

EUROPEAN  
U R B A N  
INITIATIVE

## EUI FOCUSED POLICY LAB

Leveraging culture for positive urban change

26<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> September 2024, Chalandri, Greece



Co-funded by  
the European Union



## AGENDA

Venue: Petrou G. Zissi Foundation  
Kolokotroni 5, Chalandri 152 33, Greece  
<https://maps.app.goo.gl/wcSmcmelT6dNERof6>

Day 1 – 26 <sup>th</sup> September	
8:30 – 09:30	<b>Welcome coffee and registration</b>
09:30 – 12:30	<b>Site visits in Chalandri, <a href="#">Cultural HIDRANT UIA project</a></b>  Join us for a morning of walking through Chalandri and following the path of the roman Hadrian aqueduct that is the spine of the Cultural HIDRANT project. Through reintroduction of this aqueduct, the ancient infrastructure gains contemporary value returning to serve the city with its original function and becoming the pivotal element in a wider strategy for the conservation and cultivation of local cultural capital.  <u><a href="#">For more details about the site visits, see pages 5-6-7.</a></u>
	<b>Site visit 1: The green and blue revival</b>  <i>A walk along two urban regeneration sites, starting from El Alamein str., walking through the city and ending at Gyftopoulou str.</i>  With: Cultural HIDRANT project manager, representation from EYDAP public water authority, and a representative of the Ephorate of Antiquities  Learn more: <a href="#">Detours, corrections and deviations</a>
	<b>Site visit 2: The Stream and the school; a story of participatory design</b>  <i>Meet and stay in the 6th Gymnasium of Chalandri, where the students designed their schoolyard within the project's work. The visit includes a focus on the transformation along the Remathia stream.</i>  With: A City Councillor from City of Chalandri, a representative from Commonsense, in charge of participatory design workshops  Learn more: <a href="#">Making sense of change together</a>
	<b>Site visit 3: Waterways of time; exploring Chalandri's aqueduct heritage</b>  <i>Starting from Remathia theatre and ending in El Alamein str., with insights from the local history and the relationship of the local communities with the aqueduct.</i>  With: Digital archive creator, a representative from Chalandri's oral history group, and a representative of the Ephorate of Antiquities

	<p>Learn more: <a href="#">A thing we call public history</a></p> <p><b>Site visit 4: Water on wheels</b></p> <p><i>Starting from Eptanisou str. and walking to Kodrou str. Exploring the set up of the Hadrian Community and the development of a new service for water management and distribution.</i></p> <p>With: Cultural HIDRANT project manager, Urban Dig projects, representation from EYDAP public water authority</p> <p>Learn more: <a href="#">A water community in the making</a></p>
<b>12:30 – 14:00</b>	<b>Lunch break</b>
<b>14:00 - 15:00</b>	<p><b>Opening remarks</b></p> <p>With:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Symeon Roussos, Mayor, City of Chalandri</li> <li>• Tim Caulfield, Director, European Urban Initiative</li> </ul>
<b>15:00 -16:00</b>	<p><b>Culture in cities as a communing – A dialogue</b></p> <p>With:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stavros Stavrides, head of the National Technical University of Athens (NTUA) Lab for the Architectural Design and Communication</li> </ul> <p>Moderator: Laura Collini, EUI expert</p> <p>Dr. <b>Stavros Stavrides</b> is an architect, professor and activist in the field of culture and cultural heritage at the School of Architecture, NTUA, Greece. He has published numerous articles on spatial theory and urban struggles, making sense of the use of culture and meaning in cities. His research is currently focused on forms of emancipating spatial practices and urban communing.</p>
<b>16:00 - 16:30</b>	<b>Coffee break</b>
<b>16:30-17:45</b>	<p><b>European culture and cultural perspective for cities; a panel discussion</b></p> <p>With:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Marta Jimenez Pumares, Policy officer, European Commission, Directorate General Education and Culture</li> <li>2. Dora Ivanova, member of the Urban Agenda Partnership on Culture and Cultural Heritage, Kazanlak, BG</li> <li>3. Constantinos Gerolymatos, Councillor, City of Chalandri</li> </ol>
<b>17:45-18:00</b>	<p><b>Connect &amp; collaborate</b></p> <p>Evening networking and next day logistics</p>

