

Edirne, Heritage City for the Future

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Preliminary thoughts on the way forward for Edirne relate to the value of this important city. Directions to be discussed in the continuing dialogue and application of the UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape, Nov 2011, for the management of Edirne together with other considerations for the engagement of culture as an enabler for sustainable development. This HUL integrative approach has the potential to provide the city with a structured mechanism for addressing social, economic and environmental issues under the umbrella of culture. (Add diagram)

City over view demonstrates concentration of past efforts in areas A. Selimeye Mosque and Social Complex, and B. Old City, while field review identifies 1. Romany neighborhood Kucckpazar; 2. Gazimihal neighborhood; 3. Kirishane neighbourhood, 4. Train Station area. The four areas are critical zones for early action to complement and strengthen Edirne overall, as well as the mosque and the old city.

Furthermore, the decisions of the World Heritage Committee on the inscription of the *Selimiye Mosque and its Social Complex* launch this process. The recommendations can be extended beyond the boundaries of the inscribed site.

From these directions actions may include:

- 1 Initiate application of the UNESCO HUL approach and developing with the World Heritage Centre a best practice example perhaps as a designated HUL pilot city;
- 2 Implementing and resolving the recommendations of the WH Committee for the inscribed site (see list); including the redefinition of the world heritage inscribed sites and buffer zone.
- 3 Extending and strengthening the socio-economic base of the city through the consideration of options for a richer cultural tourism destination, three-country destination, student city, medical and pharmaceutical incentives and agricultural sustainability. There is future potential for a media city, Romany music and dancing, a sport training complex linked to the traditional wrestling, and other creative directions. An example is a city in Chile that gave musical instruments to all children to encourage a musical culture.
- 4 Considering wider city networking including themes such as
 - a. Works of Sinan, Edirne leading a collaboration with companion cities
 - b. Cities of Hadrian, again with cities enriched with parallel history, with archaeologists and historians
 - c. Migratory flyways, Important Bird Area designation, work with other IBA's

- d. Ottoman water hydrology system
- e. Green city for healthy life through sustainable agriculture and local cuisine
- f. UNESCO creative cities in future
- g. Other themes?

To achieve maximum effects with minimum effort begin with what you are good at now. Identify local champions, civic organizations, NGO's, and academia, who will work together to sustain and enrich a theme. A selection of themes would be expressed through Edirne heritage assets that reflect expressed through economic, social and ecological enhancements.

5 Other possible mechanisms that might be relevant for their application as a methodology:

Cultural Landscapes for the integration of the city in its hinterland and context;
 Man and Biosphere for the application of an urban biosphere with ecological vitality
 Cultural capitals as an idea for the cross border cooperation

6 Comparative studies might be prepared on the concept of "Univer-city," such as the symbiosis between learning institutions and city in the University of Coimbra, University Alta and Sofia in Portugal or the city of Urbino, Italy examples, together with the Media City in Salford, UK. This model may work here as another level of integration with city as laboratory for learning, research and enriched experience.

The need now is for an integrative plan addressing the needs and aspirations of people and place by managing the values of the city, based on UNESCO HUL, responding to the recommendations WH Committee; reinforcing community and liveability; improving mobility; enhancing environment; and uplifting economy.

This integrated plan will build toward a vital future of Edirne, on a foundation of sustainable heritage for all the generations.

Below:

Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape; Headings of the UNESCO
Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape, and details of paragraph IV Tools;
Cultural Properties - Selimiye Mosque and its Social Complex (Turkey) and the World
Heritage Committee Decisions - 35 COM 8B.37

draft

Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape

On 10 November 2011 UNESCO's General Conference adopted the new Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape by acclamation, the first such instrument on the historic environment issued by UNESCO in 35 years. The Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape will not replace existing doctrines or conservation approaches; rather, it is an additional tool to integrate policies and practices of conservation of the built environment into the wider goals of urban development in respect of the inherited values and traditions of different cultural contexts. This tool, which is a "soft-law" to be implemented by Member States on a voluntary basis.

