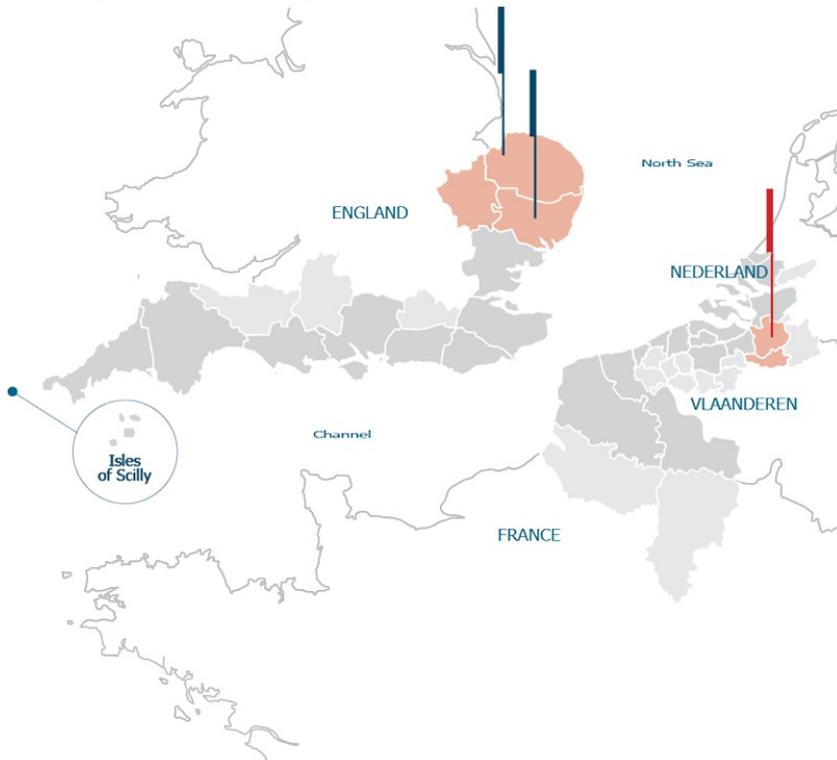


# HERE

## Heritage Recycled

### ■ Project summary



The HERE project aims to resolve the issues surrounding the reuse of valuable cultural heritage buildings, which remain vacant or underused in the 2 Seas area. Sustainably conserving these buildings, for the future, requires expertise and creativity and often a partnership approach with financial input from the private sector. Through the HERE project, participants are aiming to build expertise across the different stages of the regeneration of an historical building (planning, choice of materials...) and to develop a practical methodology. At the moment, England and Flanders apply different working methods in the regeneration of underused historic buildings. Thanks to a cross-

border partnership, they will be able to create a standard transferrable methodology and begin the process of sharing best-practice between heritage organisations in the 2 Seas area through working groups and study visits. In addition, two pilot projects will be led in the Fort of Duffel (B) and St. Mary at the Quay (UK), improving accessibility, developing and diversifying tourism products and promoting heritage as economic driver.

### ■ Activities

#### What is the project trying to achieve?

The main aim of HERE is to give a new, sustainable future to valuable historic buildings that have lost their traditional use in modern European society. The overall goal is improving the marketing of the regeneration of monumental historic buildings, and the ability of organizations and communities to reuse and regenerate historic buildings. These aims can be achieved by; - building up expertise within the different stages of a restoration project and learning from each other's experiences. Partners will learn from each other and will benefit from joint problem solving and practice sharing. - the realisation of best-practices which will help to develop a practice-based methodology. In cooperation partners want to achieve the joint implementation of best practices (through the development of business plans and construction investment). -

the experience of developing projects which will form the basis of a best practice methodology.

### **What activities are being implemented?**

A first part of activity 1 is visiting the projects of the different partners in the project: St-Nicholas (GB-King's Lynn), St-Lawrence (GB-Norwich), St-Mary at the Quay (GB-Ipswich), the Ursuline convent (BE-OLV-Waver) and the fort of Duffel to gain expertise by sharing experiences on regeneration and the several obstacles in this process. Only by experiencing these cases and all of their background, surroundings, etc. can the partners really see and feel what problems their colleagues come across, which solutions they have been found or they are searching for. By this, experience on the subject of regeneration methodologies are gathered. A second part of activity 1 is putting together the practice-based methodology. The methodology will comprise three stages: 1) project start up 2) project and business plan development 3) project delivery. The approach will be tested, refined and adapted where necessary. The final methodology will be produced when all project stages have been completed. As a sub-action a workgroup methodology is established which consists of all project partners and several external heritage experts giving their views on the regeneration subject for in casu religious and military heritage. All the input will be put together in a final methodology document that will make it possible to spread the gained knowledge and experiences throughout the Programme area. The main goal of activity 2 is the realisation of two best-practices. The case studies will help the partners to have a better understanding of the problems, guidelines, etc. that occur throughout the whole process. This way a cross-border approach that brings benefit to all parties involved will be developed. The two case studies are the church of St-Mary at the Quay which will be regenerated by the CCT and SM as private investor and the fort of Duffel, which will partly serve as a museum on the history of the building and partly as a nature area for bats and other animals. The realization of visible project proposals will make the developed methodology more concrete and will increase the content quality of the methodology. As sub-actions of activity 2 involve first a regeneration workgroup which is established in which all project partners take part and consists of (local) heritage experts that discuss the regeneration of the specific test cases and their feedback for the methodology. Second, advisory groups are put together to give the local community a voice in the restoration and regeneration process of the best-practices. Third, business plans and options appraisals are written for the other 3 projects that are a part of HERE. The input provided by the workgroups and advisory groups will merge with the latter and will be employed in the overall methodology.

