

Final Project Report

1. General Information

1.1. Program and Project information	
Name of the Program:	IDENTITIES
Name of the Project:	Serbian intangible cultural heritage in the Western Balkans: Perils and prospects of inclusive research and safeguarding
The Project acronym:	SICHWEB
Total Project budget:	13,030,461.66
Project realization period (from dd/mm/yyyy to dd/mm/yyyy):	Start date:01/04/2023 - End date:30/04/2025
Reporting period:	Final Project Report

1.2. Project participants information	
1.2.1. Principal Investigator (PI) and Lead Science and Research Organization (SRO)	
Name and last name of the PI:	Miloš Milenković
Academic and/or research title of the PI:	Full professor
Lead SRO name:	Faculty of Philosophy, University of Belgrade (UBFZF)
Lead SRO authorized person (legal representative) name and last name:	Danijel Sinani, dean

1.2.2. Project Partners - Science and Research Organizations (SRO)*	
SRO name:	Institute of Ethnography SASA (IESASA)
SRO authorized person (legal representative) name and last name:	Dragana Radojičić, Ph.D, Full Professor, director
SRO name:	Institute of Social Sciences (IDN)
SRO authorized person (legal representative) name and last name:	Goran Bašić, director

1.2.3. Members of the project team		
Name, last name*	Academic and research title**	Science and Research Organization (SRO) Acronym
PI: Miloš Milenković	Full professor	UBFZF
P1: Bogdan Dražeta	Senior research associate	UBFZF
P2: Marko Pišev	Senior research associate	UBFZF
P3: Jelena Čuković	Senior research associate	UBFZF
P4: Marko Milenković	Senior research associate	IDN

P5: Branko Banović	Senior research associate	IESASA
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2. Project Summary

<p>2.1. Project and Progress Summary – Please refer to the project objectives, methodology, and achieved results during project implementation, and evaluate the project's impact. Evaluate the obtained results in comparison with the initial plan and project description.</p>
<p>Highlight the project's most significant results in a way that is comprehensible to the general public. The Project summary can be used by the Science Fund of the Republic of Serbia for promoting and demonstrating the value and impact of the Project.</p>
<p>English (up to 500 words)</p> <p>With a modest budget of €110,000, the research project <i>Serbian Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Western Balkans: Perils and Prospects of Inclusive Research and Safeguarding</i> (SICHWEB) achieved academic and social outcomes far exceeding the typical expectations of small national grants, approaching, in scope and depth, those of larger European projects. The results of the project have significantly exceeded the initial plan and description, both in terms of scientific outputs and societal impact, achieving a level of visibility, methodological innovation, and international relevance that went beyond the original scope. Its strength lies not only in efficient resource use but in its transformative vision, interdisciplinary methodology, and ethical engagement with the communities it studied. Unlike initiatives that treat intangible cultural heritage (ICH) as a passive collection of folkloric practices, SICHWEB explored how heritage is selected, interpreted, and used as a political resource. Fieldwork across the region, especially focused on shared cultural practices among ethnically diverse groups, showed that heritage can be a bridge rather than a boundary. This positions SICHWEB as a paradigmatic case of critical anthropology—one that interrogates the foundations of institutional safeguarding practices. The project's core innovation lies in its epistemological and methodological boldness. SICHWEB employed anthropology as a mechanism for redistributing authority, enabling local actors to become co-researchers and co-authors of knowledge. It introduced a participatory model that moves beyond token inclusion and sets a new ethical standard for field-based heritage research.</p> <p>Technically, the project delivered outcomes on par with ERC-level efforts: an open-access dataset, international publications in respected journals, and policy dialogues connecting researchers and practitioners across the region. SICHWEB also stands out for its regional impact. It did not merely "report on" the Western Balkans—it helped reshape narratives of shared heritage in a region historically marked by division. In doing so, the project became a subtle but effective tool of cultural diplomacy, relevant to reconciliation and intercultural dialogue in post-conflict settings. It also demonstrates how a small-scale project can serve as a policy-relevant model for sustainable research governance. It offers practical evidence that well-designed, modestly funded initiatives can produce greater returns than poorly targeted mega-projects. With methodological scalability, theoretical clarity, and societal relevance, SICHWEB offers a solid foundation for international expansion—be it as an MSCA project on participatory heritage, an ERC proposal on knowledge co-production, a Jean Monnet module on EU cultural conditionality, or a UNESCO case study on inclusive governance. Importantly, the project's success lies in its ability to foster new regional narratives—identifying shared practices not to homogenize, but to reframe identity as dialogical. This is valuable for actors in peacebuilding, education, and inclusive policy design. Finally, SICHWEB shows that impactful research can emerge from small, rooted teams who know their environment and engage with it responsibly. Its achievements stem from vision, methodological rigour, and a principled stance: that culture should be treated as a shared resource, not a tool of domination. According to the approved project proposal, we were expected to submit 10 papers by the end of the project, but we submitted 13, plus a chapter and a book (15 in total), of which 9 have already been published (please see key academic deliverable D2.9).</p>
<p>Serbian (up to 500 words)</p> <p>Са скромним буџетом од 110.000 евра, истраживачки пројекат <i>Српско нематеријално културно наслеђе на простору Западног Балкана: Ризици и могућности инклузивног истраживања и очувања</i></p>

(SICHWEB) ostvariо је академске и друштвене резултате који далеко превазилазе уобичајена очекивања за мале националне пројекте, приближавајући се по обиму и дубини дoметима већих европских иницијатива. Резултати пројекта знатно су премашили почетни план и опис, како у погледу научних исхода, тако и у друштвеном утицају, достижући ниво видљивости, методолошке иновације и међународне релевантности који превазилази првобитно зацртан оквир.

Његова снага не лежи само у ефикасном коришћењу ресурса, већ у трансформативној визији, интердисциплинарној методологији и етичком односу према проучаваним заједницама. За разлику од иницијатива које третирају нематеријално културно наслеђе као пасивну збирку фолклорних пракси, SICHWEB је истраживао на који начин се наслеђе бира, тумачи и користи као политички ресурс. Теренски рад у региону, посебно усмерен на заједничке културне праксе међу етнички различитим групама, показао је да наслеђе може да повезује а не да дели. То позиционира SICHWEB као парадигматичан пример критичке антропологије — дисциплине која преиспитује саме темеље институционалне праксе очувања наслеђа.

Основна иновација пројекта огледа се у његовој епистемолошкој и методолошкој смелости. SICHWEB је користио антропологију као механизам расподеле ауторитета, омогућивши локалним актерима да постану суистраживачи и коаутори знања. На тај начин, пројекат је увео партиципативни модел који превазилази формалну инклузију и поставља нове етичке стандарде за теренска истраживања у области културног наслеђа.

Формално посматрано, пројекат је донео резултате упоредиве са ERC пројектима: отворену базу података, међународне публикације у реномираним часописима и низ политичких дијалога који су повезали истраживаче и практичаре широм региона. SICHWEB се такође издваја својим регионалним утицајем. Он није само „извештавао“ о Западном Балкану — већ је активно учествовао у преобликовању наратива о заједничком наслеђу у региону историјски обележеном поделама. На тај начин, пројекат је постао суптилан, али ефикасан инструмент културне дипломатије, релевантан за процесе помирења и међукултурални дијалог у постконфликтним срединама.

