

# PROJECT GOALS

- Create innovative architectural and design solutions that emphasize the use of new forms and materials in line with the European Green Deal objectives;
- Leverage the social function of architecture, arts and design, combining functionality and sustainability with aesthetics, arts and culture, with the aim of driving social inclusion and accessibility, as well as strengthening the contribution of culture to sustainability;
- Examine cultural transformations driving sustainability and explore new cooperation paths among relevant stakeholders, including cultural and creative industries, interested in designing a new European way of life in line with the New European Bauhaus;

# 3 PRINCIPLES

## Landscapes as text and papyrus

PALIMPSEST aims to re-shape landscapes through co-creation of sustainable solutions that connect human actions, heritage and sustainability, using innovative practices in architecture, design, and art;

## Arts, design and architecture as re-writing practices

PALIMPSEST blends arts, design, and architecture to revive lost wisdom in heritage, promoting sustainable solutions through co-design experiments and engaging local/international cultural actors in pilot landscapes;

## Sustainability transition as a direction

PALIMPSEST revives lost wisdom to create sustainable transition landscapes through experiments in arts, design, and architecture;

## PROJECT FACTS

Duration: 36 Months (2023-2026)  
EU Funding: 2.998.897,50 €  
Coordinator: Politecnico di Milano  
Communication & Dissemination Leader:  
Institute of Communication and Computer Systems

## PARTNERS



## ASSOCIATED PARTNERS



## CONNECT WITH US



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# PALIMPSEST

## Creative Drivers for Sustainable Living Heritage Landscapes

παλίψηστος < palimpsestos, 'again' + 'scrape'

# The PROJECT



## 3 LANDSCAPE PILOTS MILAN / ŁÓDŹ / JEREZ DE LA FRONTERA

MILAN  
ITALY

The Milanese metropolitan area has undergone significant changes in its water landscape. Many watercourses, including rivers and channels, have been covered to make way for roads and urban development. On the other hand, the Lambro River remains uncovered and flows through different districts of the city, being the only accessible water basin in the eastern outskirts and suburban areas of Milan. Over the years, the once sustainable water landscape has been negatively impacted by urban sprawl, techno-centric perspectives, and agricultural practices. These factors have led to water pollution, biodiversity loss, and fertility issues. Restoring the region's relationship with the river and its ecosystem calls for a reconsideration of the aesthetic, ecological, and productive values embedded in this landscape.

ŁÓDŹ  
POLAND

Łódź is an UNESCO city located in central Poland, known for its industrial heritage and avant-gard artistic history. The vibrant urban center hosts a considerable number of film studios, artists, and design agencies, as well as hundreds of festivals throughout the year. Its industrial heritage is the subject of large-scale urban redevelopment projects, reinventing the city's identity with creativity and design. At the same time, the industrial heritage and a coal-burning heating tradition have visible effects in the city's severe pollution levels, being one of the most polluted cities in one of the most polluted regions in Europe. The growing costs of alternative energy sources and the lack of infrastructure are slowing down the transition to cleaner energy sources. In contrast, citizens' proposals and movements evidence both the concern and compromise of the locals on pollution and environmental issues.

JEREZ DE LA  
FRONTERA  
SPAIN

Jerez de la Frontera (Andalusia, Spain), is a city with a rich historical and cultural heritage, known for its acclaimed wines, fine horses, vibrant flamenco art, and fertile countryside. Its population remains closely connected to their rural landscapes, which shape the city's society and economy and manifest in its landscapes and cultural expressions, such as wineries, cattle trails, and flamenco. Jerez's vast and diverse territory is evolving, influenced by climate change and energy transition, generating conflicts and contrasting opinions on land uses, economical activities and traditional practices. What for ones is an evolution of the landscape, for others is the deterioration of a heritage promoted by external investments with a lack of local roots. The city's landscapes, serving as witnesses to its past and supporters of its present, are valuable assets for a sustainable future that balances tradition and modernity.

PALIMPSEST focuses on regenerating the lost sustainability wisdom in heritage landscapes through co-creation with creative actors, technical stakeholders and civic society. Architecture, design and art practices dialogue with place-specific needs and broad systemic challenges to imagine new scenarios and experiment with innovative practices connecting human actions, landscape heritage and sustainability objectives. To experiment and envision novel landscape scenarios, PALIMPSEST focuses on three pilot landscapes with diverse cultural identities and environmental problems.

