

# The City as a Political Pawn Urban Identities in Chişinău, Černivci, Lviv and Wrocław

Edited by Bo Larsson

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# THE CITY AS A POLITICAL PAWN

URBAN IDENTITIES IN CHIȘINĂU, ČERNIVCI, L'VIV AND WROCŁAW

EDITED BY BO LARSSON

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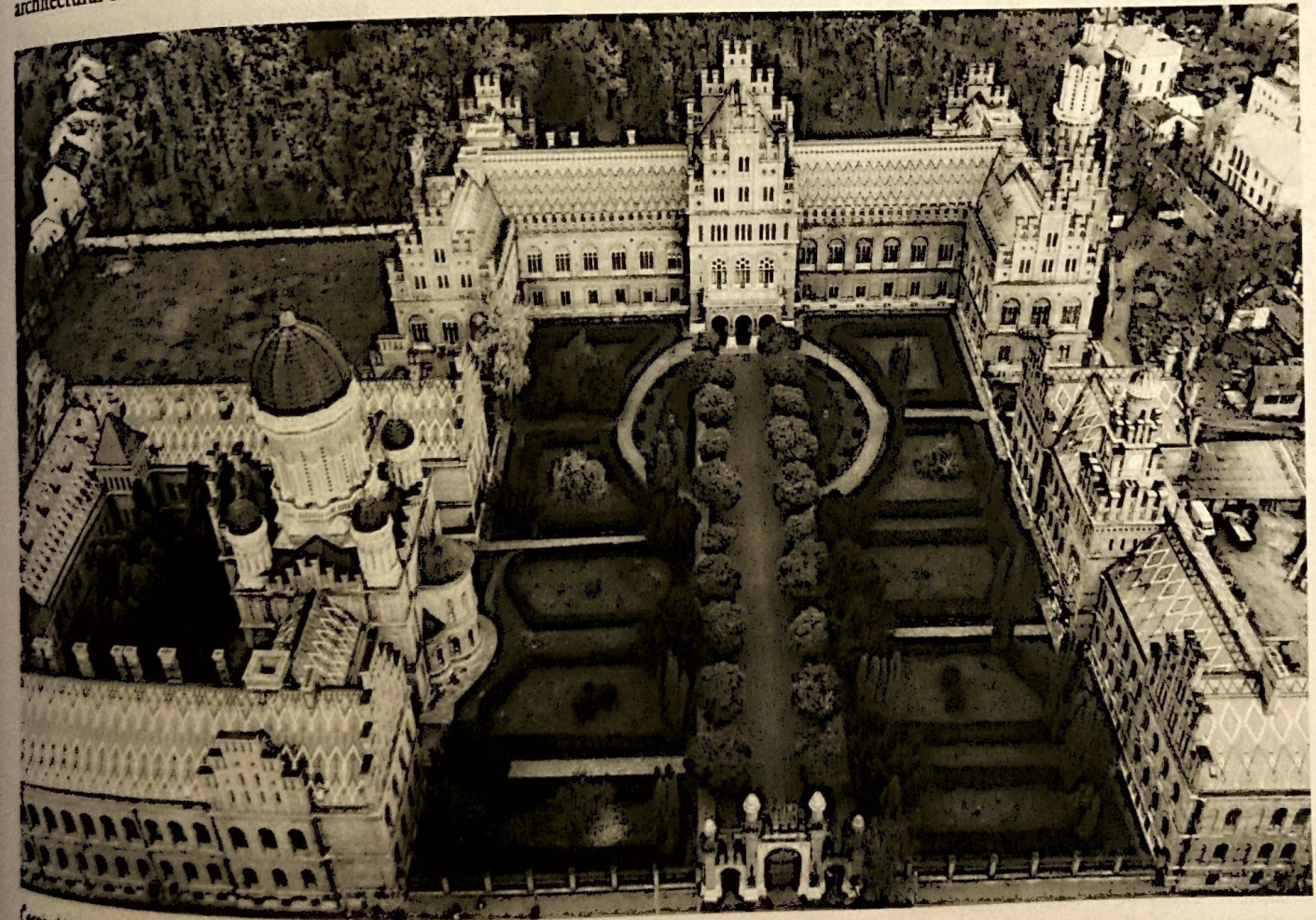
# THE PRESERVATION OF THE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF ČERNIVCI AS VIEWED BY STUDENTS AT ČERNIVCI NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

