

Members of the Partnership

The Partnership on Culture and Cultural Heritage represents the Urban Agenda's new multi-level working method promoting cooperation between Member States, cities, the European Commission and other stakeholders. With about 30 very diverse members, it is the largest Partnership in the Urban Agenda.

Coordinators

- Germany - Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community
- Italy - National Governmental Agency (ACT) for Territorial Cohesion with Ministry for Cultural Heritage and Tourism (MiBACT)

Member States

- Cyprus
- France
- Greece
- Spain

Regions

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

Contact

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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

Germany

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PARTNERSHIP ON CULTURE & CULTURAL HERITAGE

Overview: March 2020

Cultural heritage as a resource and an opportunity for urban development

Promoting culture and preserving the quality of the urban landscape and heritage is not an objective in itself, but it is a powerful tool aimed at achieving social, ecological and economic goals.

A high-quality natural and built heritage contributes to:

- more sustainable and inclusive societies,
- an environment respectful of cultural diversity,
- social equity and cohesion,
- individual and community well-being,
- a stronger economic performance and higher quality of life as well as
- European cultural values and identities.

Thus, the awareness of the cultural heritage in our cities should be a priority at local and European levels in order to develop new ways to protect and promote our common cultural values and identities.



Agencia per la
Coesione Territoriale



Federal Ministry
of the Interior, Building
and Community



Ministero
dei beni e delle
attività culturali
e del turismo

Seven Topics for urban policies based on Culture and Cultural Heritage

The Partnership proposes an integrated and coherent approach to use culture and cultural heritage to develop urban development policies aimed at preserving and promoting the cultural identities of the physical city and its inhabitants, to achieve the EU's cohesion objectives. The Partnership has identified seven main topics (five sectoral and two transversal) as major focus areas.

Cultural Tourism

The key objective is to promote sustainable tourism that brings benefits to communities and cities, while respecting the needs of the local population and ensuring the sustainability of the heritage. As a result, one of the main challenges is working on methods and tools to balance touristic flows between major touristic hubs and less visited sites and cities.

Creative and Cultural sectors

Creative and cultural sectors offer valuable opportunities for the preservation of cultural heritage and the existing building stock to create jobs and support culture as well as innovation. Among the main challenges to be tackled: i) how to attract talents, create jobs and start-ups; ii) how to create spaces for non-economically driven artists and cultural activities; iii) how to preserve and promote local know how and (traditional) craftsmanship.

Transformation, Adaptive Reuse and Urban Reconversion

This topic includes the various aspects of transformation, vitalisation and reconversion of urban spaces, especially of the urban fringes, marginalised peripheral areas as well as post-industrial districts. Challenges are linked to several factors notably:

i) how to reuse, adapt and transform existing cultural heritage sites and buildings for cultural and social purposes; ii) how to facilitate, delegate and manage investment in cultural heritage sites and buildings in a commercially feasible, environmentally and socially responsible way.

Resilience of Cultural and Natural Heritage

Challenges related to this topic are mostly linked to climate change and man-made factors, which can threaten the preservation of the tangible and intangible heritage. The challenge for urban areas is three-fold: i) to safeguard the heritage from possible damage; ii) to improve the quality of cultural heritage and open/green spaces; and iii) to contribute to urban resilience by supporting new quality areas and projects that do not add pressure or constitute potential threats to the environment.

Cultural services and culture for inclusive cities

The challenge for cities is, how, in urban societies that are becoming increasingly older and diverse and are facing growing differences in income, the cultural participation of all social groups can be guaranteed. The partnership aims to overcome the barriers to access to culture for all, finding solutions on how to develop and strengthen local services in light of well-known major trends from digitization to diversity and at the same time keeping them low-threshold and close to the local population.

