

# ARCHETHICS

**NEWS FROM THE NETWORK**  
**JANUARY - MARCH 2024**

Quarterly network report  
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**Dissonant  
heritage in the  
ARCHETHICS  
project**

**ARCHETHICS  
scope and the  
contribution at  
EU Level**

**First Network  
meeting in  
Cesena**

**The Network  
Methodology**




ARCHETHICS

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***This is the first  
quarterly report of  
ARCHETHICS, an Action  
Planning Network  
funded by the URBACT  
IV programme.***

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# 1 - ARCHETHICS

## *Dissonant European heritage as laboratory of democracy*

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.**

ARCHETHICS Network fosters a deep reflection on the **Dissonant Heritage** present in many European cities. The Network allows to experience 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 Network led by the Municipality of **Cesena**, brings together nine European cities of different sizes: Cesena in Italy; **Permet in Albania**; **Kazanlak in Bulgaria**; **Krakow in Poland**; **Gdansk in Poland**; **Leipzig in Germany**; **Betera in Spain**; **Vila Nova de Cerveira in Portugal**. These cities have in common the presence of dissonant heritage.

**Working on Dissonant heritage provides 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.**





# Dissonant heritage timeline

ARCHETHICS brings together nine European cities of different sizes that have in common the presence of a Dissonant Heritage characterised by very diversified typologies: it is submerged or sleeping, discussed and controversial; it is located in different urban contexts, in the city centre or in a rural area; it has different states of conservation and belongs to different eras.

**Vilanova de Cerveira** (PT) chose the Cerveira Castle, a border infrastructure, positioned in the city centre, now completely abandoned.

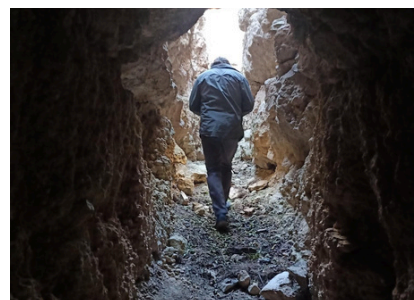
**Betera** (ES) proposes to analyse an air-raid shelter and a trenches area belonging to the Spanish Civil War. The cities of **Cesena** (IT) and **Leros** (EL) focus on dissonant heritage sites, built during the fascist period. Cesena is willing to study some educational and industrial buildings, and war infrastructures, while Leros focuses on the military town of Portolago and iconic buildings

**Leros EL,**  
Military town of Porto Lago - Lakki  
founded by Italian fascist occupation



**Italian occupation of  
Porto Lago (Lakki)**  
1912 - 1943

**Betera ES**  
Air-raid shelter and the defensive line  
of Puig-Carasols trenches



**Spanish Civil War**  
1936 - 1939

13th century

**Vila Nova de Cerveira PT**

Castelo de Cerveira" built in the 13th century as border infrastructure



1922-1945

**Dissonant Heritage of fascist regime**

**Cesena IT**

Buildings for educational purpose, for work and after work and war infrastructures



ARCHETHICS Dissonant Heritage timeline

The cities of **Krakow** (PL), **Gdansk** (PL), **Kazanlak** (BG) 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.

**Gdansk PL**

Grunwald Residential District (1947) and the Maritime Cultural Centre (1956) in Nowy Port



**Leipzig D**

The former Matthäikirchhof area with the Stasi headquarter of East Germany (1958-1989).