TAMARA MARUSYK, SVITLANA HEREHOVA

In collaboration with other city institutions, Yuriy Fedkovych (Jurij Fed'kovyč) Černivci National University is involved in cultural heritage preservation, in particular the preservation of monuments of local, national and global significance, contributing at social and scientific levels. Moreover, since 2011, the architectural ensemble of the Residence

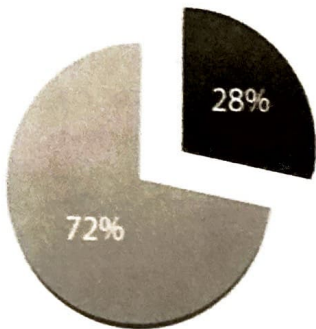
of Bukovinian and Dalmatian Metropolitans, now the home of the Černivci National University, has been included on the UNESCO World Heritage List. The Residence is the third Ukrainian object of cultural heritage registered on such a prestigious list, something that has raised the image of both the city and the country.

This clearly places an even greater burden of responsibility on the staff and students of the University in terms of preserving the buildings for the global community. Against this background, a questionnaire was compiled aimed at the University's students, in order to establish how their attitudes to the preservation of the historical heritage of the city of



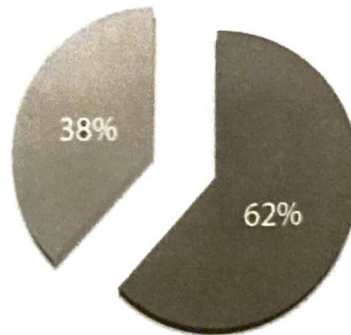
Černivci University

**1. How important is it for student-respondents to study the history of Černivci?**



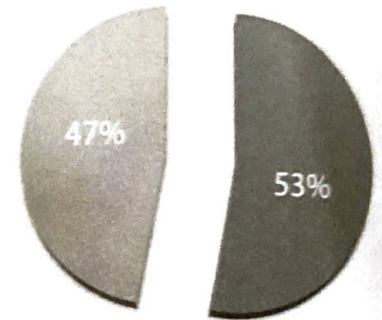
■ Important ■ Very important

**2. How important is it for student-respondents to study present-day Černivci?**



■ Important ■ Very important

**3. How important is it for student-respondents to study the future of Černivci?**



■ Important ■ Very important

Černivci corresponds to our present-day concerns. The results of the survey will be presented in this article.

Here, we will try to summarize the data and explain the survey outcome taking into consideration the entire student body of the university. It is worth mentioning that the university now has over 15,000 full or part-time students and a staff of approximately 2,500. From the statistical point of view, they constitute almost 8% of the population of Černivci.

The topic of the survey is "Students' knowledge about the conservation of the historical and cultural heritage of Černivci". The respondents are students at Černivci University in the age range 18–22 years, who can be divided into four groups: historians and political scientists; mathematicians and physicists; biologists and chemists; and architects and those studying tourism. A total of 200 students were surveyed. We used personal interviews formalized according to the proposed profiles.

The selection of student-respondents was made on the basis of their competence in or ignorance of the history of the city of

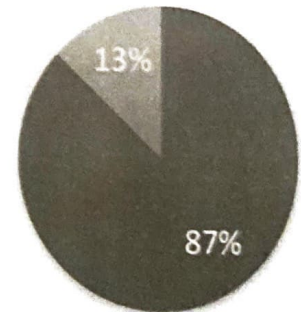
Černivci and its architectural and cultural heritage.

