

BRIE – Ruse
MASTER PROGRAM - EUROPEAN STUDIES

COURSE WORK

**on QUANTITATIVE METHODS AND REGIONAL
ANALYSIS**

**TOPIC: THE VIEW AND ATTITUDES OF THE CULTURAL CLUBS'
PERSONELL IN THE RUSE REGION ABOUT THE PRESERVATION OF THE
CULTURAL-HISTORIC MATERIAL HERITAGE**

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I. Situation analyses

1. Ruse Region /in brief/



Ruse Region is situated in North Bulgaria and covers the Northeast part of the North Central planning region. Its north border passes the river valley of the Danube River and coincides with state's border with the Republic of Romania, where Ruse region borders on Prefectura Giurgiu. The Region covers 2803.4 km², which is approximately 2.53 % of the country's territory.

Administrative-territorial envelopment includes 8 municipalities /Borovo, Byala, Vetovo, Dve Mogili, Ivanovo, Ruse, Slivo pole and Tsenovo/ and 64 city councils. Administrative center of the Region is the city of Ruse.

Table 1. Quantitative index of the settlements and cultural clubs in Ruse region

Municipalities	number of settlements	cities	villages	number of Cultural clubs
BOROVO	7	1	6	7
BYALA	10	1	9	10
VETOVO	7	3	4	7

DVE MOGILI	12	1	11	11
IVANOVO	13	0	13	13
RUSE	13	2	11	20
SLIVO POLE	11	1	10	11
TSENOVO	9	0	9	9
TOTAL	82	9	73	88

Ruse Region takes very important place in Bulgarian national history and possesses rich cultural-historic heritage, including monuments of world significance as Ivanovo rock churches. The Region has at its disposal valuable, and in some cases even unique natural landmarks: the powerful natural resource of the Danube River, the sceneries of the Park "Rusenski Lom".

2. Quantitative index of the status of the Cultural Clubs in Ruse Region

On the territory of Ruse Region function 88 Cultural Clubs /"Chitalishte" – the word was approved on the international symposium and was accepted as a word typical for the Bulgarian context with no equivalent in the other languages/. 20 are the Cultural clubs in Ruse municipality - 6 of them are in the city of Ruse, the rest are in the villages of Nikolovo, Hotanca, Chervena voda and so on. 16 of the total number of 88 are registered in the 9 cities in the Region, and the rest 72 are in the villages.

The number of the employed people at the Cultural Clubs is 169. The pay-roll of the employees is decreased to minimum levels. Of them 28 are subsidiary employees, 43 are the accountants, total number 71 – these are employees, who do not directly deal with cultural problems. The rest 98 are librarians, secretaries, chefs of the artistic groups etc. From these 169 employees only 12 are men, which show the insufficiency of gender balance.

80 cultural clubs are located in buildings of municipality public ownership. Only 2 of them have a contract for free use of the houses. 1 cultural club has its own building – cultural monument. The aggregate area occupied by the cultural clubs in Ruse region is 43586 m².

The 88 cultural clubs possess totally 51 personal computers, in 10 of the libraries, functioning at the cultural clubs; specialized library software is available till 2007. The number of the voluntarily artistic groups at the cultural clubs is 187.

There is still insufficient activity by the preparation and implementation of projects. During 2007 the projects with outer financial support are 10. The projects that are implemented by the cultural clubs on the territory of Ruse municipality in 2007 are 6.

Table 2. Quantitative index of the status and activity of the Cultural clubs in Ruse region /for 2007/

Municipality	Total number of the cultural clubs	Library fund	Total number of readers /2007/	Total number of computers	Internet	Artistic groups	Repairs implemented /in 2007/	Implemented project
<i>Borovo</i>	7	78547	1 400	6	1	13	6	2
<i>Byala</i>	10	107375	1 526	1	1	12	5	0
<i>Vetovo</i>	7	84990	1 571	2	1	12	1	0
<i>Dve Mogili</i>	11	84909	1 476	1	1	11	2	0
<i>Ivanovo</i>	13	133336	2 663	4	1	31	2	2
<i>Ruse</i>	20	332016	10 411	26	10	65	16	14
<i>Slivo pole</i>	11	94540	2905	3	2	26	4	2
<i>Tsenovo</i>	9	61 418	1 439	8	1	17	4	3
Total:	88	977131	23 391	51	18	187	40	23

