Current Challenges for the Monument Preservation in the Historical City Centre of Sopron

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• Open borders - everybody wants to live somewhere-the condition of our historic city today
Sopron

- Gographical location
- Population
- It's the richest countrytown in monuments in Hungary
1. History of the city and its built heritage in a nutshell - *Civitas fidelissima* - the situation of the city after 1921

- Scarbantia – the townscape is defined by the Roman heritage
- Medieval Sopron – churches, sedilia
- 1676 – After the fire: the baroque city
- Civil houses from 19th century – the beginning of heritage protection: Ferenc Storno
- New borders in 1921 - loss of markets
- 20th Century heritage
2. The closed town after 1945

- Nationalisation: division of apartments
- Establishment of social housing
- Introduction of poor sections of the population
3. Renovation of monuments in the 1970s

- Urban regeneration selected at national level
- National Inspectorate of Historic Monuments (OMF) (Dávid Ferenc, Sedlmayr János, Kissné Nagypál Judit)
- Research, reconstruction in the spirit of Venice Charter
- Contemporary buildings in the old town
4. **Open borders** - everybody wants to live somewhere - the situation of the historic inner town today

a) **Changes in ownership after the change of regime**
   - Real estate has been transferred from state ownership to municipal ownership
   - Privatisation: (fragmented) flats and shops fell into the hands of different owners
   - The buildings have an owner not a caretaker
4. Open borders - everybody wants to live somewhere - the situation of the historic inner town today

b) Town rehabilitation - Modern Városok Program (Project for Modern Cities)

• Open spaces: Main square, around the city wall,
• Reconstruction of important buildings
• Renewing of elevations
• ICOMOS-Price, Winkler Oszkár-Price
4. Open borders - everybody wants to live somewhere - the situation of the historic inner town today

d) Best practices

• 2009 Extension of the protected area
• 101 rules for a livable city (Jeff Speck: The Walkable City)
• Main street program
• Maximize the number of the apartments (building units)
4. **Open borders** - everybody wants to live somewhere - **the situation of the historic inner town today**

c) **Sopron, a destination of immigration**

- Open borders, well-paying jobs in Austria
- There is a demand for a large amount of housing
- Profit maximizing activities of construction companies
- Authority limits
4. Open borders - everybody wants to live somewhere - the situation of the historic inner town today

e) Suggestions

• Retaining the residential function, retaining city center function

• Restore the status of downtown by providing service housing for city leaders

• Keeping buildings in one hand

• Renovation of public areas: bringing the city to life: terraces, events

• Financial and other incentive arrangements
The end