

European Affairs Update

October 2024



Budapest, location of EAC Board meeting, Oct 2024 © EAC

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- [Presidency Council of the European Union](#): Jul-Dec 2024 Hungary. Jan-Jun 2025 Poland. July-Dec 2025 Denmark.
- [Committee of Ministers \(CoE\) chairmanship](#): May-Nov 24 Lithuania. Nov 24- May 25 Luxembourg. May-Nov 25 Malta.
- [European Capitals of Culture 2024](#): Bad Ischl (Austria), Bodø (Norway) and Tartu (Estonia).

Did you know? Every Presidency issues a music playlist, here are [Songs from Hungary](#).

European Union

EU enlargement: Western Balkans

15 Oct: Second accession talks were held between the [EU and Albania](#) since it became a candidate country in 2014. Albania is one of eight countries - with Bosnia & Herzegovina, Georgia, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Turkey and Ukraine - waiting in the wings to join the 27-country bloc. Enlargement has largely stalled after 2014 but has been given fresh impetus after Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine. The bloc's existing member states must unanimously agree on enlargement, however, and they have been more cautious, reiterating that the process must remain merit-based.

EU draft budget for 2025

Oct 24: In September, national governments agreed on the Commission's 'prudent' EU budget for 2025, with €8.17 billions of cuts, including loss of €400 million to Horizon Europe, €295 million to Erasmus+, and the Connecting Europe Facility Digital (€110m). But [MEPs on the European Parliament's budget committee have opposed proposals for cuts](#), calling instead for increases when adopting their position on the Commission's draft budget for 2025. MEPs are aligned in supporting a substantial 2025 budget for Horizon Europe as they aim to prioritise programmes for health, education, agriculture, and a 'fair, green and digital' transition, and to enable reinforced focus on innovation in order to boost competitiveness. Parliament will vote on its own 2025 budget this month, and negotiations with national governments and the Commission are open until November 18, the legal deadline for reaching an agreement.

Multi-annual financial framework (MFF) for 2028-34: change and competitiveness

10 Oct 24: Negotiations between the Commission and member states are underway over legislative proposals for the next MFF (2028 onwards) and the tenth Framework Programme for research and innovation, with the outcomes due in the first half of 2025. Following a [Commission report](#) that has identified that the EU's productivity and economic growth has been slowing due to underinvestment in science and technology, there are reports that [significant reorganisation of the structure of the MFF may be proposed](#), and that combining several strands of science and technology funding, including Horizon, ERC and Digital Europe, into one [competitiveness fund](#), may also be proposed.

EU culture and creative sectors policy – overview 2019-2024, future perspectives 2024-2029

4 Sep 24: The CULT Committee presented a [recently published study](#), commissioned to provide a comprehensive overview on current and future issues to be expected in the area of EU culture and creative sectors (CCS) policy in the term 2024-2029. In the 2019-2024 legislative term, significant systemic transformations and crises within European societies – COVID-19; ongoing conflict in Ukraine; digital environment regulation; green transition – profoundly impacted the CCS and responsible policymakers. The New European Agenda for Culture and other strategic frameworks have highlighted the importance of culture in driving positive societal change and promoting well-being, innovation and sustainable development. However, the EU strategic agenda for 2024-2029 largely overlooks the role that the CCS can play in realising its priorities. From the analysis in this study, this can be considered as a serious shortcoming and a missed opportunity to strategically embed the CCS within the European project. While the EU's policy framework includes some crucial legal frameworks to regulate the digital sphere and other areas, it lacks a comprehensive and holistic approach to fully support the CCS. The study highlights four main policy areas that need strategic attention in the 2024-2029 term to further unlock the CCS' potential: Support for the CCS is an investment in creating better futures; Updating the CCS ecosystems to be more sustainable and resilient; Safe spaces nourish cultural interaction and cohesion; Making better use of cooperative governance opportunities to improve the effectiveness of EU CCS policymaking.

ARCHE Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda: key messages

Stakeholders are invited to give feedback on the [key messages and preliminary findings of the ARCHE Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda](#) (SRIA), which will be the masterplan for future research and innovation activities on cultural heritage in Europe (taking over from JPI CH 2020 SRIA). The consultation will inform the final version of the SRIA and shape the role of cultural heritage research in addressing the impact of climate change and contributing to effective climate action. The SRIA aims at guiding policy coordination across Europe, as well as the priorities for future calls for project proposals and other complementary activities, hence it is crucial for it to be as representative as possible and for the consultation process to include all relevant stakeholder categories.

