ARCHETHICS

Dissonant European heritage as laboratory of democracy

NEWS FROM THE NETWORK JANUARY - MAY 2025

Quarterly network report Ileana Toscano, Lead expert



The Core Network Meeting in Krakow (PL) 1-2 April 2025 Testing activities: the experience of Permet (AL) and Betera (ES) 2nd Bilateral Meeting on community planning and youth involvement

Insights from the Political board meeting







This is the fifth **quarterly report** that describes the progress of **ARCHETHICS** -Dissonant European heritage as a lab of democracy, an Action Planning Network funded by the URBACT IV programme.

Keep in contact!

<u>https://urbact.eu/networks/archethics</u> <u>https://www.linkedin.com/company/archethics/</u> <u>https://www.facebook.com/ArchethicsNetwork</u>

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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 <u>"Dissonant"</u>, 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 nondivisive 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 from January to May 2025?

Peer Review of the Integrated Action Plans and Political Board Meeting with ARCHETHICS policy-makers

From January to May 2025, ARCHETHICS Network accelerated the drafting of the **Integrated Action Plans** on dissonant heritage as lab of democracy, that were put under revision through a peer review held in Krakow on 1st April 2025 to support the delivery process of these important outputs.

Cities designed the **testing actions** to feed the actions and some of them. In this project journal the experiences developed by **Permet and Betera** are shared. An inspiring and important **political board meeting** was organised in Krakow on the 2nd April 2025.

Highlights:

- **Core Network Meeting** on 1st and 2nd April 2025 in Krakow (Poland);
- First Bilateral exchange on Community planning, activists and youth engagement on 3rd April 2025;
- **Political board meeting** held in Krakow on 2nd April to support the followup and upscaling of ARCHETHICS;
- testing actions: the experience of Permet in Albania and Betera in Spain;
- T4EU ARCHETHICS dissemination.



Core Network Meeting in Krakow 1-2 April 2025



The political board 2 April 2025







2 - CORE NETWORK MEETING IN KRAKOW

Core Network meeting in Krakow (Poland)

Delegations from ARCHETHICS partner cities met in Krakow (Poland) on 1-2 April 2025 to work together for exchange and learning on dissonant heritage.

Meeting highlights:

- **Peer Review Session** of the Integrated Action Plans (IAP) draft
- Advice and good practices on IAP production with a focus meeting held by Nils Scheffler, URBACT ad hoc expert
- A study visit in the Nowa Huta district
- ULG Coordinators Board Meeting

- **Political board meeting** with policy makers ARCHETHICS Representatives
- drafting the Manifesto / City guide practical tool for sustainable management of dissonant heritage
- Study visit of Krakow old town
- Steering committee for the reprogramming process
- and much more!





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Peer Review of the Integrated Action Plans

A **full morning of day-1** of the Core Network meeting in Krakow was dedicated to the **Peer Review of the draft of the Integrated Action Plan**. Before the meeting, cities were matched in

peers and were asked to to read the IAP drafted by the peer city. Cities peers are: *Gdansk* and *Cesena; Vila Nova* and *Permet; Kazanlak* and *Betera; Leipzig* and *Krakow*.

During the introductory session Lead expert presented the State of the Art and the criteria for a proper assessment of the IAPs





In the end of this session, every city shared the harvested inputs collected during the peer review.

They focused on the rooms of improvement of their IAP as well as on the strengths in order to provide inspiration for other cities. A **template** was used to share **highlights** and **improvements** that was delivered before the meeting. In Krakow, 1-hour session was dedicated to exchange and learning between peers where a critical friendly approach was used to support the improvements of Integrated Action Plans. Among others, the assessed elements were:

- the process to design the IAP (stakeholder involvement, coherence with existing strategies, etc)
- the overall logic of the IAP
- the **ARCHETHICS dimensions** (history, architecture, people and ethics)
- the integrated approach
- cross-cutting priorities.





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Insights from Nils Sheffler URBACT ad hoc expert



Nils Sheffler URBACT ad hoc expert shared his insights on the Integrated Action Plans draft. Nils is the author of the Orientation Paper "Integrated Approaches to Dissonant Heritage of the 20th <u>Century</u>" produced by the Partnership on Culture and Cultural Heritage, Action 10. Following the tips provided by this document, Nils suggested how to feed the Integrated Action plans drafted by cities partner dealing with dissonant heritage. The most relevant tip has been to match the URBACT Integrated urban approach with the Multiperspective approach designed by **ARCHETHICS**, following the four project dimensions of People, Architecture, History and Ethics. Indeed, in the **dimension of Architecture** allows analysis of buildings and their historical value; 💷 **History** fosters in-depth study of the historical and political context as well as the collection of microstories promoting an inclusive storytelling; 🙅 Ethics facilitates a reflection on values and cultural heritage; 📌 **People** ·develop a joint, multi-perspective approach to dissonant heritage (intergenerational, multicultural, gender balance) to learn from the past for the future, bringing people and institutions into

dialogue, debate and discourse on dissonant heritage.

