



comité international des villes et villages historiques
international committee on historic towns and villages

*International Conference of CIVVIH Sub Committee for Central and Eastern Europe
“Quality of Public Space in World Heritage Cities. Opportunities and Threats”
29th of June – 3rd of July, 2016, Český Krumlov, Czech Republic*

VITAL PUBLIC PLACES IN HISTORIC TOWNS: CHALLENGES TO ENHANCING THE SELF-ORGANIZATION CAPACITY FOR LOCAL ACTION

The case study of Nessebar

Elena Dimitrova



ISSUES TO DISCUSS

- ✓ Public urban space in context: who needs public space and why?
- ✓ The urban process in the historic town of Nessebar: lessons learned on the effectiveness of planning for vital public places.

Place captures space by registering our times,
embodying our identities and reflecting our lives.

John Short, The Urban Order, 1999

Adopted by UN
summit on
25/09/2015

Explicitly
acknowledges
the fundamental
role of culture
and cultural
heritage for
human
development



<http://www.icomos.org/en/178-english-categories/news/4372-statement-by-icomos-on-the-adoption-of-the-un-sustainable-development-goals>



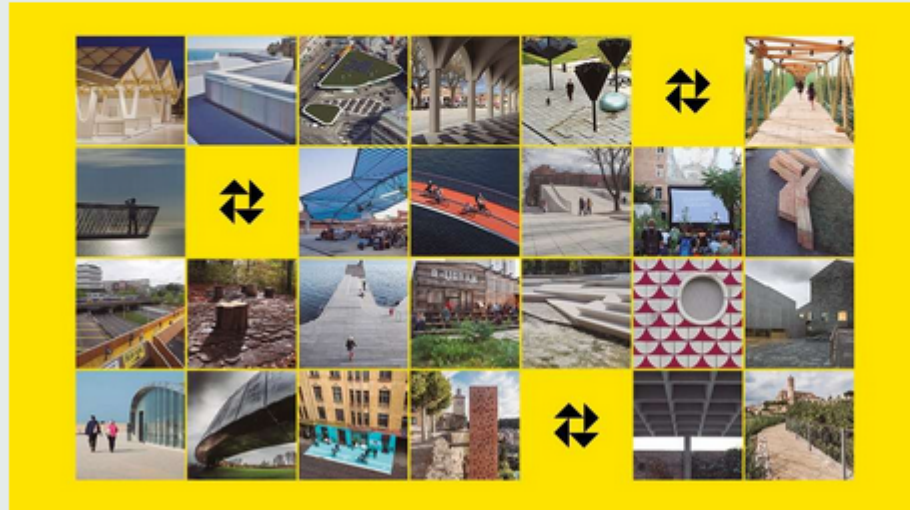
European Charter on Participatory Democracy in Spatial Planning Processes

Version V10 final, 14 October 2015.

- ✓ **No planning action is without cultural implications.** The involvement of individuals and communities in the definition of their living spaces is therefore critical.
- ✓ The goal of **a participatory democracy process** in spatial planning is to achieve shared ownership and a common acceptance of plans or policies.
- ✓ Planning authorities or other bodies involved in the process **must ensure that people feel respected, comfortable and free to express their opinions**

Awards ceremony of the 2016 European Prize for Urban Public Space

4 July 2016



Images of the 25 finalist projects of the Prize

PRIZES
CITY AND PUBLIC SPACE
FREE

Opening times

4 July 2016

18:30

[Add to the calendar](#)

Price

Free admission

Language

Catalan

Simultaneous translation from Catalan into English

A competition in support of the creation, regeneration and improvement of public urban spaces as catalysts for the urban process.

Criteria:

- ✓ Explicitly urbanistic character of the intervention
- ✓ Public ownership of the project;
- ✓ Clearly addressed functions of the public urban space;
- ✓ Contribution to overcoming social fragmentation by removing physical and symbolic barriers to the use of the space
- ✓ Citizens' participation in the creation and maintenance of the place
- ✓ Transdisciplinary approach

