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Glourious twinEd towns

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Project acronym: PRESAGE

Call: CERV-2024-CITIZENS-TOWN-TT



TOWN TWINNING
**MIDDELBURG
FOSSOMBRONE**
2026

Work Package: 1

Work Package name: Best Practices for Promoting
Renaissance Destinations and Cultural, Food, and Wine
Heritage

Deliverable: 1.5 – Guidelines for the promotion of
Renaissance destinations and their cultural Heritage

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) [Granting authority]. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

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Executive summary

“Guidelines for the promotion of Renaissance destinations and their cultural Heritage” is the public deliverable D1.5 related to the “Best Practices for Promoting Renaissance Destinations and Cultural, Food, and Wine Heritage” (Work Package 1) of the PRESAGE (PRomoting ExcellenceS of renAissance Glourious twinEd towns) project – Grant agreement (project number: 101215670 and acronym: PRESAGE).

This document contains a description of the best practices analysed and developed during the project events, as well as guidelines to promote Renaissance destinations and their cultural heritage; it will be particularly useful for dissemination activities and could be transferred to other contexts and types of stakeholders at the European level.

1. Introduction to the PRESAGE project

1.1 Context and overall objectives

Fossombrone is an Italian town with 9,063 inhabitants, located in the province of Pesaro and Urbino in the Marche Region. The town of Fossombrone is the main center of the middle Metauro Valley and is characterised by a mediaeval-style spread across the slope of a hill, dominated by a Citadel and the ruins of the Malatesta Fortress. The modern part of the town extends on the plain on both sides of the Metauro River, while the industrial area is located along the Via Flaminia, after the locality of San Martino del Piano in the direction of Fano, where 2000 years ago stood the ancient Roman city of Forum Sempronii, of which the magnificent Archaeological Park remains today, with its Via Flaminia still intact.

Middelburg, located in the southwest of the Netherlands, is the capital of Zeeland on the Walcheren peninsula with a population of around 46,600. It was a significant trading hub during the Middle Ages and later a key center for the Dutch East India Company. Much of its city center was destroyed during World War II but was later restored, blending modernity with its historical character.

Both cities are connected through the cultural figure of Paul of Middelburg (1445–1533), who embodied European unity long before the term existed. Born in Middelburg and living most of his life in Italy, Paolo was Bishop of Fossombrone and a key Renaissance intellectual. His work

as a scientist, mathematician, and astrologer linked these cities through his travels and contributions, including his role in reforming the Julian calendar. He was a “European citizen” even before the term existed. He travelled throughout Europe for study and research, constantly interacting with many intellectuals of his time. Fossombrone and Middelburg are united by an example of “Contemporary Europe from the Renaissance”, where science, astrology, and religion coexist harmoniously without prejudices or stereotypes. It is, therefore, a meeting of communities free from preconceived notions, both then and now.

The project - named PRomoting Excellences of Renaissance Glorious TwinEd towns (PRESAGE) - general objective is to promote solidarity and a sense of European belonging through the enhancement of the cultural, historical, and gastronomic heritage of the cities of Fossombrone and Middelburg, inspired by the figure of Paul of Middelburg as a symbol of union and intercultural exchange, contributing to a greater awareness of the cultural diversity of the European Union.

1.2 Work performed and main achievements

PRESAGE will organise two major events: seminars and a culinary competition during the Middelburg Historical Wine Festival in 2025, and conferences, workshops, artistic residencies, and historical reenactments during the Fossombrone Carnival Triumph in 2026. The project will involve a physical exchange of people, with 26 participants from Fossombrone travelling to Middelburg and 42 from Middelburg visiting Fossombrone.

Key activities will include sharing best practices and enhancing European identity through intercultural exchange. A significant highlight will be the signing of a Twinning Pact using Paul of Middelburg's restored historical seal, symbolising a historical bond and a commitment to fostering solidarity and tolerance within the European Union. The Pact will also include guidelines for promoting Renaissance destinations and their cultural heritage.

Through these initiatives, PRESAGE aims to broaden civic engagement and promote a shared European heritage while building long-term cultural and economic collaboration between the two cities.

