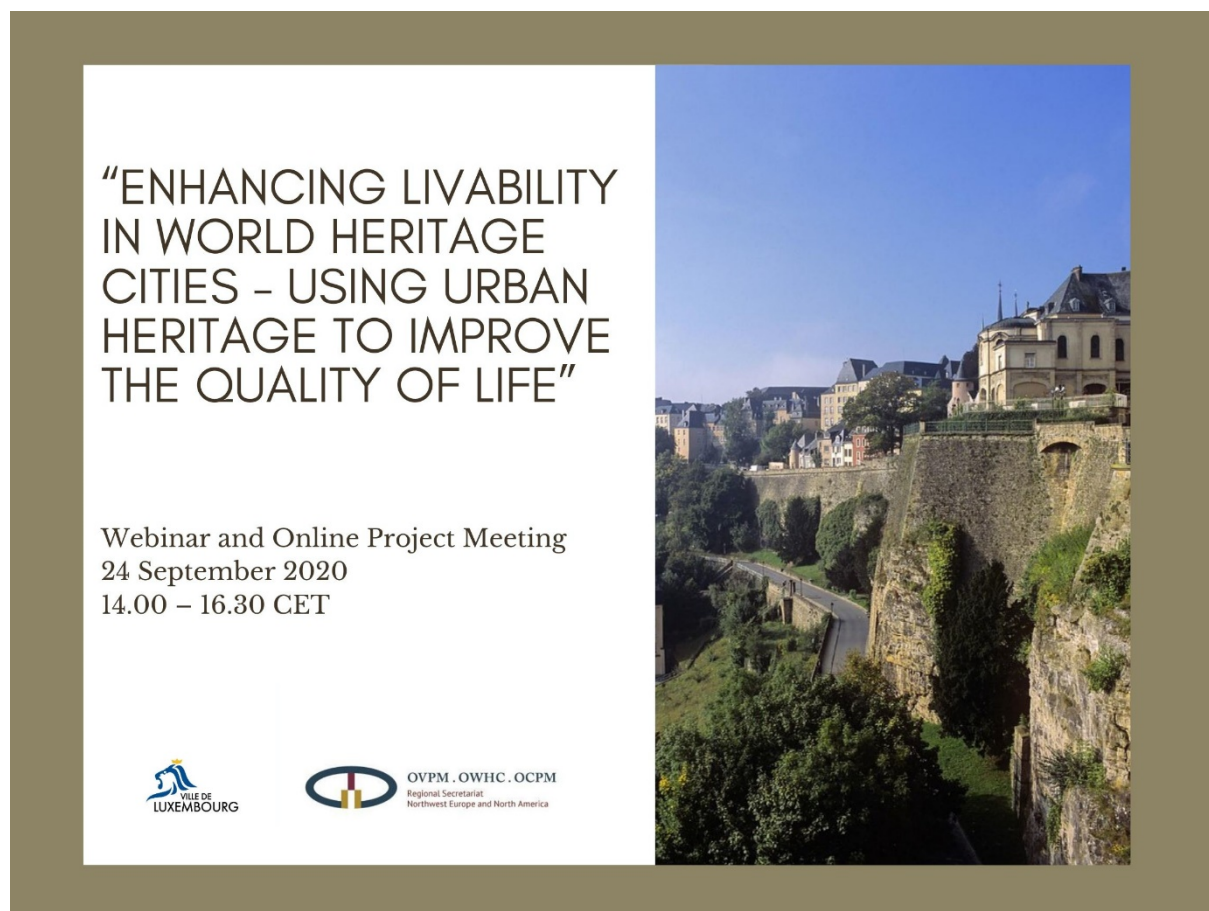




INVITATION



**“ENHANCING LIVABILITY
IN WORLD HERITAGE
CITIES – USING URBAN
HERITAGE TO IMPROVE
THE QUALITY OF LIFE”**

Webinar and Online Project Meeting
24 September 2020
14.00 – 16.30 CET



OVPM . OWHC . OCPM
Regional Secretariat
Northwest Europe and North America

Due to the Covid 19 pandemic, the scheduled 2020 Regional Conference of the Organization of World Heritage Cities for Northwest Europe and North America in Luxembourg had to be postponed to February 2021. For an update on all OWHC activities as well as a preparation for the content of the conference, we invite you to join a Webinar and Online Meeting for the regional member cities on 24th of September 2020.

BACKGROUND

Today, cultural heritage is recognized as a resource for society, retaining and transmitting the many and diverse values to the future, contributing to urban development and sustainable development in general. Cultural heritage is the link between people.

The economic, social, cultural, and environmental impacts of cultural heritage are generally positive. For this reason, cultural heritage sector receives assistance from many policy documents and actions beyond the cultural ones, such as those related to the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals. Cultural heritage is an excellent conduit for promoting social inclusion and supporting cultural diversity.

The concept *livability* could be used to describe the characteristics of urban environments that make them attractive as places to live. It includes tangible features (built environments, public spaces,

infrastructure, health and education services, clean air and water etc.) as well as intangible (sense of place, well-established social networks, local identity, etc.). The concept is strongly related to cultural heritage.