NAMUR Declaration

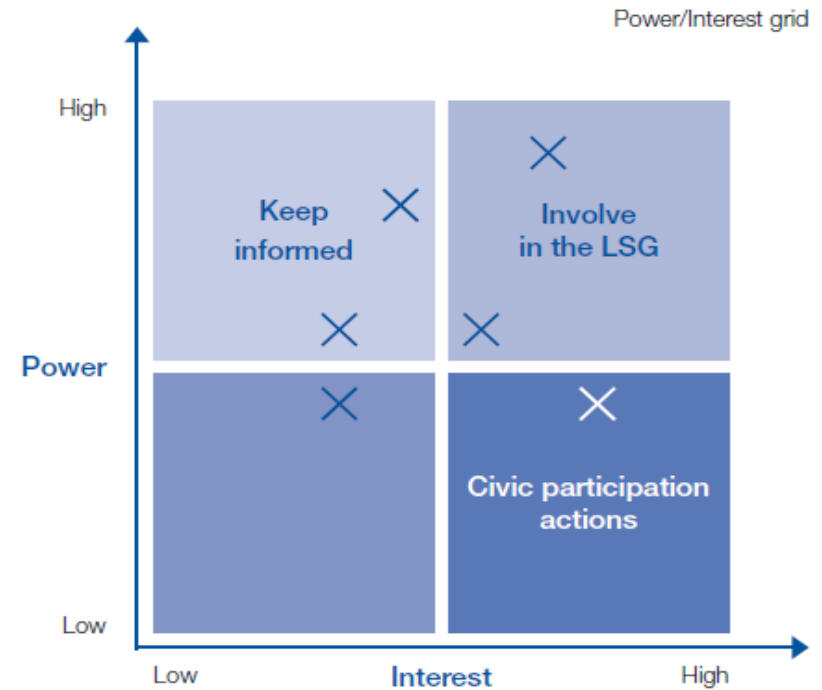
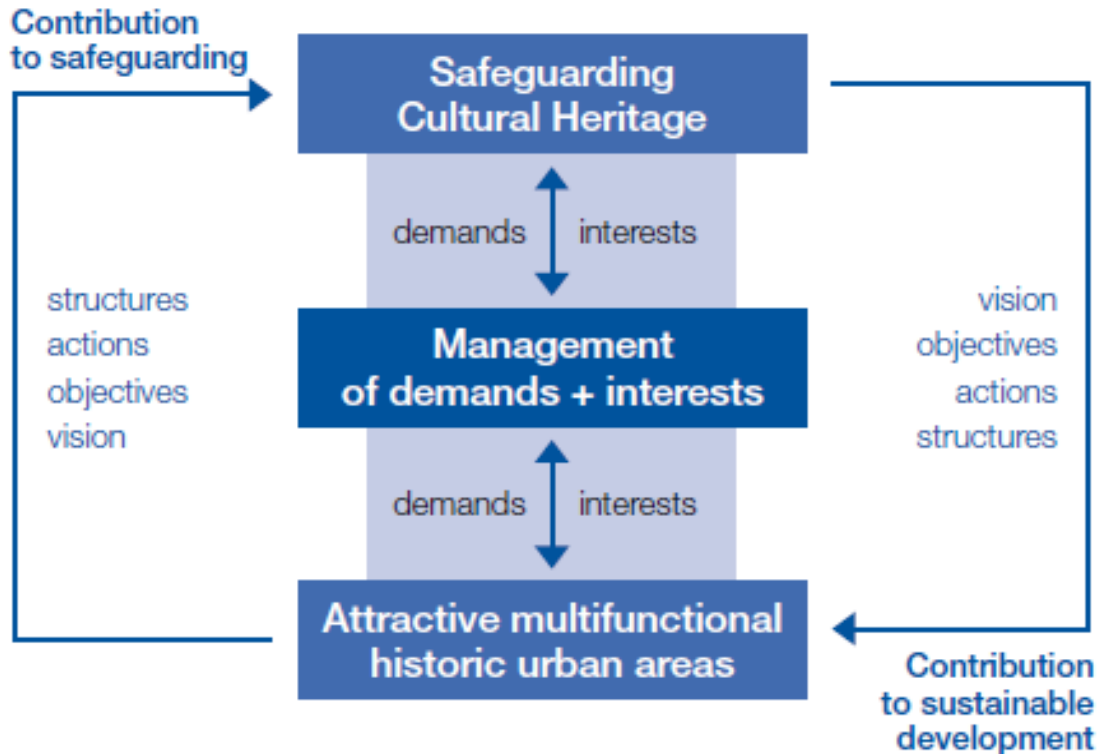
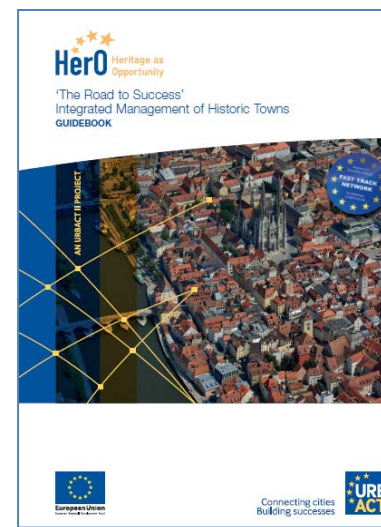
Adopted in April 2015 by the 6th Conference of Ministers Responsible for Cultural Heritage

Appendix, Guidelines for the European Cultural Heritage Strategy for the 21st century:

- ✓ HERITAGE AND CITIZENSHIP: to educate and raise awareness about heritage rights and responsibilities; **enable citizens to develop or regain a sense of ownership of heritage;**
- ✓ HERITAGE AND TERRITORIAL GOVERNANCE: to promote **innovative good spatial governance based on heritage as a resource;**
- ✓ HERITAGE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: to improve the public sector's cultural heritage management capacity so it can manage heritage as a real local and regional resource; **strengthen the role of cultural heritage in the development of public spaces.**