Being the only ones cultural institutions, especially in the small villages, the cultural clubs realize complex functions in reference to the maintenance of the cultural and social life of the local communities. One very important part of their mission is the preservation of both material and non-material heritage of the given settlement. However, so far the stress is put on the non-material heritage and the objective to support and maintain the folklore of the area. In this sense is of high importance the attention of the cultural clubs, especially in the small cities and villages, to the material and natural resources, which are available Ruse region as it may have been observe from the brief reference at the beginning of the recent paper. There is a strong national financial framework, which was design to support initiatives, projects, and plans. The problem is that in the cultural clubs there is a potential and people, who needs in either case trainings in the sphere of material heritage. This will help them later on, using the material and natural resources of their settlements to participate adequate in preparing and fulfilling tourism strategies, discussions and so on.

In order to be examined the level of awareness of the problems, in reference to the preservation of the material heritage as well as the opinion of the employees at the cultural clubs about the measures that should be taken in order to preserve it.

II. Research

1. Methodology

For the objectives of the recent survey the method of stratified sample is used. Only the opinion of the employees of the Cultural clubs has been subject of research. From 98 employees directly dealing with cultural matters at the cultural clubs in Ruse region 54 were inquired.

The research was implemented in May 2008 through a questionnaire, consisted of 9 questions. Two of them are left open for the employee to be able to fill specific data. The others are multiple choice answer questions. 2 of the questions give the chance to be given more than one answer and have options for adding answer, which was not preliminary pointed out. The questionnaire, has the following outlook:

Questionnaire

Dear Sir/ Madam,

The present research aims at examining the views and attitudes of the cultural figures in Ruse region toward the preservation of cultural – historic monuments of Republic of Bulgaria in conformity with the purposeful efforts of the world community in reference to the preservation of the world cultural heritage.

1. Cultural Club

2. Settlement

3. Are there cultural-historic monuments in your settlement?

a/Yes b/No

4. Please, describe it/them / To be filled when “Yes” answer on the previous question have been given/

5. Is there a museum collection at the institution you represents?

a/ Yes b/No

6. What kind of exponents are included in it? // To be filled when “Yes” answer on the previous question have been given/

7. To what extend your colleagues in the institution you represents are acquainted with the problems of cultural-historic heritage in your settlement?

a/ They are acquainted

b/ They are rather acquainted

c/ They are rather not acquainted

d/ They are not acquainted

e/ I don't have information

8. According to you, which are the main problems dealing with the preservation of the cultural- historic heritage? / More than one answer possible/

- a/ The Lack of relevant legislation for the preservation of the cultural-historic heritage
- b/ The shortage of resources for the preservation and conservation of new-revealed monuments;
- c/ A huge part of the existing cultural and historic monuments are left without cares;
- d/ Invaluable monuments of the ancient and newer culture have been left from Bulgaria.
- e/ Other / Please, specify/

9. What kind of measures, according to you, should be undertaken as form of preservation of the material cultural-historic heritage / More than one answer possible/

- a/ Expert discussion to be stimulated and legislative suggestions and policies to be grounded;
- b/ A national register of the monuments to be created and maintained;
- c/ Revenues to be raised in favor of the cultural –historic heritage;
- d/ Public relation campaign to be worked out and implemented;
- e/ Trips to the historic places to be encourage in the framework of programs and projects;
- f/ State financial support for the preservation, restoration, displaying of the monuments to be assured;
- g/ Publicity about the other forms, out of the state budget, but still supported by the state;
- h/ The patronage to be encourage;
- i/ The creation of relevant legislation for the preservation of the cultural-historic monuments;
- j/ Charity organization, which to dedicate their work on preservation of the CHH;
- k/ The science of the sphere of CHH preservation to be stimulated properly;
- l/ Large societal circles to be encouraged to participate in the preservation of CHH;
- m/ Other / Please, specify/

Thank you for supporting our work!

