

***FROM THE “VALLETTA PRINCIPLES” TOWARDS THE SAFEGUARDING AND  
MANAGEMENT OF HISTORIC CITIES, TOWNS AND URBAN AREAS.***

The main objective of the Valletta Principles was to propose principles and strategies applicable to the interventions in historical towns and areas. These should safeguard the values of historical towns and their setting, as well as their integration in the social, cultural and economic life of our times.

Towns and urban areas are currently called to undertake the role of organizer for the economy and to evolve into centers of economic activity, innovation and culture. Nowadays, the relation of heritage and culture with sustainable development is not questioned. Moreover, these are considered to be necessary components of sustainability. Within this context, culture and heritage stand out as the main objectives for sustainable urban development. On the other part, the request that historic towns and urban areas should preserve their authenticity, highlight and promote their particular identity, seems to be more actual than ever.

Connecting protection to economic and social development, within the context of sustainability, and adaptation of historical towns and urban areas to modern life is still the main task. However, the fact that historic towns are urged, through the aforementioned procedures, to increase their competitiveness, affects their main qualities, such as their identity, integrity, authenticity, which are, on the other part, both the basic elements for their being designated cultural heritage and strict prerequisites for their preservation.

At this point, serious dilemmas and fragile balances are recorded and must be discussed upon by CIVVIH.

CIVVIH, being fully aware that the changes currently observed in the life of towns and urban areas take place rapidly, within the multidimensional modern environment, will continue being concerned with, and make its recommendations in view of, the main developments and challenges.

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