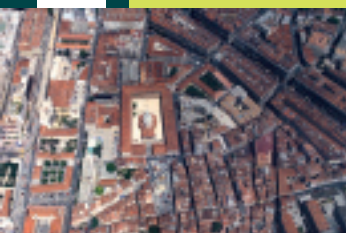


# historic districts for all

Brochure designed for local authorities

September 2007



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



空間  
SPACE  
GROUP



# THE CHALLENGE FOR HISTORIC DISTRICTS TODAY

« For over a decade, the Social and Human Sciences Sector of UNESCO has been tasked with studying cities as « Arenas of accelerated social transformations ». During the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, which took place in Istanbul in 1996 (HABITAT II), a Round Table was organized by UNESCO on « Democracy and citizenship in the city of the twenty-first century ». Since then, under the MOST Programme, several international comparative research projects have drawn attention to the different components of inclusive cities in the world. Projects such as « Small historical coastal cities », « Old Beijing », « Rehabilitation of Quito's historic centre » and « Social sustainability of historic districts » have been carried out in cooperation with all UNESCO Sectors.

From « HABITAT II » in 1996 to the international seminar UNESCO organized in Beijing in January 2007 on « balanced urbanization between social cohesion, economic development and heritage conservation », major indicators and parameters for strengthening social cohesion in historic districts have been identified by the Social and Human Sciences Sector of UNESCO. These findings along with UN-HABITAT's best practice formed the basis for this brochure designed for local authorities, to highlight public policies and practices that enable social sustainability in historic districts.

It is my strong hope that at the end of the training session scheduled during the World Urban Forum IV, in Nanjing, China, in October 2008, together with the Manual for City Professionals, this brochure will become a useful tool to help municipalities become aware of the role of political will and the need to preserve tangible and intangible heritage; to highlight cultural diversity; to understand the importance of building new forms of social cohesion in cities where urban projects once again centre around human beings; and the importance of keeping a balance between economic competitiveness and harmonious urban development. »

## Wataru IWAMOTO

Director, Division of Social Sciences, Research and Policy  
Social and Human Sciences Sector, UNESCO

## Santiago de Compostela (Spain)

« We considered that the rehabilitation of a historic district first of all needed to go through a process of reconstruction of its urban cultural values and through a harmonization of its functions. The rehabilitation of a city's residential function not only justified maintaining architectural elements and the heritage we wished to protect but also constituted the most effective protection against modern transformations of the city, one of which is the phenomenon of social tourism. The problem, seen from this angle, took on a far greater dimension than merely basic preservation of architecture. [...] More than just stones, buildings, materials or the value and proportion of the architecture, what we wished to preserve, strengthen and protect, with the policies tested in Santiago de Compostela, was the cultural impact of cities, by restoring the functions and the urban quality of the historic city centre. »

Jose A. Sanchez Bugallo, Mayor of Santiago de Compostela (Spain) 18 March 2005, at the launch of the UN-HABITAT/UNESCO Project « Urban policies and the Right to the city ».

Historic districts symbolize the cities: they forge the cultural identity and quality of urban life; they direct the modern development of the area. In many cities, the revitalization of these districts meets with highly positive and encouraging results.

It is possible to conciliate conservation and protection of urban heritage, economic development, functionality and liveability of a city, and respond to the needs of its inhabitants while enhancing in a sustainable way the natural and cultural resources of the city.

