ARCHETHICS

Dissonant European heritage as laboratory of democracy

NEWS FROM THE NETWORK
OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2024

Quarterly network report
Ileana Toscano, Lead expert

The Core Network Meeting in Vila Nova de Cerveira

Testing activities: the experience of Gdansk

1st Bilateral Meeting on digitalisation

Insights from the Mid Term Reflection

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This is the fourth **quarterly report** that describes the progress of **ARCHETHICS** - Dissonant European heritage as labs of democracy, an Action Planning Network funded by the URBACT IV programme.

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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 ne**w perspectives and opportunities to enhance Dissonant Heritage** as an investment attraction and a driver for local touristic and cultural development.

The partners of ARCHETHICS

1 - What happened during this Network quarter?

Mid Term Reflection and Integrated Action Plan drafting

From October to December 2024, ARCHETHICS Network focused on the delivery of the Mid Term Reflection. This process has helped partners in accelerating the drafting of the logical framework of the Integrated Action Plans and realising the first testing activities.

Highlights:
- **Mid Term Reflection** process;
- **Core Network Meeting** on 5th and 6th November 2024 in **Vila Nova de Cerveira** (Portugal);
- First **Bilateral exchange on digital transformation and green transition**;
- Second **online thematic workshop** on digital transformation and green transition on 8th October 2024;
- Third online workshop on the preparation of the **Integrated Action Plan** on 17 December 2024;
- **testing actions**: the positive experience of Gdansk;
- **One to one meetings** for cities partner.

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

Mid Term Reflection November - December 2024

First Bilateral exchange focused on Digital Transformation and green transition

2 - CORE NETWORK MEETING IN VILA NOVA

Core Network meeting in Vila Nova de Cerveira (Portugal)

The cities partner of ARCHETHICS met in Vila Nova de Cerveira **on 5-6 November 2024** to follow up on:

- **Mid Term Reflection** session;
- **Study visit** to Vilanova de Cerveira Castle;
- Workshop on **the role of borders**: migration and coliving between past, present and future!
- Visit to the XXIII International Art **Biennale of Cerveira Biennale;**

- Walking trough the "**Camino de Santiago**";
- **Peer-Review** workshop to provide feedback for Vila Nova de Cerveira about the local situation and dissonant heritage;
- **Digital transformation** and **Green transition** for Dissonant Heritage;
- ULG coordinators Board meeting;
- one to one meeting in person with some partners.

ARCHETHICS people in Vila Nova de Cerveira

The Mid Term Reflection Session

As ARCHETHICS reached the mid-poin of its journey, the **full morning of day-1** of the Core Network meeting in Vila Nova de Cerveira was dedicated to the Mid Term Reflection aimed at analysing project progress and possible improvements. The designed methodology has forecasted to deliver an interactive presentation, group works and brainstorming with the purpose to share the implemented activities, testing actions, URBACT Local groups work, Integrated Action Plans, knowledge and support.

Maria Laura Mitra, URBACT Secretariat

Interactive presentation by Lead expert

The URBACT Secretariat shared the objectives and the importance of the Mid Term Reflection. The Lead Expert presented the "**State of Art**", sharing project activities and progress as well as the results of the online survey, administered to project partners before the meeting. The **survey** invited partners to revisit their Action Planning experience and evaluate the progress to date against their initial expectations.
An **interactive session** based on the survey answers was provided to explore partner views and help network activities going forward.

The whole ARCHETHICS has been evaluated very positive. The Partnership has been working well following the Network Roadmap both at local and international level. The collaboration between the Lead expert and the Lead Partner has been successful as well as the teamwork with all partners.

This positive and trusty experience has been helping the smooth exchange and learning and make the participation at network activities pleasant and productive.

Interactive session: exchange and learning between partnes'

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Insights from the Mid Term Reflection

Highlights

- Knowledge of Dissonant heritage improved by all partners.
- Local Communities engaged on Dissonant Heritage experiences.
- Active members of URBACT Local Group.
- Positive impact of testing actions.
- Involvement of historical/cultural institutions/centres both at local and transnational level to support dissonant heritage knowledge.
- Several cross-dissemination events delivered to disseminate ARCHETHICS and get in contact with other entities.
- Novel projects and local activities started as ARCHETHICS follow-up.
- Constant collaboration with the Urban Agenda for EU - Action 10.
- The ARCHETHICS Academy link to visit the Academy.