1.3 Results and impacts

The PRESAGE project aims to generate a significant and tangible impact on the citizens of the territories involved, focusing on target groups to bring about positive changes in the short, medium, and long term. Through the exchange of best practices presented at dedicated events, the project intends to foster the economic and social development of local communities and promote collaboration between the two municipalities involved. The collaboration between Fossombrone and Middelburg, cities united by the figure of a little-known but highly significant historical figure like Paul of Middelburg, will provide an opportunity to reflect on the richness of European cultural heritage and strengthen the sense of European identity and belonging by raising citizens' awareness.

In the short, medium, and long term, PRESAGE will have effects on each target group involved as follow:

- For citizens: there will be an increased awareness of the cultural heritage and traditions of the twinned cities, with an improvement in understanding and appreciation of different European cultures through events and exchange experiences (short term). Additionally, the project will foster the development of international networks and friendships, promoting ongoing intercultural dialogue and stimulating a greater sense of responsibility and

engagement in promoting their territory (medium term). Finally, a solid European identity will be created among citizens, translating into more active support for future European initiatives, contributing to a more inclusive and open society that recognizes the added value that the EU provides (long term).

- For local SME entrepreneurs: in the short term, they will gain access to new skills through workshops and exchanges of best practices, focused on tourism promotion and the enhancement of local excellence. New networking opportunities will be created in both Fossombrone and Middelburg. In the medium term, there will be increased awareness of the tourism potential of the territories and the visibility of business activities, paving the way for market expansion and attracting more tourists. Finally, in the long term, sustainable economic growth is expected with the development of a more dynamic and diversified entrepreneurial ecosystem, capable of creating jobs and reducing the depopulation of inland areas.

- For young people: in the short term, they will participate more in cultural and training events, developing intercultural skills and strengthening their sense of European identity. There will be an increase in youth participation in volunteering initiatives and European projects, as well as the creation of a network of young ambassadors of European values in the medium term. Finally, in the long term, the project will contribute to

forming a more aware and engaged generation of citizens, promoting gender and social equality and fostering youth innovation.

- For the administrative staff: in the short term, they will acquire new skills in managing cultural projects and promoting tourism. This will strengthen organizational and coordination capabilities, positively impacting the efficiency of services offered. In the medium term, strategies for promoting cultural heritage and local tourist attractions will improve, with the adoption of more inclusive and sustainability-oriented administrative policies. Finally, in the long term, an administrative culture based on international collaboration and innovation will be developed, contributing to improving the quality of public services and tourism infrastructure. The project will not be limited to the duration of funding but will ensure a lasting impact through the creation of long-term partnerships between the two cities.

2. The valorization of the Renaissance identity

2.1 History of the Italian Renaissance period

The Italian Renaissance was a period of cultural, artistic, intellectual, and scientific revival that began in Italy during the late 13th and 14th centuries and spread across Europe over the following centuries. The word "Renaissance" means "rebirth," reflecting a renewed interest in the ideas and achievements of ancient Greece and Rome.

The Renaissance first emerged in wealthy Italian city-states such as Florence, Venice, Milan, and Rome. These cities prospered through trade and banking, creating wealthy patrons who funded artists, scholars, and architects.

One of the earliest intellectual movements of the Renaissance was humanism, which emphasized the study of classical literature, history, and philosophy. Scholars such as Francesco Petrarca (Petrarch) encouraged the rediscovery of ancient texts and focused on human potential and achievement.

The Renaissance is especially famous for its extraordinary artistic achievements. Artists developed techniques such as linear perspective, realistic anatomy, and naturalistic representation.

Notable figures include:

- Leonardo da Vinci, painter of the Mona Lisa and The Last Supper.

- Michelangelo, creator of the David and painter of the Sistine Chapel ceiling.
- Raphael, known for works such as The School of Athens.

Powerful families such as the Medici family played a major role by sponsoring artists and scholars.

The Renaissance encouraged observation, experimentation, and critical thinking. Advances were made in anatomy, engineering, astronomy, and mathematics. Leonardo da Vinci's notebooks contained detailed studies of human anatomy and innovative mechanical designs.

The invention of the printing press by Johannes Gutenberg around 1450 helped spread Renaissance ideas throughout Europe.

