The Value of Heritage for Sustainable Development and How to Evaluate It: SoPHIA Model

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The Value of Heritage for Sustainable Development and How to Evaluate It: SoPHIA Model

Summary

The SoPHIA H2020 project (Social Platform for Holistic Heritage Impact Assessment) developed a comprehensive model to assess the impact of interventions of cultural heritage on the development of communities. This model addresses the need for multidimensional evaluation in heritage projects, incorporating social, cultural, economic, and environmental factors. The project had aligned with the EU's strategic goals of promoting sustainable and inclusive growth, recognizing cultural heritage as a key resource for resilience and innovation.
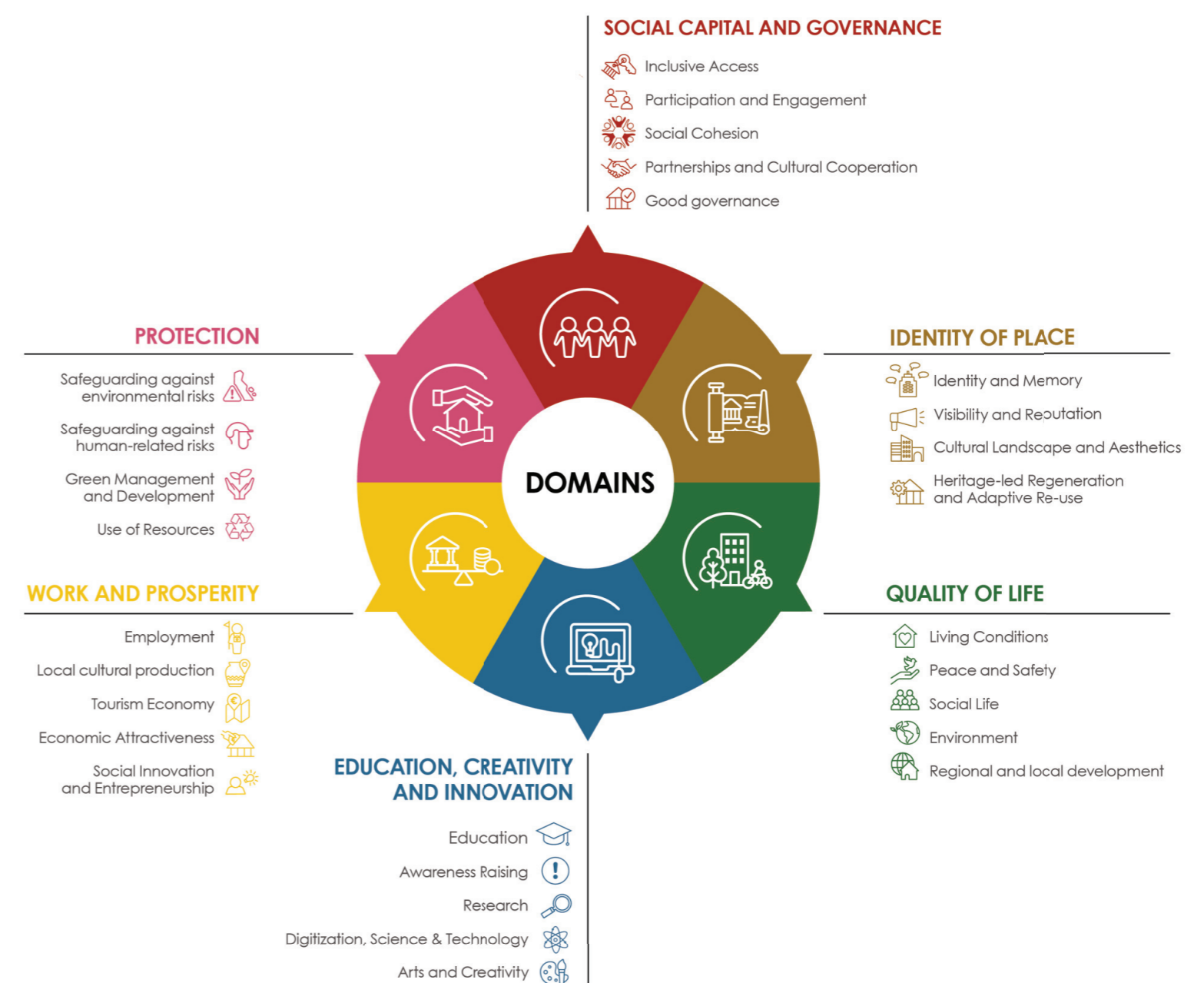
SoPHIA's model is structured around three axes:

- time - assessing impacts of heritage interventions before, during, and after interventions
- stakeholders - ensuring inclusive participation
- domains - integrating multidisciplinary perspectives for evaluating the social, cultural, economic, and environmental impacts of heritage projects.

