



# **HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

**For the World Heritage property**  
*City of Graz – Historic Centre and Schloss Eggenberg*  
**Austria (C 931bis)**

**With regard to the project**  
**Hydroelectric Power Plant Mur in Graz**

Peter Strasser, MA, LL.M., PhD

Danube University Krems  
Department for Building and Environment  
Center for Architectural Heritage and Infrastructure  
Dr.-Karl-Dorrek-Straße 30  
A-3500 Krems, Austria

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## 1 Non-technical summary

- The Statement of OUV of the World Heritage property *City of Graz – Historic Centre and Schloss Eggenberg* does not refer to the Mur river.
- Most of the installations (e.g barrier, power station) of the project *Hydroelectric Power Plant Mur in Graz* are located outside of the World Heritage property and of its buffer zone. The distance between barrier and World Heritage area is 3,284 km.
- However, the project, once completed, will have an impact on the World Heritage property and its buffer zone.
- Impact on the World Heritage property  
In the *real reservoir area* of the planned power-station a slight increase of the water-level will occur and the flow-rate of the water be marginally reduced.

Rise of water-level, increase of the flow-rate

As the *head* of the real reservoir area (“Stauwurzel”) lies within the World Heritage property, the increase of the water-level and the reduction of the flow-rate (speed) will be low. (water-level: rise of 2 cm at *Murinsel*, 5 cm at *Konzerthaus*) The final extent of the change (rise of water level) will depend on the one hand on the quantity of water and on the other hand on the specific location. E.g. near the concert hall (*Konzerthaus*) the speed goes down from 1,23 m/sec to 1,21 m/sec. According to the studies the rise of water-level in the World Heritage property is 20 cm at the most.

Visual alterations

From the visual point of view, almost no difference will be noticeable as the vegetation along the banks will be re-cultivated.

Re-setting of the original character of the river-bed

The reduction of the flow-rate as well as the rise of the water-level will contribute to the re-setting to the original character of the river before its bed was narrowed and deepened at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

### Overall assessment

With regard to the changes of the water level and the flow-rate, in terms of HIA the changes can be characterised as a “negligible changes”. Regarding the effect of the changes, they can be characterised as “minor beneficial”.

- Impact on the buffer zone  
The southern perimeter of the buffer zone is located entirely in the *real reservoir area*. The northern perimeter lies fully in the *free flowing section*.

Rise of water-level, increase of the flow-rate

While in the *free flowing section* (northern perimeter) no changes will occur, the southern perimeter will be affected by a slight reduction of the flow-rate. There, a minor rise of the water level will occur. The rise of the water-level as well as the reduction of the flow-rate will contribute to the re-setting of the river’s historic appearance as mentioned above.

### Overall assessment

With regard to the changes in the buffer zone, in terms of HIA they can be characterised as a “negligible changes”. Regarding their effects, they can be characterised as “minor beneficial”.

- **Final assessment**  
Following this assessment, in terms of HIA, the overall impact will lead to “negligible changes”. Regarding the effects, they can be characterised as “minor beneficial”.

Sector of Mur (in upstream direction)	Zone affected by the project		
	World Heritage	Buffer zone	Outside of WH- and buffer zone
Barrier and power-station (km 175,166)	NO	NO	YES
Real reservoir area (km 175,166 – km 178,990, distance: 3,824 km)	YES	YES	YES
Non-affected free flowing section (from km 178,990 upstream)	NO	YES	YES

Sector of Mur (in downstream direction)		
Zone	Rise of water level	Decrease of flow-rate
Northern perimeter outside of WH- and buffer zone	No	No
Northern perimeter of buffer zone	No	No
World Heritage property	Yes e.g. 2 cm at Murinsel, 5 cm at Konzerthaus	Yes e.g. from 1,23 to 1,21 m/sec (Konzerthaus)
Southern perimeter of buffer zone	Yes	Yes
Southern perimeter outside of WH- and buffer zone	Yes	Yes

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### 3 Introduction

In his letter (**Annex 1**), dated 14 November 2012 to H. Exc. Ms URSULA PLASSNIK, Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of Austria to UNESCO, the Director of the *UNESCO-World Heritage Centre* (here short “WHC”), KISHORE RAO, asked for further information in the following regard:

*The World Heritage Centre has received information about the construction of a water power station, which is likely to impact the Outstanding Universal Value and integrity of the City of Graz – Historic Centre and Schloss Eggenberg, inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1999.*

In accordance with para. 174 Operational Guidelines 2012, the Director of the WHC asked the State Party of Austria for a response as soon as possible, what would enable the WHC to verify the source and content of the information that they have received.

In January 2013 the *Federal Ministry for Education, Arts and Culture* on behalf of the State Party of Austria asked the *Center for Architectural Heritage and Infrastructure* at the *Department for Building and Environment / Danube University Krems* to carry out a *Heritage Impact Assessment* (here “HIA”) with regard to the above-mentioned water power station (here “the project”).

### 4 Methodology

The HIA was carried out by Dr. PETER STRASSER, Scientific Staff at the *Center for Architectural Heritage and Infrastructure*, in April and May 2013.

The following material was taken into consideration:

- Nomination dossiers: *Graz – Historic Center* (1998) and *City of Graz – Historic Centre and Schloss Eggenberg* (2009)
- ICOMOS evaluations (1998 and 2010)
- Decision 34 COM 8B.37 (2010)
- Letter, ref. CLT/WHC/5763/AT/MM/PT dated 14 Nov. 2012 from the Director of WHC to the Permanent Delegate of Austria to UNESCO including attachments
- WILFRIED PISTECKY: *Murkraftwerk Graz – Einreichprojekt zum UVP-Verfahren, Juni 2010 – Allgemein verständliche UVE – Zusammenfassung 0101* (Water power plant Mur in Graz – Submitted Project for EIA, June 2010 – Executive Summary, no. 0101)
- ERNST SIMON: *Umweltverträglichkeitsgutachten zum UVP-Verfahren Murkraftwerk Graz. Graz, 14 Feb. 2012* (Environmental Impact Statement for the EIA concerning the power plant Mur in Graz. Graz, 14 Feb. 2012)
- Umwelt und Raumordnung / Amt der Steiermärkischen Landesregierung, Abt. 13: *Wasserkraftanlage Murkraftwerk Graz – UVP – Genehmigungsbescheid, 20. Aug. 2012* (Department no. 13 – Environment and Spatial Planning / Provincial Government of Styria: Power plant Mur in Graz : EIA – Decision of Approval, 20 August 2012)
- Maps and photos provided by the City of Graz
- ICOMOS – *Guidance on Heritage Impact Assessments for Cultural World Heritage Properties (HIA, 2011)*

Contacts:

- Mr Dr. BRUNO MALDONER, World Heritage Focal Point for Austria, Austrian Federal Ministry for Education, Arts and Culture (BMUKK), 29 January 2013 (conversation)
- Ms Mag. DANIELA FREITAG, *Stadtbaudirektion – Stabsstelle UNESCO Welterbe*, World Heritage office of the City of Graz, 30 Nov. 2012 (email), 29 January 2013 (telephone conversation), 24 April 2013 (emails)

## 5 Site history and description

The *City of Graz – Historic Centre* was inscribed in 1999 by the World Heritage Committee at its 23<sup>rd</sup> session on the basis of criteria (i) and (iv) in the World Heritage List. In 2010 the property was extended as *City of Graz – Historic Centre and Schloss Eggenberg* and inscribed on the basis of criteria (ii) and (iv) with the following Statement of OUV (**Annex 2**):

**Criterion (ii):** *The City of Graz - Historic Centre and Schloss Eggenberg reflects artistic and architectural movements originating from the Germanic region, the Balkans and the Mediterranean, for which it served as a crossroads for centuries. The greatest architects and artists of these different regions expressed themselves forcefully here and thus created a brilliant synthesis.*

**Criterion (iv):** *The urban complex forming the City of Graz – Historic Centre and Schloss Eggenberg is an exceptional example of a harmonious integration of architectural styles from successive periods. Each age is represented by typical buildings, which are often masterpieces. The physiognomy of the city and of the castle faithfully tells the story of their common historic and cultural development.*

The site was subject of the first cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise in 2004-05 and of the second cycle in 2012-13. Since 2004 the state of conservation of the property was frequently examined by the Committee. By responding to development-projects and construction-works within the World Heritage area, the Committee requested state of conservation- and update-reports to be submitted in 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2009. In February 2005 a Joint UNESCO/WHC – ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission and in October 2006 an ICOMOS advisory mission took place. The Committee took frequently decisions concerning the property.<sup>1</sup>

By letter dated 4 October 2012 (**Annex 1**), Mr PAUL MATT from Unterpremstätten in Styria informed the Director of UNESCO/WHC concerning a planned hydro power plant in Graz. According to him, “the planned and in the first ecological audit approved power station will influence heavily the townscape protected by UNESCO”. He mentioned the following problems which will arise once the project will be completed (quoted from the letter):

- *The river will become a dammed pool with extreme low water flow – no more typical swoosh of the water standing in the centre of Graz.*
- *8000 old trees will be cut down and it will take more than 30 – 50 years until they are grown up again to improve the air and living quality in Graz centre.*
- *Building the water power stations and the required dams in the centre of Graz will heavily influence the living quality in Graz for more than three years and beyond.*
- *Graz is already known as fine dust city of Austria and the removal of that 8000 trees will have a further negative influence on that fact.*
- *The townscape will be heavily influenced by these chances [sic!: changes] forever.*

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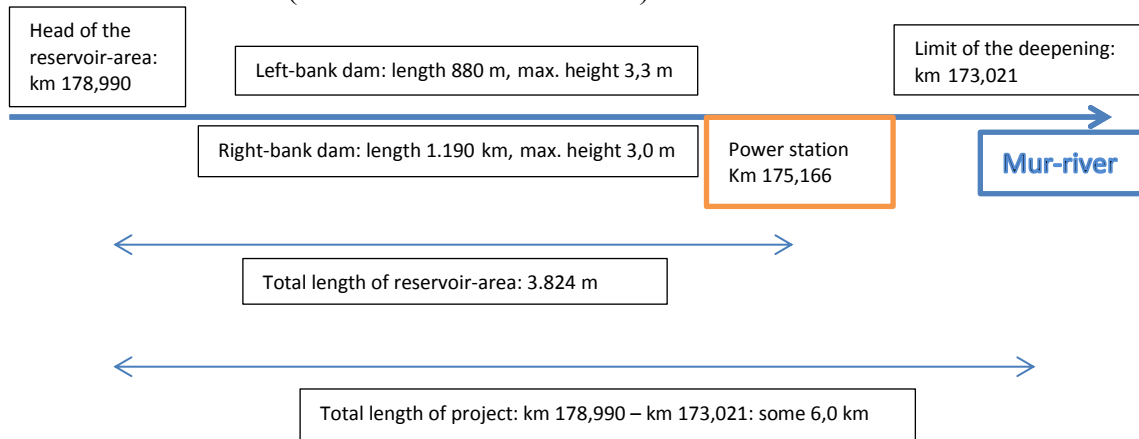
<sup>1</sup> Full list of decisions: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/931/documents/> (9.04.2013)

For further questions he recommended to consult the website [www.rettetdiemur.at](http://www.rettetdiemur.at) or to make inquiries at [office@rettetdiemur.at](mailto:office@rettetdiemur.at).

The letter is the first reference made concerning the project vis-à-vis the WHC. The present HIA will be undertaken in fulfilling the request of the Director of the WHC addressed in his letter dated 14 November 2012 to the Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of Austria to UNESCO.

## 6 Description of changes or developments proposed

The *Energie Steiermark AG* intends together with *Verbund-Austrian Hydro Power AG* as project-operator to construct the hydroelectric power station *Murkraftwerk Graz* at the river Mur in the city of Graz. The concrete barrier including the power-station is located at km 175,166 of the Mur. The whole project extends some 6 km from km 173,021 downstream of the power station (limit of the deepening of the riverbed downstream) up to km 178,990 (head of the reservoir near Acconi-Mur-island, based on mean water-level) upstream. The length of the reservoir-area is 3.824 m (based on mean water-level).



The barrier consists of three weir fields each with a superimposed cap. The close-by building will house two “Kaplan-Rohr”-turbines and generators and other technical installations. The upstream dams on the left- and right bank of the river have to be constructed. The length of the left-bank dam is about 880 m, the one on the right bank 1.190 m. The maximum height of the dams is 3,3 m (left-bank) and 3,0 m (right-bank).

The project underwent a thorough Environmental Impact Assessment. (EIA – *Umweltverträglichkeitsprüfung – UVP*) The corresponding expert-opinion undertaken by Mr ERNST SIMON (*Umweltverträglichkeitsgutachten*) has been published on 14 February 2012 (283 p.). Following this study, on 20 August 2012 the Department no. 13 – Environment and Spatial Planning of the Provincial Government of Styria issued the decree<sup>2</sup> approving the construction of the electric power plant Mur in Graz (*UVP-Genehmigungsbescheid*). The decree, covering 412 pages, took various issues into consideration (like nature-protection, spatial planning, landscape-protection, analysis of contaminated sites, noise and vibrations, impact on traffic, air pollution, fire-prevention, hydro-geology, forestry and wildlife ecology, just to mention a few). Reference was made to World Heritage as well (p. 111 and 320). The decree was objected from several parties; consequently it did not enter into force. The decision is still pending.

<sup>2</sup> Ref.no. ABT13-11-10-156/2010-335



The overall-construction-period will last 2,5 years (starting with the installation of the construction-area until its removal).

In this assessment the area between the head of the reservoir-area (*Stauwurzel*) at km 178,990 and the barrier (km 175,166) will be taken into consideration.

## 6.1 Aspects of World Heritage, cultural property, infrastructure- and town-planning

During the EIA-procedure institutions, authorities, individuals, NGOs and representatives of civil movements, who claimed to be affected by the project, were granted the right to submit statements. Statements, which are related to cultural property and World Heritage will be presented here. Furthermore, these parts of the studies, which deal with aspects of World Heritage, cultural property, infrastructure and town-planning, will be examined in detail.

