

European Affairs Update

January 2026

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RESONANT PASTS
EAA 2026
26-29 August | Athens Greece

Presidency Council of the European Union: Jan-Jun 2026 Cyprus. July-Dec 2026 Ireland. Jan-Jul 2027 Lithuania.

Committee of Ministers (CoE) chairmanship: Nov 25-May 26 Republic of Moldova. May 26-10 Nov Monaco. Nov 26-May 27 Montenegro.

European Capitals of Culture 2026: Oulu (Finland), Trenčín (Slovakia).

Did you know? Most Presidencies issue a music playlist, here are Songs from Cyprus.

Joint initiative of European Archaeological Council (EAC) and European Association of Archaeologists (EAA). Prepared by the EAC Assistant Jenni Butterworth.
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European Union

Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the European Union

1 Jan: ‘An Autonomous Union. Open to the World’: Cyprus assumes the [Presidency of the Council of the European Union](#) for the second time. Under culture, the Presidency will highlight culture’s strategic role in safeguarding EU values. It will take forward Council work on the Culture Compass, the “AgoraEU” proposal under the new MFF and the forthcoming prolongation and revision of the European Capitals of Culture Decision. Priorities will include strengthening cultural governance, safeguarding cultural heritage, and addressing disinformation and ethics in the digital society. The Informal Ministerial Meeting will focus on cultural rights and on combating the illicit trafficking of cultural goods.

2026 budget: European Parliament adopts 2026 EU budget

26 Nov: The [European Parliament voted to adopt the EU’s budget for 2026](#). The total commitments are set at €192.8 billion and the total payments at €190.1 billion. €715.7 million has been kept available as a margin under the expenditure ceilings of the current MFF’s commitments, allowing the EU to react to unforeseen circumstances. This budget is the result of negotiations with the European Parliament, which included increases for Horizon Europe, Erasmus+ and a number of other programmes.

Commission adopts Culture Compass for Europe

12 Nov: The Commission adopted the strategy which recognises and aims to fully harness culture’s potential for Europe, while addressing the challenges facing the sectors. The most pressing challenges confronting the cultural and creative sectors and industries are identified as: threats to artistic freedom; precarious working conditions of artists; unequal access to culture; the impact of artificial intelligence. To tackle these, the Culture Compass will guide EU policies in four key directions. These are defined as an EU that: upholds and strengthens European values and cultural rights; empowers artist and cultural professionals, and supports people; draws on culture and cultural heritage to become more competitive, resilient and cohesive; champions international cultural relations and partnerships. [Factsheets, actions and more documents here](#).

‘Europe for Culture – Culture for Europe’: draft joint declaration

12 Nov: The Commission has invited the European Parliament and the Council to consider agreeing and co-signing [a proposed Joint Declaration](#). The aim would be to strengthen political commitment to achieving the vision of culture as an integral part of the EU’s identity and development. To achieve the goals, the Culture Compass proposes key actions, such as: an EU Artists Charter; a new EU Cultural Data Hub; a new EU State of Culture Report; an AI strategy for the cultural and creative sectors.

Culture and Horizon Europe in the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2028–2034

27 Jan: The European Commission proposal for the Horizon Europe Framework Programme for 2028–2034 has a €175 billion budget. However, concerns have been raised that culture is no longer visible as an explicit cultural pillar comparable to today's Cluster 2. Instead, the Commission's proposal mentions 'culture and creativity' only once, as a societal challenge to be addressed through collaborative research in Horizon Europe. It also emphasises the integration of social sciences and humanities (SSH) as a horizontal principle 'across all components'. The CULT Committee is preparing an opinion, and the [draft opinion is available here](#); amendments are due this week. [Culture Action Europe](#) has submitted proposals for amendments to CULT's opinion report on Horizon Europe.

CULT committee meeting

The most recent Committee on Culture and Education (CULT) meeting was held on 26-27 January 2026, no minutes available yet.

Council of Europe

Changes to the CDCPP – CDCULT and CDENV in 2026

1 Jan: the [Steering Committee for Culture, Heritage and Landscape](#) (CDCPP) has new terms of reference and is now the Steering Committee for Culture and Heritage (CDCULT). Its landscape sector is instead integrated into the newly created Steering Committee for the Environment (CDENV), which succeeds the Intergovernmental Committee on the Environment (GME) which held its final meeting in Dec 2025, marking the completion of its mandate.

