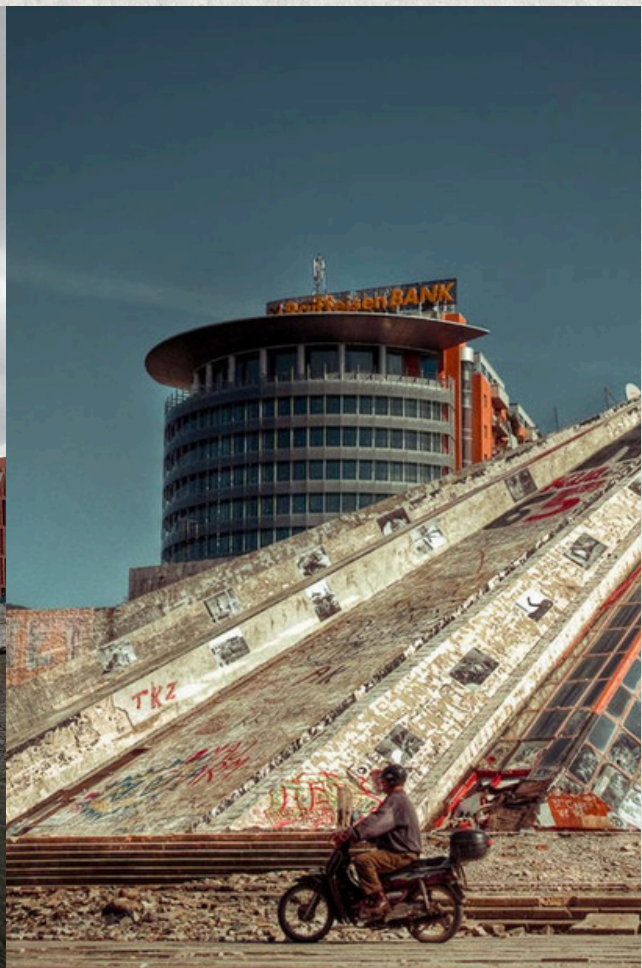


# ARCHETHICS

*Dissonant European heritage as laboratory of democracy*

## NEWS FROM THE NETWORK APRIL - JUNE 2024

Quarterly network report  
**Ileana Toscano**, Lead expert



The Meeting in  
Gdansk and the  
Masterclass on  
History and  
Ethics

Workshop on  
the integrated  
urban  
approach

Thematic  
online meeting  
on Gender,  
Ethics and  
Communication

The Meeting in  
Tirana &  
Permet and the  
Masterclass on  
Architecture  
and People




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*This is the **second quarterly report** of ARCHETHICS, an Action Planning Network funded by the URBACT IV programme, to describe in a nutshell the Network progress*

**Keep in contact!**

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<https://www.facebook.com/ArchethicsNetwork>

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# 1 - About ARCHETHICS Network

## The Network

ARCHETHICS Network fosters a deep reflection on the **Dissonant Heritage** present in many European cities.

## What Dissonant Heritage means

The history of Europe has generated an heritage that sometimes is controversial and complex due to belonging to totalitarian regimes or contentious borders. This heritage has been called **“Dissonant”**, **addressing the problematic link between the physical elements** like architecture, neighbourhoods, monuments, urban public spaces, **and the historical and political values those elements represent.**

**The Network allows to experience the complex history of Europe and, through a critical examination of the past, come into the present to promote democracy and solidarity.**

**The objective of ARCHETHICS** is to explore novel approaches to build sustainable urban policies on Dissonant Heritage to:

- **enhance dissonant heritage as a non-divisive element of urban communities**, but as a starting point for shaping new democratic identities;
- generate a better understanding on **how sustainable managing** Dissonant Heritage;
- **activate urban community labs** around European common values;
- open new **perspectives and opportunities to enhance Dissonant Heritage** as an investment attraction and a driver for local touristic and cultural development.





