

## Culture and Cultural Heritage for the New European Bauhaus

A plea for the measurement of both tangible and intangible dimensions of CCH



Image: Hauke Hatzelhoffer

Culture and Cultural Heritage (CCH) play a central role in integrated urban development and increase cities' resilience



Image: Massimo Sestini

CCH can proactively address climate action and can bridge the past and the future.

Combining a culture-driven and human-centred approach

CCH an important driver for sustainable economic development innovation

Cultural institutions like libraries as major players (with new tasks) in urban society

Heritage as a cultural good and contributor to urban democracy and identity



Image: Hauke Hatzelhoffer

Plea to empower people to become owners of their cultural heritage

Proposal to mainstream cultural heritage in all existing EU-programmes

CCH as a renewable resource - a plea for a shift of paradigms for preservation and Baukultur



Image: Dora Ivanova



Image: Hauke Hatzelhoffer

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### ***NEB-Partner Application***

*Please note that in parallel to this contribution, the Partnership on Culture and Cultural Heritage will submit an application as a NEB Partner. If chosen, the Partnership will use its various well-established levels of exchanges both internally and with the interested public (Partnership meetings, Action Leader meetings, public conferences and presentations, etc.) to discuss and further develop aspects of the NEB. Moreover, the Partnership offers to initiate and promote discussions especially dedicated to the NEB and to use its networks and marketing channels to ensure participation from a wide and interdisciplinary audience from all governance levels (member states, regions and cities as well as civic groups).*



## How the Partnership on Culture and Cultural Heritage and the New European Bauhaus connect

The Urban Agenda's Partnership on Culture and Cultural Heritage (CCH) has worked intensively on questions related to our built and unbuilt heritage, bringing together the voices of cities, Member states, the EU and international organizations. At the crossroads of urban identities, cultural activities and the environment, the CCH Partnership has questioned the concept of heritage as a mere value to be preserved and cared of. It has looked at culture and cultural heritage as a process that involve communities reclaiming its meaning, namely as a resource to be appropriated and signified by the people that inhabit territories. At the core of a three-year intensive multi-level working process, the CCH Partnership has designed and implemented eleven concrete Actions to promote culture and cultural heritage. These offer concrete solutions and play an important role in addressing societal challenges contributing to liveable cities, social inclusion and well-being.

From its discussions and results, the Partnership has drawn conclusions and recommendations both for cities, Member States and the European Commission. At the core are the insights that culture and cultural heritage:

- are powerful social, environmental and economic resources;
- play an important role in addressing societal challenges and contribute to liveable cities, social inclusion and well-being;
- and stand as key drivers for urban development that shapes "tomorrow's heritage".

We, as the CCH Partnership, would like to contribute and share this knowledge in the frame of the NEB and link it with the European Green Deal and the Renovation Wave.



## Background:

### The Partnership on Culture and Cultural Heritage in the Urban Agenda for the EU

The CCH Partnership of the UAEU is based on milestones for the protection and development of the European culture and cultural heritage. Culture and cultural heritage – according to the understanding of the Partnership also including Baukultur – are important cornerstones for the preservation of our living environment and make essential contributions to the quality of life in our cities. The CCH Partnership offers stakeholders at various levels the opportunity to have a stake and participate in the development of this important European task. The partnership, which the German Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community (BMI) and the Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development (BBSR) are spearheading jointly with the Italian Agency for the Territorial Cohesion and the Italian Ministry of Culture, has developed a series of pilot projects or “**Actions**”.

These eleven Actions will be implemented in 2021 and, according to the Pact of Amsterdam, contribute significantly to better regulation, better funding and better knowledge in the EU and thus strengthen its urban dimension. For example, the Actions aim at developing manuals or guidelines for local practice or establish networks and knowledge centres for specific subject areas. The questions, which the Partnership intends to find answers for and investigates in its Actions, are manifold. Among them are: How may tourism be based on a human-centred approach and be organised so that some prominent spots are not overrun and less known places may attract more tourists? Which possibilities do exist to deal with the uncomfortable heritage of the 20th century that are connected to war, persecution or dictatorship? How to raise awareness for public libraries and their key role in social urban development and democratic engagement? How may cities use their culture and cultural heritage to be better prepared for threats and crises such as pandemics, and how may the resilience of places and urban areas be fostered? How to adapt and reuse the abandoned and underused cultural heritage buildings and sites in line with circular economy principles?