By including both qualitative and quantitative indicators, the model measures the effectiveness of heritage projects in contributing to social cohesion, cultural diversity, economic growth, and environmental sustainability.

This holistic approach ensures that cultural heritage is preserved and adapted to contemporary needs, promoting community engagement and long-term sustainability. SoPHIA Model's application in Croatia has provided critical insights into national policies, demonstrating the value of robust impact assessments for future heritage interventions.

For more information please visit:

SoPHIA
Social Platform for Holistic Heritage Impact Assessment

SCAN ME

SoPHIA model – three axes
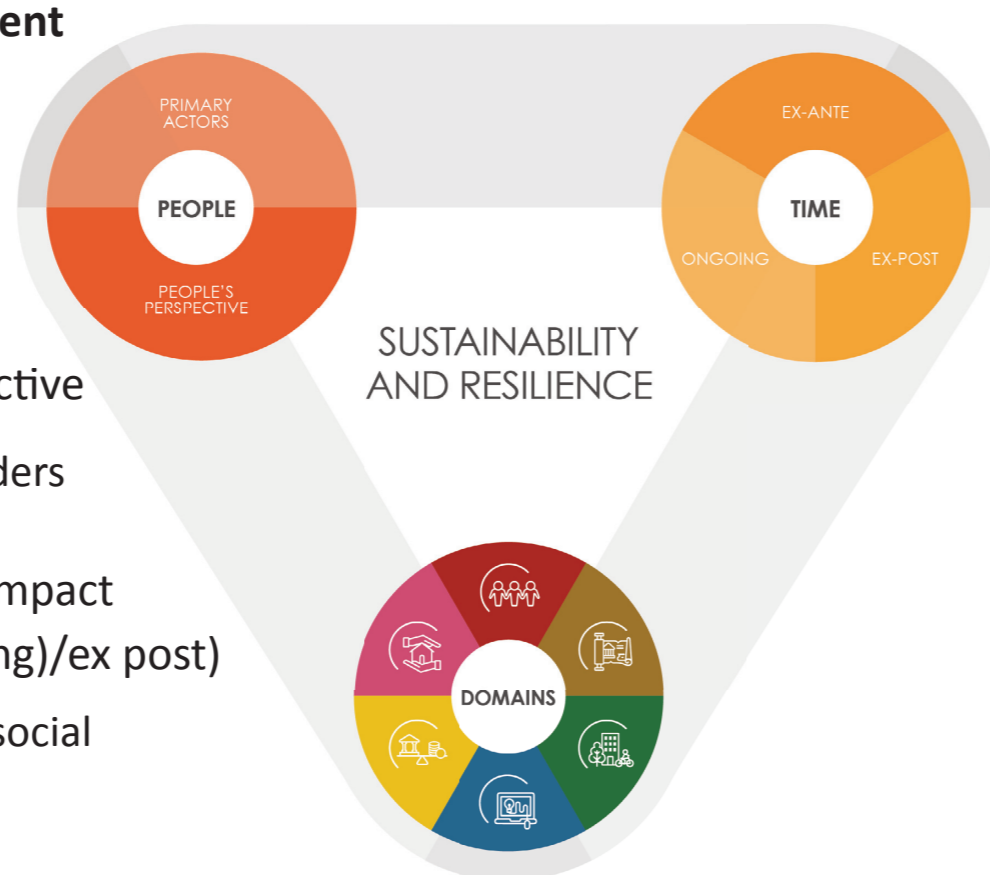
Holistic approach to impact assessment

- economic, environmental, cultural and social dimensions of the assessment -> qualitative and quantitative elements