**Revitalization means reaching a satisfactory balance between the laws of economic development, the needs and the rights of inhabitants and the value enhancement of the city as a public good. The heritage, economic, environmental and sociocultural approaches do not conflict; not only are they complementary but long-term success is dependent upon these approaches being linked together.**



## Lijiang (China)

« A thorough and comprehensive understanding of the history and culture of the Naxi population and other ethnic minorities in this region should be achieved (their ancestral knowledge, their efforts to promote the transmission and Importance of their traditional culture). Thanks to continuous cooperation with us, local ethnic groups have gained increased confidence. They have enhanced their abilities to study, preserve and develop their culture. The aim is to establish a harmonious relation between man and nature, tradition and modernism, development of the culture of ethnic minorities, ecology and the economy. »

Professor Shao Yong, Tongli University and the National Research Centre on Historic Cities





→ keeping a social perspective  
in revitalization projects means  
putting people back in city centres

#### Historic districts for all - what does that mean?

Men, women, children, young and old, families who have lived in city centres for generations, new arrivals, immigrants living in poverty, peddlers, owners of small restaurants, community actors, shop owners, tourists - the expectations are as many and diverse as the inhabitants and citizens. They all need to be made aware of their surroundings and given support in their involvement to convey the city's multifaceted identity.

**The preservation of old buildings cannot be dissociated from the people living in the historic districts and who give them meaning. Numerous experiments have proved that giving buildings a shrine-like quality drives out low-income families and keeps in those who do not contribute to their preservation: it brings about a decline and prevents the district's history from being passed on.**

Sustainable revitalization means both conservation and development: it materializes through strategies and action that respond to the plurality and diversity of the needs and choices of the inhabitants. The new functions of modern cities must be compatible with the old urban fabric. So it is essential to understand the intangible dimensions (practices, appropriation of areas, know-how and values)..

#### Tongli (China)

« More than the restoration of spectacular buildings or landscapes, we were keen to safeguard the cultural context, the natural environment and the local customs whilst looking for new centres of economic activity. In order to improve the living conditions of the inhabitants we analysed the social problems through field surveys. We also set up networks for improving living conditions. To avoid the insidious degradation of the natural environment surrounding old districts and to preserve the typical aquaculture and agricultural activities of this area, we created a protection zone of the area surrounding the city, with its own regulations. Our aim is to find a just and sustainable balance between heritage preservation and the rapid growth created by tourism. »

Alain Marinos & Shao Yong, Franco-Chinese Cooperation between the National Research Centre on Chinese Historic Cities in association with the Tongli University of Shanghai, the French Ministry of Culture and Communication and the City of Architecture and Heritage.

« Social cohesion and economic competitiveness are not mutually exclusive but in fact complementary objectives. In order to reach a balance between the two, governance is the key element. A strategic view needs to be developed that will take into account every municipality and will help the diverse objectives of the different actors to coexist in harmony. »

L. Kamal-Chaoui, Director, Public Governance and Territorial Development, OECD. Debate on « Urban policies and the right to the city », UNESCO, Paris, 18 March, 2005.





→ historic districts should not be isolated pockets but integrated into the rest of the city or area.

Revitalization experiments in historic districts show how action is increasingly restricted when it centres solely around one specific building and does not take into account networks, locations and interaction with the city and its wider area.

Local projects must therefore be supported and integrated into an overall urban development plan to make sure the historic district does not become an element of spatial segregation in the area.

### Why?

- In many countries, historic districts are the first places of refuge for rural migrants and post-conflict refugees.
- The distribution of different social groups in the whole urban area and the surrounding region is the prime issue.
- In a world context registering high growth of urban tourism, historic districts often contribute to the tourist attraction of a region through organized itineraries.

**Revitalization makes the specific qualities of a place or an area (re)appear by integrating the demands of sustainable development into its environmental, social, cultural and educational dimensions.**

« In order to be most effective, the conservation of historic towns and other historic urban areas should be an integral part of coherent policies of economic and social development and of urban and regional planning at every level. » Consequently, « the conservation plan should aim at ensuring a harmonious relationship between the historic urban areas and the town as a whole ».

ICOMOS International Charter on the Conservation of Historic Towns and Urban Areas (1987)



### Montreal (Canada)

The urban design workshop (October 2006) was part of a larger urban event aiming at one and the same time to be a planning, consultation and communication exercise leading to the setting up of a constructive dialogue among the different actors interested in the sustainable revitalization of the Griffintown district (residents, city representatives, promoters, firms and institutions, town planning professionals, etc.).

