

CONSIDER: OVERVIEW

In **CONSIDER** we aim to develop an approach for the *Sustainable Management of Industrial Heritage as a Resource for Urban Development*. This means we **CONSIDER** industrial heritage sites and we **CONSIDER** the ways they can benefit and harm local communities. This focus on inclusivity is important as Landorf (2009) already concluded for industrial heritage, that when “[industrial] *heritage objectives are determined by formal collaborative partnerships, community participation in the decision-making process is limited. This ensures transmission of the physical fabric to future generations but limits the development of a sustainable local cultural economy*”. We need to think beyond the fabric and the physical, and look at the meanings and values projected through and onto this materiality, as well as the to the practices, traditions, pollutions, and ways in which the historic environment creates and maintains systemic inequalities and reinscribes structural inequalities. In other words we need a much more inclusive heritage discourse (Kisić, 2016) to govern heritage, and heritage dissonance.

CONSIDER: SUSTAINING LIFE

So when we say develop approaches for sustainable heritage management, we don't mean greenwashing the harms of development and growth for the sake of profit (Escobar, 2018). We mean coming up with approaches to heritage which consider people and other species, the quality and equality of lives, and see heritage as part of the life-sustaining web of care needed to “maintain, continue, and repair our ‘world’ so that we can live in it as well as possible” as Fisher and Tronto (1990) put it so eloquently.

CONSIDER: HERITAGE

We understand heritage, and thus industrial heritage, as not just a ‘thing’, but also a process of (re)enacting and mobilising some past(s) in the present – whether in material or immaterial forms. In the case of industrial heritage then, we particularly **CONSIDER** the mobilising of industrial and technological pasts. Heritage in this understanding is operational, it is being produced, and it produces. It has agency, and it is a tool. It is a means to an end (Veldpaus, 2023). Over the past half-century heritage has become mobilised more explicitly as a means towards a wide variety of different ends. It is more and more used to create socio-spatial, political, cultural, and economic gains, and heritage is even put to work towards increasing quality of life and wellbeing agendas.

We have to keep in mind that while this may indeed work for some, it also works against the inclusion and recognition of others.

CONSIDER: A LENS

In this project, we therefore aim to develop approaches to Industrial heritage that are *CONSIDERate*. By this we mean that yes, they need to **CONSIDER** industrial heritage as a resource for strengthening collective identities, improving the urban landscape, promoting eco-friendly solutions, and contributing to the urban economy and a sustainable future of the city. But we also mean this need to **CONSIDER** the bigger picture, and put Industrial Heritage in a wider context. Above all we aim to develop approaches that **CONSIDER** a different lens onto industrial heritage. Such a lens should open up CONSIDERations of what industrial heritage is, and what its sustainable management means, does, exposes, CONSIDERs. Such a lens can more specifically make us look at the wider webs industrial heritage is also entangled in, such as the historic and continuing lines of funding and financing, problems of pollution, the scars in the landscape and the pain of closures, the unionisation of workers, the sources of material, the means of production, the exploitation of labour, the locations of impact and more.

CONSIDER: THE CONSEQUENCES

This is an innovative approach because these lenses, these CONSIDERations, are too often forgotten, excluding many stories and memories. In many countries, Industrial Heritage is seen as an important resource in the process of urban development, but this tends to be the case only where it can demonstrate its 'usefulness' in this process. In the context of growth pressures, heritage is easily turned into a high-value commodity. Research showing the problems with the 'touristification', gentrification and privatisation of heritage is growing, and as heritage becomes more central in urban development, it also has to follow development 'logics', which in many cases comes down to growth. Research shows that industrial heritage is being 'reused' a lot, and especially in more exploratory and diverse ways. The relatively good location of many industrial areas, near the centre, and the trendiness of 'post-industrial' aesthetics, make industrial sites attractive for development and reuse (Veldpaus, and Wacogne, 2021). The interests in adaptive reuse and the 'industrial character' which can be used quite loosely in heritage terms, means industrial heritage is being used as an attractive setting, in particular for creative, digital, crafts, manufacturing, industries, and also cafés, bars, and restaurants. Which heritage stories are mobilised, and which character is focused on, is 'selected' to create an area that attracts specific groups of users, such as students, artists, or start-ups, or restaurants, cafés and 'unique' or 'quirky' shops, drawing upon place identity, and developing a place brand. So what we see, in all heritage, but more highlighted in industrial heritage, is that it becomes mobilised more explicitly as a means towards a wide variety of different ends. It is more and more used to create socio-spatial, political,

