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EUROPEAN  
association  
Historic Towns & Regions



# The CHRONICLE

Newsletter of the European Association of Historic Towns & Regions

Issue

January 2003

## INHERIT Investing in heritage – regenerating Europe's Historic Cities

The Granger Town Partnership, together with Newcastle City Council and EAHTR is proud to announce the launch of a new international network called INHERIT - a proposal to establish within EAHTR, a group of heritage cities with experience in heritage - led regeneration and committed to sharing good practice.

This proposal arose out of the success of the 'Investing in Heritage' conference on the 3rd - 5th July 2002 in Grainger Town, Newcastle upon Tyne, UK.

### In Stage One INHERIT will aim to:

- Identify good practice in heritage - led regeneration in heritage cities.
- Determine which mechanisms can be successfully transferred between countries/cities
- Determine which local circumstances need to be taken into account.
- Identify new funding regimes and provide expertise on applications for grant assistance for heritage - led regeneration in historic cities.

### In its first year, INHERIT will aim to deliver: -

- A good practice Guide Book.
- Wide publicity and dissemination of findings through member cities, EAHTR website and bulletins in newsletter etc.
- Organisation of professional secondments.
- Organisation of a 'city visit' and preparation of a future INHERIT conference.

### In Stage Two INHERIT will aim to:

- Investigate wider synergy between heritage cities and develop the network.
- Consider new good practice in heritage-led regeneration in historic cities.
- Disseminate findings widely including to Central and Eastern Europe.
- Submit applications for funding from the European Commission and other relevant bodies.

Heritage cities who have expressed interest include; - Antwerp, Birmingham, Edinburgh, Gothenburg, Newcastle, Olomouc, Santiago de Compostella, Sarpsborg, St Petersburg, and Turin.

## Call for universities to join EAHTR

EAHTR agreed at its General Assembly earlier this year in Strasbourg to extend its membership criteria to include universities and other educational institutions who share EAHTR's commitment to the sustainable management of historic areas.

Membership of EAHTR offers a unique opportunity for researchers working in the fields of cultural heritage, urban conservation and sustainable development to form new partnerships with an important "user" group - practitioners working in historic cities. For further information please contact the Secretariat on : + 44 (0)1603 49 64 00 or e-mail: [bsmith@historic-towns.org](mailto:bsmith@historic-towns.org)

## General Assembly Approves EAHTR Annual Report

EAHTR's Annual Report was officially approved at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg on 15th March 2002 as delegates congratulated the association on progress and work achieved to date.

Progress noted in the meeting report included:

- the partnership between EAHTR and Norwich City Council.
- progress on membership and sponsorship.
- the establishment of the newsletter and web site.
- the conference programme for 2002.
- work on European projects.
- support to members.
- the transition of EAHTR to a 'Company Limited by Guarantee'.

A full copy of the report including future plans and priorities can be found at [www.historic-towns.org](http://www.historic-towns.org)

## Sponsorship Update

Oracle have now fulfilled their initial 2 year commitment to sponsor EAHTR and we would like to take this opportunity to thank them for helping to set up the Association.

We are delighted to welcome The Nordic Timber Council as a new sponsor. Wood is one of very few genuinely environmentally friendly materials and an important part of our cultural heritage. The Nordic Timber Council supports a better and wider use of wood and is happy to sponsor EAHTR in their work to preserve European historic cities.

Nordic Timber Council AB, Drottning Kristinas väg 71, 114 28 Stockholm.

Phone: +46 8 440 85 60, Telefax: +46 411 26 76,

Web sites: [www.nordictimber.org](http://www.nordictimber.org) & [www.woodforgood.nu](http://www.woodforgood.nu)



Nordic  
Timber Council

The European Association of  
Historic Towns and Regions is  
supported by:



- Norwich City Council
- Council of Europe
- Nordic Timber Council

## City Focus: Investing in Heritage The Renaissance of Newcastle's Grainger Town



Along the elegant streets of Grainger Town, lies the historic heart of the City of Newcastle upon Tyne, conceived and built by Richard Grainger between 1835-1842.

With a Mediaeval 13th century Dominican Friary, remnants of old Town Walls and many fine Victorian Buildings, 244 of its 640 buildings are listed of special architectural or historic interest.

Thanks to the ambitious Grainger Town Regeneration Project led by the Grainger Town Partnership and supported by English Heritage, English Partnerships / One North East and Newcastle City Council, the area has been transformed.

