



**Republika e Kosovës**  
**Republika Kosova - Republic of Kosovo**  
**Qeveria - Vlada - Government**

**Ministria e Kulturës, Rinisë dhe Sportit**  
*Ministarstvo Kulture, Omladina i Sporta ~ Ministry of Culture, Youth & Sport*

## NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE 2017-2027

### 1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

National Cultural Heritage Strategy 2017-2027 is a comprehensive strategy of the Kosovo Government in the field of cultural heritage, which aims at establishing long-term frameworks for the vision and providing solutions based on the sustainability principle. This strategic document aims the enhancement of the system and mechanisms for the protection and preservation of cultural heritage of Kosovo in accordance with the legal framework, principles and international standards, as well as on the basis of sustainable economic, social and cultural development.

Cultural heritage is defined as an important pillar of sustainable development of the country, which will be achieved through cooperation and effective participation in the advancement of a protection system. It addresses fundamental aspects that directly aim at the promotion of real socio-cultural, economic values of cultural heritage of the Republic of Kosovo, as well as the increased visibility of its potential values. The goals of the strategy can be summarized as follows:

[i] Legal and institutional protection system - in accordance with the Constitution of Republic of Kosovo and other relevant Kosovo laws and commitments and in line with the orientation of the Kosovo Government towards EPP and UNESCO membership;

[ii] Integrated approach to protection - according to the principles and trends of sustainable urban, economic, social and cultural development planning;

[iii] Education, promotion and citizen awareness - with the aim of promoting the sense of cultural identity and as a source of inspiration and innovation.

The strategy is developed on concrete goals (objectives). Objectives of the Strategy arise from the abovementioned goals, as well as on the basis of analysis of past and current situations in the legal, infrastructural and governance aspects, and other issues in the field of cultural heritage, that are subject to treatment in the next decade in Kosovo.

The first objective corresponds with the first goal; objectives 2 and 3 stem from the second goal, while objectives 4 and 5 from the third goal. Objectives are defined as below:

1. Advancement of legal and institutional framework;
2. Integrated approach in the cultural heritage, towards sustainable development;

3. Inclusion of cultural heritage into the development plans;
4. Promotion of cultural heritage;
5. Education, training and active participation in protection of cultural heritage.

The implementation process of the Strategy has been developed over a long-term period (almost a decade), through the Strategic Planning of MCYS, action plans and detailed programs for cultural heritage, which have been implemented through public institutions of cultural heritage, as well as lately with the implementation of the Strategic Operational Plan.

Various actors from relevant ministerial levels, central and local institutions, as well as international ones were involved in the process, with the aim of creating the desired synergy in order to fulfill government priorities.

Significant progress has been made in fulfilling the obligations for the implementation of the strategy, where the first goal of the strategy - *The legal and institutional protection system* - has been fulfilled. In 2022, the legal and institutional framework has been significantly improved. From this aspect, we have made significant progress in bringing forward secondary legislation, which guarantees a good basis for delegation, operation and division of responsibilities for public institutions subordinate to cultural heritage, through bylaws approved by the Ministry:

- Regulation No. 11/2022 on the inventory and selection process of cultural heritage for protection;
- Regulation No. 01/2022 on determining the perimeter and protective zone of Cultural Heritage assets and policies for their Conservation and development;
- Administrative Instruction (MCYS) – on the criteria, requirements, rules and procedures related to the issuance, administration and revocation of professional licenses to natural and legal persons in the field of cultural heritage;

The issuance of secondary legislation has further broken down the duties and responsibilities delegated by Law No. 02-L/088 on Cultural Heritage, clarifying in detail for the institutions themselves, the liaison mechanisms, the parties and civil society the duties and responsibilities for the protection and preservation of cultural heritage assets.

Significant progress has been achieved with the inclusion of cultural heritage assets under Permanent Protection, with 54 asset files processed and five of them approved so far. The List of Cultural Heritage under Temporary Protection has also been issued, which also includes new buildings/objects under protection.

