

Wooden Tserkvas of the Carpathian Region in the UNESCO World Heritage List. Common Problems and Local Solutions

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Abstract

This year we have managed to implement a joint international project aimed at including the best Carpathian wooden tserkvas of the Polish-Ukrainian borderland in the UNESCO World Heritage List. Each of the 16 objects has its own problems which are illustrated on the example of the Tserkva of the Holy Trinity. Its rich history, the urban context, the environment and the period of the building erection, its design and equipment, cultural and religious backgrounds are the basis of today's work on the UNESCO object. Legal, state and local regulations create some opportunities for its preservation and best use. A very important element of the church maintenance is monitoring which should be provided by heritage protection authorities. All mentioned steps should provide, in particular, the popularization of the object, development of tourism and growth of the attractiveness of town or village. Each church can be a place of stimulating investment and development of the local economy, as well as basis for creating projects regionally significant.

Introduction

In 2005 the Government of Ukraine adopted the Concept of the State program of preservation and use of landmarks of sacral wooden architecture for 2006–2011. This document presupposes a number of activities on the survey, compilation of scientific and project documentation, and restoration of the monuments of wooden architecture. One of the other activities is studying the possibility of inclusion of these objects in the UNESCO World Heritage List.

Scientific studies on unique wooden architecture of Ukraine and, in particular, of the Carpathian region have been undertaken for a long time. The question of the Ukrainian wooden architecture was reviewed in the famous works of such researchers as I. Bahilevych, Yu. Zahariyevych, later by V. Vuitsyk, I. Mohytych, V. Chepeluk, L. Prybyeha, V. Slobodyan, L. Zavada, Ya. Taras, V. Vecherskiy, M. Bezv and others. Some preparatory measures were carried out to meet the important objectives of consolidating sacral Ukrainian wooden architecture in the list of the heritage of humanity.

In 2008, during one of the seminars in the framework of the activities of the International Center for Protection of Cultural Heritage in Zhovkva, Polish partners offered to begin work on the nomination for the List of the group of churches within the Ukrainian-Polish borderland called "Wooden tserkvas of the Carpathian region of Poland and Ukraine." Within three years the work was carried out with the definitions, descriptions, and training was held among a group of churches on both sides of the border. The scientists, the owners of the churches, the authorities and the public were recruited to all activities throughout a wide territory (two provinces of Poland and three regions of Ukraine).

The idea of this common view is deeply symbolic. Apart from attracting the attention of the world community to the unique cultural heritage and preserving it (all the buildings were built as churches of the Eastern tradition), additional 'threads' of a common Ukrainian-Polish history are

renewed, connections of inter-faith agreement are established, uniquely attractive tourist routes and related potential appear. This is another step towards United Europe.

In September 2012 the site nominated for World Heritage designation was inspected by the ICOMOS expert Dr. Elefteria Tsakanis from Greece. Obviously, the conclusion of the expert was positive. In the World Heritage Committee session in June 2013 in Cambodia the place called the “Wooden tserkvas of the Carpathian region of Poland and Ukraine” was inscribed on the World Heritage List of UNESCO.

Tab. 1. The list of the wooden tserkvas of the UNESCO World Heritage sites “Wooden tserkvas of the Carpathian region of Poland and Ukraine”

Town	Name of church	Territorial affiliation
Brunary Wyżne	Tserkva of Saint Michael the Archangel	Gorlice Province, Poland
Chotyniec	Tserkva of the Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Jarosław Province, Poland
Drohobych	Tserkva of Saint George	Drohobych, Ukraine
Kwiatów	Tserkva of Saint Paraskeva	Gorlice Province, Poland
Matkiv	Tserkva of the Synaxis of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Turka Province, Ukraine
Nyzhniy Verbizh	Tserkva of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Kolmyya Province, Ukraine
Owczary	Tserkva of Our Lady's Protection	Gorlice Province, Poland
Potelych	Tserkva of the Descent of the Holy Spirit	Zhovkva Province, Ukraine
Powroźnik	Tserkva of Saint James the Lesser, the Apostle	Nowy Sącz Province, Poland
Radruż	Tserkva of Saint Paraskeva	Lubaczów Province, Poland
Rohatyn	Tserkva of the Descent of the Holy Spirit	Rohatyn, Ukraine
Smolnik	Tserkva of Saint Michael the Archangel	Bieszczady Province, Poland
Turzańsk	Tserkva of Saint Michael the Archangel	Sanok Province, Poland
Uzhok	Tserkva of the Synaxis of the Archangel Michael	Velyky Berezny Province, Ukraine
Yasynia	Tserkva of Our Lord's Ascension	Rachiv Province, Ukraine
Zhovkva	Tserkva of the Holy Trinity	Zhovkva, Ukraine



