

Project Results 3

- Assessment Nationals Reports and Dissemination

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«Reviving of cultural heritage: Social and Economic Empowerment of Rural Areas»

KA220-ADU - Cooperation partnerships in adult education

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Website of the project: <https://www.re-culturalheritage.eu/>

Conceptual Context of Restoration

Cultural heritage encompasses all the characteristics of the environment that result from the interaction between people and places over time." (1)

Cultural heritage is generally defined in the literature as the "shared common bond of communities." Within this context, it can be argued that cultural heritage acts as a bridge between the past, present, and future (2). The preservation of cultural heritage is essential for humanity, not only to safeguard the history of mankind but also to protect the authenticity of artworks and structures. An artifact represents any object created or modified by individuals carrying historical value. The scope of the concept of cultural heritage is defined in the 1972 UNESCO Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage as encompassing monuments, architectural ensembles, and sites. In each category, emphasis is placed on having "outstanding universal value from the point of view of history, art, or science" (3).

Taking into account the extensive literature references, making a distinction between tangible and intangible cultural heritage would clarify the concept further. Firstly, intangible cultural heritage emerges as a way of life. The conceptualization of tradition and customs encompasses the entirety of experiences, ideas, and values that constitute a culture, providing an abstract definition of cultural heritage. On the other hand, tangible cultural heritage encompasses all tangible works, both movable and immovable, produced by humans (4). It also includes underwater remnants and natural sites.(5)

In summary, the definition of cultural heritage encompasses a wide range of cultural assets, starting from portable cultural objects such as paintings, sculptures, ceramics, jewelry, and manuscripts, to individual monuments, architectural ensembles, and larger-scale historic, archaeological, rural, and urban sites. In the identification and preservation of cultural heritage, various criteria are considered, including the historical documentation value, aesthetic value, art historical significance, and the importance of original materials and construction techniques.

Restoration, as one of the tools of conservation mentioned in the ICOMOS (2010) declaration, is defined as the process of returning the existing fabric of an area to its known most authentic state by reassembling existing elements or removing negative additions without introducing new materials. Cultural heritage undergoes interventions based on its significance/values, existing issues, and potential. Through a thorough examination of these three stages, conscious interventions that adhere to international preservation theories and approaches, while also being compatible with national conditions/limitations, are implemented in the physical environment, referred to as "restoration." (6)

Restoration and Turkey

The Republic of Turkey is a nation with a highly strategic geographical location and a deep-rooted history spanning thousands of years. It has been a pivotal country in rich trade routes between the East and the West, playing a transit role in many stages of history. In this regard, Turkey is one of the countries that should bear a significant level of responsibility at the universal level due to its wealth of cultural heritage. Geographically, Turkey has also been the most suitable living area for humans, thanks to favorable climate conditions. Therefore, Turkey is an extremely important country in terms of both natural assets and historical and cultural assets.(7)

Aim of historic restoration in Turkey

In our country, the inclination towards the preservation of historical and cultural assets can be observed to have emerged in the 19th century. The modernism movement and the Industrial Revolution that originated in Europe also influenced the Ottoman Empire in the 1840s. As a result, a tendency towards preservation began to manifest in our country (8).

Turkey has been a home to hundreds of civilizations throughout its history. As a result, Turkish culture has been influenced by numerous different civilizations, making it a culturally rich country with a diverse heritage. Cultural heritage in Turkey is composed of the entirety of these cultures. Like many other countries, Turkey also places great

importance on the preservation of cultural heritage. Therefore, numerous efforts have been made since the past to safeguard cultural heritage. (9)

Turkey policies regarding restoration

The preservation of cultural heritage is primarily the responsibility of each individual country. However, cultural assets are also considered the heritage of all humanity. Therefore, to ensure that cultural heritage is not affected by the differences and changes in the political, economic, and cultural situations of states, it is protected through international laws and regulations. (10)

