

European affairs update

October 2020

Joint initiative of European Archaeological Council (EAC) and European Association of Archaeologists (EAA)
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- *Presidency Council of the European Union July-December 2020: **Germany***
<https://www.eu2020.de/eu2020-de>
- *Committee of Ministers (CoE) chairmanship May 2020-November 2020: **Greece***
<https://www.coe.int/en/web/presidency/greece>
- *European Capitals of Culture 2020: **Rijeka (Croatia)** <https://rijeka2020.eu/> and **Galway (Ireland)** <https://galway2020.ie/en/>*

Policy

EUROPEAN UNION

Increased funding for Erasmus and Creative Europe were included in the draft demands for the 2021 EU budget

MEPs adopted considerable increases to the [15 EU flagship programmes](#), boosting many programmes and projects that will support the young, researchers, health workers, entrepreneurs and many other citizens. The proposal included the requests to triple the funding for the Erasmus programme and increase the budget for Creative Europe, following [MEPs opposition to the proposed by the Commission cuts to culture and education programmes in 2021-2027 budget](#) and [their subsequent resolution submitted in September 2020](#). In total, the Council's position for next year's budget amounts to €162.9 billion in commitments and €164.8 billion in payments. The 2021 budget will be complemented by actions to support the COVID-19 recovery, which will be funded by Next Generation EU, the EU's €750 billion pandemic recovery plan. The whole Parliament will vote on its position on the 2021 draft budget during the 11-12 November plenary session. This will kick off three weeks of "conciliation" talks with the Council, with the aim of reaching a deal between the two institutions in time for next year's budget to be voted on by Parliament and signed by its President in December.

[EU budget for 2021: Council agrees position \(press release, 9 September 2020\)](#)

[A recovery plan for Europe \(background information\)](#)

[Addressing COVID-19: Council approves €6.2 billion budget increase for 2020 \(press release, 11 September 2020\)](#)

[Infographic - 2020 EU budget](#)

Further details and background information [here](#).

EU Commission extends 2020 European Capitals of Culture into 2021

Due to the effects of the coronavirus crisis, the European Commission has proposed to give Rijeka (Croatia) and Galway (Ireland) the possibility to extend their year as 2020 European Capitals of Culture until 30 April 2021. The Commission also proposed to postpone the year in which Novi Sad (Serbia) is due to host a European Capital of Culture from 2021 to 2022 and the year in which Timisoara (Romania) and Elefsina (Greece) will hold the title from 2021 to 2023. The [legislative proposal](#) was accepted in October 2020.

- [Union action for the European Capitals of Culture for the years 2020 to 2033 – Council position, 7 October 2020](#)
- [Commission proposal, 19 August 2020](#)

New OMC group on Strengthening Cultural Heritage Resilience for Climate Change announced

The objective of the OMC group is to identify and exchange good practices and innovative measures for the protection of cultural heritage (including both tangible and intangible) in relation to climate change. It will study the possibility of upscaling good practices and will examine the current and emerging threats and impacts of climate change on cultural heritage, discuss the appropriate adaptation and mitigation measures available, identifying potential risks and focus on building resilience of cultural heritage assets in the face of a changing environment while avoiding

maladaptation. The group should also examine the contribution cultural heritage can make to mitigating and combating climate change in line with the Green Deal's goals. The OMC group will prepare a report, analysis of best practices and case studies and policy recommendations. Read more [here](#).

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Italy has ratified The Faro Convention

Italy has ratified the Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (Faro Convention). The Italian Chamber of Deputies voted on the convention with 237 votes in favour, 199 votes against and 57 abstentions. The Italian Minister of Cultural Heritage and Activities, Dario Farneschini, said that the ratification is "*a fundamental moment for our legal system that finally recognises cultural heritage as a crucial factor for sustainable growth, human development and quality of life*". The Faro Convention emphasises the important aspects of heritage as they relate to human rights and democracy. It promotes a wider understanding of heritage and its relationship to communities and society. The Faro Convention encourages us to recognise that objects and places are not, in themselves, what is important about cultural heritage. They are important because of the meanings and uses that people attach to them and the values they represent. For more information about the Faro Convention, visit the [Council of Europe website](#). Read the text of the Faro Convention [here](#).

A new digital animation to mark 35 years of the European Heritage Days

A new [digital animation](#) has been released to mark the 35th anniversary of the [European Heritage Days](#). Launched by the Council of Europe in 1985 in France, the #EuropeanHeritageDays have rapidly grown to become one of the most widely celebrated cultural heritage events on the continent. Organised as a joint initiative of the European Commission and the Council of Europe since 1999, the European Heritage Days highlight the diversity of local skills, traditions, architectural styles and works of art that constitute shared European heritage. Find out more [here](#).

20 October 2020: Fourth International Landscape Day of the Council of Europe

The "Message from Lausanne" was the theme of the 23rd Council of Europe Meeting of the Workshops for the implementation of the Council of Europe Landscape Convention on "Landscape integration in sectoral policies" (Lausanne, Switzerland, October 19-20, 2020), which invited the actors of the territory to "*integrate landscape into its regional and town planning policies and in its cultural, environmental, agricultural, social and economic policies, as well as in any other policies with possible direct or indirect impact on landscape*" (Article 5 d. of the European Landscape Convention – Council of Europe). Read more about this [here](#).

Funding and investments

PROPOSALS FOR THE POST-2020 BUDGETS AND PROGRAMMES

Multiannual Financial framework (MFF)

On 21 July 2020, the EU leaders reached an agreement on the next long-term budget and Next Generation EU. As a next step, the Commission is trying to find a common ground between the Council and the European Parliament, so that this agreement can be finalised.

On 17 September 2020, the Commission published [guidance](#) and templates for Member States to be able to quickly prepare their recovery and resilience plans. These are necessary for them to have access to proposed €672.5 billion of [grants](#) and loans under the Next Generation EU's main instrument, the [Recovery and Resilience Facility](#).

[NextGenerationEU: Commission presents next steps for €672.5 billion Recovery and Resilience Facility in 2021 Annual Sustainable Growth Strategy](#)
[Regulation on a general regime of conditionality for the protection of the Union budget - Council position](#)

[Long-term EU budget 2021-2027 \(background information\)](#)

[European Council conclusions, 17-21 July 2020](#)

Further details and background information [here](#).