### 6.1.1 Statements made by NGOs, representatives of civil movements and individuals

- The citizens' movement and working-group "*Blatt-Form*" für den Grazer Grünraum ("Leaflet form' for the green area of Graz") presented a broad range of objections against the project.<sup>3</sup> Most of the arguments referred to aspects of natural protection. With regard to World Heritage, it stated that the townscape will be affected which could impact negatively the status of Graz as World Heritage property.
- The citizens' movement and platform *Rettet die Mur* ("Save the Mur") submitted a broad range of objections, too. According to the platform, beside adverse impacts on the World Heritage status, the "sound" of the Mur will cease and opportunities for water-sport, the townscape and landscape as well as the Mur as area for recreation will be affected.<sup>4</sup> (Note that the arguments are similar to the ones presented by Mr PAUL MATT in his letter to the WHC on 4 October 2012.)
- The *ARGE Müllvermeidung* ("Working Group Waste Prevention") expected a series of negative impacts on the environment and an increase of air- and water pollution, especially of particulate matter. Therefore, adverse impacts on the historic centre of Graz and also on its status as World Heritage will be the consequence.<sup>5</sup>
- The *Österreichische Alpenverein* („Austrian Alpine Club“) questioned if the impacts of the project are compatible with the "Act concerning the Preservation of the historic centre of Graz 2008" (*Grazer Altstadterhaltungsgesetz 2008*).<sup>6</sup>
- The NGO *Alliance for Nature* stated violations of the criteria and goals of the World Heritage Convention. According to it, incompleteness and deficiencies characterise the project with regard to aspects of nature- and environmental affairs, protection of monuments and World Heritage. The NGO said that the project is in contradiction to many regulations aiming at protection (like the "Act concerning the preservation of the historic centre of Graz 2008" – *Grazer Altstadterhaltungsgesetz 2008*, and World Heritage Convention.). Consequently, it asked for denial of the approval of the project and proposed to ask UNESCO, ICOMOS International, ICOMOS Austria and IUCN for consultation. Furthermore, it demanded to include all planned power stations along the Mur in this EIA.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Presented in the EIA, p. 84

<sup>4</sup> EIA, p. 84f

<sup>5</sup> EIA, p. 90

<sup>6</sup> EIA, p. 91

<sup>7</sup> EIA, p. 92



### 6.1.2 Studies and Expert-opinions

In the above-mentioned studies references were made on the one hand to these statements, on the other hand to cultural property and to the World Heritage status of Graz.

#### **ERNST SIMON: Expert-opinion with regard for the EIA for the *Murkraftwerk Graz*<sup>8</sup>**

In his expert-opinion ERNST SIMON examined the impact of the project on cultural property (chapter 3.10.1 *Sach- und Kulturgüter*, p. 77f). Frequent reference was made to World Heritage as well (p. 77f, 108, 147, 151, 187).

He enlisted cultural goods according to their location (districts *Jakomini*, *Innere Stadt*, *Gries* and *Lend*) and made an assessment according their sensitivity. The Federal Protection Office (*Bundesdenkmalamt*) considers the historic city-centre with its buildings along the Mur as an archaeological sensitive area.

Assessment of the impact on cultural goods:

- 1) During the construction-phase:  
No negative impact on cultural goods expected
- 2) During the operation of the power station  
No adverse impact on cultural goods. The rise of the water-level near the city centre will not exceed 20 cm and does not affect adversely the World Heritage property. Following some construction-measures near *Seifenfabrik* an improvement of the situation can be expected.  
In case of unexpected archaeological discoveries he recommended the following compensation-measures:
  - Rescue excavations
  - Flexible assistance by archaeologists and preparation of a documentation
  - Scientific observation of the site exploration

As a result, no adverse impacts on the cultural property will be expected. However, at the construction site a “historically important landscape” could be located: Remains of prisoners of Jewish origin, who were killed during the “death marches” (*Todesmärsche*) at the end of World War II could be buried there. He recommended applying a strict sensitive approach in identifying and excavating the human remains. No adverse impacts on cultural property will occur in case the above-mentioned conditions are strictly taken into consideration or no remains are located there (p. 78).

With regard to the inquiry of the City of Graz concerning the possibility that the quality of the visual setting of the Mur in the World Heritage core zone of could deteriorate, in the expert opinion it was stated that the present quality of the visual setting will not be altered. The head of the water-reservoir area will be located in the core zone of World Heritage; therefore the rise of water level will not change significantly (p. 147). Furthermore, the City of Graz demanded that the Statement of OUV has to serve as basis for the planning of this project. In the expert opinion the following was stated: Due to the fact that the reservoir-area just begins in the buffer zone of the World Heritage property no impacts on the historic city-centre will be expected. However, a more in-depth examination of the impact should be undertaken by an expert in the field of townscape. (p. 151)

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<sup>8</sup> Ernst Simon: *Umweltverträglichkeitsgutachten zum UVP-Verfahren Murkraftwerk Graz*. Graz, 14 Feb. 2012

With regard to the statement of the civil movement *Rettet die Mur* (“Save the Mur”), that the project has to be rejected as it will deteriorate the townscape, landscape and the status as World Heritage, he replied that impairment with regard to the view-axis could occur during the construction-phase. Along the banks, whose status will be re-naturalised with typical vegetation, almost no differences will be noted in future.

### **WILFRIED PISTECKY: Executive Summary of the project<sup>9</sup>**

In his *Executive Summary* WILFRIED PISTECKY referred to cultural property and to the World Heritage Status of Graz. (p. 29) During the construction of the project no adverse impact (like vibrations, visual separation effects and use of areas) on the cultural properties will be expected as in the construction area no cultural properties are located. The operation of the power station will not lead – regarding consumption of space or visual separation effects – any negative impact on monuments. In the area of the World Heritage property and the *Altstadtschutzzone* (historic centre protection zone) the rise of the water-level of the Mur is low and does not harm the visual setting of the town and its monuments. Vibrations leading to negative effects on the monuments will not occur during the operation of the power station. Also, during technical breakdowns no negative impacts on cultural goods will be expected.

### **EIA – Decision of Approval, 20 August 2012<sup>10</sup>**

The EIA took the status of Graz as World Heritage property into consideration. Reference was made to the Management Plan 2007 of the historic centre of Graz, which formulated as goal the enhancing of the architectural quality in the World Heritage zone as well as in its buffer zone. However, as the head of the reservoir-area is close to the buffer zone, apparently no impact of the rise of water-level will be relevant for the built setting of the historic city centre. (p. 111) It was recommended that a more in-depth assessment should be undertaken by an expert regarding the townscape. During the EIA-proceedings the civil movement *Rettet die Mur* (to which the letter to the DIR/WHC referred, see **Annex 1**) questioned the limited extent of the chapter 3.10.1., (Cultural goods) of the expert-opinion of ERNST SIMON (p. 77f, see above chapter 4a). Furthermore, it criticised the statement of the project-operator, *Energie Steiermark*, which considered that the rise of the water level of 20 cm in the reservoir-area will not have any influence on the World Heritage property. Therefore, the civil movement asked for an evaluation of the questioned results and of the comprehensibility of the expert opinion.

In the above-mention Decision the construction of the project was approved. The justification of the approval – with regard to World Heritage – is as follows (p. 320):

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<sup>9</sup> Wilfried Pistecky: *Murkraftwerk Graz – Einreichprojekt zum UVP-Verfahren, Juni 2010 – Allgemein verständliche UVE – Zusammenfassung 0101*

<sup>10</sup> Umwelt und Raumordnung / Amt der Steiermärkischen Landesregierung, Abt. 13: *Wasserkraftanlage Murkraftwerk Graz – UVP – Genehmigungsbescheid*, 20. Aug. 2012 (Department no. 13 – Environment and Spatial Planning / Provincial Government of Styria: Power plant Mur in Graz :)

*... the project-area is located outside of the World Heritage property. Only the head of the reservoir-area lies within the buffer zone. The official expert for landscape and cultural property stated in his expert-opinion (p. 25), that the World Heritage property is not affected by the project as the rise of water-level of the Mur close to the historic city-centre is less than 20 cm.<sup>11</sup>*

## 7 Assessment and evaluation of overall impact of the proposed changes

### 7.1 The Mur in relation to the World Heritage property and its buffer zone

The property was inscribed under criteria (ii) and (iv) in the World Heritage List. The Statement of OUV (**Annex 4**) neither refers to the river Mur; nor does it mention the river in context of the brief synthesis. Although the river did not play a crucial role within the inscription of the site in the List, the Mur forms an eminent part of the townscape of Graz. Therefore, any alterations of the structure and character of the river have to be assessed vis-à-vis World Heritage elements.

This World Heritage property consists of two “core zones” which are linked by a common buffer zone. The core zone which encompasses the Castle of Eggenberg, is not relevant for the project. Therefore, no further reference is made to the part “Castle of Eggenberg” of the World Heritage property.

The other core zone embraces the historic city-centre of Graz, which is fully surrounded by the buffer zone (map: **illustration 5**). The river crosses this part of the World Heritage property as well as the buffer zone. In downstream direction (what means from north to south), the Mur enters the northern perimeter of the buffer zone at Mur-km 179,64, (nearby Wartingergasse, north of Kepler-Bridge), then the core zone at km 179,06 (at Mur-Insel). It leaves the core zone at km 178,45 and enters there the southern perimeter of the buffer zone (near the northern part of the Nikolai-square, south of Tegetthof-Bridge, north of Radetzky-Bridge). The river leaves the southern perimeter of the buffer zone at km 178,24 (near Radetzky-Bridge). At km 178,99 (“Murinsel”) – located within the World Heritage property – is the head of the reservoir area (at mid-level water-level – MQ = 108 m<sup>3</sup>/sec). Therefore, the whole section of the Mur, which is situated within the World Heritage property, will become reservoir area once the project is completed. As the power station will be located at km 175,166, the distance between power station and the southern perimeter of the buffer zone is 3,074 km, and the southern perimeter of the World Heritage property 3,284 km.

The table compares the different affected areas of the project with the World Heritage property (not to scale):

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<sup>11</sup> „Zum Weltkulturerbe ist anzuführen, dass das Projektgebiet außerhalb dessen Kernzone liegt und lediglich die Stauwurzel innerhalb der Pufferzone zu liegen kommt. Darüber hinaus hat der Behördensachverständige für Landschaft, Sach- und Kulturgüter in seinem Gutachten (S. 25) festgehalten, dass das Weltkulturerbe durch das gegenständliche Vorhaben nicht betroffen ist, da die Anhebung des Wasserspiegels der Mur im Bereich Innere Stadt unter 20 cm liegt.“ (Decision of Approval, p. 320)

Upstream		MUR			downstream
Non-affected free flowing section downstream to km 178,99 ("Murinsel")		Km 178,99 ("Murinsel")			Real reservoir area km 175,166 (barrier)
		length of real reservoir area: 3,824 km			
outside of WH- and buffer zone - -km 179,64	Km 179,64 - <b>BUFFER ZONE</b> (northern perimeter) (distance: 0,58 km) - km 179,06	km 179,06- <b>WORLD HERITAGE</b> property (distance: 0,61 km) - km 178,45* *distance from barrier: 3,284 km	Km 178,45 - <b>BUFFER ZONE</b> (southern perimeter) (distance: 0,210 km) -km 178,24	km 178,24- outside of WH- and buffer zone (distance: 3,074 km) -km 175,166	

As we can see, the **barrier** is located outside of the World Heritage- and its buffer zone. The **real reservoir area** affects the area outside of the World Heritage- and the buffer zone, the southern perimeter of the buffer zone as well as the World heritage zone. No information could be obtained concerning an **affected free flowing section** (= reduced speed of water flow, but no rise of water-level) which would be located between the World Heritage zone and the northern perimeter of the buffer zone. The **non-affected free flowing section** is located upstream of the northern perimeter of the buffer zone.

The table shows the through the project different affected areas vis-à-vis the World Heritage property:

Sector of Mur (in upstream direction)	Zone affected by the project		
	World Heritage	Buffer zone	Outside of WH- and buffer zone
Barrier and power-station (km 175,166)	NO	NO	YES
Real reservoir area (km 175,166 – km 178,990, distance: 3,824 km)	YES	YES	YES
Non-affected free flowing section (from km 178,990 upstream)	YES	YES	YES

## 7.2 Water-level

The section downstream of the southern perimeter of the buffer zone, the southern perimeter of the buffer zone itself and the World Heritage property are located within the real reservoir area and are therefore affected by the rise of water-level. The head of the real reservoir area (where the rise of water-level starts) is located at km 178,990 (at Murinsel / Acconti-Insel). This point is located within the World Heritage property. The total length of the real reservoir area (= distance between head of real reservoir area and power station) is 3,824 km. 0,54 km of it are located in the World Heritage property, 0,21 km in (southern perimeter of) the buffer zone (??? 2 buffer zones??) and 3,074 km outside of both zones. As a result, 0,75 km lie within World Heritage-related area (= WH property + buffer zone), whereas the larger part, 3,074 km, is outside of World Heritage.

As the head of the real reservoir area is within the World Heritage property, the rise of water-level will be low. Based on mid-level water-level (MQ = 108 m<sup>3</sup>/sec), the rise of water-level will range between 2 cm and less than 20 cm. The raise of the water-level at Murinsel reaches 2 cm, near the Concert Hall some 5 cm (in connection with a small increase of the flow-rate – see next chapter). In case of low water level (MJNQT, less than 108 m<sup>3</sup>/sec) the same conditions concerning position of the head of the real reservoir area and the raise of water-level will apply. However, in case of higher water level (higher than 108 m<sup>3</sup>/sec) the head of the real reservoir area will move towards the power station. As a result, more quantity of water (melting of snow, heavy rain) does not affect the level of water in that section of the Mur river, which lies within the World Heritage property. During flood (flow-rate higher than

260 m<sup>3</sup>/sec) water-level management (*Wendepiegelsteuerung*) will be applied: Floodgates will be opened what allow a higher flow-rate, activate the transport of sediments, lower the water-level and move the head of the reservoir-area towards the barrier.

Illustrations from 1871 and 2013 allow a comparison of the Mur in the World Heritage area: Following the construction of the bank-reinforcement between 1874 and 1891, the river deepened its bed. As a result, the water-level of the river dropped. The raise of the water level, once the power station will operate, will contribute to re-installing the previous, historically authentic situation. (Illustrations 1 and 2)

### 7.3 Flow-rate

The World Heritage property lies within the real reservoir area. As a consequence, the speed of the water flow will be reduced. However, the grade of speed-reduction will depend on several parameters. First of all, the speed-reduction depends on the location within the real reservoir area. Within the total distance of 3,824 km of the real reservoir area, the flow-rate is higher the closer to the head of the reservoir area. At the barrier the flow-rate reaches its lowest speed. As the head of the reservoir area is located within the World Heritage property, the change of the flow-rate is low.