Turkey carries out its conservation efforts according to the restrictions and conditions shaped by the Law on the Protection of Cultural and Natural Assets, which was published in 1983 and is still valid, as well as the amended Law No. 2863. The main institution responsible for implementing this law is the Ministry of Culture and Tourism. The Ministry fulfills this duty through the High Council for the Protection of Cultural and Natural Assets, which is responsible for producing the principle decisions of conservation activities in Turkey, the Regional Boards for the Protection of Cultural and Natural Assets that guide regional planning and implementation efforts in various provinces, and the Directorate of Board Offices, which ensures the functioning of these boards (11). The High Council consists of representatives of public administrators who are involved in conservation activities (such as the General Director of Foundations, representatives from the Ministry of Tourism, the Ministry of Forestry, etc.), as well as representatives of the presidents of the Regional Boards. The Regional Conservation Boards are composed of archaeologists, restoration experts, architects, urban planners, art historians, and representatives from relevant municipalities and institutions. (6)

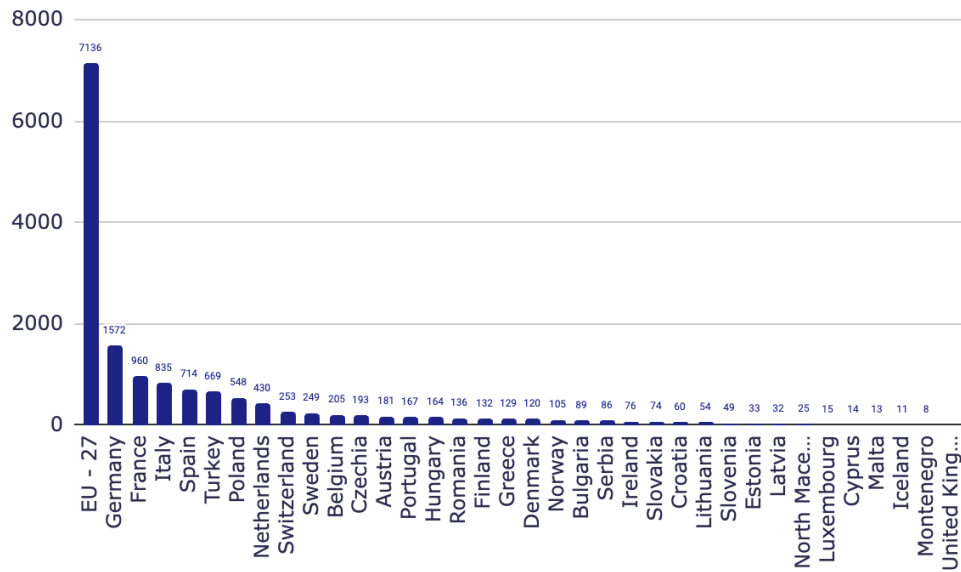
The first legal regulation regarding the concept of cultural heritage in Turkey was the "Law on Ancient Monuments No. 1710," enacted in 1973 (2). Following this, Article 63 of the 1982 Constitution states: "The state ensures the protection of historical, cultural, and natural assets and values and takes supportive and incentivizing measures for this purpose. Restrictions on privately owned properties among these assets and values, as

well as the assistance and exemptions to be granted to the rights holders as a result, shall be regulated by law." Thus, the protection of cultural and natural assets is guaranteed. Subsequently, the "Law on the Protection of Cultural and Natural Assets No. 2863" was enacted in 1983, along with the "Environmental Law No. 2872" and the "National Parks Law No. 2873." The purpose of the Law No. 2863 coming into effect is to "determine the definitions related to movable and immovable cultural and natural assets that require protection, regulate the procedures and activities to be carried out, and establish the organization that will make the necessary principles and implementation decisions" (12). This law is the fundamental regulation regarding the protection of cultural assets in Turkey. According to the law, the ownership of movable and immovable cultural assets belongs to the state. The Ministry of Culture and Tourism is responsible for the use and preservation of these assets on behalf of the state (13)

Turkey policies for employment

According to data provided by Eurostat, in 2020, the European Union (EU) saw the highest employment rates in Germany. The countries with the highest share of cultural employment were France, Italy, and Spain. Turkey ranked sixth among the countries listed in the table, with a cultural employment rate of 669 per thousand, making it one of the countries with the highest cultural employment rates. (Since the most recent data for Turkey was obtained in 2020, the statistics were analyzed on the basis of 2020)

