

Observatory Case update

Potocki Palace, Radzyń Podlaski, Poland

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Author(s): Aleksandra Ćwik-Mohanty (Warsaw University), Volodymyr Kulikov (Central European University)



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Potocki Palace

The revitalization project of the Potocki Palace, a Rococo residence in a county town called Radzyń Podlaski in eastern Poland, has been planned since 2015. In 2015, Radzyń City Hall received the palace from the Polish state. The first renovation works after the handover began in 2017. The municipality aims to transform the palace into a cultural facility to attract tourists, integrate the local community, and boost the cultural and social life of the town and surrounding areas. Obtaining funds to execute a feasible and sustainable management plan which can bolster the revitalization of the complex has long been a challenge. In 2021, the revitalization project received EU financial support. It is likely to be finished by the end of 2022. However, establishing appropriate governance and a sustainable funding model is the key issue to solve.

Update: the renovation process in 2019-2022

In 2019-20 the municipality applied to receive funds for the renovation. The Covid-19 pandemic has not disturbed the revitalization project. The palace had been closed to the public before, and the construction company could begin its work immediately.

In 2021 the municipality received 21.5 million PLN or 4.5 million EUR via EU funds – Regional Operational Program for Lublin Voivodeship, budgetary period 2014-2020 (2030 perspective) (Burda 2022). The total budget for the project is 28.3 million PLN (ca. 6 million EUR). The town's budget will cover an additional 7 million PLN or 1.5 million EUR (Turczyn 2020).

The winning project is called "Poprawa stanu infrastruktury zespołu pałacowo-parkowego i obszaru miejskiego w Radzynie Podlaskim [Improvement of the infrastructure of the palace and park complex and the urban area in Radzyń Podlaski]" (Turczyn 2020).

The first stage is the renovation of the palace. It includes the rebuilding of the interiors, including the installation of heating and other utilities. The second stage is reconstructing the surrounding spaces, including the market square and the park (Turczyn 2020).

The part of the revitalization project regarding the park is controversial. In 2021, protests and petitions requested the municipality to halt cutting down old trees in the main square (the revitalization plan involves concrete and benches). Unfortunately, the trees were cut down, and the mayor promised to plan new trees once the renovation was over (EB 2022).

The renovation of the palace and the park accelerated in 2021-22; the palace might be finalized in 2022, but the central part (as in the main square and adjacent buildings) should be returned to the residents in 2023. LUBREN company (www.lubren.com.pl) performs most of the reconstruction tasks. However, the renovation process is supervised by professional conservators and archaeologists. The regional office for heritage conservation is engaged too (Punkt Informacji Turystyczno-Kulturowej).

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