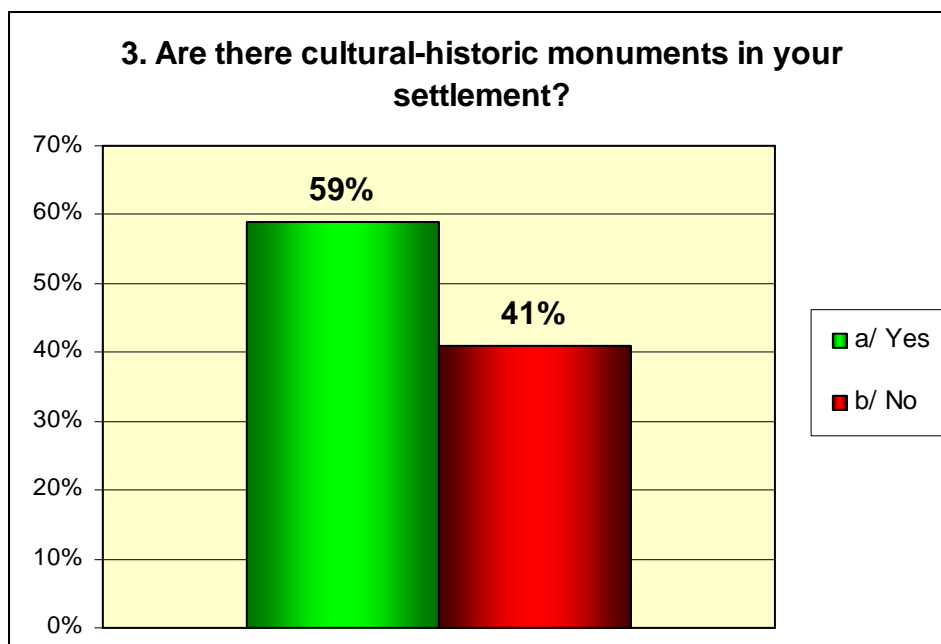
2. Results

In the research took part representatives of the cultural clubs from 5 cities – Ruse, Slivo pole, Marten, Byala, Vetovo and 47 villages. In the city of Ruse there are 6 Cultural clubs, and representatives of 3 of them participated in the research.

The distribution by municipalities is as follows:

- Slivo pole – 8 cultural clubs are represented out of 11.
- Tsenovo – 2 out of 9
- Ivanovo – 11 out of 13
- Dve Mogili – 5 out of 11
- Byala – 8 out of 10
- Borovo – 2 out of 7
- Vetovo – 3 out of 7
- Ruse – 13 out of 20

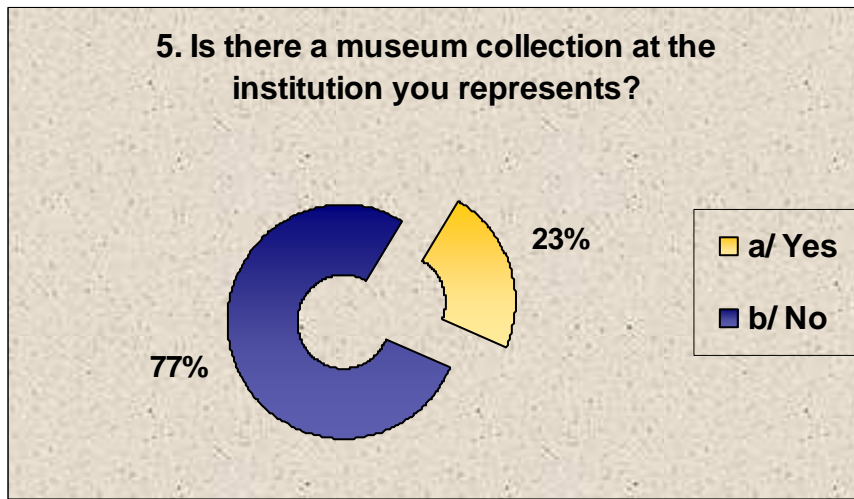
On the 3rd question 59 % of the respondents answered positively and 41 negatively on the question posed. In 32 settlements there are cultural-historic monuments and in 22 there aren't.



Graphic 1. Data, gathered on the question 3.

The fourth question was purposely left open in order to be filled the type of monument there is in the settlement. According to the results there are 12 monuments in honor of those, who perished in the Russian-Turkish war. Such monuments there are in the villages of Lom Cherkovna, Chilnov, Trustenik, Dolno Ablanovo. Other monuments are in honor of perished warriors in the Balkan war as well as in the I World War and the II World War. Roman slabstone, churches, Roman tombs are among the monuments of regional importance for the settlements in Ruse region.

