

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON HISTORIC CITIES, TOWNS AND VILLAGES (CIVVIH) – ICOMOS

3RD CONFERENCE OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE FOR CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

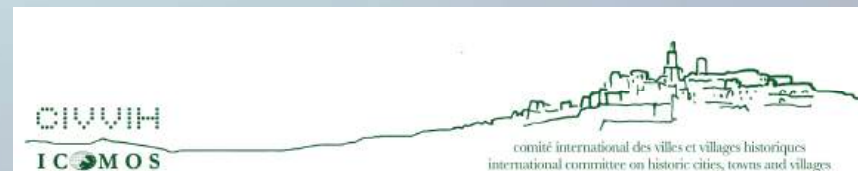
**INTRODUCTION TO THE SYMPOSIUM PROGRAM:
HERITAGE AND URBAN RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE
THREATS – THE STATISTIC VIEW**

**INTRODUCTION AU PROGRAMME DU SYMPOSIUM:
PATRIMOINE ET RESILIENCE URBAINE FACE AUX
MENACES CLIMATIQUE – LA VISION STATISTIQUE**

Danuta Kłosek-Kozłowska

**STRATEGIES FOR ENHANCING HISTORIC
CITIES' RESILIENCE TO DISASTERS**

SEPTEMBER 10-15, 2025
KULDIGA, LATVIA



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We are meeting this time to discuss the topic that is most engaging us and specialists, as well as for many people around the world: **global climate change and its impact on cultural heritage and environment**, including our **lives in the historical urban landscape and the historic buildings**. Although the problem affects all cities around the world, we will focus our attention on the cities from the UNESCO World Heritage List, characterized by the outstanding universal values (OUV). Kuldiga and its wooden architecture, as exceptional universal values of the city structure, was inscribed on the UNESCO List in 2024.

Cette fois, nous nous réunissons pour discuter du sujet qui nous passionne le plus, nous, les spécialistes et de nombreuses personnes à travers le monde : le changement climatique et son impact sur le patrimoine culturel, notamment sur notre vie au cœur des villes historiques. Bien que ce problème touche toutes les villes du monde, nous concentrerons notre attention sur les villes du patrimoine mondial de l'UNESCO, caractérisées par des valeurs universelles exceptionnelles (VUE). Kuldiga, avec son architecture en bois, a été inscrite sur la Liste de l'UNESCO en 2024.

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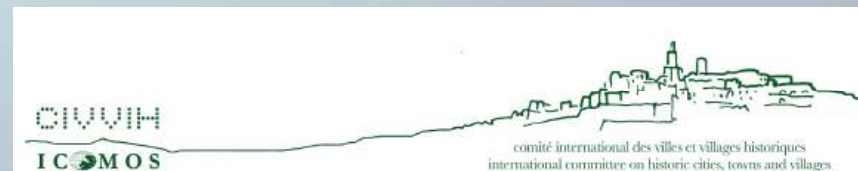
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GLOBAL WARMING. STATISTIC PERSPECTIVE ACCORDING TO UNESCO RESEARCH FOR CITIES INSCRIBED ON THE UNESCO WH LIST

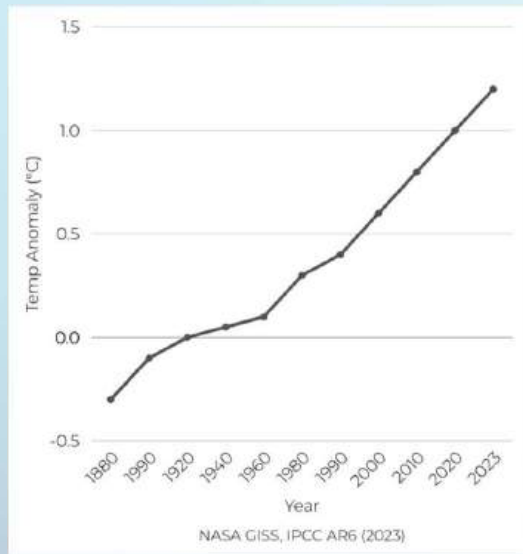
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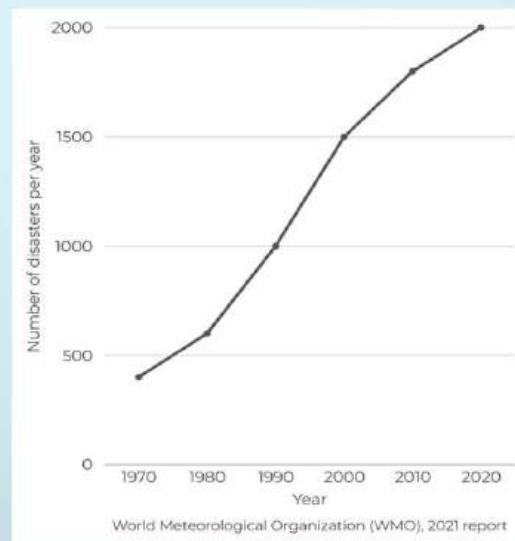
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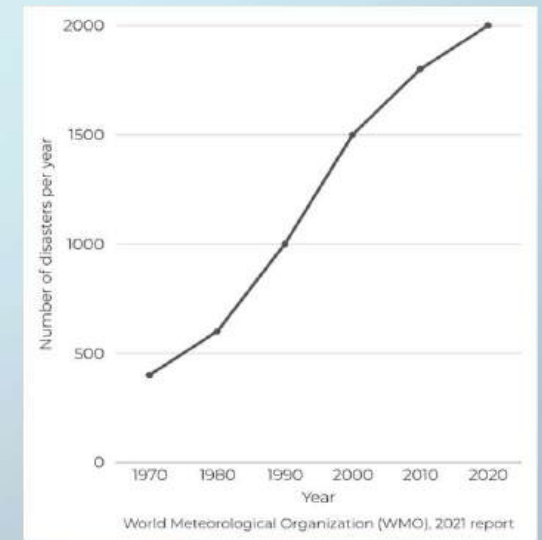
HOW DOES CLIMATE CHANGE AFFECT THE WORLD?



