

MANAGEMENT PLAN

KULDĪGA

| Goldingen in Courland

Nomination for Inscription on
the UNESCO World Heritage List





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PREFACE

The purpose of the Management Plan of the nominated property *Kuldīga / Goldingen in Courland* is to protect the Outstanding Universal Value that forms the basis of the World Heritage nomination. The area of the nominated World Heritage property must be protected for the future generations, while still allowing sustainable development of the town of Kuldīga. The Management Plan is a tool to ensure harmonious coexistence of protection of the values, accessibility of the nominated property to visitors and sustainable development of the local community.

The Management Plan is annexed to the nomination file and will be implemented if the nominated property receives the World Heritage status.

The Management Plan consists of eight chapters and three annexes. Annex 1 includes a list of all state protected cultural monuments of national and local importance. Annex 2, in its turn, contains a comprehensive strategic tourism document “The Kuldīga Old Town Visitor Flow Management Plan”, but Annex 3 – “Risk Management Plan”.

1. WORLD CULTURE HERITAGE POLICY

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is a specialised agency of the United Nations (UN). UNESCO was founded on 16 November 1945 with the objective of promoting peace through culture, encouraging cooperation and dialogue between people from various cultures, contributing to the reduction of poverty and promoting sustainable development with the aid of education, science, culture and communication.

Latvia has been a Member State of UNESCO since 14 October 1991 when the official admission ceremony of our country was held at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris. According to the UNESCO constitution the Latvian National Commission for UNESCO (hereinafter referred to as UNESCO LNC) was established by a decision of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Latvia in 1992. UNESCO LNC is the only institution providing implementation and coordination of UNESCO programs in Latvia in collaboration with state institutions and NGOs, promoting acceptance and implementation of UNESCO regulations and ideas in Latvia, as well as securing and defending the interests of Latvia and recognition of the Latvian experience on the international scale.

The main issues addressed by UNESCO in Latvia are: preservation of cultural, natural, intangible and documentary heritage; development and coordination of innovative networks for cooperation; promotion of the knowledge-based society and mobilisation of know-how; promotion of accessibility and quality of education by strengthening the principles and values of life-long learning, inclusive education and sustainability in education.

The International Council on Monuments and Sites (hereinafter – ICOMOS) is an international non-governmental organisation established in 1965 under a UNESCO initiative. It is the most influential global professional non-governmental organisation uniting entities interested in promotion of the cultural heritage industry. The objective of ICOMOS is the preservation and protection of culture heritage sites. It is the only global non-governmental organisation of its type, established to promote the theory and methodology of preservation of culture heritage. Its work is based on the International Charter on Conservation and Restoration of Monuments and Sites (Venice Charter) adopted in 1964.

The Association ICOMOS Latvia (hereinafter referred to as the Association) is the Latvian national division of ICOMOS, one of 95 national committees operating all over the world. Its objective is to promote the preservation of cultural heritage, in particular its identification, study, protection, restoration, renovation, promotion and use. The Association is among the few professional non-governmental organisations in Latvia operating in the field of cultural heritage on the international level. The Association resumed its activities in Latvia in 2010.

The General Assembly of ICOMOS adopted the Declaration on Heritage as a Driver of Development in 2011 and the Declaration on Heritage and Landscape as Human Values in 2014. To this end, the current role of ICOMOS is ensuring that protection of cultural heritage in conjunction with finding solutions to contemporary economic challenges. ICOMOS seeks to preserve the integrity of cultural heritage for the benefit of society and culture.

As in other European countries, a national institution for the protection of cultural heritage has been established in Latvia. The **National Heritage Board** (hereinafter referred to

as NHB, previously until June 2018 known as the State Cultural Monuments Protection Inspectorate) is a direct administration authority subordinated to the minister of culture, which implements national policy and control in the area of protection of cultural monuments, identifies cultural heritage, and surveys and registers monuments.

2. INTRODUCTION – THE ROAD TO UNESCO

The process of seeking admission for Kuldīga to the UNESCO World Heritage List has been in progress for many years, since the ratification of the 1972 UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage in Latvia in 1995 (adopted on April 10, 1995).

Work began on May 14, 2001, when the UNESCO LNC approved the application of Kuldīga Municipality to collaborate with the State Cultural Monuments Protection Inspectorate (now NHB), based on the Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention. International and local conferences were organized in 2003 and 2004 to draft a report and justification for the application. Kuldīga received approval for the UNESCO National Tentative List in 2004.

In accordance with the regulations of the UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List, in 2010 Kuldīga Municipality reapplied for nomination to the UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List of Latvia, where the Outstanding Universal Value of the Historic Centre of Kuldīga in the Ancient Venta Valley were substantiated.



By Resolution No. 6 of 25 February 2011, the Assembly of the Latvian National Commission for UNESCO approved the nomination “The Historic Centre of Kuldīga in the Ancient Venta Valley” into the UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List of Latvia and set conditions for preparations for submission to the UNESCO World Heritage List in the future. Since 2011, Kuldīga Municipality has been systematically preparing the nomination file for the UNESCO World Heritage List application.

In developing the nomination file, it was necessary to make rearrangements in the town, elaborate Management and Development Plans, and identify, preserve and reasonably restore the key assets of Kuldīga. Cooperation between the residents of the town, house owners, property managers and Kuldīga Municipality is very important, and has become an integral part of property management. In 2011, Kuldīga Municipal Council approved the Preservation and Development Plan for the Historic Centre of Kuldīga, which takes a holistic approach to the preservation of cultural and historical heritage, covering economic development, environmental protection, tourism and cultural development.

On the recommendation of the UNESCO LNC, in February 2014, Britta Rudolff, Professor at the Technical University of Brandenburg, executive director of the Institute for Heritage Management, and advisor to ICOMOS, visited Kuldīga. According to the expert’s recommendation, by 2017, Kuldīga Municipality had conducted research on the town’s architecture and urban planning, landscape aspects and natural components, as well as assets of intangible cultural heritage. These studies are a valuable resource for ongoing scholarly work. The urban construction monument of national significance “The Historic Centre of the Town of Kuldīga” has also been expanded and a project for the introduction of its individual protection zone has been developed.



In accordance with the Regulations of the UNESCO World Heritage Latvian Tentative List, in 2016 the municipality submitted a report to the UNESCO LNC Assembly and Secretary General on the status and management of the heritage site of the nomination “The Historic Centre of Kuldīga in the Ancient Venta Valley”, including research, education and other activities. The nomination report was positively acknowledged, and the UNESCO LNC Assembly called on Kuldīga Municipality to consider establishing an expert working group for further work on the nomination file and informing the UNESCO LNC about further progress in its preparation, as well as the planned deadline for submitting the nomination file to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre.

On April 28, 2016, Kuldīga Municipal Council adopted a decision “On the progress of the nomination “The Historic Centre of Kuldīga in the Ancient Venta Valley” included in the UNESCO World Heritage Latvian Tentative List to the UNESCO World Heritage List” (Minutes No. 4, item 8).

Following the recommendations of experts from the Institute for Heritage Management, it was decided in 2018 to focus on Outstanding Universal Value in the context of the period of the Duchy of Courland and Semigalia. On February 28, 2020, the clarified name of the nomination *Kuldīga / Goldingen in Courland* and justification of its Outstanding Universal Value was accepted by the UNESCO LNC Assembly.

In 2019 and 2020 a careful study of all the attributes able to convey the Outstanding Universal Value of the nominated property – buildings, street network, squares, water bodies, water crossings and landscape elements – relating to the period of the Duchy of Courland and Semigallia that still are present in modern Kuldīga was implemented. The in-depth study showed that Kuldīga has managed to preserve up to three-quarters of the town’s architectural elements.

The Management Plan of the nominated property *Kuldīga / Goldingen in Courland* is an integral part of Kuldīga’s nomination to the UNESCO World Heritage List.

In accordance with the Development Planning System Law, the Management Plan has been developed as a policy planning document for the nominated property and its buffer zone as approved by Kuldīga Municipality. However, its strategic aims and planned actions, as well as management, development, and other aspects, extend far beyond the defined area of the nominated property and affect a much larger territory and areas of human life.

3. DECLARATION OF INTENT

On August 22, 2016. Cooperation Agreement 649/2016 “On Preparation for Nomination for the World Heritage list” was jointly concluded by Kuldīga Municipality, the State Cultural Monuments Protection Inspectorate (now NHB), and UNESCO LNC.

Having concluded the Cooperation Agreement, a working group, consisting of representatives from Kuldīga Municipality, NHB, UNESCO LNC, and the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development (MEPRD), was established in 2017.

Kuldīga Municipality was cooperating with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Culture, UNESCO LNC and NHB in preparing the nomination. Co-financing from the State Cultural Capital Fund has been received.

4. DESCRIPTION OF THE VALUES OF THE NOMINATED PROPERTY

4.1. Brief synthesis

The town of Kuldīga is located in the western part of Latvia at the confluence of the River Venta and the smaller stream Alekšupīte in central Kurzeme (Courland) Region, about 150 km west of Rīga. Kuldīga's historic core is an exceptionally well-preserved and compelling reminder of the Duchy of Courland and Semigallia's era of growth and exchange in the late 16th, 17th and 18th centuries, when the town was known by the name Goldingen. Following the Duchy's establishment by Gotthart Kettler in 1561, Kuldīga was the primary residence and administrative centre of Courland. Kuldīga maintained an important role in the administration of the Duchy, which governed a significant part of the Baltics between 1561 and 1795.

The characteristics of its urban and architectural development in the 16th to 18th centuries remain clearly distinguishable in the streetscape of Kuldīga's historic core. The combination of a well-preserved urban layout, authentic building structures and facades, original materials, and landscape elements that continue to illustrate the historic townscape of Kuldīga, comprise tangible attributes directly linked to the Duchy of Courland and Semigallia. The Outstanding Universal Value of Kuldīga is expressed through Kuldīga's ability to provide the most complete urban and architectural testimony of the Duchy of Courland and Semigallia which, despite its small size and problematic position among the larger European powers Poland-Lithuania, Sweden and Russia, developed into a maritime power in the 17th century and established an international trade network that spanned from Europe to the African west coast and the Americas.



The most essential attributes of the Duchy's testimony can be grouped into four main categories:

- (i) the urban layout and streetscape which depict the spatial relations of urban aspects at the time,
- (ii) architectural remains of residential, public and religious buildings which illustrate the regional development and composition of architecture and townscapes in the 17th and 18th century,
- (iii) the expression of specific craft skills that have been passed down from generation to generation and which continue to be used in the contemporary conservation of Kuldīga, and
- (iv) landscape elements which preserve fully the historical townscape and continue to stimulate the identification of locals with the property.

4.2. Justification for Criteria

Criterion (iii)

In accordance with criterion (iii), the property of Kuldīga pays respect to a culture and civilization which no longer exists, yet continues to influence contemporary society. Kuldīga is one of the very few remaining and the best-preserved urban testimony of a small yet important political empire, the Duchy of Courland and Semigallia, which ruled the territory of modern Latvia from the 16th to 18th centuries. The duchy was an autonomous vassal state under the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, which stretched from the Baltic Sea Coast in a triangular shape around 500km eastwards to the Daugava River, initially bordering the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, Polish Livonia, the Kingdom of Sweden and, later, the Russian Empire.

The town of Kuldīga holds the capacity to tangibly demonstrate the particularities of the Duchy of Courland and Semigallia as well as its lasting impact, to a level that is unparalleled elsewhere in the former territory of the duchy. As the first residence of the rulers to be established, Kuldīga is a physical reflection of the evolution of this particular region in the light of ducal rule. From Kuldīga and other later administrative centres, the duchy shaped life in the wider region for over two hundred years and hence contributed largely to the development of the society that lives in the western part of Latvia today. The period under ducal rule describes the longest consistent political stage of modern Latvia and endured longer than all of the subsequent political systems combined.

As an important administrative centre, Kuldīga (Goldingen) quickly developed from a small medieval hamlet into a prosperous trading hub. The increased international orientation of the duchy led to a rising number of foreign merchants and craftsmen settling in Kuldīga, who left their mark on the architectural language present in the town. Travelling merchants were common visitors to Kuldīga, and they even had their personal seating area in St. Catherine's Church in Kuldīga. While many of the international visitors left after completing their business, others stayed and settled in the Duchy of Courland and Semigallia. People from nine different countries are documented as having settled in Kuldīga during the ducal era. While Germans, especially from the northern regions of Germany, always made up a large share of citizens in Kuldīga, during the Duchy of Courland and Semigallia, the variety of cultural backgrounds broadened along with the growing international relations encouraged by the dukes. In the 17th century, new citizens were registered as coming from Austria, Denmark, France, the Netherlands, Scotland, Sweden and Switzerland. In the 18th century, single cases of settlers were additionally registered from Italy as well as Bohemia.

The Dukes of Courland and Semigallia established strong international trading networks and cultural exchanges, which led to a significant growth of urban centres and in particular its first administrative and representative centre, Kuldīga. The Duchy of Courland and Semigallia flourished particularly in the 17th century, when it increasingly engaged in international trade and communication. A significant increase of internal migration from the territory of the duchy to Kuldīga in the 17th and 18th centuries bears witness to the growing importance of Kuldīga as an urban centre of the Duchy of Courland and Semigallia despite it not being a sea port. Whereas only one merchant was registered to have settled in Kuldīga between 1569 and 1599, which is less than 1% of all new residents, in the second half of the 17th century, almost 30% of new citizens were merchants, which represents a high-point of trade-related migration and reinforces that the period under Duke Jacob (1642-1682) was the most prosperous economically.

In political terms, the Duchy of Courland and Semigallia insisted on its neutrality and as such significantly contributed to international relations within the region. The neutrality of Courland was officially confirmed by the surrounding powers who consequently used the territory of the Duchy of Courland and Semigallia as a neutral ground for diplomatic affairs. The many buildings that have been conserved since the 17th century, either partially or wholly, are an exceptional testimony to the international relations of the Duchy of Courland and Semigallia. Local and foreign craftsmen jointly developed a new architectural language in the town, which was inspired by international encounters as well as the availability of new materials based on trade relations set up under ducal rule. The historical urban fabric in Kuldīga includes structures of traditional log architecture as well as brick masonry structures and timber-framed houses that illustrate the rich exchange of local craftspeople with travelling craftsmen from other Hanse towns and centres around the Baltic Sea as well as Russia. The preserved buildings act as strong representatives of the international orientation of the duchy.



During the period of the Duchy of Courland and Semigallia, Kuldīga was essential for the development of crafts in this region and soon established itself as the centre of Courland craftsmanship. The statutes of the guilds established in Kuldīga were binding also for those craftsmen living and working in other towns of the duchy. The ancient traditions of craft guilds continued to exist until the 1930s. The buildings of Kuldīga's old town are tangible evidence of the fine skills of the town's craftsmen, which are especially visible in the manifold wooden building details as well as tin-ornaments on the diverse windows of both residential and auxiliary buildings. Especially with regard to carpentry and metal-work, the tangible manifestation of craft skills continues to inspire craftsmen today. Traditional techniques are not only studied but also applied in the course of modern restoration practices. They are essential for the successful protection of the property and continue to be passed down to future generations. The craft elements are an exceptional testimony to the manifold influences local craftsmen received from abroad and furthermore convey the identification of today's residents with traditional local craftsmanship.

4.3. Statement of Integrity

The property boundaries of *Kuldīga / Goldingen in Courland* encompass all elements necessary for the narrative conveyance of the urban expansion of the remarkable stage of development in the Baltic states embodied by the Duchy of Courland and Semigallia. The proposed property area covers the pre-19th century urban expansion of the town during the ducal era and its significant environmental setting. The property is preserved mostly in its condition of the late 18th and early 19th centuries and therefore includes the complete historic testimony of Courland retained until the present, particularly perceptibly in the unchanged urban layout, composition of urban volumes, architectural testimony and wider townscape.

Although significant fires destroyed parts of Kuldīga on various occasions in the 17th century, residential dwellings were re-erected and most of Kuldīga's architectural remains, which continue to provide testimony to Kuldīga's role as a major urban centre of the Duchy of Courland and Semigallia, originated in these productive periods. Later abandonment of houses following the Great Plague as well as individual fire and flood events necessitated the construction of a number of late 18th and subsequently 19th century buildings, which retain the shape, volume, style and decorative forms of the earlier structures. Unlike most other Courland towns, Kuldīga survived the great wars of the 20th century largely unscathed and modernist urban developments were implemented far outside its historic centre, ensuring both integrity and authenticity of the townscape.

Due to the rigorous legal protection of the historic town over several decades and the well-managed urban conservation zone, the property is largely free of threats that could affect the old town negatively in the future.

4.4. Statement of Authenticity

Kuldīga's urban and architectural heritage is well retained in terms of materials, design and in many cases craftsmanship. It illustrates continuity in function and use as residences, auxiliary structures and religious spaces for the resident community. The old town further preserved its authenticity in setting and location, having preserved not only its urban layout and volume but also its environment in terms of the wider townscape, in particular, when viewed from the opposite banks of the Venta River. Kuldīga's residents are knowledgeable and proud of the history and heritage of the Duchy of Courland

and Semigallia and are eager to transmit it to future generations. They actively continue individual craft traditions dating back to ducal times and engage in the maintenance of both the town's built heritage and its intangible cultural heritage, including by seeking international recognition of Kuldīga's heritage at various levels.

Consistent state protection since 1969 and a stringently managed urban conservation zone preserved by means of an urban conservation plan, integrating a programmed approach to conservation and maintenance work, preserved the historic fabric that was largely unaffected by historical crises and continues to produce conservation results at highest international standards. The Kuldīga Restoration Centre, officially established in 2010, offers strong community support for the adequate preservation of private properties and acts as an ambassador for the continuation of the craft traditions of the Duchy of Courland and Semigallia. The European Heritage Label awarded to Kuldīga in 2008 specifically recognized the highest standards of authenticity in the old town of Kuldīga and its wider setting. It can therefore be affirmed that Kuldīga preserves authenticity at the highest level.

4.5. Detailed review of the attributes carrying the Outstanding Universal Value

The Outstanding Universal Value of the nominated property *Kuldīga / Goldingen in Courland* consists of four main components: buildings, streets and squares, landscape elements, water bodies and water crossings. Each of the components split into separate attributes.

The attributes carrying the Outstanding Universal Value of the nominated property have been identified in a separate study implemented by experts – architects-reserachers of the architectonic research company SIA “Arhitektoniskās izpētes grupa” (AIG) “The historic centre of Kuldīga in the ancient Venta valley”. Attribution of evidence of the 17th – 18th century in Kuldīga and its surrounding area according to the town plan of 1797”. The study was implemented in 2019-2020. It was an important task to obtain evidence of the defined Outstanding Universal Value of *Kuldīga / Goldingen in Courland*.

The map of Kuldīga of 1797 is the oldest map providing clear evidence regarding the town plan and buildings dating back to the period when the Duchy of Courland and Semigallia had just ceased to exist.

In total, 93 buildings were surveyed, mapped and photofixed. 36 of these buildings proved to have been constructed until the end of the 18th century. By surveying buildings which were constructed later, it was concluded that the architecture of 57 buildings maintained the volume of the houses of the Duchy period, including 42 buildings which were built to replace earlier buildings constructed until the end of the 18th century. Generally, the buildings which have been preserved and also the buildings constructed after the dissolution of the Duchy follow the traditions and styles of architecture and craftsmanship characteristic to the period of the duchy and create the visual impression of the urban environment of that time.

Out of the 36 buildings which were built until the end of the 18th century and have been preserved, 17 buildings maintain the initial volume of the building, and 19 buildings have been rebuilt by visually modifying their initial image, while still preserving the structures of the buildings constructed until the end of the 18th century. St. Catherine's Church, the Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church, the buildings at 4 Raiņa Street, 10 Baznīcas Street (the Duke's Pharmacy), 17 Baznīcas Street (Stavenshagen's house), as well as the bell tower of the former Peter's cemetery, the oldest graveyard in the town, are among the best examples. The building at 5 Pasta Street contains the oldest retained 18th cen-

tury window including shutters, fittings and sills. The former Supreme Court House at 34 Baznīcas Street is also significant. The structures of mantel-chimneys from the Duchy period have been preserved in several buildings.

It has been determined that within the area of the nominated property, 100 % of the main streets (roads) and approximately 95 % of cross streets have been preserved. As regards water bodies, the Venta, the Alekšupīte and the Pipevalks, have been preserved, thus a minimum of 60 % of the volume of water bodies as visible in the map of 1797 have been preserved. The terrain with the castle fortification embankments has been preserved to almost 100 %. The waterfalls which can be seen in all the known drawings and paintings of the 18th century can be seen in full today.

Also, 80 % of the crossings of Alekšupīte River can still be seen in the urban environment, while the number of bridges has increased from 5 to 11. Out of the squares depicted in the map of 1797, 40 % have fully maintained their initial function, and 60% have been partially or fully transformed into publicly accessible territories combining various functions.

The terrain of the Venta bank has retained its importance from a landscape point of view and today it is 100 % a green area. The rest of the green territory including greeneries and cemeteries have been preserved to approximately 30-40 % in comparison to the situation of 1797.

5. STATUS OF CONSERVATION AND FACTORS AFFECTING THE NOMINATED PROPERTY

5.1. Conservation status of the attributes carrying the Outstanding Universal Value of the nominated property

The current physical condition of the attributes carrying the Outstanding Universal Value of the nominated property *Kuldīga / Goldingen in Courland* described in greater detail in Section 4 of the Management Plan is estimated to be good. An exemplary level of authenticity must be noted throughout the old town of Kuldīga.

A good physical condition must be noted for the vast majority of buildings within the nominated property. Buildings in the territory have been subject to consistent state protection for half a century as well as close joint observation by the municipality and the town's Restoration Centre for the last decade. Many of the buildings within the nominated property and its buffer zone have more than one owner, which is why the municipality has delegated the management of the majority of the buildings to the municipal company "Kuldīgas komunālie pakalpojumi". Each house is documented by a separate file containing all information regarding its condition, repairs and improvements implemented and the current issues to be solved. The technical condition of each house is carefully monitored and observed annually. Accordingly, specialists of "Kuldīgas komunālie pakalpojumi" prepare lists of repairs and improvements necessary to be implemented, as well as estimated costs. Whenever applicable, specialists prepare project applications to attract funding from the municipal support program for rescuing historically valuable buildings. Specialists of the Restoration Centre, in their turn, provide consultations and assistance to owners and managers of the buildings in cases that concern especially valuable houses or their architectonic details.

This situation, in addition to observant citizens who often report necessary repair works to the responsible authorities, leads to a decidedly satisfactory state of conservation, as measures are carefully and conscientiously planned ahead and therefore no sudden events caused by extreme deterioration or decay are experienced.

Specialists from the Kuldīga Municipality Building Authority inspect the buildings in the nominated property and its buffer zone on a regular basis in order to evaluate the general technical condition of windows, doors, facades, finishing materials, chimneys and roofs as well as interior elements. The compliance with the official building regulations is evaluated and the necessity for future restoration projects is determined.

The property and the attributes it contains is protected by a series of local and national legal documents. The historic centre of Kuldīga has been nationally recognised since 1969 when it was first recognised as a cultural monument under the cultural policies of the then Latvian Soviet Socialist Republic. Since the establishment of the Republic of Latvia in 1991, Kuldīga receives the highest level of national protection as a cultural monument according to the Law “On the Protection of Cultural monuments”. The landscape elements of the Venta Valley have been protected since 1957 and have been recognized as part of the NATURA 2000 network, which acknowledges landscapes of European importance, since 2004.

The nominated property, its Outstanding Universal Value and individual objects have national cultural and natural heritage protection status. The area of the property and its buffer zone includes two important protected areas – urban construction monument No. 7435 “The Historic Centre of the Town of Kuldīga” and the nature reserve “Venta Valley”, as well as other cultural, natural, historical, archaeological and other monuments of state and local importance. A list of all monuments of national and local importance are included in the Annex to the Management Plan.



All the legal acts that govern management of natural and cultural heritage protection in Latvia are described in detail in Section 5.c of the nomination file. Furthermore, all the existing plans related to the municipality and region in which the nominated property is located are described in Section 5.d of the nomination file.

On the local level, multiple planning documents, such as a local territorial development plan, define strict legal mechanisms that protect the status quo of the urban heritage and further prevent the development of harmful economic activities that might diminish the property's value. The legal protection in place has proven to be extremely effective.

In 2002, the first local spatial development plan was published. This document includes special rules for the historical part of Kuldīga, such as regulations regarding the restoration of building details. The content and formalities of the respective regulations follow those adopted by the National Heritage Board on a national level. The Sustainable Development Strategy of Kuldīga Municipality 2014-2030 was approved in 2013 and sets out the long-term management for the region. In the context of this document, Kuldīga is defined as a priority area within which the construction of new buildings needs to be appropriate to the image of the old town area. Both cultural and landscape elements are considered necessary elements for a sustainable development of the region. The Action Plan of the Development Program of Kuldīga Municipality 2014-2020 defined activities regarding the insurance of effective preservation of the old town, with a focus on wooden buildings. It demands for the restoration of existing window shutters as well as replication of missing shutters. The restoration of roofs as well as the preservation of structural damages are additional priorities defined in this context.

The Development Program of Kuldīga Municipality 2014-2020 further determines the development of a Management Plan for the nominated property, the provision of monitoring activities of the old town, public education regarding the preservation of the old town, as well as a review of cultural heritage sites of local importance regarding their potential to be put under state protection. The operation of this programme was extended until 2023 and will henceforth be reviewed and, if necessary, upgraded.