Until recently, perceptions of the City centre were at an all time low due to urban decay, economic and social decline, poor environment, low standards and a lack of developer, investor and occupier confidence in the area.

Established in 1997, with the aim of addressing the underlying causes of decline, not just the symptoms, the Project is due to run until March 2003. The Project has attracted £40m from the public sector, which will be used to generate at least £80m investment from the private sector, bringing the total invested in the regeneration of Grainger Town over the lifetime of the Project to in excess of £120m. To date, the Project has generated over £100m investment into the area.

A recent independent interim review of the Project's activities concluded that the Grainger Town Project has been successful in "promoting change, reversing decline and helping to produce more positive perceptions of the area. The Project has been well managed and the process of regeneration has proved effective and worked well."

The Grainger Town Partnership, a company limited by guarantee has:

- A board of 20 directors from the public, private and community sectors.
- Business and Residents Fora that provide community involvement.
- a Delivery Team of 14 officers, led by Chris Oldershaw the Director.

The Project's Vision Statement is that Grainger Town will:

- become a dynamic and competitive location in the heart of the City.
- develop its role in the regional economy with a high-quality environment appropriate to a major European capital.
- be focused on leisure, culture and the arts, retailing, housing and entrepreneurial activities.
- become "a safe and attractive location to work, live and visit".

The success of the Grainger Town project in the heritage-led regeneration of the historic heart of Newcastle upon Tyne was celebrated and promoted in the Partnership's international conference from 3rd-5th July 2002, Investing in Heritage - Regenerating Europe's Historic Cities (see INHERIT report - front page).

See full article on [www.historic-towns.org](http://www.historic-towns.org)

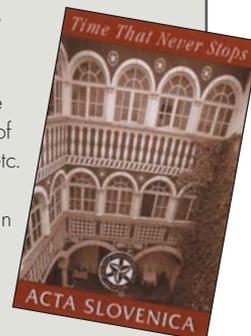
## Ambitious Plans to Promote the Historic Towns of Slovenia

The Association of Historic Towns of Slovenia was formed in June 2002. Ms Mateja Hafner Dolenc, Secretary General of the Association of Historic Towns of Slovenia outlines progress and future plans.

### Future Programme: Renovation and Restoration

Due to the lack of skilled tradesmen and craftsmen the Association's plans to:

- establish a "School of Restoration" to provide trade jobs in the fields of carpentry, bricklaying etc.
- make restoration more accessible by giving an alternative option to proprietors other than expensive sculptors and restorers.



The need for careful urban planning in space management is needed in order to:

- prevent new construction overwhelming historic sites.
- create an equal partnership between the old and new.

The Association are preparing sample models for the management of historic sites and calling for appropriate legislation.

### Education

The Association are also preparing educational programmes to:

- reinforce the value of preserving cultural and natural heritage.
- overcome negative attitudes related to the political history of Slovenia and encourage a more positive attitude towards the old.

### Advertising and Promotion

The realisation of the Association's plans depends on:

- attracting new members.
- working with businesses on projects of mutual interest.

### Tourism

Plans to boost tourism include:

- a tourist Guidebook which involves a reward system for tourists when they spend money.
- a historic towns trail.
- special subscription rates to cultural events in historic towns.
- a tourist leaflet of the members of the Association of the Historic Towns of Slovenia.

From the mountains in the North to the wine region of the South, these diverse towns are rich in art and architecture. The current member towns of the Slovenian Association are:

- Skofja Loka, the best preserved medieval city in Slovenia.
- Trzic, a neo-classical city below the Karavanke mountains.
- Celje, the romantic and prosperous city of Princes.

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## Secretary General Reports...

2002 has been a busy year for EAHTR with the successful completion of our first conference programme and a steady increase in new members. I am particularly pleased to announce that the Council of Europe has now formalised its relationship with EAHTR and agreed to provide future support including working with EAHTR in organising future Historic Towns Conferences.

The General Assembly agreed our future priorities (details on [www.historic-towns.org](http://www.historic-towns.org)) and these include many issues covered in this newsletter e.g. establishing the INHERIT group of cities and inviting Universities to join EAHTR. Of course expanding membership remains a top priority as does extending the web site -so if you would like us to link to your site then please let us know.

Finally on behalf of the President and Bureau may I thank all of you - members, sponsors, partner organisations and the Secretariat for making 2002 a successful step in the development of EAHTR. Please enjoy this edition of 'The Chronicle' and I hope to meet as many of you as possible at one of our events in 2003.

