

# THE POLITICS OF HERITAGE & REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES - ACTORS, INTERESTS, CONFLICTS

Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> June – Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> June 2006  
Sofia (Bulgaria)



## GENERAL OBJECTIVES & KEY QUESTIONS

The 3<sup>rd</sup> HERMES symposium aims to discuss the political dimension of heritage from two perspectives: on the one hand the **'politics of heritage'**, i.e. an understanding of heritage as socially constructed meaning which is embedded in issues of identity and power in societies, and on the other the **role of heritage in spatial planning and local/regional development strategies** at various levels.

HERMES' general objective is to investigate innovative ways of preserving and enhancing cultural heritage through the use of new media technology. The project is based on the notion of **cultural heritage as a factor for sustainable regional development**, which also includes the goal of raising awareness of particular historical and cultural facts and problems.

Key questions of the symposium will therefore include: How is the **meaning of 'heritage'** negotiated in society? What **conflicts** (social, ethnic etc.) are involved in issues of heritage, i.e. in terms of inclusion/exclusion and **representations of 'Self' and the 'Other'**? Who sets the **priorities for work** in the heritage sector? Who provides the **funding**? And: How important is heritage for spatial planning at the national and the supra-national level? What are the basic principles and **main expectations towards heritage** and the way it is dealt with?

The symposium will provide a forum for the discussion of these questions, and a platform for presenting practical case-studies, especially from Central and Eastern Europe. It aims to facilitate the exchange of views and expertise between *heritage practitioners, experts and academics*. Participants will include representatives from *political and planning practice* as well as experts from related academic disciplines such as *history, sociology, geography, cultural studies etc.*

Conference papers will be published in English in book form by the Institute of European Urban Studies at the Bauhaus-University Weimar as well as on the web.

A post-conference *half-day trip* to Plovdiv will be offered (at no extra cost) as well as a further optional *3-day excursion* to interesting heritage sites in Central Bulgaria.

**Deadline for registration: 15<sup>th</sup> April 2006**



## ORGANISATION

Date: Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> June – Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> June 2006

Venues: Goethe-Institute Sofia, Budapeshta street 1,  
Sofia, Bulgaria

Conference language: English

Conference fee: none

### Organisers:

- Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works (Bulgaria)
- Ministry of Culture (Bulgaria)
- Classic Foundation Weimar (Germany)
- Bauhaus-University Weimar (Germany)
- Goethe-Institute Sofia (Bulgaria)
- Bulgarian National Radio

**A detailed Call for Papers and a form for on-line registration (pdf) can be downloaded from [http://www.swkk.de/hermes/lang\\_en/seite4.html](http://www.swkk.de/hermes/lang_en/seite4.html).**

## CONTACT

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