The existence of this legal document substantiates the high awareness regarding the value of Kuldīga as well as the political promotion of its preservation. The current local spatial development plan, which is in accordance with the national Spatial Development Planning Law, was adopted in 2015. It serves as an important tool for the control of developments in Kuldīga and its vicinity. Since 2007 the historical building zone is divided into ten different areas with specific regulations for each of them. However, a re-evaluation in 2020 resulted in the establishment of a new approach, which takes case-based decisions regarding building conservation.

In addition to the important legal instruments that make for high protection levels of the property, there are a number of incentives that strengthen the incorporation and support of local owners and residents in the conservation of the property and hence lead to a high involvement of locals as well as their strengthened awareness of the need to protect the historical fabric of the town.

There are multiple institutions of national, regional and local level involved in the responsible management of cultural and natural heritage. Each of the authorities has its own important role in the management process of the nominated property. They have been described in detail in Section 5.e of the nomination file.

The management of the site *Kuldīga / Goldingen in Courland* is subject to the Kuldīga Municipality. The management team consists of diverse specialists, including architects, town planners, restoration specialists and professionals of the district museum.

Kuldīga Municipality Building Authority controls the construction process, its compliance with the requirements of the Construction Law and other laws and regulations governing the construction in the administrative territory of Kuldīga Municipality. It supervises and controls environment management, balanced development and provides protection of cultural historical values.

The team of the Building Authority includes architects, an old town expert, a landscape architect, an environmental specialist, a lawyer specialised in heritage management and construction issues, infrastructure engineer, transport infrastructure engineer and town artist as well as people specialised in technical inspection of buildings and infrastructure.

The activities of Building Authority for preserving heritage are being implemented in four directions:

■ **Research**

To identify and substantiate the values of the unique cultural environment and nature complex of the old town, 32 studies of architecture, history, archaeology, geography, landscapes and other fields have been implemented. The municipality has also prepared 14 applications for awards and reports.

■ **Education and community involvement**

With the aim of educating the local community and raising awareness of Kuldīga old town as a place of cultural and historical value, as well as strengthening the sense of identity and belonging of residents of Kuldīga as a unique town and involving them in the processes of heritage preservation, various educational and public involvement activities are implemented on regular basis.



■ Heritage protection

The specialists are concerned with preserving the cultural and natural heritage of the old town for future generations by providing legal and practical protection. The activities implemented include providing information and consultations free of charge to owners and managers of historic buildings, and giving support for preparation of documents. In order to help owners and managers of historic buildings, 14 concepts and methodological materials have been elaborated in close cooperation with municipal specialists and experts. Most of the concepts and methodological materials include graphic materials and are available both in printed format at the Building Authority and online.

According to regulations of the Republic of Latvia, the construction projects of a cultural monument (including buildings within the urban construction monument) must have a section titled Architectonic – artistic inventory. These requirements are determined by the National Heritage Board and Kuldīga Municipality Building Authority. The architectonic – artistic inventory is implemented by certified architects, restoration specialists and art historians. All the reports of architectonic – artistic inventory or research form a comprehensive archive that can be used for information and consultations. Apart from the above mentioned architectonic – artistic inventories, each renovation project contains a research section that is oriented to the tasks and values they concern. This information is used in further conservation processes.

Specialists of the Building Authority regularly inspect buildings in the nominated property and its buffer zone in order to evaluate the general technical condition of windows, doors, facades, finishing materials, chimneys and roofs as well as interior elements. Compliance with the official building regulations is evaluated and the necessity for future restoration projects is determined.

■ Image building

The municipality forms an image of Kuldīga as a place of great historical and architectural value according to the Old Town Preservation and Development Program and Sustainable Development Strategy of Kuldīga Municipality. Participation in different events presenting Kuldīga builds the capacity of municipal specialists. Experience exchange trips abroad also help specialists of the Building Authority get acquainted with the experience of other countries, establish contacts in order to further cooperate in international projects, create excellent examples of restoration in Kuldīga and gain experience abroad. The employees of Kuldīga Restoration Centre, specialists of Kuldīga Municipality Building Authority, and craftspeople living and working in Kuldīga Municipality participate in the trips. This makes it possible to raise funding from international funds for the renovation of buildings in the old town of Kuldīga, creates an opportunity to work and learn the experience of restoration in the international environment, using various work tools and testing methods. Exchange trips take place a few times a year. They are organised by Kuldīga Restoration Centre in cooperation with the Building Authority.

With regard to the conservation of the built heritage, the Kuldīga Restoration Centre is an essential partner of the municipality. The director as well as the employed restoration specialists act as contacts for all stakeholders and can be directly addressed by the municipality, architects and residents alike. The Centre's expertise in addition to its network to other specialists make for a valuable asset for the protection and management of the carriers of the Outstanding Universal Value.

As a result of effective legal protection and a responsible management system, no significant threats to the nominated property currently exist. However, a risk analysis and vul-

nerability assessment were performed in 2020 to identify potential threats and to develop action strategies to counteract them. As the property encompasses a town centre that may experience development pressures, strategies preventing any negative impacts arising from such developments are one of the priorities of management. In addition to the existing spatial planning documents, the local government intends to develop concepts, guidelines and plans for the preservation and development of the values of the nominated site, to introduce public investment projects to accommodate the old town and natural areas, as well as to restore the most important public buildings within the nomination site.

The municipality also intends to continue monitoring activities and to create databases to achieve long-term results for successful management. In order to improve public awareness, and to prevent negative impacts from mismanagement, the local government intends to implement informative and awareness-raising measures and to promote education of owners and employees not only of the municipality but also of tourism companies in the field of preservation of cultural heritage.

5.2. The general approach to impact assessment in Kuldīga

In 2011, the 36th General Assembly of UNESCO adopted a recommendation document regarding preservation of historical urban landscapes – Guidance on Heritage Impact Assessments for Cultural World Heritage Properties (hereinafter referred to as the ICOMOS Guidance).

In compliance with the ICOMOS Guidance, the value of a World Heritage site is defined as the initial description of the Outstanding Universal Value of the site, on the basis of which a decision is adopted on including the site in the register of the World Heritage Properties. Thus, the above mentioned document should be the absolute starting point in any impact assessment process.

Although the core task of protection of any historical environment is to maintain the existing values and protect them against undesired changes (certain action is also needed



for maintaining a value in the “no change” condition), in case there are situations when existing buildings cannot fully ensure processes important for modern life due to their obsolete type, function or spatial parameters, it is necessary to:

- 1) look for opportunities to adapt the existing urban environment for providing new functions;
- 2) develop carefully considered multifunctional new buildings and complexes of new buildings compliant with modern requirements, taking into account the guidelines presented in the document on preservation of historical urban landscapes.

The cultural historical value of the urban environment was not created within a single restricted time period, rather it has developed over a period of time, consisting of layers of various periods. Therefore, modern additions to the historical urban environment should be accepted as a logic continuation of development and not as a negative impact and a threat to the existing values. However, in order to preserve the property's identity, it is necessary to ensure that new sites are being created bearing the genetic code of the historically developed site, and they maintain and strengthen this identity by replacing buildings which have become obsolete or lost over time.

According to the ICOMOS guidance, in cases where a site included in the World Heritage List can face modifications, the impact of such an intention upon the site the Outstanding Universal Value needs to be assessed. Within the assessment process it should be identified which part of the heritage may be exposed to threats and how this affects the Outstanding Universal Value, and analysis should be made in what way it is possible to avoid, compensate for or minimise negative consequences. The guidance emphasises in parallel with the analysis of the visual impact, which is sometimes deemed to be decisive, several other factors need to be taken into account. These may be direct or indirect, temporary, short-term or long-term, can or cannot be prevented, and have visual, physical, social, cultural and economic impact upon the Outstanding Universal Value of the heritage.

The risk assessment has been performed within the framework of development of the Management Plan by using the ICOMOS Guidelines.

The objective of performance of the risk assessment was to assess the impact of the potential Outstanding Universal Value risks of the area of the nominated property.

Within the framework of the risk assessment the main threats and risks to the Outstanding Universal Value of the nomination *Kuldīga / Goldingen in Courland* were identified, the factors of potentially harmful impact were identified, the impact of the identified factors upon individual elements was assessed, as well as information was collected regarding existing protection mechanisms and necessary future actions in order to prevent or minimise the risk impact.

5.3. Impact assessment and the main threats

Considering that the area of the nominated property is of a considerable size and diverse content, various impact factors, i.e. potential threats/ risks were assessed. This analysis was developed around the list of factors affecting the properties provided by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre in the context of periodic reporting activities. It analysed the vulnerability of the proposed property with regard to the 14 primary factors and established the most relevant secondary factors to be considered for monitoring of the specific site.

During the assessment, conclusions were drawn regarding the possible impact upon the Outstanding Universal Value. The factors that possess positive impact, those of low prob-

ability, and exclusively external risk factors whose impact was considered minor or potential and not important and actual, were not further assessed in detail.

The level of impact of identified factors upon individual attributes was also assessed. In the course of assessment, the necessary actions according to the priority sequence were identified. In the course of the impact assessment, information on existing protection mechanisms was also collected.

The assessment of risk factors included identifying the causes of risks, their impact strength and venue, as well as their eventual positive or negative change in future if a risk factor emerges. The impact assessment was performed per individual groups of risk factors.

The risk analysis showed that factors with a negative impact currently predominantly exist in the context of development pressures (risk groups “buildings and development”, “transport infrastructure” and “utilities and service infrastructure” as well as in the context of environmental pressures (risk groups “pollution” and “local factors affecting physical fabric”).

Natural disasters are currently not common to the region the nominated property is located in, however, given the known effects of climate change, the possible impacts that an increased occurrence of such events would have on the site is evaluated in context of the impact assessment and will be further taken into account in the disaster response plan. Regarding responsible visitation of World Heritage sites, a separate tourism strategy for the old town of Kuldīga has been elaborated (see Annex 2) with defined actions to be implemented in this specific field.

Construction and development

All the threats reviewed within this group were found as internal, existing risks with a negative impact. This category sees various constructions as the potential threat – mainly tourism and recreation construction and related infrastructure as well as public (commercial) construction.

Transportation infrastructure and Supply infrastructure

The group of risk factors “Transportation infrastructure” and “Supply infrastructure”, which mainly cause “territory development pressure”, review primary threats of land transportation infrastructure and the impact caused by it, production of renewable energy plants, and major linear utilities. No risk of this group is currently threatening the Outstanding Universal Value of the site, yet some could potentially arise in the future.

Pollution

Within the group “Pollution”, risk factors are reviewed which mainly cause “environmental risks”, such as ground water pollution, surface water pollution, air pollution, and solid waste pollution.

Local factors affecting the physical environment

Within the group of local factors affecting the physical environment, such primary threats as air temperature, rainwater and ground water as well as fire based on malfunctioning electric infrastructure were reviewed.

Use of heritage in social/culture area and Other human activities

Within the group “Use of heritage in the social/culture area”, which mainly comprises factors affecting the properties (places), the following primary threats were reviewed: attitude towards cultural heritage by local society; the identity, social cohesion, changes in the structure of local residents and in the community, and increase of the anthropogenic load as well as gentrification caused by tourism and recreation. Regarding “Other human activities”, deliberate destruction of the heritage via arson, abandonment and illegal construction were analysed.

Climate change and destructive weather conditions

While analysing the group of risk factors “Natural disasters and risk preparedness”, the groups of risk factors and primary threats which are theoretically possible in the Latvian climate zone and Kuldīga town or actually observed until now were included. Within this group of risk factors, the following primary threats that have been analysed were storms, flood and drought.

Management and institutional factors

The group of risk factors “Management and institutional factors” reviews the legislative framework and the administration system. Within the scope of the management system, the following risk factors as the management plan, monitoring, the management and its management activities, financial resources and human resources were analysed.

Detailed information of the risk analysis and impact assessment, as well as the disaster response plan is included in the Annex 3 of the Management Plan.

6. VISION AND OBJECTIVES

The vision and strategic goals were defined in a workshop organised by Kuldīga Municipality and its cooperation partner Institute for Heritage Management involving representatives of the cooperation partners of the municipality and local specialists.

Vision

The overall vision of the nominated property *Kuldīga / Goldingen in Courland* is:

*Kuldīga,
where every stone narrates an ancient story,
where every breeze is a song of remembrance,
where people, culture and nature are one.*

Strategic objectives

The Management Plan defines six strategic objectives, the achievement of which ensures the preservation of the Outstanding Universal Value of the nominated property *Kuldīga / Goldingen in Courland*.

Strategic objective for involvement

Residents at all ages are actively involved in guiding interpretation and management processes for Kuldīga, suggest new cultural activities, as well as initiate and share the organization of events and educational programmes.

This strategic objective includes activities that aim to provide a continuous public dialogue with different target groups of residents on cultural and natural values and their protection, including the youngest members of the local community.

Although the majority of the local community values the historical and architectonic as well as natural heritage of their home town, and are proud of it, mostly the initiator of educational and cultural events and activities is Kuldīga Municipality or its institutions. The activities included in the Management Plan aim to achieve greater involvement of residents of all ages, businesses and business owners, owners of the historic buildings, architects and construction specialists as well as the local NGOs and facilitate their initiatives regarding heritage issues, organising events and other activities important for the local community.

Strategic objective for communication

Kuldīga's communication strategy involves continuous exchange and dialogue with stakeholders and partners at all levels and fosters an understanding of the history and relevance of the Duchy of Courland, including through further research, for residents.

Kuldīga Municipality has been executing various informative, educational as well as involvement activities within the last two decades. It has been confirmed in results of the executed surveys and meetings organised by the municipality and its institutions that the majority of the local community is well aware of the fact that they live in a historically and architectonically valuable urban environment. But not all of the residents and also tourists visiting Kuldīga know that the period of history that shaped Kuldīga most was the period of the Duchy of Courland and Semigallia. The Management Plan includes activities related to identification of the missing researches and study fields regarding testimonies of the Duchy of Courland and Semigallia in Kuldīga Municipality, Latvia and the world as well as development of new studies and publications regarding the values of the heritage site. It is also planned to organise conferences and workshops in relation to the new studies and researches. The findings of the present and future studies are intended to be presented to the local residents, businesses and visitors. It is intended to digitalise all information and results of the studies and publish it on the Internet. The municipality also plans to improve the monitoring and coordination of the heritage site and its values.

Strategic objective for marketing & tourism

A diverse, interactive and exciting set of marketing and promotional materials and activities presents Kuldīga as a lively town in Courland to experience contemporary culture in a model approach towards a sustainable lifestyle and tourism.

A great amount of both national and international visitors come to see the values of Kuldīga each year. It is expected that if Kuldīga is granted the World Heritage status the number of visitors will grow. Both new and returning visitors will be provided with new tourism activities, programs and events. Improvements to the tourism infrastructure as well as qualification, knowledge and skills of employees and owners of tourism business will be needed. It is planned to develop modern technology-based interactive games to introduce the identified attributes related to the Outstanding Universal Value of the nominated property to visitors and residents. A virtual exhibition with comprehensive information of the Duchy of Courland and Semigallia and its special values in Kuldīga is planned to be elaborated.

Strategic objective for conservation & maintenance

The conservation and maintenance policy for Kuldīga old town and its natural environment supports the authenticity, safeguarding, research and use of craft skills, historic buildings and landscape through accessible capacity-building opportunities, specialist advice, transparent regulations and added resources.

It is very important to continue consequent and systematic activities in order to ensure preservation of the values identified in Kuldīga and diminish the potential risks that might harm them. Therefore the municipality intends to implement a number of activities to ensure a thought-out, coherent preservation of the cultural environment and natural heritage of the old town for future generations. It is also very important to improve the capacity and skills of local present and future restoration specialists and craftspeople. A new more efficient management system of the nominated property is to be established, and the capacity of the personnel involved in the protection and management will be improved.

The municipality will annually examine the technical condition of the historic buildings

and implement preventive measures in cooperation with property owners to save the buildings and improve their technical condition. Great attention, as before, will be paid to encouraging renovation of degraded territories and sites in cooperation with property owners. It is also planned to implement educational and experience exchange activities for present and potential restoration specialists and craftspeople.

To diminish environmental risks, the municipality intends to search for better solutions for sustainable wastewater and rainwater management. Restriction of invasive species, both plants like hogweed and invasive animals like Spanish molluscs that might cause damage to the natural values of Kuldīga, will be carefully and regularly provided. The activities of the Management Plan also include provision of regular cleaning of the riverbeds.

In order to diminish the threats created by the road traffic, the municipal institutions plan to evaluate and discuss other potential pedestrian streets and areas to complement those that already exist in Kuldīga.

A very important activity that aims at restricting construction of supermarkets and imposing additional requirements for design and construction of residential, public and industrial construction as well as update and revision of the regulations for production of renewable energy and installation of plants is development of a new Spatial Plan of Kuldīga Municipality.

Strategic objective for use & investments

Special incentives and funding schemes support residents and attract small businesses and events to the old town, encourage investments and establish full occupancy, all year round, of Kuldīga's historic centre.

In order to encourage investments and provide that the historic centre of Kuldīga is occupied by residents and businesses, the municipality aims to continue supporting the existing co-financing programs as well as support new initiatives that aim at conservation of the valuable buildings. On the other hand, the municipality will continue implementing its mid-term investment program to improve the public infrastructure of Kuldīga old town – streets, parks, children's playgrounds and other objects. The municipal specialists also intend to make new car parks for the visitors outside the nominated property which is very important due to the fact that public events organised in Kuldīga are very popular in Latvia and tend to attract thousands of visitors.

Furthermore, Kuldīga Restoration Centre intends to continue attracting funding from available national and international funds for restoration of the valuable buildings and their parts. Solutions will be sought in relation to fire safety and other issues topical for preservation of the valuable ancient houses.

Strategic objective for harmony and spirit

Everyone is able to feel and experience the harmony of culture and nature, the romantic atmosphere, spirit and soul of Kuldīga, which connects to the past and is safeguarded for future generations.

Kuldīga is a place that attracts its residents and visitors with the special romantic, peaceful and harmonious atmosphere and spirit. The activities included in the Management Plan intend to enhance the satisfaction of the residents and visitors.

7. OBJECTIVES, SUB TARGETS, ACTIONS AND ACHIEVABLE RESULTS

Strategic objective	Objective	Sub target	Action/activity	Responsible performers and cooperation partners	
INVOLVEMENT	Residents of all ages are actively involved in the interpretation and management processes for Kuldīga. They suggest new cultural activities, as well as initiate and share the organization of events and educational programmes.	A public dialogue on cultural and natural values and their protection with different target groups is promoted	Organising a series of public discussions on the issues of the heritage and Kuldīga as the best representation of the Duchy of Courland and Semigallia to different target groups of residents	PR and Marketing Department, old town expert	
			Dialogue of the municipality with architects and construction experts practising in the old town of Kuldīga	PR and Marketing Department, old town expert	
			Promotion of cooperation with businesses on the possible initiatives and involvement of businesses in organising events, providing support mechanism to stimulate businesses to participate in the activities of the local community	PR and Marketing Department, old town expert	
			Meetings with a targeted group of residents of the old town buildings that are among the identified attributes, identification of the topical themes and challenges Establishment of Kuldīga old town residents’ society, including NGOs, is supported and encouraged	PR and Marketing Department, old town expert	
			Support to NGO initiatives for promotion of the heritage	PR and Marketing Department, old town expert, Kuldīga Restoration Centre	
		Involvement of the youngest members of the society in awareness of the values of Kuldīga and the Duchy of Courland and Semigallia	Provision of inclusive educational events for children and youth on topics related to heritage protection and the values of the Duchy of Courland and Semigallia in Kuldīga	Old town expert	
COMMUNICATION	Kuldīga’s communication strategy involves continuous exchange and dialogue with stakeholders and partners at all levels and fosters an understanding of the history and relevance of the Duchy of Courland, including through further research, for residents	The cultural-historical, intangible and natural heritage of Kuldīga as the best representation of the Duchy of Courland and Semigallia is documented and scientifically substantiated, presented to the residents and visitors of Kuldīga	Identification of the missing researches and study fields regarding testimonies of the Duchy of Courland and Semigallia in Kuldīga Municipality, Latvia and the world.	Old town expert, Kuldīga Development Agency in cooperation with municipal companies, Kuldīga District Museum, Kuldīga Main library, by outsourcing services	
			Development of new studies and publications regarding the values of the heritage site. Presenting the results to the local public and visitors.	Old town expert, Building Authority by involving expert services	
			Organisation of conferences and workshops for in-depth and comprehensive identification of the values of the heritage site. Presenting the results to the local public and visitors	Building Authority, the old town expert, Kuldīga District Museum, Kuldīga Restoration centre	
			Collection and digitalization of all information regarding preservation of heritage, publishing it on the website of the municipality (in Latvian) and the special website dedicated to the nominated property (in Latvian and English)	Building Authority, the old town expert, Kuldīga Restoration centre	
		The monitoring and coordination of the heritage site and its values is improved	Development and implementation of a plan for the interpretation of the values of the heritage site	Old town expert, Building Authority in cooperation with Kuldīga Development Agency by involving expert services	
MARKETING & TOURISM	A diverse, interactive and exciting set of marketing and promotional materials and activities presents Kuldīga as a lively town in Courland to experience contemporary culture in a model approach towards sustainable lifestyle and tourism	The heritage site is promoted and managed	Development of modern technology-based interactive games to help tourists get to know the old town of Kuldīga and the identified attributes related to the Outstanding Universal Value of the property	Kuldīga Municipality Tourism Development Centre, Marketing and PR Department, Kuldīga Culture Centre, Kuldīga District Museum, Kuldīga Restoration Centre	
			Elaboration of a virtual exhibition with comprehensive information of the Duchy of Courland and Semigallia and its special values of in Kuldīga	PR and Marketing Department, old town expert, Kuldīga District Museum	
			Promotion of Kuldīga as a world heritage site and as a recognised trade mark	Kuldīga Municipality Tourism Development Centre, Marketing and PR Department	

	Completion term	Funding	Indicator / Achievable result	Strategic objective
	On regular basis according to a discussion plan	Budget of the municipality	<p>The local population is knowledgeable and aware of Kuldīga old town as a valuable cultural and historical heritage site and the best representation of the Duchy of Courland and Semigallia</p> <p>Number of discussions organised. Number of residents involved</p> <p>Results measured with the help of surveys after each of the events</p>	INVOLVEMENT
	On regular basis according to the working plan of the Building Authority	Budget of the municipality	<p>A consultative board of Kuldīga architects established. Meetings on a regular basis, at least four times a year</p> <p>Problem situations evaluated and the correct solution found</p>	
	On regular basis	Budget of the municipality	<p>Initiatives of the businesses to participate in the activities of the local community and organise events to promote the values of Kuldīga is supported</p> <p>Increased awareness of the role of businesses in the general positive atmosphere of the town</p>	
	2021.-2022.	Budget of the municipality	<p>Number of discussions organised</p> <p>Number of residents involved</p> <p>Society (or societies) of the residents of the old town neighbourhood established to facilitate involvement of the residents in the activities of the local community</p>	
	2021.-2023.	Budget of the municipality, funds attracted by writing project applications for project competitions, budget of the national government	Number of implemented heritage promotion events in cooperation with NGOs	
	Annually, according to the working plan of the Building Authority	Budget of the municipality, funds attracted by writing project applications for project competitions	<p>Number of children and youths, number of schools/ grades involved</p> <p>Improved knowledge regarding topics related to heritage protection and the values of the Duchy of Courland and Semigallia in Kuldīga – according to the results of the annual survey after the event</p>	COMMUNICATION
	2021.-2023.	Budget of the municipality	A detailed plan of the necessary primary researches and studies elaborated	
	2021.-2026.	Budget of the municipality, funds attracted by writing project applications for project competitions	<p>Number of elaborated studies and publications</p> <p>Provision of the information on municipal communication channels</p>	
	2023.	Budget of the municipality, funds attracted by writing project applications for project competitions	<p>Number of conferences and workshops organised</p> <p>Number of participants involved</p> <p>Results of the conference – material to present to the local public and visitors</p>	
	Annually, according to the working plan of the Building Authority	Budget of the municipality	<p>Precise and updated information on the website of the municipality (in Latvian) and the special website dedicated to the nominated property (in Latvian and English) regarding the heritage values in Kuldīga</p> <p>Number of publications, themes covered</p>	
	2021.-2023.	Budget of the municipality, funds attracted by writing project applications for project competitions	Elaborated plan for the interpretation of the values of the heritage site	MARKETING & TOURISM
	2021.-2023.	Budget of the municipality, funds attracted by writing project applications for project competitions	<p>Number of interactive games elaborated and presented to public</p> <p>A data base of such games elaborated</p>	
	2023.	Budget of the municipality, funds attracted by writing project applications for project competitions	Virtual exhibition elaborated and published, available to both residents and visitors of Kuldīga	
	2022.-2024.	Budget of the municipality, funds attracted by writing project applications for project competitions	<p>Achieved awareness of Kuldīga as a world heritage site and as a recognised trade mark according to public surveys</p> <p>Increased number of visitors</p>	