The first questions illustrate the student-respondents' personal details:

- More than a half of the student-respondents are female.
- More than a half of the interviewees have been urban residents since childhood (the specific character of the students who major in architecture and tourism is observed here).
- Education: 72% of the respondents are undergraduates.
- Education obtained by parents is mainly higher (79%).
- Two thirds of respondents are satisfied with their financial situation.
- Over half of respondents (58%) consider themselves somewhat religious, while only just over a quarter (26%) attend church on a regular basis.

The next task reveals the major issues of concern for Černivci students. Issues which are of great interest for Černivci students are:

**4. Name significant events and public figures of Černivci in the pre-war and post-war periods and places connected with them.**



■ named ■ not named

1. The lack of jobs for university graduates;
2. Gaps in transport infrastructure (absence of air communications);
3. Slow pace at which Černivci is regaining its former architectural appearance;
4. Poorly developed tourism infrastructure in the city;
5. Deplorable roads condition in the city and its suburbs;
6. Influx of the rural population into the city.

Next, I will use diagrams to fully illustrate all the survey.

Student-respondents generally consider that it was during the Austrian-Hungarian period that Černivci became some kind of a European centre, which is unsurprising given that the city of Černivci is often called "Little Paris" or "Little Vienna".

One of the high-water marks for the crown land of Bukovina, with its capital Černivci, was achieved in 1860 when, in response to a request by the Orthodox Bishop Eugene Hackmann, permission was granted by the Austrian Emperor to construct the Residence of Bukovinian and Dalmatian Metropolitans in the city. Designed by the young Czech architect Josef Hlávka, the building was constructed over a period of 18 years between 1864 and 1882. Today, this jewel is a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Further proof of the recognition afforded the city is the foundation of Černivci National University in 1875. The decision to locate this university on the outskirts of the empire was taken after long debates in the Austrian Parliament. A deputy of the regional Sejm and the Austrian Parliament, Kostjantyn Tomaščuk, persuaded Emperor Franz Joseph to found the university specifically in Černivci and went on to become the university's first rector.

At various times, distinguished European and international scholars have conducted research and taught at the university, including the economist Joseph Schumpeter, the lawyers E. Ehrlich and H. Gross, the historian R. Kaindl, the Slavist O. Kaluzhnyatsky, the composer and writer S. Worobkiewicz, the mathematician L. Gegenbauer, the biologist E. Tangl, the chemist R. Przibram and many others. I. Franko, V. Simovyč,

D. Lukjanovyč, J. Kobyljanskyj, S. Špojnarovskyj and O. Kolessa studied at the university.

According to the website facenews.ua, the university has been named among the top five most architecturally original university buildings in the world, alongside the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (Cambridge, MA, USA), Nanyang Technological University (Singapore), the University of Nottingham (United Kingdom) and Rangsit University (Bangkok, Thailand).

Student-respondents confirm that excursions around the city and the university, especially in their first-year, helped to enrich their knowledge about tolerance, multiculturalism and the architecture of Černivci. Some students point to their participation in the preparation of the Nomination Dossier for the inclusion of the university's main buildings, the former Residence, on the UNESCO World Heritage list, the thorough preparation of which resulted in a positive decision in favour of the university. Students from various university departments worked on the dossier: history majors collected and analysed archival materials; geography majors provided photographs and videos and made maps; architecture majors conducted a comparative analysis of the architectural object in question and similar residences around the world; and international relations majors assisted with certain issues concerning diplomacy. Common endeavours led to the inclusion of the Residence of Metropolitans of Bukovina and Dalmatia (presently occupied by the Yuriy Fedkovych National University in Černivci) on the prestigious UNESCO

World Heritage List. The respondents emphasize the role of the university's teachers in cultivating a love of the city not only among natives of Černivci but also among those from other regions. Such love enroots positive cultural and historical thinking. Some respondents state that they voluntarily organize free excursions for tourists visiting Černivci. We are proud that our students feel responsible for the conservation of the city's cultural heritage, especially given our present strained situation in Ukraine. The comments provided by students in response to our questions vividly demonstrate their feelings.

