

ARCHETHICS

**Dissonant European heritage as
laboratory of democracy**

The Integrated Action Plan Report



Ileana Toscano, lead expert

December 2025

URBACT



Co-funded by
the European Union
Interreg



Index

Introduction	3
The Dissonant heritage of ARCHETHICS	4
Section 1: Thematic focus of different IAPs reflecting the integrated approach of ARCHETHICS	5
Summary table of the thematic focus of the Integrated Action Plans	7
Section 2: The added value of transnational network activities reflecting the tools and solutions applied in IAPs	9
A follow up on transnational meetings	10
Participatory tools to support exchange and learning	11
Section 3: Describing different ULG experiences reflecting quick wins and barriers during the action planning process	12
The experience of ULG coordinators board	13
Section 4: Focus on specific actions reflecting the participative approach: from ULG experience to testing actions	14
Conclusion	15
The link with the starting position, mid-point state and final result	15
Annex - Partners Integrated Action Plan in a nutshell	16
Cesena - Italy	16
Gdańsk - Poland	17
Kraków - Poland	18
Bétera - Spain	19
Kazanlak - Bulgaria	20
Leipzig - Germany	21
Përmet - Albania	22
Vila Nova de Cerveira - Portugal	23

Introduction

From June 2023 to December 2025, the ARCHETHICS Network opened a deep reflection on the **European Dissonant Heritage** present in many cities, to work on the **complex and diverse history of Europe** (focusing in particular on the Twentieth Century) and, through a critical examination of the past, come into the present **to promote democracy and solidarity**.

The heritage, that is called “Dissonant”, addresses the problematic link between physical elements like architecture, neighbourhoods, monuments, urban public spaces, built during complex and difficult periods of European history, like totalitarian regimes, and the historical and political values those physical elements represent for people today. The collective and individual stories and memories surrounding these urban places add another layer of complexity to this heritage.

In particular, ARCHETHICS has **tested and co-designed a new participatory methodology for EU cities**, applying the URBACT method, to explore and enhance Europe's dissonant heritage through four integrated dimensions: **Architecture, People, History and Ethics**.

The Network **led by the Municipality of Cesena**, brings together 8 European cities: **Cesena in Italy; Permet in Albania; Kazanlak in Bulgaria; Krakow in Poland; Gdansk in Poland; Leipzig in Germany; Bétera in Spain; Vila Nova de Cerveira in Portugal**. These cities have in common the presence of dissonant heritage, characterised by very diversified typologies. In some cases, it is submerged or sleeping, discussed and controversial; it is located in different urban contexts, that is to say in the city centre or rural areas; it has different states of conservation and belongs to different eras.



The Dissonant heritage of ARCHETHICS

The cities of Krakow (PL), Gdansk (PL), Kazanlak (BL) and Permet (AL) focus on **social realism period** by putting in the spotlight case studies about work neighbourhoods, cultural civic centres, propaganda monuments and buildings, symbolic heritages representing the communism and socialist ideologies. The city of Leipzig concentrates its research on the former Matthäikirchhof area, the urban area that belonged to “Stasi”, during the **East Germany period**. The city of Cesena (IT) focuses on dissonant heritage sites, built during the **fascist period**, some educational and industrial buildings, and war infrastructures. Betera (ES) proposes to analyse an air-raid shelter and a trenches area belonging to the **Spanish Civil War**. Vilanova de Cerveira (PT) chose the Cerveira Castle, a **border infrastructure**, positioned in the city centre, now completely abandoned.



Working on Dissonant heritage has provided a **space for dialoguing about the values of the European Union and fostering new opportunities for society, urban and regional development, cultural tourism, and education**. In doing this, ARCHETHICS municipalities, through the URBACT method, have involved local stakeholders, EU experts and local communities to **co-design the Integrated Actions Plans** and **test some activities in their cities**. The whole process has demonstrated the importance of promoting participation for taking important decisions on the heritage that represent the story of European society, the history for arriving at democracy in Europe.

SECTION 1: Thematic focus of different IAPs reflecting the integrated approach of ARCHETHICS

Section 1: Thematic focus of different IAPs reflecting the integrated approach of ARCHETHICS

ARCHETHICS proposed to work on dissonant heritage through a **multi-perspective approach**, which has become the way to foster **the integrated approach for dissonant heritage**. ARCHETHICS partners have envisaged this approach at local level involving their stakeholders and local communities. This approach guided project partners in their reflections about dissonant heritage to co-design their integrated action plans.

For designing the multi-perspective approach, ARCHETHICS took inspiration from **Salvatore Settis**, an Italian archaeologist and art historian who concludes his book “Architecture and Democracy” tracing a link between **architecture, citizenship and ethics**:

The urban landscape contributes to the full exercise of civil rights: the right to city, the right to nature, the right to culture.

