

CONSERVATION OF CESIS MEDIEVAL CASTLE FOR REGIONAL SOCIOECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Project description: The project objective is an authentic preservation and enhancement of Cesis medieval castle – the cultural heritage site of national and international importance for building social and economic capital of local inhabitants and diversifying of local cultural scene.

As a result preservation of Cesis medieval castle will be ensured, its built environment will be enhanced for cultural and educational activities (concerts, film screenings, interactive educational programs, art installations and projections) both for local inhabitants and cultural tourists. Conservators and stone masons in Latvia, working in the area of ruin conservation, will gain higher professional qualification. An international conference about innovative cultural events in authentic cultural heritage sites will be held, disseminating conference results in both countries.

Project activities:

1. Conservation of Cesis castle's Western tower, including authentic 16th century brick vault; improvement of visitor access to and within the tower;
2. Involvement of Cesis' local inhabitants in public discussions about the role of cultural heritage in local development;
3. Experience exchange between cultural heritage conservation experts in Latvia and Norway;
4. Conservation training by Norwegian and Latvian experts at Cesis castle;
5. Promotion of best practices in the area of cultural heritage site usage for innovative and unique cultural products and

educational activities, which respects and highlights the setting – an authentic historical environment, organizing an international conference in Cesis.