



# CO-MAPPING LOCAL HERITAGE DRIVERS OF COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

6th Edition – 15th April 2025



# INTRODUCTION

**RESILIAGE** is a three-year European research project (2023-2026) focused on enhancing community resilience through the integration of cultural and natural heritage in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). Funded by Horizon Europe, it explores how heritage, as a significant resource of local communities, can strengthen societal resilience in the face of natural hazards and extreme events. By conducting field research and engaging communities in multi-hazard scenarios, RESILIAGE aims to co-generate actionable knowledge, empowering communities to better prepare for and mitigate disaster risks, while also addressing the effects of climate change.

The project is led by Politecnico di Torino and involves 18 partners from 10 countries, including first responders, policymakers, citizen associations, and heritage organisations. Through its **five CORE Labs** established in different countries, RESILIAGE uses a **Systemic Resilience Innovation (SyRI)** framework to analyse governance, social interaction, and other critical factors. This framework identifies and improves practices that strengthen community resilience, using cultural heritage in disaster risk management and climate change adaptation. In addition, each CORE Lab specialises in a specific governance scale, including city district, municipality, municipality network, regional, and cross-regional.

By engaging stakeholders in collaborative and participatory processes, the project seeks to **create digital tools** and **soft solutions** that strengthen community preparedness and promote long-term strategies for disaster resilience.

# CONTENT

## **The Booklet #6: Co-Mapping Local Heritage Drivers of Community Resilience explores key findings from two field research campaigns**

conducted across the five CORE Labs of the RESILIAGE project in 2024 and early 2025.

RESILIAGE integrates **an historical-cultural perspective in the understanding of human-environment interactions to define community resilience**. It considers that they are especially enclosed in tangible and intangible Cultural Natural Heritage of places and communities and leverages this heritage that played a crucial role in shaping local identities and the sense of place for engaging local communities in disaster risk reduction. Within RESILIAGE, collaborative, heritage-focused activities are developed to promote meaningful multi-stakeholder engagement in disaster risk management.

The **Booklet #6: Co-Mapping Local Heritage Drivers of Community Resilience** presents how CORE Lab communities have engaged in collaborative mapping to analyse the complex, multilayered interactions between communities and their environments from a cultural and historical perspective. This process aimed to co-identify heritage-driven factors that contribute to community resilience by fostering awareness of the historical and cultural layers that shape their surroundings—including **traditions, religious rituals, and celebrations**.

The development of collaborative activities, structured in two distinct phases, sought to

progressively enhance awareness of the intricate connections between **local heritage, collective memory, the local environment, and disaster risks**. Through co-mapping techniques, communities played an active role in identifying, recognising, and documenting their **local heritage, linking it to places that embody the richness of local diversity**. Additionally, this process facilitated the identification of **key cultural and natural elements—both tangible and intangible—that contribute to community resilience**.

As a result, the co-mapping process generated georeferenced datasets that **integrate cultural heritage with spatial data**, providing a deeper and more comprehensive understanding of community resilience, hazards, and the physical landscape. By acknowledging the varying degrees of exposure within different communities, this approach also highlights **citizens' diverse knowledge of their territory, their awareness of associated risks, and their capacity to navigate and adapt to their environment**.

In the first onsite activities conducted in early 2024, the CORE Labs were asked to identify and co-map, on printed maps, the heritage items previously recognised as Local Heritage (see Booklet 3). The mapping was carried out on a multiscale board, allowing participants to choose between different maps representing the various disaster-affected areas within the CORE framework.

For the co-mapping exercise, each group was provided with a simplified map of the CORE Lab area, featuring basic representations of natural elements (such as rivers and mountains) and significant landmarks. The map was intentionally kept as simple as possible to enable participants to draw directly onto it. The results largely confirmed a perception of heritage focused on formal aspects—such as monuments, traditions, and events—officially recognised by different communities.

The **2025 field research campaign** built upon the results of the previous activities, with the aim of providing a richer and broader understanding of Local Heritage as a driver of community resilience. To support this objective, the field research was preceded by a **desk study conducted by the POLITO team** on CORE Lab Local Heritage. This preliminary research aimed to uncover lesser-known aspects of heritage—those often overshadowed by dominant historical narratives or simply less acknowledged by the community due to their association with marginalized or vulnerable groups.

