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MINISTRY OF CULTURE
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CETINJE

The Government of Montenegro, at the session held on 24 April 2014, considered the Proposal of the Management Plan of the stećak necropolises “Grčko groblje” and “Žugića Bare”, Novakovići, Municipality of Žabljak and “Grčko groblje,” Šćepan Polje, Municipality of Plužine, submitted by the Ministry of Culture.

In that regard, the Government issues the following:

CONCLUSION

The Government has adopted the Management Plan of the stećak necropolises “Grčko groblje“ and “Žugića Bare”, Novakovići, Municipality of Žabljak and “Grčko groblje,” Šćepan Polje, Municipality of Plužine.

GENERAL SECRETARY DEPUTY
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Cetinje, December 2013
Contents

1. INTRODUCTION.............................................................................................................................. 9
   1.1. Preparation of management plans at the transnational level............................................. 10
       1.1.1. Vision .......................................................................................................................... 11
       1.1.2. Objectives ................................................................................................................... 11
       1.1.3. Criteria for inscription (ii, iii, vi) ................................................................................ 13
       1.1.4. Outstanding universal value......................................................................................... 14
       1.1.5. Authenticity and integrity ............................................................................................ 14
   1.2. Preparation of the Management Plan for Montenegro...................................................... 16
       1.2.1. Reasons for developing the Management Plan in Montenegro ................................ 16
       1.2.2. Legal basis for the adoption of the Management Plan ................................................ 17
       1.2.3. Methodology for the drafting of the management plan ............................................ 17
       1.2.4. Vision and objectives of the Management Plan .......................................................... 18

2. IDENTIFICATION........................................................................................................................... 20
   2.1. Historical development ........................................................................................................ 20
       2.1.1. History of the Durmitor area ...................................................................................... 20
       2.1.2. History of the Piva Area ........................................................................................... 22
   2.2. Description of cultural property .......................................................................................... 23
       2.2.1. Grčko Groblje, Riblje jezero, Novakovići, Žabljak .................................................. 24
       2.2.2. Bare Žugića, Novakovići, Žabljak .............................................................................. 25
       2.2.3. Grčko Groblje, Šćepan Polje, Plužine ...................................................................... 26
   2.3. Description of the protected area .......................................................................................... 28
       2.3.1. Grčko Groblje, Riblje jezero, Novakovići, Žabljak .................................................. 28
       2.3.2. Bare Žugića, Novakovići, Žabljak .............................................................................. 29
       2.3.3. Grčko Groblje, Šćepan Polje, Plužine ...................................................................... 30
   2.4. State of conservation of the cultural property and the protected area ............................ 32
       2.4.1. Grčko Groblje, Riblje jezero, Novakovići, Žabljak .................................................. 32
       2.4.2. Bare Žugića, Novakovići, Žabljak .............................................................................. 34
       2.4.3. Grčko Groblje, Šćepan Polje, Plužine ...................................................................... 34
   2.5. Factors affecting the cultural property ................................................................................. 36
       2.5.1. Grčko Groblje, Riblje jezero and Bare Žugića, Novakovići, Žabljak ............................ 36
       2.5.2. Grčko Groblje, Šćepan Polje, Plužine ...................................................................... 37
   2.6. Cultural Values ......................................................................................................................... 38
       2.6.1. Authenticity and integrity ............................................................................................ 38
       2.6.1.1. Grčko Groblje, Riblje jezero, Novakovići, Žabljak ................................................ 38
       2.6.1.2. Bare Žugića, Novakovići, Žabljak ........................................................................... 38
       2.6.1.3. Grčko Groblje, Šćepan polje, Plužine ................................................................ 38
       2.6.2. The uniqueness and rarity within their kind ............................................................... 39
       2.6.3. The archaeological value ............................................................................................. 40
       2.6.4. Historical value .......................................................................................................... 40
       2.6.5. Ethnological value ...................................................................................................... 40
3. SUSTAINABLE USE AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MANAGEMENT PLAN

3.1. Sustainable use

3.1.1. Protection measures

3.1.1.1. Grčko groblje, Riblje jezero, Novakovići, Žabljak

3.1.1.2. Bare Žugića, Novakovići, Žabljak

3.1.1.3. Grčko groblje, Šćepan Polje, Plužine

3.1.2. Protection regime

3.2. Implementation of the Management Plan

3.2.1. Implementation of the Management Plan at the intergovernmental level

3.2.2. Implementation of the Management Plan at the national level

3.2.3. Responsibility and Administration

3.2.4. Management Body

3.2.5. Funding

3.2.6. Revision and monitoring

4. OBJECTIVES OF THE MANAGEMENT PLAN AND THE ACTION PLAN

4.1. Objectives and the action plan at the intergovernmental level

4.2. Objectives and the action plan at the national level

4.2.1. Objectives

4.2.2. Action plan

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1

APPENDIX 2

APPENDIX 3

LITERATURE

Working Group for the preparation of the Management Plan of Steći – medieval tombstones
1. INTRODUCTION

Stećak necropolises Grčko Groblje and Bare Žugića, in Novakovići, Municipality of Žabljak, and Grčko Groblje, in Šćepan Polje, Municipality Plužine, have been selected, based on their outstanding universal value, for a transnational nomination in the framework “Nomination of Stećci - Medieval Tombstones for Inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage List” along with 27 other necropolises in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and the Republic of Serbia. Steći - Monolithic Tombstones are medieval artistic creations of authentic stylistic expression originating from the territories of Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia, which should hold a prominent place in the cultural heritage of the world.

The protection, conservation and development of the nominated archaeological sites are a real challenge for Montenegro, because the status of World Heritage Site involves a continued and long-term commitment of all parties involved. Therefore, they must be based on the protection and preservation of outstanding universal values in accordance with the principles of sustainable development for the present and future generations.

The main objective of the Management Plan is to ensure effective protection and enhance the value of the future World Heritage Site through the establishment of an inclusive mechanism of management. First and foremost, this is a strategic plan which sets the framework for an integrated management which promotes values, resources and appropriate use of cultural heritage sites.

The Management Plan, operative both on the transnational and the national levels, deals with the identification, description and management of all the shared aspects of a serial nomination. It establishes cooperation at the transnational level in the international implementation of the Management Plan and the Action Plan of the future joint World Heritage Site.

At the national level, the Management Plan primarily identifies all the relevant elements for the nomination of the stećak necropolises, identifies the challenges and the threats, proposes policies and provides guidance and measures aimed at the preservation and promotion of cultural values of the nominated archaeological sites within the territory of Montenegro.

Chapter 1 contains the methodology for the drafting of management plans, its visions and goals at the transnational and national levels, as well as the explanations related to the inscription criteria, outstanding universal value and the authenticity and integrity of the 30 nominated necropolises in Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia.

Chapter 2 contains information about the identification of the three nominated stećak necropolises, of which two are situated in the village Novakovići in the Municipality of Žabljak – Grčko Groblje and Bare Žugića, and one in the Municipality Plužine – Grčko Groblje in Šćepan Polje. This chapter provides a description of the cultural properties and its buffer zones, state of conservation, factors that could affect the cultural properties, as well as the justification of the cultural values based on which they are inscribed in the Montenegrin Register of Cultural Properties. Moreover, this chapter describes the legal and institutional grounds for the protection of the cultural heritage, the ownership, the protection status, spatial planning documents, funding sources, analyses of the touristic potential, and the socio-economic and SWOT analyses.

Chapter 3 provides guidelines for a sustainable use of the stećak necropolises, by defining measures and regimes for its protection and by identifying the implementation of the Management Plan at the international and national levels. The framework for the implementation of the Management Plan envisions the forming of a managing body, financing methods, and defines the auditing and monitoring obligations.

Chapter 4 contains the objectives and the action plan at the transnational and national levels.
1.1. Preparation of management plans at the transnational level

The drafting of the management plans for the stećak necropolises was preceded by the signing of the Letter of Intent on the establishment of inter-institutional cooperation in the preparation and presentation of a joint project of the drafting of the nomination document entitled “Nomination of Stećci – Medieval Tombstones – for Inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage List.” The Letter of Intent was signed in Sarajevo on November 2nd 2009 by representatives of the following institutions: The Commission of the Preservation of National Monuments and the Ministry of Civil Affairs on behalf of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Serbia, the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Media of Montenegro and the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Croatia.

A transnational coordination group was established, constituted by the coordinators responsible for the drafting of the Nomination Dossier and by the coordinators in charge of compiling the Management Plan, all appointed by the line authorities of the states parties to the Letter of Intent.

From 2010 to 2012, several work meetings have been held, resulting in an agreement concerning the work methodology and the harmonization of the parts of the textual entries for the Tentative Lists, which constituted the first official document in the nomination procedure. All Member States submitted the Tentative Lists with descriptions of their sites with the stećci to the World Heritage Centre in April 2011.

The common goal was the creation of a serial nomination for this transnational property and the achievement of the world heritage status which would acknowledge on the international level its outstanding universal value, in accordance with the instructions provided by the UNESCO Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention.

The 30 stećak necropolises selected (22 from Bosnia and Herzegovina, two from Croatia, three from Montenegro and three from Serbia) represent the components of a world heritage property and contribute to the understanding of the proposed outstanding universal value.

In 2012 and 2013, the transnational coordination group has worked intensely and cooperated on the collaborative drafting of the Nomination Dossier and the common parts of the Management Plan. Bearing in mind the various administrative, legal, scientific, financial, economic and social conditions in the countries, as well as the differences in the number, size and territorial distribution of the stećak necropolises, it was agreed that each state would prepare its own Management Plan, establishing at the same time a coordinated system of management for certain segments of the planned activities.

Consequently, each country assumes the responsibility of the protection, conservation and management of the stećak necropolises located on its territory. Various national, regional and local authorities within each country support the joint nomination and are included in the implementation of the Management Plan, thus ensuring the sustainable use of the nominated cultural properties.

Taking into consideration that all the components of nomination, i.e. each stećak necropolis selected, must contribute to the integrity of the entire nomination and to the effective protection, management and implementation of the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, it was deemed necessary to establish a coordinated management system and a transnational coordination board.

By adopting the management plans at the transnational level, all four countries involved demonstrated their support to the realized work and their commitment to actively participate in the Transnational Coordination Board, to be established after the inscription of the stećci on the UNESCO World Heritage List. The tasks of the Coordination Board are: the identification of common strategies, principles and standards (conservation, capacity building, exchange and dissemination of the results of research, presentation, etc.), which are necessary for the successful management of the sites. The Management Plan is based on transnational principles and standards set by conventions and charters that contain information on conservation principles.
### 1.1.1. Vision

The 30 stećak necropolises selected from the territories of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia, represent non-renewable resources important for the sustainable development of local communities, the establishment of cooperation in different areas and on different levels, as well as for the initiation of intercultural dialogue.

The outstanding cultural values of the stećak necropolises are elaborated in a comprehensive management plan which embraces the principles of proper management, an integrated approach to the development of tourism, the concepts of sustainable development and other modern standards that will ensure a unique experience of world heritage.

All the selected stećak necropolises are components of the serial transnational nomination and contribute to the understanding of the proposed outstanding universal value of the stećci.

The management system guarantees an efficient vertical and horizontal coordination between Member States and their national, regional and local authorities and communities, as well as experts through coordination groups.

The inscription on the World Heritage List contributes to a better protection and conservation, enabling better exchanges of knowledge and experience and the collaboration between experts, decision-makers and local communities. As part of World Heritage, the stećak necropolises will also be significant resources for the economic and social development of local communities.

With the inscription of stećci on the UNESCO World Heritage List, these cultural properties become part of the common heritage of mankind.

### 1.1.2. Objectives

The general objective of management is to ensure sustainable use of the selected stećak necropolises included in the serial nomination, for the benefit of present and future generations. In this regard, sustainable use includes achieving a balance between the following factors:

- need for the physical protection of the stećci against degradation,
- protection and management of the natural environment,
- acquisition of knowledge through interdisciplinary research,
- inclusion of local communities,
- economic valorization.

The Management Plan aims at raising public awareness on the importance of stećci, highlighting their cultural, scientific and educational value, and developing strategies for social and economic benefit.

The common aims have been determined in order to provide the targets and activities framework and to guide the activities of all the partners at transnational, national and local levels. Each defined objective is linked with the expected outcomes:

#### 1. Coordination (C1) - to ensure effective coordination between all participants in the nomination

- The Transnational Coordination Group contributes to efficient management. Decision-making is transparent, decisions are consistent and reasonable;
- The countries’ organizational structures bring together regional and local authorities in each country, following each country’s implementation of measures approved by the Transnational Coordination Board, and developing activities specific to each country. Local communities are involved in the work through their representatives. The work done by all authorities and participants is well coordinated. The work is transparent and done in the spirit of mutual respect;
- Transnational, state, regional and local experts who are involved in the activities make up for a highly efficient network;
- An efficient information management is established and the documentation is standardized.
2. Credibility (C2) – to strengthen the credibility of the member states

- Nomination of the medieval stećak necropolises enhances the credibility of the World Heritage List;
- Joint management ensures better understanding of medieval sepulchral art and historical characteristic of the geographic region;
- The end result is to achieve excellence of conservation, protection and interpretation.

3. Conservation (C3) – to ensure integrated conservation

- The outstanding universal value, authenticity and integrity of the stećak necropolises is preserved;
- The conservation includes the management of changing circumstances so as to protect the values in the best way possible for the present and future generations. Changes are inevitable, caused by natural, social and development processes;
- Potential conflicts between the conservation of value of the necropolises and other forms of public interest should be reduced through seeking out measures that will not compromise the value, authenticity and integrity of the cultural properties;
- Archaeological excavations are only possible if there is a special scientific interest;
- Research and conservation treatments and activities do not impair the outstanding universal value of the serial property and the value of the environment;
- An integral approach is achieved in the system of protection of nature and the conservation of the stećci.

4. Capacity Building (C4) – to develop effective measures of capacity-building

- Knowledge is the key to the protection, conservation and proper management of the property, which is why all forms of knowledge acquisition are encouraged;
- Professional development is constantly encouraged;
- Experts transmit knowledge and encourage other actors to learn and take care of the property;
- Documentation is available, while all the interventions and changes to the properties are documented;
- Local population has been instructed on the activities related to tourism and generates economic and social benefits;
- A permanent education at the local level has been ensured in the area of the site management (maintenance of the necropolises, monitoring and reporting, management of visits).

5. Communication (C5) – to increase public awareness and support

- The joint communication strategy has been adopted (interpretation, campaigns, web page, newsletters, cooperation with the media and other), which contributes to the better understanding of the outstanding universal value and the need to protect the necropolises;
- The understanding of the value of the stećak necropolises as world heritage properties is ensured, necessary for informing the future decision-makers about their management;
- A distinctive visual identity of the stećak necropolises is established. World Heritage status is adequately highlighted on sites;
- The campaigns contribute to raising public awareness and induce a sense of pride among the local population.

6. Local communities (C6) – the involvement in management

- Local people understand the value of the stećci and the need for their protection;
- Local communities are constantly informed and included in the issues regarding the stećak necropolises, which contributes to their better protection;
- The management system allows local communities to realize the benefits and enjoy the property in a way that does not compromise its value.
1.1.3. Criteria for inscription (ii, iii, vi)

Bearing in mind that archaeological sites have to have universal value and to meet at least one of the ten criteria for nomination for the World Heritage List, expert teams of the four states parties in the joint project “Nomination of Stećci – Medieval Tombstones - for Inscrition on the UNESCO World Heritage List”, opted for the following three criteria, namely:

Criterion (ii) – They exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time, or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town-planning or landscape design, the medieval tombstones - stećci, as seen on the 30 sites selected on the territories of the four countries, represent the best preserved and most original artistic expression of this form of medieval sepulchral art.

In the areas where it originated, this form of expression reflects the intertwining of different cultural influences this region has inherited from the period spanning from the thirteenth to the sixteenth century, and which belong to the Latin West and the Byzantine East. Yet most of their reliefs, as a distinctive form of decoration, can be traced in the patrician, ecclesiastical and traditional European medieval cultures, i.e. the Romanesque and particularly Gothic art.

On the other hand, this specific culture is deeply linked with significantly earlier traditions – the prehistoric, antique and early medieval ones. The prehistoric and antique traditions are apparent in the choice of locations for the tombstones, but also in their reliefs. For the most part, stećci mark the tombs laid in rows, which is a practice occurring in the European archaeology from the early Middle Ages, in the so-called Migration Period.

The exchange of diverse values is recognized in the fact that members of all social strata were buried under the stećci, regardless of their ethnic and political affiliation. From the archaeological point of view, the findings in the graves under the stećci indicate that the examined space was just about an even cultural horizon. Interconfessionality is one of the special values of stećci: all the three medieval Christian community members in these areas, pertaining to the Catholic, Orthodox or Bosnian Church, were buried under stećci. Impossible as it is to distinguish them in relation to religious affiliation, the stećci represent an original expression based on the acceptance and interlacing of different cultural influences.

Criterion (iii) They bear a unique or at least extraordinary testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared, because stećci, regardless of the fact that they are part of the medieval European culture with traces of earlier ages, due to several of their characteristics also represent a unique occurrence in the European medieval artistic and archaeological heritage. Within the selection of these 30 sites, all their characteristics can described, the most important one being their number, which shows that the 70,000 recorded monuments prove that this is an unprecedented phenomenon in Europe.

Another characteristic is their formal diversity; today we know of the following basic forms: slabs, chests, ridged tombstones (sljemenak), pillars and crosses (krstača – križina). The choice of shape was mostly dependent on the skills of the stonemason and the desires of the ordering party, and all the shapes are present at the selected sites.

In addition, the reliefs represent an extraordinary testimony to a medieval culture that disappeared, the stećci being its only material trace. This claim is supported by an incredible abundance of reliefs of different contents, depicting scenes of everyday life, symbolic and religious representations and decorative motifs.

Various inscriptions appear on the stećci as their special and substantial characteristic, bearing witness to the fact that they are outstanding monuments to medieval literacy present in all layers of society which today serve as a resource for the study of different cultural and social influences.

Tombstones are a unique historical source for the interpretation of events that characterize Southeast Europe Middle Ages. Development of the medieval states, growth of the free communes on the coast, establishment of the feudal lord-vassal relationships, emergence of higher and lower layers of the nobility, strengthening of the roles of various ecclesiastical authorities, rise to power of the Ottoman Empire, as well as the socio-political and economic opportunities that characterize these times, are all unquestionably reflected in the abandonment of the practice of the burial under the stećci.

Criterion (vi) They are directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance, because from their first appearance, and in particular since the time of the abandonment of the practice of the burial beneath them (beginning of the 16th century to the present), the stećci have been deeply rooted in different forms of intangible heritage.

The phenomena related to the stećci (location names, beliefs, national traditions, stories) show similar characteristics found in the entire distribution area, confirming the uniqueness of this cultural phenomenon. Today we find evidence
of their importance in the names of the cemeteries, which express the appreciation and admiration for the monumental dimensions of tombstones, for their age and relief representations (Divsko groblje (Cemetery of Giants), Mramorje (Marblestones), Grčko Groblje (Greek Cemetery), Kaurso groblje). Folk legends and the oral traditions are inspired by motifs originating from the medieval chivalric milieu represented on the stećci, which attribute their carving and putting in place to fantastic, supernatural beings (fairies, giants) and connect them with legendary wars and conflicts.

Even the scientific research of the tombstones points towards the specificity of these monuments and their location areas. During a long period of nearly 150 years (more precisely, from the second half of the nineteenth century), for as long as the scientific and institutional interest in them has been present, there have been many different opinions and points of view in the archaeological, historical-artistic and historical interpretation of the stećci.

The epigraphy and the reliefs on the stećci have been a prominent influence on the contemporary literature and other art forms. The stećci represent an inspiration to the sculptors (Boško Kućanski), painters (Mario Mikulić, Mirko Kujačić, Zdravko Anić, Lazar Drlića, Ibrahim Novalić, Danko Brkić, Gabrijel Jurkić, Petar Šain, Virgilije Nevjestić, Dževad Hozo, Nedim Tahirović, Seid Hasanefendić), poets (Mehmedalija Mak Dizdar, Skender Kulenović, Petar Gudelj, Janko Bubalo, Ivan Kordić, Kemal Mahmutefendić), filmmakers (Jan Beran), writers (Miroslav Krleža) and photographers (Tošo Dabac, Dragutin Resner, Ado Šahbaz).

1.1.4. Outstanding universal value

Created as artworks, sculptures, with the intention to immortalize the memory of the deceased as an integral part of the European sepulchral practice, the medieval tombstones - stećci represent a special phenomenon and a specific synthesis of language and script, religion and customs, history and chronology, culture, art and aesthetics. Their primary interpretive context is in the region of the Central and South Eastern Europe, a transitional zone of the European culture characterized by interlaced and amalgamated cultural influences of the eastern and the western Christianity, located in between the Medieval European West and East.

The universal value and the European dimension of the stećci, both as tombstones and as specific expressions of sepulchral art of the Middle Ages, is outlined within the threefold historical context of their occurrence: Western European, Byzantine and South Slavic.

Acting as a bridge within a broader South Slavic region, traditionally characterized by confessional, political, ethnic and geographical divisions, and reconciling the two otherwise sharply separated domains of medieval culture – high (court or cleric) and popular – by universalizing the contemplation of the finality of human existence reflected in the integration of pagan and Christian motifs and expressions, the complex artistry of the visual language of tombstones expresses the deepest truths about the world, verbally complemented with tombstone inscriptions - epitaphs. By and large, the general value and relevance of a complex phenomenon such as the medieval tombstones – the stećci, is reflected already in the universal themes they artistically represent and make visible, i.e. the subject of death.

