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### ESPON 1.3.3

The role and spatial effects of cultural heritage and identity

## Cultural Heritage and Regional Development

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## Key Messages I

Cultural Heritage is an asset that offers **all** European regions a unique development opportunity, both in economical as well as social terms.

A Europe of Regions is in search of cohesion and competitiveness. Cultural Heritage is the natural bridge between the two (apparently) incompatible objectives.

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## Key Messages II

Cultural assets are *place products*. They can not be separated from the regions they are located in.

Many cultural assets are not only points of reference for the local population but to all Europeans. A limited number of Europe's cultural assets has even assumed a global dimension.

## Key Messages III

The *wise use* of cultural assets advocated in ESDP implies that use of heritage is:

- insufficient (loss of opportunities for development)
- sustainable
- excessive (menace for their conservation)

Fighting situations of *insufficient* and of *excessive* use ought to be given top priority in cultural heritage policies on all (including the European) levels

## Key Messages IV

### Cultural Heritage and European Regional Policies:

- From a *stealth* cultural policy to an explicit cultural dimension in regional policy;
- Facilitating the creation of cultural clusters and helping regions to conserve their cultural heritage;
- Promote a European Cultural Heritage Observatory