

MONUMENTS OF CULTURAL HERITAGE FROM THE PERSPECTIVE RESIDENTS – A CASE STUDY OF MIKULČICE (CZECHIA) AND VLKOLÍNEC (SLOVAKIA)

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Abstract: Considering and deciding of future same territory is a complicated task requiring the cooperation of a wide range of stakeholders and institutions. When it comes to deciding in the areas or sites under UNESCO patronage, it is a process sensitive to other inputs, comments, evaluations and attention from all sides. The following paper provides a description of the main results of questionnaire survey aimed at obtaining data on traditional natural and cultural values in carrying out the protection and care of UNESCO monuments. The model territory were on the Slovak side of Vlkolínec (for 25 years on the list of UNESCO World Cultural and Natural Heritage) and on the Czech side of the Slavonic fortified settlement in Mikulčice, which is a potential candidate for registration on the UNESCO list.

Key words: UNESCO heritage, Mikulčice, Vlkolínec, survey, natural heritage, cultural heritage

INTRODUCTION AND METHODS

For balanced development of the territory, while maintaining the principles of sustainable development, it is necessary to involve in development processes many entities (so-called collective actors), but also individuals (residents, citizens of the territory or general public). In the planning process, the active participation of the users in the territory always means a contribution to the future development (positive or negative). This process is called **participation**. The main purpose of this instrument is to enable actors in the territory to influence the resulting form of development, while maintaining the delegated responsibility of the self-government for the development of its own territory. It can help to optimize development (resources, plans, projects, etc.) with regard to the needs of actors and residents, find new resources for the public sector, improve communication between the self-government and other actors, while raising awareness of the future direction of development. Participation represents a possible answer to the social changes that are most often represented in the central self-government by specific plans or projects. Early and effective public involvement helps to create a true picture of the state of the community, brings new perspectives and new solutions, clarifies opinions, develops common views, removes unnecessary concerns, fosters people's involvement, helps to create a summary of mutual knowledge of local circumstances. The public (professional and lay) is one of the important actors in the development of the area. Public involvement (in planning and decision-making processes), public participation, residents participation, participation, participatory process – synonyms describing one or more actions or steps in a process (e.g. problem solving, discussion of a proposal or plan, preparation of decisions, collection of information and opinions etc.) to which the public is invited (e.g. locals, representatives of various interest or social groups, people interested in the topic of the meeting) and has an impact on the content and course of the meeting and the resulting decision. Choosing the appropriate way to engage the public is an important decision of the planning process. Various techniques, their parts, combinations or modifications can be used for public involvement. These include, for example, workshops, working groups, round tables, community vision, action planning, etc.

One of the important aspects to be taken into account in the management of cultural landscapes is the views, attitudes and needs of people who are present in the locality (residents, visitors), thus co-shaping them with their activities or their lives are landscape affected.

As expected and confirmed by questionnaire surveys, the presence of an important cultural monument (and its consequences) brings with it certain specificities for the daily life of the inhabitants of municipalities who live or work nearby this monuments. As cultural heritage and natural attractions are becoming a destination for tourists and also of interest to experts, it is necessary to focus on the needs of each of the above-mentioned interest groups and to try to set the conditions in the locality so as not to exclude, while sufficiently protecting the cultural and natural heritage.

In order to obtain information, needs and attitudes of the residents of Mikulčice and Vlkolínec, was carried out from 2017 to 2019 an extensive questionnaire survey. The

results of survey are presented further in this paper. The survey focused on the target groups of the inhabitants of Mikulčice and Vlkolíneč, visitors to the Slavonic fortified settlement in Mikulčice and Vlkolíneč and the professional public. Due to the limited possibilities of the contribution, we present the results only of the survey conducted between the inhabitants of Mikulčice and Vlkolíneč.

On the Czech side, the aim of the research in the case of residents municipality Mikulčice was to find out answer how local residents evaluate the village Mikulčice and the region from view of cultural monuments, in terms of the natural environment and finally in terms of civic amenities. The survey was going on the background of registration an important monument Slavic fortified settlement on the list of UNESCO monuments. The survey was going in December 2017 with the participation of the interviewer, about 4% of the population were interviewed (the population of Mikulčice was 1 975 as of 1 January 2017), in total 76 respondents answered the questions. Individual variables were monitored according to gender (52% women, 48% men) and age (average age 50 years) of respondents.