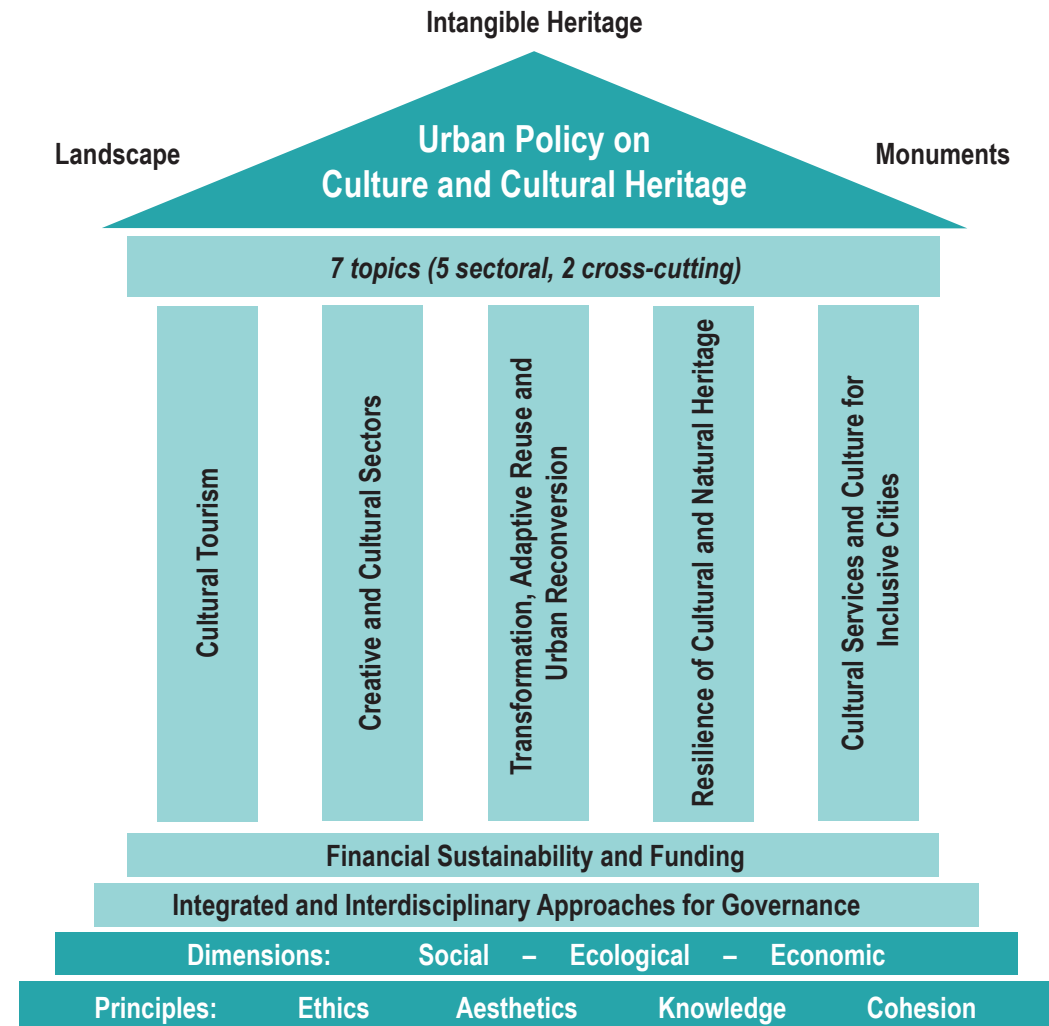
Financial Sustainability and Funding

This topic deals with the financial aspects related to investments in the field of culture and cultural heritage aimed at the conservation and enhancement of buildings, monuments and structures, the setting up of "cultural infrastructures" as well as the rehabilitation of public spaces, including interventions made in the framework of complex processes of urban regeneration.

Interdisciplinary and Integrated Approaches for Governance

Bringing together actors from all levels of governance and relevant fields are crucial requirements for embedding the dimensions of culture and cultural heritage already in the early stages of urban planning and development programmes. Participatory and bottom-up processes are needed to enable local stakeholders to bring out the identities of urban places.

The Pillars for urban policies based on Culture and Cultural Heritage



Action Plan

Based on these main topics, the Partnership develops an Action Plan. This Plan contains a limited number of concrete Actions for Better Regulation, Better Funding and Better Knowledge. These proposals are contributions to the design of future and the revision of existing EU legislation, instruments and initiatives. During the last phase of the Partnership in 2021, the Actions contained in the Action Plan, so-called Pilot Actions, will be implemented.