# 1 - What happened during this Network quarter?

## *A Follow-up on Project Dimensions and the Integrated Action Plan process*

From April and June 2024, ARCHETHICS Network provided a follow up on the project dimensions, that are “History, Ethics, People and Architecture” to investigate the **Dissonant Heritage** theme as well as on the **Integrated Approach** to develop **Integrated Action Plans**.

We organised:

- **Two Core Network Meetings:** on 9-10 April 2024 in **Gdansk** (Poland) and on 18-19 June 2024 in **Tirana and Permet** (Albania).
- **Two Hybrid Masterclasses** (in presence and online through Facebook live channel) with local and international experts. The Masterclasses were organised during the Network meetings: **the first masterclass on History and Ethics** was organised in **Gdansk** on 9 April 2024 and the **second masterclass on Architecture and People** in **Tirana**.
- A **follow-up online webinar on Historytelling, Inclusion and gender** was organised on 8 May 2024.
- First online meeting on the preparation of the **Integrated Action Plan** on 24 April 2024
- **Two meetings for ULG coordinators**, one in presence during the Network meeting in Gdansk and one online
- **One to one meetings** for cities partner



*The Network Meeting in Gdansk  
9-10 April 2024*



*The Network Meeting in Tirana & Permet  
18-19 June 2024*



*The online Meeting focused on storytelling and gender  
8 May 2024*

# 2 - CORE NETWORK MEETING IN GDANSK

## 2nd Core Network meeting in Gdansk (Poland)

The cities partner of ARCHETHICS met in Gdansk on **9-10 April 2024** to follow up on:

- A **Masterclass on history and ethics**, with a focus on the dissonant heritage of Gdańsk and Kazanlak
- A **study visit** to the dissonant heritage of Gdansk
- An **interactive workshop** on how to communicate **gender and diversity** when communicating dissonant heritage.
- A **workshop on the Integrated Approach for Urban Development**
- **1st ULG BOARD meeting**



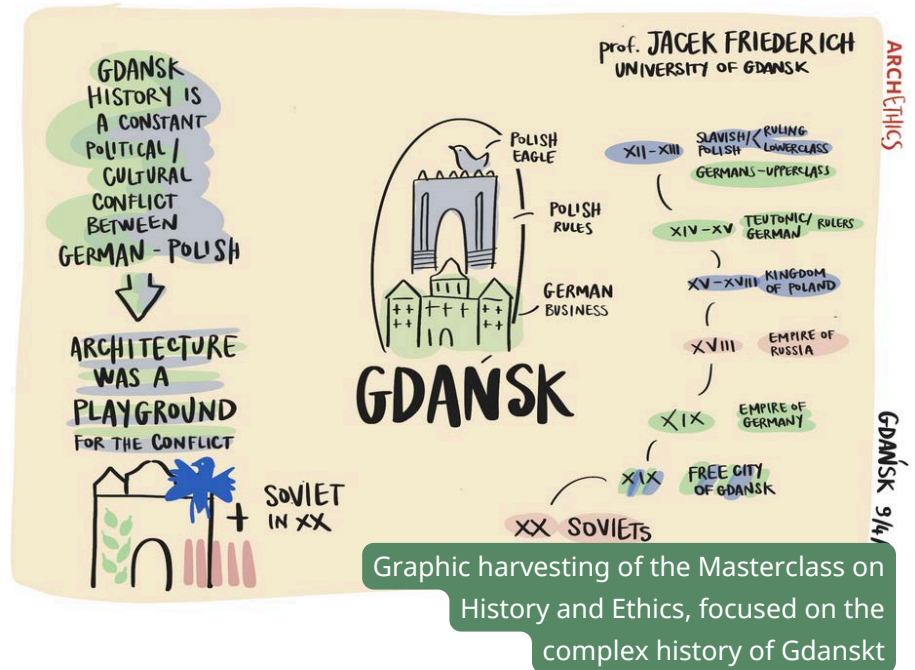
The ARCHETHICS partners  
visiting Gdansk