Italian city-states often competed with one another for power and influence. Meanwhile, the papacy in Rome became an important patron of Renaissance art and architecture. The movement coincided with significant political changes and eventually contributed to broader transformations in European society.

The Italian Renaissance began to decline in the 16th century, partly due to foreign invasions, including the Sack of Rome. However, Renaissance ideas had already spread across Europe, influencing art, science, literature, education, and politics.

The Italian Renaissance helped shape the modern world by:

- Reviving classical learning.
- Advancing art and architecture.
- Encouraging scientific inquiry.
- Promoting humanist education.
- Inspiring cultural movements throughout Europe.

Today, the Renaissance is remembered as one of history's most influential periods, marking the transition from the medieval world to the modern age.

2.2 History of Duchy of Urbino

The Duchy of Urbino was a small but influential state in central Italy that existed from 1443 to 1631. Centered on the city of Urbino, it became one of the leading cultural and artistic centers of the Italian Renaissance.

Urbino was originally a county ruled by the Montefeltro family. In 1443, Federico da Montefeltro became duke and transformed the state into a prosperous center of learning, diplomacy, and military power. He commissioned the magnificent Palazzo Ducale, which became one of the finest Renaissance courts in Italy.

Under Federico and his successors, Urbino attracted artists, architects, and scholars. The duchy is particularly associated with Raphael, who was born in Urbino in 1483. The court gained a reputation for refinement and culture, later immortalized in *The Book of the Courtier* by Baldassare Castiglione, which described the ideal Renaissance court.

After the Montefeltro line ended in 1508, control passed to the Della Rovere family. The duchy continued to flourish, though it faced increasing pressure from larger powers and the Papal States.

In 1631, the last duke, Francesco Maria II della Rovere, died without a surviving male heir. The duchy was then

incorporated into the Papal States, ending its independence.

Although small in size, the Duchy of Urbino played a major role in Renaissance culture. Its artistic patronage, humanist scholarship, and elegant court life made it one of the most celebrated states of Renaissance Italy, leaving a legacy that far exceeded its political power.

2.3 History of Fossombrone

Fossombrone is a historic town in the region of Marche, located along the Metauro valley. Its origins date back to Roman times, when it was known as Forum Sempronii, a settlement founded along the important Via Flaminia, which connected Rome with the Adriatic coast.

Forum Sempronii developed as a trading and administrative center. During the Roman period, it benefited from its strategic location on one of Italy's main transportation routes.

After the decline of the Roman Empire, the town suffered from invasions and instability. During the medieval period, it gradually recovered and became part of the territories contested by local lords, bishops, and regional powers. Its position in the Metauro valley made it strategically important.

In the 15th century, Fossombrone came under the influence of the Montefeltro family and later the Della Rovere family, rulers of the nearby Duchy of Urbino. During this period, the town enjoyed relative prosperity and benefited from the cultural flourishing associated with the Urbino court.

When the Duchy of Urbino was absorbed into the Papal States in 1631, Fossombrone also came under direct papal

administration. In the 19th century, it became part of the unified Kingdom of Italy.

Today, Fossombrone is known for its Roman heritage, Renaissance architecture, and picturesque setting along the Metauro River. Remains of the ancient Forum Sempronii and historic buildings throughout the town reflect its long history as a crossroads between central and northern Italy.

2.4 History of Middelburg

Middelburg is the capital of the province of Zeeland in the Netherlands. Its history stretches back more than a thousand years and is closely tied to trade, maritime power, and the Dutch Golden Age.

Middelburg originated in the 9th century as one of several fortified settlements built to defend the region against Viking raids. The town grew around an abbey founded in the early Middle Ages and became an important commercial center.

By the 13th century, Middelburg had received city rights and developed into a prosperous trading town. Its location on the waterways of Zeeland allowed it to participate actively in regional and international commerce.

Middelburg reached its peak during the 16th and 17th centuries. It became one of the principal ports of the Dutch Republic and was a major center of the Dutch East India trade. The city housed a chamber of the Dutch East India Company (VOC), one of the world's first multinational corporations. Wealth from overseas trade financed grand houses, public buildings, and scientific activities.

