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under the project entitled "Financing impact on regional development of cultural heritage valorisation" – FINCH (INTERREG EUROPE Programme)





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Introduction

Cultural heritage is not only a common good and a resource which we use, but also our shared responsibility. Therefore, seven European regions, including the Lodzkie Region, decided to join forces to protect, restore, increase the value and manage cultural heritage, involving representatives of the public, NGO, scientific, private and public sectors in this process.

Assuming that financing investments related to cultural heritage will ensure its protection in a dynamic and efficient manner, thus increasing its value and ensuring sustainable development, the goal of the FINCH project was to seek new forms of organizational and financial support.

The main goal of the project is to increase the economic and social impact of activities related to the valorisation of cultural heritage by promoting its development within new business models, involving partnerships of various entities and seeking new forms of investment financing.

The following institutions joined the Project Partnership:

- Piedmont Region (Italy) Project Leader;
- Lodzkie Region (Poland);
- University of Turin (Italy);
- Bank of Development of Saxony-Anhalt (Germany);
- South-West Oltenia Regional Development Agency (Romania);
- La Rioja region (Spain);
- South Ostrobothnia Regional Council (Finland);
- The Thessaly Region (Greece).

The project implementation is divided into 2 phases:

- PHASE 1: The process of international learning and exchange of experiences/June 2018 -October 2020;
- PHASE 2: Implementation of the Regional Action Plan/December 2020 November 2022.

Preparation of the Regional Action Plan (RAP) is an essential element for the further implementation of the project (the so-called phase II). Each of the Partners prepares proposals of activities enabling the use of proven, effective solutions presented by project partners in their region.

As part of the RAP for the Lodzkie Region, the following actions have been planned:

- 1. Incorporation of international solutions presented in the FINCH project into the Policy instrument entitled "Regional Programme for the Protection of Historical Monuments in the Lodzkie Region for the years 2020-2023";
- 2. Preparation, development and implementation of an internet platform for the promotion of regional cultural heritage and methods of its funding.

Below is a brief description of the region's cultural heritage resources and the context of the experience exchange process carried out in the first phase of the FINCH project as part of the activities undertaken by the Self-Government of the Lodzkie Region, and the activities envisaged under this plan are described in detail, taking into account: reference to the project, description of the planned actions, involved participants, timeframe, cost, funding source and monitoring process with indicators.

1. Unique cultural heritage resources in the Lodzkie Region

The Lodzkie Region covers an area of 18,219 km2 and is inhabited by approximately 2.5 million people. Its administrative structure consists of 24 poviats, including 3 cities with a poviat status and 177 communes. The territory of the voivodeship consists of the following lands: Leczyca, Sieradz, Wielun, part of the Rawa area with the Duchy of Lowicz and Opoczno. When characterizing the region, its unique cultural heritage resources should be emphasized:

- Historic spatial layouts: preserved urban layouts of cities with medieval origins, e.g. Leczyca, Lowicz, Piotrkow Trybunalski, Sieradz (checkerboard model), Wielun (spindle pattern), and others, e.g. Inowlodz, Kutno, Opoczno, Pabianice, Pajeczno, Poddebice, Radomsko, Rawa Mazowiecka, Skierniewice, Uniejow, Warta, Wieruszow, Wolborz, Zgierz, as well as towns, e.g. Boleslawiec, Przedborz, Szadek, Ujazd, Zloczew, or Zarnow, as well as examples of historically valuable rural settlements: e.g. Nowosolna (a relic of a Frédéric settlement), Spycimierz (a multi-road area with a castellan settlement), Zlakow Borowy (a linear single row), Zlakow Koscielny (a row with a church complex and mini open-air museum), Chroscin and Chełmno (fortified towns), Bakowa Gora and Majkowice (defensive structures), Gidle and Poswietne (monastery complexes), Spala, with the tsarist hunting traditions, among other attractions.
- Cities related to the textile industry: industrial and residential complexes from the 19th and 20th centuries (neoclassical, eclectic, Art Nouveau, modernist), factory-residential and residential estates in Lodz, such as KW Schleibler and K. Poznanski, factories, such as for example, the L. Geyer "White Factory", palaces and villas, such as E. Herbst, L. Grohman, J. Heinzl, the Kindermann family villas, or large town houses at Piotrkowska. Apart from Lodz, many other textile centers also developed, such as Aleksandrow Lodzki, Konstantynów Lodzki, Brzeziny, Ozorkow, Pabianice, Piotrkow Trybunalski, Tomaszow Mazowiecki, Zdunska Wola and Zgierz.
- Garden cities: established in forest areas in the 1920s, created in response to the needs
 of residents of the dynamically-developing industrial cities, e.g. Sokolniki, Tuszyn,
 Grotniki, Kolumna, with wooden villas and guest houses, modelled on the Swiss spa
 architecture.
- Sacral complexes: the most numerous and the most valuable monuments of sacral architecture, e.g. the unique archicollegiate church in Tum (the largest preserved Romanesque temple in Poland), the church in the Cistercian abbey in Sulejow-Podklasztorze, churches in Inowlodz, Stronsko, Ruda, Zarnow and Buczek, etc. A characteristic element of the cultural landscape of the region is monuments of wooden sacral architecture, a total of 135 churches, bell towers and chapels, e.g. churches in Boguszyce, Grebien, Biala, Lagiewniki, Raczyna, Skomlin, Kamion (chapel), Czerniewice (mid -15th century), Gidlach (15th/16th century), Kamienna, Ochedzyn Stary (16th century), Modlna (17th century), or Kalowo, Topola Krolewska, Tum, Plecka Dabrowa and Rossoszyca.
- Residential premises: a special peculiarity of the region is the concentration of 19th-century industrial city residences, e.g. in Lodz, Pabianice or Ksawerow, as well as manor and park complexes, e.g. the larch manor house in Ozarow (18th century), the Arkadia-Nieborów palace and park complex, palaces in Bialaczow, Bratoszewice, Gostkow, Krosniewice, Kutno, Sokolniki, Walewice, Wolborz and Zloczew, brick manors with defensive features, e.g. in Chorzenice, Lopatki, Mikorzyce, Siemkowice and Solec, the court of the archbishops of Gniezno in Kamionka.
- Defence construction: monuments of defensive architecture constitute only 1.3% of the region's resources, e.g. Kazimierz castles of the lowland variety: in Leczyca and in Boleslawiec and Inowlodz, a gothic lowland bishop's castle in Uniejow, or in Lowicz, a Gothic family castle in Oporow, a Gothic and Renaissance residential tower in Piotrkow

Trybunalski, the castle of the Mazovian dukes in Rawa Mazowiecka, as well as relics of medieval settlements in Besiekiery, Bakowa Gora, Majkowice, Drzewica, Wojslawice and Wola Wezykowa. Examples of rare medieval fortified monastery complexes are the complexes of the Cistercians in Sulejow and the Premonstratensians in Witow.