Осим тога, пројекат показује како једна мала иницијатива може да постане модел истраживачког управљања релевантан за политике одрживог финансирања науке. Захваљујући методолошкој преносивости (скалабилности), теоријској јасноћи и друштвеној релевантности, SICHWEB представља чврсту основу за даљу интернационализацију — било као MSCA пројекат о партиципативним праксама у заштити наслеђа, као ERC предлог о ко-продукцији знања у постконфликтним контекстима, као Jean Monnet модул о културној условљености у процесу европских интеграција, или као UNESCO студија случаја инклузивног управљања наслеђем.

Посебно је важно нагласити да успех пројекта лежи у његовој способности да подстакне нове регионалне наративе — препознајући заједничке праксе не ради хомогенизације, већ ради редифинисања идентитета као дијалогског процеса. Ово је посебно драгоцено за актере у областима мира, образовања и инклузивног дизајна јавних политика.

На крају, SICHWEB показује да истраживање високог утицаја може настати из малих, укореењених тимова који добро познају своје окружење и који му приступају одговорно. Његова достигнућа проистичу из визије, методолошке доследности и начелног става: да се култура мора третирати као заједнички ресурс — а не као инструмент доминације. Према одобреној пријави пројекта, до краја реализације било је предвиђено да поднесемо 10 радова, а ми смо поднели 13 уз поглавље и књигу (укупно 15), од којих је 9 већ објављено (молим Вас погледајте основни академски резултат - "длсивераблу" 2.9).

3. Project Implementation - Final Overview

3.1. Deliverables			
3.1.1. Deliverables - Short description of deliverables achieved during project implementation.			
Deliverable ID*	Deliverable name**	Delivery month (Mx) from Gantt	Month of delivery

		Chart/Project Description	(Mx)
D1.1	Kick-off meetings. Preparations with team members regarding WPs' activities, with SRO's and the funders' representatives	M01	M01
D1.2	Preparation of the constitutive meeting, the interim yearly meeting and the final meeting of the Steering committee	M01	M01
D1.5	Kick-off WPs meetings	M01	M01
D2.2	Analysis of "Return to ethnology" thesis as it relates to the possibilities of theoretical reconciling of publicly acceptable ethnological discourse to incompatible aims and methods of anthropology and critical heritage studies	M02	M02
D1.10	Organization of regular activities to communicate the project flow and its most important results to the public	M03	M03
D1.3	Quarterly project team meeting, discussing WP progress and final reports, followed by quarterly update of the project's website, social media content	M03	M03
D1.4	Quarterly overall progress and financial reports to the funder	M03	M03
D2.1	Progress report	M03	M12
D2.3	International conference paper based on theoretical comparative analysis, preferably delivered at IUAES 2023. conference	M03	M06
D2.4	Analysis of aims and methods used in contemporary WB ethnologies to inquire is there a solid potential to open anthropological conceptual framework for stakeholders expecting "more ethnological" outcomes	M04	M04
D2.6	Comparative analysis of instrumentalization of ICH worldwide as it relates to ethnic relations and social issues	M06	M06
D2.5	EASA 2023 conference paper (International conference paper based on theoretical regional analysis, preferably delivered at EASA 2023. conference)	M07	M16
D2.7	Joint publication or co-authored article between WP2 researchers and junior team members	M10	M18
D3.3	Analysis of possibility of multistate ICH nominations to UNESCO	M10	M10
D4.3	Analysis of the conditions for joining the EU in the context of member states' blockades against countries joining on the basis of identity issues	M10	M10
D1.6	Stakeholder engagement plan (SEP) and Plan for the exploitation and dissemination of the results (PEDR)	M11	M06
D3.4	EASA 2024 conference paper	M11	M16
D4.4	UACES 2024 conference paper	M11	M18
D2.8	WP2 dataset – Integrated analysis, as large dataset for preparation of conference papers and articles	M09	M09
D3.1	Progress report and Final report on WP	M09	M09
D3.2	Analysis of the current state of the Serbian ICH safeguarding system with reference to multinational nominations and EU integrations	M09	M09
D4.1	Progress report and Final report on WP	M09	M09
D4.2	– Analysis of the role of cultural heritage, particularly intangible heritage, in bilateral disputes between Western Balkan countries	M09	M09

D3.5	Integration of desk analyses D3.1 and D3.2 into fieldwork interview protocols for WP5 and WP6	M12	M12
D4.5	Integration of analyses D4.1 and D4.3 into legal and public administration based advice to the core anthropological team	M12	M12
D2.9	Academic outputs finishing and submission	M12	M12
D1.7	Report on academic outputs finishing and submission submitted	M12	M12
D1.8	Yearly reports to the Steering Committee by PI, followed by SC meetings	M12	M24
D1.9	Organization of fieldwork activities	M13	M13
D5.2	Analysis of the current state of the ICH safeguarding system in Bosnia and Herzegovina with reference to multinational nominations	M15	M19
D6.2	Analysis of the current state of the ICH safeguarding system in Montenegro with reference to multinational nominations	M15	M15
D3.6	Policy brief based on WP3 findings, targeting ministries and cultural institutions	M18	M18
D5.3	Fieldwork-based analysis of stakeholder perceptions, analysis of interview transcripts	M18	M18
D6.3	Fieldwork-based analysis of stakeholder perceptions, analysis of interview transcripts	M18	M18
D4.6	Expert roundtable with policy actors based on WP4 comparative analysis	M20	M20
D7.3	Organization and realization of the policy dialogue events with stakeholders– discussion of research-based policy proposals	M21	M21
D7.4	Revision of policy deliverables after stakeholder feedback	M22	M22
D7.5	Submission of revised policy analyses and recommendations with guidelines after stakeholder consultations, in Serbian and in English, to relevant ministries, institutions and organizations	M24	M25
D1.11	Final project meeting, followed by the reports to the Steering Committee and the funder	M24	M25
D1.12	Final public report on the project results and outcomes, published on the project website and shared with stakeholders	M24	M25

*Based on deliverables presented in the Project Description (Approved Project Proposal - Project Description, in accordance with the Decision of the Managing Board) and Gantt Chart.

**Based on deliverables presented in the Project Description (Approved Project Proposal - Project Description, in accordance with the Decision of the Managing Board) and Gantt Chart.

3.1.2. Unachieved deliverables - Insert the unachieved deliverables, if any. Otherwise, enter N/A.	
Deliverable ID *	Deliverable name**

*Based on deliverables presented in the Project Description (Approved Project Proposal - Project Description, in accordance with the Decision of the Managing Board) and Gantt Chart.

** Based on deliverables presented in the Project Description (Approved Project Proposal - Project Description, in accordance with the Decision of the Managing Board) and Gantt Chart.

3.1.2.1. For the deliverables that were not reached, please explain why - based on deliverables presented in

the Project Description document and Gantt Chart (Annex 1 and Annex 4 of the Contract on the Project financing).
If all deliverables scheduled during project implementation are reached, enter N/A.

*Recommended up to 250 words

3.2. Milestones			
3.2.1. Milestones - Short description of milestones achieved during project implementation.			
Milestone ID*	Milestone name**	Delivery month (Mx) from Gantt Chart/Project Description	Month of delivery (Mx)
M1.1	Kick-of project meeting completed	M01	M01
M1.2	Steering Committee formed	M01	M01
M2.1	WP2 dataset completed	M09	M09
M1.3	SEO and PEDR completed	M11	M11
M2.9	Academic outputs submitted	M12	M12
M3.1	WP3 and WP4 datasets completed	M12	M12
M5.1	WP5 and WP6 fieldwork organized	M13	M13
M5.2	WP5 and WP6 datasets completed	M18	M19
M7.1	Policy dialogue events organized and completed	M19	M24
M7.2	Policy deliverables submitted	M23	M24

*Based on milestones presented in Table 3.2d in the Project Description part A (Approved Project Proposal - Project Description, in accordance with the Decision of the Managing Board) and Gantt Chart.