1. List of cultural heritage/Temporary protection 2022/2023 [https://ëëë.mkrs-ks.org/repository/docs/Vendim\\_i\\_Ministrit\\_MKRS\\_per\\_Mbrojtje\\_te\\_Perkohshme\\_2022-2023.pdf](https://ëëë.mkrs-ks.org/repository/docs/Vendim_i_Ministrit_MKRS_per_Mbrojtje_te_Perkohshme_2022-2023.pdf)
2. List of cultural heritage/Permanent protection 2022/2023 <https://kktk.rks-gov.net/Publication/Lajmi/167>

In 2022, the Management Plans approved in 2020 were implemented, which were supplemented by the Decisions of the Minister for the Management Unit of Prizren Castle and of the Supervisory Commission for the Implementation of the Management Plan regarding the Historic Center of Prizren.

In June 2022, the List of Heritage at Risk was issued, which serves as a basis for the implementation of technical security measures and the implementation of the program: Preventive Measures,

Emergency Interventions. This list contains 308 cultural heritage assets, which have been listed in cooperation with public institutions subordinate to cultural heritage.

Likewise, the drafting and entry into force of the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the review commissions of KIPM, AIK and RCCH Prizren, has further facilitated the operation and administration of parties requests to public institutions subordinate to cultural heritage.

Significant progress has also been made in fulfilling the *Integrated Approach to protection*, according to the principles and trends of sustainable urban, economic, social and cultural planning and development.

Work has been done on the drafting of the report for the document on the current state of museums "Development of museums in Kosovo", which deals with museums at the central and local level in the entire territory of the Republic of Kosovo. The document for the public call for exhibitions in the Isa Boletini Tower, the Monumental Complex of the Albanian League in Prizren and the Ethnological Museum-Emin Gjiku Complex in Pristina has also been prepared.

Through public calls for support of NGOs and civil society, we have fulfilled another objective of the strategy for cultural heritage, which is directly related to *Education, training and active participation in the protection of cultural heritage*. In the framework of this objective, we have awarded scholarships to deficit cadres who study in international universities in the following programs: bachelor, master and doctorate.

Through the integrated approach to cultural heritage towards sustainable development, the possibility of more effective preservation and management of cultural heritage assets was created, ensuring the continuation and advancement of the program: Preventive Measures, Emergency Interventions, as well as in recent years the undertaking of technical security measures and the issuance of the List of Heritage at Risk.

## 2 PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING THE OBJECTIVES OF THE STRATEGY DOCUMENT

With the document of the National Strategy for Cultural Heritage 2017-2027, five objectives of the strategy have been addressed, where progress has been achieved in most of them. The reforms initiated in the framework of the division and delegation of responsibilities to public institutions subordinate to cultural heritage have made possible the continuation of the greater implementation of the strategy.

During the year 2022, the objective of *Advancing the legal and institutional framework* (objective 1) was fulfilled; *The integrated approach to the protection of cultural heritage towards sustainable development* has been ensured (objective 2); the process of *Promotion of cultural heritage* (objective 4) and *Education, training and active participation in the protection of cultural heritage* (objective 5) continued. While *the Inclusion of cultural heritage* (objective 3) has not been fully implemented, but there is an undertaking in terms of issuing secondary legislation by the Ministry to fulfill and ensure the implementation of this objective through two documents:

- Administrative Instruction on Designing Conservation and Restoration Projects and Cultural Heritage Conservation Activities and
- Administrative Instruction on Integrated Conservation.

## 2.1 PROGRESS TOWARDS OBJECTIVE – OBJECTIVE 1

### ADVANCEMENT OF THE LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

Investing in cultural heritage institutions and the legal protection system remains a priority even during the period of this strategy.

*Advancing, supplementing, harmonizing and implementing legislation* - In this framework, the completion of legislation has been achieved, the harmonization of the Law and legal acts of cultural heritage with other laws of Kosovo; the process of continuous approximation of the legislation on cultural heritage with the EU Legislation is ongoing; Effective implementation of legislation and policies on cultural heritage is guaranteed; while Membership in international organizations has stalled and remains a challenge.

