



2011 UNESCO
Recommendation
on the
Historic
Urban
Landscape



World Heritage City Lab – Sustainable Development Practices for Urban Heritage Kyiv, Ukraine

30 November 2021
Concept Note

As part of
“WORLD HERITAGE SITES: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PRACTICES FOR URBAN HERITAGE”
dedicated to the 30th anniversary of the inscription of the World Heritage property “Kyiv: Saint-
Sophia Cathedral and Related Monastic Buildings, Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra”
on UNESCO World Heritage List
and
UNESCO HUL Call for Action



Міністерство культури та
інформаційної політики України



NATIONAL
PRESERVE
KYIV-PECHERSK
LAVRA

Background

On 12 December 1990, the World Heritage Committee at its 14th session in Banff (Canada) approved the inscription of “Kyiv: Saint-Sophia Cathedral and Related Monastic Buildings, Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra” on UNESCO’s World Heritage List under criteria (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv). The architectural ensemble of St. Sophia Cathedral and the monastery complex of the Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra became the first World Heritage site in Ukraine. Being a State Party to the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972), Ukraine celebrated the 30th anniversary of the inscription of the aforementioned property on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2020. The components of the Property – the “St. Sophia Cathedral and Related Monastic Buildings” and the “Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra” – are located within the boundaries of the National Conservation Area “Saint-Sophia of Kyiv” and the National Preserve “Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra” and are managed by their respective ‘administrations. The setting of the site components underlines the importance of integrating it into the surrounding landscape, cultural and urban context.

In September 2015, all the UN State Parties committed to work towards a common transformational agenda, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable development that has today become one of the key documents for international cooperation. Sustainable development is defined as “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It calls for concerted efforts towards building an inclusive, sustainable and resilient future for people and planet. Sustainable development is premised on three key pillars that are crucial to harmonize: economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection. These elements are interconnected and all are crucial for the well-being of individuals and societies”. In consequence, the World Heritage Committee decided to adopt the World Heritage Sustainable Development Policy in 2015 (Decision 40 COM 5C) and has subsequently requested the development of tools and guidance materials to help State Parties to integrate sustainable development with conservation efforts and to gather good practices (Decision 43 COM 5C; Decision 44 COM 5D).

Cultural heritage and creativity have a significant role as drivers and enablers for sustainable development, contributing directly to its economic, social and environmental aspects. We can defend that cultural heritage, not only tangible but also intangible cultural heritage, has a substantial economic potential with regards to tourism, crafts, creative industries and has thus the capacity to contribute to job creation. At the same time, cultural heritage sites can serve as models for sustainable development and innovative strategies by integrating heritage conservation with social inclusion and resilience in ways that promote cities that are safe, inclusive, sustainable, and resilient in line with Goal 11 of the UN 2030 Agenda and the New Urban Agenda. UNESCO has recognized the interconnection between heritage conservation and sustainable urban development most specifically in the 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL Recommendation) that looks at interconnections between built heritage, local communities and practices, the natural environment and the setting of historic cities. In 2021 the HUL Recommendation celebrated its 10th Anniversary (<https://whc.unesco.org/en/events/1596/>) and launched a [UNESCO HUL Call for Action](https://survey.unesco.org/3/index.php?r=survey/index&sid=966989&lang=en) (<https://survey.unesco.org/3/index.php?r=survey/index&sid=966989&lang=en>). During this ten-

year period since its launch, the approach presented by the HUL Recommendation has become an important reference thanks to its inclusivity and accessibility for all that help reconcile heritage conservation and sustainable development. It provides a framework for the creation of sustainable, liveable urban environments, including not only World Heritage cities and cities where urban World Heritage properties are integrally related to the urban settlement around it as in case of “Kyiv: Saint-Sophia Cathedral and Related Monastic Buildings, Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra”, but also to all historic cities in the world.

In order to ensure its protection, cultural heritage requires implementing an interdisciplinary approach to urban heritage conservation, management and promotion, and at the same time establishing policies and sustainable development strategies that preserve and promote its diversity and uniqueness. These actions must be carried out through collaboration with multiple stakeholders at international, national, regional and local levels. In this context, the *UNESCO Culture|2030 Indicators* is a framework whose purpose is to measure and monitor the progress of culture’s enabling contribution to the national and local implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development where the framework is organized across four themes (<http://whc.unesco.org/culture2030indicators>).

