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International Conference

„HERITAGE MANAGEMENT: BETWEEN THREATS AND OPPORTUNITIES“

October 8–9, 2026,
Kernavė, Lithuania



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE „HERITAGE MANAGEMENT: BETWEEN THREATS AND OPPORTUNITIES“

OCTOBER 8–9, 2026, KERNAVĖ, LITHUANIA

The conference invites researchers, cultural heritage specialists, and members of the heritage community to share their insights and experiences regarding the protection, management, and sustainable use of cultural heritage. The conference will examine issues of legal regulation and management of cultural heritage, experiences in managing UNESCO World Heritage sites, practices of engaging local communities and stakeholders, as well as the complexity of heritage and cultural landscapes.

The conference program invites participants to present research and practical initiatives related to the development of sustainable tourism, opportunities for heritage education and adaptation for various audiences, and the interaction between cultural, historical, and natural heritage resources. A significant part of the conference will be dedicated to the topic of heritage communication—innovative solutions for presenting heritage, the involvement of community groups, volunteer initiatives and their benefits, best practices in science-based communication, and experiences with the use of new technologies, including artificial intelligence.

The conference aims to promote interdisciplinary dialogue and the sharing of best practices, thereby contributing to the sustainable preservation, understanding, and responsible use of cultural heritage for future generations.

PROPOSED PAPER TOPICS:

I. HERITAGE PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT.

Appropriate legal regulation of cultural heritage at the national level and its effective management are not only a prerequisite for the preservation of UNESCO World Heritage sites, but also the responsibility of every immovable cultural heritage site and its local manager.

- UNESCO World Heritage: experiences in implementing management plans, implementation of the Hague Convention, effective management solutions, challenges faced by local managers, best/worst practices, and case studies.
- Heritage and Community: local communities, local governments, communication and engagement practices among stakeholders, and the adaptation of values to create social and economic value for various stakeholder communities.
- Current issues and challenges in the protection of cultural landscapes.

II. HERITAGE ACTUALIZATION AND SUSTAINABLE TOURISM.

To ensure the long-term preservation of heritage, it is essential to promote sustainable visitor access and the development of tourism infrastructure that benefits local communities and provides a high-quality experience for visitors.

- Opportunities for sustainable tourism, expansion of opportunities, and management of related threats.
- Formats and practices for understanding heritage and adapting it to individual needs.
- Interaction and collaboration between cultural heritage, cultural landscapes, and educational resources, and Cultural Routes.



III. HERITAGE COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT.

Presenting cultural heritage, communicating its value, and involving all stakeholders in planning processes are important aspects of heritage management that encompass raising awareness of heritage and ensuring the smooth management of the area.

- New opportunities, tools, and themes for engagement to increase community involvement: youth, socially sensitive or vulnerable groups, and the expansion of volunteerism.
- Long-term and innovative communication solutions grounded by scientific data.
- Communication errors and threats, experiences with the use of artificial intelligence, etc.



Available formats:

- 20-minute oral presentation (in Lithuanian or English);
- Digital poster presentation (digital version displayed on screen);
- Thematic roundtable discussion on a selected topic (specific topic, up to 90 minutes).

Participation in the conference is free of charge.

Opportunities are being sought to cover part of the travel expenses for readers from other countries.

Those wishing to participate in the conference are invited to submit presentation topics, along with abstracts of up to 300 words in Lithuanian or English, to Agnė Žilinskaitė, project manager at the Administration of the Kernavė State Cultural Reserve (agne.zilinskaite@kernave.lt) by May 18.

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KERNAVĖ ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE!**

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