

ARCHETHICS

Dissonant European heritage as laboratory of democracy

NEWS FROM THE NETWORK JUNE - OCTOBER 2025

Quarterly network report



The Core
Network
Meeting in
Leipzig (D) 1-2
July 2025

Bilateral
Meetings in
Leipzig (D) and
Kazanlak (BG)

Testing
activities: the
experience of
Vila Nova de
Cerveira (PT)
and Cesena (IT)

Dissemination
Event and the
ARCHETHICS
digital archive!



ARCHETHICS

URBACT



Co-funded by
the European Union

A photograph of a modern, multi-story building with a grid of windows. The building is made of concrete and has a courtyard in front of it. The courtyard is paved with concrete and has a series of yellow posters or banners hanging from the building's facade. A person is standing in the courtyard, looking at one of the posters. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

*This is the sixth **and last** **Network 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!

<https://urbact.eu/networks/archethics>

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/archethics/>

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1

INTRODUCTION

About ARCHETHICS Network	4
What happened in brief during this Network quarter?	5

2

CORE NETWORK MEETING IN LEIPZIG

Visiting the dissonant heritage area of Leipzig	7
Visiting the City History Museum	8
Online Lecture: DH in the Mass Media and Cinema	9
Charter and Common Glossary	10
ARCHETHICS meets the Urban Agenda	11
Creative sessions for co-designing the outputs	12

3

BILATERAL MEETING: COMMUNICATING DISSONANCE

Leipzig - How can we talk about DH?	13
Kazanlak - Adaptive reuse of DH	14

4

TESTING ACTIONS: THE EXPERIENCE OF CERVEIRA & CESENA

The Municipality of Vila Nova de Cerveira	16
The Municipality of Cesena	18

5

DISSONANT HERITAGE CONFERENCE AT THE EU CAPITAL OF CULTURE

Multivoices of cultural heritage: the experience of ARCHETHICS in Nova Gorizia	20
--	----

6

A DIGITAL ARCHIVE FOR ARCHETHICS

ARCHETHICS co-designed an archive of Dissonant Heritage in Europe	21
---	----

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 from June to September 2025?

Last Core Network meeting of ARCHETHICS and the preparation for the final stage of the the project

From June to October 2025, ARCHETHICS Network moved forward the last project stage. The **preparation of the final product** has been followed through interactive sessions organised during the last **core network meeting held in Leipzig**.

Project partners organised at local level testing actions, dissemination project event and last meetings with the URBACT Local groups.

In this project journal the **testing activities** developed by **Vila Nova de Cerveira** and **Cesena** are shared as well as the first ready network output: **the outline of a digital archive of dissonant heritage**.

Highlights:

- Online meeting on 11 June 2025 - **ARCHETHICS meets Site of consciousness**
- **Core Network Meeting** on 1st and 2nd July 2025 in Leipzig (Germany);
- **Bilateral exchange in Leipzig on Communicating dissonance** on 3 July 2025;
- **Bilateral exchange in Kazanlak on Adaptive reuse of dissonant heritage** on 3 October 2025;
- **Outline of a digital archive for dissonant heritage**;
- **testing actions**: the experience of **Cesena** in Italy and **Vila Nova de Cerveira** in Portugal;
- **International roundtable** within the events organised for the **European Capital of Culture GOborderless** on 28th September 2025.

5



ARCHETHICS

URBACT



Co-funded by
the European Union

2 - CORE NETWORK MEETING IN LEIPZIG

5

Core Network meeting in LEIPZIG (Germany)

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

Meeting highlights:

- **Study Visit – Urban Transformation & Contemporary History** of the Matthäikirchhof redevelopment area
- Visit to the **City History Museum**, including a guided tour of the exhibition: "**Leipzig between New Beginnings and Shutdown – The 1990s**"
- online Lecture: **Dissonant Heritage in the Mass Media and Cinema**, prof. Stephen Gundle - University of Warwick
- co-design session for the preparation of **ARCHETHICS Charter and Common Glossary: vision on ethical/cultural approach on DH**, Sandra Rainero, URBACT ad hoc expert
- **Contextualising Dissonant Heritage at European level: challenges and opportunities**
- Jan Schultheiß, CCH Partnership - Action 10, Urban Agenda for EU
- **interactive sessions: ARCHETHICS Living Lab** - operational governance tool to manage dissonant heritage & **ARCHETHICS Action Planning journey** - Visualising the four project dimensions