On the question "Is there a museum collection at the institution you represents?" the graphic of the results shows the following:

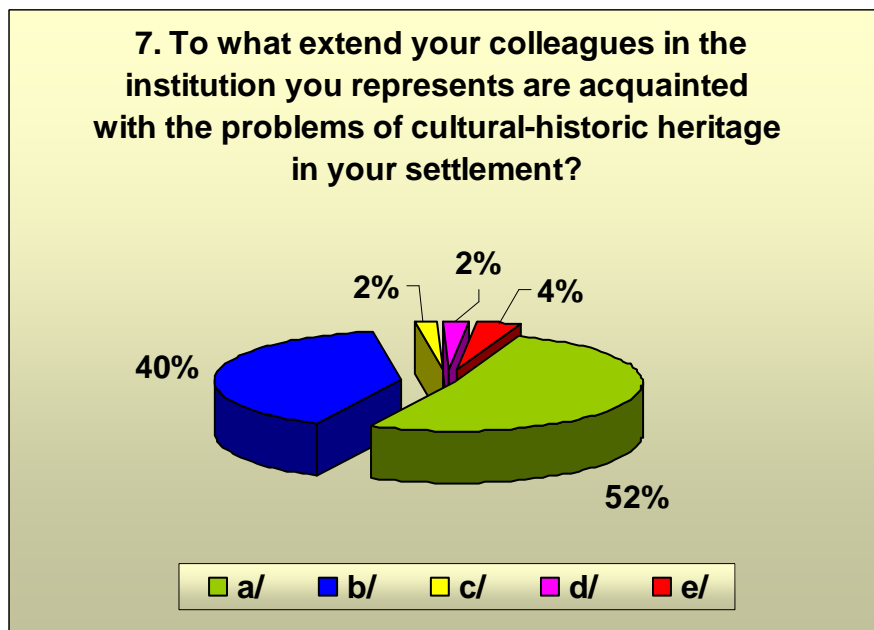


Graphic 2. Data, gathered on the question 5.

At 13 cultural clubs there are museum collections. In 41 there are not.

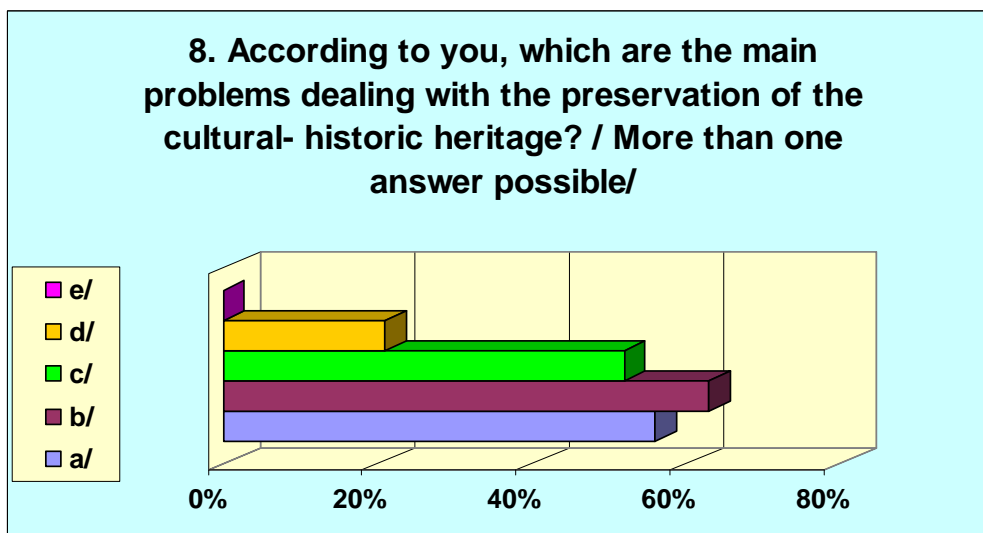
The next 6th question requires from the respondent if he/she answered positively on the previous question. All 13 museum collections consist mainly of ethnographic subject. In addition there is a neolith subjects.

On the question "To what extend your colleagues in the institution you represents are acquainted with the problems of cultural-historic heritage in your settlement?" aims at ascertaining whether the employees are acquainted with the problems, attending the material heritage. 28 of the respondents or 52% claim that their colleagues are pretty well-acquainted with the problems. 22 of them or 40% argue that their colleagues are somewhat familiar with the issue. Very small number of respondents admit that they are not aware of they don't know about the other employees of the Cultural club they represented -totally 8%.



