

Conference organizers



ECOVAST HRVATSKA SEKCIJA



Deadlines and fees

Date to submit summaries: before April 30, 2011

Please send your summary (up to one page, in English or Croatian) by e-mail to: info@ecovast.hr

Information about acceptance of papers: before May 31, 2011

Date to submit completed papers: before September 20, 2011

Conference participation fee is 250 kuna (€ 35).

For members of ECOVAST or Amici Hereditatis the fee is 150 kuna (€ 20).

Students' fee is 75 kuna (€ 10).

Scientific and organizing committees

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This is the fourth Conference on 'Small Towns' Project of the Croatian Section of ECOVAST (European Council for the Village and Small Town)

More info about the past events are available at www.ecovast.hr



International conference

MODELS FOR MANAGEMENT OF HISTORICAL TOWNS REVITALIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT PROCESSES

Ivanić-Grad Example: Possibilities for Revitalization and Conservation of the Old Town of Ivanić

Ivanić-Grad, Croatia, November 11, 2011

FIRST CALL

Positions



Economic factors, together with the changes in living and working conditions, in transport as well as in demographic structures of communities, all result in significant changes to the historical cores of towns in Croatia as in the whole of Europe. These changes demand new active policies and strategies to be applied, in order to safeguard their existence and enhance their revitalization and sustainable development.

The revitalization of historical parts of settlements recently became one of the most demanding tasks in spatial protection and management policies of towns. Directing development into already built, historical town cores, instead of taking additional agricultural or natural land areas for new construction becomes ever more prevalent internationally in recent years.

Historical town cores are losing their attractiveness because they do not satisfy the demands of modern life styles. They very often have not prepared complete reconstruction plans and do not utilise their potential. Heritage protection is often separated from consideration of practical future needs which results in inflexible modes of usage. Protection, conservation and restoration measures generally are not keeping pace with adequate management and financing programmes as preconditions for a successful revitalization process. Although these problems are not new, in the last decade, in Croatia quite dramatic consequences of such tendencies are evident, which has resulted in an almost systematic depopulation of historical parts of settlements and spreading development and new construction on the outskirts of towns. Historical cores thus lose their inhabitants and authentic housing function, together with their traditional economic base (crafts, trades and other services), while at the same time tourism is given an exaggerated importance without considering any negative effects of such activity. Scarce financial means are not sufficiently covering the care and restoration of historical buildings and areas, nor succeeding in keeping crafts and other traditional activities. There are no adequate revitalization programmes and projects supported by governmental bodies which should, if they existed, resolve the problems of finance as well as the management of heritage.

Historical town cores and other historical settlements demand special methods and tools for their protection and revitalization, but they should also be involved in economic planning and social development, as well as in urban planning. Also, local communities should take part in development management; local inhabitants and local entrepreneurs should work together with support of the governmental services. The EU has organised in the last twenty years a series of support programmes for revitalization projects, with emphasis on the quality of housing and improvement of living conditions, as well as on such revitalization programmes which would result in the protection of historical values and would enhance sustainable development. Revitalization has become one of the strategic goals of spatial policies with which state and regional governments, as well as towns, are trying to resolve the problems of urban development.

Old Ivanić, a historical urban core of today's Ivanić-Grad, is a very apt example of a small historical town with its neglected buildings, abandoned workshops and extinct traditional crafts and other public services, where the only care comes from their present inhabitants who are mainly of older age. Besides the old town, the problem of the disappearance of the industrial heritage is being highlighted, as well as the 20th century urbanity of Ivanić related to the exploitation of petrol resources in the area.

The aim of the Conference is to provoke discussion between the inhabitants of the old town and local government, the scientific and expert participants, so to form common attitudes towards methods and possible activities which would help to stop decay, promote revitalization and affirm a better quality of life in historical towns.

Goals



The Conference will try to give answers to these questions:

- __What are the values of the old town cores and built heritage from various historical periods? (*Research*)
- __What is the importance of the heritage of historical towns and whom does it concern? (*Interested parties*)
- __What is the actual situation and what threats exist? (*Evaluations, existing plans, protection systems, property, inadequate land use, inadequate management, poverty and disrespect, mistaken usage ...*)
- __What are the actual methods of planning management? (*Policies, administration, laws, finances, procedures...*)
- __What are the new demands and how are they related to limitations in historical cores? (*Infrastructure, transport..*)
- __What is to be achieved in the short, middle and long term? (*Vision, plan*)
- __What are the public and private interests in the revitalization process?
- __What are the means and methods of revitalization? (*Systems of management, planning, financing, legal means*)
- __What economic interests exist and how can finances be secured?
- __What is the role of the inhabitants and users of the urban space?
- __The example of Ivanić-Grad: analysis of results so far, problems in revitalization of the town, etc.

Thematic plan



- __ Research of the town core: cultural and historical, social, economic, landscape, etc.
- __ Urban revitalization, general and theoretical aspects reconstruction and conservation, evaluation methods
- __ Urbanistic plans for revitalization
- __ Models of creative management of space programming and management of the revitalization action plan
- __ Modern examples and experience in urban revitalization
- __ Management of local economic development (connecting activities in agriculture, industry, tourism..)
- __ Partnership and co-operation (local inhabitants, owners, entrepreneurs, government..)
- __ Public economic interests
- __ Domestic and international examples of the models of revitalization of historical towns