cultural, and economic gains, and heritage is even put to work towards increasing quality of life and wellbeing agendas, though we have to keep in mind that this may indeed work for some, it also works against the inclusion and recognition of others. This means heritage is used for more things, and thus is it useful for more things to become thought of as heritage.

There is a broadening of the notion of heritage in terms of what can be formally designated and listed, as well as increasing acknowledgement of the idea that much of what we could CONSIDER heritage is not formally designated. In practice however, heritage planning tends to concentrate on retaining and restoring particular – and often formally designated – elements and fragments in our built environment. Whilst this may sound benign, we need to CONSIDER who selects, decides, and narrates the history of place, and what is erased, forgotten, or celebrated and commemorated, and why. When the role of industrial heritage becomes to facilitate and stimulate urban development, and thus to perform its cultural worth and its economic potential, then what does this mean for ‘who decides’ and what is erased? The overt focus on ‘usefulness’ often leads to erasure, exclusion, and evasion of heritage narratives and assets which are less easy to commodify, not seen as ‘fitting’, or simply not seen (Pendlebury, 2013; Veldpaus and Pendlebury, 2019). It is easy to see how this happens especially in a heritage sector which lacks funding, resources, and capacity. Being usefully framed as a ‘catalyst’ for, and a contributor to, creating place uniqueness, place branding, tourism, and inward investment, promised to bring such resources. In this context we see how obvious, and well-known, consequences of the process of instrumentalising heritage and using it as a catalyst for urban regeneration, such as displacement or other forms of gentrification, are de-problematized, and even celebrated as they are seen as a way to bring new money to a deprived heritage sector (Scott et al., 2018; De Cesari and Dimova, 2019; Veldpaus and Pendlebury, 2019; Pendlebury, Veldpaus and Garrow, 2023; Veldpaus, 2023).

Heritage, and thus heritage planning, is loaded with politics, it is not inherently good, and we need to understand what it is, and what it does, what it is used for, and how it is mobilised, now and into the future. How can industrial heritage play a role in working towards both environmental justice and social justice (Kisić, 2021; Veldpaus & Szemző, 2021)?

DEVELOPING A CONSIDER APPROACH

It is in this context that we aim to develop and promote an approach that is inclusive, and considers heritage in an **inter-sectional, inter-scalar, and inter-disciplinary** way, that brings in different perspectives. We bring together practitioners, policy makers, and academics to discuss practices and policies, to develop the criteria that should underpin this approach based on exchange of experience, knowledge, and practices. This exchange is based a triple-helix approach between academia (universities), policymakers (municipalities), and practitioners (SME/NGO).

We CONSIDER ourselves a consortium of practice-led social researchers, and social-led practitioners looking to explore considerate approaches to industrial heritage. **(this needs some development)** We developed an initial overview of Criteria for CONSIDER, based on the tools proposed with the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) approach as developed by UNESCO (2011), and building on this, using the substantial analytical work presented in the paper by Mérai et al (2023) and the underlying reports (Mérai et al, 2020; Veldpaus et. al, 2019) on an overview of how adaptive heritage reuse is supported (or not) through an analysis of heritage and planning policies across 15 European Countries. **(*INCLUDE something about the matrix and HUL*)**. From the analysis four key themes emerged as relevant for understanding how heritage is dealt with in relation to urban development and planning, in this case in particular to adaptive heritage reuse. These themes were developed as general overview of how adaptive heritage reuse is made more (or less) achievable through systemic interventions: 1) flexibility of regulation and policy; 2) the integration of regulation and policy between heritage and planning systems and between levels of governance; 3) support for civic engagement, and; 4) access and availability of financial and human resources (Mérai et al, 2023).

