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**Youth & Families Wellbeing matters in the context of Migration**

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**RESILIENCE AND IDENTITY**  
**AT THE HEART OF A MUSEUM'S ACTION**

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**Musée de la Céramique (Andenne, Belgium)**

In 2015, the Ceramics Museum of Andenne had the pleasure to collaborate with the *Familles du Monde* association for the museum's exhibition on Mexico. This project showed the extraordinary resilience of Mexican identities that adapt, reshape or change without ever losing their distinguishing *Mexicanness*. This is an invaluable example that proves that identity and culture are constantly evolving. This experience and the audience's reaction encouraged me to take this concept to a local level. For what distinguishes Andenne is almost 2000 years of being a ceramic producing village thanks to a coveted regional resource, the *derle*, which is the name of its clay. Furthermore, a museum is above all a library of references, in this case, regional references. However, the aim of this exhibition was a different one. It was a response by the Museum to the comments and questions from the people of Andenne, as well as to the institution's observations aimed to reinforce a relevant local offer. Our conclusions were echoed in a report addressed to implementing a municipal rural development program. This revealed a deep nostalgia for the people of Andenne. To rekindle the past without being old-fashioned—for the purpose of transmitting and maintaining the resilience of tradition—helps, as do the mourning of a certain past and a renewing identity for the benefit of all. We observe that the process of mourning and resilience is constantly apprehended in the cultural expression of our identities, whether it is at an individual or societal level.

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Ceramic, nostalgia, mourning for the earth

**About the author**

Cédric Piechowski, born in Binche with relatives from Poland, is director of the Ceramic Museum of Andenne