

Network of Boundaries and its Monuments: A World Heritage?

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SUMMARY

The Network of Boundaries and its Monuments: A World Heritage?

The Austrian Society for Surveying and Geoinformation (OVG) intends to submit an application to list "The Network of Boundaries and its Monuments" at the UNESCO World Heritage List. A successful application would bring proper global recognition by the general public of the monuments of land administration and the parcel cadastre as well as the documentation of ownership rights. The World Heritage site should document that a functioning land administration system including surveying and jurisdiction activities is an important ingredient for a democratic state.

Outstanding boundary monuments, the connecting geodetic network and prominent buildings historically related to cadastre and land register, will represent the World Heritage Site. Landmarks are seen as symbols for real properties and their associated rights and obligations. Landmarks are defining boundaries, which separate different rights and obligations. However, landmarks contribute also to a peaceful living together between neighbours. "Cursed be he, who removes his neighbour's landmark" was written 3.000 years ago in the Holy Bible (Deuteronomy 27:17).

The article documents the content and the time-consuming "Making of" the application, which has to be done in two steps. Firstly, the application has to be submitted to the Austrian authorities for becoming listed on a national tentative list and secondly, an application has to be submitted to UNESCO for being listed as World Heritage Site. Seven countries are interested to support the application (Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Italy, Hungary, Poland, Slovenia).

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