In parallel, a survey was going on the Slovak side in Vlkolíneč, where the target group consisted of local residents, huts, foresters and farmers. In total, 55 questionnaires were collected. The respondents were 30 women (54%) and 25 men (46%), with an average age of 42.5 years. In the questionnaire there were 9 questions focused on the current state and future of Vlkolíneč, while respondents had the opportunity to give more answers. At the end of each questionnaire, information on respondent's gender, age and education was provided.

SHORT THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

The cooperation of subjects on protection and development of areas Vlkolíneč and Mikulčice was given by activities of individual actors within the framework of international project “*UNESCO Monuments in the Life of Municipalities, Towns and Regions*”, during time of project: September 2017–June 2019. Actors of project were: Masaryk University, Faculty of Education (leading partner), Catholic University in Ružomberok (main cross-border partner), Lower Morava Biosphere Reserve, Town of Ružomberok and Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra. The project was aimed at deepening the cooperation of institutions, entities and persons directly managing UNESCO monuments or located in the site of such an important monument of world heritage. It was therefore primarily an application project that seeks to combine scientific knowledge in the field of landscape, spatial and strategic planning of the territory, protection of the natural and cultural heritage UNESCO with practice at the level of municipalities (municipalities Mikulčice and Ružomberok).

Methods and forms of cooperation of actors in the territory are described in many papers, studies and publications. Among the important ones for setting the objectives of the questionnaire survey are: Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention

from Year 1998) or specialist monographs Arnstein (1969), Ackoff (1974), Collins and Ison (2006). In the Czech area were published studies of authors, Pitaš (2010) and Veselý (2009) deal with the topic.

Before the realization of the questionnaire survey, the model area on the Czech side was mainly dealt with by historians and archaeologists (thanks to the presence of the archaeological locality of the Slavonic fortified settlement), eg Poulík (1960, 1963, 1975), Opravil (1983), Hladík (2014) or Poláček (2010, 2012, 2018). The geographers in Mikulčice and its surroundings wrote eg Kolečka, Boltížiar, Svatoňová, Vojtek, & Oláhová (2016), Kolečka, Boltížiar, & Vojtek (2018).

Location Vlkolíneč is described in the works of Slovak authors: Liptayová et al. (1990), Berkova et al. (1996), Hudeková et al. (2009), Hochel (2018), Nezval (2018), Pauditšová et al. (2018), Pauditšová et al. (2019) etc.

DESCRIPTION OF STUDY AREA (MIKULČICE AND VLKOLÍNEČ)

Demarcation of territorial areas (model areas), was mainly due to the need to obtain up-to-date background data for the creation of a new form of protection of natural and cultural heritage in archeopark Mikulčice – Kopčany and for the creation of a new urban plan of the zone Vlkolíneč on the Slovak side. Both areas are registered on the UNESCO World Heritage List – Vlkolíneč 25 years (since 1993), and the Mikulčice site, including the Slavonic Fortified Monument, has been part of the Lower Morava Biosphere Reserve since 2003.

Mikulčice (Czechia)

The model area of the village of Mikulčice, including the area of the Slavonic fortified settlement, is located in the Hodonín district close to the Czech-Slovak border. The area of the administrative district of the municipality is 1 530 ha and 1 953 inhabitants (1. 1. 2019) lived permanently in the village (<https://www.czso.cz/eng/cso/czso/pocet-obyvatel-v-obcich-za0wri436p>). In the administrative area of the village there is a national cultural monument – Slavonic fortified settlement in Mikulčice (National Heritage Institute, r. No. 11792/7-2312). The Slavonic fortified settlement in Mikulčice represents, from the historical point of view, an extremely valuable territory in which the beginnings of Czech and Slovak statehood took place. The site is protected as a national cultural monument (since 1962) and “still” aspires to be included in the UNESCO World Heritage List. Together with the area of Kopčany on the Slovak side of the border, it is currently the largest Slavic archaeological site in Central Europe. The whole area of the former fortified settlement is defined by a strip of territory in the west from the eastern edge of the village of Mikulčice (along with Těšice) above the Morava valley near Mikulčice through the regulated Morava river on the Czech-Slovak border. The northern boundary is formed by the boundaries of the cadastre Mikulčice (in these places associated municipalities Těšice) against the land registers Lužice and Hodonín on the Czech side and the

railway Holič-Hodonín on the Slovak side. In the south, the border of the area of interest forms the road from Moravská Nová Ves to the former ford across the river to the Slovak Kopčany and from there to town Holič.

