

1.02 Pregledni znanstveni članek

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## Muzej Krasa: med željami, potrebami sodobne družbe, teorijo in prakso

### IZVLEČEK

*Prispevek obravnava muzej Krasa kot ustanovo, ki bi jo morali zasnovati v skladu z družbenimi potrebami in upoštevajoč sodobna heritološka spoznanja. Sodobni muzej je medij, njegova temeljna funkcija je komunikacija in generiranje socialnih vezi. Posledično naloge muzeja niso več omejene na zbiranje, varovanje in raziskovanje muzejske zbirke, temveč se širijo na skrb za varovanje in ohranjanje dediščine v izvornem okolju kot kvalitete življenja. Kras predstavlja eno najbolj prepoznavnih in hkrati tudi najbolj okoljevarstveno občutljivih in kulturnopolitično izpostavljenih pokrajin. Muzealizacija dediščine v tradicionalnem modelu muzeja pomeni trganje izbranih predmetov iz izvornih kontekstov. Ti procesi v posameznih primerih posredno vodijo k nezaželenim učinkom v izvornem okolju in lahko izzvenijo kot negativno sporočilo lokalni javnosti. Avtorica zato išče rešitev v modelu ekomuzeja.*

### KLJUČNE BESEDE

*Kras, kraška dediščina, muzej, muzealizacija, varovanje in ohranjanje kraške dediščine, lokalna skupnost, participativno upravljanje, inkluzija, ekomuzej, virtualni muzej, kibernetični muzej*

### ABSTRACT

*MUSEUM OF KRAS REGION AND CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY: BETWEEN DESIRES AND NEEDS, THEORY AND PRACTICE*

*The article presents the Museum of Kras Region as an institution conceived in accordance with social needs and in consideration of the latest knowledge of heritage science. Contemporary museum is a medium whose fundamental task is communication and to generate social capital. Thus, the task of a museum is no longer merely to collect, protect and investigate museum collections, but to protect and conserve the heritage in its original environment as the quality of life. The Karst is one of the most recognisable as well as environmentally most sensitive landscapes subject to the greatest cultural and political diversity. Musealisation of heritage within the traditional museum model implies extracting selected objects from their original contexts. In some cases, these processes may indirectly lead to unfavourable consequences for the original environment and convey a negative message to the local community. The authoress therefore seeks a solution in the ecomuseum model.*

### KEY WORDS

*Kras, karst heritage, museum, musealisation, protection and conservation of karst heritage, local community, participatory management, inclusion, eco-museum, virtual museum, cyber museum*

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## S U M M A R Y

### Museum of Kras Region and contemporary society: between desires and needs, theory and practice

The article deals with the theoretical approach to seeking the most suitable form of a Museum of Kras Region as an institution responsible for conserving the sensitive and extremely diverse Karst heritage. The contemporary museum model should take account of the needs of contemporary society and be developed through active collaboration between local communities. Modern heritage science is based on the holistic concept of heritage, participatory heritage management and inclusive interpretation or presentation method.

The holistic concept addresses heritage as a whole of natural and cultural, tangible and intangible heritage and recognises it as the basic spiritual, social, developmental, economic and social capital. These also serve as the platform for European recommendations and international charters and agreements, the majority of which are also signed by Republic of Slovenia. The most crucial factor in the contemporary

concept of heritage is the public. Particular attention during heritage processes is devoted to local communities. Contemporary museums have not only a considerable social but also therapeutic potential for local communities. In contemporary museology, museum is defined as a medium and its fundamental task is communication and to generate social capital. Thus, the task of a museum is no longer merely to collect, protect and research museum collections, but also to protect and conserve the heritage in its original environment as the quality of life. Contemporary museums serve an integrating agents within local communities and facilitate democratisation by actualising participation of local community in heritage processes and playing an active role within society. However, the fact remains that the activities of traditional museum models hardly reaches beyond the walls of museum buildings, which is especially true for a majority of Slovenian museums.

The Karst is one of the most recognisable as well as environmentally most sensitive landscapes subject to the greatest cultural and political diversity. It justifiably raises the question as to which museum model can meet the expectations of the public and simultaneously comply with modern approaches of heritage science and conditions to protect the extremely complex and sensitive karst heritage. The Karst landscape boasts of high biodiversity and rich cultural heritage, which is seriously threatened with construction works, tourism and industry, as well as with failing conservation attempts based on one-sided decisions that only rarely heed the needs of local communities.

The authoress draws on the general belief that a holistic approach to conserving heritage cannot be efficiently implemented with the traditional museum model. The musealisation of heritage means extracting it from its original cultural context and in some cases a traditional museum may achieve a directly opposite effect to that envisaged on its establishment. According to the authoress, the solution is in the ecomuseum model, which emerged during the 1970s in response to the needs of contemporary society. Eco-museum is a unique, holistically designed institution responsible for conserving heritage in the original environment and with the inclusion of local community thorough their way of life. It is an agreement reached by a local community with a view to preserving the traditional values and natural environment, without thwarting development and research and without preventing communities from enjoying heritage and benefiting from heritage products. Eco-museums are spread across the world and, as field research shows, similar principles are also gaining ground among communities in the Karst. The article presents the benefits that such a heritage model may bring by means of the holistic approach to protecting, conserving and marketing the Karst heritage in the original environment as a quality of life.