Article

Defining Threats on World Heritage Sites over Dresden, Liverpool, Vienna and Kosovo

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Abstract

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) supports and monitors conservation of heritage sites around the world. It uses the help of some tools like "World Heritage List". UNESCO adds areas to "World Heritage in Danger List" if it detects a threat about their conservation issues. The aim is to define major threat parameters urban heritage areas experience and categorize them starting from the major problems to the least important ones. Two cities that are still on UNESCO World Heritage in Danger List and two former cities that lost their World Heritage status were examined in the context of the study. These cases are Liverpool (Britain), Vienna (Austria), Kosovo and Dresden (Germany). In order to define major threats, the reasons of why these areas were added on Danger List were studied. The threat parameters of different researches were compared with these cases to rank leading problems heritage sites experience. Building and development issue was approved to be the most common threat in urban heritage areas.

Keywords: Heritage in danger, threat parameters, UNESCO, world heritage sites, world heritage list.

1. Introduction

It is important to define the problems of heritage areas to access an effective conservation state. There are supporting institutions to help this state of conservation of heritage sites. UNESCO is a major organisation that defines its mission as to contribute to the building of a culture of peace, the eradication of poverty, sustainable development and intercultural dialogue through education, the sciences, culture, communication and information. In order to foster cultural diversity, the organisation uses tools like "World Heritage List". The list started to be used in order to promote and accept natural and cultural values that carry "outstanding universal value" as common heritage of all human being over the World. ICCROM, ICOMOS, IUCN and World Heritage Committee creates the list. "List of World Heritage in Danger" concept was created following the increasing threats on urban heritage areas. The aim is to register areas that need urgent intervention. It is accepted as a tool for conserving heritage against these potential and current threats by creating international awareness and by some applications like delisting and cutting off the funds for "World Heritage List".

According to the data of 2020, there are 1121 areas in World Heritage List. These areas are chosen among the countries who signed "The World Heritage Convention". Urban heritage areas cover %78 of World Heritage List. The high percentage of this rate could be explained not only by numerical but also with the efforts of authorities who wish to benefit from the positive effects of being in the World Heritage List.

Table I: Distribution of areas "World Heritage in Danger List" over the world (data belongs to 2020) [URL-I]

LOCATION	CULTURAL	NATURAL	MIXED	TOTAL	%
Latin America/ Caribbean	4	2	0	6	%11
Europe/ North America	3	1	0	4	8%
Asian/ Pacific	4	2	0	6	11%
Arabic Peninsula	21	0	0	21	40%
Africa	4	12	0	16	30%
Total	36	17	0	53	100%

There are 52 heritage areas in List of World Heritage in Danger all over the world (**Table I**). Most of the areas under threat are mainly cultural sites. The most common areas under threat are in Arabic Peninsula. Main reasons are wars and conflictions in the recent decades. In the focus of the study, UNESCO heritage sites of Europe were chosen to show what kind of threats' urban areas experience in common. These areas are, Vienna Historical Centre (Austria) and Kosovo. Former areas delisted after staying in World Heritage in Danger List (Liverpool (Britain) Maritime Mercantile City and Dresden Elbe Valley (Germany)) are subject to the study.

In order to introduce themselves in the global arena, being in the World Heritage List became an important tool for heritage sites. Being in the list gives status and opportunity to be globally recognized. A global value for the place is introduced. It makes the funds and supports (from UNESCO) accessible for the regions. World Heritage in Danger List works as a mechanism to help these areas in protecting their outstanding universal value from the possibility of any serious damage.

It is essential to define the criteria for an area to be added on the World Heritage List. UNESCO defined 10 articles for the addition on the heritage list. The areas that carry one or more than one criteria are added on World Heritage List (URL-1).