social realism period  
1945 -1989

1944 -1990  
communist period in Albania

**Permet AL**

Congress Building - (1944), military remains II World War/ Communism period



**Krakow PL**

“Nowa Huta” district (1949) built for the Steel Factory workers



1989

**Kazanlak BL**

The Buzludzha Monument 1981-1989, built for propaganda of Bulgarian Communism



ARCHETHICS Dissonant Heritage timeline



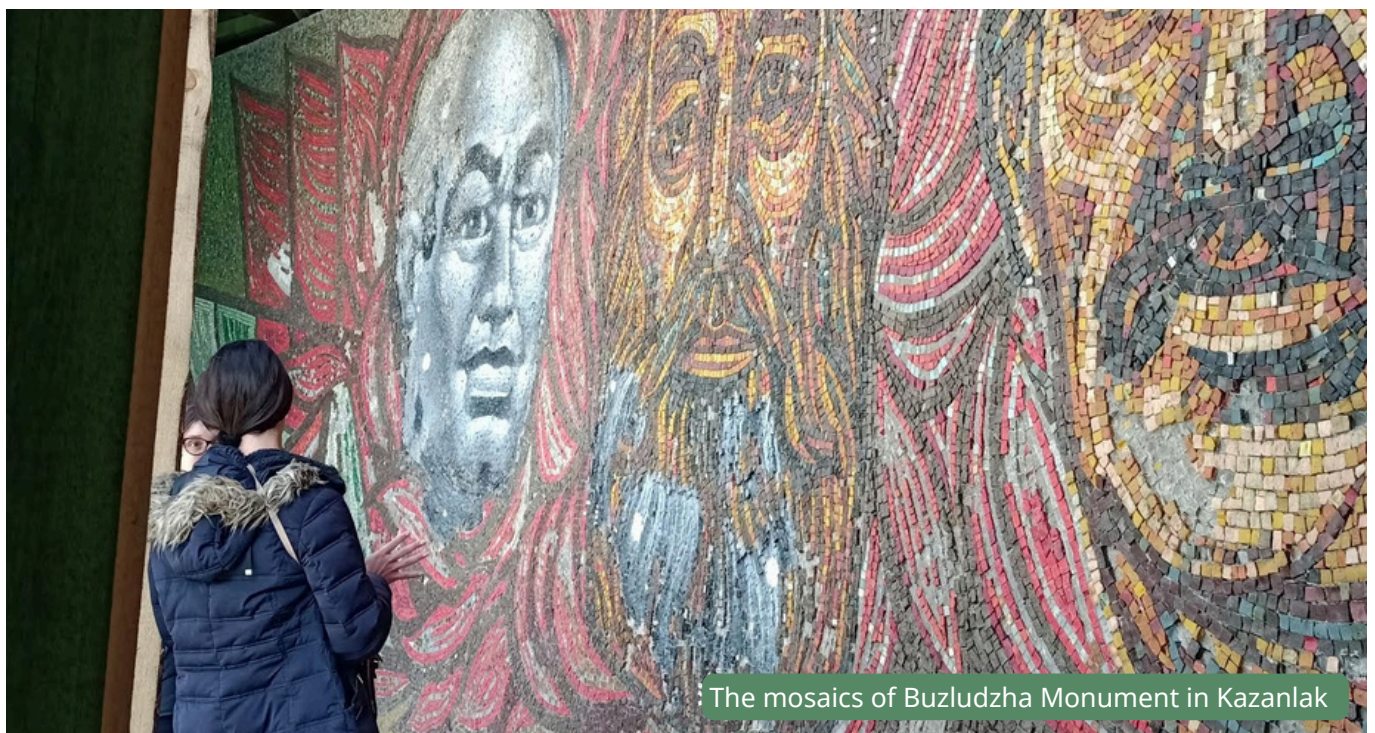


# Partner's summary table

City - Country	Population	Dissonant Heritage period/type	EU development index
Betera - Spain	28.421	Air-raid shelter built during the Spanish Civil War (1936-39) in the city centre and the defensive line of Puig-Carasols trenches built between 1938 and 1939	EU Transition Region
Cesena - Italy	97.000	Rationalist architecture built during the fascist period: buildings for educational purpose (Home of "Opera Nazionale Balilla", the Home of Mothers and Childhood), Buildings for work and after work (the "Arrigoni" food factory, the "FIAT" car dealership, the after work place). and war infrastructures (air-raid shelters)	EU More Developed Region
Gdansk - Poland	486.345	The Grunwald Residential District (GRD), built after the second world war (1947) with social realism features, and the Maritime Cultural Centre (1956) in Nowy Port, the "new" socialist district of Gdansk in the Port area	EU Less Developed Region
Krakow - Poland	803.300	"Nowa Huta" neighbourhood and Administrative Center of Steel Factory in Nowa Huta built in 1949	EU Less Developed Region