Fig. 1. Map of sacral wooden architecture objects in the Carpathians in the World Heritage List of UNESCO (Ukraine, Poland, Slovakia, Romania) by A. Davydenko

During the preparation of the nomination submission by the joint working group, a considerable attention was paid to the development of a section related to the building management. Requirements of major installations of UNESCO are sufficiently stringent and stipulate a detailed study of all the features of the maintenance and functioning of the object and planning of measures for the conservation and proper operation of attractions. The joint managing authority the International Conservation Council was thus created. It will carry out the general supervision over objects, provide methodological and scientific support, coordinate and consult on activities of the managing of each church.

The author reveals the problems of each church by the way of the example of one of the tserkvas—Tserkva of the Holy Trinity in Zhovkva.

1 Tserkva of the Holy Trinity in Zhovkva is on the threshold of a new stage of history

The Tserkva of the Holy Trinity in Zhovkva is located in a suburb of Lviv. Its first building was built in 1601, which burned down in a fire at the beginning of the 18th century. The current tserkva was built in 1720. The probable builder was master Ivan Khomyuk who also built a very similar structure, the tserkva of St. Paraskeva in Krekhiv. This is a Halych-type wooden tserkva of the later tripartite, log-built, three roofed variety. Each of the three rooms is covered with light octagons surmounted by onion domes capped with lanterns and small domes. The tserkva is encircled by a skirt roof resting on the carved projecting ends of the wall timbers. The walls of all parts of the tserkva have a small inclination inside. To the altar in the east there is a stone sacristy covered with a shingled roof.

Inside, a magnificently carved and gilded Baroque iconostasis was installed in 1728. The iconostasis is a five-tiered structure with a slightly raised central part. It is made from linden wood carved by Ignatiy Stobensky and the icons are painted by the masters of the Zhovkva Painting and Carving School of Ivan Rutkovych. The magnificent carving of the iconostasis consists of twisted grapevine columns, acanthus leaves, mallow flowers and numerous cherubim. In the altar there is a wooden throne of the 19th century with carved corner columns and four graphic scenes from the Old Testament on the side walls. In the nave there are lava of the 18th century, decorated with quatrefoil with ornamental painting on the front wall and ornamental painting on the sidewall, carved confessional of the end of the 19th century and several rows from that time.

In 1891 the tserkva was under repair. The following works were carried out at that time: a gabled porch on two carved wooden pillars was attached to the west face of the narthex, the door frame was increased in height by raising the level of the door head, a small sacristy with a separate entrance was added to the north wall of the sanctuary, the building domes were clad with sheet metal. In the churchyard near the road a new stone bell tower was built, replacing the old wooden one, raised in the mid-18th century.

After World War II the tserkva was closed down in the early 1960s. In 1963 the tserkva was listed in the monuments register of the USSR under No. 393. In 1978–1979 the iconostasis was restored by Petro Linytskyi and Yaroslav Movchan. Upon completion of this work, the tserkva became a museum of Zhovkva art. In the mid-1990s the church was returned to its congregation. The roofs and domes were covered with new shingles; employees of the Lviv Department of the National Scientific Restoration Centre of Ukraine have begun restoring the iconostasis under the guidance of M. Otkovych.

2 Legal management and protection of the property

2.1 State legislation

In Ukraine cultural heritage is protected by a system of organizational, financial, material, technical, spatial planning, informational and other legislative enactments concerning the recording (identification, scientific investigation, classification, state registration), prevention of destruction or

damage, protection, preservation, maintenance, appropriate use, conservation, restoration, repair and alteration of cultural heritage assets.

At the state level, protection of the cultural heritage of Ukraine is effected according to the Law of Ukraine “On the Protection of Cultural Heritage” dated 8 June, 2000, No. 1805 – III with later amendments (N 2518-VI (2518–17) dated up through 9 September, 2010). All proprietors (or their representatives) of historic monuments and their component parts, regardless of the type of property, are obliged to sign a Protection Agreement with the relevant heritage protection body.

