



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

In cooperation with



World
Heritage
Centre



Concept Note

Integrating Urban Heritage in Urban Planning Processes: **World Heritage City Lab - City of Prague**

24 March 2021

Rationale and overall purpose

As more than 55% of humanity lives in cities, and more than 60% will live in them by the year 2021, cities and settlements have grown rapidly and exponentially, often inadequately planned, over the last few decades and will very likely continue to do so. At the same time, many cities and settlements have evolved over centuries and are rich repositories of history, heritage and identity. Their diversity of forms reflects the historical encounters, environments and influences that each city or settlement has lived.



The UNESCO World Heritage Centre is the Secretariat of the 1972 Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage governed by the intergovernmental World Heritage Committee. The World Heritage Cities Programme is one of the six thematic programmes approved and monitored by the World Heritage Committee since 2001. Today, 313 cities, inscribed on the World Heritage List are part of the World Heritage Cities Programme. These properties are inscribed for their Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) that makes the heritage valuable not only to that country or city but to all of humanity, and hence must be protected as a joint effort. With this in view, the properties must ensure the conditions of authenticity and integrity (Fukuoka Outcomes), while at the same time taking into account the local attributes of urban heritage identity.

The 2011 *UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape* (HUL Recommendation) was adopted by the UNESCO's General Conference on 10 November 2011. The key findings of the Second Member State Survey on the Implementation of the 2011 Historic Urban Landscape Recommendation (HUL Recommendation) had been that it needed to be implemented as an urgent and necessary tool for resolving the conflicting

demands of heritage conservation and urban development towards more sustainable cities. This was necessary both for those cities that have properties inscribed on the World Heritage List as well as those that do not. With increasing threats from poorly planned urban development, World Heritage Committee decisions have identified the need to better address urban pressures for development in and around World Heritage properties (Decision 41 COM 7; Decision 43 COM 7.3) as well as emphasized the crucial importance of implementing the HUL Recommendation for World Heritage cities (Decision 42 COM 5A).

The World Heritage Committee has also noted in recent years that increasing pressures in and around numerous World Heritage properties pose major threats to their value, and cited the need for application of more effective and durable conservation and management of urban heritage inscribed on the World Heritage List. The Committee called upon State Parties (41 COM 7) to integrate the role of culture in sustainable urban development, in order to achieve vital goals for heritage and the environment (notably, SDG 11 / Target 4).

2021 marks the 10th anniversary of the HUL Recommendation, which provides a perfect opportunity to reflect on how this Recommendation has been implemented and integrated in sustainable development plans in World Heritage cities.

Such experiences are especially relevant in the context of the Metropolitan Plan for Prague, Czechia. In April 2020 the City of Prague planned to host an international workshop as suggested in the recommendations of the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission that took place from 25 to 29 March 2019 (read the report to WHC.21/44.COM/ <https://whc.unesco.org/en/documents/180492>). According to the recommendations, the authorities of Prague are to organise an International Workshop to discuss the draft Metropolitan Plan for Prague, with participation of urban specialists involved in the implementation of the 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape and the World Heritage Convention (1972). The workshop was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Previous Committee decisions for the World Heritage site of the “Historic Centre of Prague” had already addressed the visual impact of high-rise buildings in the World Heritage site and the effects of new construction projects on its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) (31 COM 7B.94, 35 COM 7B.89). Other decisions also addressed the assessment of infrastructural projects (33 COM 7B.96, 34 COM 7B.82).

The proposed activity will focus on these different issues and look for practical examples that could support the better integration of urban heritage management in urban development processes.

Objectives

The conference will revolve around the ways urban heritage values are integrated into urban development processes and how different cities have developed different mechanisms and tools.

As a result, the activity will underline the practical, economic and cultural values of traditional constructions, renovations, and new constructions, and ways of assessing and ensuring their positive impact. A focus on sustainable development in the framework of the 2030 Agenda and New Urban Agenda is also at the centre of this activity.

Format

Technical

1 day Zoom conference

Working languages

Czech, English and French with simultaneous interpretation.

Programme

24 March

- 10:00 – 10:10 Opening Speeches
10:10 – 10:20 UNESCO Keynote speech on 'HUL Recommendation Approach to integrating Urban Heritage in Urban Processes'
10:20 – 10:35 The Metropolitan Plan of Prague (Prague Institute of Planning and Development)
10:35 – 10:50 Case Study I
LYON, Philippe Lamy: *Historic Site of Lyon and the Zoning Plan*
10:50 – 11:05 Case Study II
BORDEAUX, Anne-Laure Moniot: *Bordeaux, Port of the Moon*
11:05 – 11:20 Case Study III
PORTO, Ana Leite Pereira: *Porto Mobility Plan*
PORTO, José Sequeira: *Porto com Sentido / Porto with Sense*
11:20 – 11:35 Panel discussion
11:35 – 13:00 Global discussion

13:00 – 15:00 Break

15:00 – 15:15 Case Study IV
LISBOA, Ana Silva Dias: *EU Rock Project: MARVILA LOCAL IDENTITY – Territories of continuity / re-use of Culture Heritage*
15:15 – 15:30 Case Study V
NAPOLI, Roberta Nicchia, Irene Lettieri: *Historic Centre of Naples – UNESCO site*
15:30 – 15:45 Case Study VI
KRAKOW, Robert Piaskowski: *Historic Centre of Krakow – UNESCO site*
15:45 – 16:00 Panel discussion
16:00 – 16:30 Global discussion
16:30 – 17:00 Summary, conclusions, closing