# The Masterclass on History and Ethics

## Watch the recorded masterclass

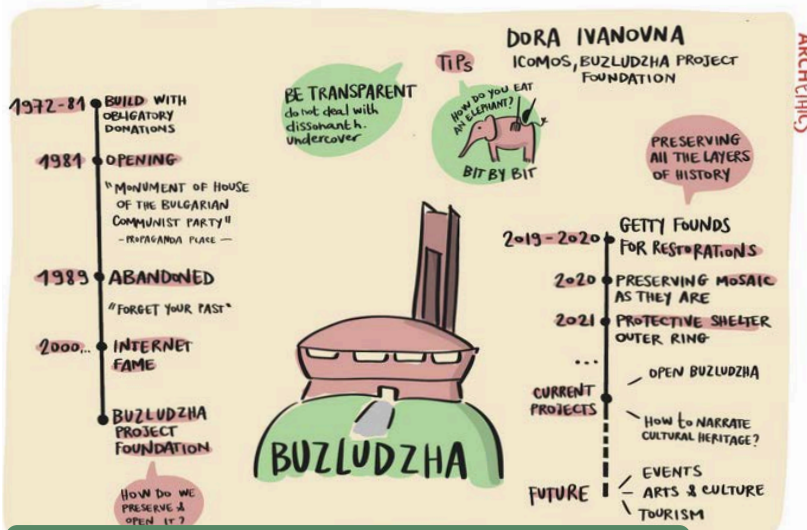
The Masterclass looked at the project dimensions of **History and Ethics**. History was followed by learning the **dissonant history of Gdansk** that was shared by the prof *Jacek Friederich*, University of Gdansk. It continued with the contribution of Prof. *Piotr Lorens*, Municipality of Gdansk, that connected the history of Gdansk with the architectures present in the city. Those material objects represent the complex political history of Gdansk that is connected with the history of Europe.



Graphic harvesting of the Masterclass on History and Ethics, focused on the complex history of Gdansk

The Masterclass shared **two examples of change makers for dissonant heritage** linked with history and ethics:

- the case study of **Buzludzha Project** with the contribution of *Dora Ivanova*, member of ICOMOS, CEO and founder of the Buzludzha Project Foundation
- the Gdansk experience on storytelling and civic engagement, presented by *Iga Perzyna*, Stowarzyszenie Inicjatywa Miasto (City Initiative Association).



Graphic harvesting of the Masterclass on History and Ethicst, focused on the Buzludzha Project

The **project dimension of Ethics** was followed up by the ad hoc expert *Sandra Rainero*. The expert focused her presentation on the importance of **being represented taking in consideration gender and diversity**.

Sandra guided partners through the possibility to transform the typical "history-telling" into a "story-making" process, where all voices (also the marginalised ones) are included.



# Laboratory on History and Ethics

Laboratory sessions for partners were organised to foster the comprehension of the **2 project dimensions of History and Ethics and novel way to approach history and communication.**

A world café was provided to discuss in three small groups dealing with History, Ethics and Communication.

## COMMUNICATION

Often when we talk about Dissonant Heritage, we fall into a **dichotomy between good and bad.** Different 'truths' are told, which started from different ideologies.

What techniques can we use to move beyond this dichotomy?

- Collecting memories without judging.
- Rethinking participation, so that people do not arrive with too strong structured ideas and the dialogue does not just become a clash of ideologies.
- We need to talk about history 'as it was', but also talk about the difference between past and present, and the values of democracy.

## History

We need to think who writes history and who cares about history. **History is “very political” and politics affects our every day life,** through political acts promoted in cities.

So we need to **take care about history knowing facts,** that have to be well analysed and **sharing the emotions linked to facts.**

For doing that, we need **safe spaces** where people, also the vulnerable ones, feel free to share their opinions without judgement.

We want to think about history in the present for being able to visualise our future.

## Ethics

**It is not easy to talk about ethics and values...**

The group discussion generated new questions: How can we not be ideological? How can we include citizens in a dialogue on ethics? How can we enhance individual memories in a collective ethical framework? What can we learn from the propaganda mechanisms of the past to recognise fake news today?



