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A nationwide network

Towns and Regions of art and history

146 towns and regions have signed an agreement with the ministry of Culture and Communication to develop a process aimed at obtaining in-depth knowledge of their region, to promote their heritage and raise public awareness (inhabitants, young people, tourists).

They turn to qualified personnel : architectural and heritage coordinators, guide-lecturers.

Towns with protected areas

100 towns in France have protected areas. Created in 1962 by André Malraux to protect the historic town centres while allowing them to evolve, and founded on knowledge of history, urban, architectural, economic and social factors, the protected area sets the conditions for the preservation, protection, transformation and evolution of buildings and open spaces.

Protection zones for urban and environmental architectural heritage

Since the decentralisation law, which came into force in 1983, more than 600 regions have adopted this heritage protection tool. Led jointly by the State and the local authority, it enables regulations to be put in place regarding architecture and the environment, while giving consideration to protection, materials, volumes, the location of constructions and determining areas where construction work may take place.

MEMBERSHIP / You can join if :

- Hold the label Town or Region of art and history
- If your town has a protected area or a ZPPAUP
- If your ZPPAUP or your VPAH dossier is being prepared or about to be approved.

Enrolment details are available on :

www.an-patrimoine.org

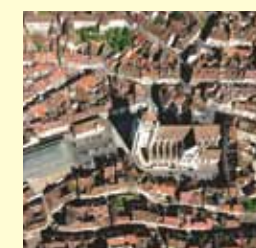


national
association

The French
association
of Towns and Regions of art
and history and Towns with
protected areas



The ANVPAH & VSSP now brings together more than 150 towns and regions which bear the label "Town and Region of art and history", have a protected sector or architectural heritage protection zones, which wish to share their reflections and experience in protection policy and the promotion of our heritage.



2010



National association

of Towns and Regions
of art and history
and Towns with protected areas
(ANVPAH & VSSP)



The numerous challenges that local and regional authorities have to face make them a special area for social and political innovation, to implement ambitious scheduled projects for the environment.

Through its members, ANVPAH & VSSP mobilises a network of expertise in restoration, regulation, training professionals, research, raising public awareness.

ANVPAH & VSSP works with the various ministries concerned, the Senate and the National Assembly, on the evolution of the legislative, legal and financial framework for the protection and promotion of our heritage, architecture and urbanism.

ANVPAH & VSSP has national and international objectives :

- create a network of expertise of all the participants in heritage, elected representatives and technicians and promote cooperation,
- develop mutual knowledge and exchanges between towns and regions,
- contribute to the definition of a global economy for the town or region and for heritage,
- participate in the evolution of the legislative framework and tools for the protection and promotion of our heritage,
- accompany towns and regions in the implementation of their heritage policy,
- mobilise the players, elected representatives and technicians in the conservation, restoration and promotion of heritage, notably by structuring the dialogue with national authorities and by providing monitoring of news relating to heritage.

The great works

Boosted by the expertise and know-how of its network, with the support of technicians and elected representatives as well as partners and experts, ANVPAH & VSSP is working at both national and international levels on the following major undertakings :

- **Taxation, decentralisation and heritage management** : ANVPAH & VSSP accompanies the new distributions of responsibilities and participates in the adaptation of the law and taxation of heritage to enable local and regional authorities to develop heritage policies to recover the old protected quarters.
- **Ancient centres as models of sustainable towns** : ANVPAH & VSSP leads an exchanges platform to develop programmes on issues relating to energy requirements of built heritage, taking into account not only the preservation of our heritage but quality of life, social mixity and mobility issues.

■ **Heritage and quality of accommodation** : ANVPAH & VSSP promotes exchanges and pilot operations in housing, social mixity and functions in ancient town centres, the changing environment.

■ **Heritage at the heart of the global project of the regions** : ANVPAH & VSSP proposes a long-term reflection on the cultural and heritage policies which must be the levers of social and economic development for the regions.

■ **Redevelopment of industrial and military heritage** : ANVPAH & VSSP accompanies the redevelopment projects and takes part in the reflection concerning the study and promotion of this heritage with the relevant ministries and partners.

■ **Heritage and cultural tourism** : ANVPAH & VSSP works to improve the synergy between strategies for tourism and heritage policies.

■ **The tools, the actors in heritage mediation** : ANVPAH & VSSP participates in the reflection on the evolution of heritage trades and mediation tools.

Exchange arenas

ANVPAH & VSSP promotes exchanges of experiences and proposes :

- **Commissions and workshops on a theme** bringing together elected representatives and technicians from the local authorities, representatives of the ministries and national bodies, experts, heritage professionals. These groups implement a programme of actions and can make suggestions to the ministries.
- **Reflection days, training and technical seminars open to all** :
 - the restoration of architectural and urban heritage
 - heritage trades
 - qualification of companies
 - drawing up urbanism documents
 - the development of cultural tourism
 - the interpretation of architecture and heritage and raising public awareness
 - international cooperation
 - the regulations.