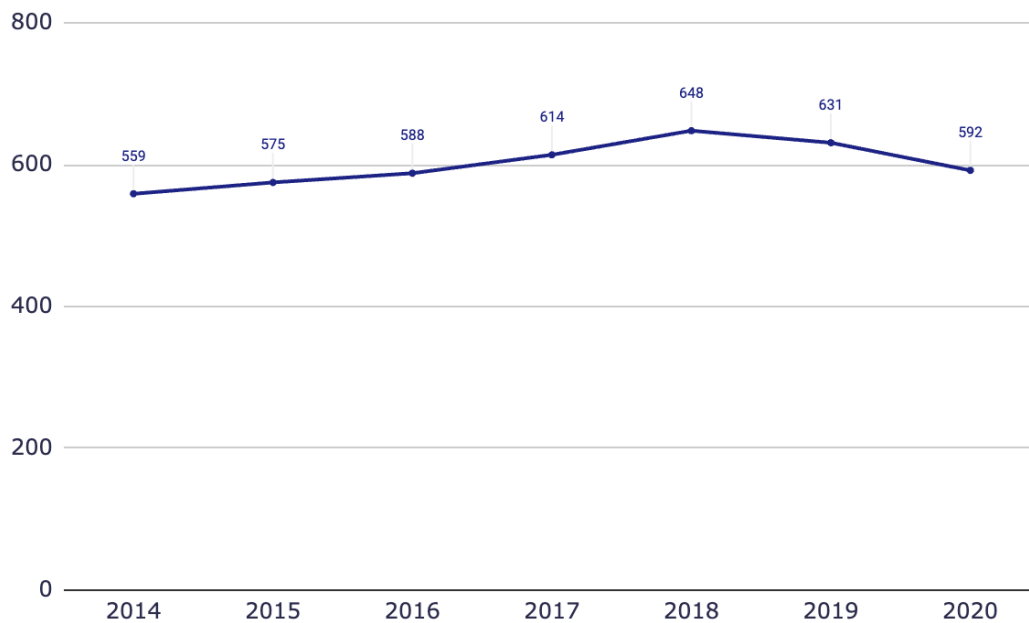
Figure1: Cultural Employment in the EU and Turkey (2020)(%)



Resource: (Eurostat) <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database>

When examining the distribution of employment in the cultural sector in Turkey between 2014 and 2020, it can be observed that there was a growth trend from 2014 to 2018. However, since 2018, there has been a decrease in the number of employed individuals. In 2020, the number of employed persons was 592,000, indicating a decrease of approximately 39,000 compared to the previous year.

Figure 2: Number of persons employed in the cultural sector in Turkey from 2014 to 2020(%)



Resource: TurkStat, Cultural Economy and Cultural Employment Statistics 2020

Cultural heritage, with proper planning and implementation, can contribute significantly to the development of tourism in economic and social terms. Additionally, the contribution of heritage resources to the economy can be considered as an indicator of progress in sustainable tourism. (14)

Although Turkey possesses a wide range of cultural richness, it is observed that it cannot benefit from its cultural values as much as other European countries and has not reached the desired level in terms of cultural tourism. One important reason for this is that due to resource constraints, all marketing efforts have been concentrated on the country's most significant attraction, which is the sun, sea, and sand trio. Despite Turkey's heritage of customs, traditions, gastronomy, history, music, art, painting, religion, architectural structures, handicrafts, folklore, festivals, mythological legends, and its hosting of numerous civilizations for thousands of years, cultural tourism practices in the country have been limited to museum and archaeological site visits (15).

