

14. CURRENT CHALLENGES FOR THE MONUMENT PRESERVATION IN THE HISTORICAL CITY CENTRE OF SOPRON

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1. Sopron is situated in western Hungary. It is one of the richest towns in monuments in Hungary. It has listed buildings from the roman period until the 20th century. The economic and social changes in the region give new challenges for the experts who work on the protection of the historic city center.

2. The town is located near the Austrian border; it is only 60 km from Vienna. Due to the job opportunities in Austria, there is an intensive internal migration from eastern Hungary, a lot of people move to Sopron, and into the historic city centre. The property developers try to serve the needs of the housing market: to build apartments in the attics of old houses, to split large old flats and to modernise old buildings to improve energy efficiency.

3. The main goal of the monument preservation work in the town is firstly the heritage preservation, secondly to create a comfortable, sustainable town centre. This activity must involve all stakeholders, all of them have a special role: the authority of monument preservation safeguards the architectural values and controls the urban development planning during the interventions of the historic buildings.

The municipal services can help with values-based approach in the local regulations, and they play a key role as they own several public spaces and important monuments.

We must underline the role of the civil associations, NGO-s, they can help through distributing information, awareness raising and training, publishing papers and books, organising conferences for the successful heritage preserving work.

Due to the continuous dialogue and cooperation of the experts in the last decade, the old town centre which had been overcrowded before, could be preserved by local regulations. Public spaces were renovated, restaurants coffees, and open spaces were opened that revitalised the historic centre. The balance between the residential and touristic functions of the buildings must be carefully analysed and controlled.

Climate change and high energy prices cause harmful interventions in the historic building structures. To preserve historic heritage characteristics, we try to use modern methods to improve energy efficiency.

4. It is crucial to get acquainted with the international theories and charters, because the experts will be motivated to search new ways and to introduce good practices and experiences from abroad.

To renovate and preserve historic buildings a new development project was launched in Sopron with participation of different window manufacturers. They focus on new constructions, which can be adopted to historic buildings.

References

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