In order to facilitate implementation, the UNESCO General Conference recommended that Member States take the appropriate steps to:

- adapt this new instrument to their specific contexts;
- disseminate it widely across their national territories;
- facilitate implementation through formulation and adoption of supporting policies; and to
- monitor its impact on the conservation and management of historic cities.

It further recommended that Member States and relevant local authorities identify within their specific contexts the critical steps to implement the Historic Urban Landscape approach, which may include the following:

- To undertake comprehensive surveys and mapping of the city's natural, cultural and human resources;
- To reach consensus using participatory planning and stakeholder consultations on what values to protect for transmission to future generations and to determine the attributes that carry these values;
- To assess vulnerability of these attributes to socio-economic stresses and impacts of climate change;
- To integrate urban heritage values and their vulnerability status into a wider framework of city development, which shall provide indications of areas of heritage sensitivity that require careful attention to planning, design and implementation of development projects;
- To prioritize actions for conservation and development;
- To establish the appropriate partnerships and local management frameworks for each of the identified projects for conservation and development, as well as to develop mechanisms for the coordination of the various activities between different actors, both public and private.

Headings of the UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape, and details of paragraph IV Tools.

10 November 2011

http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL_ID=48857&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

Introduction

I. Definition

II. Challenges and opportunities for the historic urban landscape

Urbanization and globalization

Development

Environment

III. Policies

IV. Tools

24. The approach based on the historic urban landscape implies the application of a range of traditional and innovative tools adapted to local contexts. Some of these tools, which need to be developed as part of the process involving the different stakeholders, might include:

(a) **Civic engagement tools** should involve a diverse cross-section of stakeholders, and empower them to identify key values in their urban areas, develop visions that reflect their diversity, set goals, and agree on actions to safeguard their heritage and promote sustainable development. These tools, which constitute an integral part of urban governance dynamics, should facilitate intercultural dialogue by learning from communities about their histories, traditions, values, needs and aspirations, and by facilitating mediation and negotiation between groups with conflicting interests.

(b) **Knowledge and planning tools** should help protect the integrity and authenticity of the attributes of urban heritage. They should also allow for the recognition of cultural significance and diversity, and provide for the monitoring and management of change to improve the quality of life and of urban space. These tools would include documentation and mapping of cultural and natural characteristics. Heritage, social and environmental impact assessments should be used to support and facilitate decision-making processes within a framework of sustainable development.

(c) **Regulatory systems** should reflect local conditions, and may include legislative and regulatory measures aimed at the conservation and management of the tangible and intangible attributes of the urban heritage, including their social, environmental and cultural values. Traditional and customary systems should be recognized and reinforced as necessary.

(d) **Financial tools** should be aimed at building capacities and supporting innovative income-generating development, rooted in tradition. In addition to government and global funds from international agencies, financial tools should be effectively employed to foster private investment at the local level. Micro-credit and other flexible financing to support local enterprise, as well as a variety of models of partnerships, are also central to making the historic urban landscape approach financially sustainable.

V. Capacity-building, research, information and communication

VI. International cooperation

APPENDIX

Glossary of definitions

Cultural Properties - Selimiye Mosque and its Social Complex (Turkey)

The square Mosque with its single great dome and four slender minarets, dominates the skyline of the former Ottoman capital of Edirne. Sinan, the most famous of Ottoman architects in the 16th century, considered the complex, which includes madrasas (Islamic schools), a covered market, clock house, outer courtyard and library, to be his best work. The interior decoration using Iznik tiles from the peak period of their production testifies to an art form that remains unsurpassed in this material. The complex is considered to be the most harmonious expression ever achieved of the Ottoman



Edirne Selimiye Mosque and Its Social Complex -General view © Edirne Vakf Regional Directorate

Outstanding Universal Value

Brief synthesis

Dominating the skyline of Edirne, former capital of the Ottoman Empire, the Selimiye Mosque Complex commissioned by Selim II is the ultimate architectural expression by the architect Sinan of the Ottoman külliye. The imposing mosque stepping up to its single great dome with four soaring slender minarets, spectacular decorated interior space, manuscript library, meticulous craftsmanship, brilliant Iznik tiles and marble courtyard together with its associated educational institutions, outer courtyard and covered bazaar, represent the apogee of an art form and the pious benefaction of 16th century imperial Islam. The architectural composition of the Selimiye Mosque Complex in its dominant location represents the culmination of the great body of work by Sinan, the most outstanding architect of the Ottoman Empire.

