa began extensive reconstructions on the monastery. Firstly, the area was closed with a square wall and four cylindrical bastions. The entrance to the fortress, by the north-western bastion, was shaped as a wide Late-Gothic portal with s drawbridge. Around the whole area, a moat was dug, which continued into a system of moats and ramparts. Significant adjustments were done on the construction of the then-Roman Monastery. Balassa used the remains of architecture to creating an independent fortified complex of residential buildings. He put down the damaged walls of the church and the monastery corridor, the chapter hall, and the eastern wing, and added the spaces in the northern wing, while creating residential space (rooms) in the western wing. Of the original two-tower church, only the northern tower and the sacristy were preserved. The tower became the main guard tower of the castle, and the sacristy was used for religious services. Inside the fortress, adjacent to the fortification wall were one-story buildings on all sides. The construction is dated 1541, as recognized by the Late-Gothic portal of the north-western bastion with the monogram of Sigmund Balassa, and the Renaissance fireplace of 1546. New above-ground-level wing added to the northern monastery wing, has the year 1548 engraved in it, which may be considered the year when the Late-Gothic-Renaissance reconstruction of the monastery into a fortress was finished. Bzovík fortress with its bastions, loopholes, galleries, and dwellings for the soldiers, and with regard to the fortification technique and the time, belonged among modern forts in our region. From the strategic point of view, it provided the access to Central-Slovakian mining towns. Sigmund Balassa also improved the defense ability of the Divín castle, which, unfortunately, did not bring success, as the Ottomans acquired the castle and the town within several years, as it was with the town of Modrý Kameň. The whole area was 'plagued' by Ottomans until 1685, when they were defeated in the battle of Nové Zámky.

1.1.4 The heritage of bordering with the Ottoman Empire

The existence of the border with the Ottoman Empire has left such traces that we often do not realize at present, and consider them natural. The traces of not very pleasant

cohabitation with the Ottoman Empire can be found in different areas.

During their presence in Hont, Ottomans left many traces which gradually transformed into our heritage. Nearby the town of Modrý Kameň, they planted a chestnut alley, and in the town of Fiľakovo, they began creating parts, which serve the town until the present time.

The Slovak language was enriched in many Turkish expressions, such as pasha, sandjak, janissary (in Slovak: paša, sandžak, janičiar). These were undoubtedly related to the Ottoman Empire and its administration. However, the language of our ancestors had also adopted words like: whip, rascal, slippers, and boots (korbáč, beťár, papuče, čižmy). The memories of the Ottomans have also been preserved in Slovak folklore, mainly in legends and ballads. A special chapter of the Ottoman heritage is clothing. For the Hungarian aristocracy, the clothes of the Ottomans were so attractive that they had adopted a few parts of the outerwear as their own. In general male clothing in Hungary reflected the Ottoman influence in its structure, cut and decorativeness. This difference from the Western-European fashion lasted until the end of the Hungarian Kingdom. The style of clothing of the Hungarian aristocracy crystalized rather clearly, and was not influenced by even newer modern trends. Of the male clothing parts, the Ottoman origin is seen in dolman (Slovak: dolomán) a jacket, lined and edged with fur, decorated with rich lacing on the chest; caftan (Slovak: kaftan), a long narrow coat; and a calpack (Slovak: kalpak), a high-crowned hat lined with fur. To sew a dolman, Turkish cloth was used, mainly silk or soft cotton scarves embroidered with silk, and golden or silver thread. The embroidery, its techniques and patterns were imitated even by home embroiderers. It is assumed that chain stich in Zvolen and Novohrad Counties, and using golden and silver thread in Bratislava and Nitra Counties are legacies of the Ottoman times.

Under the Ottoman influence, Hont and Novohrad counties began to grow new plans and fruits, e.g. watermelon, peach, chestnut, or flower such as clove or rosemary.

1.1.5 Bzovík and the personality of Juraj Szelepcény-Pohronecký (Georgius Pohroniz Szelepcheny) (1595-1685)

From the ownership of Sigmund Balassa, respectively his wife Barbora Fanchy, Bzovík got into the ownership of the Fanchy family. Some of its members were even buried in the fortress, which is proved by the tombstone of Juraj Fanchy and his wife Maria Dóczy, and their son Imrich of the year 1651. Later, another descendant of the Fanchy family, Paul, gave the property of Bzovík to his wife Sidonia Balassa, who, in 1678, bequeathed half of the property to the College of the Community of Jesus in Trnava.

Figure 7 Juraj Szelepcény, Archbishop of Esztergom, source: Wikipedia

The second half was acquired by the Esztergom Archbishop Juraj Szelepcény. It is the personality of Juraj Szelepcény who not only the history of Bzovík and its return to Catholic Church is linked with, but also the turning moment of the war with the Ottoman Empire. His life deserves a more detailed mention.

The life destiny of Juraj Szelepcény has been amazing and inspirational up to present time, regardless of knowing or not knowing its precise origin. One thing is for sure, he descended from very poor family, and thanks to education and his hard work and effort, he gained such position that enabled him to change many things for the better.

At the age of 6, he lost both his parents, who, according to some sources, died during the Ottoman invasion. Ladislav Szelepcény from Pohronie took hold of him and recognized his smarts and talent for learning. He sent the boy to his brother – canonist in Trnava, to study there. Unfortunately, the studies only lasted three years, having been interrupted by the death of the Canonist František. Juraj then returned to Miková Ves and was employed as an assistant shepherd on the property of the Esztergom chapter. Her he was discovered in 1617 by Peter Pázmany, when performing inspection of properties in Tekov county, and helped him continue in his studies at the Grammar School in Trnava, from where he was later sent to theological studies in Rome, where he obtained a doctorate in philosophy and theology, and was ordained a priest in 1627. He worked in several dioceses, and in 1666 he became the Archbishop of Esztergom, however, due to the occupation of a large area of Hungary by the Ottoman Empire, he was based in Trnava.

At the same time, he was a successful diplomat. The textbooks rarely note that Juraj Szelepcény greatly contributed to forming the European Anti-Ottoman coalition, which successfully won over the Ottoman overpower in the battle of Vienna in September 1683, and meant a turn in the war with the Ottoman Empire. Before this battle, thanks to his language abilities, he had led several diplomatic negotiations with the Ottoman Sultan in Istanbul, and with the Pasha of Buda. He predicted the Ottoman attack of Vienna, and prepared counteraction. He engaged to create a coalition with the Polish Monarch John III Sobieski, and the emperor Leopold Habsburský. In September 1683, thanks to this agreement, John III came to help Vienna, and together they defeated the Ottoman army. Already in the summer before, Juraj Szelepcény has served the Mass in the presence of the army who had gathered to defend Vienna, he gave the soldier medallions with the initial of the name of Virgin Mary, and gave them blessings. Besides, he supported the defenders of Vienna materially by giving the 493 thousand ducats, while supplying them with food from his properties. On September 12, 1683, the Christian soldiers defeated the Ottomans, who had overpowered them. At the memory of this victory, the Pope Innocent XI proclaimed 12th of September to be the Holiday of the Name of Virgin Mary, which is now honored in whole Europe.

Juraj Szelepcény also published various religious documents, the Hungarian songbook, sermons, and shepherds' letters. For the history of the Slovak language, the Esztergom ritual of 1682, which contains Slovak baptism and wedding formulas, is very interesting. The artistic part of his personality was also very unique. He devoted himself to graphic design, while what has been preserved are six copper-plate he himself drew and engraved. It is two portraits of Peter Pazmány, portraits of the emperors Ferdinand IV and Leopold I, and two self-portraits.

Juraj Szelepcény lived a very long and a very fruitful life of 90 years. From the Catholic view, he successfully led the recatholization of Hungary, financially supported many religious schools, the Trnava University, and constructions and reconstructions of churches. It was Bzovík and its properties that he gave to the then emerging Marian Seminar of the Trnava University, in order for its students to be financially secured.

In principle, Bzovík continued to be in the ownership of the Esztergom Chapter, that being until 1908, when it was sold to Štefan Sluka.

1.1.6 Story of Bzovík in the 20th century

Since 1911, the area was owned by a wood-processing company Moric Schmiedl and son from Šahy. During WW2, the fortress and its interior were significantly damaged, moreover, the guarding tower was demolished. In 1948, the area was sold to Š. Halász from Bzovík, and since the end of 1952 it is in the ownership of the state, while since 1964, it has been a Natural Historical Monument. In 1969, the Banská Bystrica center of the Slovak Office for Monument and Nature Protection elaborated a plan for the monument preservation. Unfortunately, the goals of this vision were not implemented. In 1988, the object was acquired by the Museum of Forestry and Wood in Zvolen, and the Banská Bystrica Center of preservationists restored the preservation works on the roofs of the object.

1.2 Musealization of the Bzovík history

The area of the monastery, and the later Anti-Ottoman fortress Bzovík, offers a unique opportunity to utilize the given space for the purposes of a museum, with the use of experiential learning. Each time period the historical buildings of Bzovík went through offers different topics for education (beginnings of Christianity, education, military, development of defense architecture, contact with different cultures or religions) and at the same time it enables understanding of the

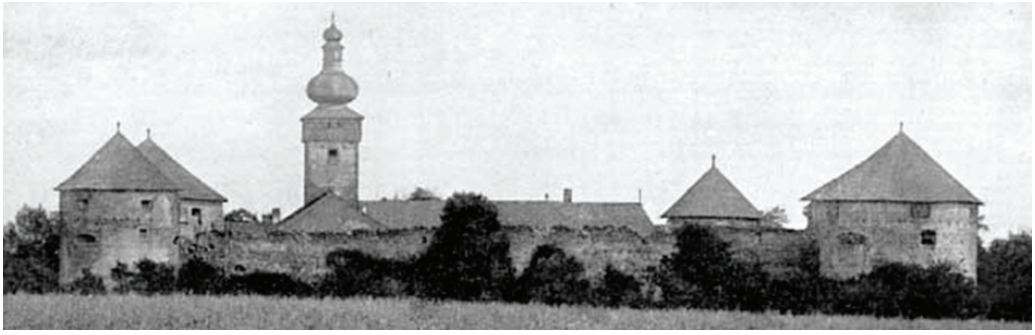


Figure 8 Bzovík at the beginning of WW2

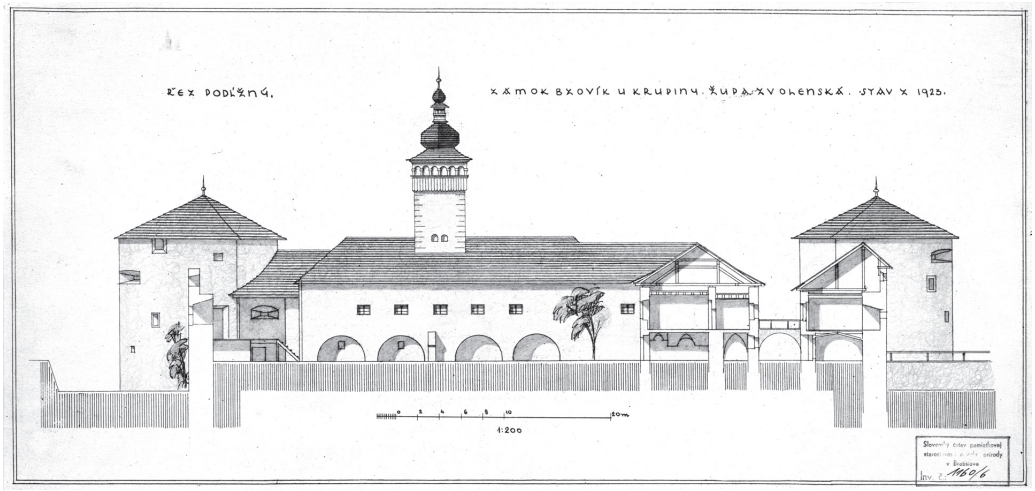


Figure 9 Bzovík, cross-section by Faulhamer 1923, one of the last documentations of original constructions before the site became a ruin.

historical development of the locality, and its role in the long history of Hungarian Kingdom, and later the Augsburg Monarchy, up to the present time. We wish to present Bzovík in three fundamental thematic areas:

1. Bzovík – monastery
- Importance of Benedictines – brief history of the Order with the focus on their importance of the region of Central Slovakia
- Beginnings of the Benedictine monastery in Bzovík
- Arrival of the Premonstrates, and their role in the Middle Ages

2. Bzovík and its role in defending the Hungarian Kingdom in the 16th century, and the influence of the immediate contact with the Ottoman Empire on development of the locality
- Historical events
- Closing of the monastery and the transformation of the convention into a fortress
- Heritage of the contact with the Ottoman Empire

3. Bzovík and the personality of Juraj Szelepceny – Pohronský

Recommendation

Creating a historical display:

a. At the beginning, local public spaces should be used, e.g. the village municipality
b. Focus primarily on one selected historical period, which had a significant effect on the changes in Bzovík or the surrounding area. This suggestion is substantiated by the fact that when a certain historical period is selected, the visitors may acquire more complex knowledge of the visited locality, and at the same time, they may understand how the place is related to the given historical events.

Proposal of the historical periods:

i. Foundation of the Benedictine monastery in Bzovík, its transformation into a Premonstratensian monastery, and the importance of monasteries for the development of the region.
ii. Transformation of Bzovík into an Anti-Ottoman fortress; the remains of the Ottomans' presence in the culture of the place.
iii. The personality of Juraj Szelepcsény, the Archbishop of Esztergom.
iv. We propose to link the display of historical ruins with the history of the town, and to present the development of the region.

c. We propose the use of audio-visual tools in the presentation, e.g. 3D video about the construction development of Bzovík as a monastery/fortress; as well as the use of video-mapping when presenting the development of the locality and its close surroundings at the first maps of Hungarian Kingdom.
d. We also suggest using digitalized photos (pictures) of the preserved sources of Bzovík as a monastery/fortress, as well as the photographs of the active village life, the parsonage, and the Bzovík associations

2 Analysis of the values of the property

2.1 The analysis of the features crucial for establishing a comparative group

2.1.1 Location and the surrounding area

The area of the Premonstrate monastery in Bzovík is currently located in the southern part of the Bzovík village, nearby the local part called Horný Majer, which developed form the original farmyard of the monastery. Its location is slightly off the village, the access to the site being from the road III/2564, which leads from Bzovík village to the village called Uňatín.

The location of the national cultural monument is on the top of the Krupinská Plain. Geomorphology of the terrain in the area is determined by the valleys of Čekovský potok and Jalšovík Creek, which have dug two shallow north-south valleys into the flat surface of the platteau. The original surface of the plain between these two valleys thus make an impression of a protracted hill with a flat surface. The area of the national cultural monument is located on the top of the hill. With regard to the previously mentioned location of the monastery, it has a very good view of the surrounding land, and appears

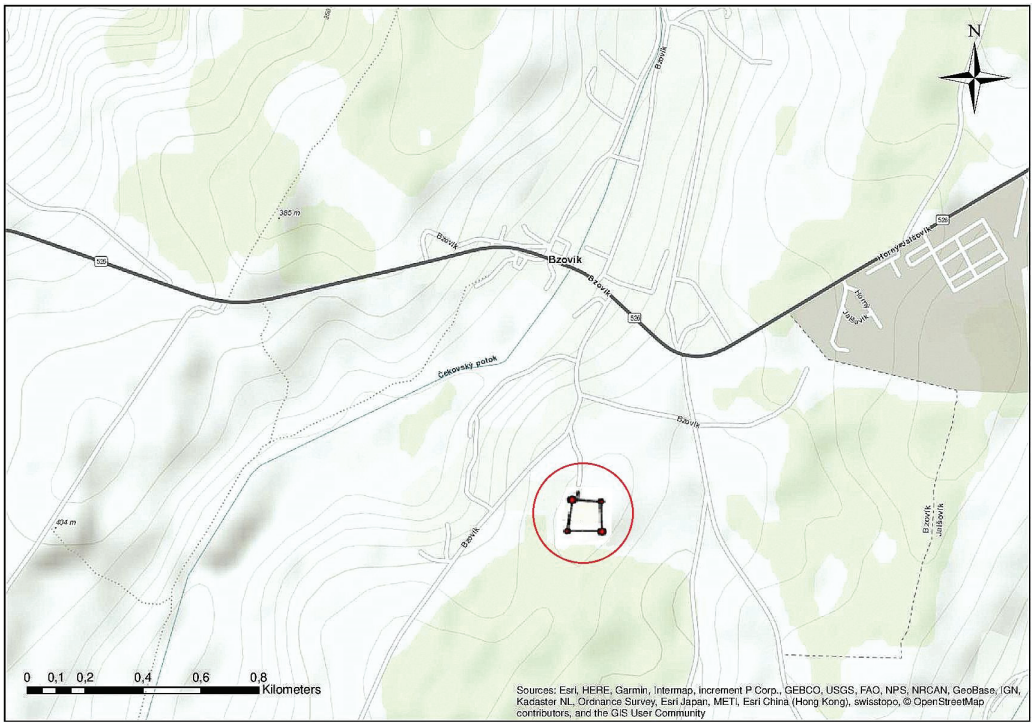


Figure 10 The position of the monstery - ruin in the urban area of Bzovík village

dominant within. The site also has a good view of a part of the valley formed by the Krupinica river, and of the eastern slopes of Štiavnické Mountains, which is a geographical factor that influenced the location of an important European north-south trade road, linking the capitals of the Hungarian and Polish Monarchies in Middle Ages, and at the same time connecting Central-Slovakian towns focused on metallurgy of precious metals (Hanuliak 1997). The monastery was built in such manner that it would benefit from this trade road, but was also located slightly off the main corridor, which enabled contemplative activities of the monks, and access to relatively fertile land on the plain and in the valley of the river Krupinica.

Object	area (m^2)
Fortified area	6822,085
Church	372
Ruins	4893,092
Bastions	1883
Defense walls	1624

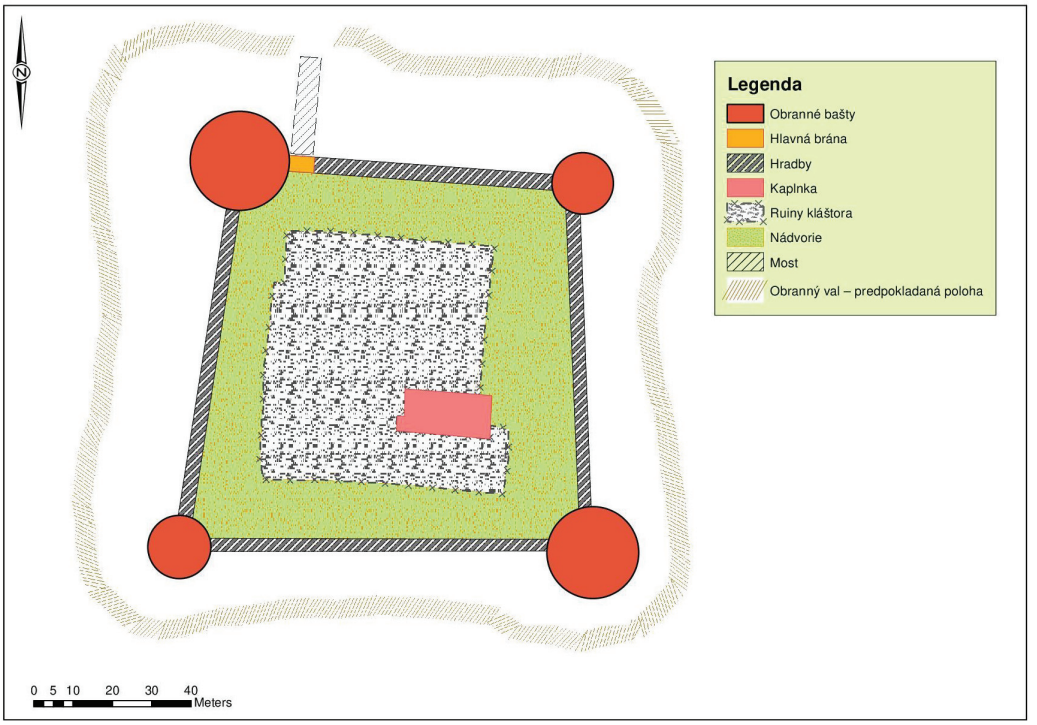


Figure 11The area of the historical parts of the ruin

2.2 Composition layout of the monastery

The national cultural monument (NCM) is called Premonstrate Monastery; however, this name is rather misleading with regard to the present times. At present, we may define the given NCM a Late-Gothic to Early Renaissance fortification area, or a castle, which stands on the location of a Late-Romanesque monastery. Of the Romanesque and Gothic constructions of the monastery, only a small fragment is preserved, and most of the architecture as seen today, is related to the fortification and residential functions of the castle. All preserved architectures are, however, adjusting to the square ground plan – the complex of the monastery. Its ground plan is also a determining element for the whole development of the site.

The construction elements preserved from the monastery era represent the basic masonry of the monastery church with a two-tower disposition and a polygonal presbytery, which is, however, only secondary. A rectangular sacristy was added to the northern wall of the presbytery, of which only part of the masonry is preserved. The sacristy directly continued in the eastern wing of the monastery quadrature with the chapter house.

Fragments of the medieval masonry structures originally belonging to the monastery quadrature have a ground plan of a four-wing building oriented around the central garth. The garth was surrounded by a cloister, which had a full disposition on all four sides. A well was located in the garth. The other spaces of the monastery are forming the northern, eastern, and western wings, while the southern wing served as the monastery church. A finding in the corner between the northern and western wings suggests presence of an old chapel with a rectangular nave and a small, probably rectangular presbytery. The northern wing was probably partially provided with the basement, now filled up. The number of levels of the quadrature is currently unknown, however, ground level architecture is supposed.

After the monastery was destroyed and then reconstructed into a castle and fortification architecture, the quadrature changed into a two-level two-wing object linked with the chapel through the eastern wing of a cloister, a corner bay window in the south-western corner, and massive supporting pillars.

After the church was destroyed, the role of the sacral building was played by the chapel, which was created by rebuilding the original sacristy of the church. It is a single-nave building of approximately rectangular ground plan.

The adaptation of the monastery in to a castle and the Anti-Ottoman fortress completed the area by four lines of fortification. The basic concept consisted of a rectangular stone-walled fortification with four corner towers of a horseshoe-shaped ground plan of unequal diameter, while the bastions of the same diameter are always situated diagonally, surrounded by a moat and an outer glacis. This fortification was later extended by another line of earth work fortification, most likely of bulwark type (palánkový). (Beljak et al. 2015).

The complex was entered through a bridge over a moat, which had a bulwark pillar on the outer side. On the inner side, it was linked to a drawbridge of a cradle construction, from which the shaft has been preserved. The entrance was through a gateway with a portal for carriages and a portal for pedestrians (both portals had a drawbridge).

On the inner side of the fortification, along the northern and the western walls, two-story annex building of a rectangular ground plan were located, which were dismantled for material after WW2, and were demolished during the reconstruction of the object..

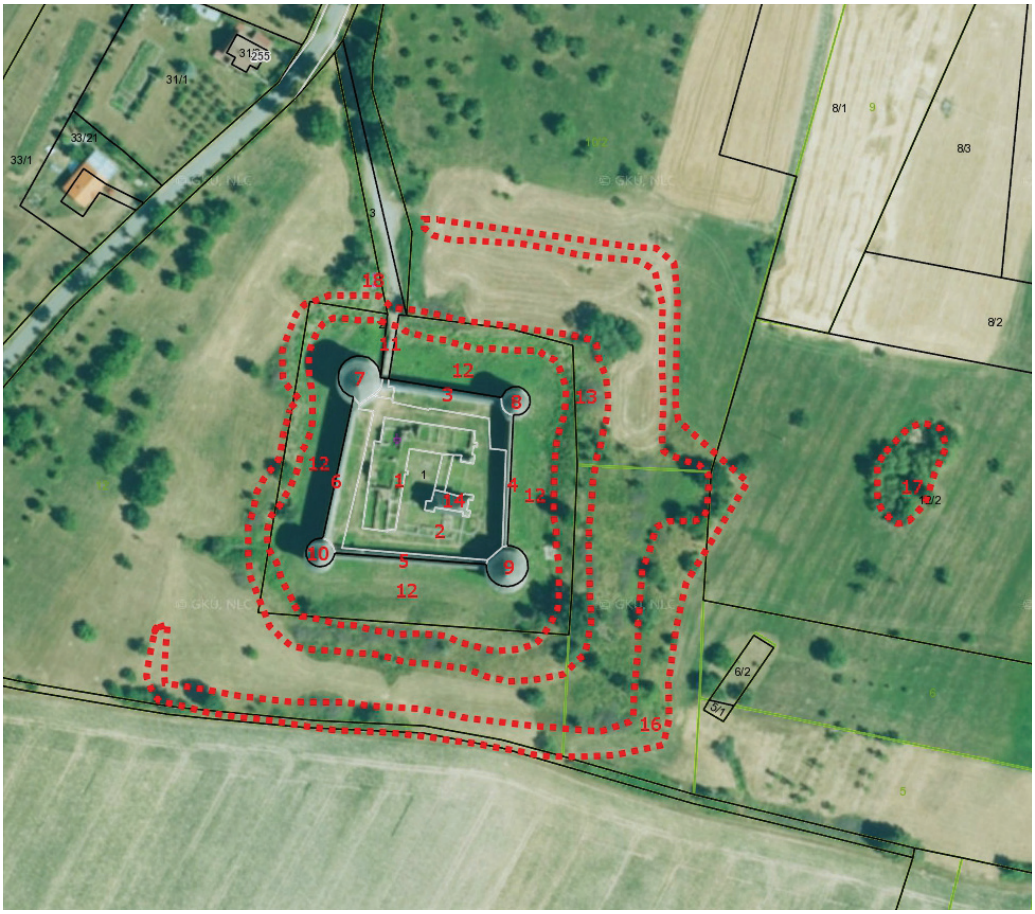


Figure 12 Ground plan of the locality components.