Following table shows the criteria of UNESCO Heritage List and the reasons why case studies of this paper were added on the list (Liverpool, Vienna, Kosovo and Dresden);

Table II. Dresden **(1)**, Liverpool **(2)**, Vienna **(3)** and Kosovo **(4)** and criteria of why there were added on the UNESCO List (URL-1)

UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE LIST CRITERIA	1	2	3	4
(i) to represent a masterpiece of human creative genius;;	-	-	-	-
(ii) to 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;	✓	✓	✓	✓
(iii) to bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared;	✓	✓	-	✓
(iv) to be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history;	✓	✓	✓	✓
(v) to be an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement, land-use, or sea-use which is representative of a culture (or cultures), or human interaction with the environment especially when it has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change;	✓	-	-	-
(vi) to 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 Committee considers that this criterion should preferably be used in conjunction with other criteria);	-	-	✓	-

Literature Research

It is essential to clarify threat parameters in order to define the precautions to be taken on urban heritage areas. Different sources will be compared and evaluated considering the problems regarding conservation and threats on the urban heritage areas. The extreme changes in last centuries, globalisation, uncontrolled rapid growing, demographic changes and economic pressure directly affected the conservation of urban environment. The study focuses on UNESCO's heritage areas and heritage list, the threats it defined are primarily taken into account. Along with UNESCO, parameters of its advisory body- ICOMOS were defined. ICOMOS publishes reports periodically aiming to draw attention to common threats. Data of Getty Conservation Institute that works on preserving the world's cultural heritage to advance civil society was added. Considering her experience and valuable researches in the field, Ana Pereira Roders' (Delft University) studies' outcomes were inspected.

UNESCO specified the total threats effecting the outstanding universal value of World Heritage Areas under specified titles. The mains of these are; buildings and development, transportation infrastructure (air, ground, marine and underground transport infrastructure), service infrastructure (channels, power plants etc.), pollution, biological resource use/ modification, physical resource extraction (mining, oil and gas, quarrying), social/ cultural uses of heritage, local conditions affecting physical fabric, other human activities (war, terrorism, illegal activities), climate change and severe weather events, invasive/ alien or hyper abundant species, management and institutional factors (planning gaps, financial source problems). The most leading treats for urban heritage areas are **building and development, transportation infrastructure, social/cultural uses of heritage, human activities and management and institutional factors**.

The main title UNESCO defined as **building and development** consists of commercial growth, housing, industrial areas, visitor facilities, basic tourist accommodations and related infrastructures (UNESCO, 2019). World Heritage Convention defined one of its main goals as the growth of tourism. Tourism is also among urban growth policies due to creation of labour and helping in the in-crease of cities' income. But this growth may cause major threats. Even though the nomination grows basically with "outstanding universal value", the real motivation is usually the economic activities and benefits that this nomination would bring (Pendlebury and While, 2009). Shackley explained this interactive situation in the study he did in 1998 as; "The term of "World Heritage List" gives a special definition to the regions. This definition can be explained with "must-see" in tourism (1998). These kind of places serve as magnets for tourists and it is like a guarantee of increasing visitor number thanks to advertisement of the areas right after being accepted in the World Heritage List (Shackley, 1998).

The changes in traditional lives of people, changes in local population and society, social cohesion, tourism's effects, visitor and recreational reasons, spiritual and religious uses, the value society pays attention to heritage and other reasons may cause threats on urban areas. UNESCO defined these parameters under the title of social/ cultural uses of heritage in State of Conservation (SOC) Report in 2019. Historical areas gained density and small rural centres are accepted as old-fashioned resulting with the isolation after immigration. The cities transformed into metropoles where the planning authorities became incapable of controlling the growth of places as a result of rapid population increase and urban sprawl (Chowdhary, *et al*, 2017). Financial resources, management, efficient research and monitoring activities, human activities, legal framework, low efficient research and monitoring activities, management activities, management systems/ management plans are threat parameters UNESCO defined under title of management/ institutional factor (UNESCO, 2019). Tourism that gains acceleration with building and development is related indirectly but closely with social/ cultural uses of heritage. Infrastructural problems like transportation (air, underground, marine transport and ground transportation) is among the criteria that may threaten heritage areas (UNESCO, 2019). Civil outbreaks, destruction of heritage on purpose, illegal activities, terrorism and war are the results of human activities.

ICOMOS published a report on risks and threats in 2000. The four main titles are lack of maintenance, economic

and social changes, insufficient conservation standards and tourism based issues. The risks related to development which is the main subject of this study are summarized as;

Economic pressure;

(1) Change in the land use (urban sprawl, industrial agriculture, high density, gentrification);

(2) Accelerated obsolescence of heritage buildings due to new constructions;

(3) Environmental impacts (air, water and soil pollution, deforestation, land erosion);

(4) Urban transformation (gentrification, increased urban density, façadism, demolition by neglect);

(5) Redevelopment of large estates or heritage landscapes;

(6) Inappropriate land use in heritage areas (shopping centres, high rise buildings);

(7) Global market economy (local traditions, crafts, identity).

