

GM Douzelage 2023



CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL HERITAGE: POLICIES IN DOUZELAGE MEMBER CITIES

An Overview

www.douzelage.eu

CONTENTS



Douzelage	2
intro Altea	3
Asikkala	5
Bundoran	8
Chojna	11
Granville	13
Holstebro	15
Houffalize	17
Judenburg	19
Köszeg	21
Marsaskala	23
Meerssen	25
Niederanven	27
Oxelösund	29
Rokiškis	31
Rovinj-Rovigno	33
Sesimbra	36
Sherborne	38
Sušice	40
Škofja Loka	42
Tryavna	44
Türi	46

DOUZELAGE INTRO



Hosted in the captivating setting of Rovinj-Rovigno, the 47th Douzelage General Meeting has centered on a significant and valued matter. The delegations of Douzelage partner towns discussed various strategies for preserving Cultural and Historical Heritage, with particular attention given to traditions and historical legacies. The significance of education in transmitting these cultural treasures to the younger generation was underscored.

European cities, cognizant of the invaluable importance of preserving their legacy, have undertaken commendable initiatives to safeguard their historical traditions. From restoration projects to cultural programs, European cities stand as guardians of their rich and unique heritage. This booklet delves into the actions employed by the member cities, exploring how they ensure that the echoes of history continue to resonate in their local communities.



ALTEA



Altea places a paramount emphasis on preserving its rich cultural heritage through a comprehensive approach. Rigorous architectural regulations govern new constructions, ensuring harmony with the historic surroundings. The city boasts a vibrant cultural calendar, featuring events like Fiestas de Moros y Cristianos and other festivals that celebrate local history through traditional music, dances, and costumes.





Ongoing monument restoration projects employ traditional methods, utilizing local materials, and actively involve the community in the preservation process. The establishment of a Municipal Heritage Catalogue and educational initiatives, such as guided tours, cultural events, and workshops, further contribute to safeguarding Altea's identity. Integrating Altea's history and culture into school curricula, preserving traditional crafts, and emphasizing the Catalan language symbolize a commitment to ensuring that future generations appreciate and cherish the city's rich history and cultural legacy.



ASIKKALA



The Cultural Education Plan, administered by the Finnish Association for Cultural Heritage Education and the Association of Finnish Children's Cultural Centers, strategically integrates cultural, artistic, and cultural heritage education into teaching. This plan aligns with the municipality's cultural services and heritage, combining local curriculum objectives and cultural offerings to ensure equal opportunities for all students. Initiatives like the Art Testers event, concerts in Lahti, and guided walks in Vääksy contribute to students' cultural experiences, while subjects like home economics maintain Finnish cultural traditions in schools.



The UNESCO Global Geopark contributes to the global network of sites dedicated to preserving and sharing the Earth's geological heritage for present and future generations.



A local initiative encourages cultural activities, promoting well-being alongside physical exercise. The Vääksyn kulttuuriympäristöohjelma project, in collaboration with Lahti University of Applied Sciences, focuses on documenting and preserving Vääksy's cultural environment, providing a guide for development. The Anianpelto Fair and the Finnish championship of miniature bark ships exemplify events sustaining local traditions and supporting youth activities.



In fostering the involvement of younger generations, Asikkala employs youth for social media management and museum work during the summer. The emphasis is on leveraging information channels preferred by young people to disseminate knowledge about cultural and historical heritage, ensuring the continuation of traditions for future generations.



