



6. Heritage Forum of Central Europe. Heritage and Development

2021-06-29

Does counteracting climate change work for or against heritage? What is community archaeology? How to practice responsibility for heritage while minimising the negative effects of its exploitation? Can the answer be offered by sustainable tourism? The 6th Heritage Forum of Central Europe (June 16-18, 2021) took a closer look at the mutual relations between cultural heritage and broadly understood development.

The three-day conference, organised for the first time on-line, brought together over 100 researchers from 31 countries, working at the crossroads of various disciplines – economics, history, architecture, art, cultural studies, anthropology, education, conservation, literature, politics, sociology and management. Keynote lectures were delivered by Australian cultural economist Professor David Throsby, Lithuanian writer living in Canada Laimonas Briedis and Secretary General of Europa Nostra Sneška Quaedvlieg-Mihailović, among others.

The 6. Heritage Forum of Central Europe coincided with the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the Visegrad Group. Its purpose is to look at the relationship between heritage and development, which, until recently, was understood strictly economically and equated with economic growth – while in fact it is a multi-dimensional concept. The coronavirus pandemic has precipitated and facilitated a multi-faceted re-evaluation of our approach to development. The concept of post-growth is becoming increasingly popular in the world of social sciences. To what extent can cultural heritage be considered an actual or potential catalyst for development understood in completely new terms and values? – this was the main question of this year's Forum.

The conference featured over 90 papers on topics such as social inclusion, urban renewal, climate disaster and resilience. Addressing issues such as the importance of heritage for sustainable development or civic engagement and social inclusion, the Forum focused on presenting new implementable tools and policies that respond to the challenges that Europe is facing today.

The **Heritage Forum of Central Europe** is a biannual international conference organised by the ICC, at which specialists from the region of Central Europe, as well as researchers and experts on Central European issues from all around the world, discuss issues of cultural heritage. The Krakow conference is not only the voice of Central Europe in matters of heritage philosophy, management, protection, and its economic, social and political dimensions, but above all an interdisciplinary platform for dialogue and debate on the relationship between the past and the present.

Previous editions focused on the following topics: heritage and Central Europe (2011), the limits of heritage (2013), the city (2015), society (2017) and the environment (2019). The forum is organised under the auspices of the Working Group of Experts on Cultural Heritage of the Visegrad Group, which includes: The Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic, the Hungarian Prime Minister's Office, the Council for the Protection of Monuments of the Slovak Republic in Bratislava and the International Cultural Centre in Krakow.