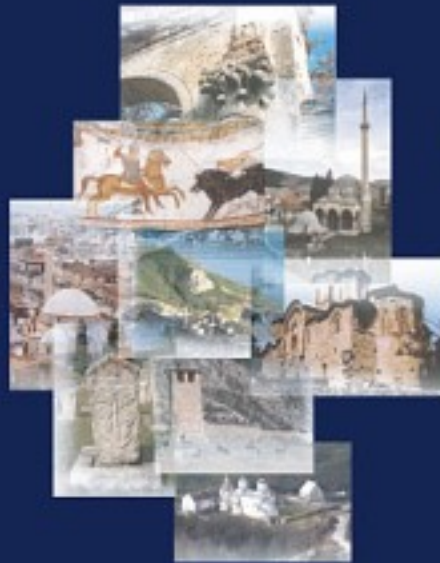


Integrated Rehabilitation Project Plan  
Survey of the Architectural and Archaeological Heritage (IRPP/5AAH)

*Regional Programme for Cultural and Natural Heritage in South East Europe*

Plan pour la mise en œuvre de projets de réhabilitation intégrée  
Evaluation du patrimoine architectural et archéologique (IRPP/5AAH)

*Programme régional pour le patrimoine culturel et naturel dans le Sud-Est de l'Europe*



## Preliminary Technical Assessment (PTA)

**SMEDEREVO FORTRESS**  
Smederevo  
Serbia  
(Serbia and Montenegro)

**INTEGRATED REHABILITATION PROJECT PLAN /  
SURVEY OF THE ARCHITECTURAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE  
(IRPP/SAAH)**

**Regional Programme  
for Cultural and Natural Heritage  
in South East Europe  
2003 - 2006**

**PRELIMINARY TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT  
OF THE ARCHITECTURAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
HERITAGE IN SOUTH EAST EUROPE**

Document adopted by the  
The Ministry of Culture and Media of the Republic of Serbia and  
the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Serbia and Montenegro  
on 23 November 2005.

**SMEDEREVO FORTRESS  
Smederevo  
Serbia  
(Serbia and Montenegro)**





## FOREWORD

In the framework of the European Commission/Council of Europe Joint Programme on the Integrated Rehabilitation Project Plan /Survey on the Architectural and Archaeological Heritage (IRPP/SAAH), the present Preliminary Technical Assessment (PTA) was prepared by local experts: Mr. Petar Vukojcic, Mr. Dejan Radovanovic, Ms. Tamara Tasic, Ms. Snežana Jejić, Ms. Jasmina Rusimović-Popović, Mr. Milorad Kocić, Ms. Vesna Mrkić, Mr. Ivan Stojičić and Mr. Rifat Kulenovic, headed by Mr. Borislav Šurdić, IRPP/SAAH Project Co-ordinator, in co-operation with the PTA expert group: Leader Dr. John Bold (United Kingdom); Experts: Ms. Emma Carmichael (United Kingdom), Mr. Giorgio Gianighian (Italy), Mr. Andreas Heymowski (Sweden), Mr. David Johnson (United Kingdom), Mr. Pedro Ponce de Leon (Spain), Mr. Alkis Prepis (Greece).

The Preliminary Technical Assessment (PTA) was adopted by The Ministry of Culture and Media of the Republic of Serbia and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Serbia and Montenegro on 23 November 2005.



## 1. Introductory page



Site map



The Smederevo Fortress

**1.1 Country or Territory:**

**1.2 Name of organisation  
compiling the information:**

**1.3 Contact name:**

**1.4 Email address:**

**1.5 Name and address of building or site:**

**1.6 Inventory reference number(s):**

**1.7 Building/Monument/Site type:**

**1.8 Main dates:**

**1.9 Current use(s):**

Serbia and Montenegro,  
Republic of Serbia  
Ministry of Culture of the Republic  
of Serbia, Belgrade  
Regional Institute for the Protection  
of Monuments (RZZSK), Smederevo  
Petar Vukoičić, Architect, RZZSK,  
Smederevo, Dejan Radovanović,  
Archaeologist, RZZSK Smederevo  
office@spomenickulture.org.yu  
Smederevo Fortress, Smederevo  
Inventory number RZZSK Beograd  
SK 538,  
Inventory number RZZSK  
Smederevo 1,  
Inventory number 881, 08.01.1946.  
OZSK – Arts Museum, Belgrade,  
Inventory number 851/5,  
20.10.1975. ZZSK Beograd  
Cultural Monument set into the  
landscape of a Middle Age fortress  
1428–1430: A fortified manor built  
for Serbian despot  
1439: Fortress completed;  
fortification of a lower city  
1460–1480: Construction of a  
defence system completed, during  
the Turkish rule  
1941: Big explosion in munitions  
warehouse  
1980s: Reconstruction of  
Smederevo fortress.  
City park, traditional manifestations  
are held here.