The so-called **Action Plan**<sup>1</sup> was completed in the autumn of 2020 and adopted as part of the German EU Council Presidency. The Action Plan was discussed with a broad European audience, e.g. during a Digital Forum in November 2020. The discussions during the conference culminated in various conclusions on the further development of culture and cultural heritage which constitute the Partnership’s main findings so far and are the basis for this contribution to the NEB.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://futurium.ec.europa.eu/en/urban-agenda/culturecultural-heritage/action-plan/final-action-plan-partnership-culturecultural-heritage?language=en>

## Contributions for Culture and Cultural Heritage to the New European Bauhaus

This proposal connects the findings from the CCH Partnership and its preliminary conclusions with the key focal points of the NEB, among them

- Sustainable + affordable
- Ecological
- Participatory / Community / Cooperation
- Culturally and aesthetically rich urban development
- Public spaces
- Fostering democratic values
- Experimental and networking platform / innovative solutions
- Bridge between science / technology and art / culture

### Main conclusions of the Partnership on Culture and Cultural Heritage so far:<sup>2</sup>

1. Culture and cultural heritage in European cities require A BROADER UNDERSTANDING
2. Culture and cultural heritage are the starting point for INTEGRATED APPROACHES TO URBAN DEVELOPMENT
3. Culture and cultural heritage increase RESILIENCE in European cities
4. Culture and cultural heritage support SOCIAL INCLUSION AND TERRITORIAL COHESION
5. Culture and cultural heritage support the BUILDING OF IDENTITY AND DEMOCRACY

### Proposal to connect the principles of the CCH Partnership and the focal points of the NEB:

1. Culture and cultural heritage in European cities require A BROADER UNDERSTANDING
  - Culturally and aesthetically rich urban development,
  - Experimental and networking platform / innovative solutions
2. Culture and cultural heritage are the starting point for INTEGRATED APPROACHES TO URBAN DEVELOPMENT
  - Bridge between science / technology and art / culture
3. Culture and cultural heritage increase RESILIENCE in European cities
  - Ecological
4. Culture and cultural heritage support SOCIAL INCLUSION AND TERRITORIAL COHESION
  - Sustainable + affordable; Participatory / Community / Cooperation
5. Culture and cultural heritage support the BUILDING OF IDENTITY AND DEMOCRACY
  - Public spaces, Fostering democratic values

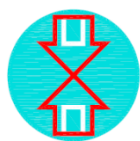
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<sup>2</sup> Please see full description in annex

## Exemplifying our approach:

### How CCH Partnership's Actions are in line with and can support the NEB

The CCH Partnership developed and now implements eleven Actions to foster, develop and protect the culture and cultural heritage in Europe. Below are some examples of how our findings and recommendations help to support the NEB.<sup>3</sup>



#### Action 1, "Regulating Phenomena of Sharing Economy"

Action 1 looks for an innovative approach to the regulation of urban tourism and particularly of the short-term rental economy. This sector, which has expanded vertiginously over the 2010s until the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, is monopolised by digital corporations such as Airbnb, Booking.com, HomeAway (now Vrbo), and Tripadvisor. These technology companies are illustrative of a larger 'taking economy' whose business practices has been widely questioned on mainly two bases: a legal basis, due to the opacity of their commercial transactions and consumer data collection; and a societal basis, due to their destabilising effects on society and the economy, particularly on their metabolism. The Covid-19 pandemic transition represents a unique opportunity to rethink in depth the standard pattern of local economic development, including the urban tourism industry. This action approach believes that rules-based policy has to be combined with a goals-based policy. An innovative regulation strategy relying on a mixed approach to public policy will involve a wide range of co-design techniques and participatory methods aimed at the responsabilisation of local communities on urban tourism management and the need for containment in the face of over-tourism. Together with a legal expertise input on better regulation of STHR at the EU level, cities are involved to co-design concrete solutions to be prepared to avoid overtouristification and to benefit from sustainable tourist approaches.



