

Manifesta 14 Prishtina 2022

Manifesta 14 Prishtina in Short Data & Legacy

(Status 26th of October 2022)

What

In 2022, from the 22nd of July until the 30th of October, Manifesta 14 Prishtina is taking place in Prishtina, Kosovo. Manifesta 14 Prishtina was the first edition in the history of the European Nomadic Biennial where the long-term legacy of the biennial was integrated in the initial concept, with the biennial responsible for establishing a permanent institution that shall continue its operations for four years after Manifesta 14 has formally closed. This plan has been confirmed by the City of Prishtina and Board of Manifesta 14. The Foundation of Manifesta 14 will continue to function for the next four years.

Manifesta 14's Director implemented a new methodology, replacing top-down curatorial structures, with a model of creative mediation which invited the citizens of Prishtina to be part of the conceptualisation of the biennial programme. Secondly, the participatory approach informed and influenced how the biennial supported the citizens of Kosovo in their ambition to reclaim public space. Lastly, Manifesta 14 made an attempt to imagine a future for Prishtina as an open-source Western Balkans capital, supporting a range of participatory approaches for empowering the city and investing significantly in the local cultural ecosystem. Manifesta 14 did this in both material and immaterial ways. The material legacy can be viewed, amongst others, through the reactivation and revitalisation of an array important sites in Prishtina, as well as the professional development a team consisting of 53 full time staff members and 175 paid support staff. The immaterial legacy, which should be reviewed in the years to come, is that Manifesta 14 together with its stakeholders contributed to creating a positive image of Prishtina and of turning the international perspective led by the narrative of a city of war and conflict into a city of culture and creation. In addition to this, many different generations of Kosovars from different communities are empowered to look in a renewed manner to their iconic buildings, their history and their stories.

In this short overview, we explain how Manifesta 14 developed this system and how, in the months and years following the biennial, this public investment continues to resonate and propound. This showcases a direct impact in which Manifesta 14 triggered and initiated positive social change in Kosovo.

Manifesta 14 Prishtina consisted of a 100-day interdisciplinary programme of artistic and urban interventions, performances, events and education workshops. With its linked Urban Vision, Commons Sense, and artistic biennial programme, *It matters what worlds world worlds: how to tell stories otherwise*, Manifesta 14 took up restoring over a dozen of cultural spaces and creating new future opportunities, and proved that culture is a serious economic factor.

Manifesta 14 invested €1,7 million in artistic production of Kosovar and regional cultural system as a direct investment in the cultural system.

Manifesta, unlike other biennials, functions predominantly as an incubator, instigating positive social and cultural change through contemporary culture in response to, and in close dialogue with, the civil society of Prishtina and the diverse communities that call Kosovo's capital home. Through a Public Survey, Manifesta interviewed 1400 people in the streets of Prishtina to discuss the relevance of the biennial, its impact and how the administration should follow up. This Public Survey will be published in the spring of 2023.

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Who

Manifesta 14 Prishtina was initiated by the International Foundation Manifesta (IFM), the Municipality of Prishtina, and the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport, establishing a unique collaboration in Kosovo. The Bid to Host Manifesta 14 in 2022 was made by the Municipality of Prishtina in cooperation with Kosovar civil society and cultural organisations. Both parties will continue working together on initiating a proposed new museum for contemporary art, a potential collection which has been gathered during Manifesta 14 and long term plans for further development of the Brick Factory and the Green Corridor.

Manifesta 14 Prishtina is the result of a collective team effort by the Manifesta 14 team of 53 full-time employees and two Creative Mediators, CRA-Carlo Ratti Associati and Catherine Nichols, with whom Manifesta 14 and its 103 participants transformed the city into a participatory and collaborative set of ideas to further develop cultural change. All projects were made in close collaboration with local Kosovar partners and international donors based in Kosovo. For the funding of the project almost 40% of the resources came from international donors, which is more than any international biennial operating in Europe.

Manifesta 14's total budget was estimated a little more than €6 million, of which more than 40% of the budget was coming from international donors, funding bodies and philanthropists (a fraction if benchmarked to other biennials which start from 10 million with same size and scale). Manifesta 14 Prishtina was developed through partnerships with The Hartwig Foundation, Creative Europe Western Balkans, UN Habitat and UNDP, The Government of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, The Embassy of Sweden in Kosovo, The Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Kosovo, Ammodo and the Kosovar branch of the TEB bank, amongst other partners. Many partners have expressed their willingness to continue working on the projects Manifesta 14 Prishtina initiated.

