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# The cooperation between Ukraine and Poland in the Context of Preservation of UNESCO Horld Heritage Sites

## Introduction

The cultural and natural heritage of any civilized country in the world is a part of the unique and irreplaceable values not only of a nation but also of mankind in general. Monuments of history and culture serve as a kind of a chronicle of individual nations and peoples, they are vivid and convincing evidence of their unique development. International conventions, agreements and recommendations require a careful attitude of the world community to historical and cultural values. The loss due to the destruction or disappearance of at least one of the cultural or natural values impoverishes not only the national, but also the world heritage.

The issue of preservation and protection of historical and cultural monuments of local and national importance, and UNESCO World Heritage sites, has been significantly updated in modern realities, which is connected with the insidious attack of the russian aggressor on Ukraine and military actions taking place on its territory. In difficult current conditions, the most striking is the cooperation between Ukraine and Poland in all spheres of sociopolitical, economic, and cultural life, where they have proven themselves true partners. The support of Poland is significant for Ukraine both at the state level and at the level of civil society, which defends the independence of not only its state but also makes maximum efforts to preserve world civilization. It goes without saying that the humanitarian component can be considered a core of the Ukrainian-Polish cooperation, and the strategic course of relations "has laid the foundations of a systematic, sustainable and stable policy in the cultural and humanitarian sphere"[1].

[1] Калакура О. Цивілізаційний вимір українсько-польської співпраці на тлі євроінтеграційних процесів (досвід Галичини). *Наукові записки Інституту політичних і етнонаціональних досліджень ім. І. Ф. Кураса НАН України. 2016.№ 2. С. 285.*

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One of the important cooperation areas is the awareness of the need to protect and preserve the cultural and natural heritage of local and national importance and objects included in the most prestigious list of humankind – the UNESCO World Heritage List.

## Presentation of the main material

Before talking about the cooperation between countries in the specified area, it should be mentioned that, considering the urgent need for the protection and preservation of monuments of cultural and natural heritage of national importance, the countries, which are member states of UNESCO, adopted the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage in 1972. This Convention was ratified by the majority of UNESCO member states, in particular, Poland ratified it in 1976, and Ukraine (at that time,+ the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) – in 1988. This step confirmed the readiness of the countries to comply with the norms of international law.

In 1992, the UNESCO Secretariat created a special unit – the UNESCO World Heritage Centre. Its aim was to develop a complex transdisciplinary approach to the preservation of the cultural and natural heritage of humanity, to promote the expansion of the representativeness of sites of national importance by including the most original and those that have no analogues in the world to the UNESCO World Heritage List. It can be stated that even now the Centre acts as a coordinator in the implementation of the provisions of the Convention.

The international obligations associated with the ratification of the Convention created a solid basis for the formation of a state system for the protection and preservation of cultural heritage as part of its national cultural policy. The awareness of the need to improve the image of the state through the prism of familiarization with the cultural heritage of the countries led to the search for ways to present unique monuments of national importance. One of the powerful ways of the presentation was the nomination of the best examples of cultural and natural heritage of national importance to the List of UNESCO World Heritage Sites (hereinafter the UNESCO List). As of 2021, the UNESCO List includes 1154 sites that represent a unique heritage located on the territory of 167 countries of the world. It is worth noting that UNESCO sites are divided into three groups: 897 – cultural heritage, 218 – natural and, 39 – mixed (combining both cultural and natural components)[2].

Unique monuments of both Ukrainian and Polish national cultural and natural heritage hold a prominent place among the sites that are included in the most prestigious list of humanity – the UNESCO List. The first Ukrainian nomination was Saint-Sophia Cathedral and Related Monastic Buildings, Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra (as a single object) only in 1990.

After achieving independence, Ukraine managed to add three sites of cultural heritage to the UNESCO List, including the Ensemble of the Historic Centre of Lviv,

[2] Підсумки 44-ї сесії Комітету всесвітньої спадщини ЮНЕСКО. – Режим доступу: *https://unesco.mfa.gov.ua/news/pidsumki-44-yi-sesiyi-komitetu-vsesvitnoyi-spadshchini-yunesko*

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1998; Residence of Bukovinian and Dalmatian Metropolitans (now – Yuriy Fedkovych Chernivtsi National University) in 2011, and Ancient City of Tauric Chersonese and its Chora in 2013.

