

Part Her

THE EUROPEAN CULTURAL HERITAGE FROM THE CITIZENS' PERSPECTIVE

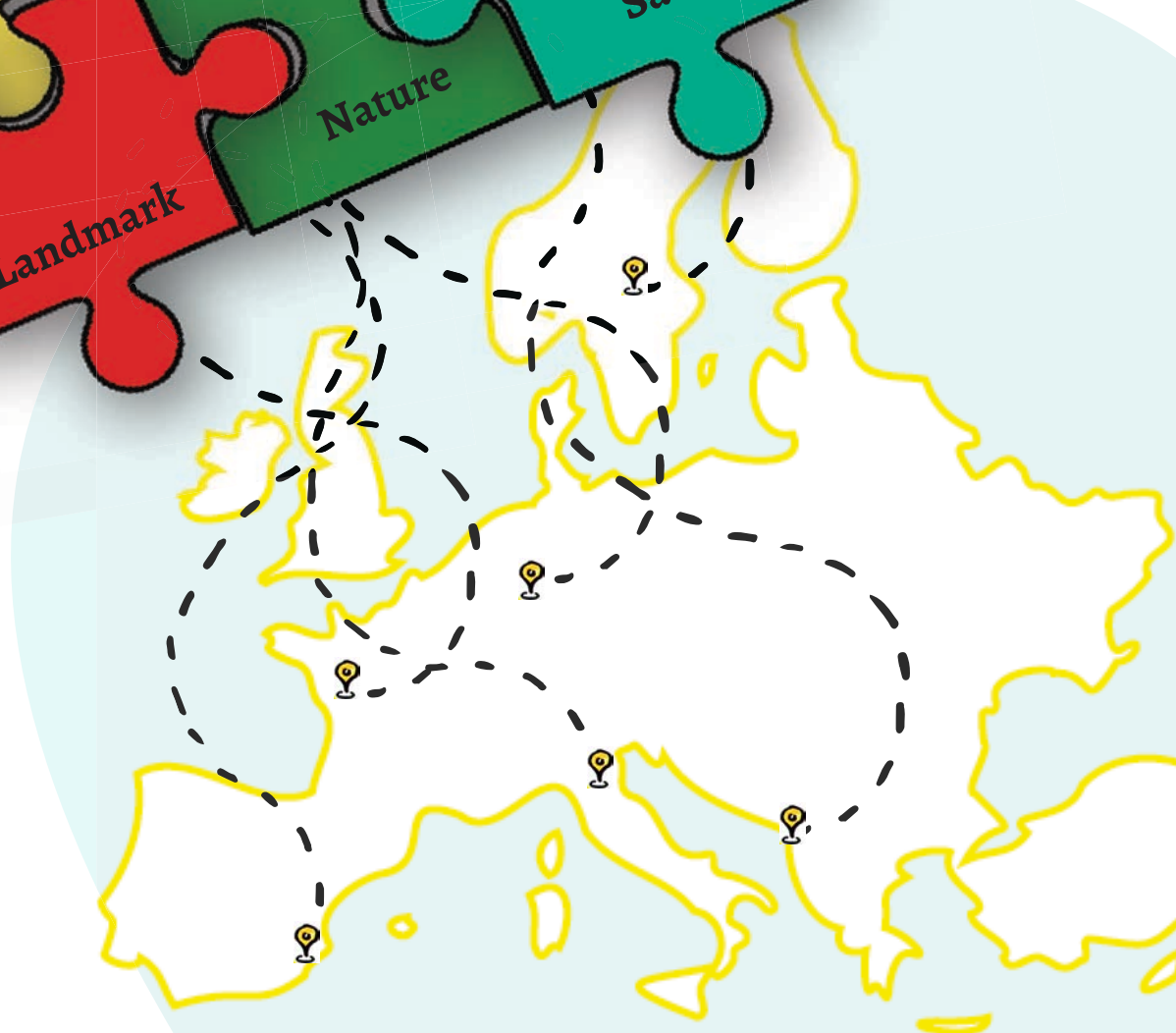


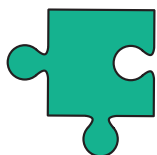
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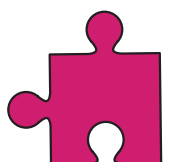
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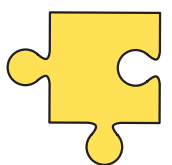
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Introduction

From the very beginning, the interest and importance of the project were immediately apparent, as it constituted an attempt to directly implement the principles set out in the Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (hereafter Faro Convention). Indeed, the project raised issues concerning the identification of the best methods and good practices that would allow an active involvement of European citizens in the construction and development of cultural heritage. Six European cities – Dénia (Spain), Kassel (Deutschland), Konavle (Croatia), Linköping (Sweden), Parma (Italy) and Tours (France) – have joined forces to create a European network for a participatory valorisation of cultural heritage (Part-Her).

Cultural heritage stems from those intimate, sometimes ordinary elements that are rooted around places and events that have and are still shaping a given community through a constant and open dialogue between that community's past, present and future. So, we asked every citizen of each partner city to indicate those elements they consider part of that cultural heritage coming from the past, interacting with the present and, eventually, to be handed down to future generations. Therefore, this process of selection and identification was not conducted from above, by politicians, local administrators or museum experts, but we encouraged people to look inside their most intimate and daily sphere, inside the history of their families and communities, to bring to light what it is important and significant for them and their society as a whole and really worthy of being transmitted in our cities, towns and villages.

PartHer was funded by the European Union under the “Europe for Citizens” programme. Ten events, plus one extra local event, were organized as part of the project from March 2019 to December 2021, as its conclusion was postponed by a year due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The online platform www.parther.eu is a concrete tool available for all partner cities to allow their citizens to present and describe those traditions (written and oral), skills, places and other assets expressing their sense of belonging. A tool that will help to preserve those heritage items and pass them on to future generations – which, in turn, will have a chance to receive and interact with that heritage. By filling in a simple form on our digital platform, every citizen has the unique opportunity to lay down everything that it is considered culturally important and peculiar to a specific community, both material (from building to everyday objects) and immaterial (legends, traditional songs, oral expressions, rites and rituals). The importance of each proposal (also, contribution) is not determined by the “official” historic or artistic value of the item but rather by the relationship binding the community to that item. At the same time, as all submitted proposals are made freely available on the same platform (following appropriacy checks), the project participates to a wider, democratic and shared process, namely the creation and fostering of “Heritage Communities”, through which citizens can themselves partake in the preservation of a common good.

In a world where individuals are increasingly alone and self-centred and peer relationships are more and more difficult and fragmentary, the feeling of belonging to a heritage community can encourage people to experience socialization in a new, positive way, aimed at expressing their collective values while respecting the values of others, overcoming the concept of “identity” in favour of shared processes of comparison and dialogue among people living in the same territory.