1.1.5. Authenticity and integrity

The stećci represent an authentic form of tombstone markers which occur and persist in the period from the 13th throughout the 15th century, almost in the entire territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in the western parts of Serbia and Montenegro, as well as in the central and southern parts of Croatia.

The proposed stećak necropolises, their archaeological and historical context, the variety of types of tombstones and ornaments, as well as the contents of their epitaphs have preserved the highest level of authenticity in comparison with other stećak necropolises, and are therefore chosen for this nomination.

The authenticity of the stećci is reflected in the sepulchral art of the Middle Ages, through the influence of Western European and Byzantine cultures on the cultural history of the then medieval states of the Balkan Peninsula. The stećak as a tombstone combines two different medieval cultural concepts, the high (court or church) and the popular culture. The complex content of these tombstones, motifs and inscriptions have preserved its documentary value and the message on the finality of human existence, also witnessing to the interconnection between the pre-Christian and the Christian motifs and phrases.
The nominated stećak necropolises contain all the features of the stećci located throughout the territory of their distribution. We are dealing with authentic, intact locations, with monuments which are still in the same place as at the time of their setting up. The recorded movements of certain stećci happened as a result of natural processes, terrain subsidence and climate changes, without intention to harm the stećak or the contents of the grave.

The forms, ornaments and inscriptions of the stećci remained unchanged from the time of their making until today. The changes represented by cracks and other forms of physical damage appeared due to the climate changes. At the locations of the eight nominated necropolises, the surrounding space was cleared up and the gravestones were cleaned and conserved.

The art and skill of the then stonemasons is reflected in the fact that the stećci were carved out of a single piece of stone. Places from which the stone was excavated were located near the necropolises, while hardly ever was it transported from distant quarries. Given that the Central Balkans region abounds with rocks of limestone origin, it is not surprising that this was the most frequent type of stone used for the carving of the stećci.

The largest number of the nominated stećak necropolises is located in intact areas, outside of villages, in an environment which is the same today as it was in the Middle Ages. A small number is located close to facilities and roads built in the 20th century. At the selected necropolises, the architectural and natural contexts complement each other and do not compromise the authenticity of the cultural properties, indicating moreover the continuity and the tradition of usage during the past centuries.

The authenticity of the stećak necropolises is confirmed by almost an entire century of their intensive study and documentation, which was particularly intensified in the second half of the 20th century with the realization of the most comprehensive recording of the sites containing the stećci so far. The data regarding the number of necropolises (3300) and the number of the stećci (70000), within the distribution area, is by and large the result of scientific research done in the 1970s, this being the case also with the nominated necropolises. The understanding of the importance of stećci was advanced later on thanks to archaeological research, as well as with the publication of new results concerning the recording of stećci and the study of individual necropolises. This is testified by the profusion of expert and scientific literature, as well as relevant educational documentation published on this topic.

The 30 stećak necropolises in this serial nomination were selected in accordance with the criteria regarding their integrity and authenticity. The nominated necropolises meet the criteria relating to the state of conservation, the protection measures applied in countries at which territory they are located, as well as the aesthetic criterion, i.e. the position of the necropolises in relation to their natural environment.

All the 30 stećak necropolises are preserved in situ, and are in good conditions. The cultural properties and their buffer zones have fully maintained the unity of the medieval cemetery complex and its natural environment.

The protection and preservation of the stećak necropolises has been set out in the legislation of all countries nominating cultural properties from their territory. In addition, the protection and preservation of the necropolises is regulated through the spatial planning regulations and the management plans of each country.

There is no risk of excessive development in the environment of the proposed necropolises, just as there is no risk of the impact of possible destructive social processes. The spatial plans concerning the nominated necropolises with the stećci recognize this area as important for tourism, allowing the usage of the existing resources and forbidding the building of new facilities within the protected environment.

In the vicinity of one of the stećak necropolises, out of the proposed 30, in a limited space, the burial is performed even today, while in a few cases, the space was used for burials in the 18th and the 19th century. Others have not functioned as burial sites from the time the practice of burial under stećci was abandoned.

The main risks for the protection and conservation of the nominated necropolises are represented by the natural and climatic factors present in the areas where they are located, which are characterized by very hot summers and cold winters. In addition, the integrity of the stećci may be affected by the uncontrolled growth of autochthonous vegetation and the occurrence of lichen and moss on the surface of the stone, as well as by the erosion processes.

Within the cultural heritage protection framework at national levels, the states that participate in this transnational nomination will create the relevant programs and activities for the implementation of the conservation measures for these cultural properties.
1.2. Preparation of the Management Plan for Montenegro

1.2.1. Reasons for developing the Management Plan in Montenegro

The Ministers of Culture of Montenegro, Croatia, Republic of Serbia and the Minister of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina signed the Letter of Intent in Sarajevo on November 2nd 2009, establishing cooperation in the preparation and implementation of a joint project named “Nomination of the Stećci - Medieval Tombstones - for Inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage List” (hereinafter the Project).

The activities of the Ministry of Culture of Montenegro on the implementation of the Project were conducted in accordance with the determined schedule and according to the phases defined by the Project Team of the Ministry of Culture, in cooperation with coordinators from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia.

The Project Team divided the activities into several phases – activities, bearing in mind that the Project requires a multidisciplinary approach, the application of scientifically determined methodology, both field work and office work for the drawing up of the document and the elaboration of specialized texts in accordance with the UNESCO Operational Guidelines.

During the preparation of the UNESCO Tentative List, the Ministry of Culture of Montenegro conducted in 2011 a research of most of the stećak necropolises in Montenegro, and based on the obtained results, data analysis and the application of the UNESCO parameters, proposed three stećak necropolises: Grčko groblje, at the location Riblje jezero and Bare Žugića in the Novakovići village, in the municipality of Žabljak and Grčko groblje in the hamlet Zagrađe, Šćepan Polje, in the municipality Plužine. Accordingly, these stećak necropolises were added to the Montenegrin Tentative List on April 21st 2011.

Out of the three nominated necropolises, two are located in the village Novakovići, in the buffer zone of the National Park Durmitor in the municipality of Žabljak (Grčko groblje next to Riblje jezero with a total of 49 registered stećci and Bare Žugića with a total of 300 registered stećci), and the third necropolis is in Zagrađe, Šćepan Polje, in the municipality Plužine and counts 16 registered stećci.

In 2012, the Administration for the Protection of Cultural Properties headed the procedure of drawing up the necessary studies which determine the cultural value of the immovable cultural properties.

Distribution of stećci in Montenegro
1.2.2. Legal basis for the adoption of the Management Plan

The legal basis for the drafting and adoption of the Management Plan for the stećci at Grčko groblje, Riblje jezero, Bare Žugića in the Novakovići village (municipality of Žabljak) and Grčko groblje in the hamlet Zagrade, Šćepan Polje, municipality Plužine, is defined by the Article 91 Paragraph 4 of the Law on the Protection of Cultural Heritage, adopted by the Government of Montenegro after the proposal of the Ministry of Culture. The Management Plan of the stećci in Montenegro is a strategic document defining the measures for long-term management, protection, conservation, presentation and usage of the three stećak necropolises as legally protected cultural properties and archaeological sites. The Management Plan is mandatory both for cultural properties that are inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List and for those nominated for the inclusion on the List. The Management Plan includes: a multiannual management strategy for the cultural properties and guidelines for its implementation; program activities on comprehensive valorization, protection and presentation of cultural properties; mechanisms for the realization of an integrated protection; ways of monitoring the planned activities.

1.2.3. Methodology for the drafting of the management plan

Following the signing of the Letter of Intent on the establishment of transnational and inter-institutional cooperation in the preparation and presentation of a joint project of the elaboration of the nomination document titled “Nomination of Stećci – Medieval Tombstones – for Inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage List,” in July 2009 in Sarajevo, a Transnational Coordination Group was appointed by the competent authorities of the States Parties, constituted by coordinators responsible for the implementation of the Project, the development of the Nomination Dossier and the preparation of the Management Plan. The Ministry of Culture of Montenegro is in charge of drafting the Management Plan of the stećak necropolises of Grčko groblje and Bare Žugića, Novakovići, Municipality Žabljak and Grčko groblje, Šćepan Polje, municipality Plužine.

The creation of a Management Plan for the nominated stećak necropolises is a legal obligation defined by the Article 91 of the Law on the Protection of Cultural Properties. The process of its development was based on the recommendations of UNESCO experts, Guidelines for the Management of World Heritage Sites, best practice examples from other countries which had experience in the drafting of management plans for World Heritage sites, as well as on national experiences of the development of the Management Plan of the Historical Core of Cetinje and the Management Plan for the Natural and Culturo-Historical Region of Kotor.
The activities of the Ministry of Culture of Montenegro on the implementation of the Project “Nomination of Stećci - Medieval Tombstones - for Inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage List” were carried out in compliance with the established schedule and according to the phases defined by the Project Team from Montenegro in cooperation with the coordinators from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia. During the drafting and the adoption of the Management Plan, the following activities have been implemented:

- Establishment of an expert team for carrying out professional and scientific research and for the development of documentation on the necropolises at the territory of Montenegro;
- Establishment of the Working Group for the preparation of the Management Plan by the Ministry of Culture of Montenegro;
- Meetings and consultations of the transnational coordinators for the development of management plans;
- Meetings with the representatives of local communities, local governments, the National Parks of Montenegro, the owners of the land on which the nominated necropolises are located and with the experts in the field of culture and tourism in the municipalities of Žabljak and Plužine;
- Archaeological reconnaissance of the nominated necropolises and elaboration of the archaeological and conservation records, with the accompanying technical and photographic documentation;
- Geodetic surveying, creation of the geodetic situation, cadastral survey of parcels and land owners, with land register folios for the three nominated necropolises;
- Definition of the protected zone of the immovable cultural properties – the archaeological sites and buffer zones for the cultural properties of the necropolises: Grčko groblje and Bare Žugića in Žabljak and Grčko groblje in Plužine, with land register folios of plot owners in the protected zones;
- Systematization of the documents and bibliographies;
- Cooperation at the national and transnational level in the drafting of the Management Plan;
- Coordination of the Working Group drafting the Management Plan at the national level;
- Promotion of the activities of the drafting of the Management Plan in the media;
- Establishment of the Managing Body at the transnational and national levels;
- Preparation of Draft and the Proposal of the Management Plan, including the Opinions issued by the Montenegrin state authorities, submitting the Draft of the Management Plan of Stećci for adoption by the Government of Montenegro, and the setting up of the public hearing and the discussion of the suggestions, objections and comments received during the public hearing.

The Management Plan is based on the data from the national strategic documents, analyses, reports, other sources of information and numerous bibliographic items. The necropolises Grčko groblje and Bare Žugića in the municipality of Žabljak and Grčko groblje in the municipality Plužine, have not been subjected to archaeological excavations, as is the case with other stećak necropolises in Montenegro.

The funding for the creation of the Management Plan was attained through the Budget of Montenegro and the UNESCO donation for the Project “Nomination of Stećci - Medieval Tombstones - for Inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage List.”

1.2.4. Vision and objectives of the Management Plan

The main objective of the Management Plan is to valorize, protect and promote the outstanding universal value of the stećak necropolises. In order to achieve this objective, it is of great strategic importance to find the right balance between the preservation of values and the development and usage of the necropolises according to the principles of sustainable development.

In order to ensure the necessary evaluation, protection and promotion of the outstanding universal value of the stećak necropolises, the Management Plan delineates a vision of the multiannual management of the protected areas and the guidelines for its implementation, which are expressed through the general objectives and the proposed program of activities and which determine mechanisms and stakeholders, implementation deadlines and the mechanisms for successful monitoring.
For the nominated stećak necropolises, this Management Plan envisions the following:

- To promote their worldwide importance, using their status as a strategic resource for the advancement of the local communities and its citizens;
- Aware of the cultural values of the properties, to base its prosperity on a meticulously deliberated policy of cultural heritage management, in order to meet the needs of the present generations and to ensure that the future generations inherit the property in all its beauty, authenticity and diversity;
- To establish the basis for development on a balanced and harmonious relationship between the cultural and natural heritage and the new contents, as well as between social needs, economic activity and the natural and cultural environment;
- Due to its outstanding cultural and natural values, to plan the spatial development of the sites in accordance with principles of integrated care, respect for traditional urban models, preservation of the cultural landscape of the protected area, its integrity and authenticity, by striking a balance between the needs dictated by modern living and the preservation of universal values based on the principles of sustainable development;
- To promote their universal value as a starting point for cooperation with neighboring countries and the countries in the region, in the process of the European and Euro-Atlantic integrations.
2. IDENTIFICATION

2.1. Historical development

Stećci are the characteristic tombstones present in a large part of the Montenegrin territory, though they are most frequently found in its western regions. Most of the stećak necropolises are located on the territory of the municipalities of Pljevlja, Žabljak, Šavnik and Nikšić. The most famous necropolises and individual examples of stećci in Montenegro are located on the area of old parishes: Onogošt, Piva, Drobnjak, Jezera and Breznice. Their occurrence is linked to the period spanning from the 12th to the 16th century.

Many of the stećak necropolises in these areas are located on the hills, on prehistoric tumuli along the roads and around the medieval churches. Based on their distribution, it can be observed that the stećci are by and large centered around the famous medieval trade routes starting on the coast; Via Drina, which started in Dubrovnik and passed through the above mentioned parishes: Via Anagasti, which separated from the previous one in Trebinje to take the following course: Kotor - Risan - Ridjan and Grahovo - Onogošt - Drobnjak - Tara - Pljevlja. The route that led from the town of Pljevlja to Foća along the Ćehotina River passed through the villages of Tikovo, Orlja, Gradac, Ćula, Vojtina, Celebići, Potpeć on the way to Foća. The paths of these medieval roads mostly coincide with the earlier roads in the Roman province of Dalmatia, which in turn generally matched the courses of pre-Roman and the earlier Illyrian communication routes in this part of the Western Balkans taken up by today’s Montenegro.

2.1.1. History of the Durmitor area

The territory which stretches between the rivers Tara and Piva and from the western branches of Sinjaježina Mountain to Šćepan Polje is called the Durmitor area. The central section of the area is taken up by the mountain Durmitor.

The cultural history of this area may be tracked through the archaeological surveys of tumuli in the Žugića guvno in the locality Lever Tara, deriving from the early Bronze Age (1800 to 1500 BC to the early Iron Age – 7th and 5th century BC). The tumuli in Žugića Guvno show traces of burying the dead from the Bronze and Iron Age with various additions in the form of jewellery and weapons typical for the so-called Glasinac culture, which covered the area of the Rivers Tara and Upper Drina and was linked to the Illyrian tribe Autariati. The original location of the nucleus of the tribe was in the surroundings of the mountain and the river Tara, which probably gave rise to the name of the tribe. Later on the territory of the tribe spread to Eastern Bosnia, South-Western Serbia and Northern Montenegro. The Autariati were one of the most powerful tribes within the Balkan Peninsula. The fact that there are no archaeological traces from the Iron Age, i.e. from the end of the 4th century BC to the times of Roman conquests, may be explained thanks to information provided by antic writers on the displacement of Autariati from their territories which occurred around 310 BC. Around 300 BC, the Celts penetrated the Durmitor area, suppressing the Autariati.

The Romans conquered the Balkan Peninsula in the early Common Era. They probably penetrated the Durmitor area in middle of the 2nd century AD. One of the most important findings from the Roman period in the Durmitor area is a sanctuary dedicated to the Oriental deity Mithras, which has been dated back to 270 AD. The markings on the sanctuary mention Argurianus Aurelianus, the imperial procurator of the East Dalmatian mines based in Domavia (Srebrenica), who was responsible for the integrated management of the Pannonian and Dalmatian silver mines. There are indications that suggest that the imperial procurator Argurianus Aurelianus was originally from Municipia S..., on the basis of epigraphic signs from the location of Komine which were dedicated to a member of his family, Aurelius Cambrian.

During the creation of the Slavic states in the Balkans, the Durmitor area in the 9th century belonged to the early feudal state of Duklja - Dioclitia, which was administratively divided into parishes. Duklja included the parishes Piva and Komanica (territory of Drobnjaci and Piva). Information on the development of the Doclean state is provided for the most part by Constantine Porphyrogennetos in his work De administrando imperio and by the
The name Drobnjak and the ancestral name Drobnjaci is mentioned with most frequency, starting with 1356, as an indication of summer pastures. Since 1411, the name katun disappears in local sources. In a defter dated 1477, the area is registered under the name Nahija Komarnica with 18 jama'ats. At the beginning of the 16th century, Drobnjaci had a common Duke with the districts Banjani and Rudine. Subsequently they autonomously elected their dukes and princes, as well as clerics and the tribal court. Starting with 1612, the historical sources mention that they had a prince. In the 17th century, they form an alliance with the Venetian Republic and were in constant conflict with the Ottomans. The area of Drobnjak was known for its wealth in cattle, and was called zendjili (wealthy) Drobnjak. This is how they are represented in folk songs, while King Nikola I Petrovic mentions this tribe in his Drobnjačko kolo (“Zendjili je Drobnjak bio - predmet dugih preotmica” (The wealthy Drobnjak was long victim of plunders)).

Drobnjaci – are members of the tribe of Drobnjak. The area of Drobnjak tribes in the Middle Ages was limited by the Durmitor and Gornja Morača to the east, the valley and the parish of Nikšić to the south, Piva to the west and the river Tara to the north. It is assumed that the original name of this tribe derived also from the Greek word dromos. Drobnjaci are the residents of this area, i.e. the people who live around the road. The documents from 1285 found in the archives of Dubrovnik and Kotor provides valuable data on the area of Drobnjak in the period from the 13th to the 15th century. Drobnjak was first mentioned in the Drobnjak document dated in 1285, Drobnjak first appears in historical sources in 1354. Based on historical data, Drobnjak participated in caravan traffic, and generally in the commercial transactions and credit trade with Dubrovnik and Kotor. It is assumed that the original name of the area is derived from the Greek word dromos, meaning road. The ancient Roman medieval road led through Drobnjak and in later times from Dubrovnik via Trebinje, Risan, and Grahovo to Nikšić, from there continuing across Drobnjak, Lever-Tara, Pljevlja, Prijeponje and Novi Pazar to Skopje and Constantinothe. The name Drobnjak probably indicates the area through which the road passes. The residents of the area were called Drobnjaci, i.e. people who live around the road.

Kriči – Kričani, according to the legends, topographic names and written sources, are the oldest layer of medieval population of the Durmitor area, to the river Drina and the Middle Lim. In a charter of King Stefan Uroš (1243-1276), there is data about Kričići at Tara dated 1260, in which the whole area is called Kričak. The male name Kričan is mentioned in the historical sources around 1300 and it occurs as a family name during 1280 until 1330, while in the form Kričićović it is encountered in 1492. The traditional tales of the members of the tribe Drobnjak talk about the Kriči or Kričkovi (Krickovic), natives of the Ježera, on the slopes of Durmitor and Sinjajevina. According to some sources, Kriči were Illyrians, while others claim they were an early Slavic tribe, who by the mid-twelfth century lived in the valley of Tara and held summer pastures on the area of Ježera, Durmitor and Sinjajevina. According to what is known today, Kriči mostly engaged in cattle breeding, although there are historians who believe they were engaged in blacksmithing (in Old Russian: me -kuznec-blacksmith) wherefore their name is derived. A trace of their presence remains in the folk tradition, while on Sinjajevina there still exists a toponym Kričko polje.

The Kričani have so far been primarily the subject of ethnologists, while other researchers wrote about them only in passing in the works dedicated to other tribal groups, primarily to Drobnjaci and Mataruge.

Ježera - in the Durmitor area, they represent the area which, according to historical sources, can be assumed to have been connected with the tribe Drobnjaci in the fourteenth and early fifteenth century, who in the summer period had habitations in the Ježera area.
In the medieval period, Jezera included the area which is now a small town – Žabljak, and the villages Borovac, Kosorička, Bukovica, Donja Bukovica, Gornja Bukovica, Provalija, Vukodo, Vrtoč-Polje, Merulja, Novakovići, Bare Žugića, Vrela, Pašina voda, Pošćenski kraj, Virak, Javorje, Motički Gaj, Razvršje, Junča-Do, Pitomine, Bosača, Palež, Podgora, Tepca, Tepačko Polje, Ninkovići, Uskoci and Podmež do.

2.1.2. History of the Piva Area

In prehistoric times, the river canyons of Piva and Vrbnica were inhabited. At the very confluence of Vrbnica into Piva, a cave was discovered, called Odmut, which bears Mesolithic traces (8000-5500 BC). The Odmut cave also reveals traces of the Neolithic – the New Stone Age (5500 BC), which suggest the interference of impacts of the Adriatic and the continental Neolithic. The remains of the Neolithic culture have also been discovered in Odmut, which based on the findings of the ceramics dating can be traced back to the period of 2300-2000 BC.

It is assumed that the area of Piva was inhabited by the Illyrian tribe Autariati in the Iron Age. During the 1st century AD, the Romans conquered this part of the Balkan Peninsula, and the area of Piva is allocated to the Roman province Dalmatia within the judicial administrative area of the so-called Conventus Naronianus. Narona was located near the mouth of river Neretva to Vid, near Metkovići. During the reforms of Diocletian (297-305 BC), this area belonged to the newly established province Prevalis, whose borders ran along the Piva valley. The administrative centre of Prevalis was Doclea.