CREATIVE EUROPE

Creative Europe is the European Commission's framework programme for support to the culture and audio-visual sectors. Following on from the previous Culture Programme and MEDIA programme,

Creative Europe, with a budget of €1.46 billion, supports Europe's cultural and creative sectors.

EACEA's funding programmes from 2014-2020 coming to an end

EACEA's funding programmes from 2014-2020 - such as Erasmus+, Creative Europe and Europe for Citizens - will soon come to an end and will be replaced with new programmes for the 2021-2027 period. The legal basis of the programmes for 2021-2027, and the mandate of the Agency, are currently being negotiated by the European Commission with the European Council and the European Parliament. EACEA will only begin publishing the new calls for proposals once these negotiations are completed.

All new calls for proposal will be published on the European Commission's [Funding & Tender Opportunities Portal \(F&TP\)](#).

There are no open calls at the moment.

i-Portunus is back

i-Portunus will continue to fund the mobility of artists and cultural professional with another 2 projects worth €1.5 million from the Creative Europe programme.

The first new i-Portunus project will receive applications from individual artist from the book, architecture, cultural heritage and music sectors as well as from cultural professionals in any sector (except audio-visual). Another project is planned to start at the beginning of 2021. It will support the mobility of artists and cultural professionals by funding hosts or hosting institutions. Together these projects will launch several Calls for Applications in 2021. Stay tuned for more information on Creative Europe and the [i-Portunus website](#).

Discover the art of Creative Europe at home

It is important to acknowledge and highlight the many positive examples that continue to move forward the cultural and creative life in Europe even in times of the Coronavirus outbreak that is affecting all aspects of our lives. Based on this idea, the European Commission launched the [social media campaign #CreativeEuropeAtHome](#) to promote the rich work beneficiaries of the Creative Europe Programme are showing online to their audiences. Find out more [here](#).

For more information on other funding opportunities under the Creative Europe programme, check [the Creative Europe Funding page](#) or contact one of the [National Creative Europe desks](#).

You can find examples of European cooperation projects funded in previous years through the [Creative Europe Project Results platform](#). The selection results of the latest calls have been published and can be accessed [here](#).

Creative Europe Brexit Update

The UK can fully participate in Creative Europe until it leaves the EU and during the implementation period agreed by the UK and the EU (until the end of 2020). Further details on the arrangements post Brexit [here](#).

Cultural and Creative Sector Guarantee Facility

The Guarantee Facility of the European Commission and the European Investment Fund (EIF) is part of the Creative Europe programme and supports SMEs in cultural and creative sectors. Financial intermediaries are already operating in Belgium, Czech Republic, France, Italy, Romania and Spain. For more information, see [this page](#).

Read also:

[How Coronavirus affects the Creative Europe Programme](#)

[Coronavirus Impact Advice from EACEA](#)

[How will Brexit impact the Creative Europe Programme?](#)

EUROPE FOR CITIZENS

The Europe for Citizens programme aims to strengthen remembrance and to enhance civic participation at EU level. Under the strand 'European remembrance' the programme promotes debate, reflection and cooperation in the field of European integration and remembrance. The 'Democratic engagement and civic participation' strand supports projects aimed at enhancing democratic participation, solidarity and involvement at EU level.

[These are the priorities](#) for 2018-2020. The [deadlines for submission of applications for 2019-2020](#) have been updated. For more information on the supported activities and the time table, have a look

at the [Programme Guide](#) (Jan 2020). Check also the [2020 call for proposals](#) and the [Programme Priorities 2020](#). All open calls details are available on the funding page [here](#).

There are no open calls at the moment.

Read also:

- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Coronavirus Impact Advice from EACEA](#)

ERASMUS+

[Erasmus+](#) is the EU's programme to support education, training, youth and sport in Europe. Its budget of €14.7 billion will provide opportunities for over 4 million Europeans to study, train, gain experience, and volunteer abroad. Set to last until 2020, Erasmus+ merges seven prior programmes and it has opportunities for a wide variety of individuals and organisations.

All the deadlines and application details are contained in the [2020 Call for Proposals](#) and the [2020 Programme Guide](#).

Coronavirus impact

The COVID-19 outbreak negatively affects ongoing or planned activities under the Erasmus+ programme and European Solidarity Corps. Please consult the [Erasmus+ dedicated COVID-19 advice page](#).

Read also:

- [Coronavirus Impact Advice](#)
- [FAQ for Erasmus+ participants](#)

More information about the Erasmus+ programme and the calls can be found on the [Erasmus + Funding page](#). For a few examples of heritage-related projects supported by Erasmus+, see [this page](#). The selection results of the latest calls have now been published and can be accessed [here](#). See also the [opportunities for participation in exchange programmes and other Erasmus+ projects](#).

There is one open call now:

- [2020 Erasmus accreditation in the field of Youth](#) (deadline 31/12/2021)

Please note, the latest information about the UK's participation in Erasmus+ after Brexit can be found on [Erasmus+ Brexit update webpage](#).

Erasmus Days 2020 – Let's celebrate the Erasmus+ programme!

The 4th Edition of the #ErasmusDays took place between 15 and 17 October, when more than 4000 blended or virtual events were held to celebrate the Erasmus+ programme in Europe and all over the world. The Erasmus Days initiative is an opportunity for organisations and participants to spread the word about their projects and showcase the impact of their work.

For this special occasion, some of the people at EACEA who make this programme possible have shared their experience and personal stories about working with the programme and how it inspires them in their work and life. Watch their video testimonials or share your experience on social media with the hashtag #ErasmusDays! Check out the events world map on the #ErasmusDays website: www.erasmusdays.eu.

JPI ON CULTURAL HERITAGE AND GLOBAL CHANGE

The [Joint Programming Initiative on Cultural Heritage and Global Change \(JPI CH\)](#) supports the alignment of cultural heritage research in Europe in order to avoid fragmentation and to maximize the efficiency and added-value of national investments. In 2016 the JPI CH launched [a new 4-year \(Horizon 2020\) project](#) which supports further alignment and joint activities. During this 4-year phase JPI CH will launch four complementary calls, each with a specific thematic focus. Two calls were completed in 2017 and another one in 2019.

Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda 2020

Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda 2020 builds on SRA 2014 and reflects the political,

economic, sociocultural and technological changes that have occurred in recent years. It capitalises on the increasing policy developments both within Europe and beyond which demonstrate the intrinsic and instrumental values of heritage.