The multiperspective approach was broken up into **four dimensions of project investigation: Architecture, People, History and Ethics** that helped partners to read the dissonance of the cultural heritage. **Collectively finding key questions to interrogate the Dissonant Heritage is the key starting point**. Each dimension brought **research questions** to support the reflection at transnational and local level:



Both the Network roadmap have been designed to provide insights for partners to deep dive the four project dimensions through different sessions (that will be described in the following chapter). At the same time the meetings with ULG at local level have been organised following the reflections done during transnational meetings. An unique local roadmap was created to support project partners from the very beginning of project implementation delivered with the Baseline study. This roadmap helped partners in following the multiperspective approach by working with their ULG for co-designing the IAP and implementing the testing actions.

SECTION 1: Thematic focus of different IAPs reflecting the integrated approach of ARCHETHICS

ULG MEETING	ACTION PLANNING CYCLE FOCUS	FOLLOW-UP MEETING THEMES	WHEN	IAP SECTION TO BE DELIVERED
2 ULG meetings Activation Stage	Analysing Problems SWOT		October - December 2023	IAP Section 1 Context, needs and shared vision
ULG 1	Local context shared (taking information from Baseline Study) Needs identified and shared	"History" and "storytelling" Gender and diversity inclusion	February - May 2024	Deadline: 30 April 2024
ULG 2	Visioning Setting Objectives	"Architecture" and people Community planning	June - August 2024	IAP Section 2 Overall logic and integrated approach (breadth)
ULG 3	Areas for action Planning Actions Planning Testing activity	Gender and diversity inclusion Digital	September - October 2024	
ULG 4	Planning Actions Defining Testing activity Implementing Testing activity	Green	November - December 2024	
ULG 5	Implementing Testing activity Refining Actions Resourcing	Practical tools to manage dissonant heritage	January - March 2025	IAP Section 3 Activity planning (depth) Deadline: 31 March 2025
ULG 6	Assessing Testing activity Resourcing Implementing Planning the Local dissemination event	Charter & Glossary of dissonant heritage	April - June 2025	IAP Section 3 Activity planning (Reviewed and followed-up after Peer Review) Deadline: 30 June 2025
ULG 7	Measuring Results Local Dissemination event	Living Lab: tools to develop long term IAP	July - September 2025	IAP Section 4 Implementation Framework Deadline: 30 November 2025
ULG 8	Sharing the results of Peer Reviews and making adjustments Refining Actions Resourcing Implementing Testing activity	Focus on ARCHETHICS approach: ARCHETHICS journey through the co-city Multi perspective approach	October - December 2025	

Moreover, all partners fostered the cross cutting topics of **digital transformation**, **gender equality** and **green transition** both in the participatory process to involve the ULG members and in the definition of the actions to include in the Integrated Action Plans.

Cities adapted the multiperspective approach as well as the cross-cutting topics in the delivery of their Action Plans. To be

highlighted, the **Municipality of Cesena** designed the detailed actions with a specific focus on the four project dimensions and the approaches for digital transformation, gender equality and green transition.

ARCHETHICS' Cross cutting topics



Digital transformation

Contributing to add women's voices towards the conventional male-centred narrative on the heritage.



Green transition

How to combine aesthetics, functionality, accessibility to regenerate dissonant heritage? How can we make dissonant heritage become an attractive catalyst to reach new audiences?



Gender-equal policy making

Integrating collaborative digital tools as a new language for promoting urban complexities.

SECTION 1: Thematic focus of different IAPs reflecting the integrated approach of ARCHETHICS

Summary table of the thematic focus of the Integrated Action Plans



All partners cities working addressed the multiperspective approach shared the following communalities that are present in all Integrated Action Plans.

Architecture - The dissonant heritage has been considered as a common good. From a place to hide, submerged or stigmatized, to a **place for people** where it is possible encountering other people to remembrance but also future-making. Dissonant architectures need to be managed through plans, ARCHETHICS cities made an effort to identify as key actions the delivery of management, tourism and conservation plans.

History - All ARCHETHICS IAPs include activities to promote inclusive storytelling, enhancing the importance of all stories where memories and family stories have the same importance of official history. *Gendering dissonance* has been the approach promoted by ARCHETHICS to collect diverse stories, including in the narrative of complex histories the stories of unvoiceless people, like women and marginalised communities. To collect those stories, ARCHETHICS cities designed actions of story-making and storytelling collected through intergenerational workshops, memories

SECTION 1: Thematic focus of different IAPs reflecting the integrated approach of ARCHETHICS

labs and people' meetings that find in digital archives, illustrated digital maps or "memoteca" a place to be showcased.

People - Local citizens and target groups are in the heart of ARCHETHICS IAPs. Participative initiatives that provide space for young people, students, pupils and also all citizens are prompted by all ARCHETHICS IAPs. The testing actions have shown how people desire to be involved in a project like ARCHETHICS, where people's stories are listened and novel connections with city heritage and citizens are boosted. Sociality in dissonant heritage places are promoted as well as novel approaches to visit heritage sites through slow tourism, digital interactive tools, events and common walks.

Ethics - Values of democracy, solidarity and collaboration are embraced by all ARCHETHICS cities. Opening opportunities to collect common values are forecasted by all partners like respect, integrity and freedom. Dissonant heritage allows the possibility to reflect on values and ethics and the actions of IAPs open further opportunities of discussion and follow-ups.