The budget resources for the fulfillment of this objective have been used in full by the Budget of the Republic of Kosovo.

## 2.2 PROGRESS TOWARDS OBJECTIVE – (OBJECTIVE 2)

### INTEGRATED APPROACH TO THE PROTECTION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE, TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Cultural heritage becomes a resource of sustainable economic, social and cultural development through inter-institutional and multisectoral cooperation.

Preservation and effective management of cultural heritage assets as a prerequisite for sustainable development - Continuation and advancement of the program for emergency interventions, guaranteeing the rights of owners, possessors and users of cultural properties; the process of continuous *Monitoring and maintenance of cultural heritage assets* is ongoing, with special emphasis on assets that are under the direct management of the Ministry or of public institutions subordinate to cultural heritage; the process of *Drafting the Management Plan* for the Ulpiana Archeological Park is ongoing and the decision to appoint the management unit for the Castle of Prizren was issued along with the appointment of the Supervisory Commission for the Implementation of the Management Plan for the Historic Center of Prizren. The drafting of two management plans in cooperation with the OSCE, municipalities and subordinate public institutions of cultural heritage for the Hammam of Prishtina and the Bazaar of Peja are also in process; the process of *Improving public access and promoting sustainable uses of cultural heritage assets* is ongoing. The drafting of management plans for other assets that are under the direct management of MCYS and the subordinate public institutions of Cultural Heritage remains a challenge, since the buildings are protected and the institutions carry out their activities in the same buildings: the National Museum of Kosovo, the Kosovo Institute for the Protection of Monuments, the Regional Center for Cultural Heritage - Gjilan, Prizren, Pejë, the Emin Gjiku Ethnological Complex, the Building of the Albanian League of Prizren and the Isa Boletini Tower Complex in Zvečan.

Budgetary resources for the fulfillment of this objective were obtained from the Budget of the Republic of Kosovo, European Union Funds - IPA Pre-Assistance Instrument for the Ulpiana Archeological Park project, Revitalization of Marin Barleti Street and Lumbardhi Cinema in Prizren, Agreement with UN-Habitat for the Inclusive Development Program/Integrated Activities through new co-financing with the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, for the projects: Presentation and Interpretation of the Plan for the Archaeological Site in Prizren and the Feasibility Study for the Historical Center in Prishtina, cooperation with the OSCE, through the projects: Drafting of the Management Plan for the Great Hammam Building in Prishtina and the Management Plan for the Long Bazaar in Peja.

## 2.3 PROGRESS TOWARDS OBJECTIVE – (OBJECTIVE 3)

### INCLUSION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE IN DEVELOPMENT PLANS

*Inclusion of cultural heritage (objective 3)* has not been fully implemented, but there is an undertaking in terms of issuing secondary legislation. It is worth mentioning the cooperation with several municipalities for the inclusion of cultural heritage assets in the Zonal Maps.

There have been no budgetary implications for the implementation of this objective so far.

## 2.4 PROGRESS TOWARDS OBJECTIVE – (OBJECTIVE 4)

### PROMOTION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

Communication and promotion of cultural heritage highlight the real socio-cultural and economic values of Kosovo's cultural heritage.

Study and interpretation of cultural heritage - Objective and inclusive study and interpretation of socio-cultural and economic values of Kosovo's cultural heritage; the process of increasing the number of publications, guides, virtual mediums, etc. is ongoing and systematic distribution in the country and at the international level; Increasing the use of digital media and online networks for the promotion of Kosovo's cultural heritage has been applied.

This objective has also been supported through public calls for support of NGOs and individuals. In the framework of this objective, we have supported deficit cadres who study in international universities in the programs: bachelor, master and doctorate.

Budgetary resources for the fulfillment of this objective were fully obtained from the Budget of the Republic of Kosovo.