In order to support tourism in Turkey, the Tourism Strategy Document for 2023 has been developed. Under the Turkey Tourism Strategy 2023, strategies have been identified under sixteen different headings, aiming for a more balanced regional development in tourism. These include the use of existing tourism potential within a balance of preservation and utilization, development of tourism alternatives, addressing tourism resources along development axes rather than in isolated locations, ensuring centralized promotion and marketing, planning to overcome the negative effects of fragmented planning approaches towards mass tourism, investment, organization, domestic tourism, research and development, services, transportation and infrastructure, promotion and marketing, education, urban branding, diversification of tourism, rehabilitation of existing tourism areas, development of destinations, participation and sustainability, sector-specific incentive systems and other investment measures, establishment of tourism councils, continuation of campaigns to stimulate domestic tourism, institutionalization of research and development, improvement of professional qualifications and continuous education, standardization, development and diversification of transportation infrastructure, and long-term strategies focusing on branding and image-building. (16)

EXAMPLES

National example

City of Safranbolu

Located on the road connecting the Black Sea coasts to Western, Northern, and Central Anatolia, the historic city of Safranbolu has been inhabited since ancient times due to its geographical location. Safranbolu, under the rule of the Turks since the early 14th century, became an important center of trade between Asia and Europe, particularly in the 18th century. This city, which is an untouched example of Turkish urban history, is recognized as a whole with its traditional urban fabric, timber-framed houses, and monumental structures, and it is listed on the UNESCO World Heritage List as one of the rare cities declared as a "site."

(17)

The City of Safranbolu is a typical Ottoman city, with typical buildings and streets, and played a key role in the caravan trade over many centuries. The settlement developed as a trading center after the Turkish conquest in the 11th century, and by the 13th century, it had become an important caravan station. Its layout demonstrates the organic growth of the town in response to economic expansion, and its buildings are representative of its evolving socio-economic structure up to the disappearance of the traditional caravan routes and beyond.

The site was declared as an urban and natural site according to the National Conservation Law No 2863. Management of the historic areas of Safranbolu is under the responsibility of the Municipality of Safranbolu and the approval of the Regional Conservation Council must be obtained for physical interventions and functional changes in registered buildings and conservation sites.

The Regional Conservation Council approved a conservation plan. In order to provide more efficient and integrated conservation within the property, a buffer zone was defined during the preparation process of the conservation plan and approved by the conservation council in 2008. With the conservation plan, detailed conservation and restoration principles and standards were defined and different interventions have been carried out, attempting to balance conservation and use.

Resources for conservation, maintenance and protection action are derived from tourism activities, and are reinforced by amendments to the conservation legislation.

In addition, there is a Faculty of Architecture and a Vocational High School dedicated to restoration in Safranbolu, which provide technical support to the Municipality in the field of conservation. NGOs and the University contribute to raise public awareness in the City of Safranbolu. (18)

Image 1 : Safranbolu City Houses



Source : <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/614/gallery>

Regional example

Great Mosque and Hospital of Divrigi

Great Mosque and Hospital of Divrigi, constructed in the beginning of 13th century and known especially for its highly ornamented portals, is included in the UNESCO World Heritage List since 1985, being one of the first cultural heritage entity taken in the list, on the basis of criteria I and IV, which are uniqueness and exemplifying an outstanding achievement of its time, respectively (19).

The Great Mosque and Hospital of Divrigi , an UNESCO World Heritage listed structure since the year 1985, dates back to the Mengujekids period (13th century). The structure, located in the central eastern part of Turkey (today Divrigi, Sivas), is constructed on a sloped hill. Great Mosque and Hospital of Divrigi is particularly notable for its monumental stone portals and vaults that are decorated with three-dimensional ornaments carved from stone The structure is a unique piece of civil architecture of its period and several restoration works had been performed in the past. However, the monument still needs further attempts for enhancement of the structural system, repair of damages, removal of the traces of past malpractice and conservation of its exceptional architectural features. For this purpose, Ministry of Culture and Tourism and General Directorate of Foundations of Turkey have recently launched an extensive restoration campaign, which is being carried out by a group of experts from various disciplines.