According to the law “On the Protection of Cultural Heritage” and the aforementioned protection agreement, the proprietor, the representative institution, or other user is obliged to maintain the historic monument in fitting condition, to carry out any necessary repairs in good time, and to protect it from damage or destruction. The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and purposely empowered cultural heritage protection bodies are responsible for state legislation in the sphere of cultural heritage protection. Purposely empowered cultural heritage protection bodies include:

- the central organ of executive power concerning cultural heritage protection
- the cultural heritage protection institution of the Crimea Autonomous Republic Council of Ministers
- the cultural heritage protection institutions of the regional administrations of Kiev and Sevastopol City State
- the cultural heritage protection institutions of the district state administrations
- the cultural heritage protection institutions of local government

The central organ of the executive power concerning cultural heritage protection is the Ministry of Culture of Ukraine and its institution — the Department of Cultural Heritage and Cultural Values. The Ministry on behalf of the state governs the objects of the state property — the cultural heritage monuments and particularly the Holy Trinity church in Zhovkva.

2.2 Canon law

Canon law of each denomination in Ukraine regulates the general principles of legislation observed by congregations and their clergy concerning the use of ecclesiastical historic properties. In the Sokal-Zhovkva eparchy (diocese) of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church a committee on ecclesiastical art has been established (currently headed by Yaroslav Petruch). This body regulates issues concerning the management of churches and their movable assets (i.e., items used in religious worship). Similar units also operate within other denominations. Some eparchies have museums of ecclesiastical art. Parish councils also take part in the direct protection of ecclesiastical historic monuments.

2.3 Local legal regulations

At the local level, regulation of cultural heritage protection is based on state legislation. All planning documents, particularly strategies and regional development plans, general plans of settlements, detailed planning projects for microregions, and general plans of reserves, make provisions for the demarcation of heritage site territories and their protection zones. All kinds of activities within these territories are regulated.

3 Means of implementing protective measures

3.1 Protection Agreement

The Tserkva of the Holy Trinity is an architectural monument subject to the legal protection of the State Historical Architectural Reserve in the town of Zhovkva. According to the instruction No. 1232 of 5 November, 1999 of the Lviv Regional State Administration the tserkva is in the possession of the congregation of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church. The Protection Agreement No. 57-AA-09 of 7 May 2009 between the Department of Cultural Heritage Protection of the Lviv Regional State Administration, the State Historical Architectural Reserve in the Town of Zhovkva and the congregation of the Ukrainian Catholic Church has been approved by the Head of State

Cultural Heritage of Ukraine. There is no rule about protection agreements in the legislative system of Poland. It may be supposed that such a document with the proper and adequate treatment and control over its use will be able to prevent the improper alteration of an architectural monument and teach users or owners to respect their property.

3.2 Documentation

Considering the question of entering the World Heritage List the following existing documents at the regional spatial management level were taken into account:

3.2.1 LVIV region

1. Development strategy of the Lviv Region, 2006.
2. Layout of Lviv Region, 2009.
3. Regional programme of cultural heritage development of Lviv Region for the period of 2007–2012, drafted in 2007. The program aims at implementing the number of measures for protection of sacral wooden architecture objects that annually receive up to one million hryvnias from the regional budget. Fire alarm and fire extinguishing systems were installed in the tserkva of the Holy Trinity from the program funds in 2010. At the moment the electrical wiring and storm-damage prevention systems are under renovation.

3.2.2 Zhovkva District

1. The Regional planning programme is devised by Lviv branch of Dipromist, 1979, Section v. 2. “Monuments of architecture, history and animate nature”, p. 34.
2. Development strategy of Zhovkva District up to the year 2020, priorities B.4.–B.5.

3.2.3 Zhovkva Town Council

1. Zhovkva is included on the List of historical towns of Ukraine.
2. General development plan of the town of Zhovkva, 1997, Lviv branch of “Town project.”
3. The Concept of regeneration and revitalization of Zhovkva historical town centre, 2000, Lviv Polytechnic.