AD HOC PROJECTS – 9 PROJECTS PER INDIVIDUAL	45,259.00 €
CALL FOR MOBILITY – 2 PROJECTS FOR NGOs	11,860.00 €
CALL FOR EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES – 1 PROJECT FOR NGO	10,960.00 €
FIRST CALL FOR ART AND HERITAGE, INCLUDING COMPLAINTS – 12 NGOs AND 4 INDIVIDUALS	384,792.34 €
SECOND CALL FOR ART AND HERITAGE, INCLUDING COMPLAINTS – 17 NGOs AND 4 INDIVIDUALS	158,820.00 €
CALL FOR RAISING PROFESSIONAL CAPACITIES - 4 BENEFICIARIES	39,695.00 €
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT PER NGOs</b>	<b>462,692.34 €</b>
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT PER INDIVIDUALS</b>	<b>80,920.00 €</b>

## 2.5 PROGRESS TOWARDS OBJECTIVE – (OBJECTIVE 5)

### EDUCATION, TRAINING AND ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN PROTECTION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

Contemporary debate in the field of cultural heritage contributes to the improvement of the image of Kosovo.

Improving "access for all" in cultural heritage - Promotion of the National Strategy for Cultural Heritage, aiming at strengthening public debate and awareness regarding the objectives of the National Strategy; the process of improving intellectual, physical and virtual access to cultural heritage assets and localities is ongoing; the Promotion of alternative uses of heritage sites has been

supported through public calls, with the aim of strengthening the connection between cultural heritage and the arts; as well as the Promotion of traditional knowledge, the transfer of collective memory and oral narratives from the old generation to the new generation.

This objective has been fully met and it is recommended to continue with its inclusion in each calendar year.

The budget resources for the fulfillment of this objective were fully obtained from the Budget of the Republic of Kosovo.

### 3 RISKS AND STEPS TO THEIR MANAGEMENT

The implementation of the National Strategy for Cultural Heritage 2017-2027 depends to a large extent on inter-institutional and multi-sectoral cooperation, on the involvement of a number of subjects in the implementation of measures and actions, as well as on the continuous monitoring of the processes and dynamics determined for each strategic orientation.

A challenge remains the non-establishment of the Committee for the implementation of the strategy. The Minister of MCYS through a special decision should appoint the establishment and responsibilities of this Committee (monitoring of progress in the implementation of action plans, identification of risk factors in the implementation and mitigation measures, updating in accordance with new requirements, organization of annual meetings with the public, members of the cultural heritage community and interested parties in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Strategy, etc.), as well as the communication system and responsibilities for reporting and monitoring of subjects defined as institutions or/and inter-institutional groups, responsible for the implementation of strategic objectives.

The committee that should be established to monitor and implement the strategy would address the challenges and risks, which are directly related to:

- Creation of a system for assessment and prevention of risk to cultural heritage;
- Creation of a list of priorities for intervention based on preliminary consultations, degree of risk, budget analysis for emergency and/or preventive interventions and annual maintenance;
- Risk assessment and prevention for the preservation of cultural heritage from the effects of natural disasters and threats caused by human actions.

It is recommended to establish the mechanism for monitoring and implementation of the strategy, in order to prevent the aforementioned risks.

### [Annex](#)

**Annex 1:** Action plan monitoring report for 2022. Other annexes may be provided to support and illustrate the information presented above.

**Annex 1.**

**Action plan monitoring report for 2022 - Progress towards actions for the National Strategy for Cultural Heritage 2017 - 2027**

The focus of the action plan report is on the completion of actions as foreseen in the action plan and the reasons for delays, which are given in the column "Progress in implementation".

No.	Objectives and actions	Deadline	Financing source	Leading and supporting institution	Output	References in documents	Progress in implementation
<b>I.</b>	<b>Strategic objective:</b>						
<b>I.1</b>	<b>ADVANCEMENT OF THE LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK</b>						
I.1.1.1	Advancement, harmonization and implementation of legislation	January - December 2022	Budget of the Republic of Kosovo	MCYS and subordinate public institutions of Cultural Heritage	Secondary legislation: regulations and administrative instructions (MCYS)	/	Implementation started at the end of 2022
I.1.1.2	Development of cultural heritage institutions	January – December 2022	Budget of the Republic of Kosovo	MCYS, subordinate public institutions of Cultural Heritage and donors	List of CH, permanent protection, temporary protection, list of heritage at risk, list of technical security measures, list of preventive measures,	/	Implemented throughout the year

