

## European Symposium 15th and 16th September 2005

### Heritage Led Regeneration - Delivering Good Practice

# Göteborg Declaration 2005

1. Over 100 delegates gathered on the 15th and 16th September 2005 in Göteborg from a wide range of European countries to participate in the international symposium 'Heritage Led Regeneration – Delivering Good Practice.
2. The Symposium was organized jointly by the City of Göteborg City Planning Authority and the European Association of Historic Towns and Regions as the launch symposium for the INHERIT project – a project funded by the European Union under the INTERREG IIC programme involving the cities of Göteborg, Gdansk, Verona, Newcastle upon Tyne, Belfast and Ubeda.
3. The Symposium brought together decision makers, practitioners, consultants and academics to share their experience of regenerating cities through investing in the city's physical heritage. It focused on : -
  - The significance of heritage for urban regeneration
  - Regional examples of heritage led regeneration
  - Themed workshops exploring: -
    - i. The value of the common heritage
    - ii. Accessibility in the renewal of building environments
    - iii. Whose Heritage? – involving the public in defining Heritage
  - Site visits examining examples of heritage led regeneration in Göteborg

#### Following their debates, participants wish to: -

4. Thank the City of Göteborg & EAHTR for organising the Symposium, the City Council for its welcome and hospitality, and commend the City of Göteborg for its work in investing in heritage, especially the City Planning Authority
5. Celebrate the achievements and central importance of Heritage in defining the identity and character of European cities and in particular to emphasise : -
  - The contribution of heritage to modern day life - '**a city without a past is like a man without a memory**'
  - The importance of **putting people first** and keeping heritage accessible, useful and vital - involving all stake holders particularly local communities
  - The need for a very broad common definition of heritage - revised and re – interpreted over time
  - The need for joined up thinking and understanding i.e. **a holistic approach** at all levels of government and between all stakeholders
  - The development of **clear and realistic** visions and strategies to realise objectives

- **The importance of context** - understanding the value of heritage and its local identity both in terms of buildings and urban space
  - The importance of recognising accessibility in its broadest sense and to **promote thoughtful design** that properly reflects all needs
6. Note with concern that the main challenges now facing historic environments are global commercial pressures leading to the potential loss of the city's soul - creating places without identity and the consequent need to find solutions that reflect local circumstances as a matter of urgency
7. Recognise and promote action on the need for: -
- New tools including exploring the potential of culture in an inclusive way / utilising new technology
  - Fiscal incentives at National government level
  - Long term perspectives to maintain momentum
  - An integrated approach including interdisciplinary work
  - Success factors to be identified, including understanding of what exists, partnerships, changing perceptions, quality design and to learn from mistakes – identifying transferable lessons
  - Social, environmental and economic benefits to be quantified and disseminated
  - A clear demonstration of how heritage contributes to EC priority themes in future INTERREG programmes

### Recommendations

- INHERIT takes forward the main conclusions, needs and actions identified at this symposium in developing its detailed work programme and good practice guide
- All delegates and INHERIT partners should take appropriate measures to try to influence the European Commission on the importance and value of heritage particularly the ability of investment in heritage to lever additional resources from the private, public and voluntary particularly through their national governments
- EAHTR should look at ways to develop future programmes within INTERREG e.g. Regional Framework Agreements as a key mechanism for developing future programmes of work related to heritage led regeneration

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