**Based on milestones planned in Table 3.2d in the Project Description part A (Approved Project Proposal - Project Description, in accordance with the Decision of the Managing Board) and Gantt Chart.

3.2.2. Unachieved milestones - Insert the unachieved deliverables, if any. Otherwise, enter N/A.	
Milestone ID*	Milestone name**

*Based on milestones presented in Table 3.2d in the Project Description part A (Approved Project Proposal - Project Description, in accordance with the Decision of the Managing Board) and Gantt Chart.

** Based on deliverables presented in Table 3.2d in the Project Description part A (Approved Project Proposal - Project Description, in accordance with the Decision of the Managing Board) and Gantt Chart.

3.2.2.1. For the milestones that were not reached, please explain why - - based on milestones presented in Table 3.2d in the Project Description part A (Approved Project Proposal - Project Description, in accordance with the Decision of the Managing Board) and Gantt Chart. If all deliverables scheduled during project implementation are reached, enter N/A.
N/A

*Recommended up to 250 words

3.3. Scientific publications - Please list all accepted and published publications that resulted from the project.						
3.3.1. International publications (M10, M20, M30)						
Authors	Full Reference title with link of the publication	Number of authors or publications	Number of team members or publications	Journal name (M - category)	Publication status (yes/no)	DOI or ISBN (for books)
Milenko, Branko, Marko, Milenko, and Miloš	Integrating Debates on Intangible Cultural Heritage, Environment, Identity, and Populism. Anthropological Journal of European Cultures 34(1): 80-102. https://www.berghahnjournals.com/view/journals/ajec/34/1/ajec340108.xml?ArticleBodyColorStyles=pdf-4278	1	1	Articulate	Published	https://doi.org/10.3167/ajec.2025.340108
Bano, Branko, Marko, Milenko, and Miloš	Inclusive intangible cultural heritage safeguarding in museums: professionalism vs. ethnic attribution in a Western Balkan setting. Museum Management and Curatorship, 1-20. https://doi.org/10.1080/09647775.2024.2393157	3	3	Articulate	Published	https://doi.org/10.1080/09647775.2024.2393157

Milenko vić								
Dr aže ta, Bo gd an, Jel en a Ču ko vić , an d Br an ko Ba no vić	Intangible cultural heritage safeguarding policies: a comparative overview of models employed in Serbia, Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina. International Journal of Cultural Policy, 1–17. https://doi.org/10.1080/10286632.2024.2406536	3	3	Ar ti cl e	M 21	Pu bli she d	N o	10.1080/10286632.2024.2406536
Ba no vić , Br an ko, Ma rko Piš ev, Mi loš Mi len ko vić	Подзаступљеност османског нематеријалног културног наслеђа у Регистру културних добара Црне Горе (The Underrepresentation of the Ottoman Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Register of Cultural Property of Montenegro). Гласник Етнографског института САНУ (Bulletin of the Institute of Ethnography SASA), 72(2): 135–158	3	3	Ar ti cl e	M 23	Pu bli she d	Y es	http://dx.doi.org/10.2298/GEI2402135B
Dr aže ta Bo gd an, Jel en a Ču ko vić Ma rko	Изазови система заштите нематеријалног културног наслеђа у мултиетничким државама: пример српске заједнице у Херцеговини (Challenges of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Safeguarding System in Multiethnic States: The Example of the Serbian Community in Herzegovina). Гласник Етнографског института САНУ (Bulletin of the Institute of Ethnography SASA), 72 (2): 85–105.	3	3	Ar ti cl e	M 23	Pu bli she d	Y es	https://doi.org/10.2298/GEI2402085D

Milenković								
Milenković, Miloš, Jelena Čučković, Marko Pišev, Branislav Bačković and Marko Milenković	Reconstructing heritage narratives: Intangible cultural heritage and dewaponization of identities in the Western Balkans. "EASA2024: Doing and Undoing with Anthropology", University of Barcelona, 23-26 July, 2024, Panel 235 Unmaking/remaking heritage: renewing labels, expertise and temporalities (https://nomadit.co.uk/conference/easa2024/paper/79378)	5	5	Abstract	34	Published	Yes	https://nomadit.co.uk/conference/easa2024/paper/79378
Milenković, Miloš	The promises of the bureaucratisation of intangible cultural heritage safeguarding in post-conflict regions: Lessons from anthropological fieldwork in four Western Balkan states. International Journal of Heritage Studies, 30(1), 1–14. https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/13527258.2023.2263848	1	1	Article	21	Published	No	https://doi.org/10.1080/13527258.2023.2263848
Milenković, Miloš	Intangible Cultural Heritage and Reconciliation in the Western Balkans: An Anthropological Perspective. London: Routledge. https://www.routledge.com/Intangible-Cultural-Heritage-and-Reconciliation-in-the-Western-Balkans-An-Anthropological-Perspective/Milenkovic/p/book/9781032732466	1	1	Book	11	Published	No	ISBN 9781032732466
Čučković	Battle for Jadar: Mythological war	1	1	Abstract	1	Published	Yes	https://www.compmyth.org/wp-

ko vić , Jel en a	narratives in ecological activism. Paper presented at the 16th IACM Conference “Mythologies of Violence: War in Heaven, War on Earth”, Tusk, Ireland. https://www.compmith.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/IACM_Tusk_2023_program_PRINT.pdf			bs tr ac t	34	bli she d	es	content/uploads/2023/08/IACM_Tusk_2023_program_PRINT.pdf
Mi len ko vić , Mi loš Mi len ko vić	Inclusive intangible cultural heritage research and safeguarding in the Western Balkans: Issues, perils, opportunities. Paper presented at the conference “Cultural Meeting Points in the Balkan Area”, University of Shkodra. https://unishk.edu.al/fileadmin/user_upload/2023/Konferenca/Piketakime_kulturore_ne_arealin_ballkani/Libri_i_abstrakteve_Ok.pdf	1	1	A bs tr ac t	34	Pu bli she d	Y es	https://unishk.edu.al/fileadmin/user_upload/2023/Konferenca/Piketakime_kulturore_ne_arealin_ballkani/Libri_i_abstrakteve_Ok.pdf
Ću ko vić , Jel en a an d Mi loš Mi len ko vić	Intangible cultural heritage as a resource for ‘self-stakeholderisation’: Fieldwork among politically active civil society stakeholders in the province of Vojvodina, Serbia. International Journal of Intangible Heritage, 18, 49–62. https://www.ijih.org/volumes/article/1083	2	2	A rti cl e	21	Pu bli she d	Y es	https://www.ijih.org/volumes/article/1083
Ba no vić , Br an ko an d Mi loš Mi len ko vić	Anthropological analysis of the use of Saint Basil of Ostrog cult in Montenegro's contemporary political life. Paper presented at the 16th IACM Conference “Mythologies of Violence: War in Heaven, War on Earth”, Tusk, Ireland. https://www.compmith.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/IACM_Tusk_2023_program_PRINT.pdf	2	2	A bs tr ac t	34	Pu bli she d	Y es	https://www.compmith.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/IACM_Tusk_2023_program_PRINT.pdf
Piš ev, Ma rko i Mi loš Mi	Ethnology as ‘national science’ in Serbia: Some useful lessons from the past. Paper presented at the First International Conference of the Histories of Anthropologies “Doing Histories, Imagining Futures”, Università di Pisa. https://hoaic.cfs.unipi.it/panels/panel-4/	2	2	A bs tr ac t	34	Pu bli she d	Y es	https://hoaic.cfs.unipi.it/panels/panel-4/