- Wooden construction related to traditional rural economy: few examples of traditional farm wooden construction have survived in rural areas, e.g. in Zlakow Koscielny, Zlakow Borowy, as well as mills, e.g. on the Grabia (Ldzan-Talar), Warta (Krepowizna, Kajdas, Konopnica), Moga (Kolacin), Prosna (Lug, Kamionka-Krupka) rivers, and tributaries of the Pilica (Fryszerka, Ponikla, Stefanow) river, as well as windmills, e.g. in Kocilewo-Ozarow, Kwiatkowek, Uniejow, Dabrowa, Slugy, Wlocin. Among the wooden objects with a storage function, the granaries in Gidle (17th century) and in Skomlin (18th century) are unique in the country.
- The Lodzkie Region with its cultural heritage fits into the European context by co-creating a network of European Cultural Routes, part of which are: the Amber, Cistercian and Romanesque routes.
- Archaeological monuments: there are about 25,000 medieval and prehistoric archaeological sites in the region (fortified settlements, graves and barrows), e.g. a particularly valuable early medieval stronghold in Spycimierz.
- The traditions of the region are related to the historical presence of national and religious minorities, mostly Jews, Germans and Russians, but also Czechs, Tatars and the Dutch.
- Significant determinants of the cultural identity of the Łódź subregion are: the heritage of the 19th century textile industry. Numerous and unique relics from the times of the most intense industrialization in the form of buildings and complexes are still visible in the city space of the region, especially in: Lodz, Aleksandrow Lodzki, Brzezin, Konstantynow Lodzki, Ozorkow, Pabianice, Zgierz, Zdunska Wola, Tomaszow Mazowiecki, Zelow, as well as in the towns of: Grzeszyn and Moszczenica. Examples of traditional development of craftsmen's houses are available, for example, in the Cultural Park of the City of Weavers in Zgierz.
- In the first half of the 20th century, Lodz was a strong centre of the avant-garde, here the precursors of this direction in art created their works: Katarzyna Kobro and Władysław Strzemiński.
- The identity of the region also refers to film traditions. In the region, there is the Film Trail
 of the Lodzkie Region (Filmowe Lodzkie).
- An important element of the identity is also the cultivation of the memory of outstanding artists related to the region, such as W. S. Reymont, A. Rubinstein, J. Tuwim, M. Konopnicka, J. Długosz, J. Kitowicz, W. Siudmak, St. M. Kolbe, St. Faustyna Kowalska, A, Cierplikowski.
- The activity of museums is essential for the preservation of heritage. More than 120 operating institutions with a museum profile (including open-air museums, open-air galleries, regional chambers, both public and private) in the region gather collections documenting its past, e.g. the Art Museum, Central Museum of Textiles, EC1 Science and Technology Centre, Museum in Nieborow and Arkadia, or the Giants of Power in Belchatow.
- The cultural identity of the region emcompasses the traditions and heritage of separate historical lands, with characteristic manifestations of their folklore: Leczyca, Lowicz, Opoczno, Rawa and Sieradz (with Piotrkow) and Wielun, as well as the Lodzkie Subregion.
- The Lowicz folklore is the most recognizable in the country, its elements can be found in the tradition of using a folk costume, which is characterized by colorful and rich

decorative motifs (Lowicz embroidery and striped uniforms), the tradition of producing traditional ceramics is also cultivated (white vessels with blue and brown ornamental motifs).

- The "brand product" of the Leczyca folklore is the figure of the Devil Boruta, the tradition of pottery and plaiting has also been preserved.
- The tradition of producing characteristic interior design elements has survived in the art of Rawa folklore: tree-shaped cutouts (Rawa twigs), tissue paper flowers, embroidered napkins and pillows (Rawa was once famous for weaving and lace making).
- The characteristic elements of the Opoczno folklore are colourful folk costumes and a specific type of cross-stitch, as well as musical traditions (oberek).
- The old rituals of the Sieradz folklore are cultivated to this day are: "Wisiorze", Herody, and "Zapusty", and the most famous custom is laying flower carpets and the Corpus Christi procession in Spycimierz.
- A unique element of the Wielun folklore is a specific folk costume (called "burok" (from the red colour) and rich interior decorations of narrow-front houses, including spiders, bouquets "na koliku" and "odcyzoki" which are unique for the region.
- One of the aspects of the region's folklore is cooking. The production of food from traditional ingredients, while maintaining the traditional method of production helped them to be placed in the List of Traditional Products, kept by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. Currently the list contains 148 products from the Lodzkie Region, such as Leczyca rye wholemeal bread, Gingerbread cottage from the Mrogi river region, Jezow sour soup with potatoes, Honey from Zelechlinek commune, Apple juice from Kałeczewo.

2. Regional Programme for the Protection of Historical Monuments in the Lodzkie Region for the years 2020-2023

The principles of the protection and care for historical monuments in Poland are regulated by the provisions of the Act of 23 July 2003 on the Protection and Care for Historical Monuments (Journal of Laws of 2020, item 282, as amended). Preservation of monuments - understood as manifestations of the human activity throughout the history, being a testimony of the bygone era or events characterized by historical, artistic and scientific value – is in the public interest, contributing to the maintenance of ties between the past and future generations and strengthening the sense of identity. The obligation to protect historical monuments rests with public administration bodies, and its main goal is to ensure legal, organizational and financial conditions for the permanent preservation of historical monuments, through their appropriate maintenance and development, also taking them into account in spatial planning and shaping the environment, as well as preventing any risks to their existence. On the other hand, the care for historical monuments rests with their owner (or holder) and consists, in particular, of securing and maintaining the monument and its surroundings in the best possible condition, utilizing it in a way which ensures permanent preservation of its value.