## **2. Executive Summary**

Smederevo fortress is located on the confluence of the Jezava and the Danube, in the centre of Smederevo city, 45 km South East of Belgrade. Through its proximity to the Danube it is connected with many other historic sites (Novi Sad, Belgrade, Vinča, Viminacijum, Golubac, and Lepenski vir)

Smederevo Fortress is a cultural monument with exceptional value; it was built in 1428 as a capital of the mediaeval Serbian state and formed an important economic and strategic connection within the Balkan Peninsula and Middle Europe. It is one of the most striking and monumental pieces of architecture surviving from medieval Serbia. Its monumentality and mediaeval structure are a record of a way of life and architecture of the time. Traces of different civilisations and cultures which inhabited the fortress from its beginnings up to today are evidence that this site is among the most important monuments in this region.

Today the Fortress is in a state of slow, but constant decay, due to many natural and man-made factors. Within the city walls there is a park, and nearby a river port, marina and part of the urban centre of Smederevo. The constant increase in the population and spreading of the city jeopardise the setting of the monument, but also open possibilities for a new vision for rehabilitation based on its position, contents, and monumental importance.

The conservation of Smederevo fortress offers the potential for the complete revitalisation of this internationally important monument as a part of the future growth and prosperity of the city.

## **3. Administrative information**

### **3.1 Responsible Authorities**

Municipality Smederevo, Smederevo Museum, Institute for the Protection of Monuments (RZZSK) Smederevo, Institute for the Protection of Monuments (RZZSK) Belgrade

### **3.2 Building/Site, Name and Address**

Smederevo Fortress 11300 Smederevo

### **3.3 Map reference**

Latitude	44° 50' N
Longitude	20° 07' E
Altitude	72m

### **3.4 Type of monument**

Architectural monument and archaeological excavation point. A mediaeval fortress with the remains of a fortified manor. A key element of the cultural landscape of the right bank of the Danube.

### **3.5 Ownership**

State Property, user municipality Smederevo (surrounding area is used by several state companies).

### **3.6 Statutory Protection/Constraints**

The Fortress is a cultural monument of exceptional importance. Protection refers to the inside of the monument and the protected surroundings (supervision of RZZSK Belgrade). Any works on the monument are limited and controlled.



#### 4. Summary of condition

##### 4.1 Summary of Physical Condition - very bad to good

Physical condition of the monument ranges from very bad to good. The condition of the city wall facing the town is bad – it was restored several times as part of the river wall protection works and is stable, although conservation work is of poor quality. The ramparts towards the Danube have partially collapsed several times. The cultural landscape on the Danube side is in relatively good condition, whereas the entrance from the urban area of the contemporary city, is in poor condition.

##### 4.2 Condition Risk Assessment

Restored parts: E

Other parts of a fortress and other buildings - from A to C

Surrounding urban structures - from A to C

##### 4.3 Priority for intervention - High/Medium/Low

Medium – partly high

#### 5. Existing information

##### 5.1 Documentary sources:

A large archive of documentation is available at the Regional Institute for the Protection of Monuments, Smederevo (reports, drawings, maps, photographs, photometry, videotapes and publications)

##### 5.2 Bibliography:

A. Deroko, *Srednjevekovni gradovi na Dunavu (mediaeval cities on the Danube)*, Beograd, 1964.

J. Nešković, *Smederevska tvrđava, (Smederevo fortress)*, Beograd 1968, Smederevo 1975.

J. Nešković, *Citadel. Smederevo. Yugoslavia. Secular mediaeval Architecture in the Balkans 1300 – 1500, and its Preservation*, Thessalonica 1997, 210-211.