#### Actions 2 "Street Invasion, Atomisation and Cultural Reactivation" and 3 "Cultural Hubs for Innovation, Modernisation and Enhancement (CHIME)"

Local Culture production and consumption are in a dire state, jeopardising local and European identity and the understanding of our culture and heritage, culture fomenting happiness and wellbeing. **Action 2** will contribute to "Consolidating the European shared identity through culture and cultural heritage, permeating and redesigning the public domain", changing the conception of the public space and non-culture related itineraries by redefining the roles, functions and designs of public spaces, creating "well-de-

<sup>3</sup> The Actions' full description can be found in the Action Plan: <https://futurium.ec.europa.eu/en/urban-agenda/culturecultural-heritage/action-plan/final-action-plan-partnership-culturecultural-heritage?language=en>

signed” public spaces that contribute to a healthy urban microclimate, promoting atomised culture consumption in a citizen-centred approach, increasing culture and cultural heritage resilience and revitalising the sector by introducing “cultural reactives”, re-activation through structured and planned public cultural procurement, allowing artists and creatives to prepare projects, boosting the cultural network and production in all its fields.



**Action 3** includes participatory elements, e.g. citizen participation and engagement in culture and cultural heritage consumption, shaping the local cultural landscape. The CHIME hub promotes not only local and regional cooperation, but establishes transnational links and opportunities, entices “new culture consumers” and “non-traditional culture consumers (e.g. minorities), improves social inclusion and enhances territorial cohesion in what can best be described as *“Citizen Participation and Engagement, Inclusion and Cultural Experimentation towards Urban Transformation and Revitalisation.”* It constitutes a launch-pad for cultural and creative sector projects and initiatives and can be described as an experimental platform for innovation and urban revitalisation.

*“A new Cultural Model, redesigning municipal cultural governance for the Urban Agenda 2030”*, it tackles the inadequacy and failures of existing cultural models, based on a profound change of paradigms, prompts a broader transformation, relies on values, participation, and new ways of consuming culture, improves the urban environment and re-develops public spaces, improves governance, funding and knowledge. At the same time, it generates employment, transparency in management and procurement, develops talent and assures enriched local culture-consumption, opposed to global mass culture-consumption (e.g. streaming-platforms). Furthermore, it reinforces citizen identity and wellbeing. This Action contributes to the NEB through experiences, perceptions and results.



**Action 4 „Collaborative Management to adapt and reuse spaces and buildings for cultural and social innovative development“**

The Action builds on the fundamental “Heritage Community” concept, which is deeply embedded in the Faro Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for the Society (2005) and namely consists of “people who value specific aspects of cultural heritage which they wish, within the framework of public action, to sustain and transmit to future generations”. The collaborative approaches are structured to facilitate a bottom-up approach to collectively explore the cultural, economic, legal, social and environmental potential of adaptive reuse practices for cultural heritage in European cities and are designed to encourage policy-makers, experts and groups in civil society to be forward looking, inclusive, and circular in their creative ideas, options and solutions while maintaining the sense of belonging and identity.



### Action 5, "Raise awareness for public libraries and their new tasks on a European and National Level"

The aim of this Action is to raise awareness for public libraries and their additional tasks as well as their contributions to successful social urban development at the European and national level. The objective is to involve public libraries in European policies, programs and initiatives and to help them, not only financially, to be key institutions for democratic participation.

Public libraries are places of social dialogue across cultures, disciplines, genders and age groups and can thus contribute to the NEB that considers social inclusion as a central aspect. As low-threshold and highly frequented cultural thinking spaces, public libraries are places of encounter in which – in the spirit of the future-oriented idea of the NEB – the entire society can imagine a better world for all.



### Action 6, "Strategic Plan for the Culture Enhancement in Urban Framework"

In line with the Davos Charter (2008) about the central role of culture in development policies, this Action aims to develop an operative way to include culture and heritage in urban planning in order to have a holistic and comprehensive vision of urban functioning.