Later, during the division of the Roman Empire to the East (Byzantium) and West, the territory of Piva went to Byzantium. After that, around the 7th and 8th century, the Slavic population begins to settle in Piva. According to Constantine Porphyrogenitus, Piva, along with the area around Tara and Lim, was part of the Slavic parish established in the 9th century. The area called Piva is mentioned in the Chronicle of the Priest of Duklja as one of the parishes of Podgorje (Latin Submontana). It later became part of the Kingdom of Duklja under the same name.

With the rise of Duklja in the early Middle Ages, the area Podgorje with its parishes definitely becomes one of its domains: the Chronicle of the Priest of Duklja mentions the union of Podgorje and Duklja. However, after the reaffirmation of the Byzantine power in this region at the beginning of 11th century the relationship between Podgorje and Duklja weakens. In 12th century, Podgorje is mentioned in the Chronicle of the Priest of Duklja when describing the conquering of Onogošt. There is no confirmation at the later stages of the continued existence of the area of Podgorje.

Stefan Nemanja conquered Piva at the end of the 12th century, and it remains within the Serbian state until the breakup of Dušan’s Empire in the 14th century. After the defeat of the great sovereign župan Nikola Altomanović of the house of Vojinović in the conflict with the Bosnian Ban Tvrtko I, Prince Lazar and the Hungarian Ludwig I, his territories were divided among the winners. In 1373, the Piva parish went to the Bosnian Banovina which in 1377 becomes a kingdom under Tvrtko I Kotromanić, when Piva starts to be administrated by the King’s Grand Duke, Vlatko Vuković. After his death (1392-1393), the parish was ruled by the members of the most powerful aristocratic family Kosača. Vlatko’s cousin Sandalj Hranić ruled until 1435, succeeded by another cousin, Stefan Vukčić Kosača, who ruled until 1466. The Grand Duke, later Herzeg Stefan dwelt in the royal capital of Kosača, fort Soko (Sokol) with the suburbs. After the murder of Stefan Tomašević and defeat of Herzeg’s army it was conquered by Ottomans around 1465. In the Turkish defter in 1477, Piva and Banjani constituted an administrative unit.

At the end of the 16th century, strong tribal organization was dominant in the area. As in other parts of the medieval territories of Stefan Vukčić Kosača, the area of the medieval parish Piva and its namesake tribe, afterwards belonged to the area called Old Herzegovina (after the title Herzeg and the family name of his successors, Herzegović).

The first of the major uprisings in this region against the Ottomans began in the late sixteenth century, under the leadership of the Duke Grdan. The main battleground of the uprising, beside Piva, was the area surrounding Nikšić. The inhabitants five, together with the surrounding tribes, formed an alliance with the Venetian Republic during the Candian (1645 -1669) and the Morean War (1684-1699). Later, in the mid- seventeenth century, the peoples of Piva with the surrounding tribes led the last combat against the Ottoman rule. At the Berlin Congress, in 1878, the area of Piva became part of the Principality of Montenegro.
2.2. Description of cultural property

The name stećak can be found in the Serbian Dictionary by Vuk Stefanovic Karadžić published in 1852 “stećak, čka, m. – a trimmed stone placed on the grave or to mark something else. Therein in old cemeteries bulky tombstones lay that are not buried in the ground, but stand just so on the plates of the graves.”

They are also called: grčko groblje (Greek cemetery), mramor, mramori, krs, krstov, kaursko groblje (Kauri cemetery). Mramor, mramori, mramorje (mramor, Greek name - Marmaros and Latin name – Marmor: stone monuments on someone’s grave, Dictionary 1988, 132); “kaursko” - designation for a Christian cemetery. In the nearby surroundings of the necropolis Grčko Groblje at Riblje jezero in Novakovići, the toponym Mramorje preserves the linguistic and historical meaning of the location and the medieval tombstone monuments.

Stećci are located in the western part of Montenegro, largely in the municipalities of Pljevlja, Žabljak, Šavnik, Nikšić and Plužine, for the most part in the areas of old parishes: Onogošt, Piva, Drobnjak, Jezera and Breznice. Significant stećak necropolises were built next to the church of Sv. Petar and Pavle in Nikšić, and next to the Vlaška Church in Cetinje. The necropolises are built both in easily accessible and inaccessible mountain areas, gentle valleys, by the mountain lakes and river banks, along old roads, dilapidated churches, prehistoric tumuli, or at hill forts. They are genuine works of art of varying size: from thin stone slabs to monumental stone blocks. There are two main groups of stećci that stand out - those smaller in size, located in the northern municipalities (Žabljak, Plužine and a part of the municipality of Pljevlja) to the monumental and composite ones in the area of Nikšić. Stećci are mostly made of local limestone, and a large number bear chiseled decorations and inscriptions carried out in deep and shallow relief.

Among the stećci from the Montenegrin territories, we clearly distinguish specific groups of blacksmiths who were active in certain areas, and whose handiwork is easily recognizable. For example, we can set apart the stećak from the necropolis next to the Church of Sv. Petar and Pavle in Nikšić, the one built into the church of Sv. Dorda in Tušinja and the stećci at the floor of the nave of the Monastery of St. Virgin, Kom on Skadar Lake, with gravestones of the ruling family Crnojević (Stefan Crnojević and Mara Kastriot), which are most likely the work of the same artist or the same workshop of stonemasons.
Further research of stećci will certainly provide new information, but even on the basis of the already known data, the stećci located in Montenegro have an important place in the corpus of the medieval European stećci, along with those located in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Croatia.

2.2.1. Grčko Groblje, Riblje jezero, Novakovići, Žabljak

The site Grčko Groblje is located at 1,431 meters above sea level, 11.4 km southeast of Žabljak, in the small village Novakovići. More specifically, it is on the same dirt road that leads to the necropolis of Bare Žugića, but Grčko Groblje is 2.3 km closer to Žabljak. The necropolis is located on the left side of the road, 200 meters northwest of the road and the coast of the lake Riblje jezero. It was set on gentle grassy hill, shaped as an elongated ellipsis which extends in the north-south direction. On the mild, tallest slope a smaller necropolis of elongated shape extends, consisting of 49 tombstones: 10 slabs, 27 chests and 12 ridged tombstones. The central part of the necropolis is visible from the lower elevation of the surrounding area because of a ridge type tombstone of monumental proportions placed therein. Beside the 5 slab-formed tombstones of amorphous and natural shape, the remaining stećci are finely crafted and shaped. 22 of them are decorated - 12 chests and 10 ridges. Stećci are made of local off-white and gray limestone, and differ in size, quality of processing and state of preservation. The decorations include engraved and embossed decorative, symbolic and figurative motives and representations on the following types of stećci: ridges, chests and slabs higher than 30 cm. The most frequent are the band decorative motifs with oblique lines, which visually function as a frieze or a frame on the vertical sides of stećci or as a border on the top horizontal surface of the chests and slabs. Arcades as architectural decorative elements are visually the most impressive. Twisted cords, spirals and coiling vines are also common motifs. The most characteristic decorative elements are motifs of symbolic character, and most of them are the various cross motifs and their variations, then the circles, rosettes, stars, bows and arrows and heraldic motifs of sword and shield. There are also parallel line decorations, grid decorations in the central part of the horizontal sides of stećci. Among the figural representations, there is a stylized portrayal of a man holding a sword and a shield, and a hunting scene.

Based on the mentions exceptional location in which necropolis Grčko Groblje near Riblje jezero was built, and the construction and decorations of stećci, it can be easily assumed that it was the burial site for the members of the feudal aristocracy and their families in the fourteenth and the first half of the fifteenth century.

The necropolis Grčko groblje at Riblje jezero is in good conditions, but the majority of stećci, to a greater or lesser extent, show damages manifested as cracks and fallen parts. Given that the necropolis is located on a natural hill, it is all the more exposed to extreme atmospheric conditions which cause the partial dislocation of the most part of the stećci at the necropolis. Some of them have fallen on the side due to their weight and proportions, sinking at the same time into the ground. The present state is caused by the climate influences, strong winds and heavy precipitations. Cracks of different length, shape and the size are noticeable. The surfaces of all the stećci are covered with lichen and moss, making it impossible to examine the overall state of each stećci.
2.2.2. Bare Žugića, Novakovići, Žabljak

Bare Žugića is located at 1,416 meters above sea level and 13.6 km south-east of Žabljak, in the hamlet Novakovići. The local asphalt road leads to the site which connects Žabljak to the village Njegovuđa. The necropolis is located on the left side of the road, on a small hill whose flat surface slopes gently to the west. The necropolis was formed on this part of the hill, in irregular trapezoidal shape, with 300 registered stećci, of which 240 slabs, 50 chests and 10 ridges. Of 240 slab-formed stećci, only 10 are regular in shape and form while the remaining ones are thin and irregular, half-finished, and most of them are of natural, amorphous forms. The finely processed and decorated stećci extend down the edge of an elongated hill to the east, and are located in the central and northern part of necropolis. In the southern and south-western parts of the necropolis there are generally unfinished and amorphous slabs. All stećci are made of monolithic blocks, of local whitish-gray limestone. It is presumed that they were placed in rows extending in the north-south direction with their longer side facing east-west. Over time, due to terrain subsidence and atmospheric effects, they were partially dislocated and knocked down towards south. They are of different size, craftsmanship, decorations and state of preservation. Of all the registered stećci at the cemetery only 23 are decorated: 1 slab, 16 chests and 6 ridges. As confirmed also by the previous researchers of this necropolis, there are no standing stećci or stećci with inscriptions here. As regards the decorations, there are engraved and embossed decorative, symbolic and figural motifs and representations on the stećci of the types: ridge, chest and slabs higher than 30 cm. The most frequent decorative motifs include: bands with oblique lines which function as friezes or frames on the vertical sides of stećci or as borders on the top horizontal surface of the chests and slabs. Arcades as architectural decorative elements are visually the most impressive. Twisted cords, spirals and coiling vines are also common motifs. The most characteristic decorative elements are motifs of symbolic character, and most of them are the various cross motifs and their variations, then the circles, rosettes, stars, bows and arrows, swords and shields and parallel lines or ribs with circles (medallions) in the central part of the horizontal sides of stećci. Even though there are not many zoomorphic representations, they are extremely interesting, and amongst them the most important figure represented is the deer. Earlier publications had documented a visual composition with the image of *kolo*, but it has not been identified in the necropolis.

Based on the large number of stećci in the necropolis Bare Žugića in Novakovići, we can assume that the rural population of the villages in the area of the Jezera has been buried under them, while the wealthy merchants of Drobnjak and Jezera were buried below the monumental stećci that stand out for their exceptional decoration and high quality of processing. The necropolis in the village of Bare Žugića in the village of Novakovići points to a high population density in the area of Jezera between the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries.

Despite the fact that there are ascertained damages on a certain number of stećci - cracks, collapsed parts etc, and that all the stećci are covered with lichens and moss, we consider that the necropolis in good condition. Most of the processed and decorated examples are partially buried in the ground, or shifted on the south side, but the impression is that these changes occurred mainly due to age, atmospheric influences and subsidence of the surrounding terrain.
2.2.3. Grčko Groblje, Šćepan Polje, Plužine

Over the confluence of Tara and Piva, at the very starting point of the river Drina, there is a rocky hill rising with its peak at the height of 927 meters above sea level, where the walls of the Soko town of the Duke and Herzeg Stefan Vukčić Kosača are located. Šćepan Polje lies at its foot, where there are several medieval cemeteries known already in the documents dated 1419. In the hamlet Zagradje, high up on the hill, over the saddle in front of the entrance to the castle, the remains of the small stećak necropolis called Grčko Groblje lay at the altitude of 908 meters. This necropolis can be accessed by the main road from Šavnik to the bridge on the Drina and the border with Bosnia and Herzegovina, at the distance of 26.6 km, and then by a paved rural dirt road leading to the church in Zagradje, below the town of Soko, 5 km long. From this location it is necessary to take an off-road vehicle or to reach Grčko Groblje by foot, which is located at a distance of 1.3 km. The necropolis is located on the vertical slope east of the town of Soko and is covered with young beech forest. It is made of 16 stećci, of which 3 are slab type (two on four and one on two leads), 6 chest type and 7 ridge type, while one has a natural amorphous form. The necropolis is basically of an irregular elongated shape with the stećci laid in different orientations. Stećci are made of local stone and mostly unadorned. Specifically, one ridge there has a narrow channel carved along the ridge. There is one tombstone of monumental proportions standing out - a chest on an extended foot with the carved epitaph to the Christian Petko.

![Rural road through meadow and forest to the necropolis Grčko Groblje, Šćepan Polje](image)

The stećak is carved out of solid off-white sandstone in the form of a large and massive block, whose sides are oblique and slightly narrowed towards the podium. Although its corners are damaged, it is visible that its width varies slightly, so that the front side facing east is 119 cm wide, while its rear end, facing west, is 116 cm wide. The length is even, about 240-241 cm, and the stećak is about 60 cm high. The podium is carved out of a single piece, 30cm high, and is larger in comparison to the upper part by 16-18 cm on all edges. The surfaces of the stećak are well-defined and flattened. Today, it is partly covered with moss and exposed to effects of precipitations, striated with narrow cracks that interfere with the carved letters, making them difficult to read. The rear of the stećak, which does not bear any writing, is also damaged.

The inscription is carved in regular lines, in the correct vertical letters of uniform height, clean in shape. The inscription is divided in three rows on the longer side, north side, with a width of 23 cm. On the sides bearing inscriptions, the stone is cracked and both the upper-right corners are damaged, which is why several letters of the inscription are lost. The text is written in the first person, in two parts divided in two separate writings.

The first part of the inscription on the north side reads:
“(Here) I set a mark while still in life: and I wait for death in the Sokol together with the merciful gentleman Duke Stjepan who has fed me fairly: God will take his soul as I (am) Christian Petko.”

On the other side of the tombstone, the lines continue in five rows, 38cm in width, at the front eastern and the narrower side.

The second part of the inscription on the east side reads:

“God, I Christian Petko (take) my soul. Brothers and mates, please do not trample by feet, as I was like you and you will be like me mortal”

The writer of the text was very familiar with the epigraphic Cyrillic alphabet of the fifteenth century. The inscription is particularly important for the historical information it reveals. Its dating is facilitated by the mention of Duke Stjepan, which indicate that the inscription was written sometime in the period from October 1435, when Prince Stefan Vukčić Kosača took the title of Duke, to the first half of October 1448, when he became Herzeg. Based on the inscription, it can be assumed that Christian Petko lived in the fortified town of Soko, at the court and in the nearest proximity of Duke Stjepan. The inscription and the particular terms he uses reveal the deep affection between him and Duke Stefan. It might be deduced that he was one of Duke’s men of confidence. For Petko, Duke Stefan is a merciful gentleman. Until his natural death, Petko lived in the town of Soko, and was buried in the settlement below the town.

The epitaph of Petko the Christian is important for the study of the language structure and the epigraphic Cyrillic alphabet of the fifteenth century. Its linguistic and orthographic features are characteristic of the local speech and letters from the beginning of the XV century. The style and the distinctive shapes of letters on both the inscriptions on the tombstone belong to the hand of the same scribe and stonemason. However, we may notice certain differences between them. In the longer inscription, individual words
are sometimes separated with points or colons in the middle of the height of letters, which are missing in the shorter text. The letter shapes are almost identical in the two inscriptions, except for the letter “Ж”, which in one of them is formed freely without connecting the vertical lines (two semi circle and middle right), and in the other one it was made as an X-shape intersected by a vertical line. In addition, from the contents and tone of the two texts, we may conclude that they were separated by a certain time lapse. The first and longer text was prepared by Petko during his lifetime, in the expectation of the inevitable end weakened by illness or advanced age, while the other, engraved after his death, is actually a prayer to God to receive the soul of the deceased.

Chests and ridges in the necropolis witness that the masters who made them were particularly skilled and knowledgeable in stonemasonry. Also, their heftiness and the finesse of sculpting, together with the knowledge of the cultural and historical context at the time of the emergence and the immediate vicinity of the capital city, indicate that the level of stone processing skills was very high and that a number of good craftsmen worked for the court of the medieval ruler and for the local population.

The contents of the inscription are particularly important for the historical information and figures it mentions. Based on this, the scientific and historical aspects of this stećak increase the cultural value of the entire necropolis. An evident damage to the stećci was brought about by the passage of time and the influence of environmental factors, manifested in the small and large cracks, in the husking and separation of large portions of the stone, and in the fact that almost all of the stećci are covered with lichen and moss.

2.3. Description of the protected area

2.3.1. Grčko Groblje, Riblje jezero, Novakovići, Žabljak

The necropolis Grčko Groblje is located on a larger, elongated hill, about 200 meters to north-west from the local road and the coast of the lake Riblje jezero. The necropolis stretches on the tallest, wider sections of the hill in the north-south direction. The necropolis dominates the surrounding area and it is visible from all sides. On the north side, the hill stretches horizontally and then plunges steeply into the lower plane which then rises again into the limestone rim of the lake plateau. On the west side, it sharply descends into a narrow valley where it forms the base of a mild slope rising to the west. On the south and southwest side, there is the beautiful lake, Riblje jezero, with indented coast covered with mountain grass. Southeast from lies the hamlet Novakovići, with sparse individual houses and a church with a cemetery, located in the western part. From Riblje jezero to the south and east, the ground rises slightly making it possible to see the church, scattered houses and farm structures. The necropolis Grčko Groblje is an inseparable part of the Durmitor landscape and the plateau Jezera, showing an exceptional harmony of the interaction between the cultural and natural heritage. The immediate environment of the necropolis is constituted by an authentically preserved verdant area, bordered by the local road and Riblje jezero to the south. In the fairly broader zone to the southeast, there is the village church with an active cemetery and inhabited village with traditional and newer housing and farm facilities. The broader area is characterized by the lake plateau and the slopes of mountain Durmitor. The direction in which the hill and its necropolis stretch defines also the protected area. The narrower context of the cultural property is of an elongated and irregular oval shape that extends over an area of 845.24 meters and belongs to the parts of cadastral parcels No. 416 and 417.
When determining the border lines of the wider context of cultural property, we took into consideration the appearance and direction of the hill, the position of the communication lines and of the lake Riblje jezero. The south boundary of the wider context of the property follows the line of the local road towards Novakovići, while its east boundary rises towards the north through the valley separating the hill where the cultural property is located from the mass situated to the west. The shallow bed of a seasonal stream passes through this valley. From this stream, the boundary line climbs along the northwestern slope of the hill, and merges with the local road at the location of the gentle curve which establishes the arching of the road around the Riblje jezero. The broader context of the cultural property covers an area of 62,041.81 m² with the cadastral parcels KO Pašina voda I No: 415, 416, 407, 417, 419, and 1769) and the parcels KO Novakovići, no: 787, 788, 786 and 782.

2.3.2. Bare Žugića, Novakovići, Žabljak

This cultural property is located at the very eastern edge of the large Jezero Plateau in the Durmitor area. The area is uneven in configuration, alternating flat surfaces with the mild elevations, formed by moving glaciers and fluvial influences and elongated and irregular in shape. The hills are also elongated and irregular in shape, and their formations are oriented in the north–south direction. They are covered with mountain grass and lush mountain flowers, so the area brings into mind the image of a wavy sea of green grass. One of these elevations, the necropolis Bare Žugića is located.

The narrower context of the cultural property is an undulating hill, where, on its western part, the necropolis was formed on a slightly sloped plane, while the eastern side plunges vertically towards the east and towards the lower lake plateau. This part is not characterized by high vegetation and the first individual housing and farm facilities are located far in the lower level, to the north-east, some 350 meters away from the necropolis. This hill and its necropolis dominate the eastern part of the lake plateau. On the northern side of the cultural property, the lower ground is furrowed by dry water beds of seasonal streams and rivers. In the distance, limestone hills add up to the surrounding of the lake plateau. On the south side, the slight elevations where grass fields alternate with limestone formations dominate the area. On the west side, following the local road, the undulating hills and valleys keep alternating all the way to the Riblje jezero, and further on towards the north-western massifs of Durmitor.
Based on the position of the necropolis and the assumption that there are graves which are not marked with registered stećci, it is our belief that the narrow context of the cultural property should include the whole western plane of the hill with the necropolis area. This assumption is further sustained by the fact there is a large number of small amorphous rocks in the area, which could have been used as grave markers placed above the head and the feet of the deceased. On inspection, the narrower context of the cultural property covers an area of 3,445m² included in cadastral lots No: 101, 282, 283 and 284.

In determining the broader context of the cultural property, the overall conditions of the surrounding terrain were taken into consideration, as well as the distance of the built facilities and the direction of the road communications. Focusing on these parameters, we defined the southern boundary of the wider context of the cultural property, as dictated by the direction of the local asphalt road. On the eastern side, the boundary follows the line of the road, and then arches towards north and intersects with the elongated shape of the hill. The northern and western boundaries of the arc follow the flat surface of the elevation, and end in the spot of the gentle curve of the local road, some 60 meters west of the necropolis. The broader context of the cultural property stretches over an area of 22,976.14 m², on the cadastral lots No. 94, 101, 102, 283, 284.