len ko vič								
Ba no vič , Br an ko, Jel en a Ču ko vič , an d Mi loš Mi len ko vič	Populárna kultúra a nehmotné kultúrne dedičstvo v službe zmierenia: Návrat srbskej etnológie a antropológie do verejnej sféry. Slovenský národopis / Slovak Ethnology, 72(1), 14–32. https://doi.org/10.31577/SN.2024.1.02	3	3	A rti cl e	23	Pu bli sh es d	https://doi.org/10.31577/SN.2024.1.02	
Ba no vič , Br an ko, Ma rko Piš ev, an d Mi loš Mi len ko vič	Exploring controversies surrounding Ottoman intangible cultural heritage in the Western Balkans: The potential of tamburitza-playing as a mediator among local communities. Paper presented at the conference “Balkan Express 2023 – Between Orientalism and Occidentalism”, Prague, Czech Republic. https://www.hiu.cas.cz/user_uploads/badatelum_i_verejnosti/udalosti/2023_11_10_11_konference_balkan_express/konference_balkan_express_program.pdf	3	3	A bs tr ac t	34	Pu bli sh es d	https://www.hiu.cas.cz/user_uploads/badatelum_i_verejnosti/udalosti/2023_11_10_11_konference_balkan_express/konference_balkan_express_program.pdf	
Ba no vič , Br an ko, Ma rko Piš ev, Ma	Return to ethnology as a prerequisite for heritage diplomacy – Insights from the Western Balkans. Paper presented at SIEF 2023 – 16th Congress “Living Uncertainty”, Brno, Czech Republic. https://www.siefhome.org/downloads/congresses/sief2023/sief2023programme.pdf	5	5	A bs tr ac t	34	Pu bli sh es d	https://www.siefhome.org/downloads/congresses/sief2023/sief2023programme.pdf	

rko Mi len ko vić , Jel en a Ču ko vić , an d Mi loš Mi len ko vić								
Mi len ko vić , Ma rko , Ma rko Piš ev, Jel en a Ču ko vić , Br an ko Ba no vić , an d Mi loš Mi len ko vić	Heritage diplomacy: Towards mitigating bilateral identity disputes in the Western Balkans within the EU accession framework through inclusive intangible culture research and safeguarding. Paper presented at UACES 2023 Annual Conference, Queen's University Belfast. https://www.uaces.org/belfast	5	5	A bs tr ac t	34	Pu bli sh ed	Y	https://www.uaces.org/belfast
Ma	Ottoman Intangible Cultural Heritage as an	3	3	A	M	Pu	Y	https://web2020.ffzg.unizg.hr/wp-

Brko Piš ev, Mi loš Mi len ko vić , Br an ko Ba no vić	Instrument of Reconciliation? "Tracing the Ottoman Legacy in Croatia and South East Europe: Challenges, States, Perspectives" (19 and 20 October 2023, Maškovića Han, Vrana, Croatia). Section of Turkish Studies and Department of History Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb.			bs tr ac t	34	bli she d	es	content/uploads/2023/10/Ottoman-legacy_2023-Program.pdf
Mi len ko vić , Mi loš	Anthropological Theory, Stakeholder Inclusion and Minority Rights: Reflections on the Investigation and Preservation of Serbian Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Western Balkans. "Are minority rights (still) human rights" conference Belgrade SASA/FLBU, 2023.	1	1	A bs tr ac t	M 34	Pu bli she d	Y es	https://ius.bg.ac.rs/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Booklet-of-conference-abstracts.pdf
Mi len ko vić , Ma rko an d Mi loš Mi len ko vić	EU Enlargement to the Western Balkans under Bilateralised Conditionality Framework – the Role of the Heritage Safeguarding in Overcoming Identity-based Disputes, 30th anniversary celebration of the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, Joint Sessions of Workshops, https://www.eui.eu/Documents/web2021/european-unions-eastern-enlargements.pdf	2	2	A bs tr ac t	M 34	Pu bli she d	Y es	https://www.eui.eu/Documents/web2021/european-unions-eastern-enlargements.pdf

3.3.2. National publications (M40, M50, M60)								
Aut hors	Full Reference title with link of the publication	Nu mb er of aut hor s per pub lica tion	Nu mb er of tea m me mb er aut hor s per pub	Jo ur nal ra n ki ng pe * (M - cat ego ry)	Pub li ca tion stat us *	O pe n Ac ce ss (y es/ no)	DOI or ISBN (for books)	

			lica tion				
Mil enk ović , Mar ko i Mil oš Mil enk ović	Cele nacije kao sobe odjeka: Sakralizacija kulturnog nasleđa u javnim medijima tokom bilateralnih sporova u kontekstu pristupanja Zapadnog Balkana EU. Paper presented at the conference “Antropologija književnosti, umetnosti i medija”, Filozofski fakultet, Beograd. https://dais.sanu.ac.rs/bitstream/handle/123456789/16474/bitstream_65504.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y	2	2	Ab str act	M6 4	Pub lish ed	Yes https://dais.sanu.ac.rs/bitstream/handle/123456789/16474/bitstream_65504.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y

3.3.3. Other scientific results - PhD theses, technical solutions, patents, etc (M70, M80, M90, M100, M120)

Authors	Full Referenc e title with link of the publicati on	Number of authors per publicati on	Number of team member authors per publicati on	Type*	Journa l rankin g (M- catego ry)	Status **	Open Acces s (yes/n o)	DOI or ISBN (for books)
1 Milenko vić, Miloš, Jelena Čuković, Marko Pišev, Branko Banović Bogdan Dražeta and Marko Milenko vić	Contest ed Heritag e, Negotia ted Futures : Policy Insights from the Wester n Balkans	6	6	Policy analyses and recommenda tions	M121	Publish ed	Yes	https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.15544332

Important note: state only scientific publications/results that were referenced and accepted during the project realisation, or up to submission of the final report.

* Type of scientific publication/result: article in journal, publication in conference/workshop, book/monograph/anthology, proceeding, research data, PhD thesis, technical solution, patent, etc.

** Status can only include “accepted” or “published”.

3.4. Scientific publications analytics (this section will be automatically generated from 3.3.1, 3.3.2 i 3.3.3)		
Total number of international publications (M20):		8
Number of authors	Average number of authors	0
	Average number of team members - authors	0
	Max number of authors	0

	Min number of authors	0
	Max number of team members - authors	0
	Min number of team members - authors	0
Total number of national publications (M50):		0
Number of authors	Average number of authors	0
	Average number of team members - authors	0
	Max number of authors	0
	Min number of authors	0
	Max number of team members - authors	0
	Min number of team members - authors	0
Total number of international conference papers (M30):		11
Number of authors	Average number of authors	0
	Average number of team members - authors	0
	Max number of authors	0
	Min number of authors	0
	Max number of team members - authors	0
	Min number of team members - authors	0
Total number of national conference papers (M60):		1
Number of authors	Average number of authors	0
	Average number of team members - authors	0
	Max number of authors	0
	Min number of authors	0
	Max number of team members - authors	0
	Min number of team members - authors	0
Total number of publications:		22