The survey also contained a visual test consisting of several photographs of architectural objects in their old and present forms. Summing up the results of a visual analysis, we can see that 86% of student-respondents recognized and named the objects presented in a modern and original form. I must emphasize that student-respondents majoring in architecture, history and tourism correctly named all of the objects.

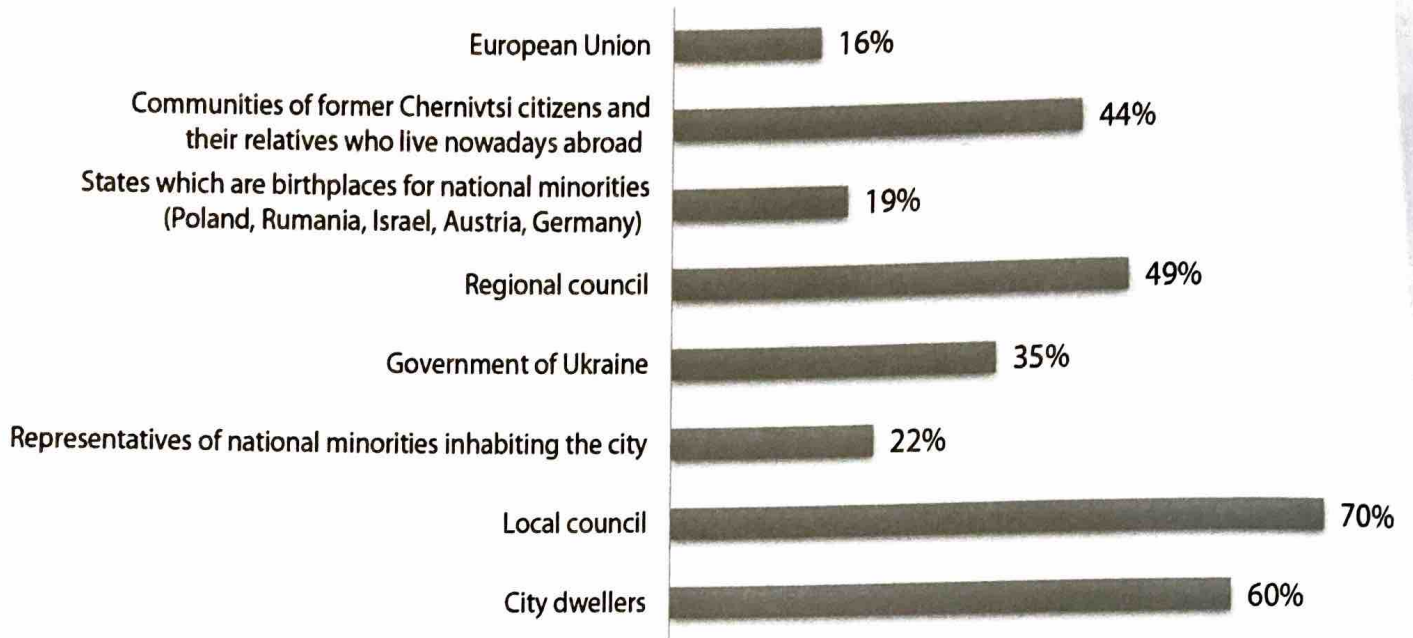


Josef Hlávka

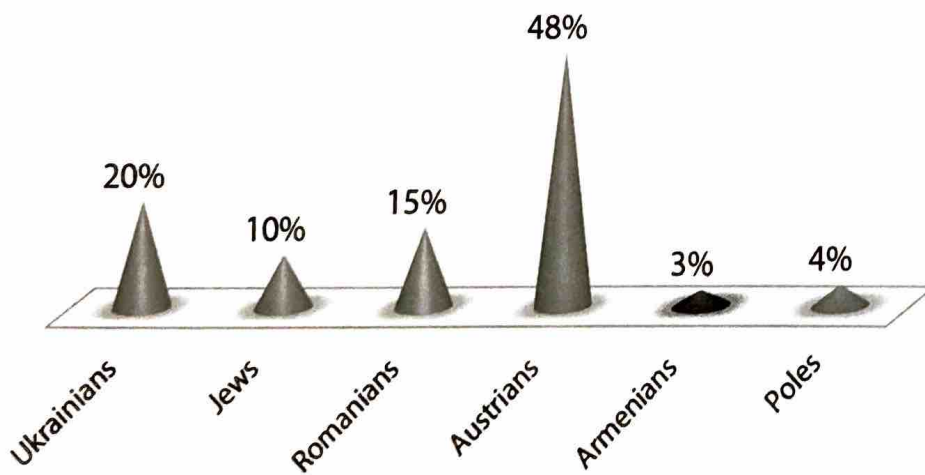


Kostjantyn Tomaščuk

**5. Who is responsible for the maintenance, conservation and financing of the places connected with the memories of non-Ukrainians inhabiting Černivci before 1940?**

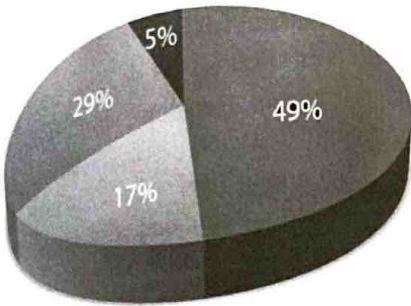


**6. Representatives of which nationalities had a considerable impact on the architecture, art, culture and customs of the city before the war?**