L. Pavlović, *Istorija Smedereva u reči i slici (History of Smederevo in words and pictures)*, Smederevo 1980.

M. Popović, *Gates of Smederevo City, Starinar*, 28-29 (1977-1978) 213-230.

M. Spremić, *Despot Đurađ Branković i njegovo doba, Despot Đurađ Branković and his era*, Belgrade 1994.

M. Cunjak, *Smederevska tvrđava, (Smederevo fortress)*, Smederevo 1998.

N. Jocović, *Fortifications of Smederevo. Yugoslavia. Secular mediaeval Architecture in the Balkans 1300 – 1500, and its Preservation*, Thessalonica 1997, 132-133

P. Popović, *Memorial to 500 years from despot Đurađ Branković's Smederevo*, Belgrade 1990.

This documentation is held at the Regional Institute for the Protection of Monuments, Smederevo.

##### 5.3 Fieldwork already conducted :

Previously conducted fieldwork:

1970-80 Partial restoration of the fortified manor;

Restored city rampart and outer defence wall on the Danube,

System for the protection from water of the fort and the city;

Archaeological excavations and partial conservation of the sacral complex remains to the southeast part of the fort and Turkish baths

- 1994-5 Restoration of tower number 10.  
Archaeological fieldwork within the fortified manor and in the sector of the city ramparts towards the Danube. Archaeological research in those sectors where the remains of the sacral complex and Turkish bath are placed.

#### 5.4 Projects in progress :

##### **Strategic plan for management of Smederevo Fortress**

The carrier of this project is the Regional Institute for the Protection of Monuments, and Municipality of Smederevo.

##### **Project for restoration of Smederevo fortress**

Phased project for the entire restoration and rehabilitation of this important monument.

The fieldwork is held by the Regional Institute for the Protection of Monuments

#### 5.5 Projects already planned:

##### **Project for use of Smederevo Fortress**

A Plan of general decisions in regard to use and reconstruction of Smederevo fortress. The Regional Institute for the Protection of Monuments holds the proposals.

##### **Project to revitalise the fortified manor – Small city**

The Project defines possibilities for using this part of the fort, in accordance with directives for treatment to restore all buildings of the fortified manor. The Regional Institute for the Protection of Monuments of Smederevo holds the proposals.

##### **Project to restore Town rampart – south city rampart**

Construction project to restore the ramparts towards the town and the main gate of Smederevo fortress, which were destroyed in an explosion in the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War. The Regional Institute for the Protection of Monuments of Smederevo holds the proposals.

##### **Project to restore tower number 7 and the gate at the Jezava rampart of the city**

Main construction project for restoration of the ramparts towards Jezava and the gate on that side of the fort (Jezava gate). The Regional Institute for the Protection of Monuments of Smederevo holds the proposals.

#### 5.6 Financial estimates already made:

Financial estimates were completed during 2003-2004. Conservation works only.

Fortified manor	600,000 €
Jezava rampart	2,100,000 €
Town rampart	5,000,000 €
Danube rampart	1,100,000 €
Cannon towers	650,000 €
Sacral complex	200,000 €
Turkish bath	50,000 €
Infrastructure of Smederevo fortress	900,000 €
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,600.000 €</b>

## **6. Scope of the PTA**

### **6.1 Extent/Nature of the assessment:**

Included in PTA is the expert team of the Regional Institute for the Protection of Monuments, Smederevo:

Petar Vukoičić, Architect Conservator

Dejan Radovanović, Archaeologist

Snežana Jejić, Architect Conservator, Director RZZSK Smederevo

Jasmina Rusimović-Popović, Architect Conservator

Milorad Kocić, Architect Conservator, Director RZZSK Smederevo

Vesna Mrkić, Art Historian

Ivan Stojičić, Civic Technician and Project Co-ordinator from the Ministry of Culture, Republic of Serbia, Borislav Šurdić

Tamara Tasić, Project Supervisor.

Rifat Kulenović, Archaeologist

Fieldwork with Mr. David Johnson, an International Expert of the Council of Europe, Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> 2005.

Estimates were carried out during April and July 2005. At the same time an assessment of the field condition was made.

### **6.2 Limitations of the study:**

Short time period for detailed insight into the condition of this big complex. Lack of technical instruments for detailed analysis of high and inaccessible towers.