City of Montreal, Call for candidatures « Urban design workshop » prior to the development of the Place d'Armes (2007). Montreal, partner of the AIMF.



→ political will is a key factor for success.

The numerous difficulties encountered by cities can lead to a reduction of citizens' quality of life and threaten their social and cultural rights: loss of social mix and of the functions of old city centres, relative lack of infrastructures and public amenities, increase of poverty and insecurity, environmental degradation, inability to attract investments and thus stimulate the local economy, and uncontrolled development of tourism, etc.

The sudden increase in urban populations has a direct impact on historic districts, which come up against a multitude of different approaches with extreme cases such as:

- laissez-faire policy: the historic district has completely deteriorated and been abandoned owing to the cost of expanding other areas. Buildings with no heritage value are rented or squatted by very low-income migrants.
- elitist revitalization: the district is transformed into a « museum » with an increase in real estate prices, and a predominance of offices and hotels, which lead to significant segregation and the loss of the city's social and identitarian assets.

It is normal that the restoration of a historic district attracts new residents and new economic activities, and consequently creates a rise in the price of real estate.

There has to be compensation for these negative effects through national and local strategies to help with housing and access to services, to encourage the establishment of small businesses, to respond to the needs of the poorest inhabitants (with inter-generational policies) and to transmit a plural identity that is constantly being renewed.

**Decision-makers, local representatives and their teams have a key role to play: they can orient the revitalization strategies by placing the inhabitants at the heart of the process.**

Revitalization involves a commitment at city level and a dialogue with numerous actors at varying levels to communicate effectively. It is a matter of ratifying technically feasible and viable projects while keeping in mind future generations.



### Listening abilities of municipalities

The town of **Mahdia** abandoned the project of an ill-placed leisure port and instead carried out an exemplary restoration of the sand dunes along the beach.

The town of **Saïda** reduced the negative impact of the seashore boulevard on the north beach by decreasing its hold and better controlling its use.

UNESCO external evaluation meeting for the inter-sectoral initiative P.V.C.H. 1997/2003, Essaouira, Morocco, November 2003.

### Plourin-lès-Morlaix (France)

« Political tendencies always guide a municipal action. We implemented these improvements with the intention of incorporating the opinions of the inhabitants and seeking to develop, with a restricted budget, an overall view which would ensure coherence and would meet the requisite planning principles. [...] The work carried out in Plourin strengthened our feeling of belonging and gave us a sense of pride. With architecture we were able to create a central square and thus give the inhabitants a point of reference and a landmark. »

Remarks by Pierre Barbier, Mayor of Plourin-lès-Morlaix, France, from 1977 to 2001. Excerpts from « Le temps à l'œuvre citoyen », by Philippe Madec, Plourin-lès-Morlaix 1991-2004, published by Jean-Michel Place.

### pitfalls to be avoided

« Revitalization processes of historic districts can improve inhabitants' living conditions and enhance the value of the heritage if certain pitfalls are avoided:

- do not evict the local population (residents and traditional merchants)
- do not destroy traditional occupations
- do not contribute to the break-up of urban social links
- do not suppress existing trade
- do not convert housing into storehouses for itinerant merchants
- do not isolate the historic district from the rest of the city
- do not preserve the buildings without the involvement of the inhabitants and reflect on the impact on the rest of the city.
- do not develop tourism as the sole activity. »

Yves Cabannes, in cooperation with the Working Group of the Development Planning Unit (University College London), Coordinator, Urban Management Program, United Nations. Excerpt of his remarks at the meeting of the UNESCO Steering Committee on the Social Approach to Revitalization, May 2007.





# PROMISING RESULTS

→ Enhance public spaces while sustainably protecting natural and cultural resources

Public spaces play a fundamental role in the functioning and the shape of cities. They are vital to the quality of urban space. Public spaces are meeting places, places for dialogue and exchange, for information and culture. They structure the identity of districts and contribute to an urban social mix while giving new balance to the city.