Furthermore, the flow-rate and its change depend on the quantity of water. The higher the quantity, the higher the flow-rate is. It is not possible to indicate a certain overall speed or speed-reduction, as the Mur changes its water-quantity and therefore its water-level several frequently per day. The changes are caused also through the operation of power plants upstream of the river. In the studies, which were at our disposal, the mid-level water-level (MQ) was indicated with 108 m<sup>3</sup>/sec.

Under this condition, at the concert hall (*Konzerthaus*) the flow-rate will get reduced from 1,23 m/sec to 1,21 m/sec. By taking historic illustrations into consideration, the change of the flow-rate and of the river-bed can be demonstrated. In 1865 the Mur was navigable for ships. (Illustration 3) Shipping depends on the one hand on the flow-rate which must not exceed a certain rate, on the other hand on the water-level. In 2013, however, as illustration 4 demonstrates, the speed of the water makes shipping impossible. The increase of the flow-rate was partly caused by the deepening of the river-bed due to erosion. (Illustration 4)

Sector of Mur (in downstream direction)		
Zone	Rise of water level	Decrease of flow-rate
Northern perimeter outside of WH- and buffer zone	No	No
Northern perimeter of buffer zone	No	No
World Heritage property	Yes e.g. 2 cm at Murinsel, 5 cm at Konzerthaus	Yes e.g. from 1,23 to 1,21 m/sec (Konzerthaus)
Southern perimeter of buffer zone	Yes	Yes
Southern perimeter outside of WH- and buffer zone	Yes	Yes

## 7.4 The “wave”

Near Radetzky-Bridge the Mur shows a natural curiosity, the “wave”, which is caused by specific streaming-conditions at the bridge. Due to the rise of the water-level the wave will disappear. However, the “wave” does not contribute to the OUV of the World Heritage site. As the “wave” is popular among kayakers and canoeists, a new wave could be foreseen between Hauptbrücke and Edeggersteig.

## 7.5 Groundwater conditions

The construction of the barrage and consequently the rise of water-level will cause changes in the conditions of the groundwater. On the basis of simulations, changes of the level of the groundwater in the area of the World Heritage property can be expected. In the districts *Innere Stadt*, *Jakomini* and *Gries*, which are located (partly) in the core zone of the World Heritage property, during the operation of the power station under certain conditions the level of groundwater may rise: It can be expected that during a high-level period of groundwater the level could raise up to 50 cm, close to the river even to 100 cm. However, the average distance of buildings to the Mur is about 5 – 10 m and the average deepness of the basements in that area do not exceed 3 m. Therefore, the impact of the alterations of the level will not be considered as grave. Basements and foundations, which exceed a depth of 3 m, are constructed in a waterproof way already.

The change of quantity of the groundwater will not be significant and will represent a minor adverse impact on the property. But alterations of the quality of the groundwater could occur. For sure, the dynamics of the groundwater will be reduced. However, definitive conclusions, despite some studies and simulations were undertaken, cannot be made.

## 8 Measures to avoid, to reduce or to compensate for impacts - Mitigation

### Measures

The project is located in close vicinity to the World Heritage property and built-up area. Consequently, a thorough Environmental Impact Assessment according to the Environment-Impact Assessment Act (*Umweltverträglichkeitsprüfungsgesetz – UVP-G*, Federal Law Gazette no. 697/1993 in its amended version) was undertaken. Following this procedure, the project was commissioned under certain conditions. The project has to fulfil requirements regarding – e.g. – ecology, risk prevention and infrastructure planning.

Some measures are e.g. the protection of the nearby alluvial forest and installation of a fish ladder to allow the free movement of fish, the improvement of the flood protection as well as measures for the protection of the river bank. As the river bank represents a popular recreation zone for the local population, a new design of the river banks (berms between water-surface and top of the dam) was constructed. Furthermore, within the real reservoir area, the protection of the ground-water and of the amplitude of its level will be assured by a drainage system.

## 9 Summary and Conclusions

- The Statement of OUV of the World Heritage property *City of Graz – Historic Centre and Schloss Eggenberg* does not refer explicitly to the Mur river.



- The central installations (barrier, power station) of the project *Hydroelectric Power Plant Mur in Graz* are located outside of the World Heritage property and of its buffer zone. The distance between barrier and World Heritage area is 3,284 km.
- However, the project, once completed, will have an impact on the World Heritage property and its buffer zone.

- Impact on the World Heritage property

The impact on the World Heritage property is as follows: In the *real reservoir area* of the planned power-station a slight increase of the water-level will occur and the flow-rate of the water be marginally reduced.

Rise of water-level, increase of the flow-rate

As the *head* of the real reservoir area (“Stauwurzel”) lies within the World Heritage property, the increase of the water-level and the reduction of the flow-rate (speed) will be low. (water-level: rise of 2 cm at Murinsel, 5 cm at Konzerthaus) The final extent of the change (rise of water level / speed) will depend on the one hand on the quantity of water available and on the other hand on the specific location. E.g. near the concert hall (*Konzerthaus*) the speed reduces from 1,23 m/sec to 1,21 m/sec. According to the studies the rise of water-level in the area of the World Heritage property is 20 cm at the most.

Visual alterations

From the visual point of view, almost no difference will be noticeable as the vegetation along the banks will be re-cultivated.

Re-setting of the original character of the river-bed

The reduction of the speed of the flow-rate as well as the rise of the water-level will contribute to the re-setting to the original character of the river before its bed was narrowed and deepened at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

### **Overall assessment**

With regard to the changes of the water level and the flow-rate, in terms of HIA the changes can be characterised as a “negligible changes”. Regarding the effect of the changes, they can be characterised as “minor beneficial”.

- Impact on the buffer zone

Impact will be exerted on the buffer zone, too. The southern perimeter of the buffer zone is located entirely in the *real reservoir area*. The northern perimeter lies fully in the *free flowing section*.

Rise of water-level, increase of the flow-rate

While in the *free flowing section* (northern perimeter) no changes will occur, the southern perimeter will be affected by a slight reduction of the flow-rate. There, a minor rise of the water level will occur, too. The rise of the water-level as well as the reduction of the flow-rate will contribute to the re-setting of the historic appearance of the river. As already mentioned above, at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century the river-bed was broadened and deepened.

### **Overall assessment**

With regard to the changes in the buffer zone, in terms of HIA they can be characterised as a “negligible changes”. Regarding their effects, they can be characterised as “minor beneficial”.

- **Final assessment**

Following this assessment, in terms of HIA, the overall impact will lead to “negligible changes”. Regarding the effects, they can be characterised as “minor beneficial”.



## 10 Bibliography

- ICOMOS – Guidance on Heritage Impact Assessments for Cultural World Heritage Properties (HIA, 2011)
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- Maps and photos provided by the City of Graz
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- PISTECKY, WILFRIED: *Murkraftwerk Graz – Einreichprojekt zum UVP-Verfahren, Juni 2010 – Allgemein verständliche UVE – Zusammenfassung 0101* (Water power plant Mur in Graz – Submitted Project for EIA, June 2010 – Executive Summary, no. 0101)
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- Umwelt und Raumordnung / Amt der Steiermärkischen Landesregierung, Abt. 13: *Wasserkraftanlage Murkraftwerk Graz – UVP – Genehmigungsbescheid, 20. Aug. 2012* (Department no. 13 – Environment and Spatial Planning / Provincial Government of Styria: Power plant Mur in Graz : EIA – Decision of Approval, 20 August 2012)
- UNESCO/World Heritage Centre: Letter, ref. CLT/WHC/5763/AT/MM/PT dated 14 Nov. 2012 from the Director of WHC to the Permanent Delegate of Austria to UNESCO including attachments
- World Heritage Committee: Decision 34 COM 8B.37 (2010)

## 11 Abbreviations

BMUKK	Austrian Federal Ministry for Education, Arts and Culture, Vienna
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
HIA	Heritage Impact Assessment
UVE	Umweltverträglichkeitserklärung
UVP	Umweltverträglichkeitsprüfung
WHC	UNESCO-World Heritage Centre

## 12 Acknowledgements and authorship

We wish to thank Mr BRUNO MALDONER (World Heritage Focal Point, BMUKK) and Ms DANIELA FREITAG (World Heritage Office of the City of Graz) for their support. Thanks to their dedication and constructive contributions the different aspects of the project became evident.



PETER STRASSER, MA, LL.M, PhD

Krems, 15 May 2013

## 13 Illustrations and photographs

All figures and photos were provided by the World Heritage office of the City of Graz.

Illustration 1: River-bank (*Murkai*) with Schlossberg, Drawing from 1871. At this section the river is rather broad. The two persons standing in the river Mur indicate the low flow-rate as well as swallow river-bed. (Drawing from Johann Nepomuk Passini, 1871)



Illustration 2: Current situation: View to Schlossberg. Note the deepening of the river-bed in connection with an increase of the flow-rate. (Photo: City of Graz, 2013)





Illustration 3: In 1865 the Mur was navigable thanks to a low flow-rate (view towards Augarten, 1865)

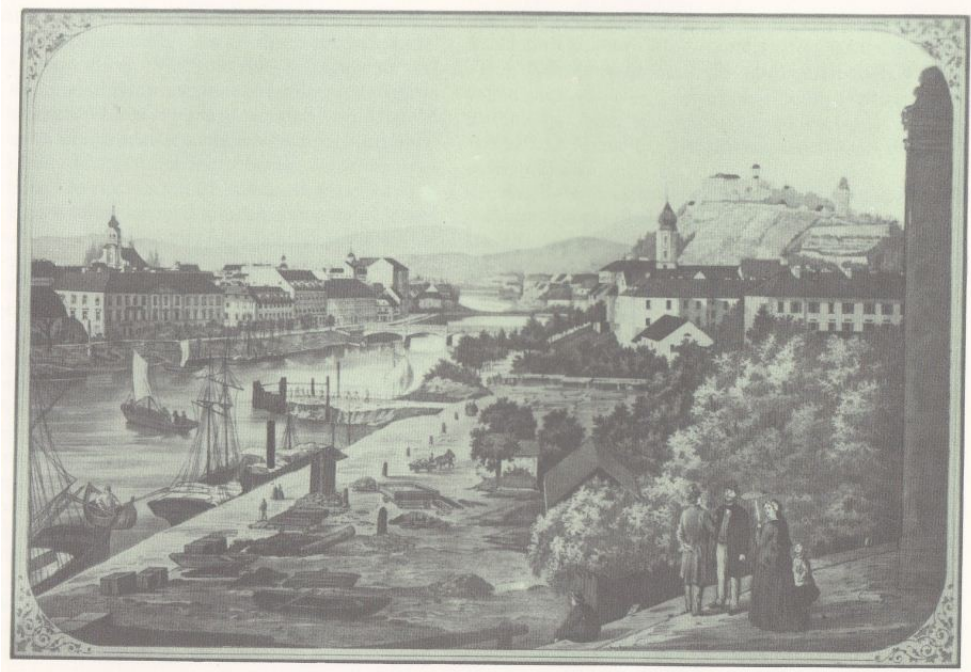
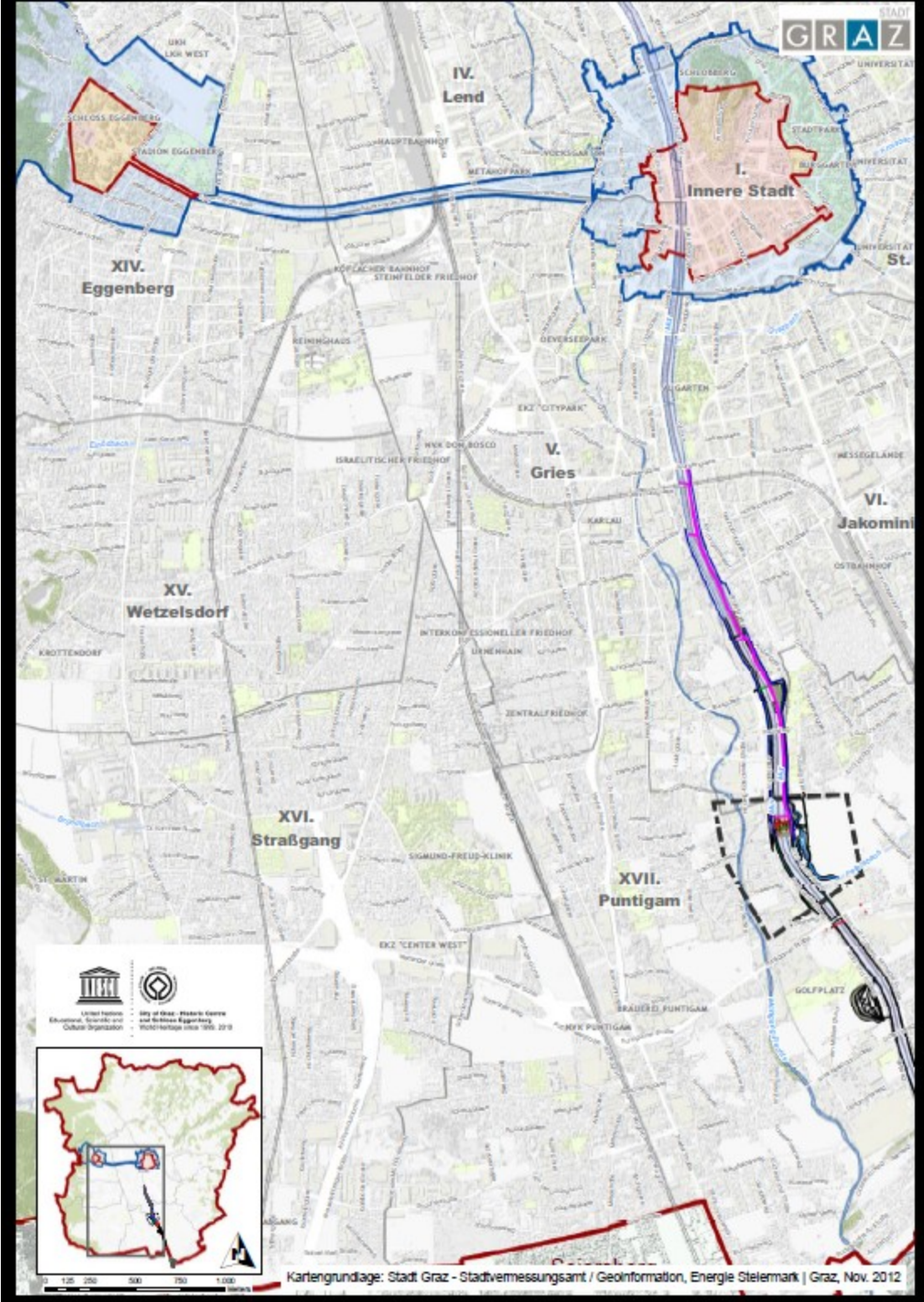


Illustration 4: In 2013 has the Mur deepened and narrowed its bed. Consequently the river increased its flow rate, shipping became impossible (photo: City of Graz).