Ukraine is also represented in three cross-border nominations. The first of them: Struve Geodetic Arc (length 2820 km) is a joint project of Norway, Finland, Russia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Belarus, Moldova, Ukraine that was included in the UNESCO List in 2005. In Ukraine, geodetic points are located in the villages of Katerynivka and Gvardiyske (Khmelnytskyi region), Stara Nekrasivka (Odesa region), Hirnyky (Rivne region), Krupa and Huta-Kaminska (Volyn region). Two years later, the first cross-border natural nomination, represented by Ukraine and Slovakia, was added to the UNESCO List – Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians. This nomination was expanded three times due to the inclusion of new territories: beech primeval forests of Germany in 2011, 63 areas of ancient beech forests of Austria, Albania, Belgium, Bulgaria, Spain, Italy, Romania, Slovakia, and Croatia in 2017. The third and most recent extension took place during the meeting of the 44th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee held online from Fuzhou and Paris (UNESCO headquarters) in July 2021. Ancient forests of six more countries were added to the nomination, including Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Poland, France, the Czech Republic, and Switzerland[3]. After the latest expansion, the nomination is represented in eighteen countries of the world. In connection with its expansion, the name was changed to "Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe". In Ukraine, the specified nomination is represented by the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve; Uzhanskyi National Nature Park, Synevyr National Nature Park, Zacharovanyi Krai National Nature Park, and Podilski Tovtry National Nature Park (Transcarpathian region), Gorgany Nature Reserve (Ivano-Frankivsk region), and Roztochia Biosphere Reserve (Lviv region); in Poland – Bieszczady beech forests in the Polish part of the Carpathians.[4] It should be emphasized that Ukraine ranks first in the specified serial object.[5]

In 2013, during the meeting of the 37th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, which was held in Phnom Penh under the chairmanship of the Vice Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, Mr. Sok An, a unique Ukrainian-Polish cross-border nomination – Wooden Churches of the Carpathian region of Ukraine and Poland, were inscribed on the UNESCO list. This is the only cross-border nomination to which sixteen wooden churches located in Ukraine and Poland (eight in each country) have been selected. The session was attended by representatives of 190 member countries and participants of the Convention Concerning the Protection of World

[3] Decisions adopted during the extended 44th session of the World Heritage Committee (Fuzhou (China) / Online meeting, 2021) Режим доступу: *https://whc.unesco.org/archive/2021/whc-21-44com-18-en.pdf*

[4] ЮНЕСКО високо оцінила польський ліс. – Режим доступу: https://monitor-press.info/uk/news/15512-yunesko-visoko-ocinila-polskii-lis

[5] Гамор Ф. Завдяки непохитній позиції та фундаментальним дослідженням. – Режим доступу: *http://www.golos.com.ua/article/356014*

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Cultural and Natural Heritage. According to the Minister of Culture of Ukraine Leonid Novokhatko, the delegation of Ukraine, which represented Ukrainian nominations at the meeting of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee in Cambodia, presented our sites at the highest level. As a result, most countries supported Tauric Chersonese and the wooden churches of the Carpathians. In his opinion, the fact that the discussion of the Ukrainian nomination of Wooden Churches of the Carpathian region of Ukraine and Poland lasted up to 40 minutes is highly significant. It was supported by India, Cambodia, russia, Japan, China, and others. And only two countries were against it. The decision on Tauric Chersonese was unanimous. A total of 32 sites representing 26 countries were nominated.[6]

Currently, Poland is represented in the UNESCO List by seventeen sites of cultural and natural heritage. The first Polish nominations, the historical centre of Krakow, and Wieliczka and Bochnia Royal Salt Mines, are included in the UNESCO List in 1978; German Nazi Concentration and Extermination Camp Auschwitz Birkenau (1940–1945) in Oświęcim, 1979; historical centre of Warsaw in 1980. After more than ten years, the inclusion of Polish sites in the UNESCO List became active: The Old Town of Zamość in Lublin Voivodeship in 1992; The Medieval Town of Toruń and the Castle of the Teutonic Order in Malbork in 1997; Kalwaria Zebrzydowska: the Mannerist Architectural and Park Landscape Complex in 1999; The Churches of Peace in Jawor and Świdnica in 2001; six Polish wooden churches in Małopolska and Subcarpathia in 2003; The Centennial Hall in Wrocław in 2006; The Silver Mine in Tarnowskie Góry in 2017; Krzemionki Opatowskie Mining Field in 2019. Additionally, four cross-border nominations are included in the UNESCO List: Białowieża Forest (Poland, Belarus) in 1979; Muskauer Park / Park Mużakowski (Poland, Germany) in 2004, and the before mentioned The Wooden Churches of the Carpathian region of Ukraine and Poland in 2013 and Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe in 2021.[7]