## results achieved.

- The centres' vitality is rediscovered and maintained
- Green spaces are linked to city centres
- Culture is affirmed and dialogue started
- Energy consumption and pollution are limited
- Local transport needs are reduced
- The image of the cities is improved

### Lyon (France)

The city of Lyon has, inter alia, implemented the following:

- a charter to highlight occupation of the public domain: a specific rule for better cohabitation
- heritage vigilance areas are listed on the Local Urban Plan: a heritage view of the more « ordinary » districts
- re-enactment of historic events using the urban atmosphere during the day (colour plan), and at night (light plan), with special events such as the annual lights festival on 8 December
- an urban recreation park of 10 hectares along the 5 km car-free embankments of the Rhone.

Bruno Delas, Project Director: Mission « Historic site of Lyon », international seminar organized by UNESCO and Tsinghua University, « Balanced urban revitalization between social cohesion and heritage conservation », Beijing, 21 to 23 January 2007.

### Rennes (France)

« The transport policy is the deciding factor for moving from 'preservation' to 'enhancement' of heritage: no through-traffic, more pedestrian zones in the city centre and efficient public transport including subway giving easy access to the city centre from the suburbs. Through these lines of action a redefinition policy of the public spaces was developed, revealing the spatial quality of these locations, partly to the urban heritage, and their potential in the fields of urban tourism and cultural activities. »

Directorate of Urban Planning for the City of Rennes, April 2007.  
Rennes, partner of the AIME.

→ maintaining a multi-function system: creating social links while contributing to the improvement of inhabitants' living conditions.

For millions of people, life in the city is synonymous with survival: fighting unemployment and social exclusion, violence and insecurity. More than ever, revitalization programmes can use the physical transformations to involve local actors in the work and in the economic activities generated by the programmes while responding to their concerns and needs (traffic management, public amenities, employment, housing, trade, and water management). In poor historic districts, urban policies must help attract employers who can offer jobs to residents, establish a mixed social network, and improve the environment and living conditions of the citizens (health care, schools, services, local shops, etc.).

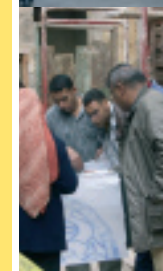
## results achieved.

- Basic rights of all inhabitants are taken into account
- Social housing is provided and property speculation compensated by measures that take into consideration vulnerable populations; an inter-generational mix is promoted
- Transport and traffic flow are adapted to link the district with other parts of the city
- Jobs are created and trade diversified
- Cultural and social bonds are maintained, and public amenities developed (schools, health care, social services, training)
- Exclusions are avoided and migrants integrated

### Saïda (Lebanon)

« [...] All responsible, concerned parties agreed on the necessity to pave the boulevard that runs alongside the old city and the « friction lane » and to build two gates at either end of the boulevard where it runs adjacent to the old city in order to emphasize the fact that the boulevard is not a transit road but a low-speed traffic road, designed for light vehicles, thus avoiding heavy traffic [...] »

Excerpt of a letter from Mme Bahja Hariri, President of the Hariri Foundation, and Mr Hilal Kobrosly, President of the Municipality of Saïda, to UNESCO following the International Seminar organized by UNESCO on « Small historical coastal cities », which took place in Saïda, in May 2001.





## Quito (Ecuador)

« In order to respond to the changes, new infrastructures have made provision for the itinerant vendors, offering them an alternative to the instability and harsh working conditions they have experienced for decades. As follow-up to tackling this main problem, urban renovation was speeded up thanks to cooperation among the municipality, the private sector and international aid: improvement of the streets and squares, renovation of façades and churches, improvement of lighting, etc. In addition, new strategic links have been strengthened such as the creation of small enterprises, self-management of businesses, tourism development, generation of new economic activities, provision for families new to the district, attracted by the historic centre, etc. »

Ambassador Horacio Sevilla Borja, UNESCO Round Table on « Social sustainability in historic districts », September 2004.

