

# European affairs update

July 2020

Joint initiative of European Archaeological Council (EAC) and European Association of Archaeologists (EAA)  
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- *Presidency Council of the European Union Jan-June 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

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### EUROPEAN UNION

#### **EU heads of state agreed on a recovery fund worth 750 billion euros to address the consequences of the coronavirus pandemic**

The heads of state and government of the 27 EU member states agreed after several long days of negotiations in Brussels to a recovery fund worth a total of 750 billion euros, including 390 billion euros in grants and guarantees. The multiannual financial framework for the period 2021 to 2027 was also agreed.

The new Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) will cover seven years between 2021 and 2027. The MFF, reinforced by Next Generation EU, will also be the main instrument for implementing the recovery package to tackle the socio-economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The size of the MFF - **€1 074.3 billion** - will allow the EU to fulfil its long-term objectives and preserve the full capacity of the recovery plan. This proposal is largely based on the proposal made by President Michel in February, which reflected two years of discussions between member states.

The MFF will cover the following spending areas:

- single market, innovation and digital
- cohesion, resilience and values
- natural resources and the environment
- migration and border management
- security and defence
- neighbourhood and the world
- European public administration

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

[Remarks by President Charles Michel after the Special European Council, 17-21 July 2020](#)

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

#### **Recovery fund**

Next Generation EU will provide the Union with the necessary means to address the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Under the agreement the Commission will be able to borrow up to **€750 billion** on the markets. These funds may be used for back-to-back loans and for expenditure channelled through the MFF programmes. Capital raised on the financial markets will be repaid by 2058.

The amounts available under NGEU will be allocated to seven individual programmes:

- Recovery and Resilience Facility (RFF)
- ReactEU
- Horizon Europe
- InvestEU

- Rural Development
- Just Transition Fund and
- RescEU.

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

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

### **Long-term EU budget: MEPs slam cuts to culture and education**

The Culture and Education Committee criticised the cuts to education and cultural programmes made by the Commission in its new proposal for the 2021-2027 budget.

In a debate on 13 July in the Culture and Education Committee with the Commission, all MEPs referred to cuts in the [revised MFF proposal](#) as “unacceptable” for EU culture and education, stressing that these sectors were particularly depleted by the COVID-19 crisis and need increased support to recover. While commending the “unprecedented level of financial support” in the EU Recovery plan, tabled alongside the revised MFF, they criticised the Commission for rowing back on its first MFF proposal in 2018.

Culture and Education Committee MEPs also pointed to the promise made by Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, ahead of her election, when she pledged [to support the EP’s request to triple Erasmus+ funding](#) in the MFF 2021-2027. Compared to the Commission’s initial MFF proposal (2018), the May 2020 revised proposal (when calculated in 2018 prices) presents a 20% cut to the European Solidarity Fund, a 13% cut to Creative Europe and a 7% cut to Erasmus+.

[Video statement by Chair Verheyen, following the debate](#)

[Re-watch the full committee debate](#)

**Read more about this [here](#).**

### **Culture and audiovisual: the Council adopts conclusions on risk management in the area of cultural heritage, media literacy and the amendment of the Work Plan for Culture (2019 - 2022)**

The Council of the European Union adopted on 26 May conclusions on risk management in the area of cultural heritage, recognising the importance of protecting cultural heritage against the various types of risks threatening it (natural hazards, climate change and man-made disasters), and also adds that crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic have a huge negative impact on the cultural and creative sectors. Member states are then invited to identify innovative tools and approaches for risk identification, prevention and mitigation. The conclusions also raise awareness that disaster prevention and preparedness require intervention and planning on multiple levels in order to be able to adequately respond to risks. The conclusions amending the Work Plan for Culture (2019-2022) reiterates that promoting sustainable development is a key action for the European Union’s future in the Strategic Agenda 2019 - 2024 and amend the plan to give priority to culture as a driver of sustainable development.

Find out more [here](#).

[Council conclusions on risk management in the area of cultural heritage, 26 May 2020](#)

[Council conclusions amending the Work Plan for Culture \(2019-2022\), 26 May 2020](#)

[COVID-19 coronavirus outbreak and the EU’s response \(background information\)](#)

[Council Conclusions on the need to bring cultural heritage to the fore across policies in the EU, 24 May 2018](#)

[European Council Conclusions, 14 December 2017](#)

[A New Strategic Agenda 2019-2024, 20 June 2019](#)

[Council conclusions on the Work Plan for Culture 2019-2022, 30 November 2018](#)

### **Innovation Union Europe – Germany’s commitment to the European Research Area**

Federal Research Minister Anja Karliczek announced the national funding programme “*Innovation Union Europe – Germany’s commitment to the European Research Area*” at the Informal Meeting of Research Ministers on 21 July. Its aim is to improve access to the European Research Area for German researchers and to deepen European cooperation in research and development. A total funding volume of 40 million euro – above and beyond its actual financial commitment to the European Research Area – will add to Germany’s contribution to the ERA. Find out more [here](#).