One of the obligations imposed on regions under the aforementioned act is to develop a regional programme of protection of monuments. The "Regional Programme for the Protection of Historical Monuments in the Lodzkie Region" (pol. *Wojewódzki Program Opieki nad Zabytkami na lata 2020-2023* - WPONZ) was developed in 2020 by the Environment and Landscape Team at the Spatial Planning Office of the Lodzkie Region in cooperation with particular organizational units of the Marshal's Office of the Lodzkie Region, including employees and external experts directly involved in the implementation of the FINCH project. The experience gained during the FINCH project implementation, as well as the lessons learnt and good practices explored in this project

were proposed and included into this programme, taking the form of individual activities, as described below as well as in the next chpter. Moreover, appreciating the importance of implementing the international FINCH project and the possibility of exchanging experiences between its individual partners, as well as using these experiences in the region, its implementation has been also indicated in the content of the above-mentioned document.

In order to achieve high-quality cultural heritage, it is necessary to take remedial actions. The improvement of the state of preservation and the proper use of the cultural heritage elements can be achieved thanks to the comprehensive revitalization of the historical urban and rural spatial assumptions, taking into account the preservation of specific features of their building structure. An example of such activity was presented as part of the process of exchanging experiences of the FINCH project partners ("Valorisation of cultural heritage through the rehabilitation of preservation of Water Castle" in the South-Eastern Region of Oltenia/Romania) and developed within WPONZ as part of the following action: Implementation of projects supporting the exchange of good practices in the field of cultural heritage management: strengthening the capacity of communes to plan and implement revitalization activities by conducting educational meetings, providing advisory support, developing a revitalization monitoring system, as well as integrating communities interested in revitalization (Action 1 of the RAP).

As evidenced by the experiences presented by partners during the FINCH project, branding and networking of local products can significantly contribute to the development of tourism and, consequently, the local economy (good practice titled "Gardendreams – Historical Parks in Saxony-anhalt/Germany: Marketing/Networking/public and private cooperation"). In this context, the task planned under the WPONZ is important: supporting networking of cooperation for the development of image-related tourism products connected with cultural heritage: organization of meetings with entities operating in the culture and tourism sectors in order to create conditions for effective cooperation in the area of commercialization of cultural heritage in terms of products. (Action 1 of the RAP).

Taking into account the "good practices" presented in the FINCH project, it is also worth emphasizing the role of valorisation of intangible cultural heritage. Good practice titled "Valorisation of cultural heritage: the Tango Tradition in Finland" was one of them. In this context, one of the tasks covered by WPONZ is the development of the Regional List of Intangible Heritage, including manifestations of tradition (rituals, legends, dialect, clothing, music, cuisine - traditional products, crafts and artistic handicrafts) (Action 1 of RAP).

One of the tasks under the Regional Action Plan for the Lodzkie Region, covered by WPONZ, is to support the networking of cooperation between cultural institutions and local communities: promotion in cultural institutions of the concept of institutional support for the activities of bottom-up initiatives (i.e. individual authors, associations, including Local Groups Activities, Rural Housewives' Clubs and social custodians of historical monuments (Action 1 of RAP). Inspiration for further development and reference to this action was based on an example of good practice titled 'Godparenting the Heritage of modern Sculpture" from the city of Lansi-Suomi/Finland, explored within the FINCH project. Cultivation of folklore traditions may be supported by local organizations, such as Rural Housewives' Clubs or Local Action Groups, whose statutory goal is to care for traditions, build strong ties between residents and their place of origin and support local artists. There are 746 Rural Housewives' Clubs and 18 Local Action Groups in the region, which are potential organizations which can develop and implement initiatives and projects in the field of culture development and protection of cultural heritage.