CDCPP 14th plenary session

20 Nov: The [14th plenary session meeting](#) of the Steering Committee for Culture, Heritage and Landscape (CDCPP) took place in November 2025 in Strasbourg. The meeting reviewed the work accomplished in 2025 and outlined the priorities ahead for the Committee in 2026-2027. A thematic debate on "The role of culture and cultural heritage for democracy and democratic participation" and its conclusions, alongside a report from academic institutions conducted under the aegis of the Committee, will constitute its contribution to the New Democratic Pact consultations. In the area of heritage, the Committee approved the handbook for raising awareness among young people and children on the prevention of offences related to cultural property, in line with the Nicosia Convention, while encouraging member States to join the Convention. On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of Faro Convention, the Committee encouraged the continuation of local and national initiatives under the framework Convention, while underlying the value of the Convention's principles for promoting participation in heritage across Europe as a factor of democratic participation and cooperation. The Committee expressed its support for the activities of the Eurimages and Cultural Routes Enlarged Partial Agreements, calling for further synergies within the cultural and heritage sectors across the Organisation including PACE and the Congress.

Draft Recommendation on the role of culture and heritage in promoting equality and non-discrimination

20 Nov: The Committee unveiled and discussed the preliminary [Draft Recommendation](#) on the role of culture and heritage in promoting equality and non-discrimination, prepared in cooperation with the Steering Committee on Anti-Discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion (CDADI).

Funding and investments

Budgets and programmes

Multiannual Financial framework (MFF)

The multiannual financial framework for **2021-2027** was implemented January 2021. €1.074 trillion is available: find out how the EU distributes the budget of the Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027. The **2026 budget** was adopted in Nov 2025.

Please consult the sources provided to check details of calls, as they may change.

Creative Europe

1 Jan: [Moldova](#) has officially joined Creative Europe, becoming the 41st country to do so, after association under the previous programme period.

Open calls

[Support for the implementation of the European Heritage Label](#) (CREA-CULT-2026-EU-HERITAGE-LABEL). Deadline 11 Feb 2026.

Culture Moves Europe: [Call for individual mobility 2025-2026](#). Deadline 30 April 2026.

Culture Moves Europe: [Call for residency hosts 2025-2026](#). Deadline 16 March 2026.

Call for TENDER: [Peer-learning activities for decision-makers at local and regional level on high quality architecture and the built environment for everyone](#) (EC-EAC/2025/OP/0002). Deadline 24 Feb 2026. The call will deliver a peer-learning scheme supporting decision-makers in architecture, the built environment, culture and heritage, spatial planning, and sustainable development.

[Culture Helps Solidarity - First call for proposals for collaboration grants](#)

CREA-CULT-2025-COOP-UA-2 - Fostering Ukrainians' access to culture and cultural heritage. Deadline 31 March 2026

Horizon Europe

Horizon Europe 2026/2027 work programmes

11 Dec: The European Commission adopted the [Horizon Europe Work Programme 2026/2027](#), with a total budget of €14 billion. It introduces several measures aimed at simplifying processes, enhancing transparency and inclusiveness. It also introduces horizontal calls, which are designed to connect different parts of Horizon Europe in support of key strategic areas. These calls ensure that Horizon Europe is more in tune with the EU's evolving policies by tackling them in a consistent, cross-cluster, multidisciplinary way.

The Clusters are: 1 Health; 2 Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society; 3 Civil Security for Society; 4 Digital, Industry and Space; 5 Climate, Energy and Mobility; 6 Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment. Points of note: the work programme will dedicate at least 35% of its funding to climate goals; Cluster 6 will develop innovations to facilitate the effective implementation of the Nature Restoration Regulation, including by addressing the main drivers of biodiversity loss; a new European partnership on social transformations and resilience, focusing on social sciences and humanities, will be launched under Cluster 2. It will fund R&I activities in the following areas: the future of work, modernisation of social protection and essential services, education and skills development, and a fair transition towards climate neutrality.

Open calls

None.

