

## Cultural and Natural Heritage – Legal Instruments of Its Preservation in the Slovak Republic (Summarising Report on Project)<sup>1</sup>

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**Abstract:** *Summarising report on project funded within the EEA/Norway Grants Scheme on the topic “Cultural and Natural Heritage – Legal Instruments of Its Preservation in the Slovak Republic”.*

**Key Words:** *Report; EEA/Norway Grants Scheme; Cultural and Natural Heritage; Legal Instruments; Preservation; University of Bergen; Norway; Trnava University in Trnava; Slovakia.*

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JUDr. Michal Maslen, PhD., from the Trnava University in Trnava, Faculty of Law, Department of Administrative Law, Environmental Law and Financial Law, Slovak Republic, has achieved funding within the EEA/Norway Grants Scheme on the topic “*Cultural and Natural Heritage – Legal Instruments of Its Preservation in the Slovak Republic*”. The approved application of the project has been registered under formal No. *BFB-PA16-006*, under which it is being administrated in the scheme of EEA/Norway Grants.

The project has been led solely by JUDr. Michal Maslen, PhD., from the Trnava University in Trnava, Faculty of Law, Department of Administrative Law, Environmental Law and Financial Law, 23, Hornopotočná Street, 918 43 Trnava, Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as the “researcher”). During the project the researcher has visited the University of Bergen, Faculty of Law, in Norway (hereinafter referred to as the “inviting university”) which has participated in the project as the inviting university and which has also hosted the research-study stay of the researcher from June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017, till July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017. The researcher was hosted by *prof. Sigrid Eskeland Schütz* who was representing the inviting university and who works at the inviting university as the member of the

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*Research Group for Administrative Law and the member of the Research Group for Natural Resource Law, Environmental Law and Development Law.*

The inviting university has offered the researcher the access to its library and databases and it has also provided an office for the hosted researcher. During the above-mentioned period of time of the researcher's visit at the inviting university the researcher has studied the Norwegian sources of scientific research (methods of implementing legal instruments protecting the cultural and natural heritage) and compared them to the Slovak ones. The researcher has produced the outcome of the project in the form of the monograph on the topic of the project. The monograph will be accessible online as well as in the printed form in the libraries of the inviting university and the researcher's home university by the end of October 2017. The monograph will cover the Slovak legal status in the field of cultural and natural heritage protection and it will try to analyse possibilities for implementing the Norwegian methods preserving and protecting the objects of cultural and natural heritage, especially in the situations, when they possibly collide with interests of the economic uses of the property. This topic is crucial above all in the field of forestry and woods protection, because the Slovak Republic belongs to the group of three European countries which still have on their territories primeval forests and these objects of protection are also recognised by the United Nations within the system of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (hereinafter referred to as the "UNESCO") protection. Besides that the Slovak Republic disposes with several other objects of cultural heritage which either are or are not recognised by the UNESCO. The sole fact that the UNESCO system does not protect the cultural sight is not an obstacle of cultural protection of such object. These requirements often collide with ownership interests, financial and economic objectives of the human society. Therefore, the goal of finding a compromise between the cultural and natural heritage protection and the economic use of the environment creates a core problem of preserving parts of nature and human history which are unique.

Finally, the outcome of the project has been presented on the lecture (presentation) given by the researcher. The lecture has been realised at the beginning of September 2017 (September 6<sup>th</sup> and September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017) at the traditional Czech-Slovak-Polish Environmental Law Conference. During his lecture the researcher has given framework information on his research that is on the topic of his project. The researcher has pre-

sented his knowledge on the Norwegian legislation in the field of law regulating the cultural and natural heritage preservation. The information on his project has also been published on websites of both faculties. Hopefully, the monograph and the outcomes of the project will help support the cultural and natural heritage protection in the Slovak Republic.

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