Participants and data collection

Dénia

The city of Dénia is located at the easternmost tip of the Iberian Peninsula, between two nature reserves: the Montgó Mountain Natural Park/San Antonio Cape Marine Reserve and the Pego-Oliva Marsh Nature Reserve. Dénia is part of the Valencian Community and is the capital of the Marina Alta region. The city keeps on preserving the legacy of the people and cultures that have lived here for over 2,000 years of history, maintains its language – Valenciano – alive and has undergone development at the feet of a castle that is its hallmark. Dénia and its region, comprised of 33 municipalities, bring together within its 759 km² a total of 185,567 inhabitants, of which 42,016 are concentrated in the region's capital. The port has ample room for traditional fishing, an automated fish market auction and a fresh fish market. Intense commercial activities of carriage of goods and passengers with the Balearic Islands also operate here and it is the destination of hundreds of recreational craft and sports boats, which find high-quality facilities and services here. The gastronomy industry and food production are currently the city's main source of wealth and economic activity. Thousands of visitors come to Dénia all year round seeking the quality of its primary products, excellence of its cuisine and the know-how of its restaurants.

People involved

The project was led by a committee of four members designated after an initial meeting which saw the participation of various departments of Dénia Municipality (Tourism, Environment, Town Planning, Heritage, Archaeology), the University of Alicante and local associations (e.g. Hospitality Association).

Dissemination of the project:

An initial press release was followed by promotion on social media, local newspapers, Municipality website and networking with local people involved in cultural heritage. The project's local event was also an opportunity to further develop public participation.

Landkreis Kassel

The Landkreis Kassel is known for its beautiful low mountain landscape with its romantic and historically interesting villages and cities. It is situated in the centre of Germany, in Northern Hesse, with a total area of 1,293 km² and approximately 240,000 inhabitants in 29 communities. Northern Hesse is an ancient cultural landscape between the rivers Diemel, Fulda and Weser, with two natural parks and huge forests. Half-timbered architecture, pilgrimage paths, abbey churches and cities dating back to the Middle Ages are also the background of the fairy tales by the Brothers Grimm. Rich cultural heritage and modern technology shape our region. Highly innovative technology companies and pioneering projects in the fields of sustainability, transport, mechanical engineering and automotive are settled in the Landkreis Kassel. It is a region ideal for living, working, travelling, vacation, hiking, cycling and cultural highlights.

People involved

Team of six people belonging to different institutions (Landkreis Kassel, local museums and associations) who managed the project on a voluntary basis.

Dissemination of the project:

Several meetings with local people were organized, while each member of the team used his/her own institutional networks to publicize the project and create further occasions to win citizens to participate. The team also looked for non-institutional "multipliers" in the culture and education communities. Personal, repeated contacts with citizens were fundamental, as the team was able to provide explanations and answer questions and doubts about the platform and the project as a whole. Newspaper articles and e-mails were less successful.



Konavle

Konavle is Croatia's southernmost region, located to the far south-east of the city of Dubrovnik and covering an area of 209 km² with 9,500 inhabitants. This historically and culturally rich rural region has 33 picturesque villages and hamlets, many of which have retained the traditional stone architecture from ancient times and Dubrovnik Republic. Konavle's long history surfaces even in its name, as "Konavle" derives from the Latin word "canale, canalis", referring to the viaduct which, in Roman times, carried water to ancient Epidaurum (today's Cavtat). Cavtat is a charming coastal town and region's administrative center, birthplace of the famous painter Vlaho Bukovac and voted as one of Europe's best destinations in 2019. Though small in size and population, the Konavle region is distinguished by its fascinating contrasting landscape as the long, fertile plain of Konavle stretches between the rocky coast of the Adriatic Sea and the mountainous hinterland. Konavle's rich heritage and stunning nature offer diverse experiences for everyone, from visiting historical sites like the ancient cliffside fortress Sokol Grad to participating in folklore manifestations in Čilipi, from taking wine and gastro tours through local taverns and etno villages to trekking above the breath-taking cliffs and swimming at the renowned Pasjača beach or, at the least, strolling through many seaside promenades.

People involved

The Konavle team involved staff from the Municipality, local museums and galleries. The team also relied on teachers to disseminate the project in local schools.

Dissemination of the project:

The project was advertised online via the Municipality's website and social media, on citizens' groups and local media portals, but most contributions were collected at or after "live" events, workshops and presentations dedicated to specific targets (local associations, young people, senior citizens, civil servants).

Linköping

The Municipality of Linköping is situated in the south-east of Sweden and it is the fifth largest city in the country. Linköping has 160,000 inhabitants, a university, high-tech industries, university hospital and is the capital of the region. The Culture and Sports Department includes many cultural and sport venues and meeting places as well as public museums. Gamla Linköping open-air museum is a municipal museum and one of Linköping's most popular attractions. Visitors can travel in time and experience life in a small town a hundred years ago. The museum includes a lot of knowledge and examples of domestic tangible cultural heritage from Linköping and the region of Östergötland.

People involved

The main partners of the project were the Department of Culture and Sports, Gamla Linköping Open-Air Museum, the Department of Public Art and Linköping Photo Archive. The Department of Urban Development was also involved in the project.

Dissemination of the project:

Strategies to involve stakeholders (actors within the cultural heritage sector, local museums, historians, archaeologists, politicians, NGOs and the local community) included communication (via social media, the Gamla Linköping website and the Municipality website) and actions to reach out to citizens through libraries, the university and local points of interest. On those occasions when they met with participants in person, the Linköping team had a chance to answer questions and doubts and, more importantly, to explain what cultural heritage is. Indeed, many citizens' first reaction was to identify cultural heritage almost exclusively as buildings or places. It was only with a more detailed explanation that people broadened their views and began to consider intangible items or the personal value of cultural heritage. Conversely, in cases where the contributions were received via social media or through other digital advertising strategies, the answers were less in-depth and often did not include personal comments.

Parma

Situated in the Po Valley halfway between Milan and Bologna, Parma has 196,518 inhabitants and is the main city of the homonymous Province. The town is crossed by the Via Emilia, an ancient Roman road upon which Parma itself was founded in 183 BC. Parma is the hearth of the Italian Food Valley, boasting gastronomic delights such as Parmigiano Reggiano and Prosciutto di Parma, as well as producer organizations, restaurants, renowned and award-winning chefs, academies of Italian cuisine, food museums, agri-food industries, cultural and educational projects, international, national and local food fairs and exhibitions. Two of Italy's most famous musicians, composer Giuseppe Verdi and conductor Arturo Toscanini, were born in Parma, where their legacy still flourishes in concert halls and opera festivals. Parma's cultural highlights also include masterpieces of Medieval, Renaissance and Baroque architecture, such as the Cathedral and Baptistery and the Teatro Farnese, and frescoes and paintings by world-famous artists like Correggio, Parmigianino e Leonardo da Vinci. Parma was Italian Capital of Culture for the years 2020 and 2021.

People involved

The Parma team consisted of a coordinator from the Municipality's Department of Culture and three external experts working in the field of cultural heritage. Several other people were involved at specific stages of the project.