City - Country	Population	Dissonant Heritage period/type	EU development index
Kazanlak - Bulgaria	72.727	The Buzludzha Monument, opened between 1981-1989, built for propaganda purposes of the Bulgarian Communist Party.	EU Less Developed Region
Leipzig - Germany	616.965	The former Matthäikirchhof area with the Stasi headquarter of East Germany (1950 – 1989)	EU More Developed Region
Leros - Greece	8.500	Different layers of Dissonant heritage produced in 100 years. The island of Leros was used as a military base in the fascist period, it hosted a psychiatric hospital and a technical school for refugees and orphans of the Greek civil war, a prison for political prisoners during the Junta and nowadays it has become a hot-spot for refugees.	EU Transition Region
Permet - Albania	10.614 (Census)19.672(Civil Register)	Constructions from the communism era (in particular: Permet Congress Building - 1944) and military constructions remains from II World War and Communism period	Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA) Contry - Low Developed EU Region
Vila Nova de Cerveira - Portugal	8.923	The "Castelo of D. Dinis - Castelo de Cerveira" built in the 13th century and enlarged in the 17th century to defend the disputed border between Portugal and Spain.	EU Less Developed Region



The mosaics of Buzludzha Monument in Kazanlak



# 2 - ARCHETHICS SCOPE

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.

The Network intends to face the following **specific challenges**:

- to make dissonant heritage open to all citizens, develop new perspectives to gather different needs, cultural sensitivities and ethics;
- to design effective urban policies on sustainable management and adaptive reuse of the dissonant heritage through a multi-perspective approach (intergenerational, intercultural and gender balance);
- to attract investors and funding for building redevelopment, temporary use, innovative public-private management models.



A detail of the Stasi headquarter in Leipzig

# The contribution of ARCHETHICS to Dissonant Heritage at EU Level

ARCHETHICS incorporates the research work of the **Culture and Cultural Heritage Partnership on Action 10 on Culture and Cultural Heritage in the Urban Agenda for EU**, that collected a first list of EU Dissonant Heritage case studies and provided an initial overview of recommendations to enhance this heritage at city level.

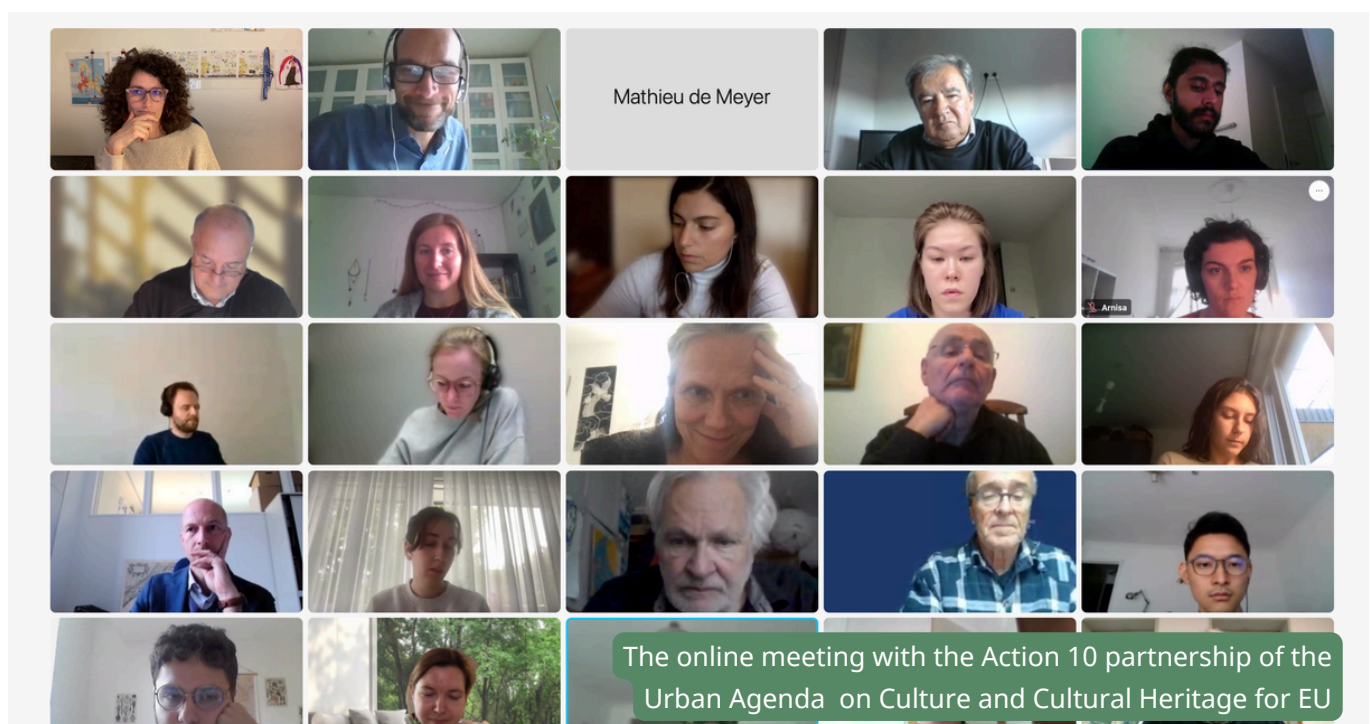
A continuous collaboration with the Action 10 working group has been set up to share achievements, common research and methodologies.