Wooden churches on Ukrainian and Polish lands are a unique phenomenon that is closely related to common ideological values and local building traditions. Both the specific construction method (log house) and the architectural forms used during their construction can clearly be attributed to a common group of sites. As a result, the creation of a unique enclave located at the junction of Eastern and Western cultures.

It goes without saying that the world recognition of the Ukrainian-Polish cross-border nomination of wooden churches of the Carpathian region was preceded by meticulous joint work of Ukrainian and Polish scientists, religious figures, the public, and managers, which lasted for more than six years. An important role during the nomination procedure was played by the employees of Ukrainian institutions, in particular, the scientific research institutes of monument preservation studies and "Ukrzakhidproek-

[6] Decision 37 COM 8B.37 Wooden Tserkvas of the Carpathian Region in Poland and Ukraine (Poland/Ukraine). – Режим доступу: *https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/5165/*

[7] Polskie obiekty na Liście Światowego Dziedzictwa. – Режим доступу: *https://www.unesco.pl/kultura/dziedzictwo-kulturowe/swiatowe-dziedzictwo/polskie-obiekty/*

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trestavratsiya" (Ukrainian Regional Specialized Research and Restoration Institute), the State Historical and Architectural Reserve in Zhovkva, and the National Institute of Cultural Heritage of Poland, and the Adam Mickiewicz Institute. Sixteen wooden churches were selected from 44 applicants located on both sides of the border. Churches were built in the foothills of the Carpathians, in the western part of Ukraine, and in the northern and high mountain range of the Eastern Carpathians. The proposed church ensembles represent four regional schools of folk architecture: Hutsul, Lemko, Halych, and Boyko. The Hutsul school belongs only to Ukrainian churches, the Lemko school to Polish; Halych, and Boyko schools to both counties. After lengthy consultations and discussions, Ukraine chose eight wooden churches for nomination: four in the Lviv region – Church of Saint George in Drohobych (1657), Church of the Holy Trinity in Zhovkva (1720), Church of the Descent of the Holy Spirit in Potelych, (1620–1630), Church of the Synaxis of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Matkiv (1838); two churches in Ivano-Frankivsk region: Church of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Nyzhniy Verbizh (1756–1808), Church of the Descent of the Holy Spirit in Rohatyn (early 16th century); in Zakarpattia region: Church of the Synaxis of the Archangel Michael in Uzhok (1745) and Church of Our Lord's Ascension in Yasynia (1824).

In the nomination, Poland is also represented by eight churches: four churches in the Małopolska Voivodeship – The Church of Saint Michael the Archangel in Brunary (1830), The Church of Our Lady's Protection in Owczary (1653), The Church of Saint Paraskewa in Kwiatoń (1811), The Church of Saint James the Less, the Apostle in Powroźnik (1600, 1778, 1814); in the Subcarpathian Voivodeship – The Church of Saint Michael the Archangel in Turzańsk (1803), The Church of Saint Michael the Archangel in Smolnik (1791), The Church of the Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Chotyniec (1600), The Church of Saint Paraskewa in Radruż (1583). Only the last church is a museum, the other ones are acting churches [8].

The possibility of including wooden churches in one nomination is due to their common historical past. Thus, the churches, which were built by Orthodox and Greek-Catholic communities in different historical periods: from the 16th to the 19th century, represent the cultural identity of four ethnographic groups, which over the centuries developed and improved their external, decorative, and stylistic properties. Meanwhile, the church builders adopted the authentic church-building tradition, which not only reached its roots in Orthodox architecture but also borrowed elements of the local tradition. Their compositions, constructions, and principles of decoration are characteristic of the customary cultural practices of the local inhabitants of the Carpathian region and illustrate many symbolic references and sacred meanings associated with the traditions. At the same time, they reflect the local religious and cultural identity of local communities: they are decorated with four-sided or eight-sided upper domes, which complement wooden bell towers and iconostasis, church gates, and courtyards.