Overarching research principles have been agreed which will underpin the future joint activities of the JPI CH. They reaffirm that the initiative promotes a holistic approach to cultural heritage and encourages collaborative, transdisciplinary, interdisciplinary, innovative, basic and applied research, to meet societal challenges and contribute to sustainable development. Public participation and engagement should be at the heart of the joint activities, and education and training opportunities should be developed. SRIA 2020 aims to ensure that the JPI CH supports digital innovation within the heritage sector and contributes to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Read more [here](#).

WORKSHOP JPI Climate / JPI Cultural Heritage: « Cultural Heritage and Climate Change: New challenges and perspectives for research » / 17th September 2020 - Presentations available

The Joint Programming Initiative on Cultural Heritage and Global Change (JPI CH) held a joint expert workshop with the The Joint Programming Initiative « Connecting Climate Knowledge for Europe » (JPI CLimate), which took place on 17th September by videoconference. The aim of the workshop was to identify and discuss potential cross-priorities for research that could benefit from joint actions at the EU level from the JPI CH and the JPI Climate.

The discussed topics were:

- Impact of Climate Change on Cultural Heritage
- Cultural Heritage for sustainable development

You can download all the presentations [here](#).

HORIZON 2020

Horizon 2020 is the EU's main funding programme for research and innovation in Europe. It is a financial instrument implementing the Innovation Union, a Europe 2020 flagship initiative aimed at securing Europe's global competitiveness. The business and academic world are also challenged to come up with solutions and ideas to tackle societal issues that arise across Europe.

The Horizon 2020 programme is built around three pillars: Excellent Science, Industrial Leadership and Societal Challenges and some horizontal actions. Depending on your work area or research interest opportunities might be found under all pillars. Detailed information on calls can be found in the multiannual Work Programmes (see [WPs under sections](#)).

Commission to invest €11 billion in new solutions for societal challenges and drive innovation-led sustainable growth

The European Commission announced the budget plan for the year 2020 for Horizon 2020. Over the next year, the Commission will seek greater impact of its research funding by focusing on fewer, but crucial, topics such as climate change, clean energy, plastics, cybersecurity and the digital economy. It will also be geared towards shaping the future research and innovation landscape by preparing the way for Horizon Europe, the next framework programme (2021-2027). An important novelty under Horizon Europe will be the European Innovation Council – a one-stop-shop for innovation funding to turn science into new business and accelerate the scale-up of companies. The European Innovation Council is already running in its pilot phase and will in 2020 benefit from a budget of €1.2 billion.

Find out more [here](#).

[Factsheet](#): Focus areas

[Factsheet](#): European Innovation Council

[Factsheet](#): lump sum pilot

[Country participation in H2020](#)

[Horizon 2020 website](#)

[Funding & Tenders Portal](#)

See the online programme for 2018-2020 [here](#) all relevant reference documents [here](#).

European Green Deal call

To respond to the urgency and ambition of the European Green Deal objectives, Horizon 2020 will soon launch a call worth close to €1 billion. R&I stakeholders can help shape the call by taking part in the surveys for each of the 11 areas. Find out more [here](#).

Transition of the ERC to Horizon Europe – operational considerations

The ERC's mission and funding principles have been fully maintained by the European Union (EU) Parliament and Council during the negotiations on Horizon Europe, the successor programme to Horizon 2020. The ERC Scientific Council is satisfied with this fact, as it is in line with its [position paper](#) on that matter. Consequently, it is working to ensure a smooth transition of the ERC to Horizon Europe, which is expected to start in January 2021 and cover the period until the end of 2027.

ERC Scientific Council's planning for the 2021-2022 calls for proposals:

As in previous transitions between consecutive EU research and innovation framework programmes, the calendar of the calls in the initial year of Horizon Europe may differ from the calendar of 2020 calls for proposals. All mono-beneficiary ERC calls (Starting, Consolidator, Advanced Grants, PoC) are expected to be launched in 2021 and 2022, but their opening and closing dates will be shifted so that the first calls will be launched only in January 2021. The Scientific Council expects the call schedule to be back to the usual opening and closing timeframes by mid-2022. The modified planning will likely not include a Synergy Grant call in the ERC Work Programme 2021. This call will probably be included again in the Work Programme 2022. The Scientific Council's intention is to launch this call in the summer of 2021 with a deadline in November of the same year.

Find out more about this [here](#).

[Horizon 2020 Results New Platform](#)

[COVID-19 FAQs on Horizon 2020 calls and grants](#)

New FAQs on Horizon 2020 calls and grants published on Thursday 16 April. Continuously updated info on extension of call deadlines, Pan-European hackathon opened for registration.

[European Research Area \(ERA\) Corona Platform](#)

COVID-19 related information on research and innovation

[Horizon 2020 video - How to apply?](#)

This short video animation will guide you through the first steps you will need to take to apply to Horizon 2020.

Relevant funding strands for heritage and culture in 2019/2020 include:

- **Excellent Science**
 - [European Research Infrastructures capacities and services to address European Green Deal challenges](#) (deadline: 26/01/2021)
 - [European Researchers' Night](#) (deadline 12/01/2021)
- **Societal Challenges**
 - [European Museum Collaboration and Innovation Space](#) (deadline 12/01/2021)
 - [Behavioural, social and cultural change for the Green Deal](#) (deadline 26/01/2021)
 - [European capacities for citizen deliberation and participation for the Green Deal](#) (deadline 26/01/2021)
 - [Enabling citizens to act on climate change, for sustainable development and environmental protection through education, citizen science, observation initiatives, and civic engagement](#) (deadline 26/01/2021)
 - [Towards Climate-Neutral and Socially Innovative Cities](#) (deadline 26/01/2021)

UK participation in H2020

Regardless of the Brexit outcome, the UK government has [guaranteed to underwrite all live and successful Horizon 2020 awards submitted before exit](#) and to fund projects for their duration. The government also guarantees a [post-EU extension underwrite to fund successful UK participants under H2020 schemes open to third country participants](#) submitted after exit until end of 2020.

