

DELIVERABLE D.T3.1.2

Transnational Strategy part SLOVENIA -
MUNICIPALITY OF KOČEVJE

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1. CHARACTERISATION OF THE PILOT SITE

The pilot site includes movable and non-movable cultural heritage. Built cultural heritage is the main part of the pilot site. We have included also the provincial museum which is located in a significant cultural heritage building and houses many important collections of movable cultural heritage.

Historical buildings positioned along the main town street in Kočevje are typical designs of Secession architecture. All addressed buildings present villas for middle-class inhabitants, built in the late 19th and early 20th century. What the respective buildings have in common is their relatively moderate exterior, with the most prominent element being the architectonics of windows and window frames. The buildings are of historical and cultural value for the Municipality of Kočevje. In the past, these were the places of inns, villas, homes and also a grammar school. Some buildings have preserved their function (grammar school), while others have been renovated to pursue business and tourist activities.



Figure 1: Built cultural heritage along Ljubljanska Street which are part of the pilot site.

A special example is Marijin dom located at Ljubljanska cesta 26. It was once a cloister, and between the First and the Second World War also served as a hospital. Currently the building houses the offices of the Municipality of Kočevje, national administrative unit and local court.



Figure 2: The municipal house at Ljubljanska street 26 which is part of the pilot site.



An additional building to the pilot site is the provincial museum. The museum building is an extremely vital monument of the Slovene statehood. It was built in 1936/37 as a Sokol House. It was intended as a multi-purpose building with a large central gym - a hall with a theatre stage and side rooms. From October 1-4 1943, an assembly of the emissaries of the Slovene nation took place in the building. They were the first directly elected representatives of an occupied nation in Europe during the World War II. After World War II the building was renovated and renamed to Šeškov dom, after the national hero Jože Šeško (1908-1942). In the years 1992-1999 there was a thorough renovation of the building which is now Šeškov dom Cultural Centre and a modern museum.



Figure 3: Šeškov dom - premises of the provincial museum.

The main risk to all these buildings is heavy rain. At heavy rainfall, the level of the underground water starts to rise and at certain locations causes an “underground spring” to emerge. Since the buildings are important representatives of architectural cultural heritage of Kočevje, the problem must be approached comprehensively; local responders need to eliminate the rainwater and groundwater in the basements of the respective buildings.

The other aspect of the heavy rain is the accompanying heavy wind that lifts roofs. There was already one significant occasion when heavy wind lifted and destroyed a part of the roof of the provincial museum building. Due to climate change predictions more heavy rain and wind is to be expected in the area of Kočevje. An additional problem is that emergencies normally happen on some culturally important buildings at the same time so it is very difficult to manage all the damage during heavy rain.



2. OVERVIEW ON EXISTING AND PLANNED MEASURES FOR DISASTER RESILIENCE

A. Threat analysis

Conducted		Ongoing
Communicated to	Owners / curators of cultural heritage	Ongoing
	Local stakeholders	Ongoing
	Policy makers	Ongoing

B. Emergency responders for cultural heritage protection

Contact to possible emergency responders established with			
Emergency responders	Association of Firefighters of Kočevje	Local level	Yes
	Administration of the Republic of Slovenia for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief	National level	Yes
	Provincial Museum of Kočevje	Local level	Yes
	Slovenian Institute of Cultural Heritage Protection	National level	Yes
	The Archives of the Republic of Slovenia	National level	No
Academia	University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Arts, Department of Geography	National level	No
	Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Anton Melik Geographical Institute, Department for Natural Disasters	National level	Yes
	University of Maribor - Faculty of Arts, Department of Geography	National level	No
NGOs	International Council of Museums ICOM - Slovenia	National level	Yes
	Community of Museums of Slovenia	National level	Yes
Public authorities	Ministry of Culture, Cultural Heritage Directorate	National level	Yes
	Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning, Slovenian Water Agency	National level	No



