



Cultural  
Heritage without Borders

KULTURARV UTAN GRÄNSER

# NEWSLETTER

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*Latest Activities of the Cultural Heritage without Borders Local Office in Kosovo*

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## Three urgent priorities in the field of Cultural Heritage

*CHWB Kosovo Team*

During 2007, CHWB is focusing on three mayor fields: Planning of Historic Zones (1), Restoration of valuable buildings (2) and increasing of awareness of the community regarding the importance of a historical environment (3). At first glance, these fields seem to be very concrete subjects that are simply defined, yet they contain all the complexity of preservation and presentation of Kosovo's cultural heritage, as in integral part of the European heritage.

**I.** Planning of historic zones, as a part of the development planning of municipal units and of the Kosovo Spatial Plan, represents a multisectoral activity that focuses on identification and valorisation of the historic environment, by making it the core of central and local development planning. Common efforts of different sectors would enable improved communication in the legislation aspect, and at the same time defined the responsible parties on both levels.

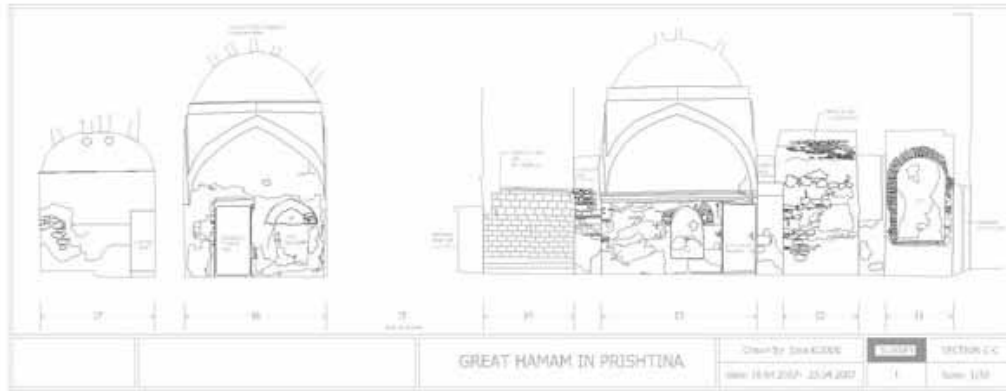
Nonetheless, Cultural Heritage should be considered as a powerful resource for economic development of Kosovo. Historic Zones, cores of cities such are Prishtina/Pristina, Prizren, Peja/Pec and Gjakova/Djakovica, as well as archaeological sites such are Ulpiana, Novoberda and zones along the Drini i Bardhe River, must not be isolated spots that serve only for study purposes; they must become a part of the development agenda on all levels. The tourism industry is booming all over Balkans, thus Kosovo could easily become a main destination for cultural tourism.

**II.** Many historical monuments have been left in the mercy of time. According to the official list, Kosovo has over 400 officially-declared monuments, including movable items. On the other hand, a field survey conducted in 2002 shows that around 2800 buildings have been registered during the inventory phase. Few believe that the situation has remained unchanged since that survey. We bear witness to cruel destruction of valuable buildings that unjustly wipes off all the traces of generations before us, which should have been preserved for the generation to come. CHWB is restoring the Prishtina Hammam, as one of the most valuable monuments of the city. The restoration aims not only at physical protection of the monument, but also at transforming it into a landmark that will attract visitors. During this work, special attention is paid to traditional techniques and materials, as well as involvement of students and craftsmen as a part of capacity building process.

**III.** Civil society must play a main role as the promoter of preservation of cultural heritage values. None would be a better advocate in promoting cultural values than the community itself. Therefore, CHWB is interested in strengthening segments of civil society that would be capable of addressing the Kosovo Institutions regarding their concerns. People are the ones that should protect the historical values, while benefiting from such an environment, at the same time.

Yet, even though everything looks simple, it requires everyone's sincere commitment in order to be truly simplified; and above all, there must be a political will which will put in motion the mechanisms required for

PROTECTION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE IN KOSOVO ■



**Prishtina Mayor officially inaugurates works on restoration of Great Hammam in Prishtina/Pristina**

Ismet Beqiri, Mayor of Prishtina/Pristina, in the presence of US Office representatives and others guests, officially inaugurated the preliminary works for restoration of Great Hammam in Prishtina, on 25th of April 2007. This communal bath is situated in the center of the historical core of old town of Prishtina, between the Mosque of Sultan Mehmet Fatih and the Small Hammam, and it dates back to the 15th century. Due to its architectural values, in 1967, the building was declared a monument of cultural and historical heritage. It functioned as a communal bath until the 70's of the 20th century.

The restoration and rehabilitation project of the Great Hammam will be developed through three phases:

- 1) *Cleaning and surveying phase;*
- 2) *Conservation phase,* and
- 3) *Drafting of the plan of future use.*

A specialized team from the Istanbul Technical University is currently working on reconstitution of the present state of Hammam.

The restoration of the Great Hammam is funded by Prishtina Municipality and Swedish SIDA. CHwB and Institute for Protection of Monuments of Prishtina are implementing the project ■



*Episcopal Residence in Prizren*



*Photo: EAR*

**Reconstruction and Restoration of Episcopal Residence and Orthodox Seminary in Prizren/Prizren started**

On March 5th, CHwB in partnership with the local company HIDROTERM signed a contract with European Agency for Reconstruction regarding the restoration of Episcopal Residence and Orthodox Seminary in Prizren.

CHwB will manage the restoration project involving the management and professional staff in different level and HIDROTERM will be responsible for carrying out the physical works (restoration and reconstruction) under CHwB supervision.