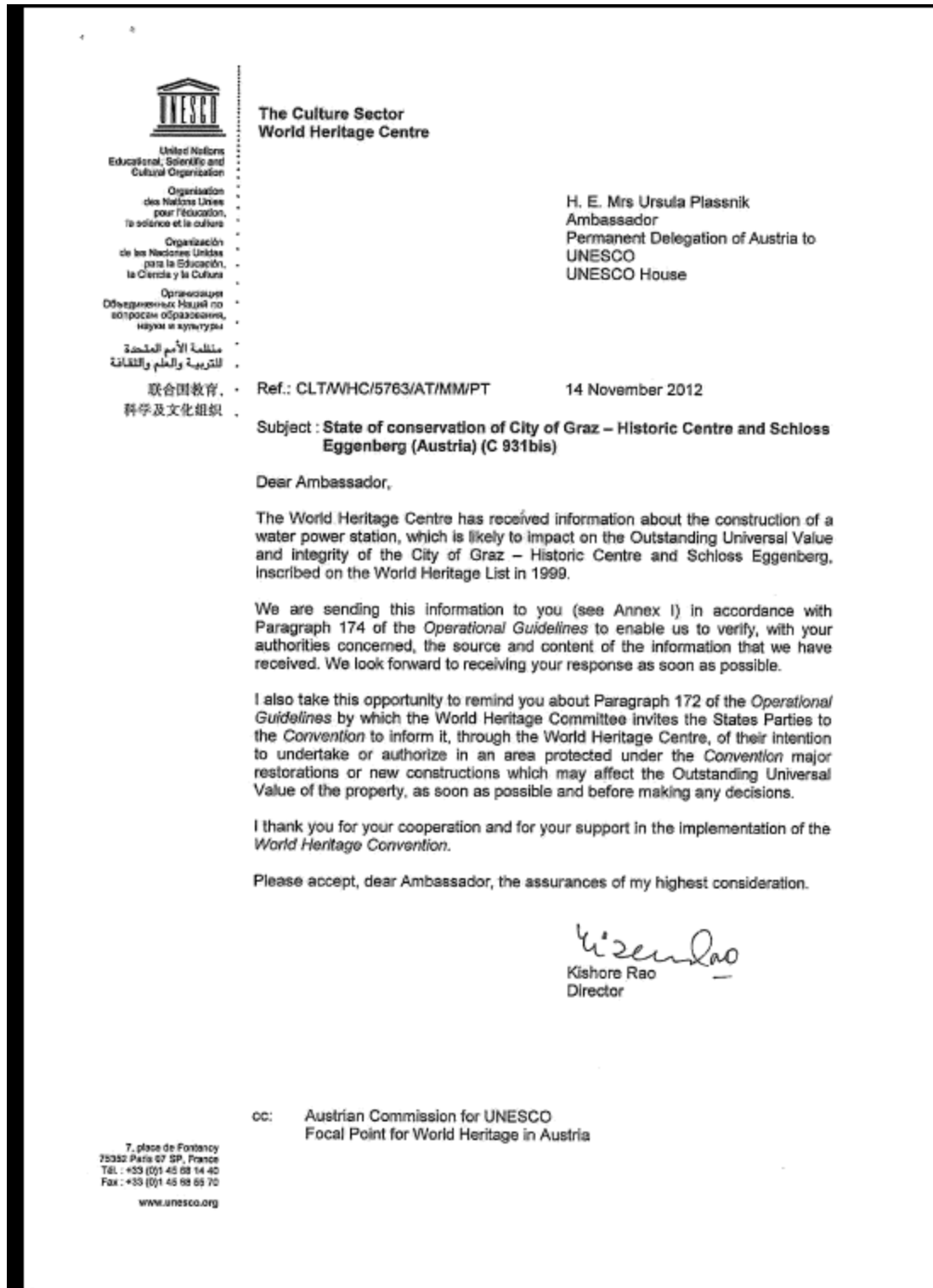


Map 1: Historic Centre of Graz: Location of the project and of the World Heritage property and its buffer zone (map provided by the City of Graz)



## 14 Appendices

### *Annex 1: Letter dated 14 November 2012 from the Director of the WHC to the Permanent Delegate of Austria to UNESCO regarding the planned project “Water Power station Mur in Graz”*





United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

Organisation  
des Nations Unies  
pour l'éducation,  
la science et la culture

Organización  
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Организация  
Объединённых Наций по  
вопросам образования,  
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة  
 للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、  
科学及文化组织

The Culture Sector  
World Heritage Centre

Mr Paul Matt  
Hauptstrasse 272  
A-8141 Unterpremstätten  
Austria

Ref.: CLT/WHC/5764/AT/MM/PT

14 November 2012

**Subject : State of conservation of City of Graz – Historic Centre and Schloss  
Eggenberg (Austria) (C 931bis)**

Dear Mr Matt,

The World Heritage Centre acknowledges with thanks receipt of your letter concerning the state of conservation of the World Heritage property "City of Graz – Historic Centre and Schloss Eggenberg", inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1999.

The World Heritage Centre appreciates your interest in the protection of this World Heritage property and takes note of your concerns.

Please note that in accordance with Paragraph 174 of the *Operational Guidelines*, we are transmitting the correspondence to the competent national authorities, in particular to the Permanent Delegation of Austria to UNESCO.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your interest in the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention*.

Yours sincerely,

Petya Totcharova  
Chief of Unit  
Europe and North America

cc: Permanent Delegation of Austria to UNESCO  
Austrian Commission for UNESCO

7, place de Fontenay  
75352 Paris 07 SP, France  
Tél. : +33 (0)1 45 68 14 40  
Fax : +33 (0)1 45 68 59 70  
[www.unesco.org](http://www.unesco.org)





**PAUL MATT**

Hauptstrasse 272

A-8141 Unterpremstätten

+43(3136)20036 / +43(664)3898364

This Approval is based on a special implementation of the European Water Frame Directive in Austria allowing the approval of such water power stations on the basis of "public interest" even if the water quality will be downgraded.

**Problem details:**

- The river will become a dammed pool with extreme low water flow - no more typical swoosh of the water standing in the centre of Graz
- 8000 old trees will be cutted down and it will take more than 30-50 year until they are grown up again to improve the air and living quality in Graz centre
- Building the water power stations and the required dams in the centre of Graz will heavily influence the living quality in Graz for more than three years and beyond
- Graz is already know as fine dust city of Austria and the removal of that 8000 trees will have a further negative influence on that fact.
- The townscape will be heavily influenced by these changes forever

**What to be done by UNESCO now**

I ask you know to check if such a massive intervention in the world heritage city Graz will allow the city to keep the status of a world heritage site or if this project will lead to the denial of that status.

**Detailed Project Information**


If you need detailed project information I can help you receiving that data but I feel it is better if you are going to contact the city of Graz mayor's office direct and ask for informations about the project based on further evaluation of the world heritage status of the city.

Another possibility to get detailed project information will be the office for "Rettet die Mur" at:

[office@rettetdiemur.at](mailto:office@rettetdiemur.at)

[www.rettetdiemur.at](http://www.rettetdiemur.at)

Best regards,



Paul Matt

*Annex 2: Statement of OUV of the World Heritage property City of Graz – Historic Centre and Schloss Eggenberg (including Brief Description, Brief Synthesis, Integrity, Authenticity, Protection and management requirements, Long Description and Historical Description)(<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/931>, 04-04-2013)*

**Brief Description**

*The City of Graz – Historic Centre and Schloss Eggenberg bear witness to an exemplary model of the living heritage of a central European urban complex influenced by the secular presence of the Habsburgs and the cultural and artistic role played by the main aristocratic families. They are a harmonious blend of the architectural styles and artistic movements that have succeeded each other from the Middle Ages until the 18th century, from the many neighbouring regions of Central and Mediterranean Europe. They embody a diversified and highly comprehensive ensemble of architectural, decorative and landscape examples of these interchanges of influence.*

**Outstanding Universal Value**

**Brief synthesis**

*The City of Graz – Historic Centre and Schloss Eggenberg bear witness to an exemplary model of the living heritage of a central European urban complex influenced by the secular presence of the Habsburgs and the cultural and artistic role played by the main aristocratic families. They are a harmonious blend of the architectural styles and artistic movements that have succeeded each other from the Middle Ages until the 18th century, in the many neighbouring regions of Central and Mediterranean Europe. They embody a diversified and highly comprehensive ensemble of architectural, decorative and landscape examples of these interchanges of influence.*

**Criterion (ii):** *The City of Graz - Historic Centre and Schloss Eggenberg reflects artistic and architectural movements originating from the Germanic region, the Balkans and the Mediterranean, for which it served as a crossroads for centuries. The greatest architects and artists of these different regions expressed themselves forcefully here and thus created a brilliant synthesis.*

**Criterion (iv):** *The urban complex forming the City of Graz – Historic Centre and Schloss Eggenberg is an exceptional example of a harmonious integration of architectural styles from successive periods. Each age is represented by typical buildings, which are often masterpieces. The physiognomy of the city and of the castle faithfully tells the story of their common historic and cultural development.*

**Integrity and authenticity**

*The extension of the City of Graz – Historic Centre property to include Schloss Eggenberg significantly strengthens the integrity of the property. The extension gives rise to the new enlarged buffer zone which is continuous, and includes the ancient road. Furthermore, the castle and its gardens have conserved satisfactory architectural and structural integrity.*

*The external authenticity of the castle is good, and that of the baroque interior on the first floor is excellent. The authenticity of the ground floor, which has been converted into a museum, and that of the garden, which has been partly redesigned and restored, are of a lower level which however remains acceptable.*

**Protection and management requirements**

*Schloss Eggenberg is protected under the Austrian Monument Protection Act (533/1923 and amendments). The Management Plan has been in place since 2007 and brings together the town plan of 2009 and all protection and conservation decisions related to the extended property and the buffer zone, which was enlarged to include the road leading from the historic centre of the city of Graz to Schloss Eggenberg. The Coordination Bureau for the extended property has been in place since 2009, and has been granted strengthened and effective overarching powers. However, particular care needs to be taken with regard to urban development pressures*

inside the property and its buffer zone, in order to maintain the outstanding universal value of the property and ensure that it is fully expressed.

### **Long Description**

*The historic centre of the city of Graz reflects artistic and architectural movements originating from the Germanic region, the Balkans, and the Mediterranean, for which it served as a crossroads for centuries. The greatest architects and artists of these different regions expressed themselves forcefully here and thus created brilliant syntheses. The urban complex forming the historic centre of the city is an exceptional example of a harmonious integration of architectural styles from successive periods. Each age is represented by typical buildings, which are often masterpieces. The urban physiognomy faithfully tells the story of its historic development.*

*The first traces of continuous human settlement go back to the Neolithic period. The site was not a Roman settlement, even though crossed by a few roads. After the fall of the Roman Empire, it was invaded, successively by Avars, Hungarians, and finally by German settlers. Graz was included in the March of Carinthia and mentioned for the first time in an official deed of 1128-29. Around this time an open market began to flourish, leading to urban development with the immigration of Bavarian settlers. After the Treaty of Neuberg (1379) and the first division of the Habsburg heritage, Graz came under the rule of the line established by Leopold III.*

*The 16th century was marked by constant threats from the Turks, as well as religious turmoil. The medieval fortifications were modernized according to Renaissance principles. In 1564, Graz became the capital of Inner Austria, despite the danger of Turkish invasions and the advances made by the Reformation. When elected Emperor in 1618, Ferdinand, son of Archduke Charles II, transferred his court to Vienna, and Graz underwent a relative economic recession. When the danger from the Turks was finally averted the economy boomed once again. Aristocrats and bourgeoisie competed with each other in their aspirations for honours and culture, and several mansions were built in Renaissance or early Baroque style.*

*Among the hundreds of buildings of great historic and architectural interest, a few particularly remarkable edifices are worthy of note. Of the original castle where Emperor Frederick III resided, all that remains is a Gothic hall, a late Gothic chapel, and a double spiral staircase going back to 1499. The wing constructed by Archduke Charles in 1570 has remained largely intact. Frederick III built the present cathedral in late Gothic style (1438-64) alongside a Romanesque church dedicated to St Aegidius. It contains admirable frescoes such as the 'Scourges of God', attributed to Thomas von Villach (1480). Following the transfer of the bishopric from Seckau to Graz, the church of St Aegidius, used for 200 years as a centre for the Counter-Reformation, became the cathedral of the new diocese in 1786.*

*The Mausoleum of Emperor Ferdinand II, started in 1614 by Giovanni de Ponis, was only consecrated in 1714 when the interior decoration, entrusted to Johann Bernhard Fischer von Ehrlach, was completed. The facade in particular reflects the transition from the Renaissance to the Baroque style and is an original synthesis between a powerful architecture topped by light domes. The Seminary (former Jesuit College): unlike other colleges, this impressive complex, started in 1572, was not remodelled in the Baroque style and is therefore an important illustration of the severe Renaissance architecture adopted by the order when it was first established in the German province.*

*After the dissolution of the order in 1773, the Jesuit University came under public control. In order to safeguard its collection, the library was installed in the old magna aula and in the theatre, on the orders of Empress Maria Theresa. Its decoration and furnishings make it a significant manifestation of the transition from the Rococo to the classical style, and it now serves as a show case for the Styrian Archives.*

Source: UNESCO/CLT/WHC

### **Historical Description**

*The first traces of continuous human settlement of the site goes back to the Neolithic period. The site was not used as a Roman settlement, even though a few roads crossed it. After the fall of the Roman Empire, it was invaded, first by Alpine Slavs, the Avars, a horse-riding nomadic people subjugated by Charlemagne, then by the Hungarians, who were defeated at the battle of Lechfeld in 955; and finally by German settlers. Graz was thus included in the march of Carinthia. A small fortress (gradec in Slavic, hence the name of Graz) was erected on*