The restoration project of the Great Mosque and Hospital of Divriği, which is the first monument protected by UNESCO in Turkey, was initiated in 2015 and is still ongoing. The first phase was completed in 2019, and it is planned to reopen the monument for worship in 2024. The restoration efforts focus on preserving the existing fabric of the structure while addressing areas of decay. Throughout its history, the monument has undergone numerous restorations, and certain areas have been covered with cement. With the restoration project, the motifs hidden beneath the cement are being revealed once again.(20)

Image 2: Great Mosque and Hospital of Divrigi (view from south)



Source : <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/358/gallery/>

Image 3: Restoration Work at Great Mosque and Hospital of Divrigi



Source : <https://www.trthaber.com/foto-galeri/divrigi-ulu-cami>

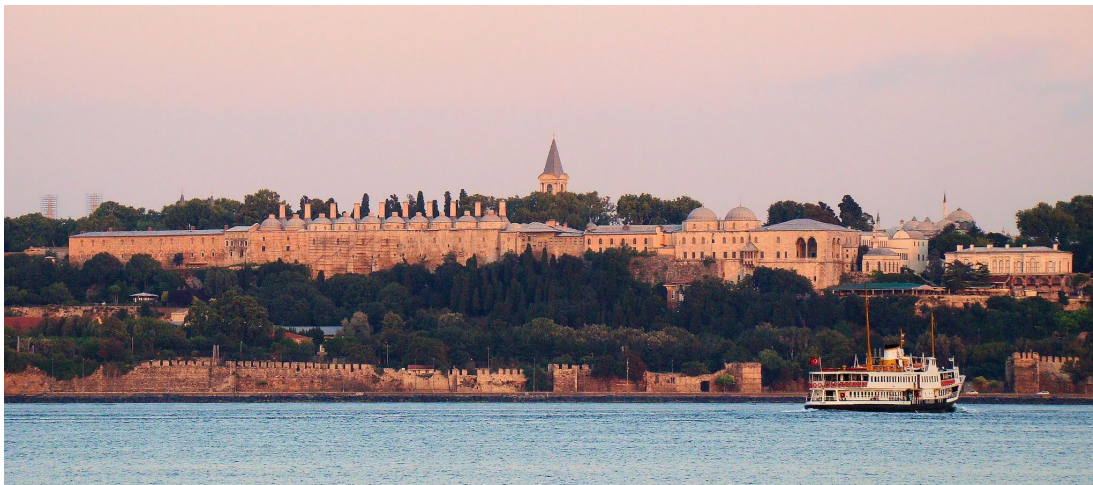
Local example

Topkapı Palace

Topkapı Palace is located on the eastern Roman acropolis on the edge of the historical peninsula of Istanbul, which is restricted with Sea of Marmara, Bosphorus and the Golden Horn. After the conquest of Istanbul, the construction of the palace began in 1460 and was completed in 1478. The palace has been used as the administrative, educational and artistic center of the empire for nearly four hundred years and at the same time it became the sultan's home. Until the middle of the 19th century, various interventions and additions were applied to the palace in every period, despite the relocation of the dynasty to the Dolmabahçe Palace, it maintained its significance in every period (21)

After the foundation of the Republic of Turkey, Topkapı Palace was converted into a museum on April 3, 1924, making it the first museum of the Republic. Today, Topkapı Palace covers an area of approximately 350,000 square meters, excluding Gülhane Park, and is one of the largest museum-palaces in the world with its buildings, architecture, collections and approximately 300,000 archival documents. Entered the Unesco World Heritage List in 1985. (22).

Image 3:View of Topkapi Palace from the Bosphorus



Source:https://tr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Topkap%C4%B1_Saray%C4%B1#/media/Dosya:Topkapi_Palace_Seen_From_Harem.JPG

Image 4:Topkapi Palace



Source : <https://www.aa.com.tr/tr/kultur-sanat/>

Bodies of qualitative research

Safe outcome of conclusions should be related to the following bodies (semi-structured interviews):

- Region
- Municipality
- Schools
- Museums
- Cultural institutions.
- Residents with indirect future interest.
- Residents, as part of the whole community.
- Tourists who are visiting near destinations (during the survey).

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HANDBOOK STRUCTURE

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 - 2.2 NATIONAL POLICIES REGARDING RESTORATION
3. NATIONAL EXAMPLES
4. REGIONAL EXAMPLES
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6. CONCLUSIONS
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