EU PROJECT HERO: HERITAGE AS AN OPPORTUNITY

A new approach to the management of historic cities



Local Support Groups: Identifying needs and motivations to act

CURRENT BULGARIAN CONTEXT

- ✓ **Abundant cultural heritage** with largely ineffective protection, ongoing changes in legislation addressing heritage management, EU funding challenges
- ✓ **A transforming national planning system** introducing new planning approaches and instruments
- ✓ **Shrinking public urban space** continually subjected to development pressure

Ancient City of Nessebar

Description

Maps

Documents

Gallery

Indicators

Assistance

Ancient City of Nessebar

Situated on a rocky peninsula on the Black Sea, the more than 3,000-year-old site of Nessebar was originally a Thracian settlement (Menebria). At the beginning of the 6th century BC, the city became a Greek colony. The city's remains, which date mostly from the Hellenistic period, include the acropolis, a temple of Apollo, an agora and a wall from the Thracian fortifications. Among other monuments, the Stara Mitropolia Basilica and the fortress date from the Middle Ages, when this was one of the most important Byzantine towns on the west coast of the Black Sea. Wooden houses built in the 19th century are typical of the Black Sea architecture of the period.

English

French

Arabic

Chinese

Russian

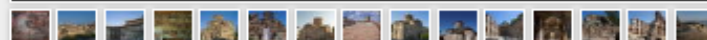
Spanish

Japanese

Dutch



Ancient City of Nessebar (Bulgaria) © Gordontour



Bulgaria

Burgas Province

N42 39 21.996 E27 43 48

Date of inscription: 1983

Criteria: (iii)(iv)

Property : 27.1 ha

Buffer zone: 1,245.6 ha

Ref: 217



Media

Links

Periodic Reporting

Access to the Periodic Reporting Questionnaire

State of Conservation (SOC) by year

2013	2011	2010
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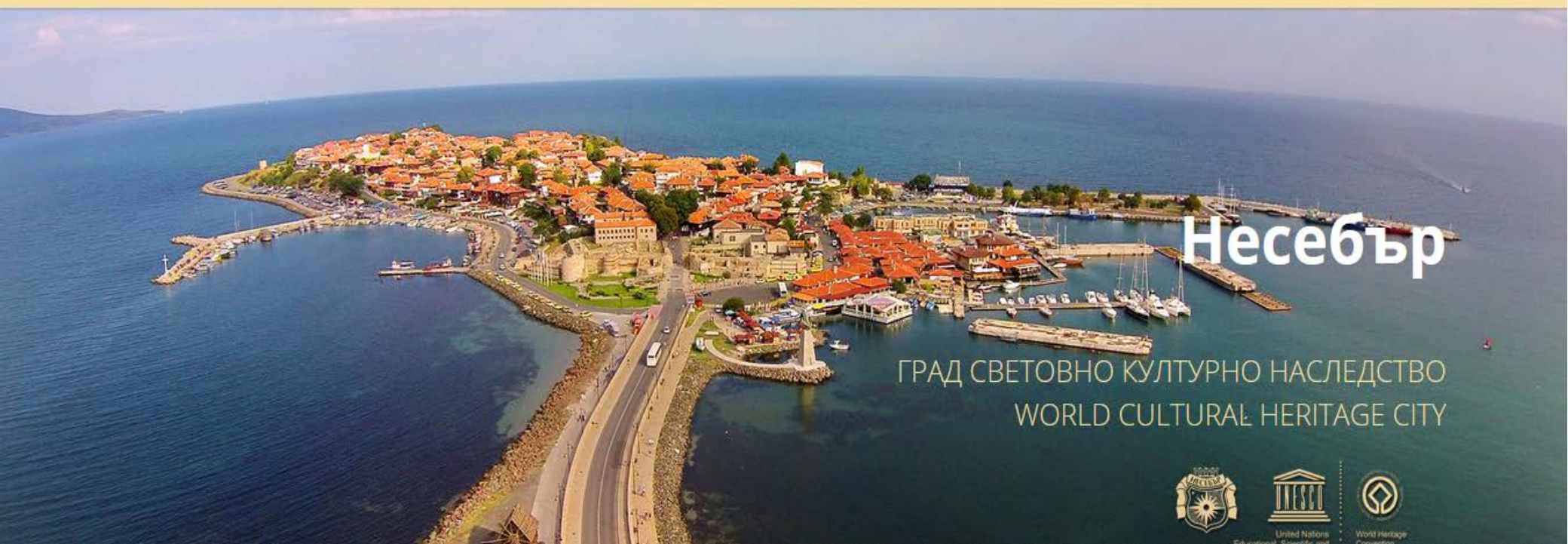
Община
Несебър
официален сайт



