

# Polish-Ukrainian Cooperation Concerning Cultural Heritage Protection on the Example of the City of Zhovkva (Ukraine)

**Volodymyr Herych [Володимир Герич]**

State Historical Architectural Reserve in Zhovkva, Ukraine

University of Management and Administration in Zamość, Poland

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## Abstract

*Signed in 1992 The Contract between the Government of Ukraine and the Government of the Republic of Poland on Cultural and Scientific Cooperation provides opportunities for cooperation in the field of cultural heritage protection. In the paper are shown examples of such cooperation between city of Zhovkva (Ukraine) and Polish cultural institutions.*

**Keywords:** Polish-Ukrainian cultural heritage protection cooperation, Zhovkva (Ukraine), cross-border co-operation programme Poland–Belarus–Ukraine 2007–2013

## Basic principles of the Polish-Ukrainian cooperation within cultural heritage protection

The legislation of Ukraine and Poland provides opportunities for cooperation in the field of cultural heritage protection. *The Treaty between Ukraine and the Republic of Poland on Good Neighbourhood, Friendly Relations and Cooperation* was signed in 1992. In the same year both sides agreed on the cooperation principles in the field of culture certified in *The Contract between the Government of Ukraine and the Government of the Republic of Poland on Cultural and Scientific Cooperation*, where Article 5 states the following:

The Contracting Party, where there are treasures and cultural monuments of history and science, as well as archival, library materials of the other country, will take measures to ensure appropriate legal and material protection, and also will provide their inventory, restoration of collections, preservation, restoration, reconstruction, and an access to them. The Parties will cooperate in this field, as well as in the restoration of the integrity of art, library and archival collections scattered as a result of historical reasons.

Main approaches to cooperation development were certified in such a joint document as *The Contract between the Government of the Republic of Poland and the Government of Ukraine on Cooperation in the Field of Culture, Science and Education* made on May 29, 1997. Article 18 of this Contract presupposes: “the Contracting Parties guarantee cultural heritage preservation, protection of historical monuments, as well as cultural property of each Party that are located on the territory of the other Party. The Contracting Parties will cooperate in the sphere of inventory, research, conservation and restoration of these cultural properties and also facilitate an access for experts and research teams to them.” Besides that, the contracts between Poland and Ukraine have a general character, without singling out specific areas of the joint activity (Surmacz 2002). Life at the lowest level corrects this fuzziness.

The cooperation development in the humanitarian cooperation sphere finds its embodiment in the cooperation contracts between regions and individual communities located throughout a great part of the territories of Poland and Ukraine. There are also other forms of mutual contacts — participation in the European regions, joint projects, and so on (Andreasik, Kawałko, and Kaweczka-Wyrzykowska 2003). Cultural heritage, in particular, on the Polish-Ukrainian borderland, is quite significant, and historical events and objects, i.e. monuments, are the fundamental basis of the joint activity.

The directions and activities scope of the Polish party in Ukraine concerning conservation of objects of the common cultural heritage can be easily seen on the example of monuments in Zhovkva. The Ministry of Culture and National Heritage of Poland pursues a target policy on cultural heritage preservation. It is made up of the Department of Cultural Heritage which deals with museums, archives, military graves and mass burials, and heritage of the Republic of Poland abroad as well.

Objectives of the Department in the sphere of cultural heritage are as follows:

- to manage the Minister's program within cultural heritage protection outside Poland
- in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to adhere to international contracts, made by the Republic of Poland, in terms of the Polish cultural heritage protection, as well as to document military losses and to restore cultural properties
- to make a list of movable and immovable cultural objects that now are located outside Poland due to changes in the nationality of some territories
- to document the Polish studies that have special significance for the Polish cultural heritage
- to arrange and assist in monuments preservation and conservation of cultural heritage located outside Poland
- to arrange and assist in keeping in mind some information about famous people or historical events connected with cultural heritage located outside Poland
- to arrange and assist in documentation and protection of the Polish studies in museum collections abroad
- to initiate and promote scientific researches of cultural heritage located outside Poland
- to spread some information and knowledge about cultural heritage both inside and outside Poland through publications, research conferences, exhibitions and mass media
- to advise and assist organizations and immigration institutions operating in the field of science, culture and protection of cultural heritage outside Poland, as well as museums, libraries and archives<sup>1</sup>

Financing of activities in the field of culture and cultural heritage is conducted through the Programme of the Ministry whose priority 4 is aimed at cultural heritage protection abroad.