20:00 onwards	<b>Cocktail dinner</b> Remathias Theatre Narkisson 2-8, Chalandri 152 33, Greece <a href="https://maps.app.goo.gl/SV8dEYGekiEJAK127">https://maps.app.goo.gl/SV8dEYGekiEJAK127</a>
<b>Day 2 – 27<sup>th</sup> September</b>	
08:30 - 09:15	<b>Welcome coffee and registration</b>
09:15 - 09:30	<b>An insight into Day 1</b>  Key takeaways and preview of Day 2
09:30 - 13:00  <b>With coffee break at 11:00 – 11:30 and changing of groups</b>	<b>Exploring culture and cultural heritage in cities - Workshops</b>  In 4 parallel workshops, we explore the good practices and policies of 12 different EU cities. Participants have the possibility to attend 2 out of 4 workshops, from 9:30 to 13:00, with a coffee break at 11:00.  <u><a href="#">For more details about the topic of each session, see pages 7-8.</a></u>  <b>Workshop 1: Unlocking the potential</b>  <i>The public discourse on the city and its artefacts has a strong impact at local level, with growing space-related mobilisation of local actors. How do we mobilise our cultural heritage and how do we adapt to new uses and needs of the city? Is culture and cultural heritage above taking new use and shapes?</i>  With: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Saveria Teston, <a href="#">DARE project</a>, Ravenna, IT</li> <li>• Patrycja Wojtaszczyk and Natalia Rydlewska, <a href="#">T-Factor project</a>, H2020, Łódź, PL</li> </ul> <b>Workshop 2: Echoes of the past into the future</b>  <i>Culture and cultural heritage are not a static matter, rather something evolving and capable of incorporating new values along time, and putting into perspective previous values, critical and dissonant memories and experiences.</i>  With: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pablo Macías Bou, <a href="#">CAMINA project</a>, Almeria, ES</li> <li>• Dora Ivanova, <a href="#">Exploring the potential of dissonant heritage</a>, UAEU Partnership, Kazanlak, BG</li> <li>• Tanja Jansen-Hassouna and Ismail Osman, <a href="#">ForwArt</a>, Tilburg, NL</li> </ul> <b>Workshop 3: Cultural resilience or the resilience of culture?</b>

	<p><i>In light of the climatic emergencies, cultural and natural heritage of significance are to be seen under a completely new perspective, going beyond the mere act of preserving, maintaining, or protecting, rather in the favour of embracing a more complex and sometimes even conflictual relationship between tangible and intangible dimensions, value and revenue, power, government, and governance.</i></p> <p>With:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Christos Giovanopoulos, <a href="#">Cultural HIDRANT</a>, Chalandri, EL</li> <li>• Anne Marie Frederiksen and Zuzette R.Keldorff, <a href="#">New EU Bauhaus demonstrator</a>, Aarhus, DK</li> <li>• Torben Klitgaard, <a href="#">NEB Desire</a>, Horizon 2020</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Workshop 4: Leading the change</b></p> <p><i>Public authorities can play a key role in stimulating culture and cultural heritage related initiatives as collaborative, generative and collective experiences. Fostering positive social transformation, producing efforts to shift the aspirations of the inhabitants, building from strength and working to generate new skills, capacities, and ambitions.</i></p> <p>With:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oana Buzatu, Cluj-Napoca, RO</li> <li>• Giovanni Ferrero, <a href="#">Co-City</a>, Torino, IT</li> <li>• Mate Abraham, <a href="#">CUP4Creativity</a>, Újbuda, HU</li> </ul>
<p><b>13.00-14.00</b></p>	<p><b>Lunch break</b></p>
<p><b>14.15 – 14:45</b></p>	<p><b>What did you learn and how to put it in action?</b></p> <p>Main inspirations</p>
<p><b>14:45 – 15:15</b></p>	<p><b>Placing culture at the centre of EU policies - Bringing it all together</b></p> <p>With:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pia Laurila, Policy officer, European Commission, Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy</li> </ul>
<p><b>15:15 – 15:50</b></p>	<p><b>Take – Missing – Add</b></p> <p>An exercise and key takeaways</p>
<p><b>15.50 -16.30</b></p>	<p><b>Future opportunities: Meet your peer and continue the learning journey</b> <b>Closing remarks</b></p> <p>EUI Capacity Building – City to City Exchanges</p>