7. Are you interested in the history of Černivci?

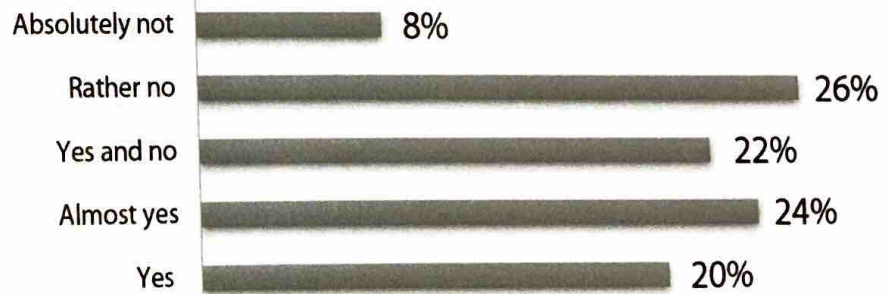


- Austrian period
- Romanian period
- Regardless of the period
- not interested

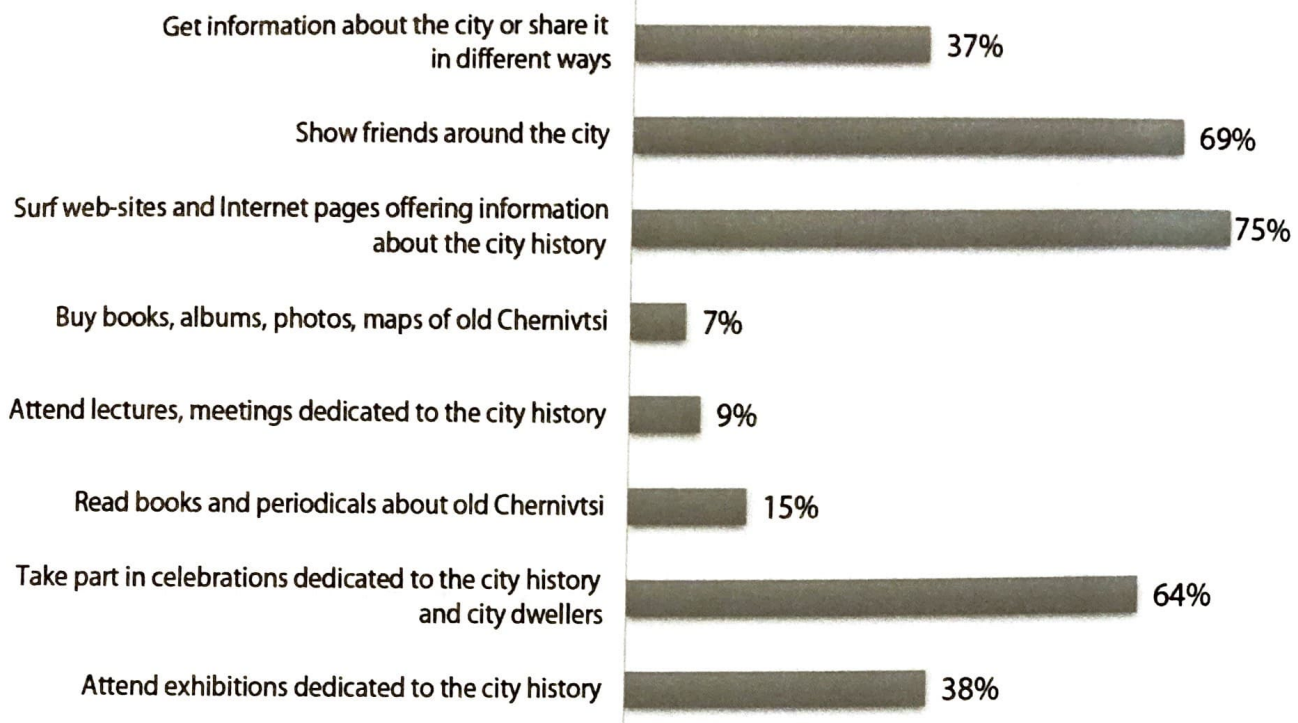
8. Do local authorities appropriately use