BUNDORAN



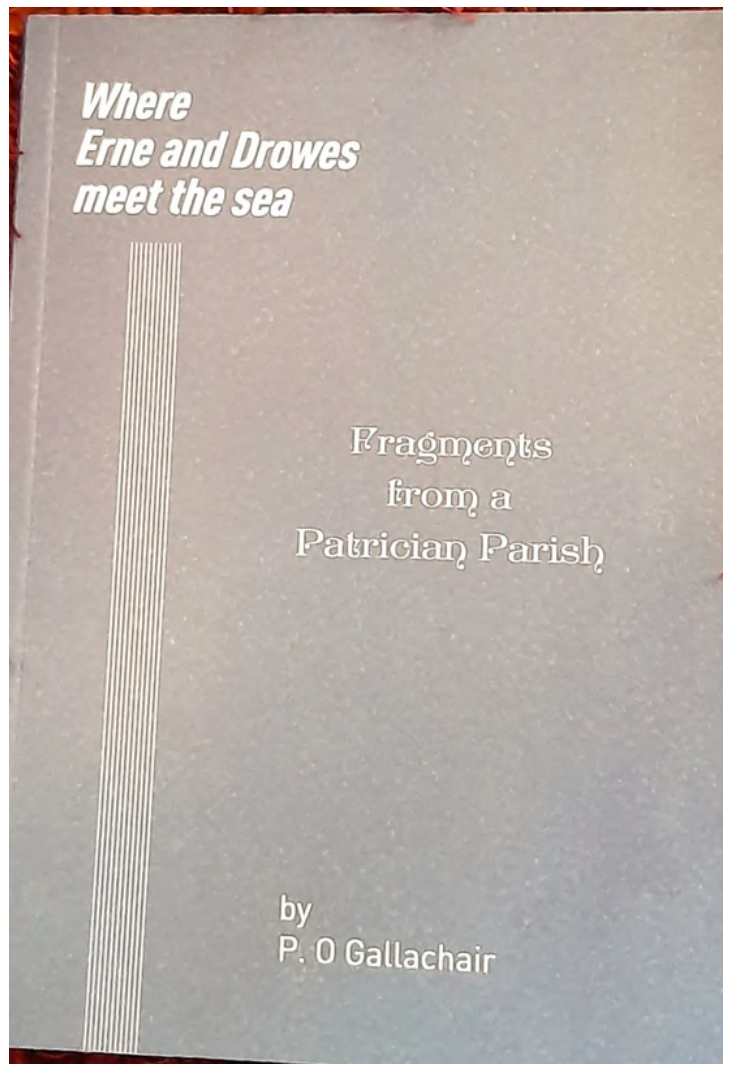
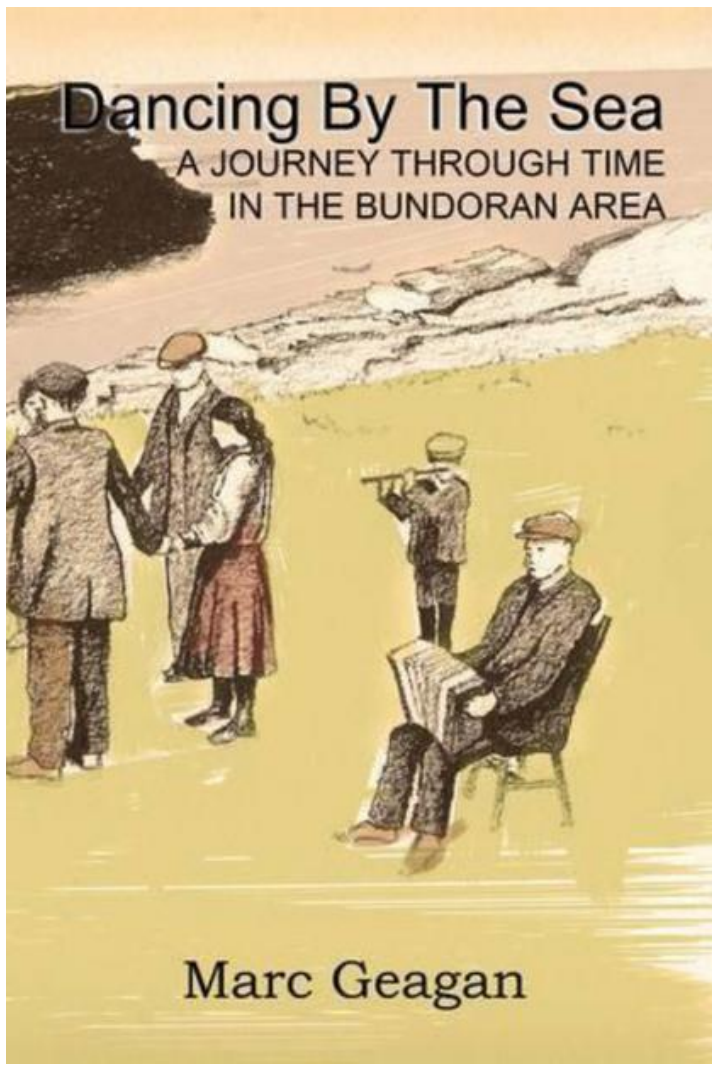
The town of Bundoran actively engages in preserving and sharing its rich cultural heritage through various initiatives. During National Heritage Week, the Bundoran Community Museum, established in 2016 within the old vaults of a former bank, showcases a diverse collection of artifacts spanning the town's history. Run by volunteers from the Bundoran Historical Society, the museum provides a comprehensive overview of Bundoran's evolution over the years. The Discover Bundoran website serves as a repository for stories, blogs, and a "current history" section based on the popular Irish television program "Reeling in the Years." The website also features annual blog posts highlighting events and activities since 2010.



