

# DELIVERABLE D.T3.1.2

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Transnational Strategy part POLAND

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# 1. CHARACTERISATION OF THE PILOT SITE



The pilot site is located in Stara Wies by the Wilamowice commune, a village within Bielsko District, in southern Poland. The village is located about 10 km north from Bielsko-Biala city and 40 km south of the regional capital Katowice, in the Slaskie (Silesian) Voivodship.

Fig. 1: Church dedicated to the Exaltation of the Holy Cross.

The site pertains to the church dedicated to the Exaltation of the Holy Cross erected in 1522. The entry in the register includes the building of the church and the immediate surroundings, i.e. the church cemetery with its trees. The church is made of fir wood on oak foundation. The church is an oriented temple situated on a hill (probably the former pre-Christian burial site and Stave church) surrounded by an old tree stand, a nature monument. The presbytery, the 20 m high nave and the 30 m high tower were built in 1522. The original Gothic shape, very rare in medieval wooden architecture, and a skeletal construction with a pole tower are preserved to this day. The tower is square from the west with inclined walls with a belfry and an onion-shaped dome with a lantern. The roof is covered with wooden shingles. It is surrounded by "soboty" (low arcades), where Stations of the Cross are located. The interior is decorated with numerous renaissance and baroque polychromies, a wooden baroque pulpit, a baptismal font and altars from the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> century as well as eleven-voice Rococo organs. At the main entrance of the church there are two stone stoups. The act of consecration is written on parchment in a tin container from the 13<sup>th</sup> century, sealed with a wax seal embedded in the main altar *mensa* and was discovered in 1996. The Parish is in possession of a richly equipped museum of sacred art.

A wooden historical building in the proximity of the church was erected in 1787 and rebuilt in 1862 and now is owned by the parish. It used to serve as a school until the 1950s. Nowadays it houses a 3-chamber local museum facility: one chamber arranged as a fully equipped peasant's room with an exposition of folk costumes, the second as a former school room, and the third chamber with a rich collection of farming equipment. In front of the old school building there is an exhibition of traditional bee hives.

The selected cultural heritage complex is most threatened by the negative effects of heavy rain. It is located on the escarpment, causing overflowing water to flow through the complex



during a downpour. Heavy rains can also cause landslides and movement of the ground on which the cultural heritage is located.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Bonazza et al D.T1.3.2 Pilot Sites Identification.



## 2. OVERVIEW ON EXISTING AND PLANNED MEASURES FOR DISASTER RESILIENCE

### A. Threat analysis

<b>Conducted</b>		Yes
<b>Communicated to</b>	Owners / curators of cultural heritage	Yes
	Local stakeholders	Yes
	Policy makers	Yes

### B. Emergency responders for cultural heritage protection

Contact to possible emergency responders <b>established with</b>			
Emergency responders	State fire brigade	Local level	Yes
	Volunteer fire brigade	Local level	Yes
	Police	Local level	Yes
Local government organizations	Commune office in Wilamowice	Local level	Yes
	Department of Crisis Management in District Office in Bielsko-Biala	Local level	Yes
	Department of Security and Crisis Management in Silesian Voivodship Office in Katowice	Regional level	Yes
Government administration	Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, Department of Monuments Protection	National level	Ongoing
Government administration	Silesian Provincial Conservator	Regional level	Yes
NGOs	Polish Committee of the Blue Shield	National level	Ongoing
Else	Parish	Local level	Ongoing



	communities and believers		
Else	The parish council	Local level	Ongoing

## C. Resilience of built environment

Developments and guidelines ProteCHt2save communicated to		
D.T1.2.1 Risk Assessment of Cultural Heritage in Central Europe in facing Extreme Events	Owners / curators of cultural heritage	Ongoing
	Local stakeholders	Ongoing
	Policy makers	Ongoing
D.T1.2.3 Elaboration of Maps with hot-spots of extreme potential impacts on cultural heritage	Owners / curators of cultural heritage	No
	Local stakeholders	No
	Policy makers	No
D.T1.3.1 Manual for Cultural Heritage Managers containing mitigation and adaptation Strategies to face up future climate change pressures	Owners / curators of cultural heritage	Ongoing
	Local stakeholders	Ongoing
	Policy makers	Ongoing
D.T2.1.3 Decision Support Tool	Owners / curators of cultural heritage	Ongoing
	Local stakeholders	Ongoing
	Policy makers	Ongoing
D.T2.2.1 Manual of good and bad practices for disaster resilience of cultural heritage risk assessment	Owners / curators of cultural heritage	Ongoing
	Local stakeholders	Ongoing
	Policy makers	Ongoing



## D. Emergency plans

<b>Developed</b>	Flood		Yes
	Fire		Yes
	Movable cultural heritage		Yes
<b>Implemented</b>	Flood		Yes
	Fire		Yes
	Movable cultural heritage		Yes
<b>Tested / Trained</b>	Flood		Ongoing
	Fire		Ongoing
	Movable cultural heritage	Internal	Ongoing
		With emergency responders	Ongoing

