

Davos declaration: a commitment for a Better Urban Living Environment

A humanist and holistic vision for a better living environment in European cities and territories



ECTP-CEU

European Council of Spatial Planners
Conseil européen des urbanistes

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The Davos declaration : towards a high-quality *Baukultur* for Europe

European Ministers of Culture call for a policy of high-quality Baukultur

- On 21 and 22 January 2018 the European Ministers of Culture were invited by the President of the Swiss Confederation, Alain Berset, to attend a meeting in Davos in advance of the Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum. They adopted a declaration which highlights pathways for politically and strategically promoting the concept of a high-quality Baukultur in Europe.

Davos²⁰¹⁸
Declaration

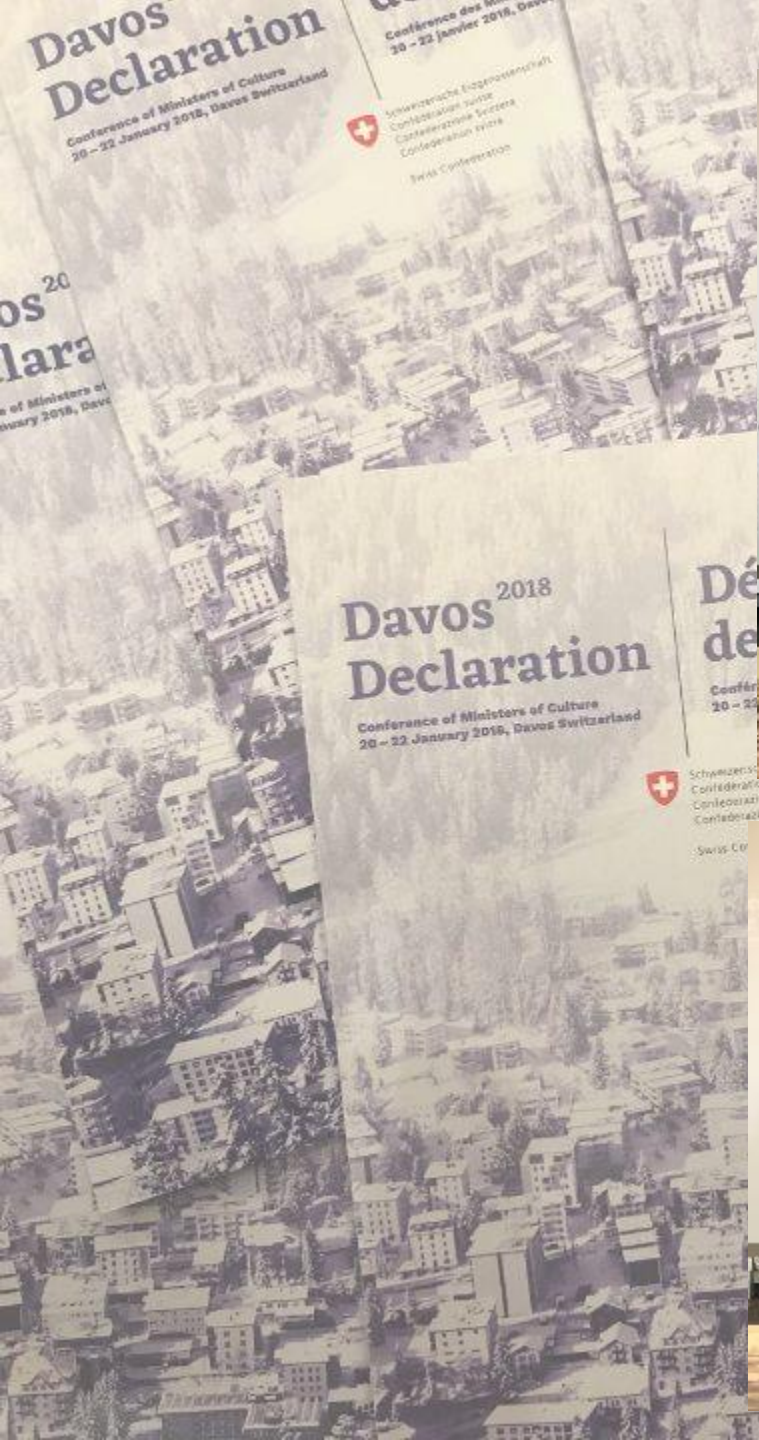
Conference of Ministers of Culture
20 – 22 January 2018, Davos Switzerland

The Davos declaration : towards a high-quality *Baukultur* for Europe



Involved countries and organisations

- A total of 39 countries worldwide have committed to the Davos Declaration and its goals.
- International organisations support the Davos Declaration. These are government organisations: the Council of Europe, European Commission, ICCROM and UNESCO; plus non-governmental organisations: Council of Europe Conference of INGOs, Architects' Council of Europe (ACE-CAE), Europa Nostra, European Council of Spatial Planners (ECTP-CEU) and ICOMOS. Other organisations, institutions and companies are also advocating the Davos Declaration and its goals on an ongoing basis.