[EUROPEAN TERRITORIAL COOPERATION \(INTERREG V\)](#)

[Interreg V 2014-2020 \(European Territorial Cooperation\)](#) is a framework for the implementation of joint actions and policy exchanges in Europe between national, regional and local actors from different member States. The framework is part of the Cohesion Policy and promotes innovation, a better environment and harmonious economic, social and territorial development of the Union as a whole. Interreg is built around three strands of cooperation: cross-border (Interreg A, 60 cooperation programmes), transnational (Interreg B, 15 cooperation programmes) and interregional (Interreg C,

4 cooperation programmes.). There are [11 thematic objectives](#) which guide the ERDF investments 2014-2020 of which Interreg is part. Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage is one of the [investment priorities](#) (priority 6c).

Find the programme of your interest and its details [via this page](#).

Interreg Europe (former IVC)

[Interreg Europe](#) helps regional and local governments across Europe to develop and deliver better policy. The programme facilitates exchange platforms and co-finances projects in which regional and local authorities (and other partners) can exchange good examples and ideas on public policy to improve the strategies for their citizens and communities. Specific objective 4.1 (see page 21-23 of [Programme Manual](#)) includes support to cultural heritage. Interreg Europe monitoring committee has conditionally approved 74 projects out of 170 applications received in the fourth call for project proposals. Have a look at the [projects approved in the fourth call for proposals](#). Or download a [list of them](#).

Peer reviews: now also online

The Policy Learning Platform launched the peer review service to help regional authorities around Europe to get concrete, personalised solutions to their policy challenges. Typical peer reviews are conducted in person, but given the COVID-19 pandemics, a new, online format is currently proposed on a case-by-case basis. Our call for applications is always open. Have a look at the [terms of reference](#). This service is permanently open and the application is a **simple online form**. Depending on your regional context, policy needs and wishes, we will adapt and make sure you will experiment the #policylearning through tailor-made exchanges. Apply [here](#). Further information [here](#).

Covid-19 support page

As a reference programme for European regional policymakers Interreg Europe supports a community of 17 000 members for a fast recovery from the global COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences. On [this page](#), you will find information about how they can help you and how you can get involved.

Covid-19: temporary measures for Interreg Europe's projects

Interreg Europe are fully aware of the difficulties projects face due to the Covid-19 and related preventive measures. For this reason they put in place several measures to help you. Find out more [here](#).

Resilient Heritage, Cohesive Society

The 2020 EU Week of Regions and Cities, held over three weeks in October and entirely online, was bigger and more accessible than ever. [Hundreds of talks and workshops](#) were presented and can now be watched online. The workshop, *Resilient Heritage, Cohesive Society*, took place on 14 October, with partners from SHARE, [FINCH](#) and [Innocastle](#), and the head of the EU's [Sustainable Cultural Tourism](#) working group. They presented capsule good practices for managing cultural heritage properties and assets to be more resilient and inclusive. [View the session here](#).

Regions, cities and cooperation in times of COVID-19

On 13 October, four pan-European cooperation programmes joined forces to outline how cooperation can help to find solutions for recovery and out of the COVID-19 crisis. In an online session '**Keep up with interregional cooperation**' organised jointly by Interreg Europe, Interact, ESPON, and Urbact, they looked at how cities and regions were hit by COVID-19 and discussed solutions that have already been implemented locally and could inspire others around Europe. The [full session recording](#) is available on the [EURegionsWeek website](#).

OTHER CALLS, OPPORTUNITIES, CONSULTATIONS

Open call for expressions of interest for the establishment of a pool of experts to be potentially members of the Panel for the Union action "European Capital of Culture"

Open call for expressions of interest for the establishment of a pool of experts to be potentially

members of the Panel for the Union action "European Capital of Culture" under [Decision 445/2014/EU](#). Interested experts are invited to send their application at any time prior to the last 3 months of validity of the list (deadline 31/12/2020). More information [here](#).

HELPFUL SOURCES ON EUROPEAN FUNDING

- [Mapping of Cultural Heritage actions in European Union policies, programmes and activities \(updated August 2017\)](#)
- [A Guide to EU Funding \(2017 edition\)](#)
- [A Guide to EU Funding – 2014-2020 \(EPRS, 2017\)](#)
- [MOOC Make the most of EU resources for your region or city \(offered by European Committee of the Regions\)](#)

Events

Culture x Climate 2020 - virtual global forum for arts, culture and heritage-based climate action (15 October – 30 November 2020, online)

Culture x Climate 2020 runs from mid-October to the end of November 2020 and marks a key moment in history. The 2015 Paris Agreement gave each country 5 years to hear from scientists and ratchet up their climate action contributions to meet the escalating climate emergency. In the coming weeks, will find out which countries are listening. November marks one year until the next UN Climate Summit (COP26) where a precious chance awaits to get climate action on track. November marks also the one-year anniversary of the Edinburgh launch of the Climate Heritage Network -- whose members embrace the critical role that arts, culture and heritage can play in driving greater ambition and supporting rapid and just transitions to a low-carbon, climate resilience future. *Culture x Climate 2020* responds to this moment by creating a forum designed to unite all those interested in the role of arts, culture and heritage in tackling the climate emergency. It aims to enhance the capacity of the arts, culture and heritage sectors to help build a climate-neutral and resilient world in the time of COVID-19. It aims to promote new partnerships between cultural actors and stakeholders across sectors. It aims to prepare the culture sector to play its part in driving greater ambition at COP26 and beyond. Find out more [here](#).

International Cultural Heritage Fair 2020 (28-31 October 2020, online)

Ateliers d'Art de France is preparing a Digital Edition of the International Cultural Heritage Fair which will take place from October 28 to 31 on the exhibition website. This initiative will make it possible that heritage players will share the wealth of their knowledge and experience with visitors and heritage enthusiasts, despite the cancellation of the Show in its physical version. Find out more [here](#).

ROCK Open Knowledge Week – Cultural Heritage Leading Urban Futures (27-30 October, online)

On **27-30 October 2020**, ROCK invites you to join its [Open Knowledge Week "Cultural Heritage Leading Urban Futures"](#), a virtual conference for city officers, policy-makers, urban researchers, cultural actors and civic changemakers. This digital event marks the closure of the ROCK project, an Innovation Action funded by the EU Horizon 2020 programme and led by the City of Bologna, engaging 33 partners across 13 countries in exploring how cultural heritage can be the driving force behind urban sustainability. The event offers an extensive [programme](#) of 20 sessions with 50+ speakers and hundreds of participants over 4 days. During *ROCK CityTalks and Campfire Sessions* held on the first three days, city representatives will present their flagship urban interventions implemented at the local level, share stories of change and discuss lessons learnt. Participation in the ROCK Open Knowledge Week is free of charge. To join the ROCK Open Knowledge Week, register [here](#). All sessions will be held in English, with international sign language interpretation provided live. Please find more information about the event [here](#).