## E. Education and training for cultural heritage protection

Heritage side	Theoretical	Ongoing
	Practical	Ongoing
Emergency responder side	Theoretical	Ongoing
	Practical	Ongoing
Collective	Theoretical	Ongoing
	Practical	Ongoing



### 3. THREAT ANALYSIS

Likelihood	Almost certain					
	Likely					
	Possible		Accidents Deterioration	Climate Pests & mold	Severe Weather	Fire Flood
	Unlikely		Light			
	Rare	General security Pollutants Violence		Theft Vandalism	Earthquakes	
		Insignificant	Minor	Moderate	Major	Severe
Impact						

The analysis is based on the SiLK Guidelines and takes the Parish Church dedicated to the Exaltation of the Holy Cross and its immediate surroundings, i.e. a church cemetery with trees and wooden historical building of old school into account.<sup>2</sup> The wooden construction of historic objects mean that they are particularly threatened by fire and direct impact of extreme weather conditions such as flood, heavy rain, storms and strong wind, which due to the mountainous terrain occurs cyclically in our area. The effects of strong wind are often technical failures and damages, e.g. of the roof structure. Under the influence of weather conditions, the wood is exposed to weakness and destruction, and there is also a risk of pests and mold.

In the past, there was a burglary with a theft and an act of vandalism in the old school building. Currently, the whole area is protected by a special alarm system and cameras.

Earthquakes in the vicinity of the pilot site are not likely to occur, however, there are areas of mining damage nearby that may cause ground tectonic movements in the future. In addition, there is the possibility of landslide in the vicinity of the pilot site.

<sup>2</sup> SiLK - Sicherheitsleitfaden Kulturgut, <http://www.konferenz-kultur.de/SLF/EN/index1.php?lang=en> (accessed 03.07.2019).





## 4. RESPONSIBILITIES IN CULTURAL HERITAGE PROTECTION

As established in D.T3.1.1 in Poland there is an obligation to prepare the following plans for the protection of monuments in the event of armed conflict and crisis situations:

- A plan for the protection of monuments of an organizational unit
- A commune monument protection plan
- A district plan for protection of monuments
- A voivodship plan for the protection of monuments
- A national plan for the protection of monuments.

Unfortunately, despite the legal regulations, not every historic building has its protection plan, because it is impossible to draw legal consequences from the owners / managers of monuments. Cultural heritage institutions themselves are responsible for the security of their property. Protection against burglary, fire and evacuation is obligatory.

At the time of the emergency situation at the pilot site, the first response force is the fire brigade, which manages the rescue operation. The State Fire Service and volunteer fire departments at the moment of danger are the ones that are quickest to mobilize and support. At the same time they are rescuers who are properly trained and have professional equipment to operate in hazardous conditions. Valuable assistance is also provided by police officers and employees from the crisis management departments (Commune office in Wilamowice and District Office in Bielsko-Biala), who are responsible for security, logistics and support of the manager / owner of a historic building while organizing the evacuation of mobile cultural heritage objects . Directly at the place of the incident, depending on the type of crisis situation and the existing needs, the members of the Parish Council and the faithful are also available for action.

In Poland, it is also possible to call for armed forces. Unfortunately, the procedure for obtaining their help is often longer than threat exists.

