



INSTITUTE FOR
THE RESTORATION
OF DUBROVNIK

EUROPEAN
HERITAGE
HEADS
FORUM

UNESCO World Heritage Site The Old City of Dubrovnik

Good practice and challenges to
preservation and management

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Institute for the Restoration of Dubrovnik

EHF Annual Meeting, Zagreb, Croatia October 2026



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Area • City 142.6 km² • Urban 12.1 km²
Population (2021) • City 41,562 • Urban 26,922
Tourism (2025) • 1,34 mil. arrivals • 4.288 mil. overnight
stays

Register of Cultural Monuments of the Council of the
Municipality of Dubrovnik on January 15, 1966

1. The Old City of Dubrovnik

World Heritage List 1979

World Heritage in Danger 1991-1998

2. Festivity of Saint Blaise, the patron of Dubrovnik

Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity 2009

3. Archives of the Republic of Dubrovnik (1022-1808)

Memories of the World 2023



TERRITORIAL COVERAGE OF THE WORLD HERITAGE SITE, BUFFER ZONE, AND SETTING





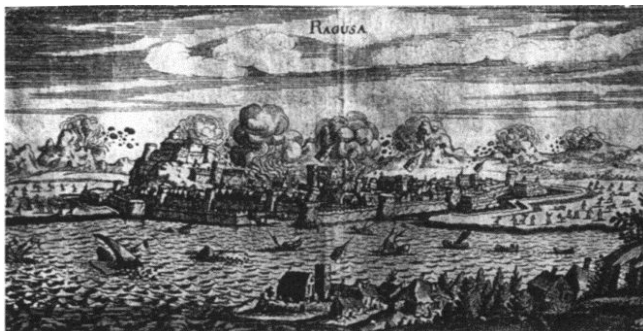
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- Founded in 1979
- 1986, Law on the restoration of the endangered historic core of Dubrovnik and cultural heritage in the wider Dubrovnik area
- Post-earthquake reconstruction
- Heritage database WHS + CH in the wider area

- City of Dubrovnik 55%
- Government of the Republic of Croatia 35%
- Dubrovnik – Neretva County 10%



The Great earthquake in Dubrovnik,
Print in Dubrovnik Museum (The
Rectors Palace)





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- 1991-1996, Monuments protection / War damage assessment
- Post-war restoration / UNESCO Action plan

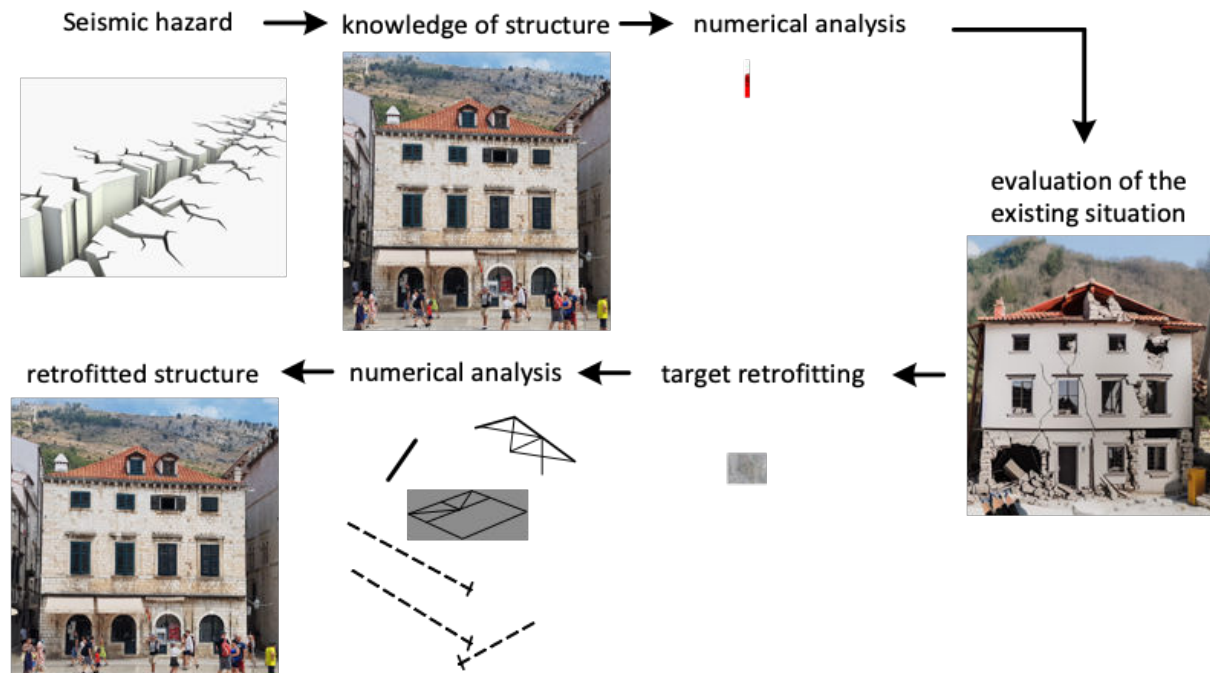




- Increasing resilience of CH to seismic risk
- Disaster Risk Management, Heritage Restoration