2.3.3. Grčko Groblje, Šćepan Polje, Plužine

Grčko Groblje is located at 908m above sea level, on the slope of a hill located east of the town of Soko. Elongated and irregular in shape, it is covered with young beech trees and low vegetation. On the north side of the necropolis, a beaten forest path leads from the town of Soko to the Crkvičko polje. The slope is quite steep and jagged, and descends to the southwest. The position of the cultural property is carefully chosen and corresponds to the area of the Soko town. The necropolis was created for the residents and the nobility of Soko town. The once open, grassy area of the necropolis is now covered with young trees; therefore only after the completion of the geodesic recording it was possible to determine the dimensions and direction of its extension and to ascertain that the necropolis extends in the east-west direction on an area of 359.36 m². However, the narrow context of the space of cultural property should be taken with reservation until the removal of the lush vegetation and the careful assessment of the field. There is a high-voltage transmission line on the northern side of the necropolis disturbing the natural environment and the wider context of cultural property. The examination of the cadastral data shows that they are located on the part of the cadastral parcel no. 411 KO Brijeg. The boundary of the broader cultural context is well-defined and clear only on the north-eastern side, because only this portion follows the direction of rural road. On the remaining sides, we included the hillside that faces the town of Soko so that the broader area of the cultural property also has an elliptical shape with the axis laid in the direction northwest to southeast, and stretching over the area of 5,042 m². The broader context of the cultural property includes most of the cadastral parcels No. 411, 412, and the lesser part of the cadastral parcel no. 413.
Town of Soko, the royal capital of the ruling family Kosača, and the church in Zagrade lie in the buffer zone of the protected area, west to the necropolis Grčko Groblje.

The remains of the medieval town of Soko are located on the steep cliffs above Piva. Herzeg’s court, mentioned in the old charters, was most likely located on the small plateau below the highest part of the town. There stood a "glorious palace" which adorned the town, and Duke Stefan Vukčić Kosača himself was referred to as Stefan of Soko, after his town. The ruins of Soko town stand on very steep cliffs (922m), above the confluence of Piva and Tara, and have not been archaeologically investigated.

According to the preserved remains, it can be seen that the access to the town was provided from the southeast, via a plateau where several buildings are located, and where its main defense, a strong tower, stood. It is assumed that precisely on this plateau Stefan Vukčić Kosača’s palace complex was located, where Petko the Christian probably lived.

In the suburb of the town of Soko, in Zagrade, the remains of the church whose construction is attributed to Stjepan Kosača are found. Duke Sandalj Hranić and Herzeg Stjepan Vukčić Kosača had two churches built as endowments for their eternal rest: Sandalj Hranić erected the Church of Sv. Stefan in Šćepan Polje, and Stjepan Vukčić the Kosača Monastery in Zagrade. Valuable information is provided by the fact that both of them had a tomb built for themselves in their respective endowments, Duke Stefan being effectively buried in Šćepanica below a stećak, while Herzeg Stjepan was not buried in the church he had built in the last decades of his life. Nonetheless, a huge stećak was placed inside Kosača Monastery. The Kosača family followed the examples of pious rulers, including the custom of burial inside their own endowments.
2.4. State of conservation of the cultural property and the protected area

2.4.1. Grčko Groblje, Riblje jezero, Novakovići, Žabljak

The broader and narrower contexts of the necropolis are formed by the preserved natural mountain environment of the village Novaković near Riblje jezero. The visual prospecting carried out during the field visit to the necropolis Grčko Groblje at Riblje jezero has revealed damages to most of the stećci, to a greater or lesser extent. Being located in high mountainous areas and on a natural hill (Photo 1), the necropolis is exposed to shocks caused by strong winds and influences of atmospheric precipitations (both rain and snow). In addition, due to terrain subsidence (Photo 2), geological conditions and the effects of atmospheric precipitations, the stećci are slightly displaced respect to their original position.
Most of the monoliths, due to their weight and proportions have fallen on the side, sinking at the same time into the ground (Photo 3). Given the natural structure of the stone, primarily limestone in which cracks usually develop out of basic microscopic cracks which increase under the influence of natural conditions and under the centuries-old influences of unfavorable weather conditions, all the stećci feature cracks, different in length, shape, and size (Photo 4), which in the further process of erosion might escalate and bring about the fragmentation of the stećci.

The surfaces of all the stećci are covered with lichens of various kinds (Photo 5) and mosses, albeit to a lesser extent, which hindered the process of inspection and the assessment of the overall state of each stećak. Some species of lichen which are present on the stećci are compact, shallow and flat, and do not threaten the endurance of the stone, while others are of the spongy, more robust type, and are therefore more harmful for the structure of stone.

Under the influence of precipitations, some tombstones have become completely porous, susceptible to further degradation and the eventual fragmentation into larger and smaller parts. This leads to the conclusion that it is precisely the impact of precipitations the most devastating one for the physical integrity of the stećci. Large amounts of precipitations combined with low temperatures during winter destroy the monoliths by turning water to ice, which evidently changes volume with the change of physical state. Due to the high levels of humidity, the lower parts of stećci, close to the ground, are particularly exposed to this (Photo 6). In recent years, moreover, there are also occasional acid rains in the area caused by aggressive substances present in the atmosphere.
2.4.2. Bare Žugića, Novakovići, Žabljak

The broader and the narrower context of the necropolis consists of preserved natural mountain environment of the village Novakovići. The visual prospecting carried out during the field visit to the necropolis Bare Žugića has revealed damages to most of the stećci, to a greater or lesser extent. Some of the stećci are slightly displaced respect to their original position, due to the fact that the natural position of necropolis is a on mountain hill, in the absence of higher plants, and thus directly exposed to wind gusts, as well as because of the considerable impact of atmospheric precipitations (rain, snow), terrain subsidence and geological configurations. They bend down mainly towards south, which confirms that wind gusts coming from the north influence them significantly. Due to their weight and proportions, some stećci have been knocked over to the side, sinking in addition into the soil, which prevented the full identifying of lapids. A small number of massive and erect stećci have remained at the site of the original position, and the lower stećci type slab and ridge and greatest number of remaining slabs.

All the stećci have damages in the form of cracks, to a greater or lesser extent. The surfaces of all stećci are partially covered by various types of lichen, and moss to a lesser extent. Most lichens present are compact and low-profile, and as such do not represent the latent risk for surface of stone tombstones.

Some tombstones, under precipitations, became fully porous and susceptible to further degradation and eventual fragmentation in larger and smaller parts, leading to the conclusion that it is the impact of storm water which is the most devastating. The large amount of precipitation together with low temperatures during the winter turns water to ice, which, with the change in physical state, by transition in ice changes volume and thus destroys the monolith. Due to the high moisture concentrations, lower zones of stećci which rest on the ground are particularly exposed to negative influences.

2.4.3. Grčko Groblje, Šćepan Polje, Plužine

The broader context of the necropolis is the naturally preserved environment of Zagrade, located below Soko medieval town (photo 1). Visual prospecting during the field visit of the necropolis revealed that it is in poor conditions, in terms of the conservation of the narrow context, the position of the necropolis and stećci on it (photo 2). The overall factors which contribute to further deterioration of the necropolis is the continuous exposition to natural influences, altitude, high and low forest vegetation, climatic conditions, runoff and erosion of land and its micro-locations, presence of tree roots between stećci, etc.
The surfaces of all stećci are covered with lichens of various types (photo 3) and mosses, preventing the examination of the entire state of each tombstone. Some species of lichen have compact and shallow flat surfaces, while some represent foam-like, robust materials which are much more harmful for the structure of the stone.

The state of conservation of individual tombstones varies from stećak to stećak. Some are in relatively good and stable state (photo 4), while others present a number of visual defects (photo 5). Two stećci, one ridge and one slab, show a significant level of fragmentation.
2.5. Factors affecting the cultural property

2.5.1. Grčko Groblje, Riblje jezero and Bare Žugića, Novaković, Žabljak

(i) Development pressure

Pressures of economic development and the existing exploitation of the buffer zone and the larger surrounding area of the necropolis can be considered negligible because it is located outside of urban areas, away from major roads. The road (L-20) is a public, local road, built at a sufficient distance and a lower elevation with respect to the necropolis; therefore it does not put at risk its environmental value. Taking into account the relatively low traffic levels on the road, there is no risk of negative impacts on the individual stećci and on the necropolis as a whole. Several factors safeguard and guarantee the preservation of authentic cultural values of the necropolis, its buffer zone and the wider surrounding area, namely: relatively low population density of the area where it is located, status of cultural property, prohibition of new burials at the stećak necropolis, ground configuration, implemented levels of protection and preservation of agricultural and forest areas in the spatial planning documents and special purpose plans, etc. The only economic activity done in the area surrounding the necropolis is the seasonal grazing of flocks and the extensive, traditional forms of herding.

(ii) Environmental pressures (e.g. pollution, climate change, desertification)

The area surrounding the necropolis is an intact, fully-preserved natural territory. Besides the constructed local roads of low traffic intensity, the wider surrounding area of the necropolis contains only rare rural households and buildings, as well as electrical power infrastructure facilities (metal poles and voltage lines). In the narrower context, the very low traffic levels and remote transmission systems cannot have a significant impact on the pollution of the environment and microclimate of the necropolis. The necropolis is located on a small hill covered in low mountain herbaceous vegetation, similar to the protected zone and the wider surrounding area. Even though the individual stećci are to a greater or lesser extent covered with mosses and lichens different in structure, color, composition and size, their shape, form and decoration are visible and easy to access.

(iii) Natural disasters and risk preparedness (earthquakes, floods, fires, etc.)

Natural threats and potential risks can be put down to the increased moisture caused by long periods of rainfall and snowfall, the frequent and sometimes extreme north wind and the fires in warm summer months. These circumstances can lead to the flourishing of vegetation, mosses and lichens, land erosion, terrain subsidence, dislodging of the individual stećci and their dislocation to the south. The potential fires at the site of the Durmitor necropolis would not cause significant damages since the ground on which they are located is covered with grass. The negative impact of global climate change and the well-known seismicity of Montenegrin territories, when triggered by heavy rains, torrential waters and erosion, represent the potential threats which cannot be significantly influenced.

(iv) Visitor pressure / impact of tourism

Given that the necropolis is not valorized from the touristic and economic point of view, the number of visitors is insignificant. Tourist visits occur as a result of personal preferences and previous knowledge, and not as a result of a planned, controlled and sustained touristic valorization of the site which would make it a part of the tourism offer of this area. The site has not been marked on the traffic and tourism routes. This cultural property, in the current state of presentation, has no adequate, supporting facilities necessary for hosting many visitors because there are no adequate services for the reception of larger groups of tourists. In the case of increased frequency and stronger interest of tourists, it would not be necessary to have controlled visits to the nominated necropolis, since the tombstones are located on a wide open plateau where the spatial communication cannot damage the cultural property. Future uses of cultural property shall be determined by the Administration for the Protection of Cultural Property of Montenegro, in order to safeguard its future sustainability and guarantee the integrity and better understanding of its cultural values.
(v) Number of inhabitants within the property and its buffer zone

The necropolis and its buffer zone are located outside of urban areas and constitute a part of the village Novakovići in Durmitor, in the buffer zone of the National Park Durmitor. According to the latest Montenegrin census in 2011, there are 23 residents in the village Novakovići, distributed in 8 households. The Spatial Plan of Montenegro until 2020 estimates that 35 residents will live in Novakovići in 13 households.

2.5.2. Grčko Groblje, Šćepan Polje, Plužine

(i) Development pressures

The necropolis is located in an uninhabited, mountainous area without significant infrastructure facilities which would compromise it. It can be reached via an unclassified local road, with a forest dirt road passing next to the necropolis at a lower elevation than the site. Because of the proximity and potential contact with the site of the necropolis, it could partially compromise its environmental value. The extremely low level of traffic poses no risk that it might have a negative impact on individual monuments or on the necropolis as a whole. The very rare instances of extensive mountain farming, the only economic activity of the area done by a very restricted number of inhabitants, also bears no significant effect on the necropolis.

(ii) The environmental pressures (e.g., pollution, climate change, desertification)

The wider area surrounding the site is an intact natural setting with no pollution factors. Climate changes are the biggest problem in the preservation and the protection of the stećci, which are built from local stone. The climate of this area is characterized by long, cold winters and short summers, with plenty of precipitations, rainfall and snowfall. The site is located in a dense mountain forest, so the lack of proper management and maintenance of the site contributes to the adverse effect of the dense vegetation on the site as a whole. Because of the mountainous climate, subsidence, high humidity, low winter temperatures, strong winds, natural ground erosion, some stećci have fallen or sunken, developing cracks, while the tombstones feature mosses and lichens.

(iii) Natural disasters and risks preparedness (earthquakes, floods, fires, etc.)

The necropolis is located in a seismically active area. With regard to its position, the erosion of the ground can also be acknowledged as an unfavorable factor. As the necropolis is located in a dense forest, the development of wildfire in the summer months could inflict considerable damage, especially because of the inaccessibility of the terrain which prevents an easy access to the area by the Mountain Fire Department.

(iv) Visitor pressure / impact of tourism

Due to the poor access conditions and the general inaccessibility of the terrain, tourist visits are almost non-existent. Even though the Piva Monastery is located one kilometer away from the site, the stećak necropolis is not touristically valorized, and there are no proper route markers and other tourist infrastructure. In the broader surrounding of the cultural property, there are no noteworthy accommodation facilities. The nearest accommodation facility is located on river Tara, and used for allotted rafting tours on the river. There are no rescue services, sanitary infrastructures, commercial buildings or other facilities necessary for the development of tourism in the whole area.

(v) Number of inhabitants within the property and the contact zone

The necropolis and its buffer zone are located outside of urban areas and are part of the hamlet Zagrade, located on the road leading to the community center Polje Crkvičko. According to the latest population census in Montenegro from 2011, the area containing the necropolis and the wider setting of the village Zagrade is inhabited by 73 residents distributed in 32 households. The Spatial Development Plan of the Municipality of Plužine until 2028 predicts an increase in the number of inhabitants in the urban, municipal centre of Plužine, to the detriment of its rural areas.
2.6. Cultural Values

2.6.1. Authenticity and integrity

Stećak represents an authentic form of tombstone that was built and used in the period from the 13th to the beginning of the 16th century, almost on the entire territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in the western parts of Serbia and Montenegro, as well as in the central and southern parts of Croatia. The nominated cemeteries, their archaeological and historical context, the diversity of types of tombstone monuments, ornaments and content of the inscriptions, all represent authentic aspects of this burial tradition and the study of stećci. The nominated cemeteries within this serial nomination all have a high degree of authenticity.

Three elements testify to the preservation of the integrity of necropolis Grčko Groblje and Žugića Bare in the municipality of Žabljak, and the necropolis Grčko Groblje in the municipality of Plužine: the state of preservation of monuments, the protection measures applied in Montenegro and the visual and aesthetic criteria relating to the position of necropolises in their natural environment.

2.6.1.1. Grčko Groblje, Riblje jezero, Novakovići, Žabljak

Stećak necropolis Grčko Groblje is located on Mount Durmitor about 200 meters northwest of Riblje jezero, it is in good conditions, in harmony with the Durmitor landscape and is an example of extreme integration and connection of natural and cultural heritage.

The necropolis with 49 stećci contains examples of all their characteristic forms. Inscriptions on site are not recorded. There are typical ornamental motifs on almost half of the monuments. The cultural property is of the appropriate size and scope, and as such, it has retained to this day the appearance of a medieval cemetery with stećci.

The area with medieval monuments stećci has not been in function since the last burial and setting of stećci. In the wider area of the cemetery, there are a local road and the church with the village cemetery which do not affect the authenticity of the cemetery.

This necropolis is completely preserved in structure, its appearance unchanged for almost half a millennium. It is preserved due to the beliefs and customs of the local population, which prohibit the violation of old cemeteries in order to protect the living.

2.6.1.2. Bare Žugića, Novakovići, Žabljak

The stećak necropolis Žugića Bare is located on Mount Durmitor at about 2,230m northeast of the necropolis Grčko Groblje, located near Riblje jezero. This necropolis is good state of preservation and is an excellent example of harmony and interrelation of natural and cultural heritage. The necropolis contains all types of monuments typical of the stećak form, containing about 300 preserved tombstones of a known late-medieval cemetery on a spacious terrace. The inscriptions on the site have not been recorded. There are typical ornamental motifs on 23 monuments. The cultural property is of the appropriate size and scope, and as such it has retained to this day the appearance of a medieval cemetery with stećci. The area where the tombstones are located has not been in function since the last burial and setting of stećak. The necropolis is completely preserved in structure, of unchanged appearance, well preserved because of popular beliefs of the local population that old cemeteries must not be disturbed.

2.6.1.3. Grčko Groblje, Šćepan polje, Plužine

The necropolis is located in the hamlet of Zagrađe in the north-western part of Montenegro. It stretches to the east of the medieval fortress Soko town, in its suburbs. The necropolis is preserved and has 16 stećci made in local stone, all belonging either to the type of chests or slabs. On the largest one, there is the inscription which mentions Christian Petko, who lived in Soko town during the times of Duke Stjepan Kosača. The inscription represents authentic data indicating that burials in this cemetery were done in mid-15th century.
With the exception of intense action of time causing the aging of materials and design, as well as the impacts of natural conditions and forces, the stećak necropolis of Grčko Groblje in Plužine is preserved in its original state, especially in terms of the cultural context of occurrence, duration and current position in space, including shapes, materials, techniques and traditions.

2.6.2. The uniqueness and rarity within their kind

The uniqueness of the selected necropolis is claimed because of their representativeness as a type of burial tradition and their originality with respect to the area of Durmitor and Piva in the Middle Ages. The burials beneath tombstones, the formation of necropolises, the design and decoration of stećci are all part of a specific form and manifestation of traditional culture, last practiced nearly half a millennium ago, whose uniqueness is seen in the historical, geographical, architectural, ethnographic, archaeological, artistic and other properties and characteristics.

The stećci are unique also because of their numbers, spontaneous preservation and the influence that they made on other traditional burial forms and tombstone markings. They are a unique example of our cultural history which has retained the popular belief that the graves and headstones are sacred monuments whose integrity should not be damaged.

The stećci necropolises meet the criterion of rarity in terms of construction forms of tombstones in Durmitor and Piva, but also with respect to other parts of Montenegro. The rite of burial under stećci was practiced only in certain period of history in Montenegro and the Balkans. As such, the practice has not been reestablished, and it is certain that the number of medieval construction forms of stećci will not increase in the future, which is a statement of the rarity of this form.
2.6.3. The archaeological value

Systematic archaeological excavations in the stećak necropolises have never been done in Montenegro. Archaeological research of stećci necropolises were carried out in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia. The examined graves under stećci gave important information about the material culture of the Middle Ages. Movable archaeological findings are represented by bronze and silver coins, clothing metal elements and, occasionally, by the remains of textiles. Infrequently there are rarer findings of weapons and cavalry equipment as well as glass and ceramic dishes. Findings from these tombs are common to the findings in medieval tombs of the area, and the luxury items are part of the general fashion of Angevin age (XIV and XV century) and its immediate aftermaths.

The archaeological value of necropolises is reflected in the spatial distribution of stećci, way in which they are placed in the prehistoric tumuli, as well as in the selection of locations of their placement in relation to the churches, towns, forts and communication routes.

Medieval necropolises are valuable archaeological sites which provide information about medieval sepulchral art.

2.6.4. Historical value

The historical significance of stećci is reflected in the fact that they document the development of a geographical area and its historical period, which today includes territories of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the western part of Montenegro and Serbia, as well as the central and southern parts of Croatia in the period from the 13th to the beginning of the 16th century. The appearance of stećci as a form can be linked to strengthening of the economic power of the feudal aristocracy in the Western Balkans. Their novelty, as compared to the Western and Central European areas, is that a new type of headstone, knowing no caste differences between ordinary people, nobles and church dignitaries, is set. Their historical importance is also reflected in their interconfessionality, because they cannot put into relation to a particular church. The number of tombstones, motifs and inscriptions represent tangible evidence of their times, the development of national cultures in the wider area, the equality and mutual respect between different social strata, and spirit of fellowship regardless of religious or other affiliations. The inscriptions on the stećci are written in Cyrillic alphabet, while its content speaks of historical figures (Stjepan Vukčić - Kosača), events and masters who have carved, painted and decorated them.

2.6.5. Ethnological value

The ethnological and traditional values of stećci are reflected in the fact that they preserve and demonstrate the universal need of marking tombs using traditional knowledge, skills and representations, left in legacy to the populations of Durmitor, Piva and beyond by the self-taught medieval builders and masons. The medieval tombstones - stećci are stone structures, located in carefully chosen building locations, designed as “eternal homes” and expressing belief in the eternal life, a claim best illustrated by ridge-shaped stećci. From their inception to the present day, stećci have been deeply rooted in folk culture and tradition, both as material proof and as part of the intangible cultural heritage (old know-how and skills, customs and beliefs). The epigraphy and the symbols on the tombstones are the result of folk knowledge, beliefs and skills of the broader community. A large number of stećci are carved, bearing decorations and inscriptions. The decorations are executed in bas-relief, in the form of ornamental strips (ornamental zigzag ribbons, spiral stems, twisted bands shaped as ropes etc.), vegetal, floral, geometric motifs, zoomorphic and figurative representations and architectural decorations. The decorative treatment of stećci includes numerous symbolic motifs of circles, crosses, moons, suns, rosettes, animal representations, hunting scenes, birds, snakes, individual human figures, as well as heraldic signs, such as a sword and shield. Carved inscriptions represent a valuable source for the of study of medieval
language and writing of the local population, as well as of historical figures and events, which is best illustrated by tombstone of Christian Petko in Šćepan polje.

The ethnological value of grave monuments – stećci is reflected in the traditional art of their construction, treatment, decoration or inscription, as well as in the usage of traditional tools, transportation means and installation, using the local stone.

The traditional knowledge was passed down to the generations, mostly by anonymous local masons. Stećci provide source material for the research of the life cycle of a medieval individual and communities, related to death and burial beliefs and customs; in a word, they are part of the spiritual tradition of the people buried under the stećci.