3.5. Open research data				
3.5.1. Insert the full reference with the link to the open data.				
Title with short description (specify the data in terms of size, structure, format, to whom the dataset is accessible, is it a primary or secondary data, what	Link	Is the data set-openly accessible?	Is the data set reusable?	If the dataset is linked to a publication, specify the DOI of the

are the terms of use etc.)				publication
1	Milenkovic, M., Banovic, B., Milenkovic, M., Pisev, M., Cukovic, J., & Drazeta, B. (2024). Serbian Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Western Balkans: Perils and Prospects of Inclusive Research and Safeguarding (SICHWEB) project 1st year datasets [Data set].	Zenodo. https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.11234505	Yes	Yes
2	Milenković, M., Čuković, J., Pišev, M., Banović, B., Dražeta, B., & Milenković, M. (2025). Contested Heritage, Negotiated Futures: Policy Insights from the Western Balkans (Policy analyses and recommendations). Published.	https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.15544332	Yes	Yes

3.6. Intellectual property rights resulting from the project (if applicable to this project)				
3.6.1. Insert all necessary information regarding intellectual property rights				
Type of IP Rights (patent, trademark, technical solution, industrial design etc)	Date of the application	Official title of the application	Has the IPR protection been awarded?	If available, official publication number of a protection award

4. Dissemination and communication

4.1. Dissemination of the project			
4.1.1. List the scientific dissemination activities, such as: conferences that the project team attended, scientific stays related to the project, workshops, seminars, courses, etc.			
Type of activities*	M-category (if applicable)	Source of verification/Website (if applicable)	Other comments (if applicable)
1 Conference The International Association for	M34	https://www.compmyth.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/IACM_2023_Call_for_papers_correct-2.pdf	

	Comparative Mythology 16th Annual Conference "Mythologies of Violence: War in Heaven, War on Earth", Tusk, Ireland, August 2024			
2	Conference The First International Conference of the Histories of Anthropologies "Doing Histories, Imagining Futures", Università di Pisa.	M34	https://hoaic.cfs.unipi.it/panels/panel-4/	
3	Conference The 7th International Balkan Studies Conference "Balkan Express: Between Orientalism and Occidentalism", Prague, November 2023	M34	https://www.biu.cas.cz/udalosti/balkan-express-2023-between-orientalism-and-occidentalism	
4	Conference International Society for Ethnology	M34	https://www.siefhome.org/downloads/congresses/sief2023/sief2023programme.pdf	

	and Folklore (SIEF) 16th Congress "Living Uncertainty", Brno, Czech Republic, September 2023.			
5	Conference UACES: University Association for Contemporary European Studies Annual Conference, Belfast, Ireland, 2023.	M34	http://sichweb.f.bg.ac.rs/wp-content/uploads/2023/conf/UACES_2023_Conference%20_Virtual_Panel_103.pdf	
6	Conference EASA: The European Association of Social Anthropologists 2024 Conference "Doing and Undoing with Anthropology", Barcelona, Spain, July, 2024	M34	https://nomadit.co.uk/conference/easa2024/paper/79378	
7	Conference "Cultural Meeting Points in the Balkan Area", University of Shkodra, Albania,	M34	https://unishk.edu.al/fileadmin/user_upload/2023/Konferenca/Piketakime_kulturore_ne_arealin_ballkani/Libri_i_abstrakteve_Ok.pdf	

	December 2023			
8	Conference "Tracing the Ottoman Legacy in Croatia and South East Europe: Challenges, States, Perspectives", October 2023, Maškovića Han, Vrana, Croatia).	M34	https://web2020.ffzg.unizg.hr/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Ottoman-legacy_2023-Program.pdf	
9	Conference Scientific conference 'Are Minority Rights (Still) Human Rights?' On the occasion of 25 years since the Framework Convention for the Protection of Minorities of the Council of Europe and the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)	M34	https://ius.bg.ac.rs/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Booklet-of-conference-abstracts.pdf	

	Belgrade, SASA, FLUB, September 2023			
10	Conference, European University Institute, 30th anniversary celebration of the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, Joint Sessions of Workshops, Florence, Italy, June 2024	M34	https://www.eui.eu/Documents/web2021/european-unions-eastern-enlargements.pdf	
11	Conference, The international scientific conference "The Dynamics of Secularism, (Anti)Clericalism, and Theology, and Science in Southeastern and Central Europe," Petrovac, Montenegro, September 28–29, 2023.		https://bap.ucg.ac.me/	
12	Conference The		https://discourseanalysis.net/en/language-permacrisis-discourses-and-politics-new-normal	

	Language of (Perma)Crisis: Discourses and Politics of the 'New Normal', Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Ljubljana, Slovenia, August 2024		
13	Conference UACES: University Association for Contemporary European Studies Annual Conference, Trento, Italy, 2024		
4.1.2. List other conducted dissemination activities: media presence, interviews, articles in magazines, etc. Please indicate if there is a project website resulting from the project and how long it will be active after the project's termination.			
	Type of activities*	Source of verification/Website (if applicable)	Other comments (if applicable)
1	Website	http://sichweb.f.bg.ac.rs/?lang=en	Permanent (hosted at FZFUB server)
2	Development of new academic course – Nematerijalna kulturna baština (Intangible cultural heritage, MA level)	https://fkt.udg.edu.me/predmeti/1629-nkb104-nematerijalna-kulturna-ba%C5%A1tina	Based on SICHWEB research findings, implemented by Dr. Branko Banović

3	Development of new academic course – Kulturna baština IV (Cultural Heritage 4, BA level)	https://fkt.udg.edu.me/predmeti/1757-fkt3kb4-kulturna-ba%C5%A1tina-iv	Includes digital heritage, creative industries, participatory safeguarding – SICHWEB themes, also introduced by Dr Banovic
4	Use of project publications as teaching materials (articles, monograph) at various courses at University of Belgrade, and integration of project findings into teaching assignments (essays, student research)..	http://moodle4.f.bg.ac.rs/course/category.php?id=19	Topics reflect project themes: ethnic attribution, dissonant heritage, ICH as a peace resource
5	Final public event (SICHWEB closing conference)	https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7319974596680556544/	Organized in line with Deliverable 1.11; included project team members, stakeholders, and wider academic/public audience
6	Project promotion on LinkedIn	https://rs.linkedin.com/in/sichweb-project-489373356	Official LinkedIn profile showcasing project activities and updates

7	Promotion on Facebook by a third party	https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=802912021636469&id=100057530346289&set=a.549077773686563	Invitation to an online meeting presenting new folklore publications, including those from SICHWEB project
8	Community engagement on Instagram	https://www.instagram.com/nvo_sveti_stefan/	Posts related to cultural heritage preservation
9	An example of focus group with local stakeholders (Tivat, Montenegro)	https://muzejigalerijativat.me/juce-je-odrzano-fokusno-grupno-istrazivanje/	Organized in cooperation with the Museum and Gallery of Tivat; involved representatives of the local community, NGOs, and cultural institutions
10	An example of public lecture / discussion (12th Vuk's Foundation Round Table)	https://vukova-zaduzbina.rs/odrzana-12-tribina-vukove-zaduzbine/	Presentation of SICHWEB project insights - event gathered academics, students, and the general public
11	Project registration in the national research	https://www.dais.sanu.ac.rs/APP/faces/project.xhtml?project_id=info:eu-repo/grantAgreement/ScienceFundRS/Identiteti/1534/RS//	Official registration and

	database		overview of the SICHWEB project within the national research framework.
1 2	Dataset publication	https://zenodo.org/records/11234505	Publicly available datasets from the project's first year, preceding manuscript submission (including WP2, WP3, and WP4).