Basic principles of structural restoration

- Optimal (minimal) intervention
- Interdisciplinary approach
- Compatibility with original materials
- Durability of new materials
- Non-invasive techniques
- Reversibility
- Technical feasibility





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- Management of the World Heritage Site

To ensure understanding, protection and maintenance of the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Site and its surroundings

HUL approach

Historic city as a living organism that keeps changing within its spatial, social and economic context



Pearl of the Adriatic





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- Stable management structure and continuous capacity building of the stakeholders managing WHS
- Urban Conservation Study
- HIA / Spatial and Urban Planning



STRATEGIC ACTIONS



WORLD HERITAGE SITE MANAGEMENT
AND CAPACITY BUILDING



PROTECTION, CONSERVATION
AND MAINTENANCE



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



TOURISM MANAGEMENT



TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT



RISK MANAGEMENT



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- Building resilience
- Awareness raising
- Climate change mitigation
- Risk Management Plan



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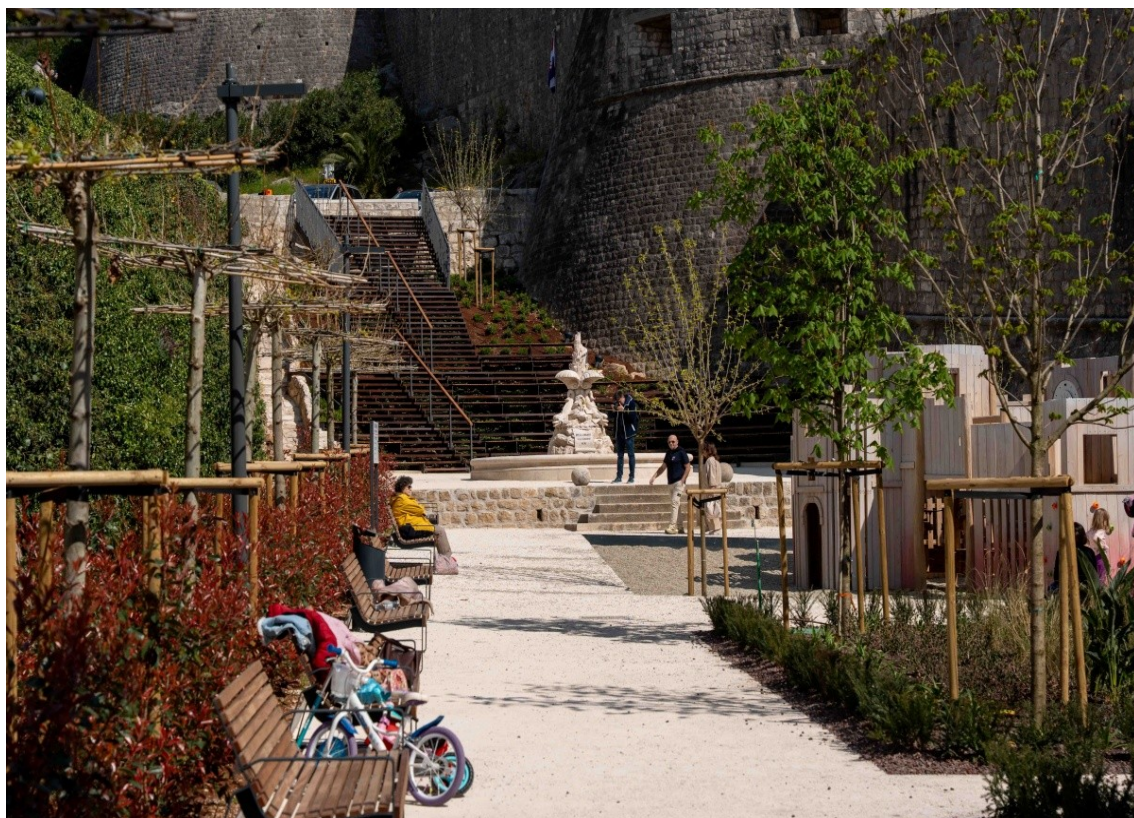
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- Sustainable Development
Life in the City
Managing tourism and traffic
Green Infrastructure Network



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- Supporting traditional crafts and knowledge transfer
- Conservation and maintenance consistent with the OUV
- Social Revitalisation of historic buildings





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Thank you for your attention!

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