Adjustments

- The organisation of a Political Board Meeting for Policy Makers of ARCHETHICS cities with the delivery of a Political Manifesto/Charter for Dissonant Heritage, that will be organised in Krakow on 2 April 2025;
- A capacity building activity on funding strategies (EU funds, crowdfunding, etc) focusing on dissonant heritage;
- Creating an outline of a pilot digital archive of Dissonant Heritage at European level;
- Fostering tailored sessions on gender sensitive approach and green solutions for dissonant heritage and on the four Network dimensions: Ethics, People, Architecture and History,
- Keeping active the URBACT Local Group coordinators board as a safe space for sharing lessons learnt

Infographic summarising the main points of the Mid Term Reflection, designed by Sara Galeotti - La casa del Cuculo

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Exploring dissonant Heritage in Vila Nova de Cerveira

Jorge Martins, ULG MEMBER of Cerveira Municipality, guided Project partners to the study visit of the Dissonant Heritage of Vila Nova de Cerveria: **the "Castelo of D. Dinis - Castelo de Cerveira"**.

The castle is positioned exactly in the city center of Cerveira and the entrance is in the main square of the city.

Historically, it has been the defensive building along the river Minho that separates Portugal with Galicia (Spain).

It was built in the 13th century and enlarged in the 17th century and **represents the disputed border** between the two nations. Until the beginning of the 20th century, the Castle was used by militaries. When military forces left, it lost its centrality and was progressively abandoned and vandalised. For a period (1980 - 2008) it was transformed into a luxury hotel, but again it was abandoned. The propriety of the area is shared between the Central Government and the Municipality.

This heritage positioned in the city centre represents **an important opportunity for Cerveira citizens.** The Municipality of Cerveira is willing to boost a process of urban regeneration through the delivery of the Integrated Action Plan developed in the ARCHETHICS framework.

Jorge Martinis presents the herigate

A view of the former luxury hotel

A view of Cerveira from the Castle area

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Academy

Discover Vila Nova de Cerveira and its castle! Watch the video!

Workshop - The role of borders: migration and co-living between Past, Present and Future!

Sandra Gonzalez, **Mayor of Tomiño (Spain)** and **Mónica Alcindor**, **ULG Member of Cerveira,** shared their personal and professional **experience of living in a border area between Portugal and Spain**. Indeed, Vila Nova de Cerveira borders with the city of Tomiño. The two cities developed a common cross-border project called "**Eurocities**". The project, presented by Sandra Gonzalez, Mayor of Tomiño, aimed at facilitating citizens living in the border area by providing crosscutting services, facilities and events. Among others, there are:
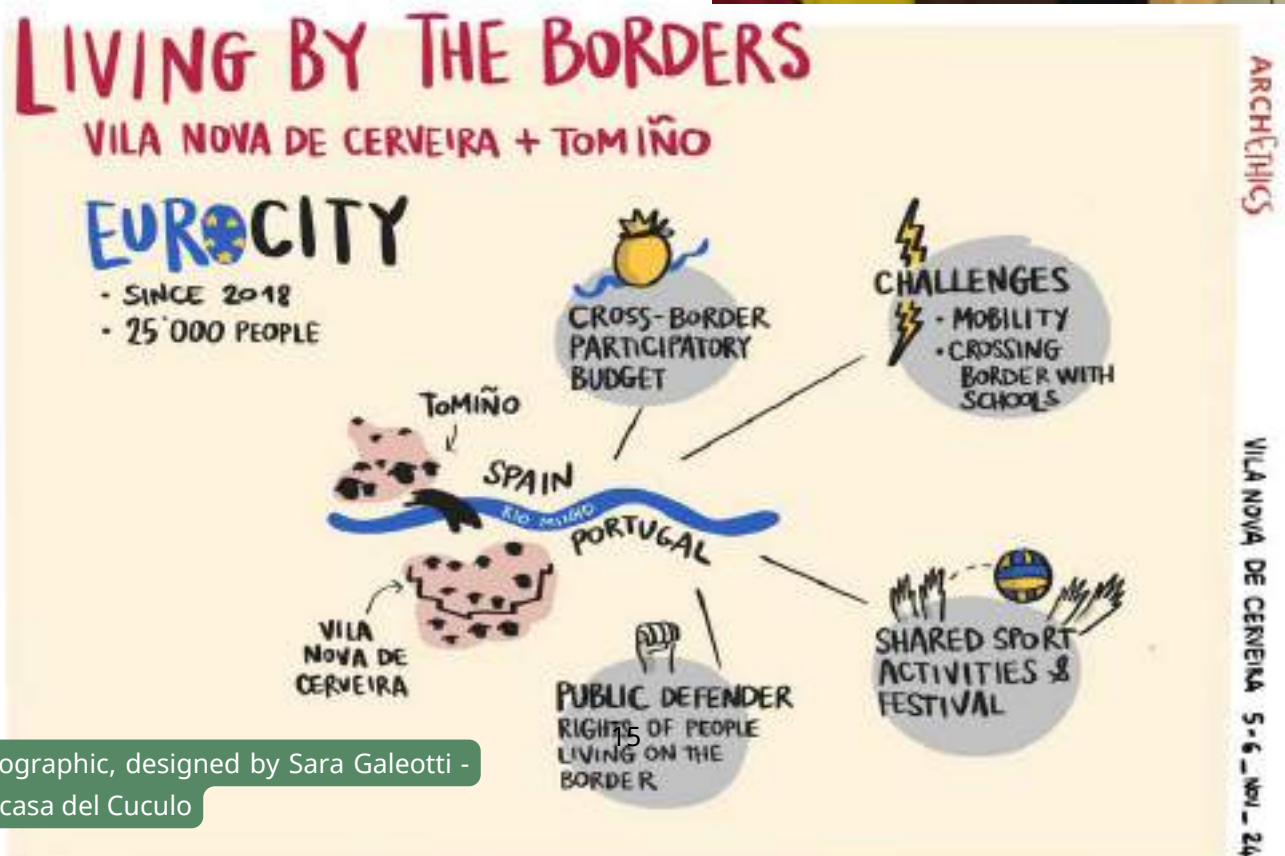
- a **participatory budget for cross-border initiatives**. Forecasted grants are addressed to local organisations that propose collaborative activities between the two cities;
- **Ambassadors initiatives** appointed to promote the cross-border initiatives;
- **Cross-border sport days**;
- **Art exhibitions about borders and migrations** in the Cerveira Bienale Art Centre.