The world café to follow up on History, Ethics and Communication



# Exploring dissonant Heritage in Gdansk

ARCHETHICS cities visited the dissonant heritage of Gdansk, focusing the attention on two Dissonant Heritage elements: **the Grunwald Residential District (GRD)**, a residential neighbourhood built after the second world war with social realism features, and the **Maritime Cultural Centre in Nowy Port**, the “new” socialist district of Gdansk in the Port area.

The Grunwald Residential District was built during the Stalinist period and aimed at creating housing for 26,000 residents on 100 hectares. It consists of a “strip system”, with Grunwaldzka Avenue in the centre that was linked to existing municipal and estate roads. The main axis of the Grunwaldzka Residential District was a complex of parks and squares around which the Cultural and Service Centre was designed. **Nowadays, Grunwaldzka Avenue has become a traffic road that divides the neighbourhood in two areas, not fostering walkability and good connections between the two sides.**

The Maritime Cultural Centre in Nowy Port was opened on 7 November 1954, on the 37th anniversary of the October Revolution. It was part of a cultural and recreational complex that included other facilities that were not realised. **Today, despite its huge potential, it is closed and owned by a private company.**





# Workshop on the integrated urban approach

A workshop on the integrated urban approach was provided to have a good understanding of what we mean by **“integrated” urban development** and how this understanding can be applied in **action planning**.

The experience of the activist **Jane Jacobs** was shared as an example **for avoiding the classical “silo thinking”** for urban planning, that could find oppositions.

Quite the opposite, **an inclusive and integrated approach** ensures better planning, policies and citizen and stakeholders engagement.

Inspired by philosophy of integrated urban approach, ARCHETHICS cities shared their **visions** as a starting point of their Integrated Action Plans.

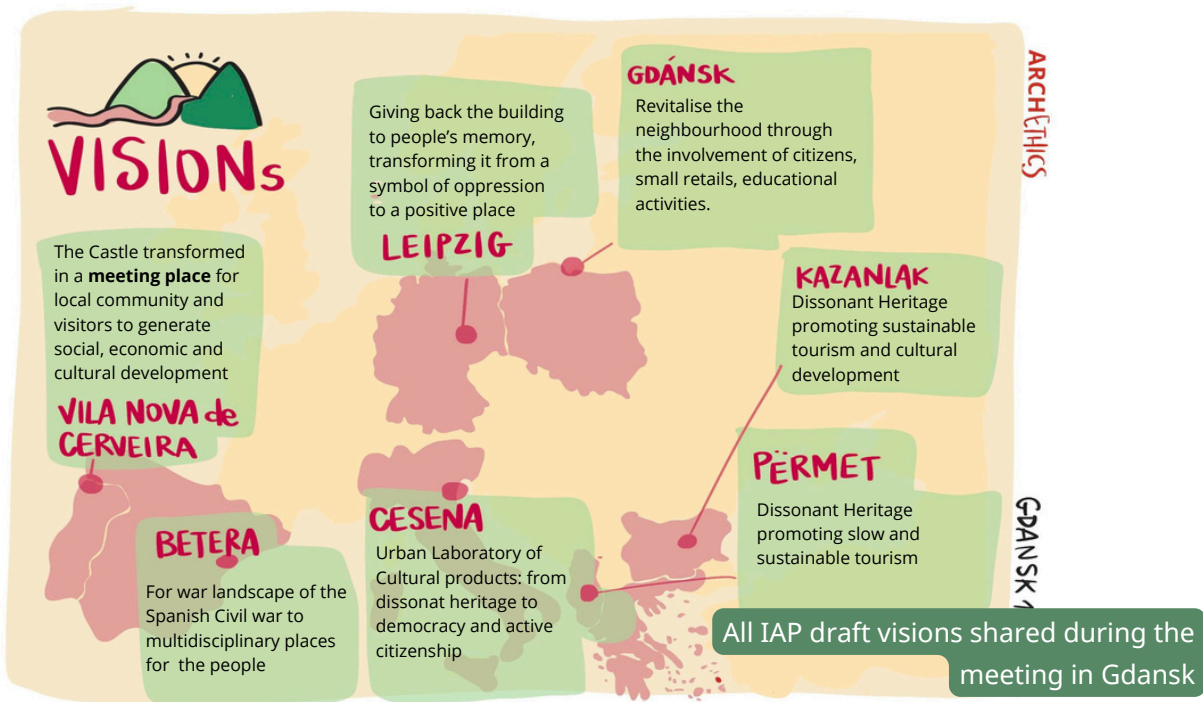
An **online workshop “Hints and Tips to Build Integrated Action Plans to Enhance Dissonant Heritage”** was provided on 24 April 2024 to support partners and ULG members in drafting the IAP and understand the complexity of integration.



