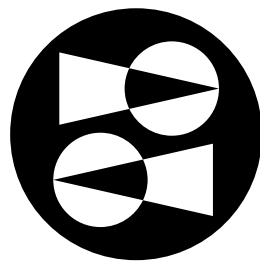


# Inclusive Urban Regeneration of Historical Centres



University of Ljubljana  
Summer School on  
Sustainable Heritage 2025



18-24 June 2025  
Faculty of Architecture, Ljubljana



Photo: sloveniainfo, Tom Macarol

## This year's summer school will take place in Slovenia

18–24 June 2025: Faculty of Architecture, University of Ljubljana, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Between 18 and 24 June 2025, the Interdisciplinary Institute of the University of Ljubljana for Sustainable Protection of Heritage (ITD UL) is organising the 5th University of Ljubljana's Sustainable Heritage Summer School. The title of this year's topic is Inclusive Urban Regeneration of Historical Centres.

The Summer School will explore the challenges of planning urban regeneration of historical city centres and smaller towns in an inclusive manner. We will focus on involving local stakeholders, especially residents and those who influence the development of historical centres through political and professional decisions. We will present examples of successful approaches that are gradually gaining recognition in our practice and working methods that could improve cooperation and revitalisation, as many historical city or town centres are, sadly, losing their vitality with service activities closing down or moving to commercial centres on the outskirts.

The Summer School is related to the content of the basic research project titled Heritage for Inclusive Sustainable Transformation (HEI-Transform), which focuses on exploring sustainable approaches to revitalise heritage through adaptive reuse projects. Alongside the environmental, economic, and cultural sustainability, we also highlight the importance of the social aspect, which represents a crucial asset for the local communities to achieve a balanced and equitable future development for all.

Using two concrete examples – the town of Ajdovščina and the historical centre of Kamnik – we will analyse the conditions and requirements for successful cooperation between all stakeholders involved and explore the possibilities for reversing the trends of the depopulation or touristification of the oldest parts of many towns and cities in favour of their sustainable revitalisation. We will examine how heritage professionals, decision-makers and, above all, local people can contribute to this aim. The work will be divided into three workshops, two of which will take place in the field. We will familiarise ourselves with the processes and challenges involved in inclusive stakeholder participation in the local community in Ajdovščina while simultaneously outlining an inclusive action project in Kamnik. The latter, taking place in the field, will aim to raise awareness and activate the local population through concrete activities in the heart of the historical part of Kamnik. In designing the action, its participants will cooperate with crucial local partners: members of the Priden možic society, the Štajn arhitekti group, and the Kamnik Institute for Culture.

We will seek answers to the following questions:

What are the crucial challenges of inclusive participation in urban regeneration processes?

How are the key stakeholders, and how do they cooperate in practice?

How to steer cooperation processes for inclusive urban regeneration?

**Why?**

To encourage inclusive approaches to revitalising and managing heritage sites, especially the historical centres of our cities and towns. Heritage is an irreplaceable resource we have created and co-shaped over centuries of practice. Today, its protection and management require tailored, democratic approaches involving all stakeholders: the local population, political decision-makers, experts, economists, etc.

Such starting points are highlighted by the international heritage conservation documents and the current realities and development challenges. Hence, becoming more familiar with them and learning about the appropriate tools and approaches for successful planning is vital.

**For whom?**

The Summer School is intended for students (undergraduate, master's, and doctoral level) as well as all professionals dealing with the subject under consideration in practice: experts in the field of heritage protection, architecture, urban planning, landscape architecture, tourism, and various heritage disciplines, representatives of local communities, and decision-makers at all levels in Slovenia and the broader region.

**Where?**

The Summer School will take place at the Faculty of Architecture of the University of Ljubljana and on-site in Kamnik and Ajdovščina.

**Way of work**

Active participation is foreseen for all participants. Anyone who would like to present challenges from their environment related to urban regeneration issues in the framework of thematic workshops is cordially invited. The presentations should be between five and seven minutes long.