CULT committee meetings

4 Oct: The 6-7 Nov meeting of the CULT Committee has been cancelled, the next meeting will take place on [2-3 Dec 2024](#).

Council of Europe

Council of Europe Landscape Convention: draft report on Landscape and Health

9 Sep: Preparation for a [Recommendation and report on Landscape and Health](#) has been underway since 2023, and in the latest phase, the Secretariat of the CoE Landscape Convention organised a meeting of experts to review the drafts. The online meeting brought together 14 participants from 9 member states, representing national authorities, non-governmental organisations and academia, who underlined three key points: Landscape quality contributes to the well-being and health, both physical and mental; The planet's triple crisis of pollution, climate change and loss of biodiversity has a negative impact on landscape quality; the degradation, impoverishment and standardisation of the landscape are detrimental to the well-being and health of people. Following the working group's review, the draft report will be presented for approval to the CDCPP, and then the documents will be communicated to the Committee of Ministers, with a view to the adoption of the Recommendation and transmission to the member States of the Council of Europe.

Council of Europe Landscape Convention: 12th Conference

The [12th Conference on the Convention](#) will take place 29-30 October 2024, Strasbourg. It will enable representatives of the States Parties to strengthen their co-operation in the light of the Organisation's new objectives in the field of human rights and the environment. The programme has been issued.

13th session of Steering Committee for Culture, Heritage and Landscape (CDCPP)

The [13th session](#) will be held 19-21 November 2024 in Strasbourg. The agenda is not available yet, but The draft report on landscape and health (see above) will be presented.

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 for beneficiaries of EU funding during these seven years. Find out how the EU distributes the budget of the [Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027](#) - here you can see how much is allocated to each programme.

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

Creative Europe

Creative Europe 2024 work programme

The [2024 Creative Europe Work Programme](#) comes with a budget of more than €320 million.

Creative Europe 2025-2027

23 Sep: with a budget of almost €340 million, in [2025 Creative Europe](#) will continue supporting the creative and cultural sectors, including audiovisual. It will build on the achievements of the past four years and integrate further green, digital and social inclusion aspects. In addition to the existing actions in the Culture strand, the European Commission will publish a number of new calls in 2025, including: European Cooperation Projects; call to select three consortia to help Ukrainian cultural and creative sectors organisations, artists and culture professionals tackle the ongoing and future consequences of the war, in cooperation with organisations from other Creative Europe countries; call to select a pillar-assessed organisation or organisations to implement the Culture Moves Europe action; call to select an organisation (or a consortium of organisations) active in the field of heritage tasked with the implementation of a new EU Prize for Jewish Cultural Heritage.

Open Calls:

14 Sep 23: The [Annual Work Programme for Creative Europe](#) confirmed that there will be no open call for large-scale cooperation projects in 2024, and that open calls will be announced once in every two years.

Forthcoming calls:

There are no forthcoming calls.

JPI on Cultural Heritage and Global Change

Open Calls:

There are no open calls.

Forthcoming calls:

There are no forthcoming calls.

Horizon Europe

Horizon Europe is the EU's key funding programme for 2021-27 for research and innovation with a budget of €95.5 billion. It tackles climate change, helps to achieve the UN's Sustainable Development Goals and boosts the EU's competitiveness and growth. The Horizon Europe programme is structured around three pillars, divided into specific subjects: Pillar I: Excellent Science; Pillar II: Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness, including cluster Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society; Pillar III: Innovative Europe. The full programme structure can be found [here](#).

Horizon Europe 2025-2027

Mar 24: The second Horizon Europe [strategic plan 2025-2027](#) was issued. The strategic plan sets out 3 strategic orientations for research and innovation investment: Green transition, Digital transition, A more resilient, competitive, inclusive and democratic Europe.

Oct 24: In September, national governments agreed a 2025 budget which included loss of €400 million to Horizon Europe, but MEPs on the European Parliament's budget committee have opposed this. Negotiations with national governments and the Commission are open until November 18, the legal deadline for reaching an agreement.