Large development projects;

(1) Power dam and reservoir construction;

(2) Mining and forestry operations;

(3) Transport infrastructure (road, bridge, railway, parking, harbour facilities, airports).

Uncontrolled tourism;

(1) Visitor behaviour and accessibility (mass consumption);

(2) Accelerated physical abuse of heritage places;

(3) Related impacts (on-site facilities, parking and souvenir shops, hotels, roads);

(4) Intrusive or excessive presentation and related works, including inappropriate reconstruction (ICOMOS, 2000).

Common social issues such as **vandalism**, **organised crime**, **social breakdown**, **political issues** are also included in the report. The deficiencies in conservation framework (legal problems in conservation practises, inefficient law and bureaucracy) constitutes the basis of other threats.

In order to define the common threat parameters on World Heritage Sites, a meeting was held by Getty Conservation Institute in 2009. The title was "Historic Urban Environment Conservation Challenges and Priorities for Action Experts Meeting". A survey was applied in the meeting to evaluate major problems in World Heritage Sites. The majority of people attending the survey was from conservation field. Highest number of attendants were members of ICOMOS (%85). The rest was from OWHC (Organisation of World Heritage Cities) and Historical City League (Getty Institute, 2009). The principal and secondary threats parameters according to the survey is added on **Table III**.

Table III- The greatest and secondary concerns on heritage sites (Getty Institute, 2009)

Issues of greatest concern	%
Conflicts between heritage needs and development needs	%71
Investing for heritage conservation	%56
Managing new buildings/ development	%51
Issues of secondary concern	**%**
Adaption traditional structures for modern lifestyles	%52
Managing infrastructure and its replacement	%47

According to the study, the main reasons for threats (Table III) are shown on **Table IV**:

Table IV- Top causes of threats in historic cities (Getty Institute, 2009)

Causes	%
Poor planning	%58
Changing demographics with the city	%48
Poor infrastructure	%46
Responses: 166	

The inspections on World Heritage Sites Ana Pereira Roders made are valuable considering the threat parameters (**Table V**). The context of the research is comprehensive and final data is accurate about World Heritage Sites.

Ana Roders inspected areas on World Heritage List and Heritage in Danger List. As a result, an analysis considering what State Parties experience in this process and why these areas are on danger list was made. State of Conservation reports were used in this research. Periodic research was applied and results were documented. It is a well-known reality that most of the heritage cities have problems about development pressures. This research stresses that maintenance/ lack of restoration is a major threat along with new development.

Building and development is common in four studies. **Transportation infrastructure, social/cultural uses of heritage, human activities and management and institutional factors** are stressed as common problems in three of the studies. **Tablo VII** is organised according to the parameters with their degrees of mentioning level. The parameter that is emphasized in all studies is defined as 1st grade, the parameter emphasized in three studies is defined as 2nd grade, the parameter emphasized in two of the initial studies is defined as 3rd degree and if the threat is pointed out only in one study, it is counted as 4th grade. These parameters and their degrees are analysed on four cases; Liverpool, Vienna, Kosovo and Dresden.

Table V. Threats effect World Heritage Sites (Roders, A.P., 2012)

Threat	Cities under threat	%
New development	11	16.42
Lack of flawed or damaging maintenance, reconstruction and restoration work	11	16.42
Natural disaster	8	11.94
General degradation	7	10.45
Infrastructure construction and development	7	10.45
Tourism pressures and associated development	5	7.46
Informal/ illegal settlements or construction	5	7.46
Illegal or inappropriate dismantling and demolition	3	4.48
Archaeological excavations	2	2.99
Natural causes	2	2.99
Motor traffic	2	2.99
Land privatization and ownership issues	2	2.99
Lack of or insufficient infrastructure	1	1.49
Neglect	1	1.49

Table VI- Superposition of the treats considering four studies on literature research (UNESCO: U, ICOMOS: I, Getty Institute: G, Ana P.Roders: A)