Section 2: The added value of transnational network activities reflecting the tools and solutions applied in IAPs

The Network roadmap has accompanied project partners in following the URBACT integrated urban approach to set up the ULG, deliver the IAPs, support the testing actions and provide insights to deep dive the four project dimensions and the multiperspective approach.

ARCHETHICS has foreseen:

- **Five core network meetings** in Gdansk, Permet, Vila Nova de Cerveira, Krakow and Leipzig (following a follow-up is provided);
- A **final event** in Betera;
- **Four bilateral exchanges** in Vila Nova de Cerveira focused on **Digital dimension & Slow Tourism**, in Krakow on **Community planning, activists and youth engagement**, in Leipzig on **Communication tools and languages for talking about dissonant heritage** and in Kazanlak on the **Multiperspective approach for Adaptive reuse**;
- **Three online meetings on the Integrated Action Plan (IAP)** elaboration + a **dedicated support for the ULG coordinators**;
- **Six online thematic meetings** on 1. gender equality and diversity in dissonant heritage (facilitated by Sandra Rainero, ad hoc expert), 2. digital transformation case studies (facilitated by Marion Cugnet, ad hoc expert), 3. meeting another dissonant heritage network (Sites of consciousness), 4. following up the outline for a digital archive (with the presence of Marion Cugnet), 5. green approaches for heritage (the case study of Siena), 6. meeting other Cultural heritage projects (the case study of Imperfect City project funded by EUI and the URBACT TN Reinventing Culture in Urban Places).

What has characterised the whole journey was:

- a **good mix of online and in person meetings** to exchange and learning,
- a **sound collaboration** between ARCHETHICS and already **existing Networks and Academia** focused on dissonant heritage. Among them: **URBAN AGENDA for the EU Action 10** group, ATRIUM, EUROM, EUROCLIO, University of Bologna and SITE OF CONSCIOUSNESS.
- a **good collaboration with the ad hoc experts** (Sandra Rainero, Nils Scheffer, Marion Cugnet) that supported the integrated/multiperspective approach
- in person meetings organised through a **sound interactive and participative approach** to share important information like the integrated approach in a playful and learning by doing way
- the possibility to meet online other cities, projects and experts working on cultural heritage to boost future collaboration for project sustainability

SECTION 2: The added value of transnational network activities reflecting the tools and solutions applied in IAPs

A follow up on transnational meetings



The Network Meeting in Gdańsk
9-10 April 2024

Core Network meeting in Gdańsk
(Poland) - 9-10 April 2024

- 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 Gdańsk
- 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 Network Meeting in Tirana & Permet
16-17 June 2024

Core Network meeting in Permet and
Tirana (Albania) - 17-18 June 2024

- 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 already participated in a URBACT project
- A relaxing experience inside the heritage of Permet



Core Network Meeting in Vila Nova de Cerveira
5-6 November 2024

Core Network meeting in Vila Nova de
Cerveira (Portugal) - 5-6 November 2024

- Mid Term Reflection session;
- Study visit to Vila Nova de Cerveira Castle;
- Workshop on the role of borders: migration and coliving!
- Visit to the Biennale of Cerveira;
- Early walking through the "Camino de Santiago";
- Peer-Review workshop on Vila Nova de Cerveira local situation and dissonant heritage;
- Digital transformation and Green transition for Dissonant Heritage;
- 2nd ULG coordinators Board meeting.



Core Network Meeting in Krakow
1-2 April 2025

Core Network meeting in Krakow (Poland)
- 1-2 April 2025

- IAPs Peer Review Session
- A study visit in the Nowa Huta district
- Political board meeting with policy makers ARCHETHICS Representatives
- drafting the City guide practical tool for sustainable management of dissonant heritage
- Study visit of Krakow old town
- Steering committee for the re-programming process
- 3rd ULG Coordinators Board Meeting



Core Network Meeting in Leipzig
1-2 July 2025

Core Network meeting in LEIPZIG
(Germany) - 1-2 July 2025

- Study Visit – Urban Transformation & Contemporary History of the Matthäikirchhof redevelopment area
- Visit to the City History Museum
- 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
- Action 10, Urban Agenda for EU, Jan Schultheiß, CCH Partnership
- Interactive sessions for: ARCHETHICS Living Lab & ARCHETHICS Action Planning journey

SECTION 2: The added value of transnational network activities reflecting the tools and solutions applied in IAPs

Participatory tools to support exchange and learning

In the ARCHETHICS core Network meetings and in the bilateral exchange several participatory tools and methods were used to foster the co-learning process and encourage cities partners together with their ULG coordinators to design ULG meetings through a participative approach. Among others, the most engaging have been the following:



World café on History, Ethics and Communication



Role play on managing the ULG dynamics



workshop on Architecture & People



Creative exercise on communicating DH



The Human Library to speak about DH memories



Market place to learn how to write IAPs from Peers



Haiku workshop to co-create the ARCHETHICS glossary



Charrette to co-design ARCHETHICS living lab

Section 3: Describing different ULG experiences reflecting quick wins and barriers during the action planning process

Cities experienced a different working environment with their URBACT Local Group. In some cases the number of ULG members has been big, in other cases there was a reduced number of people involved. But in all cities emerged a sound interest in the dissonant heritage topic particularly between the youngest.