Current initiatives are very often fragmented and disconnected from each other. However, this fragmentation may limit the opportunities that a careful and integrated management of heritage and culture could offer to the city.

The Action will develop a "cultural plan model" as a strategic plan that European cities could easily adopt, which goes beyond the traditional categories of "protection" and "development" in order to fully integrate culture and cultural heritage. The model built will be equipped with the tools, guidelines and methods necessary to integrate culture and heritage in urban and territorial planning in a coherent and strategic perspective. This tool will help to improve and integrate current urban plans in order to have interdisciplinary tools that include economic, environmental, social, cultural and technical aspects.



### Action 7, "Data collection and smart use applied to the management of tourist flows"

This Action explores the digital assets and IT tools of the city as a vehicle to communicate the enhancement of places and urban spaces in transformation both to encourage their fruition and access and to increase their visibility to attract further investments to make them future hubs of innovation and participation.





### Action 8 “Guiding Principles for Resilience and Integrated Approaches in Risk and Heritage Management in European Cities”

Often times, heritage and risk management happen in parallel and are not integrated. This Action brings together local practitioners as well as European experts and institutions in disaster risk reduction and cultural heritage management. For instance, a workshop in September 2021 will help to foster an improved common understanding between these disciplines in practice and support the regeneration of historic areas while safeguarding heritage values.

The Action will improve access to knowledge on how to protect cultural heritage sites from natural disasters (e.g. the seismic vulnerability of cultural heritage buildings) in Europe, primarily through a short publication offering guidance on integrating risk and heritage management for European cities. This publication will update and adapt for EU use the established guidance from the 2010 UNESCO manual ‘Managing Disaster Risks for World Heritage’.

Finally, the Action will improve the integration between disciplines by developing recommendations for staff working in European city administrations to help integrate the protection and management of cultural heritage sites and buildings with disaster risk management.



### Action 9, “Observatory on Culture/Cultural Heritage and climate change in the urban framework”

The Action aims at involving the culture and cultural heritage sector to embrace the Green Deal for Europe and related initiatives with a pro-active approach. In order to substantially reduce emissions, extensive retrofitting aimed at increasing energy efficiency of buildings is urgently required. This retrofitting will affect the whole existing building stock, including buildings with extraordinary social and historic significance. The Renovation Wave will directly influence the cultural heritage building sector, and in this framework, heritage values and community identity must be protected: There is a clear threat from incompatible materials used on architectural heritage, risking to alter their authenticity and integrity. Moreover, the implementation of the Renovation Wave in sites with high seismic risk (in line with Action 8) needs to incorporate structural safety within climate change adaptation measures while preserving the values and character of cultural heritage assets. This is explored based on results from JRC’s iRESIST+ project.<sup>4</sup>

On the other hand, the NEB aims to address innovation, design, culture and education, and therefore heritage, culture and the arts can play a major role in planning for new development projects. For example, traditional urban patterns and traditional architecture include social, urban, economic models and, in an

<sup>4</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/research-topic/improving-safety-construction/i-resist-plus>

extraordinary way, meet the needs for climate mitigation and renovation according to resilience strategies. Past and future can converge, and the innovation brought about by the NEB can not only break with the past, but also rely on the past for getting inspiration for a new creative era.



### Action 10, “Integrated Approaches to Dissonant Heritage”

This Action investigates the challenges and opportunities of problematic or controversial 20th century cultural heritage in Europe and explores its potentials for urban and regional development, particularly in smaller cities and the periphery. The Action focuses on how to strengthen this heritage by integrating it in regional planning and tourism concepts as a fundamental means to educate, transmit history and nurture democracy building in Europe while, at the same time, enabling those stigmatised neglected areas to use their local economic and touristic potential. For instance, the Action asks: Which stakeholders should be included and which networks extended so the sites can reach the public and transfer lessons from history to the present? What political and financial support is necessary to properly manage these sites and to find appropriate changing or new uses for them?

