



EUROPEAN
ASSOCIATION
Historic Towns & Regions

Cultural Diversity in Historic Cities: Key to a Sustainable Future

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Introduction

- **EAHTR**
 - Background
 - Aims and Activities
- **Relevance of General Theme**
 - Sustainability
 - Cultural diversity
- **Aims and hopes of Symposium**
- **Conclusions**



Background

- **EAHTR formed in Strasbourg in October 1999**
- **Part of Council of Europe's Campaign 'Europe - A Common Heritage'**
- **15 National and Regional Associations in process of joining - representing over 1000 historic towns and cities**



- **AIM**

- **To promote the interests of Europe's historic towns and regions**

- **OBJECTIVES**

- **international co-operation in urban conservation and cultural heritage**
- **Share experience and good practice on urban conservation and management**



**– Promote vitality viability,
and sustainability of
historic towns**

● ACTIVITIES

– Newsletter

– Web Site

- www.historic-towns.org

**– European Commission
projects**

- FRESH, FORUM

– Conferences

- Investing in Heritage -Newcastle
UK, 3rd-5th July 2002 -
- INHERIT GROUP OF CITIES TO
BE FORMED



General Theme

Cultural diversity: key to a sustainable future

- To explore through presentations and case studies - in particular the city of Kazan
- The importance of cultural diversity in securing a sustainable future for historic cities



- **The 4 themes have been chosen to focus on how cultural diversity:-**
 - influences the character of historic cities
 - is under threat in a changing world
 - impacts on the stability and quality of urban life
 - contributes to economic prosperity



What is Sustainability?

- **Ability of a town or city to prosper over time - socially, economically and environmentally**
 - passing on our inheritance to future generations
 - without endangering the earth's finite resources
 - recognising our cultural inheritance as a finite resource to be nourished and protected



- **Historic Towns now facing unprecedented challenges**
 - globalisation
 - pace of technological change
 - religious and ethnic intolerance
 - loss of historic fabric and identity
- **Historic towns traditionally a model for sustainable management**
 - can they respond to the needs of the third millennium?



Why is Cultural Diversity Important

- **Identity - architectural expression**
 - historic fabric
 - new architecture
- **Quality of life -material and non material**
- **Cultural Tourism and prosperity**
- **Heart of social, economic and environmental well being of historic cities**



Symposium Aims

- **Understand better the importance of differing cultural influences on the identity and prosperity of historic cities**
- **Explore the balance needed to secure cultural diversity and sustainable management**
- **make policy proposals, produce an agreed charter and strengthen contacts**



**CULTURAL
DIVERSITY**

INDENTITY

PROSPERITY

THREATS & OPPORTUNITIES

**CULTURAL
STRATEGIES**

CASE STUDIES

**KEY TO
SUSTAINABILITY**





Conclusions

- **Richness and breadth of subject - merits widest possible interpretation and discussion**
- **The challenge we all face is to extend the boundaries of our understanding: to learn from each other**
- **And when we return to our cities: remember Kazan and most importantly - act on what we have learned**