As a direct result of the Citizen Consultation process, four venues were chosen to be developed with a long-term vision in partnership with the Municipality of Prishtina and the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport.

The four main pillars of Manifesta 14 Prishtina were:

- The Centre for Narrative Practice, a newly established interdisciplinary cultural institution to be continued in 2023-2027 with a projected investment of €1 million for next 4 years. Continuation confirmed in collaboration with the Foundation Manifesta 14 Prishtina. Ownership of the City of Prishtina.
- The Brick Factory, reactivation and cleaning of Prishtina's most important post-industrial site is to be continued with an investment by the Municipality of Prishtina to programme with cultural activities in 2023, as well as long term development plans for building an infrastructure of cultural organisations. This is a direct result of the urban and artistic programme organised by Manifesta 14 and the new perspectives explored together with the biennial.
- The Green Corridor, a new, plant-filled sustainable mobility path connecting two sides of the city, creating a safer, greener experience for pedestrians that will be further developed and maintained by the Municipality of Prishtina. Future plans include a farmer's market, urban gardening for children, a Sunday school and gaming programmes.
- Grand Hotel Prishtina, a singular presence in the heart of Prishtina that hosted a seven-floor thematic exhibition and a range of artistic interventions, which stands to be used for further cultural activities and engagements by Kosovar and international artists. Amongst the works which will stay longer in the city is the installation of Petrit Halilaj on the rooftop as well as five other works in the public space. The works by Kosovar artists will be acquired as part of the future national collection.
- Additional urban interventions such as 2 Korriku street will be maintained as a pedestrian and cultural space by both the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports and City of Prishtina and turned into a garden and cultural hub.

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25 venues in Prishtina

Manifesta 14 Prishtina created a parcours of 25 venues across Prishtina with artistic interventions, cleaning and greening them and their surroundings, reopening and reimagining the potential of standout sites of public interest, listed in order of appearance in the parcours:

Grand Hotel Prishtina; Zahir Pajaziti Square; Kino ARMATA; National Library of Kosovo; University of Prishtina, Faculty of Philosophy; National Gallery of Kosovo; University of Prishtina, Faculty of Arts Gallery; 2 Korriku Street; Çelësa Punues / Key Service; Gërmi Department Store; Kino Rinia; Centre for Narrative Practice; Adem Jashari Square; National Museum of Kosovo; The Great Hammam; Foundation 17 Gallery Space; Ethnological Museum; Brick Factory; Green Corridor; Rilindja; Palace of Youth and Sports; Prishtina Observatory; The Flat; Partisan Martyrs' Cemetery Monument; Hertica School House.

Many of these venues are under discussion regarding acquisition, renovation and integration within the cultural ecosystem of Prishtina.

Venues outside of Prishtina

Programme activities in Fushë Kosova; Ibër River, Mitrovica; Autostrada Hangar, Prizren.

Participants

Manifesta 14 presented artistic interventions by 103 participants. 45% of the participants presented new or specifically adapted works for the context of Prishtina, amongst them the works of Flaka Haliti, Alban Muja and Petrit Halilaj that will be presented for a longer period of time after the biennial has closed.

Of the total number of participants, 25% were collectives. Manifesta 14 realised gender equality in the artistic programme; 56% of the individual participants were women, 3% were non-binary and 41% were men.

Manifesta 14 Prishtina was radically local: 64% of the participants were from the Western Balkans with 39% of the participants from Kosovo. In total, the participants came from more than 30 different countries.

Manifesta 14 Prishtina – Networking within the Western Balkans

This 14th edition of the European Nomadic Biennial marked the first time that the biennial took place in the Western Balkans. Manifesta developed the Manifesta 14 Prishtina – Western Balkans Project to expand the outreach of the biennial by developing a cross-regional collaboration platform including a vast array of cultural and civic activities across the region. The programme is supported by the European Union with €429,884. The project was led by the International Foundation Manifesta and implemented together with 11 partners and collaboration inbetween the partners will continue albeit on a smaller scale:

Municipality of Prishtina; Qendra Harabel (Tirana, Albania); Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) (Skopje, North Macedonia), Post-Conflict Research Centre (PCRC) (Sarajevo, Bosnia & Herzegovina); Institute for Contemporary Art (ICA) (Sofia, Bulgaria); Termokiss (Prishtina, Kosovo); Kosovo Architecture Foundation (Prishtina, Kosovo); NGO Aktiv (Mitrovica, Kosovo); APSS (Podgorica, Montenegro); Hestia (Belgrade, Serbia); the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture (ERAC) (Berlin & Belgrade).