Web-EUROMED 2020 International Conference on digital heritage (2-5 November 2020, online)

Protecting, preserving and presenting our Cultural Heritage are frequently interpreted as change management and/or change the behaviour of the society. Joint European and international research produces a scientific background and support for such a change. We are living in a period characterized by rapid and remarkable changes in the environment, in the society and in technology. Natural change, war conflicts and man-made changes, including climate, as well as

technological and societal change, form an ever moving and colourful stage and a challenge for the society. Close cooperation between professionals, the policy makers and authorities internationally, is necessary for research, development and technology in the field of cultural heritage. More information [here](#).

ENCATC Congress on Cultural management and policy in a post-digital world – navigating uncertainty (3-12 November 2020, online)

'Post-'being linked to uncertainty, the exploration of the post-digital world is more timely than ever before. In a post-digital context, digitisation is embedded in all spheres of life and profoundly marks cultural shifts and ongoing mutations. What new, unforeseen challenges emerge for the cultural sector in a post-digital context and, in particular, after the coronavirus outbreak? The ENCATC Congress aims to provide a space for encounter, to learn from leading experts, get to common questions and look for common answers that may help all actors in the cultural management and policy sphere navigate uncharted waters. More information [here](#).

International ICOMOS Conference "Archaeological World Heritage Sites - Transnational Conservation, Communication, Cooperation" (5-6 November 2020, online)

The International ICOMOS Conference "Archaeological World Heritage Sites - Transnational Conservation, Communication, Cooperation" was planned to take place on 5-6 November 2020 in Leipzig. Due to COVID 19 restrictions, the conference will now take part online only and is free to attend. Please register at icomos@icomos.de to access the online conference. Updated programme could be accessed [here](#).

DARIAH Virtual Annual Event 2020: Scholarly Primitives

[DARIAH](#) is a European Research Infrastructure for the Humanities and Arts. Its mission is to empower scholarly communities with digital methods to create, connect and share knowledge about culture and society. The DARIAH Annual Event offers the DARIAH community and humanities scholars in general the possibility to present results and new ideas; to meet and network. Participation in the Annual Event is free of charge, but registration is required. It has been twenty years since John Unsworth famously formulated scholarly primitives -- discovering, annotating, comparing, referring, sampling, illustrating and representing -- as a set of basic scholarly activities across disciplines, theoretical frameworks or eras. We will use the DARIAH Annual Event 2020 as an opportunity to re-evaluate and probe the notion and scope of scholarly primitives in the context of the ongoing developments in the field of Digital Humanities and DARIAH's continuous efforts in shaping an effective and sustainable research infrastructure that meets the needs of humanities scholars. Find out more [here](#).

2020 European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards

The European Heritage Awards Ceremony will be held entirely online for the very first time, with the virtual participation of Mariya Gabriel, European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, and Hermann Parzinger, Executive President of Europa Nostra. During the Ceremony, the three Grand Prix laureates and the Public Choice Award winner, selected from among the [21 winners](#) of the 2020 European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards, will be announced. The Ceremony is free of charge, but registration is compulsory. Please note that in order to access the event, on 10 November, all registered participants will be asked to enter their name, email address and country as from 30 minutes before the beginning of the Ceremony. More information and link to join on the day [here](#).

EUROPEANA 2020 – Crisis, Change and Culture (11-13 November 2020, online)

The Covid crisis has brought home how connected our lives are across the globe, while the injustices and societal inequalities that exist between them have been thrown into sharp relief. Above all, this year has shown that we need to build more coherent, coordinated and effective approaches to dealing with the challenges facing society, whether it is a short-lived natural disaster, a pandemic, or the ongoing battle to combat climate change. This is as true for the cultural heritage sector as it is for our wider society. In recent months, culture has shown to be a compelling force: people turned to digital technology and communication to share culture and come together as families, in friendship groups and as communities. As we move through and on from these crises, how can digital culture create meaningful and positive change in our society? Now is the time to look critically at the role of cultural heritage and reimagine it. Europeana 2020 builds on that

momentum to explore how - together - we can develop an open, knowledgeable and creative society. Find out more and book [here](#).

EEAS Conference on the Protection of cultural Heritage (12-13 November 2020, online)

The [European External Action Service](#) (EEAS) is organizing an international conference on "The role of the European Union on the Protection and Enhancement of Cultural Heritage in conflict and crisis", on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the signature of the UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property. The conference will explore the dynamic relationship between cultural heritage and peace in the 21st Century. The conference will also discuss perspectives on how the European Union could enhance cultural heritage as a component for peace and dialogue, and integrate it in its security strategies, development and peace-building processes. The conference would gather experts from the European Union and its Member states, international and regional organizations, international foundations, civil society and academic world. Please find more information and register [here](#).

ICDH 2020: 14. International Conference on Digital Heritage (November 19-20, 2020, online)

The International Research Conference is a federated organization dedicated to bringing together a significant number of diverse scholarly events for presentation within the conference program. Events will run over a span of time during the conference depending on the number and length of the presentations. With its high quality, it provides an exceptional value for students, academics and industry researchers. Further details [here](#).

Digital forum Urban Agenda for the EU: Culture and cultural heritage in Europe (24-25 November, 2020, online)

Culture and cultural heritage are important cornerstones for the sustainable development of our living environment. As a resource and potential to create just, green and productive cities, cultural heritage has a profound effect on the cities of Europe and makes essential contributions to the quality of life. But: How to deal with cultural heritage? How to protect and develop it at the same time? And how to put it into value socially, ecologically and economically? The Partnership for Culture and Cultural Heritage of the Urban Agenda for the EU has developed a comprehensive, holistic and pragmatic approach, and it offers interested stakeholders the opportunity to participate in the development of this important European task. The German Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community and the Italian National Governmental Agency for Territorial Cohesion invite you to attend the *digital forum Urban Agenda for the EU on the 24th and 25th of November 2020* as part of the EU Council Presidency. During the forum, the action plan on cultural heritage will be discussed and finalized. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the event is planned in a digital format, and attendees will be able to actively participate via interactive online modules. A detailed program will be distributed in time. Please note that the conference will be held in English. You may already register now using the [following link](#).