In this context, the term “dissonant heritage” especially refers to cultural and architectural heritage which evokes unpleasant memories and associations for society or for particular social groups and/or which is perceived as politically and/or ethically tainted. In Europe, this heritage includes, for example, National Socialist structures and the built heritage of the Communist era as well as places and built structures that are legacies of war, persecution, colonialization or propaganda.

Based on activities such as a survey, case studies, expert interviews, an expert workshop and an international public event, the action will develop recommendations and a toolkit for local stakeholders dealing with dissonant heritage sites.



### Action 11, “Local Cultural Services Fostering Social Inclusion: Identification of Cities’ Research Needs and Peer Learning”

The Action is aimed at identifying cities’ specific research needs (through cultural leaders from city administrations) to better plan future EU calls for research proposals, to guarantee that the results of these research projects are used at the local level to improve cultural policies, and to contribute to the overall reinforcement of cultural offerings in European cities.

## Contact & Contributors

Urban Agenda Partnership on Culture and Cultural Heritage:

<https://futurium.ec.europa.eu/de/urban-agenda/culturecultural-heritage?language=en>

## Action Leaders, Action Groups and external supporters

	Action Title	Action Leader: Institution	Action Leader
1	Regulating Phenomena of Sharing Economy	URBACT	Dr. Laura Colini
2	Street Invasion, Atomisation and Cultural Re-activation	City of Murcia, Spain	Kasper van Hout
3	CHIME – Cultural Hubs for Innovation, Modernisation and Enhancement	City of Murcia, Spain	Kasper van Hout
4	Collaborative Management to Adapt and Re-use Spaces and Buildings for Cultural and Social Innovative Development	Agency for the Territorial Cohesion (ACT), Italy	Sandra Gizdulich, Giovanni Pineschi
5	Raise Awareness for Public Libraries and their new Tasks on a European and National Level	City of Berlin, Germany	Reiner Schmock-Bathe, Daniel Deppe
6	Strategic Plan for the Culture Enhancement in Urban Framework	ACT, Italy	Sandra Gizdulich, Giovanni Pineschi
7	Data Collection and Smart Use Applied to the Management of Tourist Flows	City of Florence, Italy	Manuela Taverniti, Alessandra Barbieri
8	Guiding Principles for Resilience and Integrated Approaches in Risk and Heritage Management in European Cities	Federal Institute for Building, Urban and Spatial Research and Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community (BMI), Germany	Jan Schultheiß
9	Observatory on Culture/Cultural Heritage and Climate Change in the Urban Framework	Ministry of Culture, Italy	Giuliana de Francesco
10	Integrated Approaches to Dissonant Heritage	BMI, Germany	Jan Schultheiß
11	Local Cultural Services Fostering Social Inclusion: Identification of Cities' Research Needs and Peer Learning	EUROCITIES and URBACT	Julie Hervé, Dr. Laura Colini



## Coordinators

- Jan Schultheiß, Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community, Germany, BMI, Jan.Schultheiss@bmi.bund.de
- Sandra Gizdulich, Agency for the Territorial Cohesion, Italy (ACT), sandra.gizdulich.esp@agenziacoessione.gov.it
- Giovanni Pineschi, ACT, giovanni.pineschi.esp@agenziacoessione.gov.it

## Additional Supporters

Laura Hagemann-Arellano, European Commission, Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy

Chiara Savina, Elodie Salle, Ecorys, Technical Secretariat

and others



## ANNEX

### Partnership Members

#### Member States:

- Germany (Coordinator)
- Italy (Coordinator)
- Cyprus
- France
- Greece
- Spain

#### Regions:

- Canary Islands (ES)
- Coimbra Region (PT)
- Flemish Region (BE)
- Ljubljana Urban Region (SI)
- Silesian Voivodeship (PL)

#### Cities:

- Alba Iulia (RO)
- Berlin (DE)
- Bordeaux (FR)
- Espoo (FI)
- Florence (IT)
- Jurmala (LV)
- Katowice (PL)
- Kazanlak (BG)
- Murcia (ES)
- Nagykanizsa (HU)
- Úbeda (ES)

