

VILNIUS LITHUANIA

ROUTE OF THE UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE CITIES IN THE BALTIC STATES

URBAN RESILIENCE – ENHANCING URBAN RESILIENCE THROUGH GOVERNANCE AND CIVIL SOCIETY ENGAGEMENT

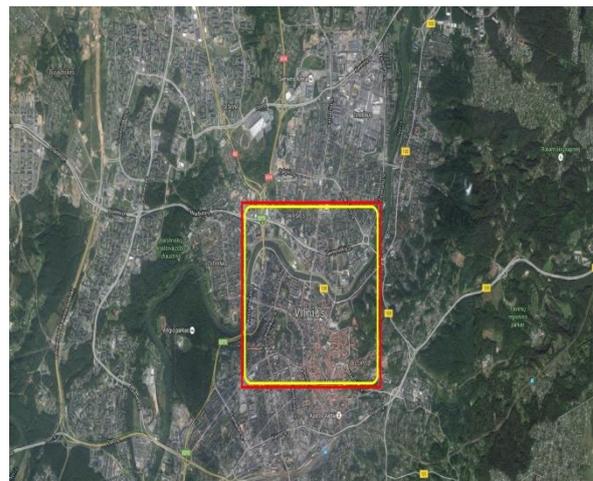
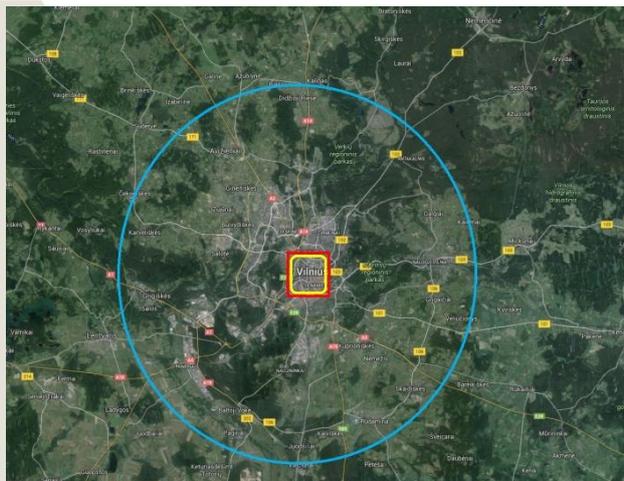
IDENTIFICATION

SIZE OF THE CITY:	523 050 inhabitants	280 km ²
SIZE OF THE INSCRIBED PROPERTY:	22 000 inhabitants	540 ha

TPOLOGY OF THE CITY:
Capital
Regional scale agglomeration



PROJECT SCALE



 City

 World Heritage Property

 Project

WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTY

VILNIUS HISTORIC CENTER

Inscription	1994
Criteria	(ii)(iv)
Area	540 ha

Political centre of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania from the 13th to the end of the 18th century, Vilnius has had a profound influence on the cultural and architectural development of much of eastern Europe. Despite invasions and partial destruction, it has preserved an impressive complex of Gothic, Renaissance, Baroque and classical buildings as well as its medieval layout and natural setting.

Criterion (ii): Vilnius is an outstanding example of a medieval foundation which exercised a profound influence on architectural and cultural developments in a wide area of Eastern Europe over several centuries.

Criterion (iv): In the townscape and the rich diversity of buildings that it preserves, Vilnius is an exceptional illustration of a Central European town which evolved organically over a period of five centuries.

NAME OF THE PROJECT

Route of the UNESCO World Heritage Cities in the Baltic States

NATURE OF THE MAIN HAZARDS TO WHICH THE CITY IS EXPOSED

Intensive urban development within and in a WH site surrounding areas remains a regular challenge. It is being tackled through adequate planning regulations and seeking high quality of architecture. Another potential risk is an insufficient awareness and irrelevant activity of historic property owners and investors.

**THE PROJECT**

History of the 3 Baltic Sea Region capital towns: Vilnius, Riga and Tallinn though diverse and different possess many similarities and closeness, also in the sphere of cities' historic urban cores preservation, in a course of the last hundred years. Therefore share and integration of historic knowledge and capacities of the 3 immensely increases geopolitical, economic and cultural powers of these countries. These 3 cities are approached and predominantly visited by tourists and travellers as unity. The 3 are approached as economic markets and powers too. Taking into consideration the dynamic