Building on this, we think looking at industrial heritage through the lens of adaptive heritage reuse, and building on the thematic areas found in previous research is important, to acknowledge the context in which much of this industrial heritage is situated. As our research in CONSIDER however is much less focussed on policy, and engages with local cases and histories, we have combined the two policy related themes (1+2) and we have added one theme, which is on local understanding and knowledge to stimulate the in-depth understanding of specific places and cases we are working in and with (localizing SDGs).

As such the Key criteria for the CONSIDER matrix presented below are

1. Civic Engagement
2. Socioeconomic context
3. Context knowledge and histories
4. Governance

Within those categories researchers in CONSIDER identify concepts / topics they have an interest in fitting with the values of CONSIDER, to critically understand and analyse industrial heritage sites, their policy and urban context, and their potential for sharing, and developing knowledge between and across sites, sectors, and with a focus on peer-to-peer learning. The concepts, although they may have a logical place in the matrix, e.g. urban development under heritage and planning policy, can be positioned under

various criteria, as one can also imagine looking at urban development under e.g. civic engagement, or local history, or possibly all.

The initial plan was that researchers would identify concepts / topics in relation to criteria, and can go in depth 1 concept / 1 criteria, or wide, 1 concept 4 criteria, or vertical, 1 criterion several concepts. The matrix below (TABLE 1) shows the different themes, and the potential topics, some of which have already been realised, and some may be added or removed as new researchers are included into the consortium. This way we aim to build a coherent collection of outputs.

The overview of topics offers a framework for the secondments, and a way to relate data from various case cities to each other under one topic, or various data on to one case city for further development.

Working with this framework, and developing it further during a workshop in Antwerp however, led to a more focused joint understanding of the themes. Based on two days of mapping workshop topics and developing further the CONSIDER approach based on the initial experiences in secondments and research undertaken, we decided to develop the assessment tool as a thematic framework with questions and approaches, still with the aim of bringing together data from various case cities under one topic, or relate various data on to one case city, but with more specific thematic focus, and a clear approach. We develop this CONSIDER approach as a 'toolbox' filled with different lenses, for different perspectives and reverse perspectives.

