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This doctoral dissertation presents an implementation project aimed at developing a mechanism for the systematization of knowledge concerning the historic urban layouts of the Łódź Voivodeship to support the activities of the Provincial Office of Monument Preservation in Łódź, as well as local authorities and residents. The implementation resulted in the development of a standardized framework for the analysis and evaluation of historic urban layouts, together with templates for two types of documents: a popularizing Conservation Guide, intended for external users, and an internal document designed to support the work of heritage protection officers. As part of the project, a set of tools was developed to enable the analysis of historic urban layouts in small and medium-sized towns of the Łódź Voivodeship using uniform methods and evaluation criteria. The proposed framework facilitates the identification of the most significant conservation issues characteristic of individual urban complexes and their concise presentation. It was assumed that combining historical information, an assessment of heritage values, and a diagnosis of conservation issues could provide the basis for preparing educational materials for residents while simultaneously supporting heritage officers in administrative proceedings related to the protection of historic monuments.

To support the implementation, questionnaire surveys were conducted among town residents and employees of regional heritage protection offices in order to identify the most significant challenges associated with the protection of historic urban layouts. A pilot public consultation was also carried out in the town of Dąbrowice. During the project, available sources of knowledge on cultural heritage, including conservation documentation, were analyzed and evaluated with regard to their usefulness for both the activities of the heritage protection office and the needs of external stakeholders interested in the protection of historic urban layouts.

The analyses confirmed that one of the most significant challenges in protecting the historic urban layouts of the Łódź Voivodeship is the fragmentation of scholarly studies and source materials, as well as the lack of synthetic tools enabling quick access to essential information on historic towns. This problem affects not only residents, investors, and designers, but also employees of the Provincial Office of Monument Preservation.

The results of the evaluation surveys conducted among heritage protection officers and external users confirmed the high usefulness of the developed materials. The implementation also revealed a broader systemic problem related to the limited accessibility and fragmentation of heritage information. The guides developed within the project constitute an attempt to bridge

the gap between specialized conservation documentation and the practical needs of users of historic urban space. The aim of the project was not to create a new type of conservation documentation, but rather to organize and disseminate information contained in existing studies. An important element of the implementation was also drawing attention to the value of less frequently used archival materials, such as historical and urban studies and urban planning files containing valuable iconographic and cartographic resources and combining these with the possibilities offered by contemporary digital tools.

The innovative character of the project lies in combining the research methods of art history and architectural history with the practical functioning of heritage administration, while developing tools that support both the activities of heritage protection authorities and the dissemination of knowledge among residents and owners of historic properties. The implementation of solutions based on humanities research demonstrates the practical application of art historical knowledge in the work of public administration responsible for safeguarding cultural heritage.

The wider implementation of the developed tools is currently limited by organizational challenges affecting the heritage protection system in Poland, including staffing shortages and institutional constraints within the regional heritage protection offices. This assessment is supported by the findings of audits conducted by the Supreme Audit Office (NIK), reports published by the National Institute of Cultural Heritage, and scholarly publications addressing the functioning of the Polish heritage protection system.

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