buildings and objects constructed during the Romanian period in the history of Černivci?



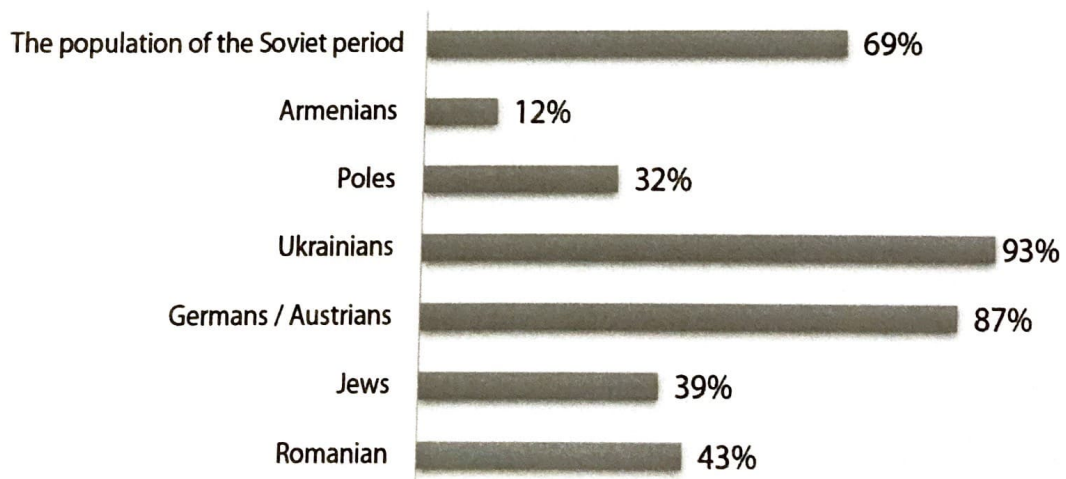
9. Do local authorities appropriately use buildings and objects constructed during the Soviet period in the history of Černivci?