Град световно културно наследство
World Cultural Heritage City

English Русский

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Несебър

ГРАД СВЕТОВНО КУЛТУРНО НАСЛЕДСТВО
WORLD CULTURAL HERITAGE CITY



MUSEUM · ANCIENT NESSEBAR ·

БЪЛГАРСКИ

HOME



NEWS

MAP

HISTORY

SIGHTS

MUSEUM OBJECTS

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM

CHURCH "ST. STEPHAN"

CHURCH "ST. SPASS"

CHURCH "CHRIST PANTOKRATOR"

CHURCH "ST. PAVLUSKVA"

CHURCH "ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST"

ETHNOGRAPHIC MUSEUM

TOURIST SERVICES

WORKING HOURS

ENTRANCE FEES

GUIDE SERVICES

TEMPORARY EXHIBITIONS

MUSEUM PUBLICATIONS

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION

ABOUT US

CONTACTS

QUESTBOOK

MAP OF LANDMARKS



Sites marked on the map:

MUSEUM · ANCIENT NESSEBAR ·

БЪЛГАРСКИ

HOME



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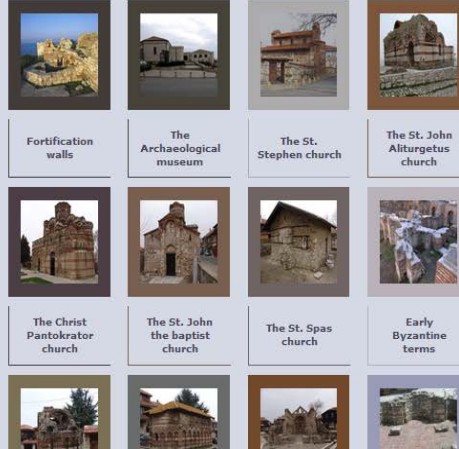
MUSEUM PUBLICATIONS

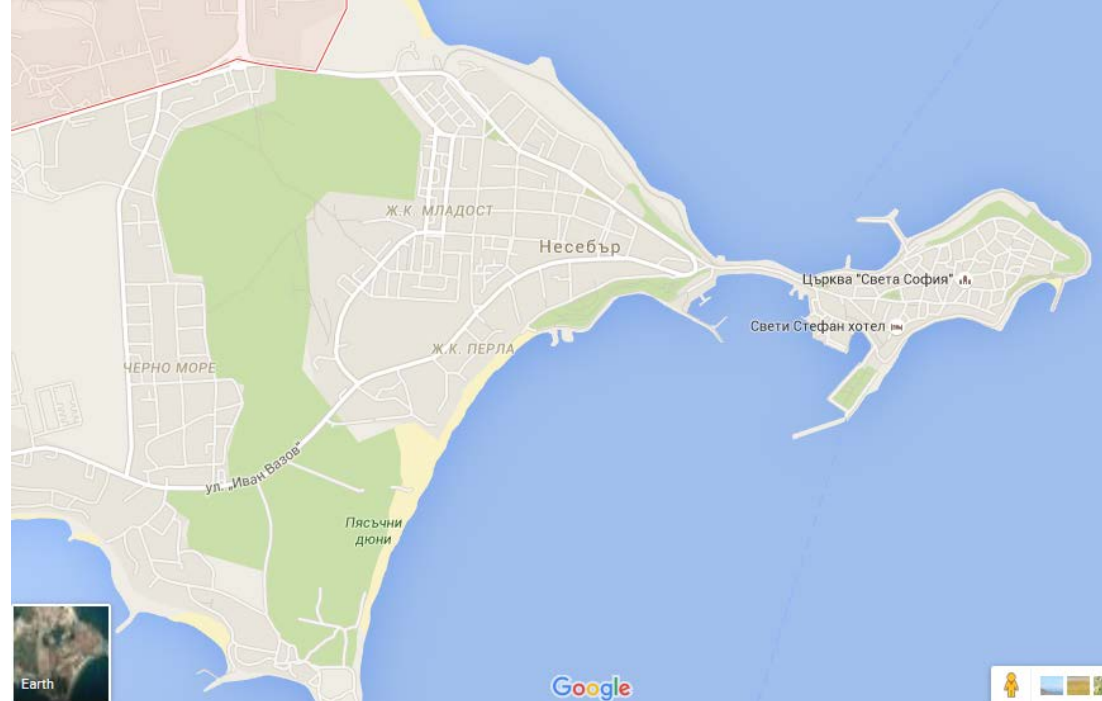
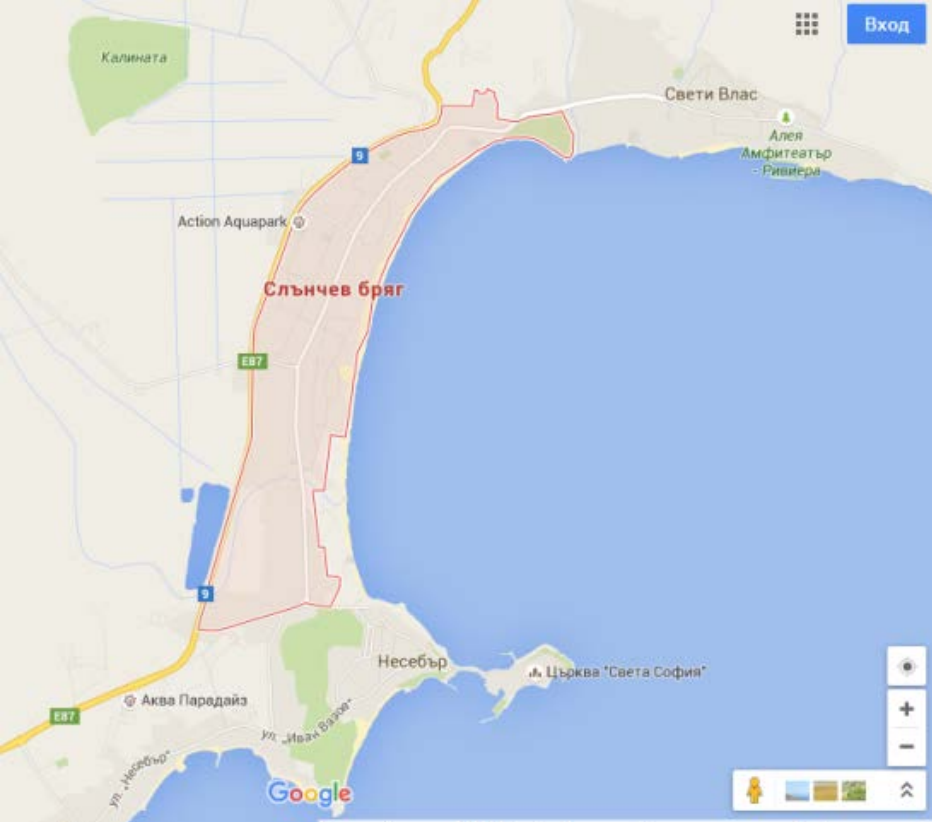
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION

ABOUT US

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QUESTBOOK





In the autumn of 2010:

A petition initiated by local inhabitants for getting out of the World Heritage List as a reaction to the public authority's attempt for stopping illegal construction in the town.

Experts:

The inhabitants should take their responsibility for preserving the world heritage site;

A new master plan and a management plan are to be adopted;

A clear national strategy on cultural tourism development needed.

Citizens :

Tired of restrictions;

'We want to earn our living, not to get compensations for doing nothing'

'They need us only as part of the tourist show'

Street vendors should be allowed only among local citizens.

THE MANAGEMENT PLAN

<http://pou-nesebar.org/bg/>

Developed by a team of 27 experts and 2 consultants (overall 60 experts involved), stating that :

Cultural heritage regarded in its broader urban context including the development of the urban functional systems;

Integrating the strategy of heritage preservation into the broader global aim of sustainable development

THE MANAGEMENT PLAN, <http://pou-nesebar.org/bg/>

Public space:

- ✓ To gradually get free from street vendors and catering activities – moving them to designated areas in the buffer zone and the harbour.
- ✓ Keeping the structure and the pavements of the traditional street network in the property and the buffer zone.
- ✓ adopted specific regulations on activities organization and a locational scheme of information and advertising;
- ✓ Nine zones of key importance identified with complex historic stratification



Management Plan:
Concept for the
advertisement and
information system
in the town