Sandra Gonzalez, Mayor of Tomiño (Spain)

Mónica Alcindor, ULG Member of Cerveira

Infographic, designed by Sara Galeotti - La casa del Cuculo

Walking trough the "Camino de Santiago"

The **Santiago Way (Caminho de Santiago)** passes through the Municipality of Vila Nova de Cerveira.

The old Route to Santiago passes near the Castle of Cerveira. Many pilgrims and tourists every day are used to walk through this way.

This is **an important asset for the city to promote a slow tourism approach** and the connection between heritage sites and and areas: the Castle and the Caminho de Santiago. Partners had the opportunity to experiment this through an early and eneerging walking in the morning of day2.

Experiencing the heritage in Tirana and Permet

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Peer Review for Cerveira and Digital Transformation for Dissonant heritage

Peer Review workshop on "Vila Nova de Cerveira" case study

Partners were engaged in a Peer Review Session about their experience in visiting Cerveira and as "critical friends" in sharing their insights on the Integrated Action Plan draft design by Vila Nova de Cerveira.

André Cester Costa and **Ângela Fernandes** (*Inova+* organisation and ULG coordinators) led the session facilitating group work and discussion. 2 Exercises were organised:

Exercise 1: Based on the experiences in Vila Nova de Cerveira, participants identified positive and negative aspects of the town and the castle.

Exercise 2: A brief overview of the Cerveira's IAP was provided. Participants were asked to select and develop two actions (either from the matrix or newly proposed ideas), discussed them in the group, and engage in a final discussion.

Tips for digital transformation and green transition for dissonant heritage

Marion Cugnet, ad hoc expert, shared key examples of digital approaches for cultural heritage and dissonant heritage.

Following, partners were involved in a group exercise focused on digital initiatives to be promoted in their Integrated Action Plans.

