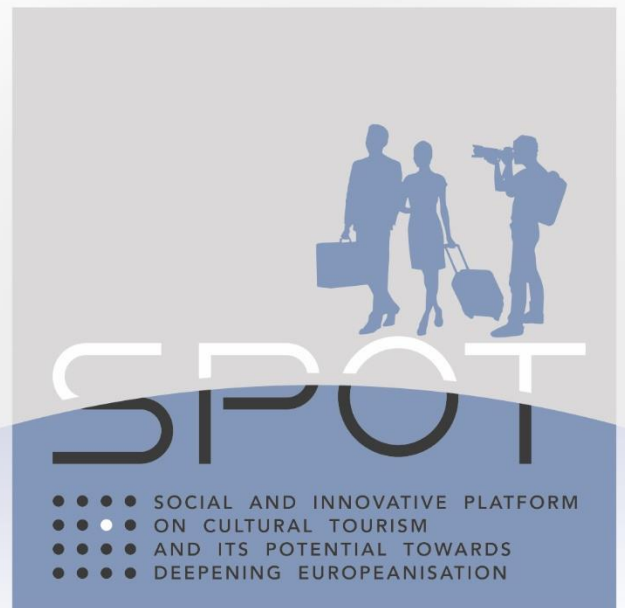


SLOVAKIA

POLICY BRIEF



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## Martinský Hill

For local policymakers

Author: UKF team

### Introduction

Martinský Hill was originally a historical, and later a military area – currently with a huge potential for revitalization (Fig. 1 and Fig. 2).

This area was inhabited by several cultures already in prehistoric times. Today, the remains of an old Slavic fortress with an area of 20 hectares can be seen here. At the end of the 8th and 9th centuries, a massive fortress with a dense population was located here. It also included the Romanesque Church of St. Martin from the 11th century. In the second half of the 19th century, Martinský Hill was the property of the local bishopric, and it was used mainly for agricultural purposes later a military garrison settled there. Currently, the extensive area of the barracks is one of the most important military monuments in Slovakia. The Nitra Archeopark is part of the Martinský Hill area.

Since an important road in the Topoľčany – Levice direction passed in the close vicinity, a military garrison was stationed here since the 1880s. One of the five military concentration camps of Hungary was located here. The “Barracks” National Cultural Monument includes 13 monument buildings located on the premises: the command building, 2 officer pavilions, 3 residential buildings, a guardhouse, a bowling alley, an inn, the main hospital, 2 hospital pavilions and a park.



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In the Great Moravian part of the Archeopark, 4 semi-buried buildings are presented, three of which are with an above-ground log structure and one is built on stilts and has the so-called woven and clay-smearred walls. Another restored object is the free-standing clay dome bread oven with a pre-oven pit.



Fig. 1: The area of the former barracks at Martinský Hill, Nitra, Slovakia.

Source: Documentation for building permit, 2016



Fig. 2: The barracks building at Martinský Hill, Nitra, Slovakia.

Source: <https://www.nitra.eu/9017/siator-tabor-martinsky-vrch-kasarne>

## 1. Evidence and Analysis

At the end of November 2020, mayor Marek Hattas informed that Nitra received 15.5 million euros from European funds for the creation of the Creative Center. This project is co-financed by the Operational Program “Integrated Regional Operational Program” and from the resources of the city of Nitra. The aim of the call was to stimulate the support of sustainable employment and the creation of jobs in the cultural and creative industry by creating a favourable environment for the development of creative talent and non-technological innovations. The money from this call can also be used for the reconstruction and modernization of buildings for the needs of creative centres.

Apart from the buildings of the former barracks, these resources will also be used to restore the Palace Cinema on Radlinského Street where a multifunctional hall for theatre, concerts and audiovisual art is envisaged.

In the area of the former barracks, altogether four buildings will be completely restored, in which conditions will be created for the functioning of a library with a reading room, a coworking space, craftsman's workshops, a computer graphics studio and other activities. The work will also include the completion of new premises, which will connect two existing buildings. Complete reconstruction is planned by the end of 2023.