The folk tradition, from the late Middle Ages to the present, attributes all three necropolises to the old, “Greek” population, which explains the most common local names Grčko Groblje (Greek cemetery) of the stećci in the area of Durmitor and Piva, but also in other areas of Montenegro.

2.6.6. Artistic value

The basic artistic value of stećci is their shape and motifs, derived through particular carving technique. A large number of stećci have carved decorations done in shallow and deep relief, in the form of ornamental strips, vegetable, floral, geometric motifs, zoomorphic and figural representations and architectural ornaments which are usually made by Romanesque and Byzantine models. Decorative elements that occur independently or in combination with other ornamental motifs are characterized by a zigzag strips, spiral stems and twisted bands in the form of a rope.

The most common architectural motifs are the semicircular Romanesque arches with columns of different varieties, usually found on ridge- and chest-shaped stećci.

The decorative treatment of stećci includes numerous symbolic motifs of circles, crosses, moons, suns, rosettes, as well as figurative decorations such as hunting scenes, birds, snakes, individual human figures, folk dance kolo and heraldic motifs, such as sword and shield. A great number of decorations and artistic accomplishments point to folk elements or old Slavic traditions, with strong elements of Western influences. The artistic expressions of most stećci results from naïve relief presentations, which nonetheless appear natural and open.

Stećci are art works created under the influence of Western European medieval art, which was passed down from the Adriatic coast area then in the Romanesque phase into the interiors of the Balkans, which then combined with the specific characteristics of the rural areas and their distinctive folk art. In addition, the artistic expressions on the stećci reflect the influences of Byzantine art, arriving from the East.

The motifs present on the stećci in Montenegro fit the well-known ornamental system of the surrounding countries that cultivated the stećak tradition, but some specific variants or quality of craftsmanship is noted in their midst, making them authentic in the corpus of stećci.

Further research of stećci will bring new data, but based on what is already known about them, the stećci in Montenegro have a unique position in the corpus of medieval stećci.
2.6.7. Environmental significance

The environmental significance of the necropolises is reflected in the harmonious relation of the stone structures of stećci to the environment in which they are located, and which constitutes their immediate and broader surroundings, as well as in the context of the whole vista of immovable cultural property with a protected zone and the wider area. The particular value of these properties is the harmonious integration of the Durmitor necropolises in the traditional buildings of rural housing, economic and religious architecture near the necropolises Grčko Groblje and Bare Žugića.

On the other hand, the necropolis Grčko Groblje in Zagrađe, hidden in wild vegetation, with Soko town on the greatest rock towering above it, represents a harmonious environment made of medieval architecture and preserved natural surroundings, breaking out in a view on the confluence of rivers Piva and Tara in the river Drina, and on the village of Šćepan polje.
2.6.8. Landscape Value

The landscape value of all three necropolises is the outstanding value of the vista on the landscapes of Durmitor and Piva, and on the rivers Tara and Piva. On a small hill, over the lake Riblje jezero, the necropolis Grčko Groblje in Novaković has been integrated for centuries in the natural environment, both in form and contents, exuding a natural harmony and providing a unique experience.

Not far from it, in the same village, the number and shape of stećci at the necropolis Bare Žugića contribute to the extraordinary value of Durmitor peaks and to the life which has been sustained in the territory for centuries.

The church and the steep dirt road that leads from it to the necropolis, the natural gate made up of native vegetation at the necropolis Grčko Groblje, with Soko town on a steep cliff below the necropolis, all contribute to the special value in the visual landscape of the area of Šćepan polje, which is situated above the confluence of the Tara and Piva to the Drina.

All three cultural properties are highly attractive and constitute a visually unified whole with the area surrounding them, whose distinctive appearance is the result of action and interaction of natural and anthropogenic factors, best represented by the two necropolises in Durmitor, a peculiar area with all characteristics of the cultural landscape.
2.7. Analysis

2.7.1. Legal and institutional protection framework

In Montenegro, pursuant to the Law on Protection of Cultural Property ("Off. Gazette of Montenegro", no. 49/10, 40/11) and the Law on Spatial Planning and Construction ("Off. Gazette of Montenegro", No. 51/08), the protection of cultural property is integrated and implemented through the planning documents. The planning documents guarantee the protection of cultural properties and their protected environment as an integral part of modern society and economic and urban development, so that their integrity and status are respected and the protection regime dictated by the Law on the Protection of Cultural Property is implemented. In accordance with the above-mentioned regulations, the Department for Protection of Cultural Heritage of the Ministry of Culture issues the Opinion on the planning documents related to the protection of cultural property.

A planning document must comply with the Study of the Protection of Cultural Properties and the Management Plan. The study of cultural properties includes: textual and graphical representation of the protected immovable cultural properties, potential archaeological sites, areas with strong environmental values and their surrounding area, included in the planning documents; the regime and measures for the protection, preservation and promotion of cultural properties and its protected buffer zone, and finally the conservation requirements necessary for the development of conservation projects and the implementation of conservation measures on the recorded immovable cultural properties. The protection study is adopted by the Administration for the Protection of Cultural Property, while its development may be entrusted to a legal entity with a Conservator License.

The Management Plan is a strategic document which covers the long-term management, protection, conservation, use and presentation of cultural and historical entities, sites and areas. A management plan is required for a cultural property that is nominated for inscription or inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. The management plan must include: a multi-year strategy for the management of cultural heritage and guidelines for its implementation, program activities regarding integral valorization, protection and presentation of the cultural property; mechanisms for the realization of the integrated system of protection; a monitoring methodology for the planned activities. The Management Plan is adopted by the Government, at the proposal of the Ministry of Culture.

Institutional holders of protection, conservation and presentation of the three necropolises in Montenegro are:

- The Administration for the Protection of Cultural Property, which performs administrative and other related professional activities for the protection of cultural properties;
- The Conservation and Archaeology Centre of Montenegro, which performs expert conservation and archaeology activities;
- The Archaeological Museum, as an organizational unit of the National Museum of Montenegro.

Given that the municipalities of Žabljak and Plužine, on whose territories the necropolises are located, have not yet established the municipal public institutions active in the field of cultural heritage, so far the activities on the stećak necropolises were implemented and financed from the state budget and by the national institutions and public administration.

Public Enterprise National Parks of Montenegro, i.e. its work unit National Park Durmitor, was declared a national park in Montenegro in 1952 based on the beauty and authenticity of its natural environment. Located in the northwest of Montenegro, the park encompasses the massif of Durmitor with canyons of Tara, Draga and Sušica and upper canyon of Komarnica, covering an area of 39,000 ha. The buoyancy of the natural beauty and environmental and cultural values of Durmitor and river Tara, have contributed to the inscription of the Durmitor National Park in the World Heritage List by the International Committee for the World Natural Heritage by UNESCO, in Paris in 1980. Tara and its canyon, on the other hand, were included in the global ecological biosphere reserve (area 32,000 ha) in the framework of the UNESCO Programme Man and the Biosphere in 1977.

Public Enterprise National Parks of Montenegro, is active in: the promotion and protection of the outstanding natural values of the national park and in ensuring the stability of the ecosystem by improving its composition, structure and quality; preservation, promotion and protection of natural resources of national parks (flora, fauna, fungi, soil, water, air, forests, pastures, meadows, etc.); preservation of landscape and environmental values of the area, seen as a recognizable aesthetic expression of the territory; preservation of cultural values, by stimulating their revitalization and preservation of traditional architecture and education, and raising awareness on the importance of cultural heritage;
Improving cooperation with users of the park area and the holders of economic and other activities for the purpose of providing incentives for the development of tourism, organic agriculture and production of traditional products from the region of the park, as a basis for sustainable development; improvement and maintenance of established informational and educational facilities of the park; enhancing cooperation with international and domestic organizations and donors. The National Parks controls: illegal construction, exploitation of natural resources, agricultural production of indigenous crops, livestock farms of limited capacity, construction of commercial facilities of limited capacity that have no adverse impact on the environmental elements.

Also, in the municipality of Plužine, there are ongoing activities of the organization of the Regional Nature Park “Piva”, 32,471.2 ha area and connecting the area to the National Park “Sušjeska” in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The said Park would border the Durmitor National Park, which already has a dual international protection as a World Natural Heritage Site and a Biosphere Reserve, encompassing the canyon of the river Tara and therefore including the stećak necropolis of Grčko Groblje in Šćepan polje.

So far, the protection, preservation and presentation activities on the three nominated necropolises, namely the preventive care, were performed through the projects of national institutions active in the field of cultural heritage, supported by the funds provided from the state budget to the Ministry of Culture. There is a lack of local institutions in the field of cultural heritage, but also a lack of specialized personnel, and one of the priorities is the strengthening of human and institutional capacities in the municipalities of Žabljak and Plužine, to ensure the sustainable use and continuous monitoring of the nominated necropolises.

The expert staff involved in the care, research and presentation of the cultural properties in Montenegro is employed by the cultural and protection institutions, and is responsible for designing programs and projects to protect, document, present, or conduct archaeological research. The Management plan specifies that the local community, i.e. the Durmitor National Park, shall educate and raise the capacities of the future employees of the visitors centre or similar institutions on the presentation and promotion of the nominated cultural properties.

Strengthening human capacity in cultural institutions is a developmental priority in Montenegro, because there is lack of skilled personnel in the field of cultural heritage, due to the lack of appropriate institutions of higher education. Limited employment and inadequate organizational structure of the institutions also play a part in this issue. There is an evident lack of skilled personnel in all cultural institutions, and certain expert positions are left to available personnel profiles, organized in accordance with the priorities set at the national or local level and functioning on the principle of providing technical assistance to national institutions in activities at the local level.

When it comes to the nominated necropolises of the municipality of Žabljak and Plužine, the current activities of valorization, preventive care through collecting necessary documentation and recording of the status and the proposed measures of protection were carried out by national institutions and expert teams, under the supervision of the Ministry of Culture of Montenegro. The Administration for the Protection of Cultural Property has so far been involved in the valorization and the legal protection of the nominated necropolises, and will continue to be involved in the development of the Conservation Requirements, safeguarding, supervision of works, as well as the use of the sites.

The Conservation and Archaeology Centre will develop conservation projects, the implementation of protective measures and the conservation and research works. In the municipalities of Žabljak and Plužine there are no local institutions to perform activities of protection and preservation of cultural heritage, so these tasks, except for the above mentioned national administrative or public institutions, will be performed by the National Museum of Montenegro.

The cultural centers in these municipalities do not have the necessary HR capacities to perform activities of conservation, research and museum work. In addition to said national and local institutions, the municipality of Žabljak hosts a working unit of the National Park Durmitor – the Public Enterprise National Parks of Montenegro, as well as the Municipal Tourism Office. In municipality Plužine, in addition to the Culture Centre and the Tourism Office, the Regional Park Piva (formerly Regional Bioče park, Maglić and Volujak) is currently in the process of formation.
2.7.2. Ownership

2.7.2.1. Grčko groblje, Riblje Lake, Novakovići, Žabljak

The cultural property Grčko groblje, at the lake Riblje jezero, is located in the cadastral municipality CM Pašina Voda I, in the Municipality of Žabljak, and includes the greatest part of the cadastral plot n.416 and a part of the cadastral plot n.417, both privately owned.

The surface of the immovable cultural property - archaeological site – the stećak necropolis Grčko groblje, near Riblje jezero, Novakovići, Municipality of Žabljak, amounts to: 845.24 m² - 0.084 ha.

One part of the protected area of the cultural property is located in the cadastral municipality Pašina Voda I, Municipality of Žabljak, and includes parts of the cadastral plots: 407, 415, 416, 417, 419, 786 and 1769, while the second part of the protected area is located in the cadastral municipality Novakovići I, Municipality of Žabljak, and includes parts of the cadastral plots: 782, 787, 788 and the entire cadastral plot 786. The entire surface of the protected area of the cultural property which includes cadastral municipalities Pašina Voda I and Novakovići I, in the Municipality of Žabljak, is privately owned.

The surface of the protected area of the immovable cultural property - archaeological site - stećak necropolis - Grčko groblje, near Riblje jezero, Novakovići, Municipality of Žabljak, includes the surface amounting to: 62,041, 81 m²- 6.204 ha, and represents preserved natural environment.

### General information about the cultural property

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<th>Surface Area</th>
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<td>The surface of the cultural property</td>
<td>845.24 m² - 0.084 ha</td>
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<td>The surface of the protected area</td>
<td>62,041, 81 m² - 6.204 ha</td>
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2.7.2.2. Bare Žugića, Žabljak

The cultural property stećak necropolis Bare Žugića, located in CM Novakovići I, Municipality of Žabljak, includes the entire cadastral plot No. 282 (property of the Municipality of Žabljak), as well as parts of cadastral plots: 101, 283 and 284, which are privately owned.

The surface of the immovable cultural property - archaeological site - stećak necropolis Bare Žugića, Novakovići, Municipality of Žabljak, amounts to: 3.445 m² - 0.344 ha.

The surface of the protected area of the cultural property is privately owned and includes cadastral plots: 94, 101, 102, 283 and 284 in CM Novakovići I, Municipality of Žabljak.

The surface of the protected area of the immovable cultural property - archaeological site - stećak necropolis Bare Žugića, Novakovići, Municipality of Žabljak, amounts to: 22,976,14 m² - 2,2976 ha.

### General information about the cultural property

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<th>Surface Area</th>
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<tr>
<td>The surface of the cultural property</td>
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<td>The surface of the protected area</td>
<td>22,976,14 m² - 2,2976 ha</td>
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2.7.2.3. Grčko groblje, Šćepan Polje, Plužine

Stećak necropolis Grčko groblje is located in the CM Brijeg, Municipality of Plužine, and it includes a part of the cadastral plot 411, which is owned by the Local Community Crkvičko polje.

The surface of the immovable cultural property - archaeological site - stećak necropolis Grčko groblje, Šćepan Polje, amounts to: 359,36 m² - 0,035 ha.

The protected area of the cultural property includes the greatest part of the cadastral plot 411, owned by the Local Community Crkvičko polje, as well as a smaller part of cadastral plots: 412 and 413, which are privately owned.

The surface of the protected area of the immovable cultural property - archaeological site - stećak necropolis Grčko groblje, Šćepan Polje, amounts to: 5.042 m² - 0,504 ha.

General information about the cultural property

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<th>The surface of the cultural property</th>
<th>359,36 m² - 0,035 ha</th>
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<td>The surface of the protected area</td>
<td>5.042 m² - 0,504 ha</td>
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2.7.3. Status of protection

Pursuant to the Article 18 of the Law on the Protection of Cultural Property ("Official Gazette of Montenegro", No.49/10), the Administration for the Protection of Cultural Property issued the Decision on initializing prior protection and determination of the status of the cultural property Grčko Groblje and Bare Žugića, Novakovići, Municipality of Žabljak and Grčko Groblje, Šćepan polje, municipality Plužine. Afterward the Administration has implemented, pursuant to Article 23 of the Law, the development of three studies establishing the cultural values of the nominated stećak necropolises. Based on Articles 25 and 26 of the same Law, the Administration adopted a Decision on the Status of Immovable Cultural Property of National Importance (archaeological site – location), for the following stećak necropolises:

- Grčko Groblje, Riblje jezero, Novakovići, Municipality of Žabljak, Decision No. UP/I-br.04-477/2012-3 of 11th December 2012 ("Off. Gazette", No. 4/13);
- Žugića Bare, Novakovići, Municipality of Žabljak, Decision No. UP/I-br.04-218/2012-7 of 11th December 2012 ("Off. Gazette", No. 4/13);

The Decision on the establishing of cultural property status, pursuant to the Article 26 of the Law on the Protection of Cultural Property, contains the following information:

1. basic information about historical properties (name, type, location and ID);
2. description of the appearance and conditions of the cultural property and its individual parts;
3. description of the boundaries of immovable cultural property and boundaries of the protected area and the objects it contains;
4. information on the owner/holder of the cultural property and the protected area of the immovable cultural property (name, domicile and residence for a natural person, or the name and the seat of a legal person);
5. detailed description of the particularities and characteristics of the cultural property, found to represent cultural values;
6. the category of the cultural property;
7. protection measures, purpose and management, preservation and use of cultural property, both for the immovable cultural property and its protected environment.

Pursuant to the Article 34, Paragraph 1 of the Law on the Protection of Cultural Property, the stećak necropolises were categorized as immovable cultural properties - archaeological sites of national importance, and on the basis of paragraph 2 of the same Article, a cultural property of national importance can be nominated for inscription in the World Heritage List, in accordance with international conventions.

2.7.4. Spatial planning documentation

Spatial development policy provides the requirements for spatial development – which for protection, improvement, use and management purposes, is defined as *spatial intervention by human action*. Therefore, the Law on Spatial Planning and Construction is applied in Montenegro ("Off. Gazette of Montenegro"; no. 51/08, 40/10, 34/11, 35/13), serving as the basis for defining development principles and the adoption of planning documents.

Given that the adopted planning documents are the main instruments for sustainable management of the territory and represent the basic state policy framework for spatial planning, they significantly affect the state of spatial planning, and hence the overall social and economic status.

For the necropolises at the territory of the municipality of Žabljak, the following spatial planning documents are relevant:

- Spatial plan of Montenegro ("Official Gazette" no. 24/08);
- Spatial zoning plan of the Municipality of Žabljak 2020 ("OGM - Municipal regulations" no. 22/11);
- Detailed Spatial Plan for Special Purpose Corridor 400kV transmission line with optical cable from the Montenegrin coast to Pljevlja, ("Official Gazette", No. 47/11).

After examining the spatial-urban plan of the Municipality of Žabljak – the plan of land use in the immediate vicinity of Grčko Groblje, Riblje jezero, Novakovići (Appendix 1) – a planned construction of sport airport was acknowledged, at a distance of 850m from the site. Given that a detailed regulation plans have not been adopted for the necropolis, any planned or possible construction must go through statutory procedure, which involves consent and analyses of the planning documents from the standpoint of the protection of cultural property.

Having examined the spatial-urban plan of the Municipality of Žabljak – the plan of land use in the immediate vicinity of Bare Žugića, Novakovići (Appendix 2 and 3) - a construction of a 400 kV transmission line with the optical cable from the Montenegrin coast to Pljevlja and undersea cable 500 KV with the optical cable, Italy – Montenegro has been planned, for which there is predicted corridor width of 1 km, which will define the position of the transmission line route within the corridor by elaboration of project documentation. For the said site there are no detailed regulation plans.

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**Anex 1**
For the necropolis Grčko Groblje, Šćepan polje, in the municipality of Plužine, the following planning documents are relevant:

- Spatial Plan of Montenegro (“Official Gazette” No. 24/08);
- Spatial Zoning Plan Plužine 2028 (“The Official Gazette of Montenegro - Municipal Regulations, No. 32/12)

Having examined the spatial-urban plan of the municipality of Plužine – the plan of land use in the immediate vicinity of Grčko Groblje, Šćepan polje, Plužine (Appendix 4) – there is a plan for the development of a tourist zone at the distance of 1 km distance from the site. For the subject site there are no detailed regulation plans.

In addition, the said locations are in the territory of the World Biosphere Reserve which is inside the catchment area of the river Tara and under the protection of UNESCO.

During the preparation of the planning documents, in order to improve the state of the cultural and natural heritage as compared to the area of spatial planning, the cooperation of all authorities, institutions and organizations in the system of protection of cultural heritage has been continuous, respecting the guidelines, recommendations and opinions of the Administration for the Protection of Cultural Heritage, the Ministry of Culture and UNESCO, as defined in the official legislation.
2.7.5. Funding and legal grounds for the protection financing

The Law on Culture stipulates that at least 2.5% of the state budget shall be annually allocated for the culture, reduced by the expenditures of state funds and capital budget.

The protection and conservation of cultural property, in the case of the stećak necropolises, shall be financed from the funds of: owners and holders of cultural properties, general revenue of the budget of Montenegro, budgets of municipalities, donations and other revenues, in accordance with Article 125 of the Law on Protection of Cultural Property. There is an additional legal guarantee represented by the preparation of the Annual Programme of Protection and Conservation of Cultural Properties, adopted by the Government of Montenegro at the proposal of the Ministry of Culture, and the municipal programmes adopted by the municipalities. The above Programme provides support, financing and co-financing of programmes and projects important for their realisation of public interest in the field of cultural heritage of Montenegro, i.e. the implementation of projects and programmes in the field of conservation, museum, library, archive and movie heritage activities. Projects supported by the annual programme of the protection and conservation of cultural properties are implemented by the national and local public institutions and state administration bodies in the field of cultural heritage.

In the coming period, the Ministry of Culture plans to draft the Conservation Projects for the necropolises: Grčko groblje, Riblje jezero, Bare Žugića in the Municipality of Žabljak, as well as the Grčko groblje, in the Municipality of Plužine. Based on the conservation requirements of the Administration for the Protection of Cultural Property, the project will be carried out by the Conservation and Archaeology Centre of Montenegro.

Article 128 of the Law on Protection of Cultural Property stipulates that the funds for the implementation of projects included in the annual programme of the protection and conservation of cultural property shall be provided from funds of general revenues of the Budget of Montenegro and earmarked funds from the annuity for the conservation of cultural properties. However, as the earmarked funds from the annuity for the conservation of cultural properties, in accordance with Article 125 of the Law on Protection of Cultural Property, are still not regulated by the tax laws, the Protection and Conservation Programme is financed from the budget funds of the Ministry of Culture.

2.7.6. Assessing Tourism Potential
2.7.6.1. Grčko groblje, Riblje jezero, Novakovići, Žabljak

The site has a relatively favourable geographic location for tourism. Tourism is mainly of the transit type, except in the winter period when tourism potentials and services of ski resorts, ski lifts, small hotels and individual accommodation are used to a considerable extent.