Jane Jacobs during a protest against city's planned motorway through New York's Greenwich Village



Partners presenting the vision of their IAP





# The ULG coordinators board meetings

All ULG coordinators have been invited to join the “**ARCHETHICS ULG coordinators board**” that aims at organising dedicated moments to share the ongoing process at local level as well as problems and positive thinks occurred during ULG meetings.

The fist meeting held in Gdansk as a side session of the Core network meeting, the second one was organised online in May 2024.



ULG coordinators met in Gdansk



Graphic harvesting of the ULG board session

# 3 - THEMATIC ONLINE MEETING

## Online meeting on gender, Ethics and Communication

After the Network meeting in Gdansk, the themes “gender, diversity, ethics and communication” were followed up through an online meeting held on **8 May 2024** facilitated and organised with the support of the *ad hoc expert Sandra Rainero*.

A reflection on “**gendering dissonant heritage**” was provided, fostering opportunities of including gender stories into the collection of memories for a narrative on dissonant heritage, as well as hints and tips **for gendering the production of Integrated Action Plans** on Dissonant heritage.

The meeting was the occasion for exchange and learning from other two city projects, funded by the **Urban Initiative Actions (UIA)** programme:

- **CAMINA**, implemented by the Municipality of **Almeria (ES)**
- **ForwArt**, implemented by the Municipality of **Tilburg (NL)**.

**CAMINA** focused on the Innovative approach to create a **collaborative and inclusive City Narrative** as a starting point for Cultural Laboratories that engaged a huge number of local organisations, individuals, artists and experts.

**ForwArt** shared a gendered perspective approach to foster talent development and social transformation of a deprived neighbourhood in Tilburg.

More information are available on the [UIA website](#)

## Gendering dissonant heritage

EACH TIME A GIRL OPENS A BOOK AND READS A WOMANLESS HISTORY, SHE LEARNS SHE IS WORTH LESS.

Myra Pollack Sadker

A pic taken from Sandra Rainero presentation





# 5 - CORE NETWORK MEETING IN PERMET & TIRANA

## 3rd Core Network meeting in Permet and Tirana (Albania)

The cities partner of ARCHETHICS met in Permet and Tirana on **17-18 June 2024** to follow up on:

- A **masterclass on architecture and people**, that was followed by an interactive workshop for partners
- A visit to the **dissonant heritage of Tirana and Permet**
- A session on the **Section 2 of Integrated Action Plan (IAP)**
- A follow-up on **testing activities**
- A marketplace session on the IAP produced by cities partner that already participated in a URBACT project
- A relaxing experience inside the heritage of Permet!



The ARCHETHICS partners in Permet



# The Masterclass on Architecture and People

## Watch the recorded masterclass

The Masterclass opened with the contribution of *Nils Scheffler*, ad hoc URBACT expert and author of the orientation paper “**Integrated Approaches to Dissonant Heritage of the 20th Century**”, delivered for the Action 10 of the Partnership on Culture and Cultural Heritage in the Urban Agenda for the EU. Nils shared recommendations to gain support for **managing and enhancing Dissonant Heritage sites and dissonant architectures** in European cities and territories.