Visiting the dissonant heritage area of Leipzig

ARCHETHICS delegation visited “Matthäikirchhof” area, that was the birthplace of Leipzig the largest city of Saxony in East Germany. It was raised to ground on 4th of December 1943. In 1985 the ministry of state security (Stasi) built its regional headquarters in this area.

For three decades, this huge dissonant area of 1.8 ha, located in the city center has been dormant and neglected.

This artefact reflect the problematic legacy of the GDR and its controversial past histories and its commemorative significance.

The city of Leipzig is willing to transform this huge ‘non-space’ into a novel and vital part of the city with the aim of symbolising its vivid democratic environment.



Pics from the study visit



ARCHETHICS

URBACT

Co-funded by
the European Union

Visiting the City History Museum

ARCHETHICS partners visited the exhibition "A new dawn and the end of a system. The 1990s in Leipzig" at City History Museum of Leipzig.

The exhibition showed the everyday life in Leipzig in the 1990s. Indeed that time heralded a tumultuous period full of both opportunities and challenges. After the peaceful revolution and the end of the GDR, the possibilities seemed almost endless: techno parties, squatting, sports events highlighted in the media, and new festivals.

Culture was more open, and urban politics became more democratic. But at the same time the loss of job, the transformation of the economic sector and regeneration of several urban areas have made the 1990s a period of change for Leipzig citizens full of hope for future but difficulties.



Interactive tool



1990s Graffiti

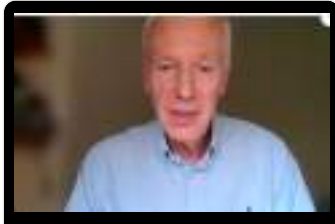


Historical pictures



The shovels as symbols of urban transformation

Online Lecture: Dissonant Heritage in the Mass Media and Cinema



Prof. **Stephen Gundle** - University of Warwick, Film and Television Studies Department is an expert of the fascist period with a follow-up reflection on mass media and communication. He showcased three case studies dealing with dissonant heritage:

- The Brutalist (Brady Corbet, 2024)
- The Palazzo delle Civiltà Italiana, Rome, and its representations
- English heritage and the case of Belle (Amma Asante, 2013)

Giorgio De Chirico and 'metaphysical' art



Imagining dissonance



Pictures from Gundle's presentation

Charter and Common Glossary for an ethical and cultural approach on Dissonant Heritage

Sandra Rainero, URBACT ad hoc expert and expert on culture and communication, guided partners through a WRITE STORMING to co-create the ARCHETHICS common glossary.

The glossary is a collection of words, not exhaustive, but that represents for partners their values and experiences related to the ARCHETHICS work done so far.

The charter and the common glossary are among the most important project outputs.



Sandra Rainero, ad hoc expert presented the methodology for co-designing the glossary



The haiku poetry session

Eight terms dealing with dissonant heritage were discussed and presented:

- **dissonant heritage**
- **memories**
- **complexity**
- **stories**
- **resistance**
- **forgotten**
- **processing (trauma)**
- **empathy.**

In the second part of the workshop, a "**Haiku poetry session**" was facilitated to let partners reflect on the eight terms of the glossary and express themselves using a more emotional language.

Partners worked enthusiastically producing **several Haiku** that were shared among participants. That product will compose the network output linking dissonant words with significance through poetry.