**10. How do you get to know the old city?**



**11. The cultural heritage of which ethnic groups needs to be preserved?**



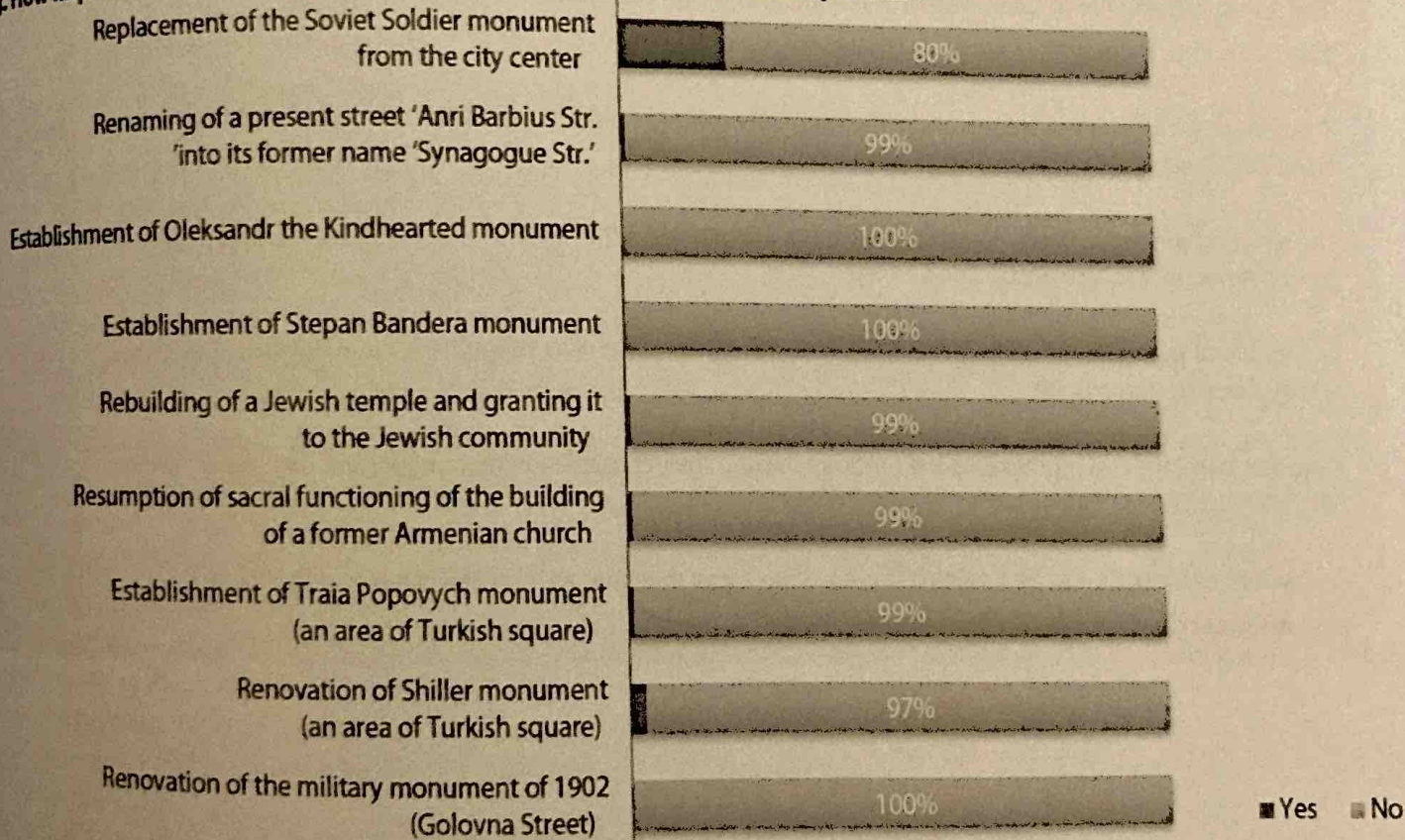
12. In your opinion what is more important: the preservation of a historic monument or its demolition to meet the current needs of citizens?