## Malaga (Spain)

Beyond big public investments in the housing sector (new buildings and restoration), urban redevelopment, creation of multi-purpose sociocultural centres, construction of public amenities and special attention being given to immigrants, the innovative experience of Malaga lies in the implementation of public housing centres which can be rented for a limited period of 7 years. These centres have been specifically designed for elderly and young people, particularly students. The centres aim to encourage intergenerational mutual help. They also represent a way of finding affordable accommodation for sections of the population who have been badly hit by real estate prices.

Moreno Peralta, J. R. Casero, A. Gutierrez Istria, Round Table organized by UNESCO during the UN-HABITAT World Urban Forum II in Barcelona, September 2004.

→ promote the city's identity,  
and encourage cultural creativity  
and diversity.

The resurgence of identitarian feelings, of wanting to belong to a history, culture, region or district is symptomatic of the human need to know oneself and for one's identity to be acknowledged. Historic districts express the knowledge and the know-how of the civilizations from which they stem. They play a key role in the knowledge and organization of the life of a city. Creation and creativity form an integral part of the revitalization process of historic districts. Creativity in these processes often leads to projects that involve using new communication procedures among actors, and new working methods to design, understand and manage the area.

## results achieved.

- Mediation is encouraged in order to link together cultural, artistic, political and institutional logic
- All sections of the population have access to culture and give meaning to heritage
- Intangible heritage, true vector of people's identity is passed on
- Archaeology is used for a better understanding of the city
- Artists and artisans are given support to produce quality services and products
- Cultural events outside the historic district counterbalance the attraction of the area



## Fez (Morocco)

Further to a rehabilitation programme of the Medina, a study has been conducted on traditional building methods and materials; brochures were produced on jobs in the construction industry and on the work of the ceramic manufacturers of Fez; a series of lectures was organized; and a Training Institute for the Traditional Building Trade (IFMTB) created. Students and professionals from different countries continue to cooperate with those responsible for the preservation of the built heritage in the region.

Xavier Casanovas, RehabiMed network official, UNESCO Workshop « Sustainable urban development in the coastal region of Mahdia », Tunisia, June 1999.







## Brussels (Belgium)

Since 2000, the city of Brussels has been giving much attention to the Brigittines Chapel, located near a social housing district of mainly concrete construction. The Chapel was deconsecrated a century after its construction but its aesthetic quality is often remarked upon. The city of Brussels is convinced of the cultural importance of rehabilitating areas that have been neglected and is in favour of reviving the residential and cultural spaces. It is offering subsidies for renovation and embellishment, creating new meeting places and has drawn up a District Contract for the small area called Brigittines Tanneurs. The « Brigittines », pioneer of a new art district in Brussels is now a Centre for Contemporary Arts for Movement and Voice, developing its own artistic project, taking into account not only the artists but also the local population while respecting everyone's cultural identity.

Monique Duren, official from the Culture Department of Brussels, Director of the Contemporary Arts Centre « Les Brigittines », June 2007.

→ develop a controlled cultural tourism retaining many sectors of activity.

Faced with a rapidly growing cultural tourism, historic cities are targets for tourists eager to discover urban atmospheres, heritage, history, museums and exhibitions. It is often tempting to see tourism as an increasingly profitable cash-producing sector of the economy. Indeed, tourism can energize a district and boost productions in mobilizing local producers on a large scale. However, great vigilance is needed to manage tourism at the sites; it may lead to irreversible impacts on the environment, the heritage and social fabric and generate conflicts difficult to resolve.

« A sustainable approach to development and tourism management needs long-term planning, cooperation, results control and adapting to change ».

« Towards sustainable tourism », Manual for decision-makers, UNEP, UNWTO, 2006.