Dissemination of the project:

The dissemination process started with 4 official presentations of the project in Parma's City Hall, followed by 37 local meetings held in 31 of the 44 municipalities of the Province of Parma. The main stakeholders invited to these meetings were administrators from the Province municipalities, cultural institutions such as museums and libraries, local associations and citizens involved in cultural heritage. Stakeholders were encouraged to take action and become the means through which the project could be presented and advertised among the local population. In the second phase of the project (2020-2021), a new round of local meetings was held (c. 20, some of which online due to the Covid-19 pandemic) and regular updates were sent to the project's mailing list (including e-mail addresses collected at the local meetings and through the platform). In accordance with the main stakeholders, local "collection hubs" (e.g. libraries, city halls, special events) were also identified in order to promote and facilitate participation. The Parma team decided not to advertise the project through social media and local newspapers, since personal mediation was considered the best way to help citizens understand the scope of the project and the functioning of the platform.

Tours

Tours is the main city within the perimeter of the World Heritage site of the Loire Valley. It boasts an outstanding architectural heritage (a reminder of its past as the capital of the kingdom of France in the 15th and 16th centuries), a vibrant culture as well as a remarkable natural heritage, both inside and on the outskirts of the city. The protection and promotion of the city's outstanding features has become a field of excellence and brings together many public entities as well as private stakeholders, grassroots initiatives and citizens. The city was granted the national "City of Art and History" label in 1988 and has been distinguished in 2013 as one of France's four "Cities of Gastronomy". Tours was the initiator of the effort that led to the "gastronomic meal of the French" being recognized on UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage list in 2010. Tours is an active member of several international and European networks and has an extensive number of international partners, among which it advocates for good practices in the promotion of cultural heritage and the development of participatory processes.

People involved

The Municipality of Tours set up a multifaceted project team aimed at bringing together experts from different departments, including International Affairs (which coordinated the work), Heritage, Culture, Education, Youth and Local Councils, Social and Senior Citizens. External experts were also involved when necessary.

People involved

The dissemination process in Tours started from the assumption that not all publics can be approached in the same way. Therefore, the Tours team decided to adopt public-oriented actions by identifying significant focus groups and relevant structures through which they could reach out to each of them and by adapting mediation to the audience. In particular, children aged 3 to 13 were approached through youth leisure centres (8 of which were active throughout the project by organizing age-appropriate workshops and activities), teenagers aged 13 to 15 were involved through the Youth City Council (see below for details), while Local City Councils and associations were called upon to mobilise adult citizens. Senior residences remained particularly active until the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, when on-site mediation was forbidden. Lastly, less privileged citizens were approached through social centres. To reach a larger audience, the Tours team also developed a multifold communication strategy which included presentations and "contribution spots" at relevant public events (e.g. Saint Martin's Day and European Heritage Days), social media campaigns (which, however, did not bring about considerable results) and dissemination through professional networks (e.g. presentation of the project in seminars).

Final results

	Total n. of proposals	Total n. of participants	Proposals per participants (average)
<i>Nénia</i>	70	66	1.06
<i>LK Kassel</i>	105	35	3
<i>Konarle</i>	88	59	1.5
<i>Linköping</i>	166	150	1.1
<i>Parma</i>	201 ¹	42	4.8
<i>Tours</i>	243 ²	227	1.07
TOTAL	873	579	1.5

	<i>Nénia</i>	<i>LK Kassel</i>	<i>Konarle</i>	<i>Linköping</i>	<i>Parma</i>	<i>Tours</i>	TOTAL
Tangible heritage	32	16	32	141	63	114	398
Intangible heritage	38	47	40	18	89	36	268
Both/combined	-	42	16	7	48	77	190

¹ One proposal was rejected as inappropriate and therefore it does not appear on the project's website.

² Sixteen proposals were rejected as inappropriate and therefore do not appear on the project's website.

Category ³	<i>Dénia</i>	<i>LK Kassel</i>	<i>Konavle</i>	<i>Linköping</i>	<i>Parma</i>	<i>Tours</i>	TOTAL
People	10	36	3	3	20	4	76
Nature/landscape	24	9	6	13	16	41	109
Toys	1	-	2	-	4	1	8
Trade/commerce	11	-	1	1	7	2	22
Games	-	-	2	2	10	-	14
Food	16	3	6	5	21	17	68
Tale	9	5	7	-	32	4	57
Popular belief ⁴	-	-	-	-	13	-	13
Words	10	2	4	4	16	1	37
Work of art	10	-	5	7	9	10	41
Building	33	20	27	41	32	67	220
Celebration/festival	9	3	17	2	12	7	50
Work/handcraft	7	12	10	3	26	5	63
Religion	2	3	7	3	26	19	60
Music/dance etc.	8	5	4	4	4	19	44
Symbol	-	-	4	-	4	5	13
Place	15	- ⁵	6	70	39	20	150
Other	5	5	6	8	14	7	45
Non-categorized	2	-	4	-	-	1	7
Evident wrong categorization	-	-	1	4	-	-	5

³ Please note that it was possible for participants to tag their contributions in more than one category.

⁴ In the Spanish, Croatian, French and Swedish inventories, “tales” and “popular beliefs” were included in the same category.

⁵ In the German inventory, there was no specific category for places, but a macro-category (“Plätze, Wege, Gebäude, Erinnerungsorte und Denkmäler” [piazzas, paths, buildings, places of memory and monuments]) including both buildings and places.

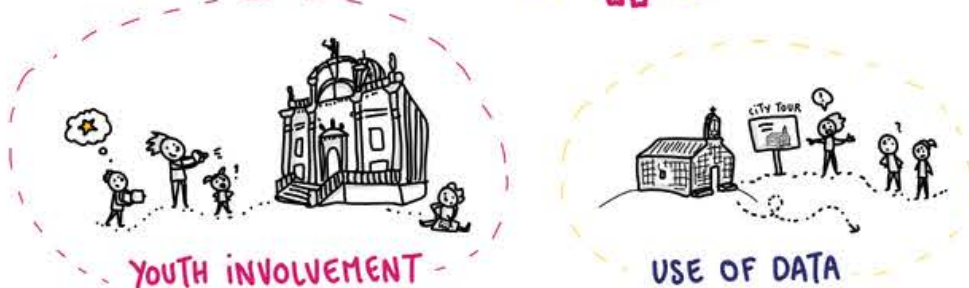
Analysis

In line with the scope of the project, namely to “promote reflection and debate about a common European view of cultural heritage stemming from citizens’ perspective”, as well as to develop an “increased sense of common belonging to the EU through cultural heritage”, the data drawn from the six national inventories – and in particular from participants’ personal statements and descriptions in the proposals – have been carefully analysed by each partner. Then, during the mid-evaluation meeting in June 2021, the results of the analyses were compared and three main common elements (Sacred, Landmarks and Nature/Landscape) were identified. These elements noticeably emerge in all six inventories and appear to be particularly meaningful for participating citizens and their communities throughout Europe. Further discussion and debate among the partners brought to light two additional themes (named Transversal Issues) which raised interesting questions and challenges for all participating countries, that is to say the involvement of young people in the project – and in cultural heritage in general – and the possible, prospective use(s) of the data and information collected through the platform.

