

The 19th World Conference of Historical Cities

“Creating a Vibrant Walkable City Centre through Sustainable Urban Mobility”

The 19th World Conference of Historical Cities was held in Ljubljana, Slovenia, from 12 to 14 November 2024. There were 95 participants onsite from 29 cities in 15 countries and the City of Ljubljana made the conference a great success.



Summary

Day 1

The Conference began with the opening ceremony and the Keynote Speech by Prof. Janez Koželj, who explained the initiatives and efforts regarding walkability and eco-friendliness. In the afternoon, the representatives from six cities presented their strategies at the Round Table I under the theme of "Walkability as a factor in the quality and attractiveness of historic urban areas." At the Round Table II, five cities made presentations on "Challenges and ways to implement sustainable mobility in historical cities".

Opening Ceremony



Keynote Speech



Round Table I



Round Table II



Day 2

Second day of the conference began with an opening ceremony for the Youth Program moderated by Ms. Mateja Demšič from the Department for Culture of the City of Ljubljana and two pupils from a Ljubljana elementary school, with attendance of students from second to seventh grade, who participated in the Youth Program. The excellent artworks from Ljubljana and member cities, featured at the exhibition, were recognized with commemorative gifts. The opening of the exhibition was followed by the Experts Meeting under the theme of "Sustainable mobility as a safeguard against the deterioration of cultural heritage" and discussions were held between Asst. Prof. Rok Žnidaršič, Deputy Mayor of Ljubljana, and Matevž Čelik Vidmar, State Secretary at the Ministry of Culture of Slovenia, trying to resolve issues from various perspectives and sharing ideas with participants.

Youth Program



Expert Meeting



There was also the Board of Directors Meeting for FY2024, confirming that 135 member cities in 65 countries and regions belong to the League. New member cities are: Baglung, Bhotekoshi, and Sunkoshi in Nepal, and Mashhad in the Islamic Republic of Iran. The host cities for the 20th (2026) and the 21st (2027) conferences were elected by the Board of Directors, and Himeji (Japan) will host the 20th Conference in 2026 and Isfahan (Iran) will host the 21st in 2027.

Conference participants also visited a nearby historic town Škofja Loka.

Board of Directors Meeting



Board Members



Himeji host the 20th Conference in 2026



Isfahan host the 21st Conference in 2027



Day 3

On the last day of the conference, the guests enjoyed a guided tour of Ljubljana, with a focus on the works of Jože Plečnik. After, The General Assembly was held and a report of the Board of Directors Meeting was presented by the Chairperson and the Secretary General. At the end of the closing ceremony, the "Ljubljana Declaration" was adopted as an outcome of the conference and signed by the representatives of the participating cities.

General Assembly



Closing Ceremony





Ljubljana Declaration

Adopted at the 19th World Conference of Historic Cities

Ljubljana, November 14, 2024

We, the mayors of the member cities of the League of Historic Cities, gathered in Ljubljana for the 19th World Conference of Historic Cities, acknowledge our shared responsibility to preserve and promote the cultural heritage of our cities for the benefit of future generations. Our historic cities, rich in architectural, cultural, and social significance, are living testaments to human creativity and resilience. They are crucial for fostering identity, community cohesion, and sustainable development.

Recognizing the challenges posed by rapid urbanization, climate change, technological advancements, and social transformations, we are committed to safeguarding our historic cities as vibrant, inclusive, and sustainable spaces that honour our past while embracing the future.

In pursuit of these objectives, we hereby declare our collective commitment to the following principles:

1. Cultural Heritage Preservation

We will continue to protect and restore the tangible and intangible cultural heritage of our historic cities. Through careful conservation and adaptive reuse of historic buildings, monuments, and public spaces, we will ensure that the legacy of our cities is preserved for future generations.

2. Sustainable Urban Development

We commit to integrating sustainable practices into urban planning and development. By promoting walkability, green infrastructure, sustainable mobility, reducing carbon emissions, and prioritizing energy efficiency, we aim to create cities that are environmentally resilient while maintaining their historic character.

3. Cultural Exchange and Cooperation

We will continue to promote dialogue and cooperation between member cities, sharing knowledge, best practices, and expertise in the preservation and management of historic cities. Through cultural exchange, we will strengthen international understanding and solidarity, and contribute to global peace and stability.

4. Education and Awareness

We are committed to raising awareness about the importance of cultural heritage among the younger generations. By promoting public awareness campaigns, and organizing cultural events, we aim to inspire a sense of pride and responsibility for the preservation of our cities.

5. Inclusive and Accessible Cities

We will work towards creating cities that are accessible to all, regardless of age, ability, or socio-economic status. By ensuring that our historic environments are inclusive and welcoming, we reaffirm our commitment to fostering equity and social justice within our cities.

In signing this Declaration, we pledge to support and collaborate in our efforts to protect the cultural heritage of historic cities while promoting sustainable urban development and reaffirm our shared dedication to the values and principles of the League of Historic Cities. Let the 19th World Conference in Ljubljana mark a turning point in our collective efforts to ensure that historic cities remain beacons of cultural heritage, sustainable development, and global cooperation.

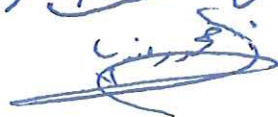
Ljubljana, the capital of Slovenia, November 14, 2024

Chairperson of the League of Historical Cities

Andong



Ardabil



Bad Ischl

Baglung



Cologne

Corinth



Gongju



Gyeongju



Himeji



Isfahan



Istanbul

Konya



Kraków



Kyoto



Lisankhu Pakhar



Ljubljana



Masouleh



Şanlıurfa

Shiraz

Shusha



Tehran



Trieste



Veliko Tarnovo

Vienna



Vilnius



Xi'an

Zhengzhou