

IN MEMORIAM  
**Jovan Ristov**  
(1949 – 2018)



National Committee of the Blue Shield, a lawyer and a protector, passed away, having spent almost all of his working life in legal protection of cultural heritage. The members of MNC Blue Shield, MNC ICOM and MNC ICOMOS bade farewell to the man who with his humanity and his expertise left a lasting legacy on the Macedonian society in the time he lived.

Jovan Ristov was born on October 25, 1949 in the village of Drenovo, Kavadarci. In 1972 he graduated from the Faculty of Law in Skopje and immediately started working as a legal representative of the Tikveš agro-factory

in Kavadarci. In 1975 he was employed at the Republic Institute for Protection of Cultural Monuments in Skopje, first as Legal Secretary (1975 - 1976), then as head of the Department of Common Services and the Bureau of Records, Documentation and Information (1976 - 1977). From 1977 to 1979 he worked as a legal adviser for the protection of cultural monuments and natural rarities, and from 1979 to 1984 as a legal adviser for the protection of cultural monuments. From 1984 to 1987, he served as acting assistant director, then acting director and acting technical director of the Republic Institute for Protection of Cultural Monuments in Skopje. From 1987 to 1988 he served as an assistant to the president of the National Committee on Culture and was responsible for the protection of cultural monuments and natural rarities, archival, library, film and museum activities and memorials of events and persons. In the following period (1988 - 1990) he served as assistant to the president of the Republic Committee on Education, Culture and Physical Culture, responsible for the protection of cultural monuments, archives, libraries, film and museum activities and memorials of events and persons. In 1990 he returned to the Republic Institute for Protection of Monuments of Culture in Skopje, this time as its director until 1999 for two terms, and from 1999 to 2002 he was an advisor for the legal protection of cultural heritage. From 2002 to 2004 he was acting director of the Republic Institute for Protection of Monuments of Culture for two terms. Jovan Ristov is the creator and founder of the Directorate for Cultural Heritage Protection within the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Macedonia, and also its first director in the period 2004-2006. From 2006 to his retirement in 2014 he works as a legal adviser on cultural heritage protection at his institution, now renamed in National Conservation Center.

During his career Jovan Ristov was involved in a number of federal organs and bodies of the former SFR Yugoslavia. He was a member of the Commission of the Federal Executive Council for coordinating the application of the ratified international conventions for the protection of cultural heritage (1978-1982); member of the Board for Natural and Architectural Heritage of the SFRY Council of Environment and Physical Planning 1978-1982); member of the Legal Section of the Union of Conservators Societies of Yugoslavia (1975-1990). He was also involved in inter-state bodies and bodies in the former SFR Yugoslavia: member of the Inter-state Board for the Prevention of Theft, Trafficking and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (1977-1980); member of the Coordinating Board of the Republican and Provincial Institutes for the Protection of Nature and Monuments of Culture (1980-1987); Head of the Joint Working Group of the Republic Institutes for the Protection of Cultural Monuments of the SR Macedonia and SR Bosnia and Herzegovina for the Classification, Valorisation and Categorization of Monuments of Culture (1980-1981).

From the state authorities within the SFR Yugoslavia he participated as a member of the Secretariat of the Culture Section of the National Conference of the SSRNM, two terms in succession (1978-1985); member of the Board for Cooperation with UNESCO at the State Committee on Foreign Cultural Relations (1979-1982); member of the Presidency of the Council for the Protection and Promotion of the Environment of the Socialist Republic of Macedonia (1982-1986); member of the State Committee on Culture (1986-1987); Member of the Commission for Protection of Cultural Monuments of the State Cultural Community (1988-1991).

After the breakup of Yugoslavia, he participated in several bodies in the Republic of Macedonia: representative of the state in the Council of the Museum of the City of Skopje (1994-1998); member of the Expert board of the UNESCO National Commission on Culture (1995-1998); president of the Assembly of the Macedonian National Committee on Blue Shield (2002-2005); member of the Executive Board of the Macedonian National Committee of ICOMOS, two terms in succession (1998-2001 and 2002-2005); member of the National Commission for UNESCO of the Republic of Macedonia (2004-2008); member of the Executive Board of the MNC Blue Shield (2012-2018).

His professional engagement was focused on monument law and the protection of cultural heritage, and in particular international and comparative law. Dear colleague Jovan Ristov was the only expert of such kind in the Republic of Macedonia, who worked out and interpreted the monumental legislation with great devotion. He has published eight monographs, seven regulations related to the protection of cultural heritage and over thirty expert and scientific papers, also related to the protection of cultural heritage in the Republic of Macedonia. His works are devoted to tangible and intangible, movable and immovable cultural goods. In the decades-long cooperation in the field of legal protection of cultural goods in the Republic of Macedonia, we have had the opportunity to see his engagement in regulating the various aspects of monument law in our country. His works on monument law are well-known, presented in the ICOM forums, in *Museologica Macedonica*, and published in the "e-SHTIT" online magazine of the Blue Shield.

He has produced a whole body of papers related to the legal protection of cultural goods. Of particular importance are the "Sources of Monument Law in Macedonia" in five volumes. They address issues of legal protection of cultural goods from ancient times to the present day, and the author Jovan Ristov has invested both his knowledge and experience. It is a period of establishment of the monument law in the Republic of Macedonia, for which good part of the credit belongs to Jovan Ristov. It should be emphasized that in the approach of constructing the structure of the papers, the topics selection, grouping, attitude,

content, the author had built a special methodology, which makes these papers very important from a scientific point of view. Of particular importance is also the publication "Private Collection of Cultural Property - Legal Aspects" published by MNC ICOM. The author Jovan Ristov, very delicately, very thoroughly elaborates on the private collection in all possible emerging forms, specifying the legal framework that exists today, but also suggesting, in the future, what that framework should contain. Jovan Ristov's contribution to the functioning of MNC Blue Shield's organs and bodies, which he has been a member of since its founding in 2002, is significant, especially as a member of the Executive Board of the MNC Blue Shield and the editorial board of the e-Shield online magazine.

With his works, our colleague Jovan Ristov remains the most important person in the field of the protection of cultural goods in our country. He shall be mentioned by the present and future generations who will deal with the legal protection of cultural goods. We thank him for everything he has done in the area of legal protection of cultural goods in the Republic of Macedonia, as well as in the work of the Macedonian National Committee of the Blue Shield. With the death of Jovan Ristov, the scientific community, the conservationists, and the public in Macedonia lost a valuable and dedicated worker in the field of monument law and the protection of cultural heritage in general, who during his lifetime contributed unselfishly to the affirmation of the protection of the Macedonian cultural goods.

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