13. Objects that are considered by the respondents to be a priority for restoration and renovation

Objects of a particular historic and cultural value	85%
Objects of a particular historic and cultural value to ethnic minorities in Černivci	58%
Objects of great practical value; including residential buildings, bridges, canals, hospitals	68%
Religious objects	75%
Objects symbolizing power or representing the rule of various states over Černivci up until 1991	35%
Objects which testify to the Ukrainian heritage of Černivci aside from their cultural or practical value	57%
Cemeteries	89%

14. How important it is to retain past memories of Černivci from different periods?



**15. Reasons to revive memories of old Černivci**

To revive the memory of Ukrainian Černivci and the history of the Ukrainian people in general	73%
The revival of memories of citizens and a multicultural aspect of Černivci that was a Soviet attempt to "internationalize" the city	16%
The revival of memories of citizens and a multicultural aspect of Černivci that was a hidden intention of the Jewish community to bring back their lost material values	25%
The revival of memories of citizens and a multicultural aspect of Černivci lessens patriotic feelings and love for the city of modern city inhabitants	5%
Returning pre-war names of streets and objects suggested by pre-war inhabitants of the city is a symbolic Romanization of Černivci	7%
Returning pre-war names of streets and objects is a symbolic usurpation of the city by the Jews	2%
The revival of memories of citizens and a multicultural aspect of Černivci is necessary for the preservation of the city's uniqueness and the citizens' self-realization	95%
The revival of memories of citizens and a multicultural aspect of Černivci is the duty of the city authorities and the city dwellers	91%
The revival of memories of citizens and a multicultural aspect of Černivci diminishes self-realization of the native Ukrainian dwellers of Černivci	18%
The revival of memories of citizens and a multicultural aspect of Černivci strengthens political and social instability among modern Ukrainians inhabiting Černivci	12%
The revival of memories of citizens and a multicultural aspect of Černivci strengthens anti-Ukrainian statements among Diaspora communities	6%
Historical buildings and monuments are precious, making their conservation more important than other current needs of the city and its inhabitants	48%
The current needs of the city and its inhabitants are more vital than the conservation of historical buildings, monuments and architecture	52%

### CONCLUSIONS BASED ON THE RESULTS OF THE STUDENTS' SURVEY:

The majority of the student-respondents (82 %):

- demonstrate a high level of awareness of Černivci history, its architectural monuments and prominent citizens who contributed a great deal to the city's history;
- recognize the multicultural aspect of Černivci and appreciate the cultural heritage of the national minority groups inhabiting the city;
- support the conservation of historic buildings and objects of a high historical value and the preservation of the city's multicultural heritage, but at the same time emphasize the necessity to adjust to the present-day reality of the city;
- consider it their direct responsibility to revive the memory of prominent citizens of Černivci during various eras and to study the multicultural urban environment;
- understand the necessity to renovate monuments damaged during various historical periods, as long as their original appearance is preserved;
- do not consider the conservation of monuments belonging to various ethnic minorities to be a demonstration of symbolic Romanization or Soviet internationalization, rather they see the preservation of cultural heritage as a reflection of civic pride; and
- the current situation in Ukraine sharpens their sense of responsibility for the preservation of the cultural heritage of the city, as evidenced by the comments to the responses of some student-respondents.

Under modern conditions, the point of view of the younger generation is of primary importance. Tolerance and historical traditions, a rich cultural heritage and the peaceful coexistence of the various religious faiths inhabiting Černivci shape the city at the European level, something that is confirmed by the students of the Yuriy Fedkovich Černivci National University.

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**This is a book about four cities who were several times, and especially in connection with World War II forcedly put into completely new national contexts. This was affected by coercion from outside. The changes included genocide and forced displacement, but preserved built environment testifies past populations and national contexts. This book describes the urban environment in the four cities before World War II, and how the present population handles the memories of the past for future development.**

**In connection with World War II and its aftermaths, many of the four cities Chişinău, Černivci, Lviv and Wrocław residents were either killed or subject to forced migration beyond the new national borders. People settled in the city environment which still bore the traces of the earlier population and the earlier urban life that had been brutally put to an end.**

**Due to the continued Russian military aggression on the territory of Ukraine, this study takes on a new relevance.**