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TANDEM

Towns and Democracy

Reactivate local heritage through participatory democracy

Connecting Citizens and Institutions in Panagyurishte
Bulgaria, Panagyurishte, 9–11 October 2026

AGENDA

DAY 1 – FRIDAY, 9 OCTOBER 2026

ARRIVAL AND OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE PROJECT

15:35 Arrival in Sofia, transfer to Panagyurishte

17:15 Arrival in Panagyurishte, check-in at Park Hotel Asarel <https://asarel-th.com/en/> (7 Krastyo Geshanov Street), participant registration

18:00 Welcome reception: welcome address, brief introduction of the partner municipalities, presentation of the project objectives and the professional programme

18:30 Local Leaders' Dialogue – Mayoral and High-Level Roundtable
Discussion on the role of cultural heritage in democratic renewal.

19:30 Dinner at the hotel restaurant

DAY 2 – SATURDAY, 10 OCTOBER 2026

COOPERATION BETWEEN LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, INSTITUTIONS AND CIVIL SOCIETY

07:00 Breakfast at Park Hotel Asarel

09:00 Institutional coordination sessions with the participation of institutional leaders and cultural professionals

Thematic workshop discussion on the role of cultural heritage in strengthening participatory democracy, international good practices, and how participatory heritage planning can contribute to inclusive and sustainable local development.



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11:00 Public Cultural and Networking Event I

Participation in the Brass Band Parade.

Venue: 20 April Square

13:00 Lunch at the hotel restaurant

14:00 Thematic Exchange of Experiences with representatives of civil society organisations, local government representatives and heads of cultural institutions

How can local governments and citizens be brought closer together?

Good practices from the partner municipalities.

Local challenges and opportunities for future cooperation.

Venue: Park Hotel Asarel (7 Krastyo Geshanov Street)

16:00 Public Cultural and Networking Event II

Visit to the Historical Museum and the vault displaying the Panagyurishte Gold Treasure.

Venue: Historical Museum <https://museumpan.com/> (28 Raina Knyaginya Street)

17:00 Public Cultural and Networking Sports Event III

Participation in the “Frescoliada” youth multisport event and festival.

Venue: Arena Asarel Sports Hall <https://arena-asarel.com/> (3 Krastyo Geshanov Street)

18:00 Free time

20:00 Dinner at the hotel restaurant

DAY 3 – SUNDAY, 11 OCTOBER 2026

PREPARATION OF JOINT PROJECT OUTCOMES

07:00 Breakfast at Park Hotel Asarel

10:00 Workshop

Development of the Good Practices Collection and preparation of the first drafts of local participatory heritage strategies.

13:00 Lunch at the hotel restaurant

15:00 Official Closing of the Meeting – Closing Plenary Session

Closing speeches, distribution of certificates of participation, group photo.

15:30 Departure from Panagyurishte to Sofia



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Topics of the roundtable discussion:

Culture, Cultural Heritage and Community Participation

- How can cultural heritage become a tool for connecting local communities and strengthening democratic dialogue?
- How can local governments, cultural and educational institutions, civil society organisations and residents be more effectively involved in decision-making related to cultural heritage?
- What methods can be used to increase the active participation of residents, particularly young people, in local cultural life and heritage preservation?
- What good practices can support cooperation between local governments, institutions and civil society organisations?
- How can culture and cultural heritage contribute to strengthening community identity, trust and people's sense of belonging to their municipalities?
- How can cultural heritage be used to strengthen intergenerational dialogue, social inclusion and cultural diversity?
- What barriers hinder public participation, and what practical solutions can be used to reduce them?
- Which participatory methods and tools should be shared and jointly developed among the partner municipalities?

Expected outcomes of the meeting:

- Strengthening cooperation between local governments, institutions and civil society organisations.
- Collection of participatory good practices from the partner municipalities.
- Preparation of the first professional version of the Good Practices Collection.
- Preparation of the first drafts of local participatory heritage strategies.
- Strengthening the project's international professional network.
- Professional preparation of the second international meeting in Balatonfűzfő.



PANAGYURISHTE, 9–11 OCTOBER 2026
EVENT SCHEDULE