C. Resilience of built environment

Developments and guidelines ProteCHt2save communicated to		
D.T1.2.1 Risk Assessment of Cultural Heritage in Central Europe in facing Extreme Events	Owners / curators of cultural heritage	Ongoing
	Local stakeholders	Ongoing
	Policy makers	Ongoing
D.T1.2.3 Elaboration of Maps with hot-spots of extreme potential impacts on cultural heritage	Owners / curators of cultural heritage	No
	Local stakeholders	No
	Policy makers	No
D.T1.3.1 Manual for Cultural Heritage Managers containing mitigation and adaptation Strategies to face up future climate change pressures	Owners / curators of cultural heritage	Ongoing
	Local stakeholders	Ongoing
	Policy makers	Ongoing
D.T2.1.3 Decision Support Tool	Owners / curators of cultural heritage	Yes
	Local stakeholders	Yes
	Policy makers	Yes
D.T2.2.1 Manual of good and bad practices for disaster resilience of cultural heritage risk assessment	Owners / curators of cultural heritage	Yes
	Local stakeholders	Yes
	Policy makers	Yes



D. Emergency plans

Developed	Kočevje	Flood - not movable CH		No
		Fire		Ongoing
		Flood - movable cultural heritage		No
Implemented	Kočevje	Flood - not movable CH		No
		Fire		Ongoing
		Flood - movable cultural heritage		No
Tested / Trained	Kočevje	Flood - not movable CH	With emergency responders	No
		Fire		Ongoing
		Flood - movable cultural heritage	With emergency responders	No
			Internal	No

E. Education and training for cultural heritage protection

Heritage side	Theoretical	No
	Practical	No
Emergency responder side	Theoretical	No
	Practical	No
Collective	Theoretical	No
	Practical	No



3. THREAT ANALYSIS

Likelihood	Almost certain			Deterioration / Wear & Tear		Flood, Climate, Pests & Mold, Severe Weather
	Likely		General Security, Pollutants	Vandalism	Fire	
	Possible		Accidents / Malfunctions	Theft		
	Unlikely	Light		Violence	Earthquake	
	Rare					
		Insignificant	Minor	Moderate	Major	Severe
Impact						

General security of the pilot site buildings is on a high level. There are no big general risks that threaten them. Fire is of course always a potential threat in old buildings due to electric wires and old objects. Accidents are of course always possible as well, but the restoration work is done professionally and the staff in the museum has good qualifications, wherefore accidents are not likely to occur. Also maintenance of the building is done professionally. Violence is at very low rate in Slovenia. In World War II a lot of built cultural heritage was damaged and a big castle in the central location of the city was destroyed because of heavy bombing during and completely demolished after the war due to political reasons. Near Kočevje a military security zone was established that still partly exists.

Theft has not been a big threat so far. Slovenia is one of the safest counties in the world with very low rate of crime and theft. There is not much to be stolen in the pilot sight buildings, since there are not many valuable objects of cultural heritage objects inside. The one building where theft should be considered in the provincial museum which houses precious objects. The museum has good protocols regarding locking the rooms and personnel guarding the objects. There have not been cases of theft reported in the museum, but we can't say that this is not possible in the future.

Vandalism is more likely to occur, especially to the outside parts of the buildings. The inside of the museum is guarded by the staff of locked when nobody is inside, so it is quite safe. The museum is also no popular target for the vandals. Old city buildings are more exposed and could be the target.

Deterioration because of time is of course the biggest threat that can't be avoided. The likelihood and impact depend on the quality and scale of restoration and renovation. Cultural heritage object in the pilot site vary in scale since some buildings like the Šeškov dom, where the provincial museum has its premises, was renovated a few years ago and is now in very good condition. The other culturally important houses are in different condition, some in very bad and some in quite good. The majority of them needs renovation and one of them is in especially bad condition.

According to the experts in seismology, Kočevje is not in a region with high risk of earthquakes.