On the **24th January 2024**, ARCHETHICS participated at a meeting with the Action 10 Partnership, presenting the Network Roadmap and project follow-up.

On the **4th June 2024**, the Network will attend the Workshop “Toolkit Dissonant Heritage - Practice check” in Berlin, sharing the methodology and first results.

Further collaborations are forecasted for the 2025, where a collaborative Core Network meeting with the Action 10 working group has been already drafted.

**ARCHETHICS has the ambitious to act as a complementary initiative of the Urban Agenda for the EU to shift from a research and cultural approach to a concrete one, that will provide an Integrated Action Plan for each city partner together with testing activities dealing with possible management and approaches for Dissonant Heritage.**







PEOPLE



ARCHITECTURE



HISTORY



ETHICS

# Architecture, People, History and Ethics: the dimensions of project investigation

Salvatore Settis - an Italian archaeologist and art historian 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."***

ARCHETHICS shares this vision for the city of the future, where Dissonant Heritage becomes the starting frame to improve individual and collective identity, behaviour and memory, to strengthen the relationship between "architecture, citizenship, ethics" and history. **These elements became the four dimensions of project investigation to follow up dissonant heritage.**

**ARCHITECTURE** represents the material heritage, objects, monuments and buildings built in the past as a propaganda tool of dictatorship regimes to build consensus, control people or as military protection of conflictual borders.

The dimension "**PEOPLE**" focuses on the importance to include in the debate about dissonant heritage all the actors both locals and tourists, young generation and older people, experts and common people girls and boys, women and men.

**HISTORY** represents the delicate relationship between public/institutional memory and individual memory. Through HISTORY, ARCHETHICS analyses uncomfortable memories, stigma, fake news and silent facts hidden in dissonant heritage.

**ETHICS** means the recognition of common positive values that the local community intends to address to dissonant heritage. The critical interpretation and the recognising of the dissonance within the cultural heritage can drive towards a common positive background. ETHICS is the principle for enhancing dissonant heritage as a "common good" that composes the complexity of democratic society.

# 3 - FIRST CORE NETWORK MEETING IN CESENA

**On 30 November and 1 December 2023,**  
Partner cities of ARCHETHICS met in  
Cesena.

The delegations worked together to:

- share the Baseline Study and the Network Roadmap;
- provide Good practices and Inspirations for focusing on on dissonant heritage;
- Visit to the dissonant heritage of Cesena;
- explore each city's dissonant heritage;
- exchange and learn on shared challenges, transversal themes to address together.