■ **Assessments and visits**, carried out with members who request them. This work of analysis and support can range from a simple diagnosis to a more in-depth study.

■ **Information and communication tools** : thematic publications, methodological and technical works, communication brochures on the network...

• With Editions Gallimard, ANVPAH & VSSP has produced a guide "Les patrimoines de France" which presents and describes the different protection policies and the actions undertaken by local authorities.

• The ANVPAH & VSSP internet site : www.an-patrimoine.org, which is regularly updated, provides training reviews, documents on the subject of heritage protection, preservation and promotion. It is also a showcase to highlight the heritage of the member local authorities.



A wide partnership

Since its creation, ANVPAH & VSSP has strengthened and expanded its partnerships.

Heritage now finds itself at the heart of an action which brings together a large number of actors from the public and private sectors, coming from cultural and economic development as well as social development.

■ **The ministry of Culture and Communication**, which owns the label "Town and Region of art and history" and leads studies of protected sectors, is a major partner of ANVPAH & VSSP. Since 2005, as part of a partnership agreement, the following objectives have been developed, directly with the department for Architecture and Heritage and in relation with the regional departments for cultural affairs and the local Architecture and Heritage services.

- improve safeguard, protection and improvement measures,
- enrich and increase enhancement of architecture and heritage in the region,
- contribute to the evolution and enhancement of trades associated with the understanding, creation, safeguard, restoration and mediation of architecture and heritage as well as know-how,
- support and develop the creation of a network linking the Towns and Regions of art and history and the Towns with protected areas,
- expand the communication, distribution and promotion policies for architecture and heritage,
- develop international action in the fields of architecture and heritage and know-how.

■ As the interlocutor of the authorities, ANVPAH & VSSP creates the conditions for bringing closer together the policies for heritage, architecture and urbanism by associating itself with the ministry for the Environment, Energy, sustainable Development and the Sea to lead to changes in the legislative framework and to put in place staff training.

■ With the Caisse des dépôts, ANVPAH & VSSP sets up workshops and study days on :

- urban renewal and residential quality in the ancient quarters,
- the qualification of actors to optimise public intervention in the ancient quarters,
- raising awareness of sustainable development, social mixity and investment in rental accommodation.

All through the chain of actors, ANVPAH & VSSP is seeking to devise a method which reconciles safety, sustainable development, energetic performance, salubrity and heritage to support local authorities in view of the contemporary stakes. These works bring together all the partners concerned by these issues :

the ministry for the Environment, Energy, sustainable Development and the Sea, the national agency for urban renovation, the national agency for housing, the CAUE (advisors in architecture, urbanism and the environment), professionals in the construction industry, the Association nationale des architectes des bâtiments de France...



■ The prospects for collaboration are today aimed at a direct partnership with the regions in the front line including the Midi-Pyrénées Region, which is developing, with ANVPAH & VSSP, the following main lines as part of the introduction of an innovative heritage policy throughout its region :

- strengthening heritage policy in the sector of the protection and promotion of the ancient town centres,
- making towns aware of themes which concern everyone, such as heritage and sustainable development,
- strengthening the VPAH and protected areas and linking them to the network,
- exchanging information among the local authorities (communes, counties, regions) about the experiments carried out.

■ In the context of international cooperation, the ministry of Foreign and European Affairs provides continuous support for ANVPAH & VSSP. Exchanges, training, encounters, European programmes are also carried out in partnership with the France-UNESCO convention, Cités Unies France, Relais culture Europe, the embassies and towns and ministries of partner countries.

■ As part of its missions and works, ANVPAH & VSSP is opening partnerships with the ministry of Defence, the Federation of regional natural parks, Icomos, several universities and schools of architecture and the landscape, the School of Chaillot, the Journées juridiques du Patrimoine, the Heritage Foundation...

■ These actions are carried out with all the elected representatives of the network, continuously relayed by our members of Parliament to the National Assembly and the Senate with the technical assistance of the Association des petites villes de France.



International cooperation

ANVPAH & VSSP proposes to regional authorities to create or strengthen partnerships with towns in Eastern Europe, but also in Mali and India, and to join trans-national programmes on issues relating to heritage as a development tool.

It is participating in a European move to set up a network of towns and regions which wish to strengthen their identity and to develop by calling on the diversity of their heritage in a quality initiative. Thus it is working on urban governance, the restoration of architectural and urban heritage, the revitalization of trades, the development of cultural tourism, the creation of heritage houses, raising public awareness, exchanging methods and practices.

The role of ANVPAH & VSSP is to :

- support local authorities and develop decentralised cooperation on the theme of heritage,
- create a network to link the local authorities so that they are not working alone and to ensure that their work is complementary,
- organise encounters and training,
- develop exchanges at all level of governance,
- propose assessments and diagnoses, set up projects and programmes for the social and economic revitalisation of the regions with heritage as a starting point,
- exchange with national networks of towns.

The international internet site : www.an-patrimoine-echange.org