Forthcoming calls

The Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society 2026-2027 work programme and indicative calls can be [downloaded here](#). They include:

[Preventing and fighting illicit trafficking of cultural goods](#) (HORIZON-CL2-2026-01-HERITAGE-07). Intended opening: 12 May 2026, deadline 23 September 2026

[Towards a fair and transparent market for cultural and creative content in the era of generative AI](#) (HORIZON-CL2-2026-01-HERITAGE-04). Intended opening: 12 May 2026, deadline 23 September 2026

[Creative alliances: Fostering global partnerships in cultural policies and CCI innovation](#) (HORIZON-CL2-2026-01-HERITAGE-05). Intended opening: 12 May 2026, deadline 23 September 2026

[Open topic: Impact-driven research on realising the full potential of cultural heritage, arts and cultural and creative industries](#) (HORIZON-CL2-2027-02-HERITAGE-09-two-stage). Intended opening: 2 March 2027, deadline 30 September 2027

[Culture, heritage and creative industries for health and well-being](#). (HORIZON-CL2-2027-01-HERITAGE-04). Intended opening: 13 May 2027, deadline 23 September 2027

[Towards a consolidated culture and creativity driven European innovation ecosystem](#) (HORIZON-CL2-2027-01-HERITAGE-01). Intended opening: 13 May 2027, deadline 23 September 2027

[Re-imagining the creative economy: the interplay between the cultural and creative sectors and industries and the social economy](#) (HORIZON-CL2-2027-01-HERITAGE-05). Intended opening: 13 May 2027, deadline 23 September 2027

[Future-proofing sustainable cultural tourism](#) (HORIZON-CL2-2027-01-HERITAGE-06). Intended opening: 13 May 2027, deadline 23 September 2027

[Societal impact of cultural heritage](#) (HORIZON-CL2-2027-01-HERITAGE-07). Intended opening: 13 May 2027, deadline 23 September 2027

[Safeguarding & transmission of intangible cultural heritage](#) (HORIZON-CL2-2027-01-HERITAGE-08). Intended opening: 13 May 2027, deadline 23 September 2027

European Research Council

Open calls

None.

Forthcoming calls

Indicative schedule of calls for [2026 work programme available here](#). Call for Advanced Grants (ERC-2026-AdG) is expected to open 28 May 2026.

Digital Europe

The [Digital Europe Programme](#) is the first EU programme that aims to accelerate the recovery and drive the digital transformation of Europe. Worth €7.6 billion, the Programme is a part of the next long-term EU budget, (the Multiannual Financial Framework), covering 2021-2027. It will provide funding for projects in five crucial areas: supercomputing, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, advanced digital skills, and ensuring the wide use of digital technologies across the economy and society. The Digital Europe Programme will complement the funding available through other EU programmes, such as the Horizon Europe programme for research and innovation and the Connecting Europe Facility for digital infrastructure, the Recovery and Resilience Facility and the Structural funds.

There are no open or forthcoming calls with direct cultural heritage relevance.

The Citizenship, Equality, Rights and Values Programme (CERV)

1 Dec 2025: The Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) programme was launched in 2021 and runs for seven years until 2027. The work programme 2026-2027 was adopted with a value of c.€279m in 2026 and c.€299m in 2027. [Indicative calls planning available here](#).

Open calls

[Networks of Towns](#) (CERV-2026-CITIZENS-TOWN-NT). Deadline 16 April 2026.

Erasmus+

11 Dec: The 2026 call for proposals and [indicative schedule](#) was published.

There are no open or forthcoming calls with direct cultural heritage relevance.

[UK participation](#): 17 Dec: following successful negotiations, it was announced that from 2027 young people from the EU and the UK will once again be able to benefit from Erasmus+. This includes learners, students, apprentices, teachers and staff in the fields of education, youth and sport.

Inactive funding streams

JPI on Cultural Heritage and Global Change- there have been no open calls since 2023.

Post-2020 European Territorial Cooperation Programmes (INTERREG)- programmes for the 2021-2027 period were agreed in January 2022. No more open calls are planned during the 2021-2027 programme.

Other calls

Call for applications: EAA Bridging Heritage and Hope Pilot Programme 2026

The European Association of Archaeologists is pleased to launch the Bridging Heritage and Hope scholarship programme, offering opportunities for Master's students, PhD candidates, and early-career archaeologists from conflict and post-conflict regions in Europe and the Mediterranean to participate in the European Association of Archaeologists (EAA) Annual Meeting. [Deadline 30 January 2026](#).