### **EU environment ministers call for recovery programme in line with environmental and climate policy goals**

The Multiannual Financial Framework and the EU recovery programme should substantially contribute to the environment and climate goals of the EU. This is what the EU environment ministers are calling for today in an informal video conference as part of Germany's EU Council Presidency. Furthermore, in the joint call the ministers agreed to make the agreement on the upcoming key EU environmental and climate dossiers top priority in 2020. In the joint call, EU environment ministers urge that the lessons from the current crisis be used to support the resilient and sustainable development of economy and society. The European Green Deal provides the guiding framework necessary in these efforts. The EU environment ministers advocate that the EU Multiannual Financial Framework and EU recovery plan to be negotiated substantially contribute to the environment and climate goals of the EU. They point out that the climate and environmental crises have lost none of their urgency. Read more on this [here](#).

### **Public consultation on opportunities offered by digital technologies for the culture heritage sector**

The European Commission is evaluating [Recommendation of 27 October 2011 on the digitisation and online accessibility of cultural material and digital preservation](#) to make sure it is still fit to respond to the needs and challenges of the cultural heritage sector in an era of rapid and continuous technological changes.

Moreover, the COVID-19 pandemic has led to the disruption of the sector's traditional way of working, making the digital transformation of cultural heritage institutions more relevant than ever. The Commission is seeking views on the importance of digitisation and digital transformation in the cultural heritage sector and ways of supporting such processes. The consultation aims at collecting the views of Member State competent authorities, national and regional cultural heritage institutions, international and umbrella organisations and networks, the Europeana ecosystem of organisations and professionals, technology stakeholders such as companies, SMEs/entrepreneurs, research organisations, academia and citizens. The [online consultation](#) for the evaluation of the Recommendation takes place between 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2020 and 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020. Find more about this [here](#).

### **European Commission launches social media campaign *Europe's Culture – close to you***

As outlined in the European Commission's [recovery plan](#), the coming months represent not only a challenge, but an opportunity: as restrictions are slowly being lifted and borders opened, tourism should hopefully be able to resume and allow Europeans some well-needed leisure and respite. In this spirit, the European Commission launches a social media campaign focusing on sustainable cultural tourism. With the slogan *Europe's Culture – close to you*, this campaign promotes the re-discovery of Europe's diverse treasures, both natural and cultural. The aim is to encourage Europeans to discover the beauty and richness of destinations close to their homes, in a safe and sustainable way. Read more about this [here](#).

## COUNCIL OF EUROPE

### **9th Plenary Session of CDCPP – 30 June**

Reacting to the uncertain situation caused by the global pandemic, the CDCPP Bureau members decided to hold a one-day on-line CDCPP meeting on 30 June and a shortened plenary session on 12-13 November in Strasbourg. The idea is to keep the dynamics of the Committee going throughout the year, so that the various areas of work can move forward. At the June meeting, the CDCPP discussed a proposed Manifesto on Arts, Culture, Cultural Heritage and Freedom of Expression in the Digital Era, as well as a concept for a new Digital #exhibition – both being contributions to the 70th anniversary of the European Convention on Human Rights. These initiatives will highlight the sector's specific contribution to upholding Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law. Other agenda items covered important issues in the cultural heritage and landscape sectors, including new promotional tools for the Faro Convention and Strategy 21. Find out more [here](#).

### **Reflection Group discussed the Congress Report "*Culture without borders: Cultural heritage management for local and regional development*"**

Culture and Cultural Heritage Secretariat participated on 16th June in the [Reflection Group](#) organized by the Current Affairs Committee of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities to discuss the Report "*Culture without borders: Cultural heritage management for local and regional development*", prepared by Ms. Maria Gravari-Barbas, that will serve as basis for a forthcoming Congress Recommendation on that subject. The discussion was enriched with the contributions by the Chair of the Steering Committee for Culture, Heritage and Landscape (CDCPP), experts and members of the Faro Convention Network, Culture and Cultural Heritage Secretariat, colleagues from the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes and Youth Delegates. The Culture and Cultural Heritage

Secretariat especially emphasized the importance of co-operation with the members of the Congress in the implementation of the Faro Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society at local and regional levels, always in close collaboration with the national governments. The interest of a bottom-up approach in managing cultural heritage was particularly emphasized, favoring participative governance models, where civil society can play an effective role in defining heritage policies. After considering contributions from the Reflection Group, the Current Affairs Committee will discuss the final Report and the associated Recommendation on its meeting in September, in order to present them at a subsequent Congress Session for their adoption. Further details [here](#).

### **Faro Coffee Talks: new initiative in the framework of the Faro Convention Network**

A new "Faro Talks" initiative was set up in the framework of the Faro Convention Network. Its first edition took place from 7 to 9 July and consisted of three "morning coffee talks" on some topics of relevance for the application of the Faro Convention. The three topics selected for this first edition were Tourism and Sustainability - towards more humanized encounters based on Faro Convention principles, Displacement and Community Regeneration in relation to the Faro Convention principles and Beyond archive to sustain community interaction. Further details [here](#).

## **Funding and investments**

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### PROPOSALS FOR THE POST-2020 BUDGETS AND PROGRAMMES

#### **Multiannual Financial framework (MFF)**

EU leaders agreed a recovery package and the 2021-2027 budget that will help the EU to rebuild after the pandemic and will support investment in the green and digital transitions. The socio-economic fallout from the COVID-19 crisis requires a joint and innovative effort at EU level in order to support the recovery and resilience of the member states' economies. To achieve the desired result and be sustainable, the recovery effort should be linked to the traditional MFF, which has shaped EU budgetary policies since 1988 and offers a long-term perspective. EU leaders have agreed to a comprehensive package of €1 824.3 billion which combines the multiannual financial framework (MFF) and an extraordinary recovery effort under the Next Generation EU (NGEU) instrument.