Strategic objective	Objective	Sub target	Action/activity	Responsible performers and cooperation partners	
MARKETING & TOURISM	A diverse, interactive and exciting set of marketing and promotional materials and activities presents Kuldīga as a lively town in Courland to experience contemporary culture in a model approach towards sustainable lifestyle and tourism	New visitors are attracted by creating new tourism activities, programs, events	Implementation of informative and promoting (awareness-raising) activities	Old town expert, Marketing and PR Department	
			Development and implementation of new tourism programs to explore and promote the Duchy of Courland and Semigallia	Kuldīga Municipality Tourism Development Centre, Marketing and PR Department	
			Organising attractive events to explore and promote the Duchy of Courland and Semigallia	Kuldīga Municipality Tourism Development Centre, Kuldīga Culture Centre	
			Development of a tourism offer of modern art, sports and future science adventures to target families with children	Kuldīga Municipality Tourism Development Centre, Kuldīga District Museum, Kuldīga Culture Centre	
		Development of tourism and tourism infrastructure is promoted.	Continuing the upgrade of technical infrastructure and therefore promoting the development of accommodation and other tourism services	Kuldīga Municipality Tourism Development Centre, tourism businesses	
		Qualification and knowledge of employees and owners of tourism business is improved.	Highlighting motivated cultural tourists as a priority group, for whom a respectful attitude towards heritage values, the local community and a characteristic desire to explore are important motivations for the trip.	Kuldīga Municipality Tourism Development Centre	
			Promoting improvement of camping sites by attracting entrepreneurs, designating a specific intended place among the discussed alternatives, reducing the number of spontaneously created places	Kuldīga Municipality Tourism Development Centre	
			Finding an integrated solution for the creation of car parking spaces at the town’s eastern gate, giving the car park an internationally recognised name	Building Authority,Kuldīga Municipality Tourism Development Centre	
			Improvement of town’s sign system to the main parking. Creation of an accurate visual communications material with the main car parking spaces and alternative directions	Building Authority,Kuldīga Municipality Tourism Development Centre	
			Auditing and communicating the necessary changes to key digital map navigation systems (Google Maps, Waze, TomTom, Baltic maps etc.)	Kuldīga Municipality Tourism Development Centre, PR DepartmentBuilding Authority	
			Creation of an efficient system for regulation the public traffic during the Town Festival and other major public events	Kuldīga Municipality Tourism Development Centre, Kuldīga Culture Centre, Building Authority	
			Monitoring changes in the traffic flow	Kuldīga Municipality Tourism Development Centre, Building Authority	
			Finding a solution to reduce the flow of traffic in the old town, evaluating driving habits of the local populations, delivery of goods, in the consultation process with local entrepreneurs and inhabitants	Building Authority, Kuldīga Municipality Tourism Development Centre	
			Introduction of an electronic free parking communication system with a car meter and an easy-to-understand display at the intersection of P120 and P121 roads- in the square at the beginning of Stendes Street	Building Authority, Kuldīga Development Agency	
			Promotion of a wider spatial distribution of tourists by diversifying the alternatives of the town experience	Building Authority, Kuldīga Development Agency	
			Improving the infrastructure for access to the Ventas Rumba waterfall on the right bank of the river to reduce anthropogenic load and increase safety of access	Building Authority, Kuldīga Development Agency	

	Completion term	Funding	Indicator / Achievable result	Strategic objective
	Annually, according to the working plan of the Marketing and PR Department	Budget of the municipality	Achieved awareness of Kuldīga as the best representation of the Duchy of Courland and Semigallia	MARKETING & TOURISM
2021.-2025.	Budget of the municipality, funds attracted by writing project applications for project competitions	Elaborated attractive new tourism programs for promoting the Duchy of Courland and Semigallia Increased number of visitors		
2022.-2024.	Budget of the municipality, funds attracted by writing project applications for project competitions	Organised interesting events for the residents and visitors for promoting the Duchy of Courland and Semigallia Increased number of visitors		
2021.-2023.	Budget of the municipality, funds attracted by writing project applications for project competitions	Elaborated new tourism offers for families with children Increased number of visitors		
2021.-2022.	Funds of businesses, informative support from the municipality	Improved quality of the technical infrastructure regarding accommodation and other tourism services		
2022.-2023.	Budget of the municipality	Clearly set priority groups of tourists		
2022.-2025.	Budget of the municipality, funds of the businesses	Improved tourism infrastructure, especially regarding camper vans		
2022.-2025.	Budget of the municipality, funds attracted by writing project applications for project competitions	Number of provided additional car parks. Improved quality of the tourism infrastructure. Improved satisfaction of both tourists and local residents		
2022.-2025.	Budget of the municipality, funds attracted by writing project applications for project competitions	Improved quality of the tourism infrastructure. Improved satisfaction of both tourists and local residents		
Regularly	Budget of the municipality	Improved satisfaction of tourists		
2022.-2024.	Budget of the municipality	Improved satisfaction of tourists		
Regularly	Budget of the municipality	Improvement of the traffic flow in Kuldīga		
2022.-2024.	Budget of the municipality	Improvement of the traffic flow in the old town of Kuldīga		
2024.-2028.	Budget of the municipality, funds attracted by writing project applications for project competitions	Improved quality of the tourism infrastructure. Improved satisfaction of both tourists and local residents		
2022.-2028.	Budget of the municipality, funds attracted by writing project applications for project competitions	Improved quality of the tourism infrastructure. Improved satisfaction of tourists		
2023.-2024.	Budget of the municipality, funds attracted by writing project applications for project competitions	Improved quality of the tourism infrastructure. Improved satisfaction of tourists		

Strategic objective	Objective	Sub target	Action/activity	Building Authority, Kuldīga Development Agency	
MARKETING & TOURISM			Further development of accessibility of the environment as a whole, using a universal design approach that does not create barriers for visitors, raises the quality of the overall experience	Building Authority, Kuldīga Development Agency	
			Maintaining a regular dialogue with the local community, especially the residents of Kuldīga old town, representatives of NGOs, gaining feedback on the impact of tourism, on solutions to problem situations	Building Authority, Kuldīga Restoration Centre, PR Department	
			Promotion of education of the owners of tourism companies and their employees about heritage issues	Kuldīga Municipality Tourism Development Centre, old town expert	
CONSERVATION & MAINTENANCE	The conservation and maintenance policy for Kuldīga old town and its natural environment supports the authenticity, safeguarding, research and use, of craft skills, historic buildings and landscape through accessible capacity-building opportunities, specialist advice, transparent regulations and added resources	A thought-out, coherent preservation of the cultural environment and natural heritage of the old town for future generations is ensured	Establishment of a management system for the nominated property which integrates the existing databases and increases the capacity of personnel involved in the protection and management of the property	Building Authority, Kuldīga Development Agency, by involving expert services	
			Provision of sustainable wastewater management solutions, ensuring the establishment of a system for collecting and discharging rainwater, as well as the renewal of the drainage system	SIA "Kuldīgas ūdens", Building Authority, SIA "Kuldīgas komunālie pakalpojumi"	
			Improvement of the effectiveness of the sewerage system in the old town	SIA "Kuldīgas ūdens", Building Authority	
			Careful examination of the technical condition of the historic buildings, preventive measures implemented in cooperation with property owners to save the buildings and improve their technical condition	Building Authority	
			Encouraging renovation of degraded territories and sites in cooperation with property owners	Building Authority	
			Provision of restriction of invasive species (both plants like hogweed and invasive animals like Spanish molluscs) on the banks of Venta River and in other green spaces in Kuldīga	Environment expert of the Building Authority	
			Regular cleaning of the riverbeds	Environment expert of the Building Authority, SIA "Kuldīgas komunālie pakalpojumi"	
			Evaluation and identification of potential additional pedestrian streets and streets with pedestrian priority	Building Authority, Kuldīga Development Agency	
			Carrying out Heritage Impact Assessment in case the municipality has attracted funds for the initiative of constructing a new watch tower in the buffer zone of the nominated property to be implemented	Building Authority	
			Monitoring changes in the market for tourist accommodation in the commercial sector in order to avoid dominance of guest residences in the old town area and moving out of the residents of the old town. In case of a negative tendency, introducing changes in the municipal policy to apply Real Estate Tax discounts	Kuldīga Municipality Tourism Development Centre, Building Authority	
			Promotion of attraction of the population to the old town by highlighting the advantages of long-term housing in the old town	PR Department	
			Introduction of a licencing system of tourist accommodations offered on public commercial platforms (AirBnB, Booking etc) in case of a negative tendency of misbalance of use of the old town buildings by local residents and tourists	Kuldīga Municipality Tourism Development Centre	
			Introduction of restrictions on maximum number of days per year to be leased in the old town or town guest apartments to 90 days per year in case of a negative tendency of misbalance of use of the old town buildings by local residents and tourists	Kuldīga Municipality Tourism Development Centre	
			Development of a new Kuldīga Municipality Spatial Plan by restricting construction of supermarkets and imposing additional requirements for design and construction of residential, public and industrial construction as well as update and revision of the regulations for production of renewable energy and installation of plants	Kuldīga Development Agency	
		Capacity and skills of local present and future restoration specialists and craftspeople is improved	Implementations of the educational and experience exchange activities for present and potential restoration specialists and craftspeople	Kuldīga Restoration Centre	
			Cooperation with residents and house owners regarding preventive measures to protect foundations and facades of the buildings during excessive humidity periods in winter	Kuldīga Restoration Centre	

	Completion term	Funding	Indicator / Achievable result	Strategic objective
	2023.-2026.	Budget of the municipality, funds attracted by writing project applications for project competitions	Improved satisfaction of both tourists and local residents	MARKETING & TOURISM
	Annually	Budget of the municipality	Improved satisfaction of the local residents and NGO activists	
	Annually, according to the working plan of Kuldīga Municipality Tourism Development Centre	Budget of the municipality	Number of educated owners of tourism companies and their employees Increased level of knowledge of the specialists involved in tourism business regarding heritage issues	
	2021.-2020.	Budget of the municipality, funds attracted by writing project applications for project competitions	Established thought-out management system for the nominated property	CONSERVATION & MAINTENANCE
	2021.-2025.	Budget of the municipality, funds attracted by writing project applications for project competitions	Elaborated an in-depth study regarding the present situation, implemented consultations regarding the best solutions to the problem Elaborated plan of sustainable rainwater management in the old town	
	2021.-2025.	Budget of the municipality, funds attracted by writing project applications for project competitions	Elaborated an in-depth study regarding the present situation, implemented consultations regarding the best solutions to the problem Elaborated plan of sustainable wastewater management in the old town	
	Annually, according to the work plan of the Building Authority	Budget of the municipality	Number of buildings with improved technical and visual condition	
	Annually, according to the work plan of the Building Authority	Annually, according to the work plan of the Building Authority	Number of degraded territories and sites with improved technical and visual condition	
	Annually, according to the work plan of the Building Authority	Budget of the municipality, funds attracted by writing project applications for project competitions	Restricted invasion of the hogweed and other invasive plants (if occurring) on the banks of Venta River and in other green spaces in Kuldīga Restricted invasion of the Spanish molluscs in Kuldīga	
	Annually, according to the work plan of the Building Authority	Budget of the municipality, funds attracted by writing project applications for project competitions	Cleaned-up river beds of Venta River and Alekšupīte Rivers	
	2021.-2024.	Budget of the municipality, funds attracted by writing project applications for project competitions	Elaborated proposal for additional pedestrian streets and streets with pedestrian priority	
	In case the municipality has attracted funds for implementation of the project	Budget of the municipality	Heritage Impact Assessment done in order to prevent harm to the landscape of the nominated property	
	Annually	Budget of the municipality	Preservation of the balance of use of the old town buildings by local residents and tourists	
	Annually	Budget of the municipality	Preservation of the balance of use of the old town buildings by local residents and tourists	
	In case of a negative tendency of misbalance of use of the old town buildings by local residents and tourists	Budget of the municipality	Preservation of the balance of use of the old town buildings by local residents and tourists	
	In case of a negative tendency of misbalance of use of the old town buildings by local residents and tourists	Budget of the municipality	Preservation of the balance of use of the old town buildings by local residents and tourists	
	2021.-2025.	Budget of the municipality	Elaborated new Kuldīga Municipality Spatial Plan with corresponding regulations included in it Provided descendent preservation of the heritage site and its values to future generations	
	2021.-2025.	Budget of the municipality, funds attracted by writing project applications for project competitions, budget of the national government	Implemented educational programs for professional craftspeople once in five years. Implemented annual maintenance program of the valuable doors and other wooden elements of the old town buildings Implemented international experience exchange visits and workshops once in three years.	
	2021.-2025.	Budget of the municipality, funds attracted by writing project applications for project competitions, budget of the national government	Improved condition of the foundations and facades of the buildings	

Strategic objective	Objective	Sub target	Action/activity	Responsible performers and cooperation partners	
USE & INVESTMENTS	Special incentives and funding schemes support residents and attract small businesses and events to the old town and encourage investments and establish full occupancy, all year round, of Kuldīga's historic centre	Supported initiatives and programs for restoration of buildings	Provision of financial aid to restoration (preservation) of the valuable buildings in the nominated property	Kuldīga Development Agency in cooperation with the Building Authority and other municipal institutions	
		Businesses and initiatives of the local population on heritage conservation are supported	Provision of support to owners and investors of buildings within the nominated property, including on issues such as fire safety, improving the safety of the attributes carrying the Outstanding Universal Value	Building Authority, Kuldīga Restoration Centre	
			Implementation of municipal for business support by encouraging the viability of the nominated property	Kuldīga Development Agency, Building Authority	
		Investment projects to improve Kuldīga old town and natural areas are introduced	Implementation of investment projects for arrangement (renovation) of the public outer space, i.e. streets, bridges, parks, children's playgrounds	Kuldīga Development Agency in cooperation with the Building Authority and other municipal institutions	
			Attracting funding from available national and international funds for restoration of the valuable buildings and their parts	Kuldīga Restoration	
			Provision of additional car parks for the visitors outside the nominated property to be used during public events	Kuldīga Development Agency in cooperation with the Building Authority and other municipal institutions	
HARMONY AND SPIRIT	Everyone is able to feel and experience the harmony of culture and nature, the romantic atmosphere, spirit and soul of Kuldīga, which connects to the past and is safeguarded for future generations	Satisfaction of residents and visitors is enhanced	Implementation of surveys of residents and visitors regarding the image and spirit of Kuldīga	Marketing and PR Department, Kuldīga Municipality Tourism Development Centre	

8. QUALITY ASSESSMENT

The activities included in Section 7 of the Management Plan that Kuldīga Municipality intends to implement in order to successfully manage the nominated property will be monitored annually by the specialists of Kuldīga Municipality Building Authority and Kuldīga Development agency according to the completion terms and indicators / achievable results indicated in the plan in the context of municipal budget planning. An annual report to the Cooperation Council for conservation and development of *Kuldīga / Goldingen in Courland* on the implementation of the plan will be prepared.

In case the specialists indicate necessary new activities which need to be included in the plan in order to achieve the desired results, the plan will be updated.

	Completion term	Funding	Indicator / Achievable result	Strategic objective
	2021.- 2023.	Budget of the municipality	Number of implemented restoration projects with municipal co-financing.	USE & INVESTMENTS
	2021.- 2023.	Budget of the municipality	Elaborated plan to improve the fire safety of buildings within Kuldīga old town. Decrease of number of fires within the territory of the nominated property	
	2021.- 2023.	Budget of the municipality, funds attracted by writing project applications for project competitions, budget of the national government	Real estate tax discounts received by owners of the old town buildings and owners of tourism businesses according to the municipal regulations Increase of the number of small businesses located within the nominated property	
	2021.- 2025., according to the investment plan of the municipality	Budget of the municipality, attracted funding from European funds and state budget, if available	Number of implemented projects providing improvement of the public outer space in Kuldīga	
	2021.- 2025.	Budget of the municipality, funds attracted by writing project applications for project competitions, budget of the national government	Number of implemented restoration projects	
	2021.- 2025., according to the investment plan of the municipality	Budget of the municipality, attracted funding from European funds and state budget, if available	Number of provided additional car parks	
	2023.- 2025.	Budget of the municipality, funds attracted by writing project applications for project competitions	Implemented survey of the views and satisfaction of residents and visitors	HARMONY AND SPIRIT

ANNEX 1. LIST OF STATE PROTECTED CULTURAL MONUMENTS
OF NATIONAL AND LOCAL IMPORTANCE

ID of the Monument	Name of the Monument	Address	Location in the Property/ Buffer zone	Level of Protection	Type of the Monument	Dating
Monuments of Archaeology						
1231	Old town of Kuldīga	Kuldīga centre	Property	National importance	Archaeology	-
1233	Kuldīga medieval castle	1 Pils Street	Property	National importance	Archaeology	-
Monuments of Urban Construction						
7435	The historic centre of the town of Kuldīga	The oldest part of Kuldīga on the left bank of the Venta River	Property	National importance	Urban construction	13th-19th Century
9320	The Outskirts of the Historical Centre of Kuldīga with Venta Valley”	Kuldīga Municipality, Kuldīga; The territory adjacent to the historical centre of Kuldīga	Buffer zone	Local importance	Architecture (urban construction)	17th century–1930s
Monuments of History						
38	Baltic Teachers’ College	31 Liepājas Street	Buffer zone	National importance	History	1886-1915
9154	Needle factory	1; 2; 4 Kalpaka Street; 37; 39 Liepājas Street	Buffer zone	National importance	Place of a historic event	Middle of the 19th Century – 1991.
Monuments of Art						
3615	Altar	33 Baznīcas Street; St. Catherine’s Lutheran Church	Property	National importance	Art	1660-1663
3616	Moulding on the facade “Coat of Arms of Kuldīga”	33 Baznīcas Street; St. Catherine’s Lutheran Church	Property	National importance	Art	1791
3617	Organ loft pad paintings (10)	33 Baznīcas Street; St. Catherine’s Lutheran Church	Property	National importance	Art	Second half of the 17th century
3618	Prospect of the organ	33 Baznīcas Street; St. Catherine’s Lutheran Church	Property	National importance	Art	1691-1692
3619	Organ	33 Baznīcas Street; St. Catherine’s Lutheran Church	Property	National importance	Art	1882
3621	Decorative interior furnishing	33 Baznīcas Street; St. Catherine’s Lutheran Church	Property	National importance	Art	17th Century. Beginning of the 20th Century
3622	Pulpit	33 Baznīcas Street; St. Catherine’s Lutheran Church	Property	National importance	Art	1659-1663 Beginning of the 18th Century
3623	Organ	12 Dzirnavu Street; St. Anne’s Lutheran Church	Buffer zone	National importance	Art	1927
3625	Stained-glass (3)	12 Dzirnavu Street; St. Anne’s Lutheran Church	Buffer zone	National importance	Art	1939
3626	Door set	2 Jelgavas Street	Property	National importance	Art	Beginning of the 19th Century
3627	Door set	16 Jelgavas Street	Property	National importance	Art	Second quarter of the 19th Century
3628	Door set	24 Jelgavas Street	Property	National importance	Art	Second quarter of the 19th Century

ID of the Monument	Name of the Monument	Address	Location in the Property/ Buffer zone	Level of Protection	Type of the Monument	Dating
3629	Door set	27 Jelgavas Street	Buffer zone	National importance	Art	First quarter of the 19th Century
3630	Door set	29 Jelgavas Street	Buffer zone	National importance	Art	First quarter of the 19th Century
3631	Door set	32 Jelgavas Street	Buffer zone	National importance	Art	Second quarter of the 19th Century
3632	Door set	13 Kalna Street	Property	National importance	Art	Second quarter of the 19th Century
3633	Door set	14 Kalna Street	Property	National importance	Art	Beginning of the 19th Century second quarter of the 19th Century
3634	Door set	15 Kalna Street	Property	National importance	Art	End of the 18th Century First half of the 19th Century
3635	Molding	1 Liepājas Street	Property	National importance	Art	1632
3636	Door set	17 Liepājas Street	Property	National importance	Art	First quarter of the 19th Century
3638	Gates of the Tsar	31 Liepājas Street; Kuldīga Orthodox Church	Buffer zone	National importance	Art	1871
3641	Icon "Our Lady"	31 Liepājas Street; Kuldīga Orthodox Church	Buffer zone	National importance	Art	1871
3649	Murals of the Dome	31 Liepājas Street; Kuldīga Orthodox church	Buffer zone	National importance	Art	1871
3650	Mantelpiece	5 Pils Street	Property	National importance	Art	End of the 19th Century
3651	Altar	6 Raiņa Street; Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church	Property	National importance	Art	18th Century 1818-1820
3654	Organ	6 Raiņa Street; Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church	Property	National importance	Art	1760s; 1897
3657	Pulpit	6 Raiņa Street; Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church	Property	National importance	Art	End of the 17th Century Beginning of the 18th Century Second half of the 18th Century
3665	Side altars (2)	6 Raiņa Street; Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church	Property	National importance	Art	1777
8955	Door set	4 Alunāna Street	Property	Local importance	Art	Middle of the 19th Century
8956	Door set	14 Year of 1905 Street	Property	Local importance	Art	Third quarter of the 19th Century
8957	Door set	20 Baznīcas Street	Property	Local importance	Art	Second quarter of the 19th Century
9009	Altar courtyard	6 Raiņa Street	Property	Local importance	Art	Second half of the 18th Century
9029	Door set	20 Liepājas Street	Buffer zone	Local importance	Art	Second quarter of the 19th Century
9030	Door set	1 Upes Street	Property	Local importance	Art	Second quarter of the 19th Century

ID of the Monument	Name of the Monument	Address	Location in the Property/ Buffer zone	Level of Protection	Type of the Monument	Dating
9031	Door set	6 Dzirnau Street	Property	Local importance	Art	Third quarter of the 19th Century
9032	Door set	1 Virkas Street	Property	Local importance	Art	First half of the 19th Century
9033	Door set	23 Smilšu Street	Buffer zone	Local importance	Art	Middle of the 19th Century
9034	Door set	12 Ventspils Street	Property	Local importance	Art	19th Century
9035	Door set	7 Raiņa Street	Property	Local importance	Art	Third quarter of the 19th Century
9036	Door set	16 Liepājas Street	Property	Local importance	Art	Middle of the 19th Century
9037	Door set	36 Liepājas Street	Buffer zone	Local importance	Art	Middle of the 19th Century
9038	Door set	38 Liepājas Street	Buffer zone	Local importance	Art	Third quarter of the 19th Century
9039	Door set	1 Mucenieku Street	Property	Local importance	Art	Middle of the 19th Century
9040	Door set	3 Strautu Street	Property	Local importance	Art	1870s
9044	Door set	33 Jelgavas Street	Buffer zone	Local importance	Art	First half of the 19th Century
9045	Door set	35 Liepājas Street	Buffer zone	Local importance	Art	Second half of the 19th Century
9046	Door set	13 Rumbas Street	Buffer zone	Local importance	Art	Second quarter of the 19th Century
9047	Door set	37 Ventspils Street	Property	Local importance	Art	Middle of the 19th Century
9048	Door set	31 Ventspils Street	Property	Local importance	Art	Middle of the 19th Century
9049	Door set	12 Skrundas Street	Property	Local importance	Art	Middle of the 19th Century
9050	Door set	25 Jelgavas Street	Property	Local importance	Art	Middle of the 19th Century
9051	Door set	30 Baznīcas Street	Property	Local importance	Art	Middle of the 19th Century
9052	Door set	2 Jelgavas Street	Property	Local importance	Art	Second quarter of the 19th Century
9053	Door set	14 Skrundas Street	Property	Local importance	Art	Third quarter of the 19th Century
9054	Door set	14 Liepājas Street	Property	Local importance	Art	First half of the 19th Century
9055	Door set	11 Kalna Street	Property	Local importance	Art	Middle of the 19th Century
9056	Door set	23 Ventspils Street	Property	Local importance	Art	First quarter of the 19th Century
9093	Door set	23 Kalna Street	Property	Local importance	Art	Middle of the 19th Century
8946	Door set	2 Year of 1905 Street	Property	Local importance	Art	Middle of the 19th Century
Monuments of Architecture						
9105	Bridges across Alekšupīte River (6)	Historic centre of Kuldīga	Property	National importance	Architecture	17th Century, end of the 19th Century, 20th Century

ID of the Monument	Name of the Monument	Address	Location in the Property/ Buffer zone	Level of Protection	Type of the Monument	Dating
9163	The Supreme Court House	34 Baznīcas Street	Property	National importance	Architecture	End of the 18th Century, second quarter of the 19th Century
9265	Dwelling house	17 Baznīcas Street	Property	National importance	Architecture	Second half of the 18th Century
6346	Complex of two dwelling houses	13 Kalna Street; 15 Kalna Street	Property	National importance	Architecture	Middle of the 18th Century
6347	Bridge across Venta River	Kalna Street	Property	National importance	Architecture	1874
6348	Dwelling house	12 Year of 1905 Street	Property	National importance	Architecture	1850-1870
6349	Dwelling house	7 Baznīcas Street	Property	National importance	Architecture	1630
6350	Duke's pharmacy, nowadays dwelling house	10 Baznīcas Street	Property	National importance	Architecture	16th – 17th Century
6351	St. Catherine's lutheran church	33 Baznīcas Street	Property	National importance	Architecture	1645, 1748, 1808, 1866, 1905, 1968
6352	Castle Mills with equipment	36 Baznīcas Street	Property	National importance	Architecture	13th Century, 1807, 1930s
6353	Dwelling house	1 Jelgavas Street	Property	National importance	Architecture	1800-1820
6354	Dwelling house	14 Kalna Street	Property	National importance	Architecture	1800-1820
6355	Dwelling house	17 Liepājas Street	Property	National importance	Architecture	End of the 18th Century
6356	Peter's bell tower	3 Pētera Street	Property	National importance	Architecture	1783
6357	Kuldīga castle guard house	4 Pils Street	Property	National importance	Architecture	1735
6358	Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church	6 Raiņa Street	Property	National importance	Architecture	1640
8544	Dwelling house	Pils iela 5	Property	National importance	Architecture	Beginning of the 20th Century
8686	Old Town hall	5 Baznīcas Street	Property	National importance	Architecture	17th Century, 18th Century, 1806
8687	Dwelling house	9 Baznīcas Street	Property	Local importance	Architecture	Second half of the 19th Century
8722	Kuldīga St. Anna's lutheran church	12 Dzirnavu Street	Buffer zone	Local importance	Architecture	1899-1904
8724	Dwelling and auxiliary building	3a Liepājas Street	Property	Local importance	Architecture	1828-1839, beginning of the 1870s
8937	Dwelling house	1 Year of 1905 Street	Property	Local importance	Architecture	18th Century, end of the 19th Century, beginning of the 20th Century
8950	German Grammar School, now – educational establishment	19 Kalna Street	Property	Local importance	Architecture	1869

MANAGEMENT PLAN

KULDĪGA

Goldingen in Courland

Nomination for Inscription on
the UNESCO World Heritage List



ANNEX 2 KULDĪGA OLD TOWN VISITOR FLOW MANAGEMENT PLAN

*Elaborated by NOCTICUS
Approved on January 27, 2022*

Introduction

The Kuldīga Old Town Visitor Flow Management Plan is designed as Annex 2 to the Management Plan of the “Kuldīga / Goldingen in Courland” nomination for inscription in the UNESCO World Heritage List, thematically emphasizing the issues of tourism flow management, preventively planning to reduce the negative impact of tourism and the risks that could be caused by a spontaneous large flow of visitors. The actions and content of the Visitor Flow Management Plan are fully derived from the Kuldīga Municipality Sustainable Tourism Development Strategy for 2028 and are mutually complementary. In its turn, the development goals and directions of the above mentioned strategy are coordinated and follow from the Sustainable Development Strategy of Kuldīga Municipality 2022-2046 (the tourism strategy is its thematic annex).