GLOBAL TEMPERATURE RISE



WEATHER-RELATED DISASTERS



GLOBAL SEA LEVEL RISE

HOW DOES CLIMATE CHANGE LEAD TO SOCIAL AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT?

CLIMATE CHANGE CAUSES

- global warming
- droughts & heatwaves
- melting glaciers
- irregular rainfall
- drying rivers

DIRECT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- decline in crop fields
- livestock losses
- water shortages
- soil degradation
- losses of forests

SOCIAL IMPACT

- food insecurity & hunger
- rural-to-urban migration
- pressure on cities and urban infrastructure

How does the climate change affect the social and natural environment?

We are witnessing the answer to this question everyday.

We are already experiencing all of the phenomena mentioned. The impact of climate change is increasingly painful and the effects are increasingly severe, so **we need to find ways how to mitigate them** and to build a more inclusive sustainable world.

Aujourd'hui, la réponse à la question: **Comment le changement climatique impacte-t-il l'environnement social et naturel?** est évidente : Nous subissons déjà tous les phénomènes mentionnés. L'impact du changement climatique est de plus en plus douloureux et ses effets de plus en plus graves, et nous devons trouver des moyens de les atténuer afin de construire un monde durable et plus inclusif.

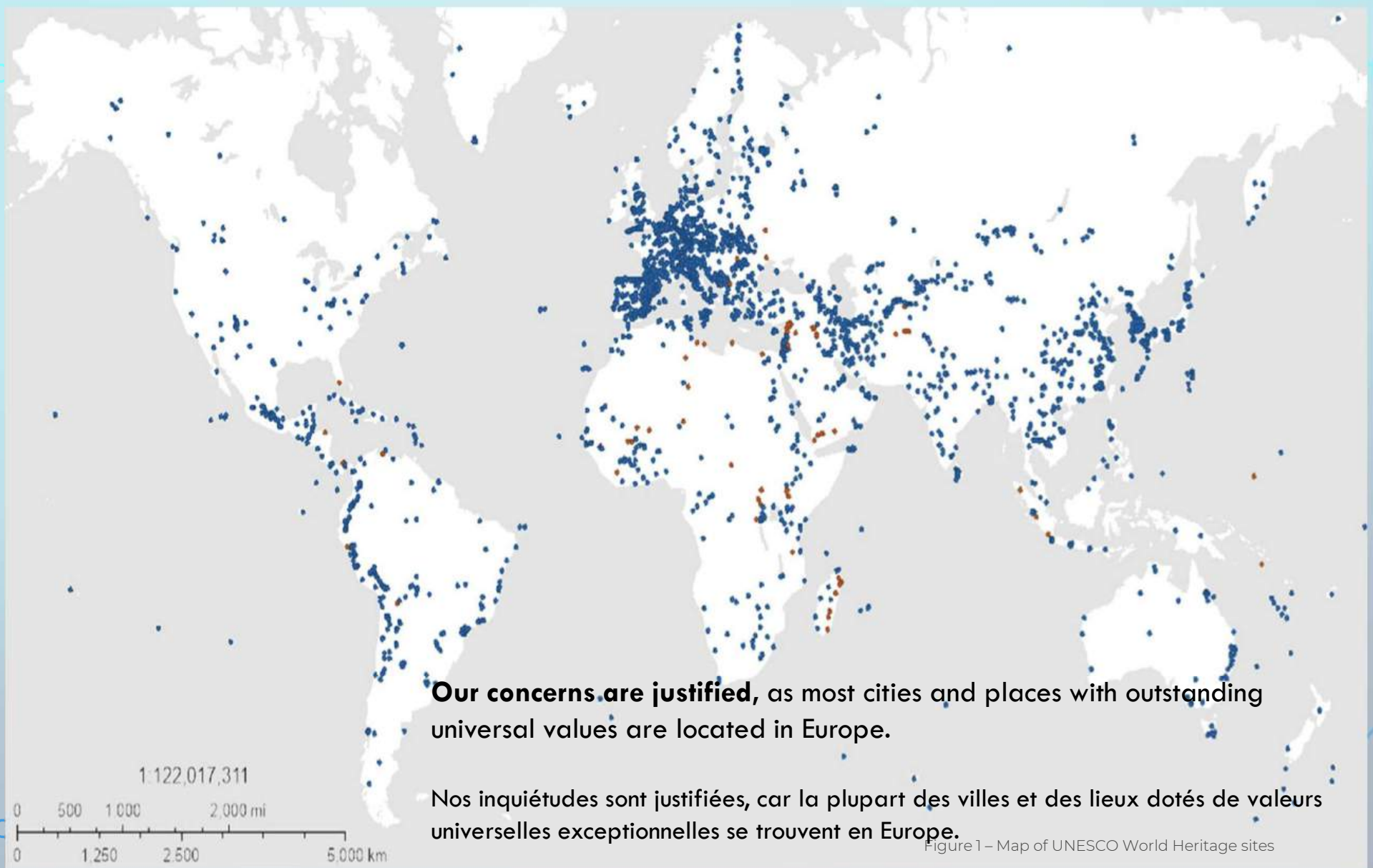
REGIONAL IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON WORLD HERITAGE SITES