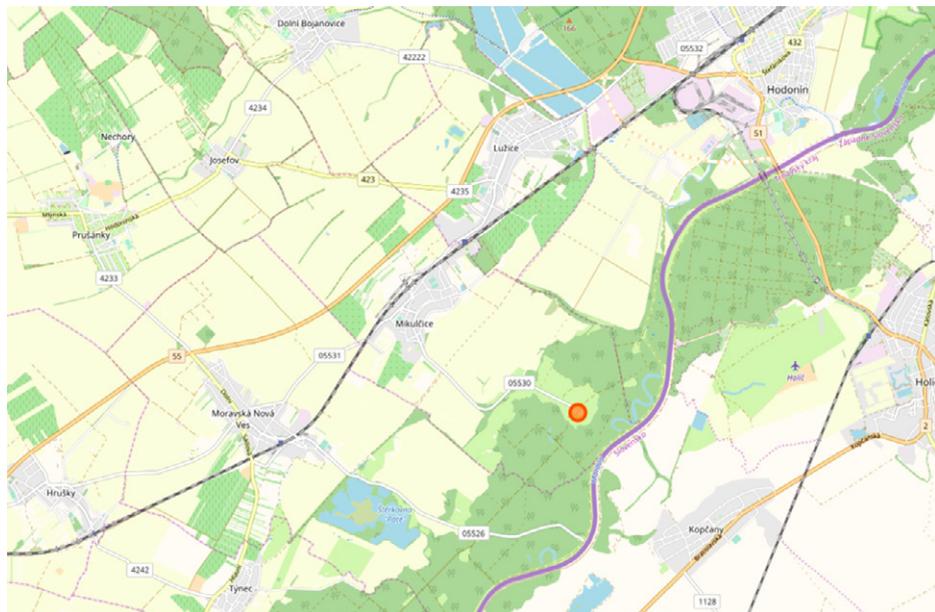


Fig. 1: Localization of Slavic fortified settlement in Mikulčice.

Source: OpenStreetMap, 2019.

Vlkolíneč (Slovakia)

City district Ružomberok-Vlkolíneč is an extremely valuable natural-no-settlement complex that creates a positive landscape mosaic created by the interaction of anthropogenic and natural processes. The Vlkolíneč site has the highest form of heritage protection, which is allowed by Slovak legislation pursuant to Act No. 49/2002 Coll. on the Protection of the Monuments Fund. In 1977, Vlkolíneč was declared a Monument Reserve of Folk Architecture (Government Resolution of the Slovak Republic, 1977) and most of the buildings located in the built-up area of the settlement are protected as national cultural monuments. A total of 73 buildings are registered in the List of Monuments, a substantial part of which are wooden houses or farm buildings (The Monuments Board of the Slovak Republic, 2008). In December 1993, in Cartagena, Colombia, it was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List as a unique landscape-no-residential-architectural complex. The uniqueness of the Vlkolíneč site is also contributed by the specific surrounding landscape mosaic of the protection zone, which is conditioned by the type of relief and, above all, by the methods of traditional management in the country in the past centuries. Currently, there are remnants of elements of historical landscape structure.

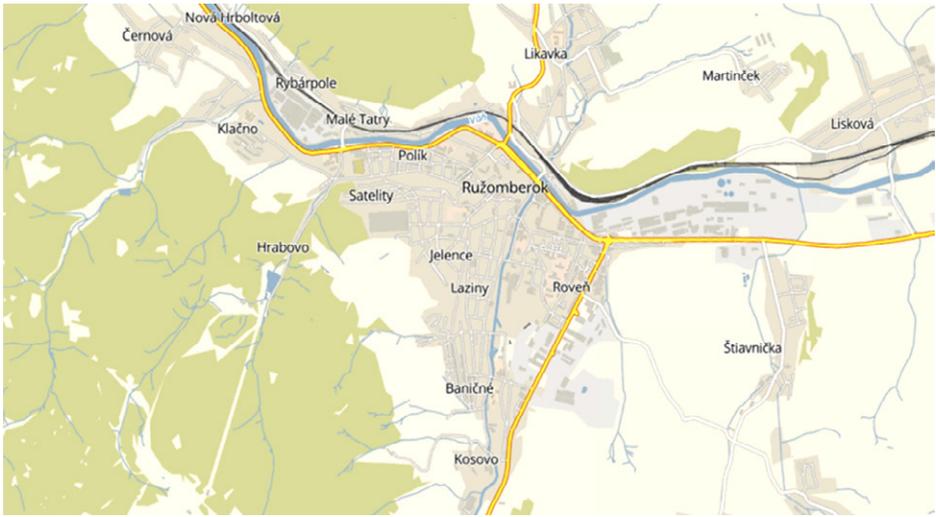


Fig. 2: Localization of district Vlkolínec inside the town Ružomberok.