Taking into account that the strategies for the sustainable development of tourism in Kuldīga Municipality for 2028 include a comprehensive analysis of the situation in the whole area of the municipality, situation in Kuldīga, which applied for inclusion in the UNESCO World Heritage List, is highlighted in the thematic sections of this document.

In January 2021, Latvia nominated Kuldīga for the UNESCO World Heritage List, submitting the nomination application “Kuldīga / Goldingen in Courland” to the UNESCO World Heritage Center. Extending UNESCO’s international reputation to such outstanding cultural heritage sites is not only a testament to its values and importance to the world community, but also an example of responsible behavior for others in the management of these values. That is why the inclusion of an extended section on visitor flow management, which is missing as a substantive accent in the structure of many traditionally designed tourism strategies, is already a step towards demonstrating such good practice.

When developing the Kuldīga Municipality Sustainable Tourism Development Strategy, recommendations from the UNESCO World Heritage Sustainable Tourism Guidelines¹ have been taken into account, integrating the Kuldīga old town – a potential World Heritage site visitor flow management plan for the current planning period. It includes an in-depth understanding of the problem of visitor flow management, defined monitoring indicators and two-step actions: in the case of controlled flow management or when the monitoring indicators reach a defined threshold, which can be called the limits of acceptable change threshold². Alternative options for action are also provided.

The guidelines of the EUROPARC Charter for Sustainable Tourism³ have also been taken into account in developing these actions, as well as in raising awareness of their negative effects. Especially the part of the territory of Kuldīga that has been nominated for the UNESCO World Heritage List, belongs to the nature reserve “Venta Valley”, which is a Natura 2000 site of international significance – a specially protected nature territory. The monitoring results section uses indicators categorized according to the following objectives: ETIS European Tourism Indicator Systems for the Sustainable Management of

¹ <http://whc.unesco.org/sustainabletourismtoolkit/welcome-unesco-world-heritage-sustainable-tourism-toolkit>

² <https://responsibletourismpartnership.org/limits-of-acceptable-change/>

³ <https://www.europarc.org/library/europarc-events-and-programmes/european-charter-for-sustainable-tourism/>

Tourist Destinations, adapting them to the situation in Kuldīga.⁴ The section of monitoring criteria is included in the concluding chapter of the Kuldīga Municipality Sustainable Tourism Development Strategy for 2028, envisaging 29 different characteristic measurements (organized in 4 thematic sections⁵): which are also referred to in this part. In order to ensure the monitoring process, in 2022 the Kuldīga Regional Tourism Development Center will introduce a tourism and heritage values monitoring system based on *ArcGIS* online developed by the leading researchers of the Institute of Social, Economic and Humanitarian Studies of Vidzeme University. The main advantage of implementing such a system is the possibility to follow the development and impact indicators, to comprehensively understand the interaction of the influencing factors, to substantiate the need for change or specific actions with the data. System will be used not only for monitoring of tourism, but also for monitoring of factors affecting the area of the property nominated for UNESCO heritage recognition.

The strategies for the sustainable development of tourism in Kuldīga Municipality for 2028 include an in-depth analysis of the tourism sector, summarized in ten SWOT strengths and ten weaknesses, in 13 strategic options, but also identifying 12 threats that may have a negative impact (see chapter 1.8. of Kuldīga Municipality Sustainable Tourism Development Strategy for 2028). In-depth study of the situation with all parties involved in tourism: both interested and involved or affected to varying degrees (including a remote survey of 45 entrepreneurs, a workshop with 22 business owners, structured data on all municipal tourist attractions, tourist feedback available in the digital environment (~ 25 000), involving ~ 1000 views of a survey of travelers and more than 2 000 views of the local community from surveys or a study prepared after several focus group interviews). In order to update the reduction of the threat of negative impact of tourism, a workshop was organized in December 2021 – a discussion with 16 active residents of the old town of Kuldīga. To deepen understanding and foster dialogue with the industry, 16 specific risks of allowing non-value-respecting businesses have been identified. Actions are planned for each of these options, but several impulses for the implementation of the strategy can be felt in the work process before its final approval.

The main directions of tourism development are integrated in the action part of the Kuldīga Municipality Development Program for 2022–2028, with expanded tasks and actions – more than a hundred – divided into priority groups developed in the Kuldīga Municipality Tourism Sustainable Development Strategy for 2028. Some highlights of tourism development related to the management of the potential UNESCO heritage site are included in the main section of the document – annex to the Management Plan of the nominated property. The overarching goals and directions (TA) for the development of tourism are eight, which are listed below in order of priority, highlighting the context of the “Kuldīga / Goldingen in Courland” nomination for inscription into the UNESCO World Heritage List.

TA-1. SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF RESOURCES: NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE, LANDSCAPE QUALITY

To preserve, maintain and increase the cultural and natural heritage values characteristic of Kuldīga Municipality area and the town of Kuldīga, to take care of nature protection and landscape quality.

⁴ https://ec.europa.eu/growth/sectors/tourism/offer/sustainable/indicators_en

⁵ (a) destination management (incl. sustainable tourism management practices of companies, visitor satisfaction); (b) economic impact (incl. visitor flow volume, structure, expenses etc., performance of tourism businesses and digital demand and structure); (c) social and cultural impact (incl. proportion of visitors to local residents, commercial apartment proportion versus residential, universal design accessibility of tourist sites and public transport, proportion of tourism public events including local cultural assets / heritage, community attitude towards tourism, condition of culture heritage etc.); (d) environmental impact (incl. mitigation of negative transport impact, mitigation of climate change, management of waste, sewerage management, impact on landscape quality and biodiversity).

TA-2. TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURE AND FACILITIES

To improve the diversity and quality of tourism-supporting and strategically necessary infrastructure, which is used equally by the visitors of the district and the local community, promoting both the coherent management of the flow of visitors and their development in places where the negative impact of anthropogenic pressures can be reduced.

TA-3. ECONOMIC BENEFIT FOR SUSTAINABLE LOCAL COMMUNITIES

To benefit from the development of the tourism sector, to promote well-being of the residents of Kuldīga Municipality and to increase the quality of life. Highlight the role of local communities and residents of Kuldīga old town in shaping the town, respect their living space, responsibly implementing tourism activities, involving them in planning.

TA-4. TOURISM DEMAND

To attract audiences of local and foreign travelers who respect the values of heritage, to encourage responsible local consumption. To promote the attraction of tourists whose travel motivation plays an important role in the presence of educational elements, the mission of sustainable business.

TA-5. CONTENT AND QUALITY OF TOURISM OFFER

To increase the general satisfaction of travelers with their experience in tourist attractions of Kuldīga Municipality: places and events, with deep understanding of history and place context to create content for cultural tourism offer in Kuldīga, reinforcing the message about the town's special significance historically and today in Kurzeme, Latvia and the world.

TA-6. HUMAN RESOURCES, EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

To promote further professional development of the competencies, knowledge and skills of the parties involved in the development of tourism in Kuldīga Municipality in order to strengthen the competitive offer. To develop responsible business initiatives, interest in preserving heritage values. Collaborate with the research and scientific community to create current solutions. Promote international know-how transfer practices.

TA-7. DESTINATION MANAGEMENT, ORGANIZATION AND COORDINATION

Establish an effective destination management structure in interaction with various stakeholders, regions and neighboring districts, local communities, as well as promote cooperation and involvement of entrepreneurs in destination management, purposeful development of private-public partnership. To maintain an active and mutual dialogue, to promote open cooperation.

TA-8. BRAND AND MARKETING

By promoting thematic tourism and leisure opportunities, at the same time strengthen the identity of the communities of Kuldīga Municipality, increase the attractiveness of the municipality's places for living and business. Implement interesting, well-considered and strategically coordinated marketing actions that achieve the most effective return on investment.

The action plan and more detailed tasks related to these goals and development directions are included in the Kuldīga Municipality Sustainable Tourism Development Strategy for 2028.

1. Capacity of Kuldīga old town in the context of tourism flow

The old town of Kuldīga as a nomination of *“Kuldīga / Goldingen in Courland”* for the inscription in the UNESCO World Heritage List is at the same time a full-fledged tourist destination, a tourist destination that interacts with other places, tourists, holidaymakers and same-day travelers. It is characterized by a certain capacity. A tourist destination operates as a system in which the spatial location of the offer interacts with it, its relev-

ance to the needs of the visitors and the physical capacity and size of visitor demand, its concentration in time and space. These elements of the system are connected by mobility solutions of different nature and impact. Thus, the capacity of Kuldīga old town in the context of tourism is determined by several interrelated factors, such as: the number of rooms available to guests, the number of tables available in catering establishments, the physical capacity of tourist sites, the width of the built nature trails, viewing platforms and the number of people that can be accommodated at the same time there, the number of car parks, the flow of traffic, as well as the speed of service for receiving a large number of guests without losing the quality of service, etc. Two elements are considered to be the most important in this context: accessibility, car traffic and parking, as well as tourist accommodation, describing the physical capacity of hospitality services. In the alternative, it is important to disperse visitors to the urban environment without creating a crowded effect, which both places a greater strain on the cultural or natural heritage and reduces the quality of the site experience.

1.1. Traffic intensity and traffic management related to travelers

The location of Kuldīga in the middle of Kurzeme, the greater distance from international roads and railway lines, ports, has created a situation that more than 90 % of the town's visitors – both overnight tourists and one-day visitors – arrive in Kuldīga with personal (or in the case of foreign tourists – often rented) cars. There are other alternatives (public bus, organized tourist bus, bicycle, other means of light mobility), but they are currently not equally widely used.

Along with visitors to the town, cars are much more widely used on a daily basis by locals, which together are characterized by current traffic size (see Figure 1), measured in the main access points of the regional roads outside of the area of the property nominated for UNESCO heritage recognition. The number of car trips varies from ~ 1800 to 5000 per day. Part of the traffic flow is highly seasonal – for example, the use of the road in the direction of the Baltic Sea increases significantly during the summer months.

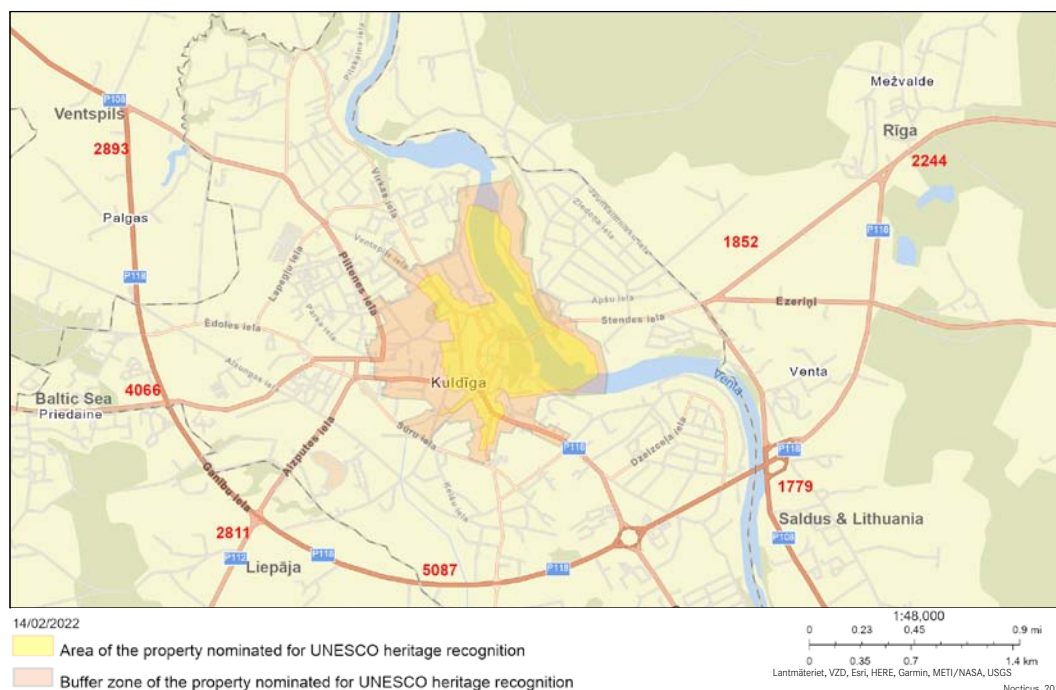


Figure 1. Number of car trips per day on the main traffic roads of Kuldīga.

Source: Latvian State Roads, 2021

For tourists and same-day travelers, the main gateway to the town is from the East – Stendes Street (where two regional roads P119 and P120 meet), where the average number of car trips per day is 1852. It is a direction for travelers from both the national capital and the international airport. There is a connection to the nearby popular tourist destination – the ancient valley of Abava or further to the most popular resort town – Jūrmala. The second most popular direction of access is related to two other road traffic flows – Ventspils, which, attracting a large number of travelers from Lithuania (P108 road), creates an opportunity to visit Kuldīga or the sea direction (P119) in the western direction. Given that Kuldīga has a convenient bypass on this side, access to the old town from the above directions is diverted.

Some of the problems arising from overcrowded and chaotic car traffic in the old town (see the analytical part of the strategy and the views of the local population) can be overcome by a smart parking system that slows down car traffic for travelers before they arrive in the old town. Less so for everyday visitors (shopping, using services, visiting relatives and friends, etc.), but especially in a tourist situation, moving from a car to a walk or using other easy mobility solutions increases the quality of the experience, reduces stress in the narrow streets of the old town, trying to find a suitable parking space, prolongs quality of stay, which is more conducive to the purchase of local services.



Figure 2. Westgate access: Town Square parking lot ~ 6000m², area is suitable for parking ~ 250 cars and includes marked places for tourist buses.

Access to the town from the sea or from Ventspils – the so-called western gate is formed near the Town Square (see Figure 2), which is located on the edge of the old town (in the buffer zone of the nominated property) and forms a convenient connection with the pedestrian zone – Liepājas Street. Although often used by everyday drivers due to the surrounding services or workplaces, the capacity of the square (~ 250 cars) is sufficient to position it as the town’s main access point from the West. The size of the square allows it to be redesigned to accommodate an even more efficient number of cars, but it is crossed by pedestrians on a daily basis, as well as its visual relevance to the urban environment is significant.

The situation is much more complicated with the eastern access, which should be emphasized as the main access to the old town from the point of view of tourism. The existing parking lot at 2a Stendes Street next to the old brick bridge (see Figure 3 – in light green) is six times smaller than the parking lot at the western access gate, although it receives the main load of incoming tourists. The current solution to increase capacity has been to allocate parking lots on the side of Stendes Street. However, the street is too narrow for convenient two-way traffic with parked cars, creating unnecessary stressful situations, risks to safety. In addition, some tourists, realizing that the small parking lot at 2a Stendes Street is full, either go to look for a parking space in the old town or turn back to park their car on the side of Stendes Street (or Krasta Street), causing further traffic chaos.

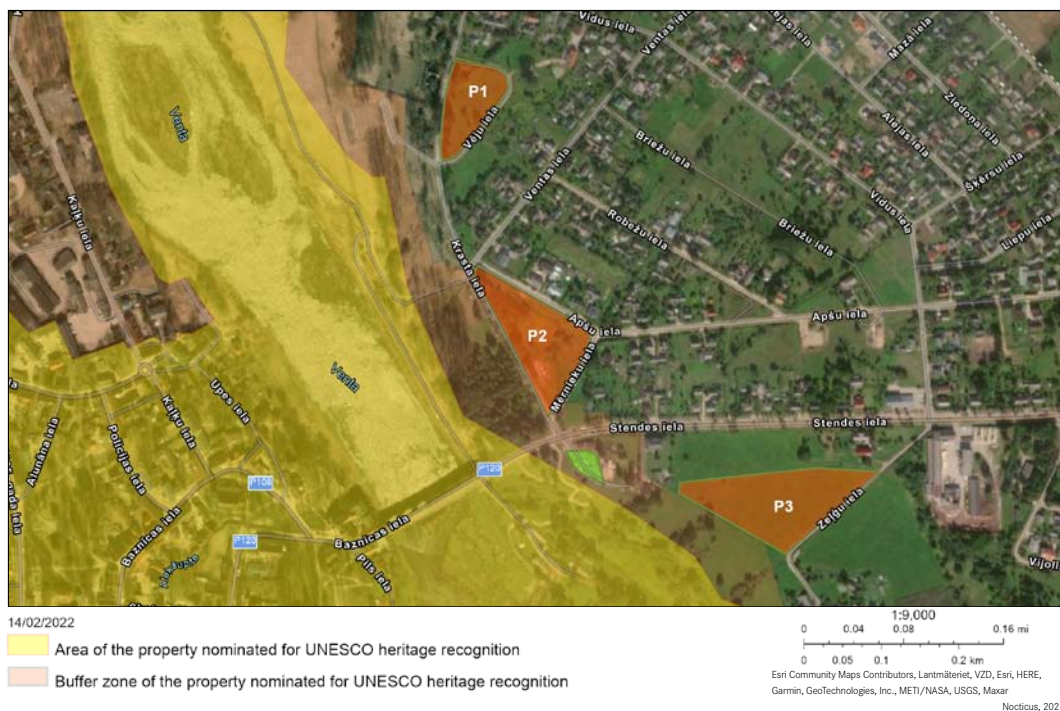


Figure 3. Eastgate access: existing car park at 2a Stendes Street with an area of ~ 1000 m² is suitable for parking ~ 60 cars (in light green) and potential location of the possible town's east gate parking lot in the area of Krasta and Vēju Streets (P1), in the area of Krasta-Mērnīku and Apšu Streets (P2) and in 6a Stendes Street (P3).

Considering that the old town currently has 98 rooms for guests in the commercial tourist accommodation sector and the usual practice of parking as close to the accommodation as possible, a maximum of ~100 cars (but taking into account the average occupancy of the tourist accommodation – half of it) would still try to find parking in the old town, that is to be organized in cooperation with the owners of tourist accommodation, the possibilities of public space. However, the main eastern access gate should be much larger in terms of capacity – optimal for ~ 300 cars. With such capacity, good traffic flow organization and accurate communication about amenities, the flow of visitors to Kuldīga will be “satisfied” > 90 % of the day. Additional solutions can be found during public holidays or on the most popular weekends, when the number of existing travelers is even higher.

With up to ~ 15 m² of space per car, but also recognizing that the new car park must be a harmoniously integrated solution in an urban environment without creating a monolithic paved area, three possible parking spaces should be considered in the required area (see Figure 3, P1, P2 and P3). The area between Krasta, Mērnīku and Apšu Streets (P2), although already discussed in the town's development plans, does not have the most efficient land area configuration for this purpose, and is located in the buffer zone of then nominated property. Therefore, the other two alternatives are better. Krasta and Vēju Street square

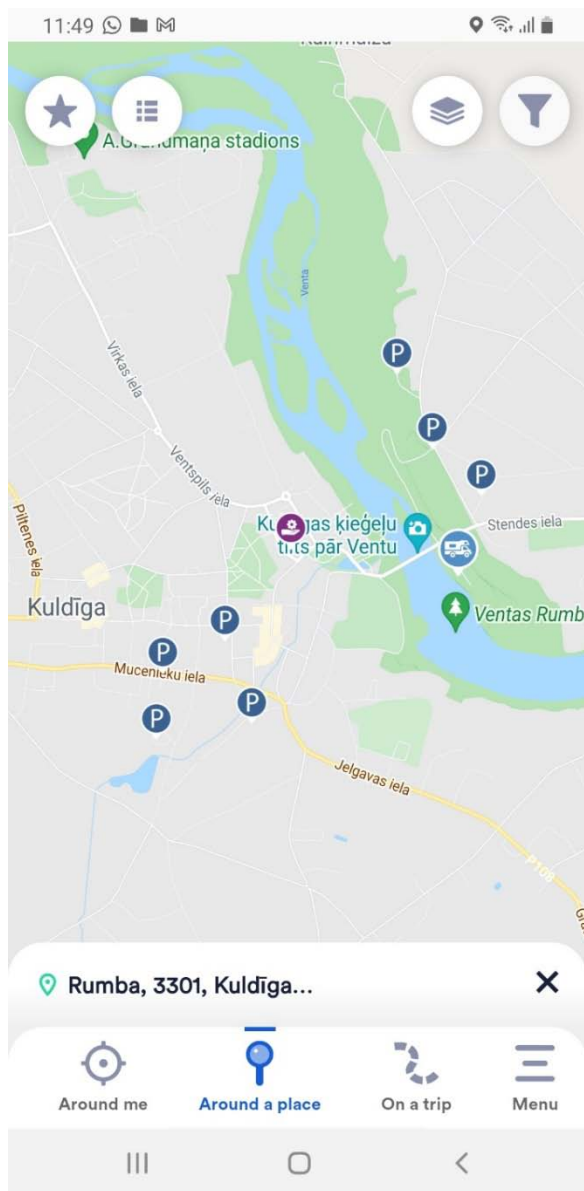


Figure 4. Status-quo of the mobile application Park4night.com, that lists recommended parking lots, accommodation or service places for caravan drivers in Kuldīga by travelers.
Source: park4night.com, 2022

(P1) has already been used during Kuldīga Town Festival, there is already a small parking lot near Pārventa Stage. Area is located outside of the buffer zone of the nominated property. However, it is somewhat more inconvenient, because after first views to the old town, the bridge and Venta River (which distracts, slows down the traffic), people have to turn away. 6a Stendes Street P3) is the best in this respect, as it is located away from the residential area and outside of the buffer zone of the nominated property, fits exactly into the access route, can be well connected to the footpath in the direction of the old brick bridge and the Ventas Rumba waterfall. When organizing access along Zeļģu Street, construction of a circular movement element at the intersection of Stendes, Vidus and Zeļģu Streets is being considered.

Alternatives to other existing town car parks or temporary parking may be organized as an alternative during major public events, but this will be organized in coordination with Kuldīga Municipal Council and the organizer of the event, taking into account both the amount of flow, movement over time and space – situations are predictable. The missing daily solution is a priority.

A smaller problem of road traffic, but directly related to the flow of tourists, is the overnight stay of caravan drivers in public town squares. The most popular mobile app in Europe, Park4night.com, contains current directions for overnight stays with location characteristics, ratings, including not only parking lots, but also water intakes and other services (see Figure 4).

More efficient solutions need to be found to organize optimal flow in this area, as campers are larger in size and take longer time in public car parks. In an active market situation, entrepreneurs should be interested in setting up a campsite, which is a missing niche in the destination of Kuldīga, although there is no shortage of alternatives in the direction of Ventspils or the sea. Paid places with appropriate quality services: drinking water filling options, connection to sewerage, possibility to connect to electricity, security in the territory are primarily selected. The so-called “wild camping” alternative can be maintained with a minimum of infrastructure that can be allocated in a specific

place by the Municipal Council, reducing the number of spontaneously created places. For the location of the campsite between the two alternatives (Tehnikas Street or Rūpniecības Street) on the left bank of the Venta River, Rūpniecības Street would be more appropriate to get from the town bypass without crossing the old town, while maintaining convenient access to walk from the possible campsite along Venta River where there is a convenient walking path leading to the old town, while maintaining the benefits of good scenic views. In addition, the place is located just outside the buffer zone of the nominated property. An alternative is to work with the existing entrepreneurs to raise awareness of the quality of services, which is insufficient in the specified place, while Upes Street near Venta Rumba would not be the most suitable place to concentrate such transport.

Actions for sustainable management of tourist traffic in Kuldīga:

Time frame: to be implemented in 2022, if planned in municipality budget or priority actions indicated should be planned in following years (2023 and 2024). There is no specific time frame for alternative actions indicated at the end of the list, however, they should be considered in turn after the implementation of the priority actions.

1. Priority work on an integrated solution for the creation of a car park at the town's eastern gate in one of the three locations considered, to give the car park an appropriate internationally recognized name.
2. Improve town's sign system to the main parking lots accordingly.
3. Create an accurate visual communication material with a clear main parking lot for the cars, as well as alternative directions, a schematic representation of the town bypass from the main access roads.
4. Audit and communicate necessary changes to key digital map navigation systems (Google.maps, Waze, TomTom, BalticMaps e.t.c.)
5. To create an efficient system for regulating the public traffic during the town festival, taking into account spatial considerations and the possibility to use a wider area of the town also outside the old town area, which will also be popular and widely visited during the festival.
6. Monitor changes in traffic flow, in response to additional operational solutions.
7. In co-operation with the owners of tourist accommodation, catering and tourism service places, systematically plan the procedure for the use of limited parking spaces in the old town at their location. Prioritizing access for overnight guests, local customers, limiting parking time or imposing restrictions.
8. Introduce an electronic free parking communication system with a car meter and an easy-to-understand display at the intersection of P120 and P121 roads – in the square at the beginning of Stendes Street (as analogous to underground car parks).
9. Carry out additional traffic measurements during town festival and public events to coordinate more optimal traffic flows.
10. Support and promote appropriate light mobility solutions as an alternative to road transport, both within the town and the surrounding area, and to reach the destination.
11. Search for solutions to reduce the flow of traffic in the old town, evaluating the driving habits of the local population, delivery of goods to the retail outlets of the old town, etc.
12. Maintain the possibility of a temporary stop of tourist transport in the old town, but focusing this option on access from the less used western side, using the main streets closest to the old town.