Please send your five-page presentation proposals (in the PPT or PDF format) to the e-mail address [trajnostna.dediscina@fa.uni-lj.si](mailto:trajnostna.dediscina@fa.uni-lj.si) by 12 June 2025.

**Lecturers**

The Summer School will feature lectures by renowned experts who explore issues related to inclusive approaches to heritage conservation and revitalisation of heritage as an essential sustainable resource for local communities. Alongside them, the local activists and planners will play a crucial role in summer school presenting their approaches of actively encouraging the residents and other stakeholders to take a collaborative approach to heritage revitalisation.

**Jasna Fakin Bajec**

Dr Jasna Fakin Bajec is a researcher at the Institute of Culture and Memory Studies, ZRC SAZU, and a lecturer at the School of Humanities, University of Nova Gorica. Her research interests focus on the socio-political, economic, and developmental relevance of cultural heritage in the contemporary world; the development of participatory methods and tools for establishing an integrated approach to the conservation and management of cultural heritage; the empowerment and inclusion of marginalised groups in heritage practices; and ways of preserving cultural and human rights when using cultural practices for commercial purposes. She has been involved in several applied European projects (e.g. Interreg projects), where she has had the opportunity to learn about and reflect on ways of creating heritage between amateurism and the influences of European financial policies and strategies. She conducts cultural studies research and implements theoretical findings in the Kras region and Vipavska dolina valley.

She has published the results of her heritage and cultural studies research in several scientific and expert articles, collective volumes, and the book *Procesi ustvarjanja kulturne dediščine* (Cultural Heritage Creation Processes, 2011).

**Jelka Pirkovič**

Assistant Professor Dr Jelka Pirkovič began her professional career at the Slovenian Urban Planning Institute in Ljubljana. Subsequently, she was appointed Senior Conservator at the Slovenian Institute for the Protection of Natural and Cultural Heritage, where she later served a four-year term as Director from 1991 to 1995. After the Institute was reorganised and partially merged into the Ministry of Culture, she held various positions there, including Deputy Minister for Culture from 2004 to 2008. From 2009 to 2014, she was Director General of the Institute for the Protection of Cultural Heritage of Slovenia. Upon completing her term, she retired. However, from 2020 to 2022, she rejoined the Ministry of Culture as Director General of the Cultural Heritage Directorate. Since then, she has resumed her retirement but continues to teach at the University of Ljubljana and the New University.

She was involved in the Council of Europe bodies, particularly in drafting the Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (2005) and the European Heritage Strategy for the 21st Century (2017).

She is a long-standing member of ICOMOS Slovenia. She is also an active member of ICLAFI, TheoPhilos and OCD-RBA WG.



**Katja Zajc Kejžar, Nina Ponikvar, Iana Bilynets**

Professor Dr Katja Zajc Kejžar, Associate Professor Dr Nina Ponikvar, and Dr Iana Bilynets are employed at the School of Economics and Business, University of Ljubljana. Their research activities include economic evaluations and economic assessments of projects, also in the field of cultural heritage. Professor Dr Katja Zajc Kejžar is a member of the Department of International Economics and Business, Associate Professor Dr Nina Ponikvar is a member of the Department of Economics, while Dr Iana Bilynets works at the School as a research fellow. All three are actively involved in the transdisciplinary project HEI Transform, which focuses on identifying the developmental and sustainability potential of built cultural heritage.