Integrated Approach



PEOPLE

Involve people in the interpretation of the DH

Bring people and institutions into dialogue, debate and discourse

Develop joint, multiperspective approach to DH



ARCHITECTURE

- (Adaptive re-)use
- Preservation needs
- Interpretation: provide space to reflect on multiple perspectives and histories



ENSURE to deal with ...

HISTORY

- Develop facts and knowledge about the dissonant heritage and the multiple perspectives
- Tell histories authentically



ETHICS

- Reflect on competing interpretations and meanings
- Provide time and space of remembrance, debate and dialogue and learning for today

Infographic on the Integrated approach/Multiperspective approach designed by ARCHETHICS



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ARCHETHICS meets the project UnLoc

The experts PhD Małgorzata Łuczyna, PhD Karolina Kolenda, PhD Jacek Złoczowski from the University of the National Education Commission in Krakow presented the inspirational **project unLoc - redefining architecture of power in the former Eastern Bloc countries.**

unLoc, funded by the Urban Europe initiative, is inspired by the concept of "locus of control", which we use as a metaphorical reference to the symbolism of the architecture of power. The project explores how the history of **power relations is reflected in architecture**. New technologies that can change the way people perceive and understand architecture. Alternative visions of urban space are created using historical and social inspirations, computer programming and artificial intelligence.

Alternative possibilities for architecture, urban spaces and people are explored through artistic inspiration and dialogue between urban space and its inhabitants.

The aim is to provide the tool for better understanding of the needs of the city residents, discussing different perspectives and approaches for the urban planning and the platform for creating sustainable and well designed cities.





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Exploring Nowa Huta the dissonant heritage neighbourhood of Krakow

ARCHETHIC partners had the great opportunity to visit a unique example of urban spatial creation of the social realism era: the "**Nowa Huta" neighbourhood** built in 1949 to house the workers of the huge steel factory of the city. **Nowa Huta is a socialist realist district of Krakow**, located in the eastern part of the city, the largest in post-war period in Poland and distinctive in Europe, **with around 200.000 inhabitants**. The urban layout foresees a centrally located square and five avenues radiating from the centre. The architectural and

urban complex of **Nowa Huta is a** comprehensive overview of styles and trends of the architecture of the second half of the 20th century, from Socialist Realism to Modernism to Postmodernism, which were used in buildings with diverse residential and public functions.

For many years, **Nowa Huta was associated with the metallurgical industry, crime and environmental pollution** together with the stigma of belonging to the socialist era. **Thanks to thriving local cultural institutions**

and a large group of local activists and enthusiasts, the perception of Nowa Huta's heritage has been changing.

With ARCHETHICS the Municipality of Krakow aimed at delivering a novel approach to enhance Nowa Huta with the residents for the residents.

ARCH ETHICS Academy Discover the interview of the people from Nowa Huta!











ULG coordinators board meeting

All eight URBACT Local Group (ULG) coordinators participated at the board meeting. The meeting was held in the beautiful community space run by the neighbourhood organisation of the ULG coordinator from Krakow located close to the centre of Nowa Huta: a children library with a workshop and coffee area.

It was a very insightful meeting where each coordinator could share the difficulties and the unexpected positive elements and things happened with their ULG. Among others, the surprises are:

 Several young people interested in dissonant heritage
a huge number of participants at

- the testing activities mixing small group meetings with wider group of stakeholders helps in focusing on tailored issues.
- Nils Scheffler, ad hoc expert, shared some tips for ULG coordinators:
- Be honest and clear;
- Provide safe space for speaking;
- Offer "something" to participants, to keep them engaged;
- Bring lesson learnt during Core Network meeting to ULG
- Give stage to ULG
- Let ULG member to be proactive.



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Theatrical performance on Nowa Huta history

ARCHETHICS delegation was invited by the hosting municipality of Krakow to a special evening: seeing a play at the theatre of Nowa Huta.

The *pièce* was focused on the story of Nowa Huta. It focused in particular on the communities living in Nowa Huta, that came from the rural areas of Poland. Particular emphasis was dedicated to the ROMA community living in the neighbourhood, sharing the positive contribution provided to the community life of Nowa Huta.

The performance aimed at tackling the stigma of Nowa Huta neighbourhood and its inhabitants providing a inclusive storytelling of migrant community and their origins





Pics from the performance







Political board meeting on Dissonant heritage

The Political Board session held on 2nd April 2025 aimed to engage policy makers of ARCHETHICS cities (Cesena, Permet, Krakow, Gdansk, Vila Nova de Cerveira, Betera, Kazanlak; Leipzig) in a debate on dissonant heritage to follow up on ARCHETHICS activities and ensure a long term sustainability for the realisation of actions included in the Integrated Action Plans.