*the Schlossberg hill, while a few houses and a church were constructed around it. Graz was mentioned for the first time in an official deed of 1128/29.*

*It was around this time that an open market began to thrive, leading to the first urban development with the immigration of Bavarian settlers. Besides the local nobility, the population consisted of traders and artisans, as well as a Jewish community which remained there until the 15th century. Graz was governed by the Houses of Traungau and Babenberg, and was given the status of a city.*

*After the Treaty of Neuberg in 1379 and the first division of the Habsburg heritage, the city came under the rule of the line established by Leopold III. Graz became the capital of Inner Austria, composed of Styria, Carinthia, Carniola, Istria, and Trieste. Graz also became a favourite royal place of residence, particularly for Frederick III (1453-93), who granted it many privileges, had many buildings erected, and rebuilt the Church of St Aegidius, now the cathedral.*

*The city and region then became involved in serious armed conflicts with Hungarian and Turkish invaders. In 1480, the Turks even arrived the gates of the city: this episode is portrayed in a fresco in the cathedral entitled "The Scourges of God," a Gothic masterpiece by Master Thomas von Villach. The 16th century was marked by constant threats from the Turks, as well as religious turmoil. To confront these threats, the medieval fortifications were completely reorganized and modernized according to the rules in force during the Renaissance. In 1559, the Clock Tower, the symbolic monument of Graz, was given its characteristic appearance, which has remained unchanged to these days.*

*In 1564, as a result of a new partition of the Habsburg lands, Graz became the capital of Inner Austria, despite the danger of Turkish invasions and the advances made by the Reformation. Three-quarters of the inhabitants were Protestants, active in the burgeoning Protestant Foundation where Kepler, the famous astronomer and mathematician, taught.*

*However, the city was soon to undergo the most important phase of its development with the arrival of the Jesuits in 1572. Archduke Charles II supported the Counter-Reformation, established the Jesuit University and went to great lengths to undermine the Protestant Foundation, which disappeared in 1600. His son Ferdinand had a monumental mausoleum built by the artist Pietro de Pomis. However, on his election as Emperor in 1618, he transferred his court to Vienna and Graz underwent a relative economic recession. During the 17th century, several mansions were built in the Renaissance or early Baroque styles: the Kollonitsch Palace, the Effans von Avernas Palace, and the Stubenberg palace, the last-named passing on to the Welserheim family. Facades were remodelled in these styles and courtyards enclosed by arches were added to existing buildings. In the western part of the city, the Governor of Inner Austria, Hans Ulrich von Eggenberg, built a ducal palace of great artistic interest; it is the most important Baroque palace in Styria. The great architect Johann Bernhard Fisher von Erlach, was born in Graz in 1656. When the danger from the Turks was finally averted thanks to two decisive victories, Saint Gotthard in 1664 and Vienna in 1683, the economy boomed once again. Aristocrats and bourgeoisie competed with each other in their aspirations for honours and culture.*

*Graz subsequently expanded towards the south and south-west. Factories and banks were set up and started to thrive. However, the movement to centralize Austrian power, ending in the abolition of Inner Austria, weakened the institutions of Graz. At the same time, pilgrimage centres, such as Maria Hilf and Maria Trost, became monumental sanctuaries. The suppression of convents undertaken by Joseph II led to the closing of nine out of sixteen monasteries, whilst the University Library was enriched with works from forty monasteries in Styria and Carinthia. In 1786, the Bishop of Seckau transferred his residence to Graz and turned the Church of St Aegidius into a cathedral. The Jesuit Order was dissolved in 1773 and their university turned into a State university.*

*The economic growth of the city was severely affected by the wars between the Coalition and France. French troops occupied Graz on several occasions, in 1797, 1805, and 1809, imposing heavy war levies. They besieged the Schlossberg, which put up a brave resistance; however, under the terms of the Treaty of Schönbrunn, the fortifications had to be demolished. In 1839, a public park was laid out over the Schlossberg, giving it its present aspect.*

*The 1848 Revolution was a fairly moderate one. The pro-German middle class governed the city until 1918. It was a flourishing period for modern town planning. The city acquired military land to create green areas for the public and declared them as non-aedificandi zones. Urban expansion was channelled outside this green belt and*

*influenced by the Biedermeier style and then the Jugendstil, whilst the historic centre continued to be the social and commercial hub of the town.*

*The assassination of the heir to the throne, Archduke Franz-Ferdinand, who was born in Graz in the Khuenburg Palace, triggered off the hostilities of World War I in 1914. When the new frontiers were drawn up in 1918-19, Graz lost its hinterland and to a certain extent was relegated to the fringe from the geographical and economic points of view. In 1938, the seventeen surrounding municipalities formed a town incorporated into Greater Graz. World War II was followed by a slow return to normal, and Graz once again became a modern garden city, a cultural and industrial centre, and a university town.*

*Source: Advisory Body Evaluation*

### *Annex 3: ICOMOS evaluation 1999*

#### **Graz (Austria)**

<b>Identification</b>	No. 931
<b>Nomination</b>	City of Graz – historic centre
<b>Location</b>	Province of Styria
<b>State Party</b>	Austria
<b>Date</b>	18 June 1998

#### **Justification by State Party**

*The historic centre of Graz, with its group of well-preserved buildings dating back to several periods, is an outstanding example of an historic Central European city. Its authenticity has not been affected by the wars or the subsequent periods of economic expansion. An "urban organism," between the river and the Schlossberg, emerged from the Middle Ages, and was to play an important role in Europe as a princely court and as a bastion of the Empire against the Ottomans.*

*The various stages of urban development can be clearly identified. Each epoch is represented by typical architectural styles which form a harmonious whole. Even now, the city is a melting pot for an unusual mixture of Mediterranean and Nordic influences, evidence of the vast expansion of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy, reflected in its urban structure, in the atmosphere of its streets and squares, and in the elaborate architecture of its churches, monasteries, palaces and big houses.*

*When the city spread in the 19th and 20th centuries it left behind a green zone all-round the historic centre on the site of the old fortifications. The social structure of the historic centre has been preserved to a high degree by adapting areas of traditional life within the walls of old buildings.*

*The Middle Ages bequeathed churches with vast naves, as well as an urban system and large houses clustered around the foot of the Schlossberg and on the two banks of the river Mur. The Renaissance and Baroque periods are represented by numerous religious buildings, imposing aristocratic residences, courtyards enclosed by elegant arches, and splendid facades. Finally, the Classical period left numerous buildings of interest in the south and east of the historic centre. The heart of Graz therefore has exceptional value as an urban structure and as an example of remarkably well preserved traditional architecture. Criterion iv*

#### **Category of property**

*In terms of the categories of cultural property set out in Article 1 of the World Heritage List of 1972, the historic centre of Graz is a group of buildings.*

#### **History and Description**

##### **History**

*The first traces of continuous human settlement of the site go back to the Neolithic period. The site was not used as a Roman settlement, even though a few roads crossed it. After the fall of the Roman Empire, it was invaded, first by Alpine Slavs, the Avars, a horse-riding nomadic people subjugated by Charlemagne; then by the Hungarians, who were defeated at the battle of Lechfeld in 955; and finally by German settlers. Graz was thus included in the march of Carinthia. A small fortress (gradec in Slavic, hence the name of Graz) was erected on the Schlossberg hill, while a few houses and a church were constructed around it. Graz was mentioned for the first time in an official deed of 1128/29.*

*It was around this time that an open market began to thrive, leading to the first urban development with the immigration of Bavarian settlers. Besides the local nobility, the population consisted of traders and artisans, as well as a Jewish community which remained there until the 15th century. Graz was governed by the Houses of Traungau and Babenberg, and was given the status of a city.*

*After the Treaty of Neuberg in 1379 and the first division of the Habsburg heritage, the city came under the rule of the line established by Leopold III. Graz became the capital of Inner Austria, composed of Styria, Carinthia, Carniola, Istria, and Trieste. Graz also became a favourite royal place of residence, particularly for Frederick III (1453-93), who granted it many privileges, had many buildings erected, and rebuilt the Church of St Aegidius, now the cathedral.*

*The city and region then became involved in serious armed conflicts with Hungarian and Turkish invaders. In 1480, the Turks even arrived at the gates of the city: this episode is portrayed in a fresco in the cathedral entitled "The Scourges of God," a Gothic masterpiece by Master Thomas von Villach. The 16th century was marked by constant threats from the Turks, as well as religious turmoil. To confront these threats, the medieval fortifications were completely reorganized and modernized according to the rules in force during the Renaissance. In 1559, the Clock Tower, the symbolic monument of Graz, was given its characteristic appearance, which has remained unchanged to these days.*

*In 1564, as a result of a new partition of the Habsburg lands, Graz became the capital of Inner Austria, despite the danger of Turkish invasions and the advances made by the Reformation. Three-quarters of the inhabitants were Protestants, active in the burgeoning Protestant Foundation where Kepler, the famous astronomer and mathematician, taught.*

*However, the city was soon to undergo the most important phase of its development with the arrival of the Jesuits in 1572. Archduke Charles II supported the Counter-Reformation, established the Jesuit University and went to great lengths to undermine the Protestant Foundation, which disappeared in 1600. His son Ferdinand had a monumental mausoleum built by the artist Pietro de Pomis. However, on his election as Emperor in 1618, he transferred his court to Vienna and Graz underwent a relative economic recession.*

*During the 17th century, several mansions were built in the Renaissance or early Baroque styles: the Kollonitsch Palace, the Effans von Avernas Palace, and the Stubenberg palace, the last-named passing on to the Welserheim family. Facades were remodelled in these styles and courtyards enclosed by arches were added to existing buildings. In the western part of the city, the Governor of Inner Austria, Hans Ulrich von Eggenberg, built a ducal palace of great artistic interest; it is the most important Baroque palace in Styria. The great architect Johann Bernhard Fisher von Erlach, was born in Graz in 1656. When the danger from the Turks was finally averted thanks to two decisive victories, Saint Gotthard in 1664 and Vienna in 1683, the economy boomed once again. Aristocrats and bourgeoisie competed with each other in their aspirations for honours and culture.*

*Graz subsequently expanded towards the south and south-west. Factories and banks were set up and started to thrive. However, the movement to centralize Austrian power, ending in the abolition of Inner Austria, weakened the institutions of Graz. At the same time, pilgrimage centres, such as Maria Hilf and Maria Trost, became monumental sanctuaries. The suppression of convents undertaken by Joseph II led to the closing of nine out of sixteen monasteries, whilst the University Library was enriched with works from forty monasteries in Styria and Carinthia. In 1786, the Bishop of Seckau transferred his residence to Graz and turned the Church of St Aegidius into a cathedral. The Jesuit Order was dissolved in 1773 and their university turned into a State university.*

*The economic growth of the city was severely affected by the wars between the Coalition and France. French troops occupied Graz on several occasions, in 1797, 1805, and 1809, imposing heavy war levies. They besieged the Schlossberg, which put up a brave resistance; however, under the terms of the Treaty of Schönbrunn, the fortifications had to be demolished. In 1839, a public park was laid out over the Schlossberg, giving it its present aspect.*

*The 1848 Revolution was a fairly moderate one. The pro-German middle class governed the city until 1918. It was a flourishing period for modern town planning. The city acquired military land to create green areas for the public and declared them as non aedificandi zones. Urban expansion was channelled outside this green belt and influenced by the Biedermeier style and then the Jugendstil, whilst the historic centre continued to be the social and commercial hub of the town.*

*The assassination of the heir to the throne, Archduke Franz-Ferdinand, who was born in Graz in the Khuenburg Palace, triggered off the hostilities of World War I in 1914. When the new frontiers were drawn up in 1918-19, Graz lost its hinterland and to a certain extent was relegated to the fringe from the geographical and economic points of view. In 1938, the seventeen surrounding municipalities formed a town incorporated into Greater Graz. World War II was followed by a slow return to normal, and Graz once again became a modern garden city, a cultural and industrial centre, and a university town.*

### **Description**

*The inscription of the city of Graz on the World Heritage List is justified, above all, by the exceptional character of the urban complex as such and by the harmonious example of town planning and architectural styles reflecting successive periods in the history of the city and its development. Among the hundreds of buildings of great historic and architectural interest, a few particularly remarkable edifices are worthy of note.*



#### • **The Castle**

*Of the original castle where Emperor Frederick III resided, all that remains is a Gothic hall, a Late Gothic chapel, and a double spiral staircase going back to 1499. The wing constructed by Archduke Charles in 1570 has remained largely intact. A monumental Early Renaissance portal leading to the inner courtyard is the work of Domenico dell'Aglio, and shows the influence of Sebastiano Serlio which had spread all over Europe.*

#### • **The Seminary (former Jesuit College)**

*Unlike other colleges, this impressive complex, started in 1572, was not remodelled in the Baroque style and is therefore an important illustration of the severe Renaissance architecture adopted by the Order when it was first established in the German Province.*

#### • **The Old Jesuit University**

*After the dissolution of the Order in 1773, the University came under public control. In order to safeguard its collection, the library was installed in the old magna aula and in the theatre, on the orders of Empress Maria Theresa. Its decoration and furnishings make it a significant manifestation of the transition from the Rococo to the Classic style, and it now serves as a show case for the Styrian Archives.*

#### • **The Cathedral**

*Frederick III built the present cathedral in the Late Gothic style (1438-64) alongside a Romanesque church dedicated to St Aegidius. It contains admirable frescoes such as the "Scourges of God" (the Plague of Locusts, the Turkish Invasion, and the Black Death) attributed to Thomas von Villach (1480). Following the transfer of the bishopric from Seckau to Graz, the church of St. Aegidius, used for 200 years as a centre for the Counter-Reformation, became the cathedral of the new diocese in 1786.*

#### • **The Mausoleum of Emperor Ferdinand II**

*Started in 1614 by Giovanni de Ponis, the mausoleum was only consecrated in 1714 when the interior decoration, entrusted to Johann Bernhard Fischer von Ehrlach, was completed. The facade, in particular, reflects the transition from the Renaissance to the Baroque style and is an original synthesis between a powerful architecture topped by light domes.*

### **Management and Protection**

#### **Legal status**

*The area proposed for inscription on the World Heritage List covers 72ha and includes 450 buildings. Most of them are privately owned and are regularly maintained. Many buildings of major importance belong to the Austrian Federal Government, the Province of Styria, and to several churches and other public institutions. The area is subject to legal and statutory protection at federal, regional, and local levels. Very strict directives are based, in particular, on the Act on the Protection of Monuments (Denkmalschutzgesetz) of 1923, amended in 1978 and 1990, as well as the Act for the Conservation of the Historic Centre of Graz (Grazer Altstadterhaltungsgesetz) of 1980.*

#### **Management**

*The above-mentioned directives are supervised by the Bundesdenkmalamt, which is also responsible for the direct management of public buildings. Any transfer of property or changes made to the buildings must be authorized by this government service, through the Landeskonservatorat of Styria, which has its seat in Graz. In compensation, subsidies are granted for restoration works.*

*The Act for the Conservation of the Historic Centre defines four zones of protection of various degrees. The first zone covers the perimeter proposed for inscription and is subject to the highest degree of protection, whilst the three others serve as a buffer zone. The Government of Styria took complementary steps in 1986 to protect the "roofscape" and traditional windows. Special subsidies have been granted for conservation and restoration work in the protected zones, the expenses being borne by the Fund for the Conservation of the Historic Centre.*

Two specialized services are responsible for safeguarding the historic centre. The first permanently monitors the works undertaken and the changes of attribution. The other one oversees major rehabilitation projects and manages a Programme of Urban Renovation.