PARAMETERS	U	I	G.E.	A.R.
Building and Development	+	+	+	+
Transport Infrastructure (roads, parking lots, railways, ports etc.)	+		+	+
Service Infrastructure (dams, channels, power dams, pipe lines etc.)	+	+		
Social/cultural uses of heritage,	+	+		+
Human activities (war, terrorism, illegal trade etc.)	+	+		
Management and institutional factors (lack management plans and sources etc.)	+	+	+	
Change in the land use (urban sprawl, industrial agriculture, high density, gentrification)		+		+
Environmental impacts		+		
Urban transformation		+		
Redevelopment of large estates (landscape)		+		
Conflicts between heritage needs and development needs			+	
Adaption of traditional structures/ lack of restoration/ maintanence			+	+
General degradation				+
Illegal settlements				+
Illegal dismantling				+
Archaeological excavations				+
Natural causes				+
Motor traffic				+
Neglect				+

Table VII- Ranking degree of parameters given on Table VI

Parameters' ranking degrees	Parameters
1.ST DEGREE THREAT PARAMETERS	Building and Development
2.ND DEGREE THREAT PARAMETERS	Transport Infrastructure (roads, parking lots, railways, ports etc.) Social/cultural uses of heritage, Management and institutional factors (lack management plans and sources etc.)
3.RD DEGREE THREAT PARAMETERS	Change in the land use Adaption of traditional structure
4.TH DEGREE THREAT PARAMETERS	Natural causes Urban transformation Redevelopment of large estates (landscape) Conflicts between heritage needs and development General degradation Illegal settlement Illegal dismantling Archaeological excavations Natural causes Motor traffic Neglect

It is among the main goals of the research to define threat parameters of World heritage sites and categorize them from the most important one to the less.

2. Method

1.1 *Problem of the study*

World Heritage List is a tool for defining areas that carry universal outstanding value. List of World Heritage in Danger is designed to inform the international community about the threats World Heritage Sites experience. It is known that most of cities find it difficult to keep a balance between preserving their heritage values and continuing their urban development. The best examples for these are Dresden and Liverpool which were delisted from UNESCO's World Heritage List. These two lists are aiming to encourage State Parties to take corrective steps and actions. Different sources and researches focus on World Heritage Sites' problems. Most of these problems are well-known for everyone who work on conservation field. But it is difficult to reach studies that level these threats regarding their degrees and impacts.

1.2 *Importance of the Study*

Defining problems and degrees of these problems for World heritage cities are essential to decide on further steps for the future of these cities. The World Heritage

Cities of Europe- Dresden, Liverpool, Vienna, Kosovo (European cases on Heritage in Danger List) are used as a model to reflect common problems of urban areas with universal heritage values. All these examples are living cities. They have to keep their development grow. The development plan processes should not conflict with authenticity of the cities. Recommendations about heritage cities' futures should be taken into account to establish a sustainable conservation plan.

1.3 *Method of the study*

Parameters and data of three institutions and one researcher (UNESCO, ICOMOS, Getty Conservation Institute and Ana P. Roders) were used. The structure of the study is constructed on the basic threat parameters heritage cities experience. World Heritage Lists were used as tools for this study. In order to make a locational limitation, the study focused on European heritage cities for the general framework. Since World Heritage Lists constitute the core of the study, threat parameters (for urban heritage cities) UNESCO defined for World Heritage cities were used as the starting point. The other studies

were chosen due to their level of validity and reliability in this field. ICOMOS is highly important as an advisory body of UNESCO. Getty Conservation Institute is quite prestigious with the projects and resources related to all types of heritage. Ana P. Roders's professional experience focused on historic urban landscapes and cultural heritage and she has had a partnership with UNESCO for four years that lets her works very valuable.

All these studies were used to define all threats of World Heritage cities. All threats were listed, the outcomes were overlapped and they were categorized from major problems to the least important ones.

1.4 Case studies

Two areas that were delisted from World Heritage List- Dresden Elbe Valley and Liverpool Mercantile Maritime City were examined. Two cases that were added on Heritage in Danger List- Vienna Historical Centre, Kosovo Region are the other areas chosen for this study.

Dresden is the capital of Saxony region in Germany. The city is known with Pillnitz Palace, rural houses and gardens dating back to 19th and 20th centuries. The iron bridge (1891), old railway (1898), funicular (1894), steam vapour (the oldest dates back to 1879) and shipyard are unique heritage values of the area (Gailard and Rodwell, 2015). A controversial process with UNESCO bodies started after the decision of construction of Waldschlößchen bridge. The new structure was designed by an international competition. Finally, Dresden Elbe Valley becomes the first case which is delisted.