During the 18th century, Middelburg's economic importance gradually declined as trade patterns shifted. The city suffered significant damage during World War II,

particularly in 1940 when much of the historic center was destroyed by fire following military action.

After the war, Middelburg was carefully rebuilt, preserving much of its historic appearance. Today, the city is known for its well-preserved architecture, canals, and landmarks such as the Middelburg Abbey and the Lange Jan.

Despite its modest size, Middelburg remains one of the most historically significant cities in Zeeland, reflecting the maritime heritage and commercial success of the Dutch Golden Age.

3. Sustainable tourism

3.1 Sustainable tourism respectful of the cultural heritage, the environment, and local communities

Sustainable tourism is a form of travel that seeks to minimize negative impacts while maximizing benefits for cultural heritage, the environment, and local communities. Its goal is to ensure that destinations remain vibrant and attractive for future generations while improving the well-being of residents today.

Sustainable tourism encourages the protection of historic sites, traditions, languages, crafts, and local customs. Visitors are encouraged to learn about and respect local cultures, while tourism revenues can help preserve monuments, museums, and cultural landscapes. Examples include supporting community-led heritage projects and promoting traditional arts and crafts.

A key principle of sustainable tourism is reducing environmental impact. This includes conserving natural resources, protecting biodiversity, reducing waste and pollution, and promoting responsible transportation and accommodation choices. Activities such as eco-tourism, nature conservation programs, and the use of renewable energy help safeguard ecosystems for future generations.

Sustainable tourism aims to ensure that local people benefit economically and socially from tourism. This can involve:

- Supporting locally owned businesses.
- Creating fair employment opportunities.
- Encouraging the purchase of local products and services.
- Involving residents in tourism planning and decision-making.

When communities have a voice in tourism development, they are more likely to protect their cultural and natural heritage.

Key Principles:

- Minimize environmental impacts.
- Preserve cultural and historical assets.
- Promote economic benefits for local residents.
- Encourage responsible visitor behavior.
- Balance tourism growth with community needs.

Sustainable tourism helps protect destinations from overdevelopment, preserves unique cultural identities, supports local economies, and enhances visitors' experiences through authentic engagement with places and people.

In essence, sustainable tourism is about traveling in a way that respects and protects the places we visit, ensuring that cultural heritage, natural environments, and local communities can thrive alongside tourism rather than be harmed by it.

4. Involvement of local stakeholders

4.1 Promote the participation of citizens, associations, cultural operators and local SME for a sustainable tourism

Promoting the participation of citizens, associations, cultural operators, and local SMEs is fundamental to achieving sustainable tourism. A collaborative approach ensures that tourism development benefits local communities, protects cultural and natural heritage, and creates long-term economic opportunities.

Residents should be actively involved in tourism planning and decision-making processes. Their knowledge of local traditions, landscapes, and community needs can help shape authentic and responsible tourism experiences. Public consultations, community workshops, and volunteer initiatives encourage local ownership and support for tourism projects.

Local associations play a key role in promoting cultural heritage, environmental conservation, and social inclusion. By partnering with tourism stakeholders, they can help organize events, manage heritage sites, raise awareness of sustainability issues, and ensure that tourism development reflects community values.

Museums, artists, cultural institutions, guides, and heritage organizations contribute to the preservation and promotion of local identity. Their involvement helps create meaningful visitor experiences based on authentic stories,

traditions, and cultural assets, while generating resources for heritage conservation.

Small and medium-sized enterprises are essential to sustainable tourism. Local accommodation providers, restaurants, artisans, farms, transport services, and tour operators can benefit directly from tourism revenues. Supporting local businesses encourages economic diversification, creates jobs, and helps keep tourism income within the community.

Practical Actions

- Establish participatory tourism planning processes.
- Develop partnerships among public authorities, businesses, and community organizations.
- Promote local products, crafts, and cultural experiences.
- Encourage community-based tourism initiatives.
- Provide training in sustainable tourism practices.
- Create networks that connect tourism operators with local suppliers and cultural organizations.

Benefits of a Participatory Approach

- Greater community support for tourism development.