Žabljak has the biggest mountain tourism potentials in Montenegro, and these consist of Durmitor National Park, with mountain massif and glacier lakes, the Tara River Canyon, diverse flora and fauna, cultural heritage and seasonal events.

The Tara River Canyon is one of the most important tourism potentials of the region and is a unique environment for spending time in nature. It offers a variety of vacation and recreation in mountain lodges and camps, hunting and fishing, while rafting is certainly one of the biggest attractions on the fast river main stream.

Most of the tourism facilities, mountain and hunting lodges, shelters and bivouacs are owned by the National Park. The facilities are maintained and serviced for the needs of mountaineers and nature lovers. They are located in attractive sites, in the massif of Durmitor.

In order to develop the offer in the area of Durmitor National Park, tourism infrastructures have been complemented by new facilities. Camping areas and ethnic villages have been built. These facilities are of newer date and are privately owned. Most of them are in the Tara Canyon.

The buoyancy of biodiversity, the exceptional environmental values and cultural-historical heritage of the area are good prerequisite for the development of excursion tourism. Spending time in nature and camping are the most popular forms of mountain tourism in Durmitor. The fact that the trails are signalled and marked is of particular importance for longer hiking and climbing on the mountain peaks.

In recent years, with the use of modern utility vehicles, the safari tourism is increasingly developing. The road in the massif of Durmitor provides good prerequisites for this type of excursion tourism.

Tourism capacities (hotels, individual accommodation, availability of tourist information, hotel services) and tourism programmes (sports and recreation, health, entertainment and leisure, food and drink, cultural heritage) are possible and available and relatively close to the necropolis at Riblje jezero. The necropolis itself is not included in the tourist offer. The road to it is not signalled and there are no other types of information or promotional content.

At the Visitors Centre in the Administration Building of the National Park Durmitor in Žabljak, within the service for promotion and education, one can get information about the cultural heritage of the National Park and its protected environment, where the stećak necropolis at Riblje jezero is located.

In order to improve the tourism valorisation, it is necessary to plan, design and carry out the necessary infrastructure at the appropriate place (hiking and biking trail, parking, and sanitary facilities). It is necessary to set the proper signalisation along traffic routes, with stylised graphic layout of the necropolis and the distance to the site.

Conveniently located near the asphalt road, the necropolis allows easy access by the hiking trails from several directions from Žabljak. It would be important to include in the tourist offer the section of the ancient and medieval caravan route, which led from Nikšić through Durmitor not far from the necropolis, and which descended in the Tara Canyon below Pirilitor, from where it continued to Pljevlja.

In order to enrich tourism facilities, the Municipality of Žabljak and the Durmitor National Park will through a variety of programmes, promote the necropolises near Riblje jezero and BareŽugića and include them in their tourist offer, mark the most significant hiking trails, print adequate flyers, set up info boards etc.

Local population can significantly contribute to the tourism valorisation of the necropolis, acting as guides and interpreters of stories and legends about the origin of stećci and the sites on which they are located, as well as through offering the services of accommodation, traditional folk cuisine, domestic products and souvenirs, etc.

The Municipality of Žabljak, local tourism organisations and other recognised formal and informal stakeholders, local tourism workers, mountaineers, guides, etc. can also be important links for the presentation and promotion of this important site.
At the same time, it is necessary to educate new or existing professional staff engaged or potentially engaged in the process of management, presentation and promotion of cultural heritage. There is also ongoing work on the improvement of the accommodation and stay conditions of potential tourists of various profiles.

It is necessary to initiate a training programme for local tourist guides.

The introduction of several other recognisable routes should be considered.

2.7.6.2. Bare Žugića, Novakovići, Žabljak

The stećak necropolis Bare Žugića in the homonymous hamlet in the village of Novakovići is located 13km from the municipal and urban centre of Žabljak. Tourism is mainly of the transit character, with the exception of the winter period when tourism potentials and services of ski resorts, ski lifts, small hotels and individual accommodation are used to a considerable extent.

Žabljak has the biggest mountain tourism potentials in Montenegro, and these consist of Durmitor National Park, with mountain massif and glacier lakes, the Tara River Canyon, diverse flora and fauna, cultural heritage and seasonal events.

The Tara River Canyon is one of the most important tourism potentials of the region and is a unique environment for spending time in nature. It offers a variety of vacation and recreation in mountain lodges and camps, hunting and fishing, while rafting is certainly one of the biggest attractions on the fast river main stream.

Most of the tourism facilities, mountain and hunting lodges, shelters and bivouacs are owned by the National Park. The facilities are maintained and serviced for the needs of mountaineers and nature lovers. They are located in attractive sites, in the massif of Durmitor.

In order to develop the offer in the area of Durmitor National Park, tourism infrastructures have been complemented by new facilities. Camping areas and ethnic villages have been built. These facilities are of newer date and are privately owned. Most of them are in the Tara Canyon.

The buoyancy of biodiversity, the exceptional environmental values and cultural-historical heritage of the area are good prerequisite for the development of excursion tourism. Spending time in nature and camping are the most popular forms of mountain tourism in Durmitor. The fact that the trails are signalled and marked is of particular importance for longer hiking and climbing on the mountain peaks.

In recent years, with the use of modern utility vehicles, the safari tourism is increasingly developing. The road in the massif of Durmitor provides good prerequisites for this type of excursion tourism.

Tourism capacities (hotels, individual accommodation, availability of tourist information, hotel services) and tourism programmes (sports and recreation, health, entertainment and leisure, food and drink, cultural heritage) are possible and available and relatively close to the necropolis bare Žugića. The necropolis itself is not included in the tourist offer. The road to it is not signalled and there are no other types of information or promotional content.

At the Visitors Centre in the Administration Building of the National Park Durmitor in Žabljak, within the service for promotion and education, one can get information about the cultural heritage of the National Park and its protected environment, where the stećak necropolis at Bare Žugića is located.

In order to improve the tourism valorisation, it is necessary to plan, design and carry out the necessary infrastructure at the appropriate place (hiking and biking trail, parking, and sanitary facilities). It is necessary to set the proper signalisation along traffic routes, with styled graphic layout of the necropolis and the distance to the site.

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In order to enrich tourism facilities, the Municipality of Žabljak and the Durmitor National Park will through a variety of programmes, promote the necropolises near Riblje jezero and Bare Žugića and include them in their tourist offer, mark the most significant hiking trails, print adequate flyers, set up info boards etc.

Local population can significantly contribute to the tourism valorisation of the necropolis, acting as guides and interpreters of stories and legends about the origin of stećci and the sites on which they are located, as well as through offering the services of accommodation, traditional folk cuisine, domestic products and souvenirs, etc.

The Municipality of Plužine, local tourism organisations and other recognised formal and informal stakeholders, local tourism workers, mountaineers, guides, etc. can also be important links for the presentation and promotion of this important site.

At the same time, it is necessary to educate new or existing professional staff engaged or potentially engaged in the process of management, presentation and promotion of cultural heritage. There is also ongoing work on the improvement of the accommodation and stay conditions of potential tourists of various profiles.

2.7.6.3. Grčko groblje, Šćepan Polje, Plužine

On the 11.2km long section of the road Šćepan Polje – Crkvičko Polje (Rudina) and the 5.8km long road Brijeg – Gornje Zagrađe – Rudine, where the necropolis Grčko groblje is located, there is no adequate infrastructure necessary for organized tourism. The potentials of this region are reflected in the capacities of the eco-village in Crkvičko Polje, restaurants and bungalows in Šćepan Polje, the main visitors centre of the area, and in private accommodation in weekend houses of this area.

Accommodation capacity in the area of the city centre Plužine amounts to 44 beds at the “Piva” hotel, which is not in use. In the recent years, eco-tourism in the village Brezna has been developing, where the complex of eco cottages (with about ten beds) is located. Eco complexes are also located in settlements Trsa, Crkvičko Polje and Rudinice. It is estimated that there are approximately 2000 beds within 424 holiday houses and cottages, but there is no information about their offer. There are camps for rafting on Tara in Šćepan Polje, which attract great tourist interest in the summer season.
The body responsible for the promotion of the tourist offer of the Municipality of Plužine is the Tourism Organisation of the city, the Montenegrin Tourism Association, as well as individuals involved in the tourism industry of this area. Preliminary data suggest that due to poor road infrastructure, lack of info boards, unmarked trails, as well as other types of information and promotional contents, the nominated stećak necropolis is little known and hardly accessible for visitors.

In order to improve the tourism valorisation, it is necessary to plan, design and carry out the necessary infrastructure (access road, parking, and sanitary facility) at the appropriate place, and relatively close to the site. It is necessary to set the appropriate signalisation informing of the presence of the World Heritage Site along traffic routes, with stylised graphic layout of the necropolises and the distance to the site.

Local population can significantly contribute to the tourism valorisation of the necropolis, acting as guides and interpreters of stories and legends about the origin of stećci and the sites on which they are located, as well as through offering the services of accommodation, traditional folk cuisine, domestic products and souvenirs, etc.

The Municipality of Plužine, local tourism organisations and other recognised formal and informal stakeholders, local tourism workers, mountaineers, guides, etc. can also be important links for the presentation and promotion of this important site.

At the same time, it is necessary to educate new or existing professional staff engaged or potentially engaged in the process of management, presentation and promotion of cultural heritage. There is also ongoing work on the improvement of the accommodation and stay conditions of potential tourists of various profiles.

**2.7.7. Socio-Economic Impact Assessment**

The aim of this socio-economic impact assessment of the stećak necropolises located in the Municipality of Žabljak and the Municipality of Plužine is to determine the availability of key resources and their optimal use in order to achieve long-term sustainability of the necropolises, including their economic and social development.

Having in mind the deficiencies of staffing, financial means, infrastructures and the like at the sites, it is important to emphasise that they are intended to be resolved through specific national and local strategic documents. Namely, the National Programme for the Development of Culture 2011-2015 implements the recognized activities through the annual action plans which are directly related to the users and holders of cultural properties and local self-governments, providing expert staff, access to cultural properties to persons with disabilities, financial resources for the protection and conservation of cultural properties, adoption of strategic documents and the like.

In addition to this national programme, the training of local residents for the needs of presentation and promotion of cultural properties and consequently the stećak necropolises, is envisaged also through other programmes, such as the Tourism Development Strategy of Montenegro until 2020 (adopted in 2008), which prescribes the promotion of cultural heritage and the development of strategies for human resources development in the tourism sector in Montenegro. What is more, the Transport Development Strategy of Montenegro provides for the improvement of traffic routes for easier and faster access to points of interest to travellers, which would contribute to the protection of these necropolises and to the increase in the number of visitors, providing also an improved access infrastructure to the necropolises, the provision of adequate parking, setting up of the appropriate signalisation etc.

It can be concluded that the ongoing and quality protection/conservation of the stećak necropolises and the careful planning of their further development and promotion through strategic documents contributes significantly to increase the public awareness and increase number of visitors, which in turn directly contributes to the development of local communities, both through the economic aspect achieved by the increased number of tourists, overnight stays, creation of new jobs etc, and through the social aspect, through raising awareness of the cultural heritage as a testimony to the cultures and nations which formerly inhabited this territory.
### 2.7.8. SWOT Analysis

#### STRENGTHS
- The status of the cultural property of national importance
- Two sites in the contact zones under the protection of the
- National Park Durmitor which is also a part of the UNESCO World Heritage
- Cultural values of the site: archaeological, historical, ethnological, artistic, ambient and landscape values.
- Low population density
- The existing transport infrastructure to the stećak necropolises
- Living tradition of preserving old cemeteries, and special consideration by the local community
- The natural environment is preserved and there are no sources of pollution
- The sites are located outside of urban areas and not even used for their primary purpose
- Reconnaissance and preparation of photo and field documentation of newer date
- The existence of national and municipal tourism organisations
- The number of tourists and tourism pressure on sites and contact zone is negligible
- Proximity to urban cores and the existence of accommodation capacities
- Availability of geodetic surveys
- Most stećci are in good condition
- Possibility of economic exploitation of sites through cultural tourism
- Large number of medieval necropolises with stećci is located on the territory of municipalities
- Large number of cultural properties and archaeological sites are located in the territory of neighbouring municipalities
- Areas with preserved environment
- Perennial tourism valorisation of the area
- The existence of different forms of tourism
- Connection to international main road corridors
- Event tourism
- Support of national and local institutions

#### WEAKNESSES
- Insufficient coordination between stakeholders in the protection system
- Insufficient interinstitutional and intersectoral cooperation
- Lack of staff capacities
- Insufficient and inadequate activity of municipal services in the protection and maintenance of sites
- The absence of regular sources of income and a constant way
- of funding for the protection and promotion of properties
- Performed unauthorised researches to a smaller extent
- No established system for the maintenance of sites
- Detailed archaeological and anthropological researches of the sites have not been performed
- The absence of management plans
- Exposition of sites to natural influences
- Negligible tourist visit, mostly sporadic and random visits
- Lack of tourism infrastructure and signalisation
- The absence of parking
- Lack of electrical, water and sewage infrastructure
- A number of stećci is damaged or dislocated
- The existing publications are not sufficiently popular and/or attractive enough for the wider audiences
- Insufficiently and inadequately informed population
- Inappropriate interpretation by certain target groups
- Slow local administration
- Absence of visual identity for brand formation
- Small number of educational programmes
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OPPORTUNITIES</th>
<th>THREATS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Opportunity for informing and familiarizing the population with the values</td>
<td>• Unplanned economic development without a clear vision and with excessive commercialisation</td>
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<td>and importance of the sites</td>
<td>• Slow reform of legislation of relevance to the nominated necropolises</td>
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<td>• Opportunities of increased protection of the sites as UNESCO areas</td>
<td>• Continuous lack of cooperation and coordination at all levels</td>
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<td>• Opportunities for the economic development caused by the adequate promotion</td>
<td>• Negotiation of sites due to the lack of cooperation</td>
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<td>and valorisation of sites</td>
<td>• Pressure on the environment by building infrastructure facilities</td>
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<td>• Cooperation between various institutions for the protection and management</td>
<td>• Potential devastation of sites due to illegal activities and climate changes</td>
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<td>• Adoption of the necessary legislation</td>
<td>• Unresolved property issues</td>
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<td>• Conducting archaeological research and the elaboration of the existing</td>
<td>• Economic crisis</td>
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<td>documentation</td>
<td>• Part of cadastral plots of cultural properties are privately owned</td>
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<td>• Cultural tourism development</td>
<td>• Lack of tourism infrastructure</td>
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<td>• Establishment of visitor centres, as well as publication of promotional</td>
<td>• Danger from fire (especially during the summer period), robbery and vandalism</td>
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<td>materials and marketing of the territory</td>
<td>• The absence of implementation of legislation that provides protection and conservation of</td>
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<td>• Continuous implementation of education at the state and local level</td>
<td>sites</td>
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<td>• Reducing unemployment through creating jobs in tourism</td>
<td>• Change of lifestyles within which education and culture do not occupy a significant place</td>
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<td>• Cooperation with the countries of the region</td>
<td>• Continuation of negative demographic tendencies with population outflow</td>
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<td>• The use of available European funds through participation in projects</td>
<td>• Insufficient connection and harmonisation of tourism development, agriculture and other</td>
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<td>• Establishment of local institutions which would deal with the protection</td>
<td>services</td>
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<td>and conservation of cultural properties</td>
<td>• Lagging behind in infrastructure equipment</td>
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<td>• Preparation of conservation projects</td>
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<td>• Implementing conservation measures</td>
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<td>• Training of experts in the field of heritage protection</td>
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<td>• Regular monitoring</td>
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<td>• Establishment of management body/s</td>
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<td>• Greater involvement of all relevant institutions in the process of</td>
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<td>preparation and implementation of the planning documents</td>
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<td>• Preparation of texts and other material for presentations in relation to</td>
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<td>different target groups</td>
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<td>• Involvement of local population in the development of tourism products</td>
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<td>• Natural benefits, i.e. ecological potential of the area with all</td>
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<td>• Conditions for organic food production</td>
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<td>• Branding of local products</td>
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<td>• Potentials for the sustainable tourism development</td>
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<td>• Increase of interest for staying in rural areas</td>
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<td>• Development of projects together with local institutions and NGO sector</td>
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<td>in the promotion of medieval necropolises</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Designing web sites</td>
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<td>• Involvement of volunteers</td>
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3. SUSTAINABLE USE AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MANAGEMENT PLAN

3.1. Sustainable use

The sustainable use and presentation of the stećak necropolises within the Management Plan is planned on the bases of sustainable development which takes into account the main principles: economic development, social balance, protection of cultural heritage and environmental protection, which do not sacrifice the interests of future generations in order to meet their immediate needs.

The Management plan for the stećak necropolises - archaeological sites – considers cultural heritage as an integral part of the natural environment of the Durmitor National Park and the Piva Regional Park, and a basic component of future intergovernmental and regional development plans. Confirmation of the relationship of the archaeological sites that have cultural landscape value is important in the framework of sustainable development of the area of Durmitor and Piva. Sustainable use will be based on a balanced and harmonious relationship between the needs of the wider community, the economic activities and the environment, and will enable their further involvement in the contemporary development trends.

Plans of sustainable use of cultural heritage of the area of Durmitor and Piva include the addressing of social and economic issues of the local population. It involves the entire society with all the available resources and it is paramount to create general consensus of joint efforts against the outdated model of conflicting interests. The first step is to gather information about the local conditions and local priorities, i.e. to discover true desires and needs of the local population. Then, the necessary actions will be identified. In all this, no organisation or social structure will be able to have a monopoly on the best ideas. The methods to measure progress will be determined in order to assess whether the undertaken actions have achieved the expected results.

The stećak necropolises will be considered at the local context in order to affirm the importance of the local communities and to raise the awareness of the local population on the importance of cultural heritage. By reviving the archaeological sites through an expert and scientific approach, and integrating them in the practices of the modern living, the connection between cultural and natural heritage is emphasized, in function of the future development of the area of Durmitor and Piva.

3.1.1. Protection measures

3.1.1.1. Grčko groblje, Riblje jezero, Novakovići, Žabljak

In order to improve the condition of this necropolis, it is necessary to implement the following measures:

* Preparation of a conservation project that includes:

  - Conservation and restoration work which would make use of mild abrasives and cleaning products, without jeopardising the structure of the stone or raising issues on the reversibility of conservation practices;
  - In order to restore the sunken stećci to their original position, it is necessary to perform a partial terrain levelling which will create the necessary conditions for the return of certain stećci to their original position;
  - It is important to take care that lichens and mosses are removed only when they represent a negative impact on the monuments, and only to the necessary extent;
  - Consolidation of unstable parts of tombstones, in order to slow down the process of decay;
  - After implementing comprehensive conservation measures, it is necessary to perform the protective impregnation of the monuments.
3.1.1.2. Bare Žugića, Novakovići, Žabljak

In order to improve the condition of this necropolis, it is necessary to implement the following measures:

- Preparation of a conservation project that includes:
  - Conservation and restoration work which would make use of mild abrasives and cleaning products, without jeopardising the structure of the stone or raising issues on the reversibility of conservation practices;
  - In order to restore the sunken stećci to their original position, it is necessary to perform a partial terrain levelling which will create the necessary conditions for the return of certain stećci to their original position;
  - It is important to take care that lichens and mosses are removed only when they represent a negative impact on the monuments, and only to the necessary extent;
  - Consolidation of unstable parts of tombstones, in order to slow down the process of decay;
  - After implementing comprehensive conservation measures, it is necessary to perform the protective impregnation of the monuments.

3.1.1.3. Grčko groblje, Šćepan Polje, Plužine

Taking into account the poor condition of the entire site, and in order to prevent further devastation and to improve the situation, it is necessary to make a conservation project that includes:

- Conservation measures - conservation and restoration of stećci;
- Preparation of a conservation project;
- Providing road access in accordance with the needs of archaeological site;
- Removal of excessive vegetation;
- Levelling of the terrain to the extent deemed necessary, and to enable access to each stećak individually;
- Removal of lichens and mosses, done only in places where they threaten the existence of stećci;
- Consolidation of the unstable parts of tombstones;
- After implementing comprehensive conservation measures, it is necessary to perform the protective impregnation of the monuments.

3.1.2. Protection regime

- It is necessary to guarantee the continuous monitoring of the condition of stećci;
- Given that the cultural properties are being nominated for inscription in the UNESCO World Heritage List, the protection, conservation, use, presentation and popularisation of cultural values of stećak necropolis is only possible in their function of old cemeteries, without the possibility of any interventions which would jeopardise their environmental and landscape values, or their integrity and uniqueness, in accordance with the relevant national and international laws and conventions;
- Integral protection is provided through planning documents, by drafting the Study for the protection of the cultural properties which ensures the protection of cultural values of the nominated stećak necropolises and others located in this municipality;
- Continuous cooperation with the countries that are holders of joint nomination of stećci for the UNESCO World Heritage List, and the establishment of joint control, protection, management and monitoring of the conservation status of all the stećak necropolises in the serial international nomination;
- Implementation of continuous professional and scientific researches;
- Continued cooperation between competent national and local administration bodies and institutions;
- Continuous process of education of the local population, including the primary and secondary school students;
- As the necropolis Bare Žugića is located in the contact zone of the National Park Durmitor, inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List as a natural property since 1979, already guaranteeing to the property a level of international conservation status, it is necessary for the national and local tourism organisations to continuously prepare information leaflets, publications and the like for the purposes of promotion and presentation, in cooperation with institutions in the field of cultural heritage.
• Given that the main objective of the normative and expert protection of this necropolis is the integral conservation of stećci and their natural surroundings as a memory of the medieval lifestyle, beliefs, rituals and environmental practices of burial and grave markings with tombstones, it is necessary to preserve the basic, original purpose of the cultural properties.

