

## Summary

This comprehensive study titled *The Ecomuseum of Slovenian Hop-Growing and Beer Brewing Industries* and subtitled *Concept of a Permanent Museum Exhibition in Žalec* is a work by seven authors divided into four thematic sets.

The first part of the study predominantly consists of theoretical articles addressing the protection of cultural heritage, museums, open-air museums and in particular, eco-museums. It presents the analyses of different views on modern museology and the approach to and presentation of cultural heritage in foreign and Slovenian museums, mainly in the 20<sup>th</sup> and the 21<sup>st</sup> century. This part offers a detailed overview of contemporary museum trends and trends relating to the protection of cultural heritage in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. It also offers an overview of models for the establishment of a hop-growing and beer brewing ecomuseum in Slovenia. The models are supported by different aspects of contemporary ecomuseums and the structure of local ecomuseums and museum collections which serve as a basis for the operation of the ecomuseum network. In addition, this thematic set presents elements of museum interpretation and museum exhibition which helped authors to further develop their idea of an ecomuseum seated in Žalec and helped them to conceive its structural image.

The second thematic set is intended for the presentation of the hop-growing industry in the Lower Savinja Valley and other places across Slovenia in which hop growing is still present. This set consists of two independent articles; the first article is a comprehensive image of the hop-growing culture presenting everything from its prevalence to its key substantial components, while the second article presents an overview of the typical hop-growing forms throughout time.

The third thematic set addresses the concept and the model of the hop-growing and beer brewing ecomuseums in Žalec, Slovenia. It comprises four thematically linked articles; one of them presents the concept of a hop-growing museum, the second article highlights the Bryson's model of the strategic planning preparation presented on the example of a hop-growing and beer brewing ecomuseum, the third article presents the concept of an ecomuseum document database, while the last article presents a theoretical

model of an interactive learning centre in the ecomuseum for children and families.

The fourth thematic set treats the feasibility of the hop-growing and beer brewing ecomuseum project. The first article within this set presents the framework and the concept of the project, the second article presents the ecomuseum partners and co-workers, provides the architectural assessment of the adequacy of the location for an ecomuseum and a substantial assessment of locations potentially suitable for ecomuseum needs, an overview and an analysis of hop-growing farms and the programme basis for the establishment of an ecomuseum and the operation of a hop-growing farm.

The fourth set is followed by a catalogue of older and newer photos obtained or taken by the co-workers during their field work in the Lower Savinja Valley. This catalogue will be included in the planned exhibition and the accompanying promotional material.