Consultation: European Heritage Label

1 Dec: The European Commission has published a public consultation on the future of the European Heritage Label (EHL). The EHL, created in 2011, has already been awarded to 67 sites across 22 EU countries – from historic archives and universities to cultural landscapes and memorials. These sites symbolise Europe's values, diversity and history, helping citizens – especially young people – to better understand what unites us. [Survey open until 23 February 2026.](#)

Open funding call: AHRC-DFG Research Grants: Round Eight (2025 to 2026)

16 Oct: funding for projects composed of two highly integrated national teams based in the UK and Germany. All proposals must demonstrate the added value of international collaboration to research objectives. Projects can last 24- 36 months. [Deadline 11 February 2026.](#)

Survey: use of AI in Archaeology

15 Oct: The Managing Artificial Intelligence in Archaeology Cost Action have launched a [survey on the use of Artificial Intelligence in and around archaeology](#). The aim is to understand how professionals in this field perceive, use, and expect AI technologies to evolve, insights that will help guide future research, training and ethical discussions. The survey is anonymous, takes about 10-15 minutes, and is open to anyone working in or around archaeology, heritage, data science, or related disciplines

Archaeology recordings wanted for testing the Speech Transcription Portal

18 Jul: As part of the upcoming ATRIUM Researchers' Forum about the Transcription Portal, ATRIUM is [inviting archaeologists to provide recordings](#) in Dutch, German, Italian and English, which can be used for testing the new summarisation and translation features that will be provided by the Portal. The Transcription Portal is a web service hosted by the University of Munich and made discoverable through CLARIN Language Resource Switchboard, one of the ATRIUM Services. It requires an academic login (either via your home institution or CLARIN).

Call for Bids: Host the 11th European Conference on Sustainable Cities and Towns

The conference is tentatively planned for 2027 and will build on the success of the 10th ESCT Conference, which was hosted by ICLEI Member Aalborg (Denmark). The previous conference enabled the participation of attendees from multiple fields to discuss implementing transformative change in Europe. [Deadline 16 Feb 2026.](#)

Call for experts for the Panel for the European Capital of Culture Action

The European Commission invites interested experts to apply for this open call for expressions of interest for the establishment of a pool of experts for potential members of the panel of experts for the European Union action European Capital of Culture. Applicants should submit their expression of interest through the [online form on EU Survey](#) at the latest 3 months before the list expires, on **31/12/2027**

Helpful sources on European funding

New EU funding App

Sep 2025: the EC launched the [‘EU & Me’ mobile app](#). Synchronised with the EU Funding & Tenders Portal, this app is designed to be simple and accessible, offering on-the-go access to funding opportunities, programmes, project results, as well as the latest news and events.

[CulturEU funding guide](#) covers opportunities linked to the European Commission’s flagship programme Creative Europe, as well as a wide spectrum of around 20 other EU funding programmes, from Digital Europe to LIFE and EU Structural Funds.

[How to communicate your project’](#) guide intended for beneficiaries of Erasmus+, European Solidarity Corps and Creative Europe programmes.

Events and Calls for Papers

2026 Annual Meeting of the European Archaeological Council

The 27th EAC General Assembly and Heritage Symposium will be held on **19-20 March 2026** in Altamira, Santillana del Mar, Spain. The symposium will be followed by an excursion on 21 March 2026. The event is organised by the Ministry of Culture of Spain, and is hosted by the Museum of Altamira. The theme of the heritage symposium is 'Bridging Borders in Heritage Protection: towards best practice for prevention of archaeological crime'. [Online access to the symposium is available](#).

2026 Annual Meeting of the European Association of Archaeologists (EAA)

The 32nd EAA Annual Meeting will take place in Athens, Greece, **26-29 August 2026**. The theme is Resonant Pasts, and topics are: Widening perspectives in material culture studies; Crossing the divide. Archaeology and the open world; Museums and cultural heritage in the era of ‘permacrisis’; Transforming archaeology through interdisciplinarity; Changing worlds and environments in the past, present and future; Transient theories; Interaction, connectivity and mobility and Beyond the Middle Sea: rethinking the Mediterranean in motion. [Call for contributions open until 5 February 2026](#).

20th annual EHHF meeting

The [20th edition of the Forum](#) will take place in will take place from 20-22 May in Zagreb, Croatia, hosted by the Directorate for the Protection of Cultural Heritage of the Ministry of Culture and Media. The annual meeting will provide the opportunity to discuss cultural heritage resilience in the face of contemporary challenges. Attendance by invitation only.