PARTICIPATORY i



TRANSVERSAL ISSUES



INVENTORIES

LINKÖPING



OPEN AIR MUSEUM



KASSEL - LANDKREIS -



KONAVLE



RACEN'S WELL

NATURE  SACRED  LANDMARKS 
SIGNATURE HERITAGE ITEMS 

Sacred

In Konavle and Parma, religion is an integral part of the life of local communities, as religious festivals and practices, feast days and associated traditions, legends and places linked to Christian saints frequently recur in both inventories. It is important to note, however, that besides their inherent religious meaning and value, religious practices are meaningful for contributors since they involve and promote socialization and the preservation of local tradition and folklore (e.g. Konavle's traditional costumes, music and dance). At the same time, these religious practices celebrate and recurrently renew the bonds that keep a given community together – a community that gathers around a church, a feast day, a saint etc.

Parma

The legend of St. Mary of Graces

The Feast of the Vows is the most important celebration for the community of Berceto. In 1630, the plague was raging throughout Europe and the terrified inhabitants of Berceto decided to ask the Virgin Mary for help. The leaders of all the local households went to a church dedicated to the Virgin Mary and brought along a notary, who drew up a written agreement between the Virgin Mary herself and the people of Berceto. In exchange for salvation from the plague, the inhabitants promised to organize a great yearly celebration, during which an image of the Virgin Mary would have been taken in procession along the streets of the village. The Virgin Mary kept her part of the agreement, so every year, on 2nd July, her image is carried around the village, where lanes and passages are decorated with red cloths hanging from the windows. The agreement is subscribed and renewed every year: the major, wearing his tricoloured sash, formally stands before the altar and re-reads the original document, stating the names of all the households who had originally signed it.



Konavle

Bringing in a piece of wood in the house on Christmas eve night and blessing on Christmas Day

It is important to know, remember and keep the customs. Togetherness was the most important thing in that custom, the whole family came together for this custom.

In all inventories (with the exception of Dénia, as discussed below) many churches and other religious buildings are mentioned, but not because of their purely religious “function”. Buildings are described and appreciated, first of all, for their architectural features and long history.



Linköping Cathedral

Fantastic building even if you are not religious.



Kassel Church

A small place – a lively and idiosyncratic place – and a place with a special highlight. The late Baroque fortified church is one of the most remarkable village churches in the region and is still a center of lively community work today. It is an unusual sight: two wide side aisles with large portals in Neo-Baroque style give the village church a representative, almost magnificent character, which stands in clear contrast to the simple architecture of the other village churches in Northern Hesse, which are influenced by Calvinism.

Tours

Its history

“St Martin, bishop of Tours in 371; his grave is located in the basilica which bears his name. The basilica attracts many pilgrims every year for the St Martin Celebration in November. St Gatien cathedral, of gothic style, is the most majestic monument in the city. The St Julien abbey church, founded by Grégoire of Tours around 575. These religious monuments are to visit by anyone who wants to discover the city.”



Moreover, and more importantly, religious buildings and landmarks constitute prominent reference points for the local community, both in geographical terms as well as “anchors” of local history and identity.

Tours

Cathedral

A symbol of the past, an emblem, visible from afar and a means of identification for the people of Tours.



Kassel

Stone cross from Elbenberg

There is a sandstone cross on the road from Naumburg to Fritzlar, opposite the junction to Elbenberg. It has a long, grooved plough blade carved into its foot. That is the name of the vertical, slightly curved blade that cuts vertically into the soil in front of the ploughshare, making ploughing easier. According to legend, the cross marks the spot where a battle took place in 1453. Friedrich von Hertingshausen and his servants fought against Werner von Elben and his followers. Friedrich is said to have received a stab in the thigh from a racing spear. He fell off his horse and was captured. To commemorate this event, the stone cross was erected at an unknown time.



Last but not least, several contributors focus on their “personal relationship” with religious buildings, describing the feelings and emotions that bind them to a given place or monument. This shows how, for many citizens in all partner countries, cultural heritage goes well beyond physical, tangible assets (e.g. a church, a statue, etc.) to include and value the feelings and multiple meanings that connect people to the “things” around them. Therefore, on the other hand, cultural heritage is not a “matter of fact”, something objective living a sort of independent life, as it cannot be separated from the people experiencing it. As a consequence, all partners agree on the importance of planning future actions to promote this emotional and personal approach to cultural heritage.

Kassel

Lippoldsberg - Romanesque monastery church

The monastery church is a place of reflection and culture, a really special experience! This town, founded in the early Middle Ages, is very close to the banks of the Weser with this uniquely beautiful Romanesque monastery church. Here you can see Romanesque architecture and feel the special aura of the sacred building [...].



Linköping

Quiet huge arches

“I believe that the arches in the Cathedral mean a lot to me. After a working day in a room, it can be wonderful to be in a place with a physically high ceiling. It clears the mind. It's like walking in a park with tall treetops, but the difference is that it's indoors with candle scent and warmth - it's a "park" all year round.”



Tourse

Tours' cathedral

On the façade facing the square, you can see two owls; when I look at the one on the right side in particular, I have the impression that it watches over me, that it protects me.

To conclude, an interesting case is the partner town of Dénia where, despite its pre-eminently Catholic culture and the actual presence of various religious buildings and traditions, almost no mention of this topic is made in the inventory. This is maybe due to the fact that religious monuments tend to be “overshadowed” by other, more popular landmarks (e.g. the Castle, Roman ruins, etc.), while religious festivals are also perceived by participants as a minor and disappearing element of local culture, as the following contribution demonstrates:

Dénia

Oral traditions

The creation of an oral archive on traditions, legends, beliefs, etc. told by the elderly of the city, since their memories, and a part of the oral heritage from the city, also disappear with them”.

In addition, the archive could include from festive traditions, such as Fallas, to religious festivities already forgotten, such as Sant Antoni and his songs, Sant Joan, Santa Paula and Santa Lucia with their “Porrats” markets, etc. All in all, about recovering festive, religious or simply social traditions through an oral archive.”



Landmark

This category includes a variety of heritage assets that constitute notable tangible features of both the geographical and cultural panorama of participating communities. In particular, many landmarks (ranging from archaeological remains to historic buildings, from 20th-century factories to lesser-known items scattered in the countryside) stand as symbols of a shared past, both distant and recent. In other words, landmarks are tangible elements that connect a given community to its past, while also providing living reference points for today's daily life. In this way, landmarks become fundamental elements of citizens' sense of belonging.



Dénia

The town hall of Dénia

One of the main historic buildings erected at the beginning of the 17th century, a time of splendour for the city. I think that most of the population and visitors are unaware of that fact. The date (1877) engraved under the clock added in the 19th century can get people wrong about the actual century in which the town hall was built. It is important to me because it has been the main part of my almost daily personal space, for many years.

Tours

Plumereau Place

"The element of identity that I would like to share is the Plumereau Place and its warm/friendly atmosphere. We can find the historical, architectural and gastronomic heritage brought together. It is a small place recognizable for its half-timbered houses and its numerous bars and restaurants. It is important because it represents the "bon vivant" and friendly identity of Tours and its people. It represent also the student life, very present in Tours."