The aims of EAHTR are to:

- promote the interests of European historic towns
- encourage international collaboration and raise public awareness of cultural heritage



- share good practice in conservation and sustainable management of historic towns
- influence policy-making bodies to reflect the needs of historic towns and their inhabitants



## Kazan Symposium agrees 'Declaration of Kazan'

The International Symposium on "Cultural Diversity in Historic Cities - Key to a Sustainable Future" took place in Kazan in the Russian Federation, on the 20 -24th June, 2002, as part of preparation for the 1000th anniversary of the foundation of the city.

### International delegates visit Kazan

The Symposium was attended by over 150 people from 26 countries and included representatives from:

- The congress of Local Authorities of the Federation of Russia.
- Union of historic cities and regions of Russia.
- UNESCO.
- European Association of Historic Towns and Regions.
- Organisation of World Heritage Cities.
- Organisation of Islamic Capitals and Regions.
- League of Historic Cities.
- United Towns Organisation.
- Europa Nostra/ICOMOS.
- Standing Conference of Mediterranean Historic Cities.

### Main Conclusions.

The main conclusions of the Symposium were that:-

- Preservation of cultural and historic heritage is essential to cultural diversity and a sustainable future for historic cities.
- Cultural Diversity contributes to increased quality of life, social harmony and security and can bring economic benefits including Tourism.
- International, national and regional collaboration sharing of experience was seen as key to promoting cultural diversity in historic cities.

### Action Agreed

National, Local and Regional Authorities to be encouraged to; -

- strengthen educational and social policies which reflect diversity and reinforce the importance and role of institutions for cultural protection.
- Promote understanding and respect between Eastern and Western cultures and equitable practice of different cultures and faiths.

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## City Focus: Norwich – A key European City



Norwich is a beautiful, medieval city located in the East of England with a population, in the greater Norwich area, of approximately 200,000. The city offers an extraordinary wealth of opportunity with a prestigious university, Research Park, international airport and a long established and successful business community.

The key employment sectors within Norwich are financial services, retailing, hotels and public services, including local government, health and education. The manufacturing sector, which ranges from the production of shoes to packaging materials, is diverse while engineering firms within the Norwich area tend to be innovative and specialists within their given field. The media industry is particularly well represented.

Norwich is a major centre for information technology. In order to mark the new Millennium and develop understanding of the



opportunities implicit in the growth of Information Technology, a landmark £63 million building 'The Forum',

(consisting of a library, business and learning centre, EU Information Centre, visitor centre and information and learning network) opened in the centre of the City in late 2001.

Norwich has the most complete medieval street pattern in England. From the Castle you have a superb vantage point over the fine merchants' houses, half timbered shops and Georgian townhouses that line the City's cobblestone lanes. However the Forum, Castle Mall and immediate surroundings with its framework of ancient and hi-tech buildings is an example of how the past can be embraced to enhance the present.

Norwich is one of the top 10 shopping centres in the UK (currently 8th). It also has the largest, 6-day, open-air market in England with approximately 200 stalls, which is to undergo a major revamp. A 10,000,000 (£6.4 million)

project bid has been approved enabling a number of UK and European cities, including Norwich, to revitalise their historic city centres. The Norwich element of this EU funded project is worth £1.6 million and much of this will be used to improve and redevelop the market place.

Additional funding from the European Union will contribute to a £1.4 million, 4-year project that will continue the regeneration and development of Norwich's rivers. Other regeneration work within the City includes ongoing developments at Riverside; a start on the £275 million Chapelfield retail centre; regeneration of King Street; the redevelopment of Whitefriars and further expansion of Norwich Research Park.

In recent years there has been a rapid growth in the evening economy - with a multitude of new restaurants, cafe bars, night clubs and cinemas - which complements the existing



vibrant arts and culture scene. In addition the annual Norfolk and Norwich Festival hosts an impressive line up of international acts.

Norwich International

Airport has daily KLM UK flights to Amsterdam, from which connections can conveniently be made all over the world. Norwich is well served by the ports of King's Lynn, Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft and is only 1 hour and 40 minutes, by train, from London.

Norwich is developing rapidly as a prime European business location with a change of emphasis on the requirements of the business world as sustainability, a knowledge based economy and quality of life become increasingly paramount. As a vibrant European city Norwich is keen to participate in partnership projects with other cities and is proud to host the headquarters of the European Association of Historic Towns and Regions.



- encourage and support European partnerships between historic towns
- assist with establishing national and regional associations of historic towns



- promote education and training in the fields of urban management and cultural heritage
- develop a programme of conferences, cultural events, research and publications

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- Encourage cooperation and exchange of experience on cultural diversity.
- establish national associations of historic towns in all countries – such associations to work with EAHTR.

