



International Conference Community and Historic Environment

Organised by:

Cultural Heritage Directorate of Norway (Riksantikvaren)

ICOMOS Georgian National Committee (ICOMOS Georgia)

Funded by: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway

Venue

National Parliamentary Library of Georgia

7 Lado Gudiashvili Street

0107 Tbilisi

Background

10 years have passed since ICOMOS Georgia had launched Betlemi Quarter Revitalisation Programme. Betlemi Quarter is one of the oldest and peculiar sites within the historic core of the Tbilisi Historic District and faces all major threats and problems endangering Old City. During its decade-long implementation, Betlemi Project has developed as a distinctly focused community-based rehabilitation programme. Over the years donors of the Betlemi Project were: **World Monuments Fund** through **World Monuments Watch Programme**, **Samuel H. Kress Foundation**, **UNESCO Cultural Heritage Division**, **Norway Fund-in-Trust**, and **Swiss Emergency Foundation**.

Since 2004, Betlemi Project is funded by the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway** through **Riksantikvaren**, under the patronage of which the Conference is organised.

Objectives of the Conference

Planned Conference is intended to highlight multidisciplinary approach of the Betlemi Project, its achievements and challenges both for the local professionals, authorities, and wider international conservation community. The Conference is designed to achieve promotion of the Betlemi Project, as well as thoroughly focused exchange of experience and practices in the field of urban conservation.

Experts with similar/relevant experience are invited to present their case studies, share their skills and knowledge, outline and evaluate common problems and challenges, lessons learnt and perspectives. Important aspect of the Conference will be an overview of the major trends in the historic urban conservation, based on the analysis of the current developments in the field, presented by the **key speakers**.

Subject of the Conference

Major subject to be presented and discussed during the Conference should comprise possibly wide range of aspects linked with the community-based urban rehabilitation activities, such as: management tools, community empowerment through participation, etc.

Special emphasis will be laid on the methods to solve a problem of keeping to conservation standards versus everyday life needs; conservation as a tool for community development; public awareness initiatives on urban heritage values and importance of its preservation.

Urban conservation practice refers to diverse schemes of managing pilot urban revitalization projects, led by the local authorities, central government, public or non governmental organisations, as well as international agencies. The Conference seeks for the presentation of the case studies with grass-root initiatives. At the same time, welcome are any presentations of the innovative and successful case studies. Integration of the findings and achievements of pilot projects into the wider context of the historic urban conservation policies and strategies is also considered as important for the Conference subject.

For additional information, please consult conference website: <http://www.icomos.org.ge/conference/> or Mrs. Nato Tsintsabadze, Programme Co-ordinator: icsave@gol.ge