Open Calls:

A European Collaborative Cloud for Cultural Heritage. All deadline **22 January 2025:**

Innovative tools for advanced data enrichment [HORIZON-CL2-2024-HERITAGE-ECCCH-01-03](#)

Innovative tools for documenting, interlinking and organising data [HORIZON-CL2-2024-HERITAGE-ECCCH-01-02](#)

Innovative tools for the study, conservation and restoration of heritage objects [HORIZON-CL2-2024-HERITAGE-ECCCH-01-05](#)

Innovative tools for high-value interactions with visitors and heritage objects [HORIZON-CL2-2024-HERITAGE-ECCCH-01-04](#)

Innovative tools for digitisation and analysis of dynamic processes, objects and complex combined data [HORIZON-CL2-2024-HERITAGE-ECCCH-01-01](#)

Forthcoming Calls:

There are no forthcoming calls.

UK participation in Horizon Europe: The UK agreed a deal to associate to Horizon Europe on 7 September 2023. All calls in Work Programme 2024 will be covered by association. The 'Horizon Europe guarantee' scheme provides funding to researchers and innovators who were unable to receive their Horizon Europe funding while the UK was in the process of associating. UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) is delivering the funding through its grant systems on behalf of the Department for Science, Innovation & Technology (DSIT).

European Research Council

9 Jul: The 2025 Work Programme of the ERC was adopted. More than €2.7 billion will be available for research grants in the coming year. This includes contributions from the countries associated to Horizon Europe. In addition, EU countries can allocate resources from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) to help the ERC fund proposals rated as excellent, but which cannot be funded due to budget constraints. These grants must however remain hosted at an institution in the country which contributes their ERDF funds. Indicative summary of calls [here](#).

Open calls:

[Call for proposals for ERC Synergy Grant \(ERC-2025-SyG\)](#) Deadline **6 November 2024**

[Call for Proposals for ERC Consolidator Grant \(ERC-2025-COG\)](#) Deadline **14 January 2025**

Swiss participation: 4 Jul: Three of the ERC's grant competitions for the forthcoming ERC work programme 2025 (Starting Grant, Consolidator Grant and Synergy Grant) will be open to researchers based in Swiss entities, as "entities established in Associated Countries". The European Commission's decision on eligibility for ERC calls has been taken in the context of the ongoing negotiations between the EU and Switzerland on a broad package of measures, which includes Switzerland's association to Union Programmes such as Horizon Europe. The decision goes beyond what the Commission committed to in the Common Understanding and is a clear sign of a goodwill in the negotiation process.

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.

Open calls:

There are no open calls with direct cultural heritage relevance.

Forthcoming calls:

There are no forthcoming calls with direct cultural heritage relevance.

Post-2020 European Territorial Cooperation Programmes (INTERREG)

Interreg programmes for the 2021-2027 period were agreed in January 2022. Interreg funds projects that bring together policy organisations from across Europe. For four years, they learn from each other and work together on a shared policy issue. The lessons they learn lead to the improvement of regional policies and a more sustainable economic, social and environmental impact on the ground for the people and the place they serve.

Open calls:

[Fourth call for proposals](#) was launched on 01 October, 2024, the call budget will be around €37 million Euros. The call opens in two steps, the first deadline is **2 December 2024**.

Results from the [third call for proposals](#) are expected in **December 2024**.

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

Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV): EU program 2021-2027

18 Jul: CERV multiannual work programme for 2023-2025: Actions in 2025 were published. The (CERV) programme continues to address the policy priorities set under its four strands as for 2023 and 2024. The [budget breakdown for 2025](#) is just under €225 million.

Open calls (relevant only):

There are no open calls.

Forthcoming calls:

The [indicative schedule for 2025 calls](#) has been published.

Erasmus+

Open Calls:

There are no open calls with direct cultural heritage relevance.

The 2025 call will open in **November 2024**, with deadlines in February 2025.

UK participation: The UK has opted not to take part as an associated third country in the Erasmus+ programme 2021-27. A limited number of opportunities from 2021 onwards will remain open to UK participation because they are open to institutions or individuals from all over the world.

Other calls

Survey: EU culture and creative sectors policy - Overview and future perspectives

[Feedback is invited](#) on the recently published research of the CULT committee.

Consultation: ARCHE Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda

[Stakeholders are invited to give feedback](#) on the [key messages and preliminary findings of the ARCHE Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda](#) (SRIA), which will take over the JPI CH 2020 SRIA and be the masterplan for future research and innovation activities on cultural heritage in Europe, as well as laying out the priorities for future calls for project proposals and other complementary activities, hence it is crucial for it to be as representative as possible and for the consultation process to include all relevant stakeholder categories. The survey is **open until 15 November 2024**. Learn more about the overall [ARCHE SRIA process](#).