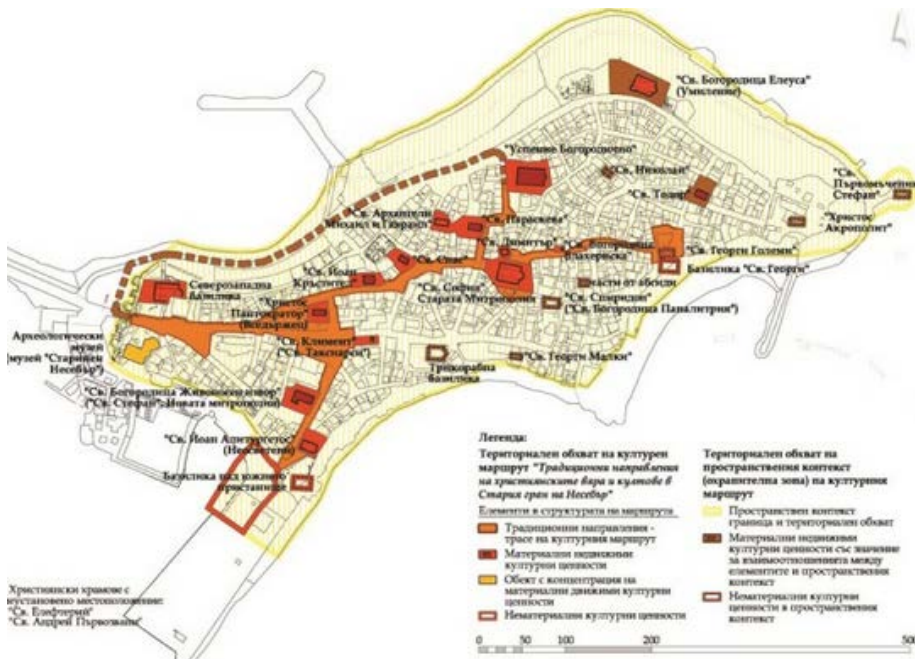
MAP OF LANDMARKS



Sites marked on the map:

1. Fortification walls
2. The Archaeological museum
3. The St. Stephen church
4. The St. John Aliturgetus church
5. The Christ Pantokrator church
6. The St. John the baptist church
7. The St. Spas church
8. Early Byzantine terms
9. The St. Archangels Gabriel and Michael
10. The St. Paraskeva church
11. Basilica St. Sofia
12. The St. Demetrius church
13. The St. Theodor church
14. Basilica Holy Mother Eleusa
15. The Windmills
16. Ethnographic museum
17. The Virgin Eleusa Church

A pilot project of the Municipality (named 'Faith in Nessebar') won EU funding in 2010 for the conservation and preservation of several churches, upgrading the adjacent public space and developing a cultural route; finalized in 2014.



