Digitization of Natural and Cultural Heritage in Gorenjska (Slovenia)

State-of-the-art

Barbara Špehar, Barbara Rupar
Project Managers
BSC, Ltd., Kranj

Romania, Miercurea-Ciuc  I  September 6
Natural heritage

- Slovenia and Gorenjska region are characterised by a well preserved nature and high level of biodiversity, which reflects also in the size of protected areas and Natura 2000 network.

- 37% of Slovenia (44% of Gorenjska) is covered by Natura 2000 sites; 13% of Slovenia represent nature protected areas.

- In compliance with the Slovene legislation (by the Nature Conservation Act), the Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature Conservation is responsible for the public service of nature conservation with the emphasis on the protection of the most valuable natural features and biodiversity.
Natural heritage register

- The **Slovene nature conservation databases** are:
  - specified by the law (Nature Conservation Act)
  - established and maintained by the Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature Conservation and the Environmental Agency of the Republic of Slovenia

- Databases are **available to the public** through:
  - the list of data, regulations and documentation
  - the interactive way

  **Digitized online register of natural heritage** with presentation of all Slovenian data related to nature conservation that has been stipulated by law:

  **NATURE CONSERVATION ATLAS**

  available since 2008
Natural heritage register

NATURE CONSERVATION ATLAS [http://www.naravovarstveni-atlas.si](http://www.naravovarstveni-atlas.si)

- Interactive geographic information system with information about the natural areas in Slovenia
- Offers information and support for protection of natural heritage
- Usefull tool for spatial planning, research, education and fostering public awareness of heritage
Natural heritage register

NATURE CONSERVATION ATLAS

1. Valuable natural features / Natural heritage
2. Protected areas
3. Natura 2000 sites
4. Ecologically important areas

Triglav national park
Edelweiss (Leontopodium alpinum)
Bohinj Lake
Natural heritage register

Valuable natural features / Natural heritage

- 16,116 units of local and national importance (geomorphological, geological, hydrological, botanical, zoological, ecosystem natural value, trees, landscape value)
Natural heritage register

Protected areas

- 1,546 units (1 national park, 3 regional parks, 45 landscape parks, 55 nature reserves, 1,442 nature monuments)
Natural heritage register

Natura 2000 sites

- 355 units intended for the conservation of fauna and flora and the habitats that are rare or endangered because of human activities
Natural heritage register

Ecologically important areas

- 337 units which significantly contribute to the conservation of biodiversity
The Slovenian Register of immovable cultural heritage

- A central official database of immovable cultural heritage in the Republic of Slovenia
- Information support for protection of cultural heritage, BUT also: research, education, fostering public awareness of heritage

1991: development of the Register of immovable cultural heritage started
1996: experimental version of the Register was implemented
1997: geographic information system technology was integrated into the Register = an innovation at European level
2009: the Register was adapted to the latest trends and standards in the digitisation of the cultural heritage

In line with international recommendations:

- Core Data Index to Historic Buildings and Monuments of the Architectural Heritage
- International Core Data Standard for Archaeological Sites and Monuments

The Slovenian Register of immovable cultural heritage is one of more comprehensive and advanced in Europe

2016: 29,893 units of immovable cultural heritage (12th August 2016)

Concept and experience expanding to development of the register of intangible and movable cultural heritage
The Slovenian Register of immovable cultural heritage

- **Rules on the register of immovable cultural heritage**: scope, management and usage of the Register

- The Register is maintained by the **Ministry of Culture**

- Inscription in the Register extends to all types of immovable cultural heritage regardless of size, ownership or legal protection status

- Anyone can initiate the registration of the immovable cultural heritage unit: the facts and documents that prove the cultural heritage nature of a unit

- Ministry of Culture sends the initiative to the regional office of the **Institute for the Protection of Cultural Heritage of Slovenia**, which makes an assessment and prepares a proposal on the inclusion

- Based on Institute’s proposal, Ministry of Culture registers the unit in the register

*Bled Castle*
The Slovenian Register of immovable cultural heritage

- Data from the Register is **publicly accessible**. Public access is guaranteed via different web browsers.