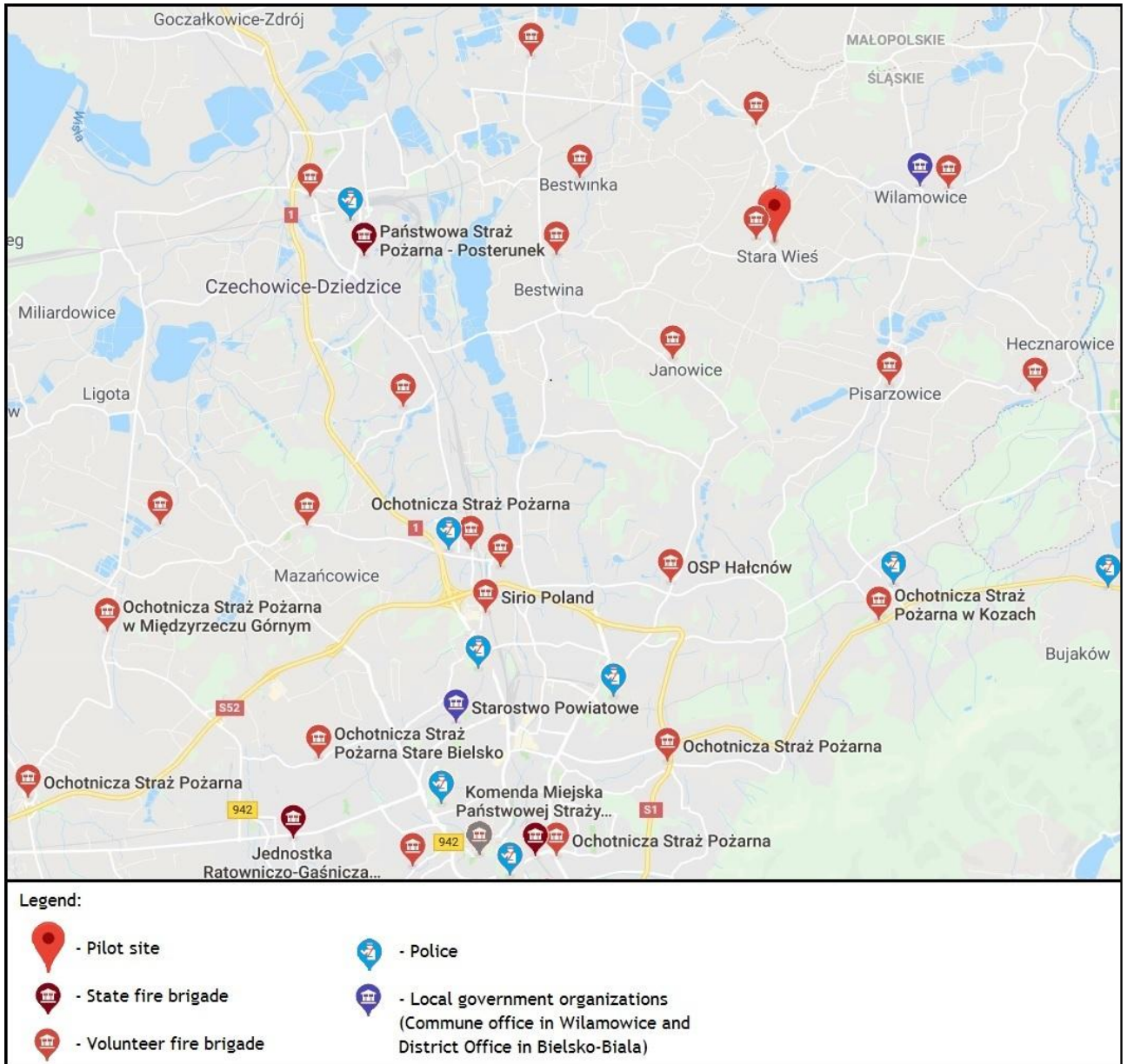


Fig. 2: Map of the surroundings of the pilot site including emergency responders.



## 5. RESILIENCE OF BUILT ENVIRONMENT

In Poland, the legislator sets standards for buildings under protection of monuments. These regulations concern the preparation of cultural heritage for emergency situations, e.g. fire protection and evacuation signs.

The control of historic buildings can be carried out by:

- The Supreme Audit Office may carry out an inspection of monument protection on an ad hoc or planned basis.
- The Voivodship Inspector of Monuments may carry out a check of observance and application of the provisions on the protection of monuments and care of monuments, and together with a representative of the State Fire Service and the Police, and may check the condition of the monuments against the fire and burglary.
- The State Fire Service can carry out inspections in the field of fire protection.

The pilot site in Poland has its own fire and anti-burglary plan. Every year inspection of the technical condition of the electrical and lightning protection system is carried out, and on average every five years the control of fire regulations by officers of the State Fire Service takes place.

In addition, the pilot site is included in the Monuments Protection Plan for the commune of Wilamowice prepared by the Commune Office in Wilamowice and in the Monument Protection Plan for the District Bielsko prepared by the District Office in Bielsko-Biała.

The results regarding, among other things, the resistance of the construction heritage are now being communicated to responsible stakeholders, owners and local authorities.

## 6. EMERGENCY PLANS

As mentioned above, in Poland there is an obligation to draw up plans for the protection of cultural heritage, taking into account both immovable and movable monuments at the level of a historic building, commune, district, voivodship and national level.

Despite the legal regulations, the pilot site does not have its own monument conservation plan, but it is included in detail in the higher-level plans. The communal plan was agreed upon with the interested parties (such as the Parish priest managing the pilot site, the faithful and members of the Parish Council), voluntary fire brigades located near the pilot site, the District Office in Bielsko-Biała and the Voivodship Conservator of Monuments. The district plan was agreed with the Voivodship Conservator of Monuments and the Silesian Governor, who also serves as the Head of the Civilian Defence of the Voivodship.

Planning for the protection of cultural heritage is well organized in Poland, but regular exercises and education in this area are lacking proper level. There is a large group of local rescuers (mainly based on volunteer fire departments) who are able to intervene within a short time after the occurrence of a threat, but unfortunately they do not have training on dealing with movable and immovable monumental objects.



## 7. EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The Volunteer Fire Brigade in Stara Wies regularly organizes exercises in the historic church. These exercises, however, are limited only to firefighting activities, without the evacuation of movable cultural heritage.

Training in the field of protection of cultural heritage against crisis situations will be organized in accordance with the developed documents D.T3.1.3 and D.T3.2.1. They will include a theoretical and practical part, during which both the heritage site and the side of crisis response will be able to learn how to cooperate best in order to effectively protect the cultural heritage.