Construction decision was triggered because of the insufficient transportation infrastructure following the increase in traffic after designation as a World Heritage List. Tourist flow right after the city's nomination triggered. This tourism flow caused the whole valley to be delisted. Severinsen indicates that construction of the bridge was the only option to relieve the traffic load and chaos between city centre and Dresden, to connect south and north regions of the city, to deal with the increasing traffic. But UNESCO remarks that the bridge was damaging the Elbe valley's view.
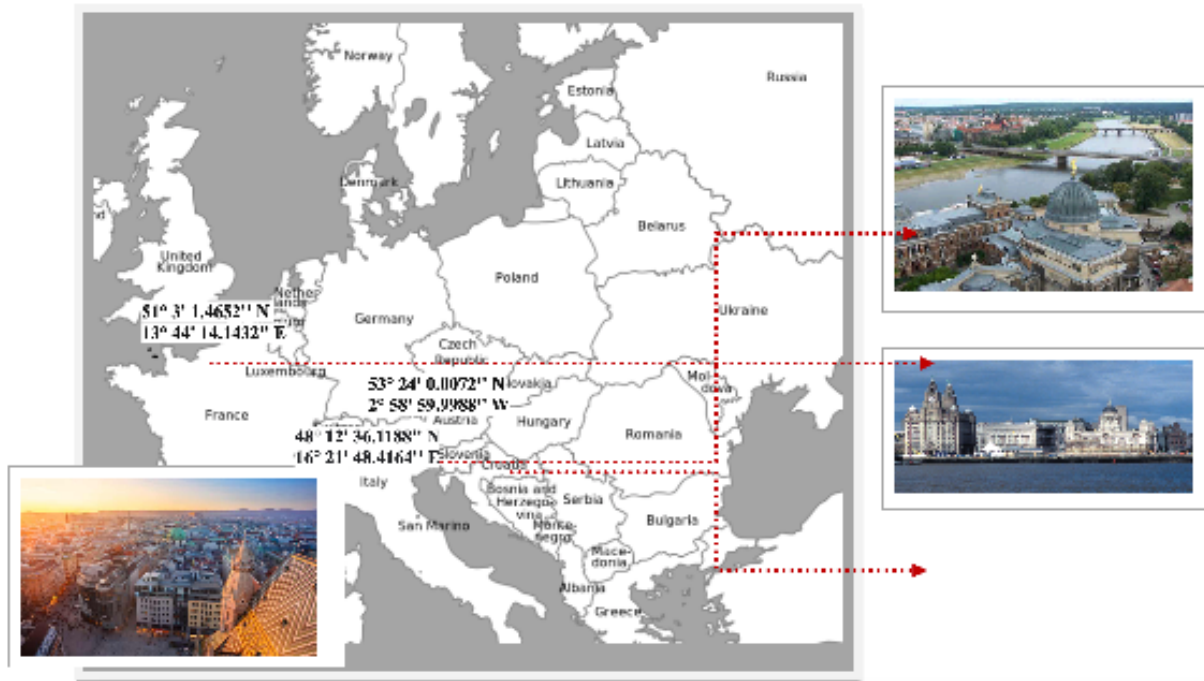

Figure 1: Location of Dresden, Vienna, Kosovo and Liverpool in Europe map and cities' images (URL-8)

Liverpool stands on the edge of Mersey river in Britain. The loosing of city's trade facility happened after the big crisis following World War I and World War II and after the change in the international trade system. The city decided to give priority on its cultural advertisement and rehabilitation of "world city" image by economic development in the beginning of the millennium. Nomination for the World Heritage List was the beginning of this whole process (Gailard and Rodwell, 2015). The city was added to the list in 2004. But Forth Grace Project, three new structures on Mann Island and Liverpool Museum Project were ambitious works for a heritage city. UNESCO's monitoring bodies stressed their serious concerns on new development projects. The potential threats of these projects for the heritage area were stated in 2005. Efforts for negotiation continued with ICOMOS and UNESCO while local authorities were still going on "Liverpool Waters Project." This comprehensive new project was offering major developments in port areas (2005-2011). The concerns on these projects were pointed out several times and finally, Liverpool Mercantile Maritime City was added to World Heritage in Danger List in 2012 (Asfa, 2019). Everton Football Club offered a new stadium in Bramley-Moore Port causing major arguments in 2019 (Severinsen, 2020). As a result, the World Heritage Committee decided to delete Liverpool from World Heritage List in its 44th session in Fuzhou. The committee declares any deletion from World Heritage List is a loss to the international community and to the internationally shared values and commitments under the World Heritage Convention (URL-13)