## What to expect during the site visits?

Cultural H.ID.RA.N.T. project in Chalandri foresees to reintroduce the ancient roman aqueduct into the city life. The ancient infrastructure will regain contemporary value returning to serve the city with not only its original function, but also becoming the pivotal element in a wider strategy for the conservation and cultivation of local cultural capital. It also aims to establish stronger bonds in the community at large, regenerate public spaces, and implement a new cooperative water service.

### Site visit 1.

#### **The green and blue revival**

*A walk along two regenerated areas, starting from El Alamein str., walking through the city and ending at Gyftopoulou str.*

This site visit is dedicated to two out of the four regenerated areas (El Alamein str., Gyftopoulou str.) and focuses on the solutions for public spaces: the visible components of the Hadrian aqueduct (tank and wells) as historical monuments are put in relationship with the invisible underground route of the Hadrian aqueduct through architectural and landscape elements. The integration of pumping stations and infrastructures for the exploitation of the water resource in the design for new public spaces intertwines with an increased greenery and the existing offer of outdoor spaces. This all contributes to addressing the consequences of greenhouse effect by introducing mitigating elements. New and creative lighting has also been foreseen by the city that marks the passing of the ancient aqueduct, characterising the new public spaces.

To know more: [Detours, corrections, deviations | Portico \(urban-initiative.eu\)](#)

### Site visit 2.

#### **The Stream and the school; a story of participatory design**

*Meet and stay in the 6th Gymnasium of Chalandri, where the students designed their schoolyard within the project's work. The visit includes a focus on the transformation along the Remathia stream.*

To shape and strengthen the local identities, Cultural H.ID.RA.N.T. worked on memories, sense of ownership and intangible heritage. This meant letting hidden but rooted collective knowledge emerge and combine them with the values guiding the project - both in its physical expressions and in its deepest meanings. Diverse and tailored languages to all groups of the local community were put in place, with the intention to establish a much stronger relationship with water, and to make water a common ground for the implementation of local actions. A good example of this is the interaction with secondary schools students: starting as a conversation both on the meanings of the aqueduct for the city and on the local specific implications of the project, it evolved into a concrete discussion on the transformation of the schools surrounding areas, and finally into the implementation of new collective spaces.

To know more: [Making sense of change, together | Portico \(urban-initiative.eu\)](#)

### Site visit 3.

#### **Waterways of time; exploring Chalandri's aqueduct heritage**

*Starting from Remathia theatre and ending in El Alamein str., with insights from the local history and the relationship of the local communities with the aqueduct.*

What does Chalandri remember of the ancient roman aqueduct? The establishment of a digital archive combining institutional and everyday knowledge, collecting and organising the raw material into an open access platform has been undertaken since Cultural H.ID.RA.N.T. project early stages. This process went beyond content collection and production, working as a significant and useful opportunity to activate the local network of stakeholders (i.e. the Oral history group, the Association for environmental and river protection of Pentelis-Chalandri, etc.): Initially imagined as a tool focused on the aqueduct, along its development the archive helped setting up a broader

vision for a more profound connection with local history, collective memories and experiences. Through the establishment of a new connection with water, the local archive became a tool in the hands of the local communities to continue exploring its connection with the past and to frame its relationship with the future.

