

# CIVVIH Committee Meeting 2012

## International Symposium

on

*The role of the integrated conservation of cultural heritage for a creative,  
resilient and sustainable city*

Naples, Italy, 3 to 5 September 2012

### ANNUAL MEETING CIVVIH PRESENTATION

The meeting is planned around a series of thematic sessions including a blend of presentations.

The main subject of the CIVVIH Annual meeting which will be held in Italy will focus on the axis

*“The role of the integrated conservation of cultural heritage  
for a creative, resilient and sustainable city”*

#### **Theme:**

Much of the current debate on how we should preserve our cultural heritage revolves around urban sites, historic monuments in urban settings, historic districts, but especially in the complete historic towns and particularly in the historical towns of the big cities.

The growing complexity of urban heritage conservation makes reaching a consensus on how to manage urban heritage difficult.

Today, old cities are sometimes just neighbourhoods inserted in much wider modern metropolises. This however is where architectural cultural heritage is concentrated and only there a deep feeling of identity is to be found. Interventions for old cities conservation are much more difficult than the restoration of individual historical monuments, not only because of the quantity of physical structures to be restored or rehabilitated, but mainly because cities are living organisms, with a complexity of human and functional, social and economical aspects.

Additionally, the sharp increase in the world's population now living in urban areas combined with a lack of policies to facilitate a sustainable use of heritage assets means the pressure on historic towns is set to rise.

Cultural Urban Heritage is not built only. It may encompass crafts, art works, traditional trade and religious activities and may be intangible and a diversified population that is sometime fragile, often ill known inhabits Old Cities. All this complexity contributes to the whole characteristic of historical old Cities. However, mighty processes are at work to turn them into monofunctional areas: slum or gentrified, tourist or commercial neighbourhoods, museum towns, stagnant places that lose their attractiveness etc.

Unless new and innovative ways of managing these sites can be agreed on, the creativity in the cities will be gone and historic cities as we know them today will not survive.

The integrated conservation and the urban historical landscape managing heritage offers today a comprehensive overview of the intellectual development in urban conservation in the 21 century on the basis of the evolution of the conceptual and operational context of urban management and the development of local urban conservation policies and practices. On one side: Social Development and equity imply to keep local communities into places to preserve

their balance and diversity; on another Economic Sustainable Development implies the safeguard of the built urban heritage and the inclusion in such places of non-harmful activities and an excessive pressure from tourist and commercial activities is to be avoided.

The safeguard of Old Cities may include series of successive projects that ensure its visibility and credibility for the population.

As a whole they do however generally participate in a long-term process and a strategy where the roles of public and private stakeholders should be complementary and harmonious.

The conservation of heritage should support energy saving, promote local jobs and regenerate some construction processes. A well known principle of "integrated conservation" is to begin with the knowledge and understanding of the present urban heritage to promote an "active" preservation. Based on a deep analysis and understanding of the built environment and of the historic values, *general guidelines* for new restoration plans and changes can be produced to design additions that well harmonize with the existing environment. This can be a useful tool for new proposals and for planning future developments.

The question to debate in the congress:

Are there any actual examples from urban heritage sites worldwide to demonstrate key issues and best practices in the integrated conservation of the urban heritage of historical cities' core and their urban historic landscape today?

The three sub-topics of the general theme are:

1. The creativity in the safeguard and in rehabilitation of the historical towns
2. The opportunity of cultural tourism for the historical towns sustainable development
3. The integrated conservation of the historical cities' core and their urban historic

landscape

Examples and Best Practices

#### **Papers:**

Presented communications should deal with one of the three sub-topics. This may include examples of good practices or case studies at different scales. They could be comprehensive, as in a City or a Conservation area or thematic. They should however indicate the policy, strategy, as well as the juridical, institutional and/or budgetary framework that make them possible. The Symposium papers will be published as CD-Rom and presented on the CIVVIH website.

**The Scientific Committee: Nur Akin, Eleni Maistrou, Claus-Peter Echter**

#### **Timetable:**

CIVVIH members and international participants wishing to submit a paper should write a concise half page summary (1,500 signs) mentioning the title, in English or in French, with a brief 5 lines curriculum vitae. They should send it to the Scientific Committee (meeting coordinator at <teresa.colletta@unina.it>) **before 15 July 2012**. The Scientific Committee will answer **before 10 August**.

The final version of all the communications, with up to 6 illustrated pages (police Times 12, but for titles), should be delivered in the days of the Congress to be inserted in the publication.

## Welcome to one of world's most beautiful cities, all the charm of Southern Italy

Naples, the largest and the best preserved historical city of the Mediterranean area, still today shows the ancient street-pattern of its Greek origin (476 b. C.) and the stages and the forms of its bi-millennial urban plan of a very famous *multilayered historical city*. Naples is a very old European capital with a flourishing life, rich in culture and history with more of more years of history. If you like the hustle and bustle of an urban milieu jostling car taxis and vespas street hawkers babbling in the language of Dante then Naples will enchant its historic heart around *Spaccanapoli*, the Greek-roman *plateai-decumanus* of the town- has not experienced the gentrification of many old towns.



This is a kingdom of monasteries with churches and stunning palaces along *Spaccanapoli* -or "*Naples splitter*". That is a street that's two miles long six metres wide and divide the ancient city into two. And the "vicoli" – the ancient *stenopoi-cardines-*, or characteristic narrow streets of the ancient Greek-Roman town of Naples fan out from both sides.

Stendhal called it "the most beautiful city in the universe" an exaggeration not really. Naples a city that has witnessd three millennia of history, is no museum either it is alive. Vibrant a place with a true Mediterranean heart.

An appropriate refurbishment of the Neapolitan historical core (750 ectares), properly qualified for Naples as World Heritage Centre (1995), has been produced in the December 2011 with a new Management Plan "The UNESCO Big Programme for Naples' historical center". This project is the future to assist urban conservation and planning for rebuilding Neapolitan historical urban preexistences.

For more information, please visit:

[www.centrostorico.na.it](http://www.centrostorico.na.it)

[www.naples-napoli.org](http://www.naples-napoli.org)

[www.siti.unesco.it/napoli-il-centro-storico.html](http://www.siti.unesco.it/napoli-il-centro-storico.html)

25.6.2012