The haiku poetry session



ARCHETHICS

URBACT



Co-funded by
the European Union

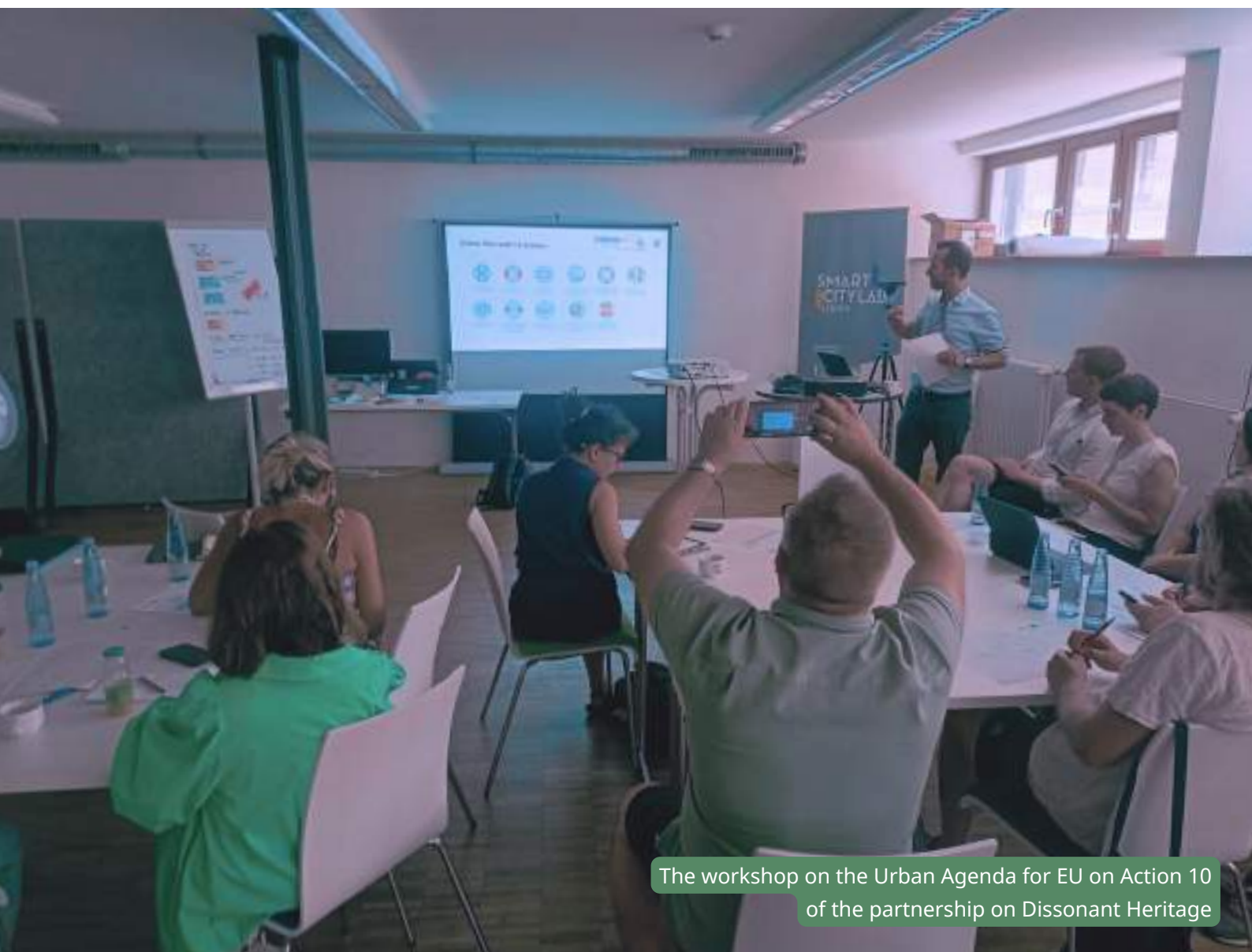
ARCHETHICS meets the Urban Agenda for Culture and Cultural Heritage coordinator



Jan Schultheiß, the coordinator of the Partnership for Culture and Cultural Heritage of the Urban Agenda for EU presented the work they have been doing and the connection with ARCHETHICS.

Indeed he has been coordinating the work on dissonant heritage developed by the **Partnership under Action 10**.

Jan shared important insights on the future of the partnership and future possibilities to continue working on the field of dissonant heritage.



