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Architectural traces of Jewish worship and memory in Thrace, Northern Greece. Development of a hybrid digital tool for the documentation and representation of monuments through time and space

The present proposal concerns a multi-level research, technological development and innovation project that is intertwined with the educational process of the University of Thrace.

The research object consists of digital documentation, promotion and representation of the architectural traces of places of worship (Synagogues), as memorials of the lost Jewish communities (*kehilot*).

Until the beginning of the 20th century, the synagogue buildings, from an architectural point of view, held a special place in the social development of the cities, as important landmarks, just like the corresponding *kehilot*. Nowadays, their material existence has largely disappeared and they have become invisible.

This proposal aims to restore the memory and the spatial imprint of the Jewish communities, as well as their inclusion in the historical, cultural and social context of the city and region.

Taking the "lost" synagogue buildings in Thrace as case studies, a new methodology of augmented museum experience and education is being developed: a hybrid tool that links the experience of authentic traces with the representational capacities of digital technology

By utilizing and through a productive interaction of cutting-edge technologies, this tool introduces new possibilities in the field of documenting and representation of these monuments, but also in the dissemination of the scientific knowledge, with applications in the fields of a. museum education, b. museum exhibitions, as well as c. in cultural-religious tourism and heritage tourism.

In this context:

A. An interactive virtual tour of an experiential character is created in the "lost" synagogues and their wider environment, via the applications of virtual and augmented reality, with a museological rationale in the script and scenography. The "walk" includes a digital tour, enriched with advanced visualizations and pop-up information. In addition, the development of innovative digital technology applications is being investigated to advance the accessibility of people with disabilities to the final product.

B. An expanded network of cultural and touristic actions and applications is formed, through which the research results are disseminated by utilizing a variety of media, presenting scaled processing and presentation of information, to address the needs of different target groups.

Specifically, the project includes the design of:

1. High-tech museum equipment installations and education programs for an enhanced museum experience. For this purpose, a "traveling" modular museum kit will be created, resembling a periodic educational exhibition, which will be hosted in an expanded network of museums in Greece and abroad.

2. Historical-architectural documentary film, of an experiential nature.

3. A multi-functional open-access website, both for the general public and specialized researchers, with the possibility of interconnection and scientific interaction.

The main objectives of the proposal are:

-The combined application of innovative digital applications and systems (databases, 3d scanning, digital photogrammetry, 3d modes, etc.), aimed at developing new or improving existing educational and cultural processes or services. In fact, in this particular case, the integration of "archive" elements (prints, photographs, stories, architectural plans, etc.) becomes of paramount importance, as the specific synagogue buildings have not been saved to a large extent and it is not possible to experience their tangible space.

-The creation of a cultural, methodological tool, which, with minimal "parameterization", can be applied to other cultural heritage monuments.

-Wide dissemination and smart management, with the possibility of promoting the product nationally and internationally (creation of a museum network, website, etc.)