The meeting was graphical recorded to make an instant storytelling.





# Inspiration & collaboration

The meeting started with an "Inspirational Session", where experts from the **ATRIUM** Network shared lesson learnt from other case studies cities worked on Dissonant Heritage. There were shared examples from the **Liverpool docks** that nowadays hosts a slavery museum to the case study of **Forlì** in Italy that has made a step forward from the stigma to be a fascist city of the Italian dictator Mussolini to a learning city that fosters educational workshops on democracy starting from dissonant heritage.

## 1° NETWORK MEETING

**DIMITROVGRAD**  
- BULGARIA -  
- REGIME  
- INDUSTRIALISATION } CAPITULIST PAST

**BARCELONA**  
"LA MODELO" PRISON  
- FRANCHIST, IN THE MIDDLE OF THE CITY

"CARBONSCAPES" "OIL LANDSCAPES"  
NARRATIVE OF FOSSIL-FIELD EUROPE

**ATRIUM**  
CULTURAL ROUTE LINKING CITIES WITH DISSONANT HERITAGE

## DISSONANT HERITAGE

- HERITAGE THAT IS NOT CELEBRATED
- UNTOUCHED / UNDERDEVELOPED
- VALORISING A PLURALITY OF NARRATIVES → "HERITAGE COMMUNITIES"

**LIVERPOOL DOCKS**  
NOW HOSTING SLAVERY MUSEUM

**STEEL**  
- ROMANIA -  
BUILT BY SOVIET REGIME  
AS URANIUM RESERVE

**FORLÌ - ITALY**  
"CITTA' DEL DUCE"  
CITY OF THE FASCIST DUX

THE OATH WAS NOT CANCELED NOR RESTORED:  
SHOW THE LAYERS OF HISTORY

Graphic harvesting of the introductory session on Dissonant Heritage concept

## SPAZI INDECISI: EXPERIENCE OF ABANDONED PLACES RE-ACTIVATION

### REACTIVATION PROCESS

- 1 MAPPING STAKEHOLDERS  
→ INTERESTED IN REACTIVATION?  
→ WHO OWNS IT?
- 2 PHYSICAL INSPECTION } BEFORE EVENTS
- 3 WRITTEN AGREEMENT  
WHAT CAN BE DONE & WHAT NOT?
- 4 IS A LONG-TERM REACTIVATION POSSIBLE? } BEFORE LONG-TERM REACTIVATION
- 5 WRITTEN AGREEMENT ABOUT PLACE MANAGEMENT & RESPONSIBILITIES

**TOTALLY LOST**  
ARCHITETTURA AUTOREGOLANTE ABANDONATE CERCHESSE  
LOOKING & ABANDONED TOTALITARIAN ARCHITECTURES

OPEN CALL TO PHOTOGRAPHERS  
500 PHOTOS COLLECTED IN 2013  
2600 PHOTOS 25 COUNTRIES IN 2016

OPEN ONLINE MAPS

EXHIBITIONS IN ABANDONED TOTALITARIAN BUILDING

RAISING MANY QUESTIONS!  
- ARCHEOLOGY? WILL THEY EVER BE FREE FROM IDEOLOGY?  
- CAN THEY HOST NEW DEMOCRATIC CONTENTS?  
- ARE THEY STILL TOTALITARIAN IN DEMOCRATIC SOCIETIES?

**MATEO CAMPORESI**  
SPAZI INDECISI  
URBAN REGENERATION - SOCIAL CULTURAL  
IMAGINING THE FUTURE OF ABANDONED PLACES (PERMANENT) REACTIVATION  
IN LOCO MUSEUM OF ABANDONEMENT

**IN LOCO**  
ARABANDONED PLACES AS ARTWORKS  
DIGITAL (APP) + PHYSICAL (MAPS) DEVICES TO EXPLORE THEM

**EX ATR**  
FASCIST/RATIONALIST BUILDING TODAY IS A CULTURAL CENTER

**SPINADELLO 2017**  
PARTICIPATED VISITORS CENTER  
CULTURE NATURE SLOW TOURISM

ARCHETHICS  
CESENA 30/11/23

Graphic harvesting of the inspirational session provided by the Italian organisation "Spazi indecisi"

The Italian organisation "Spazi Indecisi" shared several experiences of their site specific work: dissonant Architectures are transformed in **temporary laboratories** to involve citizens for reflecting on democratic values and boosting cultural and artistic products.