					emergency interventions		
I.1.1.3	Development of cultural heritage institutions	January – December 2022	Budget of the Republic of Kosovo	MCYS and subordinate public institutions of Cultural Heritage	Protection, preservation, development of museums	/	Implemented throughout the year
<b>II.1</b>	<b>INTEGRATED APPROACH TO CULTURAL HERITAGE, TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT</b>						
II.1.1.1	Effective conservation and management of cultural heritage assets as a prerequisite for sustainable development	January – December 2022	Budget of the Republic of Kosovo	MCYS and subordinate public institutions of Cultural Heritage	Protection, preservation, management plans	/	Implemented throughout the year
II.1.1.2	Inclusion of cultural heritage in the sustainable development agenda	January – December 2022	Budget of the Republic of Kosovo	Government of the Republic of Kosovo, MCYS and subordinate public institutions of Cultural Heritage	Defined as a priority in the Government's Work Plan	/	Implemented throughout the year



III.1.2.3	Creation and association in cooperation platforms	January – December 2022	Budget of the Republic of Kosovo	MCYS and subordinate public institutions of Cultural Heritage	Defined by the Strategic Operational Plan	/	Implemented throughout the year
<b>III.1</b>	<b>INCLUSION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE IN DEVELOPMENT PLANS</b>						
III.1.1.1	Strengthening of integrated conservation as a fundamental concept for sustainable development	January – December 2022	Budget of the Republic of Kosovo and donors	MCYS, subordinate public institutions of Cultural Heritage, IPA Funds, Un Habitat	Defined by the Strategic Operational Plan	/	Implemented throughout the year
III.1.2.1	Inclusion of cultural heritage in national spatial planning policies and documents	January – December 2022	Budget of the Republic of Kosovo	MCYS and subordinate public institutions of Cultural Heritage	Defined by the Strategic Operational Plan	/	Implemented throughout the year
III.1.2.3	Inclusion of cultural heritage in municipal planning documents	January – December 2022	Budget of the Republic of Kosovo	MCYS, subordinate public institutions of Cultural Heritage and municipalities	Defined by the Strategic Operational Plan	/	Implemented throughout the year

<b>IV.1</b>	<b>PROMOTION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE</b>						
IV.1.1.1	The study and interpretation of cultural heritage	January – December 2022	Budget of the Republic of Kosovo	MCYS and subordinate public institutions of Cultural Heritage	Defined by the Strategic Operational Plan	/	Implemented throughout the year
IV.1.1.2	Development of cultural tourism based on the principles of sustainable development	January – December 2022	Budget of the Republic of Kosovo	MCYS and subordinate public institutions of Cultural Heritage	Defined by the Strategic Operational Plan	/	Implemented throughout the year
IV.1.1.3	Promotion of cultural diversity, respect and protection of heritage and cultural expression of Kosovo's communities	January – December 2022	Budget of the Republic of Kosovo	MCYS and subordinate public institutions of Cultural Heritage, NGOs and civil society	Defined by the Strategic Operational Plan	/	Implemented throughout the year
<b>V.1</b>	<b>EDUCATION, TRAINING AND ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN THE PROTECTION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE</b>						
V.1.1.1	Improving “access for all” to the cultural heritage	January – December 2022	Budget of the Republic	MCYS and subordinate public	Defined by the Strategic Operational Plan	/	Implemented throughout the year

			of Kosovo	institutions of Cultural Heritage			
V.1.1.2	Improving professional capacities of cultural heritage employees	January – December 2022	Budget of the Republic of Kosovo	MCYS and subordinate public institutions of Cultural Heritage	Engagement of new staff	/	Implemented throughout the year
V.1.1.3	Education of new generations on cultural heritage	January – December 2022	Budget of the Republic of Kosovo	MCYS, subordinate public institutions of Cultural Heritage, NGOs, cooperation agreements with universities	Engagement of interns	/	Implemented throughout the year

February, Prishtina 2023