Conference: Cultural Heritage for Mental Health 2 (10-11 December 2020, online)

That culture can create a social value and have a positive impact on health and wellbeing is not just a matter of belief. It's possible, provided that cultural organisations develop sustainable offerings or develop community engagement in close co-operation with communities, third parties in the care and social sectors and the health sector. In many places around the world archives, libraries, museums, galleries, universities and organisations in the health care sector are working together on long-term trajectories, projects and innovative activities. Many of these focus on using collections or creative community engagement to improve the wellbeing of people as well as measuring and evaluating the impact of those interventions. This conference wants to bring together, on Thursday 10th and Friday 11th December 2020 in Museum Dr. Guislain in Ghent (Belgium), individuals from the public, academic and voluntary sectors to promote learning, discussion and debate around cultural interventions with the aim of improving the wellbeing and health of people recovering from mental health problems or people in a vulnerable situation. It will be a so-called *blended conference* in which you can participate physically or online. The first edition of this international conference was held on 29 and 30 November 2018 in Museum Dr. Guislain. You can read a blog about it on the [website of the Culture Health and Wellbeing Alliance](#). For more information about the program and the speakers, click [here](#).

ICOMOS Webinars

As a positive consequence of the COVID-19 crisis, ICOMOS, along with its Committees and the cultural heritage community has mobilized to offer scientific symposia online and compensate for the cancellation of all events since March 2020. Enjoy e-learning with ICOMOS Webinar series! [Videos of the past events](#) are accessible by clicking on the posters on that page. Check ICOMOS [calendar](#) for the webinars to come.

Arts & Cultural Management Conference (28-30 January 2021, online)

This year's ENCATC Capacity Building Days and Youth in Action Day is taking place in the format of a conference for students and emerging professionals. The 2021 Arts & Cultural Management Conference "REvisiting Borders" will take place online from 28-30 January. Borders can be physical, digital, imagined, and cultural, to name just a few. They can empower yet restrict. They give definition but also create limitations. #ACMC21 aims to provide an engaging space for students and emerging professionals to explore, question, and discuss what borders mean in today's world, especially within the arts and culture field. Learn more about this conference and its themes [here](#).

Digital Past Conference 2021 New technologies in heritage, interpretation and outreach (10-12 February 2021, online)

Organised by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales, Digital Past is an annual two-day conference which showcases innovative digital technologies and techniques for data capture, interpretation and dissemination of the heritage of Wales, the UK and beyond. Running for the twelfth year, in light of the uncertainty caused by COVID-19 Digital Past 2021 will be held as an online conference via the Zoom platform. One day of presented talks on Wednesday 10 February will be supplemented by workshops across the week of 8 to 12 February 2021. Bringing together individuals from the commercial, public, academic, third sector and voluntary sectors, the conference aims to promote learning, discussion and debate around a range of digital technologies in current use, or in development, to record and understand the historic environment. Delegates will be offered a combination of online presentations and workshops in a friendly and informal atmosphere that aims to promote networking and exchange of ideas. More information [here](#).

World Cities Culture Summit (10-12 March 2021, Milan, Italy)

The pandemic has put extraordinary pressures on our cities and communities, but also revealed the deep value of culture. It will be more important than ever for our members to come together to share challenges and learn from one another. Milan was chosen to host next year's summit due to its diverse population, cultural vibrancy and its role as a leading city for cultural workers. Further information [here](#).

Postponed: SEMINAR Digital Technology and heritage – Challenges and Issues (New dates: 11th-12th March 2021, Paris, France)

Given the current context, and in order to limit the spread of the Covid-19 virus, the National Research Agency, the JPI-CH and the Ministry of Culture are sorry to announce the postponement of the Digital and heritage conference. The conference will instead take place on Thursday 11 and Friday 12 March 2021. The hours initially planned remain the same: Thursday 11 from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Friday 12 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Digital applied to heritage represents an important field of digital humanities, and also of what is now known as "Heritage Science". It encompasses all aspects of heritage, from cultural to natural, tangible to intangible, physical to digital. The objective of this event is to create the conditions for a scientific exchange on the current challenges of the digitization of heritage and the exploration of new possibilities offered by digital tools for the production and dissemination of knowledge. It will bring together leading researchers in the field as well as project leaders who are currently financed by the Agence Nationale de la Recherche (ANR) and its funding partner agencies in the context of national and international projects, in particular the "Digital Heritage" call, which was launched in 2017 by the Joint Programming Initiative on Cultural Heritage and Global Change (JPI CH). The conference, organized by the ANR and the JPI CH in collaboration with the French Ministry of Culture, will mainly be open to specialists of computer science and heritage science in the field of digital applied to heritage. More information [here](#).

Solidarity in culture: Heritage protection under conditions of crisis (18-20 March 2021, Zagreb, Croatia)

In response to the current global threats to world heritage that call for urgency in developing comprehensive heritage protection strategies, the National and University Library in Zagreb is

organising the international conference "Solidarity in culture: Heritage protection under conditions of crisis", in Zagreb, from 18 to 20 March 2021. The organizers have recognized the synergetic benefits of the solidarity networks of cultural institutions, yielding the most effective and immediate results in prevention, response and recovery efforts in culture, adding towards the existing general emergency services support. The aims of the conference are to facilitate understanding and dialogue about new approaches to integrated conservation and risk management based on solidarity and cooperation between diverse partners that provide potential for resilience-building to disasters. More information [here](#).

27th Annual Meeting of the European Association of Archaeologists (EAA) (8-11 September 2021, Kiel, Germany)

'Widening Horizons' is the motto of the 27th EAA Annual Meeting, as it combines the 'sense of place' of Kiel and its position in Europe, with the orientation of its university and the Johanna Mestorf Academy (the host organizer of the 2021 AM) and our shared ambition to think, speak about and act widely on environmental sustainability and climate change. It is hard not to imagine that our unsustainable resource use of the Earth has in some way caused the current rampant world pandemic. We will need intellectual, political and cultural horizons wide open to re-establish the balance of global society with its environment. EAA encourages all members to propose sessions relevant to the main themes of the Annual Meeting that include the "environmental" perspective in their scope. EAA particularly welcomes session proposals that reflect on the socio-political dimensions of archaeological knowledge and heritage, in order to facilitate the realignment of accepted practice with current and future requirements adapted to the new normal of COVID and post-COVID era. Fully adapted to the new situation, the Kiel AM is now conceived and planned as a hybrid meeting, to facilitate on site and remote attendance at the same time.