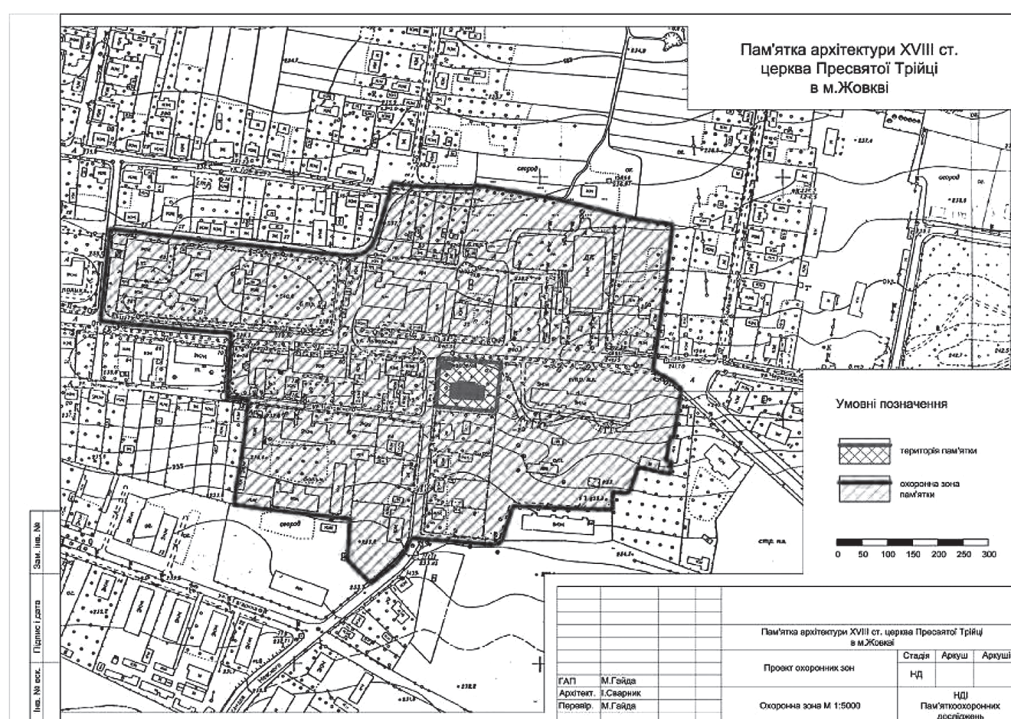


Fig. 2. Buffer zone of the tserkva of the Holy Trinity in Zhovkva

Source: Research institute of monuments

4. General development plan of the state historical and architectural reserve in the town of Zhovkva—at the final stage.
5. The part of a general plan—a buffer zone for the monument, 2012.

4 The property management plan

Different structures, organizations, parish members and the public participate in the use and management of the object. It is expedient to create a Supervisory Board, which would include the owner, that is the Ministry of Culture of Ukraine, the Reserve, the representatives of the Diocesan administration of Sokal-Zhovkva eparchy of the UGCC, the parish priest and the community representatives, bodies of cultural heritage protection of the central and regional levels, the representatives of the Zhovkva Town Council, the district administration of culture and architecture, and representatives of the public. Tasks of the Supervisory Board would consist in the approval of object development programs, coordination of work on the tserkva, providing communication to all interested parties. The Supervisory Board would delegate its representative to the above mentioned International Conservation Council.