## **7. The PTA**

### **7.1 Background: Form, Function and Evolution**

#### **7.1.1 Summary description of the building/site**

Smederevo fortress is a mediaeval structure, built on the right shore of the Danube, 45 km downstream from Belgrade. It is located on a wide plain at the confluence of the River Jezava and the Danube and has a triangular shape. The area of the fort is around 11 ha.

It was built in the Byzantine tradition in a fortified manner for the protection of weapons, based on the model of the Constantinople fortress. On two sides the fortress was surrounded by water. The complex comprises a fortified manor on the confluence, a city surrounded with ramparts, and a system of outside defence walls with canals (rivers).

Characteristic of this monument are its 25 massive towers, with a height around 25 meters, connected with over 2 metre thick walls. The total length of the rampart is 1.5 km.

Inside the fortress are a number of remains, built in different epochs; the most important being the remains of a 15<sup>th</sup> century church and a Turkish bath from the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

The fortress is surrounded by many later urban and commercial city structures (house blocks, marina, port, railway etc) which compromise the appearance and setting of the fortress.

### 7.1.2 Summary historic development and evolution of the site.

In the period of the most intense city life, during the first half of the 15<sup>th</sup> century, Smederevo was a major state, a religious, commercial and trade centre of this part of Europe. With its position and importance it formed a connection between the Balkan Peninsula and Middle Europe.

Smederevo was the last capital of the Serbian mediaeval state before the fall under Ottoman rule. In later periods it was the centre of a Turkish municipality and Austrian districts, and in recent history from 1805 to 1807 it was the centre of a re-established Serbian state.

In the first half of 15<sup>th</sup> century, Smederevo was a religious centre of a Serbian state, and it is noted that in the Blagoveštenje church inside of the Fort, the relics of the Evangelist Saint Luke were placed.

The city was populated with a Serbian population and many colonies, mostly merchants from Dubrovnik.

There are four phases in the development of the Fortress:

- 1 1428 – 30. construction of the fortified manor (Small town)
- 2 1430 – 39. construction of the lower town
- 3 Second half of the 15<sup>th</sup> century, addition of the outer defence system in the period of the Ottoman rule
- 4 First half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century; construction of fortified trenches

Up until World War II, the fortress did not suffer from any major deterioration and was one of the most well preserved monuments of its kind. The fortress suffered in the 1st and 2nd World Wars, especially in the explosion of stored munitions in 1941 and in the bombing of 1944.

Today, the inside of the Fortress is occupied by a city park for recreation. Occasionally it is used for festivals and events, shows and concerts.

Surrounding area – the shore is used as a marina and river port, and is partly surrounded with buildings.

## 7.2 Significance

### 7.2.1 Summary statement of significance/historical and heritage importance.

Smederevo Fortress is a monument of exceptional national importance. It is the last capital of the mediaeval Serbian state and the last standing defence point from the Ottoman invasion. The preserved remains of the fortress are completely authentic. The fortress is the authentic testimony to the advancement of the mediaeval Serbian state. The evolution of the monument displays the different layers of civilisation and culture in this area through history. As well as the historic and architectural dimension, Smederevo has a symbolic value as a part of the national identity. Due to its complexity it remains today an object of scientific and archaeological interest. The fortress is one of the most monumental architectural buildings from mediaeval Serbia.

There is a strong sense of connection of the local community through recognition of the importance of this historical complex and the need for its rehabilitation.

Its historic and artistic values, geographic position, and commercial potential,

make Smederevo an important resource for the development of tourism and commerce within the city and the region.

### **7.2.2 Checklist of categories which may be considered in the evaluation:**

7.2.2. Historical	National
7.2.3. Artistic/Aesthetic;	National
7.2.4. Technological	
7.2.5. Religious/Spiritual	International
7.2.6. Symbolic/Identity;	National
7.2.7. Scientific/Research;	International
7.2.8. Social/Civic	Regional
7.2.9. Natural	Regional
7.2.10 Economic	Possibly national

### **7.3 Vulnerability/Risk assessment.**

#### **Natural**

There is a serious risk of flooding and high underground waters. There is also decay of material due to atmospheric pollution and vegetation and growth.

#### **Development – demographic growth**

Urban development is degrading the environment. Industrial development is a continued risk due to the railroad.

