This paper considers the integration of culture in sustainable development, in other words it focuses on the concept of "cultural sustainability". It is the result of an intercultural and interdisciplinary interaction between the three authors who were enrolled in an online pilot course entitled "Cultural Sustainability". The course was organised in collaboration with members of the COST Action "Investigating Cultural Sustainability" network: the University of Jyväskylä/Department of Social Sciences and Philosophy, Unit of Cultural Policy (Finland); the Centre for Social Studies at the University of Coimbra (Portugal); and Jagiellonian University/Institute of Culture (Poland).

The three authors decided to address the following issue: how can we understand "cultural sustainability" theoretically and in practice/policy? They initiated their discussion by examining several approaches and identified one common interest and preliminary understanding: the use of culture to raise awareness of certain issues; theory and practice are both important, but the latter is the most critical aspect since it enables us to understand the concept of cultural sustainability by comparing its theoretical stage of development with what effectively happens in the field.

They agree with the organisers of the panel that culture is not just another pillar parallel with the social, ecological and economic pillars. However, they define cultural sustainability as a challenging emerging "holistic fourth pillar", moving beyond the western perspective of development, and acting instead of waiting for conceptualisations.

This definition is the conclusion of the paper which also previously examines: 1) the emergence of the concept of cultural sustainability in theory and practice (connecting sustainability and culture; the emergence of a fourth pillar; in practice); 2) challenges in understanding and applying the concept of cultural sustainability (tribulations; raising awareness; education; social change); 3) further perspectives in practice (interculturality; activism; human rights).

Keywords: cultural sustainability; theory; practice

*Presenting author