The "Regional Programme ..." has been planned for implementation with the use of many sources of financing, both public and private, including national funds, local government units, European Union structural funds (international, national, regional programmes).

WPONZ was adopted at the session of the Lodzkie Region Parliament on 27 October 2020, and it will be implemented in the financial perspective of 2021-2023, covering the whole area

of the Lodzkie Region. The programme is an instrument for the implementation of activities dedicated to historical monuments in regional strategic documents. It specifies the conditions for covering historical monuments with the economic development processes of the region, with the participation of various entities, including economic ones.

Within the Activity no 2 of this RAP, the preparation, development and implementation of an internet platform for the promotion of regional cultural heritage and methods of its funding has been planned. This part of the platform, relating to financial instruments will include:

- Prospects concerning financial instruments based on the Living Document (https://www.interregeurope.eu/finch/library/#folder=2355) developed under the FINCH project;
- Examples of valorisation of cultural heritage based on good practices presented in the FINCH project;
- Guidelines concerning access to different funding sources in the region, existing national and regional structures as well as new opportunities that arise.

3. Action 1

	Action 1	Incorporation of international solutions presented in the FINCH project into the Policy instrument entitled "Regional Programme for the Protection of Historical Monuments in the Lodzkie Region for the years 2020-2023"
1.	Relevance of the project	In the course of implementation of the project entitled "Financing impact on regional development of cultural heritage valorisation" The following selected functioning solutions ("good practices") have been included in the mainstream of regional policy development in the Lodzkie Region under the document entitled "Regional Programme for the Protection of Historical Monuments in the Lodzkie Region for the years 2014-2023" (WPONZ): 1. "Gardendreams - Historical Parks in Saxony-Anhalt (Germany): Marketing Network/public and private cooperation": in order to create a unified brand and increase economic impact, a cooperation network was established - in the form of an association of 40 entities - owners of parks and gardens (https://cutt.ly/9kjUi6f); 2. "Valorisation of cultural heritage through the rehabilitation of preservation of Water Castle" in the South-Eastern Region of Oltenia (Romania): thanks to joint efforts of the regional and local authorities, the historic building was rebuilt, which contributed to the creation of new jobs, development of tourism and improvement of the quality of the organized events, but most of all the investment had a great socio-economic benefit, contributing to the revitalization (not only in terms of reconstruction, but also creation of social development opportunities) of the entire area (https://cutt.ly/AkjUFsA); 3. "Godparenting the Heritage of Modern Sculpture" in the city of Lansi-Suomi in Finland: public-private care for the historical monument - a sculpture created by a local artist (https://cutt.ly/6kjl1Sg); 4. "Valorisation of Cultural Heritage: the Tango Tradition in Finland": the regional authorities support activities carried out by the "third sector" organizations (annual festival and ad hoc events) in order to preserve the intangible heritage of tango dancing (https://www.interregeurope.eu/finch/news/news-article/5425/3rd-interregional-workshop-in-finland/). These good practices were an inspiration to change the WPONZ, and the Program was adopted by the Parlia
2.	Nature of the action	Supporting networking of cooperation for the development of image-related tourism products connected with heritage: organization of meetings with entities operating in the field of culture and tourism in order to create conditions for effective cooperation in the field of commercialization of cultural heritage in terms of products (task no 11 of WPONZ, Operational)

