

Theme 1: Lessons learned and new challenges in the practical implementation of the Valletta Principles

## 1. ELEVEN YEARS AFTER VALETTA PRINCIPLES

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The Valletta Principles was adopted by the 17<sup>th</sup> ICOMOS General Assembly in November 2011, after a long process of reflection, carried out by the expert members of CIVVIH for six years in different meetings. It was a long way due to the complexity of the matter and diverse approaches coming from various cultures and ways of understanding of the historic city.

On the threshold of the third decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, cities contain most of the world's population and are the centre of the world economy, leading the evolution of humanity. Humanity is confronting many changes.

New circumstances that affect urban areas should be considered in terms of their impact, not only on the inhabitants, but also on the structures and the morphology of such urban areas. Historic urban landscape is affected more intensively because of its fragility.

These circumstances include:

- Sustainable development
- Concept of Historic Urban Landscape (HUL)
- Uncontrolled growth and urban sprawl affecting rural areas
- Tourism occupying historic towns and cities
- Climate Change
- Global health risks including pandemics

As a result of these multiple changing conditions, various socioeconomic and environmental factors as well as intangible values such as the spirit of place, social character and identities, the uses of the historic urban landscapes and the role of public space in urban life, are threatened. They need to be highlighted and safeguarded in urban space planning processes. Cities and urban areas contain multifaceted economic and social structures and - in the context of today's complex and rapidly changing reality as well as for their interpretation - what is required is a multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary approach.

Within the current international discourse on urban conservation, there is an ever-increasing awareness of these problems and new demands. In Tunisia at the CIVVIH General Assembly November 2019, was take the decision concerning the update of "Valletta Principles". The continuity of that process was assured by an extended working group under the leadership of Sofia Avgerinou Kolonias and Alvaro Gomez Ferrer Bayo.

The new CIVVIH board considered that it will be more efficient to keep the Valletta Principles as an historic document and to work in a new and autonomous document. We present the result of the new document as a previous but very elaborated draft, shorter than the ancient update, in two languages.