Source: Územní plán města Ružomberok. GISPLAN, **T-MAPY Slovensko s. r. o.**, 2019.

They are not noticeable dominants profiling the entire landscape. On the contrary, they are inconspicuous objects that naturally fit into the current landscape structure. Vlkolínec is characterized by two types of historical landscape structures, agricultural and architectural (Pauditšová et al., 2019). Agricultural historical structures in Vlkolínec are mainly represented by gardens located in the immediate vicinity of the dwellings. Another representative is a complex of terraced terrain arrangement with meadows divided by vegetation in parallel lines. This phenomenon reflects primary land use and is therefore considered one of the most valuable elements. Last but not least, it is a homogeneous collection of meadows and pastures where the limits were removed in the 1970s to unify agricultural land. Previously used terraced fields and gardens around Vlkolínec are currently growing, land management has a long-term downward trend (Pauditšová et al., 2019).

The next part of the paper brings the main results of the questionnaire survey. The results are described separately for the locality Mikulčice and Vlkolínec. This is due to the large diversity of the results and the different input data (population – residents and respondents).

MAIN RESULTS FROM SURVEY

In the analysis of the main results of the questionnaire survey in the village of Mikulčice and its surroundings, the researchers focused on the following areas among the local respondents: (1) cultural monuments, (2) natural environment or (3) civic amenities. The

results of the survey at a more professional level serve as one of the documents for setting up the care of cultural monuments in the municipality in accordance with the needs of local inhabitants and increasing / maintaining their quality of life.

And what about the main results?

The first question in survey was: *What is the most valuable thing in Mikulčice?* 40 residents (56.3% of valid answers) mentioned **Slavonic fortified settlement** and 18.3% of residents (13) mentioned the **Monument of Great Moravia**. Significant distances were then recorded as a **culture house or museum** (4 respondents, ie 5.6% of the total). Furthermore, partial responses such as e.g. whole village, church, village square etc. It is therefore a significant material monuments in the municipality, or dominants known to citizens, which was the reason given by 21 residents. Only 3 residents cited intangible artifacts such as viticulture and village life.

Another question was aimed at finding out, *What is missing in the village?* most residents (21) mentioned **pub** or restaurants, refreshments, as well as **specialized shops** (11 residents) – butcher shop, pharmacy, post office or confectionery and **activities, facilities and services for seniors** (7 residents) – retirement home, retirement home, nursing home. Other recorded responses were directed to activities, facilities for children and youth, road maintenance, parking places or relative quiet.

The future development of the village was investigated two questions Mikulčice in 20 years: *What do you think should look like?* and *Do you think that services and infrastructure for tourists should be further developed?* More answers to the first question were recorded as neutral – **I don't know** (16), but there were answers such as **quiet** (5x), existence of **pub** (5x) or **restaurant for tourists** (2x). In total, 29 different options were answered on this question (eg building plots, accommodation, tourist services, transport accessibility, post office, bus stops, train station or cycle paths). However, there were also negative responses related to the possible future inclusion of the memorial site on the UNESCO heritage list, expensive charges for water and sewerage, the state of the road in the direction via Lužice or regarding further construction development. The second question with a view to the future development of services and infrastructure for tourists brought 55 answers with localization in the village. The main reason was the possibility of improvement (25x), it is also desirable for local residents (7x or residents don't mind (5x). There was a threat to the peace and comfort of local residents, a threat to nature (4x).

Next question was focused on spending of free time of local inhabitants was investigated (*Where do you prefer to spend free time?*). The most frequent answer was **in the environment of your home, in your backyard**, respectively **in the garden by the house** (61 residents), in the vicinity and nature around Mikulčice (37) or in the **cultural house** or the **Monument of Great Moravia** (if there is an event), (21).

In connection with the transformation of agriculture, the opinion of inhabitants on the use or preservation of original farm buildings was surveyed. Three possible scenarios were offered from which residents chose 3 options (yes, no and don't know). The results are clearly summarized in a graph in which a positive opinion of a change in the way of use prevails. One possibility was also to maintain the current state of buildings. 27 resi-

dents would like to maintain the status quo, while 23 citizens want change. 17 residents took a neutral stance. And the last option in this part of the question was the freedom of expression (*what other purpose?*). The answers included, for example, roads or retirement homes.

