1. Introduction of the common problematic (international document that support)
   - Present the common problematics and why this is relevant to us

Main criteria of UNESCO world heritage sites are their authenticity and integrity, which are significantly molded by the local communities and residents.Therefore, residents not only act as custodians of Heritage Sites, but provide the very identity and character of the place. With the majority of people living in cities and a continuing trend of urbanization, cities are in a constant process of change (see de Waal et al. https://www.globalheritage.nl/research/heritage-environment/living-world-heritage-cities). Local communities hence ensure also that World Heritage contributes to sustainable development (https://whc.unesco.org/en/activities/745/) and their awareness is crucial to ensure preservation and development of Heritage for future generations.

Regarding the important role of local communities and residents, there is, as stated in the Quebec Route Map, a common problematic that affects all of the cities included in the OWHC: Protecting and strengthening the residential function of the city's historic centers. https://www.feuillederouteovpm.com/es/bibliotheque
The idea is to find solutions to protect and improve the liveability of residents and locals who live in the historic city centers, maintain a good quality of life, and start to germinate a protective idea of the heritage in them that will grow in the near future. The tourism sector is an area that needs to transform to serve as a catalyst for prosperity at a universal scale. It must help to enhance the well-being of individuals as well as improve the way of living, trying to achieve a balance between tourists and local residents. https://www.unwto.org/news/unwto-becomes-un-tourism-to-mark-a-new-era-for-global-sector
As World heritage doesn't exist in a vacuum urban heritage conservation should be integrated into strategies of socio-economic development (The World Heritage Committee relegated this task to UNESCO in view of the fact that such challenges were faced by all historic cities, not only those inscribed onto the World Heritage List) (https://whc.unesco.org/en/cities/)

Further obstacles to quality of life in historic centers shared by many if not all cities around the world are climate change adaptation and gentrification and housing issues.

Unfortunately, there are a lot of examples that show the importance of dealing with this problem. P.E. The Unesco said that due to urban gentrification in the city of Santiago de Compostela, inhabitants abandoned the city center in favor of suburban areas. As a consequence, there is an increase in social exclusion that has been highlighted by the need for housing rehabilitation and the improvement of open spaces. This is not an isolated case, quite the contrary. It is just the tip of an iceberg to which more and more cities are joining. https://whc.unesco.org/en/canopy/santiago-compostela/

As this example illustrates there is a strong need to keep historic sites liveable in order to keep them alive and preserve their unique character. It also shows that it's crucial to include local communities and residents in the decision making and implementation process regarding their importance in preserving the Heritage.

2. Objectives: why are we working with this? General and particular objectives

The general objective of this document is therefore to propose measures to preserve the particular character of a historic site by keeping it liveable and alive through improving the quality of stay and increasing the participation of local communities and residents.

The particular objectives to improve the quality of stay include providing public services (e.g. mobility, health care, education, etc.), green spaces and recreational areas (improve micro-climate and well-being), affordable housing to ensure a good social mix, services of daily needs (e.g. supermarkets, pharmacies etc.), effective tourism management and raising awareness both among residents and visitors. The importance of these different objectives and strategies to achieve them can vary according to the specific preconditions of the respective Heritage site. Their overall goal shall be to increase the attractiveness of historic centers for residents.

3. Challenges

As the cities of the Brussel's network are working on the question of rehabilitation of historicals centers, a number of specific challenges *are* inherent to the pursuit of implanting solutions and sustainable practices toward evolving the quality of life in the city centers.

As the economical scheme of historical centers can be mostly linked to tourism, the authenticity and the identity of the city is altered through all kinds of gentrification. As the local shops are replaced by international brands, the local economy shuts down leading to the closing or change from the locals to enter a tourism economy and abandon the authenticity of their artisanal and cultural past. As money profits mainly to the international brands, the local economy relies on this, degrading the access to services of daily needs and leading to a seasonal decline .

Over-tourism in those areas also leads to demographic issues as the city centers are overcrowded by people, meaning more noise, more pollution, traffic but also refraining mobility in the centers, degrading the quality of life of the residents in the listed areas and the monuments and buildings in the city center.

As those city centers are overcrowded, homeowners are obliged to rent accommodations and permanent residents must leave to the periphery. We can observe a definite rise of the price of lodging in the listed property, and because of this protected aspect and the lack of knowledge of homeowners and residents, some accommodations are left in an ancient state in a need of renovation to provide for the contemporary needs. This aspect also leads to a lack of resources and fundings as the cost of renovating a protected area is sometimes too high compared to the resident resources.