#### Other participants:

- European Commission (DG REGIO, DG EAC, DG DEVCO, DG AGRI, DG RTD, DG EASME, DG CLIMA, SecGen, JRC)
- European Committee of the Regions
- European Investment Bank (EIB)
- Dutch Federation of Cultural Heritage Cities (NL)
- Eurocities
- ICLEI
- JPI
- URBACT

and external Action supporters

## ANNEX

### Final Remarks for the further development and promotion of Culture and Cultural Heritage in European cities

The Partnership recommends the following based on the focus of the Action Plan:

#### 1) Culture and cultural heritage in European cities require A BROADER UNDERSTANDING

In order to foster and promote Culture and Cultural Heritage in European cities, it is of utmost importance to mainstream and implement a broader understanding of European cities as well as of Culture and Cultural Heritage. It is essential to have a holistic understanding of Culture and Cultural Heritage and to consider tangible as well as intangible dimensions like local traditions, crafts and skills. The European city and its heritage are not to be reduced to the medieval historic city centre; other historical periods – especially more recent ones – that constitute European cities have to be considered as well. It is important to not just focus on the officially protected heritage but also to protect and develop other buildings or urban fabrics, landscapes, public and open spaces worthy of preservation as well as immaterial and intangible heritage – also the “uncomfortable” or “dissonant” heritage.

Culture and Cultural Heritage that is damaged will be lost for future generations. It is necessary to raise awareness for Culture and Cultural Heritage in a broader understanding as well as to develop long-term and integrated strategies and tools to identify and develop Culture and Cultural Heritage in its diversity and complexity.

This broader understanding of Culture and Cultural Heritage has been promoted by the work of the Partnership so far and is considered in the implementation phase of the Actions. However, the Partnership would like to stress the importance of fostering and applying a broad and holistic understanding of Culture and Cultural Heritage in following-up activities by Partners and supporters as well as in future EU-legislations, funding-programmes and initiatives.



## 2) Culture and cultural heritage are the starting point for INTEGRATED APPROACHES TO URBAN DEVELOPMENT

The Culture and Cultural Heritage of European cities can be understood as one key element of and driver for support sustainable urban development.

The Partnership would like to emphasise the importance of integrated approaches in urban development in order to foster and promote Culture and Cultural Heritage in European Cities. Establishing integrated approaches that strengthen links between the individual planning departments and that take Culture and Cultural Heritage as the starting point for further urban development should be the guiding principle in the practice of European cities. Moreover, funding programmes that focus on integrated and long-term approaches and thus relate to Cultural Heritage in its social, ecological and economic dimensions should be promoted at the European level in the future.

## 3) Culture and cultural heritage increase RESILIENCE in European cities

Culture and Cultural Heritage play an important role in increasing resilience of the European city. Especially against the background of the COVID-19 pandemic, but also concerning climate change, the Partnership would like to highlight the importance of Culture and Cultural Heritage for strengthening resilience of European cities and as a valuable source to recover from crises and disasters.

Culture and Cultural Heritage can be seen as a resource in building resilience, for instance, by strengthening the identity of local citizens. Moreover, as an adaptive and responsive system, Culture and Cultural Heritage have adjusted to changing conditions over the years and is in certain ways already resilient.

Overall, traditional skills, knowledge and crafts (e.g. using traditional building techniques and building materials) contribute to the resilience of Culture and Cultural Heritage. Hence, to safeguard Culture and Cultural Heritage from a variety of threats and hazards as well as to increase urban resilience, follow-up activities of the Partnership and further EU-activities should strengthen the promotion and funding options of traditional skills and crafts as well as peer-learning activities in this field.

Moreover, as for instance the COVID-19 pandemic shows, Culture and Cultural Heritage is vulnerable to multiple man-made and natural hazards. Developing strategies and approaches in order to be prepared in case of disasters – that means, understanding and mitigating the risks Culture and Cultural Heritage might



face – is of utmost importance and should also be considered in follow up-activities of the EU as well as of Partners and supporters of the Partnership.