[8] Decision 37 COM 8B.37 Wooden Tserkvas of the Carpathian Region in Poland and Ukraine (Poland/Ukraine). – Режим доступу: *https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/5165/*

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A detailed description of each of the sixteen wooden churches (photographs, drawings, maps, measurements) is presented in the nomination file based on a significant array of archival sources; regulatory documents regarding their status; a comparative analysis was made of wooden churches of other countries; their uniqueness is proved, etc. In accordance with the Convention and Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention[9], the nomination outlined two criteria (III and IV), according to which it was proposed to be considered. Criterion III. The presented group of wooden churches is a unique relic of the centuries-old line of development of traditional wooden shrines completed in our time. The values of spiritual culture materialize around them, which have a universal value, and at the same time identify and document the local religious and cultural identity. The churches are the background for traditional celebrations and ceremonies. Criterion IV. The selected churches are the best-preserved examples of the general tradition of wooden construction, associated with the most significant ideological content of Christian Europe; representative objects within the framework of their typology and identity. They preserved the already lost technological and construction skills specific to the historical epochs in which they were built. Their interiors preserved the atmosphere from different epochs. Polychromes of selected churches are among the most valuable preserved wall paintings. They are distinguished by developed iconographic programs, simultaneously representing various performance techniques and a high artistic level[10].

Undoubtedly, the phenomenon of sacred construction of wooden churches has no analogues in the world heritage since wooden construction in these areas developed alongside masonry. At the same time, they are unique both in terms of their compositional-spatial and artistic solutions. The original cultural heritage of the presented wooden churches largely fills the gap in the picture of traditional sacred construction in Europe, without which it is not universal[11].

The cross-border nomination was submitted by the Ministry of Culture of Ukraine and the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage of the Republic of Poland and the National Commission of Ukraine for UNESCO of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, and the Polish National Commission for UNESCO of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Republic of Poland with the support and practical assistance of the ICOMOS national committees of both countries.

The successful completion of the nomination procedure and the positive conclusion of the 37th session of the UNESCO Committee on the inclusion of the cross-border nomination of Ukraine and Poland in the UNESCO List led to the need for joint protection and preservation of monuments of sacred architecture since non-compli-

[9] The Criteria for Selection. – Режим доступу: https://whc.unesco.org/en/criteria/

[10] Decision 37 COM 8B.37 Wooden Tserkvas of the Carpathian Region in Poland and Ukraine (Poland/Ukraine). – Режим доступу: https://whc.unesco.org/en/criteria/

[11] Вечерський В. В. Дерев'яні церкви Карпатського регіону Польщі і України // Велика українська енциклопедія. URL. – Режим доступу: https://vue.gov.ua/Дерев'яні церкви Карпатського регіону Польщі і України.

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ance with the requirements of international legislation in this field by at least one of the sixteen nominated churches may lead to the exclusion of the object as a whole from the UNESCO List.

It should be mentioned that the positive decision of the UNESCO Committee was made with certain recommendations. In particular, the need to create a single Ukrainian-Polish body for managing a cross-border facility was outlined. Besides, in order to properly protect a new UNESCO site, it was proposed to define clear buffer zones around each of the churches in the relevant urban planning and land planning documentation[12].

In accordance with the recommendations of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee and the requirements of the Convention Concerning the Protection and Preservation of World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972), a joint management body, the Ukrainian-Polish International Restoration Council, was created. The council included thirty persons (15 – Ukrainian and 15 – Polish): scientists and practicing restorers, representatives of churches, and relevant state administrations of Ukraine and Poland. Considering the specifics of the new cross-border UNESCO site, a task of the newly created council was to coordinate the activities of representatives of church communities, experts in the field of culture, architects, public organizations in the field of compliance with the basic principles of international and monument protection legislation of Ukraine and Poland regarding the protection and preservation of sites (sixteen churches), as well as the buffer zone around each of them.

The worldwide recognition of the cross-border nomination of the Wooden Churches of the Carpathian region of Ukraine and Poland intensified the bilateral cooperation between the countries in the field of preserving the cultural heritage of the two nations. It is worth emphasizing that cooperation in this field was initiated by the Agreement between the Government of Ukraine and the Government of the Republic of Poland on Cooperation in Protection and Return of Cultural Values Lost and Illegally Displaced during the Second World War, which was concluded in 1996.[13]

The countries received a special stimulus for the development of bilateral cooperation in the humanitarian sphere after signing the Agreement between the Government of Ukraine and the Government of the Republic of Poland on Cooperation in Culture, Science, and Education in 1997[14].