Leading from the reflections and guidance documents above, the International Conference “World Heritage Sites: Sustainable Development Practices for Urban Heritage” is taking place in Kyiv (Ukraine) in 2020-21. The first stage of the Conference took place online on 10th December 2020, as part of the celebration of the 30th anniversary of the inscription of “Kyiv: Saint-Sophia Cathedral and Related Monastic Buildings, Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra” in the UNESCO World Heritage List. During the conference, national and international experts exchanged scientific knowledge and practical experience. The program of the event included four plenary sessions on the thematic areas "Historical Urban Environment", "Prosperity and sustainable livelihoods", "Knowledge and Skills" and "Inclusion and Participation". Based on the case studies of the World Heritage cities of - Kyiv, Florence, Bordeaux, Naples, Bamberg, Trogir and Mtskheta - experts discussed the main challenges and resources of urban sites, their contribution to sustainable development, and the capacity of World Heritage site managers to promote prosperity, liveability and peace in historic cities.

This first stage served to raise awareness about the role of culture and cultural heritage in achieving sustainable development among World Heritage site managers in Europe, their teams and networks, as well as to identify the factors that hinder the full potential of cultural contribution to economic, social and environmental sustainable development.

The second stage of the Conference will be a hybrid event, which will take place in Kyiv and online on 30th November 2021 and expand on the results of the first stage, hoping to make a particular contribution to the celebrations of the 10th Anniversary of the adoption of the HUL Recommendation by the General Conference of UNESCO and as a follow up to the UNESCO HUL Call for Action.

This event will resume the discussion on the prevailing challenges and resources for urban heritage to foster sustainable development and to enhance the capacities of the World Heritage properties site managers in contributing to prosperous, resilient and peaceful cities. This time, experts and

academics will exchange with the site managers and practitioners who already participated in the first stage. This will help build on previous ideas and come up with strong well contrasted takeaways.

Conference Format

In the context of the current COVID-19 pandemic, and conditioned by the restrictions applied worldwide, the Conference has been organised in two stages – online and offline meetings in 2020 and 2021.

Key Objectives

The main objective of the conference is to raise awareness and build capacities amongst World Heritage site managers in Europe regarding the role of culture and cultural heritage in achieving sustainable development and develop operational strategies for implementing strategies for sustainable development at the local level with World Heritage at their core.

Other goals include:

- To facilitate and strengthen exchanges between site managers, practitioners, experts and academics;
- To allow peer-to-peer learning and exchange;
- To follow up on the UNESCO HUL Call for Action event to better understand regional priorities with regard to recovery and resilience.

This will be achieved through the exchange of scientific and knowledge-based experience of national and international experts and practitioners during the conference by means of lectures and debates. At the same time, the conference aims to identify key challenges to implementing sustainable development in and around World Heritage properties.

Expected Outcomes

The online conference will serve as a commemoration of the anniversary of the inscription of the Site “Kyiv: Saint-Sophia Cathedral and Related Monastic Buildings, Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra” (No 527bis) to the World Heritage List, as well as 2011 HUL Recommendation Anniversary. It gives an opportunity to the participants to become acquainted with practices and initiatives in the framework of the World Heritage Sustainable Development Policy and the framework of the UNESCO Culture/2030 Indicators (following the thematic areas) represented by the invited speakers, as well as exchange opinions and outline some key lessons to share.

The main outcome of the full conference will be a draft series of case studies of practices and initiatives published on the World Heritage Canopy platform to enhance sustainable development in World Heritage cities discussed during the conference and especially concerning the tools and measures for integration of principles and fundamentals of sustainable development into the management of urban World Heritage properties. Video recordings and a report will be publicly available after the conference.

Target Audience

Site managers of World Heritage cities within the European region and the Eastern Partnership countries, representatives of national and local authorities, international experts, representatives of Ukrainian properties in the UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List, representatives of state institutions, non-governmental and public organizations that operate in this field.

Thematic Areas

I. Historic Urban Environment (sustainable management and conservation of natural and cultural heritage, physical and spatial aspects of the urban environment including resilience and Climate Action)

II. Prosperity and Livelihoods (the role of culture in livelihoods and its contribution to inclusive and equitable economic development)

III. Knowledge and skills (transmission of knowledge referring to the local cultural values, enhancement of heritage conservation skills)

IV. Inclusion and participation (transmission of values and skills that foster cultural integration; understanding and respect for cultural diversity; involvement of local communities into decision-making processes; inclusive management processes for World Heritage properties).

V. Peace and Security (promotion of culturally pluralistic strategies for the conservation and management of World Heritage properties; reference to the relevant frameworks of conflict prevention, resolution and post-conflict recovery in the management system).

Working languages

English, French, Ukrainian

Format

Online conference (Zoom Platform) with the possibility for Ukrainian attendees to participate offline.