Baukultur definition

- Baukultur is about to improve the quality of our living spaces and environment. Access of quality living spaces has to be considered as a human right.
- *“Baukultur aims at good planning and building. It combines a high design standard with a holistic view of social, economic, and environmental aspects, and thus has an emotional and aesthetic dimension. Baukultur is essential to produce an environment that is perceived as liveable. It serves to secure and develop the social and economic values thus created. Producing Baukultur is a social process based on a broad understanding of qualitative values and goals and their implementation with high levels of interdisciplinary expertise.”*

German Federal Foundation of Baukultur



Baukultur concept

- People operate within space and shape the space in its full diversity. *Baukultur* is an expression of that. It covers buildings and landscapes, historic monuments and heritage sites, streets and squares, bridges and gardens as well as villages and cities.
- Planning and construction processes are also part of *Baukultur*. It applies just as much to craft-related detail as to large-scale urban planning. *Baukultur* connects the past to the present and future. The way we deal with our built environment is an expression of our *Baukultur*.



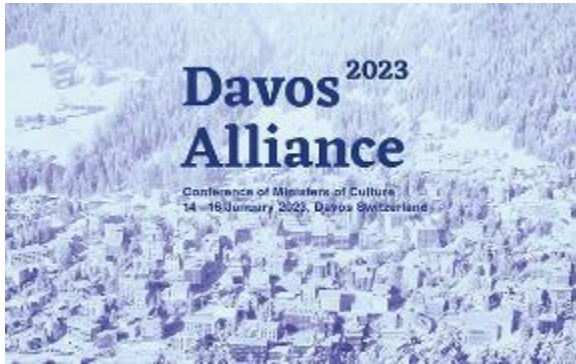
The benefits of a high-quality Baukultur for society

- The way we shape our living environment has a tremendous impact on how we shape our future as a society. Poorly designed neighborhoods, gentrification and commodification of urban areas can lead to segregation and social polarization with a risk of increase radicalization in neglected peripheral areas.
- Baukultur contributes to improving the quality of life for Europe's inhabitants, building an inclusive and cohesive society, preventing radicalisation and discrimination, transmitting shared European values and enabling Europe's inhabitants to identify positively with their living spaces respectful of cultural diversities
- 'In addition to architectural, structural and landscape design and its material realisation, Baukultur is also expressed in the planning processes for building projects, infrastructures, cities, villages, and open landscapes'. *(Davos declaration Art 5)*

Towards a high-quality Baukultur

- The fundamental goal of a high-quality Baukultur must be enshrined in planning and building laws and rules, applicable to all scales of territory, so that future developments are obliged to be of high quality.
- High-quality Baukultur demands a real and fair participative process, involving an informed and trained public, accompanied and directed by independent experts.
- High-quality Baukultur requires the sensitizing of politicians, economic leaders and all the stakeholders involved without forgetting the civil society and the public.