- Search by: name, author, keyword, date, type of heritage, municipality...

- Within the registration procedure every heritage unit is given a unique **Heritage Reference Number** (HRN), which is used in all procedures relating to heritage protection.
Immovable cultural heritage - 4

The Slovenian Register of immovable cultural heritage

- Description of heritage in the Register contains **basic information** about the heritage unit:
  - name, type, short description, characteristic photos, date, author, location, jurisdiction...

- Includes **details of its geo-location**, and serves as the "identity card" of the heritage unit

- Since 2008, the Register is available online also via interactive map: http://giskd.situla.org

- The interactive map was updated in 2009 and supplemented with a part of a geo-referenced historical cadastre (allows direct comparison of the historical state of geographical space to the current situation; in addition, the timeline was added, which gives a better overview of the heritage in space and time)

- Measurements: location coordinates, distance, surface
Since 2010, information on the interactive map has been linked with the selected digital documents (currently 20,000 photographs and field notes), which are also available in the European digital library Europeana.

Interactive map of Immovable Cultural Heritage, [http://giskd6s.situla.org/giskd/](http://giskd6s.situla.org/giskd/), 16th August 2016
Immovable cultural heritage - 7

• Gorenjska: 4,135 registered units of immovable cultural heritage

IMMOVABLE CULTURAL HERITAGE UNITS OF GORENJSKA BY CATEGORY

- Cultural landscape: 3%
- Archaeological sites: 7%
- Buildings (castle, church, homestead, mansion, mill, hayrack, house, station etc.): 47%
- Parks and gardens and buildings with parks and gardens: 1%
- Settlements and their parts: 3%
- Memorial objects and places (chapel, statue, cemetery, monument, commemorative plaque, crucifix etc.): 35%
- Other objects and facilities: 4%
- Cultural landscape: 3%

Immovable cultural heritage - 8

*Cultural Heritage Protection Act (2008):* „all immovable cultural monuments shall be labelled“

- for improvement of public access and
- as a form of protection in the event of armed conflict


**Round metal plate**

- Name
- Heritage Reference Number
- Type of monument
- Authority that declared a monument
- Hague Convention emblem – blue shield
- Possible: QR code

Round metal plate content and formation from the Manual on the labelling of immovable cultural monuments
WHAT information/content shall we put behind the QR code
to be attractive and useful for the visitor?

HOW to link the QR code with the content of The Register of Immovable Cultural Heritage?

How to make the Register more up to date?
More audio-visual material (!!!) → less translations needed, only summarized descriptions etc.
Intangible cultural heritage

Before: »LIVING cultural heritage«

May 2016: »INTANGIBLE cultural heritage«

• Intangible heritage = intangible assets, such as practices, representations, expressions, knowledge, skills, and associated movables or cultural spaces (where this heritage is presented or reflects itself), which are handed down by communities, groups and sometimes individuals from generation to generation and are constantly recreated in response to their environment, nature and history (Cultural Heritage Protection Act - ZVKD-1, 2008).

Intangible cultural heritage - 2

The safeguarding of intangible heritage is coordinated by the **Slovene Ethnographic Museum**:

- Identifying, documenting, studying, evaluating and interpreting intangible heritage,
- coordinating and proposing inclusion into the *Register of the Intangible Cultural Heritage*,
- advising its carriers on preservation,
- coordinating the intangible heritage safeguarding work of national and authorized museums and the Institute for the protection of Cultural Heritage (also in national public service for the safeguarding of intangible heritage) etc.
Intangible cultural heritage - 3

**Register of the Intangible Cultural Heritage**

= a professional list of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Slovenia, includes six types:

- oral traditions and folk literature,
- performances and presentations,
- habits and customs,
- knowledge and practices concerning the environment,
- craftsmanship and economic skills,
- other, which includes intangible cultural heritage, which can not be classified into any of these genres

- Based on the *Rules on the Cultural Heritage Register (2009)*
- Maintained by the Ministry of Culture
- Began to emerge in 2008 when the first unit was entered („Škofja Loka Passion Play“)
- The 2nd unit was entered in 2012
- Now, the Register is regularly updated

Currently lists **52 items** of Slovene intangible heritage (3rd August 2016)
Intangible cultural heritage - 4

Registration procedure

Anyone can initiate the registration of the intangible cultural heritage unit

Coordinator (Slovene Ethnographic Museum) collects initiatives, reviews them and assesses if the unit is professionally suitable for entry in the Register

Based on assessment Coordinator prepares a proposal for entry

Ministry of Culture signs the unit of intangible cultural heritage in the Register
Each initiative has to include:

• Detailed description (geographical, historical, current, its carriers etc.)