Laboratory sessions were organised to foster cities' storytelling focused on dissonant heritage.

The “**Postcards from the cities**” workshop allows project to co-create a postcard-poster of their city to be presented to cities partners to share why their heritage is dissonant, who they want to involve to foster regeneration and/or adaptive reuse.



Workshop session for Partners to co-create a Postcard from their city to present the dissonant heritage and the local context



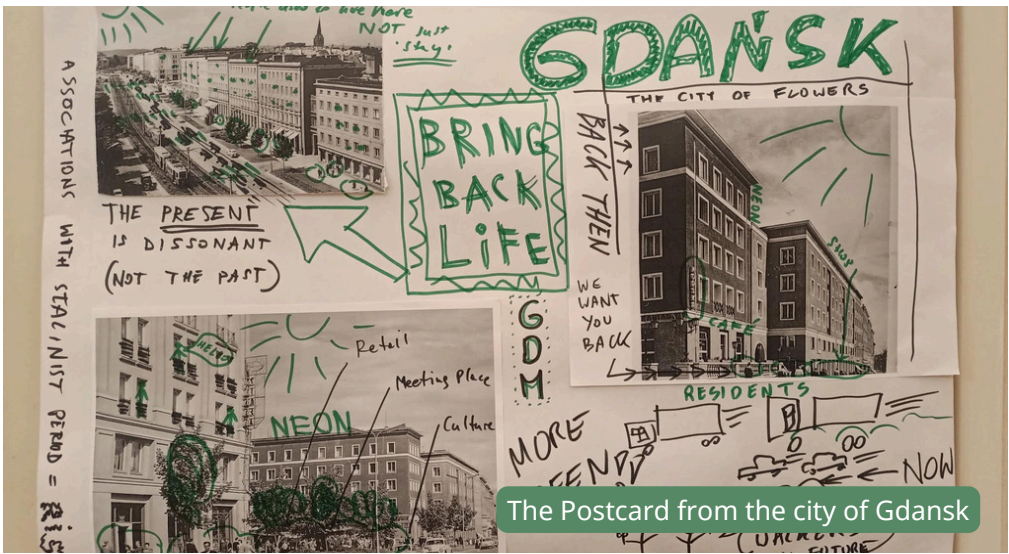
Presentation of “Postcards from the cities”

Each partner presented the postcard in three minutes answering the following questions:

- What is the historical period of your dissonant heritage?
- Which is your local challenge?
- What are your first ideas of testing actions?
- What does it mean “Dissonant” for you?
- A motto/slogan to define the Dissonant Heritage.

All cities postcards were well informed and creative.

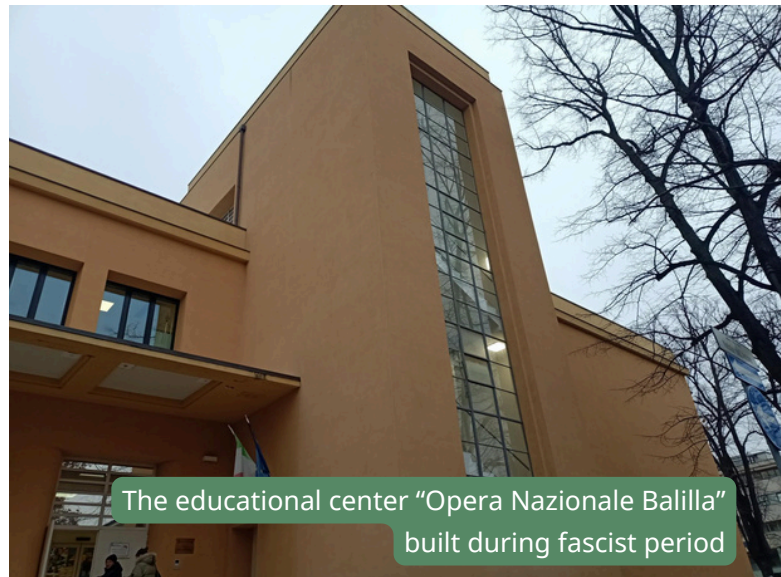
This session was the first interactive sessions for project partners that tested with the Network a “non power point” methodology and it was a huge success!