Graphic 3. Data, gathered on the question 7.

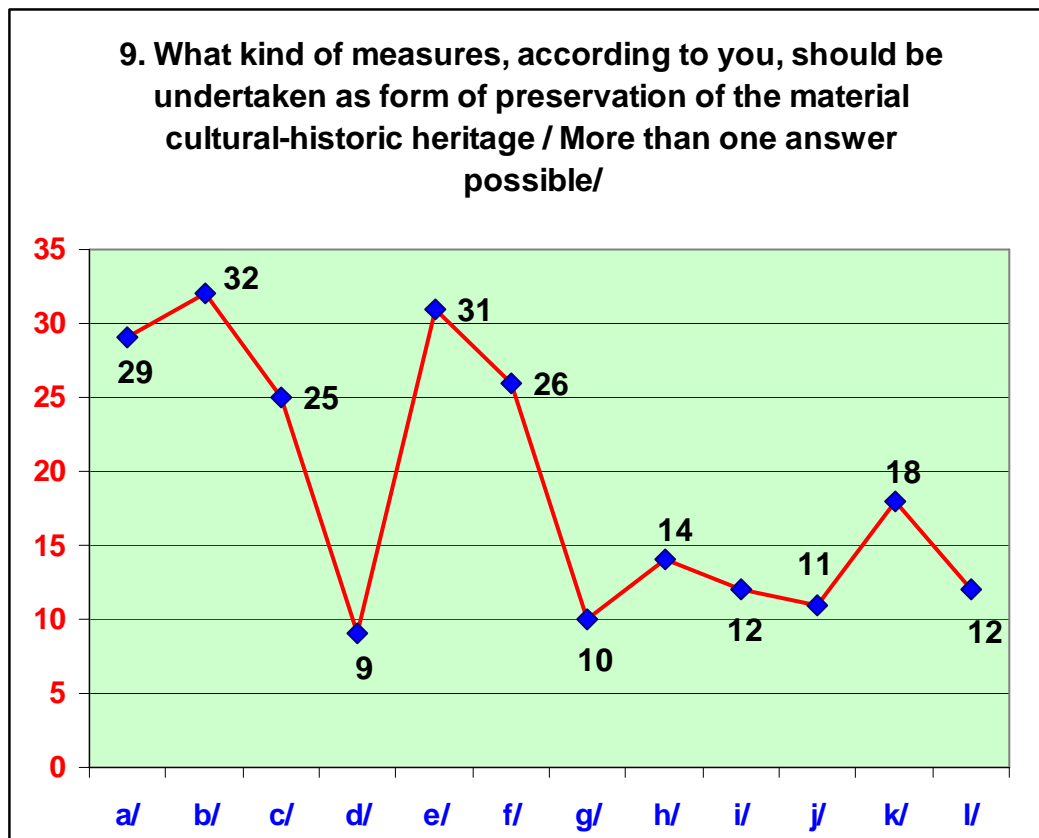
The results of the answer given on the 8th question shows as follows:



Graphic 4. Data, gathered on the question 8.

The most frequent answer is **b/ the shortage of resources for the preservation and conservation of new-revealed monuments** – 63% or 34 respondents. The next answer by frequency is **a/ the lack of relevant legislation for the preservation of the cultural-historic heritage** – in this manner 30 respondents did answer or 56%. The next comes answer **c/ a huge part of the existing cultural and historic monuments are left without cares** – 28 resp. or 52% pointed out this very answer. Answer **d/ invaluable monuments of the ancient and newer culture have been left from Bulgaria** is pointed by 21% or 11 respondents. There is no other adding to the problems on the initiative of the respondent, so the last option **e/ Other, please specify** gathered 0%. The percents are more than 100% because the respondents have pointed out more than one answer.

