

Ladies and Gentlemen, dear guests !

The Lithuanian National Committee of ICOMOS welcomes the participants of this Forum!

This year we celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> years anniversary when Vilnius Historic Center as Old Town and 10<sup>th</sup> years of Kernave archaeological site inscribed into World Heritage List of UNESCO.

25 years ago there was prepared documentation for inscription Vilnius Old Town in the World Heritage List.

Two factors helped for the preparation of the documentation: 1. the international information about Vilnius Old Town in the main magazine- "ICOMOS Information" in 1989, Nr. 2;  
2. The preparation of the Third project for Vilnius Old Town regeneration.

After Vilnius Historic Center has been inscribed to World Heritage List there were accepted the common means of UNESCO, World Bank and Lithuania for Vilnius Old Town revitalization. The result of common efforts worked out Vilnius Old Town Revitalization Strategy.

The preparation of the Strategy was financed by World Bank and Vilnius Municipality. The international experts from Denmark, Great Britain (Scotland) worked together with Lithuanian specialists in the preparing the Strategy.

In 1998, 1999, 2000 Lithuanian Government assigned the special means to Vilnius Municipality for revitalization of Vilnius Old Town. It helped to improve physical state of buildings and infrastructure of the Old Town.

In 1998 Vilnius Municipality established Vilnius Old Town Renewal Agency and adopted the Vilnius Old Town revitalization program from 1998 till 2003.

It was very important to prepare and confirm the Vilnius City Official Plans: from 1998- till 2005 and from 2008 till 2015.

One of the most important objectives of the Vilnius Official Plan is preservation of Vilnius Old Town as a World Heritage Site.

For this aim are proposed means so actual for Heritage revitalization the next:

- The revitalization some church and monastery complexes;
- Historical reconstruction of the Lower Castle Palace;
- Clearing up the defensive walls and gates of Vilnius Old Town.

I would like to mention some results of the implementation:

- St. Michael church with monastery was revitalized and restored, as architectural complex; the Museum of Sacral Art Properties was opened there;
- In 2013, after historical reconstruction of the Lower Castle Palace, was opened the Palace of Grand Dukes of Lithuania as National Museum;
- Vilnius Municipality prepared the Program for clearing up of Defensive walls and Gates of Old Town. Now we are still waiting of implementation of this Program.
- We are satisfied of successful revitalization of Bernadines historical garden, as public open area in 2013.

Another solution of Vilnius City Official Plan was to save historical townscape of Vilnius and its Historic Center. For this aim it was confirmed the sites for sightseeing and points of urban-architectural control.

The implementation the site for sightseeing and point for urban- architectural control is a good example on Subačiaus street. But it should be continued erecting the other sites.

The Regulation for construction and restoration works in the Old Town is very important document of Old Town. It was confirmed by Ministry of Culture and Vilnius Municipality in 2003.

The members of Lithuanian national committee of ICOMOS took part in working out this Regulation.

Members of ICOMOS participate in discussions concerning problems of Vilnius Old Town and carry-out the examination of presented projects for Old Town.

We hope – Lithuanian national committee of ICOMOS will closely cooperate with Vilnius Municipality in revitalization and protection of Vilnius Old Town.