Ensuring a **multi-stakeholder** perspective

- identifying and defining key stakeholders

Determining the **time** dimension of impact assessment (ex ante/mid-term (onging)/ex post)

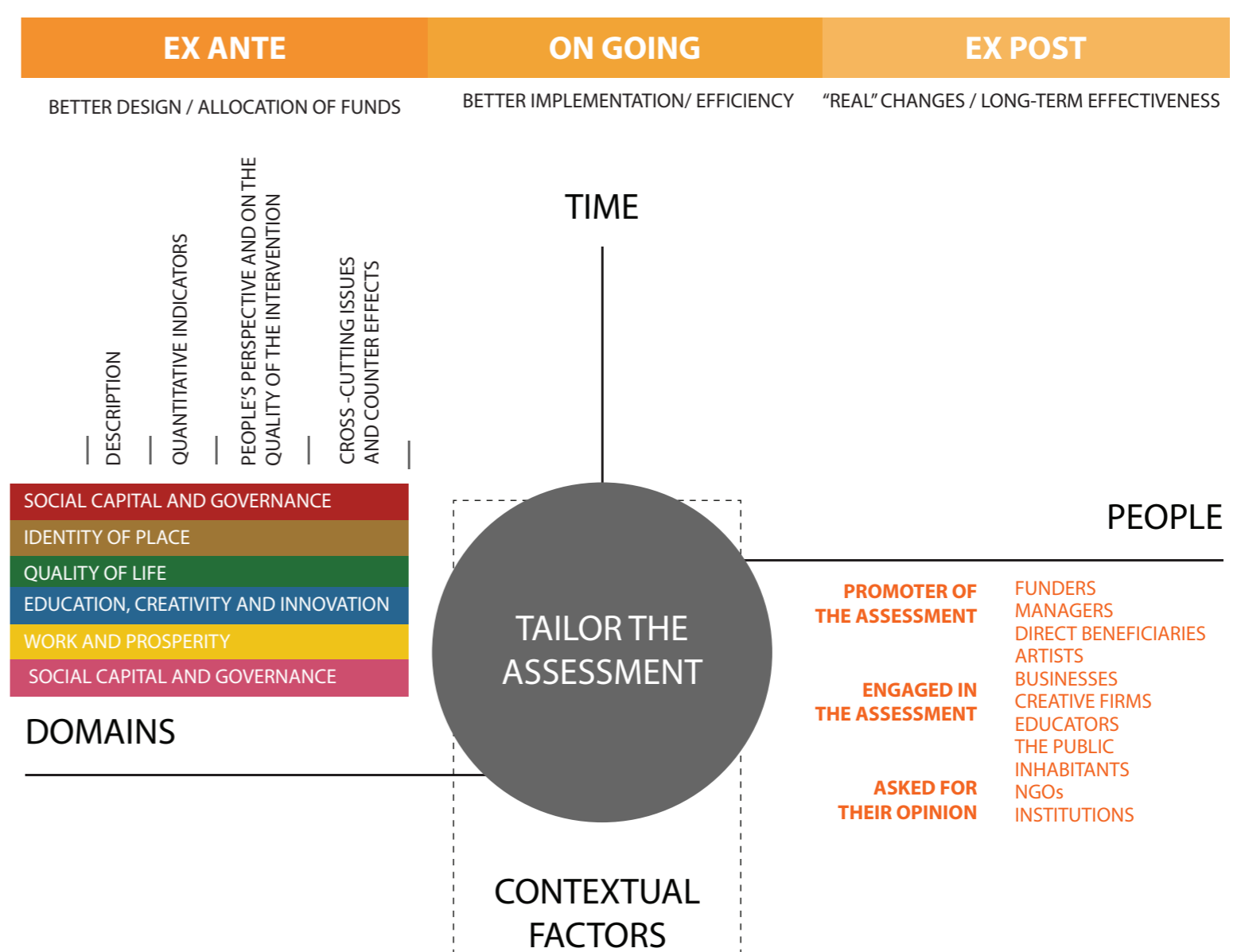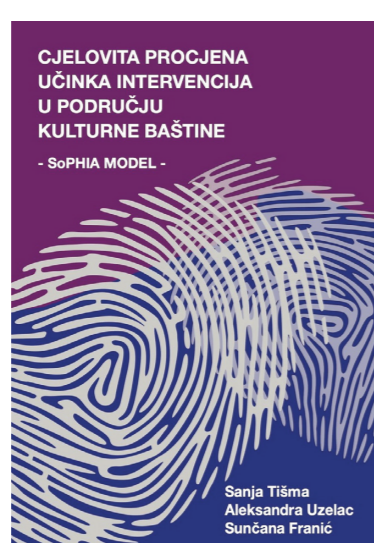- evaluate in advance and assess the social consequences