In terms of number, the ULGs were composed as follows:

- in **Betera 16 people** are members of the ULG;
- In **Permet the core group of the ULG counts 17 members**, other people are involved depending on the activities. International NGOs based in the city have been involved from the very beginning allowing a smooth engagement of local community;
- in **Leipzig**, the ULG has worked with **10-15 people**;
- In **Krakow**, the ULG members are **50 people**. ARCHETHICS ULG has shown the huge interest for the neighbour Nowa Huta, whose inhabitants together with local artists and organisations participated enthusiastically to the whole process;
- In **Gdansk about 20 people** have been active in the ULG. In addition a “GDM - neighbour council” with 17 members was set up to collaborate with the ULG;
- In **Cesena**, the ULG is composed of **10-12 people**. This group has been a core solid group of people leading many activities in the city;
- In **Vila Nova de Cerveira**, the ULG is composed by **25 members**. Indeed, despite being a small municipality, the topic of the Castle attracted a huge number of participants motivated to give back this place to local community.
- In **Kazanlak, 9 people** have been engaged plus tailored meetings with small groups and one to one meetings were organised

Dissonant heritage is a sensitive topic and it is important to involve Rights and diverse local stakeholders as a recipe for success. The Municipality should work as a “platform” to collect, coordinate and mediate between city departments, local stakeholders, experts and citizens.

The local stakeholders involved in ARCHETHICS local implementation have been:

- cultural organisations,
- Universities and research centers,
- historians and history passionates,
- educational and communication sectors,
- creative companies,
- dissonant heritage users (or potential users),
- private owners of the heritages,
- common citizens emotionally connected to dissonant heritage.

SECTION 3: Describing different ULG experiences reflecting quick wins and barriers during the action planning process

The experience of ULG coordinators board

At the beginning of the project during the first core network meeting held in Krakow in April 2024, the “**ARCHETHICS ULG coordinators board**” was set up. The aim was to dedicate a **tailored moment for ULG coordinators** to share the **ongoing process at local level** as well as **issues** and **highlights** occurring during ULG meetings. That space has been useful to foster participation within ULG: participatory tools worked well were shared by ULG coordinators. Those tips inspired other participants that replicated in their contexts the good practices.

Those meetings were organised as side sessions of Core network meetings or in some cases they were organised online. They were organised: in **Krakow in April 2024**, online in **May 2024**, in **Vila Nova de Cerveira in November 2024**, in **Krakow in April 2025** and the last one in **Leipzig in July 2025**.



SECTION 4: Focus on specific actions reflecting the participative approach: from ULG experience to testing actions

Section 4: Focus on specific actions reflecting the participative approach: from ULG experience to testing actions

The testing actions developed by ARCHETHICS partners reflected the common intention to link people with heritage, despite this heritage being considered dissonant. Testing actions have proved through an experience on the ground in all cities that dissonant heritage could become a **common good**, a **place for people to meet, visit and reflect**, and an **expedient for storytelling co-creation** that **can embrace all stories**. Last but not least, testing actions demonstrated the huge interest of people both young and old around dissonant heritage and the wide opportunities for artistic interventions and slow tourism promotion.



Krakow - September 2024
The Central Square of Nowa Huta transformed for one day from a traffic island to a meeting place



Gdansk - October 2024
Residents and citizens involved in a Pop-up initiative to re-discover the history of the neighbourhood.



Permet - May 2024-2025
Cultural event to commemorate the 80th anniversary of Përmet Congress and intergenerational workshops



Betera - May 2025
The defensive centre of Corral del Quirro promoted as a tourist and memory visit



Vila Nova de Cerveira - June 2025
Film-making workshops for students aimed to reestablish the role of the Castel as social hub for the community.



Kazanlak - August 2025
Photo competition "Buzludzha Through the Lens of Time" to engage people with the monument.



Cesena - 2025
Collaboration with Bologna University to organise archival materials of Italy's fascist era in Cesena



Leipzig - 2025
Participatory meetings at Matthäikirchhof, experimenting the "third place" concept

Conclusion

The link with the starting position, mid-point state and final result

The work with ARCHETHICS partners has been smooth and pleasant, despite the complex topic represented by dissonant heritage. The ARCHETHICS roadmap designed during the activation stage in January 2024 has been a valid document to support transnational activities and local implementation as well the small changes done for the mid-term reflection in January 2025.

The ARCHETHICS Integrated Action Plans have equipped cities with **a clear future oriented strategy to manage their dissonant heritage**. Cities have found their way to address the problematic link between the physical objects and the difficult memories they represent through a sound work on the **multiperspective approach/integrated approach** with the four project dimensions of **architecture, history, people** and **ethics**.