The last question of the questionnaire reveals the views of the workers at the cultural clubs about the measures that should be taken in order to preserve the material CHH. 32 respondents answered that most effective will be if a national register of the monuments is created and maintained – **answer b/**. The next more frequent answer is **e/ Trips to the historic places to be encourage in the framework of programs and projects** – 31 respondents. 29 think that the most important measure is an expert discussion should be stimulated and legislative suggestions and policies to be grounded – **answer a/**; 25 times the answer **c/ Revenues to be raised in favour of the cultural –historic heritage is specified**. 26 times the answer **f/ State financial support for the preservation, restoration, displaying of the monuments to be assured** is marked. The answer **k/ the science of the sphere of CHH preservation to be stimulated properly** is pointed out 18 times. Answer **d/ public relation campaign to be worked out and implemented** collected least of all – only 9 times was marked.



Graphic 5. Data, gathered on the question 9.

3. Analyses of the results

As the results on the question 7 show that there is high level of awareness of the problem of preservation of the material heritage among the personnel at the cultural clubs in Ruse region. Although there is no public information about the activities, in reference to the subject, which may be interpreted as either high level of knowledge together with low interest of the topic or the other explanation could be that they are not sure how to use this knowledge and here comes again the problem of the inertness of the workers and the believe that only the state could solve the problem with enough financial resources. There is passivity, lack of motivation and conservative thinking. Still the notions that "someone should come to solve my problems" prevail. There is a lack of recognition that the state could not be responsible for everything that happens on the territory of the state, without asking its citizens to do whatsoever.

The 3rd question aims at gathering quantitative information, as well as to examine the level of awareness of the cultural club's personnel about the presence of such monuments in the settlement. The results show that cultural-historic heritage is strongly concentrated mainly on the territory of the municipalities of Ruse and Ivanovo. In the municipalities of Dve Mogili and Byala it is low concentrated.

The purpose of the question 5 is to find out whether in the cultural club is a museum collection. The availability of such collections shows the attitude of the workers toward the material heritage, in the immediate vicinity of him/her. It also means that the cultural club, where there is

such a collection is quite responsible for the material treasure of the settlement and its significance to the local community.

The respondents identify well probably the heaviest problems – question 8, attended CHH nowadays – the lack of allocated funds for the preservation of the material heritage in Bulgaria. What makes bad impression is that no one dared to point out another answer, apart from the listed above. This means that they personally could not identify problems, they only marked already given ones and the inability to identify problems means that they could not solve them by themselves or what is more pity. This is due to the fact that the qualification of the personnel of the cultural clubs does not correspond to the challenges of today, connected with their motivation and initiative aspiration –looking for alternative sources of financial support, either from the state or other donors. They could not prepare a project application and thus to use the possibilities to be active and useful for their communities.

One of the main goals of the numerous listed answers, especially on the last 2 questions is to give ideas to the cultural clubs what kind of initiatives they could carry out. What is more surprising is the facts that answer d/ public relation campaign to be worked out and implemented collected least of all answers. It shows that one of the, so to say, "soft measure" to draw the public's attention on the problem is underestimated. This could be assumed as a result of the qualification of the personnel of the cultural clubs, who don't realize the power of a strong PR and marketing campaign, for example. However, the frequency of the answer e/ Trips to the historic places to be encouraged in the framework of programs and projects, pointed out on the 9th question, could be taken as either optimistic as well as pessimistic. On one hand, the respondents themselves admit that the CHH in Ruse region as a whole possess a tourist potential. On the other hand, the respondents recognize the need of tourist interest to our material heritage in order someone to do something to solve the problems. In many cases under that "someone" is often meant the state.

4. Conclusions

To sum up, in the years of transition to a democratic organization the concentration of the attention of the society was on everyday problems, material thinking has dominated, there was an imposed tendency that the state withdraws from whole sectors of the societal life; and last but not least we had complexes toward our national and historic identity. But in the recent years the interest on the problematic of the preservation of cultural-historic material heritage have raised on international level. The conditions of intensified globalization the preservation of traditions and visible traces of the historic and cultural development of the society plays an important role for the preservation of identities and a way to avoid full assimilation and unification. Bulgaria is rich in material heritage, displaying various levels of development. On the local level, it's of high importance those who are in charge of preserving the local communities' memory, e.g. cultural clubs' personnel to initiate local debates, PR campaigns, to participate in trainings, to prepare and

implement projects concerning the preservation of the local heritage. As a whole, it depends on the efforts of every single citizen, every cultural figures, museum managers, legislators, municipalities, regional administrations – in other words, the whole society to undertake relevant measures in order to preserve the rich Bulgarian national material heritage.