Pests are not a problem, but mold is. Due to the regular flooding of the city mold has become a big problem destroying the foundations, the walls and whole cultural heritage buildings that are part of the pilot site. The exception is the provincial museum that was completely renovated and is in a good state regarding mold.

Heavy rain with heavy wind has been increasing in Kočevje during the last ten years. Heavy rain has flooded the culturally important buildings numerous times and heavy wind has lifted the roofs of the museum and other buildings. A lot more of that is to be expected in the future. City floods are a big

threat to all cultural heritage buildings included in the pilot site. The damage they can cause is quite big since the water can ruin the foundations and also the heavy wind can take off the roofs of those buildings and heavy rain can damage the interior of the buildings.

4. RESPONSIBILITIES IN CULTURAL HERITAGE PROTECTION

The main first responders on local level are the Civil Protection and the local firefighters, as is shown on figure 4 below. They are conveniently located to the pilot site areas. According to the law first responders in all emergencies in Kočevje is the Association of fire fighters of Kočevje. In bigger disasters also the local/regional or national team for civil protection is established which is part of the Administration of the Republic of Slovenia for civil protection and disaster relief.

The local responsibility for the pilot site buildings concerning maintenance and renovation lies with the owners and is basically twofold concerning Kočevje's pilot site: The buildings on Ljubljanska street are owned by the Municipality of Kočevje whereas the Provincial Museum in Šeškov dom is owned by the Republic of Slovenia. Cultural heritage expert responsibility is also divided by the municipality and the national state level. Movable cultural heritage is covered by the provincial museum of Kočevje and immovable cultural heritage is taken care of by the Slovenian Institute of Cultural Heritage Protection.

