

General Evaluation of the Potential of the Cultural-Historical Heritage Built in the Republic of Moldova

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Abstract

This article analyzes the efficiency of the administration, as well as the way of financing the cultural heritage of the Republic of Moldova through the prism of the legal, institutional and cultural policy framework. Following the research, it was found that in the last 30 years the efficient and transparent management of the material cultural heritage of the Republic of Moldova has not been ensured, which endangers the national cultural heritage. If the current management and financing model does not change significantly in the near future, there is a risk that the cultural heritage of the Republic of Moldova will reach an unrecoverable condition.

Keywords

Cultural Heritage, Historical Monument, Cultural Value

1. Introduction

The architectural heritage is one of the most representative pages in the cultural heritage of mankind, the study and protection of which has become a mandatory norm of each country. Knowing the objectives of architecture allows us a better knowledge of the historical past, and their capitalization and preservation must be part of a sustainable legal regime of protection. From the first years after the declaration of the independence of the Republic of Moldova, the state authorities tried to establish such a regime by approving several national normative acts and adhering to various European and international conventions. The Republic of Moldova signed the Association Agreement with the European Union in 2014 and this determined the public administration authorities to change the direc-

tion of reform and strategic development of the country, including those in the cultural field; by developing and promoting cultural policies based on a permanent intercultural dialogue with the partners of the community countries, in order to develop the cultural diversity, the conservation and the valorization of the national cultural and historical heritage.

After thirty years of independence, we find that the situation in the field of protection of cultural heritage in the Republic of Moldova remains precarious. Although the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova adopted the Law on the Protection of Monuments and the Register of the Monuments protected by the state in 1993, and subsequently ratified a number of conventions in the field, the executive bodies made no effort to implement them. One of the strangest moments in this field was the non-publication of the Register of the Monuments protected by the state, which became a truly normative act only in 2010. Thus, arising from the legislation in force only the architectural objectives and archaeological sites registered in the Register of the Monuments protected by the state are under the official protection of the state. The state officials' ignorance and the citizens' indifference to our cultural heritage have led to the deterioration and destruction of a number of architectural heritage sites during the three decades of independence [1].

In most countries of the European Union, the values that the Republic of Moldova tends to assimilate, the cultural and historical heritage is protected primarily by proper maintenance, through conservation and restoration interventions. The immovable cultural heritage is considered one of the pillars that ensures the sustainable development of cities, its protection being placed among the essential objectives of urbanism and spatial planning. The current situation in this field is a catastrophic one, given the fact that a large part of the monuments with state protected status is further ruined and destroyed. In this sense, we want to emphasize that if we continue to be irresponsible and indifferent to cultural heritage, we risk losing them irretrievably quite quickly and many of these objectives can be seen only in documents and archive images.

Inspecting and knowing the heritage is part of the human rights to participate in the cultural life of society, as defined by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This involves protection and capitalization. The concerns about protecting and capitalizing on cultural heritage have a history of centuries. Over time, various institutional structures have been created, approved by legal commissions that have supported and regulated the process of protecting the movable and immovable cultural property. The concepts in the field have also evolved. Thus, in the 1970s, the notion of "historical monument" was replaced by the term "cultural heritage", the first being since then reserved for the values protected by law. Both the scope of the concept of heritage and the concept of historical monuments have expanded considerably. New approaches have emerged, new types of heritage have been highlighted internationally, new ways of valuing historical monuments have been successfully implemented [2].