Description of the locality components: 1. Premonstrate monastery 2. Ruin of the monastery church3. Northern rampart 4. Eastern rampart 5. Southern rampart 6. Western rampart 7. North-western bastion 8. North-eastern bastion 9. South-eastern bastion 10. South-western bastion 11. Entry bridge 12. Moat 13. Glacis 14. The chapel in the place of the original sacristy 15. Archeological site (whole locality) 16. The outer fortification 17. Pond 18. Pedestal of the statue of St. John of Nepomuk.

2.2.1. Buildings of a distinctive external form

2.2.1.1 Monastery church

The original construction design of the monastery church is not completely known due to the condition in which it has been preserved. The church was destroyed, most probably, during the raids of the Krupina burghers, but latest during the adaptation of the site to serve as a castle and later a fortress. It was preserved at the level of foundations, along with several lines of above-ground masonry, as an archeological situation (Balaša 1969). After an archeological research, it is presented in a form of the original covered with stone masonry bond with cement mortar, which makes it rather difficult to read the details of the original. It is, however, clear that the church has gone through several construction stages. In the end, it resulted in being a three-nave basilica with a transept, polygonal presbytery sacristy, in the northern part of the presbytery, and probably a narrow side chapel in the southern part of the nave. The western façade of the church was completed with two towers of which only the northern tower has been preserved up to one level. The church was built from stone masonry with the use rubble masonry bond with lime mortar. This masonry was fixed with ashlar on the outside. The material of the tower has core masonry of opus spicatum. A relatively simple entry portal is located in the western façade. The main entry was probably through a profiled portal from the western corridor of the ambit located in the northern wall of the church. In the preserved material of the castle chapel, which partially covers the original sacristy of the monastery church, profiles of stone ledges on the exterior of the church are preserved. Socle ledges are also partially preserved in the southern part. In front of the western façade is a vaulted room which could be a narthex. It is, however, more likely to be a later addition belonging to the castle or fortification period. The tower of

Figure 13 Presentation of the vanished church

the church was the only part of the church that remained in its original height until the 20th century, when it was destroyed, with the exception of the first above-ground level.

2.2.1.2 The convent buildings – monastery

The monastery itself has a form of monastery quadrature, oriented around the central yard. The yard was surrounded by a cloister, which has full disposition of all four sides. The other spaces of the monastery are forming the northern, eastern, and western wings, while the southern wing served as the monastery church. At present, only small fragments of the above-ground monastery structures are preserved, mainly in the north-western corner of the quadrature, where a half of – most likely – a triumphal arch of the destroyed monastery chapel is also preserved. Other parts are distinctively reconstructed, or were fully rebuilt in the castle and fortification periods, when the eastern wing of the quadrature disappeared completely. After the reconstruction to castle/fortification architecture, it was a two-level two-wing object linked with the chapel through the eastern wing of a cloister, a corner bay window in the south-western corner, and massive supporting pillars. The northern wing was probably partially provided with the basement, with it now being filled up. On the façade of the northern wing, a stone signboard was placed, related to the Late-Gothic reconstruction of the monastery. Today, it is placed in the western defense wall of the Roman-Catholic church in the municipality. Today, the objects of the cloister are only preserved as ruins (up to one above-ground level), which represent a sequence of rectangular rooms of approximately same dimensions, while the entry of a passage type was probably located in the northern wing (Faulhammer 1923, Mencl 1930a, Mencl 1930b, Könyöky 1889).

Figure 14 Ruins of the monastery quadrature

2.2.1.3 Chapel

After the church had been destroyed, the role of the sacral building was played by the chapel, which was created by rebuilding of the original sacristy of the church. It is a single-nave building of approximately rectangular ground plan. From the south and north, the light comes in through two high Gothic windows with profiled components. The windows were only set in this position secondarily. The entry to the chapel if from the south, from a space where the original church stood, and from the west, from the corner between the southern and eastern parts of the cloister gallery. A two-part Renaissance window is located in the western façade. On the inside a stone floor and the remains of the altar refectory, in place of the previous Baroque altar with three tables are located. The main altar painting from the chapel can be found in the Roman-Catholic clergy house in Bzovík.

Figure 15 Chapel rebuilt from the original gothic presbytery of the monastery church

2.2.1.4 Fortification

By adapting the monastery into a castle and into an Anti-Ottoman fortress, four fortification lines were added into the area. The basic concept was formed as a rectangular masonry fortification, with four corner towers, surrounded by a moat and the outer glacis. This fortification was later extended by another line of earthwork fortification, most likely of bulwark type (palánkový). At least in the center of the eastern line, the remains of the polygonal earthwork are visible. The outer fortification is currently not documented in any historical source, with an exception of the schematic plan on the maps of First and Second Military Survey of Habsburg Empire.

The complex was entered through a bridge over a moat, which had a stone work pillar on the outer side. On the inner side, it was linked to a drawbridge of a cradle construction, from which the shaft has been preserved. The entrance was through a gateway with a portal for carriages and a portal for pedestrians (both portals had a drawbridge).

The corner towers were adjusted to serve for defense and for residential purposes, which is proved by the remains of the heating equipment (chimney shafts, fireplace consoles, stoking openings) as well as window openings, some with sediles. Different types of loopholes were used for defence. The towers are circular, and thus correspond with the Dürer type from the turn of the 15th and 16th centuries (Dürer 1527), which is proved by Late-Gothic saddle shaped portals dated back to 1540s, while the portal on the second level in the north-western bastion carries a banderole with the embossed coat of arms of the Balassa family. It is likely that the bastions were attached to the castle wall later, which may be observed from numerous construction details.

The castle wall has a form of a curtain wall with three levels of embrasures. On the ground level, each loophole is located in the center between two towers with outwardly extended reveals, on the second level a line o trouser type embrasures in niches is located located. Next to the bastions, these are replaced by simple handgun embrasures. The middle level was serviced from a wooden porch, of which, only beam imprints are preserved. The upper line was located in the merlon and consisted of small embrasures for handguns. The whole upper line was passable around the whole area.

On the inner side of the fortification, along the northern and the western walls, two-story annex buildings of a rectangular ground plan were located, which were dismantled for material after WW2, and were demolished during the reconstruction of the object (Konečný – Macháč 1954). Today, they are perceived as ground plan relics in a form of vegetation symptoms in dry periods. Embrasures rebuilt into windows on the second level of the northern wall still remind their existence, as well as the toilet niche with a preserved dry toilet on the ground level of the western wall.

The whole fortification is surrounded by a moat, while the masonry fortification in fact forms the scarp of the moat. The opposite side of the moat is not reinforced, and glacis is piled on its edge. The moat is rather wide, and dug into a terrain. It is dry, only in the western and southern parts, rainwater occasionally collects. In front of the defense wall, a newer earthwork fortification, described above, is located. On the glacis by the entry bridge, the remains of a pedestal of the St. John of Nepomuk Baroque statue can be found, while the statue itself has been dispossessed. There is a preserved copy, which is deposited in the studio of academic sculptor Ján Filo in Vlkanová, and its installation on the original, rather destroyed pedestal, is planned.

Figure 16 View of all lines of the fortification

2.2.2 Internal historical form of the structures

2.2.2.1 Church

The church is completely destroyed, only several lines of above-ground masonry are preserved. We have now only a little information about the interior, we can say that it was arched with a cross vault, the feet of which were based on pilasters placed at the terrain level. Some of their plinths are preserved by the southern wall of the church. In the presbytery, there were two underground single-space crypts, which are inaccessible at this time. In the end of the presbytery, a foundation of a mensa can be found. Since the church had already been destroyed in the end of Middle Ages, there are no other relevant data about its internal structures, with the exception of isolated findings (Balaša 1969).

Figure 17 The foot of the pilaster carrying the cross vault of the church

2.2.2.2 Chapel

The chapel was founded as a substitution to the church, and was reconstructed from the original sacristy. This corresponds to its simple confined interior. Inside, the chapel was arched with a barrel vault with lunettes in the place of windows, which has not been preserved. At present the ceiling is open to the roof frame of the newly shaped roof. The interior was originally covered with lime plaster with white monochrome coating. The sacrificial table with a Renaissance altar, which was illuminated by the side lights from the side windows, was in the eastern part. The walking surface was formed by a simple stone floor of gray sandstone slabs, which has been quite well-preserved until today.

Figure 18 the inside of the chapel at the beginning of the 20th century and now

2.2.2.3 Monastery buildings – cloister

They are preserved rather torsionally. At the moment, there is no known picture documentation which would depict the interior of any space within these objects before they were destroyed. The only lead is a unique historical photo of the cloister gallery, which at that time was already closed with a cross vault, white monochrome walls, and the floor made of burned brick. Another

Figure 19 Historical photography of the inside of the cloister from the beginning of the 20th century

lead is the construction survey from 1920s and 1930s by V. Mencl and Faulhamer (1930; 1923), where on the ground level, forms of vaults are documented as well. From his documentation, we may say that in at least two spaces of the wing, Late-Gothic cross vaults were very likely preserved. The western wing had younger, barrel vaults with lunettes.

2.2.2.4 The fortification towers

The fortification has four corner bastions which, according to preserved details, evidently served other that only defense functions. The most preserved is the north-western tower, which was also most important as to its use. In all towers, the ground floor is arched with a barrel vault with lunettes, which at the same time has a stabilizing function since on the outer wall, the interior is at the level of the bottom of the moat. Higher levels in all towers were made of beamed wooden ceilings, while it cannot be excluded that in some places, it was only an allure leading to embrasures. Beamed ceiling were embedded in masonry, while in some places they may have been supported by profiled stone consoles. Communication between the individual levels mostly led through the outer allures and staircases, however, in the north-western tower was the only one to use a narrow inside staircase with steps situateed in the thickness of the wall.. For better comfort, some embrasures alternate with rectangular windows with Renaissance stone frames. The embrasures and windows are embeded in the same manner in niches with sedilia. On some sills of the loopholes, traces of wooden cladding are preserved. The interior of the towers, even though not at all levels, was heated by furnaces of an unknown shape and construction. Only chimney shafts in the masonry, and the stoking holes are preserved, which were stoked up from the exterior porches in order to avoid the smoke inside.

Figure 20 Northwestern tower, the internal staircase in the masonry

the form of painted bossage and ledges. These elements are now irreversibly destroyed. Only the decorated chambranles of the embrasures are preserved. It is a contrasting white area on the original ocher façade of the towers, which is divided by black triangles. The painted decoration partially descends into the embrasure reveals. It is preserved in all towers, although not in every embrasure. However, it appears that it was originally applied on each loophole of the second and third levels (Kostka 1969).

Figure 21 Typical decoration of the loopholes on the fortification bastions

2.2.2.5 The extinct objects along the fortification

No lead or documentation with regard to the interior of these objects is available.

2.2.3 Decorations

As to decorative elements, very few have been preserved. The preserved examples may be divided into two categories – painted decorations, and embossed stone elements

2.2.3.1 Painted wall decorations

These can further be divided into two groups – exterior and interior.

Exterior painted decorations were rather wide spread, according to photographs from the time before destruction. It was mainly Late-Renaissance and Early-Baroque elements on the objects of the quadrature in

No interior painted wall decorations are preserved, and there is no evidence for their existence. The only lead is a small fragment preserved on a stone block of the (probably) originally Romanesque monastery church, used secondarily in younger masonry of the western wing. It is a fragment of what appears to have been a big composition. The fragment represents a linear bordure in ocher and red colors, with a small fraction of the scene itself – in ocher. Compared to the other preserved historical art pieces, the mural could fall into the context of the 13th century.

Figure 22 Fragment of the wall painting from the vanished monastery church on the block used secondarily in the masonry of the western wing of the residential part of the castle

2.2.3.2 Stone elements

The stone elements of the preserved elements from Bzovík represent decorative parts of architecture, such as portals, frames of winwow apertures, and rib vaults. Exceptionally, there are a few heraldic motives on board that are tied to certain periods of the object renewal.

a.) Roman elements

Stone elements that are preserved form the Roman period are only fragmented, while it is mainly the lower/bottom parts of the profiled portal in the northern wall of the church leading to the western wing of the cloister.

b.) Gothic elements

From the Gothic period, several elements are preserved, such as fragments of rib vaults, portals and windows. Among the oldest preserved ones belongs a reinstalled high window with a tracery in the southern wall of the chapel. As to authenticity, the Late-Gothic profiled saddle portals in the towers are far more interesting. The most interesting postal is located on the second level of the north-western bastion which carries a banderole with the embossed coat of arms of the Balassa family with the head of an ox, a star and a crescent. Traces after red and white coating are visible on the portal. Also interesting is a Gothic board from the last reconstruction of the monastery by Provost Andrew (1515) with two embossed coats of arms, which, however,

Figure 23 the bottom part of the Roman portal of the monastery church

is located secondarily outside the monastery site – in the defense wall of the parish church of St. Stephen in Bzovík.

Figure 24 Gothic window with a tracery from the extinct church, secondarily reassembled during the conversion of the sacristy into a chapel

c.) Renaissance elements

There are only few Renaissance stone elements, while it is mainly rather large rectangular window frames in the bastions. These are simple elements, which are on the inner side and are flat – not profiled. On the exterior, they have hollow for installation of the wooden frame, and on the bottom, a profiled ledge. Most frequently, the windows were covered with simple threaded bars, installed on the outside or from a reveal of the stone trimming. The Renaissance period is also represented by a sign board from 1680 above the main gate, with Selepcény's coat of arms, which relates to the Renaissance period of the reconstruction.

Figure 25 Late-Gothic saddle portal into the North-Eastern tower with the embossed heraldic decoration depicting the Balass coat of arms

Figure 26 Commemorative plaque to the reconstruction of the object in 1680 with the coat or arms of Juraj Selepcény

2.2.4 Materials, substances and the structure

The main construction material of all objects in all development phases was stone, which was joined with lime mortar. Certain variability may be observed as to the structure of the stone masonry and the structure of the mortar. Both components depend on the importance of the building, and on the time when it was founded.

2.2.4.1 Masonry structure

With regard to the structure, three types of masonry can be classified:
a) Ashlar masonry: the external and the internal sides of masonry are formed by ashlar blocks, while the core of the masonry is filled with rubble stone laid in (opus spicatum). Masonry of this type was found in the torso of the northern tower of the Romanesque church. This type of masonry is unique within a broader geographical frame.

Figure 27 Block masonry with a core in a spiked weave in the northern towers of the monastery church

b) Masonry is composed of quarry stone of approximately the same height and is laid into horizontal lines, while the large gaps between the stones of different shape are wedged with stones of smaller fraction. The width of the masonry depends on the quality of mortar, height of the object, and on its purpose. This type of masonry is used at the majority of structures in each period of time.

c) *Mixed material masonry*: it has a similar characteristics as the previous category with one difference – that wedging of the space caused by different shape of the adjacent quarry stones uses burned brick, or its fragments. This masonry is mainly used in case of repairs after demolition of the secondary holes, or for secondary wall-ups of old holes in younger (later) time periods (mainly Baroque). This type of masonry is least frequently used on the object, also due to its low durability.

2.2.4.2 Material according to the time of its origin

On the territory of contemporary Slovakia, it is generally true that the highest quality masonry, mainly as to mortar, is the medieval masonry. When observed macroscopically, typical medieval mortar is characteristic of yellowish color, higher granularity and higher hardness. Younger mortar, on the other hand, is characteristic of white color lower granularity and significant softness. With regard to this characteristics, this type of mortar, when used after being subjected to weathering, degrades very quickly. The last mortar, largely used within the object, is lime-cement mortar, characteristic of gray color, low to middle granularity, and high hardness. It is mortar used during stabilization of the ruin in the second half of the 20th century. Its disadvantage is high water absorbtion, which causes decay of the surrounding soft stone in freezing-defreezing cycles.

Figure 28 Rubble masonry – the most common type of building structure

Figure 29 Detail of mixed masonry

Figure 30 Detail of medieval mortar

2.2.5 Monastery ruin equipment – original elements that have been preserved

Of the original equipment of the monastery, only two artifacts were preserved: a small bell of the church tower, and one of the Renaissance altar paintings. The church bell is currently located at the municipality office, and the painting is at the parish office.

2.2.5.1 Bell

It is a Late-Renaissance bronze cast bell preserved with a part of the suspension mechanism. In its upper part, the bell is decorated by an embossed frieze dated 1696. It is attached to the suspension mechanism by two handles which are cast in one piece with the bell. The wooden part of the mechanism is overlapped with metal strips, ornamentally cut in the end. To fit the bell on the draw bench, its wooden ends with metal pins. The metal element on the top of the wooden part serves the purpose of attaching the ringing rope.

Figure 31 Detail of modern mortar

Figure 32 Benedictine monastery in Hronský Beňadik

2.2.5.2 Painting

The Renaissance painting from the extinct Renaissance altar from the chapel built in the place of the original church sacristy. It is a painting of St. Stephen the King (fig. 8, middle) triumphing over enemies of Christianity who are depicted at dragon heads with descriptions as: heretic, Muslim Jew, etc. St. Steven is shown as a Renaissance Hungarian nobleman, holding a Hungarian saber in his hand. Over his head, an archangel from heaven offers help in saving Christianity. In the background a visible structure can be seen that looks like the Bzovík fortress. The painting is an embodiment of the everyday spirit of the time it was created in. It is necessary to understand that at that time, Bzovík was a bordering fortress of Hungary against the invasion of Ottoman army, while during that time the Thirty-Year War raged, which to Hungarians represented a battle of Hungarian Protestant Aristocracy with the Austrian Catholic Emperor.

2.2.6 Function of the property

The object was founded as a residence for the Premonstratensian Convention (Convention of St. Stephen in Bzovík); therefore, the monastery mostly served the sacral purposes. It was founded sometime between 1127-1131. Premonstrates dedicated themselves to agriculture, pasturage, beekeeping, and viticulture, for which purpose they had multiple farm yards, besides others, it was also the object by the river Krupinica, where they operated a mill, pub, and a slaughterhouse. Besides this, e.g. in Mladonice they also operated a Trade House (1468), in Selce a producer or arrows worked for the monastery (1402), and in Bzovík, a workshop of unknown purpose has been documented (fabrica claustri – 1450). Around the monastery, a small town developed, which is mentioned in sources as opido Bozok as early as in 1422, being awarded the market law by Louis II of Hungary at the request of Provost Paul Németi in 1519. The market was organized on the holiday of the convention and town patrol St. Stephen the King, and on the first Sunday after Easter.

The Bzovík convention ceased to exist in 1530 during the invasion of the army of Administrator of Borsod Country Sigmund Balassa from Balassgayrmat. Following this, a garrison was placed in the object, intended to defend the Ottoman progress. In 1535, as many as 36 captured townsmen from Krupina were imprisoned in Bzovík, suggests a part of the object as of a functioning prison. In 1540, Sigmund Balassa was awarded a patronal law over the object by the king Ferdinand I Habsburský, under one condition – that

religions serviced would be taking place there as it had been before. Gradually, in the 1540s, the object of the monastery was slowly being rebuilt into a castle, as it is documented and preserved on the stones in the corner bastions (from 1544, 1545, and 1546), although in later periods the object is still referred to as the Abbey.

The first mention of the artillery is from the 17th century, and could relate to building the outer line of earthwork fortification, which transformed the castle into a modern fortress, since the form of sembrasure in the towers and on the raampart walls only allowed use of hand guns or wall guns. In 1685, the oldest known inventory of the fortress was established. Around the fort, gardens with an empty pond, and a farmstead with brewery, distillery, mill and tollhouse with taproom, fields, and another empty pond are located, which proves that the object served not only military, but also the administrative function.

After 1685, the object fell into hands of Jesuits, where it remained until cancellation of the monastic order in 1773, having served to educate young priests. Since 1908, the object is passing from one private hand to another while at this time it very likely served only partially as a residential place. After WW1, the object stopped being inhabited, and after WW2, its gradual disassembly began (Beljak et. al 2015). In 1960s, the object was partially adjusted to serve the purposes of a museum (Pašková 1988; Pašková – Kasper 1989), however, the renewal was not finished, and the object thus began to gradually decay. Today, slow and gradual renewal and conservation of the object is taking place, and the object is used as a monument, and for presentation of cultural events.

2.3 Defining the type of the property and selecting comparative group

The Bzovík object may be defined as a monastery complex, rebuilt into a fortification-residential complex in a rectangular disposition, located in a relatively flat terrain, and preserved as a partial ruin. The most preserved appears to be the fortification Late-Gothic component of the object with preserved artistic elements of the time. In combination with these basic features, it is a unique object in Slovakia; therefore, when determining a comparative group, it is necessary to use a heterogeneous group, while the individual objects may serve as a comparison base for a specific feature of the object.

An object of the most similar characteristics that the Bzovík object may be compared with is the Monastery in Hronský Beňadik, which originated in a way similar to Bzovík – as a Roman Benedictine monastery, and was reconstructed into a fortress after Gothic adaptations in the times of the Ottoman expansion. This is, however, where the similarity ends. The Monastery in Hronský Beňadik is set on a stone on the top of a hill, at the mouth of the River Hron Strait, known as the Slovak Gate. From the stone, the terrain rises into a lower highland and is rather rugged, which is influenced the disposition of the monastery complex and later fortification. The monastery does not have a rectangular disposition. The fortification uses elements of corner horseshoe towers; however, only two are applied on the neighboring corners, while at the same time not being placed into the independent wall, but rather attached to the monastery quadrature itself. The last difference between the monasteries is the state of preservation. The monastery in Hronský Beňadik, unlike the Bzovík monastery, never became a ruin, and even today, a convent operates on its premises, despite the object being adapted for exposition and conference purposes. An important factor, however, remains that within the object, many original medieval details are preserved that are not present in Bzovík, despite significant Gothic puristic adaptation in the 19th century (Buday 2018). These may serve for the purposes of

academic reconstruction of some structure, as well as for parts of the Bzovík object.

Another geographically close object is the Zvolen Castle. It is a Gothic royal residence from the 14th century. The object has a square disposition with the central yard, while in the eastern wing, an originally two-level chapel is located. At the beginning of the 16th century, the object was fortified with a typologically identical ramparts as Bzovík, with an exception of Zvolen towers not having a residential function. One of the towers, which also served as the entry gate, has a square ground plan, while in front of the fortification, there was no moat, since on the exposed sides, the terrain fell steeply to the river Slatina, and on the other side was the town. In the first half of the 20th century, the object fell into a state similar to Bzovík; however, disassembly was stopped at the right time. Following this, a significant reconstruction was performed, which returned the object to a condition it was in during the 16th century, with with some new shapes in new materials. It is comparable from the view of ground plan and construction

Figure 33 the Zvolen Castle

conformities, while at the same time, based on the comparison of development in the 20the century, a difference may be observed in applying two different approaches on the two objects, at approximately the same stage of preservation (Menclová 1954).

The third object of comparison is the Dominican Monastery of Banská Štiavnica, at which, only the Roman church has been preserved, at present in the empire expression. The quadrature itself is in the same condition as the Bzovík ruin, with a difference of the object

Figure 34 The extinct Dominican Monastery in Banská Štiavnica

being in private hands, located in a municipality, and planned to be overbuild with new buildings with a certain form of presentation of the monastery. The fortification of the monastery had a rather different form, which was adjusted to the town environment, as well as the rugged mountain environment, and at present, it is completely vanished (Miňo 2010).

The last referential object is the Čabraď Castle, located nearby Bzovík. From the historical and architectonical point of view, this castle has no similar features, however, we include it in the comparative group due to the state of preservation and the form of conservation. The object is preserved in a form of a ruin, where a very strict conservation approach to its renewal is applied, with the use of engineering and biological protection of the conserved masonry. This approach is gradually being applied at the ruin of the monastery quadrature and the church in Bzovík (Miňo 2012).

2.4 Valuing criteria and value assessment of the property, based on the reference group – the comparative group

The fortified Bzovík monastery is a unique object at least within the national context, due to the times of its establishment, its development, typological form, state of preservation, and some architectonical and artistic details.

In the region of Central Slovakia, medieval monastery architecture is not a very typical element. Unlike in other regions, in Central Slovakia this architectural type not occur in towns, with an exception of the Dominican monastery in Banská Štiavnica. Monasteries were often built as a green field project; however, in a certain contact with the important roads of the time. The amount of medieval monasteries is relatively small. In the region of Central Slovakia, we recognize seven monastery complexes (not including

Figure 35 The Čabraď Castle

smaller conventions the existence of which did not manifest in the architectonical heritage). Three of these monasteries are preserved as standing objects (Hronský Beňadik, Kláštor pod Znievom, and Okoličné). In two cases, only the structure of the church has been preserved, while the monastery itself is in a form of archeological site (Rimavské Jánovce, Banská Štiavnica). The last two objects, from the view of monastery architecture, may be considered completely vanished, respectively, their state of preservation may be defined as archeological site, Slovenská Ľupča and Bzovík falling under this classification. Bzovík differs from all other objects as to the state of preservation by its remains having been conserved by younger, functionally different periods, which, however, did not respect the urbanistic principle determined by the monastery. This give the object a high value with regard to its uniqueness. At the same time, several construction details are unique as well, such as the opus spicatum masonry in the core of the ashlar masonry of the church tower (Fig. 36), which has no known analogy in Slovakia.

With regard to authenticity, the object is very valuable, since the area of the central object in the extent of the original monastery disposition is preserved in a state it developed into by its gradual degradation. Besides the protective roof over the chapel, there are no new additions. In the past, the renewal of this part was also solved by applying a conservation approach (Pašková 1988), and despite many methodological mistakes which were applied, masonry has been preserved in its original composition and with the original mortar, original elements were preserved in their original extend, and with the remains of the original plaster. At any time, all these elements may serve as a resource for studying topics of authenticity

Figure 36 The overall view of the site with the visible preserved urbanistic concept from the construction of the Roman Monastery, maintained despite significant historical reconstructions

related to historical torsional architecture. The objects of the fortification, except for the moat and the earthwork fortification, are slightly less valuable than the objects of the monastery, from the view of authenticity. This is partially given by the reconstruction and adaptation approach of older renewals (Pašková 1988, Pašková – Kasper 1989). Multiple parts of the fortification were reconstructed, as well as details in the towers, while many of those details have vanished (e.g. the embrasures in the upper part of the eastern wall), or were irreversibly alternated with a new feature, which may, however, be perceived as misleading due to resembling a repaired original. This is entered by relatively invasive unfinished adaptation elements, such as riser pipes for utility networks, new staircases and concrete ceiling, changes in disposition by using different partition walls, or changes in the hight of the groung levels by digging down to the base of the foundation. Some of these adaptation elements are reversible (mostly those that were added into the object), but others mean an irreversible intervention in to the integrity of the monument, and even after minimizing their demeaning esthetic perception, it will not be possible to return to the authentic historical situation. Despite this, the majority of the fortification had been preserved in its authentic form, with many authentic construction and artistic details, which have a high value from the artistic point of view as well. Among them are e.g. saddle portals, mainly the portal with the Balassa coat of arms, or the embrasures with the preserved decorative murals..