Call to establish a pool of experts to 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

[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

Call for Sessions: 2025 Annual Meeting of the European Association of Archaeologists (EAA)

The 31st EAA Annual Meeting will be held 3-6 September in Belgrade, Serbia, and online. The themes are: On artefacts and beyond; Intertwined Epistemologies: Transcending the Data – Theory Divide; Exploring methods in research, education and communication; De nobis fabula narratur: archaeological practice and a profession in flux; Finding the way! Archaeological sciences and opening new research perspectives; Intertwining archaeology, heritage, and museums; Climate Change in the Past and Present; Along and across the Danube! The [Call for Session Proposals](#) is now open until 31 October.

Call for papers: 2025 Annual Meeting of the European Archaeological Council (EAC)

The 26th EAC Annual Meeting will be held 27-29 March 2025 in Gdansk, Poland. The theme is 'Life after life of archaeological archives – accessibility and re-use of archaeological collections in heritage management'. The event is co-organised by the National Institute of Cultural Heritage, Archaeological Museum of Gdańsk and Museum of Gdańsk, and will be hosted by the Museum of Gdańsk. [Concept note here](#).

Registration open: 2024 ICOMOS Annual General Assembly

The 2024 ICOMOS Annual General Assembly and scientific symposium will be held 10-17 Nov in Ouro Preto, Brazil, and online. For this year's edition, the Symposium will explore the theme "Revisiting the Venice Charter: Critical Perspectives and Contemporary Challenges". The aim is to thoroughly re-examine the Venice Charter in the light of contemporary challenges, focusing on five key sub-themes. [Registration is now open](#).

18th annual EHHF meeting

The [18th edition of the Forum](#) takes place 4-6 December 2024 in Kraków, hosted by the Polish National Heritage Institute. The theme is 'Heritage in emergencies', and the meeting provides the opportunity to discuss the challenges posed by man-made and natural emergency situations and foster meaningful discussions on how to strengthen the resilience of cultural heritage in current challenging times, reinforcing the importance of cooperation, information exchange, and sharing best practices among national heritage bodies. Attendance by invitation only.

Call for submissions: 2025 European Heritage Awards/ Europa Nostra Awards

14 Oct: The [European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards 2025](#) is open for submissions, deadline 20 Nov 2024. The Awards recognise exceptional achievements in the protection, conservation, research and promotion of cultural heritage, covering a wide range of categories and project types – from tangible to intangible heritage.

Call for papers: 2025 ICAHM Annual Meeting

1 Sep: The 2025 ICAHM Annual Meeting will be held at the cultural town of San Pedro de Atacama, Chile, 12-16 May 2025. The themes are: Strategies and Objectives for the Management of Archaeological Heritage, Archaeology, Astronomy and Geoglyphs in Northern Chile and Surrounding Areas, Climate Change, Integrity and Archaeological Sites Management, Processes of Plundering and Restitution of Archaeological and Anthropological Collections, Archaeology and the Role of New Technologies In the Presentation and Interpretation of Archaeological Sites, Archaeological Heritage and Sustainable Tourism, Public Archaeology and Native Peoples. The [call for papers and registration is now open](#), closes 10 Jan 2025.

Call for papers: European Journal of Cultural Management and Policy (EJCMP) Special Issue

14 Oct: Following the ENCATC Congress 2024, held in Lecce in September, [ENCATC invites submissions for a Special Issue](#) on the theme of the Congress: "Culture that matters: Interdisciplinary Approaches for Sustainable Futures". This call targets not only researchers attending the 2024 Education and Research Session, but all researchers working in this topic and willing to maximise the visibility of their research. The ENCATC Education and Research Session was a rich forum for the exchange of innovative research and ideas in cultural management and policy. This Special Issue will serve as an important resource for scholars and practitioners worldwide, contributing to the ongoing discourse on interdisciplinary approaches to culture and sustainability.

29th CHNT-ICOMOS Annual Conference

The annual conference on Cultural Heritage and New Technologies will take place in Vienna, 4-6 Nov 2024 and online. [Registration is now open](#).

The European Association for Heritage Interpretation Conference 2025

The [Interpret Europe conference 2025](#) will take place 11-14 April, Sulejówek (Poland), on the theme Heroes, anti-heroes and villains: How we (re)create, use and dismantle them.