The group work for the peer review

Marion Cugnet sharing insights on digital and green examples for Cultural Heritage projects

Funding and managing an archive digitisation project

Making a case for support and assembling a project team

Designing an archive digitisation project

From planning to delivery and all that's in between

Publishing archive collections online

Supporting the discovery of digitised archive collections through online engagement

Supporting learning and participation with archives

Reflecting on the role of outreach and reaching widened audiences

Digital examples for Cultural Heritage projects

3 - BILATERAL MEETING: DIGITALING DISSONANCE

1st Bilateral exchange on digital transformation for Dissonant Heritage

The cities **Vila Nova de Cerveira**, **Cesena**, **Gdansk**, **Kazanlak** and **Krakow** participated at the bilateral exchange on digital transformation for dissonant heritage.
André Cester Costa, Inova+ organisation, provided an ispirational talk on his experience as civil servant in the Municipality of Aveiro. Aveiro promoted several innovative initiatives linked to digitalisation, arts, science and culture.
A mini hackathon exercise was provided by **Marion Cugnet**, ad hoc expert, to draft novel digital ideas for enhancing dissonant heritage Integrated Actions Plan.

The Context of mini-hackathon: In many European cities in particular small and medium-sized, abandoned sites tied to totalitarian histories often sit in disrepair, abandoned, seen as relics of the past, or forgotten. However, these spaces hold rich, though complicated, histories that today's citizens, and youth in particular, may feel disconnected from. In your city, there is such a site: an abandoned barracks site that was used during the totalitarian regime era and remains unused since then.

Hackathon Challenge: How might we embrace / use digital technology to reimagine and repurpose this abandoned totalitarian heritage site, transforming it into an interactive space where all can connect, learn, and contribute to community-building and cultural understanding?

Mini-hackathon - brainstorming

Mini-hackathon - small group exercise

Mini-hackathon - final discussion

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Highlighting Digital approaches for dissonant heritage

Among others, project partners expressed the wish to create an **outline of a pilot for a digital archive of Dissonant Heritage** to collect memories, storytellings and pictures in a digital archive dedicated to Dissonant Heritage. Moreover, **augmented reality** and **gaming initiatives** should be addressed by cities to involve young people and unexpected stakeholders.

Sara Galeotti, member of "La casa del cuculo" organisation summarised through a graphic harvesting the results emerged from the discussion.

The experience of Gdansk: a test to enhance citizens awareness on Dissonant Heritage

In a week-end of October, the city of Gdansk organised **a Pop-up participatory initiative** to enhance citizens' knowledge of Gdansk Dissonant Heritage, particularly focused on the **Grunwald Residential District**. The target area is a neighbourhood built during the Stalinist period with about 26,000 residents. It consists of a "strip system",with Grunwaldzka Avenue in the centre that was linked to existing municipal and estate roads. The main axis of the Grunwaldzka Residential District was a complex of parks and squares around which the Cultural and Service Centre was designed.

Nowadays, Grunwaldzka Avenue has become a traffic road that divides the neighbourhood in two areas, not fostering walkability and good connections between the two sides. The architectural values of the neighbourhood are not recognised by citizens and residents and the historical typologies are not well respected when the buildings are renovated.

The city of Gdansk through ARCHETHICS is willing to tackle the challenges dealing with: the degradation of the urban public space, the problem of traffic and noise, the short-term rentals, the lack of green space, the spatial barriers for pedestrians, the district depopulation, the protection of the architectural features.

The pop-up installation to boost citizens participation

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Residents and citizens involved in a Pop-up initiative

A pop-up installation has been realised with **t**he aim to:
- involve residents, local organisations and citizens to re-discover the history of the neighbourhood;
- 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 a expert guides to discover neighbourhood stories and points of interest.

The participative meeting point

The architectural walks

The Dissonant Heritage Street exhibition

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Online meeting on digital transformation

The second cross-cutting theme has been followed up through an online meeting and, as said before, a dedicated session during the Core Network Meeting and the Bilateral exchange.

The online thematic meeting focused on **Digital Transformation for Dissonant Heritage** held on **8 October 2025**. It was organised with the collaboration of **Marion Cugnet**, ad hoc expert, and delivered thanks to kind participation of **Levente Polyak**, Eutropian organisation.

Marion Cugnet introduced the topic sharing hints and tips on the role of digital transformation for cultural (and dissonant) heritage.

Levente Polyak as Urban Innovative Actions expert has followed several projects. He presented two case studies where the use digitalisation has been matched with culture and cultural heritage:

- the project **"DARE" in Ravenna (IT)** focuses on Ravenna's former harbour area, the Darsena district, to transform this abandoned, neglected, static area into an attractive and innovative ecosystem.
- **"CUP4Creativity" in Budapest (H)** aims to develop a stronger local ecosystem, a new cultural venue, and a platform to nurture creativity and collaboration in the 11th District of the Hungarian capital.

