

DEVELOPMENT OF PRIVATE COLLECTIONS IN VOJVODINA [1] REFERENTIAL DATABASE

-project description-

Project organizer: Balkankult Foundation

Support: Provincial secretariat for culture

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Place of realization: Vojvodina

Time of realization: six months

Keywords: private collections, cultural industry, partnership of the public and private sectors, cultural tourism, development of the local community

Private collections represent an enormous unused resource. It is a whole segment of culture which is not thriving. Namely, it exists in the margins of our consciousness. At this moment, based on research, there are more than 60 significant private collections in Vojvodina.

The conclusions of two round tables on the topic of the Development of private collections/museums (Belgrade, December 2007 and Novi Sad december 2009), as well as the results of the pilot research on the Development of private collections/museums in Vojvodina - a basis for small and family businesses, are consistent and indicate that it is necessary to conduct a mapping of attractive collections and conduct a feasibility study (self sustainability) concerning the possibility of developing a private sector in culture and enriching the cultural life of local communities.

The number and variety of private collections in Vojvodina are defined by their conceptual difference and varieties, which requires that before the feasibility study (which would evaluate the possibilities and potentials of collections in regards to their self sustainability as a small business) a list be made which would gather all relevant information on private collections in Vojvodina which the owners would want to present to the public.

A referential list of private collections in Vojvodina would require all information to be gathered in one place and for an evaluation basis to be made (by experts) on the significance of the collection within its local community, Vojvodina and Serbia. Mapping attractive collections in the context of the possibility of developing a private sector in culture, would contribute to enriching the cultural life of local communities.

The following goals would be achieved:

- Contribution to the preservation and promotion of cultural heritage under private ownership;
- Initiation of local cultural and economic development by activating new museum resources and putting new places on the map;

- Promotion of the value of private collections to the wider public in the function of educational, scientific and economic development of the community;
- Introduction of new museum content to the local and global museum networks;
- Development of an attractive cultural life in local communities;
- Enriching the existing cultural and touristic offerings of Vojvodina;
- Creating new job opportunities

A reference database of private collections in Vojvodina would incorporate and categorize all significant information on the collections and their owners who are willing to present them to the public. The database would include the following information: address, type of collection, category, number of exhibits, degree of preservation, research level, description and collection concept as well as other relevant information. It would also contain information about the significance of the collection in a local community, i.e. its cultural, tourist and educational importance. Such a list would be illustrated with photo documents. In addition, it would include a short interview with the private collection owners.

On the basis of this reference database a Feasibility Study would be prepared as well as a cultural-tourist cluster, enabling networking of private collectors. Information on private collections in Vojvodina would be published in printed and electronic form.

Methods of realization: gathering information through polls, interviews and immediate observations made in the field.

The time needed to complete a reference list is 6 (six) months.