Commemorative efforts include the unveiling of an information panel in 2020 to mark the anniversary of a public rights of way court case in 1870. Other commemorations include a memorial stone at Tullan Strand beach for a 1944 war plane crash and a Railway Heritage Festival in 2017, which marked the 60th anniversary of the last train leaving Bundoran.



The town's built heritage has been a focus of restoration efforts, including the restoration of one of the last thatch cottages in 2018. Literature plays a crucial role in preserving Bundoran's history, with reprints of historical books such as "Where Erne and Drowes meet the sea" by Fr Paddy Gallagher and works by local historian Marc Geagan, ensuring that the town's history is accessible to future generations.





CHOJNA



Chojna, a town deeply rooted in history, has embarked on a commendable journey to preserve its local heritage. A pivotal step in this endeavor involves the meticulous renovation of the façade of the historic Jagiellońska building. This ambitious project reflects the town's commitment to maintaining the authenticity and historical charm of its architectural gems.

However, Chojna's dedication to heritage preservation extends beyond administrative buildings to embrace one of its most iconic landmarks—the monumental St. Mary's Church. Proudly standing as one of the largest Gothic churches in Poland, St. Mary's Church is a testament to the town's rich cultural and religious history.





The materials used in the construction of St. Mary's Church add to its distinctive character. Built with multi-colored bricks in shades of green, yellow, black, and red, the church stands as a vibrant mosaic. To support these ambitious heritage preservation initiatives, Chojna has secured financing from various sources, both local and national, as well as international funding, including contributions from the European Union. This multi-faceted approach not only reflects the town's commitment to its historical legacy but also underscores the collaborative efforts required to safeguard and celebrate the cultural treasures that define Chojna.



GRANVILLE



Granville, a coastal town with a rich maritime heritage, hosts three notable festivals celebrating its fishing sector. The Festival des Voiles de Travail, or Working Sails Festival, pays homage to past and traditional fishing activities. Toute la Mer sur un Plateau, an annual gastronomic event, opens the fish and shellfish market to enthusiasts eager to savor local produce. The Granville Carnival, a UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage, marks the departure of men for cod-fishing in Newfoundland and stands as a highlight of the year, drawing thousands of visitors who witness meticulously prepared floats.



Since the 19th century, Granville has been a magnet for sea-bathers, offering not only beach activities but also a large marina, a sailing school, and courses on crabbing and shrimping provided by local associations. The town's economic history, shaped significantly by the DIOR family, includes a phosphate factory, guano import, a brewery, and a bottle-top plant. Christian Dior's childhood home, now a museum atop the cliff, showcases the couturier's high fashion dresses in annual exhibitions.

