



EUROPEAN
ASSOCIATION
Historic Towns & Regions

**The Wooden Town
throughout the Centuries
15 -17 May - Porvoo, Finland**

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Introduction

- **Background to EAHTR**
- **Policy context**
- **Importance of Wooden Architecture and local identity**
- **Work of Europa Nostra**
- **Contribution of 'Wooden Towns Throughout the Centuries International Seminar**



Background

- **EAHTR formed in Strasbourg in Oct. 1999**
- **Part of Council of Europe's Campaign 'Europe - A Common Heritage'**
- **13 Historic Towns Association have joined so far - representing over 1000 cities / municipalities**



- **AIM**

- To promote the interests of Europe's historic towns and regions

- **OBJECTIVES**

- international co-operation between Heritage organisations and historic towns
- Share experience and good practice
- Promote vitality viability, and sustainability of historic towns



Policy Context

- **European Commission Green Paper on Urban Environment - June 1990**
 - ‘The historical centres of European cities, while they remain intact, represent an important link with the city’s past culture and heritage. In a world increasingly dominated by global styles of architecture and building technology, historic centres provide a unique sense of place which differentiates them one from another’



Successful Heritage led regeneration

- **Importance of Context**
 - **Pride of place**
 - **Distinctiveness**
 - **Street patterns**
 - **Design in Context**
- **Socio/Economic benefits**
 - **Social mix of people**
 - **Skilled employment**
 - **Tourism**
 - **Profitable investment**



- **Working in Partnership**
 - Community involvement
 - All Stakeholders
 - Different approaches - consensus
 - sharing experiences
 - integrated management
- **Essential Qualities**
 - Understanding
 - Develop shared values
 - Commitment
 - Aspiration
 - Innovation



Theatre Royal, Newcastle





Importance of Wooden Architecture and Local Identity

- **Building Heritage of Europe - great and varied**
- **Tendency to protect great stone edifices - wooden heritage often overlooked**
- **Predominant in forested northern Europe**
- **Baltic countries - central areas of cities and wooden suburbs**



- **Privately owned - then nationalised by Soviet Union post 1940s**
 - Little maintenance - poor repair
 - preference for pre-fabricated housing
 - image of ‘wooden shacks’
- **Not always ‘valued’ culturally though central to local identity**
- **Key issue - loss of cultural heritage and local identity**



Istanbul, Turkey





Eksjö, Sweden





Gothenburg, Sweden





Krajne Cierno, Church - Slovakia





Dalen Hotel, Norway





House - Kazan





Europa Nostra

- **Krakow Declaration 1995**
 - need to control development
 - public education
 - craft training
- **Riga Declaration -Sep 2001**
 - Encourage:
 - awareness of the value of wooden architecture
 - pressure on decision makers to ensure protection and enhancement
 - Develop programmes of training



- Impress upon Las the need for conservation plans
- Urge EU and C. of Europe to impress upon member states the dangers facing wooden architecture
- Request the EU to take further action to ensure the implementation of the 1990 Green Paper on the Urban Environment
- Award Scheme -Porvoo



Contribution of Seminar

- Reinforce importance of wooden architecture locally and internationally
- Highlight complementary potential of contemporary use of wood in modern architecture
- Identify the key issues facing preservation and enhancement for dissemination by EAHTR