- Enhanced protection of cultural and natural heritage.
- More authentic visitor experiences.
- Stronger local economies and employment opportunities.
- Improved environmental and social sustainability.

By involving citizens, associations, cultural operators, and local SMEs, sustainable tourism becomes a shared responsibility and a powerful tool for preserving local identity, improving quality of life, and creating lasting economic and cultural value.

4.2 Promote local products, traditions and skills (visits to a local SMEs)

Promoting local products, traditions, and skills is a key element of sustainable tourism and local development. It helps preserve cultural identity, supports local economies, and offers visitors authentic experiences connected to the unique character of a place.

Local products such as traditional foods, wines, agricultural goods, and handcrafted items reflect the history and heritage of a community. Encouraging their production and consumption strengthens local supply chains, creates employment opportunities, and keeps economic benefits within the region.

Traditional knowledge, customs, festivals, and artistic expressions are valuable cultural assets that can be safeguarded and passed on to future generations through tourism, education, and community engagement. Likewise, supporting local artisans, craftspeople, and cultural practitioners helps preserve specialized skills and promotes innovation rooted in local traditions.

By valuing local products, traditions, and skills, communities can strengthen their cultural heritage while fostering sustainable economic growth and enhancing the attractiveness of their destination.

Within the project activities, particular attention has been given to the exchange of best practices through some awareness-raising activities by visiting and tasting local excellence food farms.

During the event in Middelburg, participants had the possibility to visit and tastings some cheeses at the “Schellach Cheese farm”, an authentic cheese farm known for its dairy cattle and traditional cheese-making.

The cheese produced is well-known throughout Zeeland and the range is extensive: from young to aged cheese, as well as delicious herb cheeses with flavours like mustard, fenugreek, or nettle.

During the event in Fossombrone, participants had the possibility to visit and tastings wine, extra virgin olive oils and local products at the "Società Agricola La Collina Delle Fate", on the Marche hills, just a few kilometers from the sea of Fano, with the majestic Furlo gorge behind, a local SME managed by five entrepreneurs with an average age of about 30 years old.

Since 2010, “La Collina delle Fate” create and produce quality wines, with full respect for the environment. Tradition and innovation meet every stage of the winemaking process, respecting the nature of local grape varieties, Chardonnay and Pinot Noir, and enhancing their

potential in harmony with the unique characteristics of territory.

In addition, with a heritage of 3500 olive trees, divided between 2000 twenty-year-old specimens and the remainder of century-old trees, “La Collina delle Fate” keeps the olive oil tradition alive, enriching it with innovation, producing extra virgin olive oils (EVO) and four flavored oils, the result of a unique process that involves the joint processing of olives and fruits such as oranges, lemons, basil, and chili directly in the crusher.

5. Education and dissemination

5.1 To raise awareness of Renaissance heritage through continuous cultural, educational, and digital activities

The preservation and promotion of Renaissance heritage require sustained efforts to increase public awareness, understanding, and appreciation of its historical, artistic, scientific, and cultural significance. This objective aims to ensure that Renaissance heritage remains relevant and accessible to diverse audiences by fostering continuous engagement through cultural, educational, and digital initiatives.

Activities developed under this objective should encourage the exploration of Renaissance values, achievements, and legacy, highlighting their contribution to contemporary European identity and cultural development. Initiatives may include exhibitions, public events, workshops, conferences, educational programmes, artistic performances, heritage interpretation activities, and community-based projects designed to engage citizens of all ages and backgrounds.

Particular attention should be given to educational actions that promote knowledge transfer and lifelong learning. These may involve collaborations with schools, universities, research institutions, cultural organisations, and heritage professionals to develop innovative learning experiences, educational resources, and participatory

methodologies that make Renaissance heritage more understandable and meaningful to the public.

Digital technologies should be used to expand access, visibility, and participation. Relevant activities may include the creation of digital archives, virtual exhibitions, interactive platforms, multimedia storytelling, online learning tools, social media campaigns, and other digital solutions that facilitate the dissemination and interpretation of Renaissance heritage. Digital approaches should aim to reach wider audiences, including young people and individuals who may have limited access to physical heritage sites and cultural institutions.