Future transformations for Kosovo

To continue its projects, Foundation Manifesta 14 Prishtina, a public private entity, as an administration and legal entity will continue to function as an instrument of cultural policy and infrastructural development for the development of Prishtina and its cultural scene in terms of infrastructure; to this end, Manifesta 14 will continue some of the biennial projects by using the governance model of the public-private partnership of the foundation, its track record and its success to maintain the Centre for Narrative Practice, the Green Corridor and the revitalisation of the Brick Factory, reinforcing the cultural infrastructure of Prishtina with both public and private partners and donors. Many of the ideas for Manifesta 14 Prishtina are based on a variety of workshops and citizen assemblies such as the Brick Factory future development workshops on which Manifesta 14 is creating a future “Manifesto” for Prishtina. Përparim Rama, Mayor of Prishtina, and Hajrulla Çeku, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport, confirmed that the outcome of the workshops will feed the development and revitalisation of the Brick Factory by the Municipality of Prishtina for the next five years and the programming of the emergent institutions slated to start therein.

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Manifesta 14 Prishtina reinvigorated disused and underused spaces in Kosovo's capital. Manifesta 14 and the Municipality of Prishtina are currently discussing the potential of several other venues in the parcours, such as Kino Rinia, which was acquired with the idea that it will serve as a cultural centre; Hertica School House, considered for renovation; Palace of Youth and Sports, for which a new management team was appointed; The Great Hammam, confirmed to be further restored and an evocative, storied home for cultural activity. These venues would not have been developed at such pace and with a participatory approach had it not been for Manifesta 14 Prishtina. These projects not only reclaim public space, but also inspire processes of social and urban transformation in a participatory way while: extending the cultural projects beyond the inner city, to enhancing the diversity and inclusivity in the cultural fields, reducing pollution and making the city greener. Attaining these ideals is urgent in Prishtina, as in other post-conflict societies in transition. In a similar vein, the Open letter issued by Manifesta to draw attention to the absence of visa liberalisation may perhaps seem naïve and inefficient but, in fact, resulted in a significant amount of press coverage, with various voices of reason in the international media raising this issue in their articles. Manifesta 14 has also nurtured novel forms for Kosovars themselves to share their stories, as with the biennial's radio and podcasting activities.

In terms of creating a legacy regarding cultural policies and international networking for Prishtina, Manifesta is organising a field study for the Ministry of Culture, Youth & Sports to the Netherlands and Belgium in November 2022 and a visit to Marseille in 2023.

Acquiring art/ artistic interventions

The Municipality of Prishtina and the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport are looking into acquiring most of the artworks authored by Kosovar and regional participants of Manifesta 14 Prishtina. Manifesta 14 is facilitating dialogues between participants and the municipal and national bodies and has created a structure where these works could be stored and served as the first layer of the collection of the future of the planned museum.

Budget

The total investment in Manifesta 14 Prishtina stands at € 5,376,701, not including in-kind material and immaterial contributions from a wide range of stakeholders. € 4,019,701 is administrated through FM14 Prishtina, € 1,157,000 through the International Foundation Manifesta Amsterdam and €200,000 through UN-Habitat. 69% has been financed through Kosovar public funding, 31% has been raised by Manifesta through partners, embassies, trusts and foundations. Earned income through merchandising, mediated tours and publications stands at €46,511. This does not include income from sponsorship agreements.

Direct investment estimated to be spent in Kosovo amounts to € 3,108,000.

This is composed as follows:

€1,061,000 was invested in artists' commissions;

€764,000 in urban projects such as the restoration and refurbishment of the former Hivzi Sulejmani Library, the Green Corridor and the public accessibility of the Grand Hotel Prishtina;

€850,000 in salaries and capacity building of Prishtina based staff;

€250,000 in Communication and €183,000 in operations.

Manifesta 14 will publish a survey in March 2023 which will confirm what the Return of Investment for the Administration has been, as well as highlighting how culture became an economic factor for the city's future transformation.

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Education and Mediation programme

Manifesta 14 presented an Education and Mediation programme working with local communities and schools across Kosovo. The Education and Mediation programme was formed around three main elements: education, mediation and community, including three interrelated projects – Schools Project, Mediation School and the Oaza Space.