Region	Number of WH sites impacted	% out of WH sites impacted globally	Natural and mixed heritage sites impacted	Cultural heritage sites impacted
Africa	24	27	7	17
Europe	21	24 %	4	17
Asia	15	17	7	8

Regions where World Heritage Sites are most impacted by climate change Source: ICOMOS & ICSM CHC, 2022

Climate change **is no longer a distant threat — it is a present-day reality**, a threat to the historical values of urban spaces and **the non-renewable, universal values** of cities but also above all, to their inhabitants.

Le changement climatique n'est plus une menace lointaine : c'est une réalité présente, une menace pour les valeurs historiques des espaces urbains et de leurs habitants, mais surtout - pour les valeurs universelles exceptionnelles et non renouvelables des villes inscrites sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial.



Our concerns are justified, as most cities and places with outstanding universal values are located in Europe.

Nos inquiétudes sont justifiées, car la plupart des villes et des lieux dotés de valeurs universelles exceptionnelles se trouvent en Europe.

Figure 1 – Map of UNESCO World Heritage sites



HOW DOES CLIMATE CHANGE AFFECT WORLD HERITAGE SITES?

1/6 of cultural heritage are under threat from **climate change externalities**

1/3 of the World Heritage cities are located in coastal areas, which makes them increasingly at risk from coastal hazards due to sea-level rise

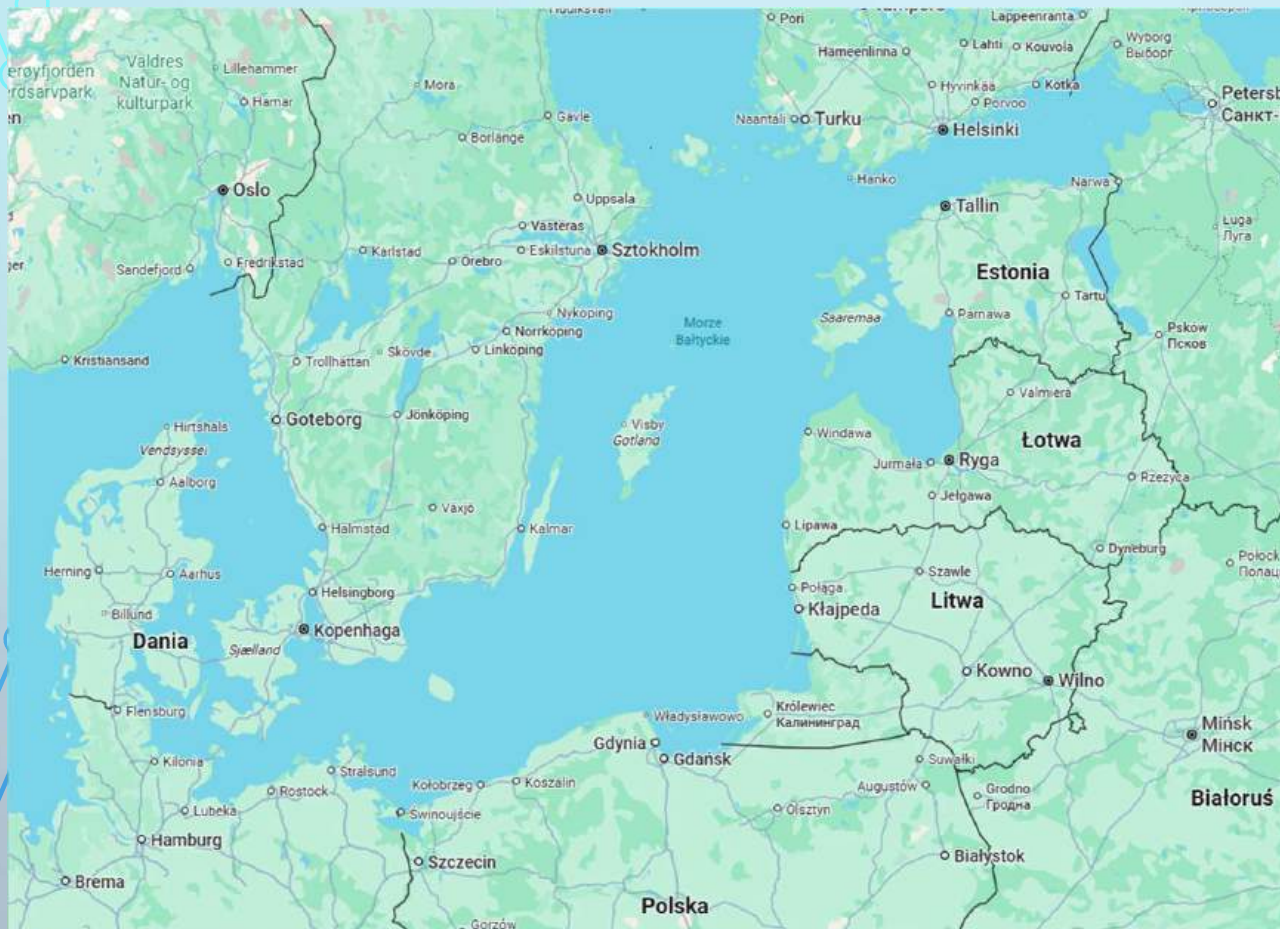
60% of the World Heritage sites in the Mediterranean region have already reported risks such as **coastal flooding and erosion, resulting from sea-level rise**