OFFICIAL WEBSITE

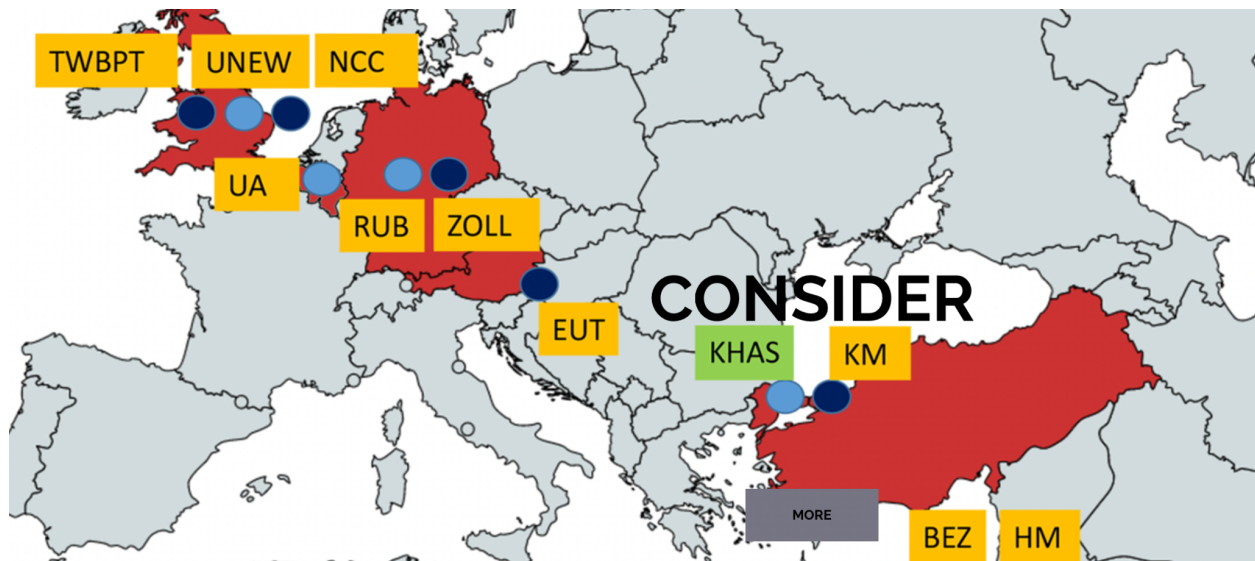
<https://considerproject.eu>

TABLE 1: CONSIDER TOPICS – Secondment Implementations

Civic Engagement (theme 3)		Socio- Economic Context (theme 4)		Context knowledge and local histories (added)		Heritage and Planning policy context / governance (theme 1 +2)	
Concept	Topics	Concept	Topics	Concept	Topics	Concept	Topics
Community	Definition of community(ies) (i.e. social/cultural groups)	Development	Political agenda; existing resources; property value	Setting	Natural Setting; Links with urban or rural centres; Transportation networks Landscape values	Governance & Legislation	Legal geographies; stakeholders; ownership
Participation	Processes and opportunities for engagement; Involvement	Income generation	Job creation	Environmental Concerns	Energy use; Pollution; Water Conservation; Waste Management	Reuse/Neglect	Deindustrialization losses: economic; social; cultural
Resilience	Emergency preparedness and response system; Role of intangible heritage	Tourism	Blessing; curse; management; visitor facility	Historic Layers	Archaeological; modern	Urban Development	Strategic plans; dev.plan; design guidelines; SDGs
Social Inclusiveness	Gender; youth; disadvantaged groups	Investment	Attractiveness; Competitiveness; Innovation; Education; Workers finance; Property value; circular economy	Architectural Value	Building Technology; Style; Materials; Function; Spatial Quality; Mass Organization	Conservation	Conservation plans Restoration; rehabilitation

Population	People/demography	Infrastructure	Transportation; Impact Assessment	Peoples Histories	Oral histories; Labour activities; Traditional industrial knowledge; dark memory	Visitors	Tourist numbers; profiles; Sustainable Tourism
Partnership	Stakeholders	Creative Industries	Creative cities; urban regeneration	History of Technology	Machines; techniques; engineering know-how	Public spaces	Places of memory; Pedestrian; transportation
Migration	Citizenship	Incentives and Loans	Micro credits; creative financial models	OUV	WHS; other values	Landscape Elements	Biodiversity; Topography, Flora, Fauna, Water resources ;Geological
Public good	Private interest vis-à-vis private interest	Culture	Arts; Practices; Sacred; Music	Heritage Value	Identification; genius loci; Whose heritage?	Quality Urban Environment	Wellbeing; Design quality; townscape; ambience
Traditions	Intangible cultural heritage/globalization	Social	Social rights; Social build.;Memory; Workers	Digital Technology	Databases; Inventories; Geospatial Data	Accessibility	Age groups ; Gender; Disabilities ; Disadvantaged
Digital Technology	Crowd sourcing	Digital Technology		Climate Change	Climate action; adaptation; Traditional knowledge	Digital Technology	Digital transformation
Climate Change		Climate Change				Climate Change	Climate adaptation
						Management	Management models, partnerships

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