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Architecture is my specialty, I especially have studied the beginnings of that discipline and its development throughout the centuries, but I much more express the feelings of the tradition and art considering that architecture is all of that together. I hate the remarks in which some authors exalt themselves and impute the mistakes to others. I decided to make the bigger part of the content of this introduction a subjective assessment of the rich Macedonian culture and art, as well as of the tradition of the museum activity in Ohrid and on the overall territory of the Republic of Macedonia.

As far as Ohrid is concerned, which is a city-museum itself, we should not forget the fact that there is a museum which roots go deep down in history. Ohrid has a long tradition of museum activity. Namely, more than two centuries before the foundation of the British Museum in London (1953) and the Louvre in Paris (1793), there was an archbishopric museum in the church Sv. Bogorodica Perivlepta in Ohrid, which was one of the first museums and probably the oldest museum in Europe which existed for 400 years since 1516 until 1916. The existence of the Museum in Ohrid nearly a millennium ago was confirmed with the existence of a seal from 1516 which, unfortunately, was taken to Sofia along with number of other valuable and rare artistic items during World War I by the army of the Bulgarian monarchy, and the Museum in the church Sv. Bogorodica Perivlepta was taken apart and restored after 35 years in May 1951. The National Museum in Ohrid was founded at the time, which, apart from the frequent confiscation and damaging of number of artifacts in the past, has inherited a lot of significant museum artifacts: Greek and Slavic manuscripts with illuminations from the X century and the period afterward, the famous collection of icons, antic sculptures, and other archeological items, as well as a lot of other movable museum materials.

The long cultural tradition of Ohrid and the wider region, the number of cultural monuments dating back to different periods, as well as their character and role throughout history in this region leads to the foundation of a significant and competent institution which would be responsible for their protection and maintenance. That institution is the Municipal Institute for protection of cultural monuments which, along with the National Museum, is integrated in a single institution which still bares the name National Institution - Institute for protection of cultural monuments and Museum - Ohrid.

My competence to talk about the cultural values based on ancient tradition this time derives from my governance with the National Institution - Institute for protection of cultural monuments and Museum, which has a long tradition of crossing, interlacing and incorporating various cultural values. With its multicultural character, Macedonia can be an example for a country which develops and supports various cultural values in the frames of our social existence with its high consciousness and honesty. The institutions responsible for protection should be more flexible in the decisions which are crucial for prosperity, i.e. a pillar of suggestions in the frames of the overall policy of the cultural heritage, coordinators of significant projects representing the Republic of Macedonia in Europe and the world and of capital national projects representing our country in front of the European and global cultural public. If there is a good thought and a good intention for creation of capital of values of the consciousness of the society in a context of care and protection of the civilization benefits which Macedonia has at its disposal and with which the identity of the people would be recognized, then the institutions will also become capital with which the cultural heritage of the Republic of Macedonia would be protected.

In the last few years, when the world marked the end of the XX century and the end of the second millennium of our era, when it celebrated the anniversary "2000 years since the birth of Jesus Christ and Christianity on the planet Earth", and when it marked the beginning of the third millennium, NI Institute and Museum - Ohrid, with an exceptional support by the Ministry of Culture and the Government of the Republic of Macedonia, was the dominant bearer of revitalization activities in Ohrid by preparing and implementing projects with national character, in order for the same to be repeated in 2008 under the aegis of the Cultural Heritage Protection Office in Skopje.

Projects of national interest were implemented all over the Republic of Macedonia in 2008. Archeological research was made at the Skopje fortress - Kale in Skopje, at the Tetovo kale - Baltepe in Tetovo, at the Tzar Towers in Strumica, at the archeological site "Isar Marvinci" near Shtip, and on many other locations with a single goal: discovery of artifacts which confirm the cultural values based on the ancient tradition of crossing, interlacing and incorporating various cultural values.

The promotion of the culture as a priority of state policy is a mutual instigator of the recent and forthcoming cooperation with the countries from the region, and the cooperation is made by exchanging knowledge and positive practices between the countries in the region. The promotion of the cultural heritage is also made through projects which are mutually headed by the Council of Europe and the European Commission in the SEE countries, as well as through digitalization of the cultural heritage which goal is: enlargement, enrichment and promotion of the digitalization process in the region, sharing the best practice, increasing the awareness and understanding the existing international standards, recommendations and directions, and strengthening the development of the regional process of coordination and education in the digitalization of the cultural heritage.

In that context, NI Institute for protection of cultural monuments and Museum - Ohrid as an institution which takes care of the overall cultural and spiritual heritage of Ohrid, which nurtures traditions and successfully presents the current museum reality in this region, will inexorably continue its successful path in the future as well by preserving the values from the past because an institution of this caliber is an unavoidable necessity for the values from the past, presence, and the future of the city under Samuel's Fortress, the city which not only presents an exceptional national treasure of Macedonia with its values, but also a global cultural and natural heritage and treasure with the natural values of the Ohrid Lake.

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