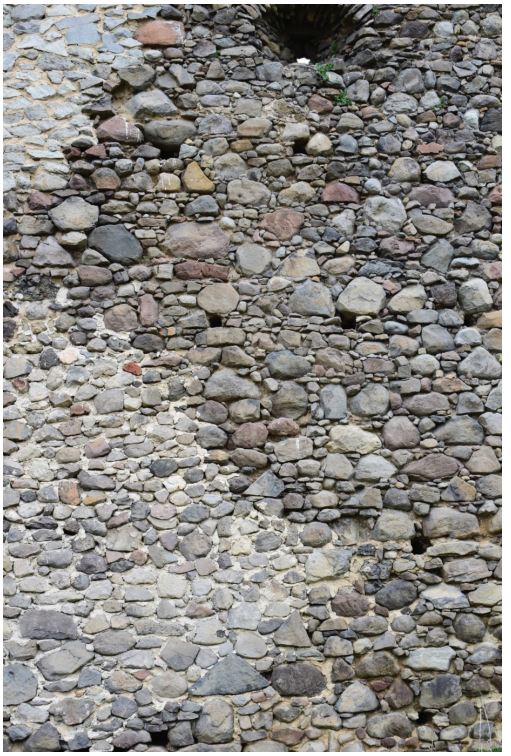


Figure 38 Appropriately done reconstruction of the fortifications with new masonry distinguishable from the original

Figure 37 Negatively affecting adaptation elements: a) incorrectly reconstructed details b) invasive installation of engineering networks, c) reversible communication elements

As to its cultural and historical value, the object is important at three levels. Firstly, as a monastery, at that time of a great architectonical and artistic value, it represented sharing of the new technological knowledge in construction into an area/ location where stone architecture practically did not exist. At the same time, monks of the given period served as a source of intellectual development. At the second level, the object is perceived as a bordering, and never conquered point of the Anti-Ottoman resistance, which makes it a patriotic symbol, and a symbol of the historical European solidarity, where also thanks to this object, Europe was jointly and successfully defended against the outer enemy. At the third level, the object represents an important uniting element of the current municipal community, which considers it to be their common cultural heritage.

Figure 39 Reconstruction of the Monastery ruin

Table 1 Analyzing the values of the monastery ruin - defining value attributes as well as assessing their authenticity and integrity

Category of attribute	Attribute	Elements of attribute	Descriptive attribute elements	Authenticity	Integrity
Spatial scale	**Location**	Location determined by urbanism	The site of the Premonstratensian monastery in Bzovík is currently located on the southern edge of the Bzovík municipality, nearby the local part Horný Majer, which developed from the original administrative yard of the monastery. Its location is slightly off the village.	Location of the monastery is authentic, development of municipality in preserved environment	The requirement for integrity is fulfilled
		Location determined by water streams	Geomorphology of the terrain is determined by the valley of the Čekovce and Jalšovík Creeks, which had dug long shallow north-south valleys into the flat surface of the platteau. The original surface of the platteau between these two valley thus looks like a steep hill with flat surface. The site of the national cultural monument if on the top of this hill.	Location of water streams is authentic	The requirement for integrity is fulfilled, despite partial regulation of the streams
		Location determined by roads	The site also has a good view of a part of the valley formed by the Krupinica river, and of the eastern slopes of Štiavnické Mountains, with a corridor of a former important European north-south trade road, linking the capitals of the Hungarian and Polish Monarchies. The monastery was founded in order to benefit from this road, but was also located slightly off the main corridor.	Current roads are in the original corridor, but the specific space tracing has moved	Integrity is partially disturbed
	Spatial localization of the monastery Surroundings	Size	The size of the site is maintained.	Authenticity is maintained in principle, except for the original internal communication corridors	Integrity is partially disturbed
		Spatial composition	We may define the national cultural monument as Late-Gothic – Early-Renaissance fortress or castle, standing in the place of a Late-Romanesque monastery. From the Romanesque and Gothic structures, only a small fraction is preserved, and the majority of the architectures as observed today relates to the fortification and residential architecture of the castle. Within its ground plan, all preserved architectures adjust to its basic quadrature of the monastery site. The ground plan was determining the whole further development of the site.		
		Entry and exit	Entry and exit are preserved. Entries and exits in the individual objects are partially modified due to vanished material, or by building new ways for guided tours through concrete platforms.		
		Functional links	Functional link of relics of the monastery complex are disturbed by later reconstructions, functional link of individual parts of the fortification are intact.		
Scale	**The outer form of the monastery**	Buildings	Only torsos of buildings are preserved.	Relics are preserved authentically as before the transformation into a castle	Integrity is partially disturbed
		Outer walls	Are preserved only partially, the original surfacing is not preserved.		
		Architectonic details	Are only preserved in fragments		
		Colors/Paints	One fragment of a mural is preserved secondarily.		
		Other elements constituting the form	Ground plan is readable at the terrain level.		
	The outer form of the fortification	Buildings	Buildings are preserved in original historical form, partially due to the reconstruction and conservation. Adaptation interventions were made in the objects, for the needs of never opened museum.	Authenticity is quite high despite adaptation and reconstruction works which are, however, sufficiently readable, and easily removable.	Integrity is partially maintained.
		Outer walls	The external walls were least affected by the reconstruction works, except for completion of – sometimes important parts of the destructed masonry on the walls.		
		Architectonic details	Are preserved in their original extent and form, with visible traces of usage and weathering. They are not completed, and so far not conserved.		
		Colors/Paints	Original authentic colors of the plaster and decorations are preserved partially, and on a small scale.		

	The inner form of the monastery	Spatial layout of the monastery	Fragments of medieval masonry constructions that originally belong to monastery quadrature, have a ground plan of a 4-wing structure oriented around the central yard. The yard was surrounded by a cloister in the form of arcade, which had full disposition on all four sides. A well was present in the yard, Other monastery spaces form the northern, eastern and western wings. The southern wing was the monastery church. The finding in the corner between the northern and western wings may suggest presence of old chapel with rectangular nave and a small, probably rectangular presbytery. The northern wing was partially provided with the basement, with the basement now filled up. The number of levels of the quadrature is currently unknown, ground-level architecture is assumed.	All constructions are preserved only as torsos, and are overlaid with younger masonry. The condition is a result of the authentic historical development	Integrity is partially maintained
		Functional layout of the monastery	Functional layout has in principle remained preserved, although only as a torso.		
	The inner form of the fortification	Spatial layout of the fortification	The internal layout of the space and the communication lines communication lines on the fortification is disturbed by unfinished adaptation, when new guiding tours and entry were built, only partially respecting the original corridors. At the same time, the division on the interior spaces was changed at both the horizontal and the vertical levels.	Authenticity is disturbed by adaptation entries into bastions, and renovation of younger extensions to the inner walls.	Integrity is partially maintained
		Functional layout of the fortification	Functional layout of the interior of the bastion was alternated with new expected function, which, however, was never fulfilled, but meant interventions to the authenticity of the spatial layout.		
	Decoration	Murals	The exterior murals are preserved in small torsos. Most elements have been irreversibly destroyed, only the decorated embrasures of the loopholes are preserved in the loopholes of all bastions, even though not in every loophole. It appears that originally, it was applied in all loopholes of the second and third levels. No interior murals are preserved, and there is no evidence of their existence. The only lead is a small fragment preserved on a stone block, originally most like to be from the Romanesque monastery church, while used secondarily in the younger masonry of the western wing.	The preserved parts of murals are in authentic state, without intervention. Their extent is fragmental when compared to the original content	The requirement for integrity is fulfilled.
		Stone elements	The preserved stone elements in Bzovík represent decorative components of architecture, such as portals, window apertures, or rib vaults. Exceptionally, heraldic motives on boards relating to specific phases of the object reconstruction can be found. Elements of all developmental stages are preserved, many in their original position and extent. A large part, however, is used secondarily, or as a finding in the masonry.	All stone elements are authentic, there are no copies. Some elements were reinstalled unauthentically during the reconstruction in the 20th century	The requirement for integrity is fulfilled
	Material and structure		The main building material of all object and all developmental stages is the stone, joined with lime mortar.	The original masonry is preserved in authentic form, added and conserved masonry was installed unauthentically in the past, which, however created a readable situation, where the original can be easily recognized from later interventions. At present, some non-authentic interventions are replaced by new materials that are more suitable for sensitive conservation.	The requirement for integrity is partially fulfilled.

Scale of tangible objects	**Original equipment**	Sacral objects	From the original equipment of the monastery, only two artifacts have been preserved: a small bell of the church tower, and one of the Renaissance altar paintings. The church bell is currently placed at the municipality offices, and the painting can be found at the parish office.	Both objects are in authentic state, except the conservation of the wooden part of bell clamping, and the inappropriate coating of its metal parts.	Both objects are in the municipality, neither is on the monastery site.
Scale of function	**Function**	Sacral function	Originally being dedicated to a sacral function, the elements of this function preserved in the architectonic form are presented by the chapel and in functional for of performing marriage ceremonies.	Authenticity of the function is partially preserved with regard to the natural development of the society's needs.	The requirement for integrity is partially fulfilled.
		Defense function	With regard to the current needs, it is preserved only in the architectonic form.		
		Residential function	The residential function has vanished, and is only represented in fragments of the architectonic forms.		
Scale of intangible objects	**Historical tradition**		As to tits cultural and historical value, the object is important at three levels: first, as a monastery object, at that time of high architectonic and artistic value, meant sharing of new technological knowledge in construction within an area where stone architecture practically did not exist. At the same time, monks in that period were sources of intellectual development. At the second level, as a bordering object, and a never conquered point of Anti-Ottoman resistance, is a certain patriotic symbol and a symbol of historical European solidarity, when Europe, also thanks to this object, was defended against the outside enemy. At the third level, it is an important uniting element of the contemporary community in the municipality, which values the object as their common cultural heritage.	From this point of view, authenticity is maintained	The requirement is fulfilled.
	Personalities connected with the locality	Comes Lampert Hunt-Poznaň	The founder of the monastery, the administrator of the Hont County, an important personality in the development of the region.	An important personality for perceiving authenticity of the locality	An important personality for perceiving authenticity of the locality
		Melchior Balassa	An outlaw knight and Anti-Ottoman fighter, defender of the Hungarian border		
		Juraj Selepcény	Archbishop of Esztergom, primus of the Hungarian Monarchy, viceroy and artist		
	Emotional link to the locality and the richness of the accumulated cultural heritage	Monastery as a spiritual center	The object of the monastery, at that time of great architectonic and artistic value, meant sharing of new technological knowledge in construction within an area where stone architecture practically did not exist. At the same time, monks in that period were sources of intellectual development.	An important factor for perceiving authenticity of the locality	An important factor for perceiving authenticity of the locality
		Castle as the aristocratic residence	Being a bordering object, and a never conquered point of Anti-Ottoman resistance, it is a certain patriotic symbol and a symbol of historical European solidarity, when Europe, also thanks to this object, was defended against the outside enemy.		
		Cultural monument	An important uniting element of the contemporary community in the municipality, which values the object as their common cultural heritage..		

Recommendation

a) The current state of the research studies of the ruin involves:
i. archival studies concerning the historical frame of the premises development, history of its ownership, and its use;
ii. research of the history of architecture concerning the development of the buildings and evaluation of specific building structures and their historical value – the research was conducted in two different time frames:
- before the degradation of the building
- after the degradation

iii. the research focused mainly on the ruin of the monastery/castle residential and sacral architecture, the fortification was mostly omitted
iv. archeological research was done in two time frames: the first one focused on the excavation of the destroyed monastery church; the second concentrated on minor details, i.e. the information crucial for the restoration process of the masonry
v. statics passport focusing on the technical condition of the monastery/castle ruin was made prior to the restoration of the masonry structures
vi. art: historical research was conducted prior to the first restoration focusing on the relicts of the decorated plasters
b) Recommendations for further research:
i. research in the field of history of architecture needs to be conducted, while focusing on the fortification, which consists of four towers and a wall between them
ii. archeological research needs to be performed in the outer defense lines consisting of earthwork walls and bastions
iii. statics assessment of the fortification needs to be performed

The property has had different functions throughout the history since its founding, the most important ones being: sacral, military, residential, and cultural. Today the property is mainly used for cultural purposes as much as its technical conditions allow.

The technical condition of the property is a greatly limiting feature for its usage. Recommendations:
i. actions to bring the ruin into a technically stabilized condition need to continue
ii. measures preventing further degradation by the influence of weather, e.g. rainwater, frost; biological features, and anthropogenic features. have to be taken
iii. any function and use of the ruin must performed with regard to the main priority: the preservation of the historic structure and landscape in its authentic form

3 Description of the premises

3.1 Preservation of elements of historical significance

To preserve the elements of historical significance within the object, wheter as a whole or individual details, it is necessary to maintain the object in good construction and technical condition, and minimize potential interventions which may irreversibly alternate the authentic historical elements that have been preserved here.

In case of Bzovík, the methodology for achieving this goal is greatly influenced by the already commenced process from the mid-20th century. The methodological approach was chosen at a dual level. For the much better preserved fortifications, the reconstruction-adaptation approach was chosen, and the conservation approach was chosen for the less well-preserved central buildings, albeit at the level of the possibilities and knowledge of the past times.

Since this reconstruction was never completed, and many of its elements were self-destructed, several parts of the approach may be alternated. With this regard, the current methodology was adjusted in order to conform to the role of preserving precious details, materials, and the environment. Relatively preserved environment of the cultural monument with relics of the administrative elements, such as the pond, farmland, and the foundation of the granary are preserved without modern construction entries. In order to maintain the monument in this condition, in 2006, the buffer zone of the site was declared, which forbids any construction within a relatively large area around the object. At the same time, it addresses regulation of greenery in this area. The approach to protection of the fortification has changed to some extent into being conservatory, with respect to positively and neutrally affecting elements of the previous reconstruction, and the effort to minimize the esthetic and academic impact of the negative elements on heritage values. A conservation approach is applied for the central area in the state of ruins, with removal of the inappropriate materials from the previous reconstruction, and with their replacement by more appropriate one, especially as to mortar: replacement of cement mortar with lime mortar of a similar composition as the historical mortar. Following this, after finishing the renewal, care must be taken in regular maintenance of the object so as to avoid gradual decay of the cultural values by self-destruction.

3.1.1 Technical condition

Technical condition of the site varies. Different parts of the object are in different state, which is caused by different conditions; mainly by a part of the object being covered by roof, which prevents it from the worst element that affects the decay of historical structures – rainwater. Thus it may be stated that the objects of the fort – bastions or the fortification walls, are in a consolidated condition, and only show local defects, e.g. caverns or holes in the roofing. These defects are slowly remediated. Similar to this, we may assess the object of the chapel and the presentation of the church. The object of the monastery itself was in critical condition. At present, however, an intensive conservation renovation of the object is being carried out, which brings it to a consolidated state.

Recommendation

a) The site is currently after the unfinished conservation and restoration process performed in the 20th century, which initiated within a philosophy that could be described as:

i. use of wrong technology – extensive use of cement based mortar in restoration and conservation of masonry. The result is decomposition of the original material (even stones) behind the camouflage of strong concrete.

ii. extensive digging, the result being that the unearthed foundation constructions have fallen apart under the cemented cap; the basement of the southwest tower stands on the ground with no buried fundaments; large portions of the unearthed (and untreated) construction fell apart; much of the original Romanesque and Gothic style-sculpted details are lying around and falling apart.

iii. no water management in the monastery layout resulted in the original constructions falling apart due to regular frost and drought cycles

iv. change of special arrangement in some interior spaces, the result of which is an unreadable historical space

v. demolition of certain buildings, resulting in loss of complexity and of authentic historical substance

vi. change of special arrangement in some interior spaces, resulting in unreadable historical space

b) Incorrectly embedded inauthentic details; new constructions are camouflaged as historical. This results in confusion in interpretation, non-authentic impression

c) Heterogeneous principle in methodology – mixed reconstruction and conservation principles, results in possibly wrong interpretation by visitors, non- authentic impression

d) All-at-once restoration approach. The result is the fact that due to the prematurely finished restoration, no single part could be identified as finished

e) Creation of buffer zone with building restriction around the object – result is the preservation of the surrounding landscape with many details which are only discovered in these days

f) Use of different material for new constructions resulted in the original structure being easily recognized from the modern addition

g) Protection of the most preserved parts from precipitation resulted in almost no decay of the original mass of the structures, relatively good technical condition, and preserved fragile details such as decorated plasters

Recommendations:

a) all new restoration needs to be made with use of authentic historical materials

b) all of the past wrong interventions must be eliminated as effectively as possible

c) no more future interventions into the historical matter of the site are allowed

d) strict protection of landscape in the buffer zone needs to be maintained

Conclusion

a) An important threat for the technical condition of the historical structure is the rain/snow cycles and frosting/defrosting, as well as wetting/drying out, which cause degradation of the mortar.
b) An important threat for the authenticity of the historical locality and the environment is the pressure for building residential areas and the pressure on the adaptation of the building for new purposes.
c) Regular monitoring and maintenance of the elements of protection against rainwater) roof, insulation, ceilings)
d) Thorough protection of the surrounding land in the buffer zone of the localities, and refusal to perform any construction activity within the site, which may significantly disturb the authenticity of the historical locality.

PART 2 - DESCRIPTION OF THE PROTECTION AND PROPERTY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

4 Regulatory conditions and the status of the property

The main identification of pride of each nations is its cultural heritage – tangible and intangible. It is a manifestation of the nation's spiritual level, its economic development, construction and crafts work and skills, formed by the nature and the environment in which the given nation has developed through multiple historical periods of time. These aspects in general created a mentality of a nation, or the local community. Cultural heritage in the Slovak Republic is understood as a set of tangible and intangible monuments, documents, and crafts of people, and the development of human society from the older times to the present, while having in mind the historical, cultural, and social value of the documents. It is in the society's very interest to preserve cultural heritage for future generations.

Monuments and historic sites in Slovakia are currently represented by 25,159 national cultural monuments, of which 9,990 are immovable, consisting of 16,963 monuments of different typology and construction and technical condition, or ownership. Therefore, ruins of medieval castles, fortifications, fortified monasteries, or extinct castles that are at the same time archeological sites, form a special category. It is the residences of famous royalty, knights or orders of monks that lived and operated on the territory of today's Slovakia. Today, the castle walls are only silent witnesses to brave fights and events of the past times. Numerous archeological researches in the localities enlarge our knowledge of their architectonical development, function, and their importance for the society.

Central register of national cultural monuments of Slovakia is secured by the Monuments Board of the Slovak Republic, which has a function of the administrator of the respective part of state information system, while it also administers the Central Register of Monuments and Sites, which is subdivided into 4 registers (Central Register of Cultural Monuments in Slovakia, with frequency by December 31, 2017):

1. register of immovable cultural monuments (9,949 immovable national cultural monuments, formed by 16,709 monument objects)
2. register of movable cultural monuments (15,128 movable national cultural monuments, formed by 34,734 monument objects)
3. register of heritage sites (28)
4. register of heritage zones (80)

International programs that deal with monitoring and risk assessment, mainly with regard to heritage in danger, are (Report RUINS, 1/2018):

- UNESCO Word Heritage Center: 'Periodic Reporting on World Heritage' and the 'List of World Heritage in Danger'. A new digital internet tool for regular reporting, elaborated by the Foundation for Northern World Heritage in cooperation with GRID-Arendal (Norway), is, with regard to us in its testing phase (Proceedings of UNESCO, 2015).
- ICOMOS: Program 'Heritage in Danger' which includes annual national and thematic reports about endangered cultural heritage. This reporting is in its initial phase, but is gaining great importance. Up to now, only written reports are avilable (downloaded from thw ICOMOS website).

After being established, the Slovak Republic has gradually adopted all European regulations regarding cultural heritage, including its protection and preservation. It is the system of legal acts::

- Act No. 49/2002 Coll., on Protection of Monuments and Historic Sites
- Act No. 208/2009 Coll., amending and supplementing Act No. 49/2002 Coll., on Protection of Monuments and Historic Sites as amended by Act No. 479/2005 Coll.
- Regulation of the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic No. 253/2010 Coll., implementing Act on Protection of Monuments and Historic Sites as amended
- Act No. 206/2009 Coll., on Museums and Galleries, and on Protection of Objects of Cultural amending and supplementing Act No. 372/1990 Coll. as amended.

The project RUINS defined the system of assessing the safety of medieval ruins in the following way (Report RUINS2/2018):

1. The environment and construction of ruins: protection of the site at which the object is located, as well as analysis of wualities of the protected building or of what the protected object includes.

2. Technical characteristics of ruins: they are perceived as technical components which are protected within cultural heritage. They may be functional for the goods that should be protected (alarms) or functional for the building itself (heating, electrical sockets, telephone, etc.).

3. Organization of education within the give problem: this terms refers to a type of practical use and maintenance of the locality.

4.1 Risks of the monument protection of ruins

At present, ruins are tourist destinations, and are visited individually by public, due to their location in a typical landscape environment, and due to ther distinct historical stories. Such uncontrolled traffic of tourists, however, brings in some risks, e.g.

- safety of people who move freely within the area, more so if there is an ongoing research or restoration on the stie, or scaffoldings are raised by the walls or archeological excavations are open on the site
- risk of individuals lighting a fire on the site, tossing hot cigarette buts on the ground, or risk of seasonal grass burning,
- hygienic – the site has not basic services and equipment,
- financial – since the site is located in a municipality with less than 2,000 inhabitants, the construction and technical condition and the presentation of the cultura monument is greatly affected by lack of financial coverage for its renovation and permanent maintenance,
- personal – limited functionality reuires adequate and systematic management of presentation by means of appropriately chosen merekting tools, which requires elaboration of a strategic document – management plan.

4.2 Conditions of protection and the legislation

The Constitution of the Slovak Republic states, in article 44 – the right to protection of the environment and of cultural heritage:

- Everyone shall have a duty to protect and improve the environment and to foster cultural heritage
- No one shall imperil or damage the environment, natural resources and cultural heritage

In line with scientific knowledge and based on the international agreements in the area of European and world cultural heritage, protection of monuments and historicam sites in the Slovak Republic falls under the Act No. 49/2002 Col., on Protection of Monuments and Historic Sites as amended, according to which it means a set of activities and measures aimed at the identification, research, documentation, conservation, renovation, restoration, regeneration, use and presentation of cultural heritage monuments and historic sites.

In line with this law:

- **Basic protection** of a cultural heritage monument means the set of activities and measures implemented in order to prevent the endangering, damage, destruction or theft of a cultural heritage monument, and in order to permanently keep the cultural heritage monument including its surroundings in a good condition and for means of use and presentation appropriate to its cultural heritage value and to its technical condition.
- **The owner** of a cultural heritage monument is obliged to provide for the basic protection of the cultural heritage monument at their own expense, preserve it in a good technical condition, and use it in accordance with its cultural heritage value
- **The municipality** on its territory:

a) creates all conditions necessary for the conservation, protection, renovation and use of monuments and historic sites,
b) checks that the owners of cultural heritage monuments act in accordance with the Monument Act,
c) co-ordinates the construction of technical infrastructure in settlements with historic sites,
d) co-operates in ensuring that the placement of street fixtures and street furnishings, small sized architectural elements, protected historical green areas, street lighting and advertising facilities conforms to plans for conserving and realising the cultural heritage value of the site concerned,
e) supports initiatives by citizens and civic associations for the protection of monuments and historic sites,
f) besides the listed monuments and sites, the act allows towns /municipalities to protect other regional and local cultural values, which it decides to register as a town/municipality monument

- **Regional Monuments Boards** are competent administrative authorities to take first instance decisions on the rights and duties of legal entities and natural persons in the field of the protection of monuments and historic sites; carries out state supervision of the condition and use of monuments and historic sites; decides about the rights of legal entities and natural persons with regard to cultural monuments and history sites; directs the activities of legal entities and natural persons for the conservation, renovation and use of cultural heritage monuments and historic sites; and provides them with professional and methodological assistance

4.3 References to collection of national laws and regional guidelines relating to protection, conservation and the procedures of renovation and utilization of cultural heritage objects, and their brief description.

4.3.1 Effective legal regulations

- The Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic No. 49/2002 Z. on the protection of monuments and historic sites, as amended
- Guidelines to protection of historic sites, Methodological Guideline of the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic § 29 of the Act No. 49/2002 Coll., on the protection of monuments and historic sites, as amended in August 2002;
- Implementing of the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic No. 253/2010 Coll., implementing Act No. 49/2002 Coll., on the protection of monuments and historic sites as amended;
- Resolution No. 91/2001 Coll., to the Declaration of the National Council of the Slovak Republic for the Cultural Heritage Protection of February 28, 2001;
- Act No. 479/2005 Coll., amending and supplementing Act No. 50/1976 Coll., On Land-use Planning and Building Order (the Building Act) as amended;
- The regulation of the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic No. 55/2001 on Land-Use Planning Materials and Documentation.

The conditions for protection of cultural monuments, historic sites, archaeological finds and archaeological sites, in line with the scientific knowledge and based on international agreements in the area of European andn world cultural heritage, which are binding for the Slovak Republic, are amended by the Act No. 49/2002 Coll., on Protection of Monuments and Historic Sites as amended.

This Act further regulates the organisation and competence of state administration authorities and territorial selfgovernment authorities, as well as the rights and duties of owners and other legal entities and natural persons, and the imposition of fines for unlawful conduct in the field of the protection of monuments and historic sites which form an important part of cultural heritage and the conservation of which is in the public interest (article 44 par. 2 and 3 of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic).