Call for participation: EAA/ EAC Working Group on Farming, Forestry and Rural Land Management

In recent years, the EAA/EAC Working Group on Farming, Forestry and Rural Land Management has organised several successful sessions at EAA examining the impact of different types of land use on archaeological heritage. They are now exploring creating guidance on land use change (LUC), similar to the previously published EAC guidelines on development-led archaeology and the use of LIDAR. To develop this further, the Working Group is organising a discussion session at the **2026 EAA conference in Athens. #94** Land-use Change (LUC) and archaeological heritage: Key concepts and considerations; working towards guidelines for best practice. [Find out more here](#). The group is particularly interested in examples of the impact of LUC, as well as good and bad practices relating to archaeological heritage.

Cultural Deal for Europe: Annual Policy Conversation 2026

The European Cultural Foundation, Culture Action Europe and Europa Nostra are organising the [Cultural Deal for Europe: Annual Policy Conversation 2026](#) on 3 Feb 2026 in Brussels. It will be a key moment for high-level EU policymakers and the wider culture, cultural heritage and civil society sectors to take stock of current developments, discuss upcoming policy challenges and opportunities, and together shape the sector's advocacy agenda for the year ahead. It will focus on the following questions: What must be done to secure a strong culture and cultural heritage base in the next EU budget and secure a powerful cultural and civil society dimension across programmes, including the AgoraEU programme? How will the recently released Culture Compass for Europe address key European challenges through culture and unleash its greater potential and new partnerships? And how can the wider civil society ecosystem best reinforce European values and rights to provide a compass to European citizens and communities? Following an enthusiastic response, registration is now closed. A video recording will be made available online after the event for those unable to attend in Brussels.

ICOMOS International Day for Monuments and Sites

The [ICOMOS International Day for Monuments and Sites](#) (IDMS), 18 April 2026, provides heritage enthusiasts, heritage professionals and ICOMOS members with the opportunity to shine a spotlight on the shared responsibility of safeguarding our heritage. This year, IDMS focuses on bringing visibility to the work undertaken to conserve and protect the world's culturally significant "Living Heritage" – increasingly at risk from accelerating disasters and conflicts unfolding in complex, multi-hazard contexts. [The ICOMOS Triennial Scientific Plan 2024-2027](#) frames its work around the theme "Disaster and Conflict Resilient Heritage – Preparedness, Response and Recovery". After focusing on Preparedness in 2025, ICOMOS turns its attention in 2026 to Emergency Response in the conservation of heritage affected by disasters and conflicts. All are encouraged to share their experiences, events, publications and outcomes of discussions around resilient living heritage in the context of conflict and disaster response.

Interpret Europe Conference: Re-interpreting heritage in the light of Faro

Twenty years after the adoption of the Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (the Faro Convention), its call for a people-centred and value-based approach to heritage remains highly relevant. The Convention emphasises that everyone has both the right to engage with heritage and the responsibility

to respect the diversity of meanings that others attach to it. Interpret Europe will meet **16-19 April 2026** in Faro, Portugal. [Find out more about the theme and call for papers.](#)

NEMO European Museum Conference 2026

The conference takes place from 11-13 October 2026 in Vilnius, Lithuania. Join for inspiring panel discussions, workshops, networking opportunities, museum study visits and much more. [Registration opens in June 2026.](#)

31st CHNT-ICOMOS Annual Conference

The annual conference on Cultural Heritage and New Technologies will take place in Vienna, 11-13 November 2026 and online. The theme is “Getting Dirty – Back to the Roots of Cultural Heritage Work. Heritage in Action: From the Field to the Future” [Call for sessions is open until 15 February 2026.](#)

Resources and Publications

Please find below a list of publications and resources on culture and cultural heritage related topics that have been published in the past months by EU and Council of Europe organs, UNESCO and European networks and projects.

The EAC has published its first [Annual Activity Report](#). Find out what we have been up to in 2025.

[European Journal of Archaeology](#), Volume 29, Issue 1 (EAA, February 2026)

[The European Archaeologist](#), Issue 86- Autumn 2025 (EAA, 2025)

[Europe for Culture – Culture for Europe: draft joint declaration](#) (European Commission 2025)

[Trowel and Error: A Public User Needs Survey for Archaeology](#) (Council for British Archaeology 2025)

<https://www.archaeologyuk.org/our-work/trowel-and-error.html>

[A Decade of Creative Europe](#) [evaluation report 2014-2023] (European Commission 2025)

[Creative shifts: Empowering culture for sustainable living](#) (European Commission 2025)

[AHEAD \(Accessible Heritage Experience for Audience Development\) open learning resources](#)