## results achieved.

- The district is attractive and respects inhabitants' quality of life
- Load capacities are respected and negative impact limited
- Advantages are equally distributed and sites are developed and enhanced thanks to revenue from tourism
- Cultural values are affirmed and environmental conditions taken into account
- Information and training of the local population to ensure their participation

## Essaouira (Morocco )

Tourism cannot remain the sole lever for development. We have an exceptional opportunity in the creation of 130 associations in Essaouira. The State, the Ministries and the municipal councils cannot on their own solve problems as complex and varied as the Mellah, the wall and the dunes; it calls for a synergy among the associations, the public actors and international cooperation.

Saïd Mouline, consultant. Excerpts from the debate on the case of Essaouira presented at the evaluation meeting of the « Small historic coastal cities » programme, Essaouira, December 2003.



## Bamberg (Germany)

The city of Bamberg is a great tourist attraction. Priority has been given to the development and realization of an effective pedestrian itinerary to counter the problems that can arise owing to the combination of tourism, traffic, historic monuments and houses. In this context, the cooperation of tourism experts and those responsible for heritage preservation is of utmost importance.

Matthias Ripp, City of Bamberg, 2007.

## Ghana

The local economy of Cape Coast and Emina benefit from the development of cultural tourism along the Slave Route. Forts and castles of Volta, Accra and the surrounding areas, as well as the central and western regions are inscribed on the World Heritage List and therefore benefit from the fame of that List. Local populations participate fully in the activities organized; employment figures are rising; and heritage is better protected.

Randal Smith, Commonwealth Territorial Collectivities Forum, June 2007.





## HOW SHOULD WE PROCEED?

### → there is no « perfect example ».

Historic districts are all different so the strategies must take into account local situations and rely on available cultural, financial, technical and human resources. There is no single or « miracle » solution but there are subtle strategies based on local values and abilities to promote them. It is these values and elements that trigger the strategies implemented by the experts.

It is highly recommended to start with a diagnosis in order to gain a full understanding of the whole picture. There are numerous techniques and fairly precise methods that can help the actors.

The quality of the urban experience depends on the prevailing character of a place: the soul of the city and the relationship between the location and the people who live there. Good overall management is the secret for urban preservation. Architects have a key role to play and the main issues must be discussed at a high level.

F. Bandarin, Director, World Heritage Centre, UNESCO.

### → acquire autonomous management structures.

In order to launch and develop an urban rehabilitation process, with the necessary guarantees, it is crucial to create a specific structure (office or agency) to manage the process once the first decisions have been taken by the decision-makers in cooperation with the existing technical services. This authority must be flexible and able to work across disciplines to tackle the economic, social, cultural and environmental problems of integrated urban rehabilitation.

These management bodies are usually public authorities subject to the control of political power. They are increasingly being financed by private partners. This public-private partnership is often very profitable, notably in « developing countries » and means that external aid is not the only resource available. When cities have the means to finance the major part of the work to be undertaken, sharing responsibility and financing between the public and private sectors is often found to be more efficient.

« Viability and economic investments go hand in hand with the social dimension of revitalization. No sustainable revitalization can take place without a holistic approach linking economic vitality, social cohesion and human development. [...] In Havana, an investment office opened. The procedures and the general philosophy concerning the future of investments in the old city have been considerably simplified thanks to a planning system which helps prepare and implement investments and enhance productivity. »

Silvio Mutal, town planner, expert, 2007.

### → support multidisciplinary, integrated approaches and encourage networking and partnerships.

Revitalization is made up of complex processes requiring a sound understanding of the different fields and their interaction (environment, social transformations, economy, culture, town planning, heritage, tourism, etc.). Each integrated approach generates a reorganization of work. Smooth functioning of the city's technical services requires adapting to the actual revitalization work. This reorganization can be accomplished with listening, discussion, training and conflict resolution. Changes are not decreed, they are shared. Respect for transparency continues through the follow-up of action undertaken to ensure a certain continuity while adjusting, step by step, the strategies for the development of the city. Forward planning must allow the city to respond to the needs of the present generation without jeopardizing those of future generations.