According to § 2 art. 1, **monuments and historic sites** is a set of movable and immovable property declared according to this Act as national cultural heritage monuments (hereinafter referred to as a "cultural heritage monument"), historic reserves and historic zones. Property or objects in relation to which proceedings have been initiated for their declaration as cultural heritage monuments, historic reserves or historic zones, shall also be considered as monuments and historic sites.

According to § 2 art. 2, **cultural heritage value** means the aggregate value of important historic, social, landscape, urbanplanning, architectonic, scientific, technical, artistic and craft values for which property or objects may be subject to individual or territorial protection.

According to § 2 art. 3, **cultural heritage monument** means a movable object or immovable property of cultural heritage value which has been declared a cultural heritage monument for reason of its protection.

According to § 2 art. 4, **historic site** is a residential territorial unit or rural territorial unit having a concentration of cultural heritage value or archaeological finds and archaeological sites, which has been declared as a historic reserve or historic zone pursuant to this Act for reason of the protection of its cultural heritage value or archaeological finds and archaeological sites.

According to § 2 art. 5, **archaeological find** means any movable object that provides evidence of human life and activities from the earliest times until 1918 and which was or is situated in the earth, on the earth's surface or under water. Weapons, munitions, ammunition, parts of uniforms, military equipment and other military material found in the earth, on the earth's surface or under water and dating from before 1946 shall also be considered archaeological finds.

According to § 2 art. 6, **archaeological site** is immovable property on a topographically defined territory with uncovered or non-uncovered archaeological finds in their original archaeological settings.

According to § 16 art. 1, a **historic reserve** is a territory with a homogenous historic residential arrangement and a massive concentration of immovable cultural heritage monuments, or territory with groups of significant archaeological finds and archaeological sites which can be topographically defined

According to § 29 art. 1, **basic protection of historic sites** means the set of activities and measures through which the state administration authorities and territorial self-governing authorities in co-operation with the owners of immovable property ensure the conservation of the cultural heritage value of such sites, their good technical and operational condition, aesthetic value and the appropriate use of individual buildings, groups of building, areas or urban arrangements and the provision of appropriate infrastructure for historic sites.

Regulations and procedures at conservation of cultural monuments and objects which are located in a protective zone of the heritage site are governed by the provisions of the Monuments Act.

The state administration bodies in charge of protecting the monuments and sites are: Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic, Monuments Board of the Slovak Republic, and regional monuments boards.

According to § 11 art. 1, **Regional Monuments Boards** are the competent administrative authorities to take first instance decisions on the rights and duties of legal entities and natural persons in the field of the protection of monuments and historic sites in all cases where this Act does not stipulate otherwise.

The rules and obligations of the owner of national cultural monument or the object on a heritage site are contained in the Monuments Act, excerpted as follows::

Basic Protection of Cultural Heritage Monuments

According to §27 art. 2, it is prohibited, in the immediate vicinity of an immovable cultural heritage monument, to carry out building activities or other activities that could endanger the cultural heritage value of the cultural heritage monument. The phrase "immediate vicinity of a cultural heritage monument" shall mean the space within a distance of ten metres from the immovable cultural heritage monument; the distance of ten metres is measured from the outer wall of the building, if the immovable cultural heritage monument is a building, or from the edge of the land, if the immovable cultural heritage monument includes a plot of land.

The owner of a cultural heritage monument has the right (§ 28 art. 1):

- to request professional and methodological assistance from the Regional Monuments Board free of charge in matters relating to the protection of the cultural heritage monument,
- to apply for a grant or state aid24) from the municipality and the Ministry for the conservation of the cultural heritage value of the monument.

The owner of a cultural heritage monument shall be obliged (§ 28 art. 2 and 3):

- to provide for the basic protection of the cultural heritage monument at their own expense,
- to use the cultural heritage monument in accordance with its cultural heritage value,
- to allow employees of a body for the protection of monuments and historic sites or other authorised persons, upon presentation of their service cards, to enter the premises of an immovable cultural heritage monument,
- to notify the Regional Monuments Board and the municipality of every threat, damage, theft or destruction of a cultural heritage monument without delay,
- to notify the Regional Monuments Board and the municipality of every intended change in the use of a cultural heritage monument.

The owner of immovable property that is not a cultural heritage monument which is situated in a historic reserve, in a historic zone or in a protective zone (§ 28 art. 4):

- has the right to request professional and methodological assistance from the Regional Monuments Board free of charge,
- is obliged to dispose of and use the immovable property in a manner that does not endanger the cultural heritage value of an immovable cultural heritage monument, the historic reserve or the historic zone.

Renovation of Cultural Heritage Monuments and Modification of Immovable Property (§ 32):

Before commencing renovation – the set of specialised craft activities for the maintenance, conservation, repair, adaptation or reconstruction of a cultural heritage monument or a part, the owner of a cultural heritage

monument must submit an application to the Regional Monuments Board for a decision on the renovation plan (§ 32 art. 2). According to § 32 art. 4, In the decision on the renovation the Regional Monuments Board shall specify whether the proposed plan is acceptable in relation to the interests protected by this Act and specify conditions in hich the anticipated renovation plan can be prepared and implemented so as not to endanger, damage or destroy the cultural heritage monument, stating in particular whether the renovation plan requires research and other preparatory documentation and project documentation.

Before commencing a new building or the modification of land or a building that is not a cultural heritage monument but is situated in a historic site, the owner of such immovable property must request a decision of the Regional Monuments Board. In the decision, the Regional Monuments Board shall determine whether the proposed plan is acceptable and set conditions for the implementation of modifications to the immovable property in a historic site, in particular principles of spatial organisation, height and architectural solutions for the exterior of the immovable property. (§ 32 art. 5 and 7).

Restoration of Cultural Heritage Monuments (§ 33):

According to § 33 art. 1, the restoration of a cultural heritage monument or a part is a specific type of restoration.

According to § 33 art. 2, an owner can prepare a restoration only based on a prior decision of the Regional Monuments Board on the restoration plan.

According to § 33 art. 4, The Regional Monuments Board shall determine the type of restoration documentation, the extent of restoration research and the type, extent and conditions of the performance of restoration work in the decision on the restoration plan and in the case of an immovable cultural heritage monument, no later than in the decision on the preparatory documentation for renovation of the cultural heritage monument.

According to § 33 art. 6, The Regional Monuments Board shall issue separate decisions for each stage of restoration of documentation; a separate decision can be issued on the report on restoration research.

According to § 33 art. 7, Restoration can be carried out only by a natural person who has professional competence according to § 5 art. 2 letter a) to d) of the Act No. 200/1994 Coll., on the Chamber of Restorers and on the Performance of Restoration Work as amended.

Role of municipalities in protection fo monuments and historic sites (§ 14):

- to create all conditions necessary for the conservation, protection, renovation and use of monuments and historic sites,
- to check that the owners of cultural heritage monuments act in accordance with this Act,
- to co-ordinate the construction of technical infrastructure in settlements with historic sites,
- to co-operate in ensuring that the placement of street fixtures and street furnishings, small sized architectural elements, protected historical green areas, street lighting and advertising facilities conforms to plans for conserving and realizing the cultural heritage value of the site concerned,
- to support initiatives by citizens and civic associations for the protection of monuments and historic sites,
- to keep records of monuments and historic sites in the territory of the municipality based on extracts from the Central Register,
- the municipality may decide to create and professionally maintain a local heritage list for the municipality,
- besides the listed monuments and sites, the act allows towns /municipalities to protect other regional and local cultural values, which it decides to register as a town/municipality monument,

- a monument is a movable or immovable item of cultural-historical value, combined work of nature and man, historical events, names of streets, or geographical and cadastral names which relate to the history or personalities of the given municipality.

4.4 Supportive financial resources of the state administration, and grants

The support of the state with regard to protection of ruins:

- Legislative – special act, acceptance of international agreements
- Executive – existence of specialized body (Monuments Board and Regional Monuments Boards)
- Financial/Grant - Grant/subsidy system of the Ministry of Culture (different areas of support: restoration and promotion) + VÚB Foundation (each year, the bank announces a nationwide competition in support of the selected type of national cultural monument)
- Science-research – Monuments Board of the Slovak Republic and the Regional Monuments Boards – archives – opportunity to research and study
- Implementing the results of research and restoration
- Archeological Institution of Slovak Academy of Science – area of archeological research
- Promotion at trade fairs and exhibitions – organized by state and Higher Territorial Units

With regard to the fact that preservation of authentic and original cultural values and conservation of cultural monuments are extremely financially consuming, the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic, as early as in 2006, founded a support program 'Renew Out House', through which it allocates non-repayable subsidies to owners of cultural monuments aimed at their renewal/conservation.

One of the sub-programs if Program 1.4., paralelly supporting working habits, development of crafts skills, creating job positions for the registered unemployed, and the restoration of castles –ruins. Long-term experience and interest of the administrators and owners have shown success, and the importance of this program may be in providing inspiration for other European countries. Besides, it is possible to apply for support through other foundation programs, such as VUB or SPP, with regard to preservation of cultural monuments.

Unfortunately, the experience from drawing resources form the Structural Funds in Slovakia appears to be inadequate, since the needs and demands of the historical objects and not adequately met, mainly as to occurrence of unexpected circumstances, such works of art, or archeological findings.

Recommendation

Preservation and appropriate presentation of the monastery plays an irreplaceable role at the local and regional levels by

- raising people's awareness of the monument,
- supporting pride of local inhabitants with regard to their village and its history,
- creating an opportunity for new working positions, and
- being the attribute of the economic growth.

Based on the analysis, in order to fulfill this vision and ensure sustainability, it is necessary to elaborate a strategic document – management plan, focusing on permanent maintenance of the object, its presentation, utilization of the site, pursuing cooperation with experts, institutions, and local inhabitants, in order to eliminate the risk factors.

5 Integrated approach of natural sciences to protection of ruins: Risks and Threats affecting the property

5.1 Introduction

Medieval ruins are considered to be an important part of architectonic and cultural monuments, not only due to their location in the country – dominating their regions, but also as an integral component of cultural impact on the inhabitants, while they are frequently objects of high value.

Firstly, it is important to obtain information about the position of the building (ruin) in the country, know the nature of the subsoil, type of rocks/soil that forms the subsoil, of the structure, assess the risk of landslides, earthquakes, volcanic activity, or floods. What is essential is to know the statics of the structure and the condition of the roof frames.

The following step is the study of construction material:

1. types of rock, brick, wooden and metallic parts of the structure, etc.
2. finding the state of building material, if it is degraded; and if so, how and how much it is damaged.

For appropriate care about the ruins, it is essential to know the sources of construction material they were built from, e.g. rock, brick, etc. In case of brick, those that are to be used in the renovation and building maintenance, should be produced from the same clay material, using the same technology. When it comes to rock, the source must be known.

Further, it is important to obtain information about a type and composition of the binding material (mortar), plaster in the interior and exterior, and find the interaction of the binding material/plaster with the construction material of the structure (rock, brick, concrete, wood, etc.).

It is of no less importance to know if the ruin is attacked by physical (e.g. wind, rain, frost), chemical (e.g. acidity, salinity, oxidation, capillary motion in moisture), or biological factors (fungi, lichens, cyanobacteria, algae, bryophytes, vascular plants).

5.2 Physical factors

Among physical factors representing risk of erosion for old ruins belong wind and water. Of other factors, what should be mentioned is temperature changes, which do not only directly affect the construction material, but also cause salinization. In winter, frost can cause great damage: the due to increasing its volume in 9%, freezing water may enlarge the gaps in masonry, and thus gradually disturb them. Among damage caused by frost are cracks, fissures, and peeling off of the stone parts. Cumulative

effect of these factors may cause erosion and progressive degradation of material (Heckroodt, 2002; Delgado et al., 2016).

Another risk is fire. Fire may not only damage flammable material, such as wood, but the smoke and soot may damage the masonry (e.g. degrade plaster, rock, brick, or concrete) not only by direct change of its compactness and resistance to watering, but also by acidification.

5.3 Chemical factors

Degradation of construction material may be caused by many factors, one of them being chemical factors. Among the most common reasons for chemical processes causing damage are: exposure to water, acid rains, carbonization, salinization, sulfates, and oxidation (Přikryl and Smith, 2007; Drdácký et al., 2015).

The first chemical risk is water in a form of rain, fog, flood, surface water, groundwater, and capillary motion. Even 'normal' rain is in fact acid, because the drops react with CO_2, which is contained in the air, and which dissolves in water drops while weak carbonic acid is produced – H_2CO_3:

$$CO_2 + H_2O - H_2CO_3$$

Water activity on buildings may cause their waterlogging, destabilization of foundations, and leaching of parts of masonry (e.g. calcium compound, i.e. binders and plasters), roof and ceiling leaks, flooding of the interior, or damage of interior (e.g. small furniture).

Among the most aggressive chemical factors which cause significant damage on buildings belongs acid rain (Fig. 41a). The main reason for its occurrence is the reaction of sulfate and nitrogen compounds (emissions) with fog (microscopic and sub microscopic drops of water). The compounds of sulfate and nitrogen may also be of anthropogenic origin (thermal power plants, industry, agriculture, etc.) or natural origin (e.g. from volcanic activity; Livingston, 2016):

Acid rain may damage construction material, including the metal components of the buildings (e.g. armature in concrete), which are exposed to rain and fog, because acids have a dissolving and corrosive effect on all classical construction materials as brick, stone, plaster, concrete, or sculptural decoration). The dissolved ions of calcium – Ca^{2+} or magnesium – Mg^{2+} may consequently collide as Ca- /Mg-carbonates in the masonry cracks, or wash away parts of the construction material outside the masonry. While sulfur and nitrogen acids contained in acid rain react with calcite in marble and lime, they dissolve them (Yates et al., 1988).

Another source of acidification may be **presence of sulfidic materials** (mainly pyrite – FeS_2 or FeS) in rocks used to build the structure, or in its foundations. Moisture and contact with oxygen in the air may cause decomposition of sulfite and formation and sulfuric acid, which destructs the construction of the object, or causes pigmentation of plaster.

Also **sooth** may cause acidification. Smoke penetrates through building material and causes its colorization and corrosion. In the exterior, sooth can react with rainwater and steam containing CO_2 and thus form acids.

For the masonry, **salinization** may also be extremely dangerous (Fig. 41b). Various salts transported by wind and water drops often disrupt the surface and the construction of the object. Among such salts belongs industrial salt, used on roads in winter, while it does not only need to be halite – NaCl, but it may be a broad pallet of other types of salt. A dangerous situation is when salt-containing solutions penetrate into masonry due to capillary motion. As water slowly evaporates, the salt crystals grow and tear the masonry and

plaster, raise porosity of brick, concrete, and stone (Doehne, 2002). Multiple dissolution and recrystallization of salt, often several times a day, depends on the climate and meteorological conditions. This process threatens mostly those parts of buildings which are subjected to frequent changes in temperature (in our conditions, it is mainly the southern sides of buildings). Salinization may cause a complete destruction of the structures (Delgado et al., 2016).

Industry and energy plants which use fossil fuels (coal, oil, natural gas) emit in to the air elements of sooth, ash, asphalt, quartz, calcite, chlorides, and **sulfur dioxide –** SO_2**.** Sulfurs in a solution may recrystallize, and thus attack the masonry by salinization, and may cause recrystallization changes in the structure of cement/mortar, or have microstructural effects leading to weakening the cement bindings. This is often seen on the top of buildings as crusts formed by gypsum, which are a result of the reaction between calcite, water, and sulfuric acid. These crusts are often colored by sooth into black color (Cook and Gibbs, 1994). Sulfur dioxide, present in the air, generates formation of sulfuric acid – H_2SO_4, black film on buildings (mainly those which are built from limestone or marble, respectively they are visible on parts of buildings where this construction material was used) formed by gypsum – $CaSO_4 \cdot 2H_2O$:

$$CaCO_{3(s)} + SO_{2(g)} \rightarrow CaSO_{3(s)} + CO_2$$

$$CaSO_{3(aq)} + 2H_2O_{(l)} + ½O_{2(g)} \rightarrow CaSO_4 \cdot 2H_2O_{(s)}$$

On the other hand, gypsum is water soluble, so it is often washed away by rain (Longworth, 2008)

Chlorides, mainly Ca-chlorides, and less frequently the Na-chlorides, which are added into some cement mixtures in order to shorten the time of their maturation, may leach calcium hydroxide – $Ca(OH)_2$ and cause chemical (and later physical) changes in cement (Lubelli, 2006).

Carbon dioxide may also cause gradual destruction of construction materials (mainly concrete and cement). The atmospheric

Figure 40 Effects of a) acid rain on the sandstone (Palma de Mallorca) and b) effects of salinization on the plaster and on the construction stone (castle tower in Banská Bystrica). Photo: Andráš, 2017, 1988

carbon dioxide may react with carbo hydroxide, which is contained in the masonry, and may form calcium carbonate – $CaCO_3$. The main result of this slow, but gradual, process is lowering alkalinity, which is an extremely important factor preventing corrosion of metal components of building constructions (Ashraf, 2016).

Free carbon hydroxide – $Ca(OH)_2$ may dissociate in the building structure into Ca^{2+} and hydroxide (OH^-) ions. Water (moisture, dampness) may carry Ca-hydroxides and Ca^{2+} ions to a surface, where they react with the atmospheric oxygen. In such case, atmospheric carbon dioxide – CO_2 diffuses into a leachate, dissolves in it, and causes crystallization of $CaCO_3$ on the wall surfaces, which then causes decalcification pf the internal parts of masonry (Péres et al., 2013).

5.4 Biological factors

Institutions and communities in charge of ruin protection are obliged to diagnose and prevent harmful effects of living organisms on ruins. Mechanisms of biological deterioration, which concern the interaction with the environment and ruins (on both the interior and exterior), are relatively well-examined. Research has shown that by ruin restoration, diversity increases in approximately 25-30% of new plant species, mainly annual weeds, synanthropic (accompanying people), invasive (non-indigenous), expansive (domestic fast spreading species) and allergenic taxa (Eliáš sen., 2014). For public health protection, as well as protection of the indigenous plant diversity which all owners and users are obliged to support (Drdácký et al. 2007), it is advised to perform regular monitoring and removal of these undesirable species which at the same time decrease the esthetic aspects of the ruin on its exterior, where the vegetation cover develops (yard, moat/ditch adjacent to the open land, ruins with already developed layer of soil, etc.). The current review of invasive plant species was published by Medvecká et al. (2012), synanthropic, allergenic and weed species (i.e. species demanding high nutrient content in the soil) are described by Jurko (1990). Special attention must be paid to invasive plants, which are included in Attachment 2a of the Decree No. 158/2004 Coll., which implement the Act on Protection of Nature and Landscape, in line with which the owner or lessee of the land is obliged to dispose of these species.

On the other hand, ruins were listed as shelters for many protected, endemic, rare, and endangered species, which must be ensured protection. The list of protected plant and animal species can be found in the above mentioned decree; precious and endangered species are presented in work of Eliáš jun. et al. (2015). Changes if the composition of vegetation can be expressed by several indices, of which, in case of assessing biological risks of ruins, the most appropriate and current are the indices of the ration of invasive taxa, as well as synanthropic, and allergenic, but the naturalness index may also be appropriate and useful (Celka 2011; Turisová et al. 2016). The most efficient method of protecting ruins against biodegradation by vascular plants is regular monitoring and care for vegetation by removing the tree seeding, mowing, or grazing small herds of sheep, cows, horses, or goats, as it is customary at the Bzovík monastery (Fig. 42 a,b), that being even with regard to a risk of increasing accumulation of nutrients in the soil, which support the spreading of nitrophilic weed species. A preventive measure in protection of ruins against fire and its destabilization is monitoring the occurrence of the attached wood/trees in the object and its immediate surrounding, and their further removal.

Figure 41 Active care for vegetation by grazing of small herd of sheep a) and by mowing the courtyard (b) of the Bzovík castle (Photo: Turisová, 2018)

At present, management of the species composition in the vegetation cover uses biological competition. For example, domestic parasitical or hemi-parasitic plants (e.g. representative of the rattle genus – *Rhinanthus* spp.) have a significant influence on diversity and restoration of grassland (Fibich et al. 2017), on suppression of dominant expansive plants, such as fast spreading grass known as bushgrass (*Calamagrostis epigejos* (L.) Roth; Těšitel et al. 2017), which we discovered on the Bzovík monastery site. This potential should be taken into consideration in managing the restoration of the localities with widespread competitive dominants, indigenous of not, because it represents a relatively cheap but effective type of management, which is well-accepted by both the experts and the public. If possible, this approach should be preferred mainly in localities where ruins are situation in protected landscapes (national parks, protected landscape areas, also small-scale protected areas such as nature reserve, protected area, natural monument, etc.).

Great attention must be given to cyanobacteria, non-vascular plants (algae and bryophytes), fungi (mainly microscopic), and lichens. It is them who represent the first colonizers of ruins, and first producers of biomass or secondary metabolites, which mostly have a negative effect on the compactness of the masonry. Historical construction materials support large and diverse communities of these organisms, which then colonize the outer surface of the stone, but also its porous interior. Caneva et al. (2009) published an overview study based on the results of tens of scientists who studied the problems caused by biological degradation of cultural heritage, dealing with both general topics (e.g. mechanisms of biodeterioration; correlation between biodeterioration, the environment and destructive organisms) and specific problems (problems cause by various materials or environmental, geographic, and climate conditions). The authors discuss prevention and control of decrease in quality of ruins, including appropriate diagnostic techniques. At the same time, multiple mechanical, chemical, and physical techniques were developed and used in removing biofilms and non-vascular plants from historical ruins, and at still being improved. Despite the existence of numerous

literary sources dealing with damage of material by colonizing biofilms (e.g. Caneva et al., 2009; Scheerer et al., 2009), the relation between solubility of minerals and the role of colonization of microbial surfaces in weather reaction, it is a topic which has not yet been addressed in it whole complexity (Davis & Luttge, 2005). On the other hand, several authors state positives of biological colonizers when claiming that lichens, bryophytes and ferns regulate moisture, transition of heat, and diffusion of water steam, which reduces the thermohygric exposure of stone (Warscheid & Leisen 2011; Pinna 2014).

Recommendation

a. elaboration and regular updating of the Medieval Ruin Protection Plan
b. necessity of the owners and object administrators' cooperation with institutions responsible for monitoring and prognosis of the occurrence, intensity, and development of real and potential risks in the locality of the Bzovík monastery (fires, abiotic and biotic risks, vandalism, etc.)
c. ensuring effective protection against fire in the locality, including the buildings of the object
d. in landscape and territorial planning, as well as in elaborating further obligatory documents, it is essential to pay thorough attention to protecting the natural landscape character in the object's surroundings, in order for the Bzovík monastery to remain a dominant and attractive landscape-esthetic element
e. elaborate a study with regard to the condition of the site, taking account of the site underlay, the risk of landslides, waterlogging, floods, or the eventual earthquakes, and similar risks
f. elaborate a study relating to the character of the building material, i.e. its origin and the technology of constructing the site
g. in order to ensure proper care for the ruin, it is essential to know the construction materials which were used to build it, i.e. the types of rocks, brick, wooden and metallic parts of the constructions, etc. Therefore, is it necessary to study them continuously, as well as to monitor their current state. In case of reconstruction works, care must be taken in using the original building materials
h. monitoring the natural and environmental risks disturbing the favorable state of the medieval ruin, i.e. physical risks (e.g. climate – wind, rain, frost) and chemical ones (acid rains, acidification of masonry, salinization, oxidation of the masonry components, capillary motion in moisture, etc.)
i. monitoring and eliminating the excessive bio-deterioration cause by the activity of microorganisms, so called deteriogens (bacteria, cyanobacteria, algae, bryophytes, micromycetes, and lichens), which may functionally degrade the monastery objects if overgrown
j. ensuring regular care for grasslands in the area of the building and its immediate surroundings (mowing the areas within, grazing and/or mowing of the surrounding areas) while evaluating the synantropization and anthropophytization of the stands, since they decrease the biodiversity of the stands as well as their esthetic value

k. liquidation of the invasive and strongly allergenic plants
l. special care must be given to tree species, i.e. their species composition (eliminate the spreading of acacia and other invasive trees), rejuvenation, their occurrence in wrong places (mainly in the stone walls, where they can interfere with the stability of the construction)
m. perform professional pruning and treatment of the trees in the object and its surroundings, in order to eliminate their negative impact on human health, as well as on the building itself
n. in case of occurrence of rare and protected fungi, animals, and plants which increase the biodiversity and the natural value of the object, it is essential to ensure their protection, in cooperation with territorial administration of the large-scale protected area (in case of Bzovík, it is the Administration of Protected Landscape of Štiavnické mountains)

6 Safety and security of ruins

Protection of cultural heritage within the frame of the global changes, has become a problem of sustainability of the environment in Europe. An exemplary case is the fire of the Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, on April 15, 2019, which tested the readiness and preparedness of the Parisian firefighters. This event will be considered a measure for sustaining the European civilization, as well as developing specific safety conditions (Marková et al., 2016). The year 2018, being the Year of Cultural Heritage, drew attention to protection of out important objects of cultural heritage from multiple points of view, fire assessment being one of them (Murin, 2018).

Due to the climatic changes, it is essential to take account of new risks which the historical objects are facing. Fire is one of the most threatening dangers, not only for the inhabitants of the building, but also for the structure and content of the historical object. Fire has long been an enemy of cultural sights, while some older structures have succumbed to it (Report RUINS 2/2018).

An exemplary case is the fire of the Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, on April 15, 2019, which tested the readiness and preparedness of the Parisian firefighters. The last fire of the shingle roof of the Ožďany Mansion (district of Rimavská Sobota) of October 3, 2019, at around 5pm, confirms the seriousness of the situation.

Quantification of priorities and optimization of the strategy of fire protection of cultural monuments are important and up-to-date priorities within the programs financed by the European Commission, General Directorate for Research and Development, the Union for Sustainability of Towns and Cultural Heritage, as well as the frame program The Environemtn and Sustainble Development (ICOMOS, 1999). One of the goals of the presented research priority defined in the Strategic Research Agenda of the Joint Program Initiative in Culture Heritage (JPI, 2013) is to assess the risk which fire represents for historical objects of cultural and natural heritage in Slovakia. The next goal is to propose methods which may help to quantify and manage this risk by means of systems and components that are currently available to us. There exist research initiatives focused on gathering the existing methods of risk analysis, and the choice of the right method to assess fire risk with regard to cultural and natural heritage (Gárcia et al., 2016).

