



EUROPEAN
a s s o c i a t i o n
Historic Towns & Regions

Annual Report 2006

Dubrovnik

Report of the Secretary General



EUROPEAN
association
Historic Towns & Regions

Annual Report of the European Association of Historic Towns and Regions 2006

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1 Introduction

1.1. This Annual Report covers the period September 2005 to August 2006. It follows on from Annual Report presented to the last General Assembly in Norwich in September 2005. This report will be distributed to members and posted on the EAHTR website

2 Goteborg Symposium

1. 110 delegates gathered on the 15th and 16th September 2005 in Göteborg from 10 European countries to participate in the international symposium 'Heritage Led Regeneration – Delivering Good Practice.
 2. The Symposium was organized jointly by the City of Göteborg City Planning Authority and the European Association of Historic Towns and Regions as the launch symposium for the INHERIT project – a project funded by the European Union under the INTERREG IIIC programme involving the cities of Göteborg, Gdansk, Verona, Newcastle upon Tyne, Belfast and Ubeda.
 3. The Symposium brought together decision makers, practitioners, consultants and academics to share their experience of regenerating cities through investing in the city's physical heritage. It focused on : -
 - The significance of heritage for urban regeneration
 - Regional examples of heritage led regeneration
 - Themed workshops exploring: -
 - i. The value of the common heritage
 - ii. Accessibility in the renewal of building environments
 - iii. Whose Heritage? – involving the public in defining Heritage
 - Site visits examining examples of heritage led regeneration in Göteborg
- 2.1. The main conclusions of the symposium were set out in a policy statement and symposium declaration. This is attached at appendix 1.

3 INHERIT

- 3.1. Appendix 2 sets out progress on INHERIT since the last annual report
- 3.2. The project has been the main work priority this year in terms of identifying and promoting good practice. This project is a network operation under the INTERREG 3C Programme. EAHTR is the lead partner along with the cities of Belfast, Gothenburg, Newcastle, Verona and Gdansk.
- 3.3. The INHERIT project will carry out a series of in depth study visits to the six partner cities looking at 7 themes. These are Strategy, Policy and Legislation, Good Practice, Governance, Quality, Methodology and Benefit realisation. The project will convene 2 main symposia – Gothenburg September 2006 and Verona on 28 Feb –2nd March 2007 as well as contribute to the SAUVEUR EU Conference in Prague in May 2006 and the Dubrovnik Symposium both on Cultural Heritage. INHERIT will produce a good practice guide as well as a report on EU regional policy with regard to heritage led regeneration.

4 Dubrovnik Symposium 27th – 29th September 2005

- 4.1. The Symposium is organised jointly by EAHTR and the Council of Europe and is hosted by the City of Dubrovnik. Its theme is ‘ Cultural Tourism – Economic Benefit or Loss of identity’. Cultural Tourism is extremely important to the social and economic well being of historic cities and this symposium includes a wide range of speakers from across Europe.

5 EPOCH

- 5.1. EAHTR is a partner in the EPOCH project. EPOCH is an acronym for ‘European Research Network of Excellence in Processing Open Cultural Heritage. The project relates to the use of new technologies in the field of cultural heritage covering the full range of possibilities, from use of technology for the protection of the physical fabric, through to the use of the new technologies in interpretation of cultural heritage as a promotional tool.
- 5.2. EAHTR is represented on the management board and will help represent, through its members, ‘user interests’. The project has reached a crucial stage with much of its technical research well advanced. Epoch will be represented at the Dubrovnik Symposium and will report on its work on measuring social and economic impact improving access to cultural heritage through realising the potential of the new technologies.
- 5.3. EAHTR will be represented at the Project’s next meeting in Cyprus in November 2006 where a workshop will explore how the research findings can be applied in terms of different ‘scenarios’ as well as how the establishment of regional centres of excellence can be further expanded and developed across Europe.