Among the urban protection measures, the following should be mentioned:

- overall control of traffic and parking of cars, and definition of the areas reserved for pedestrians;
- monitoring of the flow of the river Mur to prevent flooding;
- efficient handling of tourism to make it compatible with the aspirations of the inhabitants.

Complementary arrangements will be added to protect the natural heritage, such as the Schlossberg and the City Park.

The construction of modern buildings is authorized with elaborate precaution. In this respect, the Graz School of Architecture enjoys an international reputation. Such operations are usually the outcome of a competition.

Several protection associations are involved in the conservation of the city of Graz, the most important being the **Internationales Städteforum** Graz.

### **Conservation and Authenticity**

#### **Conservation history**

For decades respect for the original urban plans and traditional architecture has been common practice; this has been institutionalized by protective laws and regulations. A comprehensive documentation has been compiled showing the care paid to maintenance and conservation works with a view to preserving both the configuration and the social functions of the historic centre, especially after the wars of this century.

In the course of the last ten years, the controlling bodies have supervised works in over half of the historic monuments and most of the public areas, on the basis of preliminary historical and architectural studies.

#### **Authenticity**

The historic centre of the city of Graz has a high degree of authenticity, given normal urban dynamics. The city has not suffered much from war damage, and changes have usually been limited and harmonized with the existing constructed environment.

The historic centre has retained its morphology and traditional structures. The boundaries of the districts and old fortifications are still very visible. The two urban focal points, the old market and the ducal residence, still have their original character. The detailed survey has been fully preserved, and the same applies to the boundaries of the glacis, transformed into a green area.

The major historic monuments have kept their architectural and decorative authenticity - for instance, the Armoury with its original weapons, or the vast Stadtkrone complex of the Palace, University, Cathedral and Mausoleum.

The authenticity of the 19th century districts is of a different nature, but just as genuine. The houses of the Gründerzeit offer greater flexibility for changes of attribution over time.

There is a problem of authenticity over the transformations of ground-floor windows which contrast with the historic architectural environment. Nevertheless, the urban integrity is not compromised and, moreover, corrective measures are being implemented within the framework of the rigorous management procedures described above.

### **Evaluation**

#### **ICOMOS action**

An ICOMOS expert mission visited Graz in January 1999.

#### **Qualities**

The historic centre of the city of Graz is an exceptional example of town planning over the centuries, with a harmonious integration of buildings constructed in successive architectural styles. The centre therefore has a value as a historic monument while continuing to lead a contemporary and dynamic social life. Surrounded by green areas, the old city has kept its urban configuration and urban scale, as well as an atmosphere marked by the fruitful encounter between different cultural and artistic movements.

### **Comparative analysis**

*The city of Graz is part of a fairly diversified network of central European cities in the south-west. Its origins are medieval. It is distinguished by architectural expressions of an age-old emulation between the high aristocracy and a very active merchant middle class. It also clearly illustrates the episodes of resistance to invasions from the east, the historic tensions between religions, and the synthesis of cultural influences from the Danube, the Balkans, and the Adriatic.*

### **Brief description**

*The historic heart of the city of Graz is a central European urban centre marked by the centuries-old presence of the Habsburgs. The old city forged an unusual image through a harmonious integration of architectural styles and artistic movements which have succeeded each other since the Middle Ages, as well as the different cultural influences of the neighbouring regions.*

### **Recommendation**

*That this property be inscribed on the World Heritage List on the basis of criteria ii and iv.*

- **Criterion ii:** *The historic centre of the city of Graz reflects artistic and architectural movements originating from the Germanic region, the Balkans, and the Mediterranean, for which it served as a crossroads for centuries. The greatest architects and artists of these different regions expressed themselves forcefully here and thus created brilliant syntheses.*
- **Criterion iv:** *The urban complex forming the historic centre of the city of Graz is an exceptional example of a harmonious integration of architectural styles from successive periods. Each age is represented by typical buildings, which are often masterpieces. The urban physiognomy faithfully tells the story of its historic development.*

*ICOMOS, September 1999*

## *Annex 4: ICOMOS evaluation 2010*

### **Schloss Eggenberg (Austria)**

#### **No 931bis**

*Official name as proposed by the State Party: The City of Graz – Historic Centre and Schloss Eggenberg*

*Location: Community of Graz, Province of Styria, Republic of Austria*

*Brief description:*

*Schloss Eggenberg was built in the late Renaissance at the start of the Baroque period. It has conserved its painted and stucco interior décor, the composition and the ornamental complexity of which reflect the Baroque and Rococo conceptions of the universe. It is set in the midst of a park with trees and parterres of later design.*

*Category of property:*

*In terms of categories of cultural property as defined in Article 1 of the 1972 World Heritage Convention, this is a monument.*

### **1. BASIC DATA**

*Included in the Tentative List:*

*8 February 2005*

*International Assistance from the World Heritage Fund for preparing the Nomination: None*

*Date received by the World Heritage Centre: 31 January 2005*

*14 January 2008*

*27 January 2010*

*Background: The nomination is a proposal for an extension of the City of Graz – Historic Centre, inscribed in 1999 on the basis of criteria (i) and (iv).*

*The examination of this extension proposal was deferred by the World Heritage Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006, Decision 30 COM 8B.51).*

*The extension proposal was again examined at the 33<sup>rd</sup> session of the World Heritage Committee (Seville, 2009), which took the decision 33 COM 8B.31:*

*The World Heritage Committee,*

*1. Having examined Documents WHC-09/33.COM/8B and WHC-09/33.COM/INF.8B1,*

*2. Refers the extension of the City of Graz – Historic Centre, to include Schloss Eggenberg, Austria, back to the State Party in order to allow it to:*

*a) Extend the buffer zone to the road connecting the historic centre to the Castle along its entire length, through the intermediate zone urbanised in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, so as to preserve the historic link that existed between the two elements;*

*b) Strengthen the authority and broaden the scope of competence of the City of Graz Historic Centre World Heritage Coordination Bureau, which is in charge of the management plan.*

*Consultations: ICOMOS consulted its International Scientific Committee on Historic Towns and Villages.*

*Literature consulted (selection):*

*Mosser, M., Histoire des jardins de la Renaissance à nos jours, Paris, Flammarion, 2002.*

*Heilbron, J.L., Astronomie et églises, collection Bibliothèque scientifique, Paris, Belin, 2003.*

*Faucherre, N., Pellerin, A., Joly d'Aussy, D., Crazannes, logis alchimique, Paris, Le Croît vif, in 8, Paris, 2003.*

*Cohen, G.B. and Szabo F.A.J. (ed) Embodiments of power: building baroque cities in Europe, New York, Berghahn Books, 2008.*

Technical Evaluation Mission:

8–10 September 2008

Additional information requested and received from the State Party: None

Date of ICOMOS approval of this report:

17 March 2010

## 2. THE PROPERTY

### **Description**

*Schloss Eggenberg is located c 3km west of the historic centre of Graz. It was built shortly after 1625, on the site of an earlier castle, as the state residence of Duke Hans Ulrich von Eggenberg (1568–1634), one of the most prominent political personalities of 17th century Austria. The Palace was linked with the city centre by a nearly straight road. The main zone of the nominated property consists of the Palace and its Park. The area is surrounded by a buffer zone, which encloses part of the surrounding small housing area and extends to a natural park area in the west. It includes the starting point of the avenue leading towards the city centre.*

*Schloss Eggenberg is generally presented as the joint work of the Italian-born architect to the Graz Court, Pietro de Pomis (1569–1633), and the architect Laurenz van de Syype from the Netherlands. It was planned by the Duke for representative purposes, and it was also designed as a comprehensive architectural allegory, as a visible sign both of his new powerful worldly position and of the humanist-inspired vision of an ideal world. References are made to the utopias of the time, such as those of Tommaso Campanella, Thomas More, and Johann Valentin Andreae, part of whose works are conserved in the Eggenberg library. For example, there is a total of 365 windows in the Palace (equivalent to the days in a year) and the number of rooms on each floor is 31 (representative of the number of days in a month). Further numbers refer to weeks, hours, etc. The Hall of the Planets, the Chapel, and the Theatre are laid out on an axis that is of particular importance for the building. The ground plan of the Schloss is a large rectangle (c 65m x 70m), recalling Spanish examples of Alcazar type construction, especially the castle-monastery of El Escorial. The main body of Schloss Eggenberg has three storeys. The corners are raised, forming tower-like additions with conical roofs. The inner part of the quadrangle is divided into three courtyards arranged in a T-shape. Axial symmetry was an architectural novelty, here used for the first time in Austria. Following the Spanish tradition, its plain exterior rejects all ornamentation in favour of the simple contrast between the white wall surfaces and the ochre colour of the structural elements. The inner courtyards, however, demonstrate an unexpected play of light and shade. On the first level there is a richly decorated Mannerist grotto. The other rooms are more recent alterations. In the centre of the building, at the intersection of the interior buildings, there is a central tower. This is the only surviving part of the 15th century castle. It includes a chapel on the second floor in Late Gothic style with tracery bays, gridded vaulting, a sculpted altar, and a painted retable.*

*The second floor is made up of a cycle of 24 representative State Rooms. Its main focus is the Hall of the Planets so named because of the theme of its decorations. It was the work of the painter Hans Adam Weissenkircher (1646–95) from Salzburg, whose paintings are set into a vaulted stucco ceiling. The state rooms were created in two phases, representing the Baroque and Rococo style respectively. Of particular interest is the cycle of 600 ceiling paintings and friezes, executed by several court painters from 1666 to 1673, which has been completely preserved. The remaining decoration was created in 1754–63, and is based on the drawings of Josef Hueber, who also reconstructed the Eggenberg court theatre as the Maria Schnee (Our Lady of the Snows) palace church. The large angel sculptures of the Maria Schnee altar are by Philipp Jakob Straub and derive from an icon of the same name in Santa Maria Maggiore in Rome.*

*Three 18th century Oriental rooms are particularly noteworthy: their Chinoiserie decorations combine the Chinese and Japanese styles with European characteristics. The Japanese room is decorated with imported painted paper screen panels. Dating from the beginning of the 17th century, they are a rare representation in the west of the Momoyama period in Japan (1570–1610), and depict the city of Osaka. Five bedrooms in the north wing were painted by the Styrian artist Johann Baptist Anton Raunacher (1729–71). Bedroom 20 is dedicated to hunting scenes, 21 to bucolic scenes, 23 to card and other games, and 24 to the theatre.*

*The present Schloss Eggenberg Park was created from 1802 onwards as a sophisticated 'English Garden' where botanical rarities were acclimatised. The garden integrates some parts of the landscape garden. In the 20th century the garden lost some of its features, and starting in the 1990s it has undergone renovation and partial replanting, including the new Garden of the Planets, which was built on the site of the lost Pleasure Garden.*

### **Extension**

*Graz is an exemplary model of the living heritage of a central European urban complex influenced by the secular presence of the Habsburgs. The old city is a harmonious blend of the architectural styles and artistic movements that have succeeded each other since the Middle Ages, together with cultural influences from the neighbouring regions.*

## **History and development**

*The Eggenberg dynasty can be traced back to a landed patrician family in Graz in the early 15th century. Balthazar, a mint master of Emperor Frederick III, had the Orthof Castle built in the mid-15th century on the ancient trading route west of Graz. The chapel was built in the central tower in around 1470. The family took the name of Eggenberg at this time. The rebuilding of the Castle was undertaken in 1625, with only the central tower of the former Palace being conserved. The work was commissioned by Prince Hans Ulrich von Eggenberg (1568–1634), of the Styrian Eggenberg dynasty. Educated at the Protestant University of Tübingen, he converted to Catholicism and became a proponent of the Counter-Reformation in the Holy Roman Empire. At the turn of the 16th and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries, he was a close collaborator and friend of the Archduke of Styria, and then of Emperor Ferdinand II.*

*Towards the end of the period 1610–20 he was one of the most eminent dignitaries of the Empire. In 1621 he became Governor of Styria, and then an Imperial Prince and Duke of Krumau (Bohemia). He was at the height of his power when he undertook the building of Schloss Eggenberg on the site of the former family property, near Graz. The Castle reflects the newly increased power of the Eggenbergs. Its architect was Pietro de Pomis (1569–1633), who was employed by the Emperor. Originally from the Milan area, he was an architect, painter, and medal-maker and was a leading light of the art of the Catholic Counter-Reformation in the Empire. Laurenz van de Syype from the Netherlands continued his work at Graz from 1632 to 1634. Pietro Valnegro and Antonio Pozzo then completed the work on the Castle until 1646. At the beginning of the 18th century the Eggenberg dynasty was suddenly extinguished, following the early death of the last male representative of the family. The Styrian possessions passed to the Counts Herberstein and Leslie. The Herberstein had the Castle redecorated from 1754 to 1763 in a Rococo style, under the direction of the Viennese architect Josef Hueber (1715–87). All the rooms were furnished with high-quality faience stoves, chandeliers, and wall lights of Bohemian glass. The court theatre was rebuilt as the Castle Church; its wooden gallery was modified into a Rococo oratory and included in the cycle of state rooms.*

