



HERILAND is a pan-European research and training network on cultural heritage in relation to Spatial Planning and Design. It is funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Sklodowska-Curie grant agreement No 813883.

HERILAND College of Heritage Planning















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A unique, international graduate school, educating students with the highest European training standards



ABOUT HERILAND

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TIMELINESS OF THE PROJECT

The project is rooted in Europe's long history of conserving its rich heritage and landscape assets in town and country. Throughout the 20th century, great progress was made in creating structures and promulgating principles to guide heritage and landscape conservation, but as the 21st century proceeds, society is challenged by new far-reaching changes. These include various forms of migration, greater digital connection, environmental degradation and climate change. Confronted with such a fast-changing context, heritage management needs new ideas, tools and training to ensure that interdisciplinary, research-based heritage, landscape management and spatial planning are positively integrated with business activity, with city and rural development, and with democratic participation in decision making that shapes the future landscape. This is HERILAND's key challenge.

A NEW RESEARCH AND TRAINING STANDARD

Our research design positions heritage in the frame of five transformation processes which we identify as key challenges to the heritage management of the 21st century: The Spatial Turn, Democratisation, Digital Transformations, Shifting Demographies and Contested Identities, and Changing Environments. Using this framework, 15 PhD researchers are provided with advanced training combining theoretical and instrumental knowledge in a series of research seminars, living labs and secondments with our public and private partners. By doing this, HERILAND aims to establish a new pan-European, transnational, interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral research and training standard.

GENERAL AIM

The overriding aim of HERILAND is the empowerment of a new generation of academics, policy makers, practitioners, professionals and entrepreneurs. This new generation must devise and guide transdisciplinary, cross-sectoral and mainstreamed planning and design strategies for regenerating European heritage and landscape, foster social inclusiveness, and create socially, economically and environmentally sustainable future landscapes.





SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- to conceive and operationalise a transferable research design with which to investigate at a multi-national level how heritage should be managed and planned in the context of contemporary spatial and societal transformations and related sustainable development goals;
- to develop a skill set with innovative analytical concepts, methods and tools, implementing and evaluating them in practice;
- to provide researchers and practitioners of spatial heritage planning with an innovative and diverse set of concepts, techniques

and skills for promoting and supporting cocreative approaches;

- to establish a new European PhD-training standard in the transdisciplinary area of heritage and spatial planning,
- to offer 'on the job' training of scientific and complementary professional skills, expose the students to multiple audiences (also in dissemination) and raise students' future job opportunities;
- to guarantee sustainability of the HERILAND College as a European-wide platform for collaborative research and training.



PROJECT DESIGN

HERILAND integrates methods and approaches from many disciplines and sectors relevant to heritage planning into a single design for research and training. We have established 5 work strands, or work packages (WPs), each of which reflects one of the transformational processes, that HERILAND has identified as being central to societal challenges key to future heritage practice. Each WP includes three PhD projects:

THE SPATIAL TURN (WP1. UNEW LEADS)

Spatial thinking has pervaded all sectors of society, from science to business, and also heritage management; heritage is now commonly approached through the lens of landscapes, perceived as spatial and temporal palimpsests of memories and meanings, socially constituted and continuously redefined and co-designed. In the planning of these landscapes for the future, those palimpsests are often considered building blocks and sources of inspiration, with which to guarantee place making, community cohesion and economic exploitation, all vital elements in several UN Development Goals. However, spatially-based concepts, visions and regulations on the relationship between people and their living environment, heritage and space, still differ largely between academic disciplines, sectors or states; to serve a future generation of heritage planners, HERILAND



Birds-eye view of the Westerpark area, Amsterdam, The Netherlands. © Westergasfabriek.

devotes to these issues thorough reflection, from theoretical as well as methodological and operational points of view. Attention is focused on the socio-political, economic and governance dimensions in perceiving and shaping the living environment and the roles attributed to heritage (tangible and intangible), with transnational, cross-cultural comparative research of heritage discourses, ethics, governance and practices.

