



CALL FOR PAPERS

**A Bridge to the Future: connecting
Cultural Heritage and Climate Change
Faro Convention's role in climate
resilience and sustainability on its 20th
anniversary**



ABSTRACT AND OVERVIEW

On October 27th and 28th, 2025, on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society's signature, better known as the Faro Convention, the University of Turin will host the "A Bridge to the Future: connecting Cultural Heritage and climate change" international conference. The event aims to bring together leading scholars, practitioners, and stakeholders from various disciplines to explore the complex relationship between cultural heritage and climate change.

The Faro Convention represents a landmark in the recognition of European cultural heritage. Indeed, it promotes a vision of cultural heritage based on values, rights, and the active participation of the communities. Within the scope of the Convention, cultural heritage is not merely seen as an entity to preserve but also as a crucial resource for human progress, sustainable development and democracy promotion. By linking heritage with environmental conservation, social cohesion and economic growth, the Convention provides a roadmap for integrating the past into a sustainable future.

On the other hand, it also introduces a concern with the intergenerational gap that ensures future generations' enjoyment of the cultural heritage while mitigating the effects of climate change, goals pursued with the European Green Deal and the New European Bauhaus placing the cultural heritage discussion in the epicenter of this alignment between past and future. This conference aims to propitiate a debate that encompasses both compromises: the one concerned with the green transition and maintaining the legacy of the past.

The underlying idea of creating this connection between cultural heritage and the climate dimension of human interaction in space through time is to empower and democratize the available instruments that constitute and strengthen democratic participation. To blend two themes that concern the European community, we propose the motto intergenerational equity, encompassing the idea that the past is a legacy to be perpetuated for future generations.

A multidisciplinary effort is required to capture the Convention's facets, including the socio-economic and cultural context and other aspects that must be considered. Scholars in the field are welcome to build this concept through legal institutions, imagery, historical assessments, similar experiments implemented in other jurisdictions and political participation surrounding cultural heritage and climate change challenges.

The conference aims to bring together scholars working on the drivers and outcomes of cultural heritage and climate adaptation. We welcome papers from disciplines such as law, urban planning, urban design, sociology, political science, geography, environmental science, history and economics that clearly articulate research questions, theoretical framework, methodology and preliminary findings.

THEMES

1. The impact of the Faro Convention in different legal systems: comparative perspectives

Among the uses of Comparative Law is the one of providing knowledge of attempted legal experiments, successful experiences and opportunities for improvement. In other occasions, the search for harmonization propitiates a common denominator to evaluate the success of legal institutions. This panel intends to bring together legal experiments, legislative frameworks and other legal devices that have been implemented to make the Faro Convention effective where it was ratified. The results obtained, the challenges encountered and the best practices adopted to promote a participatory and inclusive approach to cultural heritage will be examined through a comparative perspective. Its aim is to stimulate a critical reflection about:

- a. the Convention's effective capacity to influence national legislations as well as local policies and the solution adopted in different legal systems;
- b. the Convention's capacity of enhancing the role of communities in heritage management and promoting culture-based sustainable development;
- c. the possibility to reconcile cultural heritage with climate change challenges and sustainable development.

2. New approaches to manage in an integrated and sustainable way the urban landscape considering private and public legal instruments

The integrated and sustainable management of the urban landscape represents a complex challenge that requires the harmonisation of public and private interests. This integration must balance economic development, environmental protection and the quality of urban life, making the best use of innovative and participatory legal instruments. The panel aims to reflect on approaches for integrated urban landscape management, paying particular attention to the complementary role of private and public legal instruments. The aim is to explore how these instruments can be used in a coordinated way to respond to contemporary challenges related to the protection of cultural heritage and green spaces, environmental sustainability and urban development. In particular, and for illustrative purposes only, reflections about the following aspects are proposed:

- a. challenges in balancing economic development and cultural and environmental heritage protection with quality of life in urban landscape;
- b. models and policies for the protection and enhancement of urban landscape, involving both public authorities and private actors;
- c. comparison of public and private legal instruments to be integrated to ensure effective urban landscape management;
- d. criteria and policies for defining whether an urban landscape management approach is truly sustainable;
- e. mechanisms to incentivise private stakeholders to invest in sustainable urban projects involving cultural heritage and greenery and to support public interest objectives;
- f. analysis of experiences from cities that have already implemented innovative and sustainable approaches to urban landscape management considering cultural heritage and greenery.