3.2. Implementation of the Management Plan

3.2.1. Implementation of the Management Plan at the intergovernmental level

Management of a complex serial transnational property, implemented in the four participating countries, is coordinated through the establishment of a system that has two basic levels:

1) Intergovernmental Coordination Committee;

2) National Organisational Management Structure, organised in each participating country in accordance with the particular needs of that country and the legal and administrative context of each country.

Intergovernmental Coordination Committee (ICC) shall organise experts and representatives of each Participating Country and shall be responsible for the actions concerning the necropolises. It is envisaged that the activities shall be aimed at establishing joint strategies, principles and standards (conservation, capacity building, exchange and publication of research results, communication strategy, work programme of the intergovernmental coordination group, etc.), and which shall safeguard the high quality of the World Heritage property. The work costs of the Coordination Committee shall be borne by each Member States financing its own representative.

National organisational structure shall gather regional and local bodies in each country implement the measures approved by the Intergovernmental Coordination Committee and develop activities specific to that country, which can be completely inapplicable in other countries due to different legal and administrative systems, different physical condition of the necropolises with stećci and exposure to different pressures.

The activities shall be aimed at implementing strategies defined at intergovernmental level and ensuring a platform for the exchange of knowledge and experience in vertical and horizontal directions.

The establishment of the Secretariat is not foreseen in the initial phase of work of the Intergovernmental Coordination Committee, but its establishment is a prerequisite for a better long-term functioning of the committee.

The work of the Secretariat shall concern the following activities:

1. Ensuring the flow of information between the members of the Intergovernmental Coordination Committee;
2. Information about the needs for organising annual meetings of the Coordination Committee;
3. Preparation of minutes of meetings;
4. Monitoring and coordination of activities related to the established joint strategies, principles and standards;
5. Preparation of annual report on the work of the Intergovernmental Coordination Committee;
6. Maintaining the shared website;
7. Maintaining the shared database on the stećci necropolises;
8. Keeping the documentation and records of the Intergovernmental Coordination Committee.
3.2.2 Implementation of the Management Plan at the national level

This part of the Management Plan deals with the recommended mechanisms and resources necessary for its successful implementation.

The new form of the organisation of management is aimed at the joint implementation of the Management Plan. The implementation of the Management Plan will ensure continuous joint cooperation among all stakeholders, which are expected to take responsibility and to harmonise their activities with the objectives of the Management Plan. In this way, the entities which will have a leading role in the implementation of the Management Plan will be identified.

3.2.3. Responsibility and Administration

For the successful implementation of the Management Plan, it is crucial to involve the local communities from the municipalities of Žabljak and Plužine, as well as representatives from the national bodies, institutions and NGOs that are directly or indirectly involved in the protection and conservation of Stećci.

The monitoring and coordination mechanism of the implementation of the Management Plan is its Management Body. Given that the management of the nominated necropolises envisages the involvement of an intergovernmental body which will monitor the status of nominated necropolises, it is also necessary to establish the management body at the state level. The status of the management body at the state level is important for the protection and management of the protected area and for its independent and professional functioning, with the necessary powers granted by the status of the body responsible for the protection and management of the nominated stećak necropolises in the territory of Montenegro. The Management Body may, if necessary, form expert working groups consisting of experts of different profiles depending on the specific topic for which it is established.

3.2.4. Management Body

The management body for the conservation of the nominated stećak necropolises in Montenegro (hereinafter referred to as “the Management Body”) shall: monitor the division of competences in the implementation of protection of the stećak necropolises, within the boundaries of the protected area of the cultural property in the zone of protection and the adequate protection measures; set priorities for the future conservation interventions and continuously monitor the protection of the nominated necropolises and protected area; monitor and review the situation and activities related
to the stećak necropolises; inform the line institutions, national and local, in the field of protection of the cultural heritage; and propose measures for their protection in accordance with the law. In addition, it shall be involved in the activities of intergovernmental cooperation in the field of protection of the stećak necropolises and it shall initiate the procedure for the conclusion of intergovernmental agreements, drafting agreements, participating in the negotiations for the purpose of concluding intergovernmental agreements on the expert level, executing intergovernmental agreements, revising the Management Plan and carrying out other duties related to the protection of the nominated stećak necropolises in Montenegro. Finally, it cooperates with the Intergovernmental Coordination Committee (ICC) for the conservation of stećak necropolises in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republic of Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro, in order to improve the protection of stećak necropolises.

For the successful implementation of the Management Plan, it is necessary to involve in the Management Body the local communities of the municipalities Žabljak and Plužine, the national bodies, line ministries, national parks, state and local institutions active in the field of the protection of cultural heritage, companies and enterprises for the promotion, consulting, management and development of local communities, NGOs, and other organizations which are directly or indirectly involved in the protection and conservation of the stećak necropolises.

The responsibilities of the Management Body are the following:

1. Promoting the importance of the universal cultural values of the stećak necropolises at the national and international levels, and in the framework of the World Heritage community;
2. Coordinating the development, revision and implementation of the Management Plan;
3. Initiating and monitoring the implementation of projects and activities that are foreseen by the Management Plan;
4. Issuing official opinions on the initiatives, programmes, conservation projects and planning documents related to the stećak necropolises for their harmonisation with the Management plan;
5. Stimulating and directing the implementation of activities and projects that contribute to the improvement of protection and conservation of the stećak necropolises;
6. Monitoring the condition of the stećak necropolises and requesting that the appropriate measures, within their competencies, are undertaken by the involved entities;
7. Preparing the annual report on the implementation of the Management Plan of the stećak necropolises;
8. Preparing the annual and periodic reports at the state level;
9. Cooperating at the international level with Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republic of Croatia and Republic of Serbia.

3.2.5 Funding

Pending the nomination, each institution whose representatives participated in the work of the International Coordination Committee has covered the work expenses of its representatives related to the preparation of the nomination dossier, management plans, coordination and secretarial duties. Each institution whose representatives have been appointed to the Coordination Committee has its own budget and resources.

With the adoption of the Management Plan, the Participating Countries undertake the responsibility of financing the work of their representatives in the Coordination Committee and the Council for the Conservation of the Nominated Stećak Necropolises in Montenegro from their own budgets on the long term basis.

3.2.6 Revision and monitoring

Monitoring the implementation of the Action Plan of the Management Plan shall be implemented on the basis of measurable indicators that are given in the Action Plan. The results of the monitoring carried out the through assessment of the performance indicators represent the basis for the drafting of the Annual Programme of the Success of Implementation of the Management Plan, which shall be submitted to the Government for consideration and adoption. The Management Plan has been made for the period of 10 years, although its most important elements will also be relevant subsequently.

In order to guarantee its relevance, the revision of the Management Plan will be carried out every five years. The revision of the Management Plan shall be implemented by the Management Body - the Council, on the basis of the updated information on the implementation of the Action Plan of the Management Plan. The revised Management Plan shall be adopted by the Government of Montenegro.
4. OBJECTIVES OF THE MANAGEMENT PLAN AND THE ACTION PLAN

4.1. Objectives and the action plan at the intergovernmental level

The sub-objectives and the activities carried out at the intergovernmental, state and regional/local level have been established in accordance with the strategic objectives, together with the appropriate time frames and resources.

Deadline – continuous/current; short-term (1-2 years); mid-term (up to 5 years), long-term (over 5 years)

C1 - Coordination

a) **Intergovernmental Coordination Committee is operational**

   Activities:
   1. Formation of the International Coordination Committee (ICC), responsible for the overall management;
   2. Adoption of the communication strategy and the operational guidelines which regulate the relationships and the work of the ICC;
   3. Established efficient system of monitoring, evaluation and reporting on the implementation of the management plans.

   *Deadline: 1 year after the inscription in the WHL Resources: National budgets*

b) **The Secretariat of the Serial Nomination is operational**

   The transition from nomination to inscription shall be uninterrupted, with complete information and without failure in the execution of responsibilities.

   Activities:
   1. Agreement on the duties of the Secretary with the Intergovernmental Coordination Committee;
   2. Clarification of administrative tasks of the Secretariat;
   3. Agreement on the logistic details (work place);
   4. Employment of the Secretary and the conclusion of the contract/s (1 – 2 executives);
   5. The work programme of the Secretary is drafted.

   *Deadline: mid-term*

   *Resources: ICC budget and other sources*

c) **Management of information and standardisation of the documentation**

   - All the documents (starting with the nomination document and the documents relative to the nomination process) are archived/published and are available in all Member States involved in the nomination.

   - Knowledge and experiences are shared through the enabling of open access and the publication of the relevant documentation.

   Activities:
   1. Preparation of the guidelines for the management, standardisation and storage of documentation, and publication of the documentation;
   2. Carrying out archiving.
**d) Developing partnerships in order to create conditions for the implementation of the activities**

**Activities:**

1. Developing partnerships with the UNESCO, WHC, ICOMOS, ICCROM, ICOM and others, with the aim of ensuring continuous improvement of the management, capacities and resources;
2. Exploring new funding opportunities of certain projects (private sector, donations);
3. Organising fundraising.

**Deadline:** continuous and long-term  
**Resources:** National budgets

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**C3 - Conservation**

**a) Monitoring – processing of the monitoring results, classification of problems and sites and determining conservation approaches**

Detailed information on the implemented conservation measures at the sites and monitoring of the effects of applied conservation measures will affect the development processes, the applied conservation measures and future decisions about conservation.

**Activities:**

1. Defining the concept of comprehensive joint monitoring;
2. Implementing and assessing the monitoring;
3. Publishing the results.

**Deadline:** long-term (2020)  
**Resources:** Regular budgets of the competent authorities.

**b) Conservation and management of archaeological researches**

**Activities:**

1. Determining the need, approach and objectives of the archaeological researches;
2. Determining the methodology of the presentation of findings.

**Deadline:** long-term  
**Resources:** Regular budgets of the institutions responsible for the selected locations

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**C4 - Capacity building**

**a) Publication of best practices**

All available and updated information on the methods of conservation of stone and necropolises in their natural
surrounding are available on the network for experts from all the Member States.

**Activities:**
1. Creating a website-based space for the management of documentation;

**Deadline:** mid-term  
**Resources:** Regular budgets or off-budget projects

**b) International Science Conferences**

International professional conferences on the following topics: conservation, decision-making, methods of conservation of stone, integrated approaches to the protection of natural and stone structures, archaeological researches, interpretation, sustainable development and the involvement of local communities, are organised and the results are published in proceedings.

**Activities:**
1. Development and approval of the concept;  
2. Ensuring funding and implementing activities;

**Deadline:** mid-term  
**Resources:** Open (off-budget projects funded from voluntary contributions from Member States and fundraising)

**c) Promoting the principles of World Heritage through educational programmes**

Encouraging and informing young people as future decision-makers, with the aim of involving them in the conservation processes.

**Activities:**
1. Developing the concept for education on the serial property based on the UNESCO programme “World Heritage in Young Hands”.

**Deadline:** mid-term  
**Resources:** Open (off-budget projects funded from voluntary contributions from Member States and fundraising)

**C5 - Communication**

**a) Open Internet Forum**

Open Internet Forum has been launched with the aim of exchanging information between all participants who work on the cultural properties (national and regional authorities, local managers of the site, researchers, etc).

**Activities:**
1. Creating a joint website;

**Deadline:** mid-term  
**Resources:** Regular budget of the Secretariat

**b) Development of a sustainable concept of interpretation**

- Visitors easily recognise the outstanding universal value of the serial property;  
- Visitors are guided towards sites/museums.
Activities:

1. Assessment of the existing possibilities of interpretation, preparation of visitors’ guidelines and inspection of all sites;
2. Creation of cultural routes / thematic and traffic connection of the stećak necropolises;
3. Organization of informative meetings at the national and regional level with all participants (museums, universities, communities, other institutions) and development of coordinated actions of communication and awareness-raising immediately after inscription;

*Deadline:* mid-term
*Resources:* Public budgets, donors

c) **Compilation of informational materials for visitors**

All participants and stakeholders receive information on the necropolises, nomination process and further activates through a multilingual newsletter.

Activities:

1. Development of the concept and methodology for the preparation of informational material;

*Deadline:* mid-term
*Resources:* Voluntary contributions from Member States

**C6 - Local communities**

a) **Local communities are involved in all activities**

Activities:

1. Member States shall continue to organise regular informational meetings and conferences with local communities and the responsible persons, to ensure coordination between (international) activities and local needs, and the population itself;
2. The results (opportunities, but also challenges) following these meetings shall be presented and discussed by the International Coordination Group.

*Deadline:* continuous activity
*Resources:* Regular budgets of Member States

b) **Promotion of local products from the area**

Activities:

1. Determining principles, selection criteria for the products and the general concept of promotion at the international and national levels;
2. Selection of products and services according to the established criteria;
3. Implementing the promotional programmes.

*Deadline:* mid-term / long-term activity
*Resources:* Regular budgets of Member States
4.2. Objectives and the action plan at the national level

The principles of sustainable development are the basis of the planning of cultural heritage protection and tourism development, so that they not compromise the needs of future generations. The established cultural values of the stećak necropolises Grčko Groblje and Bare Žugića, Novakovići and Grčko groblje in Šćepan Polje, are the basis for the future sustainable cultural and economic development of the municipalities of Žabljak and Plužine, and beyond.

The application of the management plan for the three stećak necropolises and the implementation of these activities create conditions for them to become organized archaeological sites: ready for visitors, marked by the necessary tourist and other signalisation, with the clear presentation programme, a designed local brand, sustainable local product, good infrastructure and tourist offer that is associated with the Member states of the joint nomination project of medieval stone tombstones – the stečci.

4.2.1. Objectives

The activities and measures that will be implemented at the national and local level have been established in accordance with the objectives, including the relevant time frames and resources.

Deadlines for the implementation of the activities and measures under each objective are presented in the Action Plans as: continuous, short-term (from 1 to 2 years), mid-term (up to 5 years) or long-term (over 5 years).

On the basis of this strategic document, the objectives and the activities and measures implemented under them, are as follows:

**Objective 1. Ensuring the management of the archaeological sites**

- Establishment of the Management Body for the three stećak necropolises;
- Involvement of local self-governments in the management of archaeological sites;
- Inter-resource and inter-institutional cooperation in the field of cultural heritage and sustainable development and tourism at the national level;
- Cooperation with PENP “Durmitor”;
- Cooperation with local cultural institutions and public institutions;
- Cooperation with local tourism organisations and tourism workers;
- Cooperation with local population, landowners, NGOs and other interest groups and potential users of cultural properties;
- Cooperation with the Intergovernmental Commission;
- Adoption of the work plan of the Management Body;
- Provision of funding sources for the management of archaeological sites.

**Objective 2. Legal protection of archaeological sites**

- Provision of legal protection, in accordance with the Law on Protection of Cultural Property and the established status of the stećak necropolises - immovable cultural property - archaeological sites;
- Defining the rules for the use of archaeological sites with the owners of the cadastral plots;
- Ensuring protection of the immovable cultural properties and their protected surrounding in planning documents;
- Preparation of the study of the protection of cultural properties for the municipalities Plužine and Žabljak;
- Provision of protection of the stećak necropolises and their cultural values in accordance with the study of the protection of cultural properties for the municipalities Plužine and Žabljak.

**Objective 3. Implementation of multidisciplinary researches on archaeological sites**

- Compilation of detailed documentation for the three stećak necropolises;
- Drafting of the feasibility study for the implementation of archaeological researches at the nominated necropolises;
Objective 4. Conservation and protection of the archaeological sites

- Preparation of conservation projects for the implementation of conservation measures on the stećak necropolises;
- Conservation and restoration work on the damaged/demolished stećci;
- Adoption of the projects of the organization of stećak necropolises;
- Improvement of knowledge of experts who implement conservation measures on the stećci at the national level;
- Creating opportunities for the exchange of experiences between experts in the protection of cultural heritage at the intergovernmental level.

Objective 5. Presentations and valorizations of the archaeological sites

- Training of persons for the maintenance of sites;
- Maintenance of sites;
- Improvement of the site access;
- Improvement of tourism infrastructure;
- Adaptation of the presentation methodology on the importance of the stećak necropolises to certain target groups;
- Improvement of tourist offer;
- Raising awareness about values and importance of sites (from local to international level);
- Joint promotion and presentation of the stećak necropolises by the national tourism organisation and local tourism organisations, in cooperation with national and local institutions active in the field of the protection of cultural heritage;
- Joint promotion of cultural and tourism potentials of the stećak necropolises at the intergovernmental level;
- Creating conditions for archaeological sites to bring economic benefits to the local administration and local population;
- Involvement of local people in the development of tourism products;
- Branding the local products.

Objective 6. Education and capacity-building on the importance of cultural heritage

- Educating the local population about the importance of archaeological sites;
- Instructing the primary and secondary school students on the importance of archaeological sites;
- Organising workshops and seminars for experts in the field of protection of cultural heritage;
- Organising workshops and seminars at the local level on the topic of the possibility of using archaeological sites for obtaining economic benefit.