ARCHETHICS IAPs have been giving opportunities to cities to **return urban spaces** that were interdicted, abandoned, neglected or unused **to the people**. **Dissonant heritage sites will be transformed into meeting places, social hubs, remembrance sites or “third places”**.

The heritage has been understood and addressed as a **common good**. Processes of story-telling and story-making are fostered by cities to include all voices in the **novel narratives around dissonant heritage**.

Educational programmes for students from primary to secondary schools are designed by cities to stimulate critical thinking and foster an innovative approach to learn history.

Young people are involved through the realisation of actions dealing with **festivals, artistic events and digital tools** and repository of dissonant heritage.

The **tourist vocation** of some dissonant heritage places is fostered through a slow tourism approach, where dissonant heritage provides opportunities to **reflect on the difficult history of Europe to achieve democracy, promote solidarity and guarantee civil rights**.

Despite the differences of cities sizes, different heritage and different context, **the eight Integrated Action Plans show that it is possible to concretely work with local stakeholders and communities on complex issues like dissonant heritage and that the multiperspective approach proposed by ARCHETHICS could work well in different contexts**.

The IAPs are a demonstration of the ARCHETHICS journey that above all has given the opportunity to reflect how hard it was to arrive at a **democratic society**. Our cities, our public places still reflect this traumatic past showing in the urban landscape many presences of the difficult history of Europe to come towards a democratic present. **Ethical values that represent European democracy lead the way** to treat the past, keeping the complexity and the memories for visioning a common future where people are in the centre.

Annex - Partners Integrated Action Plan in a nutshell

Cesena - Italy

The Dissonant Heritage: a network of buildings from the **Fascist period in Italy** (1922-1945) — including the Casa del Balilla, Mother and Child House, factories, and air-raid shelters — reflect regime propaganda and everyday life. Today, they are “**sleeping heritage**,” used without full awareness of their historical and political meaning.

IAP Vision

From physical places to values! to establish an inclusive Living Lab on dissonance, democracy and active citizenship.

IAP Objective 1

Collecting, disseminating and enhancing history and memories related to the Fascist regime in Cesena (**History**)

For example they will... Create a **digital MEMOTECA**, an open portal to promote Cesena's local dissonant history, share the memories and stories of witnesses, **give voice to younger generations through inclusive narratives** that look to the future from the past.

IAP Objective 2

Making dissonant heritage visible (**Architecture**)

For example they will... Realise **permanent public art interventions** aimed at making the dissonant heritage recognisable by citizens and everyday visitors, disseminating site specific history and **hidden memories** as a tool for knowledge about the past and a **catalyst of questions about the present**.

IAP Objective 3

Promoting dialogue and active participation on democratic values and rights through cultural initiatives on Cesena's dissonant heritage from the Fascist Era (**People & Ethic**)

For example they will... Set up **immersive and interactive cultural itineraries for schools and visitors** through the main buildings of the city's dissonant heritage, with a focus on their history, memory and actualisation of themes related to war, propaganda, labour, gender, family and colonialism.

Key testing activities



"Cesena 1944: Women and Men Facing War"

An interactive workshop at the former air-raid shelter for high schools.

On October 20th 2025, as part of the official celebrations for the liberation of Cesena from Nazi-fascism regime, a public event was held with a high school class to test the walk and the educational toolkit designed by Deina and Radio Contra, to critically and **interactively explore the symbolic city site of World War II: the air raid shelter**.

A final evaluation briefing was held with students. The **direct experience of the site, walking around and feeling the physical space**, was greatly appreciated. Some historical passages before World War II need to be introduced in a simpler way with visual aids. The sound part is fundamental and innovative and could include an improvement of the technical part and the collection of real voices of witnesses.



Gdańsk - Poland

The Dissonant Heritage: the **Grunwald Residential District (GDM)** and **Nowy Port** area, built after WWII in **socialist realist** style and several other monuments scattered across the city, including schools, hospitals, a stadium and other public facilities. These buildings were intended to embody the power of the collective and of the state, but they also serve as a testament to the enthusiasm and the commitment of the wider society in rebuilding a city destroyed by war and of the aim of the designers seeking to improve the quality of life of the working class.

IAP Vision

The Future of the Past. Learning from the past for a better future

IAP Objective 1

History-Ethics-People-Architecture. Deepening knowledge and expanding contacts within the stakeholder group
For example they will... Organise **open Lectures**. Eight already took place as testing actions. Presentations by experts and community leaders followed by open discussions on various aspects of the dissonant heritage. These may include further guided walks, open-air exhibitions and joint work on legislative and investment project assumptions.

IAP Objective 2

Collection-Organisation-Dissemination.

Preserving family and neighbourhood histories from oblivion

For example they will... Create an **interactive digital platform** aimed at **preservation of individual memories**, including those of builders, residents, users on a par with official archival data concerning decision-makers, designers and administrators.

IAP Objective 3

Strategic interventions. Bringing together what has been divided by small-scale investments in the actual urban space.