The co-mapping activity in the **2025 onsite campaign** consisted of both a restitution of the 2024 data and a new co-mapping session.

Participants were asked to select up to three Cultural Natural Heritage (CNH) elements by responding to the question: “What are the relevant (tangible and intangible) CNH elements that keep a sense of community alive?” To do so, they chose three cards from the RESILIAGE Heritage Cards, which cluster tangible and intangible Cultural Natural Historic Elements into twelve categories, including historic local characterisation, symbolic places, historic areas, archaeological sites, stones and geological features, biodiversity and landscape, itineraries, agriculture and food production, traditional artisanship and craftsmanship, food, arts and traditions, as well as cultural institutions and actors.

Following the desk research and its presentation, this phase aimed to **expand the scope of mapping by incorporating new categories and aspects of heritage**. In a second round of the activity, participants were invited to include additional cards related to broader aspects of heritage,

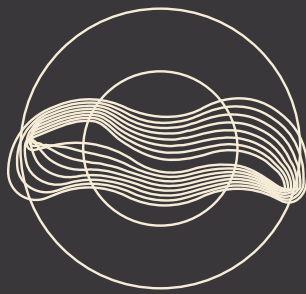


particularly those linked to **informal heritage**—such as places, practices, and habits that are not officially recognised as heritage but are deeply relevant to the community, like a soccer field, a small garden, or a meeting spot. Another aspect considered was **controversial heritage**, referring to elements perceived as contentious within the community, often associated with conflicts or exclusion processes generated by heritage. Finally, participants also explored **local heritage from a gender perspective**, identifying aspects related to gender equality and women’s contributions to heritage representation and transmission.

After selecting the relevant heritage elements, participants then placed the cards on the printed map using appropriately coloured stickers, positioning them according to where they associated these items within the territory. This **spatial representation allowed for a more nuanced understanding of how different aspects of cultural heritage—whether formal, informal, or controversial—shape community identity, resilience, and social cohesion within the local environment.**

This participatory approach has provided valuable insights into how local communities perceive and interact with their cultural heritage in relation to disaster risk reduction. The inclusion of both formal and informal heritage elements, along with discussions on controversial and gender-related aspects, has enriched the understanding of **how heritage contributes to a community’s identity and adaptive capacity.**

The following sections of this booklet present the results of these activities for each of the five CORE Labs. They offer a detailed account of how local communities engaged in the co-mapping process and the key heritage elements identified in this in-depth exploration.

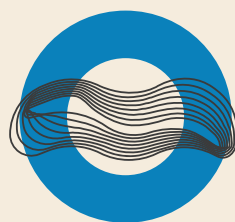


Core Lab

**Famenne - Ardenne  
BELGIUM**

# **FAMENNE-ARDENNE CORE LAB**

# DELVING INTO FAMENNE-ARDENNE'S HERITAGE



Core Lab

**Famenne - Ardenne  
BELGIUM**

## First round of activities

From April 3-4, 2024, members of the RESILIAGE Consortium, including experts in architecture, urban sociology, and heritage studies, visited the Famenne-Ardenne region, hosted by local partners of the UNESCO Global Geopark.

The second day of the onsite activities engaged 30 participants in a collaborative mapping exercise, aimed at identifying the tangible and intangible elements shaping local cultural natural heritage.

The results of the first mapping phase in Famenne-Ardenne revealed that **more than 50% of the identified heritage elements were natural**, reflecting the importance of peculiar natural formations in the region of Belgian Ardennes. Notable examples include the **natural caves of Hotton and Han-sur-Lesse**, considered by the community a key highlight of their local heritage and classified as protected sites, alongside the beautiful **landscapes of the Lesse valley**.

**Nearly 40% were historic buildings, cultural heritage monuments**, and other immovable

objects, such as the **historic Abbey of Saint-Remy** in Rochefort, famous for its Trappist beer brewery, and other sites of historical significance such as the **Wéris megaliths**.

Out of the 21 cultural and natural heritage elements identified, **only 10% fell into the intangible category**, referring mainly to some **cultural initiatives**, such as the Libramont Agriculture, Forestry and Agrifood Fair, the biggest annual open-air event of its kind in Europe, and the Marché 1900, an annual event featuring old trades, games, circus workshops, a bird market, urban farm, period costumes, and traditional dances.