The specified legal acts made it possible to start joint projects between two countries in the field of protection and preservation of cultural heritage. Thus, in 2007, at the suggestion of the Polish side, the Ukrainian-Polish project "The preservation of Common Cultural Heritage" was launched. As part of the project, Ukrainian and Polish

[12] Wooden Tserkvas of the Carpathian Region in Poland and Ukraine (Poland/Ukraine). – Режим доступу: https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/?cid=305&action=list&searchDecisions=

[13] Інституційні механізми. – Режим доступу: https://poland.mfa.gov.ua/spivrobitnictvo/3394-naukovo-tehnichne-spivrobitnictvo

[14] УГОДА між Урядом України і Урядом Республіки Польща про співробітництво в галузі культури, науки і освіти. – Режим доступу: *https://ips.ligazakon.net/document/MU97482?an=2*

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experts, together with the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage of the Republic of Poland, developed and implemented a program for the revalorization of sites in Lviv, which are the common cultural heritage of Poland and Ukraine. The Ministry, which financed the project, acted together with the Office for Preservation of Historical Environment of the Lviv City Council.

Thus, restoration works were implemented on several historical sites of Lviv, particularly, the Lychakiv Cemetery, and the Armenian Cathedral, which are part of the UNESCO site – the Historic Centre of Lviv. From 2008 to 2016, professional comprehensive restoration work was carried out on about 70 graves and tombs at the total cost of over UAH 30 million at the Lychakiv Cemetery.

Without a doubt, any initiatives and projects in the field of culture are extremely important for its development. Due to Ukraine's participation in Creative Europe, the Ukrainian cultural sector has obtained a chance to join the European market. Thus, the European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sports Tibor Navracsics claimed that "...Ukrainian literary works will be able to be translated into European languages, and this will open up additional opportunities for the Ukrainian cultural and creative industry to show itself in Europe."[15]

Following another project "Protection of Cultural Heritage Abroad" under the program of the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage of the Republic of Poland, in 2017, thirteen graves at the Lychakiv Cemetery in Lviv were restored, including 3 graves of the mayors of Lviv: Michał Michalski, Józef Neumann, Tadeusz Rutowski, as well as Szaranowycz, Matylda Żłobicka, Kazimierz Krynicki, the Rawski family, Karol Skibiński, Jakub Wagenhauer, the Markowski family, Ksawery and Amelia Grabiński[16]. The representative of the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage of the Republic of Poland, Michał Michalski, noted in this regard: "...There is one important aspect in our cooperation. A high level of recognition for historical sites is their inclusion on the UNESCO Heritage List. You are lucky because you live in the city, which sites are part of this Heritage, and we are pleased to be involved in their restoration"[17].

The cross-border nomination determined the joint responsibility of Ukraine and Poland for the compliance with the requirements of international legal acts in the field of protection and preservation of the UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Every year, at the location of one or more sites, meetings of the above-mentioned restoration council are held, where the current situation is analysed, the necessary recommendations are provided, and experience is exchanged in the field of research and preservation of

[15] Україна приєдналася до програми «Креативна Європа» [Електронний ресурс]. – Режим доступу: https://euukrainecoop.net/2015/11/22/ creative-europe/

[16] Польща допомагає реставрувати пам'ятки у Львові та Жовкві. – Режим доступу: https://monitor-press.info/uk/news/2388-polshcha-dopomahaie-restavruvaty-pamiatky-u-lvovi-ta-zhovkvi

[17] Реставраційні роботи у рамках українсько-польського проекту «Збереження спільної культурної спадщини» триватимуть й надалі. – Режим доступу: https://city-adm.lviv.ua/news/culture/architecture-and-historic-heritage/207218-restavratsiini-roboty-u-ramkakh-ukrainsko-polskoho-proektu-zberezhennia-spilnoi-kulturnoi-spadshchyny-tryvatymut-nadali

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wooden sacred architecture. The meetings are usually attended by members of both the Ukrainian and Polish national committees of ICOMOS, who provide valid recommendations and advice.