#### **Tourism use**

Uncontrolled daily use and tourist visits.

#### **Lack of care**

Inadequate maintenance.

#### **Lack of administrative and financial support**

Inadequate administrative support

Unclear criteria for setting up protected areas

Poor integration of heritage into developmental plans.

#### **Structural destabilisation**

Loss of material due to age and lack of maintenance.

#### **Ownership and occupation of the estate**

Complicated ownership of surrounding area.

#### **Function**

Inappropriate use of interior and conflict of use of the surrounding area.

#### **Resources**

Lack of finance for maintenance and repairs.

### **7.4 Technical condition**

Smederevo Fortress maintains its original structure and system of construction but numerous parts are missing or damaged:

- Rampart towards the town; parts of the defensive wall are missing, some towers are leaning and partly collapsed.
- Most of the towers have suffered collapse, vegetation growth is causing damage to the building.
- Loss of the outer defence wall (scarp), in the direction of Jezava.
- The conserved parts are in a bad condition.
- Archaeological excavations are not protected.

## 7.5 Outline summary of required repairs

### **Fortified manor - citadel**

Continuation of repairs, if approved, for the protection and use of the monument.

**Jezava rampart.** Cleaning and restoration of all walls, towers and scarp, following archaeological excavations

**Town rampart.** Cleaning and conservation of all walls, towers, scarp, and entrance gate, following the archaeological excavations

**Danube rampart.** Repair and conservation of walls and scarp, with possible continuation of works according to available information and complete restoration of towers. Archaeological excavations are also included.

**Polygonal scarp towers.** Cleaning and conservation with a possible new use.

**Sacral complex.** Further investigations and conservation. Organisation of the surrounding area.

**Turkish baths.** Further investigations and conservation. Organisation of the surrounding area.

**Infrastructure of Smederevo fortress.** Installation of basic infrastructure (water, electricity, decorative and functional lighting etc.), archaeological excavations.

**Fortress surrounding area.** Removal of the railroad or construction of a bridge.

The completion of the work is based on a phased priority approach.

Suggested phases:

1. Basic cleaning and conservation of the places at risk (the rampart, sacral complex, and the Turkish baths). Cleaning vegetation, deposits and conservation of preserved rampart parts and archaeological finds.
2. Archaeological excavations and preservation of findings.
3. Establish infrastructure
4. Construction work according to the outcome of the feasibility study

Construction of new objects, according to the plan, with the restoration of cultural landscape. Removing the railroad surrounding monument, or overpass it constructing a light bridge. Potentially useful contents and objects should be renewed and revitalized.

*Remark:* work connected with the collection and production of research, are a continuous part of all phases.

## 7.6 Conservation/rehabilitation, policy and proposals

### 7.6.1 Broad summary of the vision for the site

Rehabilitation of the fortress should change the image of the town and could have a social and economic impact. The fortress has to be used as one of the most important points of cultural tourism along the Danube cultural route, what could be very important for the future development of the town of Smederevo.

Conserved ramparts, archaeological remnants and appropriately designed and treated landscape could change the present character and atmosphere of this part of the town.

### 7.6.2 Conservation philosophy

The principle intention is to preserve the original structures, particularly as all remaining parts of the fortress are part of the original building. The monument must be appropriately presented.

### **7.6.3 Level of intervention**

It is estimated that the necessary data and level exist for the restoration of all walls and towers of the fort to be completed. Changes within the monument are possible, the goal being to change the presentation of the monument. Restoration and partial reconstruction of specific parts may be appropriate to improve the accommodation within the site. This would also provide a spatial definition of the complex.

### **7.6.4 Preliminary proposals for appropriate use**

Appropriate uses for the building should revolve around its use as a city park with the opportunity to host events (fairs, concerts, exhibitions etc.) Some other functional accommodation could be provided (museums, institutions for protection of monuments, entertainment etc.) if designed to complement the character of the monument.

The surrounding area offers other opportunities – a travel port on the Danube, marina, services. etc.

### **7.6.5 Opportunities for social uses and sustainable development**

The complete revitalisation of the fortress would allow for the development of cultural tourism and integration along the Danube river, museum activities, trade, opening of workplaces, and possibilities for commercial development. Sustainability of planned measures will be the subject of detailed studies.

