



EUROPEAN
association
Historic Towns & Regions



European Symposium 1st & 2nd March 2007

Heritage Led Regeneration - Producing Good Practice

Verona Declaration 2007

1. Delegates from 16 European countries gathered on the 1st and 2nd March 2007 in Verona to participate in the international symposium 'Heritage Led Regeneration – Producing Good Practice'.
2. The Symposium was organized jointly by the City of Verona and the European Association of Historic Towns and Regions as the final symposium for the INHERIT project – a project funded by the European Union under the INTERREG III C programme involving the cities of Göteborg, Gdansk, Verona, Newcastle upon Tyne, Belfast and Ubeda.
3. The Symposium brought together politicians, practitioners, consultants and academics to share their experience of regenerating cities through investing in the city's physical heritage. It focused on :
 - Strategic approaches to heritage regeneration with case studies from Verona, Göteborg, Ubeda, Spain, Newcastle upon Tyne, UK, and Belfast, UK
 - The Value of Quality Public Domain with case studies from Ubeda Old Town, Vallgatan area of Göteborg, Scaligeri Palace in Verona, the Western Quayside in Newcastle upon Tyne
 - The Importance of Community Involvement with case studies from The Haga area of Göteborg, and the Byker Wall area of Newcastle upon Tyne
 - Cultural Approaches to local regeneration with case studies from the Laznia Contemporary Arts in Gdansk, Poland and the Cathedral Quarter of Belfast
 - Diversity – New uses for Heritage Buildings with case studies on military buildings in Verona, Fort Grodzisko and the Solidarity road to freedom in Gdansk, the palaces of Ubeda, the Titanic Project, Belfast, Gamlestadens Fabriker in Göteborg and Seven Storeys Grain Warehouse in Newcastle upon Tyne.
 - An interim review of EU regional policy and its implications for heritage led regeneration

Following their debates, participants wish to:

4. Thank the City of Verona & EAHTR for organising the Symposium and thereby giving delegates the opportunity of visiting and experiencing one of the finest historic cities in Europe and congratulate the City Council on its work on heritage led regeneration.
5. Thank the speakers and cities for preparing and presenting the case studies.
6. Confirm that all of the case studies presented offer valuable lessons for other historic cities and should if possible be included in the Good Practice Guide.
7. Reaffirm the importance of heritage as a central feature of regeneration and

In particular the following:

8. Strategic
 - EU Regional Policy
 - City Plan and leadership
 - Sustainability – long term commitment
 - Importance of context: design - understanding place –audit
 - Good practice: raise aspirations – quality and innovation
 - The measurement of benefits
9. Public Domain
 - Importance for citizens – opportunities events, social interaction
 - Private investment for regeneration - funding of public realm – environmental aspects and less pollution
 - Use of quality materials
 - Importance of good design
 - Transport and accessibility
10. Community Involvement
 - Partnership – citizens and business
 - Means of addressing social problems/issues
 - Consultation and participation – techniques and experience
 - Pride of place
 - A sense of ownership of heritage
11. Cultural Approaches
 - Identify and the importance of identity
 - Broadens tourism appeal
 - Authenticity
 - Indigenous themes
 - Introduces activities, adds vitality & viability
12. Diversity – New Uses
 - Major challenge for some cities
 - Public private partnerships – new governance arrangements
 - Specialist skills and training needed
 - Large job creation potential
 - Spread activities geographically, by season and throughout the day

Recommendation

- INHERIT takes forward the main conclusions identified at this symposium in producing the good practice guide