Linköping

Folke Filbyter

When you decide to meet someone in town – See you at Folke. Everyone finds the statue Folke Filbyter. Before the time of the mobile phone, it was the city's meeting place. Even now we are happy to meet at Folke to move on to other places in the city.

As certified by the Council of Europe in 2010 with the creation of the European Cemeteries Route, the PartHer project shows how cemeteries are perceived by many citizens as "reminders of periods of local history that communities do not want to, and should not, forget, places which we have a duty to preserve and transmit to future generations".⁶

⁶ Council of Europe website, <https://www.coe.int/en/web/cultural-routes/the-european-cemeteries-route>, accessed 10th January 2022.

Konavle

Stećci - Saint Barbara

The stećak tombstones have been a part of Konavle's history since ancient times.

Kassel

The last bid - Breuna War Cemetery

Fritz Körner was not yet 15 years old when he died in April 1945 during the final fighting. Fritz was a Wehrmacht helper, today one would say he was a child soldier. He was buried in the Breuna War Cemetery, along with almost 500 soldiers who fell at the same time as he did and just as pointlessly as he did. The grave lists show that young people are buried in this cemetery; most of the young men were born between 1927 and 1930. You can visit their graves a little outside of Breuna.

Across the street is a second burial ground not far away. Forced laborers rest here. Unfortunately, most of their names are unknown. In a scientific research project of the State Association of Hesse in the Volksbund Deutsche Kriegsgräberfürsorge e.V., the history of selected war cemeteries in Hesse is processed. The results so far have been documented on an information board and have been accessible there since 2004. The war cemetery is part of the Breuna Eco-Path - Remembrance and commemoration, which connects different cemeteries and a war memorial over a distance of approximately 6 kilometres.



This is one of the few remaining examples of the time when graveyards used to be located just next to parish churches. In Villula, on the side of the church there was a small door (called Heaven's Door) leading directly to the cemetery. It is very small [...] but it doesn't look sad nor abandoned. I think this place represents a small mountain community wishing to preserve the memory of its members who had passed away [...]. All the deceased were gathered within the cemetery's enclosure, in the shade of the church, as witnesses of the identity of the whole village, its culture and traditions.

Parma

Villula's cemetery

Landmarks are also often connected to tales and legends that accompany contributors and the whole community in everyday life. As such, landmarks represent powerful touchpoints between tangible and intangible heritage.

Kassel

The giant stone from Heiligenberg

Hidden in the forest, near the Heimarshausen district of Naumburg, a cliff-like sandstone formation towers into the sky. Legend has it that the Devil sat on a mountain above Züschen and watched the church in Naumburg grow from day to day. His fury and anger grew until he grabbed a large boulder and was about to hurl it at Naumburg. However, this got caught in his sleeve, so that the rock remained where it was near the Heiligenstein. Then the Devil went and sat on the stone and cried bloody tears from his anger at the failed throw. Even today, people believe that they can tell from the giant stone where the Devil sat. Three red spots are said to be from the Devil's tears.



Parma

Saracens' well

Near the church of St. John and St. Paul in the village of Neviano there is a well drawing water from a deep, underground spring. At times, the water inside the well is copper-green and some elderly people say that this is because a long time ago the bells of the nearby church were thrown inside the well to hide them from armed raiders [...].

Konark

Mithraeum

Only men could believe this. The hero's name is Mithras, he killed a bull and made a world out of his blood and a milky way out of a mantle. Along with the bull there are also scorpion, dog, raven and snake.⁷

Last but not least, in all participating countries contributors strongly call for preservation, restoration, promotion and dissemination of local cultural heritage, both tangible and intangible. This underlines how European citizens are increasingly abandoning a traditional, passive approach towards cultural heritage in favour of a more active engagement in the ongoing process of identification, definition, conservation and management of something that belongs to them by right.

Dénia

Knowledge of important places and characters in Dénia

In Dénia, there are places and people that were important and pioneering in their time, but I think we have forgotten them a bit: places like the gas factory, the bunker at Les Planes, the English cemetery, the factory of "portland" and people as tenor Cortis, Sertorius ... They all made Dénia to have a great impact in their time and I think it would be interesting to make these places and people known thorough routes and rehabilitation, I think they deserve a more dignified old age.

⁷ The last sentence of the proposal refers to the low relief decorating the temple's pediment.

Konavle

Stećak tombstones

There are several beautiful and well-maintained stećak tombstones in Konavle, not all of which are sufficiently marked, perhaps not even known to the general public. If there are various “wine routes”, there should be routes for stećak tombstones that deserve to be seen and known and it would also be useful to make a catalogue about them.

Parma

Frassinara court and rice factory

It is a beautiful building that was abandoned a long time ago. When rice was produced in this area, it was used as a rice factory. It consists of a façade with a wing on each side. There is also an abandoned, small chapel. I'd like to create a group of people who, like myself, wish to see the court flourishing again [...].



Nature

"Nature/landscape" is the third most numerous category at a European level, following only more recognizable and well-known heritage items such as buildings and places. Indeed, proposals concerning natural elements, rural areas and landforms, even if included in different categories (e.g. places, tales, work etc.), are even more. This demonstrates how nature and landscape have become a fundamental constituent of European cultural heritage.

In particular, elements associated to nature and/or landscape are mentioned in the inventories in relation to:

- **Enthusiasm and emotions**

Tours

The Loire

The Loire is a link, a unique and changing place that has inspired poets, painters, artists, etc. a place of meeting, exchange, rest, dreaming, sport, life!



Kassel

Urwald Sababurg

It is a forest in the best and most original sense. An ancient and fairy-tale forest and a place where you can feel and experience nature. It is the home of the fairy tale Dornröschen [Sleeping Beauty].

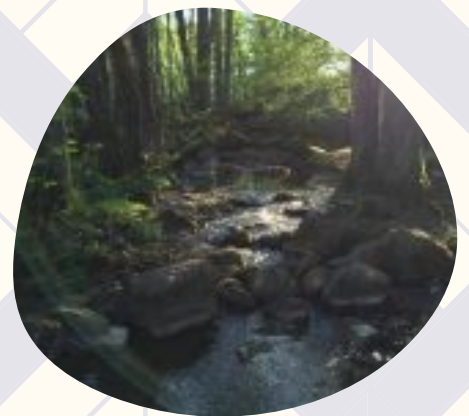


Linköping

The agricultural landscape around Linköping

I am always happy when I return to the Linköping Plain. Yellow rapeseed fields, open landscapes with occasional wind turbines, which for me symbolize responsibility for the environment

- **Connection and identification**



Tours

The Loire

The Loire has given its structure and appearance to the city and it remains inseparable from it.



Kassel

Huguenots and Waldensians in Northern Hesse

The Huguenot and Waldensian Path offers a wonderful scenic experience combined with hiking in the footsteps of our ancestors. It is great to discover how many common roots we have in Europe! Background: in 1685, persecution of Protestants in France intensified after Louis XVI invalidated the Edict of Nantes. More than 250,000 Huguenots sought refuge in the Protestant areas of Europe and the world. The Waldensians from the Piedmontese valleys also went into exile in the German states on the Huguenot escape routes. The Huguenot and Waldensian Path traces the historical exile routes over approximately 2,000 km. Huguenots and Waldensians founded numerous settlements and not only left behind a rich cultural heritage in technology, trade, art and science, but also lasting memories of religious persecution, expulsion, migration and integration. This cultural heritage can still be discovered today in town planning, architecture, church buildings, museums and archives as well as in economic life. In the district of Kassel are the places Leckringhausen, Gottsbüren, Gottstreu, Bad Karlshafen.



