



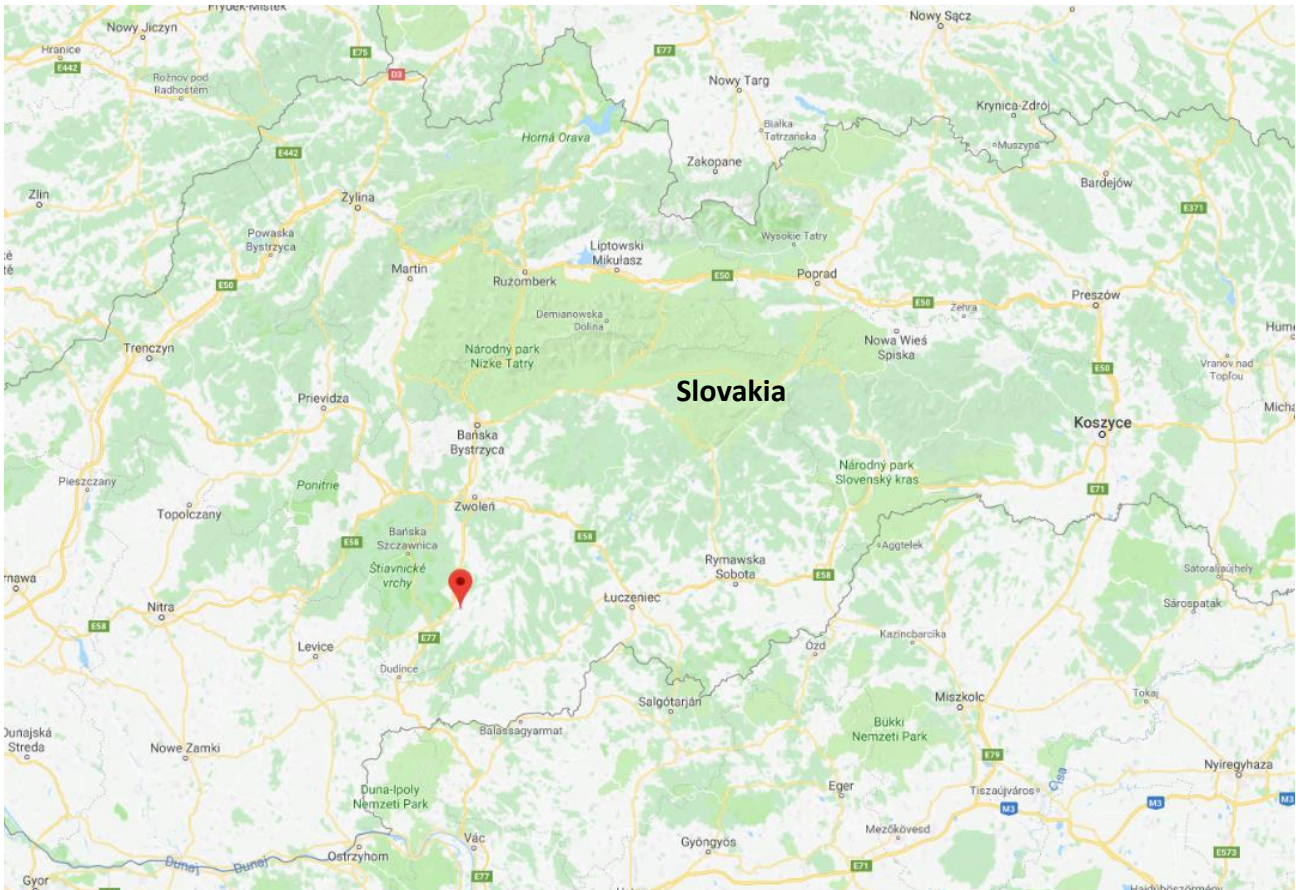
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## NEWS

**On December 18, 2017 study visit to ruined fort Bzovík, Slovakia, took place.**



*Location of Bzovík (source: maps.google.com)*

The ruins of fort/monastery Bzovik are situated in the south of Central Slovakia, Banská Bystrica Region, 8 kilometres distant from the town of Krupina. It is placed in south direction from a community of the same name (Bzovik) on low elevation of Krupina plainland.

Bzovík Monastery is one of the oldest Church institutions in Slovakia. It is a Gothic-Renaissance anti-Turkish fortress and it was created by the reconstruction of a former monastery. Bzovík monastery was founded around 1130 by Lampert from Hont-Pazmany Parentage, together with his son Nikolas and wife Zofia - a sister of Hungarian King Ladislav. The Benedictines were originally settled here. A few years later, the Premonstratesian abbey was established and it became the most important feudal estate on the Hont region. The oldest written mention dates back to the year 1285. One of the conditions for the foundation of the Premonstratesian convent was to build these concrete rooms inside the monastery: prayer room, prefectorium (dining room), dormitory (slipping room), domus hospitalis (accommodations for travellers), infirmaria (rooms for sick monks), gate and accommodation for the doorman. There was also a livestock and monks produced butter, cheese,



and eggs, which used to sell in the village market. We also have a charter, which mentions craftsmen and reapers. Everyday life was taken care by the laic priests.