Granville's architectural legacy reflects its diverse history, featuring a fortified old town, opulent houses of shipowners, and residences associated with the Dior family. Signposted trails guide visitors through the town, unraveling its architectural heritage. To escape the ordinary, visitors can take a boat to the Chausey Archipelago, a collection of 365 small islands. Here, a car-free main island invites leisurely walks, beach activities, shrimping, and shellfish fishing at low tide, providing a tranquil escape from the hustle of daily life.



HOLSTEBRO



Holstebro, facing challenges in the 20th century due to the departure of young people seeking education elsewhere, implemented the innovative "Holstebro Cultural Model." This model focused on investing in art and cultural development to revitalize the city and attract new businesses. Over the years, Holstebro successfully established cultural landmarks such as the Holstebro Arena and acquired significant artworks, including the renowned "Woman on a Cart" by Swiss artist Alberto Giacometti.



The city's commitment to culture extended to supporting institutions like the International Odin Theatre and The Ballet of Peter Schaufuss. These cultural initiatives not only attracted new inhabitants but also positioned Holstebro as an attractive study city with optimal facilities for education. The population grew to 37,000 by 2023, and the city became the foundation for the larger Holstebro Greater Municipality, encompassing a picturesque landscape.



Holstebro's efforts in cultural preservation continue with several museums focusing on history, art, and local geography. These initiatives have transformed Holstebro into a vibrant and growing city on the heath. In 2024, the city celebrates its 750th anniversary with a jubilee themed "Connect Us," aiming to celebrate connections and build bridges locally and internationally. The festivities include concerts, Youth Festivals, ballets, sports events, city walks, and sustainable activities like tree planting, inviting everyone to join in the celebration and experience the cultural richness of Holstebro.



HOUFFALIZE



Houffalize is a town steeped in history and cultural richness, where the past comes alive through a myriad of experiences. Houffalize Transmission, a hub of cultural exploration, offers a diverse array of activities for residents and visitors alike. Books and paintings tell tales of the town's vibrant history. The center hosts engaging workshops for both children and adults, fostering creativity and a love for cultural expression. Official ceremonies, with the participation of students, add a touch of formality and community involvement to the cultural landscape.

The historical tapestry of Houffalize can be explored through guided tours and walks that unveil the secrets of the territory. Museums showcase artifacts and exhibits, providing a deeper understanding of the town's heritage. Didactic panels strategically placed around the area offer informative insights into the historical significance of key landmarks. The enchanting realm of legends and fairy tales is part of the fabric of Houffalize's identity and can be found in a series of publications, while the fascinating Cheslé—a once-old fortress rebuilt in the 80s, adds a layer of modern history to the town, where past and present intertwine thanks to the effort committed to preservation of the town's heritage.





JUDENBURG



In Judenburg, a town rich in historical heritage, two prominent museums, the City Museum and Museum Murtal, focus on showcasing the region's archeology and history. These institutions actively promote research into historical heritage and offer guided tours for schools, events for children during holidays, and engaging lectures. Both museums are managed by supporting associations.

To enhance the accessibility of historical information, Judenburg features several historical circular routes marked with informative boards on buildings, with plans to expand through the incorporation of steles and QR codes. Additionally, a digital app called "Von-Bis" allows users to program thematic circuits, currently offering two options highlighting the best of Judenburg and the archaeological sites of the region. The app includes an audio guide detailing the urban development of Judenburg, while the "Iron Age Danube" app contains a description and location of the Iron Age site at Falkenberg. Part of a larger initiative, Judenburg collaborates with 13 other historic cities in the "Kleine historische Städte" project. This collective effort aims to jointly market the historical significance of these cities domestically and internationally.

Addressing a somber aspect of history, Judenburg is actively involved in the project "Holocaust Memorial" to remember the Jewish population of Judenburg. This initiative seeks to make the history of the Jewish community visible and emphasizes the importance of acknowledging this history, recognizing its contemporary relevance, and countering the withholding of information surrounding it.