5. Project Management Information - Final Overview

5.1. Please describe the key challenges during the project realisation in terms of project management.	
<p>The main challenges encountered were structural and systemic in nature, stemming from a persistent misalignment between the interpretations of applicable regulations by different host institutions and the funding body. This is not merely a legacy of former socialist administrative traditions, but also a consequence of the Fund's organizational design—as a supervisory entity primarily oriented towards the execution of its own programs, rather than as a foundation tasked with enabling and facilitating independent scientific work. In practice, this resulted in a disproportionate emphasis on compliance, documentation, and procedural control—reflecting a security-oriented understanding of project management. This contrasts with the more enabling, autonomy-based approaches commonly seen in EU-funded schemes such as Horizon or ERC, where project leaders are not expected to engage in financial micromanagement but rather to focus on research and impact delivery. Moreover, the understanding of “management” in this context has leaned heavily towards financial monitoring, often at the expense of strategic coordination, stakeholder engagement, and scientific leadership. While accountability is essential, the current model places a significant administrative burden on principal investigators and research teams, diverting time and energy away from core project objectives. During the project, we proposed that the rules be revised or clarified, and that future calls include the possibility—or even requirement—of appointing a dedicated project manager or administrative officer to handle the technical and financial aspects of reporting and compliance.</p>	

*Up to 250 words.

5.2. Evaluate the level of satisfaction with the support and cooperation the project received from the SROs involved (1 - least satisfied, 5 - greatly satisfied).	
3	

Additional comments:

While we are formally assigning a rating of 3, this reflects a mixed experience rather than neutral satisfaction. The cooperation with the Scientific Research Organisations (SROs) involved was marked by goodwill on all sides, but also by considerable structural friction. The Fund operates under its own procedural framework, while each academic institution adheres to its internal rules and administrative culture. This misalignment, particularly in financial operations and reporting, consumed a disproportionate amount of time and energy. At times, it appeared as though the project's implicit objective was to reform local academic management practices, which is neither feasible nor desirable under current incentive structures and institutional autonomy. While some issues were resolved through ad hoc communication and effort, a more harmonized and enabling approach from the outset would have significantly reduced the administrative burden and improved overall satisfaction.

5.3. Team capacity development**5.3.1. Please provide information on contribution of the project for the research careers of project team members, including special qualifications and special possibilities / opportunities opened up by the project (especially PhD theses).**

The project had a significant and lasting impact on the research careers of all team members by providing a rare opportunity for integrated professional development across the full research cycle—from conceptual design and fieldwork implementation to academic writing, publication, public engagement, and knowledge-to-policy. One of the most important contributions of the project was its inclusive leadership model, which enabled all team members, regardless of seniority, to take active roles in research coordination, data collection, analytical work, and dissemination. Junior researchers were able to gain firsthand experience in collaborative authorship, conference presentation, and international networking, which helped several of them strengthen their academic portfolios. The project also served as a platform for acquiring and exercising skills in open science, data curation, ethics in fieldwork, and stakeholder communication. Several team members engaged directly in shaping policy-relevant outputs and took part in dialogues with institutional and civil society actors, expanding their competences beyond academia. Moreover, participation in a project of this nature—interdisciplinary, transnational, and socially engaged—enhanced the team's eligibility for future international funding, especially within Horizon Europe, UNESCO, and participatory heritage research schemes. The experience gained is already being translated into new applications and collaborations, including early-stage proposal development for MSCA and ERC programs.

*Recommended up to 250 words.

5.4. Evaluate the level of satisfaction with the support and cooperation the project received from the Science Fund of the Republic of Serbia (1 - least satisfied, 5 - greatly satisfied).

3

5.4.1. Additional comments:

We assign a rating of 3, reflecting moderate satisfaction with the support provided by the Science Fund of the Republic of Serbia. While the Fund enabled the realization of a research concept that would have otherwise remained unfunded in the national context, its operational logic remains overly risk-averse and compliance-driven. The procedures emphasize financial justification and documentation to an extent disproportionate to the modest size of the grant and the high level of scientific and societal return achieved. This resulted in a significant administrative burden that had to be taken by researchers themselves, with limited flexibility for adaptive project management or recognition of the trustworthiness and competence of the research team. A more enabling and partnership-based model of cooperation—focusing on outcomes rather than procedures—would foster a more supportive research environment and better align with international standards.

5.5. Please note if there are any recommendations for further advancement of the Science Fund's procedures, communication and similar.

We respectfully recommend that the Science Fund consider a structural adjustment to its implementation model in future calls. Specifically, we suggest introducing a mandatory or strongly recommended project position for a designated administrative or financial officer, separate from the principal investigator. While full accountability should remain with the project leader, the current model effectively requires scientific staff to assume detailed administrative and financial responsibilities for which they are neither trained, institutionally supported, nor remunerated. This is inefficient and counterproductive, especially when the funding is relatively modest, and the same time could be better spent on scientific work and stakeholder engagement. Furthermore, we recommend a shift in procedural emphasis—from excessive preoccupation with control and documentation toward a more outcome-oriented and trust-based approach. It is strongly recommended that the Fund consider implementing a lump sum system already widely used in EU-financed projects, so that valuable time resources of research teams are not used to mitigate reporting inconsistencies for negligible amounts. Finally, improved vertical and horizontal communication between the Fund, host institutions, and project teams is essential. Many challenges encountered during the project stemmed not from bad intent but from misaligned interpretations of procedures, which often placed researchers in the position of mediators between two bureaucratic systems. Such changes would not only increase efficiency and satisfaction among grantees, but also elevate the credibility and competitiveness of the Science Fund within the broader European research ecosystem.

*Up to 250 words.

6. Technology transfer

6.1. Technology transfer during/after the project realization and potential cooperation with industry

6.1.1. Please shortly describe if technology transfer occurred during the project realization and/if you have a plan for technology transfer after the realization of the project. Otherwise, state N/A.

While no formal technology transfer occurred in the narrow, engineering sense, the project introduced a form of social innovation that is highly relevant to the fourth pillar of Smart Specialisation in the region—**culture, creative industries, and social inclusion**. By developing participatory, community-based methodologies for intangible cultural heritage research and policy translation, the project generated scalable knowledge practices that can inform public administration, education, cultural diplomacy, and conflict-sensitive development strategies.

In this sense, the project contributes to the core objectives of international development actors, including the World Bank, by strengthening inclusive governance, cultural sustainability, and socially embedded forms of knowledge production. Although rooted in the humanities, the project thus aligns with broader strategic goals—demonstrating how non-technological innovations can support institutional resilience and long-term regional development.

We plan to explore further opportunities for methodological transfer, particularly through partnerships with local governments, heritage institutions, and international networks interested in inclusive heritage governance and culture-led development.

*Recommended up to 250 words

6.1.2. Please briefly describe if you established a cooperation with partner(s) from the industry during the project realization/if you have a plan for cooperation with partner(s) from the industry after the realization of the project. Otherwise, state N/A.

While no formal cooperation with industrial partners was established during the project implementation, we initiated steps toward future collaboration with the cultural and creative industries sector. In particular, we submitted a project proposal to the Innovation Fund of the Republic of Serbia, aimed at the **digitisation of**

intangible heritage through scientifically verified methods. The project was designed as a response to the proliferation of disinformation campaigns that undermine social cohesion in the region and distort national identity narratives, especially concerning Serbian cultural heritage. Although the proposal was not funded in the first round, we are committed to resubmitting it at the next available opportunity.

This line of work opens potential for collaboration with technology companies, creative entrepreneurs, and public institutions interested in the ethical and evidence-based mediation of heritage. The knowledge and practices developed through the SICHWEB project form a strong foundation for such interdisciplinary cooperation and transfer into applied cultural and informational fields.