*The Council of Europe's Congress of Local and Regional Authorities to :-*

- Include Kazan as a model of peaceful coexistence between cultures at the CLRAE conference in Luxembourg.
- Present the 'Declaration of Kazan' to the UN World Summit in Johannesburg.
- Continue support for EAHTR and symposia for historic towns.

Finally, UNESCO was asked to establish a network of "Towns for Peace" and EAHTR agreed to include the findings of the Symposium in its future work programme and explore ways of providing membership to Non-European countries.

For details of the full Kazan Declaration see [www.historic-towns.org](http://www.historic-towns.org) - under Culture

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- Idrija, city of Natural Science and Technical Culture famous for lace-making.
- Kamnik, a medieval and Baroque city in the lap of the mountains.
- Koper, also known as the Sunny City lies on the coast of Slovenia and is the place to be in the Summer for Festivals, good food and fun.
- Kranj, a stunning city set against the mountains and famous for its cultural events and literary past.
- Piran, a seaside jewel with a Mediterranean flavour and renaissance Monastery.
- Ptuj, famous for its ancient wine cellar and thermal waters.
- Radovljica, a medieval town between the mountains.
- Slovenske Konjice, the city of flowers and wine.

Lastly, the Association of Historic Towns and Regions of Slovenia is looking forward to co-operating internationally and with EAHTR.

## Coach Tourism

Coach based tourism is a vital part of the tourism industry. A new Code of Practice sponsored by the English Historic Towns Forum and the Confederation of Passenger Transport aims to promote good relations between historic towns and coaches.

Examples of good practice in the Code include:

- Local authorities providing dedicated setting down points and good coach parking.
- Coach operators encouraging drivers not to wait with their engines running.
- Tour operators to give advance information in planning their trips.
- Attractions providing on site parking where possible.
- Everyone giving consideration to the needs of disabled travellers.

Inspired by the needs of historic towns and cities, the Code is relevant to Europe as a whole. The Code can be downloaded by going to the EAHTR website; [www.historic-towns.org](http://www.historic-towns.org) and clicking on UK, EHTF, Tourism, Coach Based Tourism and Publications.

## Election results

4 new candidates were elected to the Bureau of the European Association of Historic Towns and Regions at the General Assembly held on the 15th March, 2002.

The following were elected for a period of 2 years:

- Mr Roland Ries, France
- Representative of the English Historic Towns Forum, England
- Mr Per-Haken Slotte, Finland

Ms Mateja Hafner Dolenc, Slovenia was elected for 1 year as a co-opted member.

## Book Review

The Cultural Landscape, published by ICOMOS-UK and based on the Council of Europe's European Landscape Convention, draws together papers and opinions from leading experts in the planning, conservation and heritage fields. The concepts and definitions of 'Cultural Landscape' are explored with reference to the implications of the Convention for governments and conservationists.

Born from a desire to provide a structural framework for Landscape Policy and protect Europe's Common Heritage, the convention outlines measures to raise awareness of landscape issues. The emphasis is on co-operation rather than regulation as well as the need for decision making at a grass roots level.

The balance between conservation and development is discussed in the context of Sustainable Development; a partnership between people and place. For some, terminology and definitions of meaning remain contentious while the ethical, cultural, intellectual and spiritual values of heritage are equally explored.

A useful insight to those in the field of conservation, heritage, culture studies and planning, The Cultural Landscape is a thought-provoking analysis of the issues surrounding people and their environment.

## Welcome to New Members

EAHTR are pleased to welcome the Historic Town Associations of Slovenia and Turkey, the town of Nykoping, Sweden and the University of Brighton, UK as new members and look forward to working with them at future events.

# Future Events

Contact the Secretariat for further details

- Meeting of INHERIT group of cities - Paris, 7th February 2003.
- "The Wooden Town Through the Centuries" - Porvoo, Finland 15th - 16th May 2003, including General Assembly - jointly with the Finnish Association of Historic Towns.
- "Regeneration of Historic Urban Cores: learning from experience," 13th - 15th April 2003, Malta, organised by INTA, the World Urban Development Forum, the Maltese Ministry of Environment, the Tourism Authority of Malta and EAHTR.
- "13th International Symposium of Walled Towns Friendship Circle", Waterford, Ireland, 9th - 14th June 2003.
- Europa Nostra 40th Anniversary, Strasbourg 19th - 22nd June - joint meeting.

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