70% of cultural World Heritage sites are in urban areas, rendering them vulnerable to **the ongoing pressures on urbanization** because climate changes

1/3 **Glaciers** in a third areas of World Heritage sites will **disappear by 2050**, including those on Mount Kilimanjaro

60% of World Heritage **forests and marine sites** are threatened by human pressures and climate-related hazards like **wildfires, floods and cyclones**

1°C every 1-degree Celsius increase in temperature could double the number of living species exposed to dangerous climate conditions

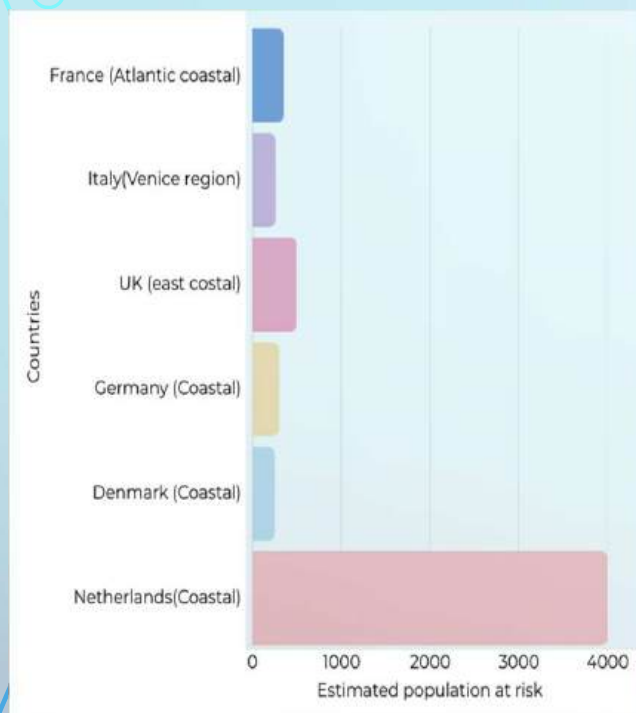


Over the 20th century, the Baltic Sea level rose by 20 cm. Previously, the average rate was 3-4 mm per year, but **this century it could rise by 60 -110 cm**, threatening low-lying areas. In Poland: the Żuławy region in the Vistula Delta will be submerged. The threats will also affect cities at the river mouths to the Baltic Sea, such as Gdansk, as well as Riga.

In Poland climate warming has prompted investments in climate-resilient infrastructure in cities; crisis management plans are being developed.

But crucial in this process is **educating local communities** about the threats associated with sea level rise and encouraging adaptation measures

HOW DOES THE CLIMATE CHANGE AFFECT THE WAY WE LIVE?



Permanent Loss of Land and Homes at costal areas



Storm, flood, earthquake, drought, wildfire but especially - the city „Heat islands“

Loss of Culture, Identity, Sovereignty from a different threats



Unplanned Urban Overcrowding - pressure of migration

Conclusion:

- Historic towns, cities and UNESCO World Heritage Sites face increasing risks of losing their unique values due to the climate change. **The current protection methods are often insufficient** in order to respond in time to the impacts of unpredictable threats.

Les villes historiques et les sites du patrimoine mondial de l'UNESCO sont confrontés à une menace croissante de perte de leurs valeurs uniques en raison du changement climatique. Les mesures de protection actuelles sont souvent insuffisantes pour répondre rapidement aux impacts de menaces imprévisibles.

- Risk management should integrate urban planning with cultural heritage protection, and climate change research, using spatial analysis of the historic urban landscape to develop practical resilience **strategies at the local level** taking into account, first of all, residents' concerns and their participation.

La gestion des risques devrait intégrer l'urbanisme, la protection du patrimoine culturel et la recherche sur le changement climatique, en s'appuyant sur l'analyse spatiale du paysage urbain historique pour élaborer des stratégies de résilience concrètes à l'échelle locale, en tenant compte des préoccupations et de la participation des habitants.