Projects should promote inclusiveness, accessibility, and active public participation, encouraging dialogue between cultural heritage stakeholders, local communities, educators, researchers, and visitors. Whenever possible, activities should support transnational cooperation and the exchange of knowledge, experiences, and best practices among organisations working to preserve and promote Renaissance heritage.

Through a continuous combination of cultural programming, educational outreach, and digital innovation, initiatives should contribute to strengthening public awareness of Renaissance heritage, enhancing its visibility, and fostering a deeper appreciation of its enduring relevance for present and future generations.

5.2 Promoting collaboration with schools, universities and cultural institutions: the international workshop

“CALENDARS, PROGNOSTICATIONS, AND MATHEMATICS IN PAUL OF MIDDELBURG (1445?-1534)

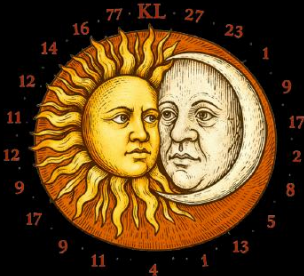
During the event in Fossombrone, the University of Urbino Carlo BO organized the first international workshop on Paul of Middelburg, Urbino on 7–8 May and also via Zoom livestream.

Paul of Middelburg (1445?–1534) is notably cited by Copernicus – both as bishop of Fossombrone and as an astronomer – when dedicating *De revolutionibus orbium coelestium* to Pope Paul III.

This workshop offers the first systematic exploration of Paul’s scientific profile: his mathematical and astronomical work, his activity as astrologer and physician at the court of Federico da Montefeltro in Urbino, and his role in late-fifteenth and early-sixteenth-century debates where astronomy and astrology were closely intertwined. Paul vigorously advocated a calendar reform, promoted the study of algebra and mechanics, and produced a substantial corpus of prognostications. By tracing how he connected calculation, observation, and predictive practices, the workshop reconstructs a coherent “science of time” and situates it within the scholarly networks that linked the Duchy of Urbino with the Low Countries, bridging northern and southern Renaissance Europe and

International Workshop

Università degli Studi di Urbino



Scientific and Organizing Committee:

Gian Italo Bischi, Vincenzo Fano, Giovanni Gaia,
Veronica Cavagna, Pierluigi Grazzini, Stephan Hedon,
Giovanni Macchia, Flavia Maraccà, Vito Montebelli, Elio Nenci,
Davide Pietrini, Ciro Saltarelli, Sara Tagliagambla.

The logo was created with the aid of AI, using graphic elements drawn from Paul de Middelburg's *Pinxten de rechte Pinxten* celebration (1616), preserved at the Biblioteca di San Gimignano, Grosseto.
The depictions of the sun and the moon are based on the woodcut on fol. 292, P. II, L. X, while the numerical sequence is inspired by the calendar on fol. 47v-48r, P. II, L. III.

The image on the cover is the painting from the Royal Collection (Windsor, Royal Library, RCIN 4061612: Joes van Wassenhove (known as Gianto di Gand, active 1460–80), *Federico da Montefeltro, Duke of Urbino (1442–1482)*, his son *Giallotta (c.1470–1501)*, and others standing in the courtyard, c. 1460.
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**CENTRO D'INTERPRETAZIONE
DEI BENI URBINO E LA PROPRIETÀ**



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International Workshop



CALENDARS, PROGNOSTICATIONS, AND MATHEMATICS IN PAUL OF MIDDELBURG (1445?-1534)

URBINO

PALAZZO PASSIONEI / SALA DELLA TARTARUGA
Via Valerio, 9

MAY 7-8 | 2026



**COMUNE DI
FOSCOMBERON**



**Nuovo Progettato
dalla Città di Urbino**



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DELLA CITTÀ DI
URBINO**

May 7th, 2026

Welcome address and greetings

9.00- Giorgio Calcagnini, Magnific Rector, University of Urbino
Giovanni Piersanti, Vice Rector for Research, University of Urbino
Andrea Vicere, Head of Department of Pure and Applied Sciences, University of Urbino
Laerte Sorini, Director of International Center Urbino e la Prospettiva

Session: Calendars, Prognostications, Astronomy

Chair Flavia Marcelli (University of Urbino)

9.15 - Paul of Middelburg, *Chronologer*
Philipp Nothaft (University of Oxford)

10.00- A Prognosticum by Paul of Middelburg
Stephan Heilen (University of Osnabrück)

10.45- Discussion

11.00- Coffee break

Session: Paul, a man of many faces

Chair Veronica Gavana (University of Florence)

11.30- The life of Paul of Middelburg, written by Bernardino Baldi
Elio Nenci (University of Milan)

12.15- Paul of Middelburg's *De numero atomorum totius universi*
Anneke Pohle (University of Osnabrück, M.D.)