PRIMARY ACTORS
PEOPLE
PEOPLE'S PERSPECTIVE

EX-ANTE
TIME
ONGOING   EX-POST

SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE

DOMAINS

Outcome in Croatian:

Cjelovita procjena učinka intervencija na području kulturne baštine - SoPHIA model (Jesenski i Turk, 2023)

CJELOVITA PROCJENA UČINKA INTERVENCIJA U PODRUČJU KULTURNE BAŠTINE - SoPHIA MODEL -

Sanja Tišma
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SCAN ME

The SoPHIA multi-domain impact assessment framework for interventions in the field of cultural heritage

SOCIAL CAPITAL AND GOVERNANCE
- Inclusive Access
- Participation and Engagement
- Social Cohesion
- Partnerships and Cultural Cooperation
- Good governance

PROTECTION
- Safeguarding against environmental risks
- Safeguarding against human-related risks
- Green Management and Development
- Use of Resources

WORK AND PROSPERITY
- Employment
- Local cultural production
- Tourism Economy
- Economic Attractiveness
- Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship

IDENTITY OF PLACE
- Identity and Memory
- Visibility and Reputation
- Cultural Landscape and Aesthetics
- Heritage-led Regeneration and Adaptive Re-use

QUALITY OF LIFE
- Living Conditions
- Peace and Safety
- Social Life
- Environment
- Regional and local development

EDUCATION, CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION
- Education
- Awareness Raising
- Research
- Digitization, Science & Technology
- Arts and Creativity

DOMAINS

The SoPHIA Multi-Domain Assessment Framework

Theme	Six areas of impact are included in the framework that covers cultural, social, economic, and environmental issues.
Subtheme	Each theme is evaluated through a number of subthemes for which a list of possible indicators and guiding questions have been provided.
Description	In the description, the aim of the IA is highlighted for each subtheme that provides a focus for the user when adapting the framework. E.g., *the aim is to assess whether intervention ensures accessibility of CH resources to all groups of society.*
Quantitative indicators	List of possible indicators that support the IA analysis (pointing to the information to be collected).
People's perspective and Quality of intervention	List of proposed guiding questions aiming at collecting stakeholders' inputs.
Cross-cutting issues	Cross-cutting issues and counter-effects show the relevant interconnections between themes and subthemes and the potential counter-effects. As the themes are highly interconnected, it is possible to provide a holistic impact assessment only by understanding the cross-cutting issues and counter-effects between the themes.
Counter effects	

EX ANTE	ON GOING	EX POST
BETTER DESIGN / ALLOCATION OF FUNDS	BETTER IMPLEMENTATION/ EFFICIENCY	"REAL" CHANGES / LONG-TERM EFFECTIVENESS

TIME

DESCRIPTION
QUANTITATIVE INDICATORS
PEOPLE'S PERSPECTIVE AND ON THE QUALITY OF THE INTERVENTION
CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES AND COUNTER EFFECTS

SOCIAL CAPITAL AND GOVERNANCE
IDENTITY OF PLACE
QUALITY OF LIFE
EDUCATION, CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION
WORK AND PROSPERITY
SOCIAL CAPITAL AND GOVERNANCE

DOMAINS

TAILOR THE ASSESSMENT

PEOPLE

PROMOTER OF THE ASSESSMENT
ENGAGED IN THE ASSESSMENT
ASKED FOR THEIR OPINION

FUNDERS
MANAGERS
DIRECT BENEFICIARIES
ARTISTS
BUSINESSES
CREATIVE FIRMS
EDUCATORS
THE PUBLIC
INHABITANTS
NGOs
INSTITUTIONS

CONTEXTUAL FACTORS

IRMO
Institut za razvoj i međunarodne odnose
Institute for Development and International Relations

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