The workshop on the Urban Agenda for EU on Action 10 of the partnership on Dissonant Heritage

Creative sessions for co-designing the outputs: ARCHETHICS Living Lab & Action planning journey

Ileana Toscano, URBACT lead expert, guided partners to a co-design session on “**ARCHETHICS Living Lab as Operational governance tool result of the work with the ULG aimed at long term IAP**”.

ARCHETHICS has a sound legacy about participation through the participative methodology used by the network: **from the local level work with city stakeholders to the interactive participative workshops** done between partners.



Ileana Toscano presenting the interactive sessions



Group work

Partners shared insights on:

- A good experience they had of **participation**
- the **role of the Municipality** to foster a participative /multi-perspective approach
- successful approach to **communicate with citizens and stakeholders** about dissonant heritage
- Ideas to **keep engaged citizens** after the end of ARCHETHICS project
- **best tips for other cities** on citizens engagement to enhance dissonant heritage

Following, a **charrette workshop** was facilitate to harvest insights from partners about the research questions of the four project dimensions (architecture, history, people, ethics) that guided the work along 2 years of project development. Answering the questions, participants drew how their city has approached the 4 dimensions and shared tips and insights on the process and possible improvements.



The charrette workshop



ARCHETHICS

URBACT



Co-funded by
the European Union

3 - BILATERAL MEETINGS IN LEIPZIG & KAZANLAK

Leipzig - How can we talk about Dissonant Heritage?

On the 3 July 2025 the Bilateral exchange on “**Communicating Dissonance**” took place in **Leipzig**. Talking about dissonant heritage could result complicated due to the complex issues this heritage represents. The bilateral exchange was organised to **focus on communication, tools and practical experiences for involving communities in the debate on Dissonant Heritage**.

Sara Galeotti presented a few cases studies implemented by her organisation “La casa del cuculo”. The examples showed to participants how **communication and art could foster difficult concepts and involve citizens**.

Public art workshops, **Participative guerrilla art**, **You’ve got mail** format and **photovoice** have been the communication/artistic techniques shared with participants.

The participating cities (**Betera, Permet, Cesena, Gdansk and Leipzig**) were involved in a practical activity to test some communication tools to talk about dissonant heritage: have a look at the [link](#)

A poster to steal

BEAUTY
CURIOSITY
“LIGHT” ENGAGEMENT TO BEGIN
TELLING HIDDEN AND UNKNOWN STORIES



Picture from the Galeotti's presentation



ARCHETHICS

URBACT



Co-funded by
the European Union

Kazanlak - Multi perspective approach for Adaptive reuse of Dissonant heritage

On **3 October 2025** a **Bilateral exchange** focused on “**Adaptive reuse of Dissonant Heritage for a multi-perspective storytelling**”.

Participants from the cities of **Cesena, Gdansk, Kazanlak, Krakow, Leipzig and Vila Nova de Cerveira** were guided by the Kazanlak team to visit the **Buzludzha Monument** and exchange and learn during a collaborative workshop meeting facilitated by **Nils Scheffler**, ad hoc expert.

The visit at the **Buzludzha Monument** was led by **Dora Ivanova**, ULG coordinator of Kazanlak Municipality and **CEO of the Buzludzha Project Foundation**.

Meeting focused on:

- Approaches to define the reuse of dissonant heritage (do and don'ts, ethical aspects)
- Digital and artistic approaches to present the dissonant heritage and its different perspectives to the public
- Involvement of local communities in the reuse of dissonant heritage (focus on open/public spaces)
- Approaches dealing with and involving private dissonant heritage buildings/objects
- Obtaining funding for the adaptive reuse



Picture for the Buzludzha Monument on the Buzludzha pick.



Exploring
dissonant
heritage with any
weather!

4 - TESTING ACTIONS: THE EXPERIENCE OF CERVEIRA & CESENA

The Municipality of Vila Nova de Cerveira (PT) involves local students to create short films about the castle

Vila Nova Cerveira presented the result of their testing activity on **14 June 2025** to the local community.