DEMOCRATISATION (WP2. TUD LEADS)

Although heritage is often perceived as a domain of experts, it is in reality, like landscape, key to the daily lives of all citizens. Increasingly, as in nearly all sectors of society, citizens demand a voice in the definition and management of heritage, and in the development of planning alternatives and design solutions. Here again, heritage planning meets a UN sustainable development goal, that of inclusive and equal social justice. Government agencies, heritage professionals and spatial planners are already beginning to open up to the public, aiming to increase inclusiveness, and heritage tourism and recreation is accessible to larger sections of society than ever. However, there is very little research and much uncertainty about the constraints and potentially negative effects and risks of this openness/inclusiveness. There



Turn are still poorly studied. Digital methods and tools may greatly facilitate communication and information exchange between all stakeholders involved in spatial transformation processes and they may contribute to public participation in decision making, but they can also be manipulated by particular communities and can lead to a greater divide between state and citizens and, eventually, to increased state control. Developing and testing digital applications like perspective mapping, digital biographies, collaborative design work spaces and serious gaming, this WP sets out a training model that enables heritage planners to develop the opportunities of the Connected World in a sustainable way.

Archaeological site of Muro Tenente Mesagne, Italy. © Photo Rolli Muro Tenente.

> Virtual reality as part of the digital transformation. © Image by Freepik.

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is also much debate, but little research, on current concepts, tools and procedures for democratization in the access to and definition, appropriation, management and planning of heritage. HERILAND aims to tackle this. The WP trains ESR's to identify how approaches have evolved, to critically examine them and to test and innovate best practice models, procedures and tools.

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATIONS (WP3. VUA LEADS)

The global success of the digital 'Connected World' is accompanied by all-encompassing societal changes, from new forms of communication, collaboration and information exchange to new business and governance models and control mechanisms. Its impact on access to, perceptions of and meanings and values attributed to heritage, is potentially far reaching. Heritage planning may greatly profit from it, but the potentials and risks of the Digital



SHIFTING DEMOGRAPHIES AND CONTESTED IDENTITIES (WP4. BEZAL LEADS)

People are on the move in almost all parts of the world on a possibly unprecedented scale, whether in refugee crises or through long-term urbanization processes. The social, cultural and economic transformations that go with such migrations are no less far reaching than the spatial ones.

Think of the emergence of urban multicultural melting pots or, on the other hand, of rural depression (and in some places, of postindustrial urban abandonment). The making or preservation of heritage is intimately linked to these transformations, as it is about creating, safeguarding or contesting identities and communities, whether urban or rural. Hence, it has become common practice in spatial planning to use heritage as a tool to reach development goals such as social cohesion and economic sustainability. But how to do this successfully, and how to identify potential risks and dangers, still needs proper investigation. This WP will study best practices and success factors, to develop and test procedures and tools that can challenge European key socialdemographic issues like gentrification, multiculturalism, and population decline and growth.







CHANGING ENVIRONMENTS (WP5. UGOT LEADS)

UNESCO identifies changes to environments, whether due to natural or cultural agents, as one of the major challenges for the future that block the road towards sustainable development. They will also of course affect heritage in every respect. Landscapes will undergo thorough transformations with increasing urbanization and deindustrialization, impacting urban and rural geographies alike, from historic city centres to industrial plants and agricultural and pastoral land use patterns. Climate change, in particular global warming, will have pervasive consequences for traditional water management and energy supply systems, calling for adjustments of sea defences and dikes and for the development of alternative, sustainable energy sources. Adaptation to these changes through spatial planning is vital, but the opportunities for and challenges to heritage design are still poorly investigated. In this WP attention is focused on the role of heritage in climate change adaptation, in particular with regard to water management, urban-rural interactions and the future of post-industrial landscapes.





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