

CULTURAL HERITAGE AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

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Abstract — The historic city centres of Aleppo in the Syrian Arab Republic, Shibam in Hadramaut/Yemen, as well as Sibiu (former Hermannstadt, Romania) are threatened by physical, social and economic decay. With Aleppo and Shibam being registered on UNESCO's list of world heritage sites and Sibiu applying for it, there is international interest and commitment to preserve them and to support them in finding ways for a viable future. Public Authorities, NGO and inhabitants are challenged by preserving historical buildings as well as social and cultural structures, which have been growing over hundreds, even thousands of years, in all their colourful variety, whilst creating a modern environment for living and working in these places. But physical preservation alone would rather turn the old cities into huge museums. Hence, a comprehensive approach of preservation and development must focus on improving the living conditions for the inhabitants as well as the economic viability of the locations.

Index Terms — Aleppo, Preservation and Development of World Heritage Cities, Shibam, Sibiu, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ GmbH)

Presentation content

On behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economical Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the German Technical Cooperation Agency (GTZ) supports the three cities to take advantage of the built heritage, the cultural variety and the history of their Old Cities for their respective development. The presentation points out the concept of integrated urban conservation and development as a methodology for cultural urban heritage preservation.