Within 13th century Bzovík monastery became a target of attacks, and the complex burnt completely several times, but each time the monastery was always rebuilt again. During the fights between the followers of Polish Vladislaus II of Hungary and Hungarian Elizabeth, local area was devastated by the soldiers of Jan Jiskra (former Hussite commander) that were stationed in nearby Krupina. During this time the monastery was rebuilt in Gothic Style. The chapel was added to the old Romanesque single nave church with two towers in 1444-1446. A new monastery wing and paradise garden were also built. In east wing there was sacristy, monks cells, and big hall, kitchen, dining room and cupboards. In West wing were three rooms. Monastery had 4 wings altogether. In south wing a port was built. In the year 1471 some parts of monastery were damaged and burned down by angry citizens from Krupina. The farm yard and farmhouse were destroyed in these times.



*Ruins of Balassa's Chapel*



*Interior preview*

In 1530 the monastery was attacked by Zigmund Balassa. He evicted the monks which settled in the nearest monastery in Hronsky Beňadik, where they were Benedictines. He began with the rebuilding of the monastery to an anti-Turkish fortress. He took down the damaged church and south tower, built a large court, rebuilt the old southern Roman tower, and made an observatory in there. Other parts of the monastery were restored to residential areas. The sacristy served as a chapel. The entire former monastery was surrounded by a thick wall with 4 corner bastions. At the walls were built accommodation for the army. A water ditch was built around the fort. Zigmund Balassa built a new entrance on the Northwest side next to the bastion, and he built a Renaissance portal and a drawbridge. In 1687 the fortress was conquered and plundered by Tokoly rebellious military troops, and after their departure the fortress became the property of the Jesuits and little bit later the property of the seminary in Estergom. The castle's function ceased to exist when the fortress became Church property.



*Current state of Bzovík Monastery*



After the First World War, the object ceased to be occupied and building started to destruct. In the Second World War the central part of the castle was completely destroyed. Parts of the inner walls were broken down by village people from Bzovík. In 1969, the Ministry of culture of the Slovak Republic started to do a research, project documentation and reconstructions in Bzovík monastery. Nowadays only ruins have been preserved from the monastery's area, but the fact that some parts were built in the 12th century includes a monastery among the important medieval monuments of Slovakia.

The study visit consisted of 4 parts:

1. Multimedia presentations:



- History of Bzovík Monastery
- Introduction to restoration problems of ruins in Slovakia

2. Presentation of technical condition of the ruins of Bzovík Monastery

3. Training of technical aspects of ruins preservation:

- Workshop 1: Technological workshop - Historical wooden constructions including analysis of historical technologies
- Workshop 2: Biological and geological analysis - Analysis of stone building elements and engagement of greenery, workshop with practical stonemasons
- Digitization and visualization of ruins for applied research, documentation and marketing

4. Knowledge Exchange Seminar:

- Workshop 3: Management and marketing tools for the use of ruins - Discussions and workshop with stakeholders of Monastery Bzovík
- Workshop 4: Local population and connecting people with cultural heritage - Contact of the local population with the cultural heritage and the prevention of risks



*Participants of study visit in fort Bzovík*

To get more details about study visit in Bzovík Monastery please click <http://www.interreg-central.eu/Content.Node/study-visit-report-Slovakia-Bzovik.pdf>



## ABOUT THE PROJECT

Topic of project are medieval ruins. In Europe there are at least several thousand historical ruins. Owners and managers of these sites struggle with the same problems: protection of ruins is problematic due to ongoing process of destruction, and modern use of ruins is limited. **Project objective is to give “the second life” to medieval ruins** through modern management and attributing contemporary, socially useful functions, while preserving historical value of these sites.

Project aims to develop and disseminate transnational guidelines and integrated model of contemporary use, modern management and protection of medieval ruins in Central Europe in order to enable elaboration of comprehensive management plans for ruined historical sites. Elaborated comprehensive management plans will help owners and managers of historical ruins, local, regional and public authorities exploit economic potential of this heritage in economic development of regions, and to preserve value of medieval ruins as cultural heritage.

Traditional approach to preservation of ruins has been focused on only one issue - how to maintain historical ruins from technical point of view. Innovation of project is to go beyond technical problems and to create integrated model that brings together 3 elements: contemporary use, modern management and sustainable preservation of ruins. Activities undertaken within project will be combination of research tasks concerning documentation and evaluation of technical state of ruins, conservation tasks concerning the form of protection of ruins and, most of all, activities aimed at contemporary use and modern management of historical ruins.

**Cooperation of 6 countries with various traditions and experiences will result in development of universal models that could be applied for management, use and protection of medieval ruins all over Europe, providing European added value.**

## CONTACT

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