#### **Long-term EU budget**

The new Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) will cover seven years between 2021 and 2027. The MFF, reinforced by Next Generation EU, will also be the main instrument for implementing the recovery package to tackle the socio-economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. The size of the MFF - €1 074.3 billion - will allow the EU to fulfill its long-term objectives and preserve the full capacity of the recovery plan. This proposal is largely based on the proposal made by President Michel in February, which reflected two years of discussions between member states.

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#### **Loans and grants**

€390 billion from the package will be distributed in the form of grants to member states and €360 billion in loans.

#### Allocation from the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF)

The plan ensures the money goes to the countries and sectors most affected by the crisis: 70% under the grants of the Recovery and Resilience Facility will be committed in 2021 and 2022 and 30% will be committed in 2023.

Allocations from the RRF in 2021-2022 will be established according to the Commission's allocation criteria taking into account member states' respective living standards, size and unemployment levels. For 2023 allocations, the unemployment criterion will be replaced by the drop in GDP in 2020 and 2021.

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

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

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

## [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.

### **Cooperation projects to assist the sectors most in need**

With an overall sum of EUR 48,5 million, [the 2020 Cooperation projects call](#) is the most substantial part of the Creative Europe Culture sub-programme. The call was launched in November 2019 and the evaluation of has been speeded up to take account of the pandemic. A first substantial part of the budget will reach the sector via the pre-financing instalments very quickly. The projects can start in September 2020 and can last up to four years.

### **Submitting applications**

Find here all the relevant information about the [extension of deadlines for ongoing calls](#).

Read also:

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

[Coronavirus Impact Advice from EACEA](#)

[COVID-19 News](#)

[FAQ concerning Creative Europe activities in light of the COVID-19 pandemic](#)

### **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](#).

### **There are no open calls at the moment.**

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](#).

## [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](#).

**Currently, the following calls are open:**

- [Civil Society Projects 2020](#) (deadline 1/09/2020);
- [Networks of Towns 2020 – Round 2](#) (deadline 1/09/2020)
- [Town Twinning 2020 – Round 2](#) (deadline 1/09/2020)

**Read also:**

- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Coronavirus Impact Advice from EACEA](#)
- [COVID-19 News](#)

## 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.

The European Commission has published the Erasmus+ 2020 Call. 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](#)
- [COVID-19 News](#)
- [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](#).

### **These are the open calls now:**

- [2020 Erasmus accreditation in the field of Youth](#) (deadline 31/12/2021)
- [2020 Erasmus accreditation in the fields of adult education, vocational education and training, and school education](#) (deadline 29/10/2020)

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

### **Survey Report Erasmus Mundus Programme Implementation in the Context of COVID-19**

The "Erasmus Mundus Programme Implementation in the Context of COVID-19" Survey Report presents the results of a survey carried out by the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) during the period May – June 2020. The survey was launched with the aim to support Erasmus Mundus consortia, analyse the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the study programmes (experiences, problems encountered, solutions and good practices implemented) and to obtain information on the scenarios envisaged by consortia for the academic year 2020/2021. The results provide useful feedback and insights from the programme implementation level to Higher Education Institutions, the European Commission and EACEA, decision makers of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) and other Erasmus+ stakeholders. Read more about this [here](#).  
[Survey Report Erasmus Mundus Programme Implementation in the Context of COVID-19](#)

### **Erasmus+ Project Results Platform and the Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps IT Documentation Wiki: changes to security measures**

As of 8 June 2020, two-factor authentication (2FA) is required to access some aspects of the [Erasmus+ project results platform](#), as well as the Erasmus+ & European Solidarity Corps IT Documentation.

EU Login supports a variety of verification procedures, however, knowing that some methods might not be available while accessing specific services, the recommended two factor authentication methods are:

- EU Login Mobile App: PIN code
- EU Login Mobile App: QR code

For instructions on how to install and initialise the **EU Login Mobile App**, please see page 10 of the [user guide](#).

Further information [here](#).

#### **40 new joint masters join the Erasmus Mundus catalogue**

Erasmus+ has selected 40 new Erasmus Mundus joint master degree programmes that will offer scholarships to students from across the world. The first of four annual intakes of students will, starting in 2021. These newly-selected programmes will be added to the list of Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees later during the summer 2020, making a total of around 120 available programmes.

Erasmus+ has invested over €160 million in these new programmes, most of which money goes to pay for 6,490 scholarships for students from all over the world to attend these two-year master programmes. Find out more [here](#).

#### 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.

#### **JPI CH Covid-19 Statement**

The current COVID-19 pandemic is creating considerable disruption throughout the European research community, as universities have closed in many countries and research facilities and access to them are, at the best, reduced to a strict minimum. These disruptions are already greatly affecting the progress of many projects and will keep on doing so in the foreseeable future. Therefore, if requested and in strict compliance with national provisions, the JPI CH will support requests for an extension to a project already started, or for postponing the starting date of a *Conservation, Protection and Uses* project, presently fixed at six months maximum after the funding decision. Read the full statement [here](#).