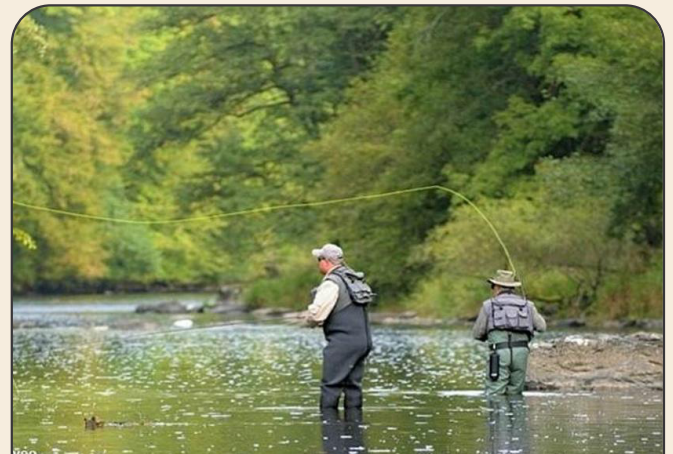
To foster a richer and broader understanding of local heritage within the community, a **second round of co-mapping activities** has been conducted on-site on **28 January, 2025**. During this second activity, participants were encouraged this time to identify elements of heritage that are less embedded in mainstream perceptions but hold **significant value for community resilience**.

## Second round of activities

Using participatory methodologies, **15 participants identified and spatialized 57 elements of cultural and natural heritage** across the region of Famenne-Ardenne, exploring the multilayered community-environment interactions and highlighting the diverse historical, social, and symbolic dimensions of local heritage.

This phase was preceded by preparatory desk research conducted by the POLITO team, aimed at highlighting lesser-known aspects of heritage and enhancing stakeholders' awareness of the historical and cultural layers shaping their environment.

One remarkable contribution was the recognition of **local folkloric traditions and community events**, such as the Grand Fires and the Carnaval de la Grosse Biesse, reinforcing a shared identity and inter-village connection that enrich its diverse traditions. Among the findings that emerged was the Pêche à la mouche, a **traditional method of fishing** using artificial flies as bait, commonly practiced in rivers and streams.



Introduction to fly fishing



The outcomes of this second phase of co-mapping highlighted again the relevance of the **region's natural beauty and ecological biodiversity**, which the community regards as a foundational part of its heritage. Among the rich landscapes mentioned was the **archaeological park of Malagne**, built around the remains of a large Roman villa, offering visitors an immersive experience of Gallo-Roman life; and **two scenic viewpoints**: the Belvédère, a site protected both for its natural beauty and for its rich fauna and flora, and Panorama Point Lorette, offering one of the most beautiful panoramic views in the region.

However, the collaborative activities for characterising local heritage in the Famenne-Ardenne CORE Lab highlighted a pronounced focus as well on the **informal characterisation of symbolic places**: the Parc des Roches, a lovely green space offering an ideal setting for relaxation and leisure for locals and tourists alike; Place aux Foires, a central square known for its vibrant community events and market with gastronomic products.

Alongside these elements, **some aspects of traditional heritage emerged as controversial or subject to debate**. For instance, the **impact of mass tourism** related to the Caves of Han-sur-Lesse on the territory and its relationship with residents. Another conflictual element highlighted has been the **environmental impact of wind turbines and local companies** specialised in limestone extraction for concrete production on local flora and fauna.



The Belvedere offers one of the finest panoramic views in the region



To change by Le Rocher à Pic



Core Lab

**Crete  
GREECE**

# CRETE GREECE CORE LAB

# EXPLORING CRETE'S HERITAGE



Core Lab

**Crete  
GREECE**

## First round of activities

From May 21-22, 2024, members of the RESILIAGE Consortium, including sociologists, psychologists, and architects, visited Crete. The two-day onsite activities included a collaborative co-mapping session facilitated by the local partners of the Natural History Museum. The workshop engaged 30 participants, who worked in multi-stakeholder groups to identify the tangible and intangible elements shaping local heritage.

The results from this first activity showed a predominant focus on **immovable heritage elements**, particularly **historical buildings and monuments** that contribute to Crete's strong sense of identity. Notable examples are the **ruins of the Minoan palaces at Knossos and Phaistos**, which are also popular tourist attractions.