For example they will... include **investments in neighbourhood safety and accessibility**, such as video surveillance, in convenience of movement, such as the restoration of pedestrian crossings that have been removed and facilitation of the installation of lifts in residential buildings, as well as the construction of public toilets, investments and greater care for green areas, and the provision of a local community centre in the new development to be built in the centre of the GDM district. Placing buildings under heritage protection will facilitate applying for renovation grants.

Testing activities



In addition to the eight **open lectures**, a **pop-up installation** has been realised with the aim to involve residents, local organisations and citizens to re-discover the history of the neighbourhood and collect insights for neighbourhood upgrading.

The activities promoted have been:

- > Dissonant heritage street exhibition done with printed big panels;
- > temporary meeting point where sharing needs and wishes for the future of the neighbourhood;
- > architectural walks with expert guides to discover neighbourhood stories and points of interest.

Kraków - Poland

The Dissonant Heritage: The Nowa Huta district, built in 1949 as a model socialist city for steelworkers, is a rare example of socialist realist urbanism. Once stigmatized, it is now being revalued by local initiatives that reinterpret its layered history and community identity.

IAP Vision

NOWA HUTA – we are proud!

Let the Central Square regain its former glory - make the Central Promenade

IAP Objective 1

Protection of Nowa Huta heritage

For example they will... organise a series of workshops, open lectures, and panel discussions on dissonant heritage will be provided to enrich knowledge about the value of Nowa Huta urban space.

IAP Objective 2

Creating a new image of Central Square.

For example they will... set up a cultural Events Zone (aiming to implement the idea of Central Promenade). Enhance the attractiveness of urban space by organising periodic cultural events: exhibitions, installations, performances, street theatre, dance, art shows.

IAP Objective 3

Responsible revitalisation of Central Square

For example they will... foster Sustainable urban development through the “Nature Contact Zone”, linking to implement the idea of the Central Promenade. The incorporation of green spaces and elements into cities center environments and infrastructure will be forecasted as well as the preparation of a Participatory Budgeting project with NGOs to create a green enclave in the city centre in line with the idea of cool pavement strategies for heat island mitigation. These initiatives will be developed by inviting the local community to cooperate in greening urban space, planting trees and shrubs (in accordance with plans prepared by the City).

Testing activities



“Diamond Anniversary of Nowa Huta”

An intergenerational meeting of the district community to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the founding of Nowa Huta.

The testing action aimed to activate the urban space of Central Square and restore its status as a neighborhood center for residents. It was organised: a day lunch for the local community, transforming the Central Square newly in an important meeting place for the people; the outdoor exhibition “Once upon a time in the New Town - the history of Nowa Huta from 1949 to 2024”.

Bétera - Spain

The Dissonant Heritage: The **network of eight air-raid shelters and the Puig-Carasols defensive line** built during the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939) to resist Franco's troops. Long silenced, these sites carry the memory of civilian resistance and now offer opportunities for cultural renewal and community engagement.

IAP Vision

PRESERVATION AND VALORIZATION OF SPANISH CIVIL WAR DEFENSIVE STRUCTURES, SHELTERS AND THE PUIG-CARASOLS DEFENSIVE LINE

Valorizing our history as a driver for sustainable tourism, local attractiveness, community engagement.

IAP Objective 1

Enhance historical awareness and education on Spanish Civil War targeting schools and local community organizations (**HISTORY, ARCHITECTURE**)

For example they will... organise "**War Stories Tours**", guided **archaeological tours** explaining both the history and the local flora and fauna to the members of the CELB (Local Studies Center of Bétera) and their families. The interactive tour will be led by an archaeologist who has overseen the restoration of the resistance center. This visit not only offers an immersive and educational experience about the history of the Spanish Civil War but also connects multiple generations, which is relevant to the goal of enhancing historical awareness by allowing the stories of the past to be shared inclusively and participatively.

IAP Objective 2

PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE TOURISM DEVELOPMENT fostering Conservation and Environmental Sustainability (**HISTORY, GREEN**)

For example they will... organise "**History, ecology and local heritage: a new way to make guided tours**". Guided tours that **combine history, ecology, and local heritage** and specific elements on the Spanish Civil War and the ecological significance of the region highlighting local biodiversity, the importance of preserving natural landscapes, and the role of these areas during the war (such as where refuges were built, defense lines, or how nature played a role in sheltering people). The experience will promote environmental stewardship valorising natural and historical resources for future generations.

IAP Objective 3

FOSTER COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION through collaborative decision-making processes to cultivate a sense of ownership and pride in their heritage. (**HISTORY, PEOPLE, ETHICS**)

For example they will... collect "**Memories of the War**". Creation of illustrated, accessible maps, braille and pictograms to disseminate collective memories of the war, creating an inclusive and interactive cultural path. These materials, designed for all levels of ability, will be co-design in collaboration with local historians, veterans, and residents who experienced the war. The local community will feed the process by providing oral histories and creating the interpretation of these maps, enriching the educational experience for visitors.

Testing activities



On 26 May 2025 the Municipality of Bétera tested how the defensive centre of Corral del Quirro could be promoted as a **tourist and memory visit**. This activity was organised by the Tourism and Heritage departments of the Municipality of Bétera and included an archaeological visit to the trenches and a gastronomic experience, called "Taste of the Trenches" event, where it was possible to taste local products.