Call for papers: 52nd International Conference on Computer Applications and Quantitative Methods in Archaeology (CAA)

The 52nd International CAA Conference will be held in Athens, Greece, from [5-9 May 2025](#). Proposals are invited for sessions on any aspect of computer applications or quantitative methods in archaeology. Sessions engaging with the theme "Digital Horizons: Embracing Heritage in an Evolving World" to discuss the current state of the field are warmly encouraged. The [CAA2025 call for papers](#) will be open until 29 Oct 2024.

Call for papers: Post-medieval Archaeology Congress 2025

The 7th annual congress takes place in [Lisbon, 11-13 April 2025](#), hosted by the National Maritime Museum and the National Archaeology Museum. The [call for papers has been extended](#) to 1 Nov 2024.

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 EAA is pleased to announce it has a new website. During the transition, both the old (current) and new sites will run in parallel for testing, before the EAA fully switch to the new platform. [Visit the new site](#) and help improvements by completing the [feedback survey](#).

The [EAA 2024 Book prize winners](#):

Cooney, G (2023) Death in Irish Prehistory
Warren, G (2022) Hunter-Gatherer Ireland: making connections in an island world

[EU culture and creative sectors policy - overview and future perspectives](#) (CULT committee, 2024)

[State of Culture](#) (Culture Action Europe 2024)

[AI4Culture platform](#): Empowering Cultural Heritage through Artificial Intelligence

DE-BIAS [Community Engagement Methodology](#)

Other updates

UKRAINE

A wide range of organisations have issued statements and launched initiatives to support Ukraine and its cultural heritage. A (non-exhaustive) list:

- Second phase of Europa Nostra and Global Heritage Fund's [crowdfunding campaign](#) to support the defenders of Ukraine's endangered heritage
- [Polish Support Center for Culture in Ukraine](#): the task of the Center is to coordinate support to save the Ukrainian cultural heritage threatened by hostilities.
- The [Working Group of the Europeana Initiative](#) is open to anyone who would like to volunteer their efforts to support Ukraine's cultural heritage sector and our Ukrainian colleagues.
- [EU supports Ukraine through culture](#).
- European Parliament: [Russia's war on Ukraine's cultural heritage](#)
- Council of Europe: [War in Ukraine](#).
- Statements by [UNESCO](#), [ERC Scientific Council](#), [Europa Nostra](#), [ICOMOS](#), [ICOMOS Europe Group](#), [Europeana Foundation](#), [ENCATC](#), [JPI CH](#), [Libraries for Ukraine](#), [EESC](#)
- ICOMOS: [Resources for individual Ukrainian professionals, scholars or students in the arts and the heritage field](#)
- Network of European Museum Organisations: [Museums support Ukraine-](#) resources.
- Culture Action Europe: [#CultureForUkraine-](#) resources

- ERC for Ukraine: [jobs for researchers fleeing Ukraine](#).
- [SUM- Save the Ukraine Monuments](#)- project to save digital documentation of Ukrainian cultural heritage.

ICCROM and United States: \$1 Million Project to Help Ukraine Safeguard its Cultural Heritage

19 Sep: At the G7 Culture Ministerial in Naples, Italy, ICCROM and USA officials signed a grant agreement for \$1 million grant through the US State Department's Ukraine Cultural Heritage Response Initiative. In collaboration with Ukraine's Ministry of Culture and Strategic Communication, [ICCROM will implement strategies to safeguard and restore endangered heritage sites](#), engaging local communities in preservation efforts. This \$1 million contribution is the second-largest grant awarded under the Ukraine Cultural Heritage Response Initiative.

Joint UNESCO/ICOMOS mission to help enhance emergency preparedness of the Saint Sophia Cathedral complex, Kyiv

19 Aug: a [joint UNESCO/ICOMOS mission](#) on Advanced documentation of the state of conservation and emergency preparedness planning for the Saint-Sophia Cathedral complex took place in Kyiv, Ukraine 28 Jul- 7 Aug. The activity took place within the framework of the UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust Project 'Support for Ukraine in culture and education through UNESCO; Emergency response for World Heritage and cultural property: damage assessment and protection'. It was carried out as a follow-up to previous UNESCO/ICOMOS/ICCROM inception training on Documentation for State of Conservation for World Heritage Properties and Disaster Risk Management and a series of missions and online workshops to provide guidance, support and methodological tools to improve the state of conservation of World Heritage and Tentative List sites in Ukraine.