*The garden was originally laid out geometrically in the 17th century Renaissance style. It was completely redesigned in the following century and transformed into a Rococo-style French garden, featuring hedged parterres. From 1820 onwards it was transformed into a landscape garden.*

*Having lost its functions in the early 19th century the Castle was opened to visitors as early as 1830. The Herberstein family sold the property in 1939 to the Province of Styria. Damaged during World War II, the ground floor of the Castle was converted into a museum and underwent alterations (1947–52). The reorganisation of the Museum rooms and collections at the beginning of the 2000s was especially notable for the opening of a lapidarium featuring Roman stone objects in the Park. An area of some 2000m<sup>2</sup> on the ground and first floors has been renovated for use as exhibition rooms, which were opened to the public in 2005.*

## **3. OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE, INTEGRITY, AND AUTHENTICITY**

### **Comparative analysis**

*The State Party draws a comparison between the remains of the original 16th century Castle, and particularly its tower and chapel, with the buildings in France by Jacques Coeur at Bourges and Jean Rolin at Autun, the architectural objectives and structures of which are considered to be similar to those of the Eggenberg dynasty and its first castle.*

*The castle of Hans Ulrich, built in the 17th century, is compared to El Escorial, built by Philip II and inscribed on the World Heritage List (Monastery and site of El Escorial, Spain, 1984). The comparison in this case is based on the symbolism of the architectural choices and the geometrical juxtaposition of the courtyards. The influence of northern Italy and its symbolism is also strongly present through the personality of the architect Pietro de Pomis and the role of the plans of the theoretician Sebastiano Serlio. The concept of the fortified Italian castello is also mentioned, even though the Castle does not possess any features of military architecture.*

*In France the Château de Richelieu, built by Armand-Jean du Plessis, Cardinal Richelieu, is of the same type. It was totally destroyed during the French Revolution. ICOMOS considers that Schloss Eggenberg must be considered in connection with the introduction into Styria of late Renaissance and early Baroque art and architecture, and its importance is closely linked with the cultural context of this region.*

*The Castle refers to several stylistic schools. It reveals the influence of the Italian Baroque, through its architect Pietro de Pomis, and more generally the intellectual influence of western and Mediterranean Europe in its design. Through its overall architecture, Schloss Eggenberg also has similarities with northern styles, such as the work of Laurenz van de Syype. Reference can also be made to Schloss Johannisburg at Aschaffenburg (Bavaria), which is very similar in form and was built a few years earlier.*

*Several properties on the World Heritage List represent late Renaissance–Baroque architecture in Central Europe, such as the Historic Centre of Vienna (Austria 2001), Budapest, including the Banks of the Danube, the Buda Castle Quarter and Andrásy Avenue (Hungary, 1987 and 2002), the Historic Centre of Prague (Czech Republic, 1992), and Litomyšl Castle (Czech Republic, 1999).*

*In terms of interiors, Schloss Eggenberg bears witness to the intellectual demands of the Counter-Reformation and their expression in Baroque and Rococo decoration. Relatively speaking, a connection may be made on this point with Schönbrunn (Palace and Gardens of Schönbrunn, Austria, 1996).*

*In this context, Schloss Eggenberg constitutes an important artistic and architectural example in Styria. It is considered to complement the historic integrity of the City of Graz and it strengthens the expression of its outstanding universal value, which has already been recognised.*

*Schloss Eggenberg is not mentioned in the comparative analysis of the nomination dossier of the City of Graz – Historic Centre (1999). However, the construction of the castle is referred to in the description of the property and the section on history.*

*ICOMOS considers that the comparative analysis justifies consideration of the inscription of Schloss Eggenberg as an extension of the City of Graz – Historic Centre.*

### **Justification of the Outstanding Universal Value**

*The extension is considered by the State Party to be of Outstanding Universal Value as a cultural property for the following reasons:*

- *From the 15th to the 18th century Schloss Eggenberg and the City of Graz were inseparably linked because of the influence of the Eggenberg dynasty, which made a major contribution to the cultural and political development of the city and the region. In many of their aspects, the architecture and decoration of the Castle reflect this history.*
- *Schloss Eggenberg is an exceptionally well preserved example which bears witness, through its architecture and external decoration, to the influence of the late Italian Renaissance and the Baroque period.*
- *Its interior decoration bears testimony to the Baroque and Rococo styles, expressing an ambitious aesthetic and intellectual programme illustrating the cosmography of the period.*

*Justification for the inscription of the original nomination:*

*The historic centre of the City of Graz reflects artistic and architectural movements originating from the Germanic region, the Balkans, and the Mediterranean, for which it served as a crossroads for centuries. The greatest architects and artists of these different regions expressed themselves forcefully here and thus created brilliant syntheses.*

*The urban complex forming the historic centre of the City of Graz is an exceptional example of a harmonious integration of architectural styles from successive periods. Each age is represented by typical buildings, which are often masterpieces. The urban physiognomy faithfully tells the story of its historic development. ICOMOS considers that this justification is appropriate because Schloss Eggenberg, its park and the first stretch of the avenue leading towards the historic centre of the city of Graz complement the main property, and contribute to the strengthening of its outstanding universal value.*

### **Integrity and Authenticity**

#### *Integrity*

*The Schloss Eggenberg and the Eggenberg dynasty are inseparably linked with the Province of Styria and its capital, the city of Graz, not only geographically but also from the viewpoints of history, culture, and traditions. The Castle and the garden have conserved their overall architectural and structural integrity.*

*The estate, which is located some 3 km from the city centre, was originally linked to the centre by an avenue, of which only an original stretch of c 500m still remains. This part of the avenue, which begins at the exit from the castle, is included in the proposed extension. The rest of the avenue is conserved, but within the 20th century urban fabric; not having any special protection, this link between the city centre and the Castle has undergone substantial restructuring as a result of the conurbation's urban development, and the development of its industry, railway network and university. It does however physically express the complementarity between the*

historic centre and the residence of one of its main aristocratic families. In its new proposal, the State Party suggests that the road should be included in a specific buffer zone (Zone XIII), which should be added, to would provide a continuous connection between the property and the proposed extension. This proposal complies with recommendation a) of World Heritage Committee recommendation 33 COM 8B.31.

ICOMOS considers that the integrity of the proposed extension is satisfactory.

ICOMOS considers that the property and its proposed extension are two complementary dimensions of the historical development of the city of Graz, and of the lifestyle of its elites in the modern period. This complementarity is tangibly expressed in the new extended buffer zone which connects the property and the proposed extension.

#### *Authenticity*

Schloss Eggenberg was largely unoccupied throughout the 19th century, as the Herberstein family only spent a few weeks there each year. The furniture and the décor have thus remained intact and complete. The only notable alterations in the 20th century affected the rooms on the ground floor, which were converted to museum galleries. The official and state rooms of the Castle, on the first floor, are an authentic example of a Baroque and Rococo interior, which are matched by few other similar buildings.

Part of the church décor was painted over after World War II. Restoration of the underlying murals is planned over the next few years. The materials and external surfaces of the Castle have been preserved, with restorations that respect the original.

The roofs have been restored unchanged, with the replacement of original tiles in poor condition and the re-fixing of the surviving original tiles. The grotto has been restored in the same way. The retable of the chapel altar, which was broken up in the 18th century and sold in 1929, has been recovered and reassembled and was replaced in 1996. Since it became public property in 1939, the Park has lost some of its decorative and botanical elements (rose mound, the Temple of Bacchus, and the former Pleasure Garden), restoration of which has been announced. The kitchen garden was redesigned as a contemporary garden in 2002 by Helga Maria Tornquist. A new building has been constructed on the site of the former orangery to house the archaeological collections.

ICOMOS considers that the conditions of integrity and authenticity have been met.

Criteria under which inscription is proposed: The extension is nominated on the basis of cultural criteria (ii) and (iv), and of the additional criterion (vi). The City of Graz – Historic Centre property was inscribed on the basis of criteria (ii) and (iv). Criterion (vi) is thus an additional criterion which is specific to the extension.

Criterion (ii): 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. This criterion is justified by the State Party on the grounds that, like the historic centre of Graz which reflects artistic interchanges between the Germanic area, the Balkans, and the Mediterranean, Schloss Eggenberg is an exemplary illustration of the way in which the architectural and decorative concepts of the Romance countries were received in Central Europe.

The humanistic spirit of Protestantism is combined here with iconographic paradigms of southern Catholic origin.

ICOMOS considers that Schloss Eggenberg bears witness, through the architects and artists who worked there, to cultural interchanges between central and southern Europe in the late Renaissance and Baroque periods, particularly in Styria. Its decorative programme well reflects the intellectual needs of the period in the context of the Counter-Reformation, and the Rococo decorations bear witness to the lifestyle of 18th century Europe.

As had already been indicated in the ICOMOS evaluation in 2006, this is an important example for Styria which cannot, however, be considered as having universal value in itself. ICOMOS considers that this criterion can only be justified through an effective association with the historic centre of Graz illustrating the influence of the philosophical ideas and architectural principles that originated in southern and central Europe, which has been tangibly expressed by the extension of the buffer zone. ICOMOS considers that as a result of the effective link with the historic centre of Graz, this criterion has been justified.

Criterion (iv): be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history. This criterion is justified by the State Party on the grounds that Schloss Eggenberg is one of the masterpieces that make up the urban complex of the historic centre of Graz. It represents the Italian castello type which was one of the standards of European aristocratic architecture from the early Renaissance period.



*Forming an integral part of the City of Graz as the residence of the governors of the town and the region, Schloss Eggenberg is an important component of the integrity of Graz as an example of urban planning and the harmonious integration of buildings successively constructed in different architectural styles. It is unrivalled by any other monument in its completely preserved interior decoration of the highest intellectual quality, which constitutes an architectural and decorative model of contemporary conceptions of the universe.*

*ICOMOS considers that Schloss Eggenberg and its Park complete the range of types of architecture already present in the historic centre of Graz, as an example of town planning and the harmonious integration of buildings erected successively in different architectural styles marked by the successful encounter between various cultural and artistic movements. As part of the city, since it was the governors' residence, Schloss Eggenberg is an important element that helps to strengthen the integrity of the historic centre of Graz. ICOMOS considers that this criterion has been justified.*

*Criterion (vi): be directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance. The State Party proposed this as an additional criterion on the grounds that Schloss Eggenberg bears an exceptional testimony to the political and intellectual programme of the man who commissioned it. It is therefore an outstanding monument of a personal world view transformed into an elaborate total work of art. ICOMOS considers that, although the Castle, the building of which began in 1625, and its initial decorative scheme reflect the original desire of its initiator to assert his power, the 18th century alterations, together with later changes to the design of the Park, have obliterated this dimension of expressing a cultural tradition and illustrating ideas in an architectural and artistic work. ICOMOS considers that, in the current context with the Castle nominated on its own as an extension to the property and not as an analysis of this new criterion for the entire property, it has not been justified. ICOMOS considers that this criterion has not been justified.*

*ICOMOS considers that the proposed extension fully meets criteria (ii) and (iv) and that it significantly strengthens the Outstanding Universal Value of the City of Graz – Historic Centre.*

*Description of the attributes*

- *Schloss Eggenberg complements the living urban heritage of the City of Graz – Historic Centre. It constitutes a remarkable set of monuments which strengthens the testimony provided by the city of the synthesis of central and southern European cultures, from the end of the Renaissance to the Baroque and Rococo periods. It provides a remarkable stylistic synthesis of them with its own specific values.*
- *Schloss Eggenberg bears witness both to the artistic and intellectual flourishing of the Counter-Reform in central Europe and to a lifestyle which was specific to the aristocratic elites of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.*
- *Schloss Eggenberg, with its park and its landscapes, complements the range of buildings which form the historic centre of the city of Graz, by adding an eminently aristocratic residence which is at once nearby and distant from the urban centre.*

#### **4. FACTORS AFFECTING THE PROPERTY**

*Development pressures*

*The zone near the Castle is a suburban area, which is densely built-up in certain places.*

*The State Party has indicated that there are five construction projects of some significance, all of which, however, are obliged to comply with specific directives (see Protection, Boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone): a restaurant, a group of dwellings, a secondary school, a project for the reconstruction of the Eggenberg baths, and the extension of the Castle lapidarium next to the northern part of the Castle walls. Behind the castle to the west, on the slope of a hill, the building of individual houses may have an impact on the landscape.*

*Tourism pressures*

*The Castle, the Museum, and the Park are visited by some 300,000 people each year. The facilities and spaces provided allow the reception of visitors without giving rise to any particular threat to the property. A reasonable increase in the number of visitors, which would result if the property were inscribed on the List, could take place without major changes to the reception infrastructures and without generating any particular pressures.*

*The use of the Castle for official receptions could cause some damage to the interior of the property, particularly because of repeated modifications to the relative humidity of the rooms, which could affect the conservation of wall paintings and the most fragile decorations. It is agreed, under the management plan, that the Castle will only be used for this purpose five times a year, and in new rooms specially adapted for receptions.*

### *Environmental pressures*

*There are no pressures linked to air quality, which is good, or pollution, which is under control. Road traffic density around the Park is low.*

### *Natural disasters*

*Schloss Eggenberg is not situated in zones affected by flooding, landslides or avalanches, or earthquakes. Fire risk is regularly monitored by the fire service.*

### *Impact of climate change*

*There is no evidence of climate change in measurements taken in the City of Graz. ICOMOS considers that the main threat to the property is urban development.*

## **5. PROTECTION, CONSERVATION, AND MANAGEMENT**

### ***Boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone***

*The boundaries of the property proposed as an extension are those of the Park, and include the ancient road leading to the City of Graz, over a distance of 500m. The total area is 19.1 ha. There are no permanent residents in the property.*

*The extended property will have a total area of 91.1 ha. The buffer zone of the proposed extension covers a large area to the west of the property, in order to conserve the quality of the landscape on the hillside to the rear of the park. To the north and south, it covers built-up zones which are 150 metres and 350 metres wide. To the east, it consists of quite a wide strip on either side of the avenue forming the first stretch of the road towards the city. The areas are partly built-up with residential properties and public buildings (see Development pressures).*