<http://pou-nesebar.org/bg/prilozhni-produkti/proekt-vyara-v-nesebar/>

NESSEBAR OF TODAY: heritage and new development

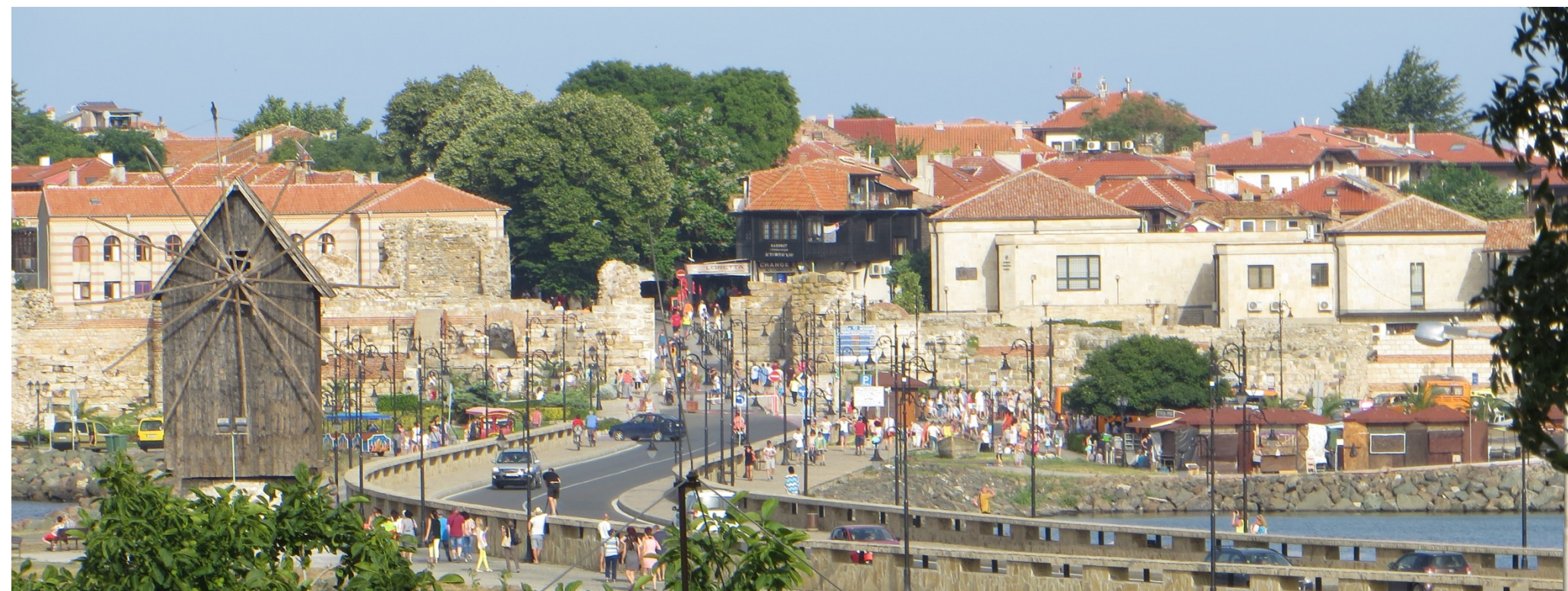












NESSEBAR OF TODAY: people in urban space





CIVVIH Conference, June 29th-July 3rd, Cesky Krumlov



THE OLD ANCHOR
BAR &
FOOD

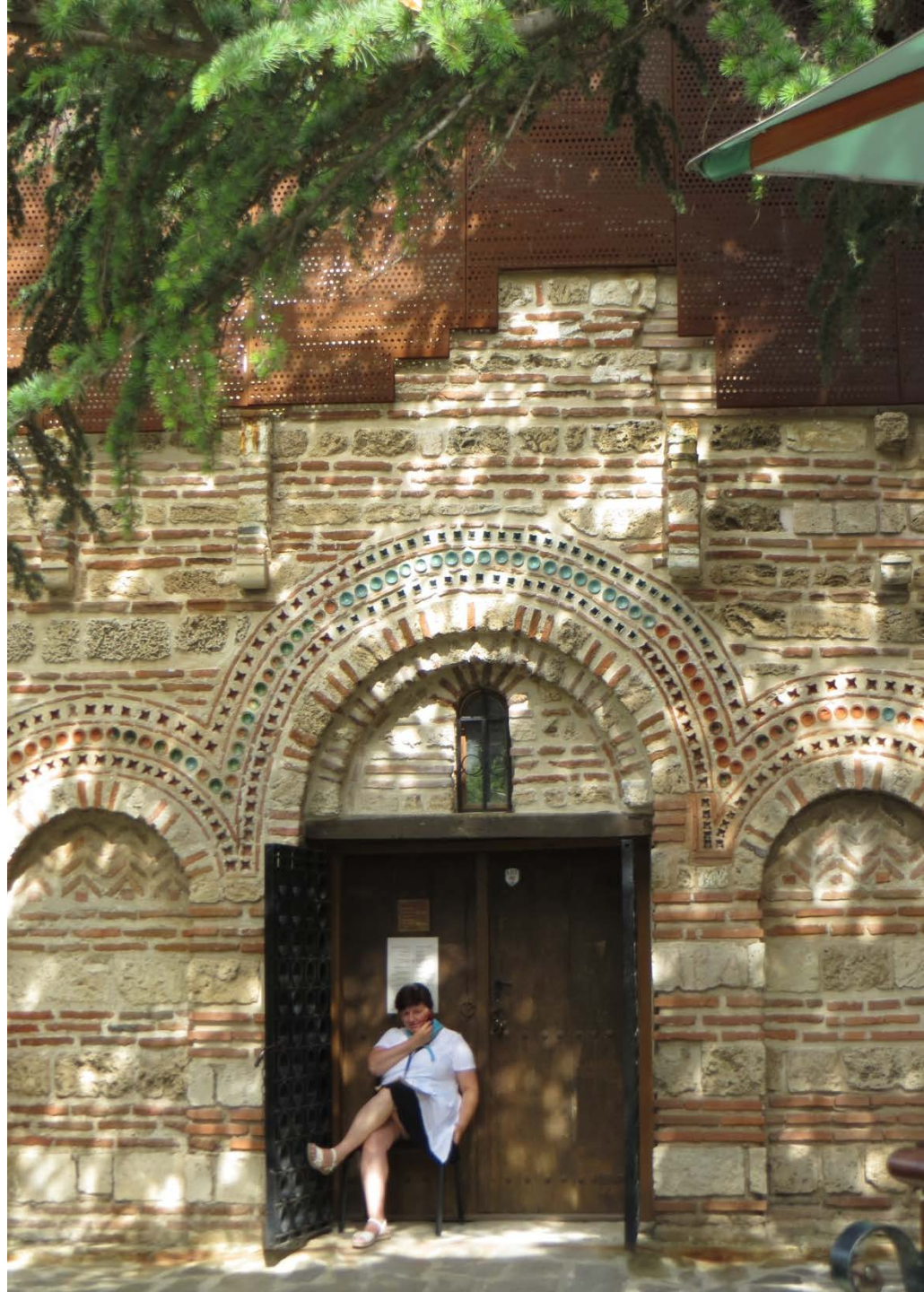
STAPANA NOVRA
THE OLD ANCHOR

Music Bar
bar & cinema

Music Bar

BRUNCH MENU
SNACKS
FRESH FISH
COCKTAILS
SANGRIA
CAKE-COFFEES
SMOOTHIES
RIBEYE STEAK
LOCAL FOOD
PEPPER STEAK
BEARNESE STEAK
PIZZA ICE CREAM
T-BONE STEAK 300g 14.99
T-BONE STEAK 600g 24.99
SKY SPORT









- ✓ Lack of healthcare and other social services in the old town;
- ✓ Unreliable public transport, difficult access to the administration in the new town;
- ✓ Lack of public space accessible and comfortable for local people



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The Mayor:
'Dear citizens, be active and ambitious for the prosperity of our municipality'