KÖSZEG



Nestled at the feet of the Alps, Köszeg emerges as a town of rich natural beauty, celebrated for its commitment to preserving the environment. The region boasts a Protected Area, a testament to its dedication to nature conservation, with collaborative efforts extending across borders through cooperation with Austria.

Köszeg, also known for its vibrant economy, holds the distinguished title of a Free Royal town, a status granted to it since 1740. A notable chapter in the town's history revolves around the cultivation of wine, an economic pillar that has shaped Köszeg's identity.

The cultural tapestry of Köszeg is woven with threads of diversity, with German and Croatian minorities contributing to the town's colorful heritage.



This cultural richness is expressed through various facets of life, including language, traditions, and cuisine.



Kőszeg's architectural allure is heightened by numerous listed buildings, each telling a story of the town's evolution. Its cultural life is not confined within its borders, as Kőszeg actively engages in cultural exchanges abroad, promoting its values globally. In Kőszeg, the past and present coalesce, creating a town that embraces its history while cultivating a vibrant and diverse cultural life.



MARSASKALA



Marsaskala, a town deeply rooted in cultural heritage, actively engages in restoration works to preserve its rich history. Cultural events play a crucial role in maintaining traditions, fostering integration among residents, immigrants, and school students, and educating them about the local history, traditions, and culture. Organized with the support of various entities, including the Ministry for National Heritage, the Arts and Local Government, NGOs, the Southern Region, the Local Parish Church, and the Marsaskala Local Council, these events cover a wide spectrum of activities.

During Good Friday, residents embark on an outing to visit churches and procession statues, while Lent sees an exhibition featuring The Apostles' table and small versions of Good Friday's procession statues. Primary schools host Presentation Day, showcasing students' talents in acting, singing, and dancing.



Marsaskala's annual Feast of Saint Ann in July showcases traditional religious celebrations organized by the Parish Church, complemented by the melodious Marsaskala Saint Ann's Brass Band. Voluntary groups enhance the feast's visual spectacle with vibrant decorations and impressive firework displays. In August, Marsaskala hosts the lively Summer Carnival with vibrant floats and costumes. The Expression of Dance & Music through the Ages, organized by the Southern Regional Council and Marsaskala Local Council, provides a platform for local artists in August.



September sees the celebration of Marsaskala Day, marked by a religious mass and a flag-raising ceremony. December transforms the town into a festive hub with Milied Skaliz, a Christmas Village offering traditional gifts, crafts, food, beverages, and nativity scene exhibitions, creating joy for residents and visitors alike.



MEERSSEN



The municipality of Meerssen in the Netherlands prides itself on a rich cultural heritage, boasting 111 national monuments and 60 municipal monuments spread across five village centers. In addition to all these monuments that are worth visiting because of their history, there are various works of art of more recent date to admire on the roundabouts and other places in the public space. Along various walking and cycling routes there are poems in Dutch. The tourism website provides detailed information on these landmarks, emphasizing their historical significance. The municipality actively participates in heritage preservation through national, provincial, and local guidelines, along with engaging NGOs and private initiatives. This may concern guidelines on renovations or, for example, protection against high water. There are subsidy schemes at the National Monument Conservation, the Province and municipalities and many private initiatives for restoration, preservation and sometimes also in the event of a change of destination of the monument.



Special attention is given to religious heritage, notably the Octave of the Blessed Sacrament, a unique and culturally significant event blending folklore and tradition. Various associations and educational centers contribute to knowledge dissemination, though there's a call for increased attention to local history in schools. Douzelage Meerssen advocates for the preservation of historical, cultural, and religious heritage, highlighting the positive impact on tourism while considering potential challenges such as visitor abundance. The main goal is to encourage tourists to contribute to the preservation of cultural heritage for the enjoyment of both tourists and inhabitants alike.