- Reassurance and recreation



Linköping

Tinnerö oak landscape

A nicely demarcated area where I love to jog in the winter and barbecue in the summer.

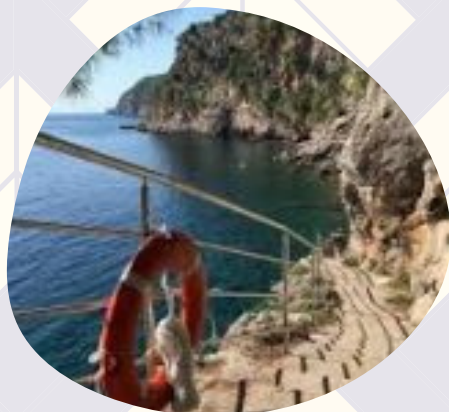
Tours

The tree in front of the Musée des Beaux Arts

Because it is very impressive and it brings calm.



Economic space/potential (i.e. tourism, traditional products etc.).



Konavle

Konavle rocks

Konavle rocks are a well-known part of our Konavle landscape, especially those below the villages of Popovići and Radovčići, where they are the highest. How important access to the sea was to our people is reflected in the fact that, at the end of the 19th century, the locals, hanging on ropes, cut a path in the rock. The same road to Pendža beach below the village of Radovčići was used until the 1990s, when stairs were built.

It is interesting to note that nature is very present in Parma's inventory, but particularly in relation to human activities: the agricultural landscape dominates contributions, while natural elements (rivers, bad weather, landslides etc.) are perceived as "outside" and potentially threatening forces that have to be respected and, possibly, "tamed" through various procedures.

Parma

To chase away a storm and save the crops

When people saw the sky getting dark and feared that a storm might be approaching, they used to place little crosses made of blessed olive branches in the vineyards, while old people would then go and burn them. This ritual was accompanied by the pronouncement of a formula which included the motto "ca sandisa a sfrogher in tla Perma" [let's hope the storm unleashes its wrath in the river Parma].



- **Call for protection**



Konavle

Let's preserve the landscape

Preventing the devastation of the beautiful landscape of Konavle.

Dénia

Make agricultural areas flourish

There is a large number of abandoned agricultural plots in a state of colonisation by pioneer species, which means a large area of ecologically degraded and ecologically altered landscape spaces that often end up in fires or urban redevelopment [...]. This action has the potential to enhance the value of an enormous percentage of the Municipality's agricultural land in terms of landscape - tourist value, self-esteem towards one's own heritage, ecology, biodiversity of fauna and flora, promotion of walking and health areas, fire prevention, waste disposal, etc.

Last but not least, three of the participating towns, namely Tours, Kassel and Parma, are located upon or in the proximity of major European rivers (Loire, Fulda and Po) which, unsurprisingly, occupy an important place in the relevant inventories, not only as natural elements but as defining features of the identity and life of the communities settled on their banks.

Kassel

The river Fulda

Historically, rivers still form borders of all kinds to this day: they divide languages, dialects, regions and religions, while waterways have enabled the formation of settlements and cities. In Germany, the Rhine is the longest and most famous of all rivers. Poets, composers and artists gave the “Father Rhine” their own individual meaning. But Kassel and the district of Kassel also have their own river, the Fulda. Like most rivers, it is the most important North Hessian river and flows downhill from south to north. It is 220 km long, it is one of Germany's many smaller tributaries, but large enough to allow the town of Kassel to be established here in 1227. With its parallel river, the Werra, the Fulda flows into the Weser north of Kassel in the “three-river city” of Hannoversch Münden. In this area, after the Reformation, the river became the political and religious border between Hanover and Kurhessen. Kassel itself integrated the river through early bridge construction as an important junction between north, south, west and east. One of the best-known and at the same time most peculiar German folk festivals is the annual Kassel “Zissel”, which would be unthinkable without the Fulda, since at the beginning of the festival a large procession with decorated boats and boats takes place on it, similar to the Shrove Monday processions on the Rhine and Main.



Tours

The river

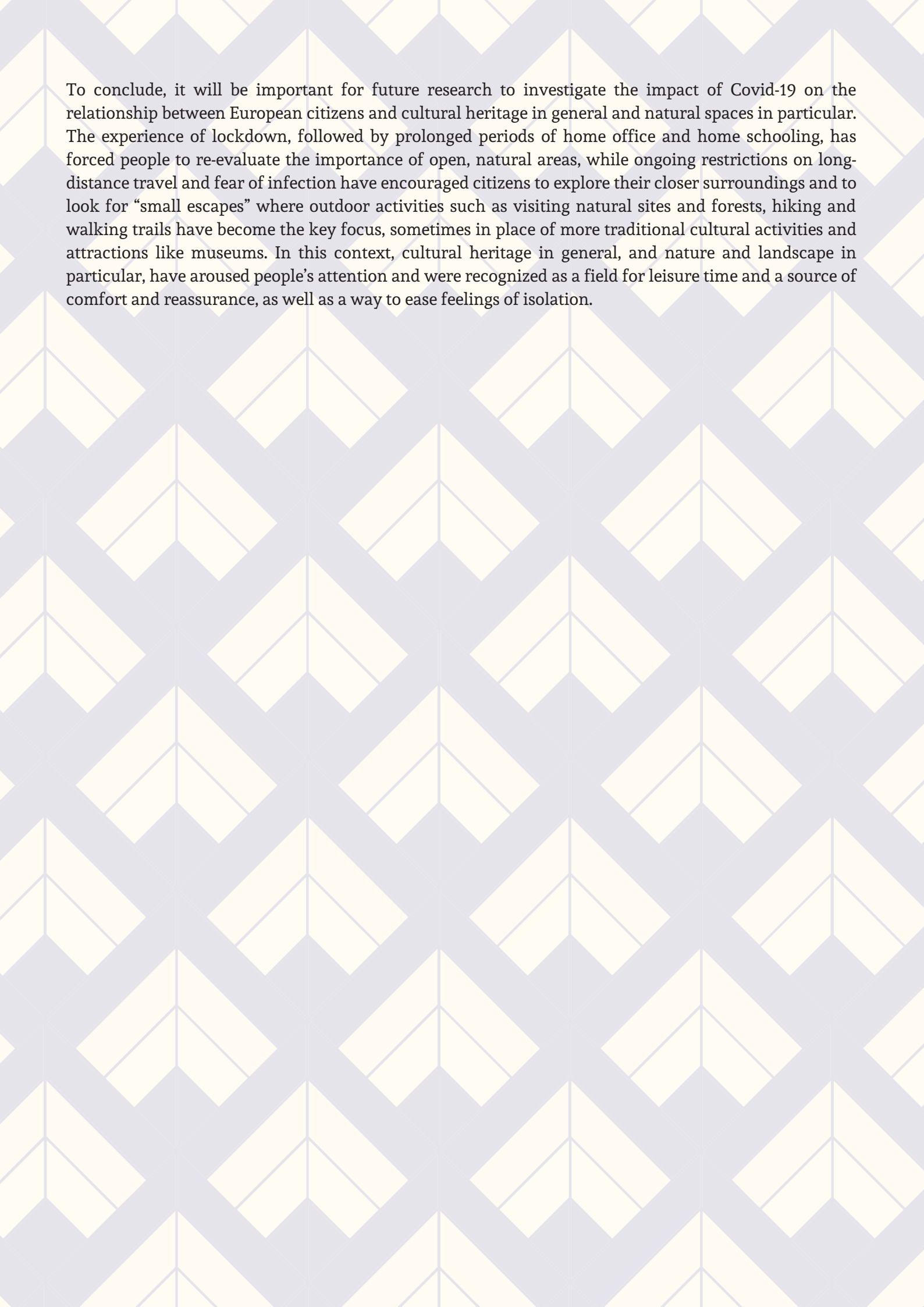
The city has been built in vital connection, both economic and symbolic, with the Loire. While protecting themselves from flooding and invasion, the people of Tours learnt how to live with the river, its risks and its resources (water, navigation, fishing ...). This essential element also contributed to include the city in a valley, between mountains and sea according to a symbol of the Garden of France, at the same time shelter of peace and openness to others, which matches its patron saint St. Martin. More up to date, the Loire offers electricity thanks to its power plants and allows a renewal of celebrations through its guingettes.