- **Local climate dialogues can also shape the national climate action integrating it into Urban Development. It's ICLEI* model addressing challenges through local actions**, with more than 85 local governments and civil society organizations registering to host Town Hall COPs across more than 40 countries. So far, twelve Town Hall COPs have taken place across diverse geographies from Australia and the Republic of Korea to Uganda, Türkiye, and the United States, **showing strong global interest in locally led climate discussions.** **ICLEI- Local Governments for Sustainability.*

Les dialogues locaux sur le climat peuvent également façonner l'action climatique nationale en l'intégrant au développement urbain. Le modèle ICLEI s'appuie sur des actions locales pour relever les défis, avec plus de 85 collectivités locales et organisations de la société civile inscrites pour accueillir des conférences publiques dans plus de 40 pays. À ce jour, douze conférences publiques ont eu lieu dans diverses régions, de l'Australie et de la République de Corée à l'Ouganda, à la Turquie et aux États-Unis, témoignant d'un fort intérêt mondial pour les discussions climatiques menées localement (ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability).

Local climate dialogues can also shape national climate action

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MORNING SESSION A

**LIVING IN WOODEN HERITAGE:
REVIVING CRAFTSMANSHIP**

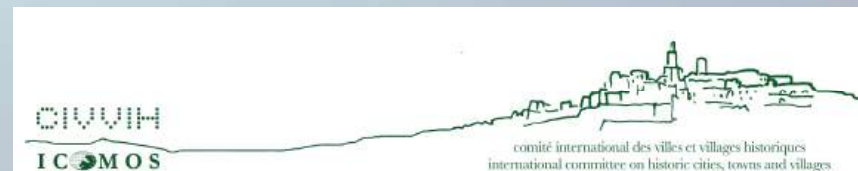
**VIVRE DANS UN PATRIMOINE EN BOIS;
REVITALISER LES SAVOIR-FAIRE TRADITIONNELS**

Moderators:

Danuta Kłosek-Kozłowska, Inara Bula

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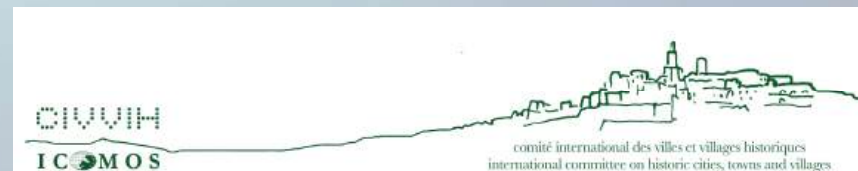
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STRATEGIES FOR ENHANCING HISTORIC CITIES' RESILIENCE TO DISASTERS

Presenters:
Hogne Langset
Raivis Austrins
Christian Martin

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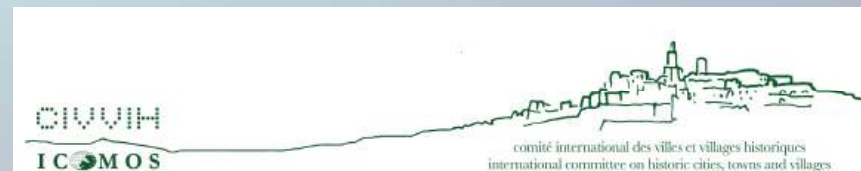
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DISCUSSION