UN Pact for the Future and Culture2030Goal

Sep 24: world leaders convened at the United Nations for the [Summit of the Future](#), a high-level event which adopted the '[Pact for the Future, Global Digital Compact and Declaration on Future Generations](#)'. It emphasises the importance of youth engagement in policy processes, and the role of the UN as a platform for collaborative solutions. Action 11 states 'we will protect and promote culture and sport as integral components of sustainable development'. The Culture2030Goal campaign held a side event 'No future without culture: reflecting and imagining on the place of culture in delivering the pact for the future.'

European Cultural Heritage Summit and European Heritage Policy Agora 2024

8 Oct: [The Summit took place 6-8 Oct in Bucharest](#), organised by Europa Nostra and co-funded by the Creative Europe Programme, under patronage of the President of Romania. The European Heritage Policy Agora was held within the frame of the summit, and aimed to explore ways to better integrate heritage practice within European policy and discuss the concept of quality with an emphasis on challenges linked to the climate crisis. In the panel, 'The Road Ahead: Towards More Resilient Heritage Ecosystems,' the President of the ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Energy and Sustainability (ISCES), discussed the evolution of heritage policies in response to climate change in Germany. She stressed the need for early involvement of heritage authorities in planning processes to integrate climate resilience measures and to counter the perception that heritage preservation hinders climate action. She also highlighted ICOMOS' role in bridging global discussions with local implementation by providing a knowledge hub, sharing best practices, and facilitating collaboration among various stakeholders to ensure that heritage conservation aligns with sustainable development goals.

Culture Action Europe (CAE) launches State of Culture report

14 Oct: CAE publishes this report which is an outcome of a non-academic policy research initiative exploring how culture's role and value are framed in national and European cultural policies. [State of Culture](#) also gathers insights from key stakeholders across the cultural and creative sectors on the major challenges and opportunities they face in the present world. The report explores new pathways for positioning the cultural sector in response to the evolving social and political landscape by offering a deeper understanding of the current state of culture. It raises critical questions about the role of culture and the arts in society and examines how the cultural sector can effectively contribute to societal resilience and transformation. Additionally, the report provides fresh perspectives for advocacy and policy, renewing the language around cultural discourse and highlighting key messages to be addressed by both the sector and policy-makers.

European Heritage Hub: Call to Action for Responsible Digital Transition in Cultural Heritage

7 Oct: 400 (in person and online) attended the second European Heritage Hub Forum, 'Championing a responsible digital transition for and with cultural heritage' as part of the European Cultural Heritage Summit 2024. This edition explored the themes of a socially and environmentally responsible digital transition for and with cultural heritage. The main outcome was the [Call to Action 'Championing a](#)

[Responsible Digital Transition for and with Cultural Heritage](#). Incorporating diverse perspectives from leading (digital) heritage experts, policymakers at all levels, and representatives from civil society from all across Europe, the Call outlines five key priorities for cultural heritage in the context of digital transformation, which hold particular significance with the newly elected EU institutions.

AUTOMATA, part of European Collaborative Cloud for Cultural Heritage (ECCCH) launched

22 Oct: One of the first European Content Cloud for Cultural Heritage (ECCCH) projects working with ECHOES, [AUTOMATA held its kick-off meeting in Pisa](#). At present, creating 3D models is a time-consuming and complicated process. AUTOMATA will develop tools and workflows that will make the scanning of archaeological objects such as lithics and ceramics for creating 3D models more efficient and cost-effective. This will make it cheaper and easier for museums and other owners of artefacts to digitise their collections and to upload the 3D models, all the related data and information such as images and text descriptions into the ECCCH where they can be accessed by everyone. ECHOES will work closely with AUTOMATA to ensure that all the data, tools and workflows are made available in a consistent way that follows international standards such as linked open data and a metadata schema so that everything can be found and used easily, whether for research purposes, archiving or just browsing of the 3D models.

New COST Action, Managing Artificial Intelligence in Archaeology (MAIA)

20 Sep: The advent of Artificial Intelligence (AI) applications within archaeology has brought incredible opportunities but also significant challenges. The [MAIA COST Action](#) will create a community of archaeologists, digital archaeologists and computer scientists who will work together to develop a shared understanding of AI applications in archaeology. This will include meetings and workshops bringing together researchers who wish to create or use digital collections and training data. Key to this will be training opportunities in the field for documenting archaeological resources optimised for AI research and Short Term Scientific Missions, where researchers can work across borders to understand how to create comparative and training data.