#### 4) Culture and cultural heritage support SOCIAL INCLUSION AND TERRITORIAL COHESION

Through multi-sectorial integrated territorial policies, the heritage, both built and natural, is a driving factor for both social cohesion and profitable long-lasting development. Heritage plays a key role in integrated sustainable territorial/urban development. Rehabilitating spaces through the recognition of the built and natural specificities of the places gathered from collaborative processes with the local communities means: i) building wealth without consuming land and ii) enhancing places (open areas or buildings) recognised as part of the local identity, otherwise named “common goods” (also mentioned in the New Leipzig Charter).

Fostering a sound integrated sustainable territorial/urban regeneration means connecting the place-based and the people-based approaches: paying particular attention to the local know-how and creativity, this is to say the smart specialisation strategies of a specific place (being part of the intangible heritage), the quality of the habitat and the landscape (being part of the built and natural heritage), and the re-creation or recognition of the identities of places and people. Ensuring access, use and production of the heritage as a collective good means making Culture and Heritage more usable by and accessible to all social groups.

As a result, it is important to give the appropriate major role to Culture and Cultural Heritage as driving tools to foster sound sustainable territorial/urban development.

#### 5) Culture and cultural heritage support the BUILDING OF IDENTITY AND DEMOCRACY

Culture and Cultural Heritage can make fundamental contributions to building and protecting democracy in Europe on various levels: The joint history with its connecting events are the cornerstones for European democratic values and have manifested themselves in the built, tangible but also the intangible heritage.

This holds particularly true for public spaces – these complex, multi-layered spaces are places of freedom of expression and places where democracy is lived and strengthened. These qualities are unique and very characteristic for the European city, and they are deeply rooted in Culture and Cultural Heritage as well.





For instance, public libraries increasingly expand the public realm described above and also exemplify these values – as places of education, meeting and participation.

In addition, dealing with the different and differently assessed cultural inheritances from this continent's past not only fulfils a compulsory task of political, cultural and historical education and to the communication of history in the EU. It also contributes to educational work in the service of our European dialogue and integration.



ANNEX

## Conclusions of the Digital Forum and on the Action Plan “Urban Agenda for the EU – Culture and Cultural Heritage”

*The German Federal Ministry for the Interior, Building and Community, jointly with the Italian Ministry of Culture and the Italian Governmental Agency for Territorial Cohesion as coordinators of the Partnership “Culture and Cultural Heritage” in the Urban Agenda for the EU, hosted the **Digital Forum “Urban Agenda for the EU – Culture and Cultural Heritage in Europe”** on 24 and 25 November 2020 in Berlin. The conference was carried out as part of the German EU Presidency. The partnership presented its Action Plan with recommendations for culture and cultural heritage in Europe and reflected with around 160 participants and experts from 30 countries – from the fields of conservation and protection of cultural heritage, architecture, urban development, politics, local authorities and cultural services – on how to strengthen, promote and develop culture and cultural heritage in European cities and how culture and cultural heritage can make positive contributions on various levels.*

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In today’s Europe, about 76% of the population lives in urban areas. Cities have become the frontiers in facing current challenges like migration, demographic and climate change, new concepts of mobility, growing tourism and digital innovation. Added to this, the current challenge of the pandemic considerably affects the cultural life of cities. The development of cultural heritage, which preserves culture and the quality of the landscape and the built environment, is not an objective only in itself, but is rather a powerful tool aimed at achieving **social, ecological and economic goals**. The partnership’s Action Plan is based on these considerations and addresses relevant current challenges in the fields of culture and cultural heritage in Europe.