Vienna is a city developed from early Celtic and Roman settlements into a Medieval and Baroque city to become the capital of the Austro- Hungarian Empire. It played an essential role as a leading European music centre, from the great age of Viennese Classicism through the early part of the 20th century. The historic centre of Vienna is rich in architectural ensembles, including Baroque castles and gardens, as well as the late-19th century Ringstrasse. The site was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2001 (URL-8). Although the project planned on the border of Heritage Area- Wien Mitte caused serious concerns on World Heritage Committee. Local authorities managed postponing Vienna to be included on World Heritage in Danger List after negotiations with UNESCO (ICOMOS, 2019). A satisfactory result couldn't be obtained regarding historical city centre in spite of all the conferences, recommendations and conventions. As a result, World Heritage Committee added Vienna City Centre to World Heritage in Danger List in 2017 because of the high rise and big scale projects such as Vienna Ice-Skating Club, Intercontinental Hotel and Concert Hall Projects (Santander, *et al*, 2018). UNESCO recommended to review of management plan to conserve the city, mapping the tangible/intangible cultural heritages with collaboration in a management plan, revising the big scaled projects before implementation in State of Conservation Report in 2019. As a final note, UNESCO decided that status of the city in danger list should remain (URL-9).

Kosovo region is accepted in World Heritage List in 2004. The area is a place valuable with its Medieval monuments dating back between 13th and 17th century. The place gained its heritage status in UNESCO list with the parameters of i, ii, and iii and apart from the monumental heritage, it has many civil architectural values. There are some conservation policy gaps considering the instability and management/ legal inefficiencies in the country. Insufficiency on legal status, lack of management plan, lack of legal conservation policies in buffer zones, improper conservation, restoration and maintenance are among the main threats that were indicated in State of Conservation Report. As a result of all these, Kosovo was added on World Heritage in Danger List in 2006.

Figure 2: Dresden Elbe Valley Waldschlößchen Bridge construction location and image after the construction (Severinsen,A.L.B. 2020)   (Asfa, 2019)

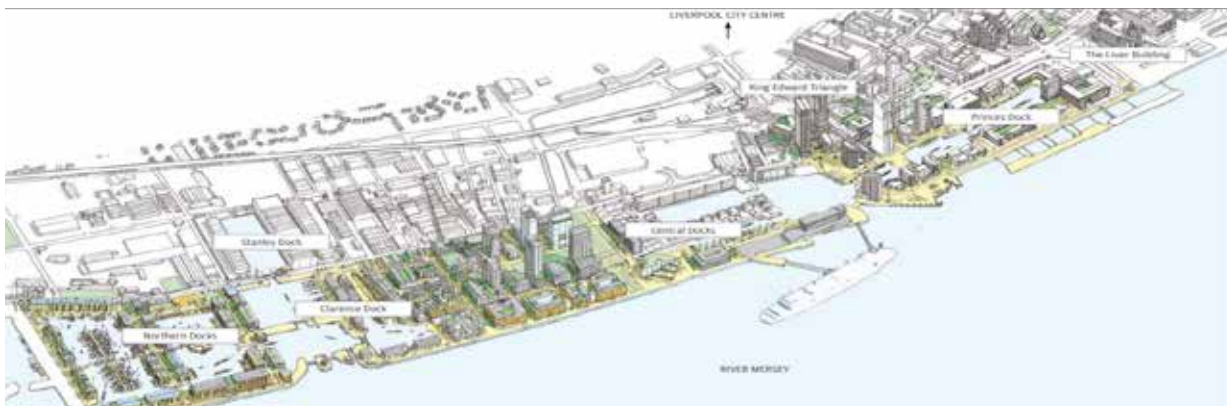**Figure 3:** Dresden city's general view (URL-5)

Figure 4: Liverpool city's ports' site plan (URL-6)

Figure 5: Liverpool Waters Project area (Asfa, 2019)

Figure 6: Vienna city centre Ice-Skating Club, Intercontinental Hotel and Concert Hall modelling (URL-10)

Figure 7: Vienna city centre and major famous monument Karlskirche together with new museum model beside (ICO-MOS, 2016)