**STRATEGIES FOR ENHANCING HISTORIC
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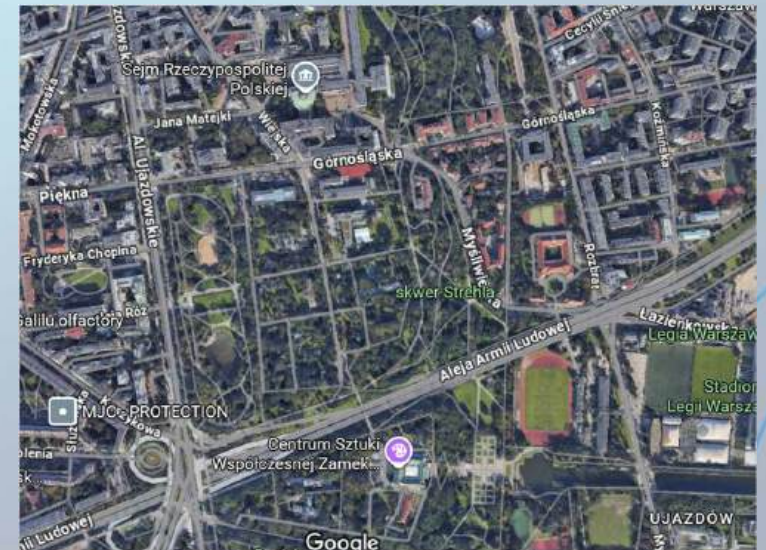
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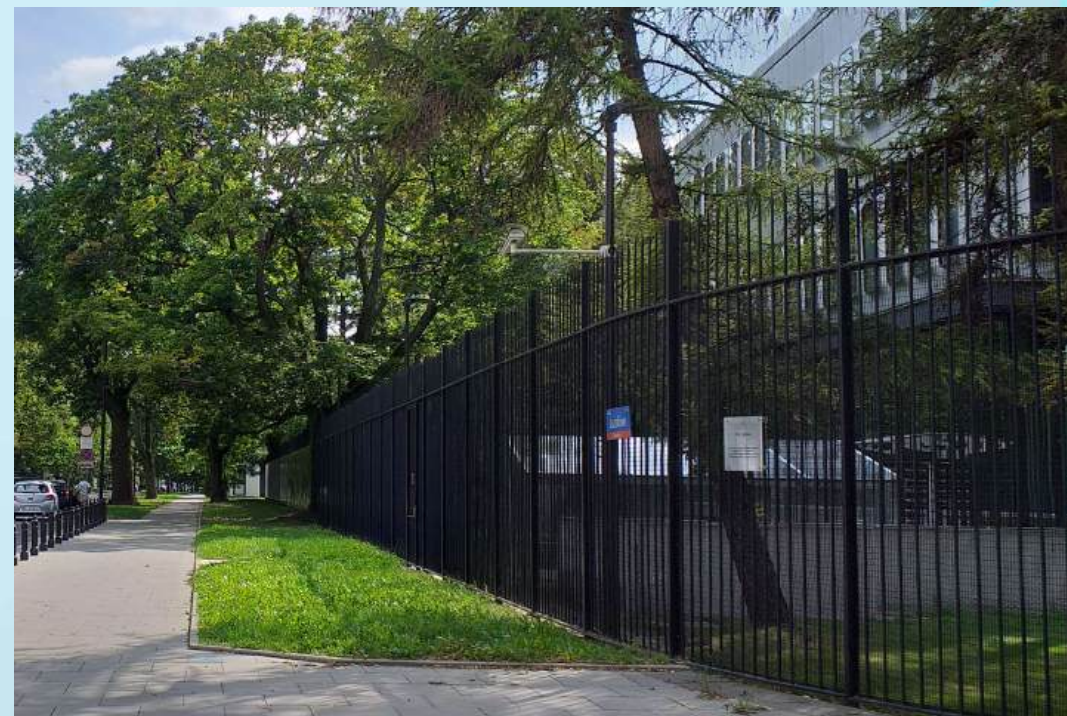




Jazdów, a magical place today, is a small settlement of wooden Finnish houses nestled in a picturesque setting surrounded by stately government buildings, the parliament, and embassies along Ujazdowskie Avenue and Piękna Street. The estate's architecture addressed the social needs of urban life, in line with Alvar Aalto's ideals of humanist modernism.

Jazdów, aujourd'hui un lieu magique, est un petit quartier de maisons finlandaises en bois datant de 1945, niché dans un cadre pittoresque, entouré d'imposants bâtiments gouvernementaux, du Parlement et d'ambassades le long de l'avenue Ujazdowskie et de la rue Piękna. L'architecture du quartier répondait aux besoins sociaux de la vie urbaine, en accord avec les idéaux de modernisme humaniste d'Alvar Aalto.







„...ścieleń plan odbudowy Warszawy” Bolesław Bierut. Zbiory R. Chwyszczuka

Halina Skibniewska architektury uczyła się u najlepszych: Syrkusów, Brukalskich
w Paryżu poznała Le Corbusiera, a w Finlandii Alvara Aalto. Mieszkała w Jazdówce, autorka min. Osiedla Szwoleżerów i Sądów Żoliborskich