A second group of **tangible heritage elements** were connected to the **active memory of the 2021 earthquake** that impacted the **Arkhalokhori area**: the **Church of the Metamorphosis**, which has been harshly damaged in that occasion; the **Agia Marina monastery**, which was instrumental in cooking and providing food to the victims; and the local Exhibition Centre, where volunteer groups set up tents in the emergency phase.

A **smaller portion** of the identified elements consisted of **intangible heritage**, such as the international music festivals hosted in the

village of Houdetsi (the Houdetsi Festival and the Ross Daly's festival), gathering musicians from all over the globe. Traditional Cretan art forms and cultural practices related with music and dance emerged as potential **key components of local heritage** and **elements of social cohesion** and inclusiveness.



Traditional Cretan dances



## Second round of activities

To foster a broader understanding of local heritage as a dynamic process, constantly reshaped by communities through their interaction with nature, history, and social structures, **a second session of co-mapping** was carried out on-site, at the Natural History Museum of Crete, on **February 7th, 2025**. Participants were encouraged this time to identify elements of heritage that are less embedded in mainstream perceptions but hold **significant value for community resilience**.

This phase was preceded by preparatory desk research conducted by the POLITO team, aimed at highlighting overlooked dimensions of heritage such as the gender perspective, the controversial aspects and the informal characterization.

The mapping exercise involved **19 participants** and resulted in the identification of **69 new entries**, reflecting a more balanced representation of tangible and intangible elements, as well as diverse interpretative perspectives. Among these, some peculiarities of Crete's cultural identity including the **intercultural coexistence**, the **strong human networks**, the **hospitality** and the **culture of cooperation**, characterizing not only the familial connections, but the whole value system of the Cretan society.

The traditional flavors and recipes related to the **Cretan cuisine** are a relevant aspect of the local heritage, not only in terms of the core local products of the Mediterranean diet, but in relation to the **collaborative process of preparing meals for festivities** (weddings, baptisms and other communal celebrations). The mutual assistance and joint work for this purpose is both an old Greek tradition coming from the past and a very much alive social and cultural practice, acting as a means of social bonding within the community.



Traditional recipes of the Cretan cuisine



Similarly, **weaving** is one of the oldest traditional crafts in Crete, deeply linked to the island's cultural identity and history, and **a driver of social cohesion among women**, especially in the villages. On the contrary, other group activities based on gender are the **social gatherings of men in cafés**: traditional coffeehouses have historically been male-dominated spaces, reflecting **gendered social norms and divisions in public and private life**.

Among the most controversial heritage aspects and habits, participants mentioned some deeply rooted phenomena of violence and **oppressive behaviors**, including the **forced marriage** and the **gender stereotypes towards the community LGBTQIA+**. As part of the more complex and sometimes controversial layers of heritage, the mapping also acknowledged the **poor living conditions of the Roma settlements**, who lack proper sewage systems and waste disposal services


Lastly, specific aspects of Crete's cultural identity include **a special relationship of its population with the natural environment**, both in terms of **valorizing its biodiversity** and **appreciating the landscape**. Among the natural beauties mentioned, the Natural ecosystem of Giouchta, a site characterized by the presence of many Cretan and Greek endemic species of flora and fauna; the Karteros Gorge, a scenic and geologically significant gorge located near Heraklion; the Rouvas Forest, one of Crete's most important natural and hiking destinations, and the Kounaviano Gorge, a beautiful hiking route through a lush, narrow gorge with impressive rock formations.




Weaving crafts



Rouvas Forest



Crete experience offered a comprehensive and multifaceted exploration of heritage, understanding heritage knowledge as an active way to build community resilience. Through the participatory co-mapping sessions, Crete community has not only mapped Cultural Natural Heritage assets, but also developed a broader reflection on how communities interact with the accumulation of traditions and experiences coming from the past, express their values, and build resilience through cultural continuity. By embracing a holistic, gender-aware, and community-based approach, the CORE contributed to advancing more inclusive strategies laying the groundwork for future dialogues on resilience and social cohesion.





Core Lab

**Naturtejo  
PORTUGAL**

# **NATURTEJO CORE LAB**



# DISCOVERING NATURTEJO'S HERITAGE



Core Lab

**Naturtejo  
PORTUGAL**

## First round of activities

From 22–23 April 2024, members of the RESILIAGE Consortium, including architects, sociologists, and psychologists, were hosted by the local partner **Naturtejo UNESCO Global Geopark**. During this visit, an initial collaborative mapping exercise was conducted with local stakeholders, engaging a total of 13 participants, facilitated by Portuguese-speaking partners involved in the project.