The last part was devoted to expressing their own opinion on the change in the village or its surroundings. It was an open question, so the answers were also very varied. Most residents **would not change anything** in the village (14 replies). What they said about the change most want **to improve transport accessibility and maintenance of roads** (12x), **establishment of pub** (7x), as well as increasing the number of parking spaces (6x), reconstruction of buildings in the center (6x), reconstruction of the mill (5x) reconstruction of agricultural cooperative (5x), building facilities for seniors (5x), repair of playground (5x), replacement of municipal council (4x) or construction of sports facilities for children (3x). For the main reasons why residents want change, answers were heard such as: *missing, needed, inoperable, out of order, better use, etc.*

In Vlkolínec, outside the residents (23 inhabitants – 1. 1. 2019), the questionnaire survey was also attended by cottagers, cottagers, foresters and farmers. For the following paper we select only some interesting questions. The respondents stakeholders unequivocally expressed the main contribution of Vlkolínec – preservation of traditional architecture in the natural environment, preservation of the original cultural mountain agricultural landscape. In all answers, possibilities prevail this view. Rural architecture with nature and its surroundings makes up 63.5% in the first option, 69.3% in the second option and 48.1% in the third option. Interesting is the ranking among the most valuable options and the answer – Vlkolínec as a whole, peace and quiet, but also the genius loci (Boltžiar, & Petrovič, 2019).

From the point of view of missing things, it can be seen that the answers come from 'home' residents and vacationers. In all options, the top two places were: lack of trade and improved communication quality. In the first option 39.1%, in the second option 28% and in the third option 32.2%. At the same time, there is also an effort to improve the situation for visitors – tourists, because other options in the answers were just improvement, creation of services (mainly catering facilities) and subsequently construction of public toilets. (Boltžiar, & Petrovič, 2019).

Another interesting question: *Imagine Vlkolinec in 20 years. What do you think it should look like, write down what should change here and what should not be missing?* This question made it possible to choose, on the one hand, what and how to change, and on the other, what not to change. This bilateralism was also reflected in the responses. Highest answer 13 (21%): better and original land use in the context of not allowing the construction of new buildings in non-original architecture. Furthermore, there is an effort to maintain a resident population of 10 responses (16.1%), which was directly followed by an improvement in the state of communications - 9 responses (14.5%). It could be said that all the answers, with the exception of the construction of the guest house, aim to keep Vlkolínec alive with permanent residents. (Boltžiar, & Petrovič, 2019).

From the answers to the closed question *Do you think that services and infrastructure for tourists should be developed?* there is a certain divergence in the responses of the respondents. **While cottagers would prefer to develop tourist infrastructure not directly in Vlkolínec** – 20 responses (38.5%), on the other side, **residents would support development directly in Vlkolínec** – 19 responses (36.5%). This result confirms the absence of basic infrastructure in Vlkolínec and the need of inhabitants to have such infrastructure as close as possible. It is also interesting to note that almost 10% of the responses (5) oppose the development of any infrastructure.

In answer to the question *Write what do you think has changed in Vlkolínec for the last 10 years, or for the worse?* it is in comparison with the previous answers to see the compliance of the cottagers and the locals. They consider the higher number of cultural events, improvement of the infrastructure for tourists (total – 7 responses, 41.1%) and at the same time direct improvement of the situation in the municipality within the functioning of the civic association and fire protection (total – 6 responses, 35, 2%). On the contrary, a clear deterioration of the situation is in the decrease in the quality of transport infrastructure (14 responses - 28%), in the decrease, resp. non-use of the landscape (7 responses – 14%) and the consequent negative impact of inadaptable tourists on the privacy of residents and cottagers (12 responses – 24% in total). It was interesting to point out in several responses to the negative experience with wildlife damaging property in gardens (damage to fences, trees, hives, etc.) and the need for measures to protect them (mainly bears).

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

The method of questionnaire survey can be considered as a sufficient way to obtain the opinions of citizens. More detailed results, including all recorded responses, are available from the investigators or published in the book: *Traditions and Cultural Values of the Territory in the Care of UNESCO*. Possibilities of purpose restoration of traditional farming (Lněnička et al., 2019). The whole questionnaire survey serves as a basis for the creation of conceptual and strategic documents in connection with the preparation of the area of the Slavonic Playground for inclusion on the UNESCO list and on the Slovak side for the preparation of the new zoning plan Ružomberok-Vlkolínec.

