

LUISS



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Cultural Heritage and Territorial Growth

There is a profound link between culture and the practice of democracy: it is within a context of civic responsibility and critical thinking that institutions can truly flourish. From this perspective, **cultural heritage can be understood not only as the symbolic capital of a country, but also as a public good** – a resource considered inalienable for a community, and therefore to be protected and safeguarded.

This issue of the *Research & Third Mission Newsbook, Cultural Heritage and Territorial Growth*, explores the broad theme of **cultural heritage** and its **connection to the territory**. The focus begins with Luiss – a custodian of tangible cultural assets (its historic villas, the library, and more) as well as intangible ones (our shared wealth of knowledge and intellectual capital) – but extends beyond Luiss to envision the transfer, enhancement, and social service of this heritage.

We believe in the value of culture as an essential driver for the growth of our entire community. For this reason, we pursue an approach that integrates development and innovation with research and tradition. This commitment is reflected in the restoration and enhancement of the architectural sites that host our campuses, in the design of academic programs that engage with the arts and creative disciplines, and in our dedication to offering spaces where knowledge and heritage can serve as a solid grounding for debate and shared learning experiences.

Alongside this, targeted initiatives and projects create **opportunities to discover and rediscover the territory, strengthening ties with institutions, cultural organizations, and enterprises.** Strategic partnerships not only support the dissemination and protection of culture but also help **generate new opportunities for social and economic development, creating value for the community.**

In this way, we strengthen our vocation to act as a proactive agent of transformation, firmly convinced that **cultural heritage is a powerful lever for institutional, competitive, and sustainable growth.**

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