## **■ Results**

### **What are the key results of the project?**

The project will produce a methodology which will serve as a basis for advise towards heritage management and heritage members within the programme area and the whole EU. Workshops and site visits - Site visits of the 5 locations delivered - International working group site visits - Awareness raising events Stakeholder involvement - Establishment of regeneration workgroup - Establishment of local advisory groups - info boards will inform the public on the history and regeneration process of the projects Pilot actions - regeneration and investment at 4 heritage sites New approaches/methodologies - a standard transferable methodology framework developed - recommendations for heritage-management within the programme area proposed

- Business plans and appraisals for 3 sites of HERE project - Best practice case studies for 5 sites

### **Are all partners and territories benefitting from the results?**

The target group benefiting from the project consists of the actors from the international field of heritage involved in regeneration but also the overall management, particularly the local and regional politicians and the specialised government, the heritage sector and other specialists. The actors in the field of heritage will be thoroughly informed about future activities and the achieved results through intensive communication and publicity. As they will come in contact with the projects in their various stages of development through activities, events and targeted publicity, the local community and the users of the sites also belong to the target group. The final beneficiaries are all users of the sites (presently and in the long run), such as the local community, associations, organisations, tourists, culture lovers, school groups, residents, etc. They will eventually benefit from the successful regeneration of the project sites. Norfolk: The regeneration of St-Lawrence and St-Nicholas will be started up and eventually should enable the local community to use the buildings in a other manner than in the past. Suffolk: The conversion of the church of St-Mary at the Quay as a centre for wellbeing and good health will enable people to use the church again since it could no longer be visited before. Mechelen: The regeneration of the Ursuline convent in OLV-Waver will ensure the preservation of a unique monument which was only visible for internals in the past. The fort of Duffel will be a central, tourist key point in the second belt of forts around Antwerp.

### **What are the effects / outcomes for the territories involved?**

England: In Norfolk the local community will be able to give input in the regeneration process and the options appraisal. After the project both churches will continue their regeneration process and the local community will be able to enjoy them again in a new manner. The project St Mary at the Quay in Suffolk contributes to Ipswich Borough Council's regeneration strategy. The plans complement their wider regeneration scheme on the Ipswich waterfront. The project of both partners is focused on the delivery of a wellbeing centre, supporting the government's recent response to Dame Carol Black's review of the health of Britain's working age population. Eventually people will be able to visit the interior of the church again and religious heritage will again be a part of their environment. Belgium: In OLV-Waver the Ursuline institute is renown for its school, but not many people know the beauty of the other parts of the convent. With this project, a first step towards further accesability of the site is taken and tourists, companies and other will be able to enjoy the magnificent wintergarden and the rest of the site. The fort of Duffel will be restored and made accesible to the public by means of a visitor centre. Kids will enjoy the tours in the dark caves and see the bats. Tourists will visit the small museum or take a walk in the nature surrounding the fort. The site is an outstanding example of nature and culture coming together, and visitors will be able to enjoy this in the future.

### **■ Distinctiveness**

#### **What is the real added-value of doing this cross-border project?**

Only a crossborder partnership can ensure the realisation of the proposed objectives, as at the moment in Europe heritage workers apply different working methods for the regeneration of



underused historic buildings. As a consequence, a standard transferable methodology framework does not exist. Only through close cooperation throughout the project and by gathering and enhancing the existing expertise, an ideal methodological approach can be defined. As an example, the first place visit of the PT in January 2012 showed KL how a reconverted church in Mechelen was looked at from English point of view, what were the merits and faults. The church was a result of a different strategy in regeneration, which was discussed. In March KL contributes to the Maxigreen project from 2 seas, also a cooperation with Kamp C is being established, partner in the 2 seas SISCo project. Another cooperation is starting to grow with a Future for Religious Heritage, which has members from all over Europe.

## ■ Project Information

<b>Title</b>	Heritage Recycled
<b>Total project budget</b>	€ 1 215 033
<b>ERDF</b>	€ 607 516
<b>Priority &amp; objective</b>	Priority 3 d. Promote, enhance and conserve the common heritage and cultural partnerships, including development of creativity and design and joint cooperation between the media
<b>Timeframe</b>	2011-07-01 - 2014-09-30
<b>Lead partner</b>	vzw Kempens Landschap
<b>Project Coordinator</b>	Philippe De Backer(philippe.debacker@skl.provant.be)