<https://www.heritageresearch-hub.eu/learning-resources-for-heritage-professionals/>

Some recent publications from Historic England:

[Gaining an understanding of soil carbon and its management in an archaeological context](#)

[Guidance on the excavation, recording, sampling and conservation of waterlogged archaeological wood](#)

[An updated Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation \(third edition\)](#)

[Peatlands and the Historic Environment: Guidance for Carrying out Peat Restoration](#)

Other updates

Recognizing and Measuring Cultural and Natural Heritage for Climate Resilience

15 Jan: Within the framework of the work programme established at COP28 to develop global indicators for measuring progress in climate adaptation, UNESCO actively contributed to the development of indicators aimed at safeguarding cultural and natural heritage. This led to the inclusion of eight heritage-related indicators among the 100 submitted to UNFCCC Parties for decision at COP30 in November 2025. Following expert review, Parties adopted 59 indicators, including five related to heritage. Representing nearly 10% of all indicators adopted, these indicators highlight the growing recognition of cultural and natural heritage within adaptation frameworks and climate action. They reflect a holistic approach that goes beyond infrastructure and environmental risk, covering tangible, intangible, and movable heritage, measuring engagement with Indigenous Peoples and local communities, and emphasizing the importance of drawing on traditional, local, and Indigenous knowledge in adaptation processes and solutions. For the first time, they provide a clear framework for action and investment in climate adaptation for and with heritage, strengthening both the resilience of heritage and the communities that depend on it. [More details here](#).

Ukrainian cultural heritage published in 3D on Europeana.eu for the first time

15 Jan: At 7 Jan 2026, UNESCO has verified 515 cultural sites as damaged in Ukraine, alongside thousands of cultural heritage institutions and artefacts. Against this background, a collaboration between Pixelated Realities, a non-governmental organisation running projects funded by the European Commission, and the EU-funded XRculture and 3D-4CH Online Competence Centre projects has seen the [aggregation of the first 3D models from their Museum of Ukrainian Victory to Europeana.eu](#). These first published 3D models originate from the Museum of Ukrainian Victory initiative and include outdoor sculptures and heritage sites from Odesa, Kherson, Kharkiv, and Sumy regions. The cultural heritage objects were captured through emergency photogrammetry workflows conducted by trained conflict reporters with subsequent 3D processing carried out in Odesa. The models are part of a wider collection of more than 30 objects documented for the Museum of Ukrainian Victory in 2022 and early 2023.

European Capitals of Culture beyond 2033

16 Jan: The call for evidence regarding the prolongation of [European capitals of culture](#) after 2033 closed, feedback is upcoming. Commission adoption is plans for second quarter 2026.

Creative shifts: empowering culture for sustainable living

15 Dec: A new report “[Creative shifts: empowering culture for sustainable living](#)”, written by culture and environment experts from EU countries, highlights greening practices from the cultural and creative sectors. Like all sectors and industries, cultural and creative sectors have an impact on the environment, but are uniquely positioned as drivers of systemic change through storytelling, imagination and behavioural influence. By highlighting European good practices, this report shows how tangible environmental impact is achievable through energy-saving efforts, climate adaptation strategies, circular practices and sustainable mobility initiatives. However, the cultural and creative sectors, with a remarkably broad range of activities across a diversity of skills, settings and means of expression, encounter varied challenges. Policymakers can support this important sectoral green transition by mobilising guidance, financial support and regulation.

Final evaluation of Creative Europe 2014-2020 published

17 Dec: The European Commission published the [final evaluation of the 2014-2020 Creative Europe programme](#) together with the interim evaluation of the current 2021-2027 programme. The evaluation examined the results and impact of the programme’s three structural elements – Culture, MEDIA and Cross-sectoral – during the 2014-2023 period. The Culture sub-programme supported over 1,800 cultural projects in Europe and beyond that participated in the creation of a European culture ecosystem. 4,200 organisations were involved in transnational projects between 2014 and 2020, and 2,500 between 2021 and 2023. Creative Europe’s support to mobility, cultural networks and platforms helped reinforcing the capacity and skills in cultural and creative sectors and internationalising the careers of many cultural professionals.

Culture Action Europe calls for investigation of Creative Europe Cooperation Grants

20 Nov: Culture Action Europe issued an [open letter to Creative Europe](#) raising concerns about a ‘systemic problem in the evaluation of’ the 2025 Cooperation call. They believe a loophole in the Funding & Tenders Portal currently allows any applicant to add an organisation to proposals without its explicit consent, and that this impacted more than 30 applications across 100 organisations.