Parma

The Great River

The Great River [river Po] and its floods have always been important for Parma's lowlands, not only for the people living here, but also for those who had to leave this place. For example, soldiers writing home from the front sought and received news which had to do with the river, from floods to updates concerning carp-fishing in its waters.



To conclude, it will be important for future research to investigate the impact of Covid-19 on the relationship between European citizens and cultural heritage in general and natural spaces in particular. The experience of lockdown, followed by prolonged periods of home office and home schooling, has forced people to re-evaluate the importance of open, natural areas, while ongoing restrictions on long-distance travel and fear of infection have encouraged citizens to explore their closer surroundings and to look for “small escapes” where outdoor activities such as visiting natural sites and forests, hiking and walking trails have become the key focus, sometimes in place of more traditional cultural activities and attractions like museums. In this context, cultural heritage in general, and nature and landscape in particular, have aroused people’s attention and were recognized as a field for leisure time and a source of comfort and reassurance, as well as a way to ease feelings of isolation.

Youth involvement

Participants' age ⁸	Névia	LK Kassel	Konavle ⁹	Linköping	Parma	Tours	TOTAL
Under 16	3	0	6	9	0	111	129
16-21	3	0	3	6	0	23 ¹⁰	84
22-30	6	2	10	27	4	"	"
31-59	38	17	14	52	20	34	175
60 or more	16	16	12	72	16	54	186
Not stated	-	-	43	-	2	21	66

With the notable exception of Tours, in all other partner countries only 17% of the contributors are under 30 years of age, while most of the participants are adult or senior citizens. These data clearly highlight the difficulties encountered by most partners to involve young people in the project, despite the fact that, by definition, cultural heritage lives essentially through transmission to younger generations.

The partners of the project have identified two main causes of their difficulties. First of all, young people are harder to reach, as they necessarily require the mediation of pre-existing structures, be it schools, leisure centres, local museums etc. Therefore, a significant part of the work was dedicated to the identification of such structures (which are different in every country) and their involvement in the project. Then, unfortunately, the Covid-19 pandemic caused many schools, museums and other public structures to remain closed for very long time and strong limitations were imposed on all their activities. Nevertheless, the example of the actions carried out in Tours underlines how a systematic and long-lasting involvement of relevant structures can lead to very successful results. In particular, the Tours team relied on the local Youth City Council (formed by two pupils, aged 13 to 15, from each school in the city) to become ambassadors of the project among other teenagers and to help develop successful strategies to reach out to young people.

Secondly, all partners agree on the fact that young people tend to have a passive approach towards cultural heritage, which is often perceived as a “school thing” where the only thing they are required to do is sit back and listen to “experts”. On the contrary, however, the Faro Convention, as well as many other international organizations, stresses the importance of encouraging every citizen to join “the process of identification, study, interpretation, protection, conservation and presentation of the cultural heritage”.¹¹

⁸ Participants' age was not a compulsory element on the platform.

⁹ In calculating the age of the participants, Konavle, Linköping and Tours did not take into account that one contributor could submit more than one proposal.

¹⁰ For the French inventory, results were calculated from 16 to 30 years of age.

¹¹ Europe Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society, art. 12.a.

In other to tackle this problem, partners see the necessity to develop specific activities designed to reverse young people's role and approach to cultural heritage. Specifically, children should be involved in age-appropriate, hands-on activities and workshops drawing on their creativity and emotions, while awareness should be raised among teenagers and young adults concerning their right to participate in the definition and promotion of cultural heritage, encouraging at the same time active involvement and empowerment. Best practices developed by partners include, for example:

Konarle

Kindergarten workshops

After a short introduction, children were asked to draw or paint an item of cultural heritage they were most familiar with or proud of. Many children painted pieces of traditional embroidery and, despite the very young age (4 to 6), they were able to reproduce their intricate patterns in great detail. This shows how children are indeed exposed and attentive to, as well as acquainted with, local cultural heritage, but they require specific contexts to express themselves.

Kassel

Museumspass

The project aims to make cultural education accessible to all children in primary and special schools in the city and district of Kassel through a four-year scheme of visits to participating museums and specifically-designed learning activities.

Parma

Comunità dei Musei

About 20 out of the 90 free cultural events which took place in and around Parma between May and November 2021 (see below for details) were especially dedicated to local schools as well as children and their families. The events included guided tours, both outdoor and in-school learning activities and specific workshops on cultural heritage.

Tours

Collaboration with the Youth City Council

Members of the Youth City Council were introduced to the topic of cultural heritage and to the PartHer project. They were then encouraged to contribute to the platform in person, to offer suggestions on how to engage other young people and to get personally involved in the collection of proposals from fellow teenagers. In this way, Tours' Youth City Council became a fundamental asset in the dissemination of the project, showing how true active participation can secure interest and lasting commitment to cultural projects on the part of teenagers and young people in general.