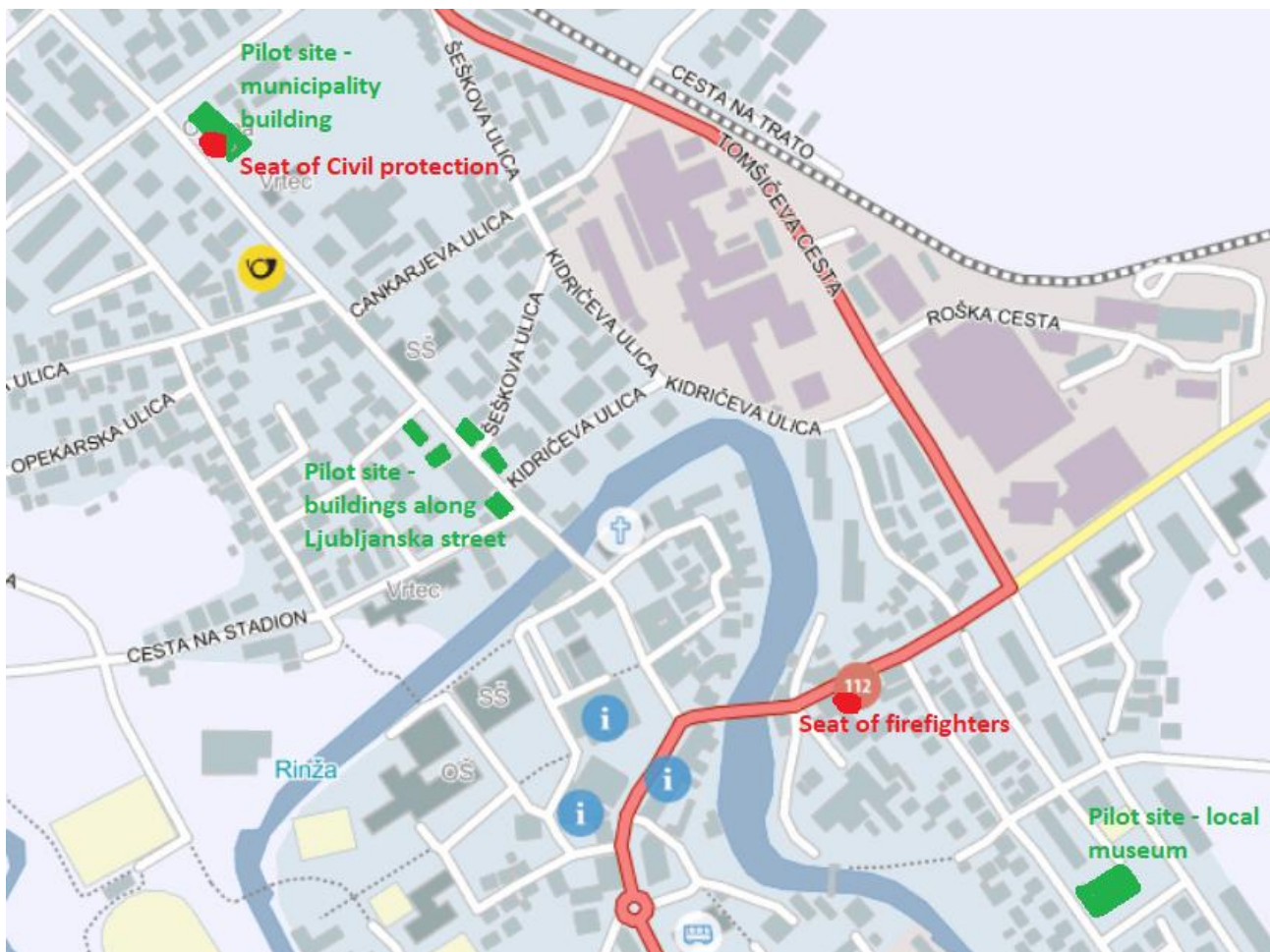


Figure 4: Pilot site in Kočevje and first responders on local level.



Further possible responders are based in Ljubljana, which is about one hour drive from Kočevje:

- Slovenian Institute of Cultural Heritage Protection
- Administration of the Republic of Slovenia for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief (national level)
- The Archives of the Republic of Slovenia

5. RESILIENCE OF BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Firefighting plans and regular inspections for fire safety are obligatory part of the local maintenance. Until today only evacuation plans for people are mandatory.

6. EMERGENCY PLANS

The new plans prepared inside the ProteCHt2save project will build on existing evacuation plans for people and add protection layers for movable and immovable cultural heritage. The protection of cultural heritage is already a general goal in parts of the general strategies regarding floods, earthquakes, nuclear attacks, fire, etc.; but no practical plan for the special protection of cultural heritage is in place yet.

New emergency plans will be made for the pilot site buildings in cooperation between the Municipality of Kočevje, the Provincial Museum of Kočevje, the Association of Fire Fighters of Kočevje and the Civil Protection unit of Kočevje. Most of the pilot site needs protection in case of city floods which damage the basements. Also the roofs need protection in case heavy wind takes off the roofs themselves. The majority of the buildings don't have valuable movable heritage inside. Only the provincial museum has a lot of movable cultural heritage objects in their premises and needs evacuation plans for them.

7. EDUCATION AND TRAINING

In Kočevje the situation for fire fighters is a very special one due to its geographic position. Kočevje is a small town where a professional unit of firefighters is not sensible. On the other hand, Kočevje is far from Ljubljana and its professional firefighters and in case of an emergency it might take too long for the professional force from Ljubljana to arrive. Therefore a strong network of volunteer firefighter's organizations is joined in an association of firefighters of Kočevje. There is almost no difference to the professional fire fighters and there is also one professional employed at the association. Those local fire fighters have their regular standard trainings for all emergencies, inter alia fire and flood. Those trainings don't include cultural heritage specifics so far, so trainings would be very much welcome for movable and immovable cultural heritage.

The provincial museum has occasionally theoretical and practical exercises for evacuation of staff and visitors in case of emergency. They also would welcome new trainings with focus on the recovery of cultural heritage in cooperation with other organisations like the fire fighters, Civil Protection, the Slovenian Institute of Cultural Heritage Protection, or the Association of Museums of Slovenia.