## Programme

Day 1

Wednesday, 18 June 2025

9.00	Registration
9.30	<b>Welcome speeches</b> Prof. Dr Sonja Ifko – head of the ITD, University of Ljubljana, and head of the 2025 Summer School Prof. Miha Dešman, M.Sc. – Dean of the Faculty of Architecture, University of Ljubljana Irena Gajšek – Director of the Public institution for culture Kamnik
9.45	<b>Presentation of the University of Ljubljana’s Sustainable Heritage Summer School 2025</b> Prof. Dr Sonja Ifko – Faculty of Architecture, University of Ljubljana, ICOMOS Slovenia
10.00	<b>Introductory lecture</b> <b>Involving the public in heritage decision-making processes</b> Assist. Prof. Dr Jasna Fakin Bajec – ZRC SAZU
11.00	Coffee break
11.30	<b>New localisms: what are their characteristics and how they define the development of smaller local communities</b> Prof. Dr Matjaž Uršič – Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana
12.00	<b>Urban regenerations and adaptive heritage reuse</b> Prof. Dr Sonja Ifko – Faculty of Architecture, University of Ljubljana, ICOMOS Slovenia
12.30	<b>Development characteristics of the built heritage of Ajdovščina and Kamnik</b> Assist. Prof. Aleksander Ostan – Faculty of Architecture, University of Ljubljana
13.00	<b>THEMATIC WORKSHOP 1</b> <b>Identifying the challenges of inclusive participation in urban regeneration processes</b>
13.00	<b>Examples of summer school participants*</b> <small>*the participants may present examples from their own environments, which we can discuss together</small>

13.30	Lunch break
14.30	<b>Group work: identifying challenges</b>
17.00	<b>Presentation of the thematic workshop 1 results and discussion</b>
18.00	Conclusion of the day 1

Day 2

Thursday, 19 June 2025

9.00	Presentation of daily activities
9.15	<b>Introductory lecture</b> <b>Democratisation of heritage policies – the role of the Faro Convention</b> Dr Jelka Pirkovič – ICOMOS Slovenia
10.15	<b>Departure to Kamnik</b>
11.30	<b>THEMATIC WORKSHOP 2</b> <b>The example of Kamnik – encouraging inclusive participation: planning a family event at the PARKirišče VERONIKA sites</b>
11.30	<b>A guided tour of Kamnik’s overlooked heritage</b> Goran Završnik, Public institution for culture Kamnik, Priden možic cultural association; Sinan Mihelčič, štajn arhitekti, and mag. Maja Avguštin, responsible conservator ZVKDS for the town center of Kamnik
14.00	Lunch break
15.00	<b>A lecture on the past and current activities to revitalise Šutna</b> Goran Završnik, Public institution for culture Kamnik, Priden možic cultural association, and Sinan Mihelčič, štajn arhitekti

ITD	HEI-Transform	12/18
16.00	Group work	
18.00	Conclusion of day 2	
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<b>Day 3</b>	<b>Friday, 20 June 2025</b>	
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9.00	Gathering of participants and departure to Ajdovščina	
10.00	<b>THEMATIC WORKSHOP 3</b> The example of Ajdovščina – a case study of inclusive local stakeholder participation practices	
10.30	A visit to Lavričev trg square in the centre of Ajdovščina; a discussion with a representative of the Ajdovščina municipality	
12.00	A visit to Rustjeva hiša kruha bakery; a discussion with a representative of the Mlinotest d.d. company	
13.00	Lunch	
14.15	A visit to Garaža, a creative space for youth, and to Beta hiška house in the former Lipa factory; a discussion with a representative of the Zavod Beta institute on the reuse of abandoned buildings in Ajdovščina and the involvement of youth in development projects	
17.30	Return to Ljubljana	
18.30	Conclusion of day 3	

ITD	HEI-Transform	13/18
<b>Day 4</b>	<b>Monday, 23 June 2025</b>	
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9.00	<b>Introductory lecture</b> <b>Between culture and capital: economic perspectives regarding historical heritage centres</b> Prof. Dr Katja Zajc Kejžar, Assist. Prof. Dr Nina Ponikvar, Dr Iana Bilynets - Faculty of Economics, University of Ljubljana	
10.00	<b>Creative industries and practices as vehicles for revitalising urban spaces</b> Anja Zorko - Centre for Creativity, Museum of Architecture and Design	
11.30	Break	
11.30	<b>Examples of summer school participants*</b> *the participants may present examples from their own environments, which we can discuss together	
12.30	<b>Group work with mentors</b> closing the thematic workshop 2: the example of Ajdovščina	
14.00	Lunch	
15.00	<b>Presentation of the thematic workshop 2 results:</b> the example of Ajdovščina	
15.30	<b>Group work with mentors</b> thematic workshop 3: the example of Kamnik	
18.30	Conclusion of day 4	