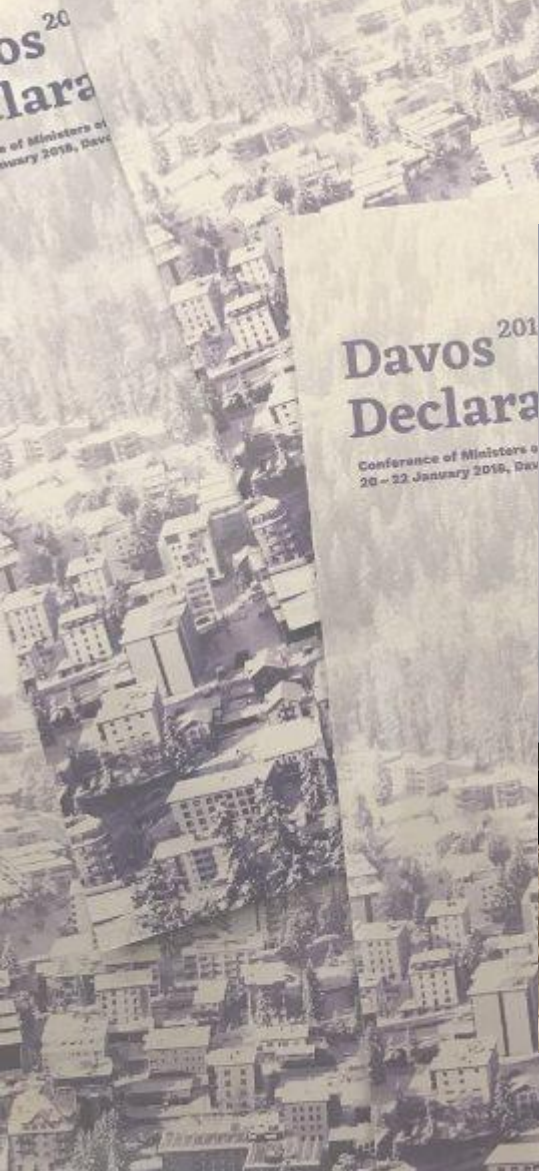


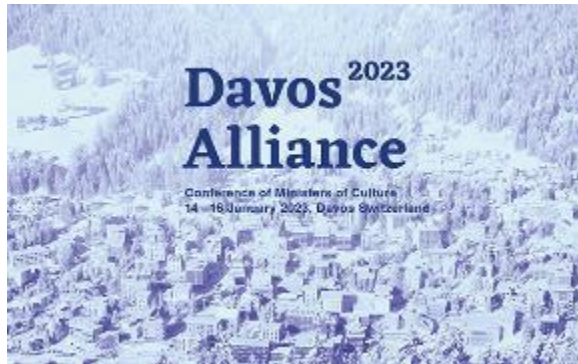


The Davos Alliance

Launch of the Davos Alliance, Davos,

- The second Conference of European Ministers of Culture under the title “Common Good – Shared Responsibility” took place in Davos at the invitation of the Federal Councillor Alain Berset from 14 to 16 January 2023, the Ministers of Culture and INGOs discuss with representatives of the private sector how together achieve high-quality Baukultur for Europe.
- The 2023 Conference addressed the role of the building and real estate industry considering Baukultur as a common good. The Conference explored opportunities for better cooperation between authorities, the civil society and the building and real estate industry through initiating continuous exchange and networking. The aim of the conference was to launch the Davos Baukultur Alliance 2023, in which partners from all sectors will be represented.

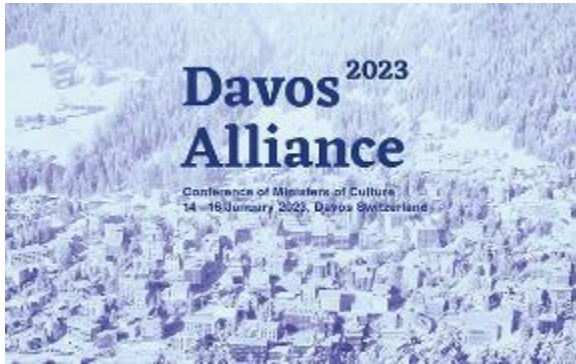




The Davos Alliance

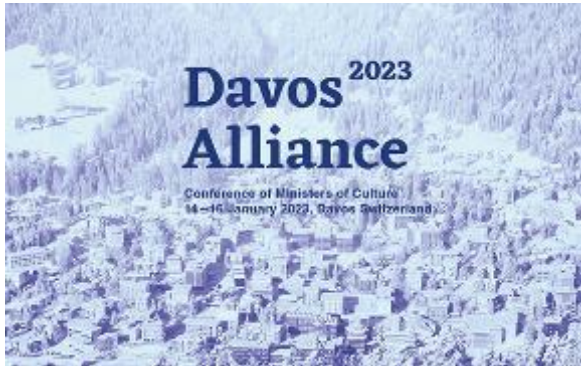
Approval of the Davos Baukultur Memorandum

- During the 2023 Davos Conference the members of the Alliance committed themselves to resolving the challenges facing our living environment with shared responsibility and cooperation for the common good, and to progressing towards the overall goal of high-quality *Baukultur* in Europe and beyond.
- Switzerland will chair the Davos Baukultur Alliance for the first five years; its secretariat is based within the World Economic Forum.



The Davos Alliance

- The Davos *Baukultur* Alliance is governed by a steering committee drawn from Alliance members from the public and private sectors, and civil society. The steering committee will be responsible for the rules of procedure to be agreed on by the Alliance's members.
- The founding Steering Committee members are: Lithuania, Switzerland and UN-Habitat are the representatives of the public sector. The representatives of the private sector are AvisonYoung, Bouygues Construction and DGNB German Sustainable Building Council. The Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe, Architects Council of Europe (ACE-CAE) and Europa-Nostra are representing the civil society.



The Davos Alliance

- The Alliance encourages all the stakeholders to engage in multi-stakeholder cooperation to put high quality *Baukultur* into action in implementing the Davos declaration and the eight criteria of the Davos quality system. (Governance, Functionality, Environment, Economy, Diversity, Context, Sense of Place, Beauty)
- The Alliance's secretariat is hosted by the World Economic Forum (WEF).
- It organises focus groups for its members that analyse and discuss key challenges and propose new solutions.
- First convening of Davos Baukultur Alliance will take place in Venice, Italy, the 20th of May 2023.



The Davos Alliance

- How can the Alliance structure its work to capitalize on existing efforts while forging new collaborations and partnerships to drive on-the-ground impact in communities around the world ?
- How can government, business and civil society leaders work together to advance a quality-oriented approach to planning, construction and management of communities that embraces history and culture while also prioritizing affordability ?



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