NIEDERANVEN



Niederanven boasts a rich architectural heritage with ancient buildings repurposed for cultural or residential uses. Examples include the Château de Senningen, serving as a political meeting center for the Luxembourgish Government, and the Loretto Chapel, now a communal meeting room. The old mills, dating back to the 17th century, have been repurposed as residences while preserving their original architecture.



The Charly's Railway station, initially built in 1904 for a steam railway, has been renovated into an art exhibition room. The local authorities actively integrate old architectural gems into new projects, exemplified by the renovation of the 'Haff Peter,' an old Farmers house, incorporated into a new residential complex.

Additionally, the Senningerberg Water Tower, under architectural protection, is planned for transformation into a small tourist accommodation. Niederaanven's commitment to heritage preservation is evident through collaborative projects, including a book comparing ancient views with present situations, historical publications, and a children's map featuring historical and cultural elements. The commune has revived old traditions, such as a monthly market, the yearly 'Kirmes' amusement fair, the 'Hämmelsmarch' musical corso, and the Schetzel celebration honoring a 12th-century hermit. The local scout group, Grupp Schetzel, preserves pioneering knowledge, using traditional methods like topographic maps and a compass. Niederaanven organizes meetings for new inhabitants, introducing them to local associations and fostering community engagement.





OXELÖSUND



In the small coastal town of Oxelösund, history is rich with tales linked to the sea and the individuals who relied upon it for fishing, piloting, and trade at the port. Nevertheless, the town also harbors recollections of a troubled era marked by stark contrasts between the East and the West during the Cold War.

The Femöre fortress managed to escape demolition thanks to the dedication of volunteers. Established in 2003, the non-profit association "Femöre Fortress" transformed the once-secret stronghold into a public museum, preserving significant sections of the facility. The fortress, now a historical site,

offers visitors insights into life during the Cold War, featuring areas like the kitchen, battle command center, and cannons above and below ground.



With a team of 120 members, the association provides guided tours during the summer season and weekends in spring and fall, accommodating group tours year-round.

The fortress, situated within the Femöre nature reserve, offers a unique experience, allowing visitors to explore the defense complex and enjoy outdoor activities like swimming and sunbathing on warm summer days. The "Femöre Fortress" association contributes significantly to preserving, exhibiting, and educating the public about an essential aspect of Oxelösund's and Sweden's history.





ROKIŠKIS



Rokiškis is a wonderful example of dedicated heritage preservation. The St. Apostle Evangelist Matthew Church witnessed a transformative renovation in 2021 and ongoing efforts in 2022, fueled by substantial funding from the St. John Paul II Pilgrimage Program. The Bobriškis Old Believers Church underwent a full restoration from 2015 to 2018, showcasing collaborative funding from the Department, local community, and municipal budget. Other cultural gems like Salos St. Cross Church, Kamajai St. Kazimieras Church, and the Rokiškis Manor received targeted financial support for roof renovations, ensuring the town's historical tapestry remains vibrant. Private donations, as seen in the case of Onuškis St. Mykolas the Archangel Church, underscore the community's commitment to preserving its rich heritage. The proactive



approach extends to landmarks like the Rokiškis Manor Ice Cream Parlour and Brewery, with funds from various sources ensuring their structural integrity.



Furthermore, the recognition of the Struvé Geodetic Arc Gireišiai Point as a UNESCO-protected monument highlights Rokiškis' dedication to safeguarding scientific and historical treasures. This collective effort showcases Rokiškis as a steward of its cultural legacy, ensuring a vibrant link between the past and the future.



ROVINJ-ROVIGNO



The preservation of cultural heritage in Rovinj-Rovigno embraces a comprehensive approach that involves various institutions in passing on valuable knowledge. In addition to the Municipality's preservation of buildings and monuments, the Association "House of Batana – Casa della batana" plays a pivotal role in this endeavor, collaborating with kindergartens, elementary schools, as well as high schools.



