



CULTURAL HERITAGE IN ACTION

Sharing solutions in European cities and regions

DEEP DIVING SESSION FOCUSED ON HELSINKI

PROJECT CLINIC: SUSTAINABLE REUSE OF OLD PREMISES FOR CULTURE

15 September 2022, 14.30-16.00 CET TBC

OBJECTIVES OF THE SESSION

1. Come back to some of the lessons from a peer learning visit to Helsinki
2. Look at specific challenges European cities and regions are facing when it comes to sustainable models of reusing old premises for cultural uses.
3. Discuss transferability aspects, starting from specific examples from cities.

KICK STARTING: KAAPOLI IN HELSINKI

As Nokia began to wind down industrial activity in Helsinki towards the end of the 80s, spaces in its factory were rented to artists, artisans and cultural organisations. The Cable Factory building was due to be demolished after Nokia vacated it, but the creative tenants lobbied the city, which owned the land, to keep the factory going as a creative hub.

In 1991, the City of Helsinki founded KAAPOLI, a limited real-estate company, to convert the Cable Factory into a cultural centre. Today, the centre consists of 63,000 m² of space, used by 130 ateliers, two bars, 12 galleries, three museums, two restaurants, multiple event venues and a brand-new dance house with two halls. In 2019, roughly 1,000 people worked at Cable Factory, and more than 500,000 people attended events there.

DRAFT AGENDA OF THE SESSION

- 14.30 *Welcome and introduction:* objectives of this workshop, Cultural Heritage in Action and the peer learning programme – Cécile Houpert, Eurocities
- 14.35 *Lessons from Helsinki:* sneak peek into the peer learning visit report, its main recommendations and some take aways from Kaapeli - presentation by experts Val Birchall and Nils Scheffler.
- 14.45 *Project pitches:* (7 minutes each): 3 cities present a “comparable” case to Kaapeli. It can be in the planning, but also in the implementation phase. Each presenting city introduces

its project, focusing on background, status of work to date, ambition, and highlighting one or two key issues where they would welcome the input of other participants.

- Bologna, Italy: a new covered square "Lucio Dalla", 6.000 sqm that the city just finished regenerating – by Francesco Volta, Head of Urban Regeneration and Public Art Office, City of Bologna.
- Puglia, Italy: Ex SACA industrial building in Brindisi – by Letizia Musai Somma and Giovanna Mangialardi, Strategic regional Agency for the Eco-sustainable Development of the Territory (ASSET), Puglia region.
- Bucharest, Romania: Berzei – by Maria Neneciu, Bucharest Creative Quarter Association.

- 15.10 *Projects clinic*: Participants question and dig into the detail of the presented pitches. Participants reflect on the presenting cities' projects, offer suggestions for overcoming barriers or accelerating/enabling activities. The essence of the advice can be captured as "top tips". Presenting cities reflect on what they've heard and provide additional information.
- 15.50 Summary of discussion and further reflections from experts Val Birchall and Nils Scheffler.
- 16.00 *Conclusions and next steps* – Cécile Houpert, Eurocities