The main objective is to assess fire risk at the Bzovík castle, while at the same time proposing measures to be taken. After identifying the spots with the higher fire risk, fire scenarios with predicted development of fire were created, along with a proposal of measures for fast evacuation and immediate fire extinction. The proposed measured were verified by means of pilot testing.

6.1.1 Methodology and strategies of fire protection of cultural monuments

The methodology consisted of four independent methodical steps as follows:

1. Methodology of Fire Risk Assessment for the Bzovík castle with the proposed measures
2. Methodology of proposed measures to secure the equipment for first-hand intervention in case of fire and in case of evacuation at the Bzovík castle
3. Methodology of elaborating crisis scenarios
4. Pilot testing of the selected crisis scenario at the Bzovík castle

The methodology of fire risk assessment is based on the principles of assessing or describing an event (qualitative case study) in the context of using various source of information (Yin, 2003). This ensures that the problem is not assessed from one single point of view, but rather several views, which enable assessors to discover and understand different aspects of the event (Baxter and Jack, 2008).

The collection of the primary data should be performed directly at the Bzovík castle. Risk analysis – possible fire risk was observed and photographed. The Bzovík castle was not equipped with passive and active system of fire safety.

The measurements of the disposition solutions, and sketching the ground plan of the objects were used. During the observations, all fire safety elements had to be monitored and checked.

The observation was performed within several visits, until all the necessary data were collected. Some data were collected by non-structured interviews with the village inhabitants, as well as with the local municipality employees or other persons who are in charge of Bzovík. The non-structured interviews used formal and informal questions asking about the opinions of the village inhabitants with regards to the given problem. The collected data represented the foundation for the researchers, which enabled identification of the existing conditions of fire safety in the buildings. The process of data collection was performed in December 2017, May 2018, and January 2019. The observed data were analyzed by descriptive analysis, which included pictures, tables and building dispositions for the case study which assessed the fire risk.

The methodology of measures to secure the equipment for first-hand intervention in case of fire and in case of evacuation is based on the identification of critical points (places with the highest probability of fire).

The methodology of elaborating crisis scenarios describes the potential fire and its most likely development. Calculating the time of evacuation and the amount of necessary fire-extinguishing material in case of fire. The pilot testing, on October 18, 2019, was performed according to a planned fire scenario, while the progress and time of evacuation, as well as fire extinguishing were assessed.

The solutions must be built on these key factors:

- The material and the interior are made of combustible substances.
- There is a larger amount of people inside the building.
- The conditions of evacuation of the object are rather complex.
- The object is not equipped with the fire-extinguishing equipment.
- The conditions of intervention in the object are rather complex.

6.1.2. The results of the Fire Risk Assessment

After having performed the fire risk analysis, the risk related to the building structure and materials of the object construction were found out. It can be concluded that the ruins are located in a terrain that is inaccessible to the emergency (rescue) services, and the conditions for evacuation are insufficient, which is even worsened by the existence of only one entrance to the castle (Fig.42).

Figure 42 Photo-documentation from the Bzovík castle (visual inspection in December 2017 and July 2018)

At present, combustible and worn-out materials, such as wood, are used to build the floors, walls, staircases, doors, and windows. Most historical buildings are made of wood, and not equipped with a fire wall. There are other factors, e.g. insufficient maintenance, wearing out of the electrical equipment, non-functioning faucets, and restricted preventive measures, which contribute largely to the fire risk (Tofilo et al., 2016). The object must be free of smoking, which decreases the risk of open fire. The object is equipped with electric installation from the beginning of the 20th century, which is now in a bad technical condition. Detailed identification of the fire risk is provided in the publication by Marková et al. (2019).

Financing and maintaining cultural heritage is in the hands of the owner of the site in all countries. In some countries, the local/regional/national government may provide subsidies to support this activity. Fire safety of cultural heritage is mainly the responsibility of the owner, while in almost every country, this responsibility is shared with the local/regional/national government. In different countries, different organizations or governmental bodies determine priorities with regard to protection of cultural heritage, e.g. in Switzerland, this is in charge of firefighters. Germany assigns the responsibility to the local self-governing office, in Italy it is the national government. In Slovakia, the responsibility lies in the hands of the local self-governing office. Based on the studied materials, the format of documenting the fire risk assessment that was chosen follows the guidelines elaborated for UNESCO in 2013, specifically GUIDELINE No. 30:2013 F (2013). It indicates the risk assessment as the first step to fire protection management, a continuous process with a goal to achieve and support a specific level of fire safety in a historical building. The investments into

planning risks by experts – the fire services team of consultants, as well as experts on restoration, along with the preparation of the analysis of costs and benefits may offer acceptable solution, and save money. Fire safety measures should be based on this risk assessment, while the risk assessment itself should be constantly updated, reviewed on a regular basis, i.e. no less than once a year, and before, as well as after, any maintenance work, special occasions, etc. Trained personnel may normally check if the level of fire safety is sufficient, and ask for help from fire protection consultants. According to the Check List GUIDELINE No. 30:2013 F (2013), the risk analysis was elaborated in order to assess the fire risk – identification according to the check list for fire safety (Marková et al., 2019).

Figure 43 Model of monitoring the fire development

6.1.3 Fire scenario

Within the field research, two fire scenarios were chosen as models to monitor the development of fire at the Bzovík Castle, i.e. the indoor fire (in the tower), and the fire in the outside castle area (Fig. 44).

For the pilot testing the Fire scenario in the tower was chosen. The place of ignition was the tower at the main gate, since the given object is reconstructed, and serves the exhibition, meeting, concert and other social purposes. It is a 4-storey object, while all floors are accessible by a narrow staircase. The wooden beam roof frames the spike of the tower. The other wooden roofs are not equipped with a ladder or any other tool, and thus inaccessible.

The scenario is based on a timeline. Since the moment of fire ignition, the fire spreads within the first three minutes. The object is equipped with a crate (or a bag) with sand to serve the primary liquidation. Following this, the fire extinguished can be used, located in the tool shed in the castle yard. Since this is a closed-in object, it is necessary to count with excessive smoke. The evacuation would be possible from the second floor to the side balcony. The next to be used are the evacuation tools (ladders and tunnels), ideally from the spare fire/escape staircase in the end of the side balcony

Figure 44 Scheme of fire scenarios. (using the photography of the Bzovík castle from the official tourist website http://slovakia.travel/en/the-fort-bzovik)

Scenario 1: the indoor fire – in the tower

The place of ignition was the tower at the main gate, since the given object is reconstructed, and serves the exhibition, meeting, concert and other social purposes. It is a 4-storey object, while all floors are accessible by a narrow staircase. The wooden beam roof frames the spike of the tower (Fig. 45). The other wooden roofs are not equipped with a ladder or any other tool, and thus inaccessible.

Scenario 2: the outside fire – in the yard

The spreading of the fire in the castle yard (Fig. 44 right) is most likely to have a different scenario. The development of the fire may

Figure 45 Pictures of the entry tower, where we assume the origin of the fire from the electrical installation

The scenario is based on a timeline. Since the moment of fire ignition, the fire spreads within the first three minutes. The object is equipped with a crate (or a bag) with sand to serve the primary liquidation. Following this, the fire extinguished can be used, located in the tool shed in the castle yard. Since this is a closed-in object, it is necessary to count with excessive smoke. The evacuation would be possible from the second floor to the side balcony. The next to be used are the evacuation tools (ladders and tunnels), ideally from the spare fire/escape staircase in the end of the side balcony (Fig. 44 left).

be affected (and in most cases enhanced) by external conditions. In this case, it is possible to use two exit routes for evacuation: through the main entrance (until the firefighters arrive), or by the same tools as in the first scenario. The system of extinguishing fire is enriched in using the collected rainwater, or the water from the fire pool (in case the site is equipped with it).

Figure 46 Pictures of the courtyard of the Bzovík castle (visual inspection in May 2018)

6.1.4 Proposal of measures to ensure equipment for the primary intervention in case of fire, and in evacuating people from the object of the Bzovík castle

6.1.4.1 Basic safety measures

The Bzovík castle is separated from the neighboring buildings, and has more than 25 cm thick walls. In the event of fire, the thickness of the wall can stop flames temporarily, while the tourists may evacuate from the building. The four towers are covered with a wooden roof.

To reinforce and adjust the entrance door (even if it remains locked), especially the floor/ground, in order to allow safe entry and exit of people, goods, and materials. A suitable element may by the installation of the alarm system, a very simple one, only for the alarm purposes: the alarm (an annoying sound) goes off and the village get informed of unwanted visitors. The proposal of the basic equipment for the village as the owner of the object is shown in the scheme in Fig. 47, and schematically, also on the floor plan of the object (Fig. 48).

Equipment of own fire intervention and evacuation	
Fire extinguishing	**Evacuation**
- barrels with rainwater - bags or containers with sand - Storage of material under the terrain level, covered and locked from public (fire extinguishers, shovel, sand bags, non-combustible blankets, container with drinking water, textiles to put on face, firs id kit, antireflective vests - A tub with water - hydrants and hoses prepared for intervention	- reinforce the only entry/exit to the object – floor, construction, ass a shank - a bench over the moat – adjustment for higher load - existence of only 1 entry, new forms must be considered, according to Slovak legislature: escape ladder, fire ladder, tunnel blanket (exit down) -other forms guaranteed by the producer are allowed, e.g. ropes with knots from the balconies, or nets (as in children playgrounds) -prepared communication devices (walkie-talkies) - escape staircase – metal and attached to the walls, entry to the stairs from the balcony - off road quad – suitable to fit in the object, with a cart for intervention, evacuation and rescue

Figure 47 Presentation of the basic fire and safety measures for the Bzovík castle

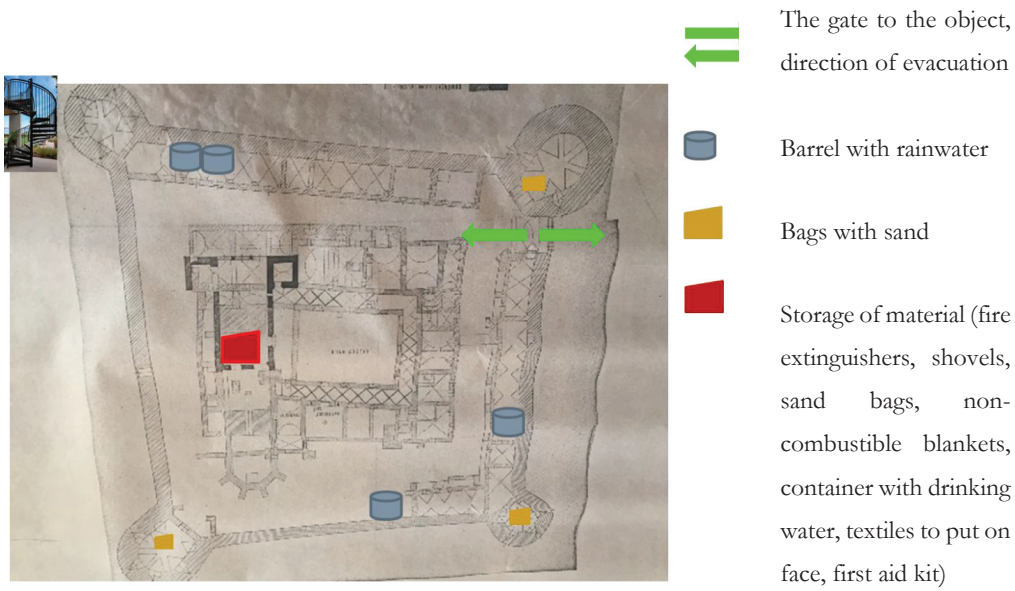


Figure 48 Presentation of the basic measures for the equipment of the fire safety of the Bzovík castle, on the castle ground plan which is deposited at the Bzovík Municipal Office

Huang et al. (2009) view the risk of fire in medieval objects as a multidimensional problem. Due to their location – on the hill or at an elevated place, they are very vulnerable with regards to fire, that being for many reasons; mainly due to the conditions determined by geography; their complex layout, narrow alleys, staircases, and the built-in area. At the same time, the given location or object is normally inaccessible for firefighters and security equipment.

6.1.4.2 Pilot testing

The pilot testing was performed on October 11, 2019, while all involved stakeholders participated in the simulation. The course named "Historical and archeological value of the Bzovík ruin", and the course "Geological, botanic, and landscape value of the Bzovík ruin" was provided for two groups of participants – volunteers, composed of the students of the Secondary Grammar School of A. B. Sládkovič in Krupina. The courses were complemented with testing the evacuation in case of fire, and its liquidation.

This was an event which is normally attended by a larger number of people; therefore, in line with the Notice No. 121/2002 of the Collection of Laws [12], it was necessary to also organize a Professional Preparation of the Members of Firefighting Assistant Guards, more specifically for the members of Bzovík and Čekovce Voluntary Firefighting Association (VFA). VFA Čekovce owns a fire truck, which is fully equipped for intervention, and the members performed a simulation of extinguishing a fire. Inside the tower, a symbolically lit smoke shell was placed, in order to simulate fire. The subsequent alarm and directed evacuation from three evacuation spots: the entrance door to the tower, the prepared zip line, and the fire platform (Fig. 52), which was provided for the simulation by the Zahas enterprise. Within 3 minutes, all participants gathered in the gathering area, and the members of the voluntary firefighting association Čekovce reported the completed check of the object with regard to its evacuation, and put out the fire, while simulating its gradual cooling.

Figure 49 Evacuation routes (https://www.ff.umb.sk/katedry/katedra-socialnych-studii-a-etnologie/ruins-project/pozvanka-na-pilotne-testovanie.html

6.1.5 The Assessment and the proposed measures based on the pilot testing

It can be stated that the castle is located in a terrain that is inaccessible for the rescue services, and the conditions for evacuation are inappropriate. Further problem for the evacuation is the fact that there is only one entry to the castle. Based on the previously agreed organization measures, as many as 100 persons were safely evacuated from the tower, under the supervision of the Čekovce Assistant Guards. The pilot testing was successfully and safely completed (Fig.53).

6.1.5.1 Evacuation

For the purposes of evacuation, it is necessary to take account of the following:

- Reinforce and adjust the entrance door (even if it remains locked), especially the floor/ground, in order to allow safe entry and exit of people, goods, and materials
- Installation of the alarm system, a very simple one, only for the alarm purposes: the alarm (an annoying sound) goes off and the village get informed of unwanted visitors.
- There is normally only one entry, therefore, it is essential to think of alternative forms of evacuation
- Application of alternate exit staircases or ladders, if possible.
- Regular training of employees with regard to organization measures in case of fire (practical simulation performed at the Bzovík castle)

6.1.5.2 Fire extinguishing

Fire extinguishing

The proposal of preventive measures with regard to extinguishing fire:

- Each tower should be equipped with a sand bag (alternatively a barrel or a crate)
- Incorporate a lockable crate into the castle area, with firefighting tools: shovels, buckets, non-combustible tarpaulins or blankets to cover the fire, fire extinguishers, and in agreement with the voluntary fire brigade or Firefighters and Rescuers, also the hoses to be pulled out to the water tank
- alternatively, create a storage area equipped with material for initial intervention, below ground level (and covered)
- wooden hooks with metal ending for demolition (each house in the village would have to be equipped with one)

- in case the roof catches fire, the entry to the object (or the balcony) should be covered (roofed), so as the burning parts do not fall on the evacuating people

Proposed intervention measures for fire extinction:

- Barrels collecting rainfall water should be placed in the middle of the object, and on the balconies. If needed, they will be dropped or spilled; no one should remove them
- Create a natural water tank or renew the original water reservoirs
- Store the basic fire extinguishing tools
- Regular training pf employees with regard to organization measures to be taken in case of fire (practical demonstration at the Bzovík castle)

Figure 50 End of pilot testing

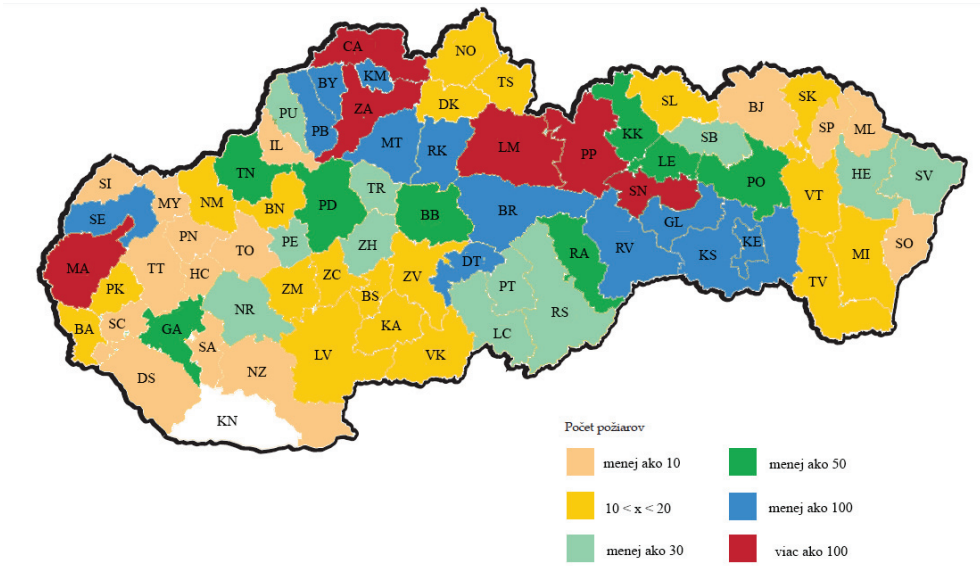


Figure 51 Number of Forest Fires in Slovakia District between 2004-2014

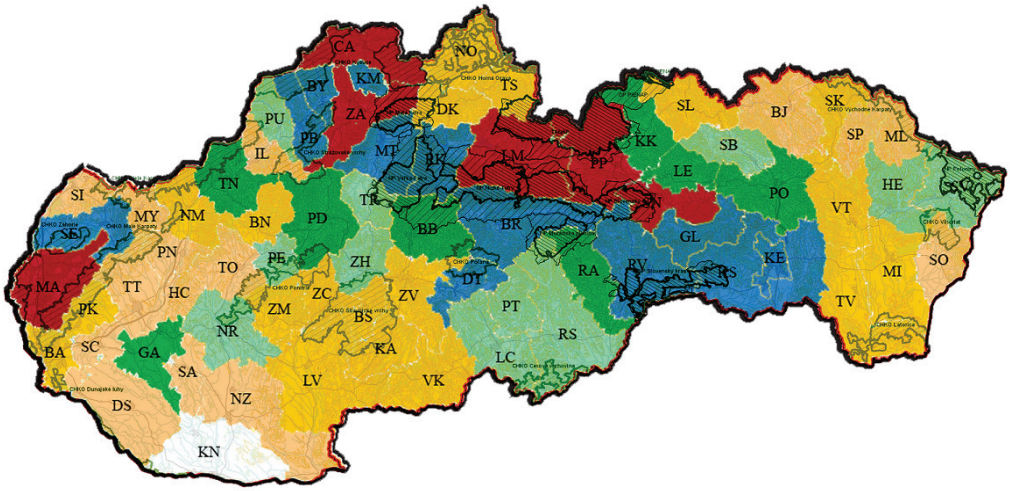


Figure 52 Map of protected landscape areas and national parks Slovak forest fires in different districts for the period 2004-2014

Recommendation

a. Pay attention to the always-existing risk of fire. Protection of cultural heritage within the conditions of global changes has become a problem of sustainability of the environment in Europe. The value of sustaining and maintaining cultural heritage has become a challenge within the European (global) scale with regard to the development of specific safety conditions.
b. Quantifying the priorities and optimizing the strategy of fire protection of cultural monuments represent barriers that limit the possible solutions. Priorities of using cultural monuments are often not in line with the necessary optimization strategy of their fire protection.
c. Strategies of fire protection of cultural monuments must be built on the following key factors:
    i. there is a larger number of people in the object
    ii. the conditions for evacuating the object are complicated
    iii. the object is not equipped with the P-T equipment
    iv. there are difficult intervention conditions for the object
d. Historical objects do not fulfill the requirements of fire protection, and therefore, it is impossible to apply these in their classical form. By installing modern (although technically adjusted) technical fire equipment, the historical value of the site may be lowered.
e. With regard to fire protection, it is necessary to follow the well-established steps that are defined in the Fire Risk Assessment. The first step is risk evaluation, which consists of identifying the threats and analyzing the risks. The concept of risk relates to its consequences, as well as to probability of the occurrence of an undesirable event. Evaluation of the fire risk for historical sites of cultural heritage in Slovakia is performed

through searching for critical locations with high risk of fire. UNESCO (GUIDELINE No 30:2013) offers a manual in the form of a checklist, which must, however, be adjusted for the conditions of the Slovak environment. At the same time, there is space for suggesting methods which may help to quantify this risk, and manage it through systems and components that are currently available.

f. As to the issue of permanent fire risk, fire risk in medieval objects is a multi-dimensional problem:
    i. construction of combustible materials
    ii. because of their location – on a hill or higher ground, they are more vulnerable as to fire risk
    iii. because of their location – due to conditions imposed by geography; complex layout, narrow streets, staircases, and built-in space.
    iv. the site (object) is usually inaccessible for firefighters and security equipment
g. Evacuation. In order to achieve successful evacuation, it is necessary to take the following into account:
    i. reinforce and adjust the entrance (even if it remains locked), mainly its floor, in order to ensure safe entry and exit with the goods, materials, or people
    ii. install the alarm system (device), a very simple one, only for the alarming purposes (an unpleasant sound will be heard and thus the municipality will be informed of an unwanted visitor)
    iii. normally there is only one entry; therefore, alternative forms of evacuation should be considered
    iv. apply alternate escape routes (staircases or ladders) if possible
    v. regular training pf employees with regard to organization measures to be taken in case of fire (practical demonstration at the Bzovík castle)
h. Fire extinction. Proposed preventive measures:
    i. each bastion should be equipped with a sand bag, barrel, or a crate
    ii. equip the site with a locked crate with fire-fighting tools: shovels, buckets, non-combustible tarpaulins or blankets to cover the fire with, fire extinguishers; and in agreement with the Voluntary Fire Brigade or Fire Brigade and Rescuers, also the hoses to be pulled out to the water tank
    iii. alternatively, create a storage area equipped with material for initial intervention, below ground level (and covered)
    iv. wooden hooks with metal ending for demolition (each house in the village would have to be equipped with one)
    v. in case the roof catches fire, the entry to the object (or the balcony) should be covered (roofed), so as the burning parts do not fall on the evacuating people
i. Fire extinction. Proposed intervention measures:
    i. Barrels collecting rainfall water should be placed in the middle of the object, and on the balconies. If needed, they will be dropped or spilled; no one should remove them
    ii. Create a natural water tank or renew the original water reservoirs
    iii. Store the basic fire extinguishing tools
    v. Regular training pf employees with regard to organization measures to be taken in case of fire (practical demonstration at the Bzovík castle)

PART 3 - DESCRIPTION OF THE USE OF THE PREMISES

7 Local community and historical ruins

A locality is a key cultural factor and is considered the basic criterion of culture. Unlike the everyday environment of residences, ruins represent a physical place to which the local community relates the imaginations of personal identity, and cultural and historical memory. Ruins, and the related contexts, represent a set of stable contexts of transmission of culture in a community. By continuous sharing of historical values, the environmental cognition gets created, i.e. selection-organized perception which manifest secondarily in the whole culture of the local community (Altman, 1973).

For a local community culture, such partial perceptions are important that trigger common incentive factors. Contexts of figures (shape, morphology, or background) play an important role in development of ruins, as well as the locality, frequency of inevitable interactions with the ruins, intensity and time within which members of the community spend their daytime in interacting with the preserved ruins. This is how territorial identity is formed, which is one of the dimensions that identify both the individual and the community. Further, it is the related findings that assess the extent of the bond with the environment of ruins, in order to name those meanings that the environment of ruins creates for local communities. The existence of the ruin relates to feelings of cohesion and solidarity, which are expressed in the local community through similarities in the collective behavior.

7.1 Perception of a ruin as a cultural monument

After understanding why the perception of a historical monument in local cultures is so intensive, it is necessary to reflect the contexts of time and changes in the environment. These factors are extremely variable from the cultural point of view (Boyd & Richerson, 2005). Criteria conditioning the bond to the historical object and the local community provide an overview of advantages and disadvantages which are related to the preferences of individual-specific, or social-contextual learning:

1. Local communities are potentially confronted with urbanistic changes, while the individual people are limited in using the local possibilities to adapt ruins in time. Hence the concerns about getting or losing the opportunity to participate in sharing the ruin values.
2. An individual in the local community acquires stimuli for creating the relation with ruins in cultural configurations appropriate to the environment this person grew in. The knowledge of the ruin is obtained through collective and individual processes of learning. Both ways are complementary, i.e. they have their own reasons for the individual acting in a rational way. For the local community, they are the way to lead to ensuring continuity and sustainability of the historical monument.
   a.) The individual approach and the import of knowledge about ruins leads to a specification of

understanding, which is greatly valued as to the status in the local community. With regard to the character of the local community, the conditions of the environment, and a smaller number of individuals, the state of individual knowledge does not need to be sufficient, and thus leads to content loss. It is a cause of incompleteness that may results in weakening the internal solidarity of the local community.

b.) Social learning in local community contains different levels of imitating and other perceptions of behavior. By acquiring collective knowledge, the knowledge of an individual is being completed, which is inevitable for creating relations to the local community. By their acceptance, misunderstandings and inappropriate behavior are avoided. Non-conventional learning may endanger the solidarity of the local community.

3. From the point of view sustainability of ruin values in the local community, their stability relates to
   a.) **dynamics** the local community integrates the changes in ruin functions with
   b.) **stability**, i.e. how stable the local culture is against the external changes caused by tourism
4. Each community attempts to create and maintain the opportunities that enable transfer of cultural heritage values to new generations. It stimulates various forms of learning, of which the most effective is daily interactions with the ruins and informal social learning.