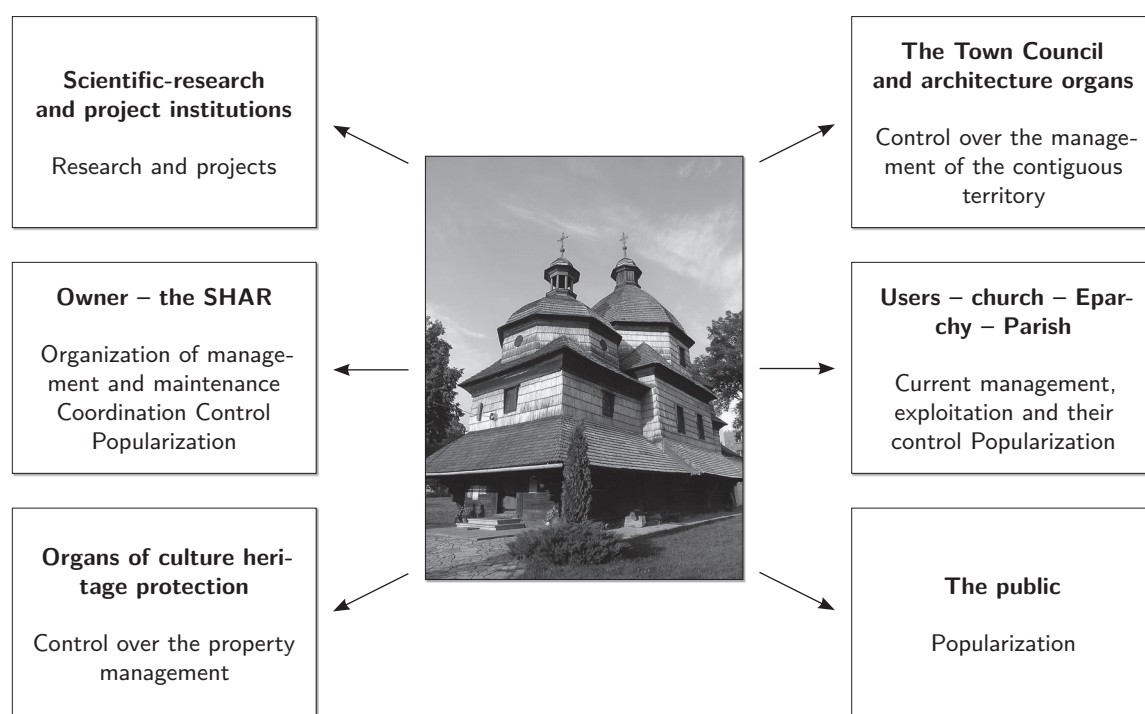


Fig. 3. Management scheme of the Tserkva of the Holy Trinity

5 Monitoring

Monitoring is mainly aimed at collecting and providing all the authorities with information that deals with the property protection, creating the necessary conditions for implementation of protective measures, both at the site and in the buffer zone. The collected data should be provided with prompt preparation of relevant reports and assist in the formulation of clear conclusions and proposals. For monitoring the Tserkva of the Holy Trinity in Zhovkva our own monitoring scheme is offered.

6 Restoration finance and property maintenance

A proprietor or user (in Ukraine this is either a religious community or state institution) attends to the maintenance of the church and any minor repairs. In some cases the congregation may finance more complicated, specialized tasks (e.g., restoration of an iconostasis by specialists in this field),

Tab. 2. Proposed monitoring scheme for the site of the Tserkva of the Holy Trinity

Subject of monitoring	Frequency of data collection
Property status	
Landscape change	Every 5 years
Changes in the present state (local)	Every 2 years (alternately—in winter (without foliage) and in summer)
Conservation and rescue operations	Every 2 years
Archaeological work	Annually
Updating local land use plans	After each new document is adopted
Safety of the property	Every 2 years
Knowledge on the property	
Updating data on persons and institutions managing the property	Kept up-to-date on a regular basis
Bibliography	Kept up-to-date on a regular basis
External factors—threat	
Environmental impact	Kept up-to-date on a regular basis
Activities indirectly affecting the state of the property	Every 2 years
Newly built properties	Annually
Tourist traffic	Annually

whereas conservation, repair and restoration of the building historic objects and materials requires expert knowledge, and this work is usually financed by the state. Unfortunately, in recent years there has been no state funding for this property.

At regional level the restoration of historic monuments is financed from the regional budgets according to regional programs. Restoration works in the Tserkva of the Holy Trinity were carried out at the expense of state and regional budgets. At local level different types of tasks may be financed, mainly those relating to the surrounding infrastructure (e.g., streets, access routes, utility networks, etc.). An unusual though significant feature of financing is the fact that in all churches used by religious communities considerable funds are provided by the congregation. The community of users of the Tserkva of the Holy Trinity is small and finances minor works.

7 Sources of expertise and training in conservation and management techniques

Lviv is the regional centre which has got a long tradition of cultivating the preservation, study and promotion of heritage protection, where, for over a century, the following schools of restoration were active: Lviv Polytechnic, the National Academy of Arts, and the Ivan Trush College of Applied Arts. Specialists in restoration of paintings and masonry architectural details are trained there. Training courses aimed at producing specialists in ancient and traditional crafts, traditional methods of working with building materials, and other practical conservation skills have been organized over the last few years within the system of professional technical training, represented by over 100 schools. There is the branch of the National Restoration Centre in Lviv which conducts restoration of iconostases in wooden churches. The region is also home to experienced design and restoration companies employing top specialists in their field. Notable companies include the Ukrzakhidproektrestavratsia Institute and Lvivrestavratsia. In Zhovkva the continuity of traditions of wooden tserkva construction and woodworking at a high level was not practically preserved. The International Centre of Cultural Heritage Protection in Zhovkva will make an attempt at training employees and raising their qualifications in woodcarving and icon painting. Polish-Ukrainian collaboration is well established in the realm of protection of cultural heritage and execution of restoration work.