The most important conclusions concerning Mikulčice can be summarized as follows:

- Most in the village is missing hospitality, where it would cook hot food and could meet residents of the village.
- The inhabitants are most worried about the disturbance of peace in the village after the inclusion of Mikulčice on the UNESCO list and the increase in tourism, but the increase in tourism is generally considered desirable.
- However, increasing tourism is generally considered desirable.
- Citizens consider the Slavic hillfort as a whole to be the most valuable in the village and its surroundings.
- Respondents' answers did not differ significantly according to gender or age.

The questionnaire survey in Vlkolínec was focused on direct users of Vlkolínec, built-up area and its surroundings. As part of the questionnaires, the respondents received their personal views on the current situation as well as on the perspective of the development of the territory in the future. Given the current socio-economic situation (low to extinction of residents with permanent residence in Vlkolínec) and unfavorable conditions for agriculture, leaving the country, intensively overgrowing pastures and meadows with trees. Without the willingness of local agricultural subjects and the Municipality of Ružomberok, the original agricultural and current recreational function of the country could significantly decline. The only stable function of the country would be forestry, which has the potential to strengthen but at the expense of abandoning agricultural land. Thanks to the interest of the present inhabitants in preserving the historical diversity of the country and its characteristic appearance, there is still the potential to preserve the genius loci of this unique location.

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Shrnutí

Úvahy a rozhodování o budoucnosti území je komplikovaným úkolem vyžadujícím součinnost širokého spektra zainteresovaných osob a institucí. Jde-li o rozhodování o územích či lokalitách pod patronací UNESCO, jde o proces citlivý na další vstupy, komentáře, hodnocení a pozornost ze všech stran. Následující příspěvek přináší popis hlavních výsledků získaných při dotazníkovém šetření zaměřeném na získání dat o tradičních přírodních a kulturních hodnotách při vykonávání ochrany a péče o památky UNESCO. Modelovým územím je na slovenské straně Vlkolínec (již 25 let na seznamu Světového kulturního a přírodního dědictví UNESCO) a na české straně Slovanské hradiště v Mikulčicích, které je potenciálním kandidátem na zápis na seznam UNESCO.

Na české straně bylo cílem výzkumu v případě cílové skupiny obyvatel obce zjistit, jak místní obyvatelé hodnotí obec Mikulčice a její okolí, a to jednak z hlediska kulturních památek, dále z hlediska přírodního prostředí a konečně z hlediska občanské vybavenosti, to v souvislosti s možným budoucím zápisem významné památky Slovanského hradiště na seznam památek UNESCO. Dotazování probíhalo v prosinci 2017 za účasti tazatele, dotazována byla cca 4 % obyvatel (počet obyvatel Mikulčic byl 1975 k 1. 1. 2018), celkem na otázky odpovědělo 76 respondentů. Jednotlivé proměnné byly sledovány v závislosti na pohlaví (52 % žen, 48 % mužů) a věku (průměrný věk 50 let) respondentů.

Paralelně probíhalo šetření i na slovenské straně ve Vlkolínci, kde cílovou skupinu tvořili místní obyvatelé, chataři, lesníci a zemědělci. Celkově bylo sebráno 55 dotazníků.

Jak a které návrhy úprav v obou sledovaných zájmových územích budou v budoucnosti realizovány, záleží jak na zájmu všech zainteresovaných aktérů, tak i na aktuální ekonomické situaci státu a participujících právnických a fyzických osob. K dalšímu rozvoji obou lokalit přispívá i rozvíjející se cestovní ruch a turismus. Značka UNESCO na jednu stranu znamená záruku mimořádného území, na straně druhé také s sebou nese riziko a potenciální ohrožení ze strany turistů, či návštěvníků. Zkušenosti z jiných, nejen světových památek UNESCO (viz Lednicko-Valtický areál, či Biosférická rezervace Třeboňsko a problematika cykloturistiky) ukazují na zvýšené riziko rozvoje tzv. masového turismu, na který nejsou lokality dostatečně připraveny z pohledu např. infrastruktury nebo sociálního vybavení. Nápor turistů laňčických po návštěvě lokality může přinést komplikace

při zajištění dostatečné ochrany památek, či v případě Vlkolínce přímé narušení soukromí rezidentů. Vždy je třeba hledat kompromisy a vyvažovat potencionální ekonomickou stránku, jež cestovní ruch přináší, se sociálními potřebami a dopady na místní obyvatele.