13. To promote the improvement of the camping site by attracting entrepreneurs, designating a specific intended place among the discussed alternatives, reducing the number of spontaneously created places.

If the actions taken are not efficient enough and the traffic flow in the old town continues to increase, consider one of the possible alternatives:

14. Application of entry fee to enter Kuldīga old town by car, which becomes automated using mobile payment options and connection with automated visual control (as in example of Jūrmala city pass system, Mobilly APP solutions, etc.)
15. Introducing parking fees in the old town area
16. Application of a ban on entry into a certain area of the old town, introducing conditions for exceptions.

1.2. Kuldīga old town and guest accommodation

There were 114 tourist accommodation establishments in Kuldīga in 2021 counting within the administrative boundaries of the whole town, some of them (especially guest apartments or holiday houses) are available only part of the year. Several tourist accommodations being available in earlier years have ceased to exist (*Scrunden Apartment, Curonian Spit, Sports*) or closed for a certain period of time either by changing the owner or undergoing reconstruction (*Aleksis, Jāņa nams, Kolonna Hotel Kuldīga, Kuldīga District Sports School 2, Sport Hotel Virka*). Since 2014, part of Kuldīga's residential apartments have been turned into tourist accommodation, largely entering the market through the *AirBnB* or *Booking.com* platforms. The number of tourist accommodation in Kuldīga, which can be booked on the *AirBnB* platform, has grown by about ten every year (in 2015 – 9, 2016 – 10, 2017 – 16, 2018 – 10, 2019 – 13, 2020 – 8, 2021 – 5). The number of tourist accommodation in the town is divided by type: 92 guest apartments, 12 holiday houses, 1 apartment hotel, 6 hotels, 3 guest houses and others. One third (37) of all tourist accommodation is located in the old town (see Figure 5) and 13 additionally in the buffer zone of the nominated property. The density of the local population is highest in the North West of the area, where a large part of the tourist accommodation capacity is concentrated.

However, some of them do not operate, they enter the rental market outside the summer season or are used to accommodate guests only temporarily – between the periods of lease agreements or appear on the market only during the vacation of the population, when it is an opportunity to earn additional income. One part is purposefully created to accommodate guests all year round. Although the number of guest apartments as the type of tourist accommodation is the highest, the largest number of beds is in hotels, guest houses, which are organized tourism with active entrepreneurs who are involved in the management of the final destination (as well as part of the owners of small tourist accommodation). Of the total tourist accommodation capacity (269 rooms for guests), 98 are located in the old town of Kuldīga (see Figure 5), and besides, some of them are hotels. The opening of guest apartments or holiday homes into the commercial tourism sector is ambiguous: it provides additional income to the locals, motivates them to renovate their homes, and to be hospitable. However, the downside is that fewer locals will live in the old town; it can become dominant as a guest residence, in a quieter period if it is not inhabited, it can create the effect of “emptiness and desolation” rather than a living town, part of them do not pay taxes on this type of business, tourism demand raises prices in the local housing market. Some of these accommodations go to larger buyers who are not involved in managing the destination and are not interested in solving the problems of the local community.

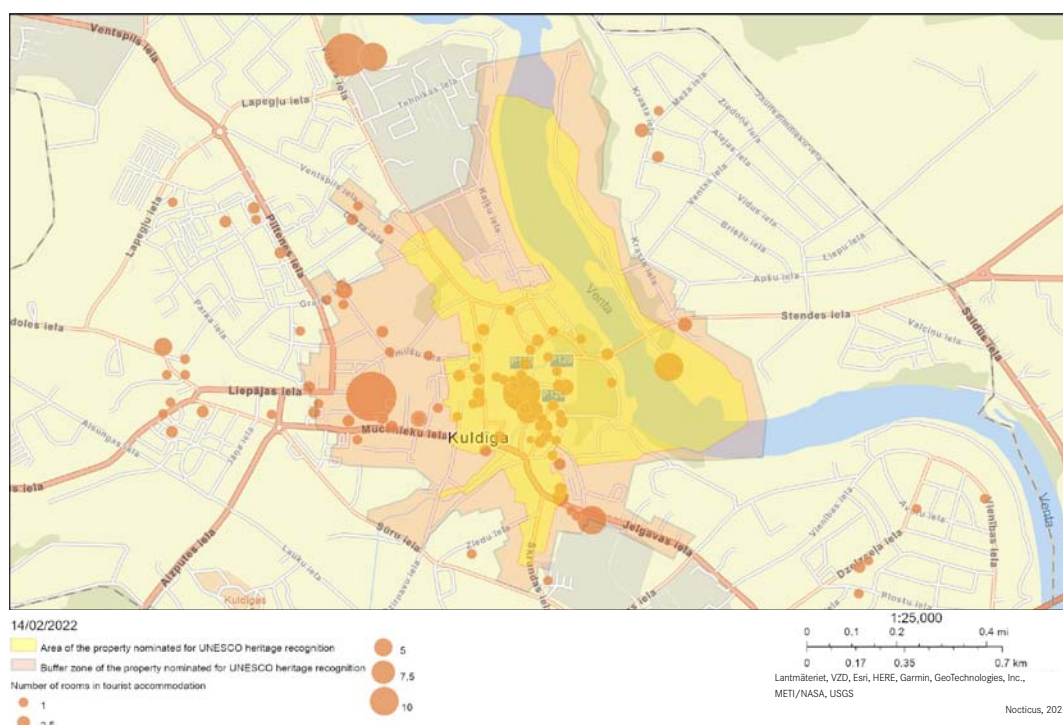


Figure 5. Location and capacity of commercial tourist accommodation in Kuldīga (size of the circle indicates the number of rooms available for tourists, green dot – location of the commercial tourist accommodation).

Source: Data collected by Nocticus, 2022

According to the European Sustainable Tourism Indicators System⁶ the current situation cannot be assessed as critical, but appropriate actions must be monitored and implemented. Based on the number of permanent residents in the area of the nominated property (~ 2000 residents in 1x1 km squares done by the National Statistical Bureau) and more accurate number of residents mentioned in the main document part, there is no evidence of dominance of living space for tourists. Number of beds available in the commercial tourist accommodation sector per 100 inhabitants in town is small (~2,5), but increases in old town reaching 5,8 (see Table 1, as fragment section of the comprehensive monitoring table).

Table 1. Proportion of tourism in relation to the local population of Kuldīga town.

Number of beds available in the commercial tourist accommodation sector per 100 inhabitants (in 2021).		
C.1.2	Total in Kuldīga town	2,5
	Incl. zone of the nominated property	5,8

Actions for sustainable development of the tourist accommodation sector in Kuldīga:

Time frame: to be implemented in 2022, if planned in municipality budget or priority actions indicated should be planned in following years (2023 and 2024 or as per infrastructure investment plan). There is no specific time frame for alternative actions indicated at the end of the list, however, they should be considered in turn after the implementation of the priority actions. Some of the initiatives (e.g., pedestrian bridge over Venta River instead of ferry platform connection that has been established in the past) are considered as optional indicating impact of that solution on visitor flow management and can be introduced gradually, improving visitors' dispersal.

⁶ https://ec.europa.eu/growth/sectors/tourism/offer/sustainable/indicators_en

1. Monitor changes in the market for tourist accommodation in the commercial sector, by registering it in the established monitoring system and specifying the available capacity by months (taking into account that the calculations include all tourist accommodations that have been operating since 2014, but in January 2022 most of the guest apartments are not available). If necessary, implement an automated solution for obtaining publicly available accommodation data by monitoring the daily supply of tourist accommodation on the relevant accommodation platforms.
2. Do not apply the Real Estate Tax (RET) discount for tourist accommodation in guest apartments or holiday homes.
3. Carry out preventive information work with the local community and businesses, explaining the impact of these businesses on the town.
4. Develop and promote a code of ethics for a responsible cultural tourist with explanatory and easy-to-understand information on the impact of the choices made on the local community, on choice actions

At the same time, to work by attracting new residents to Kuldīga, who are also actively involved in solving the town's problems.

5. To promote the attraction of the population to the town by highlighting the advantages of long-term housing in the old town.
6. Apply RET discounts for the restoration of cultural heritage in the long-term housing segment.

If the actions taken are not effective and the number of beds available in the commercial tourist accommodation sector per 100 inhabitants exceeds 10% for the town as a whole or 15% for the old town, more market intervention should be carried out by choosing between two (or both) options:

7. Tourist accommodation offered on public commercial platforms (AirBnB, Booking, etc.) must be licensed when registering a business, but new licenses for such business in the old town are not issued or are strictly limited.
8. The restrictions are introduced on maximum number of days per year to be leased in the old town or town guest apartments / holiday homes is limited to 90 days per year.

1.3. Pedestrian flow management

The old town of Kuldīga together with the connection of the Venta Waterfall and the old brick bridge forms the main axis for the flow of pedestrians. In the old town, the main pedestrian flow is concentrated in Pils Street, at the beginning of Baznīcas and Liepājas Streets, in Pasta Street and to a lesser extent in Kalna Street. Ventas Rumba waterfall concentrates a large flow of visitors (see the analysis of automatic meter data in the tourism strategy) near the waterfall, on the right bank of Venta River, where easier access is organized, while Pils Street is the most popular viewpoint.

The most intense pedestrian traffic is concentrated in the space called "Golden Mile", which starts from the beginning of Stendes Street and Ventas Rumba waterfall, along the old brick bridge, Pils Street, Baznīcas Street to Pasta Street and the beginning of Liepājas Street in the Town Hall Square. They are ~ 1.6 km, where the most scenic views of the Venta Valley, the special architectural atmosphere of the old town with the Alekšupīte River, the most popular tourist attractions and hospitality services are concentrated (see Figure 6). The creation of pedestrian-friendly infrastructure has expanded walking alternatives through the Town Garden, along Dīķu Street, while the coherence and leisurely rhythm of the pedestrian street with the newly opened Needle

Tower at the other end of Liepājas Street decreases concentration of visitors at the Town Hall Square. Exploring the culture of the place and the motif of the experience of authentic places encourages visitors to enter more local areas – courtyards and quieter small streets, by interacting more with the local community (being aware of potential negative impact on the local community that will be monitored regularly). The most popular times of the year fluctuate seasonally (with peaks in summer and during the “flying fish” season – fish migration overcoming the waterfall – in April) and during public events. Weekends (especially Saturdays) and holidays are the most popular in the rhythm of the week, with the difference narrowing towards working days in summer. In the rhythm of the day, the most intense flow of visitors ‘wakes up later’ and is seasonally subordinated to daylight, but is especially concentrated in the most popular cafes and entertainment venues on summer evenings. The largest anthropogenic load is formed at the Ventas Rumba waterfall – on the right bank of the river. The movement of people in the old town is the most self-organized and although the concentration is high in places, it does not cause regular traffic jams, as it is more about leisurely enjoying the special spirit of the old town than visiting some very popular cultural heritage sites. During the most popular period of visits, crowds take place around public catering establishments, especially on the outdoor terraces, in the best viewpoints, near the Ventas Rumba waterfall.

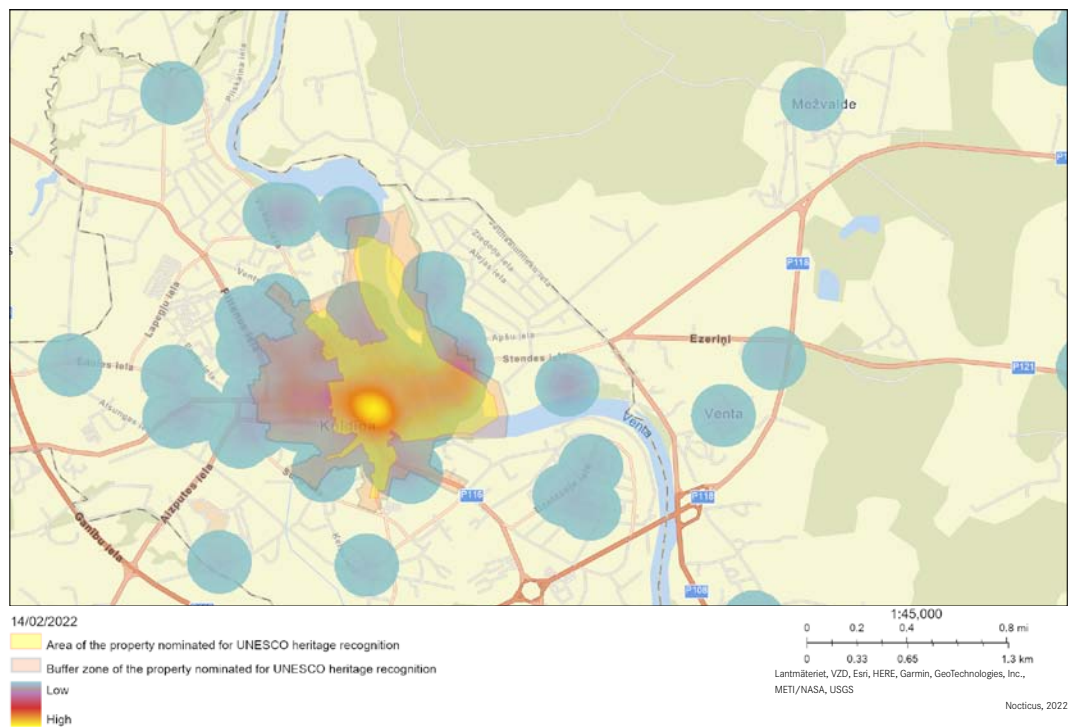


Figure 6. Spatial concentration of visitors in Kuldīga.

Source: Data collected by Nocticus, 2022

Smart and user-friendly technological solutions that can make visitor flow management more efficient, such as early warning of a ‘congested area’ in smartphone navigation (see Figure 7) not only in congestion situations for cars but also for pedestrians.

The greatest potential for relieving the flow of pedestrians in the old town and alternatives for visiting the Ventas Rumba waterfall is related to the improvement of pedestrian infrastructure on the banks of the Venta, which is characterized by very good view perspectives (see the planned most important view points in the Venta Valley Nature

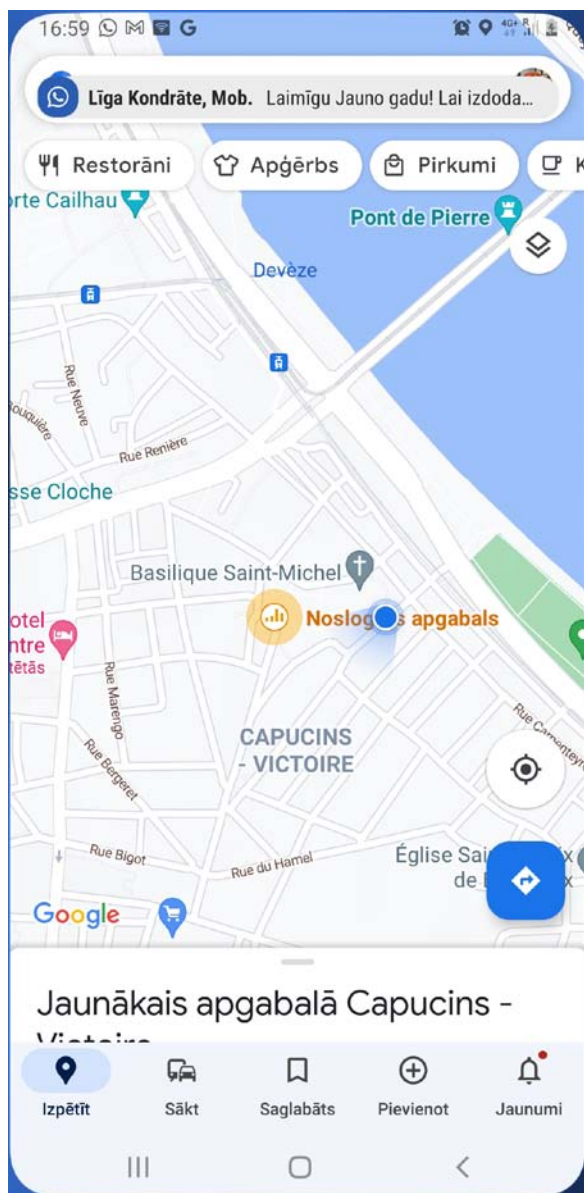


Figure 7. Smartphone navigation alert for a busy area (example of Bordeaux Old Town, France).

Source: Google maps APP Latvian version, Nocticus, 2022

Protection Plan⁷). For the best impressions of the highly valuable views of the old town, the Ventas Rumba waterfall and the old brick bridge, the possible sightseeing tower at the end of Pārventa Park would not only make it a popular sight, but, more importantly, diversify alternatives of equal choice to divide the flow of visitors from the main town access gate (waterfall-bridge in a different order). Well-maintained pedestrian infrastructure in the direction of the Veckuldīga castle mound along the left bank of the Venta would create another important alternative for an active experience of more than three kilometers and opportunities for better segmentation of visitors. This is also in line with the planning of the tourism and recreation infrastructure of the Natura 2000 site: “The nature reserve is a popular, easily accessible recreational facility with tourism infrastructure that directs the flow of tourists in a way that does not endanger natural values in the reserve area”. Initiatives for the development of the Venta Valley ecotourism infrastructure launched in 2004 (creating and improving educational nature trails, improving Pārventa Park, increasing the accessibility of Veckuldīga castle mound, building a sightseeing tower and a floating pontoon crossing of Venta River, creating three viewing perspectives and creating three recreation areas on the Venta River banks) are very important and can be integrated into the overall experience of visiting Kuldīga old town. The pedestrian bridge over Venta instead of possible crossing line at the time (ferry-raft at Tehnikas Street, which does not work due to the low water level of the river) would be designed to have the best possible location in the northern part of the town, without conflicting with the buffer zone of the nominated property to reduce the landscape value of the Venta Valley. When planning the implementation of these actions, the entire length of Tehnikas Street must be adapted for more convenient movement of pedestrians and cyclists. In the context of Kuldīga tourism marketing priorities, to emphasize the attraction of travelers who respect cultural and natural heritage, for whom the motivation of expectations for authenticity, originality, cognition and education play an important role.

⁷ Nature Protection Plan of the Nature Reserve “Venta Valley”. (2010). Nature Protection Board and Kuldīga Municipality, SIA “ELLE”.

Actions for sustainable visitor flow management in Kuldīga:

Time frame: to be implemented in 2022, if planned in municipality budget or priority actions indicated should be planned in following years (2023 and 2024). There is no specific time frame for alternative actions indicated at the end of the list, however, they should be considered in turn after the implementation of the priority actions.

1. To highlight motivated cultural tourists as a priority target group, for whom a respectful attitude towards heritage values, the local community and a characteristic desire to explore are important motivations for the trip.
2. To promote a wider spatial distribution of tourists by diversifying the alternatives of the town experience, moving away from the so-called “Golden Mile” (between Ventas Rumba waterfall and Town Hall Square), developing appropriate infrastructure (integrating with the above-mentioned traffic reducing measures).
 - sightseeing tower in Pārventa Park, on the left bank of Venta River.
 - networking of walking and hiking trails in the Venta Valley on both banks of the river, connecting the Veckuldīga castle mound, the planned camping site at Rūpniecības Street, Ventas Rumba Waterfall and Mārtiņsala recreation area with the Riežupe River valley and nature experience sites
 - Crossing of Venta River along the projected pedestrian bridge for bigger incentive of circular flow in the town and the Venta Valley, in coordination with the nature protection plan of the nature reserve “Venta Valley” to be renewed in the future, respecting nature protection values.
3. To develop strategic connection points for the local network of light mobility infrastructure with routes of international significance: “Mežtaka” or Forest Trail (as a section of the European long-distance hiking route E11 in the Baltic States) and EuroVelo 10.
4. To promote the development of quality tourism and hospitality services outside the Kuldīga old town area, attracting visitors to the wider town territory and its surroundings.
5. Implement urban-rural interaction: develop thematically related cultural tourism and other offers throughout Kuldīga Municipality in cooperation with entrepreneurs, diversifying visitors’ experience of Kurzeme culture and history, encouraging to visit more remote rural areas (contributing to the development of rural communities, reducing concentration in the town).
6. Maintain a regular dialogue with the local community, especially the residents of Kuldīga old town, representatives of non-governmental organizations, feedback on the impact of tourism, on solutions to problem situations.
7. Organize an annual survey of local people to monitor the impact of tourism and monitor public opinion. Monitor visitor feedback on digital resources and service locations. Respond to actions if systemic problems are identified (e.g., limiting excessive noise in late-night cafes in a residential area).
8. Carefully segment the public events taking place in the town, especially thinking about the involvement of the wider urban environment, not concentrating additional activities in the old town area at the rhythm of the year, when a larger flow of tourists is already expected there. Avoid so-called “bottle neck” locations when planning pedestrian traffic in low-capacity areas, especially if there is a traffic flow nearby.
9. Improve the infrastructure for access to Ventas Rumba waterfall (from the right bank of the river) in order to reduce the anthropogenic load as much as possible, increase the security of access.
10. Further develop the accessibility of the environment as a whole, using a universal design approach that does not create barriers for visitors, raises the quality of the overall experience.

11. Implement or maintain existing technological solutions (traffic flow meters, crowd tracking software) for real-time monitoring of traffic flow, linking with digital navigation tools on smartphones (Google.maps service with alerts to avoid high-traffic areas).
12. Use the service design approach to plan the old town experience as a whole, segmenting the offer according to different lifestyles, including well-thought-out seasonal accents, maintaining effective communication with visitors, digital resources, service locations, urban environment.
13. Integrate with the needs of the town population to address the availability of public services, which is related to the size and cyclical nature of the flow of visitors: on the availability of public toilets, waste management.
14. To develop the implementation of educational activities related to quality interpretation in order to increase the added value of the travel experience – both in the Venta Valley, including elements of ecological education, and in the old town of Kuldīga, using story-telling and rich documentary evidence.

If the actions taken are not effective enough and the flow of visitors to certain heritage sites increases, with a devastating effect on heritage values, one of the possible alternatives should be considered:

15. to create temporary barriers, physical barriers, to involve human resources (including volunteers) to divert the flow of visitors from the respective place.
16. to close down public access to the site or a wider area, halting the negative effects while diverting resources to the rehabilitation of heritage values.
17. introduce stricter controls to limit the flow of visitors, which can be achieved by introducing a ticketing system, entrance fees, setting capacity limits or revising priorities for certain segments (for example, restricting the movement of an entertaining tourist train in certain parts of the old town).

Kuldīga, where every stone tells an ancient story, where every breeze is like a song in memory, where people, culture and nature are united.

ANNEX 3 RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN

*Elaborated by METRUM
Approved on January 27, 2022*

The purpose of performance of the risk analysis: assessment of potential risks to the protection of identified attributes.

The risk analysis and impact assessment were performed by using the ICOMOS “Guidance on Heritage Impact Assessments for Culture World Heritage Properties”, and the impact is assessed in relation to the defined Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and the attributes that form it.

The impact level is assessed on a scale from “neutral” (no change) to “very high” (loss of OUV) – see Table 1.

Table 1. Measuring the amount of the impact

OBJECT VALUE	IMPACT STRENGTH (magnitude of change, impact)					
	Positive impact	No impact	Minor (insignificant change)	Slight change	Moderate change	Significant (major) change
	IMPACT SIGNIFICANCE (POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE)					
Attributes that provide the OUV	Favourable	Unfavourable				
	Positive	Neutral	Minor	Medium	Major	Very large

Main steps in risk assessment:

Step 1 – identification of the factors affecting the property and specification of their impact (internal, external, present, potential) (= risk analysis)

Step 2 – assessment of the level of impact of identified factors upon individual attributes (= impact assessment)

Step 3 – identification of priority territories (hot spots) in relation to the property management (= disaster response management)

In order to perform Step 1 of the Risk management, i.e. identification of the factors affecting the property and specification of their impact, initially all the risk factors which present theoretical, yet relevant threats to the territory of the nominated property and its OUV were reviewed and summarised by considering the guidance provided by UNESCO. In this context, the table from “Periodic reports. Territory administrator’s manual” was used for identification and review of risk factors (UNESCO World Culture Heritage Centre, 2012), by adjusting it to the specifics of the territory of the nominated property (see Table 3).

During the assessment, conclusions were drawn regarding the possible impact upon the OUV. The factors that possess positive impact, those of low probability, and exclusively external risk factors whose impact was considered minor or potential and not important and actual, were not further assessed in detail.

In order to perform Step 2 of the Risk management, i.e. assessment of the level of impact of identified factors upon individual attributes, first, the strength of the negative impact was evaluated. The attributes/groups of attributes included in the impact assessment are assessed as attributes with “highest”, “very high” and “high” value of

cultural heritage (see table 2). In the course of assessing the impact of individual risks or groups of risk factors upon any of the attributes/groups of attributes, the necessary actions according to the priority sequence were identified – from urgent priority (urgent/mandatory action required) to the status of necessity of observation (no action needed at the moment, but it may be needed in future if the risk endures). In case of neutral or unidentified impact, the necessity of action is not forecasted either now or in further future. In the course of the impact assessment, information on existing protection mechanisms was also collected; wherever an action was found to be needed, it was further described what is done or planned to counteract the respective risk.