Kazanlak - Bulgaria

The Dissonant Heritage: The **Buzludzha Monument**, inaugurated in 1981 as a symbol of the Bulgarian Communist Party, now stands abandoned on a mountain peak. Once a site of propaganda, it is a striking reminder of totalitarian narratives and a space for new cultural and touristic reimagination. The monument is state-owned, located within the territory of Kazanlak Municipality, and managed by the Regional Administration of Stara Zagora. Since 2021 it is listed as a national heritage site. A conservation project is underway.

IAP Vision

Buzludzha as a global cultural and tourist destination – a place for dialogue, education, and sustainable cultural tourism.

IAP Objective 1

Strategic planning: Ensure the recognition, protection and sustainable development of the whole Buzludzha complex as a cultural heritage site of national and international significance.

For example they will... **Enhance heritage protection and recognition:** Heritage protection status to the ensemble, listing for the European Heritage Label and UNESCO; **Include in strategic plans:** Buzludzha in the Integrated Development Plan of Kazanlak Municipality 2028-2034 and others; **Develop a conservation management plan for the complex:** Condition assessment of the complex, conservation strategies and Integrated planning.

IAP Objective 2

Tourism development: Enhance public access, awareness and engagement with the Buzludzha monument through tourism development, interpretation and cultural promotion.

For example they will... **Develop a visitors' access plan:** Visitors' studies, improvement of orientation, transport, hiking, tours, integrated planning; **Establish a Buzludzha Information and Archive Centre:** Gather, digitise, and structure archival materials and provide information about the archive, ongoing work, and access; **Include Buzludzha in local events and tourist materials:** Include Buzludzha in info materials. Provide info in local museums and tourist sites. Inclusion in the Rose Festival and other festivities.

IAP Objective 3

Citizens' involvement: Motivate citizens to understand, value, promote and get involved in the preservation and development of the Buzludzha Monument.

For example they will... **Include in schools educational programmes:** Organise educational visits. Develop interactive educational materials; **Train citizens to be local tour guides:** Develop a manual. Organise trainings. Establish a booking system; **Produce a documentary film:** Interview locals and international visitors, gather personal stories, promote broadly; **Develop a sustainable citizens involvement mechanism:** Developing the ULG group into a permanent functioning body.

Testing activities



The photo competition “**Buzludzha Through the Lens of Time**” (summer 2025) tested how to engage people with the monument. The winning photos were exhibited at MUO gallery Zagreb as well as at the Buzludzha facade during the festival OPEN BUZLUDZHA, turning the monument into a living gallery. With 57 participants aged 16-68 from Kazanlak, Bulgaria and abroad, more than 30 000 people reached online on social media and over 1 000 people live at the exhibitions, the competition showed high public interest. Jointly organised by the Kazanlak Municipality, the Buzludzha Project Foundation, with the support of the Regional Administration of Stara Zagora, it demonstrated effective multi-level cooperation. The activity proved that creative initiatives can inspire citizens to co-create Buzludzha's future.

Leipzig - Germany

The Dissonant Heritage: The former **Matthäikirchhof area**, once the **operational center of the Stasi**, holds spaces tied to surveillance and state control. These sites evoke the memory of dictatorship and provide a laboratory for new democratic and critical narratives.

IAP Vision

Matthäikirchhof as a place of lived democracy and a third place for encounter, remembrance and future-making.

IAP Objective 1

Active Historical Education – making the site's layered history visible and tangible (HISTORY, ETHICS)

For example they will... make engagement with the past visible, spaces should be created to bring people together and facilitate exchange, for example through an **Active Memory of the Matthäikirchhof**, where we collect the stories and personal Memories of the Site. Indeed, the Matthäikirchhof encompasses diverse historical layers—from the city's founding to the former Matthäikirche site, the GDR and Stasi past, the Peaceful Revolution of 1989, and today. The site's multifaceted history, and thus that of the entire city, should be conveyed in a contemporary way.

IAP Objective 2

Strengthening Participation – enabling citizens, politics, civil society to co-shape (PEOPLE)

For example they will... together with the planned cultural and community center, turn Matthäikirchhof into a lively and adaptable place in the long term. As an open space with local Stakeholders and for everybody else.

IAP Objective 3

Creating a Third Place – open, non-commercial, inclusive meeting place (ARCHITECTURE, PEOPLE)

For example they will... establish a so-called '**third place**' at Matthäikirchhof. It can play a decisive role in addressing current social challenges. Against the backdrop of its history, Matthäikirchhof exemplifies the dissonance between memory, transformation and shaping the future.

Matthäikirchhof will be a place where residents and visitors of Leipzig can easily meet. It will feature meeting points and open spaces with formats for international, intercultural, and interreligious exchange and discourse—in line with the district's rich history. Here, pluralistic society with its diverse worldviews is reflected and democratic coexistence is practiced. This openness is also reflected in the spatial structure of the entire area and the individual buildings.