The priority's strategic goal is to improve preservation and enhancement of cultural heritage protection located outside the Republic of Poland, as well as wide diffusion of knowledge about this heritage. This priority is aimed at creation of conditions for an effective protection and promotion of cultural treasures. These include the multinational heritage of the Polish Republic of the two nations that have been created on today's territory of sovereign states, i.e. neighbours of Poland, as well as contributions of many Polish generations, made, accumulated or stored throughout Europe and other parts of the world. For instance, in 2014 it is planned to finance this strategy with the sum of 4 million PLN (about UAH 14 million). The most interesting projects financed on a competitive basis are the following:

- the Lviv Roman Catholic Cathedral — PLN 400 thousand on restoration of the Vishnevetskis' chapel (works completion)
- restoration of the wall paintings in the Armenian Cathedral of the Assumption of Mary in Lviv — PLN 100 thousand (8 stage)
- interior conservation of the Parish Church in Berezhany — PLN 65 thousand
- research and development of the restoration methods of the Jesuit Church in Lviv — PLN 70 thousand

1. See: Departament Dziedzictwa Kulturowego,  
[@:] <http://bip.mkidn.gov.pl/pages/departamenty-i-biura/departament-dziedzictwa-kulturowego.php>.

- inventory and restoration works on the gravestones of the Lychakiv cemetery in Lviv — PLN 550 thousand (works continuation)
  - professional practice of Polish students in the Zhovkva collegiate (24 stage) — PLN 30 thousand
- From the above-mentioned, in Ukraine we suppose that the actions concerning protection and preservation of the common cultural heritage have been implemented.<sup>2</sup>

## 1 State Historical and Architectural Reserve in Zhovkva and development strategy of its historic environment

The State Historical and Architectural Reserve in Zhovkva was established in 1994. The idea of creating such an institution is based on the presence of the 11th century unique architectural complex, located in the city centre. It includes about 40 monuments of national importance. It is a single, quite well-preserved sample of the Renaissance private city in Ukraine, which is based on the principles of the 'ideal cities' of Europe. Zhovkva was erected a little bit later than Zamość, the city in Poland (90 km from Zhovkva). It set an example for S. Zholkievski, the founder of Zhovkva, to follow. Zamość is the best example of the 'ideal city' in Poland. It is listed on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

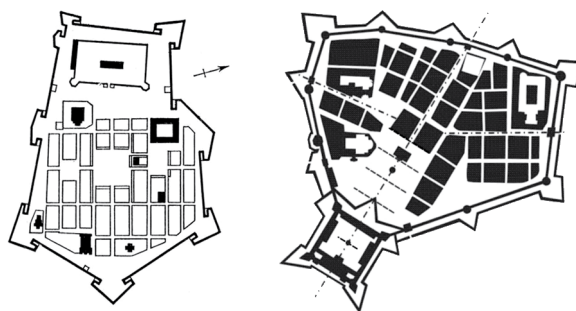


Fig. 1. Planning structure of Zamość (left) and Zhovkva (right)

Tab. 1. Comparison of the objectives concerning revitalization of Zamość and Zhovkva

	Zamość	Zhovkva
Government regulations	Regulations of the Council of Ministers of May 31, 1974 on revitalization of Stara Wieś Regulation of the Council of Ministers of 1978 on preparation for the 400th anniversary of Zamość	Regulation of the Cabinet of Ministers of May 16, 2001 on the Overall programme about conservation and restoration of historical and architectural environment in Zhovkva Regulation of the Cabinet of Ministers of November 16, 2002 on preparation for the 400th anniversary of Zhovkva
Implementation period	1975–1986 (400th anniversary of the city in 1980)	2001–2020 (I stage 2001–2005) (400th anniversary of the city in 2003)
Foreseen funds	PLN 1 350 million	UHA 170 million (UHA 60 million during stage I)
Objectives scope	Thorough restoration of 150 objects: 686 thousand m <sup>3</sup> , 5,6 hectares of new coverage for areas and streets; 50 hectares surface for fortifications; relocation of 1000 families; 24,4 km of installation works	The Market square reconstruction; the relocation of 40 families from the Castle; construction of stage I of the new school; rescue works on the monuments; the construction of new roads and fitting installations

2. See: Dziedzictwo kulturowe – Ochrona zabytków [@:] <http://www.mkidn.gov.pl/pages/strona-glowna/finanse/programy-ministra/programy-mkidn-2014/dziedzictwo-kulturowe/ochrona-zabytkow.php>.

