

Legal Framework of Heritage Preservation in the Czech Republic and Presentation of the National Heritage Institute

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The basic principles of heritage care have been developed in the Czech Republic since the 19th century. The first act on heritage care was passed in 1958; ever since, our Czech monuments have been legally protected. Since 1987, the second act on heritage care has been in force. Act No. 20/1987 Coll., on state heritage care, is a basic legal standard laying down conditions for preservation and appropriate use of cultural monuments, including care of protected areas - reservations, zones and their buffer zones. It also regulates the rights and obligations of owners, administrators, users of cultural monuments and real estates in protected areas, administrative bodies and the professional organisations of state heritage care - the National Heritage Institute. In addition to the administration and presentation of more than 100 castles, castle complexes, chateaux, monasteries and other monuments, which include the most important cultural heritage sites in the Czech Republic, the National Heritage Institute is a professional and research organisation of state heritage care. In this area, it carries out the tasks of expert methodology, documentation and information, provides research and processes professional statements as an obligatory basis for binding opinions of executive bodies of state heritage care.