The outcomes of the first mapping phase in Naturtejo CORE lab highlighted that a **third of the identified heritage elements were natural**, reflecting the importance of **geomonuments**, mountain landscapes, and river ecosystems. These natural landmarks also support geotourism activities such as hiking, climbing, and birdwatching. From some visiting areas like **Talhadas Mountain**, Sobral Fernando, and the geomonument **Portas de Almourão**, it is still possible to see traces of past wildfires. In addition to its geological and environmental significance, **28%** of the identified heritage items consisted of immovable objects, such as the **historic villages** of the region, built using **traditional construction techniques** with **shale** and wood.

Cultural traditions and **intangible heritage** formed nearly **40%** of the identified elements, underlining the significance of **folklore**, **spirituality**, and local **craftsmanship** in the community's identity.



Portas de Almourão Geomonument

Festivals and religious traditions, such as the Easter celebrations, **Senhora do Almurão pilgrimage**, and the **Cheese and Tigelada festivals**, continue to reinforce community bonds while celebrating local folklore and products. Other expressions of spiritual heritage, including the **Orders of Souls** and the traditional **"Janeiras" songs**, together with the sound of village bells, illustrate the deep historical layers of the region's religious and communal life. Local artisanal traditions also remain integral to cultural identity, with crafts such as **pottery and embroidery** preserving centuries-old techniques.

# Second round of activities

A **second round of co-mapping activities** was conducted on 25 January, 2025, with 11 participants. The preliminary desk research outlined the role of women in traditional cultural practices, such as playing adufeiras, particularly **Adufeiras de Monsanto** during the **Festa da Divina Santa Cruz** on 3 May. Traditionally, women play the adufe in this dance, as it symbolizes fertility. Another **gendered** perspective of **local heritage** was the recognition of the cultural significance of **lavadeiras**, who played an essential role in local communities until recent times.

Another key aspect acknowledged by the desk research was the high presence of **immigrants and the Roma community**. The cohabitation of different cultures, though not always easy, is being facilitated by moments of **cultural exchange**, such as those organised by the Municipal Intercultural Mediators Project, promoted by the Municipality of Idanha-a-Nova. This initiative has played a remarkable role in **integrating vulnerable populations**, namely Roma communities and migrant groups, including the Indian and PALOP (Portuguese-speaking African countries) communities, using **culture as a driver of social interaction and inclusiveness**.

The second phase of activities expanded on the previously identified geological heritage, emphasising the significance of **Portas de Ródão**, a natural formation where two rocky cliffs frame the **Tejo River**, creating a landmark that has long served as a gateway between different regions. Similarly, the **Zêzere River meanders** and the **Fraga da Água d'Alte waterfall** were recognised as fundamental to the local landscape, biodiversity, and sustainable tourism.



Monsanto adufeiras



Meanders of the Zêzere in Oleiros



Portas de Ródão Natural Monument





New tangible cultural heritage elements were also introduced, including **Idanha-a-Velha**, a village of great historical relevance that served as an early religious and political centre in the region.

Recognised as an important site for the formation of **Catholic dioceses** in Portugal, the village is home to archaeological remains that illustrate its rich past. Other historical sites included the **Vila de Álvaro**, a village built atop two hills, historically vulnerable to wildfires, raising discussions about the preservation of its architectural heritage and adaptation to climate risks.

Among the newly identified intangible heritage elements, **gastronomy and culinary traditions** played a prominent role. The traditional dish **Cabrito Estonado** was highlighted for its ecological and cultural significance, deeply linked to pastoralism and wildfire prevention practices. Additionally, regional food products, such as **Callum wine**, honey bread, **Tigelada**, **Plangaio**, **Maranho**, and **Brulhão sausages**, were recognised as key elements of local identity and economic sustainability.