12.30- Paul of Middelburg in Guidobaldo del Monte
Giovanni Gaia (University of Urbino, Ph.D.)

12.45 | Lunch

Session: Mathematics, Astronomy, Scientific Instruments

Chair Gian Italo Bisch (University of Urbino)

15.00- Paul of Middelburg, an algebraist at the court of Federico da Montefeltro
Vico Montebelli (University of Urbino)

15.45- Algebra in Paul of Middelburg and his context.
Veronica Gavana (University of Florence)

16.15- After the Paulina: Paul of Middelburg's Proposals for Calendar Reform and his Views on Astronomy.
Flavia Marcelli (University of Urbino)

16.45- Paul of Middelburg and the instruments of an astrologer.
Giancarlo Truffa (SISFA)

Public event: Opening Cerimony
Church of San Girolamo at the San Girolamo Library

Tempo misurato e previsioni celesti
Scienza, calendari e strumenti al tempo di Paolo di Middelburg

Mostra documentaria del Fondo Antico dell'Università di Urbino

18.00 - Saluti introduttivi
Giorgio Calcinini, Rettore Magnifico Università di Urbino
Vieri Fusi, Prorettore per la Valorizzazione e Sviluppo del Patrimonio
Fabio Musso, Prorettore per la Terza Missione e Public Engagement
Anna Santucci, Delegata Rettorale Valorizzazione Patrimonio Muscale di Ateneo

Interventi di: **Marcella Peruzzi** e **Flavia Marcacci** (Università di Urbino)

20.00 | Social dinner

May 8th, 2026

Welcome and Twinning session
Chair Flavia Marcacci (University of Urbino)

9.15- Greetings and Opening remarks
Francesco Amadori
(Head of the Culture and Tourism Office, Municipality of Fossombrone)

9.30- Paul of Middelburg: connection between the Gregorian calendar and the Low Countries
Henk de Kunder (Heritage Policy Officer, Municipality of Middelburg)

Session: Paul of Middelburg and the Court of Urbino
Chair Elio Nenci (University of Milano)

10.00- Paul of Middelburg and his Collection of Antiquities
Oscar Mei (University of Urbino)

10.30- Mechanics at the court of the Montefeltro: three questions by Paul of Middelburg
Davide Pietrini (University of Urbino)

11.00- Coffee break

11.30- Paul of Middelburg, Marsilio Ficino, Leonardo da Vinci
Sara Tagliagamamba (COST Program, University of Urbino)

Conclusive remarks
Chair Stephan Heilen, Flavia Marcacci

12.00- Discussion
12.30- Farewell address
13.00- Lunch
15.00- Visit to Dukal Palace and Raphael's House

6. Cooperation and integrated promotion

6.1 To promote collaboration between cities, institutions and tourism operator: the friendship manifesto between the Municipality of Fossombrone and Middelburg

Within the project cycle, a friendship manifesto has been signed by the two municipalities, Fossombrone and Middelburg, with the aim to formally establish a stable and lasting relationship between the two towns. The manifesto outlines the future actions to be undertaken after the initial project is completed; the definition of long-term cooperation agreements between the twinned cities will allow the consolidation of relationships built during the project, in order to outline the mutual objectives for future and continuous cultural and economic collaboration, ensuring project sustainability between the two administrations even after the project's conclusion.

This document will be particularly useful for dissemination activities and could be transferred to other contexts and types of stakeholders at the European level.