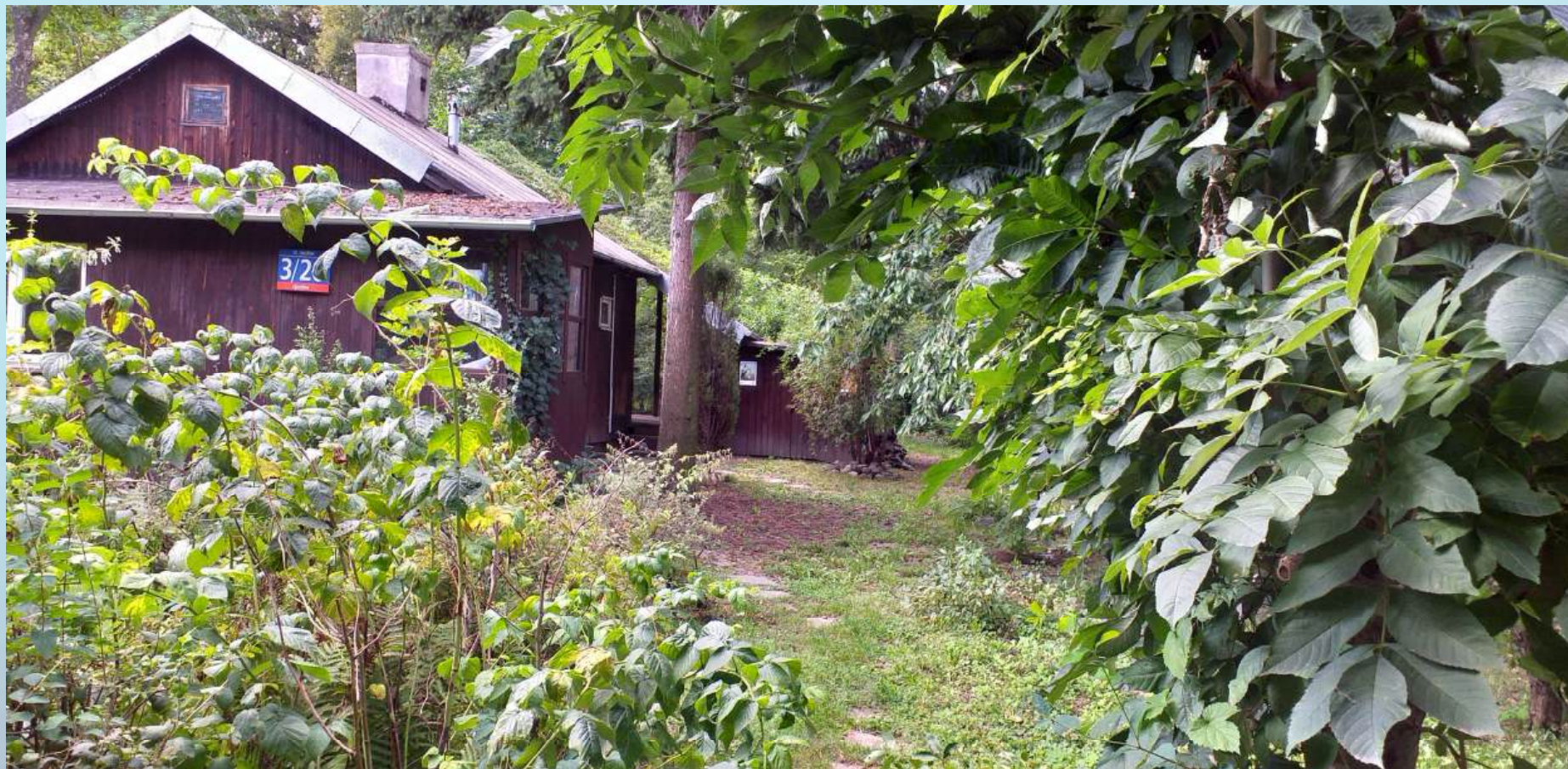


- It was a colony of 90 wooden houses which USSR had received from Finland as a war contribution' The area of the colony stretched from the Parliament to the Ujazdowski Castle and was a self sustaining ecosystem – on its area were public bath, kindergarten, primary school, community center. Ready to use in August 1945 – during the first anniversary of the Warsaw Uprising Jazdów once and for all **got down in history of the destruction and the heroic effort to rebuild capital**. Over the years the number of houses decreased from 90 to 27 for the construction of Trasa Łazienkowska, embassies French and German