CONTENT

Cultural heritage contributes in an important way to increase social belonging, territorial cohesion, resilience, welfare, to upgrade neighbourhood, as well as livability of urban/territorial environments, in particular for younger and future generations. Crucial for preserving cultural heritage, intangible or tangible, is that it is considered as urgent for many and that it contributes to livability and improves quality of life.

The overall topic of the conference in February 2021, as well as the webinar on 24th September 2020, is **“Enhancing Livability in World Heritage Cities - Using Urban Heritage to improve the Quality of Life”**. The role for world heritage cities is today challenged by globalisation, anthropogenic climate change and social exclusion and shaped by mega trends such as urbanisation, digitalisation, individualisation, ageing population, tourism, human rights’ movements, and the transition to a fossil free economy. Cultural heritage can have a positive impact on social cohesion and inclusiveness. However, at the same time in world heritage cities we can see increased segregation and gentrification. To this, we can also add influences caused by Covid 19 pandemic.

During the conference we will focus on how cultural heritage can be regarded as enabler of social cohesion and inclusion. Furthermore, cultural heritage and historic quarters of cities can improve livability, resilience and sustainability of both older and new urban areas – using urban heritage to improve the quality of life. Of interest is also the relation between conservation itself and livability.

One topic is to discuss aspects of cultural heritage management and their relationship to sustainable development. Of interest is to understand how they can merge and what the contemporary and future challenges are in trying to achieve conditions in which heritage can support sustainability and vice versa as well as how preservation and conservation can improve livability and quality of life. Heritage is here recognised as living heritage made of complex characters, relationships and multidimensional interactions.

We plan to work on the following topics:

- **tangible and intangible cultural heritage as a vehicle for resilience, diversity and identity**
- **various approaches to valorisation, conservation and transformation of cultural heritage**

PARTICIPATION

The member cities are welcome to present their experience in the field of quality of life: Of interest are world heritage sites’ experiences in relation to tourism, green heritage, climate adaption, environmental and energy aspects, urban agriculture, bio-diversity, as well as traffic and infrastructures. We would like to have diverse input and hear about creative ideas in our member cities.

We will use the webinar as a platform for creative ideas and brainstorming and thus together structure also the content of our conference in February 2021 as well as the input for the OWHC World Congress in Québec. Our moderator and expert for the Luxembourg conference, Prof. Christer Gustafsson, will introduce the topic and guide us through the webinar.

TARGET GROUPS

Target groups are heritage professionals in our OWHC cities, practitioners in world heritage related businesses and emerging young professionals. We invite our cities to offer participation to the Webinar as well as the conference for Young Professionals and master students/PhD students in their final years.

WEBINAR

24 September 2020 - Webinar and Online Regional Meeting

14.00 – 16.30 CET

Planned agenda:

13.30 – 14.00	Open Floor – check-in and clarification of technical problems – round of chitchat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • disclaimer for recording and further use for documentation • introduction of agenda and rules
14.00 – 14.15	Welcome to all participants by Regional Secretariat and City of Luxembourg: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • short round of introduction by each participant/city representative
14.15 – 14.30	Introduction into topic – Set the theme for Regional Conference “Livability in WH cities”
14.30 – 15.15	Moderated discussion and brainstorming how our member cities can be engaged: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who can contribute what • Outlook: documentation of outcome/book/conference report
15.15 – 15.30	Information on planned format and methodology of conference: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Marketplace” and “Wallpaper” • integration of Young Professionals
15.30 – 16.00	Regional Conference – further steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • final program and registration deadline • definition of Young Professionals, animate member cities to send a person to Luxembourg • organization in Luxembourg, side program, invitation by hosting city • fees/invitation to wider audience
BREAK – Continue Regional Meeting only for Members in Good Standing	
16.00 – 16.30	OWHC Regional Project Meeting for Members <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • presentation of 2020 projects • plans for 2021 • finances

Cisco Webex Meetings will be used as collaborating tool for this interactive meeting:

It is highly recommended to use the Cisco Webex Meeting client. It is not recommended to attend the meeting with a browser or using another client like Skype. Cisco Webex Meetings has a voting system integrated which can only be attended when using this client.

If you already use Cisco Webex in your company or personal computer everything should be fine. If not, you can, already now, download the client from this website <https://vdl.webex.com> or you will be asked to install it when attending a meeting.

In order to attend a Meeting you don't need to have a Cisco Webex meeting account. You will receive an invitation by email with a join link. It will contain a meeting number and a password. When attending a Meeting the first time you will be asked to fill-in your name and email.

➔ REGISTRATION by September 11th 2020 via Google Forms

<https://forms.gle/mVgzxTP4MsNnWJkA9>

CONFERENCE

3-6 February 2021 – Regional Conference Luxembourg

A detailed program will follow after our Webinar, including our results and your input. We hope being able to welcome you all personally in February 2021 for a real conference and are looking forward to learning about the World Heritage site Luxembourg!

CONTACT

For any questions or previous input and ideas, please contact

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