

Best practice 20: Chantilly. Implementation of PPPs in order to manage a private cultural heritage

Scale: Urban

Stage of tourism development: Declining (in the castle)

Main objective: Urban development/ Tourism quality management/ Improve urban quality of life

Categories of effects:

Effects on urban governance

- Sustainable partnership
- Stakeholder participation
- Integrated urban planning

Effects on quality of life

- Built heritage diversity
- Urban economies
- Environment
- Social life, local values and traditions

How to manage heritage when it is not yours? Chantilly is experimenting a solution based on a successful union of private and public partners. The domain of Chantilly (40 km from Paris, France), 7830 hectares that were bequeathed to the *Institut de France* (the 5 French academies) in the 19th century by the Duc d'Aumale, possesses an important heritage: 6000 hectares of forest, the racecourse, the *Grandes écuries* (the stables), a castle occupied by the *Musée Condé*, a park designed by the landscaper Le Nôtre. Despite its exceptional heritage wealth, the domain undergoes every year a deficit of 500 000 euros. The renting of the racecourse by France Galop (180 000 euros per year) and the running of the 6000 hectares of forest by the ONF (National Organisation for Forests) do not compensate the important expenses for the maintenance and the surveillance of the castle. Presided by the Prince Karim Aga Khan, the *Fondation pour la sauvegarde et le développement du domaine de Chantilly* (Foundation for the safeguard and the development of the domain of Chantilly) was created and state-approved in 2005. This new structure will be in charge of the management of the castle, the park and the *Grandes écuries*. The Foundation implements a partnership between the Prince, the *Institut de France*, the Government and local authorities (the city of Chantilly, the *Département de l'Oise*, the *Région Picardie*) and France Galop. The aim of this structure is to renovate and to restore the heritage whose owner will still be the *Institut*, to improve the welcoming of visitors (by the enhancement of the surroundings, by the creation of a welcome centre and some parking places), to implement some animations and a marketing policy. The number of people visiting the castle stagnates at 270 000 by year and is tending to decline. The foundation hopes to triple this number. During the next 10 years, the Prince Aga Khan will give to the foundation 30 millions of euros, the State and the *Institut* 15 millions, the *Région Picardie* and the *Conseil Général de l'Oise* 10 millions. The *Institut* commits itself to put back to the foundation the excess of its receipts from the forest running. Two buildings in front of the stables and bought by the Prince will be reconverted into luxury-hotels and will complete the budget of the foundation. In addition to this public-private partnership, the sponsorship of the World Monument Fund will help to finance the restoration of the museum's works of art. To these positive effects on the management of Chantilly's heritage, will be added the impacts upon economies and the local quality of life: the mayor expects that the foundation will enable the creation of some stable employments. Already, the foundation should create 15 employments for professionals in order to implement the development plan and to improve the management of the domain. The development of the castle could also benefit to the population who can regret today the lack of links between the city and the castle.

Sources : Elisabeth GILLION, « Le domaine de Chantilly restauré par l'Aga Khan », *Le Moniteur*, march 3rd 2006, p. 64. Bulletin municipal « Vivre à Chantilly », n° 73, december 2005. Yves-Marie LUCOT, « L'Aga Khan renforce le pôle économique du sud de l'Oise », *Picardie. La Gazette*, n°3067, octobre 5th 2005, p. 4-5. Grégoire ALLIX and Emmanuel DE ROUX, « L'Aga Khan remet en selle le domaine de Chantilly », *Le Monde*, march 27-28th 2005.

Links:

www.institut-de-france.fr

www.ville-chantilly.fr