		Objective 3, Measure 3.1, Task 3.1.3);
		 Supporting networking of cooperation between cultural institutions and local communities: promotion in cultural institutions of the concept of institutional support for bottom-up initiatives (i.e. individual creators, associations - including LAGs, Rural Housewives' Clubs and volunteer caretakers of historical monuments) (task no.12 in WPONZ, Operational Objective 3, Measure 3.1, Task 3.1.3);
		3. Implementation of projects supporting the exchange of good practices in the field of cultural heritage management: implementation of a task consisting of strengthening the capacity of communes to plan and implement revitalization activities by conducting educational meetings for communes, providing advisory support, developing a revitalization monitoring system, as well as integrating communities interested in revitalization (task no. 6 in WPONZ, Operational Objective 2, Measure 2.2, Task 2.2.1);
		 Development of the Regional List of Intangible Heritage (RLIH): Coordination of work on the creation of RLIH including manifestations of tradition (ritual, legends, dialect, clothing, music, crafts and artistic craftsmanship) (task no. 9 in WPONZ, Operational Objective 3, Measure 3.1, Task 2).
		The target value of the WPONZ indicators was set for a period until 2023, however, in the fourth quarter of 2022, a monitoring activity will be carried out in the implementation of individual measures, it is estimated that by November 2022 the values of measures related to individual tasks will be as follows:
		 Number of traditional products entered in the list of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development: 5/2022 (Measure 3.1 of WPONZ);
		 Number of marked/designated regional cultural routes: 1/2022 (Measure 3.1 of WPONZ);
		 Number of museums and open-air museums: 3/2022 (Measure 2.2 of WPONZ).
3.	Stakeholders involved	Organizational units of the Marshal's Office of the Lodzkie Region, local self-government units in the region, institutions operating in the field of culture and cultural heritage, non-governmental organizations, the society.
4.	Timeframe	January 2020 - November 2022
5.	Costs	The cost is impossible to be be estimated at this stage of WPONZ implementation.
6.	Funding sources	Budget of the Lodzkie Region

4. Action 2

	Action 2	Preparation, development and implementation of an internet platform for the promotion of regional cultural heritage and methods of its funding
1	Relevance of the project	 This part of the platform relating to financial instruments will include: Prospects concerning financial instruments based on the Living Document (https://www.interregeurope.eu/finch/library/#folder=2355) developed under the FINCH project; Examples of valorisation of cultural heritage based on good practices presented in the FINCH project; Guidelines concerning access to different funding sources in the region, existing national and regional structures as well as new opportunities that arise.
2	Planned activities	 The described project will meet several important goals, which are: creation of a single online platform devoted to the cultural heritage of the region, development of a tool for sharing information and acquiring knowledge, as well as building a database of current opportunities and needs for the valorisation of the cultural heritage in the region, transfer of knowledge from the process of exchanging experiences within the FINCH project as a source of inspiration for undertaking similar activities by entities from the region, presentation of the existing possibilities of financing the heritage at the regional and national level, presentation of historic buildings co-financed by subsidies from the budget of the Lodzkie Region. The internet platform would be constantly developed and updated, for instance with new interactive tools and solutions, depending on the needs. By promoting knowledge, presenting experiences and showing the results of these activities in the country and in European regions, the platform will make it easier for regional entities to find funding solutions adequate to the needs and possibilities and will broaden the knowledge about the cultural heritage of the region and the possibilities of its valorisation. The implementation of this action is possible thanks to the "Regional programme for the protection of historical monuments in the Lodzkie Region for the years 2020-2023", which covers task 3.2.3 - Use of ICT to promote the cultural heritage. As part of this task, it is planned to create one recognizable platform of the Lodzkie Region, on the basis of various websites administered by the Marshal's Office of Lodzkie Region, presenting the region's cultural heritage. The formulation of the task was dictated by the need to unify many sites visually and substantively.

		knowledge and ideas will be a valuable contribution to this undertaking. This process will be phased and will be combined with meetings which will allow the stakeholders to express their opinion on an ongoing basis regarding the content, form and usefulness of the designed tool.
3	Stakeholders involved	 organizational units of the Marshal's Office (Department of Culture and Education as the main coordinator of the project; substantive departments: Department of Promotion, Tourism or EU departments as substantive support entities providing content in possession by individual departments),
		 regional stakeholders - support in the process of creating the platform's content (local government units, entities operating in the field of culture and cultural heritage, non-governmental organizations, science and research sector, private entities)
4	Timeframe	January 2021 - June 2022
	Costs	Basic costs: PLN 100,000 - PLN 150,000
5		(website development with graphic design and website maintenance)
		additional costs: website maintenance, substantive resources, transfer of copyrights, promotional activities.
6	Funding sources	Own funds, funds from the European Regional Development Fund under the Regional Programme of the Lodzkie Region for the years 2021-2027 and under other national programmes, civic budget, other.