Traditional games, songs, and drawings of traditional architecture further enrich the educational experience. The collaboration with the "House of Batana" extends to homeland teaching projects, covering topics such as

fishermen and farmers, traditional games, and the teaching of the Istrian dialect. Special events and visits tailored for children ensure that younger generations actively participate in heritage appreciation. The city's commitment to preserving its heritage is evident in a wide array of initiatives. The study of the dialect, folklore dances, and the regional institutionalization of historical groups underscore the multifaceted approach. The Museum of the City of Rovinj-Rovigno offers diverse ways to engage with heritage, from guided tours to exploring old masters' collections. The Open University of the City of Rovinj-Rovigno contributes through traditional craft workshops. Puppet and theater plays with traditional history themes provide interactive avenues for learning.



The significance of preserving traditional games, dialect, and monuments is highlighted through collaborative efforts among these institutions. The synergy created by motivated children and youth actively engaging with their cultural heritage fosters a sense of pride and continuity, ensuring that Rovinj's rich legacy endures for generations to come. The commitment of these institutions to working together reflects a shared dedication to safeguarding the cultural fabric of Rovinj-Rovigno.





SESIMBRA



Sesimbra, a picturesque touristic destination, has undertaken comprehensive heritage preservation initiatives, combining local and European resources. The 17th-century Fortress of Santiago underwent meticulous restoration in 2014, subsequently opening to the public as part of the Sesimbra Maritime Museum in 2016. Various landmarks have undergone refurbishments between 2017 and 2023.

In addition to architectural preservation, Sesimbra demonstrates a commitment to safeguarding natural, archaeological, and palaeontological heritage. The municipality designated three natural monuments in 1997, including ichnofossil deposits with dinosaur footprints dating back to the Jurassic period. These efforts involve trail preservation, with a focus on the Lagoa Pequena interpretive centre and the Geo-circuit.



Sesimbra's dedication to heritage extends to supporting traditional festivals, significant publications, and the collection of local testimonies reflecting customs and traditions. The town council has also registered trademarks to protect typical products.



Community involvement is deemed crucial for heritage protection, with the town council actively engaging in educational projects and services for the past decade. Educational Projects and Services (EPS) complement school programs, providing opportunities for firsthand exploration of heritage, history, and culture. In essence, Sesimbra exemplifies a proactive approach to heritage preservation, leveraging local and European resources, community engagement, and educational initiatives to ensure the enduring legacy of its cultural and natural treasures.



SHERBORNE



Sherborne takes pride in preserving and sharing its rich heritage through various initiatives. The Sherborne Story Mural, prominently displayed in a main car park, visually narrates key events in the town's history. Qualified 'Blue Badge' Guides, certified by the Institute of Tourist Guiding, offer informed tours. The monthly magazine, 'Sherborne Times,' features articles on history and heritage.



Volunteers from SHARES (Sherborne Area Refugee Support) engage with newcomers, introducing them to Sherborne's heritage. The town's primary schools conduct cultural treasure hunts, and Leweston School performs in Sherborne Abbey, accompanied by talks on the historic significance of the building.



Central to heritage preservation is the Sherborne Museum, serving as a repository of the town's history. Operated by volunteers and offering free admission, the museum hosts ongoing exhibitions that contribute to a deeper understanding of Sherborne's heritage. Notably, many of Sherborne's heritage organizations are either run by or receive substantial support from dedicated volunteers. The commitment to heritage education underscores the town's ethos of sharing its cultural legacy.



SUŠICE



The Czech Republic places significant importance on the preservation of its cultural and historical heritage, reflecting a positive sentiment among its inhabitants. Owners of cultural heritage are legally obliged to protect and care for these monuments, and they can seek professional assistance free of charge from the National Heritage Institute. Municipal offices, regional offices, and the Ministry of Culture also offer free help and consultation.

Financial contributions serve as compensation for the owner's duties, and in 2023, Sušice provided a subsidy program for the restoration of objects in the city monument zone. In 2022, the town allocated approximately 70,800 EUR for the restoration of eight objects, while the Ministry of Culture contributed around 27,000 EUR for the restoration of two cultural monuments.