### **7.6.6 Broad assessment of priorities for consolidation/covering, repair, conservation, restoration.**

Fieldwork would be conducted in phases. The primary aim is consolidation to avoid further decay, and additional archaeological work, planning and conservation.

#### **Suggested phases**

- Basic cleaning and conservation of the areas at risk (the ramparts, sacral complex, and the Turkish baths). Cleaning vegetation from the remaining parts of the ramparts
- Archaeological excavations and preservation of findings.
- Establishing infrastructure for adequate use
- Construction work based on feasibility studies
- Construction of new objects including the cultural landscape. Removal of the railway or the construction of a pedestrian bridge.

### **7.6.7 Public access**

Complete public access and multiple uses for the local community.

### **7.6.8 Other benefits**

Work on the Danube integration offers a wide opportunity for local and regional regeneration. Similarly, work on restoration brings an opportunity to form workshops for specialised professional training (archaeology and conservation).

## 7.7 Finance

### 7.7.1 Broad assessment of budgetary needs and phasing (includes making of projects and supervision)

1. Basic cleaning and preservation of the most endangered parts of the walls, sacral complex and Turkish Baths. Cleaning of spoilt and vegetation deposits and basic conservation of well preserved structures of walls and archaeological finds approx. 2 100 000 €
2. Archaeological research and preservation of the findings 850 000 €
3. Establishing infrastructure for adequate use 1 075 000 €

Phases of restoration and partial reconstruction of walls, removal of the railroad or construction of a bridge will be based on the priority assessment following the feasibility study and are treated as long-term aims of the complete rehabilitation. Therefore, it is not appropriate to estimate costs at this stage.

### 7.7.2 Assessment of possibilities for attracting investments

No official assessment.

### 7.7.3 Assessment of possibilities for recovering investments

No official assessment.

### 7.7.4 Have you already tried to raise funds for this site or monument

Not applicable

### 7.7.5 Have you already received funds for this site or monument

In the 1970s to 1990s funds for making a water defence system from the Danube were provided, with investments from the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Serbia

## 7.8 Management

The project for rehabilitation must be at national level, and could include all responsible agencies – Ministry of Culture, Ministry for Capital Investments, Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Services, Ministry of Energy and Mining, due to the inability of the local community to give independent support to the project. This will involve active involvement of the local community, The management structure and division of responsibilities must be made according to the management plan. Its preparation must be approved by an independent expert group at the level of the republic and local community.

## 8. Documentation

Documentation of Smederevo Fortress is available at the Regional Institute for the Protection of Monuments, Smederevo.



## 9. Feasibility Studies

Taking into the account that the rehabilitation of the Smederevo fortress is a project with high priority, as well as a developmental project of revitalisation of local community and revival of cultural property, we believe that it deserves a feasibility study.

Taking into the account that the rehabilitation of the Smederevo fortress is a project with high priority, as well as developmental project of revitalisation of local community and revival of cultural property, we believe that it deserves a feasibility study.

For the feasibility study it is necessary to:

- Prepare an inventory of documentation
- Drawings/plans showing historic evolution/phases of building
- Survey of condition/structural survey
  
- Prepare phased programme of work
- Assess local visitor facilities available in city
  
- Primary purpose is tourism and public park
- Set out possibilities for alternative uses, e.g. use walls as backdrop for events
  
- Prepare audience development plan
- Concerts/plays, theatre, music
- Horticultural plan, conservation areas, picnicking
  
- Fortress as focus of city
- Consider new access arrangements, e.g. bridge over railway

### PTA Report carried out by:

Petar Vukoičić, architect, RZZSK Smederevo

Dejan Radovanović, archaeologist, RZZSK Smederevo

**Date:** 26

August

2005

A joint initiative of the European Commission  
and the Council of Europe

Une initiative conjointe de la Commission européenne  
et du Conseil de l'Europe



European Commission/  
Commission Européenne  
Directorate General for Education and Culture  
Direction Générale de l'Éducation  
et de la Culture



**Culture 2000**



DG II  
Presidency, Culture and Heritage  
Presidence, Culture  
Education, Culture and Heritage  
Ministry of Sport

Programme de Coopération et d'Échanges Culturels



Technical Cooperation and Creativity Programme