

ASPECTS OF TREATMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE IN KOSOVA

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Abstract

The purpose of this paper is to show how were the cultural monuments in Kosova identified, evidenced, classified, preserved and treated during history. Initially there was no institutional or legal frame for evidencing and protecting the various sites and relevant cultural monuments that have survived from the past. Hence, the identification and preservation has been done mainly on voluntary basis by individuals. Based on extensive library research, especially case studies, it has been found out that the results based on research conducted after World War II in Kosovo do not reflect the objective reality of Kosovo’s cultural history and its heritage, with a specific emphasis in religious architecture and its surviving monuments. In this context the cultural and religious monuments that belong to different periods throughout history, are concrete evidence of our past and represent our national, historical, cultural, and religious values throughout centuries. They are a living proof of our continuity since the earliest Dardan civilisation, although attempts have been constantly made to misappropriate them by various ethnic groups in Balkans. It is only natural that this paper aims to enclose and present irrefutable arguments from which a positive and critical opinion is to be derived concerning the value of the monuments and objects currently protected by law. Furthermore, the value of only recently excavated cultural and religious objects that have been partly identified and inventoried, is still to be determined and is awaiting institutional evaluation. Thus, the comprehensive scientific study, the protection and the renovation of the monuments of our cultural heritage is of paramount importance for our society and culture.