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Editorial

Bringing cultural heritage into lives of everyday people

Dear partners and associates,

CHWB is very grateful to all individuals, organizations and institutions that have been supporting us, and have been with us through the past years.



The cooperation with all of you is our reason of existence... to feel valuable for Kosovo and its people. CHWB has been active in Kosovo since 2001 when EAR chose us to implement the Kulla projects. This project gave us the chance to learn about the complexity of Kosovo's heritage: The buildings, the sites, the tradition, the life, the habits... all those aspects are important to be preserved.

When we look back in time, we see a colorful past: The preservation and Development Plans, The European Heritage Days, The Maintenance program, The restoration of Religious Monuments, Houses, Kullas, Mills, Training of the staff, The work with students, the seminars - these are all some of the work that we have carried out together with you.

2006 has marked a significant progress for cultural heritage preservation. Together with Municipality of

Prizren and with IPM, and led by Technical University of Istanbul and Polytechnic of Turin, we have drafted the Conservation and Development Plan for Prizren, the cultural capital of Kosovo.

Jointly with Ministry of Culture and IPM, we created a temporary Database for Inventory List of Kosovo. This project has enabled us to create a temporary software solution and train 13 MCYS IPM staff to work with it. Now, Kosovo MCYS has completed the inventory of almost 2700 buildings of cultural heritage. We hope to further contribute in this direction by facilitating creation of a permanent database centre.

In 2006 we also have been working with a special project - restoring the Syndicate building in Prizren. One might consider this building to be very simple in itself, but the social value of its central location in the context of the historic zone in Prizren makes it worth preserving and revitalizing it! When restored, its large space will be used as a meeting place for Prizren citizens.

The European Heritage Days in Kosovo have also marked progress this year. They were officially recognized and supported by CoE, and organized under the patronage of MoC. From now on, we will be able to promote Kosovo's Heritage with joint forces of the Institutions and NGOs and make it visible for the rest of Europe.

Restoration of Saraj House in Velika Hoca, completed in 2006, has been widely regarded not only as a

prime example in restoration of vernacular architecture, but also as an important gesture towards social and economical support for the Serbian community in Kosovo.

Finally, working with "Jeta" NGO in Deçan has proved that Heritage is more than a building: it is human rights, it is participation, it is equal opportunities, it is integration and it is creation of a better society. Now, NGO "Jeta" runs a souvenir shop with MADE IN Kosovo items and a fantastic traditional food restaurant in Deçan.

As a conclusion, I would like to thank the Swedish government through Sida, the Swedish taxpayers who continually support Kosovo and its people. A special thanks to EAR for supporting the project in Hoca. We also extend our appreciation to Ministry of Culture, IPM, UN HABITAT, Municipality of Prizren, GTZ, and all individuals who have supported us in our effort to bring cultural heritage into the lives of everyday people.

*Sali Shoshaj, Architect
Head of CHwB Kosovo Office*



Jeta NGO opens the first women-ran restaurant in Deçan

16 November

Supported by a donation of equipment from CHwB, "Jeta" NGO opened their first traditional food restaurant in Deçan on 15th of November 2006. Apart from expanding the community-support activities of this women-NGO, the "Jeta" Restaurant proved to be a good employment opportunity for several women in this municipality, thus strengthening the direct impact of the NGO to supporting the women community in Deçan.

The project also marks a significant progress on the women integration in the Deçan region. This is the first time in the region that women manage and serve in a restaurant that is open to all customers, including men, women, young and elderly ■



Burbuqe Bakija-Deva and Sali Shoshaj present a participant with training certificate

MCYS and CHwB award certificates for Heritage Database trainees

9 December

On 8th of December 2006, MCYS and CHwB organized the official awarding of Participation Certificates for 11 staff members that attended the training for the Temporary Heritage Database in summer 2006.

The staff was trained to use the expanded and more comprehensive database on cultural heritage, which was developed by CHwB on the request of Ministry of Culture Youth and Sports, Heritage Division.

Head of MCYS Heritage Division, Ms. Burbuqe Bakija-Deva welcomed the course participants and representatives of regional IPMs, MCYS and CHwB, stressing the importance of having a database for inventory of cultural heritage in Kosovo.

She said that this database, even though a temporary one, is a good facilitator of MCYS efforts to fulfill the Standards for Kosovo regarding Inventory of cultural heritage.

Head of CHwB Kosovo Office, Mr. Sali Shoshaj, also greeted the guests, emphasizing CHwB's commitment to assisting the Kosovo Heritage Institutions in different matters related to cultural heritage. He expressed great belief that the temporary database will soon be followed by a permanent and advanced solution for a database center for Kosovo's cultural heritage.

The Temporary Heritage Database, developed by CHwB, was expanded during September 2006 and, in coordination with MCYS and IPMs, was distributed to the Kosovo IPM, the five regional IPMs, two Regional Culture Centres, Museum of Kosovo and Kosovo Institute for Archaeology.



Participants discuss future steps regarding inventory of cultural heritage in Kosovo

CHwB staff also provided *in situ* training for five other staff members that did not participate in the organized course in August 2006.

The actual input of existing data in the Temporary Cultural Heritage Database began partly in September, and continued throughout October and November 2006. The main objective with this database was to ensure that the existing information on the cultural heritage fund is digitalized in a form that would be handled easily and be available for integration in any future database that would be designed as a permanent solution ■

CHwB holds a summarizing Christmas Party

16 December

As a summarizing activity for its work in 2006, CHwB organized a Christmas Party with all of its partners and associates, on 15th December 2006 in Prishtina.

Head of the British Office David Blunt, Head of Swedish Office Ann Sophie Nielson, representatives from Ministry of Culture, Municipality of Prishtina, Sida, GTZ, UN Habitat, Malaysia Office, Swiss office, IPM Kosovo and local NGOs were among the 80 participants in this casual event.

Guests were welcomed by Senior Heritage Advisor and former Head of Kosovo Office, Dick Sandberg, and the current Head of Kosovo Office, Sali Shoshaj, who thanked all CHwB associates for their tireless efforts and contribution to develop cultural heritage in Kosovo.

They also made a short presentation of all the projects and achievements of CHwB in 2006, as well as of the future projects that are planned to be carried out in 2007. In the end, guests were presented with small gift packages containing CHwB brochures and calendar ■



Prizren Historic Zone Conservation and Development Plan presented

1st of February

The Conservation and Development Plan, drafted by a team of experts from Istanbul Technical University, Turin Polytechnic, CHwB and IMP Prizren, who were led by Prof Dr. Nuran Gulersoy, was presented on 1st of February, in Prizren Municipality. Following 18 months of work, the first completed draft the Plan was showcased in front of representatives from Ministries of Culture and Urban Planning, Prizren Municipality, Municipal Urban and Culture Departments, Prishtina University and independent experts.

You can read more on this topic in the special edition of newsletter regarding Prizren Historic Zone Conservation and Development Plan, coming out soon.