

4th BALTIC SEA REGION CULTURAL HERITAGE FORUM  
RIGA, LATVIA, SEPTEMBER 8-11, 2010

**„CULTURAL HERITAGE - CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGE”**

**First Call**

Why should we complicate our life by preserving historic monuments?

May be we should look only to the future, where the new is replacing the old? What is better – the new or the old? Anything that is new - is it also good?

Is cultural diversity of any relevance in a period of financial crisis?

How do we preserve cultural heritage for a multicultural society? Will environmental accounts in most cases indicate that rehabilitation of existing buildings have greater environmental impact than demolishing and building new ones?

Is authenticity really an important cultural historical quality? Is it important for everyone/anyone? Does it constitute a value in the market/economy?

What brings 'added value' to the heritage, from the perspective of different actors? How do heritage professionals understand the benefits of preservation, and how do other stakeholders see the potential of heritage, at the level of local and regional development?

How do we achieve common goals in areas where our opinions do not match?

**What?**

The Forum “Cultural heritage – contemporary challenge” will address the preservation of cultural heritage today as a challenge for different actors involved in this field and will highlight the challenges that every cultural heritage preserver may have in the Baltic Sea region. The anticipated result of the event is to define the risks which can lead to irretrievable loss of heritage values.

During The Forum there will be panel discussions to exchange experience based on regional issues.

*Four target areas have been selected for a thorough analysis. These are:*

Environmental impact assessment of historic buildings

Restoration of cultural heritage and authenticity

Cultural heritage and contemporary architecture

Cultural heritage as a public good and an asset in local and regional development



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### **Where?**

Riga, Latvia

Information on Forum venue will be specified with the Second Call in April 2010.

### **When?**

September 8-11, 2010

### **Why?**

Cultural heritage is confronted with many challenges: environmental, economic, and multicultural. The aim of the Forum is to discuss these challenges in detail, in order to know what to expect and to find good solutions.

### **Who?**

The Forum is open to everybody in the Baltic Sea region interested in cultural heritage. The Forum offers a unique opportunity to meet colleagues from neighbouring countries, who share the same challenges and views. There will be good opportunities for networking and exchange of experience among stakeholders in our region.

More specifically, the target group will consist of heritage and planning professionals, owners and managers of cultural heritage property within Baltic Sea States, architects, landscape architects, building engineers, developers, economists, construction companies, researchers, universities, representatives from the professional associations, educational institutions, heritage administrators, local/regional authorities and NGOs, state bodies responsible for cultural heritage, representatives from museums and sites, politicians and other interested stakeholders.

### ***Practical information***

Participation is free of charge. *All other expenses (travel, accommodation, per diem, local transport) are covered by participants*

#### ***Accommodation***

Accommodation will be proposed in the Second Call, all within the city centre, from two star hotel (approx. 40-60 euro per night, breakfast included) to four star hotel (approx. 100-150 euro per night).



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### **Further information**

Online registration, hotel reservation, information on travel facilities, programme agenda, etc. will be specified with the Second Call in April 2010.

All information about the Forum: [www.mantojums.lv](http://www.mantojums.lv)

### **Preliminary agenda enclosed**

### **Main Organising Bodies**

Monitoring Group on cultural heritage in the Baltic Sea States\*

State Inspection for Heritage Protection of Latvia

In partnership with: Ministry of Culture of Latvia, Riga City Council,

Latvian National Commission for UNESCO,

National Museum Board of Latvia, Latvian Association of Architects

National Heritage Board of Sweden,

Directorate for Cultural Heritage, Norway,

National Board of Antiquities, Finland.

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*\*The Monitoring Group on cultural heritage in the Baltic Sea States coordinates regional approaches, identifies actual fields of cooperation as well as encourages partnerships and quality projects regarding cultural heritage. The Monitoring Group has initiated Working Groups on topical thematic fields. Joint activities focus on sharing experiences and good practices, harmonizing heritage protection standards and management policies in the region. Networking aims at feeding awareness of cultural heritage aspects to other sectors and to the broader regional and even international policy making.*

*The wide sphere of cultural heritage forms a linking element, common concern and a remarkable potential for regional assets. Thus, during the reconnection of the region in the 1990'ies, the Monitoring Group was appointed by the respective Ministers of Culture in the framework of regional cooperation under the umbrella of the Council of the Baltic Sea States. The members represent museum or cultural environment sectors in the national bodies that are responsible for cultural heritage. More information [mg.kpd.lt](http://mg.kpd.lt) and [www.baltic-heritage.net](http://www.baltic-heritage.net).*



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