global economic and regional geopolitical changes, all the 3 WH towns faces same essential hazards starting from political, economic up to urban ones: development and social coherence. These historic and newly emerging circumstances inspired development cooperation and partnerships between the 3. The so called Baltic Way that joined the 3 capital towns by a live human chain in 1989 became a historic phenomenon evidencing collapse of the Soviet Union. The first tangible result of a common regional heritage managers' professional action was Riga Charter adopted in 2000 with a strong support of ICCROM. This document motivates and restricts reconstruction of the lost historic architectural objects. The Project 'Route of the UNESCO World Heritage Cities in the Baltic States' was developed between the 3 bodies responsible for WH site's management: Division for Heritage Protection of Tallinn municipal administration, State Cultural Heritage Inspection of Latvia in Riga, and Vilnius Old Town Renewal Agency, the NGO at Vilnius municipality, who led the Project. Aim of the project was to produce a joint publication introducing integrally histories and prerequisites of historic cities' centers appearance on the UNECO WH List. It is agreed between the partner parties the Project to be continued sharing knowledge and integrally tackling common challenges of the 3 cities' WH maintenance and preservation. The joint publication was issued in Lithuanian, English and Russian in late 2013, and reissued in Estonian, English and Russian in 2014.

GOVERNANCE AND CIVIL SOCIETY ENGAGEMENT

The success stories and advancement achieved in the 3 Baltic capital cities of Vilnius, Riga and Tallinn in a course of the last 2 decades is impressive and internationally recognised. The Baltic Heritage Committee found in 1993 became an efficient instrument and exemplary platform for sharing professional knowledge in heritage management between Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. The Committee was extremely efficient in the first 5 years of action. Since the 3 capital cities were inscribed into the UNESCO WHL in 1994-1997, occasional projects were implemented regularly. Today each city has best achievements in different spheres of heritage preservation: Vilnius - in urban planning and community capacity building, Riga in new infill architecture and infrastructure development, Tallinn in architectural conservation and wooden architecture preservation.

So there are newly emerging needs and interests in knowledge-share and partnership development improving urban resilience in the 3 WH towns. Following historic experience it's obvious that integration and closer interaction of the 3 undoubtedly is of an immense potential for improving quality of action and common resilience.

**USED
AVAILABLE
GUIDANCE
DOCUMENTS
OR TOOLKITS**

OF The EU Baltic Sea Region Strategy and political declarations of the Baltic Assembly (Cross-Parliament institution of the Baltic States)



PARTNERS/PROCESS

THE PROJECT DRIVERS

The Project is driven by principal neighbourhood recognition of use of the professional partnership, continuous cooperation between the municipal authorities (political level), private acquaintances and trust between the heritage managers and experts.
The Project was initiated by Vilnius Old Town Renewal Agency, and the main political support was given by National Commissions for UNESCO of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.

THE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

The Project was implemented by Vilnius Old Town Renewal Agency, State Insection for Cultural Heritage of Latvia in Riga, and And Division of Heritage Protection and Milieu Areas od Tallinn city government. The Secretariats for UNESCO National Commissions were much supportive and assistant tackling various tasks of the Project.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

It citizen have no direct role to the Project but their historic experience and behaviour evidence the prospective need of it.

FINANCIAL SET-UP

The Project at the beginning was financed by the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania and cofinanced by Vilnius municipality. In later stage municipality of Tallinn financed reissue of the polilingual joint Project publication.

DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION



Nature and principles of project implementation are open for its continuity which is planned for the year 2015

RELATION BETWEEN THE PROJECT AND THE MANAGEMENT OF THE HERITAGE PROPERTY

Urban resilience of each of the WH city depends on historic and cultural experience, as well as current political, economic and social capacity. The 3 Baltic capital and WH cities possess much common historic, cultural, political and social experiences from the last centenary. Each of these cities in their specific situations acquired their unique contemporary experiences in W and heritage property

management. Share of the specific advanced knowledge starting from property management up to heritage policies, (re-)creation of relevant partnership schemes between the 3 neighbour cities could efficiently improve urban resilience of each city separately. But potentially even more the integral one.

RESULTS/ IMPACTS

1. Tourists and travelers visiting the Baltic States could get and integral / joint information on the history, cultural heritage and common prerequisites of Vilnius, Riga and Tallinn as the UNESCO WH Cities/ sites.
2. The Project publication has a respective value for recognising potentials and needs in the 3 capital cities cooperation. Or even a corporate action, especially for politicians and heritage managers.
3. The Project publication is an exemplary case in presenting diversity and unity of the regional cooperation.

AN INNOVATIVE STEP OF URBAN RESILIENCE

The Project philosophy and publication is about and integral and comparative perception and understanding of our own heritage and history. Innovation is loaded in an inspiration to indirectly understand weaknesses and potentials of our city's

history and heritage management through comparing and recognising successes, advantages of our neighbour cities.

THE BENEFITS OF THE PROJECT FOR OTHER WORLD HERITAGE CITIES

The Project idea and publication are tangible examples of how cities can learn from their own and neighbour or just other World cities' histories seeking to plan and

act tackling to improve their urban and historic resilience.

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