

Acronym – PICH

Title – The impact of urban planning and governance reform on the historic built environment and intangible cultural Heritage

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Department – Department of Architecture and Arts

Sector – ICAR/21

Iuav Role – partner

Lead partner - Delft University of Technology

Duration – 36 months

Start – 01/11/2015

Closure – 31/10/2018

Source of funding – JPI / Heritage Plus Joint Call

Description – The PICH project will provide a comprehensive assessment of the impact of fundamental reforms in urban planning and governance on the historic built environment and place identity. Urban planning and governance systems mediate conflicting interests over the built historic environment with significant implications for the cultural heritage and collective place identity. The cultural meaning of places may be revealed, enhanced or exploited by planning and governance of urban development, or it can be swept away completely by planning decisions that reflect other policy priorities and interests. Global forces and European integration are fundamentally changing the processes and doctrine of urban planning and governance. Neo-liberal ideology reinforced by economic crises, the risks associated with climate change, and growing individualism and diversity in society have undermined traditional planning methods.

The project will evaluate the effect of fundamental reform in planning and governance in three settings: the historic urban core, sites of industrial transformation, and the wider landscape heritage. It will assess the impact of reform on the tangible built environment and place identity, and develop evaluation and education tools. The project is a collaborative exercise of academics, policy makers and civil society in Italy, the Netherlands, Norway and the United Kingdom. This combination gives added value in potential for comparative evaluation across all the main models of planning. Associate partners will be involved from municipalities, heritage organisations and other countries not directly funded by this call to test ideas under other conditions.

The project will meet a pressing demand for guidance on managing the built cultural heritage and place identity under more complex and uncertain conditions. It will make a broad contribution to the Strategic Agenda in understanding the implications of fundamental reform, by drawing transferable lessons, and by proposing effective transferable methods and tools.

Objectives – The PICH proposal aims to advance understanding of how fundamental reforms in urban planning and governance driven by global forces, are affecting the management of the historic built environment and the intangible cultural heritage of cities, particularly place identity. This is an ambitious project with the aim to undertake a comprehensive international assessment that concludes with a definitive research-based text on urban planning and the cultural heritage, practical policy briefs, evaluation tools, and an education and training module.

The intangible cultural heritage of cities is indivisible from the physical historic environment.

Therefore decisions about change or continuity in the historic environment have far reaching implications for intangible cultural heritage, and particularly collective place identity. Radical reform of urban planning and governance has direct impacts on the tangible built heritage of cities, and less well-understood indirect impacts on the intangible cultural heritage, especially place identity.

The project asks:

- i) How is the governance of the historic urban environment being affected by fundamental reform of urban planning and governance in the context of dominant neo-liberal public policy, and the priority to adapt for climate change?
- ii) What are the consequences of governance reform for the historic urban environment and the intangible cultural heritage, notably collective place identity?
- iii) How best can policy makers and other stakeholders take account of place identity when planning the physical transformation of cities, and with what tools?

Website – planningandheritage.wordpress.com/pich-2/

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