Figure 8: One example of Medieval Churches which is among the reasons of addition to the heritage list   (URL-11)

3.   Research Findings

In findings section, UNESCO threat parameters for World heritage areas, ICOMOS report published in 2000, the article of Ana Pereire Roders (title: *"Revealing the level of tension between cultural heritage and development in World Heritage cities")* and survey results of the meeting Getty Conservation Institute were revealed. All the parameters that are included in this study were listed. First finding is that the majority of the threats defined by different researches or institutions are overlapping. The parameters that are common in different studies were collected in one table. They were categorized under one common title (eg. Building and development). An analysis data is obtained by listing the parameters. Ranking from 1st to 4th. **Table VIII** was created using the reasons of being added to World Heritage in Danger List for Liverpool, Dresden, Vienna and Kosovo. The data obtained from **Table VII** was used for creation of **Table VIII**.

Building and development is found the most major threat parameter underlined by four of the studies subject to this research. The experiences of Dresden and Liverpool are examples of this. Major projects like "Liverpool Waters", "Ice-Skating Club and Intercontinental Hotel" cause heritage cities to be located on World Heritage in Danger List. 1st Degree Threat Parameter caused damage on urban heritage was found as building and development dominantly. Case studies support this parameter.

However, Kosovo case is different than three other examples. The status of the area has a different character because it is a country recently established with a post-war position. Its main problems are related to insufficient source for renovation/restoration and lack of legal status for conservation.

Increased tourist interest accelerated the construction of bridge and urban development projects in Dresden. This damaged the integrity of heritage area. As a summary, two significant threat titles were observed- tourism pressure and transport infrastructure. **Transport Infrastructure** (roads, parking lots, railways, ports etc.) was stressed as a threat parameter in the three of the mentioned studies of this research (Table VII). This parameter was accepted as the 2nd Degree threat parameter. Tourism and visitor based infrastructure projects that damage heritage areas are dominant in Vienna and Liverpool. So this threat is valid for these two European cities.

Social/cultural uses of heritage, management and institutional factors could be listed as 2nd Degree threat parameters. These three parameters were observed related with each other in Dresden. There is pressure over historical centres due to the increasing visitor numbers globally. In spite of efforts such as cancellation of new stadium project, Liverpool was finally delisted from World

Heritage List in 2021. Construction of big scale projects haven't stopped in spite of all meetings and warnings so serious concerns are being expressed for Vienna too. However, the situation is different for Kosovo. As a young country that is newly established, political instability is the major problem for the area.

The analysis data shows that European counties like Germany (Dresden), Britain (Liverpool) and Austria (Vienna) experience similar threats. Character of the heritage area and general structure of the country is different in Kosovo and this is reflected on threat parameters it experiences. Liverpool and Vienna don't experience any of 3rd and 4th degree threat parameters while Kosovo still has issues concerning these. Due to the lack of restoration interventions, deterioration on Medieval structures, politic instability and lack of conservation policies, Kosovo heritage areas are still under threat.

Table VIII- Analysis of threat Parameters on case studies

Ranks of parameters	Parameters	Dresden	Liver-pool	Vien-na	Kosovo
1.ST DEGREE THREAT PARAMETERS	Building and development	+	+	+	
2.ND DEGREE THREAT PARAMETERS	Transport infrastructure	+		+	
	Social/ cultural uses of heritage	+	+	+	
	Management and institutional factors	+		+	+
3.RD DEGREE THREAT PARAMETERS	Change in the land use			+	
	Adaption of traditional structure/ lack of restoration/ maintanence				+
4TH DEGREE THREAT PARAMETERS	Others				+

4.   **Discussion**

According to four different sources (UNESCO, ICO-MOS, Gettty Conservation Institute, Ana P. Rodgers) about the threats World Heritage Sites experience, the most important pressure was stated as "building and development". Dresden, Liverpool, Vienna and Kosovo were chosen as a model to reflect these threats of World Heritage Sites. These four cases have common aspects. They are all located in Europe and all heritage sites have been added or were once on World Heritage in Danger List. It is remarkable that building and development (1st degree parameter according to sources) is most dominant threat according to the four literature sources used in this study. It is compatible with real experiences case studies experienced (Dresden, Liverpool and Vienna). These pressures lead Liverpool and Dresden to lose their World Heritage Status and caused Vienna to be added on World Heritage in Danger List. According to UNES-CO, building and development consists of commercial growth, housing, industrial areas, visitor facilities, basic tourist accommodations and related infrastructures (UNESCO, 2019). This can be interpreted that major threat parameters (1st and 2nd Degree parameters: building and development, transport infrastructure, social/cultural uses of heritage, management and institutional factors) are correlated. Visitor and tourist facilities seem to be related with social/cultural uses of heritage whereas they are affected by building and development directly. Historical centres of Dresden, Liverpool and Vienna all suffer from building and development and social/cultural uses of heritage. Popular cities of Europe have similar pressures to threaten their heritage sites while Kosovo shows different character with its specific problems. 3rd and 4th degree threat parameters which are not met widely in developed countries are serious problems for Kosovo.