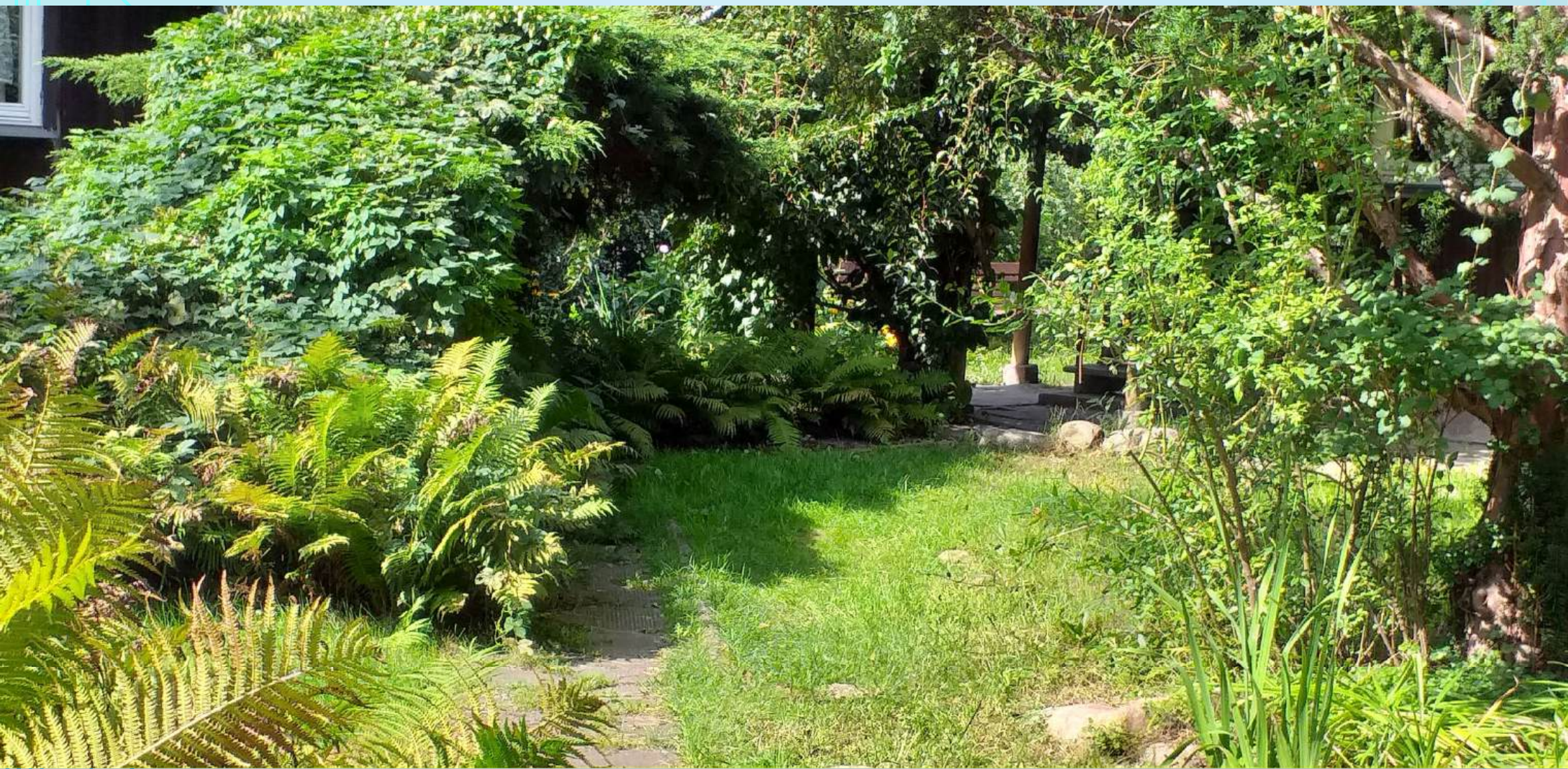




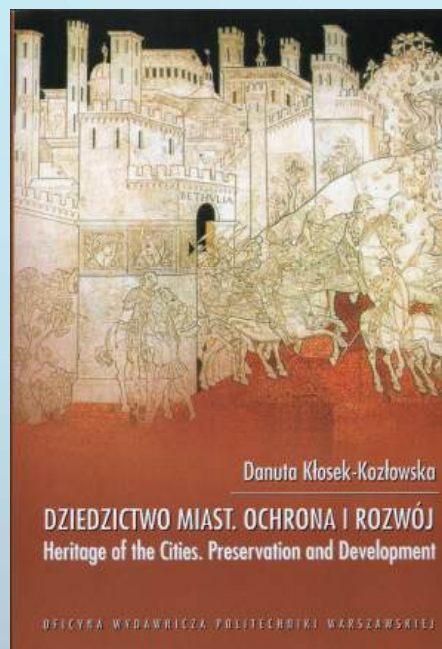
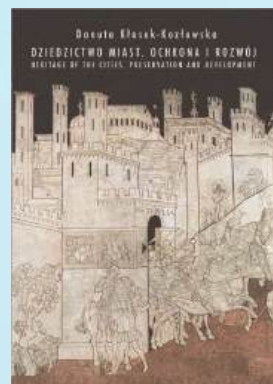
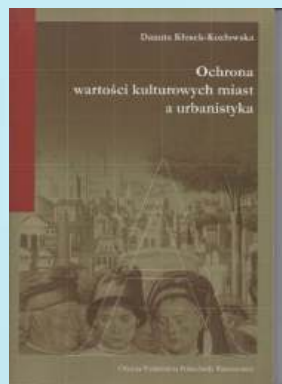
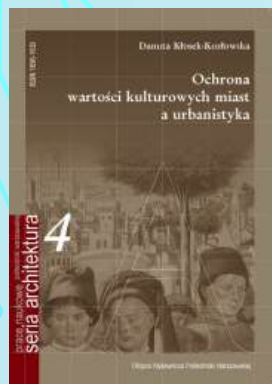












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Danuta Kłosek-Kozłowska

Professor, PhD, DSc, Eng. Architect - urban planner, urban historian, and conservator; researcher in the Department of Architectural Heritage and Art at the Faculty of Architecture, Warsaw University of Technology and Head of the Unit on Urban Heritage Protection also Head of the Postgraduate Studies in Cultural Heritage Protection – Historic City (1998-2024); lecturer at European universities; Member of the Committee on Architecture and Urban Planning of the Polish Academy of Sciences (editor in Chief of the journal of the Polish Academy of Sciences: Urban & Architectural Quarterly (2011-2018)). She received the ICCROM-Rome Certificate in Integrated Territorial and Urban Conservation ITUC'97; member of ICOMOS Poland since 1998 as leading the Cities Commission and on the ICOMOS Board; Vice-President of the International Scientific Committee on Historic Cities, Towns and Villages CIVVIH-ICOMOS (2011-2021); President and founder of the CIVVIH Subcommittee on Heritage Cities for Central and Eastern Europe. She is a Honorary Member of CIVVIH-ICOMOS with a big international experience (publications, expertise, opinions for ICOMOS and UNESCO); Member of the Panel Expert for Heritage Nominations on the UNESCO World Heritage List. She is an author of over 200 scientific papers (including three books) and of numerous analyses and expert opinions for cities council, as well as local government on shaping the historical landscape of cities, especially in using her author's method of heritage protection in urban planning.

STRATEGIES FOR ENHANCING HISTORIC CITIES' RESILIENCE TO DISASTERS

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