Criterion (i): The Selimiye Mosque Complex at Edirne is a masterpiece of the human creative genius of the architect Sinan, the most famous of all Ottoman architects in the 16th century. The single great dome supported by eight pillars has a diameter of 31.5 over a prayer space of 45mx36m, and with its four soaring minarets it dominates the city skyline. The innovative structural design allowed numerous windows creating an extraordinary illuminated interior. The mosque complex was recognised by Sinan himself as his most important architectural work.

Criterion (iv): The Selimiye Mosque with its cupola, spatial concept, architectural and technological ensemble and location crowning the cityscape illustrates a significant stage in human history, the apogee of the Ottoman Empire. The interior decoration using Iznik tiles from the peak period of their production testifies to a great art form never to be excelled in this material. The mosque with its charitable dependencies represents the most harmonious expression ever achieved of the külliye, this most peculiar Ottoman type of complex.

Integrity

The Selimiye Mosque Complex includes all the attributes of its Outstanding Universal Value within the property boundary, is well-maintained and does not suffer from adverse effects of development. In view of the importance of the dominant setting of the property and its landmark status, it is extremely important that all view corridors continue to be protected.

Authenticity

The Mosque Complex retains its authenticity in terms of form and design, materials and substance. The Mosque and Arasta retain their authenticity in terms of use and function, spirit and feeling. The madrasas have been slightly modified to serve appropriate new uses as museums.

Protection and Management requirements

The property is protected under the National Act on the Preservation of Cultural and Natural Heritage no. 2863 and the Act on Pious Foundations no. 5737, and all works require the approval of the Regional Conservation Council. A Coordination and Supervision Council, constituted by representatives of local and central institutions is being established by the Edirne Municipality to oversee development of the Management Plan for the Selimiye Mosque Complex. In addition there will be an Advisory Body made up of academics, representatives of NGOs, Chamber of Architects, local and central government and local citizens, which will evaluate the Management Plan and provide suggestions. The objectives of the Management Plan are directed at ensuring the preservation of the Selimiye Mosque and transfer of its cultural and functional values as a whole to future generations. They cover structural preservation, management of development pressures including urban development within the buffer zone, management of visitors, visitor services, research and training, data management and administration. An Action Plan is included with short term (1-3 years) and long term (over 5 years) items. Good co-ordination between the various bodies holding responsibility for the Urban Conservation Plan (master plan) for the historical core of Edirne city and the Management Plan for the property, including its conservation, maintenance and visitor management is required to ensure effective management of the property. Documentation of the traditional systems of conservation and management of the property should be part of this.

Committee Decisions - 35 COM 8B.37

4. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:

- a) Submit the urban design proposal currently under preparation for the large green space immediately to the south-west of the complex in accordance with the Operational Guidelines, Paragraph 172,
- b) Give specific attention to the overall coordination between the Urban Conservation Plan (master plan) for the historical core of Edirne city which includes the nominated property and buffer zone, and the Management Plan for the property,
- c) Reinforce cooperation between Wakf and local and governmental agencies by including representation of the Wakf on the Coordination and Supervision Council and Advisory Board,
- d) Include documentation of traditional systems of conservation and management of the property in the Management Plan,
- e) Develop a risk preparedness strategy for the possible event of fire, earthquake and storm,
- f) Undertake research of the garden within the outer courtyard with a view to reinstating a more appropriate landscape treatment,
- g) Further develop tourist facilities and interpretation,
- h) Give specific attention to the application of height restrictions in the buffer zone.