#### **Cultural Heritage, Identities & Perspectives: Responding to Changing Societies: official launch**

The JPI CH is pleased to announce a new funding opportunity for transnational proposals. Scholars are invited to submit [research proposals on the role of heritage in society from different \(inter\)national perspectives and value systems](#). This includes questions such as what role heritage plays in the formation of identities, how institutions can manage heritage in an inclusive manner, and to what extent digitization contributes to meaningful access to heritage. The call aims to support interdisciplinary research that is set up and carried out by transnational consortia within the context of a single project. The total amount of 6,530,081 euros will be available for researchers. The deadline for applications is 22 September 2020. Further details for the call and relevant call documents [here](#).

#### **Conservation, Protection and Use Joint call: Results available**

The JPICH Conservation, Protection and Use Joint Call is the fifth of a series of joint transnational calls within the context of the JPI Cultural Heritage. This call has the purpose of enabling the emergence of new research-based frameworks that incorporate knowledge, concepts and values to help manage the ongoing and interlaced changes that affect cultural heritage in relation to its physical and social environment. The JPICH Conservation, Protection and Use Joint Call for Proposals was formally published on 13th May 2019. At the deadline (11th September 2019) 62 eligible proposals were submitted. See the results [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, Future and Emerging Technologies**
  - [ERC Proof of Concept Grant](#) (deadline: 17/09/2020)
  - [Individual Fellowships](#) (9/09/2020)
  - [Co-funding of regional, national and international programmes](#) (deadline 29/09/2020)
  - [ERC Advanced Grant](#) (deadline 27 August 2020)
- **Industrial Leadership**
  - [Fast Track to Innovation FTI](#) (deadlines: 27/10/2020)
  - [SME instrument](#) (deadline 7/10/2020)
  - [Fast Track to Innovation \(FTI\)](#) (deadline: 27/10/2020)
  - [Peer learning of innovation agencies](#) (deadlines 14/10/2020)
  - [Mutual learning and common tools and resources for national/regional schemes supporting innovation projects of start-ups and SMEs](#) (deadline 22/09/2020)
- **Societal Challenges, SC3 Secure, Clean and Efficient Energy**
  - [Social Sciences and Humanities \(SSH\) aspects of the Clean-Energy Transition](#) (deadline 1/09/2020)
- **Spreading excellence and widening participation**
  - [Widening Fellowships](#) (deadline 9/09/2020)

### **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](#).

### **RegioStars 2020: iEER makes it to the finals**

The [iEER](#) project is among the 25 finalists of the [2020 RegioStars competition](#) for the best EU Cohesion policy projects. It is competing in the special "Youth empowerment for cooperation across border - 30 years of Interreg" category. You can still [vote for your favourite](#) project until **15 September**. The category winners and the winner of the Public Choice Award will be announced on 14 October 2020 during the European Week of Regions and Cities in Brussels. These are the [projects nominated this year](#). They work hard every day to demonstrate the value of interregional cooperation and cohesion.

### **Results of 2019**

2019 was the year when the Interreg Europe's early projects started achieving results. From policy changes to mobilised EU funds, the programme presented some of these results to you in a [web-documentary](#). More information on the Interreg Europe 2019 projects [here](#).

## 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](#).

- [Pilot Project - Measuring the Cultural and Creative Sectors in the EU](#) (deadline 14/09/2020)
- [Preparatory Action Finance, Learning, Innovation and Patenting for Cultural and Creative Industries – third phase \(FLIP for CCIs 3\)](#) (deadline 4/08/2020)

## 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](#)

## Events

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### **European Heritage Summit 2020 in Brussels postponed**

In the light of the worsening situation of the COVID-19 pandemic, the strict confinement measures to contain it and the related uncertain projections, it is not possible to organise our European Cultural Heritage Summit in Brussels on 20-23 June 2020 as originally planned. After due consultation with the Europa Nostra Governing bodies and partners, including the European Commission, they have decided to postpone the Brussels Summit, most probably to Spring 2021, depending on further developments. More information [here](#).

### **26th Virtual EAA Annual Meeting in Budapest, Hungary, 24-30 August 2020**

The EAA will now organise a [Virtual Annual Meeting](#) the same week as the cancelled onsite meeting: 24 – 30 August 2020. The Virtual Annual Meeting will be held as a service to members, i.e. there will be no registration fee or other charge for current (2020) EAA members. All current members are welcome to take part in the Virtual Annual Meeting this year.

What is the sense of place in a non-place? Which is the sense of place in a digital space, a virtual encounter? It is the people, the participants actively engaged as co-producers, the distinct individuals de-individualized in their meta-subjective avatars. It is a sense built up from whatever we bring as individuals: our knowledge, our wishes, and the package of our tradition as the European Association of Archaeologists. A tradition that calls us to meet and encounter. Once again, in spite of the current problems (or exactly because of them), the EAA membership will use the strong spirit of our Association to find a suitable alternative to keep meeting, discussing and envisaging how to reinvent normality. We will create networking! When problems are huge – and they are for many of our colleagues and societies – archaeology, archaeologists and EAA must be part of our struggle for the future.

More information [here](#).

### **Association of Critical Heritage Studies 5th Biennial Conference (26-30 August 2020, UCL, London, UK)**

The Fifth Biennial Conference of the Association of Critical Heritage Studies (ACHS) will run as a fully virtual conference from 26.08.20 – 30.08.20. Please check the page below as the organisers shift to this new format.

The conference's theme—*Futures*—invites participants to explore a range of issues, including the future of critical heritage studies; newly emerging concepts, themes and methods for the study of heritage; the future of heritage management, governance and diplomacy; evolving and nascent forms of heritage, and how they might be recognised; heritage as future-making; the "time" of heritage and its relationship with the past, present and future; future impacts of climatological, ecological, economic, political and social change on heritage; future relations of natural and cultural heritage in the light of the recognition of the Anthropocene; and the future of heritage itself. More information [here](#).