Sušice's Museum of Šumava plays a crucial role in preserving heritage, featuring exhibitions on the town's history, glassworks, matchmaking, and more. Noteworthy is the mechanical nativity scene, one of the Czech Republic's largest, showcasing important buildings and traditional crafts.

The museum actively engages in restoration efforts, exemplifying the commitment to safeguarding cultural memorials in Sušice.





ŠKOFJA LOKA



Škofja Loka's rich cultural heritage prominently features the oldest dramatic text in the Slovenian language – the Passion Play dating back to 1721. Recognized by UNESCO as Intangible Cultural Heritage since 2016, the play involves over 1,000 participants, making it one of the most magnificent Passion Plays globally. Students from the local Grammar School actively engage in the performance, with international exchanges showcasing the play to audiences abroad.

The medieval town center of Škofja Loka, especially the Main Square, stands as a beautifully preserved heritage site. Adorned with Gothic and Baroque structures, the square served as the historic hub of economic and social life. Students from the Grammar School play a pivotal role in introducing visitors to the town's sights during international exchanges, showcasing the cultural significance of the Main Square.



An 18th-century tradition from Škofja Loka involves the production of honey pastries known as little breads. Originally crafted by nuns, these pastries symbolize love and abundance, becoming a staple at weddings and celebrations. The tradition continues with local artisans, and workshops on little bread production are organized as part of international exchange programs, fostering the preservation of this culinary heritage.





TRYAVNA



In Tryavna, Bulgaria, a profound commitment to preserving centuries-old traditions and artistic craftsmanship has given rise to the oldest Renaissance art school in the country. Notably excelling in construction, carving, and painting, the artisans have transformed their skills into an art form. The "Slaveykovo School," named after teacher Petko Slaveykov, stands as one of Bulgaria's initial secular schools, boasting a rich history and a collection of old clocks.



The town's Clock Tower, situated in the preserved Renaissance square named "Captain Grandfather Nikola," dates back to 1814 and is a cherished tourist attraction. Legend has it that its construction required women to surrender their "sokai" jewelry, adding cultural significance to this iconic landmark.



The municipality of Tryavna and the country itself receive credit for preserving this cultural heritage, ensuring that the town's history remains intact. The call to value and preserve this heritage echoes through generations, with the youth recognizing their role in safeguarding Tryavna's past and passing it on to future generations. The students of "Petko Rachev Slaveykov" in Tryavna take pride in their school, an inheritor of a longstanding mutual school tradition, contributing to its continued development.



TÜRI



In Türi, Estonia, the preservation of cultural heritage has taken a multifaceted approach, blending the restoration of old buildings with the nurturing of non-material heritage. The society actively involved in era-specific house restoration conducts lectures and workshops for house owners, contributing to the trend of fashionable era-specific homes. Noteworthy examples include the municipality's restoration of a former high school building, now hosting a town library, and NGO Konna Maja transforming a 150-year-old house into a vibrant hub with workshops, talks on recycling, and a popular restaurant featuring old recipes.



Renovation projects extend to repurposing newer buildings, such as the successful transformation of an old boiler house into a youth center. Additionally, foreign investors have played a role in renovating manor houses, originally school properties, with Türi municipality proudly owning three of these beautiful schools. The non-material heritage shines through various cultural activities, from choirs and ensembles to dance groups in schools and the community center. Singing holds a significant place in Estonian culture, with multiple adult and school choirs, a renowned boys' choir, and the county's only marching band in Türi. Folk dance groups, numbering 12 in the municipality, showcase the enduring popularity of traditional arts.



The preservation effort extends beyond performance arts, with teacher Kaarel Aluoja compiling collections of Türi's history and stories. Digitalization initiatives have made heritage accessible, while new events like a parade of old baby prams and motorcycles add a contemporary twist to tradition. Finally, the enduring practice of growing vegetables, making preserves, and gathering herbs for remedies reflects the community's commitment to preserving traditional ways of life.