*Recommended up to 250 words

7. Sustainability, applications for other grants and international cooperation

7.1.1. Please describe how you intend to secure sustainability after the project ends. Otherwise, state N/A.

The sustainability of the SICHWEB is ensured through a combination of methodological rigor, stakeholder engagement, academic continuity, and institutional anchoring. The project has laid the groundwork for long-term impact by establishing a replicable model for critically engaging with heritage through validated content and inclusive formats accessible to diverse audiences. The dedicated website remains active as a dissemination point and has been integrated into ongoing institutional activities. A growing presence on social media supports continued visibility and outreach, while policy outputs have been positively received by stakeholders at national, regional, and international levels. Academic impact is also already visible: citations of project outputs are increasing, and participation in prominent conferences has contributed to international recognition. Within our institution, the project has stimulated interest among master's students to pursue doctoral research, reinforcing its long-term educational value. Project collaborators are already developing new book projects that build on SICHWEB's themes and methods. The project aligns with national strategic priorities, particularly the fourth pillar of the Smart Specialisation Strategy, which facilitates integration into future policy frameworks and funding mechanisms. Its methodological design is scalable and transferable, offering potential for replication in other contexts and transnational partnerships. Follow-up proposals have been submitted to the national Innovation Fund, and to the Science Fund, aiming to counter disinformation through validated heritage content.

7.2. Applications for follow-up projects.

7.2.1. Have you submitted or plan to submit new project proposals to other funding agencies or to the future calls of the Science Fund of the Republic of Serbia in order to continue your research on the same/similar topic?

Yes

Additional comments:

Yes. Two new project proposals have been submitted to further develop the research themes initiated by SICHWEB: 1. STRACHES (SFRS IDEAS 2024) – This interdisciplinary research project builds directly upon SICHWEB's findings by investigating the relationship between cultural heritage, identity, and self-representation in the Western Balkans. Coordinated by a consortium of leading Serbian research institutions, STRACHES explores how contested heritage narratives are used in both national and international political arenas. It introduces a new methodological framework combining anthropology, history, law, and philosophy, and emphasizes capacity building for early-career researchers. The project aligns with policy debates on reconciliation, EU integration, and cultural diplomacy, and includes robust dissemination strategies through scholarly outputs and stakeholder dialogues. 2. CREATIVE INDUSTRIES ONE-STOP SHOP FOR HERITAGE CONTENT (Collaborative Grant Scheme, Innovation Fund) – This project proposal aims to translate research on intangible cultural heritage into a practical digital tool that serves both social and economic functions. It envisions a curated online platform combining cultural content with innovative business

models, designed to serve the general public, diaspora communities, cultural institutions, and tourism operators. The project addresses the problem of unreliable heritage communication in the region, offering a solution that promotes reconciliation, digital transformation, and sustainable economic growth.
7.2.2. Have you submitted or plan to submit a project proposal to an internationally funded program?
Yes
Additional comments:
Yes. In addition to national proposals, a project application was submitted to the ERC Advanced Grant 2024 call under the title DEWENCILIATION – Deweaponizing Cultural Heritage: Towards a New Methodology for Civic Inclusion and Institutional Legitimacy. The proposed project critically investigates how cultural heritage is instrumentalized in politically polarized and post-conflict societies, with a focus on the Western Balkans, Eastern Europe, and the Caucasus. It introduces the concept of "dewenciliation" as an analytical and policy tool to reverse the exclusionary effects of heritage weaponization. Combining anthropological theory, legal analysis, and participatory methodologies, the project aims to develop a new research frontier at the intersection of identity, governance, and heritage diplomacy. If funded, it would provide a multi-country, multi-sited comparative framework with strong potential for both scholarly impact and policy relevance.

7.2.3. Have you established or have plans for collaborations with international researchers or diaspora researchers within the scope of this project or after its realization?
Yes
Additional comments:
Due to the specific rules and funding limitations of the Science Fund, it was not possible to formally include international or diaspora researchers during the project implementation. However, we intend to build on the interest shown by international colleagues who engaged with our presentations and publications at conferences. Based on these emerging connections, we are preparing applications for the upcoming COST and ADRION calls, aiming to develop structured collaborations with both international and diaspora researchers in the next project phase.

7.2.4. Have you established or have plans for cooperation with partner(s) from the industry after the realization of the project?
Yes
Additional comments:
Beyond the already mentioned proposal submitted to the Innovation Fund, we plan to strengthen our collaboration with experts in economics, tourism, demography, and cultural management. Our goal is to connect heritage research with real-world development dynamics by monitoring social and cultural transformations linked to large-scale infrastructure and investment projects. One emerging area of interest is the impact of initiatives such as EXPO on public attitudes toward migrants, especially those coming from culturally and racially distinct backgrounds. This applied dimension opens space for cooperation with private sector actors operating at the intersection of cultural industries, social cohesion, and development planning.

8. Risk Management - Overview

8.1. Risk management during the project realization - methodology risks, timing, milestones and deliverables, participants and scientific institutions, procurement, budgetary issues, and other risks..					
Type of risk*	Category**	Describe in detail the risks and the risk management action, applied mitigation measures, undertaken actions and their results. Were the measures successful? What was the result of these actions? If the risks still apply, state the expected time frame of the risk mitigation. What are the possible implications to project implementation if the risks are not resolved?	Risk level ***	Has the risk occurred?	If the risk occurred, please indicate in which quarter
Methodology risk	Methodology	There was a concern that renewed Covid-19 restrictions might delay fieldwork. While restrictions were not reintroduced, the team planned flexibly and relied on an extensive regional network. All activities were implemented as scheduled, without compromising researcher safety. The mitigation strategy proved effective.	Low	No	
Work packages, deliverables and milestones	Management	Temporary absences due to illness were mitigated by internal collaboration and task redistribution. The P1 was replaced due to prolonged maternity leave. The PI coordinated key deliverables. Almost all milestones were achieved on time, and all were completed eventually. The mitigation was successful.	Medium	Yes	Q3
Project team members and SROs	Management/Human resources	Some team members experienced health-related absences. Tasks were redistributed and completed on time. Project design remained unaffected. Strong internal cohesion and flexibility ensured continuity.	Low	Yes	Q4
Procurement	Procurement	All planned procurements were routine (travel, accommodation, technical services, basic equipment). There were no delays or issues. No mitigation was needed.	Low	No	
Budgetary issues	Management/Financial	Moderate increases in travel and accommodation costs were observed. These were covered by the institutional overhead and careful planning. The research design remained intact. The	Low	Yes	Q5

		mitigation strategy was effective.			
Other	Ethical / Societal	Concerns about potential retaliatory behaviour by power-holding stakeholders proved well-founded. All interviews were anonymized, raw data were not shared, and ethical standards were strictly followed. No participant faced repercussions. Ethical safeguards ensured safe research conditions.	Medium	No	
Legal and administrative inconsistency	Legal / Administrative	A risk emerged due to misalignment between the Fund's financial and legal requirements and the internal regulations of participating institutions. These discrepancies related to documentation formats, approval hierarchies, interpretation of eligible costs, and timing of expenditure justification. Additionally, partner institutions involved in the project applied different administrative standards and procedures, which created coordination challenges and administrative overhead. Mitigation involved increased coordination efforts by the PI, regular consultations with institutional legal and financial departments, and continuous clarification requests submitted to the Fund. Although some procedural workarounds were found, the core structural misalignments could not be fully resolved due to systemic incompatibilities between public financing rules and institutional autonomy. While these challenges did not prevent project implementation, they created delays, required additional reporting efforts, and diverted time from research activities. As such, the risk remains present and will likely persist in future projects unless harmonization of legal and procedural frameworks is undertaken at the systemic level.	Medium	Yes	Q8

* Type of risk: Methodology risk, work packages, deliverables and milestones, members of the project team and SROs, procurement, budgetary issues and other risks.