8 Property protection, its popularization and tourism

An important moment in the life of every monument is tourism. Thanks to tourism any well-publicized monument receives income for the execution of works and organization of proper maintenance. Special tourist infrastructure has been set up in Zhovkva. Such local tourist organizations are the Department of Culture and Tourism of Zhovkva District Administration, the State Historical Architectural Reserve in Zhovkva, the travel agency “Zhovkva-tour,” “Tourist Information Centre”. The Museum of Zhovkva Castle functions as well. Recently such three hotels of a quite high level as the Restaurant “Style” and the Hotel Complex “Akvariel” and the hotel “Park” have started their activity. There are also opportunities to get cheap accommodation in the form of agro-tourism.

In Zhovkva a tourist can choose various foods to suit their taste taking into consideration price and assortment, as this segment has more than 10 catering establishments in the city center. However, today Zhovkva requires solving some problems: there are almost no parking lots for buses and cars; sanitary facilities are in bad need of improvement; some areas of the town remain unattractive in terms of organization and accomplishment. It is also necessary for the sake of tourists to solve some problems, in particular to build parking lots, to organize advertising, to create a place for the sale of souvenirs.

Institutions that deal with tourism are involved into the popularization of the town architecture properties. Each publication (e.g., album, prospectus or booklet), notes necessarily the availability of unique sacral wooden architecture heritage in the town and region. Wooden architecture is the subject of interest of many researchers working in the scientific institutions of the region. This information is shared at scientific conferences and published in scientific journals. In 2012 in the framework of the EU Neighbourhood Programme the project entitled “Transboundary path of sacral wooden architecture” on the example of the ways of wooden architecture in Poland was presented for co-financing.

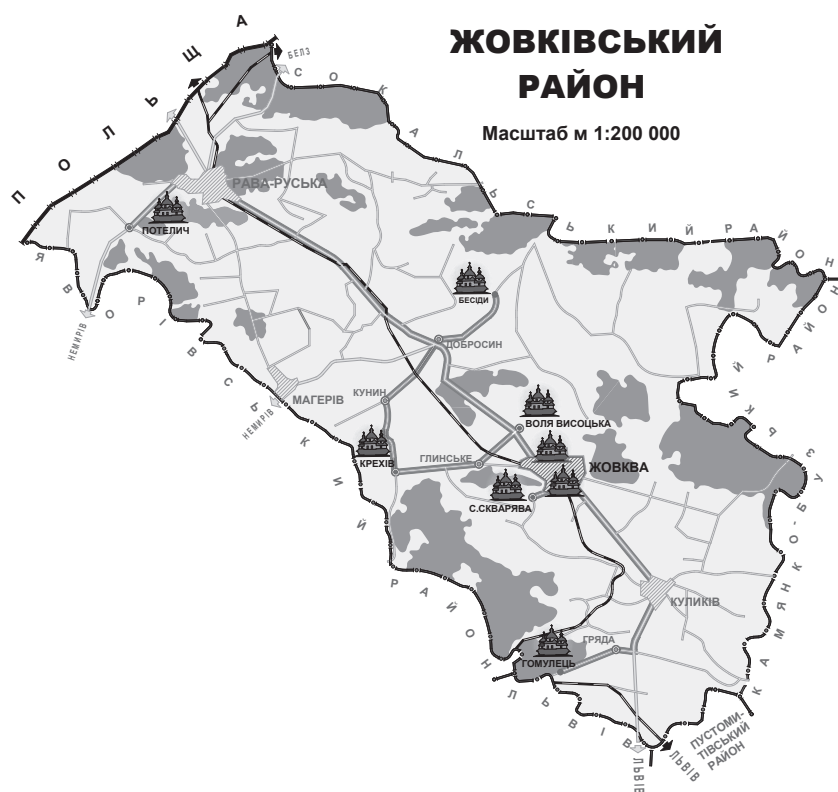


Fig. 4. Wooden tserkvas scheme of Zhovkva region proposed in the “Transboundary path of sacral wooden architecture” project (by A. Davydenko)

Conclusions

Each object of cultural heritage must be properly managed, all the stakeholders should be involved in the management. An important element of preserving the object must be a promising management program.

To activate the work on preservation of sacral wooden architecture it is necessary to adopt the state programme on the level of Ukraine and regional programmes aimed at attracting public funds for the implementation of serious restoration works on particularly valuable objects. The churches that are nominated properties in the World Heritage List of UNESCO should be restored first.

The State Historical and Architectural Reserve in Zhovkva after the successful completion of the UNESCO project is ready to undertake the creation of an independent structure “National home of sacral wooden architecture”, in which, apart from scientific and research work, the organization and development of production facilities, workshops on conservation and training in the traditional methods of construction, wood processing and finishing of wooden tserkvas with the participation of professionals from the region and Lviv can be provided.

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