According to the co-chairman of the International Restoration Council from Ukraine, Volodymyr Herych, "...during the meetings, both Ukrainian and Polish members of the council conduct an inspection tour of wooden churches that are on the UNESCO List for their protection and maintenance, implementation of restoration work. Our main task is to preserve the authenticity of each church"[18].

Thus, in November 2016, under the chairmanship of the co-chairs of the council Volodymyr Herych from the Ukrainian side, and Mariusz Czuba from the Polish side, a meeting was held at one of the best components of the UNESCO site – the Ukrainian Church of Saint George in Drohobych. Representatives of the authorities and users of UNESCO World Heritage Sites from Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Zakarpattia regions, Małopolska and Subcarpathian Voivodeships, the responsible for church preservation, architects and restorers, and national committee members of ICOMOS of Ukraine, and Poland took part in the meeting. The main issue was compliance with the UNESCO requirements for the protection and preservation of wooden churches, which are extremely vulnerable, especially with regard to fire protection. The Director of the National Institute of Heritage, Mariusz Czuba, has stressed the necessary to jointly take care of the buildings since non-compliance with the requirements of the legislation in at least one of the 16 churches can lead to the exclusion of the entire site "Wooden Churches of the Carpathian Region of Ukraine and Poland" from the UNESCO List. Furthermore, he presented an album prepared by Polish colleagues with a complete description of the conditions of all sixteen churches and suggestions, and recommendations regarding the need for restoration work in individual churches. Currently, special attention has been paid to the Ukrainian wooden Church of the Descent of the Holy Spirit in Rohatyn, which was proposed to be restored with the support of the Polish side[19]. The Warsaw Recommendations played an important role in the reconstruction and restoration of cultural heritage. The specified document was adopted by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee based on proposals made at the international scientific conference held in November 2018 in Warsaw under the patronage of UNESCO. Some presentations presented Poland's experience in the context of challenges related to heritage reconstruction in post-conflict conditions. As a result of discussions and debates, a decision was made to develop a certain set of rules to be followed in the process of restoration of cultural heritage objects. Considering the relevance of the document for Ukraine in current conditions, Mrs. Katarzyna Zalasińska, Director of the National Institute of Cultural Heritage of Poland, noted: "...the Ukrainian translation of the War-

[18] Представники ЮНЕСКО проінспектували храм Благовіщення у Коломиї. – Режим доступу: https://kurs.if.ua/culture/predstavnyky-yunesko-proinspektuvaly-hram-blagovishhennya-u-kolomyyi/

[19] Культура: Відбулося чергове виїзне засідання міжнародної консультативної ради об'єктів місць Світової спадщини ЮНЕСКО. – Режим доступу: https://drohobych-rada.gov.ua/

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saw Recommendations has been sent to the relevant state structures of Ukraine. Their task is to serve as a start point for various missions and master classes aiming not only to help in the preservation and restoration of cultural heritage in Ukraine in the post-war period but also to prevent its destruction"[20].

It is worth emphasizing the role played by POLONIKA The National Institute of Polish Cultural Heritage Abroad, which was founded in 2017. According to Mrs. Dorota Janiszewska-Jakubiak, Director of the Institute, "...before the deceitful invasion of the territory of Ukraine by the russian aggressor, the Institute carried out conservation work on many historical sites of Lviv. When I look at the city centre like in Lviv, which is included in the UNESCO List, I see a single organism that includes (together with the protected area) 3,000 hectares of monuments. These are the most diverse objects: tenements, palaces, residential architecture, and wonderful shrines of many rites. Many of them include the Cathedral of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Jesuit Church, the Armenian Cathedral, the Potocki and Loziński palaces, etc. are currently under the care of Polish conservators, although work is temporarily suspended"[21].

Within this context, one should mention the joint initiatives of the Council of European Centre of Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin (Poland) and Yuriy Fedkovych Chernivtsi National University (Ukraine). Thus, at the second programme meeting of the European Centre, which took place in Lublin in December 2019, a vast array of issues related to cooperation between Chernivtsi, Lublin, and Nancy in the field of protection and preservation of UNESCO sites were discussed with the participation of the city administration, along with others. The interest in this issue is since the Residence of Bukovinian and Dalmatian Metropolitans in Chernivtsi, the historical part of the Old City of Zamość in the Lublin Voivodeship, Place Stanislas, Place de la Carrière and Place d'Alliance in Nancy have in common that they are UNESCO sites[22]. Besides, the Consul General of Poland in Lviv, Jarosław Drozd, took part in the celebrations on the occasion of the presentation of the UNESCO World Heritage Certificate to the Yuriy Fedkovych Chernivtsi National University in December 2011. During his speech, he noted: "The complexity of the nomination procedure confirms the inclusion of Polish site on the UNESCO List. Thus, the last Polish site, the Centennial Hall in Wrocław was included in the most prestigious list of humanity five years ago, in 2006. Therefore, Poland congratulates the neighbouring county on a remarkable victory since not everyone manages to achieve such success in four years". [23] His words are confirmed