The session was organised following the **ARCHETHICS methodology that envisages a multiperspective approach** to read the dissonance of the cultural heritage through the analysis of four dimensions of project investigation: Architecture, People, History and Ethics.

The session was moderated by the ad hoc expert **Nils Scheffler** with the contribution and support of the Lead expert **Ileana Toscano**.

The Political representatives of ARCHETHICS have been:

- Łukasz Sęk, Deputy Mayor of Krakow
- **Camillo Acerbi**, Councillor of Cultural Department of Cesena
- Katarzyna Czerniewska, Chairwoman of the Spatial Planning Committee, Municipality of Gdansk
- Aksenia Tileva, Deputy mayor of the Municipality of Kazanlak
- **Rui Pedro Teixeira**, Mayor of the Municipality of Vila Nova de Cerveira
- **David Estaban**, Councillor for Citizen Participation, Agriculture, IC for the Municipality of Betera
- **Denisa Mamillo**, External Concillor, Municipality of Permet





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Co-funded by the European Union Interreg

The format: three questions for three round table

The session was structured to investigate elements of analysis for dissonant heritage that were highlighted during the Mid Term Reflection, that are:

- the participation of people in dissonant heritage initiatives, with a special attention on the young people;
- the collection of stories through inclusive approaches of storytelling;
- novel possibilities of adaptive reuse of the dissonant heritage by promoting green solutions, circular approaches and digital dimension.

After an introduction on ARCHETHICS roadmap provided by Ileana Toscano, lead expert, the politicians were guided by Nils Scheffler to 3 road table answering 3 questions as follows:

Question 1. What are the key positive and democratic values that you want to convey to the local community, linked to your dissonant heritage and also looking at EU values? What possibly competing interpretations and meanings do you expect from the local communities?

Question 2. What are the key approaches to promote (adaptive) reuse and (multiple) interpretation of your dissonant heritage?

Question 3. How can we make **DH a space that** encourages, especially young people, to reflect on the past for a better/positive future? What has been the experience of your city?

The results of the Political Board Meeting will also aim at co-designing a "Common **Charter of ARCHETHICS for Dissonant** Heritage".









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Insights from the Political board meeting

When we do **story telling** about our dissonant heritage, we want to improve the awareness, recognition, understanding and reflection on the multi-perspectives of the dissonant heritage. For this ARCHETHICS politicians considered **important stories and narratives** to take on board the many as well as positive and negatives perspective to **reflect on democratic values like freedom, solidarity and equity, through the involvement of** different stakeholders, residents, initiatives, experts, etc. involved in a dialogue process in developing the stories and narratives.

Young people are an important group in

dealing with dissonant legacies. The dissonant heritage will be used to improve their skills and abilities in dealing with different perspectives and critical thinking and drawing lessons from the past for today and the future.

To reach them ARCHETHICS policy makers suggest:

 actively involve young people in the reflection of the dissonant heritage, not only as "consumers" but also as "producers";

- develop youth-oriented multimedia materials, games and mediation formats;
- link dissonant heritage with current topics, events and the everyday world that appeal to young people;
- work with actors and institutions that are specialised in addressing, communicating and working with young people.

When we boost the **adaptive re-use of our dissonant heritage**, we need to foster:

- an authentic preservation (authentic place);
- appropriate uses, activities and offers on site with regards to the history and events that have taken place there, especially in the case of memorials or heritage sites characterised by atrocities (appropriate use)
- an authentic and respectful presentation and discussion of the history(ies) and multiple-perspectives on site (resonance space)
- different stakeholders, residents, initiatives, experts, etc. are





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3 - BILATERAL MEETING: COMMUNITY PLANNING AND YOUTH INVOLVEMENT

How to engage youth with dissonant heritage?

The cities **Vila Nova de Cerveira**, **Cesena**, **Gdansk**, **Kazanlak**, **Krakow**, **Liepzig and Permet** participated at the bilateral exchange on digital transformation for dissonant heritage held in the **Utopia Home – International Empathy Centre in Nowa Huta**



The meeting started with the inspiring presentation on the **memories trips organised by the organisation DEINA** done by Sofia Burioli from the Municipality of Cesena. The memory trips are engaging tools to involve students and young people to discover the history of Europe and complex heritage sites. Memory trips are accompanied with laboratories organised before and after the journey to get prepared and de-brief the experience in a collective way.



promemoria Auschwitz

Approaching Auschwitz-Birkenau

EMOTIONS

- There are no right or wrong emotions
- · APATHY is also an emotion!
- It's not important to cry

The 5 SENSES

- Not Escape from the reality!
- Leave the camera off





Engaging youth in community planning and project implementation

The presentations have continued by Ileana Toscano, lead expert, who shared the experiences **Playful paradigm** and **play placemaking** as a **method for engaging with youth** promoting the gender sensitive approach. Some tips of youth involvement have been shared taking inspiration from the panel "<u>Echoes of the past into the</u> <u>future</u>" held in Chalandri on September 2025.