Annual Meeting registration is now open. Please register via the online form available under [registration tab](#). The call for sessions is open until 12 November 2020! Submit your session now at [submissions.e-a-a.org/ea2021](#)

Find out more [here](#).

Interpret Europe conference: Recreating tourism through heritage interpretation (1-4 October 2021, Sigüenza, Spain)

Under the theme 'Recreating tourism through heritage interpretation' we will merge heritage interpretation with sustainable tourism in order to offer unique opportunities along the tourist service chain to both locals and visitors. Everything you have come to expect from an IE conference – inspiring speakers, hands-on workshops, study visits related to our theme, parallel sessions, a very eye-catching venue and an incredible heritage to discover – can be taken for granted! More information [here](#).

[Other updates](#)

New publications and reports on culture and heritage

Please find below a list of reports, publications, briefings and studies 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.

- [Creative Europe Programme 2021-2027](#) (European Union, 2020)
- [Creative Europe Monitoring Report 2019](#) (European Union, 2020)
- [Cultural tourism out of confinement](#) (European Union, 2020)
- [European Heritage Days – Women's contribution](#) (European Union, 2020)
- [EU investments in cultural sites: a topic that deserves more focus and coordination](#) (European Court of Auditors, 2020)
- [Report from the European Commission to the EU Parliament and The Council on the proposed Regulation on the introduction and the import of cultural goods](#) (European Commission, 2020)
- [Report from the European Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, The European Social and Economic Committee and the Committee of the Regions on the Ex Post evaluation of the 2018 European Capitals of Culture \(Leeuwarden and Valletta\)](#) (European Commission, 2020)
- [Report from the European Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, The European Social and Economic Committee and the Committee of the Regions on Evaluation of the European Heritage Label \(EHL\)](#) (European Commission, 2020)
- [Joint Programming Initiative on Cultural Heritage and Global Change - Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda 2020](#) (JPI CH, 2020)
- [Towards a 2030 vision on the future of universities in the field of R&I in Europe](#) (Centre for Strategy & Evaluation Services LLP (CSSES), September 2020)

- [The Missing Pillar - Culture's Contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goals](#) (British Council, 2020)
- [Culture in crisis: policy guide for a resilient creative sector](#) (UNESCO, 2020)
- [The Tracker: Culture & Public Policy | Issue 1](#) (UNESCO, 2020)
- [Cultural Rights and Climate Change | ICOMOS Contribution to the UN Special Rapporteur Report](#) (ICOMOS, 2020)
- [Linking Cultural Heritage to Smart Specialisation Strategies](#) (ROCK, 2020)
- [Digital transformation in the time of COVID-19 - Findings and outcomes of phase 1 of Europeana's sense-making process](#) (Europeana, 2020)
- [Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe 2020](#) (Council of Europe, 2020)
- [The Innocastle Baseline Survey](#) (Interreg Europe, 2020)

Europa Nostra publishes extensive Paper on challenges and opportunities presented by the COVID-19 pandemic for the heritage world

An extensive paper on the challenges and opportunities presented by the COVID-19 pandemic for the heritage world has been issued by Europa Nostra. Entitled "[COVID-19 & BEYOND: Challenges and Opportunities for Cultural Heritage](#)", this paper provides unequivocal evidence of how deeply the pandemic has affected the heritage world and makes proposals to support the heritage sector through existing EU instruments and those proposed within the 'Next Generation EU' socio-economic recovery plan. The Paper "COVID-19 & BEYOND: Challenges and Opportunities for Cultural Heritage" summarises and analyses the main findings of a consultation on this topic conducted by Europa Nostra among its large pan-European network of members and partners. Find out more [here](#).

New European Bauhaus: a promising intention and a much needed open debate

The European Commission has called for an "innovative and aesthetic" approach to fully realize the Green New Deal in people's lives. Through focus on design, sustainability and investment, the New European Bauhaus aims to be an intersectional project that transforms environmental, economic, and cultural goals for Europe. The delivery phase of the project will focus on developing five New European Bauhaus projects across EU Member States that aim at sustainability through the intersection of art and culture and the respective adaptation to local conditions, giving attention to natural building materials, energy efficiency, demographics, future-oriented mobility or resource-efficient digital innovation. This turn to bridge culture and the Green Deal is welcomed as it paves the way to a long-awaited high-level recognition of [the role of culture in the implementation of the sustainable development goals](#), as advocated by the cultural ecosystem. The New European Bauhaus initiative aims to launch a comprehensive collaboration among European creatives and could be a promising sign of the mainstreaming of culture across various policy fields. Find out more [here](#).

4 finalists are in the running for the 2020 ENCATC Research Award

ENCATC reveals today the four finalists in the running for the [2020 ENCATC Research Award on Cultural Policy and Cultural Management](#)! Having been selected by the Award's seven international jury members, these finalists are authors of important research shedding light on contemporary cultural issues and challenges by analysing them and offering policy solutions. On the evening of 11 November, the winner will be announced at the official Ceremony being held during the 2020 [ENCATC Digital Congress "Cultural management and policy in a post-digital world – navigating uncertainty"](#) (3-11 November). Find out more [here](#).

UNESCO advocates a new model to support the culture sector beyond COVID-19

UNESCO hosted a high-level ResiliArt debate, "Celebrating 15 years of Diversity and Creativity" to reflect on developments in the culture sector over recent years and examine new policies and economic models that can favour diversity and resilience post COVID-19. The event commemorated three milestones: the 10th anniversary of the [International Fund for Cultural Diversity](#) (IFCD), the 15th anniversary of the [UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions](#) (2005 Convention) and the 40th anniversary of the [UNESCO Recommendation Concerning the Status of the Artist](#) (1980 Recommendation). These instruments have served as roadmaps for policymakers and cultural professionals around the world. Through them, UNESCO has also provided knowledge-sharing and training opportunities to partners with a view to supporting the emerging culture sectors in the global South. Lockdown measures and the closing of cultural spaces continue to erode income and endanger the livelihoods of cultural professionals, most of whom lack social and economic safety nets, which makes these UNESCO instruments particularly relevant. More information [here](#).