EU-UK Policy Recommendations signed by 200+ cultural organisations

17 Nov: more than 200 stakeholders from EU and UK cultural and creative sectors signed [joint Policy Recommendations](#) calling for stronger transnational cooperation, funding and collaboration in culture between the EU and the UK. The Policy Recommendations were drafted as part of the inaugural Forum on EU-UK Cultural & Media Relations held on 20 October 2025 in Brussels. The recommendations emphasise the importance of culture for the political, societal and economic relationship between the EU and UK, and call upon EU and UK policymakers to commit to additional steps to strengthen these relations.

CRAFTOUR: calls for a European Crafts Renaissance

11 Dec: [CRAFTOUR](#), a joint initiative of six major EU-funded projects representing 75 organisations across 21 member states, aims to ensure European crafts take their rightful place in Europe’s policy, research, and innovation agendas. Representatives met with EU institutions at a roundtable to present policy recommendations. As Europe accelerates efforts toward a greener, more resilient and culturally grounded future, crafts stand at a

decisive crossroads. Once central to daily life, regional identity, and local economies, craftsmanship today remains under-recognised in European policy – despite its enormous ecological, economic, cultural, and social value. Crafts embody principles the EU urgently seeks to advance: circularity, low-waste production, repair culture, material intelligence, creativity, and regional resilience. The recommendations focused on 4 central objectives: 1 Understanding, valorising, and documenting European crafts through improved statistical knowledge. 2 Safeguarding and promoting craft authenticity, ensuring heritage and contemporary practices remain traceable and recognisable. 3 Empowering skills transmission through formal and non-formal education pathways. 4 Strengthening viable business models to ensure crafts thrive in future European economies.

NEMO statement on integrating museums into health and social policy across Europe

28 Oct: NEMO's European Museum Conference 'Who cares? Museums, wellbeing, and resilience', took place in Horsens, Denmark. Developed, informed by and endorsed during the conference, this [statement outlines NEMO's position on integrating museums into health and social policy](#) across Europe. It affirms an ongoing commitment to recognising museums as vital components of civic care systems, and calls for their structural inclusion in public-health strategies. The statement also highlights the importance of intersectoral collaboration, social prescribing, and evidence-based approaches to embedding wellbeing into museum practice and policy.

Religious Heritage Innovator of the Year 2025

21 Nov: This year's edition was marked by a high number of cross-border collaborations focusing on community building, and interfaith engagement. The jury chose the most innovative and groundbreaking initiatives in line with the five pillars of the European Commission's Framework for Action for Cultural Heritage: cooperation, innovation, inclusion, resilience and sustainability. The [winner of 2025 is MUDD](#) – Museo Diocesano Diffuso Di Napoli by the Fondazione Napoli C'entro – Arcidiocesi di Napoli (Italy). The organisation was founded in 2024 by the Archdiocese of Naples, with the aim of tackling two urgent needs in the Rione Sanità district: youth unemployment and the restoration and revitalisation of Naples historic churches. MUDD is the realisation of this goal: a project that transforms religious heritage into opportunities for young people.

Trowel and Error: A Public User Needs Survey for Archaeology

Nov 2025: The study – led by the Council for British Archaeology in partnership with Museum of London Archaeology, and funded by Historic England, Historic Environment Scotland, and Cadw – explores [how people across the UK engage with, value, and access archaeological information](#). It gathered insight from more than 3,100 people, including archaeologists, students, volunteers, heritage professionals, and members of the public, examining how digital technology, social media, and shifting audience expectations are transforming the way archaeological information is shared. The findings offer a detailed picture of what people look for in archaeological communication today, and how the sector can make its work more open, relevant, and accessible.

Europe races to save its underwater heritage from climate change

4 Dec: As climate change accelerates, EU-funded researchers have mobilised to

safeguard Europe's underwater and coastal heritage with innovative methods and cutting-edge technology. [THETIDA](#), an EU-funded collaboration running until October 2026, focuses on protecting Europe's underwater and coastal cultural heritage from climate-related threats such as rising temperatures, pollution, acidification and changing currents.

Joint initiative of European Archaeological Council (EAC) and European Association of Archaeologists (EAA). Prepared by the EAC Assistant Jenni Butterworth. Contact us at: info@e-a-c.org