### **The Best in Heritage 2020 goes Digital**

The [Best in Heritage annual conference](#), in main partnership with the International Council of Museums (ICOM), and Europa Nostra, and with the support of the Creative Europe programme of the EU, is going digital in 2020! Estimating the consequences of the pandemic and its aftermath, **The Best in Heritage** organisers concluded to call off this year's gathering in Dubrovnik, but not the edition itself. The project remains dedicated to delivering an annual overview of best practices in museums, heritage and conservation. The goal is to offer insights into these [award-winning achievements](#) and share them further with both the professional and civil community concerned with care and communication of cultural heritage by:

- producing a series of forty-two interviews with representatives of award-winning achievements from the past year on their YouTube channel over the next months;
- releasing the keynote talks by the representatives of two "Projects of Influence" for 2019;
- publishing the yearly conference publication in digital format available online;
- including this year's edition contents on their website.

The series starts in late June, with roughly three fresh interviews being released weekly. The finale

will be reached at the end of September, when the Jury comprised of six moderators and two last year's winners will vote for the Best in Heritage and IMAGINES 2020 "Project of Influence". More information [here](#).

**Call for abstracts: The 4th International Conference on Energy Efficiency in Historic Buildings (7-8 October, 2020, Benediktbeuern, Germany)**

The 4th International Conference on Energy Efficiency in Historic Buildings EEHB2020 aims to present new research and best practices on a wide range of topics relating to energy efficiency in historic buildings. This year, the focus will be on the role digital technologies can play in improving the energy performance of historic buildings, whilst respecting the principles of conservation. In this context, the aim is to take a closer look at the interfaces between digital building models and the building simulation and the question of the necessary accuracy of both 3D digitisation and hygrothermal or building energy performance simulation tools. Both technologies – 3D scans and building simulation – have been available for a long time, but so far there are no automated processes for converting 3D scans into the energetic building simulation. In addition, more research is also needed on the degree of accuracy of the building survey using digital methods in order to represent a historical building accurately. More information [here](#).

**12th edition of the International Conference on Structural Analysis of Historical Constructions (SAHC 2020) (the new dates are September 29-30, and October 1, 2021., Barcelona, Spain)**

During the last decades the study and conservation of historical structures has attained high technological and scientific standards. Today's practice involves the combination of innovative non-destructive inspection technologies, sophisticated monitoring systems, advanced numerical models for structural analysis and respectful intervention solutions for restoration and retrofit. More than ever, it is understood that the studies must be performed by interdisciplinary teams integrating wide expertise. Due to all this, the study of historical structures is still facing very strong challenges that can be only addressed through sound international scientific cooperation.

Taking these ideas in mind, the 12th edition of the SAHC conference aims at creating a new opportunity for the exchange and discussion of novel concepts, technologies and practical experiences on the study, conservation and management of historical constructions. More information [here](#).

**International Conference on Metrology for Archaeology and Cultural Heritage (22-24 October 2020, Trento, Italy)**

[MetroArchaeo](#) brings together researchers and operators in the enhancement, characterization and preservation of archaeological and cultural heritage with the main objective of discussing production, interpretation and reliability of measurements and data. The conference is conceived to foster exchanges of ideas and information, create collaborative networks and update innovations on "measurements" suitable for cultural heritage for archaeologists, conservators and scientists. All contributions will be peer-reviewed on the basis of a full-length manuscript and acceptance will be based on quality, originality and relevance. Accepted papers will be published in the Workshop Proceedings and indexed by SCOPUS. Extended versions of presented papers are eligible for post-publication. Find out more [here](#).

**Science and Art VIII Edition – Science and technology applied to heritage conservation (14-16 October 2020, Madrid, Spain)**

*The call for abstracts for Science and Art VIII: Science and Technology Applied to Heritage Conservation is now open. The conference will be held in the Auditorium at CaixaForum Madrid on 14, 15 and 16 October 2020.*

The congress will focus on:

- Establishing general conservation guidelines and criteria.
- Designing suitable condition reports, including alterations, intervention methods and recommended solutions.
- Using collaborative and interdisciplinary approaches to increase knowledge and expertise in artistic techniques, manufacturing technologies, composition, distinguishing between the original and additions and any other data on the historical and artistic aspects of cultural heritage.
- Discussing methods and planning procedures for preventive conservation.
- Using the findings of laboratory research to discuss the pros and cons of different methods and materials.
- Applying innovative technology to the conservation and restoration of cultural heritage.

Abstracts in Spanish or English should be submitted between 31 March and 18 May 2020 (inclusive). The deadline for receiving papers for inclusion in the congress proceedings is 16 October 2020. For further information on how to apply see [HERE](#)

### **International Cultural Heritage Fair 2020 (28-31 October 2020, Paris, France)**

The 26th edition of the International Cultural Heritage Fair will take place from Wednesday 28 October to Saturday 31 October 2020 at the Carrousel du Louvre in Paris. The theme of this year's edition will be "Heritage and Territories". If the latter constitutes a link with the past that it tends to enhance, heritage is also a solution for the future which provides us with substance to comprehend our society; the renewal and revitalisation of urban centres, reuse of monumental heritage, touristic and economic attractiveness. More than 350 exhibitors, lectures and displays will allow you to benefit from expert advice and opinions on this topic but also to discuss any question you may have about heritage! More information [here](#).

