

Sustainable Historic Environments holistic reconstruction through Technological Enhancement and community-based Resilience

Dear reader,

It is our pleasure to send you this summer edition of the SHELTER Newsletter, which brings you the highlights of our latest activities carried out during the last six months.

SHELTER joined the [Joint Programming Initiative on Cultural Heritage and Global Change](#) (JPI CH). The Initiative was created in 2010 based on an instrument launched by the European Commission.



It is a Member-State-driven initiative bringing together national research funding organisations, ministries, and research councils from Europe to address societal challenges in the European Research Area (ERA) frame. In this context, SHELTER also joined its Heritage Research Hub, a platform *on and for* the cultural heritage research community. You can find us [here](#).

Moreover, SHELTER participated to the [ECCA 2021](#) - 5th European Climate Change Adaptation Conference on “Bringing adaptation solutions to life: Inspiring climate adaptation action today for a resilient future”. The conference took place from 25 May to 22 June 2021 with a series of 9 webinars.

In this occasion, our project team was involved in various sessions presenting the SHELTER project and was featured in ECCA21 Library. This gave us the opportunity to raise awareness about our project and to present the first set of results!



Also, during these months, SHELTER established - together with the Horizon 2020 sister projects ARCH and HYPERION - an EU Task Force for Climate Neutral and Resilience Historic Urban Districts, in response to the EU call for a ‘Heritage Alive’ orientation to “[increase] resilience and sustainable reconstruction of historic areas to cope with climate change and hazard events”.



The Task Force's mission is to bring together actors from practice, research, and policy to promote the development and adoption of advanced solutions for resilient planning for historic urban areas, allowing them to adapt to climate change and making them climate neutral in the process.

In doing so, the aim is to provide support to European authorities and decision makers for developing common evidence-based policies, strategies, and procedures. To achieve this goal, the Task Force focuses on 3 thematic areas:

- developing resilience strategies for historic urban districts;
- developing harmonized approaches for assessing and monitoring risk and resilience; and
- developing equitable solutions for and with communities.

The technical “core” of the EU Task Force comprises partners from European research projects in the fields of heritage management, climate change, mitigation/adaptation, disaster risk management/resilience as well as urban planning and regeneration.

The [kick-off session](#) was held online on 23 June 2021 and recorded more than 80 participants. During the event, a panel of European Commission representatives discussed issues, gaps, opportunities, and good practices for climate neutrality and resilience in historic urban districts. Based on international, European and national programmes, the Italian Ministry of Culture, UNESCO World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS examined concerns and potential opportunities for achieving climate neutrality and strengthening the resilience in and alongside historic urban districts.

The Deputy Director of UNESCO World Heritage Centre, Jyoti Hosagrahar, introduced in a [video message](#) the Call for Action Celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape.

Representatives from the EU tasks force of the 3 H2020 projects presented solutions for climate adaptation and mitigation that can be used in historic urban districts, as well as how the socio-cultural factors associated with historic urban districts can drive and support climate action, based on case studies.

Read more [HERE](#)

Lastly, SHELTER celebrated its 5th General Assembly, a moment where all the Consortium partners reported on the status of works and progresses, presenting the latest results, showcasing the first sets of tools that comprise the SHELTER Operational Knowledge Framework. In this context, the activities of the Open Labs are in full swing!

In particular:

- Dordrecht Open Lab implemented the [IMMERSITE Tool](#), enabling stakeholders to take a virtual tour of the project and to understand its specific impacts. Here, multiple bilateral meetings and one workshop meeting took place;

- Galicia Open Lab collected positive impressions related to local solutions development, continued the interactions with stakeholders, and contributed to the [PLADIGA 2021](#) (Plan of prevention and defense against forest fires of Galicia region) and all inputs were delivered to technical partners;
- SAVA Open Lab launched its [devoted infographic](#) and is moving forward with the testing of solutions and talks with the stakeholders;
- Ravenna Open Lab has launched the implementation of the whole set of tools for SHELTER integrated monitoring strategy with a devoted [conference-event](#);
- Seferihisar Open Lab has fully recovered its activities as its processes were impacted by the 2020 Aegean Sea earthquake - which heavily affected Izmir municipality and surrounding areas - and managed to engage with the Turkish national Disaster Risk Management office.

Furthermore, a new set of [scientific publications](#) on the technologies utilized in SHELTER were published together with the public [deliverables](#), which were released and made available on our [website](#).

The SHELTER team is currently preparing for the upcoming season with fervent activities that will be soon announced through our channels. Stay tuned!

Hoping you enjoyed the reading, on behalf of the SHELTER team we hope you enjoy your time off and we wish you pleasant summer days.



Subscribe to our mailing list to receive the next issue [HERE](#) !

Don't forget to follow us on social media!





This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 821282