



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
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Sustainable Growth: Linking Cultural Heritage with Resource Efficiency

The UNESCO World Heritage Convention was established in 1972 to protect cultural and natural sites which merit recognition as **part of a common heritage of humankind**. To date, the Convention has been ratified by 187 countries and the list includes 911 properties, 704 cultural, 180 natural, 27 mixed.

The world heritage emblem symbolizes the interdependency of the world's natural and cultural heritage: the central square represents the **achievement of human skills** and inspiration, and the circle celebrates the **gifts of nature**. The emblem is round like the world, a symbol of global **protection for the heritage** of all humankind.

The cultural heritage sites are inscribed in the List on the basis of their merits as forming a significant contribution to the cultural heritage of the world. Their **outstanding universal value** is considered to go beyond national boundaries and to be of **importance for future generations**.

Based on the significance of the World Heritage Convention, it becomes clear, that cultural heritage is directly linked to the concept of **sustainable development**, where environment, society and economy are the key pillars to be balanced in favor of future generations. Furthermore the **efficient use of natural/cultural resources** forms the basis for sustainable growth leading to added value for people.

Cultural Heritage is not just a Monument, a Historic Centre or cultural site that is restored and protected. A site is part of a **development chain** to be inherited by future Generations. Therefore Energy Management in Cultural Heritage sites is in line with the core targets of Sustainable Development and World Heritage Convention.

This development chain includes the protection, restoration, reconciliation and revitalization of heritage sites, thus **creating added values for people**, residents and guests. The today's WH concept necessitates a management plan, an instrument

where the local and national authorities, along with their stakeholders **jointly define their own objectives and the actions necessary** in order to be coherent with the targets of the WH Convention.

Sustainable growth can be achieved by a site concept which focuses on **reducing direct and indirect costs** by decreasing the use of and demand on natural resources, and **increasing the income** for local business, people and public authorities.

UNESCO considers the efficient use of energy, reducing emissions and using renewable energy sources as priority tasks in the revitalization of cultural heritage, but we keep in mind the challenge to restore and build infrastructure without reducing the value of the cultural heritage. Thus **modern technology combined with traditional knowledge** is able to contribute more effectively to the efficient use of resources and to better integrate the needs of modern living with the baseline of Sustainable Development in the field of cultural heritage management.

I would like to congratulate and acknowledge this good initiative taken by UNDP Croatia and can confirm UNESCO's interest to continue and strengthen its commitment in this field in SEE and the Mediterranean.