Financial resources, management, efficient research and monitoring activities are mainly defining the general frame of management/ institutional factor (UNESCO, 2019).

The studies on literature part showed that problems regarding transport infrastructure is among the major threats. Parameters of UNESCO, Getty Conservation Institute and Ana Rodgers claim that any kind of transportation planning may threaten heritage sites. This is evaluated as 2nd degree parameters according to this study (stressed in three of the sources). The fact that delisting process from World Heritage Site for Dresden was mainly due to the construction of Waldschlösschen Bridge support this threat parameter. Transport issues are usually related to social/cultural uses of heritage since rising interest in heritage areas may result with an insufficient infrastructure. Vienna experienced inefficiency in transportation due to increasing visitor numbers and density in historical centre. This threat was classified as 2nd degree parameter showing similarity in character with social/cultural uses of heritage and management and institutional factors.

ICOMOS mentions four main titles that threat heritage sites. These are lack of maintenance, economic and social changes, insufficient conservation standards and tourism based issues (ICOMOS, 2000). Besides, it stresses the pressure born because of accelerated obsolescence of heritage buildings due to new constructions and inappropriate land use in heritage areas like shopping centres, high rise buildings. Lack of flawed or damaging maintenance, reconstruction and restoration work was shown as much threatening as building and development according to Ana P. Rodgers. This is a more important issues for developing countries where there are problems on finding funds. The conservation policies are immature and the priorities are not usually on restoration and maintenance of the heritage. Among the four case studies, Kosovo was found to experience problems due to this parameter.

5.   **Conclusion**

In this study, it is aimed at drawing attention to basic threats on World Heritage Sites encounter. Four sources were compared including UNESCO. The threat parameters each study found was listed and common ones were defined. The parameters were ranked according to the times they were mentioned in these studies. Common

threats were compared to decide which ones are valid on four case studies. These four cases are World Heritage Sites of Europe (Dresden and Liverpool delisted).

Analysis of threat parameters on case studies showed that even though the studies refer that major threat is building and development related, the real case studies reflect that social/cultural use of heritage structures and management/institutional factors are as much threatening as new constructions. It is important to remark the difference of management issues between developed and less developed countries. Case studies and the experience they had during their addition on World Heritage in Danger List process clearly showed this difference. The cases from Germany, Britain and Austria had management problems related to contemporary structures in heritage centres rather than an accurate problem on conservation policies. But the experience of Kosovo is different. The reason for this area to be on the World Heritage in Danger List is because of lack of maintenance and restoration work in Medieval monasteries.

Treat parameters on European cases are mainly due to urban issues. The threats arose due to war, conflicts, political instability or natural oriented ones would be a more concern if Arabic Peninsula or Africa were chosen for case studies. The nature of the problems on World Heritage Sites change according to the geographic location. The nature of the threats is in a close relationship not only with location but also the politic, economic and social aspects of the country. The differences of current threats Kosovo experience support this.

Listing and categorizing of all these threats show the main titles of problems of World Heritage Sites. The most common problems (building and development, management issues, transport infrastructure, social/cultural use of heritage) actually have a mutual relationship. The occurrence of one parameter triggers the rising of another or was already triggered due to the rising of another. It is important to analyse the character of the parameter considering the nature of the place and the solutions for the problems should be examined in a wider perspective with other current threat parameters.

Keeping a balance in development projects considering the character of heritage areas and making solid decisions are important to avoid future problems about conservation. Management framework in especially on the basis of local authorities should be set clearly and community's contribution in heritage cities should never be ignored for a successful conservation process. The opposite way of thinking already showed negative results as in the case of Dresden and Liverpool.

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