In order to perform Step 3 of the Risk management, i.e. identification of priority territories (hot spots) in relation to the property management, the identified negative factors affecting the property were further analysed regarding their potential to result in disasters. In a next step, both the significance of the attributes as well as their vulnerability towards specific risk factors was assessed. Finally, a detailed disaster response strategy was elaborated for the different hazards.

The OUV (attributes) located in the historical centre of Kuldīga have been identified by a separate study: ““Kuldīga Old Town in the Ancient Venta Valley” attribution of the evidence of the 17th-18th century in the territory of the city plan of 1797 and close neighbourhood”. The impact assessment of risk factors reviews the main groups of attributes without singling out individual elements, except cases when the impact of a risk factor upon individual attributes can be different within a single group. In the assessment it is assumed that the included attributes/ groups of attributes should be assessed as attributes with high, very high and highest value as the main “witnesses” of the era of the Duchy of Courland and Semigallia.

The attributes and the attribute groups included in the assessment:

- Urban layout
- Streetscape
- Architectural typologies and styles
- Local craftsmanship inspired by international exchanges during the duration of the duchy
- Landscape elements

The assessment of risk factors is performed by analysing the impact of existing and potential risk factors on the OUV of the nominated property and its buffer zone, at the same time identifying the causes of risks, their impact strength and venue, as well as their eventual positive or negative change in future if a risk factor emerges, by using Table 2 for identification of the strength of the negative impact and the necessary action. The impact assessment was performed per individual groups of risk factors (see Table 5 to 11).

Table 2. Measuring the strength of the negative impact and determining the necessity of an action

VALUE OF THE OBJECT (ATTRIBUTE)	STRENGTH OF THE NEGATIVE IMPACT				
	No change	Minor change	Slight change	Moderate change	Significant (major) change
Highest	Neutral	Action needed	Urgent priority	Urgent priority	Urgent priority
Very high	Neutral	Action needed	Priority	Urgent priority	Urgent priority
High	Neutral	Observable	Priority	Priority	Urgent priority
Moderate	Neutral	Observable	Action needed	Priority	Priority
Low	Neutral	Neutral	Observable	Action needed	Action needed
Minor	Neutral	Neutral	Observable	Observable	Observable
Unknown	Neutral	Not detectable	Not detectable	Not detectable	Not detectable

PART I - RISK ANALYSIS

Table 3. Summary of risk factors

EVALUATED/IDENTIFIED FACTOR AFFECTING THE PROPERTY			PLACE		IMPACT			
RISK GROUP	PRIMARY THREAT	RISK FAKTOR	INTERNAL RISK	EXTERNAL RISK	POSITIVE	NEGATIVE	PRESENT	POTENTIAL
1. Buildings and development								
Development pressures	Public (commercial) buildings	Large shopping malls		⊠		▬		☆
		Encroachment/changes to skyline etc.		⊠		▬		☆
	Tourism and recreation buildings and associated infrastructure	Buildings for tourism and associated infrastructure	↓	⊠	+	▬	★	
		Visitor interpretive facilities (visitor centre etc.)	↓		+		★	
		Indication signs, promotional signs, signboards etc.	↓		+		★	
		Minor picnic facilities	↓		+		★	
		Minor camping areas		⊠		▬		☆
2. Transport infrastructure								
Development pressures	Ground transport infrastructure	Roads and cross-country roads		⊠		▬		☆
	Effects arising from use of transportation infrastructure	Effects arising from use of transportation infrastructure		⊠		▬	★	
3. Utilities or service infrastructure								
Development pressures	Renewable energy facilities	Solar	↓			▬		☆
	Major linear utilities	Cell phone towers		⊠		▬		☆
		Sewerage buildings and objects		⊠		▬		☆
4. Pollution								
Environmental pressures	Ground water pollution	Agricultural runoff		⊠		▬		☆
		Household sewage/waste	↓			▬	★	
	Surface water pollution	Agricultural runoff		⊠		▬		☆
		Household sewage/waste	↓			▬	★	
	Air pollution	Dust	↓			▬		☆
		Local effects of emissions from use of fossil fuels	↓			▬		☆
	Solid waste	Household rubbish	↓			▬		☆

EVALUATED/IDENTIFIED FACTOR AFFECTING THE PROPERTY			PLACE		IMPACT			
RISK GROUP	PRIMARY THREAT	RISK FAKTOR	INTERNAL RISK	EXTERNAL RISK	POSITIVE	NEGATIVE	PRESENT	POTENTIAL
5. Local factors affecting physical fabric								
Environmental pressures	Temperature	Temperature oscillation	↓			▬	★	
	Rainwater	Collections and discharge of rainwater	↓			▬	★	
	Groundwater	Oscillation of groundwater, increased levels	↓			▬	★	
Disasters	Fire	Fire based on malfunction of electric infrastructure	↓			▬		☆
6. Use of heritage in culture and social areas								
Factors influencing the property (place)	Local community	Society's attitude regarding heritage	↓		+		★	
		Identity, social cohesion, changes in the structure of population/ local community	↓		▬		☆	
	Impacts of tourism/visitor/ recreation	Increased anthropogenic load	↓			▬		☆
7. Other human activities								
Factors influencing the property (place)	Deliberate destruction of heritage	Deterioration of the property due to lack of management	↓			▬		☆
		Arson	↓			▬		☆
8. Climate change and severe weather events								
Natural disasters and risk preparedness	Storms	Heavy storm, gale	↓	⊠		▬		☆
		Hail damage	↓	⊠		▬		☆
		Lightning strikes	↓	⊠		▬		☆
	Flooding	River/stream overflows	↓	⊠		▬		☆
	Drought	Lengthy drought, high temperatures	↓	⊠		▬		☆
9. Management and institutional factors								
Responsible visitation at World Heritage sites	Legal framework	Significant changes to the legislative framework		⊠		▬		☆
	Management System	Management plan	↓		+		★	
		Monitoring activities	↓		+		★	
		Management	↓		+		★	
		Management activities	↓		+		★	
		Financial resources	↓		+		★	
		Human resources	↓		+		★	

Table 4. Assessment of current negative factors

	SPATIAL SCALE	TEMPORAL SCALE	IMPACT	DOCUMENTS RELEVANT FOR MANAGEMENT RESPONSE	TREND
Buildings and development					
Buildings for tourism and associated infrastructure	buffer zone	on-going	moderate	Local plan Spatial plan of Kuldīga Municipality Kuldīga Municipality Sustainable Development Strategy Kuldīga Old Town Visitor Flow Management Plan	static
Transport infrastructure					
Effects arising from use of transportation infrastructure	Nominated property	on-going	insignificant	Kuldīga Municipality Sustainable Development Strategy Kuldīga Old Town Visitor Flow Management Plan Local plan Spatial plan of Kuldīga Municipality	static
Pollution					
Household sewage/waste (groundwater pollution)	Nominated property	on-going	minor	Medium term operational strategies of municipal company SIA "Kuldīgas ūdens" 2019-2022 Regulations on management and maintenance of closed water sewer systems of the town of Kuldīga	static
Household sewage/waste (surface water pollution)	Nominated property	on-going	minor	Medium term operational strategies of municipal company SIA "Kuldīgas ūdens" 2019-2022 Regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers Regarding Emissions of Pollutants in Water	static
Local factors affecting physical fabric					
Temperature oscillation	Nominated property	on-going	minor	Disaster Response Plan	increasing
Collections and discharge of rainwater	Nominated property	on-going	moderate	Disaster Response Plan	decreasing
Oscillation of groundwater, increased levels	Nominated property	on-going	moderate	Disaster Response Plan	decreasing

PART II – IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Introduction

After defining all existing and potential factors affecting the property, an impact assessment was carried out to define the priorities for site management. The risk analysis executed as step 1 of this process showed that factors with a negative impact currently predominantly exist in the context of development pressures (risk groups 1 – buildings and development, 2 – transport infrastructure and 3 – utilities and service infrastructure) as well as in the context of environmental pressures (risk groups 4 – pollution and 6 – local factors affecting physical fabric).

Natural disasters are currently not common to the region the nominated property is located in, however, given the known effects of climate change, the possible impacts that an increased occurrence of such events would have on the site is evaluated in context of the impact assessment and will be further taken into account in the disaster response plan (= step 3). Regarding responsible visitation of World Heritage sites and site management, the status quo is positive throughout. The impact of changes in this regard were nevertheless also evaluated as they would largely influence the site if they occurred. A separate tourism strategy is annexed to the Management Plan (see Annex 2) indicating planned actions in this specific field.

Hereafter, the detailed outcomes of the impact assessment will be presented for each group of risk factors. Each description starts with the most pressing existing risks and then moves on to potential future risks that site management is considering, as well as positive factors, wherever relevant.

Table 5. 1st group of risk factors – Buildings and development

PRIMARY THREAT	PUBLIC (COMMERCIAL) BUILDINGS		VISITOR ACCOMODATION AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE		
RISK FACTOR	BIG SHOPPING MALLS	BUILDINGS FOR TOURISM AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE	SIGNAGE ETC.	MINOR CAMPING AREAS	ENCROACHMENT/ CHANGES TO SKYLINE ETC.
ATTRIBUTE	Need for action				
Urban layout	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral
Streetscape	neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral
Architecture (typologies and styles)	neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral
Local craftsmanship	neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral
Landscape elements	neutral	Action needed	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral

Description of the group of risk factors:

All the threats reviewed within the group “Construction and development” (included and detailed in Table 5) were found as internal, existing risks with a negative impact.

This category sees various constructions as the primary threat – mainly tourism and recreation construction and related infrastructure as well as public (commercial) construction. One specific existing factor in the field of tourism infrastructure is the planned construction of a watch tower on the Eastern bank of Venta River in the buffer zone of the

nominated property. The construction of the tower would mainly impact the landscape elements, more specifically the riverscape, which is why action will be needed regarding this initiative in case there is funding for implementation of this project. To minimize the impact, visualizations have been made and the maximum height of the tower reduced so it does not interfere with the overall landscape. The debates surrounding the watch tower are on-going and construction has not yet been started. Site management has decided to guarantee a solution that does not interfere with the OUV of the site. Other attributes of the site are not directly affected by the planned construction.

In addition to these currently existing risks, additional factors were evaluated due to their potential impact on the site. Construction of tourism and recreational institutions and related infrastructure should be considered as a possible future factor affecting the property. Generally, there is a risk because tourism and recreation institution construction is permitted and there is a demand. However, the sizes of land plots and the historical structure prevent construction of large buildings and complexes. There is no demand for construction intended for large scale tourism within the area of the nominated property. Some constructions intended for large scale tourism, such as constructions created for convenience of visitors of the tourism site (visitors' centres, etc.) or small picnic places, are considered to positively impact the site.

Small scale camping grounds may affect the landscape of the Venta River banks, as these are territory arrangement forms and construction volumes not typical for the old town. The current Territory Use and Building Regulations do not define particular requirements and places, however, businesses have expressed interest regarding the possibilities of developing this function in the direct vicinity of the area of the nominated property. Therefore, they were recognised as a potential risk with a negative impact in the buffer zone. In order to minimise this risk, particular places and requirements for arranging camping sites will be defined in the spatial plan and local plan, and they are further discussed in the tourism strategy.

The interference of constructions with the town skyline is only a potential risk because the maximum permitted height of construction is regulated and set by the Spatial Plan of Kuldīga Municipality. In compliance with the regulations of the spatial plan it is not allowed to construct new vertical dominant construction in the area of the nominated property and its buffer zone, and it is not allowed to construct buildings above 5 floors in Kuldīga in general. Large shopping centres could disturb the historical urban construction structure because their construction volumes are not characteristic for the old town, and they have a negative effect not only on the cultural historical environment of the historical centre, but also affect economic activity (small shops and businesses). In the area of the nominated property, this risk is low because the structure of land properties and streets is not suitable, however, the risk is present in the buffer zone and its close vicinity. Although no construction plans have been submitted and approved, developers of supermarkets have expressed proposals several times. The regulations of the Spatial Plan of Kuldīga Municipality set that new buildings of supermarkets cannot be constructed directly in the vicinity of the nominated property – it has been prohibited with an aim to preserve the small businesses and services in the old town of Kuldīga.

Preparedness of the local government for risks:

- The Sustainable Development Strategy of Kuldīga Municipality (Kuldīga 2030), which is the top long-term territory development planning document in the hierarchy, has been developed and is valid providing the long-term development vision, strategic goals, development priorities and spatial development perspective up to year 2030.

- The Spatial Plan of Kuldīga Municipality (Kuldīga 2025) has been developed and is valid defining the requirements for the use and construction of the territory, including the functional zoning, public infrastructure, regulations of use and construction of the territory, as well as other condition of use of the territory.
- On 15 February 2018, the National Heritage Board issued instructions “On use and preservation of the national urban construction monument “The Historic Centre of the Town of Kuldīga” (national protection No. 7435).
- Binding Regulations of Kuldīga Municipal Council No. 2014/1 “On the assistance of the local government for restoration and conservation of the buildings in the territory of the urban construction monument “The Historic Centre of the Town of Kuldīga” and buildings on the list of the culture monuments under protection of the state of Latvia in Kuldīga Municipality have been adopted and are valid.
- Binding Regulations of Kuldīga Municipal Council No. 2016/10 “Regulations on care of territory and maintenance of buildings of Kuldīga Municipality” have been adopted and are valid.
- Binding Regulations of Kuldīga Municipal Council No. 2010/19 “On placement of advertisements and visual communication sites in public places in Kuldīga town” have been adopted and are valid.

Planned action by the local government:

- Development of new studies and publications regarding the values of the Heritage Site.
- Development of concepts, guidelines and plans for preservation and development of the values of the Heritage Site.
- Implementation of public investment projects for arrangement of the old town and nature territories.
- Development of amendments to the Spatial Plan of Kuldīga Municipality, for example, by restricting construction of supermarkets and imposing additional requirements for design and construction of residential, public and industrial construction.
- Encouragement of renovation of degraded territories and sites.
- Implementation of information and awareness raising events.
- Promotion of creation of tourism projects and tourism infrastructure.
- Provision of recording of visitor flows, impact assessment and management.
- Planning and implementing of the infrastructure compliant with the visitor flow.

Table 6. 2nd and 3rd group of risk factors – Transportation infrastructure and Supply infrastructure

PRIMARY THREAT	EFFECTS ARISING FROM USE OF TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE	RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITIES	MAJOR LINEAR UTILITIES	
RISK FACTOR	GROUND TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE	SOLAR ENERGY	CELL PHONE, TV TOWERS	HOUSEHOLD
ATTRIBUTE	Need for action			
Urban layout	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral
Streetscape	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral
Architecture (typologies and styles)	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral
Local craftsmanship	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral
Landscape elements	neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral

Description of the groups of risk factors:

The 2nd and 3rd group of risk factors “Transportation infrastructure” and “Supply infrastructure”, which mainly cause “territory development pressure” (see Table 6), review the following primary threats: land transportation infrastructure and the impact caused by it, production of renewable energy plants, and major linear utilities. No risk of this group is currently threatening the OUV of the site, yet some could potentially arise in the future and were hence evaluated.

Production of renewable energy and placement of plants is a potential threat mainly to the landscape as well as the streetscape. In particular, installation of solar panels on roofs has a considerable impact upon the landscape of clay tile roofs, which carries value as a significant element of the architectural typology that developed in the 17th and 18th century. However, at present, production of renewable energy and installation of equipment is prohibited in the nominated property according to the Spatial Plan of Kuldīga Municipality. Hence, solar panels are only a potential factor affecting the property which needs to be observed with regard to possible future amendments in the context of general trends regarding sustainability and renewable energies.

Large size engineering items present a lower threat and only two of them are included in Table 5, i.e. communication towers and household sewage constructions and items. At present, there is an existing and functioning communication tower that was constructed during the Soviet period in the buffer zone which somewhat affects the town skyline and landscape. The Spatial Plan of Kuldīga Municipality sets clear regulations regarding height of buildings and constructions, and visual dominants are not allowed to be constructed in the nominated property and its buffer zone. In order to preserve the historic urban environment, each construction initiative is carefully analysed and maximum allowed height of a building set in accordance with the surrounding urban environment and height of the neighbouring buildings in the area. No higher structures than a three-storey building are allowed within the area of the buffer zone of the nominated property. The new local plan that is being elaborated will further set out viewing points that are specifically preserved without new vertical dominants outside the buffer zone of the nominated property. The process of construction of household sewage networks and constructions is continued in Kuldīga town. However, any such developments mainly occur outside of the nominated property.

Development of road transport infrastructure, i.e. development of new roads and cross-country roads, is a threat with low probability/ potential, moreover, it is external because the local government and regional spatial planning documents do not provide for development of new main road transportation infrastructure sites in Kuldīga. The only envisaged new transportation infrastructure site in Kuldīga is the North ring road section with a new bridge across the Venta (its planning started within the town planning of the 20th century), it is included in Kuldīga 2030, however, at the same time it should be concluded that neither the economic or technical justification for it has been developed. The bridge furthermore lies outside of the nominated property and its buffer zone.

Preparedness of the local government for risks:

- The Sustainable Development Strategy of Kuldīga Municipality (Kuldīga 2030), which is the top long-term territory development planning document in the hierarchy, has been developed and is valid providing the long-term development vision, strategic goals, development priorities and spatial development perspective up to year 2030.
- The Spatial Plan of Kuldīga Municipality (Kuldīga 2025) has been developed and is valid defining the requirements for the use and construction of the territory,

including the conditions for production of renewable energy and installation of plants in the old town, planning of streets and roads, design and construction of engineering sites.

Actions planned or implemented by the local government:

- Development of amendments to the Sustainable Development Strategy of Kuldīga Municipality by bringing up the matter of the necessity of the planned North ring road section with a new bridge across the Venta, by performing analysis of the current transportation flows and possible long-term development forecast.
- Development of amendments to the Spatial plan of Kuldīga Municipality, update and revision of the regulations for production of renewable energy and installation of plants in Kuldīga town and its vicinity.
- Implementation of investment projects for arrangement (renovation) of the public outer space, i.e. streets, bridges, parks.
- Improvement of the engineering supply infrastructure of the territory by promoting the quality and safety of the environment.
- Improvement of heat supply services.

Table 7. 4th group of risk factors – Pollution

PRIMARY THREAT	GROUND WATER POLLUTION		SURFACE WATER POLLUTION		SOLID WASTE
RISK FACTOR	AGRICULTURAL RUNOFF	HOUSEHOLD SEWAGE/WASTE	AGRICULTURAL RUNOFF	HOUSEHOLD SEWAGE/WASTE	HOUSEHOLD RUBBISH
ATTRIBUTE					
URBAN LAYOUT	Neutral	Action needed	Neutral	Action needed	Neutral
STREETSCAPE	Neutral	Action needed	Neutral	Action needed	Neutral
ARCHITECTURE (TYPOLOGIES AND STYLES)	Neutral	Action needed	Neutral	Action needed	Neutral
LOCAL CRAFTSMANSHIP	Neutral	Action needed	Neutral	Action needed	Neutral
LANDSCAPE ELEMENTS	Neutral	Observable	Neutral	Observable	Neutral

Description of the groups of risk factors:

Within the group “Pollution”, risk factors are reviewed which mainly cause “Environmental risks” (see Table 7), such as ground water pollution, surface water pollution, air pollution, and solid waste pollution.

Soil water and surface water pollution which may be caused by household wastewater and waste in general is currently an existing threat because a centralised sewage system has not been constructed in the whole area of the nominated property and not all the households are connected to the system. However, the necessary actions have been taken and the issue is being solved on the level of the local government and the state. Kuldīga Municipality has undertaken the task to elaborate an in-depth study regarding the present situation and a comprehensive plan for sustainable wastewater management in the old town.

Air pollution caused by dust and use of fossil fuel is only a potential threat in the town. The possible effects of these factors, unlike in other towns, is however not related to the air quality, which is considered good in Kuldīga. Instead, the amount of dust in the

town may affect the cleanliness of streets which is among the matters of daily maintenance of streets and is being implemented already now. Household waste is produced in any populated area and if it is not correctly managed, it can cause a certain threat by contributing to environmental pollution and can affect all the attributes. Despite this being a potential threat in the nominated property, it should be noted that the matter of collection and management of waste is settled in Kuldīga town by providing centralised collection of waste and transportation to the waste collection facility.

Ground water and surface water pollution in Kuldīga may also be caused by agriculture waste water which can involve use of mineral fertilisers and other chemicals in agriculture outside Kuldīga town. As this is only an external, potential risk and does not affect the nominated property it was not further analysed. Also leaks of oil and chemical substances is an external potential risk of a low probability which was not further analysed, as it can only emerge if pollution is produced outside Kuldīga town or even Latvia, up along the Venta River. Excessive pollution by smoke was not evaluated further because its probability is low and it is a potential/ external threat which can emerge, for instance, in case of vast forest fires close to the town. Ground water pollution caused by industrial waste water is only potential, but this risk will also be reduced to the minimum when the central sewage system of the town is arranged and all the industrial production companies are connected to it.

Preparedness of the local government for risks:

- The Law “On Pollution” has been in force in Latvia since 1 July 2001.
- The Law “On Water Management” has been in force in Latvia since 15 October 2002.
- Binding Regulations of Kuldīga Municipal Council No. 4/2020 “Procedure of performance of management and maintenance of the closed rainwater discharge system in Kuldīga Municipality” have been adopted and are valid.
- Binding Regulations of Kuldīga Municipal Council No. 2019/4 “On the procedure of provision of decentralised sewage disposal services and registration thereof in Kuldīga Municipality” have been adopted and are valid.
- Binding Regulations of Kuldīga Municipal Council No. 2017/5 “Procedure of provision and use of public water management services in Kuldīga Municipality” have been adopted and are valid.
- Binding Regulations of Kuldīga Municipal Council No. 2011/23 “On management of household waste in Kuldīga Municipality” have been adopted and are valid.
- Binding Regulations of Kuldīga Municipal Council No. 2012/18 “Regulations of construction, registration and use of household wastewater storage reservoirs in Kuldīga Municipality” have been adopted and are valid.
- Planned action by the local government:
- Implementation of investment projects for arrangement (renovation) of the public outer space, i.e. streets, bridges, parks.
- Provision of monitoring of the environment condition of nature territories.
- Improvement of waste management.
- Improvement of the services of water supply and wastewater discharge.
- Improvement of district heating services and collection of information about the existing types of heat supply in the old town, restriction of the use of fossil fuel in the town if necessary.

Table 8. 5th group of risk factors – Local factors affecting the physical environment

PRIMARY THREAT	TEMPERATURE	RAINWATER	GROUNDWATER	DISASTERS
RISK FACTOR	Temperature fluctuations	Collections and discharge of rainwater	Oscillation of ground-water increased levels	Fire based on malfunction of electric infrastructure
ATTRIBUTE	Need for action			
Urban layout	Neutral	Action needed	Action needed	Neutral
Streetscape	neutral	Action needed	Action needed	Neutral
Architecture (typologies and styles)	neutral	Action needed	Action needed	Neutral
Local craftsmanship	neutral	Action needed	Action needed	Neutral
Landscape elements	neutral	Observable	Observable	Neutral

Description of the groups of risk factors:

Within Table 8, the following primary threats are reviewed: air temperature, rainwater and ground water as well as fire based on malfunctioning electric infrastructure (factors affecting the physical environment).

Collection and discharge of rainwater is a topical issue and the failure to manage this properly can have a serious impact upon the site, in the worst case evoking a disaster scenario (see Section 3 of this document for the respective disaster response strategy). In order to prevent future flooding events due to a mismanagement of rainwater collection and discharge, especially with regard to possible increase of heavy rain in the course of climate change, action is needed in this regard. In addition to the threat this is posing on the historical buildings, streets and squares are also subject to direct rainwater impact. Similarly, ground water fluctuations can affect the technical condition of buildings, however, such changes in nature do not happen fast and can be observed over a longer period of time. Management of rainwater has been identified as a topical issue in Kuldīga, therefore special attention needs to be focused on this threat also in future. Kuldīga Municipality has undertaken the task to elaborate an in-depth study regarding the present situation and a comprehensive plan for sustainable rainwater management in the old town.

As for every historical urban centre, and especially with regard to the historic wooden buildings present in Kuldīga, unexpected events of fire due to electrical failures are a potential risk which needs to be managed accordingly. In compliance with Cabinet Regulations No. 238 of 19 April 2016 “Fire safety regulations”, autonomous fire detectors or smoke detectors must be installed in all housings as of 1 January 2020. According to the global experience, application of autonomous fire detectors is an efficient solution to protect the lives of residents in case of sudden fire, therefore the State Fire and Rescue Service encourages residents to buy and to install smoke detectors. An automated fire detection and alarm system is currently the most complete type of protection of houses, which uses the technical means, communication lines, etc. installed in a building and the service personnel on duty and provides fast detection of fire, alarm and calling of the fire brigade to the place where fire has been detected irrespective of whether there are residents in the building or not. With regard to the historical urban fabric, the fire brigade (as well as other relevant stakeholders) is provided with a map including all attributes within the nominated property, which clearly determines priority areas (hot spots) according to the different types of hazards (see Section 3 – Disaster Response Plan). Through this, it is guaranteed that even in case of fire that is spreading in larger areas in the old town, everyone involved is aware of the agreed upon risk response strategy and knows which areas or attributes are to be prioritized.

Preparedness of the local government for risks:

- The Spatial plan of Kuldīga Municipality (Kuldīga 2025) has been developed and is valid defining the requirements for the use and construction of the territory, including the nature territories to be preserved and other condition of use of the territory.