### → organizing discussion among all actors and the participation of local populations helps to put everyone on the same wavelength.

#### Participation of inhabitants as the driving-force for change in Saint Denis, France

« Within the framework of the City's Policy Implementation, involvement of the local population is a strong link based on the creation of public education workshops on living in the city, district committees and strengthening the role of local community associations. Citizens organize grass-roots committees and associations. These groups provide a platform for discussing local problems and exchanging ideas on the projects. They represent the grass-roots level of district committees. »

Major City Project for Saint Denis, Regional Convention, 2000-2006.

Good local governance is a straightforward chain of political, financial and professional partnerships. It is key to the success of revitalization processes while ensuring the coordination of all action within the district and its immediate surroundings.

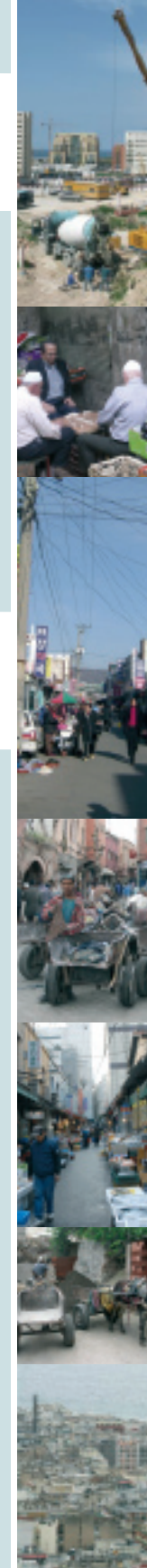
Interaction and working together with actors from different backgrounds involves overcoming social, economic or technical differences and finding common ground.

The participatory process must be implemented during the various stages of the strategy or revitalization project. Consultation of citizens, and sharing and respecting the rules is essential from the outset.

#### Alternative Plan to the eviction of the Pom Mahakan community (Bangkok, Thailand)

Pom Mahakan is a community of around 300 residents located near Mahakan Fort. Within the framework of the Government-sponsored plan to revitalize the old city, in January 2003, the residents of Pom Mahakan did everything they could to avoid the eviction and demonstrated their resistance by holding protests, building barricades and organizing a night-watch committee. Assisted by a coalition of academics, NGOs and human rights activists, they put forward a highly innovative land-sharing plan as an alternative to eviction and relocation.

Jean du Plessis, COHRE Coordinator, at UNESCO Round Table of experts on Social Sustainability in Historic Districts, World Urban Forum, September 2004.



## SUGGESTED STAGES

It is advisable to carry out a regional diagnosis prior to any intervention, with an inventory and typology of the historic heritage of the city. Institutional capacity-building through training is often needed.

### chronological and multidisciplinary stages.

- Draw up an inventory: identify and list the heritage, analyse the region and the needs of its inhabitants
- Conduct a participatory, strategic diagnosis: consider possible solutions
- Draft and validate a plan of action: follow priorities, plan impact studies
- Implement the action plan and the projects: acquire human and financial resources
- Follow the progress and evaluate continuously: learn the lessons for future interventions
- Communicate: release and explain the revitalization choices

## HELP NEEDED?

- Numerous management, negotiation and evaluation tools exist
- Many methods are available to help you
- Adapted training sessions are provided or can be devised
- Local help: UNESCO/UN-Habitat Network experts can be mobilized (training sessions, someone to work through the different stages with you, and advice)

« I am convinced of the importance of the development of exchanges between cities in the field of culture and know-how, and therefore stress the importance of cooperation such as that between two European cities and the town of Qufu, recognized in China as being the cradle of a civilization thousands of years old. So it was extremely important to gather together experts and specialists to reflect further on the meaning, relevance and significance of our experiment. We also included the city of Schichachaï and its cooperation with Rome and Paris. »

Edmond Hervé, Mayor of Rennes, April 2007, excerpt from a letter addressed to UNESCO. Rennes, partner of the AIME.