AI4Culture: Launching the AI4Culture Platform: empowering cultural heritage with AI tools and resources

4 Oct: The [AI4Culture project launches new platform](#) which offers cultural heritage institutions access to tools and resources on AI. The platform will feature a suite of AI tools tailored to meet the diverse needs of these institutions. At its core, AI4Culture aims to repurpose and customise existing digital components, making them more accessible and user-friendly for cultural heritage professionals. The tools will be packaged and presented in an interface to ensure seamless integration, allowing institutions to adopt and reuse them without requiring detailed technical expertise. The platform consists of three main sections. The first is about Open Source AI Tools designed for cultural heritage institutions to automate and optimise various tasks, such as transcription, image analysis, subtitling and metadata enrichment. The second section collects Cultural Heritage Datasets for training, testing, and evaluating AI models, facilitating their customisation and fine-tuning to meet the sector's unique characteristics and needs. The third part, Upskilling Resources, gathers resources that accompany the tools and datasets, including articles discussing various applications, tutorials and more.

Heritage Adapts to Climate Alliance (HACA) Initiative

3 Sep: In 2025, the UN is planning to recommend to national governments a set of model indicators for measuring progress in adapting heritage sites and cultural practices to climate change. In order to help diverse heritage advocates engage with this UN planning process, ICOMOS has joined with the Preserving Legacies project and the Climate Heritage Network to launch the [Heritage Adapts to Climate Alliance \(HACA\) initiative](#). The HACA initiative was launched in response to the adoption by national governments meeting at the 2023 UN Climate Conference (COP28) of the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) framework. This framework aims to provide guidance for national governments and other stakeholders to implement various actions, including those aimed at protecting cultural heritage from climate-related risks. This breakthrough recognition of heritage in international climate policy offers a path to climate finance for heritage adaptation projects and to including heritage advocates in local, regional and national climate policy making. The HACA initiative has been launched to ensure that this potential is realized through robust, timely engagement by heritage advocates in the implementation of the GGA. HACA is open to all stakeholders, professionals, advocates and researchers working in the field of culture, heritage and climate adaptation.

Climate Heritage Network (CHN) 'Imagining Low Carbon, Just, Climate Resilient Futures Through Culture and Heritage' project

23 Sep: [CHN launches a new project](#), made possible by a \$1.25 million grant from the Mellon Foundation (and other funding). The initiative aims to leverage culture and heritage as powerful catalysts for effective climate action, empowering communities worldwide to safeguard their cultural legacies while promoting sustainable futures. The exclusion of the socio-cultural dimension in climate action finds parallels in the inattention to the climate change crisis in cultural heritage practice. Visionary examples of culture-based climate action exist, but their promise is not being realized at

scale. These shortcomings leave both the cultural heritage field and the communities it serves ill-prepared to manage change. The Project targets the CHN's North America and Africa regions but is designed to have global impact. The project also includes support for the Global Call to Put Cultural Heritage, Arts, and the Creative Sector at the Heart of Climate Action campaign, which now includes over 1,000 cultural organizations and leaders around the world.

2024 European Heritage Days: Heritage of Routes, Networks and Connections

This year's [European Heritage Days festivities](#) commenced in Sept, with programmes in over 40 countries set to invite the public to discover more about cultural heritage across the continent. Many events used the shared annual theme, Heritage of Routes, Networks and Connections to showcase the interconnections which have shaped Europe's rich and diverse heritage throughout history, from ancient roads and trade networks to modern digital links.

ARIADNE RI General Assembly

30 Aug: The [3rd ARIADNE RI General Assembly](#) was held at the National Library, Rome (and via Zoom). The Catalogue has now surpassed 4m records and ARIADNE is attracting important institutions such as the Swedish School at Rome, the Digital Repository of Ireland and the Swiss Institute of Archaeology among others. Three more collections have been added: records of messages in bottles (from shipwrecked sailors from the 18th-19th centuries), sonar wreck surveys from the Irish Seas (IMARDIS from the University of Bangor) and the first digital records to link to 'analogue' shelf references from the University of Portsmouth. Later in the year, enhanced records from AIS-CR of the Czech Republic will be added. Several new datasets are also in the pipeline, which cover north Africa, fieldwork surveys and reports from Ireland and Switzerland plus data from Athens and Rome. The main SHADE deliverable is the ARIADNE RI Business Plan which covers the next four years of activities.

European Archaeological Heritage Prize, and EAA Student Award 2024

The winners have been announced in the various categories for the 2024 edition of the Heritage Prize. [Find all the winners here](#). The [EAA Student Prize](#) was awarded to Giacomo Casucci for paper 'Fire installations on the Anatolian Peninsula: A comparative analysis from the Late Bronze Age to the Iron Age'.