*Between the Castle and the City, the buffer zone has been enlarged (Zone XIII) to include the ancient road linking the Palace to the historic centre of the city of Graz. It continues along Eggenberg Allee beyond the part already included in the property; it follows Eggenberg Strasse, crosses the railway bridge, and arrives at a road junction where it widens out to form an acute angle at Annenstrasse. Here it joins the urban buffer zone. The zone is 2040 metres long, and 70 metres wide (but slightly wider where it joins the urban buffer zone). It includes the buildings next to the road on both sides.*

*ICOMOS considers that the extension of the buffer zone along the ancient road provides a tangible expression of the physical and historic links between Schloss Eggenberg and the historic centre of the city of Graz. It complies with recommendation a) of decision 33 COM 8B.31.*

*The buffer zone of the extended property will have an area of 24.2ha. ICOMOS considers that the boundaries of the property and of the new continuous buffer zone between the city and the castle are satisfactory.*

### ***Ownership***

*Schloss Eggenberg and its Park are the property of the Province of Styria. They have been managed by the Steiermärkische Landesmuseum Joanneum since 1947. They constitute an entirely public space.*

### ***Protection***

#### ***Legal protection***

*Schloss Eggenberg is protected under the Austrian Monument Protection Act (533/1923 and amendments). The protection covers both immovable and movable property of historical, artistic, or other cultural value. The Act was revised in 1999 and amended by a Decree in 2006. The application of the legal protection is the responsibility of the Education, Art, and Culture Ministry.*

*At provincial level, Schloss Eggenberg and its Park are protected under the Graz Historic Centre Conservation Act (GAEG, 1974 and 1980). This Act has been updated and supplemented by the Graz Historic Centre Preservation Act (2008).*

*At local level, the Castle and its Park are subject to the regulations and decisions associated with the current Urban Development Plan and the Land Use Plan of the City of Graz. These plans set out the general framework*

*of inquiries for building permits, particularly in the buffer zone. The buffer zone is protected and is subject to a specific regime for the granting of building permits and modifying existing housing. Inside the Schloss Eggenberg buffer zone, constructions and extensions to buildings must not exceed the prescribed heights of the current housing in the quarters concerned. These provisions have been extended to Zone XIII, corresponding to the road linking the castle to the city, and specific provisions have been added, in particular a programme for the improvement of architectural and urban quality and of visual perspectives. All these measures are set out and harmonised in the new framework document: Graz Urban Planning (2009). ICOMOS considers that the protective measures taken, particularly the regulatory extension applying to buffer zone XIII, are satisfactory.*

#### *Traditional protection*

*There is no traditional protection as such, apart from the attachment of the inhabitants of Graz and Styria to the Castle and its Park, a site which is one of the most popular in the region with visitors.*

#### *Effectiveness of protection measures*

*With regard to the Castle and its Park, the regulations in force are playing their role. With regard to the buffer zone of the property proposed as an extension, the five major projects announced by the State Party seem to be appropriately controlled, particularly in terms of prescribed height and architectural conformity. The programme for the gradual architectural and urban improvement of buffer zone XIII is satisfactory. ICOMOS considers that the protective measures for the property nominated for the extension are adequate.*

### **Conservation**

#### *Inventories, recording, research*

*The Museum has reports on the inspection and monitoring of the property since the 19th century. Existing documents and publications are abundant; they show that scientific knowledge exists concerning not only the architecture, but also all the decoration and furniture. Research concerning the restoration of the gardens led to the production of a guide and reference document in 1993, and these have recently been updated. A handbook of recommendations for the architectural and decorative conservation of the Castle was also compiled in 2005.*

#### *Present state of conservation*

*The Castle and Park are in a good state of conservation.*

#### *Active conservation measures*

*Several restorations of the Castle building took place in the 20th century, particularly following the installation of the Museum on the ground floor. The main recent conservation programme took place from 1983 to 1999 and was carried out with all the necessary scientific safeguards as regards preliminary studies and execution of works. The conservation works were conducted in turn on the chapel, the central tower, the roofs, and the facades. A glazed entrance chamber was installed in the chapel to make visits possible without causing damage to the furniture as a result of excessively large variations in relative humidity and temperature. The chamber installation is reversible and does not affect the integrity of the chapel.*

*There have been several conservation campaigns on the state rooms on the first floor. Work was carried out on the prestigious Hall of the Planets between 1979 and 1983. All the other rooms were covered during an extensive programme implemented from 1994 onwards. The interior space of the Museum and the presentation of the collections were restructured as part of a major programme in the early 2000s. These changes have not affected the integrity/authenticity or the conservation of the property.*

*In 1993 a guide to the management/conservation of the Park was scientifically compiled, with a view to carrying out gradual restoration of the landscape structure and planting composition. These objectives led to visible results from 2000 onwards. In 2001–2003 the abandoned parts of the Park were restructured so as to evoke the theme of the planets. A visitor reception and accompaniment service is organised by the Museum department.*

## *Maintenance*

*Routine maintenance is carried out by the Museum staff and the Park staff.*

## *Effectiveness of conservation measures*

*The National and Regional Monuments Departments intervene for the conservation and restoration of the property, in conjunction with their specialist archaeology, architecture, and monument inventory units. The restoration–conservation works carried out at Schloss Eggenberg and in its Park have been well conducted and effective. They have maintained and in many cases restored the integrity/authenticity of the property proposed as an extension.*

*ICOMOS considers that the conservation measures for the Castle and its Park are appropriate, and that today they constitute a coherent ensemble whose integrity and authenticity are of good quality. ICOMOS considers that the conservation measures are satisfactory.*

## **Management**

*Management structures and processes, including traditional management processes*

*For the Castle and its historic Park, the management structure and processes consist of the following elements:*

- *studies on and the scientific monitoring of the conservation of the Castle and its historic Park are carried out by the Federal Historic Monuments Office (BDA);*
- *the management of the site and the Museum and the reception of visitors are carried out by the permanent staff of the Landesmuseum Joanneum, under the control of the Region of Styria. The second floor of the Castle is open for guided visits.*

*The Castle can be reached by public transport, and there is a parking area for 300 vehicles. The protection measures inside the buffer zone are enforced by the departments of the City of Graz, under the control of the relevant national and regional authorities.*

*The implementation of the Management Plan (December 2006) has been the responsibility of the City of Graz Historic Centre World Heritage Coordination Bureau since the start of 2007. The Bureau brings together representatives of the various partners involved in the management of the property. It has been operational since the start of 2009. The scope of its action includes the property proposed for extension. In accordance with recommendation b) of decision 33 COM 8B.31, the role and powers of the Coordination Bureau have been strengthened. One of its tasks is the permanent coordination of the application of the Management Plan, and it harmonises the actions of the various partners and parties involved: municipal departments, administrative bodies and civil authorities, particularly with the Historic Monuments Preservation Department, citizens' associations, etc. It acts as a body for mediation, information and the monitoring of actions and control of their conformity. Its role as a mediator and a body which builds intermediate consensus is important, as shown by the creation of a detailed project, acceptable to all parties, for additional buffer zone no. XIII, and by the fact that the number of appeals against world heritage property management decisions was reduced to zero in 2009, compared with the previous total of 41. ICOMOS wishes to express its satisfaction that a Coordination Bureau has been set up which coordinates the efforts of the various partners in the management of the extended property, whose powers have been strengthened, and which has proven its effectiveness. Recommendation b) of decision 33 COM 8B.31 has been fully complied with.*

*Policy framework: management plans and arrangements, including visitor management and presentation*

*A management-restoration guide exists for the Park, which was drawn up in 1993 in conjunction with the Historic Monuments Department. The document was revised and updated in 2006 in the form of the Park management-conservation plan (Parkpflegewerk). The management plan adopted in December 2006 (City of Graz Historic Centre, Management Plan 2007) was drawn up in the first instance as a response to the Committee's decision 30 COM 8B.51 (Vilnius, 2006) and secondly to apply to the ensemble formed by the property already inscribed on the List and the proposed extension.*

*It includes the general guidelines for the management and conservation of the property and its buffer zone and a master plan for the land and the property. So far as the property proposed as an extension is concerned, this is a master plan for the management of spaces and landscapes. It also sets out a programme of works necessary to maintain and reinforce the integrity/authenticity of the environment of the property. Several programmes have*

been created since 2004 for the presentation and promotion of the property, particularly with regard to the Museum collections.

ICOMOS considers that there is a coherent and effective management system in place for the Castle and its Park.

The joint management plan, for the property already inscribed and the proposed extension, complies with its recommendations.

#### *Risk preparedness*

The property and its possible extension are considered in the evaluation and monitoring of risk factors by the Municipality and the Region, and in the intervention procedures of the local and regional civil protection authorities in the event of an accident. A fire detection system is in place in the Castle, together with emergency procedures for the evacuation of visitors in the event of an accident.

#### *Involvement of the local communities*

With regard to the property proposed as an extension, the Municipality of Graz is mainly involved in the land and urban planning management of the buffer zone. The Coordination Bureau is in regular contact with citizens' associations which take an interest in the property. The associations are thus involved in the management process.

#### *Resources, including staffing levels, expertise and training*

Schloss Eggenberg is entirely financed by the Landesmuseum Joanneum (stakeholders: Province of Styria 85%, City of Graz 15%). Special subsidies can be granted via the Federal Monuments Department. Until 2001, the restoration of the state rooms was financed by a radio and television tax. Since 1985, 11 million euros have been invested in restoration. The restoration of the interior, which began in 1993, has been financed to the extent of about 2 million euros. In addition, 5 million euros have been granted for the reorganisation and expansion of the Museum's collections. The Park has been granted subsidies of 800,000 euros. Everyday maintenance is carried out by the staff of technicians, caretakers, and cleaners (38 persons). There are eleven scientists, 36 staff concerned with visitors, and 44 security staff, both full-time and part time. Experts from other departments of the Landesmuseum Joanneum can be called in as required. Eight restorers work in the Museum, several of whom specialise in paintings. The various staff takes training courses from time to time to increase their skills.

#### *Effectiveness of current management*

ICOMOS considers that the current management of the property proposed as an extension is effective. It is well established, as regards both the conservation of the Castle and its Park and the museographic activity and the control of urban development in the buffer zone. It is provided with significant human and material resources. Initially it was more a management system with clearly defined roles for the Region and the Municipality, but today it is coordinated and controlled by the property's Coordination Bureau. ICOMOS considers that the management system of the proposed extension is adequate.

## **6. MONITORING**

Since 2005 the regular monitoring of the conservation and maintenance of the Castle and the gardens has followed the recommendations of a handbook from the Buildings Department and a guide to the restoration / conservation of the Park. They are carried out by the staff and scientific officials of the Landesmuseum Joanneum. They constitute the monitoring of the property proposed as an extension, which comprises in particular:

- The Park and its immovable property are assessed annually; the vegetation is continuously monitored by the staff in charge of planting and upkeep.
- The built elements of the Castle, and in particular the roofs, the drains, the wall surfaces, and the openings, are checked annually; the functional elements are under permanent surveillance by the Museum staff.
- Interior atmospheric parameters are continuously monitored.

- *The fire alert and protection system is checked annually by specialists, and also where necessary at the request of the Museum.*
- *The interior paintings and decorative elements are continuously monitored; the furniture is checked annually. Regular monitoring is also carried out on the state of the collections.*

*All the inspection, control, and monitoring evaluation reports constitute a basic documentation for the Castle and its related elements. The Landesmuseum Joanneum has also produced an annual overview report since its creation in the 19th century. ICOMOS considers that the monitoring is adequate.*

## **7. CONCLUSIONS**

*ICOMOS recognises the significant strengthening of the integrity and outstanding universal value of the “City of Graz – Historic Centre” property by its extension to include Schloss Eggenberg.*

### **Recommendations with respect to inscription**

*ICOMOS recommends that the extension of the City of Graz – Historic Centre to include Schloss Eggenberg and become City of Graz – Historic Centre and Schloss Eggenberg be approved on the basis of **criteria (ii) and (iv)**.*

### **Recommended Statement of Outstanding Universal Value**

#### **Brief synthesis**

*The City of Graz – Historic Centre and Schloss Eggenberg bear witness to an exemplary model of the living heritage of a central European urban complex influenced by the secular presence of the Habsburgs and the cultural and artistic role played by the main aristocratic families. They are a harmonious blend of the architectural styles and artistic movements that have succeeded each other from the Middle Ages until the 18th century, in the many neighbouring regions of Central and Mediterranean Europe. They embody a diversified and highly comprehensive ensemble of architectural, decorative and landscape examples of these interchanges of influence.*

***Criterion (ii):** City of Graz - Historic Centre and Schloss Eggenberg reflects artistic and architectural movements originating from the Germanic region, the Balkans and the Mediterranean, for which it served as a crossroads for centuries. The greatest architects and artists of these different regions expressed themselves forcefully here and thus created brilliant syntheses.*

***Criterion (iv):** The urban complex forming City of Graz – Historic Centre and Schloss Eggenberg is an exceptional example of a harmonious integration of architectural styles from successive periods. Each age is represented by typical buildings, which are often masterpieces. The physiognomy of the city and of the castle faithfully tells the story of their common historic and cultural development.*

#### **Integrity and authenticity**

*The extension of the City of Graz – Historic Centre property to include Schloss Eggenberg significantly strengthens the integrity of the property. The extension gives rise to the new enlarged buffer zone which is continuous, and includes the ancient road. Furthermore, the castle and its gardens have conserved satisfactory architectural and structural integrity. The external authenticity of the castle is good, and that of the baroque interior on the first floor is excellent. The authenticity of the ground floor, which has been converted into a museum, and that of the garden, which has been partly redesigned and restored, are of a lower level which however, remains acceptable.*

#### **Protection and management requirements**

*Schloss Eggenberg is protected under the Austrian Monument Protection Act (533/1923 and amendments). The Management Plan has been in place since 2007 and brings together the town plan of 2009 and all protection and conservation decisions relating to the extended property and the buffer zone, enlarged to include the road leading from the historic centre of the city of Graz to Schloss Eggenberg. The Coordination Bureau for the extended property has been in place since 2009, and has been granted strengthened and effective overarching powers. However, particular care needs to be taken with regard to urban development pressures inside the*



*property and its buffer zone, in order to maintain the outstanding universal value of the property and ensure that it is fully expressed.*

*ICOMOS recommends that the State Party should give consideration to the following point:*

- *Ensure effective control of works projects in the various parts of the enlarged buffer zone so as to ensure the long-term conservation of the property's landscape integrity.*