Objective 7. Promotion of archaeological sites

- Compilation and production of promotional material for the stećak necropolises, brochures, postcards, posters, CDs and the like (in Montenegrin, English and other languages);
- Preparation of professional publications about the stećak necropolises (in Montenegrin, English and other languages);
- Organising exhibitions on stećci;
- Creation of websites of stećak necropolises for the nominated national and international necropolises.
### 4.2.2. Action plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority task</th>
<th>Activities / Measures</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
<th>Holders of activities</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ensuring management of the archaeological sites</strong></td>
<td>Establishment of the Management Body for the three stećak necropolises</td>
<td>Short-term</td>
<td>MC, MP, MŽ, NPM and DNP</td>
<td>Established Management Body</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Involvement of local governments in the management of the archaeological sites</td>
<td>Short-term</td>
<td>MP, TOP, MŽ And TOŽ</td>
<td>Number of implemented joint activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Inter-resource and interinstitutional cooperation in the field of cultural heritage and sustainable development and tourism at the national level</td>
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<td>MC, MSDT, ME, MP and MŽ</td>
<td>Number of implemented joint activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cooperation with PENP “Durmitor”</td>
<td>Continuous</td>
<td>MB and MŽ</td>
<td>Number of implemented joint activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cooperation with local cultural institutions and public institutions</td>
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<td>MŽ, MP, CACM And APCP</td>
<td>Number of implemented joint activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cooperation with local tourism organisations and tourism workers</td>
<td>Continuous</td>
<td>MB, TOP and TOŽ</td>
<td>Number of implemented joint activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cooperation with local population, landowners, NGOs and other interest groups and potential users of cultural properties</td>
<td>Continuous</td>
<td>MP, TOP, MŽ, TOŽ, CACM, APCP</td>
<td>Number of implemented joint activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cooperation with the Intergovernmental Commission</td>
<td>Continuous</td>
<td>MB, ICC</td>
<td>Number of implemented joint activities</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Adoption of the annual work plan of the Management Body</td>
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<td>MB</td>
<td>Adopted work plan</td>
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<td>Provision of funding for the management of archaeological sites</td>
<td>Continuous</td>
<td>MC, MF, MP and MŽ</td>
<td>Established sustainable funding system</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Legal protection of the archaeological sites</strong></td>
<td>Provision of legal protection in accordance with the Law on Protection of Cultural Property and the established status of stećak necropolises-immovable cultural property - archaeological sites</td>
<td>Short-term</td>
<td>MB, APCP, MP and MŽ</td>
<td>Provided legal protection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Defining the rules for the use of archaeological sites with the owners of the cadastral plots</td>
<td>Short-term</td>
<td>APCP, MP and MŽ</td>
<td>Established rules for site use</td>
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<td>Provision of protection of immovable cultural property and their protected surrounding in planning documents</td>
<td>Short-term</td>
<td>APCP, MSDT, MP, MŽ</td>
<td>Provided protection through planning documents</td>
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<td>Preparation of the study of the protection of cultural Properties for the municipalities Plužine and Žabljak</td>
<td>Short-term</td>
<td>APCP, CACM</td>
<td>Adopted studies of protection</td>
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<td>Provision of protection of the stećak necropolises and their cultural values in accordance with the study of the protection of cultural properties for the municipalities Plužine and Žabljak</td>
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<td>MSDT, MP, MŽ</td>
<td>Integrated studies through planning documents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Activities / Measures</td>
<td>Deadline</td>
<td>Holders of activities</td>
<td>Indicators</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Integrated studies through planning documents</strong></td>
<td>Compilation of detailed documentation for the three stećak necropolises</td>
<td>Mid-term</td>
<td>CACM, APCP</td>
<td>Number of prepared Documents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Drafting of the feasibility study for the implementation of archaeological researches at the nominated necropolises</td>
<td>Mid-term</td>
<td>CACM, NMM</td>
<td>Adopted feasibility study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Drafting of the feasibility study for the implementation of anthropological researches at the nominated necropolises</td>
<td>Mid-term</td>
<td>CACM, NMM</td>
<td>Adopted feasibility study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Conducting conservation researches</td>
<td>Mid-term</td>
<td>CACM</td>
<td>Number of conservation researches</td>
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<td>Study of the workmanship techniques of the stećci</td>
<td>Mid-term</td>
<td>CACM, NMM</td>
<td>Number of techniques</td>
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<td>Implementation of the necessary analyses (geological, biological, etc.)</td>
<td>Mid-term</td>
<td>NHMM, GIM and CACM</td>
<td>Number of conducted analyses</td>
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<td>Exchange of the experiences of multidisciplinary researches with experts of countries that have nominated the stećak necropolises</td>
<td>Continuous</td>
<td>MB, ICC</td>
<td>Number of held meetings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Conservation and protection of archaeological sites</strong></td>
<td>Preparation of conservation projects for the implementation of conservation measures on the stećci necropolises</td>
<td>Short-term</td>
<td>APCP, CACM</td>
<td>Number of projects realized</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Conservation and restoration work on the damaged/demolished stećci</td>
<td>Long-term</td>
<td>CACM, NMM</td>
<td>Number of stećci on which the works have been carried out</td>
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<td>Adoption of the projects of the organization of stećak necropolises</td>
<td>Short-term</td>
<td>APCP, CACM</td>
<td>Adopted projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Improvement of knowledge of experts who implement conservation measures on stećci at the national level</td>
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<td>MC, APCP, CACM, NMM and ICC</td>
<td>Number of trained staff</td>
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<td>Opportunities for the exchange of experiences between experts in the protection of cultural heritage at the intergovernmental level</td>
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<td>MC, APCP, CACM, NMM and ICC</td>
<td>Number of held meetings</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Presentation and valorisation of the archaeological sites</strong></td>
<td>Training of persons for maintenance of sites</td>
<td>Continuous</td>
<td>MP, MŽ, NPM, DNP</td>
<td>Number of qualified staff</td>
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<td>Maintenance of sites</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Improvement of access to sites</td>
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<td>Number and type of works carried out on the site</td>
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<td>Improvement of tourism infrastructure</td>
<td>Mid-term</td>
<td>MP, MŽ, NPM, DNP</td>
<td>Number and type of works carried out on the site</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Adaptation of interpretation on the importance of stećak necropolises to certain target groups</td>
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<td>MES, MP, MŽ, NPM, DNP</td>
<td>Number of published texts</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## ACTION PLAN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority task</th>
<th>Activities / Measures</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
<th>Holders of activities</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Presentation and valorisation of the archaeological sites</strong></td>
<td>Improvement of tourist offer</td>
<td>Continuous</td>
<td>MSDT, NTO, MP, MŽ, NPM, DNP</td>
<td>Number and types of new offers</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Awareness-raising on the values and importance of the sites (from local to international level)</td>
<td>Continuous</td>
<td>NTO, MP, MŽ, NPM, DNP</td>
<td>Number of organised workshops, seminars etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Joint promotion and presentation of stećak necropolises by national tourism organisations and local tourism organisations, in cooperation with national and local institutions in the field of the protection of cultural heritage</td>
<td>Continuous</td>
<td>NTO, MP, MŽ, NPM and DNP</td>
<td>Number of organised workshops, seminars etc.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Joint promotion of cultural and tourism potentials of the stećak necropolises at the international level</td>
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<td>Number of organised workshops, seminars etc.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Improvement of cultural and tourism potential at national and international level</td>
<td>Continuous</td>
<td>NTO, MP, MŽ, NPM, DNP, MB, ICC</td>
<td>Number of presentations</td>
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<td>Creating conditions for the archaeological sites to bring economic benefits to the local administration and local population</td>
<td>Continuous</td>
<td>MSDT, MP, MŽ</td>
<td>Amount of revenue generated from the necropolises</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Involvement of local people in the development of local tourism products</td>
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<td>Number of new tourism products</td>
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<td>Presentation and valorisation of archaeological site</td>
<td>Continuous</td>
<td>MSDT, MC, MP and MŽ</td>
<td>Number of promotional activities</td>
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<td><strong>Education and capacity-building on the importance of cultural heritage</strong></td>
<td>Educating the local population about the importance of the archaeological sites</td>
<td>Continuous</td>
<td>MSDT, MC, MP, MŽ, NTO, CACM, APCP and NMM</td>
<td>Number of organised workshops, seminars etc.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Instructing the primary and secondary school students on the importance of archaeological sites</td>
<td>Continuous</td>
<td>MES, MC, MP, MŽ, NTO, CACM, APCP and NMM</td>
<td>Number of organised lectures and site visits</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Organising workshops and seminars for experts in the field of protection of cultural heritage</td>
<td>Continuous</td>
<td>MC, MB, ICC, CACM, APCP, NMM</td>
<td>Number of organised workshops, seminars etc.</td>
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<td>Organising workshops and seminars at the local level on the topic of the possibility of using archaeological sites for obtaining economic benefit</td>
<td>Continuous</td>
<td>MSDT, MC, MP, MŽ, NTO, CCAM, APCP, NMM</td>
<td>Number of organised workshops, seminars etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Promotion of the archaeological sites</strong></td>
<td>Preparation of promotional material for stećak necropolises, brochures, postcards, posters, CDs and the like (Montenegrin, English and other languages)</td>
<td>Continuous</td>
<td>MC, MB, NPM, DNP, TOP, TOŽ, CACM, APCP, NMM</td>
<td>Number of types of promotional material</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Preparation of professional publications about the stećak necropolises (in Montenegrin, English and other languages)</td>
<td>Continuous</td>
<td>MC, CACM, APCP, NMM</td>
<td>Number of publications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Organising exhibitions on stećci;</td>
<td>Mid-term</td>
<td>MC, MB, NPM, DNP, TOP, TOŽ, CACM, APCP, NMM</td>
<td>Number of organised exhibitions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Creation of websites of stećak necropolises for the nominated national and international necropolises</td>
<td>Short-term</td>
<td>APCP</td>
<td>Website created</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

MC - Ministry of Culture
MSDT - Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism
ME - Ministry of Economy
MF - Ministry of Finance
MES - Ministry of Education and Sports
MB - Management Body
ICC - Intergovernmental Coordination Committee
MŽ - Municipality of Žabljak
MP - Municipality of Plužine
APCP - Administration for the Protection of Cultural Property
CACM - Conservation and Archaeology Centre of Montenegro
NMM - National Museum of Montenegro
NHMM - Natural History Museum of Montenegro
GIM - Geological Institute of Montenegro
TOŽ - Tourism Organisation of Žabljak
TOP - Tourism Organisation of Plužine
NPM - National Parks of Montenegro
DNP - “Durmitor” National Park
APPENDICES

Documentation in the Appendix includes:

Appendix 1

Grčko groblje, Riblje jezero, Novakovići, Municipality of Žabljak:

1. Distribution of stećci in Montenegro
2. Map of the nominated necropolises in Montenegro
3. The main card of property Grčko groblje, Riblje jezero, Novakovići, Municipality of Žabljak: excerpt from the Study on the valorisation of the cultural property
4. Site Overview - Ortho-photo image
5. Site Overview - Topographic map
6. Geodetic situation – Site overview
7. Geodetic situation – Overview of stećci

Appendix 2

8. The main card of the cultural property Bare Žugića, Novakovići: excerpt from the Study on the valorisation of the cultural property
9. Site Overview - Ortho-photo image
10. Site Overview - Topographic map
11. Geodetic situation – Site overview
12. Geodetic situation – Overview of stećci

Appendix 3

13. The main card of the cultural property Grčko groblje, Šćepan Polje, Municipality of Plužine: excerpt from the Study on the valorisation of the cultural property
14. Site Overview - Ortho-photo image
15. Site Overview - Topographic map
16. Geodetic situation – Site overview
17. Geodetic situation – Overview of stećci
## APPENDIX 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SITE NAME:</th>
<th>GRČKO GROBLJE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UNIQUE NUMBER:</td>
<td>C.R.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUNICIPALITY:</td>
<td>Žabljak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DATE OF ENTRY:</td>
<td>29th May 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEAREST SETTLEMENT, LOCAL TOPOLOGY:</td>
<td>Novakovići Grčko groblje</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CADASTRAL MUNICIPALITY:</td>
<td>CM Pašina Voda I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PARTICLE:</td>
<td>C.p. 416 and 417</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POSITIONING METHOD, GEOGRAPHIC PROJECTION, COORDINATES AND ALTITUDE:</td>
<td>WGS84 N 43°05.689'E 19°08.951'1431mnm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOP MAP (EDITORIAL) AND SCALE AND SECTION:</td>
<td>VGI 1:25000 577-3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUMBER OF INDIVIDUAL STEĆCI:</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRAVE:</td>
<td>Slabs, chests and ridged tombstones.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE NECROPOLIS:</td>
<td>The site is located on a gentle hill, 200 meters northwest from the Riblje jezero (Fish Lake). It covers the area of about 500 m². The necropolis consists of 49 stećci placed on the east-west line, out of which: 10 slabs, 27 chests and 12 ridged tombstones. The total of 22 pieces is decorated, namely: 12 chests and 10 ridged tombstones. The most frequent decorative motifs are: arcades, twisted brands, friezes, twining vine with spirals, trefoil or garlands, motifs of stylised crosses. There are a few rosettes, crescents and circles. One stećak features the motifs of parallel ribs, shield and sword, images of a man with a sword and a shield, and a hunting scene. Considering the necropolis as a whole, the original motifs are: frieze made of arcs with garlands and a meander made of intertwined and twining vines with acanthus leaves. The necropolis is located in the protected zone of the Durmitor National Park. The buffer zone is determined by the natural look of the hill (a rib which extends on the line north - south) and the boundary line goes on the stream gullies on the eastern and western side while the zone on the south side slopes down to the local road that goes along the Novakovići-Njegovode. Since the necropolis is located in the contact zone of protection, it is not negatively affected in space, while it is necessary to raise some of the tombstones and to clean and protect them from the conservation point of view.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOCAL TRADITION:</td>
<td>According to local stories: “Once upon a time the Greeks lived in these areas. Once, the snows fell in May so they slammed their coulters into the land and left the area. They left the cemeteries behind, which is why this is called Grčko groblje (Greek Cemetery).”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DECORATIVE ORNAMENTS AND INSCRIPTIONS:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TREATMENT: CONSERVATION STATUS:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PICTURES AND DESCRIPTION:</td>
<td>Relatively finely finished and moderately preserved.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Southern part of the necropolis, towards the Riblje jezero

Central part of the necropolis, recorded from the east
The central part of the necropolis

The central part of the necropolis

View of the Riblje jezero from the necropolis Grčko groblje
PICTURES AND DESCRIPTION:

Part of the stećak necropolis

The central part of the necropolis at the highest point

Snapshot of the necropolis from the road
PICTURES AND DESCRIPTION:

Snapshot of the hill on which the necropolis is located

View of the necropolis from the east side
Part of the stećak necropolis

Stećak with a decorative border made of circles
UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE LIST NOMINATION
STEČAKS - MEDIAEVAL TOMBSTONES

MNE - GRČKO GROBLJE, ŽABLJAK

Coordinates
1. 43° 36.583" N  19° 8' 56.572" E
2. 43° 37.988" N  19° 9' 3.870" E
3. 43° 43.393" N  19° 9' 4.588" E
4. 43° 45.582" N  19° 8' 56.768" E
5. 43° 59.947" N  19° 8' 50.871" E

Legend
- Nominated Core Zone (0.084 ha)
- Nominated Buffer Zone (6.204 ha)
- Edge Coordinates

0  100  200  Meters
UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE LIST NOMINATION
STEČAKS - MEDIAEVAL TOMBSTONES

MNE - GRČKO GROBLJE, ŽABLJAK

Coordinates

1. 43° 36.583” N 19° 8’ 56.572” E
2. 43° 37.988” N 19° 9’ 3.870” E
3. 43° 38.393” N 19° 9’ 4.586” E
4. 43° 45.182” N 19° 8’ 56.766” E
5. 43° 39.947” N 19° 8’ 50.871” E

Legend

Nominated Buffer Zone (6.204 ha)
Edge Coordinates

0 250 500 Meters
Stećak necropolis Grčko groblje with the boundaries of the protected area

The area of the immovable cultural property - stećak necropolis Grčko groblje with the protected area and cadastral plots
Surface of the protected immovable cultural property: Stećak necropolis Grčko groblje at Riblje jezero in Novakovići and its protected area
The area of the immovable cultural property - stećak necropolis Grčko groblje with the protected area and cadastral plots
Provisional sketch of the situation of the necropolis at Riblje jezero, done on the field on 15th June 2012 (Tatjana Mijović, Architectural Technician- Conservator)
## APPENDIX 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SITE NAME:</th>
<th>ŽUGIĆA BARE</th>
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<tr>
<td>UNIQUE NUMBER,C.R.</td>
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<td>29th April 2010</td>
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<td>NEAREST SETTLEMENT, LOCAL TOPONYM:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Žugića Bare – toponym - Krstac</td>
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<tr>
<td>CADASTRAL MUNICIPALITY:</td>
<td>CM Novakovići I</td>
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<tr>
<td>PARTICLE:</td>
<td>A - Zone (c.p.No.: 282, 101, 283 and 284) - immovable cultural property - necropolis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>B - Zone (c.p.No.:102,101,94,283 and 284) - protected area of the cultural property</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>B - Zone( c.p. No.101 and 102 - Đurišić Tomo Pelagija, Žugić Boris, Žugić Irena, Žugić Jelena, Kuslev Tomo Jelisavka), (c.p. No. 94 –Žugić Tomo Mitar), (c.p. No. 283 – Žugić Tomo Ljiljana) and (c.p. No. 284 –Žugić Đuro Radoje)</td>
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<td>N 43°06.456, E 19°10.087,1418 mnm</td>
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<td>TOP. MAP (EDITORIAL) AND SCALE AND SECTION:</td>
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<td>1:25000</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>577-3-4</td>
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<tr>
<td>NUMBER OF INDIVIDUAL STEĆCI:</td>
<td>300</td>
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<tr>
<td>TYPES OF INDIVIDUAL GRAVE MARKINGS:</td>
<td>Slabs, chests, ridged tombstones, amorphous forms.</td>
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</table>

### GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE NECROPOLIS:

The necropolis is about 2,230 meters to the northeast of the necropolis Grčko groblje. On the southern side, the local road Novakovići – Njegovode is situated, and across the road there is a church with the local cemetery. The necropolis was formed on a gentle hill and is physically separated from the surrounding area. It comprises of 300 stećci, including: 10 slabs, 50 chests, 10 ridged tombstones and 230 amorphous blocks. The finely finished stećci are located in the northern and the central parts of the necropolis, while most of the amorphous ones are located in the southern and south-eastern part. One gets the impression that this part is square in shape and that it has been subsequently added to the necropolis as a separate funeral plot. All stećci are laid in the direction of east – west in rows. 23 pieces are decorated, namely: 1 slab, 16 chests and 6 ridged tombstones.

The most common motifs include: ribbons, frames and bordures of oblique parallels, common and stylised crosses and bows with arrows.

To a lesser degree there are arcades, twining vines with trefoils, rosettes, crescents, and shield. There are also horizontal decorations in zigzag lines. One depiction is of a dog and a deer scene, and the original dance formation kolo with a mounted deer.
### GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE NECROPOLIS:

Unauthorised researches have been conducted at the site and a certain number of stećci are dislocated and overturned.

Since the necropolis is located in the area of Lakes, in the protected zone of the national park Durmitor, its protection is provided to a degree. The buffer zone around the necropolis is determined by the natural configuration of the field - the entire hill on which the necropolis is located is protected. The zone is irregular and ellipsoid in shape, stretching in the north – south direction.

### LOCAL TRADITION:

### DECORATIVE ORNAMENTS AND INSCRIPTIONS:

### TREATMENT: CONSERVATION STATUS:

Relatively finely finished and moderately preserved.

### PICTURES AND DESCRIPTION:

- The northern part of the necropolis
- The northern part of the necropolis
Surface of the protected cultural property of the stećak necropolis Bare Žugića in Novakovići and its protected area, with cadastral plots
Overview of stećak distribution – necropolis Bare Žugića
### APPENDIX 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SITE NAME:</th>
<th>GRČKO GROBLJE – TOWN OF SOKO</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UNIQUE NUMBER C. R.</td>
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<td>MUNICIPALITY:</td>
<td>Plužine</td>
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<td>DATE OF ENTRY:</td>
<td>29th May 2010</td>
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<td>NEAREST SETTLEMENT, LOCAL TOponym:</td>
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<td>CADASTRAL MUNICIPALITY:</td>
<td>CM Brijeg</td>
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<tr>
<td>OWNERSHIP:</td>
<td>Local community Crkvičko Polje</td>
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<td>POSITIONING METHOD, GEOGRAPHIC PROJECTION, COORDINATES AND ALTITUDE:</td>
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<td>N 43° 20.503, E 18° 51.437, 908 mnm</td>
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<td>TOP MAP (EDITORIAL) AND SCALE AND SECTION:</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>577-3-4</td>
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<tr>
<td>NUMBER OF INDIVIDUAL STEĆCI:</td>
<td>16</td>
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<tr>
<td>TYPES OF INDIVIDUAL GRAVE MARKINGS:</td>
<td>Ridged tombstones, chests and slabs</td>
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<tr>
<td>GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE NECROPOLIS:</td>
<td>At the site Grčko groblje, located in the wider suburb, east of Town of Soko, there is a necropolis with 16 stećci. They are with finer finishing, but mostly undecorated. The largest stećak contains an inscription mentioning the Christian Petko, who lived in Town of Soko at the time of the Duke Stjepan Kosač.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOCAL TRADITION:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DECORATIVE ORNAMENTS AND INSCRIPTIONS:</td>
<td>Epigraphic inscription (1435 to 1448)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TREATMENT: CONSERVATION STATUS:</td>
<td>They are relatively finely finished and moderately preserved.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The northern part of the necropolis

Town of Soko

View on the necropolis from the Town of Soko
PICTURES AND DESCRIPTION:

Stećak with the inscription on the eastern side

Stećak with the inscription on the northern side
UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE LIST NOMINATION
STEČAKS - MEDIAEVAL TOMBSTONES

MNE - GRČKO GROBLJE, PLUŽINE

Coordinates

1. 43° 20' 28.679" N 18° 51' 25.874" E
2. 43° 20' 28.943" N 18° 51' 26.740" E
3. 43° 20' 30.769" N 18° 51' 26.132" E
4. 43° 20' 31.407" N 18° 51' 23.923" E
5. 43° 20' 30.256" N 18° 51' 23.037" E
6. 43° 20' 29.005" N 18° 51' 24.352" E

Legend

- Nominated Core Zone (0.035 ha)
- Nominated Buffer Zone (0.504 ha)
- Edge Coordinates

0 25 50 Meters
Stećak necropolis – Grčko groblje, Šćepan Polje
Boundaries of the protected area with the surface of the nominated cultural property
Owners of the cadastral plots:
412, 413 Zivkovic Milija Bozidar (1/1) ownership
411 Local Community Crkvičko Polje (1/1) use
Picture 1 - Town of Soko over Šćepan Polje - layout plan (according to M. Kovačević)
1 PROBABLY THE ENTRANCE TOWER
2 PARTS OF PREMISES HEWN IN THE ROCK
3 REMAINS OF ARCH
4 TOWER
5 BENCHES HEWN IN THE ROCK
Picture: Plan I - Sketch of the distribution of stećak necropolis in Zagrade (Šćepan polje)

Š. Bešlagić, Stećaks in Piva, Antiquities of Montenegro V, Cetinje 1975, p. 117

Plan I — Скица распореда стећака некрополе у Заграду (Шкепан-поле).
4. Šefik Bešlagić, Steći u okolini Žabljaka, GEM u Beogradu, knj.36, Beograd 1973, 111-137
17. Pavle Mijović i Mirko Kovačević, Gradovi i utvrđenja u Crnoj Gori, Beograd-Ulcinj, 1975
18. Šefik Bešlagić, Steći u Pivi, Starine Crne Gore, Cetinje 1975, 81-120
19. Milika B. Popović, Motivi na stećcima opština Plužine i Žabljak kao izvori za proučavanje istorije fizičke kulture (Diplomski rad), Visoka škola za fizičku kulturu Univeriteta u Sarajevu, Sarajevo 1973, 1-32
22. Vojislav Đurić, Istorija Crne Gore II/2, Titograd, 1970, 475
Working Group for the preparation of the Management Plan of Stećci – medieval tombstones

Associates and coordinators at intergovernmental level:

- Katarina Živanović, MA of Archaeology, Museum “25th May”, Republic of Serbia
- Maja Dorđević, MA of Archaeology, Republic Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments of the Republic of Serbia
- Mirela Mulalić Handan, Commission for Preservation of National Monuments, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Tarik Jazvin, Commission for the Preservation of National Monuments, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Zoran Wiewegh, MA of Archaeology, Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Croatia

Coordinator of the Management Plan

- Mitra Cerović, MA of Archaeology, Ministry of Culture of Montenegro

Associates at the national level:

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- Igor Vujačić, BSc Architect, Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism of Montenegro
- Lejla Abdić – Đoković, Ministry of Culture of Montenegro
- Lidija Ljesar, BSc Conservator-Restorer, Ministry of Culture, Leader of the project Nomination of Stećci, Ministry of Culture of Montenegro
- Milenko Mićanović, Professor of History and Geography, Centre for Culture Plužine
- Milica Martić, BSc Ethnologist, Ministry of Culture, Coordinator for the preparation of the nomination dossier of stećci
- Miloš Petričević, MA of Archaeology, Conservation and Archaeology Centre of Montenegro
- Nemanja Čavlović, Art Historian and Archaeologist, Ministry of Culture of Montenegro
- Predrag Lutovac, MA of Archaeology, Museum of Polimlje Berane
- Rada Adžić, Art Historian, PE National Parks of Montenegro
- Slađana Knežević, Professor of Serbian Language and Literature, Secretariat for Administration and Social Affairs of the Municipality of Žabljak
- Tanja Vujović, BSc Ethnologist, Administration for the Protection of Cultural Property of Montenegro