The development strategy of the historic environment in Zhovkva was stated in the Regulation of the Cabinet of Ministers of 16 May 2001 in the Overall programme about conservation and restoration of historical and architectural environment in Zhovkva. This document was aimed at serious works on reproduction of the city main architectural complexes and other interesting objects within two stages: during 2001–2006 and until 2020. A great deal of restoration and reconstruction works for the sum of over 20 million were carried out during 2003–2004 because of preparation for the 400th anniversary of granting Magdeburg self-government rights to Zhovkva. Unfortunately, in 2010 the Regulation became invalid due to the rejection of the Government to provide funding from the state budget of Ukraine. However, the programme principles and objectives are preserved. Currently, great work on preparing a new strategy is being carried out within the framework of a project of the Council of Europe known as Historic Cities of Ukraine: wealth of heritage and development priorities. As it turned out, measures taken in Zhovkva were very similar to the steps made by Zamość, where works on the city's historic environment reconstruction are held even nowadays in much larger scales, using funds from the European Union.

## 2 Cooperation projects in the framework of cultural heritage protection in Zhovkva

Cooperation in the field of cultural heritage protection in Zhovkva began at the beginning of 2000. Various ideas and projects have been developed by different entities, both local and state. Today the State Historical and Architectural Reserve in Zhovkva (the SHAR) has several permanent partners that implement investment projects—the Museum-palace in Wilanów, the Zamoyski Museum and the Institute of National Heritage. Zhovkva cultural institutions often keep in touch with the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage of Poland. The list of objects on which the city of Zhovka cooperates with Polish institutions include: Castle, Zhovkva Collegiate, former Dominican Monastery, and Jesus's Heart Church of the Basilian monastery.

### 2.1 Castle

In 2003–2004 a group of students from the Warsaw Academy of Arts under the guidance of Professor Janusz Smaz completed the restoration of the portal of the Castle entrance gate. For the first time modern and not so well known in Ukraine technologies were used on the monuments of Zhovkva in restoring the stone (fig. 2). In 2007 the National Heritage Board of Poland prepared a photogrammetry of the Palace building for the SHAR in Zhovkva. Those materials were used extensively in the design of the restoration building (fig. 3).



Fig. 2. The Zhovkva Castle entrance gate and the detail. Photo by author





**Fig. 3.** Orthogonal photogrammetries of the Palace building facades

*Source:* Krajowy Ośrodek Badań i Dokumentacji Zabytków (at present National Heritage Board of Poland)

In 2007 a group of experts of the National Heritage Board of Poland made an inventory of green plantations in the local park defining tree species, age, diseases, etc.

In 2012–2013 with the funds of the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage of Poland a group of experts from the Museum-palace in Wilanów under the guidance of V. Bahinski and P. Baranowski implemented a project aiming to study the Palace building polychromy, its materials which would be used during the design of the future museum interiors. More than 90 soundings were conducted in the castle rooms, and laboratory investigations of materials were carried out. (fig. 4).



**Fig. 4.** Researches from Wilanów and an architectural detail in the Zhovkva Castle, in 2014. Photo by author

## 2.2 The Zhovkva Collegiate

The Roman-Catholic Church of St. Laurence (1620) is one of the best instances of the baroque sacral architecture of Eastern Europe. Apart from its unique architectural qualities, it is a kind of Pantheon of military valour and glory, as this building has become a resting place for the Zholkivskis and some relatives of the Sobieskis, who are well known as the outstanding military leaders in Europe. Since 1991, when the Church was returned to the community, the question of its full restoration hasn't been solved yet. This should be carried out by the local parish with the support of the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage of Poland. For more than 20 years, the object has been managed by Professor Ya Smaza who is responsible for leading teams of students and restorers during their works. Today almost all the interior works are completed — the vault decoration is restored and walls are marbled, a part of the floor is reconstructed, gravestones of the Zholkivskis, the Danylovychis, the Sobieskis, as well as altar with sculptures, balcony, pulpit and a number of other elements are renovated (fig. 5). Outside the temple the cross is restored, the stone edging of the main portal and the entrance gate are reconstructed. Works on the Church are in progress.