[20] Директор Інституту Національної спадщини: Польща – єдина країна, яка інституціоналізувала організацію допомоги українській культурі. – Режим доступу: // https://www.pap.pl/ua/news%2C1220624%2C

[21] Dyrektor Instytutu Polonika: Robimy wszystko, by uratować wspólne dziedzictwo kulturowe Polski i Ukrainy. – Режим доступу: https://monitorwolynski.com/uk/news/4309-mi-robimo-vse-shhob-vryatuvati-spilnu-kulturnu-spadshhinu-polshhi-ta-ukrayini

[22] Друге програмове засідання Ради Європейського Центру Університету Марії Кюрі-Склодовської. – Режим доступу: http://chnu.edu.ua/index.php?page=ua/news&data[5012][id]=

[23] Марусик Т., Коротун І. Архітектурне диво Чернівців. – Чернівці: Букрек, 2019. – С. 310.

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by the fact that the next Polish site "Silver Mine in Tarnowskie Góry" managed to get on the list only eleven years later, in 2017.

The cooperation in the field of development of the nature reserve fund of the two countries cannot be omitted. Thus, in 2019, the cross-border Ukrainian-Polish Reserve "Roztochia/ Roztocze" was created by joint efforts belonging to the UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves of the Man and the Biosphere Programme[24]. It enabled the implementation of a joint initiative of neighbouring countries and expansion of the cross-border UNESCO natural nomination "Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe" by including the ancient forests of Poland, which was abovementioned.

Consequently, joint cross-border nominations became an important platform for the development of Ukrainian-Polish contacts, which made it possible to form a wide mechanism of assistance in the context of preserving cultural heritage in the conditions of the Russian Federation's war against Ukraine.

Awareness of the threats arising from warfare led to the creation of the Centre to Rescue Cultural Heritage in Lviv at the beginning of March 2022[25] and the Committee for the Support of Ukrainian Museums (Komitet Pomocy Muzeom Ukraińskim) in our partners in Warsaw[26]. Undoubtedly, the enemy aims at the main target – the destruction of our historical memory, which is confirmed by priceless artistic and spiritual treasures, architectural monuments, and sacred buildings. Considering this fact, the efforts of Ukrainian and Polish cultural and religious organizations were aimed at conducting a complex operation to save monuments and cathedrals on the streets of the historical centre of Lviv, in Kyiv and Chernivtsi, where UNESCO sites are located. Along with this, considerable attention is also focused on monuments of national and local importance. After all, representatives of different nationalities, Poles, Austrians, Hungarians, Germans, Romanians, and Armenians, built many landmarks over the centuries[27].

**Abstract:** The article outlines the main principles of the cooperation between Ukraine and the Republic of Poland in the field of protection and preservation of UNESCO World Heritage Sites. It emphasizes that its activation was facilitated by the inclusion of the unique joint Ukrainian-Polish cross-border nomination of the Wooden churches of the Carpathian region of Ukraine and Poland (eight of them in each country) in the UNESCO World Heritage List. This was preceded by the painstaking joint work

[24] Польща: Європейський зелений курс: http://prismua.org/green_deal_3/.

