

Abstract:

My thesis is concerned with current problems involving fulfilment of the public interest in monument preservation in the Czech Republic.

Firstly, the term “public interest” and its conceptual relationship in terms of the monument preservation is explored in the theoretical part of the thesis. Secondly, the current systems of monument preservation in the Czech Republic including the genesis of decision-making processes of municipal authorities under the current law are briefly described. This is followed by an explanation of the connection between the generally proclaimed, yet critically unexplored postulate of “two-track monument preservation”.

Despite clearly defined policies and competencies, the existing monument preservation decision-making systems and processes seems to be characterized by considerable confusion, and thus seem to bring about some process-based ambiguities and conflicts. The thesis not only aims to identify and analyse these ambiguities and conflicts but also strives to provide a conclusion that proposes some meaningful solutions.

The benefits of the thesis for the Public and Social Policy field purposes lies in the identification and uncovering yet unexplored contextual pertinence in decision making activities within qualification works in monument preservation, as well as understanding of the meaning of the term “public interest” in monument preservation from different viewpoints, then offered by jurisdiction; that is the most widely used source of definition for public interest in terms of monument preservation.

The aim is also to grasp the concept of public interest in monument preservation from a different point of view than what jurisdiction and law prescribes and offers.

The main goal of my thesis is to analyse underlying problems associated with the current performance of the Monument preservation department in the Czech Republic through realisation of written interviews and questionnaires with the representatives of aggrieved parties, which subsequently forms the basis for my definition of concept of public interest.

Based on the findings and their evaluation, I attempt to propose specific measures which could contribute to a more effective fulfilment of the public interest in preservation of monuments in the Czech Republic.