** Categories: foreseen risk within the Project description part A and unforeseen risk.

***Risk level: high, medium, low

9. Environmental and Social management of the Project

9.1. Environmental and social management			
9.1.1. Please provide information on the status of each item in the approved Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP), if applicable. Please describe any environmental or social programs, initiatives, or documentation (procedures, instructions, evidence, certificate, etc.) developed during the reporting period.			
Issue*	According to ESMP Mitigation Plan	According to ESMP Monitoring Plan	Evidence/documentation
Risk of exclusion of vulnerable and minority heritage stakeholders	Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) developed and implemented; direct involvement of minority community representatives ensured in interviews and policy events.	Ongoing stakeholder mapping and verification of participation by type (ethnic/religious group, professional/academic sector); review after each dialogue event.	SEP document; list of participants (anon.); minutes from consultations and policy events.
Conflict sensitivity in post-conflict environments	Conflict-sensitive communication approach adopted; team trained to avoid provocative framing of identity-related topics.	Field debriefings held after each mission; PI oversight on materials and team interactions with sensitive stakeholders.	Fieldwork reports; internal communication guidelines; photo/audio documentation.
Fieldwork health and safety (COVID-19 and general precautions)	Protocol for safe fieldwork developed and distributed; travel in pairs encouraged; PPE provided where needed.	N/A (not occurred)	N/A
9.1.2. Please provide information on the status of each item in the approved Environmental and Social Management Plan Checklist (ESMP CL), if applicable. Please describe any environmental or social programs, initiatives or documentation (procedures, instructions, evidence, certificate, etc.) developed during the reporting period.			
Issue**	According to ESMP Checklist Mitigation Plan	According to ESMP Checklist Monitoring Plan	Evidence/documentation
Inclusion of vulnerable and minority groups in research and dialogue	Research design ensured representation of vulnerable groups (ethnic and religious minorities); interviews tailored to local contexts; participants included in policy dialogue planning.	Ongoing monitoring through stakeholder mapping, field reports and debriefings; team coordination meetings.	Stakeholder engagement plan (SEP), interview reports, minutes from consultations, list of participants in policy dialogue events (anon.).
Avoidance of social tensions during stakeholder engagement	Sensitive heritage topics presented through neutral framing; conflict-sensitive communication strategy applied; research team trained in cultural awareness.	Feedback gathered from participants after events/interviews; internal debriefs on potential issues; oversight by PI.	Communication plan, materials from policy dialogues, internal fieldwork evaluations.
9.2. Ethics			
9.2.1. Please provide information on the status of each item in the approved Ethics Management Plan			

Checklist (ESMP CL), if applicable. Please describe any ethics issue that appeared during the reporting period.			
Issue**	According to ESMP Checklist Mitigation Plan	According to ESMP Checklist Monitoring Plan	Evidence/documentation
Use of human participants	Informed consent is obtained from all participants before interviews; participation is voluntary; sensitive topics are discussed with care and participants may withdraw at any time without consequences.	PI supervises compliance through regular team meetings and checks interview protocols; random checks of consent forms and anonymization procedures.	Verbal or signed informed consent (anonymized), interview protocols, fieldwork guidelines.
Vulnerable groups	Special care taken in approaching ethnic/religious minorities; interviews adapted to language/cultural context; no pressure to participate.	Monitoring through daily field logs and team debriefings; ethical issues discussed in regular internal reports.	Field reports, anonymized transcripts, minutes from team debriefings.
Collection and processing of personal data	Data anonymized immediately after transcription; stored on encrypted devices; no sensitive identifiers are retained.	Regular oversight by PI; data access restricted to team members.	Data protection protocol, anonymized interview samples.
Health & safety in fieldwork	Fieldwork guidelines include COVID-19 precautions and safe conduct protocols; team members trained prior to deployment.	N/A (not occurred)	Fieldwork guidelines

*The basis for ES reporting is the final ESMP document in your project documentation. Please report on each item/issue listed in the table Mitigation Measures and Monitoring Plan, within the ESMP document.

**The basis for ES reporting is the final ESMP CL document in your project documentation. Please report on each item/issue listed in the table Mitigation Measures and Monitoring Plan, within the ESMP CL document, i.e. listed in PART 2: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL MITIGATION MEASURES, MITIGATION MEASURES CHECKLIST, and PART 3: MONITORING PLAN.

10. Additional information

10.1. Additional comments - if there are any other recommendations, insights, conclusions regarding the Project implementation that were not covered by the previous parts of this report, please note them here. Enter N/A, if not applicable.

Despite certain challenges regarding the specific limitations related to funding and reporting procedures, we would like to emphasize that having the opportunity to carry out this project was immensely valuable. It provided a meaningful framework for professional development, particularly for early- and mid-career researchers who had the chance to lead work packages, collaborate within the team, engage with international colleagues, and participate in academic conferences and policy dialogues. Many of the collaborations, publications, and new ideas generated during the project would not have been possible without its support. In that sense, the project delivered clear added value—both scientifically and socially. We hope that systemic issues in project monitoring and administrative processes will be gradually improved, and that the Science Fund will continue to grow and thrive. It represents a crucial mechanism for advancing domestic research and fostering the next generation of scholars.

Date and signature

Under full moral, material, and criminal responsibility and aware of all legal consequences if not, we declare that information provided in the Final Project Report is correct and true.

Name and last name of the authorized person

1.   12.06.2025.

Leading SRO (stamp) date

Danijel Sinani, dean

2.  12.06.2025.

Project PI date

Milos Milenkovic

3.  12.06.2025.

SRO 1 (stamp) date

Dragana Radojicic, Ph.D, Full
Professor, director

4.  12.06.2025.

SRO 2 (stamp) date

Goran Basic, director

Appendix 1

A.1.2. Insert the full list of references for all the publications which are not accepted/published yet, but submitted or in preparation for the submission.					
#	Type of scientific publication*	Open Access (yes/no)	Publication status**	Full reference title (list all authors, tentative title and planned journal)	Expected deadline for publishing
1	Article	No	Submitted	Dražeta, Bogdan, Marko Pišev and Miloš Milenković. Regional identities as potential tools for heritage based post-conflict reconciliation: The case of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Identities: Global Studies in Culture and Power (M21a)	2026
2	Article	No	Submitted	Milenković, Miloš and Marko Milenković. Culturalized bilateral conditionality in the EU enlargement framework for the Western Balkans - Prospects for utilizing intangible cultural heritage in the reconciliation and stabilization agenda. Southeast European and Black Sea Studies (M21)	2026
3	Article	No	Submitted	Milenković, Marko, and Miloš Milenković. Bilateral conditionality in the Western Balkans EU accession process – (mis)use of heritage and media narratives. Southeastern Europe (M22)	2026
4	Book chapter	Yes	Submitted	Milenković, Miloš. Anthropological theory, stakeholder inclusion and minority rights: Reflections on the research and safeguarding of Serbian intangible cultural heritage in the Western Balkans (submitted to: Hart Publishing, for the special edited volume “ARE MINORITY RIGHTS (STILL) HUMAN RIGHTS?” on the occasion of 75 years after the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and 25 years after the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities) (M13) - Accepted	2026
5	Article	No	Submitted	Pišev, Marko , Branko Banović, Miloš Milenković “Ottoman Intangible Cultural Heritage as an Instrument of Reconciliation?” Anthropological Journal of European Cultures (M23)	2026

* Type of scientific publication: article in journal, publication in conference/workshop, book/monograph/anthology, proceeding, research data etc.

** Status can include: “in preparation” or “submitted”.