### The RehabiMed method for the Mediterranean region

RehabiMed is proposing an intervention method for local authorities and all actors involved in rehabilitation processes. It facilitates the promotion, planning and management of rehabilitation measures for traditional architecture, in its regional context (rural or urban), by providing a range of tools and recommendations to help implement a « Rehabilitation Plan of Action ». It comes with a manual.

[www.rehabimed.net](http://www.rehabimed.net)

### the SIRCHAL workshops for Latin America

These workshops are places for discussion with local actors (councillors, technicians, associations, etc.) to develop new working methods, find ways to get local financing and to involve councillors and key political figures. Ideas and projects, knowledge and experience must be linked together to build a solid base for a balanced revitalization of historic centres and provide means and tools for each project to be autonomous.

[www.archi.fr/SIRCHAL](http://www.archi.fr/SIRCHAL)

### centres of expertise

- Raymond Lemaire Centre: [www.asro.kuleuven.ac.be/rlcc](http://www.asro.kuleuven.ac.be/rlcc)
- City of architecture and heritage (Chaillot school): [www.citechailot.fr](http://www.citechailot.fr)
- Contemporary China Architecture Observatory: [www.archi.fr/OBS-CHINE](http://www.archi.fr/OBS-CHINE)
- School of architecture and urban studies, Tongji, Shanghai: [www.tongji.edu.cn/english/Academics](http://www.tongji.edu.cn/english/Academics)
- Tongji University Institute of architecture and urban projects: [www.tjupdi.com](http://www.tjupdi.com)
- CRATerre – ENSAG: [terre.grenoble.archi.fr](http://terre.grenoble.archi.fr)





## useful links, international cities networks

- UNESCO : [www.unesco.org](http://www.unesco.org)
- UN-HABITAT : [www.unhabitat.org](http://www.unhabitat.org)
- IFLA (International Federation of Landscape Architects) : [www.iflaonline.org](http://www.iflaonline.org)
- UIA (Union Internationale des Architectes) : [www.uia-architectes.org](http://www.uia-architectes.org)
- AIMF (Association Internationale des Maires Francophones) : [www.aimf.asso.fr](http://www.aimf.asso.fr)
- AIU (Association Internationale des Urbanistes) : [www.isocarp.org](http://www.isocarp.org)
- FMCU (Fédération Mondiale des Cités Unies) : [www.fmcu-uto.org](http://www.fmcu-uto.org)
- CLGF (Commonwealth Local Government Forum) : [www.clgf.org.uk](http://www.clgf.org.uk)
- UCLG (United Cities and Local Governments) : [www.iula.org](http://www.iula.org)
- UIM (Unión Iberoamericana de Municipalistas) : [www.uimunicipalistas.org](http://www.uimunicipalistas.org)
- Alliance Internationale des Habitants : [www.alliance21.org](http://www.alliance21.org)
- Cities alliance : [www.citiesalliance.org](http://www.citiesalliance.org)
- Eurocities : [www.eurocities.org/](http://www.eurocities.org/)
- OPVM, Organisation des Villes Historiques du Patrimoine Mondial : [www.ovpm.org](http://www.ovpm.org)
- ANVPAH & VSS (National association of cities and countries, art and history, and cities with heritage protected sectors) : [www.an-patrimoine.org](http://www.an-patrimoine.org)

### → For further information:

**Brigitte Colin**

Programme Specialist International Migrations and Multicultural Policies Section  
Division of Social Sciences, Research and Policy

UNESCO, 1, rue Miollis – 75015 Paris

e-mail : [b.colin@unesco.org](mailto:b.colin@unesco.org)

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### → manual available for decision-makers and local councillors.

**The UNESCO manual « Historic districts for all, a social and human approach for sustainable revitalization »**



Brochure compiled by Laure Veirier, Consultant (Interstices), in cooperation with experts on the Steering Committee, Social Sciences, Research and Policy Division (May-June 2007).

The experts who contributed to this working document are listed in the Manual for City Professionals

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