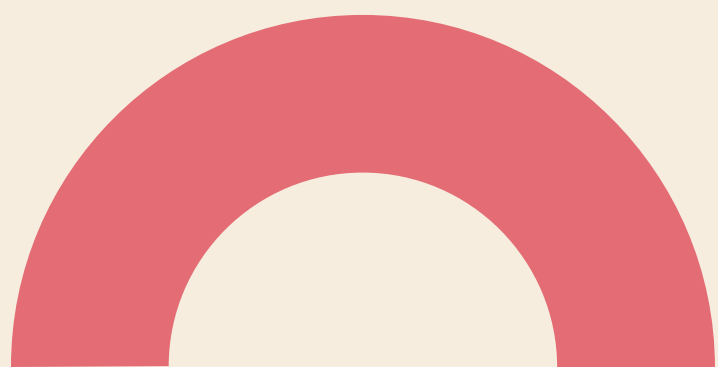
The second round of activities also recognised a network of **cultural trail routes** linking historic villages and natural landmarks, such as the project **Roteiros de Arte na Paisagem do Centro de Portugal**. This initiative, which integrates artistic interventions into the landscape, serves as both a touristic attraction and a means of fostering local identity, promoting the connection between contemporary artistic expression and cultural heritage. The mapping also identified traditional crafts as important elements of heritage, particularly **cork craftsmanship**, which has long been a defining feature of Naturtejo's

artisanal industries. Felt weaving and **embroidery** from Nisa were also noted as significant handmade traditions.

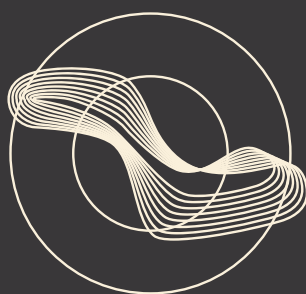
Several religious and seasonal traditions emerged as deeply embedded in local identity, including the **Festa da Fara do Pinhal** and the **Chocalhada da Salavessa**, an Easter ritual unique to the region, where the local community engages in processional celebrations and communal gatherings. The **Transhumance tradition**, where livestock is seasonally moved between mountain and lowland pastures, was also recognised as an essential part of the region's history and environmental management practices.

Concluding, the discussions also addressed **controversial heritage** elements subject to debate. The tradition of hunting and bullfighting was noted as a divisive topic, with some seeing it as an integral part of regional identity, while others questioned its relevance in contemporary society. Similarly, controlled burns as a land management strategy sparked discussions regarding environmental conservation and wildfire prevention.

These findings reinforced the idea that **heritage is an evolving and dynamic process**, constantly **shaped by communities, environmental factors, and historical layers**. The second co-mapping activity provided an opportunity for stakeholders to reflect on both **well-established and emerging** heritage elements, ensuring a more inclusive and representative understanding of **Naturtejo's cultural natural heritage**.







Core Lab

**Trondheim  
NORWAY**

# TRONDHEIM NORWAY CORE LAB

# MAPPING TRONDHEIM'S HERITAGE



Core Lab

**Trondheim  
NORWAY**

## First round of activities

From June 12-13, 2024, members of the RESILIAGE Consortium, including sociologists, psychologists, and architects, visited Trondheim, hosted by local partners at the Trondheim Red Cross. Part of the onsite activities was dedicated to an initial collaborative mapping exercise conducted in two multi-stakeholder groups. A total of 18 participants engaged in co-mapping multilayered community-environment interactions and providing georeferenced information.

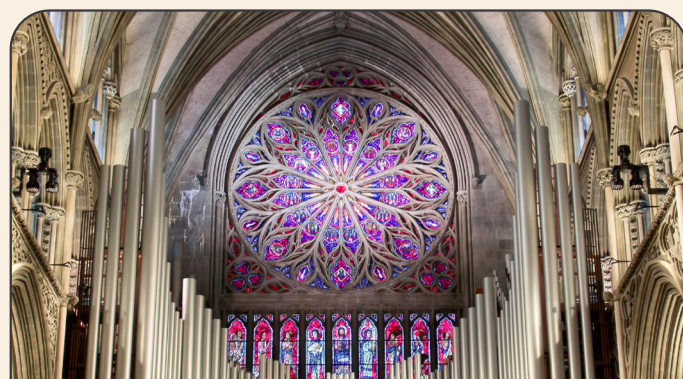
The results of this initial phase revealed a strong tendency to identify elements classified as **immovable heritage**. Out of the 47 cultural and natural heritage elements identified by participants, over 80% fell into this category, including **cultural heritage monuments, historic buildings**, and sites of **historical and religious significance**. Notable examples include **Nidaros Cathedral** and the **Archbishop's Palace**, alongside elements reflecting **traditional culture and contemporary cultural identity**, such as **Rockheim, Trondheim Spektrum, and the Norwegian Technical University (NTH)**.