• **Characteristic - the most descriptive photos (min 10, max 20)**
  MUST accompany each initiative!

• **Video and audio recordings are desirable** but not mandatory
  (depending on the content and type of the item)
  
  • audio-visual documentation is a good choice for the presentation of craft
    and commercial skills and different customs
  • audio tracks are very suitable for oral traditions and heritage of dialects,
    because they maintain the focus on sound information
  • some topics are very well presented with quality well-selected photos

THE BEST MEDIUM TO COMPLEMENT THE DESCRIPTION OF THE INDIVIDUAL UNITS
DEPENDS ON THE CONTENT AND THE TYPE OF THE UNIT.
Intangible cultural heritage - 7

Video documentation of the intangible heritage unit connected to the Register of Intangible Cultural Heritage

Intangible cultural heritage - 8

Register currently lists 16 items of intangible cultural heritage for Gorenjska

- 6 characteristic solely for Gorenjska region or a part of Gorenjska and
- 10 characteristic for Slovenia, thus also for Gorenjska

REGISTERED UNITS FOR GORENJSKA
BY TYPE

oral traditions and folk literature: 0
performances and presentations: 2
habits and customs: 4
knowledge and practices concerning the environment: 2
craftsmanship and economic skills: 8
other: 0

Data: Register of Intangible Cultural Heritage, 3rd August 2016
The interest for recording of intangible cultural heritage by its carriers is INCREASING, which is very welcome, since local filmmakers and amateur ethnologists often have the best access to the intangible cultural heritage and its institutions.
Movable cultural heritage

- Rules on the Register of Cultural Heritage (2009) foresee a *Register of Movable Cultural Heritage*, but it has not start to operate yet

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Museums in Gorenjska region</th>
<th>Digital register</th>
<th>% of digitized material</th>
<th>Presented in the web portal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gornjesavski muzej Jesenice</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>27 %</td>
<td>Museums.si</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muzeji radovliške občine</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>10 %</td>
<td>Museums.si</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tržiški muzej</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>40 %</td>
<td>DEDI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gorenjski muzej</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>40 %</td>
<td>Museums.si, Kamra, Europeana Collections, Monasterium.net</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loški muzej Škofja Loka</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>13 %</td>
<td>Museums.si</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muzej Železniki</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>3 %</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Questionnaires completed by museums in Gorenjska region, August 2016

- **Digitization is a priority** of the Ministry of Culture, the latter strongly encourages museums to digitize their collections and objects
Movable cultural heritage - 2

- Museums don’t have special strategies on digitization, the topic usually included into Annual Museum Plan
- Museums are aware of the importance of digitization, they would like to digitize their complete collections
- By the end of 2016: up for approximately 8% on average
- Problems/barriers:
  - technical equipment, financial resources (costs), personnel structure and overload
- Digitization mainly done by personnel and public workers
- The same goes for best practice transfer and implementation: technical and financial barriers
Movable cultural heritage - 3

• Museums are mainly part of the web portal Museums.si (http://museums.si/):
  • offers information on museums and galleries, their collections and objects, contributions, exhibitions and events
  • simplifies the browsing of published collections and objects, and allows you to search by various criteria
  • information on the portal is contributed mainly by museums and galleries themselves (information published through the museum documentation system Galis)
Digitization Strategy

Immovable cultural heritage:

✓ labelling of immovable cultural heritage units
✓ QR code content – what do we want and need there?
✓ connection with the register
✓ up to date & visual material

Strong connection with tourism!
Thank you for your attention!