Title:
Community Participation in Cultural Heritage Conservation Case Study: The Landscape Zone of the Bisotun World Heritage Site

Abstract:
Public participation in cultural heritage, with particular regard to conservation, has been a concern ever since the Venice Charter (1964) and it still is to this day. This approach has also been highlighted in World Heritage Documents. The Faro Convention adopted a shift in focus from the conservation of cultural heritage values to the value of cultural heritage for the society. In this case, it is necessary to engage public and local people in all stages of cultural heritage conservation and management. According to this convention, cultural heritage institutions inevitably have to apply a public participatory approach. Moreover, a number of papers have focused on the importance of public participation in heritage conservation and tourism management by implementing different tools.

This paper presents iCommunity, an application that will be aimed at finding a comprehensive method for achieving maximum inclusion in the decision-making processes for cultural heritage management. iCommunity is being designed as a mobile application facilitating public participation. The main idea is to give all people, who are affected by a decision, the opportunity to be involved in the decision-making process. Any cultural heritage institution will be able to publish its activities on the application so as to evaluate users' feedback before the implementation of the activity itself. Based on the user's location, the application displays ongoing activities to the user himself. As a part of a participatory approach, users share each other's experience or data related to the posted activity. They also can show their agreement or disagreement to the activities by voting. The comments, votes and user's activities will be analyzed real time for helping authorities to consider the consequence of their activities for more transparent and effective decision-making.