7.2 Cohabitation of people with the cultural monument

Local community should initiate an individual's contact with situations which strengthens the knowledge of culture and local social bonds. The information that is shared in this way enables better understanding of the micro world the individual lives in. Here, an individual should find support and collective reference for their actions. This way of perceiving ruins may be supported by Bourdieu's concept of habitation (Bourdieu, 1992).

To live in a local community requires continuously gaining local experience and knowledge that relates to the specifics of the environment, as well as obtaining certain social status. This is how a system of dispositions is created, which at every

Figure 53 Transmission of values between generations https://www.svetokolonas.sk/opevneny-klastor-bzovik/

moment triggers the involvement of previous experience and information as a matrix of perception, understanding, communication, and behavior. The phenomenon of habituation with the environment of ruins is the frequency at which the given cultural phenomenon or element stabilize. Habitus is the not understood primarily as environment, but rather as dependence on circumstances that change this environment. In case of long-term perception of ruin decay, a collective representation of unwanted cultural heritage is triggered. Cohabitation is then understood as custom behavior, repetition, or periodic occurrence of a phenomenon, which legitimize the responsibility and appropriateness of behavior towards the historical object of the ruin.

By participating in the processes of cohabitation, members of the local community unite, and the community stabilizes. Much of the knowledge may be acquired in a family, where the individual activities repeat frequently. Familiarization of knowledge is thus an important feature, and is one of the ways how to win trust of others for oneself; it passes between individual members of the local community, and is thus applicable outside the family as well.

7.2.1 The method of researching the reflectiveness of ruins

The method takes account of the priority Strategic Research Agenda, JPI Cultural Heritage and Global Change as recommended by the European Commission on April 26, 2010.

When obtaining data about perception of ruins by the local community, from the methodological point of view, the triangulation of data is used at the level of:

1.) methods of data collection (statistical findings, questionnaires, scaling, and ethnography)
2.) type of data (qualitative, quantitative, contextual)
3.) data analysis (mixed method)
4.) data interpretation (heritage science, environmental, and economic)
5.) surveying the generational opinions and attitudes

To understand the functions of ruins, it is important to know the opinion and the values of the local community. Within the Slovak cultural circle, more than 90% of ruins are owned by local municipalities. The representatives of the local self-government therefore want to know the opinion of the largest possible spectrum of inhabitants and stakeholders about the specific ruin. In March 2018, field researchers performed a pilot survey related to the perception of the ruin by the local community in the Bzovík locality. Their attempt was not only to perform a synchronous research of chosen indicators related to perception of ruins by the inhabitants, but also investigate the potential of the ruin in a short-term horizon of three generations. This process was understood as a relatively loose theoretical frame, the empirical research of which can help us understand and clarify the views of the local community as to:

1. how the values and functions of the ruin are changing,
2. why there are dynamic and stagnation changes in their perception, and
3. why generation agreement of the local community is essential for the sustainability of the ruin.

As to methodology, the project uses triangulation of data at the level of:

1.) methodology of data collection (statistical findings, questionnaires, scaling, and ethnography),
2.) type of data (qualitative, quantitative, contextual),
3.) data analysis (mixed method), and
4.) data interpretation (heritage science, environmental, and economic)

Within the survey, a common 'friendly' user model of applying mixed methods was used. The largest potential is seen in the applied research in other localities of the RUINS project, as well as in the research within interdisciplinary teams (LeCompte & Schensul, 2013). The results of the field research will represent a live database, and will be available to numerous professionals, who may add expert opinions to them, based on their own research. Accurate, visualized, and localized findings will increase the value of the field research, and enrich the research towards the ideal link to operationalism and interpretativism. In designing the research, possibilities of free data access are highly values, as well as data sharing in freely-accessed databases (Bazeley, 2002). Researchers in the field of live cultural heritage make effort to create connected work stations of monitoring the perception of local communities to cultural heritage. Their significance, besides serving as an archive, analytical workplace and a network hub for sharing field databases, would be appreciated by individual experts in the field of sustainable cultural heritage, among researchers, educators, and/or students (Tesch, 1988).

7.2.2 Storing and archiving data

The findings from the field research as such is in fact limitless. A large scale of file formats may immediately be stored into the manager of primary documents, without limiting the compatibility of the files. The imported primary documents may be automatically catalogued by the computer, and further (after returning from the field research) annotated with new text, rearranged and redefined by experts. The time spent in the field research is thus limited to qualitative contextual findings, and detailed sorting of the primary documents into groups such as 'interviews', 'diaries', or 'observations' will be performed after data collection. Sorting will be done regardless the type of the file. The leading researcher will create a group of interviews which will represent a group of audio data, text, video, pictures, and schemes (Seale & Rivas, 2012).

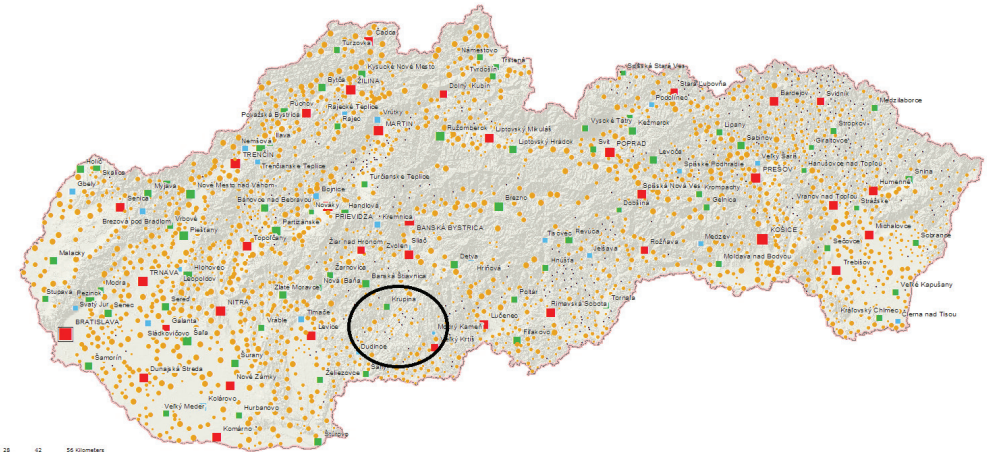
7.3 Characteristics of the settlement structure of the Hont region

The immediate surrounding of the Bzovík municipality in the Krupina, Hont region, Slovakia belongs among the least urbanized areas of Europe. As of December 31, 2014, the number of inhabitants in the Krupina district was 22,636, and the density of population reached 39 inhabitants per square kilometer. The ration of Slovak inhabitants living in urban areas only reaches 56 per cent. Of 2,891 Slovak municipalities, those with population lower than 1,000 inhabitants represent 67 per cent, while only 16 per cent of the whole country population live there.

The settlement structure of the Hont region can be characterized as largely fragmented, with a large proportion of small municipalities. Small municipalities in Slovakia are mainly concentrated in two regions, while the most significant area is in the southern part of Central Slovakia (The Basin of Southern Slovakia), where Bzovík belongs geographically. It is

Tabel 2 Size structure of rural municipalities in the South of Central Slovakia in 1996 (Source : Korec – Lauko – Tolmáči – Zubriczký (1997), The Government Office of the Slovak Republic (2004), calculations: Dušan Sloboda_ Characteristics of the settlement structure of Slovakia as a prerequisite to municipal reform, map Landscape Atlas of the Slovak Republic, online)

Size category (number of inhabitants)	Number (abs.)	Number (rel. in %)	Cumulative (%)
up to 199	81	24.5	24.,5
200-499	126	38.2	62.7
500-999	86	26.1	88.,8
1,000-1,999	32	9.7	98.5
2,000 an more	5	1.5	100.0
Whole territory 330,100.0	359	100	



a continuous territory of the municipalities in the districts of Veľký Krtíš and Krupina. The core of these districts lies in The Basin of Southern Slovakia, and has a better location potential with regard to relative closeness of larger cities (Bratislava, Budapest); however, it has not been and is not used and developed with a long-term perspective. This fact reflects in the demographic decline in the territory. Village/rural municipalities with a number of inhabitants lower than 1,000 represent 88.8 per cent of all settlements in this region.

7.3.1 The selected demographic indicators of the structure

In relation to live births and the size category of municipalities, we are observing that the largest number of live-born children in relation to number of inhabitants (10.88) is in municipalities of the population category between 2,000-4,999 inhabitants. At the same time, live births also decrease in the other direction, i.e. in smaller municipalities (with population lower than 2,000 inhabitants), which have different characteristics as to way of life when compared to large cities; however, the number of live births reaches similar values, i.e. the levels close to the mean value (MARENČÁKOVÁ 2001).

The long-term trend in low-level of birth rate in small municipalities further reflects in the ratio of pre-productive component of their population (less than 15 years of age) constantly decreasing, which will greatly affect the future reproductive potential in these municipalities. Behavior of small municipality population thus resembles patterns typical for urban population, even though this does not appear to be a result of similar lifestyle, but rather the differences in living conditions. Small municipalities are often unable to provide their inhabitants with necessary standard of living. Concentration of such municipalities in depopulation zones with a natural decline, passive migration balance, or a global decline in number of inhabitants it typical mainly for North-East, but also South of Central Slovakia. Populations of these municipalities are small in number; they are aging, and slowly dying out.

7.3.2 The current social and cultural characteristics with regard to development of cultural heritage

In the second half of the 20th century, during the time of industrialization and cooperative farming, the region oriented on manufacturing and agricultural production, with central planning of large enterprises. During the period of restructuring of the central economy, in the end of the 20th century, the then existing economic activities in small municipalities

virtually ceased to exist, along with the traditional opportunities for employment in the primary sector – agriculture or wooden industry, which were greatly reduced at the time. The dominant function in the Hont region was taken over by the residential function for the inhabitants who travel for work to other towns in Slovakia, and often even abroad. In such conditions, characterized by a lack of development of local municipalities, people are often subject to isolation, while their participation in municipality administration and management decreases greatly. This situation has a cyclical course, causes the increase in – mainly young – people leaving the region, decreases the birth rate, and leads to the increase in the proportion of older population.

7.3.3 The ability of the self-government to provide public services

In order for the local administration/self-government to be functioning optimally and effectively, and to achieve the vitality of the individual municipalities in the Hont region, the size of municipalities with regard to numbers of their inhabitants, and the structure of population, are extremely important. As to their size, the units are able to fulfill multiple tasks and functions, one of them being protection of cultural heritage. More functions of the local self-governments thus stimulate the increased interest of public in participating in administration of public matters. The ability to protect cultural heritage by the local municipality is greatly determined by the amount as well as the structure of their budget. In small municipalities, such as Bzovík, almost half of the budget accounts for administrative expenses, i.e. operating the local municipality office, as well as the mayor's income and the income of the members of local parliament. This means that such municipalities have limited capital expenses, and are therefore less likely to be able to invest into cultural heritage, as even financing their self-governing functions may often be problematic for them. Small municipalities have significantly higher unit costs for administration per capita when compared to more populated municipalities. This does not allow them to administer large grants aimed at the protection of cultural heritage.

Due to inappropriate conditions most of historical ruins represent places that are currently abandoned and are no longer maintained. However, their importance to various aspects of social and cultural life

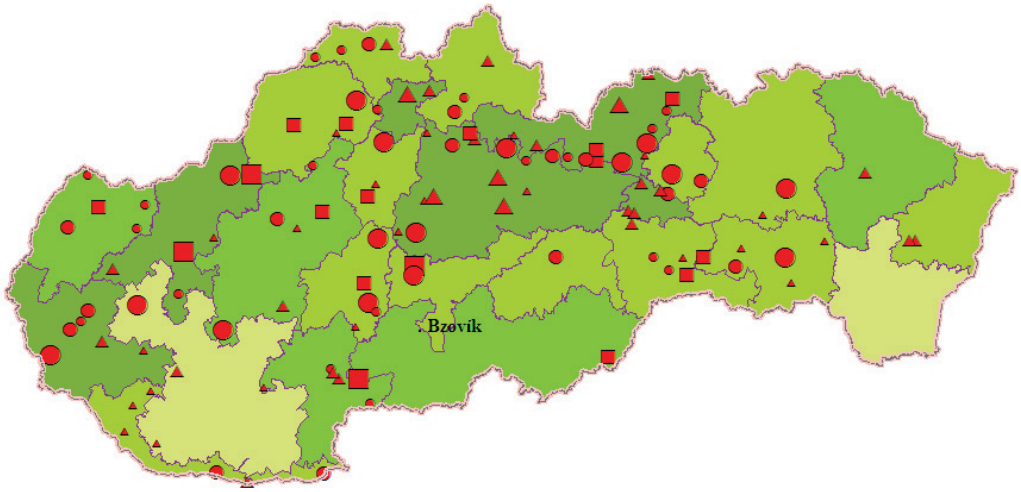


Figure 54 Localisation of Bzovik ruins in connectivity with main Slovak culture heritage localities. (The map is avaiable in Landscape Atlas of the Slovak Republic)

of local community is still significant. They are considered as potential heritage places and before any application of modern management decisions, it is important to take a closer look on the significance of a place for a local group. The paper therefore focuses on the role of cultural heritage.

7.3.4 The survey of the value of cultural heritage for the local community.

The first intention was to perform a local culture value inventory in Bzovík. However, due to depopulation of Hont region, a more efficient method proved to be a research of collective memory contents with the oldest generation. The structured interviews were supplemented by archived documentation in order for the research to continue in applique. The functions linked to revitalization were detected and collected in cultural domains. Subsequently, the processes and modes of generational transmission of ruins value were identified in order to ensure sustainability of the findings for next revitalization, and to find application in public argumentation. The heritage perception of the current generation has facilitated the acquisition of historical symbol and its dissemination in vertical and horizontal generational processes of passing the identities. Certain methods, such as storytelling, transmission through roles, or public encounters, are essential for further sustainability of ruins objects. The symbolic meetings of Bzovíčan (people living near ruins area), during celebrations and

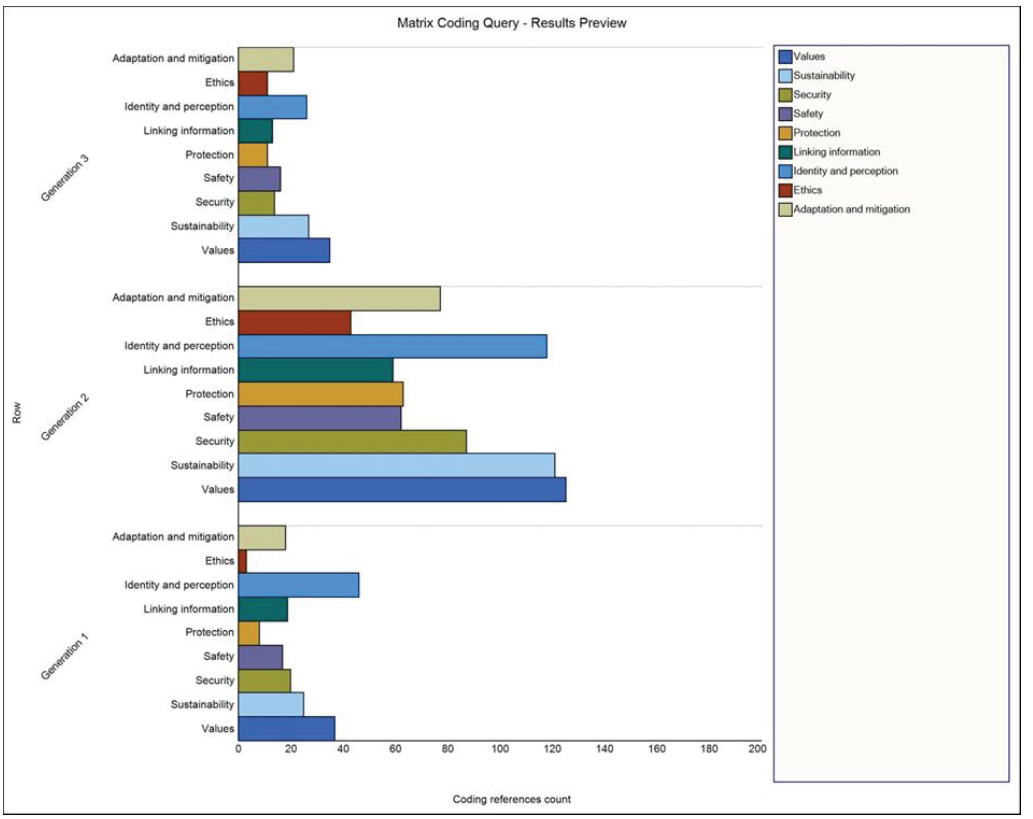


Figure 55 The plot of ruin values that need to be protected and should be preserved for present and future generations.

holidays led to a change of the native socio-communication function into the heritage sustainability argumentative function. The percipients of these symbolic references are local policies and economic plan makers.

For this plan was utilized qualitative-quantitative data from an anonymized questionnaire distributed to a sample of 1000 citizens of local population in the village Bzovik in central Slovakia. The purpose of the questionnaire was to obtain data regarding the connectivity of local inhabitants to place of cultural heritage and their attitude toward its maintenance. The survey, moreover, was focused on perception of cultural events in general, values that local people attribute to cultural elements and relevance of preservation of local culture for future generations. Authors have analyzed standard socio-demographics factors and three generations model of culture transmission.

The questionnaire included standard sociodemographic findings, such as gender (male, female), age (pre-productive age, productive age, post-productive age), and education (primary school, secondary school, higher education, PhD. study). 384 respondents participated in the survey, while 214 were male and 170 were female. Most of them were in the age between 18-65 and with primary education (115) or secondary education (206). The questions in the questionnaire were prepared according to specific character of research of cultural heritage in local conditions. The questionnaire consisted of two groups of questions. The first part consisted of five items and focused on perception of culture in local conditions. The second part was examining the local use and importance of the historic landmark. The self-administrated questionnaire survey was distributed by mail, and was fully anonymous as the identification data were unnecessary for the purpose of the research. The respondents were informed about the purpose of the survey.

The first question in the first group was investigating the respondents' general attitude toward the local culture, by following statements: The culture of my locality has no importance for me. The questionnaire used a 0-7-point rating scale on which 0 represented full agreement (absolutely true) and 7 represented total disagreement (not true at all). The second question looked at whether the respondent refuses to participate in cultural events in his/her locality; 0-7-point rating scale offered an opportunity to answer from 0 (absolutely true) 7 (not true at all). The third question was searching for importance of values and standards spreading in the locality. The importance or unimportance were measured by the 0-7 point rating scale. The fourth question asked if respondents wished that the cultural heritage of locality would be kept alive for the next generations, and used the same rating scale on which 0 stood for 'do not care at all' and 7 meant 'wish this very much'. The last question was searching for an answer if it would not be

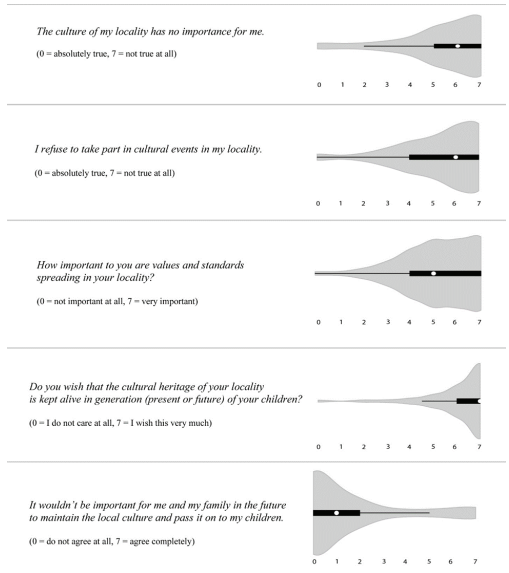


Figure 56 The questionaire results

important for the respondent and his/her family to maintain the local culture and pass it on to his/her children

For creating plots, we used open-source application BoxPlotR, which is a web-tool for generation of box plots that allows the user to customize the data.

The results of the study provide support for the local communities which are owners of ruins in the tested hypotheses.

Hypothesis 1. Local population, like all sociocultural groups, in connecting with heritage objects, have a culture-transmission motive for sustainability of ruins protection. The most direct evidence for this hypothesis is the high endorsement of the items asking for the importance of the local identities and the desire for cultural transmission.

Hypothesis 2. The culture transmission motive focuses on the values and norms of the local culture, as well as on reliable outward signs of cultural identity, in particular the ruins object. This hypothesis is supported by the high correlations of the items asking for the appreciation of and the desire to transmit values of ruins and norms for it protecting. .

Recommendation

Ways of contacting local communities with cultural heritage must be repeatedly recorded, by means of questionnaires and the follow-up interviews with all generations of the inhabitants.

The optimal methods of obtaining data are:

1) questionnaires distributed
   a) physically (n_{min}=400)
   b) digitally n_{min}=400/locality
   c) min. 60 structured interviews (Gen1=20, Gen2=20, Gen3=20)
   d) direct findings of responses to the analysis of managerial tools (5 questions),
   e) scaling of sustainability of passing the local culture among generations (5 questions).

We recommend this formulation of the questionnaire (a.,b.) which may be distributed in 4-year intervals, structure of interviews (c.) with the inhabitants, which may be carried out by non-profit organizations that are involved in restoration of the ruins, and 5+5 direct questions that may be published on the website of the municipality, while their evaluation may be performed by external institutions.

8 Activism and renewing of the ruins with the help of the unemployed

Volunteer work is first mentioned with regard to the renewal of the ruins are from 1980s. It was the program called *The tree of life*, working on the ruin of a Carthusian monastery Lapis Refugii deep in the woods on the Slovak Paradise National Park. The main reasons for these activities was secret meetings of catholic dissidents during the times of communism in Czechoslovakia.

After 1989 (end of the communist era) many ruins were either in bad condition or in an unfinished process of conservation, which was directed by the government or public administration. Those ceased to exist, and thus ownership became a problem, because of restitutions, i.e. returning the property to the original owners. Many ruins had an unclear ownership, or did not even exist on the cadastral maps. Enthusiasts ready to invest their free time and own resources became the main power in the effort to preserve some ruins, since many owners were underfinanced, or unauthorized state bodies, such as small villages, or the state-owned forest enterprise (which does not have the authority to invest its resources to monument protection), who often do not possess resources for reconstruction. First attempts focused mainly on maintaining the access to the ruins for the public through building tourist trails, and cleaning of greenery, while at the same time, the first experiments with works on the conservation are also starting at this time.

Among the first attempts belong the castles Sklabiňa and Čabraď, and the monastery Katarínka. In 2002, seven non-governmental organizations, who already has some experience with ruin renewal, established an association Let's Save Castles, which exchanges know-how and coordinates activities. Volunteer activities have attracted the attention of the Slovak Ministry of Culture, as some of them – under professional supervision – were very successful. In support of this work, the Slovak Ministry of Culture issued a new grant scheme focusing on these activities. The grant scheme is called 'Restore your house' and the sub-program is 1.4: 'Conservation of historical parks and architectonic areas in critical technical condition' better known as 'Conservation of Castles by the unemployed'. The pilot program began in 2011 at two ruin sites. After it became public, in 2012, it supported multiple new civic associations and municipalities which began the process of protection and renewal of many new localities. It should be understood that the association 'Let's Save Castles' have reached the number of 28 members, each of who represents a different ruin in the process of protection and renewal. Specification of the grant scheme is as follows:

Program purpose

- financial support for renewal of mainly large areas of architectonic heritage in critical condition
- activation of the long-term unemployed for the job market

Most important criteria – readiness

- completed projects (statics, architecture, etc.) and research (archeology, architectonic-historical, artistic-historical, etc.)

- documentation approved by the regional monument office

Program priorities

In order to obtain the grant, the monument must fulfill the following criteria:

- the object is in critical condition
- the object is located in an important tourist destination
- the object is located in a district listed on the government's list of less-developed districts

Program principle

The principle of financing this grant program is based on the participation of two governmental institutions:

- Ministry of Culture, which provides financial resources for the material, as well as the know-how, and
- Central Office of Labor, Social Affairs and Family, which finances human resources through the European Social Fund

Human resources

The workforce that is provided by the project may be divided into two main categories:

- non-qualified work – 'helpers', who are used for such work as digging, transport of material, mowing greenery, preparing mortar, etc.
- qualified work – bricklayers, carpenters, research assistants, etc.

A special category is the paid coordinator of the project who is responsible for the accounting, management of work, human resources, project reports, etc. The coordinator is only allowed if responsible for minimum of 8 workers of volunteers.

An advantage of this grant scheme is its combining the problematic of monument protection and care with the problematic of unemployment. By employing local people on the restoration works, it creates bonds between the monument and the local community. The grant provides finance for material, professional work, and human resources for manual work. A disadvantage is that the project is always framed for the current season, while for each new season, it is necessary to apply for a new subsidy. This application is time consuming and rather bureaucratic and consumes a great amount of energy which may be invested into the process of renewal. Another disadvantage of this one-season framing is the inability to elaborate a work schedule for a longer time, since the assurance of continuity and the amount of the allocated financial resources does not exist. This may cause big problems with large objects by the work remaining unfinished due to the lack of finance. The unfinished work thus means that the original historical structures are facing degradation, or even that in fact it is not possible to plan a realistic time frame of finishing the construction work and determine when the locality can be used more as an education and cultural place.

8.1 Stakeholder management of cultural monuments

The problem of stakeholder management is substantiated within the conditions of cultural heritage, since it deals with the relations between the object of cultural heritage and the organizations and people who can influence its conditions with their decisions. The coining of the term stakeholder management dates back to 1984, when in the expert literature, the most important groups which have a certain influence on an organization were identified. The term stakeholder was first noted in 1960s, but the theoretical approach was only proposed and extended by Edward Freeman in 1984.

The model of ruin renewal as a form of activation works

The activation contribution is meant to support people in obtaining, maintaining, deepening or increasing knowledge, working skills, practical skills, or working habits in

order to increase the employment chances in the job market.

The amount is calculating as approximately **10%** of the minimum monthly wage.