Approximately **10% of the identified elements were natural or landscape features**, such as **the river and Bymarka**, an 80-square-kilometer nature area west of the city center. Bymarka offers more than 200 kilometers of walking tracks and is a popular destination for **cross-country skiing in winter and hiking, jogging, and walking in summer**.



Nidaros Cathedral

A **smaller portion—less than 10%**—of the identified elements consisted of **intangible or symbolic heritage**, such as **The Trondheim Rose**. This traditional **Norwegian folk art** piece showcases the craftsmanship and creativity of local artisans. It holds cultural significance in Trondheim, symbolising a connection to the past while adapting to contemporary aesthetics. Whether as a decorative element or a handmade gift, **the Trondheim Rose** continues to represent the essence of Norwegian heritage and artistry.



Trondheim rose

## Second round of activities

To foster a richer and broader understanding of local heritage within the community, the second field research session in Trondheim, held on **January 21st**, 2025, was preceded by a desk study conducted by the POLITICO team. This study aimed to highlight specific aspects of local heritage and enhance stakeholders' awareness of the historical and cultural layers shaping their environment. The preliminary research sought to uncover lesser-known aspects of heritage—those often overshadowed by dominant historical narratives or underrecognised due to their association with marginalised or vulnerable groups.

Among the findings that emerged was the gendered dimension of heritage, exemplified by figures such as Anna Rygge, a pioneering artist, and Kirsten Sand, who studied architecture at the Norwegian Institute of Technology (NTH) in Trondheim. Sand graduated in 1919 as the first woman in Norway to earn an architectural degree and later played a crucial role in the post-World War II reconstruction of Northern Norway.

**This broader understanding of heritage as a dynamic and evolving process, constantly reshaped by communities through their interaction with nature, history, and social structures**, guided the second phase of the field activities. Participants were encouraged to identify **elements of heritage that are less embedded in mainstream perceptions but hold significant value for community resilience**. The mapping exercise involved 12 participants and resulted in the identification of **47 heritage sites**, reflecting a more balanced representation of tangible and intangible elements, as well as diverse interpretative perspectives. Among these, the **legacy of Martin Michaelsen (1924–1997)** was particularly significant.



Winter scenic landscape in Trondheim

Michaelsen, a prominent restaurateur in Trondheim, is often regarded as the pioneer of the city's modern restaurant scene. Expanding his ventures along Prinsens gate, he established several notable venues, including Naustloftet, meticulously designed as Trondheim's first dedicated fish restaurant.

Alongside these recognised elements, **some aspects of traditional heritage emerged as controversial or subject to debate**. The long tradition of Alpine skiing, for example, is now increasingly perceived as problematic due to the high costs associated with its practice. Similarly, the submarine bunker Dora, a remnant of World War II occupation history, evokes complex discussions about the legacy of wartime infrastructure in Trondheim. Another debated element is Svartlamon, a well-known alternative neighborhood in Trondheim often associated with squatting, counterculture, and experimental living arrangements, which continues to challenge conventional perspectives on urban heritage and social resilience.



Core Lab

**Karsiyaka  
TURKEY**

# **KARSIYAKA CORE LAB**



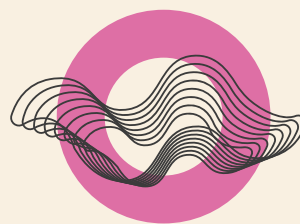
# UNVEILING KARSIYAKA'S HERITAGE

## First round of activities

From May 7–8, 2024, members of the RESILIAGE Consortium, including experts in architecture, urban sociology, and heritage studies, participated in a field visit to the Karşıyaka district in İzmir, Turkey. The two-day workshop included collaborative co-mapping sessions that engaged participants in identifying and interpreting the tangible and intangible heritage elements shaping local community resilience facilitated by local partners involved in the project.

The co-mapping sessions involved 40 participants who worked in 4 multi-stakeholder groups to explore the multi-layered interaction between heritage, human environment and community. Using participatory methodologies, participants identified and spatialised 57 elements of cultural and natural heritage across the district, highlighting the diverse historical, architectural, social, and symbolic dimensions of Karşıyaka.