A new kindergarten for 144 children has already been established in the renovated historical building, to which a new building has been annexed. Since this included a reconstruction of a historical building, the Regional Monument Office also assisted in the construction. The city invested five per cent of the total amount, i.e. 48 240, in the reconstruction, and the rest of the money was obtained by the city through the Integrated Regional Operational Program as a non-refundable financial contribution to increase the infrastructure capacities of kindergartens. In total, the new kindergarten project cost 2 612 509 euros.



## 2. Policy Implications and Recommendations

The city council, which is made up of a relatively wide spectrum of political parties, approved the application for the creation of the Creative Center despite certain concerns about the sustainability of this project. The municipality will have to ensure the operation of this project for at least ten years.

Currently, part of the premises is used on a daily basis for the purposes of said kindergarten (Fig. 3) and another part is accessible for safety reasons (ongoing reconstruction of buildings, overgrown trees...) for the implementation of specific activities listed below.



Fig. 3: The new kindergarten building at Martinský Hill, Nitra, Slovakia.

Source: <https://nitraden.sk/foto-materska-skola-v-historickej-budove-kasarni-je-hotova-pozrite-sa-ako-to-v-nej-vyzera/>

The recommendations relate to the continuation of already implemented activities:

- 2015: The Martinský Hill area was opened to the public during the biggest city festivities Nitra, Dear Nitra on July 3 - 5. From Friday to Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., visitors could view the most interesting buildings of the former barracks, such as the command and officer buildings, the guardhouse, the inn and the bowling alley, as well as the remains of the Church of St. Martin. History lovers could take advantage of two free guided tours per day. A monument was opened at the remains of the foundations of the Church of St. Martin and the foundation stone of the Archeopark was laid. The area was enriched by an exhibition of archaeological finds from this locality, examples of period customs, archery, a camp of the Old Slavs, and philatelists presented a postage stamp made for this occasion. Also, a new promotional brochure about Martinský Hill was released.
- 2016: Opening of the area during the Nitra, Dear Nitra festival with a program in the area, guided tours, a stop on the Cyril and Methodius pilgrimage and the city tourist train.



- 2017: Opening of the area during the Nitra, Dear Nitra festival, a stop on the Cyril and Methodius pilgrimage with an accompanying program. A rich program was also provided during World Tourism Day in September, e.g. a tour of the Slavic dwellings was prepared in the Archeopark, and visitors could see a demonstration of baking in a period oven, pottery firing and try archery. Because Martinský Hill is also an important military monument, a demonstration of historical equipment, weapons and military equipment was prepared. The visitors could experience the life of soldiers in period camps, historical battles from World War II and dynamic demonstrations of training practised in the Czechoslovak army. At the same time, the depository of the Archaeological Institute of the Slovak Republic was made available. The Hidden Beauty of Martinský Hill was an exhibition of photographs by workshop participants who creatively rendered the "genius loci" of the old Nitra barracks by photographing it during the day and at night.
- 2018: Opening of the area during the Nitra, Dear Nitra festival, a stop on the Cyril and Methodius pilgrimage with an accompanying program, and also on Halloween in October. Those interested could choose from two types of tours of the area – a pedestrian tour, and a ride on the tourist train from Svätoplukovo Square.
- 2019: Opening of the area during the Nitra, Dear Nitra festival, a stop on the Cyril and Methodius pilgrimage with an accompanying program.
- 2020: Opening of the area during the Nitra, Dear Nitra festival, a stop on the Cyril and Methodius pilgrimage with an accompanying program.
- 2021 and 2022: Opening of the area during the Nitra, Dear Nitra festival, a stop on the Cyril and Methodius pilgrimage with an accompanying program. The cleaning of Martinský Hill was carried out as part of the cleaning of the Seven Hills of Nitra in August.

Other recommendations are related to the improvement of marketing of Martinský Hill as a Creative Center and an Archeopark after the completion of the necessary infrastructure and landscaping of the entire area. Only then it will be possible to use it all year round.



# Project Identity

<b>Project name</b>	Social and innovative Platform on Cultural Tourism and its potential towards deepening Europeanisation (SPOT)
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