The Postcard from the city of Gdansk



# Exploring dissonant Heritage in Cesena



ARCHETHICS cities visited the dissonant heritage of Cesena, focusing on the Dissonant Heritage of the fascist regime period (1922-1945) present in the city.

Buildings for **educational purpose** (Home of "Opera Nazionale Balilla", the Home of Mothers and Childhood), **Buildings for work and after work** (the "Arrigoni" food factory, the "FIAT" car dealership, the after work place) and **war infrastructures** (air-raid shelters) will be followed by Cesena through ARCHETHICS to manage and enhance their use for local communities. The University of Bologna guided the study visit of these three heritages that represent different moments of the fascist era, from the propaganda to re-educate young people in fascist value, the exaltation of maternal figure, to the war and Resistance movement.





# Playful approaches for exchange & Learning Dissonant Heritage

A workshop for a **critical interpretation of the mosaics** of the Palmezzano school in Forlì was organised in collaboration with ATRIUM and DEINA organisations. Partner cities were involved in a “treasure hunt” to discover the meaning of the fascist mosaic present in the school and make a critical interpretation of them through “democratic and contemporary eyes”. The session was also the occasion to provide **practical toolkits** to partners for communicating uncomfortable memories and propaganda elements.



The workshop on critical interpretation of the mosaics of the Palmezzano school in Forlì



A detail of the mosaics of the Palmezzano school in Forlì



# 4 - NETWORK METHODOLOGY

The Network Methodology was co-created with Project partners in order to feed their needs and design a roadmap that follows the URBACT Action Planning Cycle. The meeting in Cesena was the occasion to share the draft methodology and confirm the approach and co-create the Network Roadmap.

The main outputs of ARCHETHICS will be the production of **nine integrated Action Plans (one per city partner)** dealing with the city strategy to **manage and enhance the dissonant heritage through the involvement of local communities.**

ARCHETHICS is keen to provide a contribution at European level on dissonant heritage by putting in practice the multi perspective approach of the co-city model for heritages considered complex and uncomfortable. The **four project dimensions (Architecture, People, History and Ethics)** and the **three cross cutting themes (gender-equal policy making, green transition and digital transformation)** have driven the Partnership in co-designing a methodology aimed at activate urban community labs to transform dissonant heritage into places for locals and visitors where sharing knowledge and coming to multi-perspective understandings of the past and new visions for the future.



Partners experimenting the “co-creation” process by making pasta together

# A Roadmap to elaborate Integrated Action Plans focused on Dissonant Heritage

The **Core Network meetings and the Final Event** will follow the **Action Planning Cycle** to deliver inspiration by focusing on the four project dimensions and the cross-cutting-issues matched with the partners learning needs and support project partners in the elaboration of Integrated Action Plans.

In the first project year (2024) the Core Network meetings will aim to accompany project partners in drafting the Integrated Action Plans and boosting the testing activities.

The second project year (2025) will be dedicated to review the Plans and follow-up on the implementation through financing support and up-scaling initiatives.

In the end of the 2025 a final ARCHETHICS event will be organised to share network products and put in the spotlight the work done by partners.

Among others, **2 masterclasses** will be organised in 2024 to follow-up on the connections between **History and Ethics** and **Architecture and People**. The Masterclasses will be in hybrid mode to offer other urban practitioners the opportunity to participate.





# ARCHETHICS



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PEOPLE



ARCHITECTURE



HISTORY



ETHICS