Planned action by the local government:

The local government plans to implement public investment projects for improvement of the old town and nature territories, including construction of a system for collection and discharge of rainwater, as well as restoration and improvement of the drainage system by implementing sustainable rainwater management solutions in the territory of town.

Table 9. 6th and 7th group of risk factors – Use of heritage in social/culture area and Other human activities

PRIMARY THREAT	SOCIAL FACTORS		IMPACTS OF TOURISM/ VISITOR/ RECREATION	DELIBERATE DESTRUCTION OF HERITAGE		
RISK FACTOR	Society's valuing of heritage	Identity, social cohesion, changes in local population and community	Increased anthropogenic load	Arson	Deterioration of the property due to abandonment/ lack of management	Illegal construction
ATTRIBUTE	Need for action					
Urban layout	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral
Streetscape	neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral
Architecture (typologies and styles)	neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral
Local craftsmanship	neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral
Landscape elements	neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral

Description of the groups of risk factors:

Within the group “Use of heritage in the social/culture area”, which mainly comprises factors affecting the properties (places) (see Table 9), the following primary threats are reviewed: attitude towards cultural heritage by local society; the identity, social cohesion, changes in the structure of local residents and in the community, and increase of the anthropogenic load as well as gentrification caused by tourism and recreation. Regarding “other human activities”, deliberate destruction of the heritage via arson, abandonment and illegal construction is analysed.

The decrease of available housing (change of the function to apartments, high rent) has been a trend of recent years in Kuldīga old town and should be viewed as a risk which already exists within the nominated property. While the current impact of gentrification is minor, further action is needed to prevent any negative impact on the authenticity of the site in the context of a changing atmosphere also in the future. For this purpose, the tourism strategy establishes direct measures that are to be taken in case that tourist accommodation exceeds 15% of all available living spaces in the nominated property (or 10% of living spaces in Kuldīga as a whole). These measures include the mandatory licensing of tourist accommodation offered on online platforms in combination with a maximum of licenses available as well as a restriction regarding the number of nights

per year that living spaces are allowed to be rented out to tourists (see visitor flow management plan in Annex 2).

While the other factors are currently not presenting any threat to the nominated property, action could become necessary with regard to the degradation of properties in case no maintenance is provided, resulting in buildings and places degrading the environment. To actively counteract this threat, a survey of degraded buildings and their improvement works is performed continuously in Kuldīga town and all the buildings and their owners, who are responsible for tidying their properties, are registered. This list is updated every year and approved by a decision of Kuldīga Municipal Council. In the nominated property and its buffer zone there are a few degraded buildings whilst preparing the Management plan and an increased tax rate was applied to them in 2020 and 2021. Whenever buildings of cultural historical importance are endangered, Kuldīga Municipality encourages owners of the respective buildings to participate in the tender “Restoration and Conservation of the buildings in the territory of the urban construction monument ‘The Historical Centre of the Town of Kuldīga’ and buildings on the list of the culture monuments under protection of the state of Latvia in Kuldīga Municipality”. Applicants receive local government co-financing of up to 50 % of the total costs, however, not exceeding EUR 10,000 for renovation of load bearing structures and EUR 5000 in other cases. The co-financing is granted by tender. The applicants have to provide own financing from their own or cooperation partners’ resources in the minimum amount of 50 % of the total amount needed for preservation of the culture monument in preparing the total costs schedule. A number of buildings have been restored by using this great opportunity, thus improving the urban environment and the nearby infrastructure.

With regard to the community, generally, a community which appreciates historical values resides in the area of the nominated property. Nevertheless, there is some degree of dissatisfaction with the strict rules (for example, the prohibition to install skylights, the strict requirements for restoration of historical windows, doors and other elements, etc.) that is managed through on-going education and engagement in the preservation of heritage values. Internal tension somewhat exists between society groups that have opposing interests, such as those catering for tourists and those wishing to have their peace and quiet away from tourist groups. In this context, there is also a hospitality risk with business intention. Therefore, the education of the society should be continued because living in the old town should be viewed as a lifestyle and not an encumbrance. Effects caused by tourism, visitors and recreation can be both positive and negative. As the anthropogenic load increases, this can affect primarily valuable landscape and nature territories, as well as streets and squares. The existing infrastructure of catering companies currently does not have enough capacity for a large number of visitors in public events, which increases the burden on other town services, such as for example responsible cleanliness and public order. Regarding necessary parking lots for additional vehicle traffic arising from increased tourist numbers, the tourism strategy outlines different scenarios for the creation of new parking spaces outside of the boundaries of the nominated property. Although the current public attitude in Kuldīga town is generally assessed as positive, still there is a risk that this attitude may change. This can be affected by changes in the structure of local population and the community because if the society were to be quickly replaced, the feeling of identity/ affiliation could be lost. The risk should be considered also related to preservation and transfer of intangible heritage.

Similarly, the local society/ community and its attitude towards cultural heritage and values of the site, and the perception of heritage by the society plays an essential role in preservation of cultural heritage. Society in Kuldīga follows up on changes in the town

environment, notifies about non-compliant solutions and refers to historical data. In the result of the campaign of window restoration, good samples of window restoration are appreciated, the use of traditional materials is mastered, interest groups emerge, and socialisation is promoted. Appreciation of heritage is a part of the residents' identity (personal memories, origins and the willingness to learn about it). Businesses use the attractiveness of the historical environment (hospitality, tourism, catering establishments).

Preparedness of the local government for risks:

- Binding Regulations of Kuldīga Municipal Council No. 2016/10 “Regulations on care of territory and maintenance of buildings of Kuldīga Municipality” have been adopted and are valid.
- Binding Regulations of Kuldīga Municipal Council No. 2010/13 “On improvement of the territory of Kuldīga Municipality, maintenance and protection of greenery” have been adopted and are valid.

Planned action by the local government:

- Development of a study on intangible cultural heritage.
- Encouraging of publications on the values of the nominated property in internationally referred research publications.
- Encouraging of publications promoting the value of the nominated property.
- Organisation of annual international conferences devoted to the nominated property.
- Organisation of seminars, information events, workshops.
- Promotion of development of environmentally friendly infrastructure reducing the anthropogenic burden in nature territories.
- Support of business and residents' initiatives for preservation of the heritage.
- Provision of financial aid to restoration (preservation) of items of the nominated property.
- Provision of advisory support to the owners and investors of buildings and constructions of the nominated property.
- Implementation of municipal initiatives for business support by encouraging the viability of the nominated property.
- Provision of information in the publications of the local government and on social networks.
- Implementation of information and awareness raising events.
- Encouragement of the public dialogue on culture and nature values and their protection.

Table 10. 8th group of risk factors – Climate change and destructive weather conditions

PRIMARY THREAT	STORMS		FLOODING	DROUGHT
RISK FACTOR	Hurricanes, gales	Hail damage, lightning strikes	River/stream overflows	Prolonged drought, high temperature
ATTRIBUTE	Need for action			
Urban layout	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral
Streetscape	neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral
Architecture (typologies and styles)	neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral
Local craftsmanship	neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral
Landscape elements	neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral

Description of the groups of risk factors:

While analysing the group of risk factors “Natural disasters and risk preparedness”, the groups of risk factors and primary threats which are theoretically possible in the Latvian climate zone and Kuldīga town or actually observed until now were included in Table 3. Within the group of risk factors “Natural disasters and risk preparedness” (see Table 10), the following primary threats have been analysed: storms, flood and drought.

Floods have only a minor effect on Kuldīga town and the nominated property and long drought can be seen in Latvia very rarely, however major storms, including large hail-stones, are observed in Latvia increasingly often. The strongest storms with hurricane force were registered in Latvia more than 50 years ago. The hurricane of 18 October 1967 was the strongest and most devastating autumn storm in the history of Latvia (since 1960 when registration of wind gusts was started) when the force equal to a tropical hurricane was registered in Latvia, i.e. 48 m/s (in Liepāja), and the hurricane of 2 November 1969 in Latvia was the second strongest and most devastating autumn storm in the history of Latvia, with north west winds reaching 44 m/s in Daugavpils. Hurricane “Ervīns”, the strongest and most devastating in the 21st century, was registered in Latvia on 9 January 2005. In many places winds reached a speed of 40 metres per second and the most damage was caused in Kurzeme and on the Gulf of Rīga coast. Forest areas were destroyed, roofs of houses were torn away and more than 50 % of the residents in the country did not have power supply. The last strong storm was registered in Latvia on 29 October 2013 when the wind speed at Liepāja port and Ventspils reached 30 metres per second (m/s) and was 29 m/s at Daugavgrīva. The biggest power supply problems were in Kurzeme, in particular, in Ventspils, Kuldīga and Dundaga municipalities. So strong storms are rare at this latitude, however isolated storms have caused a lot of damage in Latvia. In June 2009, Kuldīga and the neighbourhood faced hail with a grain size up to 5 cm, and strong hail was registered also in June 2020. Still, large grain hail presents a comparatively low threat to the nominated property and its attributes.

Venta River in Kuldīga forms a valley with steep banks serving as natural anti-flood protection, therefore vast flood territories are not characteristic for the Venta River section included in the nominated property. The water level in Venta River is stable, there are no pronounced increase or decrease trends, and the maximum water level tends to decrease. Although the flood risk territory is defined in the Spatial Plan of Kuldīga Municipality (the probability of flood is 10 %, i.e. once in ten years), and it partially covers the historical construction area at Mārtiņsala, generally, the flood risk does not present a major threat to the nominated property and its attributes.

Lightning is related to strong thunderstorms which are quite frequent in Latvia, therefore all buildings should have anti-lightning protection systems in compliance with Latvian Building Standard LBN 261-15 “Internal power installations of buildings”. According to the legislation, anti-lightning protection system has to be provided in order to prevent overvoltage of electrical and electronic equipment caused by lightning, as well as risks caused by this to parts of buildings and human life. In order not to harm heritage and the values of the old town of Kuldīga, municipal specialists make sure that they are visually inclusive.

Preparedness of the local government for risks:

- The Law on Civil Protection and Catastrophe Management has been in force in Latvia since 1 October 2016.
- Cabinet Regulations No. 131 of 7 March 2017 “Regulations regarding the involvement of the resources of legal or natural persons in response and elimination

of consequences measures or fire-fighting or rescue operations and procedures for the calculation of compensation for the incurred expenditures and losses”.

- Cabinet Regulations No. 582 of 26 September 2017 “Regulations on municipal cooperation territories civil protection commissions”.
- In December 2017 SIA “Kuldīga komunālie pakalpojumi” issued “Fire safety instruction for owners, tenants, administrators and lessees of apartment houses”. The instruction defines the requirements to be complied with in order to prevent emerging of fire hazardous situations, to participate in fire extinguishing and to minimise consequences.
- The Regulations of Kuldīga Municipality Civil protection commission were approved by a decision of Kuldīga Municipal Council meeting in August 26, 2021. Amendments to the document were made by a decision of Kuldīga Municipal Council meeting in January 27, 2022.
- The survey “Riverbanks: balancing of measures of biological diversity, recreation and prevention of flood threat”.
- Binding Regulations of Kuldīga Municipal Council No. 2010/3 “On prohibition of growing genetically modified cultivated plants in Kuldīga Municipality” have been adopted and are valid.

Planned action by the local government:

- Development and approval of the municipality civil protection plan.
- Improvement of fire safety in the area of the nominated property.

Table 11. 9th group of risk factors – Management and institutional factors

PRIMARY THREAT	LEGAL FRAME- WORK	MANAGEMENT SYSTEM				
RISK FACTOR	Significant changes in the legal framework	Management plan	High impact re- search/monitoring activities	Management activities	Financial resources	Human resources
ATTRIBUTE	Need for action					
Urban layout	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral
Streetscape	neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral
Architecture (typologies and styles)	neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral
Local craftsmanship	neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral
Landscape elements	neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Observable	Observable

Description of the groups of risk factors:

The group of risk factors “Management and institutional factors” (see Table 11) reviews the legislative framework and the administration system. Within the scope of the Management system, the following risk factors have been analysed: The management plan, monitoring (observation activities), the management and its management activities, financial resources and human resources.

The lack of capacity of particular experts in heritage management, in particular in relation to buildings, is a minor risk in Kuldīga Municipality, and the experts’ knowledge of heritage is very important. The current COVID-19 pandemic increased this risk, as travel restrictions make professional (international) exchange as well as workshops about spe-

cific restoration techniques etc. more difficult, and the general health situation can have effects on the availability of human resources. The financial fund is not permanent as it depends on the local government and private budget or the possibility to attract external financing. Therefore, the availability of financial resources – albeit currently sufficient – has to be observed to guarantee sustainability of site management.

The current legislative framework and valid laws and regulations contribute to the protection of the nominated property, however, if substantial amendments to the laws and regulations on the national level were to be made, this could also affect protection and preservation possibilities of certain attributes of the nominated property. However, this risk should be viewed as external and hypothetical because Latvia has ratified a range of regulatory acts and regulations adopted in the European Union which have to be complied with when new Latvian laws and regulations are adopted or valid with the ones that are amended. They cannot be contradicted.

Despite the necessity to observe the financial situation as well as human resources, in the summary of risk factors (Table 3) all of the management related aspects are marked with a current positive impact, considering the development of the present management plan and the envisaged implementation of the action plan. This will help improve the overall management of the nominated property and each of the fields in the future and thus ensuring responsible visitation of the World Heritage Site.

Preparedness of the local government for risks:

- A local plan of the historical centre of Kuldīga has been developed by updating the requirements in the areas of historical construction, by consolidating them with the requirements in the urban construction monument and its individual protection area.

Planned action by the local government:

- Development of the management system of the nominated property by integrating databases.
- Continuation of collection of information about the sites of the nominated property and entering it in databases.
- Documentation of intangible culture heritage.
- Improvement of existing databases by assessing the possibility to integrate them with the management system of the nominated property.
- Increase of the capacity of the personnel involved in protection and management of the Heritage Site.
- Improvement of the regulatory (legal) protection of the Heritage Site and its values.
- Development of concepts, guidelines and plans for preservation and development of the values of the Heritage Site.
- Improvement of the organisational scheme of the management and coordination of the Heritage site.
- Provision of monitoring of the condition of culture monuments and other sites of cultural historical importance.
- Provision of systematic supervision of the items of the Heritage Site.
- Promotion of sustainable maintenance of public outdoor space and infrastructure.
- Promotion of sustainable management of buildings and constructions of the Heritage site.
- Provision of heritage interpretation, creation and management of the image of the Heritage Site.

PART III - DISASTER RESPONSE PLAN

1. Context

Disasters, both human-induced and natural, are rare in Kuldīga today. Historically however, the town had to face multiple fire and flood events that put both its residents and the historical urban fabric in danger. In the 16th and 17th century, significant fires were registered every 30 to 50 years on average and they were responsible for the biggest percentage of loss related to the historical building stock. Floods usually occur in Venta River, where its wide banks have prevented larger damage following such events. Only one flood event from 1615 is known to have destroyed multiple buildings of the Duchy period.

Nowadays, there are regular fire prevention campaigns for residents as well as professional exchange for the specialists (e.g., Kuldīga Municipality Building Authority) to learn about disaster risk management from other old towns in the region. With regard to flood retention, there was a study conducted in 2019/2020. Despite these activities, the cultural heritage of *Kuldīga / Goldingen in Courland* remains fragile regarding a number of hazards, and particularly regarding fire and flood, also today. Many risk factors in this regard, such as fire prone roofing material, have been minimized in the past and do no longer present a threat to the site. However, there are other factors that can evoke disasters: fires can be the consequence of electric malfunction or arson; floods can arise from heavy rainfalls both inside and outside the nominated property and have to be given particular attention also in the light of climate change, where extreme weather events are increasing also in the Baltic States. In this context, an increase in large storms has been registered in Latvia in the past 60 years: the biggest storms ever registered on Latvian territory occurred in the late 1960s, with less significant, yet untypical storms occurring in 2005 and 2013. With regard to heavy hailstorms, two major events were documented in Kuldīga in 2009 and 2020.

2. Existing emergency response plans

The general disaster risk management (DRM) of Kuldīga falls under the Civil Protection Plan of the Kuldīga Municipality in its version from 2022. This plan includes a detailed risk analysis as well as response strategies for all risks considered possible not only for the town of Kuldīga, but for the entire municipality. It clearly indicates responsibilities and gives information regarding the likeliness of different hazards. The plan is revised every four years and is an integral part of the legally required national security system consisting of actors of local and national institutions as well as other stakeholders of emergency services. Among its objectives are the maintenance of the safety of the population, capacity building in the field of DRM, as well as risk prevention, disaster response, and post-disaster recovery.

The plan includes detailed information sheets (“risk maps”) for all hazards considered relevant in the territory of the Kuldīga Municipality. These include thematic sheets regarding the collapse of building structures, wastewater and sewerage system emergencies, and building fires. Each of the sheets contains, inter alia, a specific list of tasks for each of the relevant institutions’ involvement in the DRM process. The saving of cultural heritage is a separate task that is mentioned in each of the risk maps for all types of hazards. While these plans do not lose relevance in the context of the nominated property, the present document provides additions specifically to preserve the Outstanding Universal Value of *Kuldīga / Goldingen in Courland*.

On a national level, the hazards relevant in the context of the nominated property fall under the responsibilities of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional De-

velopment (pollution and floods) as well as the Ministry of the Interior (building fires, collapse of structures).

3. Purpose of the Disaster Response Plan for the nominated property

While the Civil Protection Plan evaluates all possible disasters for the entire region (including less likely events such as earthquakes and terrorism), the Disaster Response Plan of *Kuldīga / Goldingen in Courland* functions as an addition to the overall emergency response procedures. The plan is valid specifically for the territory of the nominated property and adapts and deepens the overall DRM strategies regarding the protection of its heritage values. It intentionally focuses on the historical urban fabric. Regarding the evacuation of residents in case of large-scale disasters, there is one alarm system within the nominated property and one in the buffer zone. Same applies for assembly points. For DRM strategies with regard to the evacuation of inhabitants please refer to the Civil Protection Plan.

As all of the historically relevant hazards can have serious consequences for the site when faced unprepared, it is of utmost priority to have a detailed response strategy in place, identifying priority areas within the townscape to be evacuated in case of a disaster, and defining responsibilities and detailed processes. As a result of the conducted risk analysis and impact assessment, a response strategy was hence developed for those risks that would have a particularly high impact if they were to occur. This step includes the prioritization of territories (hotspots) according to their attributed value and vulnerability, and aims at a reduction of negative impacts in case of disaster. This is intended to protect the authenticity and integrity of the site.

The disaster response plan is available to all relevant stakeholders, including residents, public officials and specific groups, such as the local fire brigade, and its execution is a joint effort of site management with those responsible for disaster risk management of Kuldīga Municipality in general. The disaster response plan is a shared resource of the diverse stakeholders and lies at the core of all activities with regard to risk reduction and disaster preparedness.

4. Methodology

Not all risks evaluated in the risk analysis have the potential to lead to disasters, so that the identified factors affecting the property were further summarized with regard to their relevance for disaster response management (see table 12). Activities for the *prevention/mitigation* of hazards were described in the impact assessment and are not further specified in the disaster response plan. This document, in turn, focuses on responding to hazards and forms a step of the emergency preparedness of the site. It serves as a resource for all those who have to react in case of a disaster and establishes the necessary emergency response procedures for different disaster risk scenarios.

The Disaster Response Plan is subdivided into different hazards. For each separate hazard it follows the following structure:

1. Prioritization of attributes for definition of emergency hotspots;
2. List of emergency hotspots (different for different types of hazards);
3. Disaster risk scenarios;
4. Tabular summary.

Table 12. Identified factors affecting the property relevant for disaster risk management.

EVALUATED/IDENTIFIED FACTOR AFFECTING THE PROPERTY			PLACE		IMPACT			
RISK GROUP	Primary threat	Risk faktor	Internal risk	External risk	Positive	Negative	Present	Potential
5. Local factors affecting physical fabric								
Environmental pressures	Temperature	Temperature oscillation	↓			—	★	
	Rainwater	Collections and discharge of rainwater	↓			—	★	
	Groundwater	Oscillation of groundwater, increased levels	↓			—	★	
Disasters	Fire	Fire based on malfunction of electric infrastructure	↓			—		☆
7. Other human activities								
Factors influencing the property (place)	Deliberate destruction of heritage	Arson	↓			—		☆
8. Climate change and severe weather events								
Natural disasters and risk preparedness	Storms	Heavy storm, gale	↓	⊠		—		☆
		Hail damage	↓	⊠		—		☆
		Lightning strikes	↓	⊠		—		☆
	Flooding	River/stream overflows	↓	⊠		—		☆
	Drought	Lengthy drought, high temperatures	↓	⊠		—		☆

Finally, a concluding chapter consists of disaster response materials for all relevant hazards, including an emergency checklist, maps of emergency hotspots and attribute maps of the church interiors. All of this material is handed out to all staff members upon job entry as a measure of risk preparedness. The maps are furthermore placed in prominent locations in the offices of the local fire brigades and police departments as well as in the municipality in form of a laminated poster. The summary tables exist as an additional informational leaflet for all stakeholders.

This plan will be reviewed every four years, calling for the next review in 2026. In case a disaster occurs prior to this time frame, the plan shall be reviewed as a direct response to the specific situation, to assess the effectiveness and efficiency of the plan and to make adjustments, wherever necessary. In this context, it will also be reassessed whether additional hazards are considered to have developed the potential to become a disaster.

5. Disaster Response Plan

According to the resource manual published on “Managing Disaster Risks for World Heritage” by UNESCO and its advisory bodies, a disaster is the result a hazard can have on a particularly vulnerable attribute. The first 72 hours after the occurrence of a disaster, and the disaster response performed during this time frame, are considered to have a significant impact on the intensity of damage as well as on the development of secondary effects.

For a successful disaster response, it is crucial to understand which hazards are most likely to affect the site, what level of impact they have on the attributes, and the spatial distribution of attributes within the property in the context of their vulnerability. Areas with a higher density of vulnerable attributes are registered as so-called “hotspots”. There are separate hotspots for different types of hazards, which sometimes overlap.

As a result of the risk analysis and vulnerability assessment of *Kuldiga / Goldingen in Courland*, the following hazards were identified to be most likely to impact the site. Their occurrence can be intensified through climate change, so that climate change must be given particular attention in this regard:

5.1. Fire Hazard (domestic fire, urban fire, forestall fire);

5.2. Flood Hazard (infrastructure collapse, rise of water levels).

Each of the hazards will be developed individually, listing the most feasible scenarios in the event of such hazard. Every scenario will include a description of the possible origin of the danger, with the main direct and indirect adverse effects it can generate – as well as their monitoring mechanisms for prevention, improvement, and rehabilitation.

5.1. Fire hazard

Fire hazards develop from the uncontrolled spread of fire, which can severely damage the historical urban fabric and harm the site’s OUV. The main causes of fire are careless handling of naked flames, damage to electrical appliances, and errors in the operation of heating equipment, among others. Disasters based on fire are almost entirely human-induced. Due to the fast spreading of fire, a clear distribution of tasks and a fast response time are essential. The risk of fires in building structures in the nominated property is assessed as a significant risk with a medium probability.

5.1.1. Emergency hotspots

The priority of attributes for evacuation in the context of fire hazards is categorized as follows:

1. Attributes of highest significance (pre-18th century historical urban fabric) constructed from wood;
2. Attributes of highest significance (pre-18th century historical urban fabric) constructed from wood and stone;
3. Attributes of high significance (post-18th century historical urban fabric carrying the OUV) constructed from wood;
4. Attributes of high significance (post-18th century historical urban fabric carrying the OUV) constructed from mixed materials, including wood;
5. All other buildings from fire-prone materials.

The hotspots are defined as follows:

1. Areas with a high density of attributes from category 1, 1 and 2, or 1 and 3.
2. Areas with a high density of attributes from category 2, 2 and 3, or 2 and 4.
3. Areas with a high density of attributes from category 2 and 4, or 3 and 4.

This classification leads to the following prioritization of areas within the property in the case of large-scale fire-related disasters:

1. Pasta Street and its continuation in Baznīcas Street (until the crossing with Skolas Street);
 2. Raiņa Street
 3. Ventspils Street/ Upes Street;
 4. Baznīcas Street/ Policijas Street;
 5. Northern section of Ventspils Street
 6. Jelgavas Street
 7. Kalna Street
- Please refer to Section 6 for the emergency map.

5.1.2. Disaster Risk Scenarios: Fire

5.1.2.1. Domestic Fire

Uncontrolled fires originated inside private properties can expand quickly due to the materials in the interior of the building, and later spread towards the neighbouring buildings – especially in wooden constructions in the town centre. Some houses include heating, lighting, and cooking devices that can easily generate a fire when unattended; or that use fire for functioning. This scenario includes fireplaces, gas kitchens, gas ovens, candles, and any device that is used for heating; in addition, it also includes tools that generate or use fire for construction or reconstruction works.

The direct damage can be calculated by assessing how much the fire has affected the attributes and any other substantial part of the property. Although it is hard to avoid the spread of fire in wooden houses without the intervention of the fire brigades, several artefacts can be safeguarded and evacuated from the building (e.g., the movable pieces in the interior of a church). The indirect damages include the contamination by smoke, affecting the chemical composition of the materials; faster deterioration of structural building materials, such as wooden beams or ceilings; power or water cuts due to loss of wires and pipes; among others.