Fig. 5. Restoration works on St. Laurence Church. Photo by author

### 2.3 The former Dominican Monastery (today the Diocesan administration of the UGCC and St. Laurence Church)

At the beginning of 2000 it was decided to restore the gravestones of T. Sobieski and M. Sobieski (the mother and brother of the king Jan III) in a former church of the Dominican monastery. Most of the work is done, the completion is being planned. The restoration of the throne in the church chapel was carried out as well (fig. 6).



Fig. 6. The throne restoration in the former church of the Dominican monastery. Photo by author

### 2.4 Jesus's Heart Church of the Basilian monastery

In 2013 students of the Warsaw Academy of Arts completed the restoration of the side portal of the collegiate church, which had been moved here from St. Laurence Church in the 19th century (fig. 7). The Polish researchers, partners of the SHAR project carry out other works on cultural heritage preservation in Zhovkva. Namely, it is the study of the state of conservation of electrical resistance and conductance in Zhovkva in Lvivska Street—a future technical monument—purchase of copies of historical and archival materials in institutions of Poland for the Reserve, etc.

## 3 International Centre for Cultural Heritage Protection in Zhovkva

The greatest part of the Polish-Ukrainian cooperation in Zhovkva is within the International Centre for Cultural Heritage Protection in the Reserve in Zhovkva. The Centre was founded in 2008 by the National Centre for Monuments Studies (Kyiv), the National Heritage Board (NHB) in Warsaw and the State Historical and Architectural Reserve in Zhovkva. Its activity is carried





**Fig. 7.** The side portal of Jesus' Heart Church. Photo by author

out in accordance with the directions provided by the agreement on establishing the Centre, in particular:

- organization of regular training courses for employees related to the protection, preservation, usage of immovable monuments and for users of these as well
- joint seminars and conferences organization
- organization of joint summer students practices
- popularization of historical and cultural heritage of Ukraine and the region, as well as of the common cultural heritage
- providing contacts and cooperation with educational, research and other relevant agencies and institutions of Ukraine and Poland, providing them with opportunities to carry out educational, research and other activities on the territory of Ukraine
- exchange of the experience in the field of education

Main activities—seminars and conferences include obligatory visits to the best examples of heritage protection in Poland. The Centre's activities are mainly financed by the budget of Lviv region and the NHB.

During the Centre's work 29 seminars were held, the joint working group qualification level was increased, as well as more than 400 experts, representatives of the Museum authorities and others were acquainted with the system of cultural heritage protection (fig. 8).

The most significant achievement of the Polish-Ukrainian cooperation concerning cultural heritage protection is that the site of the Wooden tserkvas of the Carpathian region of Poland and Ukraine was inscribed on the World Heritage List of UNESCO in 2013. The joint submission was prepared in the framework of the International Cooperation Centre in Zhovkva and the NHB in Warsaw (fig. 9).



**Fig. 8.** Practicals in the Centre, and students's work of Yu. Stolyarov and O. Malynovska concerning reconstruction of the synagogue surrounding in Zhovkva

*Source:* The Reserve in Zhovkva



Fig. 9. The site nomination *Wooden tserkvas of the Carpathian region of Poland and Ukraine* and the map of properties of the UNESCO World Heritage in the Carpathians

#### 4 Treasures of cross-border area — preserving cultural heritage

Since 2000 the European Union has implemented the so-called Community Initiatives, which are aimed at developing programmes in three directions, in particular, in the sphere of cross-border, transnational and interregional cooperation. The Good Neighbourhood programmes aimed at the development of cross-border territories constitute a part of these Community Initiatives (Pietrzyk 2000). One of the tools of the Polish-Ukrainian cooperation is the Cross-border cooperation programme Poland-Belarus-Ukraine 2007–2013.<sup>3</sup> Within this programme we have managed to achieve and begin our joint project implementation.

The Treasures of cross-border area — preserving cultural heritage project (№ PBU/0373/11) has been prepared by a group of partners and includes: the main recipient the Society of Jesus, Monastic Home in Stara Wieś (Brzozów County, Podkarpackie Voivodship, Poland), partners are the State Historical Architectural Reserve in Zhovkva (Lviv region, Ukraine) and Brzozów Commune). The main objective of the project is to promote and fully utilize the tourism potential in the border areas. Determined objectives:

- preservation of cultural heritage, monuments and organization of tourism infrastructure in historic buildings
- promotion of cultural and natural heritage in the partner-regions on both sides of the border
- development of a good cross-border cooperation