Day 5

Tuesday, 24 June 2025

10.00	Departure to Kamnik
11.00	<b>Preparations for the implementation of the campaign to promote inclusive participation:</b> PARKirišče VERONIKA
14:30	Lunch
16.00	<b>The realisation of the family event at the PARKirišče VERONIKA site</b> in cooperation with Public institution for culture Kamnik, Priden možic cultural association, and Sinan Mihelčič, Štajn arhitekti
17.30	Summer School certificate award ceremony
18:30	Return to Ljubljana, farewell



## More information and application

### Language

The summer school will be held in English.

### Certificate and credits

All participants will receive a certificate of participation at the end of the event. By taking part in the Summer School, each participant will receive a participation certificate and earn the following credits:

Students (undergraduate and master's studies): 3 ECTS  
 Doctoral students of the Architecture University of Ljubljana  
 programme: 5 ECTS  
 members of the Chamber of Architecture and Spatial Planning of  
 Slovenia (ZAPS): 11 pts

### Application

You can register for the Summer School using the online [link](#)

### Application deadline

**10 June 2025**

### Registration fee

Undergraduate and Master's programme	80€
students EUTOPIA Undergraduate and Master's	
students (University of Ljubljana)	60 €
ICOMOS SI student members	50 €
Employees, doctoral students	120 €
EUTOPIA employees, doctoral students	
(University of Ljubljana)	100 €
EUTOPIA networks: <a href="https://eutopia-university.eu">https://eutopia-university.eu</a>	
ICOMOS SI, SKD, ICOM SI members	80 €
Groups of three or more persons	100 €/person 3

The registration fee covers lectures, workshops, excursions, and all bus transport.

Accommodation in Ljubljana is the participants' own responsibility.

Information: <http://www.visitljubljana.com/en/visitors/plan-your-visit/accommodation/>

### Payment

Payment is required before registration (payment receipt shall be attached to the registration form).

Account No.: SI56 0110 0603 0707 895

SWIFT: BSLJSI2X

Purpose: "PŠ UL 2025 + name and surname of the participant(s)"

Univerza v Ljubljani, Fakulteta za arhitekturo, Zoisova 12, 1000 Ljubljana

The invoice shall be issued after the completion of the service.

### Budget users

If you are a budget user in the Republic of Slovenia and wish to pay based on a purchase order, please send us the relevant purchase order with the names of the Summer School participants to the e-mail address [trajnostna.dediscina@fa.uni-lj.si](mailto:trajnostna.dediscina@fa.uni-lj.si). After the completion of the Summer School, the original invoice will be sent to the address provided on your registration form.

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### Additional information

[trajnostna.dediscina@fa.uni-lj.si](mailto:trajnostna.dediscina@fa.uni-lj.si)

### Registration

[Link](#) to the registration form



**INŠTITUT UL  
ZA TRAJNOSTNO  
DEDIŠČINO**



**UNIVERSITY  
OF LJUBLJANA**

**FA**

**Faculty of  
Architecture**



**ICOMOS Slovenija**



**UNIVERSITY  
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**EF**

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and Business**



**ZRC SAZU**



**JAVNI ZAVOD ZA  
KULTURO KAMNIK**



**UNIVERSITY  
OF LJUBLJANA**

**FDV**

**Faculty of  
Social Sciences**



**PRIDEN MOŽIC  
street theatre**



**arīs** Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency



**unesco**

**Slovenian  
National Commission**

**Additional info  
and application**