RECOMMENDATIONS to gain support

ARCHETHICS

LINKING WITH OTHER SECTORS



A pic from the Nils' presentation

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URBAN EXPERT  
Integrated Urban development  
and Participation processes



*A half century under the state terror of the Dictatorship of the Proletariat, led by Enver Hoxha, wounded the psyche and the soul of the country.*

*Before democracy can emerge, we must understand and repair these wounds.*

*Dr. Lori Amy, Professor, Cultural Studies and Writing.*



A pic from Doriana' presentation

The Master continued with the contribution of *Doriana Musaj*, Architect and Urban Planner, Polis University of Tirana. Doriana shared a **storytelling on the different levels of dissonant architecture in Albania**, tracing a link between historical and political facts that affected architecture and people during the Albanese dictatorship. Her speech have given a touching picture of the difficulties of living during regime times. She also showcased Albanian examples dealing with the historical and architectural dissonant remains and how people and local organisations tackled them.

An interesting **connection between dissonant architecture and people** was provided by *Stephan Seiler*, Municipality of Leipzig, who presented the **participatory planning process** developed by Leipzig for the **architectural competition aimed at rethinking the Stasi headquarter**, a huge dissonant heritage located in the city center. Citizens and stakeholders have been involved in the whole process. A popular jury, with stakeholders and citizens representation, was set up and a participatory exhibition with Architecture companies participating in the competition was organised.



The exhibition of the architectural projects in Leipzig



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# Visiting the Pyramid of Tirana

The Masterclass on “Dissonant Architecture and People” was organised inside an iconic and controversial building of Tirana: the Pyramid.

This building was originally built as a museum dedicated to the communist dictator Enver Hoxha, nowadays transformed into a new kind of cultural hub. For a long time, it was abandoned and finally in 2023 it was re-opened to citizens thanks to a project design by **MVRDV studio** and funded by the Albanian-American Development Foundation (AADF). Partners had the opportunity to experience this dissonant architecture using and visiting its spaces for the Masterclass and hiking the roof to admire the landscape of Tirana.

This contemporary refurbishment represents new possibilities offered for people also by dissonant sites and architectures.





# Exploring dissonant Heritage in Tirana and Permet

ARCHETHICS cities visited the Bunker closed to Tirana city center, the biggest in Albania. This dissonant heritage site is called “**Bunk'Art 1**” managed by a local organisation called Bunkart. Nowadays this bunker has been transformed into a **historical museum** for visitors set up for sharing facts and images from the past. It was built in the 1970s during the period of communist dictatorship in Albania. This secret bunker was designed to shelter the highest state and party leaders in the event of a nuclear attack. This bunker represented the fear and paranoia of the communist regime towards a possible external attack, as well as the efforts to maintain control and stability in the country during emergencies.

In Permet, partners visited the the **Congress Building representing the communist era**. It is an iconic place for Albanese people because in 1944 the first communist congress took place here and it gave birth to the communist period. In Permet there are other dissonant heritage remains: stone houses, sculptures, war museums and military constructions (bunkers, trenches, command posts, subterranean army storage, air raid shelters).

Despite, the dissonant places, Permet is known for its landscape and the **historical natural thermal water** where partners had the opportunity to immerge.



Experiencing the heritage in Tirana  
and Permet





# Following up on the Integrated Action Plans and testing activities

Objectives, Intervention Areas and Actions of the Integrated Action Plan (IAP) were followed up as well as the design and delivery of testing activities.

Interactive sessions to better understand how to design IAPs, concentrating the attention on section 2 - Objectives, Actions and Intervention Areas - and Testing activities, were organised.

Partners that already delivered a IAP (Cesena, Krakow, Gdansk) were engaged, through a market place workshop, to showcase their IAP and the testing activities that conducted to it.

A “learning by doing session” focused on the characteristics of **testing activities** was provided. The test has to be done to prove the concept idea, build the political and public buy-in, activate the ULG, promote innovation. The testing actions are the smaller and quicker version of actions that could be inserted in the IAP.



ARCHETHICS PERMET 18.06.24

Framework of a IAP





# ARCHETHICS



PEOPLE



ARCHITECTURE



HISTORY



ETHICS