



**CIVVIH sous-comité Méditerranéen  
CIVVIH-Sub-Committee Mediterranean**

**Séminaire en ligne du 12 Février 2021**

**«Bourgs, villages et *petites villes* »**

*“La revitalisation et la mise en valeur des petites communes (littoral, montagne et campagne) comme une ressource du patrimoine méditerranéen en période de pandémie. Etude comparative”*

*“The rehabilitation and enhancement of small municipalities (coastal, mountain, rural), as a great resource of the Mediterranean cultural heritage in the pandemic era. A comparative Survey ”.*

## **Declaration**

*The presentations presented during the online seminar on February 12, 2021 show the importance of towns for Mediterranean countries as well as the richness and diversity of this heritage located in the urban “in-between”.*

*Whether by the sea, in the countryside or on reliefs, most often are in large picturesque sites that they enhance.*

*These small or medium-sized agglomerations, on an intermediate scale, between town and village, in transition with the countryside, are often the markers of cultural landscapes of a historic urban character located in rich natural sites.*

*Historic towns are an extraordinary common good because of the concentration of tangible and intangible cultural heritage that they offer a great potentiality for development.*

*By their morphology and their urban, architectural and landscape character they bear witness to the history of our civilizations and the interaction of man on his environment and constitute an original "corpus" of heritage, offering an*

*exceptional quality of life in comparison with cities and metropolises, particularly in this period of pandemic.*

*We note that their buildings are abandoned, empty and left most often without maintenance, for the benefit of the sprawl development of cities and metropolises.*

*There is no better apprehension of heritage than the feeling of loss that one feels with the disappearance and degradation of a site, which moreover suffers from depopulation.*

*in Greece, Italy, Spain or France and on the other side of the Mediterranean the villages show their large number and their vulnerability, underlining the importance of the issue.*

*These minor urban settlements constitute a waste and an opportunity that must be used against urban sprawl for environmental and sustainable development in order to preserve our agricultural lands and natural resources.*

*We note that they suffer from abandonment and downgrading phenomena, leading to the ruin of some built blocks, which can lead to the disappearance of this tangible heritage in the medium term.*

*In the current pandemic emergency, which leads us to questioning our consumer practices and current lifestyles, there is a rising displacement of people in many countries towards these small historic towns, which offer rich urban and social qualities.*

*The "borghi", minor towns and rural villages are based on an agglomeration scale which allows cultural and social links different and complementary to those of the city.*

*This ongoing reflection constitutes an opportunity to re-invest abandoned urban settlements to find better living conditions with less nuisance.*

*Their recovery and revitalization based on the enhancement of their urban cultural heritage, their landscape and their identity, which is not reproduceable must make it possible by mobilizing administrative Local Authorities with the support of new technologies, developing new practices and implementing new modes of integrated economic development, local services and compatible mobility systems.*

*The richness of this cultural and urban context allows, with the sharing of local and universal values, innovative tourism practices integrating the economy and local cultural asset of "slow tourism".*

*It is therefore, necessary to open a process of revising current models of urban development and reassessing the role of small historic villages (borghi), focusing on the well-being of populations and promoting joint actions, based on diverse Mediterranean countries, which all face, despite different contexts, very similar problems. This different approach must be considered not only as an economic objective, but as a real global tool for enhancing the values still existing in these urban agglomerations, once correctly restored, reorganized and equipped with the necessary tangible and intangible infrastructures.*

*In particular, concerning all the countries facing the Mediterranean, the rehabilitation of this unique urban heritage, which must be supported, carefully planned and implemented, can be included among the main actions necessary to achieve the strategic objectives of sustainable development in the fields of culture, environment and climate change, as indicated by ICOMOS.*

March 28,2021