### **28th ENCATC Congress on Cultural Management and Policy (3-12 November 2020, Prague, Czech Republic)**

*There are no further updates at the moment, but you can subscribe for their mailing list [here](#), so you don't miss any information as it becomes available.*

Hosted in the culturally vibrant city of Prague, academics, trainers and researchers from the cultural management and policy educational fields with cross-disciplinary interests can mingle with professionals, policy makers and artists to bridge the knowledge gap, promote research esteem and the evolution of pedagogy. The programme will include keynote speeches, debates, panel discussions, study visits to inspiring cultural institutions as well as the 2020 ENCATC Research Award Ceremony, and the 2020 ENCATC Research and Education Session.

More information soon [here](#).

### **EUROPEANA 2020 (11-13 November 2020, online)**

Europeana 2020 will be taking place online between 11-13 November 2020, with some potential local 'meet-ups' as part of the conference. The online conference will aim to be a participatory event that gathers voices from across the sector and the continent to explore all things digital cultural heritage. Soon the line-up of amazing presenters, facilitators and workshops will be announced, as well as a 'Museum night' and virtual concert as part of the event. If you are interested in hearing more about Europeana 2020, sign-up [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.

### **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](#).

## **Postponed: WORKSHOP JPI Climate / JPI Cultural Heritage: Cultural Heritage and Climate Change: New challenges and perspectives for research – dates TBC**

*The workshop has been postponed and the organisers are looking into new dates – consult the page below for more information.*

The Joint Programming Initiative on Cultural Heritage and Global Change (JPI CH) is pleased to announce the organization of a joint expert workshop with the Joint Programming Initiative « Connecting Climate Knowledge for Europe » (JPI Climate). The aim of the workshop is 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.

Two topics will be discussed:

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

More information [here](#).

## Other updates

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### **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.

- [European Heritage Alliance Manifesto 'Cultural Heritage: a powerful catalyst for the Future of Europe](#) (European Heritage Alliance, Europa Nostra, Europeana Foundation, May 2020)
- [EU investments in cultural sites: a topic that deserves more focus and coordination](#) (European Court of Auditors, EU 2020)
- [European Cultural and Creative Cities in COVID-19 times](#) (Montalto V., Sacco P.L., Alberti V., Panella F., Saisana M., EU, 2020)
- [Time for transformative resilience: the COVID-19 emergency](#) (Giovannini E., Benczur P., Campolongo F., Cariboni J., Manca A. R., EU, 2020)
- [Handbook on the European Heritage Days for National Coordinators and Stakeholders](#) (CoE, EU, June 2020)
- [Committee on Culture and Education Newsletter June 2020](#) (CULT, European parliament, June 2020)
- [Survey Report Erasmus Mundus Programme Implementation in the Context of COVID-19](#) (Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) of the European Commission, June 2020)
- [30 years of Interreg: stories of a greener, younger, embracing Europe](#) (Interreg Europe, June 2020)
- [AriadnePlus - Initial Report on the Innovation Strategy and Targeted Activities](#) (AriadnePlus, March 2020)
- [State of the UK Archaeological Market 2019](#) (Aitchison, K., Rocks-Macqueen, D., FAME, CIfA, Historic Environment Scotland, July 2020)
- [Delivering public benefit from archaeology - factsheet](#) (Llewellyn, A., CIFA, June, 2020)
- [Europeana Strategy 2020-2025](#) (Europeana, May 2020)
- [Cultural tourism out of confinement](#) (Magdalena Pasikowska-Schnass, EPRS | European Parliamentary Research Service, July 2020)
- [Digital culture – Access issues](#) (Magdalena Pasikowska-Schnass, EPRS | European Parliamentary Research Service, June 2020)
- [EU support for artists and the cultural and creative sector during the coronavirus crisis](#) (Magdalena Pasikowska-Schnass, EPRS | European Parliamentary Research Service, May 2020)
- [Leave a trace not a footprint](#) (Julie's Bicycle and EURO CITIES as part of the 'ROCK project Sustainable Events' series, 2020)
- [Survey on the impact of the COVID-19 situation on museums in Europe](#) (NEMO, May 2020)
- [Historic England Research Issue 16](#) (Historic England, UK, July 2020)
- [Historic England Heritage Online Debate - The Impact of Covid-19 on the Heritage Sector](#) (Historic England, July 2020)
- [The Heritage Alliance COVID-19 Guidance Hub](#) – very useful collection of updates, information and links for the heritage organisations in the UK (The Heritage Alliance, UK, July 2020)
- [The Heritage Alliance COVID-19 Funding Hub](#) updated for the heritage sector in the UK (The Heritage Alliance, UK, July 2020)
- [Digital Meets Heritage](#) (July 2020)

- [Culture Action Europe 2019 report](#) (CAE, May 2020)
- [ICOMOS Annual report 2019](#) (ICOMOS, June 2020)
- [A European library agenda for the post-Covid 19 age](#) (Eblida, May 2020)

### **European Heritage Alliance Manifesto conveyed to EU Leaders ahead of next European Council meeting in Brussels**

At the very start of the German Presidency of the European Union and ahead of the important physical meeting of the European Council on 17-18 July 2020 in Brussels, Europa Nostra sent, on behalf of the 49 members of the [European Heritage Alliance](#), individual letters to all 27 EU leaders urging them to seize the challenge of Europe's unprecedented recovery plans to unleash the transformative power of cultural heritage for the future of Europe. The letters were accompanied by the [European Heritage Alliance Manifesto 'Cultural Heritage: a powerful catalyst for the Future of Europe'](#). This important Manifesto was [launched](#) by the Alliance members on 9 May, on the occasion of the 2020 Europe Day, which this year marked the 70th anniversary of the Schuman Declaration which initiated the process of European integration. The Manifesto highlights seven interconnected ways in which cultural heritage can act as a catalyst for positive change in Europe. Further details [here](#).