The mapping results from the first phase showed a predominant focus on **immovable heritage elements**, particularly historical buildings, public spaces, and monuments that contribute to Karşıyaka's strong sense of



Core Lab

**Karsiyaka  
TURKEY**



Karşıyaka pier

identity. Notable examples contributing the active memory of the community include **Karşıyaka Bazaar** and **Bostanlı EKOPAZAR** as a vibrant and culturally rich marketplace fostering daily social interaction; **Karşıyaka's modernist housing blocks** as architectural legacy; **Karşıyaka Pier**, as a historic transport infrastructure offering scenic connections; and **Karşıyaka Sports Club** as an emblematic of local traditions and collective memory in sports culture standing out as advocator of women and men equality.

Additionally, a smaller proportion of the identified elements comprised natural and landscape features such as green areas and waterfronts, emphasising the environmental assets. Sites like **Bostanlı Beachfront** and the **Karşıyaka Coastline** with **Fishermen's Shelter** and **Panoramic Observation Point** illustrate the role of public natural spaces in community resilience.

A more nuanced part of the mapping concerned intangible and symbolic heritage elements—many of which reflect evolving community narratives, collective values and local identity. For instance, the emphasis on the legacy of **Latife Hanım** and **Zübeyde Hanım** served to highlight the early presence and influence of women as well as **Ataturk's legacy** in shaping historical narratives. This focus anticipated and paved the way for a broader recognition of women's contributions to society. Another attention to women's roles was further reinforced through initiatives such as the **Fancy Women Bike Ride**, which showcased contemporary expressions of women's empowerment and visibility in public spaces.

## Second round of activities

To further enhance the scope of the research, a second session of co-mapping was carried out on-site on 5th February 2025, involving 37 participants and resulting in 52 new entries. This phase was preceded by preparatory desk research conducted by the POLITO team, aimed at highlighting often-overlooked dimensions of heritage such as gender representation, social inclusion, and contested narratives.

This experience revealed critical gaps in mainstream heritage narratives, bringing attention to overlooked figures such as **pioneering women's role** in Karşıyaka, and community-based histories that are often underrepresented. Special attention was given to alternative forms of heritage that challenge dominant interpretations—such as community-driven initiatives and informal gathering places. For instance, among the community-driven traditions that reinforce symbolic ties to collective memory is also the annual event "**Ata'dan Ana'ya Saygı Koşusu**" (Respect Run from Ata to Mother). In addition, the role of women singers in preserving the community's history through songs dedicated to Karşıyaka has been highlighted, such as **Mahmur Handan Hanim's song Karsiyakam**.


During this phase, participants were encouraged to expand their perception of heritage beyond conventional categories. The results indicated a more balanced distribution among tangible and intangible elements, reflecting a wider set of values. One remarkable contribution was the recognition of **local gastronomic heritage**, including traditional fish restaurants, cafés with

traditional local foods such as boyuz, gevrek and kumru that have shaped Karşıyaka's social fabric. Moreover, the **Yamanlar Tomato** — a local variety traditionally grown in the Yamanlar Mountain region — has been highlighted as a significant regional agricultural product. The **Yamanlar Tomato Festival**, held under the slogan "We Are Reborn with Colour, Flavor, and Solidarity!", is also emphasised as a traditional event that celebrates this heirloom tomato (grown from **Ata tohumu** seeds) with a history of over 150 years. Another example of local intangible heritage—deeply rooted in daily life and climatic adaptation—is the **Çörcil drink**, a popular non-alcoholic refreshment originated in Karşıyaka. Made by mixing soda water, fresh lemon juice, and a pinch of salt, the drink is traditionally consumed to cool down during hot summer days or aid digestion.





Turkish traditional market





As part of the more complex and sometimes controversial layers of heritage, the mapping also acknowledged **the presence of florists and fortune-tellers along the seaside promenade**, representing longstanding practices associated with the local **Gypsy population (Roman halki)**.

Karşıyaka experience offered a comprehensive and multifaceted exploration of heritage, revealing its pivotal role in shaping community identity, memory, and resilience. Through the participatory co-mapping sessions, a total of 109 heritage elements were identified and spatialised over the two phases of fieldwork. Karşıyaka community has not only mapped heritage assets, but has also catalyzed a broader reflection on how communities interact with the past, express their values, and build resilience through cultural continuity. By embracing a holistic, gender-aware, and community-based approach, the CORE contributed to advancing more inclusive strategies laying the groundwork for future dialogues on resilience and social cohesion.



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