A Local cultural center,
registered in 2016



A publication: short stories by a local author
Public Forum: The role of local business for the protection and enhancement of local cultural wealth, June 2016



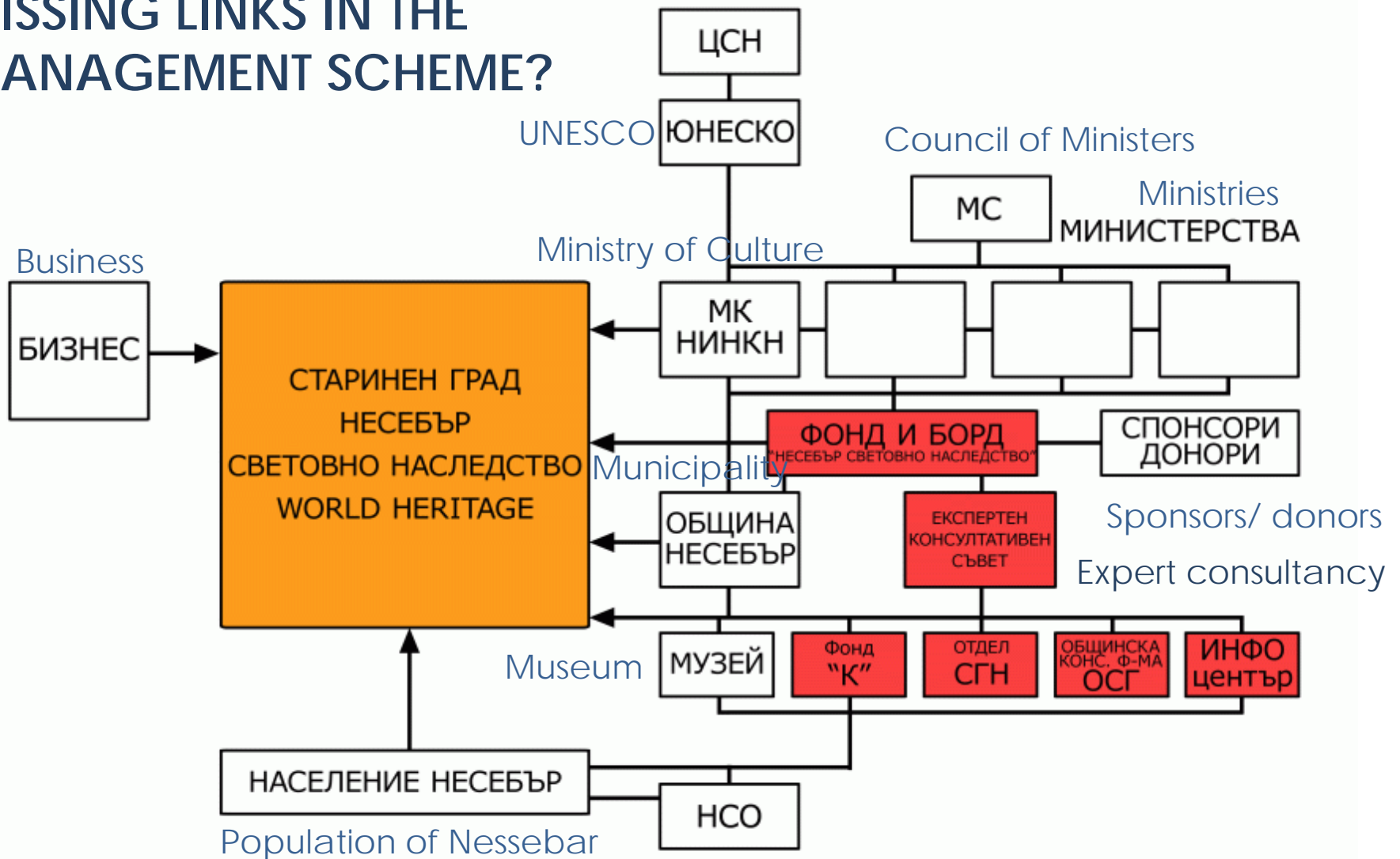
Local civil action,
Insisting for information in 2014



The Forum on June 21, 2016:

- ✓ An initiative for pragmatic self-organization by local inhabitants, search for expert and business support;
- ✓ Few people attending ,yet mainly young ones;
- ✓ Rather complaints than suggestions for action.

MISSING LINKS IN THE MANAGEMENT SCHEME?



LESSONS LEARNED?

- ✓ Effective heritage preservation needs to build upon **societal dialogue for re-conceptualizing values** in a broader societal context.
- ✓ **Planning approaches needs to develop sensitivity to the urban process**; expert and 'lay' knowledge could be mutually supportive and educate each other only if built upon trust and respect.
- ✓ **Continual transdisciplinary research is needed** to identify the actual functionality of public urban space, its accessibility to different actors and the degree of support for self-expression.

Thank you for your attention!