### **Europa Nostra and ICOMOS to publish European Heritage Green Paper in September**

Europa Nostra announced last April a new [collaboration](#) with [ICOMOS](#) (the International Council on Monuments and Sites) on the topic of cultural heritage and climate change. The project aims at producing a *European Heritage Green Paper*, a policy and advocacy document to stimulate a wide mobilisation of the heritage community to contribute to the success of the [European Green Deal](#) (EGD) and to understand the role and potential of cultural heritage in achieving the ambitions of the EGD. The project, led by the expert and activist on climate change Andrew Potts, who is the Coordinator of the Climate Change and Heritage Working Group (CCHWG) and a leading member of the [Climate Heritage Network](#), is developed in cooperation with the Europa Nostra Board and Secretariat, and with the invaluable support of the European Investment Bank Institute. The European Heritage Green Paper is planned to be issued in September. It will be widely disseminated to the EU Institutions and other stakeholders concerned with the European Green Deal. Further details [here](#).

### **Public consultation on the strategic orientation of the next ESPON programme 2021-2027**

Since 2002, the ESPON programme organises and finances applied research, place-based analyses and specific tools to support the formulation of territorial development policies in Europe with evidence, systematic data, maps, policy advice and pan-European comparative analysis. ESPON assists regions, cities and national governments to improve the quality of their decision-making by supporting the development, implementation and monitoring of their policies and strategies. The ESPON programme is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund and by all European Union Member states and the four Partner States Island, Lichtenstein, Norway and Switzerland. The countries participating in the ESPON programme formed a Joint Working Group (JWG) to prepare a proposal for the ESPON programme covering the coming funding period 2021-2027. The JWG formulated an intervention logic and is calling now for inputs, feedback and ideas to shape the next ESPON programme. Find out more [here](#).

### **2021 European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards open for applications**

The European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards supported by the EU funding programme Creative Europe are Europe's highest honour in the field of heritage. The Awards recognise excellence in conservation projects and in research; celebrate the most dedicated heritage professionals and volunteers; as well as identifying the finest awareness raising, training and educational programmes. Up to 30 remarkable heritage achievements from all over Europe are awarded in the 2021 edition. Up to 4 laureates will receive a Grand Prix and €10,000 each; one will be granted the Public Choice Award, chosen through an online vote conducted by Europa Nostra. In addition, two "Ilucidare Special Prizes" will be awarded to one of the applications for excellence in heritage-led innovation and international relations. All the winners will be celebrated at a special European Heritage Awards Ceremony. The deadline is 1 October 2020. You can apply [here](#).

Read the Call for entries about 2021 European Heritage Awards [here](#).

### **2020 European Heritage Awards Winners announced**

Ahead of the celebration of this year's Europe Day (9 May), the European Commission and Europa Nostra are proud to announce the 2020 winners of the European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards. Europe's top honour in the heritage field goes to 21 exemplary achievements from 15 European countries. This year's impressive collection of award winners range from the restoration of Rubens' garden pavilion in Antwerp (Belgium), to the revival of the renaissance arsenal on the island of Hvar (Croatia); from the trans-European network "Tramontana" dedicated to the research of the tangible and intangible heritage of mountainous regions, to the sensitive preservation of a cultural landscape formed

by subterranean caves and wineries in the province of Burgos (Spain); from the rebirth of the impressive Basilica di Santa Maria di Collemaggio in l'Aquila (Italy), heavily damaged by the devastating earthquake of 2009, to the "Ambulance for Monuments" with an emergency team of craftspeople ready to save endangered heritage in Romania; and from "Scanning for Syria", a research project carried out by a research centre in The Netherlands, to a major exhibition marking the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, organised in co-production between Poland and Spain.

Heritage lovers and supporters from Europe and all around the world can [vote online](#) for their favourite award winners and decide which achievement will win this year's *Public Choice Award*. The Public Choice Award will be announced in the autumn of 2020. The winners of the Grand Prix, entitled to receive a monetary award of €10,000 each, will also be made public on this occasion.

Full list of the winners and further details [here](#).

### **ICOMOS and partners in the Culture 2030 Goal campaign #CultureCovid19 Statement endorsed by the President of the United Nations General Assembly**

ICOMOS is pleased to announce that the [#CultureCovid19 Statement](#), issued on 20 April 2020, launched with a webinar on 21 May 2020 and available in several languages on the [#Culture2030Goal](#) website, has been **officially endorsed** by H.E. Mr Tijjani Muhammed-Bande, President of the 74th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNPGA). ICOMOS and partners in the Culture 2030 Goal campaign have released, on 20 April 2020, a Statement on Culture and the COVID-19 pandemic. Signed by eight international cultural networks, the statement is framed in our commitment to the 2030 Agenda and the need to guarantee culture is at the heart of the UN Decade of Action for the SDGs. Find out more [here](#).