The activation contribution is given to each member of the household:

- who has an income from dependent employment at least in the amount of the minimum monthly wage,
- who is listed as a job seeker and
  - increases his/her qualification by external study at high school a university and has not yet obtained the master's degree of university study,
  - participates in education and preparation for the job market, and projects according to the law No. 5/2004 of the Collection of Laws on employment services,
  - is of legal age and participates in activation works by smaller municipality service for the municipality, or in a form of smaller services for the self-governing region, organized according to the law No. 5/2004 of the Collection of Laws on employment services,
  - is of legal age and participates in smaller municipal services in the extend of min. 64 hours and max. 80 hours in a month, based on a written agreement between the office or the budgetary organization, or a contributory organization, the founder of which is the municipality,
  - is of legal age and participates in voluntary work, according to the las No. 406/2011 on voluntary work, in the extent of min. 64 hours and max. 80 hours in a month, based on a written agreement between the office and the organizer of the voluntary works, or
  - to who a parental contribution is paid, if studying at high school or university; this does not apply if the person has already obtained a master's degree of the university study.

Smaller municipal service for the municipality (village) or smaller services of the self-governing region according to the law on employment services, smaller municipality service and voluntary work may, according to this law, only be performed up to 18 consecutive calendar months.

Smaller municipality service or volunteering may, according to this law, be performed repeatedly no sooner that after 6 consecutive calendar months, which begin in the calendar month that follows the month in which the previous activity in smaller municipality services or volunteering of this person was performed and for which the activation contribution was paid.

Case Bzovík

For the first time in 2018, Bzovík took part in the project 'Conservation of Castles by the Unemployed'. The program brought in the first real jobs connected with the ruin. The municipality employed 15 people for seasonal construction jobs for the season spring-fall, while only one person was replaced on his own will. The project paid wages in the sum of 72.34% of the average wage in the country for unprofessional workers and 54.18% of the average salary in the country for professional workers. If the municipality eventually succeeds in acquiring funding through this program in following years, almost all of the workers are allowed to return to their position.

<u>15 employees divided into two groups participate in the works:</u>

1. professional worker – work description: masonry work, installation of hydro insulation elements, works for archeological and architectonic-historical research, movement of material, removal of greenery.

2. assistant worker – work description: digging, assistance at masonry work, assistance at archeological and architectonic-historical research, movement of material, removal of greenery.

The evaluation of the experience with the people employed on the project by the project coordinator:

'Work with the unemployed is difficult since it is normally people from bad social environment and with weak working habits. There is a problem with respecting the working time, and with some, also with work attendance. Quality of the work is rather general and largely depends of the individuals' skills and smarts. The workers must often be monitored. I think that with appropriate coordination of the project, it is possible to train these people in masonry work and other jobs needed at the site renewal, respectively they may improve their working habits and thus integrate better into the job market.'

Figure 57 Examples "Conservation of the Castles by the Unemployed" from Bzovík

8.1.1 Characteristics of the stakeholders and the methods of their identification and classification

The theoretical definition of the term stakeholder has been dealt with by many foreign and domestic scholars, while concluding that by stakeholder we should understand a group of individuals, an individual, or an organization who are or may be influenced by the activities, or, on the other hand, may in some way influence the object of their interest (Freeman, 2011). Stakeholders are representatives of the public or organizations whose interest is to integrate into the processes of protection and development of cultural monuments, because they are directly involved. They can raise or assess certain problems, as well as suggest proposals. Grouping of stakeholders derives from a specific situation of the cultural monument and the locality they are bound with. Therefore, a group of stakeholders is always different and unrepeatable, that being in the form of: individuals, inhabitants, groups of inhabitants, groups of entrepreneurs, public interest groups, industrial, trade, agricultural, medical and other local associations, non-governmental organizations and civic associations. With regard to the extent of the list of stakeholders, it is appropriate to divide this list into two groups according to different approach to their interest (Zelený et al., 2010): the group of primary stakeholders whose interest in the cultural monument is direct (mostly referred to as employees, customers, business partners, nearby communities, or suppliers), and the group of secondary stakeholders representing the public and the special interest groups whose interest in the monument is indirect.

In stakeholder management, we also distinguish a group of shareholders who Zelený et al. (2010) define as a group of shareholders, owners, or stockholders. It is a group of subjects who participate directly in the benefits from the cultural monument. To work with a diverse group of stakeholders, it is appropriate to divide them according to the spheres of interest into: group of business stakeholders (suppliers, customers, competitors, strategic partners, professional associations, and regulatory offices), social stakeholders (the public, media, labor unions and associations, NGOs, civic associations, and the community), environmental stakeholders (the public, NGOs, state administration bodies and self-governing bodies, civic associations, and the community), and the group of economic-financial stakeholders (investors, and financial organizations).

Bussard et al. (2004) define an inevitable components of stakeholder management to be the stakeholder identification, their expectations and need, as well as the tools for their appropriate satisfaction, and their involvement in the process of protection and renewal of the cultural monument. To fulfill the given goal, the owner of a cultural monument may use a group of questions that may vary according to the needs. The basic set of questions may, according to Drieniková, Hrdinová and Sakál (2011) determined as follows:

- Who do the legal obligations exist towards?
- Who may be positively or negatively influenced by the activities of the cultural monument?
- Who would be at a disadvantage if not involved?
- Who is affected by the value chain of the cultural monument?
- Who can help at determining the specific influences and direction of the cultural monument?

The created list of stakeholder is recommended by Zelený et al. (2010) to undergo an assessment according to chosen criteria, thus creating a group of key stakeholders who the owner of the cultural monument should cooperate with. Among the established criteria belong: influence, interest, direction, approach, power of competence, and authority. Freeman (2011) recommends including the criteria of

collegiality and competitiveness. Among the most frequently used criteria for classifying stakeholders are: power (which the stakeholder can use to influence the condition of the cultural monument), legitimacy of the relation to the object, and the urgency which the stakeholder uses to enforce his/her influence. A valid criterion may also be the fourth attribute – the proximity of the stakeholder to the object of cultural monument. In practice, there are several approaches and methodical procedures the aim of which is to identify the foundation of the relations and bonds between the organization (cultural monument) and its stakeholders, such as estimating the trend of its future development. The most frequent is the use of a so called stakeholder matrix (or a two-aspect system of classification, figure 67), in which we assess two indicators, as noted by Thompson. According to classification of the given stakeholder, we are able to perform the necessary activities in order to satisfy his/her needs.

cooperation (constructive, destructive, forthcoming, unapproachable, etc.).

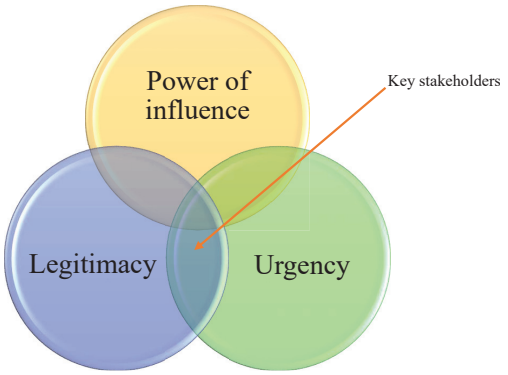


Figure 59 Three/aspect system of classifying stakeholders (Source: Zelený et al., 2010)

Three-aspect system of classifying stakeholders according to Mitchel, Agle, and Wood (1997) provides an opportunity to create 8 stakeholder groups:

THE EXPECTATION LEVEL	***high***	Inform adequately	Lead a dialog Participate in decision making
	Low	Answer the questions	Ensure satisfaction
		Low	***High***
		LEVEL OF INFLUECE ON THE ORGANIZATION	

Figure 58 The stakeholder matrix – two/aspect system of classification (Source: Steinerová, Makovski, 2008)

The second most frequently used tool of classifying stakeholders is the three-aspect system (figure 66) which uses three aspects, and thus enables determination of a broader and subtler scale of stakeholders. The most frequently used aspects, according to Zelený et al. (2010), are the influential power, legitimacy (legitimacy of requirements) and the difficulty level of requirements. Modification of this model substitutes the aspect of urgency of requirements by the aspect of assessment of the expectations approach of the stakeholder to potential

1. If the stakeholder does not possess any of the three attributes, he/she cannot be considered a stakeholder and should be excluded from the list.
2. Demanding stakeholders demand satisfaction of their requirements rather strongly, but with a low level of legitimacy and influence.
3. Stakeholders who possess the legitimacy attribute, but have a low level of the influential power and urgency of satisfying their requirements.
4. Stakeholders who have a rather high level of power influence, but possess

a low level of legitimacy and urgency of satisfying their requirements, and therefore their power remains unutilized.
5. Stakeholders with a combination of legitimate requirements which they urgently require to be met, but have a rather low level of power influence. These stakeholders are dependent on the other stakeholder groups.
6. Quite 'dangerous' stakeholders due to a combination of their high power influence and urgency they use to demand their requirements, but with a low level of legitimacy.
7. Stakeholders with a combination of legitimate requirements with a rather high level of influential power, but with a low urgency to meet these requirements.
8. Key stakeholders who possess all attributes. The requirements of the given stakeholder group should be given preference.

The goal and the mission of stakeholder management is not only to understand and classify stakeholders of a cultural monument, but also to achieve a mutually beneficial cooperation and communication between the cultural monument and its stakeholders. The process of identifying and classifying stakeholders should therefore be understood and performed as a tool enabling the achievement of this goal, as well as the approaches and ways to cooperate and communicate with the individual stakeholders (Zelený et al., 2010).

8.1.2 Key stakeholders of a cultural monument

With regard to the conducted pilot studies of stakeholder management of cultural monuments, we recommend focusing on the following groups of key stakeholders:

1. **Owners of the cultural monument** – this may be the local self-government, Monument Office, or other regulatory offices, government, Ministry, Public Administration Office, or a natural/ other legal person. In case of the Bzovík monastery, the owner of the cultural monument is the Bzovík municipality. The regulatory body, under the administration of which the given cultural monument falls, is the Banská Bystrica Regional Monument Board.
2. **Potential users** – stakeholders who the cultural monument should primarily serve: inhabitants, tourists, visitors, local school, various associations (cultural, historical, sports). The Bzovík monastery is actively used by the Bzovík elementary school and the village kindergarten, local inhabitants, mostly of younger age, for recreation purposes. Rarely, it is also visited by tourists.
3. **Entrepreneurs** (local, regional) – those who operate in different areas/ industries that somehow relate to the cultural monument: tourism (and other) service providers, local food producers, winemakers, rental companies, etc. In case of the Bzovík monastery, the given group of stakeholders is rather undersized as to quantity. The municipality lacks in a number of subjects providing catering and accommodation services, and tourism in the village is stagnating.
4. **Cooperating subjects –** those who participate in enhancing and developing the cultural monument within individual projects: cultural institutions, NGOs, grant agencies, research institutions, universities, other experts in the field of cultural heritage and nature protection, local associations (e.g. a voluntary fire brigade), sponsors and donors. The owner of the Bzovík monastery ruin uses the grant agency of the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic named 'Let us renew our house' to fund the renovation. The Civic Association 'Under the Bzovík Castle' actively participates in the monument's reconstruction.
5. **Suppliers** – those who supply material needs for restoration and conservation of the historical monument (construction

or restoration firms), as well as finance (investors, banks and other financial institutions).

6. **Stakeholders from reference markets** – micro-region, travel agencies, tourist and information centers. The Bzovík municipality belongs to the micro-region Krupina Plain. The local action group named Hont-Novohrad Partnership actively participate in local happenings and events.

8.1.3 Involvement of stakeholders in cultural monuments

The fundamentals of stakeholder management are seen in creating an adequate strategy for including stakeholders into the process of protection, restoration, and revitalization of a cultural monument. Establishing a dialogue, according to Nezhyb, Heydenreich et al. (2006) represents an open way outwards, manifesting a real interest in stakeholders' opinions, and an effort to consider them. In practice, creative forms of stakeholder participation are used. Here, the actors are not only passive users of the cultural monument, but they become the bearers and co-creators of revitalizing the cultural monument. To admit and apply the active participation of stakeholders in the process of cultural monument creation requires implementation of appropriate methods, procedures, and tools. According to the type of stakeholder, character of the cultural monument, and the project that would be implemented, different measure of participation is applied. This may be in a form of information, consultation, active participation, or social learning. Among frequently used methods belong: sociological empirical research, information campaign, survey, questionnaire, online form published on the cultural monument's website, public discussion, advisory committee, planning workshop, suggestion boxes placed at a visible and accessible place within the cultural monument, online discussion forum, or informal meetings with key stakeholders.

In order for the system of stakeholder participation to function effectively, and in order for it to benefit both sides, it must have a well-functioning communication system with good quality flow of information. Communication is understood as a system of mutual exchange of relevant information, as well as a system of guaranteeing the relevance of information, meaning relevance, from the content, time, addressing, and the form points of view, as well as the mutual understanding of requirements of both the cultural monument and the given stakeholder (Zelený et al., 2010).

Involving stakeholders is a process within which the owner of the cultural monument must specify the purpose of involvement, goals, and the involvement level, as well as the required resources. When identifying the purpose, it is essential to consider those activities, intentions and projects, which may benefit the cultural monument thanks to their implementation. In the context of the previous step, and with regard to the type of involvement (based on legislation of moral foundations), the organization should define main goals and the involvement level (Tab.3). At doing so, on the owners' side, it is important to determine the resources needed for their implementation (time, finance, space, human). A part of this step should also be the identification of potential risks and conflicts which the stakeholder involvement process could generate, and the preparation of ways and mechanisms for their elimination or restriction. It is a large scope of activities – from the introductory meetings, through elaboration of relevant documents and action plans, to reporting of these plans and outcomes.

Table 3 Level and objectives of involving stakeholders (Source: AA 1000 SES, 2010)

Level of involvement	Involvement goal	Character of relations
passive	No goals	No relations
monitoring	Monitoring of stakeholders	No relations
Informing	Informing stakeholders	'We will inform you'
Contracts	Cooperation based on a contract	'We will do what we agreed on'
Consultations	Feedback	'We will inform you, listen to you, consider your suggestions, and provide space for feedback of this process'
Involvement	Cooperation with stakeholders	Mutual understanding of the needs and requirements, feedback in decision making
Cooperation	Partnership	Specific cooperation in searching solutions and sharing challenges
Stakeholders play a role in managing the cultural monument	Delegating	'We will implement what you have decided'

Conclusions and recommendations

With regard to the conducted pilot studies of stakeholder management of cultural monuments, we recommend focusing on the following groups of key stakeholders:

a. Owners of the cultural monument – this may be local self-government, monument office, or other regulatory office, government, ministry, public administration office, a natural or other legal person.
b. Potential users – stakeholders who the cultural monument should primarily serve: inhabitants, tourists, visitors, local school, various associations (cultural, historical, sports).
c. Entrepreneurs (local, regional) – those who operate in different areas/industries that somehow relate to the cultural monument: tourism (and other) service providers, local food producers, winemakers, rental companies, etc.
d. Cooperating subjects – those who participate in enhancing and developing the cultural monument within individual projects: cultural institutions, NGOs, grant agencies, research institutions, universities, other experts in the field of cultural heritage and nature protection, local associations (e.g. a voluntary fire brigade), sponsors and donors.

e. Suppliers – those who supply material needs for restoration and conservation of the historical monument (construction or restoration firms), as well as finance (investors, banks and other financial institutions).
f. Stakeholders from reference markets – micro-region, travel agencies, tourist and information centers.

An important part of stakeholder management with cultural monuments is the identification and classification of stakeholders who may influence the condition of cultural heritage. With regard to this, we distinguish the positive and the negative influences. The positive relations manifests through active participation of stakeholders in the process of protecting and using the objects of the cultural monument. The negative relation includes problems with communication between the involved parties which results from disrespecting the legitimate rights regarding the cultural monument. Stakeholder management of cultural monuments therefore requires cooperation of the owner of the cultural monument with a large groups of key stakeholders. The cooperation of the owner with the key stakeholders should be based on the following recommendations, which correspond with the structure of the management plan of the cultural monument:

1. **Obtaining knowledge** – the results of a complex research of the cultural monument should include the technical condition of the monument, monuments research, natural science research, situating the monument into the landscape, safety of the monument, and other attributes, depending on the current (specific) state of the cultural monument. Cooperation between the owner of the monument and other organizations that contribute to its research is inevitable.
2. **State and local system of protection and management** – based on the legislative system of the country in which the cultural monument is located. For the owner, it is essential to cooperate with state and local authorities responsible for protection of the monument, who issue permits for its restoration and protection. Cooperation with local authorities must be reinforced, since state (national) authorities do not have a direct impact on the monument. In case of ownership of the cultural monument by the state or local authority (office or organization), the key partner becomes the local community, as the cultural monument is of collective property.
3. **Monitoring the locality** – regular monitoring of the cultural monument is important in order to preserve it. The identification of current and potential threats should be performed regularly by the owner, in cooperation with the competent cultural heritage offices.
4. **Use, presentation, development, and tourism** – use the cultural monument in line with its value and purpose. We recommend not to resort to mass utilization of the monument for tourism, since it is not a cultural attraction. In this process, it is beneficial to involve a rather large group of stakeholders on the owner's side, professional organization of heritage protection, and organizations operating in the tourism field, with participation of the local community.

9 Strategy of preservation and appreciation of the Bzovík ruin

Ruins in rural areas may be a great asset for the local development. They can be a reason for revitalization of the local environment, also with regard to nature. There is space for creating a heterogeneous relationship – ruin as a monument, and the green/natural space, or multifunctional space for relaxation, education, social, cultural or sports activities.

In the next section, we will focus on the opportunities to use the Bzovík ruin all year round, and possibilities to use it to benefit the development of the local municipality. **Our proposal is based on the current state of the locality, and does not count with a radical change within the area of the ruin, but rather plans to preserve the site for the future generations by appreciating its value. The proposal does not aim at creating a place for mass tourism or visitors, but rather at maintaining the ruin as a place that keeps its authenticity, and will serve the municipality, the micro-region, and the visitors as a relaxation place and an opportunity for gaining new experiences.** Our knowledge and proposal are based on secondary and primary sources which we used directly in the municipality during the empirical process within the project Interreg, i.e. personal interviews with the inhabitants of the village, the mayor and his administration, as well as the knowledge obtained during the project elaboration and communicating with the Regional Monument Office.

In the introduction, we will briefly describe the background situation in the structure – product of the municipality, its accessibility, marketing communication, personal situation, partnership, and the surrounding environment. Based on the SWOT analysis, we further propose such measures that will enable solving the current situation at the following three levels:

- the view of utilizing the area of the ruin,
- the municipality view, and
- the view of the micro-region Hont.

9.1 The current state

The Bzovík municipality (village) lies in the valley of the Krupinská Plain, 7 kilometers south-west of the district town of Krupina, with a direct road link to the town of Zvolen (35 km).

The area of the village is 1277.42 ha, with the agricultural land prevailing over the area of forest. It lies in the altitude of 380m, which – with regard to the climate change – may bring significant changes in fauna and flora, as well as problems with water.

The village is inhabited by 1,110 people.

9.1.1 The object of the municipality

The infrastructure of the municipality is the key factor for the development of the village in general, and also from the tourism point of view. The village had an elementary school, cultural community center, library, post office, football field, tennis court, grocery stores, and an inn (pub). What is lacking is catering and accommodation facilities. The closest towns

providing accommodation are Krupina, Zvolen, and Dudince.

The municipality is a home to one of the oldest architectonic monuments in Slovakia – the Bzovík fortress, originally build as a Benedictine monastery in 1131. In 1530, the original Roman monastery transformed into a Gothic-Renaissance fortress which was built to prevent the progress of Turks to Krupina and to the mining cities of Banská Bystrica, Kremnica, and Banská Štiavnica. The transformation of the monastery into a fortress stimulated the position of the Roman-Catholic Church of St. Steven in 1606. Inside, a Late-Gothic stone baptistery of a high value has been preserved. In front of the church, the Baroque stone statue of Immaculata was raised. In 1908, the fortress came to the ownership of private citizens, and began to be sold out. The estate ceased to exist and the architecture was abandoned and started to decay. At present, the owner of the fortress is the municipality. The archeological excavations from 1960s are placed in the Forestry and Wood Museum in Zvolen. Among the important personalities whose lives and work are tied to the village history are Dr. Štefan Moyzes, the first chair of Matica slovenská, and the linguist Martin Hattala. Establishment of the Fruit Association of the Bzovík district in the 19the century also belongs to the history of the village.

9.1.2 The accessibility of the municipality

The accessibility of the municipality is provided by road and rail transport**.** Road accessibility of the municipality is through the state road 526 Devičie – Bzovík – Senohrad, which connects to the E 77 and 66 roads leading to the Hungarian border. A railroad passes through the village, while the transportation is provided by passenger trains. The municipality is equipped with a bus station. Frequency of the bus connections is standard, however, for development of tourism it appears to be problematic, since it requires transfers and longer waiting periods. The village lies on the Hont cyclo-trail (Šahy-Detva).

9.1.3 Marketing communication

The presentation of the municipality on the internet site https://www.obecbzovik.sk/ is at a good starting level. The main content of the website fulfills the needs of a modern presentation of the municipality for different target groups, including visitors. It should be highlighted that the website presents the basic information about the points of interest, infrastructure, the accessibility to the village, etc.

At present, not all websites are filled with content and linking between the municipality website and other subject from the region are missing.

9.1.4 Partnership

The municipality is a member of the association of 25 municipalities of the micro-region Hont.

9.1.5 People and the municipality management

The new mayor of the village, elected in 2018, is involved in the municipality development and is interested in utilizing its historical potential. A few inhabitants are active and wish to participate in the village development – the most active groups are pensioners from the Union of Pensioners, and young people who organize events where the history of ruins is presented. These facts are essential for preservation and enhancement of the cultural and historical heritage in the region.

9.1.6 Surroundings

Several localities that are attractive for tourists may be found around the village, e.g. the Čabraď Castle, Hontianske Nemce (with its festival Hont Parade), the Modrý Kameň Castle (with the puppet and toy museum, and a popular chestnut festival), Sucháň (trumpeting stone, and the House of Traditional Living), Hrušov (museum), Príbelce (natural site Stone Woman).

9.2 The initial situation

The basic situation in the municipality with regard to the potential of ruins for the village development may be summarized as follows:

The municipality has a very interesting historical potential, and is located in a very pleasant natural environment. A big positive is the summary of knowledge about the village, its history, and (mainly) about the Bzovík fortress, within the Interreg RUINS project; the effort of the municipality administration to utilize its existing potential; cooperation within the micro-region Hont; the municipality website; pride of the local inhabitants about having the ruin in the village, and the interest of a group of inhabitants in its preservation and appreciation, as well as in the overall development of the village.

The biggest problem in the municipality appears to be the insufficiently developed infrastructure of tourism. We have identified several problems which prevent tourism from developing here: inaccessibility, the absence of accommodation and catering facilities, low awareness of the municipality, and the unused potential of the ruin along with the village history.

Table 4 The SWOT analysis

Strengths	Weaknesses
Bzovík fortress – one of the oldest architectonic monuments in Slovakia	The findings from excavation works are not in the municipality (they are in Zvolen), the village has no replicas
The ruin is a closed-in space with unique atmosphere	safety – the corridor in the ruin limits participation in the events
Partial reconstruction of the ruin –enables use of the ruin for refreshments, toilet, and the museum	Absence of basic infrastructure for tourism - no accommodation facility - no possibility for sleepover - no catering facility - rental service
Tradition of the fruit association	Insufficient use of the historical potential of the village
Accessibility by bus and train	Bus/train frequency
Accessibility by car – no busy traffic	Road transportation quality
Hontianska Cyclo-trail	Equipping the trail with road signs
	Orientation signs in the municipality
The fortress is in the municipality ownership	Lack of own financial resources
Interest of the local government in the municipality development	The land around the ruin is in private ownership
Website of the municipality	Lack of linking of the municipality website with other important websites
2020 – 885th anniversary of the municipality	
Active pensioners and the youth	Successive generation is missing
Pride of the municipality inhabitants as to history and the ruin	
The municipality has plans for parking	Accessibility - firefighters, ambulance
The municipality has a 3D visualization	
Opportunities	Threats
Information from the RUINS project	Not counting with development of the infrastructure in the municipality surroundings
Support from Banská Bystrica self-governing region	Insufficient support from the state government with regard to historical monuments
Norwegian financial mechanism	
Grants from the Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, and the Ministry of Economy	
Attractive nearby localities	
Micro-region Hont	
Website of the micro-region	Linking of websites
Activities of the micro-region	Absence of databases (entrepreneurs in the micro-region, typology of tourists, etc.)
Closeness of the Hungarian border	Insufficient foreign cooperation

As to the external environment, one of the positives is a very interesting surrounding of the municipality, while the problem is the lack of transportation accessibility.

9.3The foundations for creating the strategy

Transformation of the ruin into a multifunctional place should be a part of planning the local development, as a result of public discussion and evaluation of the current state in relation to a potential perspective. Our goal is to create a proposal through providing social and economic benefits and sustainable development for local rural community in the municipality and its surroundings. With this regard, in making the following proposal, we have considered the results of directed discussions performed with the representatives of the municipality, representatives of expert institutions (Monument Office Banská Bystrica) and the project partners, the relation local people have towards the ruin, traditions and their use, as well as our own knowledge and experience. These were analyzed and based on the identification of advantages and problems, we have prepared the following proposal to utilize the ruin of the Bzovík monastery/fortress.

The Bzovík ruin is an attractive and impressive place, and a symmetrical space which evokes an imagination of medieval times, the history of Ottoman attacks and defense against them. The wall of the fort can be walked on, which provides beautiful view of the surrounding nature, and the view of the courtyard of the ruin. The yard is dominated by the oldest parts of the building – the monastery and the chapel. Partial reconstruction of the bastion enables better use of the space. The ruin advantages should be used at events within its area or its immediate surrounding, as well as at individual tours of the ruin.

The ruin is owned by the municipality, while the surrounding land is, however, in hands of private owners. A disadvantage for the land owners is that the area around the ruin falls under a so called protection zone, which prevents the owners from utilizing and appreciating their land in value. This disadvantage may, however, represent an advantage for the municipality, which may rent the land (for a minimum fee) during organized events.