[25] Центр порятунку культурної спадщини у Львові. Наша коротка довга історія. – Режим доступу: https://photo-lviv.in.ua/tsentru-poriatnku-kulturnoi-spadshchyny-u-lvovi-nasha-korotka-dovha-istoriia/

[26] Комітет допомоги музеям України. – Режим доступу: https://academia.gov.ua/2022/03/07

[27] Джоель Гюнтер Як Львів рятує свою безцінну культурну спадщину. – Режим доступу: *https://www.bbc.com/ukrainian/features-60724627*

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of Ukrainian and Polish scholars, religious figures, the public and managers, which lasted for over six years. Thus, sixteen wooden churches located on both sides of the border were selected from 44 "applicants". The churches were built in the foothills of the Carpathians, in the western part of Ukraine, and in the northern and high mountain range of the Eastern Carpathians. The proposed church ensembles represent four regional schools of folk architecture: Hutsul, Lemkos, Galicia and Boykos. The Hutsul school is characteristic of only Ukrainian churches, the Lemkos school of Polish churches; Galician and Boykos are characteristic of two countries. The specified event made it necessary to comply with the requirements of international legislation in this field and the joint responsibility of Ukraine and Poland in the context of the protection and preservation of the UNESCO site both as a whole and its individual elements – wooden churches, which are extremely vulnerable, especially in view of the fire protection. In accordance with the recommendation of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, a joint management body was created – the Ukrainian-Polish International Restoration Council, which oversees the aforementioned issues.

Currently, in the conditions of the Russian Federation's large-scale invasion of Ukraine, Poland has proven itself to be the most reliable partner of our country in the protection of cultural heritage. The support of Poland both at the state level and at the level of civil society is extremely important for Ukraine, which defends the independence of not only its own state, but also makes maximum efforts to preserve world civilization. Without a doubt, the humanitarian component can be considered a peculiar core of Ukrainian-Polish cooperation.

**Keywords**: cooperation, cultural heritage, UNESCO World Heritage Site, protection and preservation, nomination

## Współpraca Ukrainy i Polski w kontekście ochrony miejsc światowego dziedzictwa kulturowego UNESCO

**Streszczenie:** W artykule przedstawiono główne zasady współpracy Ukrainy i Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej w zakresie ochrony i zachowania obiektów światowego dziedzictwa kulturowego UNESCO. Podkreśla, że jego aktywizację ułatwiło wpisanie unikalnej, wspólnej ukraińsko-polskiej, transgranicznej nominacji drewnianych kościołów regionu karpackiego Ukrainy i Polski (po osiem w każdym kraju) na Listę Światowego Dziedzictwa UNESCO. Poprzedziła to żmudna, wspólna praca ukraińskich i polskich uczonych, osobistości religijnych, społeczeństwa i menedżerów, która trwała ponad sześć lat. Tym samym spośród 44 „kandydatów" wybrano szesnaście kościołów drewnianych, zlokalizowanych po obu stronach granicy. Kościoły budowano u podnóża Karpat, w zachodniej części Ukrainy oraz w północnym i wysokim paśmie górskim Karpat Wschodnich. Proponowane zespoły kościelne reprezentują cztery regionalne szkoły architektury ludowej: huculską, łemkowską, galicyjską i bojkowską. Szkoła huculska jest charakterystyczna jedynie dla kościołów ukraińskich, szkoła łemkowska – dla kościołów polskich; Galicyjczycy i Bojkowie są charakterystyczni dla dwóch krajów. Wskazane wydarzenie spowodowało konieczność spełnienia wymogów prawodawstwa międzynarodowego w tym zakresie oraz współodpowiedzialności Ukrainy i Polski w kontekście ochrony i zachowania obiektu UNESCO zarówno jako całości, jak i jego poszczególnych elementów – drewnianych kościołów, które są niezwykle wrażliwe, zwłaszcza ze względu na ochronę przeciwpożarową. Zgodnie z rekomendacją Komitetu Światowego Dziedzictwa UNESCO powołano wspólny organ zarządzający – Ukraińsko-Polską Między-

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narodową Radę Restauracji, który nadzoruje powyższe kwestie. Współcześnie w warunkach zakrojonej na szeroką skalę inwazji Federacji Rosyjskiej na Ukrainę, Polska okazała się najbardziej wiarygodnym partnerem naszego kraju w ochronie dziedzictwa kulturowego. Wsparcie Polski zarówno na poziomie państwa, jak i na poziomie społeczeństwa obywatelskiego jest niezwykle ważne dla Ukrainy, która broni niepodległości nie tylko własnego państwa, ale także dokłada wszelkich starań, aby zachować cywilizację światową. Bez wątpienia komponent humanitarny można uznać za swoisty rdzeń współpracy ukraińsko-polskiej.

**Słowa kluczowe:** współpraca, dziedzictwo kulturowe, obiekt światowego dziedzictwa kulturowego UNESCO, ochrona i zachowanie, nominacja

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