3. The Faro Convention and participatory administrative models of cultural heritage management

The Faro Convention introduced an innovative approach to cultural heritage management, centred on the value of heritage communities and the promotion of heritage as a key resource for social cohesion and sustainable development. This approach represents a paradigm shift in relation to the traditional administrative approach, as it places the active participation of citizens and communities at the centre of decision-making, overcoming the one-way protection model operated by the State. The notion of "participation" outlined by the Faro Convention extends far beyond the boundaries of procedural participation regulated by the general law on administrative procedure, requiring a substantial, continuous and dialogical involvement of communities in the management, enhancement and enjoyment of cultural heritage. Yet, it is precisely in administrative

law that one can find the regulatory, legal and procedural tools suitable for translating the principles of the Convention into action, albeit with some reinterpretations and adaptations. The contributions aim to:

- a. analyse the legal institutions best suited to support participatory and inclusive governance models in the management of cultural heritage, with particular reference to the regulation of public assets and participatory planning;
- b. analyse doctrinal and jurisprudential elaborations that configure cultural heritage as a public good, emphasising its shared nature and its link with the fundamental rights of individuals and communities;
- c. investigate the opportunity of overcoming the traditional proprietary approach in favour of models that consider cultural heritage as an asset entrusted to the care and participatory management of communities;
- d. the potential of participation tools provided for by administrative law, such as public consultations, collaboration agreements and conventions with third sector organisations, projecting them into the broader context of urban and territorial planning activities and related tools that allow for the active involvement of communities in the definition of public policies concerning the protection and enhancement of heritage.

4. Urban planning and environmental science: mechanisms and policies to create climate-adapted models of management of cultural heritage

The panel aims to reflect on urban planning, focusing on the mechanisms and policies needed to develop models for managing cultural heritage and green areas in Europe adapted to mitigate effects of climate change. The objective is to explore how to integrate innovative and sustainable approaches to urban planning, valorising cultural heritage and enhancing the environmental resilience of cities.

Below are some hints:

- a. urban planning strategies rethought to reduce the impacts of climate change while preserving and enhancing the historical and cultural value of urban landscapes;
- b. analysis of data and experiences to face main risks from extreme climatic events;
- c. design and management of public and private green spaces to act as a climate buffer, improve quality of life and strengthen the link between community and cultural heritage;
- d. role played by technological innovations, scientific research and European regulations in facilitating the transition to climate resilient models.

The panels aim to provide a space for dialogue to share good practices, concrete experiences and new perspectives, promoting solutions that combine the enhancement of cultural heritage with greenery and urban development.

Mark your calendars for **October 27th and 28th, 2025** and join us for this exciting event that promises to shape a critical discussion on the new challenges in the field of cultural heritage and climate change. More details about the event program, speakers, and registration will be shared in the coming months.

SUBMISSIONS

We invite applicants to submit papers for this conference aimed to discuss how the Convention has shaped public policies, models of governance and how it can serve as an instrument to promote equitable and enduring environmental practices through valorizing shared cultural heritage.

Guidelines for Submission

- Submissions should include:
 - a maximum of 600 words abstract to be submitted for participating in the conference;
 - a 5000 words paper including research questions, theory, methods and research findings;
 - a maximum of 8 copyright-free images with 300 DPI resolution.
- All abstracts must be submitted and presented in **English** or **Italian**.
- Abstracts should be sent to: convegnoottobre2025@gmail.com

A collective volume will be published and contributions will be submitted to peer-review. We are seeking a balance of perspective papers, empirical papers and case studies from the European experiences concerning the proposed themes.

Important dates:

- Deadline for abstract submissions: **May 30th, 2025**
- Decision on abstracts: **June 30th, 2025**
- Deadline for full papers: **September 15th, 2025**
- Conference: **October 27th and 28th, 2025**

Registration & enquiries:

convegnoottobre2025@gmail.com

Scientific committee:

Prof. Davide Gianti, Associate Professor of Comparative Law (University of Turin); Prof. Maura Mattalia, Associate Professor of Administrative Law (University of Turin); Prof. Dario Elia Tosi, Associate Professor of Public Comparative Law (University of Turin); Prof. Egidio Dansero, Full Professor of Political and Economic Geography (University of Turin); Prof. Pier Giuseppe Monateri, Full Professor of Comparative Law (University of Turin); Prof. Fabrizio Cassella, Full professor of Public Comparative Law (University of Turin); Prof. Carlo Tosco, Full Professor of History of Architecture (Polytechnic University of Turin); Prof. Stefano Ferraris, Full Professor of Agricultural Hydraulics and Watershed Management (University of Turin).



Organizational team:

Prof. Maura Mattalia, Associate Professor of Administrative Law (University of Turin); Prof. Carlo Tosco, Full Professor of History of Architecture (Polytechnic University of Turin); Dr. Stefano Ronco, Research fellow in Public Finance (University of Turin); Dr. Luca Battisti, Research fellow in Geography (University of Turin); Dr. Sabrina Bergamini; Dr. Alessandra Panicco (Polytechnic University of Turin).

Hosting institutions:

University of Turin (UNITO)

Department of Law

Politecnico di Torino (POLITO)

Interuniversity Department of Regional and Urban Studies and Planning (DIST)

Local partners:

Consorzio delle Residenze Reali Sabaude;

Ente di Gestione delle Aree Protette dei Parchi Reali;

Reggia di Venaria Reale;

Stellantis Europe s.p.a.;

Soprintendenza Archeologia Belle Arti e Paesaggio;

Città Metropolitana di Torino;

Regione Piemonte;

ARPA Piemonte;

Federazione Provinciale Coldiretti.

VENUE

The conference will take place at the Cultural Heritage site Parco del Valentino castle in Turin October 27th and 28th, 2025. Participants will join roundtables and panels divided by the four main themes. Three main keynote speeches will be helpful during this event.