Tips to promote Youth engagement

Co-design phase

- involve people from the vision to realisation
- go where people are

- organise tailored meetings (e.g. *pizza participation*)
- listen all voices (also promoting the *exclusion for inclusion methodology*)
- use playful tools

Project implementation

- Foster the approach "with" and "by"
- promote "co-responsability", thrust to youth
- allow "good trigger"
- facilitate "doing approach.





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Human Library for dissonant heritage

Partner cities experienced the participatory technique called Human library to share their own life experiences on community planning and activism focusing on youth engagement. Participants were transformed in "books" and "readers" with two round experience.

Emotions, empathy and human experiences were shared by focusing on projects implementations with and for young people or memories from participants' childhood.

The stories told by ARCHETHICS partners have been a demonstration of the importance of including **all stories to foster a future of co-existence and co-living**.





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4 - TESTING ACTIONS: THE EXPERIENCE OF PERMET & BETERA

The Municipality of Permet (AL) fosters intergenerational approach for Dissonant Heritage

Celebration of 80th anniversary of Përmet Congress.

On May 24, 2024 and 2025, the Municipality of Përmet, in collaboration with the local education office, city schools and local NGOs, organised a cultural event to commemorate the **80th anniversary of the Përmet Congress**. The ceremony took place in the city center, near the monument dedicated to the Congress, where historians and elderly participants reflected on its significance. More than **200 elderly individuals from across Albania attended**, many of whom are relatives of those who took part in the Congress. Following the event, attendees visited the historic building where the Congress was held.

Due to the huge success of this testing activity, the Municipality of Permet decided to organise this event every year on 24 May.

The possibilities offers by this initiative of storytelling and sharing memories helps to preserve the legacy of this momentous event for younger generations.





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Solidarity between generations: The role of women

The Municipality of permet in collaboration with members of the Children Cultural Center organised an **open discussion with the retired women that have had important profession during the communist regim**e. Women shared stories and narratives about their lives and professions, and about **the role of women at that time**.

Together with the the local NGO MUP, the Municipality of Permet organised a a meeting with retired school leaders and teachers, where also children and young people were engaged in meaningful discussions about past, history and values.

Dissonant heritage digital archive

The Municipality of Përmet, in collaboration with the local NGO FLOEM, has initiated the **digitisation of archival materials from the Congress held in Permet in 1944**. Experts digitalised the following materials: **the history of villages** (45 dossiers) and the **bibliography of war martyrs** and **other notable figures** (161 dossiers). *The journal 24 May*, which was published periodically during the communist regime, has been also digitalising.





Activities of this nature not only bring vibrancy to the lives of the elderly but also promote intergenerational understanding through the exchange of experiences and new ideas.



Betera tested the lanscapememory visit of the Trenches of the Spanish civil War

On 26 May 2025 the Municipality of Betera tested how the **defensive centre of Corral del Quirro could be promoted as a tourist and memory visi**t. This heritage is part of the defensive line of Puig-Carasols trenches built between 1938 and 1939 to stop the advance of General Franco's troops towards the city of Valencia and located a few kilometres from the city of Betera. This activity organised by the Tourism and Heritage departments of the Municipality of Betera and included an archaeological visit to the thrences and a gastronomic experience, called "Taste of the Trenches" event, where it was possible tasting local products.

It has been very enriching day that prepares and encourages the Municipality of Betera to undertake new tourist activities around our dissonant heritage.





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More information: <u>Ayuntamiento de Bétera</u>

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🆆 BÉTERA

5 - T4EU - COMMON EUROPEAN HERITAGE WEEK - TRIESTE

ARCHETHICS involved by Transform for Europe University programme

On the 27 February 2025, Ileana Toscano, Lead expert of ARCHETHICS, participated at the working day **"Architecture and Transborder Spaces**" organised for the **"Common European Heritage Week**" held in the Univiersity of Trieste (Italy). ARCHETHICS project was showcased focusing on the dissonant heritages present in city partners.

The event was organised in the framework of <u>Transform 4 Europe programme</u>, that aimed at transforming and integrating Euopean universities into one sustainable single European alliance with a joint governance, shared support structures and services.

Following the presentation, in collaboration with **Marco Zuttioni ODV Association** and **Kallipolis organisation**, a participative workshop on enhancement of dissonant heritage was proposed to students.









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HISTORY