### **Conference participants note that:**

- Culture, cultural services and cultural heritage are key to make cities attractive and dynamic, and play a central role in urban development and regeneration (“culture as renewable energy”);
- Culture and cultural heritage make fundamental contributions to shaping identity and protecting democratic values in Europe;
- European identity and memory are based on the European city’s large variety of tangible and intangible heritage, with its different time layers including recent periods; this heritage gains value through local communities and is manifested in local know-how and traditions;

- Culture and cultural heritage are embedded in the identity of local communities, are crucial driving factors for cohesion policy, and are structural components of urban policy;
- A high-quality natural and built environment as well as heritage contribute to the formation of more sustainable and inclusive societies that are respectful of cultural diversity, social equity and cohesion, and individual and community well-being;
- Due to the complexity of urban development, planning processes require integrated and participatory approaches based on cultural heritage;
- Urban development orientated to the common good and social equity should focus on the existing building stock and on existing territorial structures;
- Protection and development – bridging the past and the future – are not separate policies but are part of the same process to create civic identities and social growth while respecting the specific environment – the “milieux” – of a given place;
- The cultural sector as well as the protection and further development of cultural heritage need constant public support, especially at the local level through appropriate integrated urban policies;
- Cultural services and cultural professionals contribute greatly to social equity, inclusion, cohesion, and education as well as individual and community well-being, and should be considered key drivers of sustainable development processes;
- Cultural and natural heritage play an important role in strengthening urban resilience; importantly, cultural heritage protection requires integrated disaster risk management and climate change adaptation measures;
- European conventions on culture and cultural heritage [e.g. Paris 1954, Granada 1985, Valletta 1992, Faro 2005, Davos 2018] play a fundamental role in stimulating heritage-led and people-orientated urban development policy in Europe.

### Conference participants agree:

- A strong commitment to culture and cultural heritage and an openness for cooperative processes and new solutions is needed on all levels to address current challenges;
- To ensure inclusive and cohesive urban development based on collaborative processes focusing on the common good, as anchored in the New Leipzig Charter;
- To guarantee access, use and production of culture and heritage as a common good for all social groups; sustainable territorial and urban regeneration requires connecting place- and people-

based approaches, as emphasised and enabled by the Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society [Faro 2005];

- To protect and develop public spaces in European cities as complex, multi-layered areas and as places of social interaction where fundamental democratic values can be lived;
- To foster a broader understanding of culture and cultural heritage, as cultural heritage in Europe includes formally protected heritage as well as buildings particularly worth preserving, “uncomfortable” heritage, landscapes, and public and open spaces, as well as intangible heritage;
- To focus on integrated approaches in urban development that harness culture and cultural heritage as a starting point and key driver; all relevant stakeholders in the city have to be actively involved;
- To strengthen culture and cultural heritage against man-made threats, pandemics and natural hazards to increase the European city’s resilience by increasing cooperation, building capacity and strengthening knowledge at the local level. This includes understanding and mitigating the risks that culture and cultural heritage face as well as integrating cultural heritage assets in disaster risk management plans and strategies.

### Conference participants call for:

- Funding programmes on the national and EU levels to focus particularly on integrated and long-term approaches that relate to culture, cultural infrastructure and cultural heritage in its social, ecological and economic dimensions;
- Culture and cultural heritage to be given a central role in the *Green Deal* and in the development of the *New European Bauhaus*;
- Greater support to be provided to cities of all sizes: on the one hand to medium-sized cities and smaller towns as well as remote and peripheral regions in Europe in their efforts to deal with their cultural heritage in a sustainable and future-oriented manner by enhancing the potentialities of their local identities; on the other hand to metropolitan areas in their efforts to revitalise abandoned or dismissed urban buildings and areas and to recover the identities of degraded urban suburbs;
- Political and financial support to be ensured for local skills which are required to promote culture and cultural heritage in European cities, e.g. knowledge and crafts to use traditional building techniques and building materials, but also skills linked to new technologies and to understanding as well as know-how about culture and cultural heritage;



- European, national and regional authorities to enable local authorities to permanently support cultural services and cultural professionals because of their crucial role for society;
- The Actions of the partnership's Actions Plan to now be implemented by all levels addressed; a follow-up process should be sought, also by financing pilot projects;
- The partnership's exchange with international organisations such as UNESCO, ICOMOS and UN-Habitat to be intensified in a more systematic manner;
- The partnership's network that was extended during the Berlin conference to be further strengthened, in particular to enlarge the community of stakeholders responsible in the fields of culture and cultural heritage, both to maintain momentum and to create synergies that help to ensure that the results are embedded in the next EU programming period implementation.

Berlin, 25 November 2020