Table 13. Disaster risk scenario: Domestic fire

Domestic Fire					
Origin of the hazard	Actions to be taken	Actors involved	Monitoring systems	Timeframe and resources	Probability
Electrical malfunctions (indoors)	Unplugging devices to aim at stopping the malfunction (if coming from a tool or device), Mitigation of the hazard (if possible), Leaving the building and informing the authorities, Evacuation of movable objects related to attributes and the OUV (if possible), Closing gas pipes (if possible), Evaluation of fire transmission routes and notification to neighbours, Direct damage assessment of attributes (if possible).	Fire brigades, Local police, House owners, neighbouring house owners, administration (in case of public building)	Periodic reporting of the state of wires, plugs and switches in the building by the electricity administrator company.	At least every 10 years. Revisions from electricity suppliers.	medium
Sparks or flares generated by working tools			Proper use of precautionary measures when (re) construction works are carried in a closed space.	No timeframe. Protection equipment from workers.	low
Unattended fire (kitchen, candle, fireplace)	Mitigation of the hazard (if possible), Evacuation of movable objects related to attributes and the OUV (if possible), Leaving the building and informing the authorities, Closing gas pipes (if possible), Evaluation of fire transmission routes and notification to neighbours, Direct damage assessment of attributes (if possible).		Avoiding leaving unattended fires in closed indoors spaces, cooking with enough ventilation (windows open if needed), leaving candles (and other fires) away from burning materials.	-	medium
Gas leak (explosion, combustion)			Periodic reporting of gas systems and pipes by the gas administrator company to avoid possible damages.	Yearly. Revisions from gas suppliers.	low

5.1.2.1. Urban Fire

Uncontrolled fires within the urban centre, occurring in public spaces (mainly parks and squares) might be an additional risk to be taken into consideration. Social gatherings and festivities are considered the major cause of uncontrolled urban fires, being usually generated by bonfires, fireworks, and other small, controlled fires that can be extended when unattended or mismanaged. Urban fires can further be associated with accidents occurring in the public spaces, such as car crashes; or as side effects of human activities, such as demonstrations or protests. These human-induced hazards might generate urban fires that affect the attributes.

The last fire affecting the town was registered in 2020 due to a technical incidence. Previously, fires were recorded in 2011 and 2004, their main causes being human-related, possibly intentional. Therefore, isolated episodes of human-induced fires appear as a hazard, as being recorded in 2000 and 2001, and allegedly connected to arson. To avoid similar future scenarios, intentional fires against specific attributes for different ideological reasons have been added as a possible urban fire-related hazard.

Direct damages of uncontrolled urban fires are most likely to affect wooden constructions from the outside, as well as street furniture (park or street benches, trash bins, streetlights, traffic signs, and so on). Indirect consequences of urban fires include a strong aesthetic component, as locations where fires occurred remain visible in the ground and require for deep cleaning and rehabilitation. In case the response time is too long, urban fires can spread and affect the multiple attributes in the old town.

Table 14. Disaster risk scenario: Urban fire

Urban Fire					
Origin of the hazard	Actions to be taken	Actors involved	Monitoring systems	Timeframe and resources	Probability
Bonfires	Never leaving the fire unattended, asking for the necessary permissions to the municipality before starting such activities, Mitigation of the hazard (if possible), Informing the authorities, Evaluation of fire transmission routes, Alerting land- and house owners in neighbouring areas where attributes are found, Direct damage assessment of attributes (if possible).	Fire brigades, Municipality, Police Officers, affected land- and house owners.	Bonfires are forbidden in urban areas in general according to the municipal binding regulations. If bonfires are used within a public event for artistic purposes, organiser of the event applies for a permission according to the Public Entertainment and Celebration Safety Law (approved on June 16, 2005), including receiving consent from the Fire brigade and Police offices.	–	low
Fireworks			In case of planned fireworks organiser of the event applies for a permission according to the Public Entertainment and Celebration Safety Law (approved on June 16, 2005), including receiving consent from the Fire brigade and Police offices. The Fire brigade according to the regulations of the Law on the Circulation of Pyrotechnic Articles defines in which parts of the town fireworks are allowed. Fireworks are forbidden in the densely built up areas of the nominated property.	–	low
Traffic accidents (car crashing)	First aid to possible injured, Mitigation of the fire (if possible), Informing the authorities, Evaluation of fire transmission routes, Alerting land- and house owners in neighbouring areas where attributes are found, Direct damage assessment of attributes (if possible).	Fire brigades, Police Officers, affected land- and house owners.	Speed limit of 30km/h applies to the area of the urban construction monument “The Historical Centre of the Town of Kuldīga”, No heavy trucks are allowed inside the old town of Kuldīga, Parking is allowed and regulated.	–	low
Arson			Special surveillance in events and demonstrations to avoid such incidents, legal action against perpetrators.	Periodically, when official gatherings are planned.	low

5.2. Flood hazard

The most serious threat in the context of flood is related 1) with the melting of snow and ice in spring time, and 2) with heavy or continuous rainfall, which might be increasing in the light of climate change. In the context of the Civil Protection Plan, an assessment of flood risks showed that there are currently no flood risk areas in the town of Kuldīga. Nevertheless, site management decided to prepare procedures to be followed in case of this relatively unlikely event. The risk of serious flooding in the nominated property is assessed as a significant risk with a low probability.

5.2.1. Emergency hotspots

The areas in the context of flooding events are prioritized based on their density of attributes carrying the OUV of the nominated property in relation to the proximity to water bodies prone to flooding. In this context, the natural relief is considered, prioritizing areas that lie topographically below a river or similar. Areas with a high density of historical urban fabric are prioritized over those areas that follow the traditional building style, but which were constructed in the 19th and 20th centuries. As opposed to the classification in the context of fire hazards, there is no difference made between the different building materials.

This classification leads to the following prioritization of areas within the property in the case of large-scale flood-related disasters:

1. Buildings along Alekšupīte River in Pasta Street as well as the Town Hall Square.
2. Buildings by the confluence of the rivers Alekšupīte and Venta.

Please refer to Section 6 for the emergency map.

5.2.2. Disaster Risk Scenarios: Flooding

5.2.2.1 Rise of Water Levels

The rise of the water levels in the Venta River (either occasioned by heavy rains or snow/ice melting) might generate a flooding scenario that can negatively affect the attributes near to the river area. Although the city presents high enough to resist high water levels, there are areas that are expected to be periodically flooded, e.g., the Mārtinsala area, which is flooded approximately once every 10 years.

Several meteorological episodes are to be recognized as affecting the property in different ways. However, the city has not recently recorded strong winds (there was a heavy storm with wind speed of the wind about 40m/s in 2005); heavy snow or ice; or blizzards that have affected any of the attributes in a severe way. Significant rainfalls are to be seen as the main cause of flooding in the property that can cause a rise of water levels. The impact of rain can be caused both by singular events of brief, but intense rainfall and by continuous rainfall over a prolonged period. Both result in the soil becoming waterlogged so it cannot absorb more water, causing the water levels to rise. Periods of continuous rainfall are more likely to happen in autumn or winter. Brief intense rain is more common in summer, often in combination with thunderstorms.

The direct damage can be calculated by assessing if the flooding has washed out structural or decorative elements of the attributes; or if structural architectural features from buildings next to the river have been affected by the pressure and speed of the river waters. Besides humidity, indirect damages include soil erosion of the riverbanks, as well as transport of non-organic sediments that can affect the integrity of the property.

Table 15. Disaster risk scenario: Rise of water levels

Rise of Water Levels					
Origin of the hazard	Actions to be taken	Actors involved	Monitoring systems	Timeframe and resources	Probability
Heavy Rain	Clearing out of sewerage systems (if possible) to avoid obstructions, Evaluation of water flowing routes, Alerting land- and house owners in neighbouring areas where attributes are found, Direct damage assessment of attributes (if possible).	Local police, Fire brigades, municipality, House owners.	Revision of the proper functioning of Alekšupīte River, periodic cleaning of obstructive materials fallen in the river, revision of domestic sewerage systems in roofs and gardens.	Seasonally, and before a big rain is expected, and after to check possible obstructions.	medium
Continuous Rain					medium
Periodic flooding of Mārtinsala	Acknowledge the historic flooding cycles for preparedness, Total evacuation of the area before rainy seasons, Inform authorities, Evaluation of water flowing routes, Alerting land- and house owners in neighbouring areas where attributes are found, Direct damage assessment of attributes (if possible).	Local Police, Municipality, Landowners.	Setting boundaries for flooding measurement in future times, Set evacuation plans, Monitor the amount of sediments carried by the river and the erosion of the river-bank soil.	Yearly, and after every big flooding or heavy rain season.	medium
Rise of Venta River affecting areas other than Mārtinsala	Informing authorities, Evaluation of water flowing routes, Alerting land- and house owners in neighbouring areas where attributes are found, Direct damage assessment of attributes (if possible).	Local police, Fire brigades (or military if evacuation is necessary), municipality	Proper maintenance of the material fabric of the infrastructure, Repairing of cracks when they appear.	At least every 10 years, or when a malfunction is noticed.	low

5.2.2.2 Infrastructure Collapse

Direct flooding, originated inside the property, should be considered as one of the most damaging and alarming risk scenarios for Kuldīga. Traditional houses have been resilient to water overtime, but both the direct and indirect effects of flooding can damage the material fabric of most of the attributes inside the town. Flooding can be originated by the malfunctioning or collapse of water-related infrastructure, e.g., the obstruction of the bridges. Inside the property, rainwater is conducted towards the Alekšupīte River, so its obstruction or collapse could generate a severe hazard within the property.

The direct damage can be calculated by assessing if the flooding has washed out structural or decorative elements of the attributes (e.g., window frames, lower wooden panels in the facades, original paint or stucco layers of the outside walls, original doors, etc.). Direct damages also include infrastructural hazards generated by heavy rains. On the contrary, indirect damages include an increased humidity in the material fabric that can generate mould, moisture, water leaks, and even frost wedging whenever low temperatures are registered.

Infrastructure collapse implies an urgent need for rehabilitation of the damaged asset, as it might be even related to the damage of the OUV of the property. Damages on roads, bridges and underground sewerage systems can not only imply direct damage by water accumulation, but also structural hazards in the urban fabric – affecting transport, communications, or housing.

Table 16. Disaster risk scenario: Infrastructure collapse

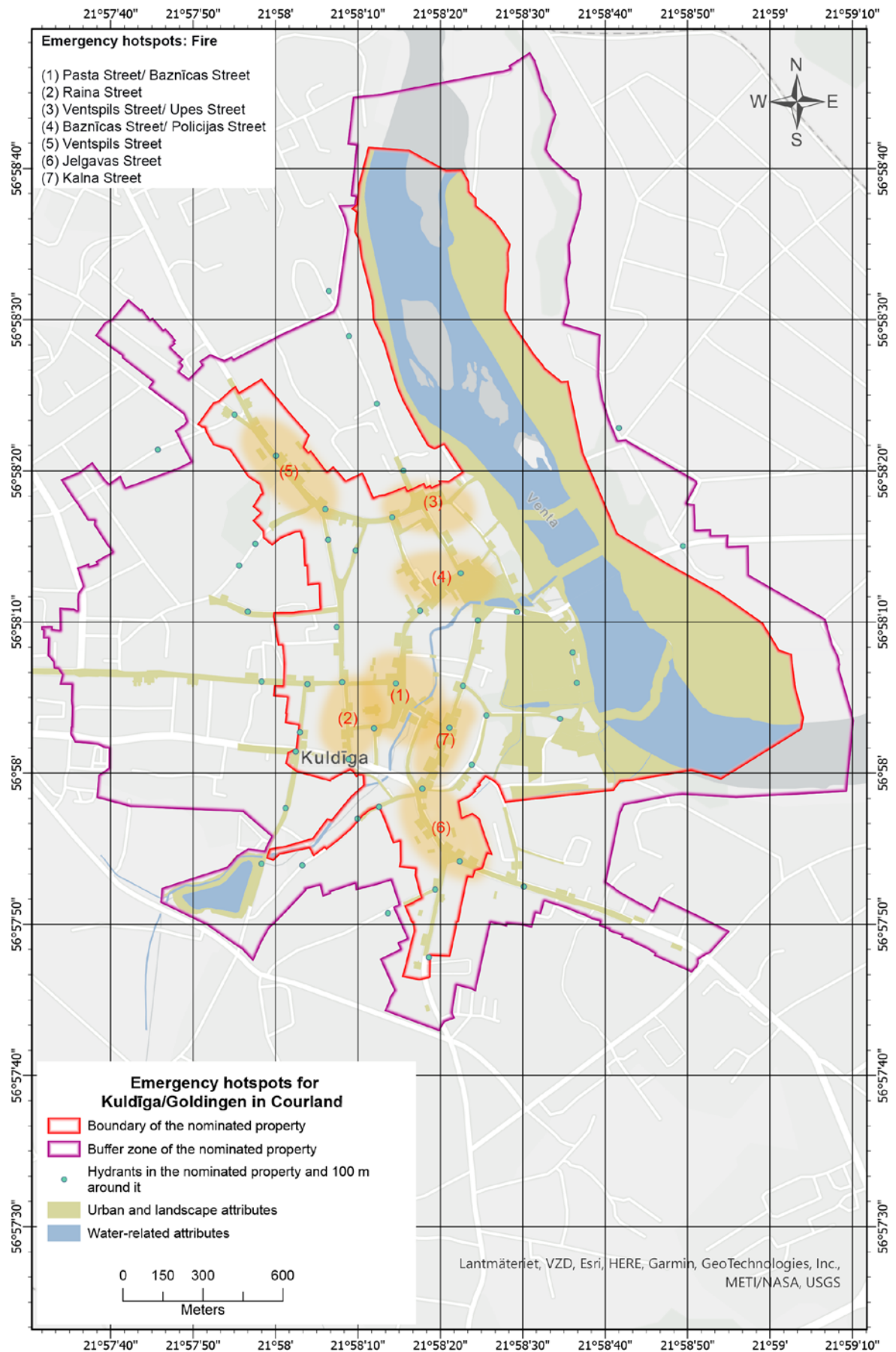
Infrastructure Collapse					
Origin of the hazard	Actions to be taken	Actors involved	Monitoring systems	Timeframe and resources	Probability
Sewerage systems obstruction	Remove obstruction from the sewage system (if possible), Inform authorities, Evaluate water flowing routes, Alert land- and house owners in neighbouring areas where attributes are found, Follow Civil Protection Plan, Direct damage assessment of attributes (if possible and if damaged directly).	Local police, municipality, neighbouring house owners possibly affected by water.	Revisions of the proper functioning of sewerage systems to be conducted.	Seasonally, and before a big rain is expected, and after to check possible obstructions	Medium
Alekšupīte River obstruction			Revision of the proper functioning of Alekšupīte River, periodic cleaning of plastics and other obstructive materials fallen in the canal.		low
Bridge (or dam and waterfalls) collapse	Inform authorities, Evaluate water flowing routes, Alert land- and house owners in neighbouring areas where attributes are found, Following flooding resilience instructions, Following evacuation plans (if necessary), Direct damage assessment of attributes (if possible).	Local police, Fire brigades (or Military if evacuation is necessary), municipality, neighbouring house owners possibly affected by water.	Proper maintaining of the material fabric of the infrastructure, Repairing of cracks when they appear to avoid filtrations and wedging.	At least every 10 years, or when a malfunction is noticed.	low

6. Materials on Disaster Response

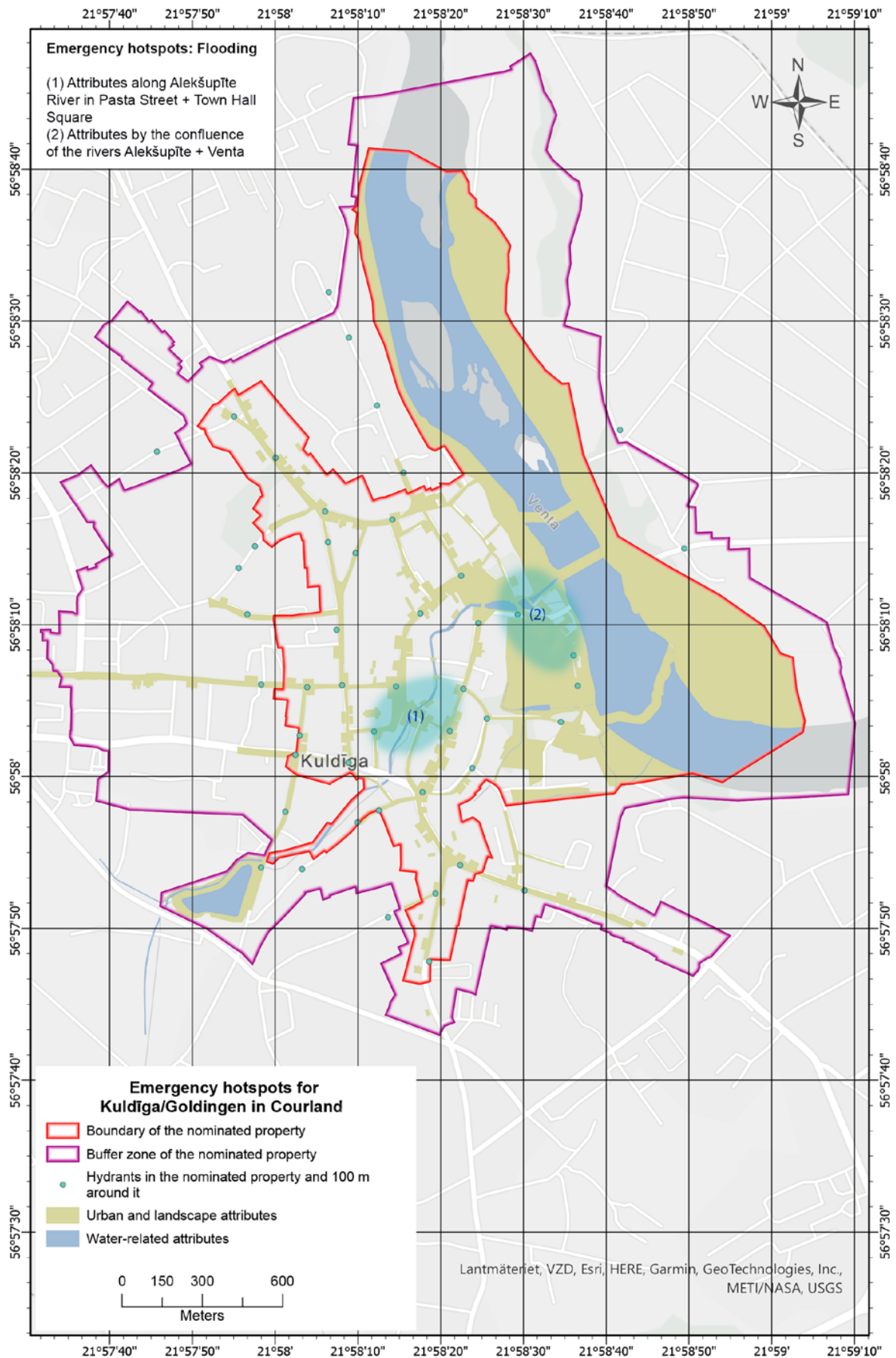
Material 1. Checklist

Checklist for disaster response	
Institution	Checklist
Kuldīga / Goldingen in Courland Site Management	<input type="checkbox"/> Provide information regarding the specifics of the rescue mission regarding the heritage values to fire brigades and police department <input type="checkbox"/> Take decisions regarding priorities not defined per disaster response strategies
Kuldīga Municipality	<input type="checkbox"/> evacuate population from the affected areas as per Civil Protection Plan <input type="checkbox"/> provide adequate working conditions for officials, legal and natural persons involved in disaster management as per Civil Protection Plan <input type="checkbox"/> involve other institutions, whenever necessary
Kuldīga branch of State Fire Service	<input type="checkbox"/> send out rescue teams with thematic priorities: population/ heritage objects <input type="checkbox"/> manage and carry out fire-fighting and rescue operations <input type="checkbox"/> in case of rapid spreading of fire over town/ in case of rapid increase of water level: follow priorities according to the map on emergency hotspots regarding safeguarding of historical fabric <input type="checkbox"/> in case of fire in the church buildings: follow priorities of evacuation of interiors according to attribute maps
Kuldīga Municipal Police Department	<input type="checkbox"/> guarantee the safety of individuals and the public <input type="checkbox"/> help public officials when their legitimate activities are obstructed <input type="checkbox"/> help with fire-fighting and rescue work <input type="checkbox"/> support functions (evacuation, containment, information, policing)
Residents	<input type="checkbox"/> Mitigation of the hazard (if possible) <input type="checkbox"/> Leave the building and inform the authorities <input type="checkbox"/> Notify neighbours in case of danger

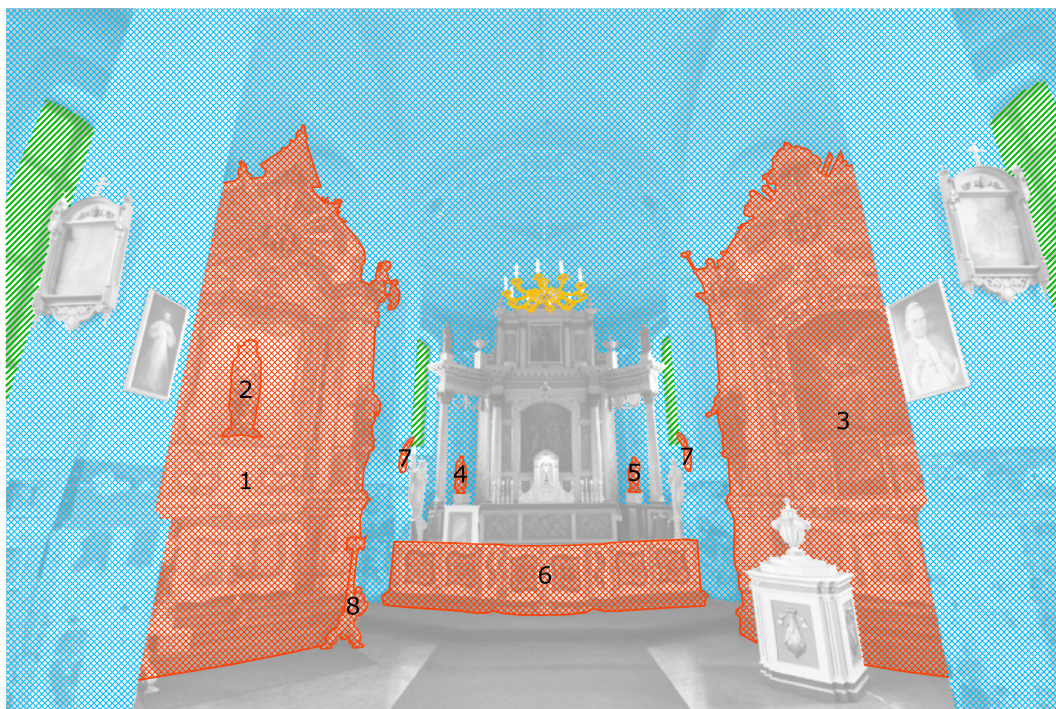
Material 2. Map of emergency hotspots: Fire Hazard



Material 3. Map of emergency hotspots: Flood Hazard



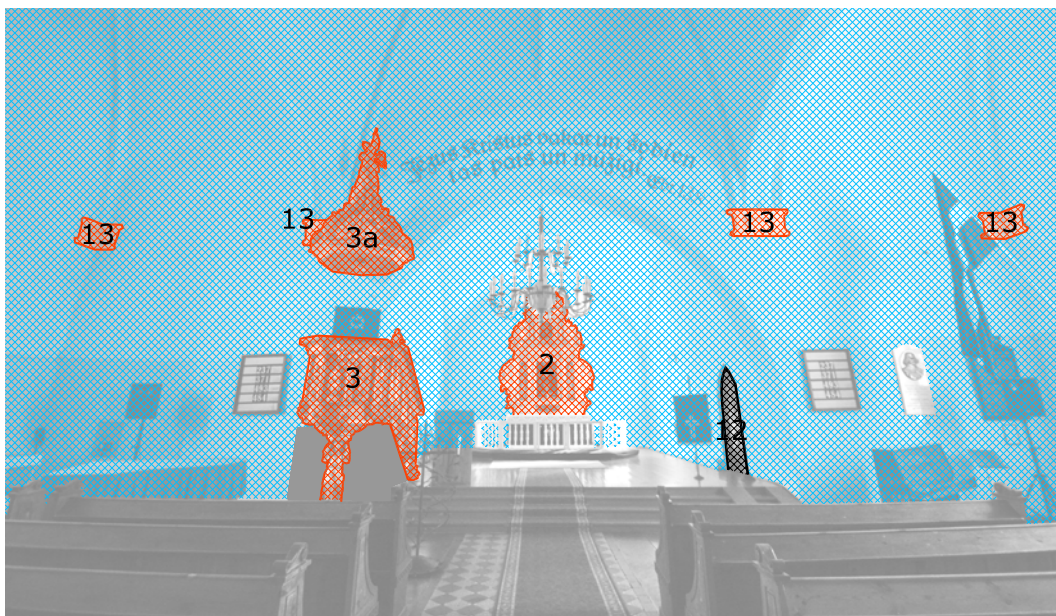
Material 4. Attribute map of the Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church interior



- 1 - side altar
- 2 - sculpture of Madonna
- 3 - side altar
- 4 - sculpture of Jesus Christ
- 5 - sculpture of Moses
- 6 - altar courtyard
- 7 - wall candestick with reflectors
- 8 - chandelier

**ALL INTERIOR ITEMS MARKED IN RED ARE
TO BE SAVED FIRST AND EVACUATED IN
CASE OF DISASTER**

Material 5. Attribute map of the St. Catherine's Church interior



- 2 - altar
- 3 - pulpit
- 3a - roof of the pulpit
- 12 - door
- 13 - decorative foot of the vault

**ALL INTERIOR ITEMS MARKED IN RED ARE
TO BE SAVED FIRST AND EVACUATED IN
CASE OF DISASTER**