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Editorial

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Publishing the first issue of IJHSD Green Lines Institute accomplishes a first goal in its scientific international journals editorial policy. IJHSD was created under the aim of publishing original scientific contributes in the field of heritage and sustainable development, making these two sometimes separated subjects a common object of analysis and research. The innovative approach IJHSD brings to discussion is the deep relationship between sustainable development and heritage, arguing that the last is not relevant without the first. Proper care and reasonable use of heritage are the very basis of its sustainability, therefore from scientific research on heritage should necessarily emerge scientific concern with its sustainability. In order to open the discussion on this vast theme, IJHSD defines as its main areas a) heritage and sustainable economics, b) heritage and governance for sustainable development, c) sustainable preservation of natural heritage, d) sustainable preservation of cultural heritage, e) heritage and communities development, f) heritage and sustainable tourism and g) sustainable preservation of built heritage.

In this first issue a number of articles reflect some of these areas, putting forward field research and theoretical analyses on heritage and sustainable development.

Chris Landorf in its article entitled "Governance in historic urban environments: A theoretical review" argues that governance is a vehicle for sustainable development and that the state plays as a facilitator enhancing the role of communities in, for example, the management of heritage sites. He analyses current heritage management models focusing on their problems and explores the concept of social sustainability, mainly in historic urban environments.

This thematic is particularly relevant for the reading of Christian Frost's text, on the "Changing Salisbury: an argument for a return to poetic ordering of urban space following three hundred years of objectification". In this article the Author focus on a specific example, the city of Salisbury, between tradition and change, combining preservation and alteration, even when the inhabitants of the city are almost excluded from participatory understanding of heritage.

The essential role of locals in the preservation and exploration of heritage is underlined in Stephanie Hawke's "Local residents exploring heritage in the North Pennines of England: sense of place and social sustainability". Again, the concept of social sustainability is brought to discussion, using in-depth interviews of individuals engaging with heritage in the rural northern uplands of the UK. Another key-concept under analysis is "sense of place"; the Author argues that cultural heritage is essential to its construction and to the network of references that enable individuals to place themselves in the past and the present.

This connection between past and present is also found in the article of Manuela Piscitelli's "Preservation of paths for a sustainable tourism in the Amalfi coast". The Author emphasises the UNESCO recognition of the Amalfi coast mainly because of the combination of natural and human environment that constitutes a cultural landscape. The old paths are being now transformed into tourist routes and the ancient use of the land transformed by the urge to receive tourists.

The fragile balance evidences the need to sustainable use of this territory, as also enhanced by Anna Goral in her paper on "Research on cultural tourism development in sacral and spiritual sites from the UNESCO World Heritage List". The effect of tourism on sacral and spiritual places classified by UNESCO is the core issue of this article. The danger of de-characterisation and the need to use tourism as a revenue source make the balance between preservation and destruction a very thin one.

A parallel problem is discussed in the paper from Myra Giesen, Aron Mazel, David Graham and Patricia Warke, when arguing on the "Care and Management of Ancient Stone Monuments during Environmental Change". These Authors claim that ancient stone monuments are under pressure, due to increasing anthropogenic exposure and changing climatic conditions. Being 'hard as a rock' will not save these monuments from degrading and in this paper some of the most accurate and up-to-date strategies to prevent such degradation are explored.

The final article of this issue is from Pam Hazelton and Anne Clements, on the "Historic and Environmental Significance of Ecological Communities in NSW, Australia". The colonisation of the New South Wales determined the almost destruction of some of the original vegetation, the remains of which became protected heritage since the 1890s. The case-study presented in this paper explains how environmental legislation was used to preserve natural heritage and to reduce the environmental footprints of urban growth.

The Editor wishes to thank all Authors who contributed to this first issue and hopes that its publication may contribute to a deep and significant discussion on heritage and sustainable development, seen as complementary faces of the same coin. The call for papers for the IJHSD is continually open and the Journal welcomes all original contributions to the theme.