The partner of this project is the Serbian Orthodox Church while the other stakeholders are the Municipality of Prizren and the Institute for Protection of Monuments in Kosovo.

The implementation of this one-year project started in March 2007 and after preliminary and demolition works, carried out in April, the final static analysis and conclusions regarding bearing structures of the buildings is being completed ■

*Episcopal Residence during restoration*

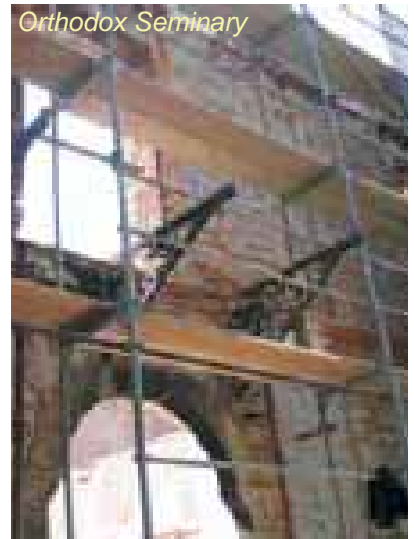


*Orthodox Seminary after destruction*



*Photo: EAR*

*Orthodox Seminary*



*Reconstruction and restoration works in Orthodox Seminary*



## Junik/Junik and CHwB start developing Preservation and Development plan of Junik

Pilot Municipal Unit (PMU) of Junik in cooperation CHwB has started the implementation of the project Preservation and Development Plan of Junik. On February 21st 2007 PMU Junik and CHwB signed Memorandum of Understanding regarding this project.

The first phase of the project was conducted during March, April and May 2007. Project Team consisted from a team of young architects engaged from CHwB and supervised by PhD. Christine E. Kohlert (urban

planner and architect) that worked in close cooperation with experts from Municipal Assembly of Junik.

This project consisted from general and architectural urban analysis of Junik, which took into consideration all components for urban development, focused especially on buildings with cultural-historical values, interviews with inhabitants, urban planning, specific projects on different potential areas, photo documentation, guideline compilation, etc....

On April 24th 2007, the first public meeting with representatives of PMU of Junik and UN Habitat, was held in order to present the first database of interviews with inhabitants regarding the project, the technical statistics of buildings and, ideas and visions for the future.

After seven weeks of fieldwork phase, Project Team finalized the survey of nearly 1300 buildings. In addition, specific analyses were done for historic buildings, different architectural elements, public spaces, traffic circulation, etc.

Next step of the project will be organizing a Vision Workshop for Junik. This workshop will be co-organized between UN Habitat, CHwB and Junik municipality. It will aim at visioning the future developments of Junik and will also offer an opportunity to discuss the issues of current state of the planning activities and future activities leading to the Junik Urban Development Plan.

The projects is co-financed between PMU of Junik and CHwB (Sida as main donor)

Final report of the Project will be presented in the public presentation that will be held in Junik during the last week of June ■



## IPMK and CHwB organize a roundtable discussion on protection regulations of cultural heritage



On the initiative of Kosovo Institute for Protection of Monuments (IPMK), CHwB organized a roundtable discussion "Kosovo Cultural Heritage Law and protection regulations: Examples and comparisons", with representatives of Kosovo Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Spatial Planning, local and central Institutes for Protection of Monuments and municipalities, on 16th of April 2007, in Grand Hotel in Prishtina/Pristina. Prior to discussions, Kersti Berggren from the Swedish National Heritage Board, gave a presentation on "An international perspective on Kosovo Heritage Law", focusing on legal bases provided by relevant laws and documents for drafting protection regulations for cultural heritage sites and monuments. Focusing on the medieval town of Artana/Novoberdo, which will be a joint pilot-project of

IPMK and CHwB for drafting of protection regulations, Berggren explained that, after sub-legal acts, these regulations are the next step to protection of heritage. They are presented in a form of a contract between the owner of the heritage site/monument and the responsible authority. An analysis of international legal frameworks for cultural heritage and their relevance for Kosovo, conducted by Juliana Latifaj, legal advisor in IPMK, was presented by Director of IPMK, Baki Svirca. Discussions of participants, which followed these two presentations, resulted with joint appraisal for the Artana/Novoberdo pilot-project and the need for an active participation of all groups of interest.

This roundtable discussion was only the first step towards establishing the grounds for development of pilot-project for protection regulations for Artana/Novoberdo medieval town, which will be carried out in the months to come by IPMK and CHwB ■



## Feasibility Study for Historical Zone of Prishtina/Pristina commences

In April, CHwB and Municipal Assembly of Prishtina reached an agreement on implementation of the project "Feasibility Study for historical Zone of Prishtina". The project aims at preparing an overall report on the slowly-disappearing historical zone of Prishtina, by gathering available information from all available stakeholders. The report will also identify the advantages and weaknesses of the zone in the aspect of preservation of cultural heritage, integration of the cultural heritage in urban planning, as well as promotion of

awareness about the heritage and active participation of the identified partners.

The first phase of the project is collection of materials from previous projects related to the area such are: maps, photos, air photos, cadastral records, existing reports etc.

This phase will be followed up by a one day seminar that will define the role of stakeholders. The already prepared digitalized map, containing information from the zone, will be further upgraded by collecting facts on the field.

In the final part of the content analysis, two experts will be engaged in order to evaluate all collected facts and give recommendations. The results of the study will be published in the form of a publication that will be made available to all parties interested in the Historical Zone of Prishtina ■