4. Work on solutions on this specific topics

To resolve those issues, a certain amount of work and solutions can be provided. A first solution can be linked to the necessity of creating a dialogue between municipalities and residents by proposing surveys and general meetings. Those can provide the municipalities

with the actual needs of the population regarding the needs of residents in the city centers. They can also provide information to the residents around the rehabilitations of their habitat by proposing documentation and giving documentation around fundings, subsidies and expertise of preservation and restoration.

Linked to the collecting of that information and the action plan of the city and the municipality, it should be mandatory to distinguish actors (multi-professionals or cross-sectional teams) to acknowledge clear responsibilities toward resolving those issues linked to preserving and rehabilitating the historical centers and listed properties. As the municipality is linked to the question of rehabilitation it would seem essential to provide a social housing program providing affordable accommodations in the city centers permitting a social mix but guaranteeing a following by the city on the restoration and rehabilitation plans as they are not under the responsibility of private investors.

Another work path can be linked to establishing a course of action around the preservation of the local economy and protecting the centers from the international brands. As the municipalities support local initiatives as they can be cultural or private shops, they can provide a liveable environment and preserve the identity and authenticity of the historic center. By supporting the local economy that is not only centered around tourism, it can also provide permanent residents with daily need service all through the year.

Therefore an effective tourism management plan should be enforced. As the tourism economy is essential to found a balance between preserving the residential area and the tourism activity. Traffic management targeted at the needs of residents, such as implementing resident-only parking zones or limiting the number of tourist vehicles in certain areas, can be effective for dealing with over tourism because it prioritizes the well-being of the local community and economy. By reducing congestion and overcrowding, residents can enjoy a better quality of life, businesses can thrive, and the destination can maintain its charm and authenticity, ultimately leading to a more sustainable tourism model by reducing air and noise pollution, as well as easing the strain on natural resources. This is important for preserving the natural beauty of the destination and safeguarding its ecosystems for future generations. At least, traffic management measures can help limit the number of tourists in sensitive areas, reducing wear and tear on infrastructure and preserving the authenticity of the destination's cultural heritage.

5. Conclusions

Interdependent of each other;

https://whc.unesco.org/en/tourism/

The economic reliance of historical city centers on tourism presents a double-edged sword. While it boosts revenue, it often leads to the erosion of local authenticity and identity, as well

as the displacement of traditional businesses by international brands. This shift alters the socio-economic fabric, affecting both residents and visitors negatively.

Moreover, overcrowding due to tourism exacerbates various issues such as noise pollution, traffic congestion, and a lack of essential services. The resulting deterioration in the quality of life affects both residents and the preservation of historical monuments and buildings that results in an inflation of property prices, forcing permanent residents out of the city centers. This gentrification further contributes to the loss of local identity and exacerbates the challenge of preserving historical architecture.

Here we could find another problem: the high cost of preserving and restoring historical properties poses a significant challenge, particularly for residents who may lack the necessary resources. Moreover, the lack of knowledge among homeowners about the importance of renovation further complicates efforts to maintain the historical integrity of these areas.

(((Proposed Solutions: Initiatives such as surveys, information campaigns, and community engagement are essential for understanding and addressing the needs of both residents and historical preservation efforts. Providing funding, subsidies, and expertise for restoration projects can alleviate financial burdens on residents and promote the sustainable upkeep of historical buildings. Additionally, effective tourism management, including promoting alternative sites/routes and implementing city taxes, can help mitigate the negative impacts of over-tourism on city centers and to protect the heritage of cities.)))

Fortunately, there are some useful tools that could help us to measure and mitigate these problems. As the Unesco said, it is important to manage tourism efficiently, responsibly and sustainably. Itb is here where we can find the vast majority of the solutions.

Otherwise, we will see how these solutions evolve in the future according to those cities which have already implemented these solutions. This would be an important clue to correct (in case needed) our actions.

Some of the
https://www.e-unwto.org/doi/pdf/10.18111/9789284420070

https://whc.unesco.org/en/tourism/

The interdependence of - in this example tourism, economic resilience and liveability - shows the need for an integrative and holistic approach to keep historic sites lively and integer places. Engaging the local communities all along the process is essential to make these developments durable and sustainable and tackle their specific needs.