Friendship Manifesto
between the
Municipality of Fossombrone
and the
Municipality of Middelburg



TOWN TWINNING
MIDDELBURG
FOSSOMBRONE
2026

Considering that:

- Fossombrone is an Italian town with 9,063 inhabitants, located in the province of Pesaro and Urbino in the Marche Region. The town of Fossombrone is the main center of the middle Metauro Valley and is characterised by a mediaeval-style spread across the slope of a hill, dominated by a Citadel and the ruins of the Malatesta Fortress. The modern part of the town extends on the plain on both sides of the Metauro River, while the industrial area is located along the Via Flaminia, after the locality of San Martino del Piano in the direction of Fano, where 2000 years ago stood the ancient Roman city of Forum Sempronii, of which the magnificent Archaeological Park remains today, with its Via Flaminia still intact;
- Middelburg, located in the southwest of the Netherlands, is the capital of Zeeland on the Walcheren peninsula with a population of around 50.000. It was a significant trading hub during the Middle Ages and later a key center for the Dutch East India Company. Much of its city center was destroyed during World War II but was later restored, blending modernity with its historical character;
- both cities are connected through the cultural figure of Paul of Middelburg (1445–1533), who embodied European unity long before the term existed. Born in Middelburg and living most of his life in Italy, Paolo was Bishop of Fossombrone and a key Renaissance intellectual. His work as a scientist, mathematician, and astrologer linked these cities through his travels and contributions, including his role in reforming the Julian calendar. He was a “European citizen” even before the term existed. He travelled throughout Europe for study and research, constantly interacting with many intellectuals of his time. Fossombrone and Middelburg are united by an example of “Contemporary Europe from the Renaissance”, where science, astrology, and religion coexist harmoniously without prejudices or stereotypes. It is, therefore, a meeting of communities free from preconceived notions, both then and now;
- the project - named PRomoting Excellences of Renaissance Glorious TwinEd towns (PRESAGE) - general objective is to promote solidarity and a sense of European belonging through the enhancement of the cultural, historical, and gastronomic heritage of the cities of Fossombrone and Middelburg, inspired by the figure of Paul of Middelburg as a symbol of union and intercultural exchange, contributing to a greater awareness of the cultural diversity of the European Union.



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With the aim of achieving the following objectives:

- to establish closer ties between the two cities in a spirit of friendship and collaboration, with the intention of transforming an effective and supportive collaboration between the two communities in various areas of civic life.
- to reinforce the idea that an effective and fruitful collaboration is a fundamental prerequisite for a mutual understanding;
- to strengthen ties between inhabitants and organisations in the community, exchange best practices, promote tourism, preservation of cultural heritage, food and wine sector and develop local culture and history.

Now therefore, this manifesto stipulates the following:

Art.1

The premises are a substantial and integral part of this document.

Art.2

Municipalities involved will pursue knowledge and development objectives in the following areas:

- exchange of experiences and information between institutions operating in the fields of art and education, promoting and developing institutional relationships in the educational and cultural fields;
- exchange of best practices to promote tourism in their respective territories, considering their distinctive characteristics and shared historical ties;
- exchange of experiences in various economic sectors;
- exchange of experiences in the social services sector;
- exchange of experiences between administrative staff of the two institutions.

Art.3

In order to achieve the above objectives, Municipalities will use the following tools:

- exchanges between cultural institutions to introduce their communities to the history and culture of the region with which a friendly relationship is being established;
- exchanges between cultural associations operating in the arts and entertainment fields to foster understanding of their respective cultural contexts;
- comparisons between economic sectors, particularly aimed at understanding local products and their specific characteristics;
- comparisons between delegations from the two municipalities to compare problems and solutions in the organization of social life in their respective communities.

Art.4



A specific program of socio-cultural, economic, and professional exchange initiatives will be implemented between the two communities, as described in Art. 2.

Art.5

The measures resulting from the above program, which will be brought to the attention of all members of the local community, will be implemented by the relevant sectors, overall coordinated by specific representatives of both entities.

Art.6

It is reiterated that this friendship manifesto is preparatory to a potential future Friendship Manifesto between the two cities, once all the cultural and social aspects underlying this document will be confirmed and elaborated.

**For the Municipality of
Fossombrone**



Massimo Berloni

Mayor

**For the Municipality of
Middelburg**



Carla Doorn

Deputy mayor



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