More information are available on Portico: DARE & CUP4Creativity
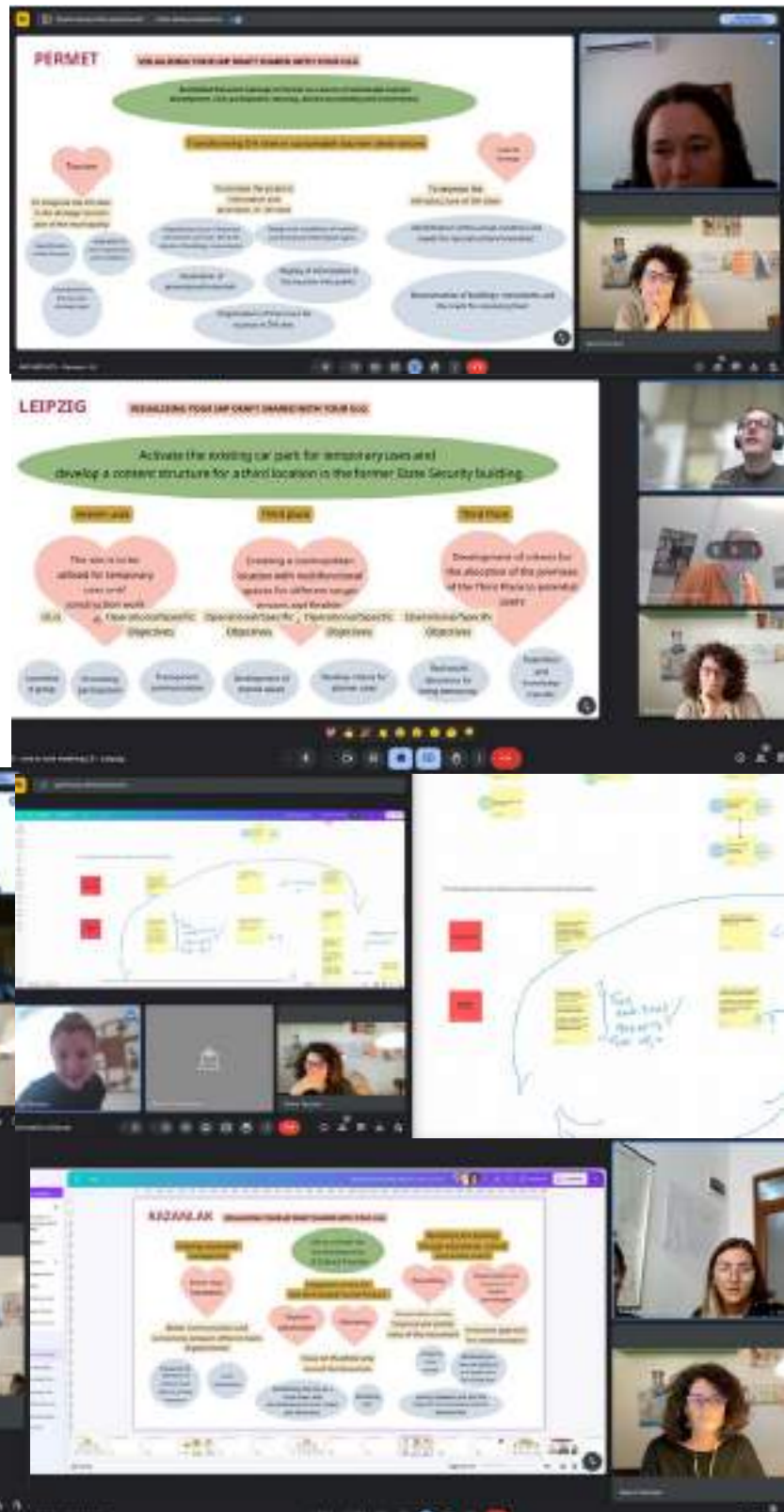

A pic taken from Levente Polyak presentation

Online workshop on the Integrated Action Plans & one to one meetings!

Between **September and November 2024** several **one to one meetings** were organised to collect information on partners progress, testing activities and the integrated action plan production. A unique one page template was delivered to partner to make the logical framework of their Integrated Action Plan (IAP).

On **17 December 2024** the **third** (and last) **online IAP Network workshop** was organised to support partner in detailing actions and getting ready for the Peer Review of their Integrated Action Plans, forecasted for the next core Network meeting in **Krakow on 1-2 April 2025**!

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