445 Heritage Organisations in the UK Boosted by Culture Recovery Fund

445 heritage organisations will share £103 million from two funds in the Culture Recovery Fund, to restart vital repair and maintenance work on cherished heritage sites, and to keep attractions open and support those working in the sector. This vital funding is from the first round of the Culture Recovery

Fund for Heritage and the Heritage Stimulus Fund - funded by Government and administered at arms length by Historic England and the National Lottery Heritage Fund. Both funds are part of the Government's £1.57 billion Culture Recovery Fund which is designed to secure the future of Britain's museums, galleries, theatres, independent cinemas, heritage sites and music venues with emergency grants and loans. Find out more [here](#).

Culture Action Europe contributes to the Committee of Regions consultation

Culture Action Europe has contributed to the consultation on the Restart of the Cultural and Creative Sectors initiated by the European Committee of the Regions. Acknowledging the devastating impact of COVID-19-related measures on the cultural and creative sectors in all parts of Europe, the European Committee of the Regions (CoR) intends to address this question in an own-initiative opinion on the Restart of the Cultural and Creative Sectors. The initiative was proposed by the Commission for Social Policy, Education, Employment, Research and Culture (SEDEC) and approved by the CoR Bureau on September 11. With Giuseppe Varacalli (IT/Renew Europe) appointed as its rapporteur, the draft of the Opinion will be presented in front of the SEDEC on November 25. Read more [here](#). Culture Action Europe's submission is available [here](#).

Basic principles and tips for 3D digitisation of cultural heritage

The Expert Group on Digital Cultural Heritage and Europeana has been tasked by the member states to contribute to the development of guidelines on 3D cultural heritage assets. The resulting list of basic principles and tips for 3D digitisation of tangible cultural heritage contains 10 basic principles and a number of tips for each of them geared toward cultural heritage professionals, institutions and regional authorities in charge of Europe's precious cultural heritage. [This list](#) is a living document that will be updated whenever necessary, and any suggestions for changes or additions would be very much welcome at [the DCHE's email address](#). Find out more [here](#).

ICOMOS International Polar Heritage Committee celebrates 20 years

Recognising the similarities of heritage conservation and management between the north and south polar regions, the ICOMOS International Polar Heritage Committee (IPHC) was created on the recommendation of the XII General Assembly of ICOMOS in Mexico in October 1999 and subsequently confirmed by the Executive Committee in Paris in March 2000. It was formally established on 1 November 2000 with the intention of bringing together heritage professionals working in one or both areas. Find out more [here](#).

13 projects selected for cultural cooperation with Western Balkan countries

The European Commission received a record number of almost 350 applications for cultural cooperation between Member States and the Western Balkans. The 13 projects selected will be receiving funding from the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA). These projects involve 90 cultural organisations, 54 from the Western Balkans. All the selected projects mobilise large partnerships and neighbouring EU Member States from the region were particularly active. This underlines the relevance of the call not only for the target countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of North Macedonia, Kosovo, Montenegro and Serbia) but also for EU Member States. The Western Balkans will benefit from more than half of the funding of this call in the selected projects, which represent most of the main cultural sectors. Find out more [here](#).

EU study on quality in 3D digitisation kicks off

A consortium led by the Cyprus University of Technology (CUT) has officially started working on the Study on quality in 3D digitisation of cultural heritage with funding from the European Commission. This will be the first EU study focusing on quality in the context of 3D digitisation projects. Its main objective is to map parameters, formats, standards, benchmarks, methodologies and guidelines relating to the 3D digitisation of immovable and movable tangible cultural heritage assets, considering the different potential uses, general-purpose visualisations and degree of complexity. The results of the study are intended to benefit not only the research sector but also to provide all stakeholders, from policy makers to small museum directors interested in digitising cultural heritage objects, monuments and sites with detailed and easy-to-read guidelines. Read more [here](#).

The Best in Heritage 2020

The Best in Heritage 2020 digital edition was a journey that lasted for 3 months and that took us all over the planet. The 42 interviews with laureates from the past year provided a diverse selection of material for all interested in best practices and innovations in the wide field of cultural heritage and public memory institutions. The series featured talks with prominent laureates from the past year, coming from art to civil rights museums, educational programmes to costume festivals, from national libraries to restored castles, conservation projects to archaeological digs, disrupted exhibitions to vital educational programmes, and covering a vast array of new trends with immersive recreations of historical events and places, interactive visits, wide-reaching social media campaigns and open access collections.

All videos are available on a single web-page here: <https://www.thebestinheritage.com/conference> with more information on laureates and representatives that took part here: <https://www.thebestinheritage.com/featuring>

Future Making in the Anthropocene links research with decision-making in heritage conservation

Future Making in the Anthropocene is a journalistic project that positions itself in the mental space between heritage and spatial design. Through research into the future of European heritage sites and landscapes, the project aims to unravel the conditions of the Anthropocene – the age of humans – in order to imagine better-balanced futures for European cities and landscapes. Future Making consists of a series of open-access online articles playing into four urgent issues: climate change, cultural diversity, mass tourism and digitalisation. The method consists of following and interviewing 30 young researchers in their search for a scientific base for possible futures and heritage conservation. The researchers are enrolled in two research programs – [Heriland](#) and [Terranova](#) – that consist of a collaboration between 40 European universities, NGOs and companies. The VU University Amsterdam is coordinator of both programmes. Find out more [here](#).

New laser-scanning project will allow Venice to live on forever as a digital avatar

Look out over the water from the Doge's Palace in Venice and you see the island of San Giorgio, home to the Fondazione Giorgio Cini, with its archives, rare books, music and high-level international conferences. It has nearly completed a project that is breathtaking in its ambition and implications. This summer, Adam Lowe and his team from the Factum Foundation, with ARCHiVE, the École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne and Iconem, have made a digital record of all its buildings, inside and out, in such high resolution that San Giorgio now exists in a terabyte of data, a kind of a digital avatar. They have used a LiDAR (light-detection and ranging) scanner, which sends out a pulsed laser light towards the target object and measures the time it takes the laser to return. It calculates the distance the light has travelled, and plots that point in a digital 3D space. This will allow the encroachments of the water and the consequent damage to the island and buildings to be monitored precisely as the water level rises in the Adriatic and the lagoon. And this is a certainty, according to the highly authoritative IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change), although the levels it predicts vary according to various environmental scenarios. More information [here](#).