Public programmes

The Public programme took place in the Centre for Narrative Practice, Oaza and Grand Hotel Prishtina.

Family Programme: Arts and Crafts

The Arts and Crafts programme invited the children and their companions to join different workshops and themes each month, like for a songwriting session for children with Arbër Salihu.

Community activities

Oaza, the Education and Community Space of Manifesta, at the Centre for Narrative Practice, opened in July 2022 as a community-based library project with a programme ranging from reading sessions and self-publishing workshops to community games. The core of the library is a collection of books dedicated to topics addressed throughout the biennial research.

These were gathered by a group of local specialists and activists with the contribution of the city inhabitants.

Mediated Tours

(22nd of July – 26th of October 2022)

2759 visitors took part in the Mediated tours
303 Mediated tours took place
10 mediators and five different Mediated tours

With a team of local collaborators, Manifesta 14 created Kosovo's first Mediation School to train 11 young people. The mediators developed five different Mediated tours with locations that bring together the stories that shaped Prishtina, and the stories of the artistic and urban interventions. Each tour was 90-minutes long and involved listening and sharing stories initiated by the artistic and urban interventions. The Mediated Tours were very successfully reviewed by the participants.

Schools programme

Schools Programme: *Uncover your story: a manual to local culture*, Teacher's Guide and School Tours welcomed 1,000 participants

Uncover your story: a manual to local culture was a long-term project with public schools of Prishtina and Fushë Kosova, to develop tools for exploration and co-creation of (new) narratives of the city's neighbourhoods. The workshops were implemented in Spring 2022 in four public schools of Prishtina: Dardania, Meto Bajraktari, Pjetër Bogdani and 28 Nëntori. Students explored the local landmarks, public spaces and locations that are meaningful for the history, culture, community or identity of their neighbourhood. This process was based on various methods, including psychogeography, oral history research and speculative writing.

The School's Manual was developed throughout the biennial and publicly presented in September 2022. The project was realised in collaboration with the Municipal Directorates of Education of Prishtina, Fushë Kosova and the Kosovar Youth Council.

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Research activities

Pre-biennial research on historical and current topics is an integral part of Manifesta 14. The research started in 2020, and included Prishtina Citizen Consultations, expectation workshops, a public survey, sub-cultures mapping research, research on the collective memory of the Hivzi Sylejmani Library and an Urban Vision. This research formed the basis of the biennial programme.

The Citizen Consultation process included a series of workshops with 130 inhabitants of Prishtina followed by a public survey with 300 participants from across Prishtina and the rural areas. More than 1,000 citizens took part in consultations resulting in an Open Forum with more than 250 participants in February 2022 in the Palace of Youth and Sports where Manifesta 14 presented the findings of the Citizens Consultations as part of the biennial research process and reflected on how this had been translated into the programme of Manifesta 14.

CRA–Carlo Ratti Associati’s multidisciplinary design team tested a new methodology focusing on participatory urbanism in Prishtina. The initial phase in March 2021, consisted of an extensive series of maps of Prishtina, primarily looking at the state of the city’s public space to illuminate hidden spatial and social patterns as well as to distinguish key spots – squares and streets, parks and green areas – that are currently underused or misused. The urban interventions took place in June and July 2021 in different areas of Prishtina. Manifesta invited the citizens of Prishtina to interact with these interventions and to be a part of the community that creates them.

Manifesta Nights

Three evenings were created in collaboration with different music collectives in Kosovo to highlight and support the electronic music scene in Kosovo. These nights were extremely popular (reaching full venue capacity of 2000 people) showcasing the need for the music scene to gain more support from both the Municipality of Prishtina and the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport.

Accessibility

All Manifesta 14 projects and events were free. The investment by the public authorities in Manifesta 14 Prishtina was fifty percent of the standard investment in the biennial due to large engagement of private funding parties. Mediated tours were free for regional visitors. This 14th edition featured free entry for all visitors and all publications were sold at below market price, adapting to the economic status of Kosovo.

Manifesta 14 venues were open from Tuesday to Sunday from 10.00 – 20.00. Manifesta 14 produced all communication materials, including all indoor signage in Albanian, Serbian and English.

