



Within the project
Cultural heritage linking diversities in Europe (CLINK)
supported by the European Union
and in the framework of the international event
“Citizens’ participation in preservation of cultural heritage in their communities”

LDA Mostar
with support of the
LDA partners from Croatia, France, Greece, Bosnia and Herzegovina,
Serbia, Montenegro and Albania,
supported through the programme Europe for Citizens of the
European Union
has prepared

RECOMMENDATIONS

FOR CITIZENS’ PARTICIPATION IN PRESERVATION AND PROMOTION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE IN THEIR COMMUNITIES



CAEN, FRANCE, MAY 2019



Co-funded by the
Europe for Citizens Programme
of the European Union



The international event **“Citizens’ participation in perseveration of cultural heritage in their communities”** gathered more than **80 participants** from seven countries of the Balkans and the European Union to discuss cultural heritage preservation practices and enrich their knowledge on the subject. The objective of the event was to **bring together** cultural actors from partner countries and to **open a dialogue** on innovative practices aimed at raising awareness on cultural heritage of the general public, and in particular young people.

The event was organised on **15 and 16 May 2019 in Caen** at the premises of the Region Normandy. The participants exchanged practices on various forms of cultural heritage as well as its preservation, prevention of deterioration and promotion through raising awareness methods.

In the framework of the above-mentioned international event, the present Recommendations paper for **Citizens’ participation in preservation and promotion of cultural heritage in their communities** was drafted with the input of project partners, experts and participants. These Recommendations are the first output of the project CLINK – Cultural heritage linking diversities in Europe supported by the European Union.

TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION

- All good practices presented during the event,
- The years long experience of the LDAs and the partners on citizens participation and involvement,

AND SPECIALLY ACKNOWLEDGING THE FACTS THAT

- it is the citizens and especially youngsters who are the ones who create a connection and should acknowledge their own cultural heritage before it can be recognised as such
- when the citizens create the story and narrative around the cultural heritage it becomes a natural part of community living and history
- Citizens have local practices and rites, places of cultural heritage linked to their personal culture and these need to be celebrated as well as raise awareness upon the importance of their preservation



WE RECOMMEND:

- To establish **partnership** of NGO's with municipalities and local institutions and to define it through written memorandums of understanding;
- To build partnership with **core community members and stakeholders** through public debates, organization of mutual events, and similar;
- To encourage and to support the development of the **specialised summer schools** within higher education in cultural heritage preservation that would closely unite the teaching of theoretical and practical subjects while working on real problems and cultural heritage properties;
- To encourage and to support the development of the specialised higher education courses that would introduce real **interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary approach** on development of innovative practices in cultural heritage preservation;
- To encourage and develop activities on involvement of museums and institutions dealing with the **cultural heritage in education** of youth in all education stages
- To encourage and secure **financial support** to implementation of the innovative practices in cultural heritage preservation in the local communities through project that would imply both work of experts and locals;
- To develop activities and legislation measures that would secure **protection, preservation and rehabilitation of the traditional crafts** and profession which used to be a crucial economic and cultural factor for the local communities;
- To support adequate programmes aimed at presentation and promotion of the heritage to the **young people** in innovative and creative ways in order to be recognized by youth as something important and relevant to their identity;
- To work with NGOs and public institutions on development and implementation of activities aimed at strengthening **awareness of local cultural heritage**, Innovative participation in cultural heritage promotion, valorisation and preservation of the cultural heritage;



- To stimulate dialogue on preservation and promotion of cultural heritage which can serve as **instrument for development** (social and economic) and bringing people together;
- To work on **transformation** of negative perceptions of the cultural heritage or some parts of it and to promote their positive sides as well as positive image of sites that are perceived as dangerous, old-fashioned or uninteresting;
- To have **respect for differences between communities**, understanding and recognition of specific nature of heritage values between different communities, and respect for cultural heritage diversity in all its aspects and points of view;
- To adequately and with full ethical approach use **media in rising awareness** on cultural heritage and its benefits.