Testing activities



The Kick-off Temporary Uses at Matthäikirchhof is foreseen for 2026. The Objective is to initiate and structure temporary uses of the Matthäikirchhof from summer 2026 onwards, ensuring visibility, public engagement, and sustainable governance models.

A public kick-off event scheduled in May 2026 will launch the temporary use phase, combining cultural, social, and gastronomic activities. It will provide visibility, attract new stakeholders, and test operational frameworks.

As testing action, the city of Leipzig organised participatory meetings at Matthäikirchhof. Those occasions were also considered as social events where eating and staying together.

Përmet - Albania

The Dissonant Heritage: refers to the contested cultural and architectural legacy from the **Italian occupation** (1939–1943) and the **communist era** (1944–1991). This includes sites such as the Congress of Përmet building, sculptures, bunkers, tunnels, monuments, and remains of Italian military barracks. Once symbols of power and ideology, these structures now spark debate about their preservation, reinterpretation, and relevance in contemporary Albanian society.

IAP Vision

We believe that our dissonant heritage can be a powerful tool for education and tourism and can be used to benefit our community.

IAP Objective 1

To transform dissonant heritage sites in sustainable tourism destinations (HISTORY, ARCHITECTURE)

For example they will... install informative signage to **enhance understanding and respect for dissonant heritage sites**; improve their physical condition through **sustainable maintenance and restoration**; develop **digital access** via VR, AR, and 3D virtual tours; integrate these sites into **Përmet's tourism strategy**; and **collaborate with tour operators** to promote them through packages, media, and multilingual materials.

IAP Objective 2

To raise awareness of the value and potential of dissonant heritage by using it for educational and sociocultural purposes. (PEOPLE, ETHICS)

For example they will... create a **digital archive of dissonant heritage** documents and photos to preserve and share historical resources; promote **heritage sites for educational tours**, workshops, and **youth activities**; exchange and learning from European cities through networks like ATRIUM; and promote **multifunctional use** of these sites for exhibitions, festivals, and museums.

Testing activities



Through Art and Memory – Reflections on Dissonant Heritage

On 15th October 2025, 24 young people presented a theater performance inspired by three Albanian films to explore the emotional and social realities of life during periods of Italian occupation and dictatorship. Guided by a teacher, they learned and engaged with our dissonant heritage, transforming difficult memories into opportunities for dialogue, reflection, and learning.

The activity showed how dissonant heritage can be a powerful educational tool, benefiting the community by fostering empathy, critical thinking, and a deeper connection to collective history and identity.



Vila Nova de Cerveira - Portugal

The Dissonant Heritage: the **Castelo de Cerveira**, a strategic border structure now abandoned, embodies memories of past conflicts and power. Located in the town center, it can become a meaningful cultural and community landmark linking history, identity, and participation.

IAP Vision

Castelo d. Dinis as a meeting point for the local community and our visitors, and a driving force for social, cultural, and economic development, aiming to establish creative town of Cerveira in the national and international context

IAP Objective 1

Ensure the Qualification of Heritage, Environment, and Public Space and the Valorisation of the Intangible Heritage Associated with the Castle and Its People (ARCHITECTURE, ETHICS)

For example they will... preserve the historical integrity and cultural value of the buildings within the castle walls and surrounding public and religious spaces. Improvements will focus on maintaining architectural details, reinforcing structural elements, and ensuring that these spaces are accessible to all. After years without having any physical intervention in the Castle, the Portuguese Government will cancel the concession contract with the private investor and establish a cooperation protocol with the Municipality of Vila Nova de Cerveira.

IAP Objective 2

Bring Local Communities Closer to the History of the Castle and the Town and Promote Knowledge and Scientific Research (HISTORY, PEOPLE)

For example they will... develop a project for the *Castle Interpretative Centre* through a cocreation methodology, based on the NEB principles. This Center will function as a dynamic educational and cultural hub, immersing visitors in the history and intangible heritage of Castelo D. Dinis and its significance to the local community. The centre will also host workshops, lectures, community events and artistic residences, encouraging ongoing dialogue and exploration of the town's rich history.

IAP Objective 3

Value the Tangible and Intangible Heritage and Integrate Cooperation Networks at National and International Levels (HISTORY, PEOPLE)

For example they will... develop the **Community Labs for Collective Memory Valorisation** project that seeks to preserve and celebrate local history through community-driven research and storytelling initiatives. By actively engaging residents—especially elderly members of the community—the project will document and share oral histories, personal archives, and cultural traditions, ensuring that valuable heritage is not lost over time. This project will empower communities to take an active role in preserving their heritage while providing future generations a rich and meaningful understanding of their cultural roots.

Testing activities



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. Around 130 students, supported by teachers and cultural mediators, participated. Through the activity, students joined filmmaking workshops, explored the castle's history, and produced **short films** using smartphones and simple editing tools. Five short films were produced and shown at the 1st Castle Short Movies Festival, attended by over 350 people (June 2025). Students enhanced creativity, teamwork, and began to reconnect emotionally with the castle and their community.