The action called **Curtas no Castelo – Castle Short Movies** aimed to reestablish the Castelo D. Dinis as a **cultural and social hub for the community**.

The project was implemented following this stages:

- **Specialised training to guide students through the process**, with workshops covering aspects of film production, from writing scripts to editing;
- **Guided visits to the castle** to understand its history and get inspiration for the short-movies;
- **Using accessible tools** like small devices, students made their films and edit them with platforms, such as iMovie or Shotcut;
- **Final presentation in Festival Curtas no Castelo**, offering the community a chance to celebrate the students' work.



14

Promotional poster to invite local population



ARCHETHICS

URBACT

Co-funded by
the European Union
ERDF

By providing opportunities for students to explore the castle's history and significance through filmmaking, **this project encourages both creative expression and a deeper understanding of local heritage.**

This Small-Scale Action had a **very positive impact**, not only because it heightened awareness of local heritage but also promoted the strengthening of **social cohesion and identity within the community.**

Besides this Small-Scale Action, the city developed a video [\[Link\]](#) - "O Castelo é Nosso!" (The Castle is Ours), a powerful and emotional video where the people of Cerveira reclaim their iconic Castle as a symbol of identity, belonging, and community.



Students of Cerveira participated at the testing action shared their point of view



The testing actions in Cesena: a collaboration between municipality, Academia and citizens.

Cesena tested the concept of all intervention areas of the Integrated Action Plan through a set of testing actions that include: mapping the heritage of fascist period, opening the air raid shelter, production of a podcast of collective memory, workshops with students and artistic performances.

Within the framework of ARCHETHICS, the **Municipality of Cesena established a sound collaboration with the Master's Degree Course in Architecture** at the Department of Architecture of the University of Bologna.

Among other activities, **a collection and systematisation of archival material dealing with urban and architectural heritage of Italy's fascist era in Cesena** were organised. The activity has been coordinated by Professors Matteo Cassani Simonetti and Giulia Favaretto and developed by the students of the History and Restoration Course.

On **16 May 2025 an open event was organised** in the public library of Cesena “Biblioteca Malatestiana” to present the research work to the local community.





An artistic performance was organised inside the Youth Center built during the Italy's fascist period called ex GIL (Gioventù Italiana del Littorio). the language of performing arts has reactivated this symbolic place, transforming it into a place of dialogue with citizens



5 - DISSONANT HERITAGE CONFERENCE AT THE EU CAPITAL OF CULTURE

Multi vocality of cultural heritage: the experience of ARCHETHICS presented in Nova Gorizia

On the 28 September 2025, Ileana Toscano, Lead expert of ARCHETHICS, participated at the conference **"Multi vocality of cultural heritage"** organised by prof. **Neža Čebren Lipovec** of the UP Faculty of Humanities in the framework of the **EU Capital of Culture in Nova Gorica (SLO)**. ARCHETHICS project was showcased focusing on the different level of dissonance present in the heritage of cities partner.



PROGRAMMA

17:00-18:30 Tavola rotonda:
CONSERVAZIONE DEL PATRIMONIO DISSONANTE

18:30-19:30 Workshop:
LA STAZIONE FERROVIARIA NOVA GORICA. TRA STORIA E MEMORIA

Intervengono alla tavola rotonda:
Alenka Di Battista PhD e Katja Kosic (ZVKDS)
Kaja Širok PhD (EPICenter)
Alessandro Gallicchio (Villa Medici)
Ileana Toscano (ARCHETHICS-URBACT expert)

Moderatore: Neža Čebren Lipovec PhD (UP FHŠ)

L'evento è aperto a tutto il pubblico, scientifico e non, nonché a chiunque desideri condividere con gli altri i propri ricordi, storie e pensieri sulla stazione ferroviaria di Nova Gorica.

L'evento si terrà in lingua slovena e italiana. Sarà garantita la traduzione simultanea.