Diversity & Inclusion Committee

The Diversity & Inclusion Committee served as an advisory body for Manifesta 14 to consider the best practices of inclusion of all communities in Kosovo, from the staff it employed to the partners it selected, the target groups and the engagement of support staff. The committee advised on the diversity and inclusivity strategy on 4 levels: Programmes, Public, Personnel and Partners. The members were:

- *Almira Bajrami* from the Gorani community, Official at Ministry for Communities & Return
- *Shpresa Agushi*, Executive Director of the Network of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian Women’s Organizations of Kosovo
- *Avni Mustafa*, Roma Versitas Kosovo
- *Sakibe Jashari*, Council of Europe, office Kosovo

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Visits

Manifesta 14 Visits Figures

151,000 visits to Manifesta 14 Prishtina's indoor venues (update October 26th, 2022) estimated total amount of viewers up to 600,000 - 700,000 at the end of the biennial.

Manifesta 14 generated visitors from Prishtina, visitors from Kosovar diaspora, international visitors, international art and urban professionals and local, regional and international press.

6,500 visitors attended the Official Opening Ceremony and the Preview Days. During the Preview Days, Manifesta 14 organised more than 20 special events, such as receptions, performances and panel discussions. In solidarity with the Ukrainian people, the Ukrainian national hymn was performed at the Opening.

In total, Manifesta 14 has organised around 145 events.

Press

Since 2019, more than 765 articles were published about Manifesta 14 by local, regional & international press. During the biennial, 100 international press articles and reviews and 350 national press articles and reviews (including 50 radio shows) were published. Manifesta 14 organised 5 press conferences and 4 press trips. 153 journalists attended the preview days.

Televised panel discussions

As part of creating more public accessibility of pressing issues raised through Manifesta 14 Prishtina, the Director of the European Nomadic Biennial intimated and produced four televised panel discussions which were hosted by prominent regional media platforms; three of them by Balkan Investigative Research Network and one by Klan Kosovo. The discussions included the Future of European Cities with European Mayors, a debate about Becoming a Museum with prominent museum directors and cultural professionals, Greening the city, a discussion with European urbanists and a panel about culture resistance in times of crisis by Ukrainian cultural leaders visiting Kosovo.

Website & Social media

231,170 website visits in July and August 2022. Manifesta's main social media page (Instagram) saw an increase of 33% (from Oct 2021 - Oct 2022, increase of 15K followers). More than 58,000 subscribers received the Manifesta 14 Newsletter.

Publications

Manifesta 14 Prishtina produced several publications, both in English and Albanian; they were printed in Kosovo and distributed locally, regionally and internationally.

- *Public After All*, on Manifesta 14 Prishtina's urban focus, including the Urban Vision, the urban interventions and citizen consultations
- *Otherwise*, on Manifesta 14 Prishtina's biennial programme
- The official Manifesta 14 Prishtina Guidebook published in English, Albanian and Serbian
- The Mapping Subculture Movements publication, presenting research on subculture movements in Prishtina, Tirana and Skopje.
- Collective Memory of Hivzi Sulejmani Library, a research publication exploring the collective memory of the space in Prishtina.
- A Manual for schools, as a permanent tool for education.
- Manifesta 14 Prishtina, final report: a cumulative investigation of identifying the impact of this edition on long term policy making and changing urban ecosystems. This will be published in the Spring of 2023.
- *FESTA*, Manifesta 14 Prishtina's official magazine, introduced Manifesta 14 to a diverse, wide audience in Prishtina and across Kosovo. The magazine was printed in an edition of 1000+ in Albanian, with English and Serbian sections and distributed for free throughout Prishtina in April, July and October 2022.

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Manifesta 14 Staffing & Governance

Manifesta 14 was managed from its offices in Prishtina and Amsterdam by a mix of permanent international team members and local specialists. Manifesta 14 employed 53 full-time employees and invested in capacity building of its staff. 88% of the staff were Kosovar, 12% were international professionals. 175 local Kosovar support staff were trained and employed for a period of 100 days during the biennial.

Manifesta 14 Prishtina was governed by a public private foundation called Manifesta 14 Prishtina which was responsible for the legal, financial and administrative running of the biennial.

Evaluation

The legacy and impact of Manifesta 14 Prishtina will be further evaluated through a Public Survey and analysed with public statements after the closing of Manifesta 14. This report will include a quantitative component, including return on investment (ROI), and a qualitative evaluation through focus groups. This report is an assessment of the impact of Manifesta 14 and the legacy for the future of the cultural and urban infrastructure of Prishtina and Kosovo.

