

The historic city of Vyborg, Russia.

A Road Map for the preservation of the multicultural heritage of Vyborg.

Vyborg has a rich and internationally valuable shared European architectural and archaeological heritage. The cultural heritage of the town should be seen as a totality that consists of buildings, ensembles, the historic environment, the cityscape, the skyline of the town, archaeological and historic layers, nature values, and intangible values.

In 2010 the city was inscribed on the list of historical settlements of the Russian Federation.

A road map with guidelines for the protection and maintenance of the cultural heritage of Vyborg was drawn up on the basis of the conclusions of the seminar *The Multicultural Heritage of Vyborg and its Preservation* on February the 13–14th 2014. The seminar was held in the Central City Alvar Aalto Library, the restoration of which was successfully completed through Finnish-Russian co-operation, including shared financing and expertise.

In order to safeguard and maintain the heritage values of Vyborg for future generations, the following recommendations were agreed upon by the organizers and signatories:

Urgent actions

1. Any demolition and construction work or establishment of new building plots in the historical centre of Vyborg or within the proposed protection zones of cultural heritage sites should be immediately prohibited. Also creating new plots without any historical justification in the historic centre or within the proposed protection zones should be immediately prohibited.
2. Historic buildings in need of urgent emergency repairs should be protected against violence and further deterioration.
3. The territories of the cultural heritage objects in Vyborg, their protection zones, and specific town-planning regulations should be ratified, and their equivalent amendments should be made in compliance with the current master plan and the land use and building regulations. The basic notion of town-planning and architecture which is manifested in these documents should be regarded as the highest priorities in the protection and preservation of the cultural heritage of Vyborg, which should reflect the specific local conditions, the individual characteristics of the town, and the particular features of its location in the natural landscape.
4. It should be urgently resolved whether it would be appropriate to transfer the management of federally important and federally owned monuments in Vyborg to Leningrad Oblast, so that the questions of responsibility would not cause delay to immediate repairs.
5. The ownership of historic buildings that need protection and preservation should be examined and settled.
6. The undersigned expert organizations unanimously declare that Vyborg is a town that should be selected to the programme "The preservation and development of small historic towns and settlements" of the Russian Ministry of Culture (under the category "large-scale investments").

7. An ICOMOS Heritage Alert process should be prepared in cooperation between the St. Petersburg Regional Committee of ICOMOS and the Finnish Committee of ICOMOS.

Long-term objectives

1. A long-term management plan for the preservation of Vyborg should be produced as a joint effort of both domestic and international stakeholders.
2. The socially, culturally and economically sustainable development of Vyborg should be pursued so that all activities and policies contribute to each other and to the preservation of historic Vyborg, and national and international cultural tourism are enhanced.
3. Adequate legal tools and standards for the protection of the built heritage of Vyborg should be developed by the monument protection.
4. The problems of organizing and financing professional research, detailed documentation and evaluation of the city structure, its buildings and interiors, and archaeological objects should be solved.
5. The administration of Vyborg city and Leningrad oblast should negotiate and agree, with experts on the preservation of cultural heritage, upon international collaboration in this field.
6. Methodological capacity building in the field of heritage preservation, such as the training of staff in charge of the heritage sites and buildings, should be ensured. To this end, the momentum of the recently completed successful restoration work on the Alvar Aalto Library should be fully utilized.
7. Urban planning decisions should be made more transparent. Free access should be ensured to land use planning data via the Internet; for example, the ownership of land and historic buildings, monuments and their territories, protection zones and their protocols.
8. Land use planning and infill development should follow as much as possible the historical land division and lot boundaries and scale of building.
9. The federal authorities of Russia should be encouraged to assess the problems of the historic city of Vyborg in the light of the above mentioned and international criteria of conservation and management of historic cities (especially *The Valletta Principles for the Safeguarding and Management of Historic Cities, Towns and Urban Areas*) and to develop an extensive programme for the revival of Vyborg as a prominent international heritage, architectural, museum and tourist centre.
10. The values of Vyborg's cultural heritage should be broadly presented in media and education, particularly in Vyborg and St Petersburg.

Cooperation

1. Professional and international cooperation should be organized in the field of research, restoration and heritage maintenance, including long-term management projects, based on the Russian legislation for building conservation and restoration techniques, and on the international principles for preserving historic cities.
2. Communication on the methodological approach of conservation of Vyborg should be facilitated by a regularly convening international group (methodological board), involving experts from the historic cities of the Baltic region, in order to exchange information on the problems of preservation of Vyborg.

3. The above-mentioned group (board) should monitor Vyborg's state of conservation, offer advice, exchange good practices and promote constructive dialogue between international experts, the authorities and other stakeholders.
4. A joint work on the proceedings of the seminar should be carried out in 2014.

Attachments:

1. Appeal to the Minister of Culture of the Russian Federation and to the Governor of the Leningrad region signed by the Finnish Architectural Association in June 2013.
2. Appeal to the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation signed by the St Petersburg Regional Committee of ICOMOS in August 2013.
3. The Resolution of the seminar “The Future of the Historical Vyborg” in October 14th, 2010, in the newly restored lecture hall of Alvar Aalto Library in Vyborg.
4. The abstract on the successful restoration cooperation of the Alvar Aalto Library in Vyborg.
5. The suggestion for cooperation in 2014 by The Leningrad Oblast branch of the All-Russia Society for Protection of Monuments of History and Culture

Two identical versions of this document with the same content have been drawn up, one in Russian and one in English.

This document will be addressed to the Head of the Administration of the President of the Russian Federation S.B. Ivanov, to the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation, to the governor of Leningrad oblast A.Yu. Drozdenko, to the local administration of the city of Vyborg and the Vyborg region, to the central council of VOOPiK, to the former President of Finland Tarja Halonen, to the Russian Embassy of Finland, to the Finnish Embassy in St. Petersburg, to the ICOMOS committees of Shared heritage and The International Committee on Historic Towns and Villages CIVVIH, to the president of ICOMOS Gustavo Araoz, and to professional organizations and mass media.

This road map has been approved on 7 April 2014 by the following organizations:

The Finnish Architecture Society



International Council for Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) Finnish national committee



ICOMOSin SUOMEN OSASTO ry.
ICOMOS Finska nationalkommittén r.f.
The ICOMOS Finnish National Committee

St Petersburg Regional Committee of ICOMOS

ИКОМОС СПб ICOMOS SPb



The Leningrad Oblast branch of the All-Russia Society for Protection of Monuments of History and Culture VOOPIK



The Civic Chamber of Leningrad Oblast

The St. Petersburg Association of Architects



The University of Turku, Chair of Landscape Studies



Aalto University Department of Architecture, History of Architecture chair



Tampere University of Technology, Department of Architecture



Europa Nostra Finland