Use of data

In all partner cities, data collected through the platform have been and/or will be used as starting point and inspiration to develop city walks, trails, tours and activities aimed primarily at the local population. Moreover, contributions themselves have been/will be used to enrich citizens' experience of local cultural heritage. For example:

Linköping

Several contributions received through the platform were included in a digital city walk, together with other information on selected cultural locations in the city and images drawn from the local photo archive (Bild Linköping). Some places will soon have in-depth interviews with the contributors. The city walk is available digitally (see the link below) but can also be done as a group activity with a guide.
<https://kulturpunkt.org/en/museum/114/group/929/theme/2420>

Parma

Comunità dei Musei

The PartHer platform was the starting point of a project called "Comunità dei Musei", which received substantial funding from the Regione Emilia Romagna (i.e. the regional government). The project consisted of nearly 90 free events addressed to local citizens which took place from May to November 2021. All these events – comprising guided tours, conferences, special activities for schoolchildren and families and training sessions for teachers and museum workers – focussed on big and small museums throughout the Province of Parma, local history and traditions and cultural heritage in general, as defined in the Faro Convention. The project also included a large social media campaign aimed at encouraging citizens to know and enjoy local cultural heritage. Proposals collected through the PartHer platform played a fundamental role in defining the project as a whole, since they provided inspiration for most of the guided tours. For example, many proposals dealt with the troubled years of Fascism and World War II, so "Parma's Rebels" was developed, a three-part walking tour to discover the main events, places and people of Parma's history from the 1920s to the rise of the resistance movement and the last years of the war. Another recurring theme in the inventory was the key role of cemeteries in preserving the memory of local communities. Therefore, three visits to Parma's old cemetery were organized, plus a two-part walking tour and conference called "Parma's History through Plaques and Tombstones". Farming culture and traditions were also very important for Parma's contributors. As a consequence, several guided tours focussing on this topic were included in the programme, such as a visit to the Ettore Guatelli Museum (a renowned ethnographic collection of nearly 60,000 artifacts bearing witness to life and work in the pre-industrial world) or "Pigs and Swineherds in the Middle Ages", exploring the medieval origins of Parma's celebrated cheese and cured meats.

Conclusions

Healing Europe

In an era of health emergencies, cultural heritage plays an essential role for the psychophysical wellbeing of each individual and of our societies. For this reason, investing in cultural heritage means investing in wellbeing and in the improvement of people's quality of life. The Part-Her project places culture and cultural heritage there where they belong: at the heart of Europe's rebirth.

Experiencing Europe

Following the catastrophic repercussions of the Covid-19 pandemic on the tourism industry due to travel and mobility limitations – which are threatening millions of jobs throughout Europe – the Part-Her project is supporting a European plan to revive tourism. Tourism needs cultural heritage and cultural heritage needs tourism. We will recover from this crisis by offering forms of tourism that are more innovative and sustainable as an opportunity of promotion.

Being Europe

In a period of deep transformation in the way of life, our cultural heritage and our values represent a necessary anchor and an equally necessary compass. Cultural heritage guarantees the link between our local roots, identities, traditions and the wider European and world context. Participation and commitment to cultural heritage also allows us to embrace our diversities and use them as a source of enrichment and creativity. The way in which European citizens feel and understand their common cultural heritage, and the way in which this interpretative process is facilitated, is crucial for Europe's future.

Green Europe

We must ensure that the cultural dimension of the green transformation of our societies and economy is fully considered. Climate change is severely threatening our cultural heritage, including cultural landscapes. However, the world of culture, with its background of traditional knowledge and skills, can be used to further develop adaptation practices to help achieve the ambitious goals of the European Green Deal. At the same time, European citizens now fully recognize nature and landscape as a fundamental constituent of their cultural heritage.

Digital Transformation of Europe

The Covid-19 pandemic has underlined the importance of digital access to cultural heritage. At a time when people try to stay close and together while being physically separated, cultural heritage organizations in Europe must welcome the challenge, also in terms of participatory processes and tools focusing on heritage, such as the one we have created.

Europe and the World

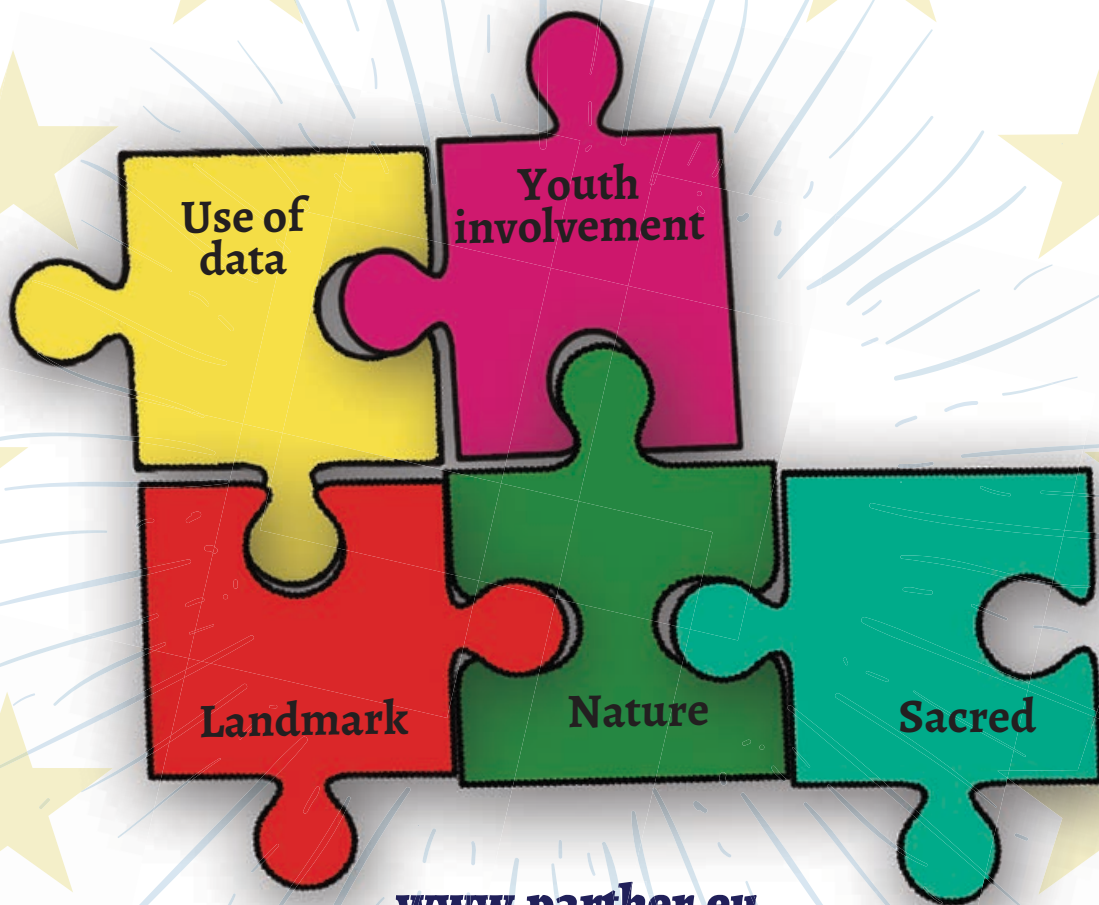
In the end, as the current crisis has shown, the clear connection and the fragility of humanity provides Europe with a unique opportunity to forsake its colonial past and cultivate a positive and constructive role in the world. Culture and cultural heritage are key factors in fostering respect, mutual understanding and trust as well as being pre-requisites for global solidarity and cooperation. Europe will have to use its wealth of cultural resources to bring this process to the foreground.

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Part Her Project

European network
for a participated valorisation of cultural heritage



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