European Research Council (ERC) Starter Grants announced

5 Sep: The [ERC has announced the award of 494 Starting Grants](#) to young scientists and scholars across Europe. The funding - totalling nearly €780 million - supports cutting-edge research in a wide range of fields, from life sciences and physics to social sciences and humanities. Projects of heritage interest include a [research project by the University of Tartu \(Estonia\)](#) to study the identities of distant ancestors based on their diet. Over the next five years, researchers will analyse c.150 burials, mainly from Estonia, dating from 1000-1400: skeletons, teeth, dental plaque, but also pottery buried as grave goods. Differently from earlier research that has focused primarily on single molecules, such as lipids or proteins, this project will for the first time combine all known methods, including the analysis of different biomolecules and high-resolution methods. These make it possible to obtain more nuanced dietary data, e.g. not only to determine whether a person ever ate fish but also whether the fish was cod or herring. The skeletons will be also examined for DNA to identify possible family links. Machine learning will be used to combine analytical methods and identify relations.

Culture as a connector in Europe's cities

27 Sept: The [Eurocities Culture Forum](#) took place in Belfast, exploring how culture can bring people together and solve urban challenges. Under the theme 'Culture as a connector', cities showcased projects that harness the power of art and heritage to improve social cohesion, boost local economies, and tackle environmental issues.

Sustainable cities and towns: Aalborg Conditions presented

2 Oct: Mayors and representatives from across Europe gathered at the [10th European Conference on Sustainable Cities and Towns](#), organised by ICLEI Europe and the City of Aalborg (Denmark), to call for stronger cooperation between the EU, national and local level to fast track Europe's transition to climate neutrality. The Aalborg Conditions were formally presented: they have been developed based on a continuous European Sustainable Cities movement over the past 30 years in response to global and European agreements and policies. The Conditions call for Shared Governance, Integrated Finance and a Cohesive Transition to drive Europe towards a climate-neutral and competitive future and also create local markets for clean industries and jobs and present a clear framework for the next EU legislative period.

DE-BIAS project launches a Community Engagement Methodology

29 Aug: The DE-BIAS project, funded by the Digital Europe Programme and implemented by a consortium of aggregators, SMEs, knowledge institutions and organisations specialised in participatory practices, aims to foster a more inclusive and up-to-date approach to describing cultural collections.

Central to this project is the development of an AI-powered tool designed to detect and contextualise offensive terms in the metadata of cultural heritage collections, in turn to promote the use of respectful and inclusive language. A second pillar of the project, directly feeding into the tool, is active collaboration with minoritised communities hitherto under- or misrepresented in metadata. Drawing on this work, the project has issued a new online publication, the [Community Engagement Methodology](#) - a blueprint for cultural institutions looking to engage communities more effectively and equitably. Authored by experts from ECCOM and KU Leuven and collating relevant EU policies, the methodology provides a detailed framework for conceptualising, planning and evaluating community engagement activities, ensuring they are inclusive, safe, and trust-based.

Africa on the World Heritage Online Map Platform

10 Oct: The [World Heritage Online Map Platform](#) (WHOMP) is being expanded to include World Heritage properties in Africa. This is possible due to the continued support of the Government of Flanders (Belgium). The WHOMP is an innovative online tool designed to assist decision-makers, in particular States Parties and site managers, in monitoring the state of conservation of World Heritage sites through the use of geospatial data. A second phase of development will now focus on the inclusion of WHS in the Africa region, which comprises 47 States Parties to the World Heritage Convention and 108 World Heritage properties. The inclusion of the Africa region on WHOMP will contribute to strengthening capacities in the region for a better conservation and management of World Heritage sites, to implement effectively and sustainably the World Heritage Convention.

ALERT Agricultural Land Environmental Risk and Opportunity Tool

Sep 24: The [ALERT tool](#) is an online Earth Observation mapping system produced by the UK Environment Agency. The system has been developed to enable advisers, catchment partners, and farmers to analyse the rural landscape, helping to optimally target local interventions to reduce pollution from agriculture. It contains very detailed remotely sensed data such as slope and land form (LIDAR), satellite imagery, and many derived analyses.

In 2024, we will be refreshing the EAC website and European Affairs Update mailing list. If you subscribe to this newsletter that way, you will receive an email asking you to sign up again. We very much hope you will do this!