**STAZIONE
FERROVIARIA
NOVA GORICA.**

**MULTIVOCALITÀ
DEL PATRIMONIO
CULTURALE**

28. SETTEMBRE

Xcenter

Delginova ulica 20, Nova Gorica

GOI 2025 NOVA GORIZIA IP UNESCO VILLA MEDICI ACADEMIE DE FRANCE À ROME ARCHETHICS URBACT EEBIC



Pictures from the event in Nova
Gorica - X Centre



ARCHETHICS

URBACT

Co-funded by
The European Union

6 - CREATING A DIGITAL ARCHIVE FOR ARCHETHICS

ARCHETHICS co-designed a draft for a digital archive of Dissonant Heritage in Europe

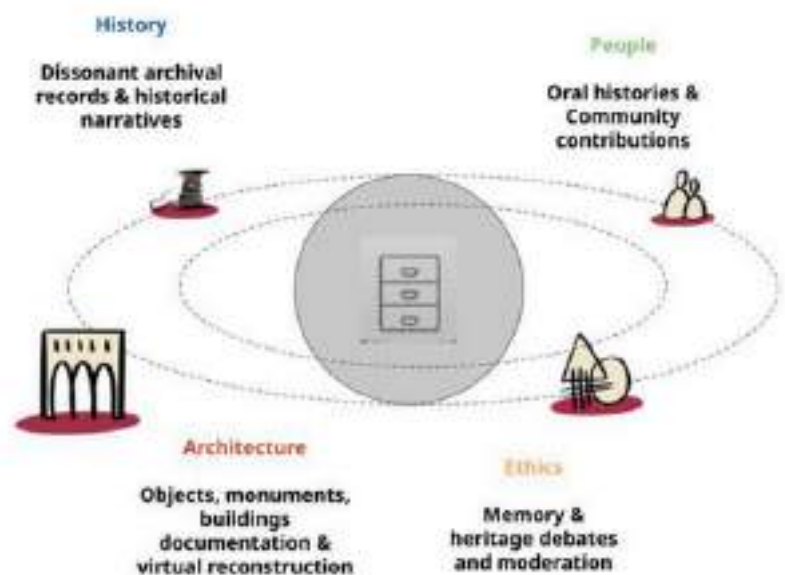
Within the ARCHETHICS network there is the aim of **creating a digital archive** where it will be possible to find information on Dissonant Heritage in their cities, and **linking it with the 4 project dimensions of History, People, Ethics, and Architecture** that are at the core of ARCHETHIC. This digital archive will be developed collectively between the partners and serve as a central platform for **collecting, documenting, analysing and sharing information relating to dissonant legacies in their European cities**, in order to ensure the **preservation, accessibility, and management** of the selected data.



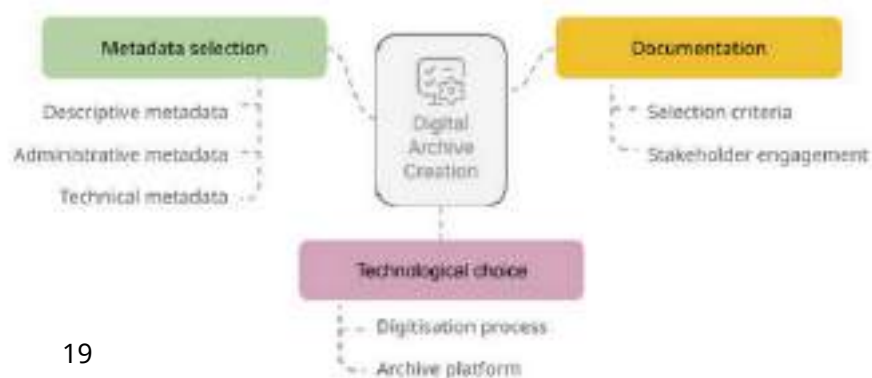
The concept of the digital archive has been created with the support of the ad hoc expert **Marion Cugnet**.

[Read the article](#)

INTEGRATING THE 4 DIMENSIONS OF ARCHETHICS



DIGITAL ARCHIVE CREATION PROCESS



ARCHETHICS



Partners in Leipzig enjoying an immersive (and relaxing) experience in a blue-green urban area that for a long time was abandoned and neglected.



PEOPLE



ARCHITECTURE



HISTORY



ETHICS