The project total cost — EUR 3 965 382,90, including EU financing of EUR 3 550 556,48 (89,54%), partners' contribution — EUR 414 826,00 (10,46%).<sup>4</sup> The amount of the funds for the project implementation from the Ukrainian side is more than EUR 1,5 million. The project will be implemented in two partner regions. One is Stara Wieś/Brzozów Commune, approximately 100 km from the border with Ukraine, where the Sacred Compound of the Jesuit Order is located, also known as the “Second Częstochowa” (Basilica church; Monastic Home; Catholic Parish; the Jesuit Museum of Southern Poland; Treasury; Pilgrims' Centre; etc.). The other is Zhovkva City, a strategic historical and touristic location for the cooperation, mainly in tourism, where its main site, the Castle, is located.

3. See: <http://www.pl-by-ua.eu/en>.

4. [In the journal (in both Polish and English texts) European practice of number notation is followed—for example, 36 333,33 (European style) = 36 333.33 (Canadian style) = 36,333.33 (US and British style). Furthermore in the International System of Units (SI units), fixed spaces rather than commas are used to mark off groups of three digits, both to the left and to the right of the decimal point.—Ed.]



We share a common historical and cultural heritage. The key problem remains in the lack of appropriate infrastructure for the development of a new tourist product, namely the “trans-border tourism.” For the development strategy serious changes in necessary approaches and ways should be made. Hesitation prevents economic growth of these cross-border areas. The so-called “eastern wall” still remains unreached and is the main barrier to tourism development.

The project involves solving the main problems of the partner-regions, in particular:

- ineffective usage of the potential of the tourist products (i.e., the Jesuit monastery and the Zhovkva Castle)
- low level of tourism infrastructure or its complete absence. Tourism development is blocked due to the lack of good quality services that meet high requirements of tourists and pilgrims (i.e., accommodation, food provision, parking lots)
- insufficient informational promotion of existing compounds, important religious and historical monuments, as well as bad tourist promotion of these products—as a result, the main goal is to reach the largest number of tourists going sightseeing in these places; future Visitor Centres for potential tourists and lovers of historical expeditions should solve this problem
- weak combination of monument promotion and relatively unspoiled nature, beautiful scenery and surroundings

The areas where the project is implemented are poorly developed economically, guests do not feel well secured. There is a significant limitation to mutual flow of residents and tourists at the border crossings.

The aim of the project consists in solving these problems, target group development, employment growth and a chain reaction in the increase of tourists (growth in the service sector). The project will raise a number of restored monuments and expand the range of end users, at the same time activating living standards and a high rate of GDP in our regions.

Main objectives of the Zhovkva Castle restoration project:

- completion of the works on the Palace building roof (fig. 10)
- completion of the courtyard regulation with fitting the installations
- reinforcement of the kitchen building foundations
- reconstruction of the western tower with the renovation of the adjoining galleries
- completion of renovation works upon the eastern tower, including the adaptation of interiors for a museum exhibition
- visitor — centre



**Fig. 10.** Reconstruction project of the Palace building in the Zhovkva Castle

*Source:* The Reserve in Zhovkva

Objectives of the revitalization of the Jesuit monastery complex in Stara Wieś:

- damp-proof insulation of the monastery
- restoration and modernisation of the pipe organ mechanism in the basilica church
- fitting the auxiliary tourism infrastructure (parking lot, pedestrian access route) around the Stara Wieś complex
- upgrading the Information Centre for Tourists and Pilgrims

- Reconstruction of the baroque Jesuit garden — creation of “The Biblical Garden – land of milk and honey.”

The project provides a strong promotional campaign and a resourceful management of the joint working team.



**Fig. 11.** Revitalisation project of the Jesuit monastery in Stara Wieś

## Conclusions and recommendations

Thanks to close cooperation between Ukraine and the European Union, it will become completely possible to finance the Polish-Ukrainian joint projects through the EU grants. It is necessary to initiate new programmes in the European structures aimed at preservation of objects of joint heritage. For the final entry into the Ukrainian legal framework of some activities of the Polish restorers, additional steps and their agreement are required, for example, towards the mutual recognition of licenses and experts' certificates. Ukraine should have an appropriate step program on cultural heritage preservation outside its border — even in Poland. It is necessary to improve the Ukrainian legislation which should be favorable for attracting private financing as the state cannot solve these problems for the budget funds. Both Zhovkva and the Zhovkva Castle can become a place for providing contacts and projects implementation within cultural heritage protection of Ukraine and Poland.

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