

OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE

and monitoring of World Heritage properties

7 - 8 September 2011, Wieliczka Salt Mine, Poland

An international conference summarising the project: **"Improvement of the existing protection and management systems for sites inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List - preparation of statements of outstanding universal value and monitoring indicators, based on Norwegian and Polish experiences"**.

The UNESCO World Heritage Convention of 1972 obligates States Parties to a particular care of heritage considered to be so significant that its protection is in the interest of the whole world. Properties of Outstanding Universal Value form the UNESCO World Heritage List, to which new sites have continued to be added since 1978 when the first inscriptions were made. The principles of compiling the List and the requirements for nominated properties have been changed significantly over time. Consequently many inscribed properties have gaps in their documentation, which prevents their proper protection and management. Of particular importance is the lack of precise definition of the Outstanding Universal Value that a State Party commits itself to protect when it nominates the site, and the lack of indicators to monitor the state of preservation and effectiveness of conservation procedures undertaken at particular properties. The World Heritage Committee requested from the States Parties the preparation or revision of Statements of Outstanding Universal Value for sites inscribed on the List and improvement of their protection and management systems, including the implementation of systematic monitoring.

The goal of the conference is a presentation of results of the project „Improvement of the existing protection and management systems for sites inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List” run by the Polish National Committee of ICOMOS in cooperation with the National Heritage Board of Poland, ICOMOS Norway and the Małopolska Province State Service for Heritage Protection. The project is also a part of a broader concept of a monitoring system for the World Heritage sites being developed by NHB and ICOMOS Poland. The first day of the conference is devoted to the recapitulation of the project's results. For the second day a presentation and discussion on theory, systems and practice in monitoring of World Heritage sites is planned. Selected presentations and summary of discussions will be published in post-conference materials.

The meeting will take place in the underground chambers of the Wieliczka Salt Mine, inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1978. The conference languages are Polish and English with simultaneous translation.

ORGANISERS:

The National Heritage Board of Poland
ICOMOS Poland

HOST:

Wieliczka Salt Mine

Urnes Stave Church, Wooden Churches of Southern Małopolska, Røros Mining Town, Cracow's Historic Centre, Bryggen, Historic Centre of Warsaw

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Preliminary conference programme

7 September 2011

9:00 – 10:00 registration of Participants

10:00 – 10:30 opening of the conference

Summary of the project: „Improvement of the existing protection and management systems for sites inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List”

10:30 – 11:30 **I thematic block – background of the project**

11:30 – 12:00 coffee break

12:00 – 13:00 **II thematic block – methodology**

13:00 – 14:00 lunch

14:00 – 16:00 **III thematic block – case studies**

16:00 – 16:30 coffee break

16:30 – 19:00 tour of the Wieliczka Salt Mine World Heritage site

19:00 – 21:00 dinner

8 September 2011

Monitoring of World Heritage Sites

10:00 – 13:30 **IV thematic block – theory**

V thematic block – general monitoring concepts and systems

13:30 – 14:30 lunch

14:30 – 17:30 **VI thematic block – monitoring in practice**

17:30 – 18:30 conclusions and closing of the conference

19:00 – 21:00 dinner

9 September 2011

9:00 – 14:00 visit to the Bochnia Salt Mine /optional/

Urnes Stave Church, Wooden Churches of Southern Małopolska, Røros Mining Town, Cracow's Historic Centre, Bryggen, Historic Centre of Warsaw