6 CULT – STRAT Specific Targeted Research Project

- 6.1. Cult – Strat stands for Assessment of Air Pollution Effects on Cultural Heritage – Management Strategies and has 9 research partners from Sweden, Norway, U.K, France, Italy, Germany, Czech Republic and Spain.
- 6.2. The project has sub -contracted to EAHTR over two years to facilitate the participation of the end user community in the evaluation of management strategies relating to air quality and its effect on cultural heritage. The final product of the project will be a reference volume summarising all the findings for the end users, which EAHTR will also help to evaluate.
- 6.3. EAHTR is currently helping to organise a workshop to bring heritage managers and academics together to discuss the impact of air quality and ways that the Cult-Strat project can reflect users needs. This will be on 15 –17 March in the Louvre, Paris will help disseminate and implement the overall research findings of the project. Appendix 3 set out a draft 'Flyer' to promote the workshop

7 Historic Towns Visits

- 7.1. EAHTR has been encouraging further study visits between member associations as a very useful means of exchanging good practice. We are currently in discussion with the Association of Historic Towns of the Netherlands who have agreed to host a visit from the English Historic Towns Forum in May or June 2007.

8 Membership

- 8.1. The Romanian Association of Historical and Art Towns and Regions (A.L.Z.I.A.R) and the Turkish city of Kalkan joined EAHTR during 2006. EAHTR currently has 11 national or regional association members, which with associate members gives a total representation of some 950 historic towns and cities across 14 European countries

9 Web Site

- 9.1. The new EAHTR web site went live in May 2006. The site is provided for EAHTR by Norwich City Council through their strategic IT Partner, Steria. The site will continue to act as a portal to member sites as well as other heritage based organisations. One innovation we hope to introduce is a photographic library where up to 1000 photographs of historic areas, buildings etc can be made available for downloading organised by country and topic.

10 Financial Report

- 10.1. The EAHTR budget is set out at Appendices 4 and 5. Appendix 4 sets out the draft Accounts for 2005 prepared by our auditors Aston Berry and Appendix 5 sets out a revised budget for 2006 and a projected budget for 2007. The financial assumptions used in compiling the budget are set out in the appendices.

- 10.2. 2006 has again seen increases in EAHTR's turnover as a consequence of securing substantial EU funding for project work but with reduced funding available for core activities of the association (outside of project work).

11 Future Priorities

- 11.1. The financial position described in the Financial Report above will as in previous years determine the staff resource available and define the level of mainstream activity that can be funded during 2007 and beyond. The main focus of increasing membership should be attracting cities to join EAHTR as full members. The Council of Europe has indicated that they will help encourage member countries to promote cities and regions to join EAHTR.
- 11.2. It is also proposed to keep the emergence of the new tranche of structural funds, which starts from January 2007, under review especially opportunities to bid for inter-regional cooperation. It is not clear at this stage the extent to which heritage and historic cities will be a priority.
- 11.3. As lead partner in the INHERIT project EAHTR has accepted a significant work programme for 2007 with study visits, symposia and major documents to be produced on good practice and regional policy. The work programme will also include: -
- ❑ Organise study visits to Belfast (23 –26 October 2006) and Newcastle (September 2007)
 - ❑ Organise a Symposium in Verona 28th February –2nd March 2007. Case studies from all member cities will be presented.
 - ❑ Contributing to the EPOCH project in terms of representing 'user needs' as described above.
 - ❑ Contributing to the Cult –Strat project in terms of user needs and dissemination of the projects research findings as set out in this report Specifically organise workshop on Air quality in Louvre Paris on 15 –17 March 2007
 - ❑ Developing a work programme with the Education and Culture Committee of the Council of Europe and specifically contribute further to the development of their work on Modernity and historic environments.
 - ❑ Continue to organize jointly bi-annual symposia on historic towns with the Council of Europe following on the success of symposia previously organized in Kazan, Norwich and Dubrovnik.
 - ❑ Explore with member Associations the venues and subjects for further Symposia in 2007 and 2008
- 11.3 EAHTR will continue to support the activities of member Associations, Cities and the Council of Europe in every way possible within available resources.

12 Conclusions

- 12.1. 2006 has seen significant progress on leading and participating in European Projects, particularly on the development of INHERIT. 2007 will hopefully see progress on cities joining EAHTR and the establishment of a medium to long term work programme in association with the Council of Europe which should in turn lead to more opportunities for EAHTR to involve and engage with its membership.

12.2. The key challenge remains to increase core funding to enable the restoration of Secretariat resources to previous levels and beyond.

12.3. As in previous years I would like to thank all of those who have participated in the activities of EAHTR in 2006 -7 with particular thanks to the President, Bureau and Secretariat and of course for the continued support from Norwich City Council and The Council of Europe.

Brian Smith
Secretary General