To know more: [A thing we call public history | Portico \(urban-initiative.eu\)](#)

#### **Site visit 4.**

##### **Water on wheels**

*Starting from Eptanisou str. and walking to Kodrou str. Exploring the set up of the Hadrian Community and the development of a new service for water management and distribution.*

The recovery of the Hadrian Aqueduct stimulates an important conversation about water as commons, something that belongs to everybody and therefore, needs to be preserved, protected and wisely managed. The introduction of a new source into the water supply system of the city is a crucial means to foster a new awareness and collective responsibility on resource management. The Municipality's task to establish a "water community", shows a multilevel approach combining the engagement and empowerment of different actors, the establishment of a new shared water culture, the identification of the most suitable legal and administrative frameworks, the definition of a governance structure and the negotiation about roles and duties for institutions and public bodies, in order to let citizens access this new resource and participate its management.

To know more: [A water community in the making | Portico \(urban-initiative.eu\)](#)

## **What to expect during workshops?**

### **01 Unlocking the potential**

Vacancy, adaptive reuse, temporary uses, cultural hubs

The public discourse on the city and its artefacts has a strong impact at local level, with growing space-related mobilisation of local actors. The call for new mechanisms for space production, new cooperative development models, new regulations, and new ways to manage city assets are not only complex, but also are interconnected with many other aspects of urban governance. Such processes have implications on the processes of economic and financial crisis, the consequences of globalisation, the spending reviews for public authorities, the weakening of the welfare state, the privatisation of public services or the growing imbalances and inequalities emerging in our cities. Culture and Cultural heritage, and their multifaceted combination of tangible and intangible components, is key in this sense: a perspective for the definition (and re-definition) of the strategic and development horizons of urban systems, it helps produce new economic models, fostering more cooperative and solidary approaches to communities and spaces in the city.

### **02 Echoes of the past into the future**

Dissonant heritage, decolonisation of culture & cultural heritage, informal knowledge, democracy

Culture and cultural heritage are not a static matter, rather, something evolving and capable of incorporating new values along time, and putting into perspective previous, critical and dissonant memories and experiences. A driving force for the regeneration of territories and communities, culture and cultural heritage can help favour the strengthening of a sense of place and belonging, helping communities explore and discover their roots and history, supporting the empowerment of people and a more equal and democratic inclusion of minorities into local development processes. The social dimensions of tangible and intangible culture and creative sectors makes culture a bond

between people sharing the same territory, as a way of strengthening the cultural capital of groups and individuals, contributing to lifelong learning, bringing it outside of the more traditional education institutions, unfolding new skills, capacities and personal development opportunities for people.

### **03 Cultural resilience or the resilience of culture?**

Climate change adaptation, sustainability, solidarity

In light of the climatic emergencies, cultural and natural heritage of significance are to be seen under a completely new perspective, going beyond the mere act of preserving, maintaining, or protecting, rather in the favour of embracing a more complex and sometimes even conflictual relationship between tangible and intangible dimensions, value and revenue, power, government, and governance. Culture and cultural heritage can help to achieve a more just transition; stressing a more proactive approach to sustainable development and mainstreaming the actions we can put in place to react to the climate crisis is a cultural process, and in order to be realized, it needs to be deeply rooted in our societies and its values. To do so, establishing a larger conversation on wise management of water, energy and natural resources is key, and couldn't happen without civic engagement, participatory management of resources and the unfolding of new open and democratic development models.

### **04 Leading the change**

Processes, regulations, procurement

Public authorities can play a key role in stimulating culture and cultural heritage related initiatives as collaborative, generative and collective experiences. Fostering positive social transformation, producing efforts to shift the aspirations of the inhabitants, building from strength and working to generate new skills, capacities, ambitions and leaderships, pushes public authorities to imagine, design and implement new policies and actions, capable of incorporating these emerging new values into new practices. If the tools, the methods, the approaches, the languages and messages put in place to ensure wide and diverse engagement are key, different and more agile administrative, legal and operational frameworks are often needed to integrate new components into the urban process. Institutionalisation of more informal frameworks, and de-structuring of more formalised approaches tend to have key impact on the innovation capacities of local ecosystems, generating learning, mutual knowledge, and finally new institutions, new actors, new interfaces, and new public functions.