Vision:

Utilize the historical potential of the municipality and particularly Bzovik monastery ruins for sustainable development of the village all year round. Improvement of accessibility, strengthening branding and marketing activities together with targeted measures and cooperation of all relevant stakeholders will enhance tourism development in the municipality. The development will accelerate creation of new working positions and opportunities for entrepreneurship in the municipality.

The process of vision creation was conducted together with relevant stakeholders from the municipality, including mayor, municipality deputies, local entrepreneurs, local NGOs and local community and representatives from state and regional organizations. At first, the meeting with representatives of municipality, local community, citizens and entrepreneurs was organized in Bzovik. On this initial meeting, RUINS project, its vision, objectives and activities were presented. The purpose of the meeting was to organize wider discussion with all relevant stakeholders about their vision on further development of ruins in Bzovik and possibilities of tourism development related to ruins. Following meeting was organized at Matej Bel University with mayor and another deputy from Bzovik, local NGO, and representatives of Regional Monument Board. The purpose of this meeting was to verify the vision and possibilities of further tourism development based on ruins with relevant authorities. The final output of this meeting was harmonization of opinions as reached by local community with real possibilities of municipality and concerns

that might come from the side of relevant local, regional or national authorities. The final meeting was organized again in Bzovik in order to present the strategy of preservation and appreciation of the Bzovik ruin, discuss it with local community and representatives and modify it to its final version accordingly. In addition to the discussion groups, we discussed the development opportunities individually with a representative of the regional government and some committed individuals.

Goal:

Prepare an attractive offer (by the village) for entrepreneurship and free time activities for local people and village visitors, using the unique potential of the Bzovík ruin, which will fulfill all the needs and expectations of the target consumers.

Implementation:

Intensify the relation between ruins between the village and the local community, as well as the surrounding communities, in order to ensure better future for historical heritage and the development of the municipality and tourism in the village and the whole region.

9.3.1 Defining stakeholders and customers

Within planning, it is necessary to take account of building relationships with subjects that are not direct customers, but may significantly influence the use and development of the municipality and the area of the ruin.

1. In relation to the development of the ruin, it is necessary to establish and develop relationships with the following subjects:
   - The Regional Monuments Board
   - municipality representatives
   - Banská Bystrica self-governing region
   - Security forces – firefighters
   - Educational institutions focusing on regional development and tourism
2. The second important group is subjects cooperating on reaching new customers:
   - surrounding municipalities
   - members of micro-region Hont
   - Regional Tourism Organization
   - foreign cooperation
   - entrepreneurs, investors

Within strategic planning and marketing, defining the target market is the most important step. Target market should be seen from the view of needs, motives, and behavior of customers, and from the geographic point of view.

Target market:
- local,
- regional
- national
- international (V4)

Target segments:
- municipality inhabitants
- tourists
- schools
- inhabitants of the region
- other stakeholders – e.g. artists, sportspeople, historians

i. Character of tourism in the municipality

From the customer typology, forms and types of tourism can be identified.

Form of tourism:
- individual
- family
- group

Type of tourism:
- eco-tourism
- educational
- cultural
- active relaxation
- historical

- sports
- experiential
- gastronomical

9.3.2 Strategic measures at the level of marketing mix tools

Based on defining the target segments and strategic direction of development of tourism in the municipality and its surrounding, it is necessary to implement basic measures at the level of product, price, availability, marketing communication, partnership, and human potential.

1. Product:
- development of territorial infrastructure
- development of basic tourism infrastructure
- creating product packages
- creating frame for eco-tourism (zero-waste)
- development and marketing of products for tourism based on the following factors:
  * ruins and history
  * nature
  * traditions, habits
  * regional products
  * gastronomy (pig slaughter, donuts, fruit products, etc.)
  * cycling

2. Price:
- searching for possibilities to finance development activities
- adjust price policy according to the type of consumer and the target markets

3. Availability/Accessibility:
- Physical accessibility – car, train, bus, bicycle, hiking, road signs leading to the village and traffic signs inside the village
- Availability of information

4. Marketing communication:
- Building the brand based on the picture of medieval ruins
- integrated system of communication channels, with dominance of on-line media
- linking the web portals while achieving synergy

5. Partnership and people:
- exchange of knowledge
- creating databases for tourism market research, in order to identify the current, as well as the potential, customers and their needs
- creating databases for entrepreneurs in tourism, in order to build cooperation and achieve the synergy effect
- creating product packages that include Bzovík
- creating routes (information and transportation) leading to Bzovík

9.4 Proposal of a strategy of preserving and appreciating the Bzovík ruin in the context of tourism development

The proposed strategy is a summary of various alternative proposals of utilizing the potential of the municipality, which may be implemented gradually as a whole, depending on the development of market supply and the interest in creating an adequate offer, or with regard to choosing several alternative proposals.

9.4.1Strategy of product development

The goal of the product strategy is to create product packages at the municipality level and in cooperation with the Hont micro-region, which will attract customers into the village.

At the primary stage, since there is no accommodation facility in the municipality, we assume one-day tourism, which could later extend to 2-3 days. The conditions for

tourism development in the municipality is finishing the tourism infrastructure. In order for the municipality to offer accommodation and catering services, there must be a demand for these. To create demand, it is necessary to prepare an attractive offer which will attract tourists to the village. Strategy of product development is divided into two levels, the first being formed by proposals focusing on customers – local inhabitants and tourists, and the second by proposals to complete the basic infrastructure.

Infrastructure of the ruin

1. Create the basic infrastructure in the area of the ruin – wine cellar/store selling regional wines, fruit liqueur and spirits in the Bastion, (with regard to the tradition of the Fruit Association), buffet with fast food, restrooms, rear area with folding tables and chairs, or even sunshades (in cooperation with companies whose drinks will be sold, while respecting the esthetics of the environment).
2. The area around the ruins is rather neglected. The part which is owned by the municipality should be revitalized. One of the options is to create a suitable space for planting low fruit trees or flowers, e.g. as a family activity – children plant with their parents, grandparents, or the activities of parents of the newborn. The planted trees will be tagged with a name tag of the child/family. Considering the long-term view, it is necessary to provide maintenance of the greenery in the area and around it.
3. Establish an exposition of artifacts – in the bastions within the ruins, or in the community center, by the church or at the municipality office – that were found during archeological works. The artifacts may be replaced by their replicas, or completed with artifacts that describe the life in the past, traditional costumes, tools, etc.
4. Build an educational trail around and on the fortification (history, fauna, flora, etc.).
5. Create a system of renting the land properties around the ruins for the purposes of the organized events – for a minimum fee or as a counter-service – their continuous maintenance by the municipality.
6. Build cascade seating in the moat around the ruin, alternatively a podium, to be used for projections on the walls of the ruin, etc.

Events and activities

1. Create an **all-year offer of events** which will provide knowledge and experience, or relax at a historical site to tourists and local inhabitants, while at the same time forming the relationship of the local community towards historical and cultural heritage. Some events may be of a non-commercial character, and according to the interest, they may later by commercialized, e.g. as paid events (entry tickets) or by paying for material products. We propose the following types of events:
   a) social – for children and families with children (games, competitions),
   b) thematic – throughout the year the municipality may organize events in the area of the ruin
   – Easter – making Easter eggs, competition for the most creative one
   Easter decoration, looking for candy, eggs
   – building the May tree, love mail – sealing letters,
   – Children's day – competitions, walk through fairy tales, history, etc.
   – Halloween – the largest pumpkin competition, the most beautifully carve pumpkin, the best pumpkin seeds, sale of pumpkin seeds, etc.,
   – Christmas – Christmas mail – sealing letters to St. Nicolas, best Christmas decorations, etc.
   – New Year – New Year's punch, competition, fruit spirits tasting, etc.
   c) cultural

- music (classical, rock, alternative) – children amateur musicians, professionals
- theater – e.g. school performances
- film and photography – history, nature, Turkish attacks,

d) historical
- traditions
- folklore performances
- Middle Age life examples (historical fencing, hawkers, weddings, feasts, slang, etc.)

e) sports – parkour, treasure hunt
f) gastronomical – wine festival, fruit spirits and liqueurs, home-made products
g) modern technologies and history

2. **Create educational activities:**
   h) in cooperation with the local school or other nearby schools, or within the Hont region, build the relations of children to the regions/village through experiential learning in the area of the ruins (history/art),
   i) organize summer schools - archeology, architecture, photography, painting, etc.
   j) organize summer schools of traditional crafts – wood, stone, cloth, etc.

The results of the graduates of the summer schools should be used in restoring the area of the ruins (shingle, plaster) or for completing the atmosphere (statues, pictures). Organize the exhibition of works..

3. **Municipal events**: use the area of the ruin to organize municipal events – various jubilees, anniversaries, senior citizens, weddings, memorable events, etc. Increase the awareness of people about the importance and value of the ruin during the events
4. **The veteran show**: ensure that veteran cars passing through the village stop in the village on a regular basis.

Interactive tourist trail – for hikers and bikers

1. Build a train which would present the local history, fauna, flora, local farmers, etc. It would serve as a place for active relax, sport, and education.
2. Build a one-day hiking trail which would connect all similar localities (with ruins in the municipalities) in the surrounding areas.
3. Following this, build a longer train for hikers and bikers. A good foundation is provided by http://www.cyklovylet.info/cyklotury-slovensko/cyklo-sledovanie-turkov-v-lesoch-hontu/.
4. Road 66 Dudince – Banská Štiavnica

Accommodation

1. The absence of accommodation in the municipality is a serious barrier to a more dynamic development of tourism in the village. The situation should be solved at the municipality level and in cooperation within the micro-region. Until the situation in the village is solved, information about alternative accommodation should be presented on the municipality website.
2. Provide accommodation capacity or space for mobile campers or tents, and establish an online booking system for private subjects which provide accommodation, e.g. though Airbnb.
3. After building accommodation facilities: create a 2-day and a 3-day program package for the visitors of the village.

Catering

4. Municipality should search possibilities to create conditions for opening a restaurant or any other catering facility in the village.

9.4.2 Strategy of marketing communication

The goal of the marketing communication strategy is to create a picture of an attractive offer of the municipality, which will address the target markets and will attract them to arrive here.

At present, tourists, but also people or business people search the information about localities and their offers rather independently; tourists frequently do it without cooperating with a travel agency. Therefore, the demand for good quality information on the internet is rising, the information being offered through applications or self-service facilities, or at least though information panels.

Therefore, within communication strategy, we propose to focus on two basic areas – availability of information about the offer of the municipality and its surrounding, and brand building.

Publishing the outcomes of the project

1. The outcomes of the project, mainly the knowledge related to ruins, which may be interesting for the municipality inhabitants /teachers/experts should be summarized and published in such form that will find its reader, possibly on the municipality website.
2. The information gathered during the project related to history, fauna, flora, etc. should be shared through print and electronic media with the visitors, local community, neighboring villages, and the Hont micro-region.
3. With regard to promotion and education, an audio / film / book/ folding picture book/ or comics should be created about the history and the importance of the village with regard to the region, including legends, stories, and fairy tales.

The internet website of the municipality

4. Presentation of the municipality on the internet is at a good starting level. After completing the content and linking all other websites, the municipality may have a fully functional modern web page. Linking of the municipality website to:
   - http://www.cyklovylet.info/cyklotury-slovensko/cyklo-sledovanie-turkov-v-lesoch-hontu/
   - https://www.regionhont.sk/
   - Regional Tourism Organization
   - Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic
5. Calendar of events – create and publish an online calendar of events of the municipality, with the linking to the calendar of events in the Hont micro-region.
6. Application – creating a free app enabling virtual tour around the ruin. The form of the tour may be educational or entertaining (e.g. treasure hunt). The app should contain history, 3D model, pictures of the archeological findings, etc.
7. Animation – in relation to the history of the ruin and the village, animation of the municipality development in time should be created (video projection), based on the current knowledge, using the stories and legends (3D animation and the animation as a fairy tale for children).
8. Animation and the content of the application can be further used on the municipality website.
9. When creating the applications and the websites, the following criteria must be taken into account:
   - quality and balance between text and pictures,
   - technical compatibility with different types of electronic devices
   - quality visual content
   - interactivity
   - language accessibility
   - simple navigation for users of different ages
   - regular updates of the web sites
   - functionality of the websites
   - Even if we not do assume development of mass tourism in the municipality, we propose creating language mutations of the website in English, Hungarian, Polish, or Russian

Brand building – creating a unified identity while utilizing the potential of the ruin as the main message.

Creating a brand for the municipality is not an easy task. It is an advantage, that the picture of the Bzovík monastery ruin is already used, e.g. by the website providing information on cyclo-tourism in the micro-region. In case the municipality decides to build its own brand, it is essential to create it with regard to the knowledge obtained from the project, and based on the proposed measures, but also according to the development of the situation with the target customer market, as well as the service provider. At this phase, a preparatory process should start, i.e. preparing activities that may bear the new municipality brand.

- Branding is related to awareness campaigns in order for it to be made more visible.
- We propose cooperation with the micro-region and the campaign to be organized through mass media and social networks (through news and events, activities, etc.)
- Good branding is fundamentally based on presentation of the mutual value within the micro-region, and the municipality's role within.
- The municipality is not a frequently sought destination, therefore, part of the information should be of *'what I can experience in the village and its surroundings'* character.
- Integration of information – linking those websites which mention the municipality and the ruin for more effective presentation.

9.4.3 Strategy of accessibility

Problematic accessibility is considered a barrier in development of tourism, but also for the development of the municipality in general. *The goal of the strategy of accessibility is to improve the physical accessibility and availability of information.*

Availability of information

- Information about the municipality and the micro-region should be raised to a national level. National and regional institution should be leaders in updating the relevant information. This, however, requires, a certain technical and technological harmonization of the systems, simplification of the access to the websites and to the information in genera.
- Within the region, initiate creating an interactive tourist map with the information about the region, and with visualizations of the environment. A section of the portal may be commercialized by placing in the information about commercial products, services, etc.
- Until tourists become sufficiently aware of the municipality, it would be appropriate to address travel agencies (e.g. via email), publish at web portals such as TripAdvisor, in cooperation with the Hont micro-region.
- At the entry to the ruin, it is necessary to set up an information center, the goal of which will be to sell tickets, souvenirs, and to rent technical equipment and provide technical support (e.g. for the application).
- With regard to a rather limited accessibility, the information about the municipality should be in a recommendation format, e.g. bus/train schedule, or '*how to get to different directions from the village, or how to use time in between.*

Physical accessibility of the municipality

- In cooperation with the municipalities that lie on the cyclo-trail, establish bike rental places, e.g. at rail or bus stations (working position)
- Provide better road signs leading to the village on the main routes.
- Provide better road signs in the village – signs for the ruin, church, pub, grocery store, etc.
- The analysis of the transport connections to the village clearly shows the importance of lobbying for simplifying traveling, at least within the high season.

Physical accessibility of the ruin

- Finish the access and exit roads to the ruin
- Finish the parking lot.

9.4.4 Strategy focusing on cooperation, partnership and use of human potential

The goal is to ensure sustainable cooperation between the municipality administration and the subjects in the village, as well as in the micro-region, which is inevitable for implementing the overall strategy.

- For the development of the municipality and tourism within, it is essential that stakeholders have access to relevant information about who, when, and why comes to visit the place. Knowing the current and the potential customers enables creating a targeted offer and efficient marketing communication.
- For the municipality, however, this is a difficult task, therefore, as a member of the Hont region, it should initiate creation of a database for the whole micro-region.
- Inside the municipality or in cooperation with micro-region Hont, create a database that provides information about the number of visitors, as well as their needs and expectations, e.g. in a form of blogs, or through Facebook.
- Deepen the cooperation between municipalities and entrepreneurs within the Hont region.

From the demographic point of view, there are 3 main groups of people living in the municipality, while their relation to the ruin is different:

1. Those with the relation to the ruin – mainly representing the older generation, especially members of the Union of Senior Citizens. They participate in activities in the municipality, possess knowledge and skills which may be passed on to the next generations, have time, sentiment, and the effort to disseminate their knowledge to the younger generation;
2. Those in the productive age – many are interested but have no time. Part of this group possess skills that may be utilized in entrepreneurial activities in the village;
3. Younger generation – a small part is interested and participate in activities, and others have no interest, but, on the other hand, they travel, have knowledge, online skills, and are not demanding as to conditions, which should be fully utilized;
4. The municipality administration (local government) – have interest, and may coordinate, as well as initiate the activities.

9.4.5 Strategy focusing on the price

The goal is to search possibilities to finance development activities in the municipality focusing on preservation and appreciation of the ruin, and promoting an attractive price policy for customers.

And important role of the municipality is to search possibilities to finance the developing activities that focus on the preservation and appreciation of the ruin, along with attracting new customers. Financial resources may be accumulated from different sources:

- Resources of the municipality (those obtained from local taxes and fees of entrepreneurial subjects, renting the area of the ruin, entry tickets for the events, parking, resources earmarked within the municipality budget, etc.)
- External resources (European Social Fund, EU grants, Norwegian funds, Swiss grant scheme, Regional Tourism Organization, Banská Bystrica self-governing region, Hont micro-region, etc.)

– Resources obtained from customers (indirectly, through earnings of the entrepreneurs, or directly, entry tickets, parking, rental, etc.).
– The land around the cultural monument, which lies in the protective zone, cannot be appreciated in value by their owners. The municipality may rent this land to third parties when organizing events, in cooperating with the owners, which will be mutually advantageous for all involved.

For successful implementation of the project, it is essential that the municipality and the inhabitants of the village
– understand the importance of the ruin as an opportunity for social and economic benefits and development of the village,
– accept solutions which ensure sustainable protection and value appreciation of the ruin,

The first step could be the integration of the 'voice' of local community and the experts working for the Interreg RUINS project, which has provided invaluable source of knowledge for experts, policy creators, and anyone who is interested in using ruins within rural environment.

We are aware of the fact that without the existence of local community's relation towards this heritage, it is impossible for it to be further protected and developed. Based on the conducted interviews with the local inhabitants and municipality representatives, we can state that there is interest in using and protecting the ruin. With this in mind, we have prepared a strategy of preservation and value appreciation of the Bzovík fortress, which actively uses the cultural and historical heritage of the municipality and its surroundings. Gradual implementation of the proposed suggestions – based on the availability of financial resources, interest and involvement of entrepreneurs, but mainly customers, could lead to developing entrepreneurial activities in the municipality and thus creating new working positions, which will result in the improvement and development of the municipality.

10 The action plan

Objective 1	Development of basic tourist infrastructure
Project 1.1	*Accommodation facilities*
Description	Create accommodation offer based on existing resources
Actions:	Create a portal with information on accommodation in the village with regard to the activities in the municipality.
	Create opportunities for building accommodation facilities – in the nature, private, etc.
	Establish and implement an online booking system – accommodation, entry tickets, rental services.
Parties involved	municipality, citizens, micro-region in cooperation with the municipality
Financial resources	municipal or grant application from ESIF or other agencies (e.g. EEA grants)
Expected results	increased number of tourists overnights, empowering tourist offer by exploitation of local resources that might bring benefit to local community through starting their own business in tourism sector
Results indicators	Accommodation portal with existing and attractive offer for tourists
Project 1.2	*Catering services*
Description	Establish catering services
Action	Create opportunities for providing catering services (building facility) in the municipality.
Parties involved	municipality, local entrepreneurs
Financial resources	own
Expected results	increased number of tourists, improvement of the offer of services for inhabitants of the municipality
Project 1.3	*Rental services*
Description	Create rental services offers
Action	Map the possibilities for providing rental services in Bzovik and/ or in the region
Parties involved	micro-region in cooperation with the municipality, destination management organisations (local, regional)
Financial resources	regional
Expected results	increased number of tourists, start-up of local business that will contribute to increasing local GDP

Objective 2	**Improvement of accessibility**
Project 2.1	*Improving the access to information*
Description	Overall improvement of access to information about Bzovik
Actions:	Websites in English (forum, trips, accessibility)
	Information about the municipality and the micro-region should reach the national level
	Initiate creation of an interactive tourist map with information about the region.
	Entering existing tourism platforms (e.g. TripAdvisor, Booking, Airbnb, etc.)
	Building the information centre
Parties involved	municipality, micro-region, destination management organisations (local, regional)
Financial resources	own
Expected results	increased number of tourists
Results indicators	higher number of tourists
Project 2.2	*Finish the access and the exit road to the ruin and the parking lot for tourists*
Description	Bzovik ruins requires improvement of basic infrastructure for entering ruins
Responsible	municipality
Financial resources	own
Project 2.3	Improving the accessibility of Bzovik and simplification of travelling for tourists
Description	For enhancement of tourism development it is necessary to improve the accessibility of Bzovik and simplify travelling in and out
Actions:	Improving the accessibility – roads public transport
	Improving road signs
	Establish bike rentals at rail and/or bus stations
	Negotiate simplification of traveling (at least within the high season)
Parties involved	municipality, micro-region, destination management organisations (local, regional), local transport providers
Financial resources	local and regional
Expected results	increased number of tourists, cultural and economic valorisation of Bzovik ruins
Results indicators	higher number of tourists
Objective 3	**Branding**
Project 3	Building the brand Bzovik
Description	For enhancement of tourism development it is necessary to build the brand Bzovik
Actions:	Increasing the knowledge of the village and the region – publish the outcomes of the project

	Finishing the website of the municipality, linking it to social networks and the related web portals
	Creating common identity
	Calendar of events in the municipality – create and publish an online Calendar of Events in the Municipality linked with the Calendar of events in the Hont Micro-region.
Parties involved	municipality, micro-region, destination management organisations (local, regional),
Financial resources	local and regional budget
Expected results	strengthening marketing activities of Bzovik
Results indicators	increased interest in Bzovik ruins, increased number of tourists
Objective 4	**Product development**
Project 4	Development of tourism product Bzovik ruins
Description	Creating overall tourism product Bzovik and related tourist package/s
Actions:	Development of basic ruin infrastructure – restrooms, refreshments, later a restaurant and revitalizing the area inside and outside the ruin
	Opening a mini-exposition in ruins
	Creating an educational trail
	Gradual implementing educational activities
	Organizing municipal activities/events at the site of the ruin
	Gradual implementation of tourism products – events and activities
	Gradual building of one-day and more-day interactive hiking trail
Parties involved	municipality, micro-region in cooperation with the municipality, local citizens and entrepreneurs, destination management organisations (local, regional),
Financial resources	local and regional budget, private resources from local entrepreneurs
Expected results	empowering local supply and improvement quality of life in Bzovik, widening tourism services and supporting development of tourism, cultural and economic valorisation of Bzovik ruins
Results indicators	higher number of tourists, higher level of satisfactions with wider supply of tourism products

Objective 5	Cooperation
Project 5	Improvement of cooperation among relevant stakeholders
Description	It is necessary to intensify the relationship between the ruin in the municipality and the local community, as well as other nearby communities, in order to be able to reach the better future for the historical heritage, its protection, valorisation and subsequently the development of tourism in the village and its surroundings.
Actions:	Support of cooperation among all relevant subjects within the municipality (the administration, local MPs, Union of Senior Citizens, the Church, entrepreneurs, inhabitants, school, etc.)
	Support of Public Administration for cooperation – intensifying cooperation with nearby cities and the Self-governing region in the field of tourism
	Cooperation with relevant universities
	Intensifying foreign cooperation
Parties involved	municipality, Hont micro-region, Banská Bystrica self-governing region, , local citizens and entrepreneurs, destination management organisations (local, regional), regional universities
Financial resources	local and regional budget, micro-region
Expected results	improvement of cooperation among relevant stakeholders in Bzovik and wider region, social inclusion
Results indicators	Development of tourism in Bzovik and its surroundings

10.1 Description of activities, opportunities and needs relating to development of tourism based on visiting the object

Goal:
To create an attractive offer for entrepreneurial activities in the municipality, and provide opportunities to spend free time for local inhabitants and visitors, by using the uniqueness of the Bzovík ruin/fortress, which will fulfill the needs and expectations of the target consumers.

Implementation:
Intensify the relationship between the ruin in the municipality and the local community, as well as other nearby communities, in order to provide for better future for the historical heritage and the development of tourism in the village and its surroundings.

Target stakeholders:
- Regional Monuments Board
- municipality representatives
- Banská Bystrica self-governing region
- security forces – firefighters
- educational institutions focusing on regional development and tourism
- neighboring villages/municipalities
- members of the Hont micro-region
- Regional Tourism Organization
- foreign cooperation
- entrepreneurs, investors

Target market:
- local,
- regional
- national
- international (V4)

Target segments:
- inhabitants of the municipality

– tourists
– schools
– inhabitants of the region
– stakeholder groups, e.g. artists, sportspeople, historians

Form of tourism:
– individual
– family
– group

Type of tourism:
– ecotourism
– educational
– cultural
– active
– historical
– sport
– experiential
– gastronomical

Conclusion and Recommendations

Strategic measures at the level of marketing mix tools
Based on the definition of target segments and the strategic direction of tourism development in the village and its surroundings, it is necessary to implement fundamental measures at the level of product, price, availability, marketing communication, partnership, and human potential.

1. Product:
– development of territorial infrastructure
– development of the basic tourism infrastructure
– creating product packages
– creating the frame for eco-tourism (zero-waste)
– development and marketing of products for tourism based on the following factors:
* ruins and history
* nature
* traditions and customs
* regional products
* gastronomy (pig-slaughter, home-made donuts, fruit products, etc.)
* cycling

2. Price:
– searching for possibilities to finance development activities
– adjust price policy according to the type of consumer and the target markets

3. Availability/Accessibility:
– Physical accessibility - car, train, bus, bicycle, hiking, road signs leading to the village and traffic signs inside the village
– Availability of information

4. Marketing communication:
– Building the brand based on the picture of medieval ruins
– Integrated system of communication channels, with dominance of on-line media
– Interconnecting the web portals while achieving synergy

5. Partnership and a human:

- exchange of knowledge
- creating databases for tourism market research, in order to identify the current, as well as the potential, customers and their needs
- creating databases for entrepreneurs in tourism, in order to build cooperation and achieve the synergy effect
- creating product packages that include Bzovík
- creating routes (information and transportation) leading to Bzovík

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