### **Findings on the consultation on the impact of COVID-19 on the heritage world to be released in September**

Europa Nostra launched on 26 March a [consultation](#) on this topic among its large pan-European network of members and partners. Europa Nostra is currently preparing a more extensive paper summarizing and analyzing the main findings of this important consultation. Such paper will be published after the summer and will be widely disseminated among heritage actors and policy-makers at all levels of governance. This paper will underpin Europa Nostra's advocacy action, conducted jointly with our members and partners, to ensure that cultural heritage is duly included in the EU's immediate response to the COVID-19 crisis as well as in the "Next Generation EU" recovery plans. Indeed, Europa Nostra and our members and partners are fully convinced of the immense potential of culture and cultural heritage for [Europe's socioeconomic recovery in the aftermath of the pandemic](#). Read more [here](#).

### **More focus and coordination needed in EU spending for cultural sites, say Auditors**

Several European initiatives have been developed to promote cultural sites. But their coordination with funding arrangements is too limited and EU investments lack focus on the preservation and financial sustainability of cultural sites, according to a [new report from the European Court of Auditors](#). In addition, cultural investments are not treated as a priority, but mainly as means of promoting economic objectives, say the auditors. The EU can be proud of its rich cultural diversity and has put in place a number of initiatives to ensure that Europe's cultural heritage is safeguarded and enhanced. Various EU funds may contribute to this end: the most significant one is the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). The auditors looked at the effects of such investments and assessed the financial and physical sustainability of a number of sites which had received aid. They reviewed 27 projects in seven Member States: Germany, France, Croatia, Italy, Poland, Portugal and Romania. Find out more about the report [here](#).

### **Call for Nominations for 7 Most Endangered 2021: Let's save Europe's endangered heritage sites together!**

Many heritage treasures all over Europe are threatened due to a series of natural, human-related or climate change causes, particularly in these trying times. Do you happen to know an endangered heritage gem in Europe – such as a historic monument or an ensemble of historic monuments, an archaeological site, a place of worship, an industrial complex, a historic park, a museum or a movable heritage asset? Then nominate it for the 7 Most Endangered programme 2021! You can nominate endangered heritage with the support of an [organisation](#) in your country that is already a member of Europa Nostra or directly by [joining](#) their pan-European network, as a member or associate organisation or as a new individual member. Members of the [European Heritage Alliance](#) can also submit a nomination for the programme. Read the [Call for Nominations](#), fill in the [Nomination Form](#) and email it to [sz@europanostra.org](mailto:sz@europanostra.org) (Sara Zanini, Programme Coordinator). **Submit your nomination by 7 September 2020! Read more [here](#).**

### **Creatives Unite: new platform for cultural and creative stakeholders**

*Creatives Unite* launched to connect and share Covid-related information and responses among cultural and creative sectors. The new platform *Creatives Unite* offers a common space for all those looking for information about cultural and creative sector initiatives responding to the coronavirus crisis. It gives



access in one single space to the multitude of existing resources and numerous relevant networks and organisations. It also offers a space to co-create and upload contributions towards finding solutions together. Rather than overlapping with the existing initiatives in the sector, the platform strives to provide a common point of access for information on cultural and creative initiatives in response to the crisis, and directing to the relevant websites of the respective networks, organizations and initiatives. The platform offers curated space to co-create and upload contributions towards finding solutions together. The platform has been launched with the support of the Commission, as a follow up to the the EU Culture Ministers' video conference of 8 April where Commissioner Gabriel [announced the initiative](#). Find out more about it [here](#).

### **Call for experts to support the European Capitals of Culture**

The project consortium is looking for experts in different fields to help meet key capacity building needs of the [European Capitals of Culture](#) (ECoC) action. Organising teams of each ECoC will be able to tap into this expert pool when searching for specific knowledge and skills.

In particular, experts are sought in the following areas:

- audience development
- conflict resolution
- change management
- legal (including intellectual property rights and licensing agreements for culture)
- monitoring and evaluation in the cultural sector

Experts in management, communications, coordination and international relations are also needed. Read more [here](#).

### **Hagia Sophia: UNESCO deeply regrets the decision of the Turkish authorities, made without prior discussion, and calls for the universal value of World Heritage to be preserved**

The Director-General of UNESCO deeply regrets the decision of the Turkish authorities, made without prior discussion, to change the status of Hagia Sophia. This evening, she shared her serious concerns with the Ambassador of Turkey to UNESCO. Hagia Sophia is part of the Historic Areas of Istanbul, a property inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List. "*Hagia Sophia is an architectural masterpiece and a unique testimony to interactions between Europe and Asia over the centuries. Its status as a museum reflects the universal nature of its heritage, and makes it a powerful symbol for dialogue,*" said Director-General Audrey Azoulay. This decision announced today raises the issue of the impact of this change of status on the property's universal value. States have an obligation to ensure that modifications do not affect the Outstanding Universal Value of inscribed sites on their territories. UNESCO must be given prior notice of any such modifications, which, if necessary, are then examined by the World Heritage Committee. Further details [here](#).

### **'Consensus' that Notre-Dame spire should be rebuilt in original form**

French President Emmanuel Macron said Thursday that he agrees the spire of Notre-Dame Cathedral, which was destroyed in last year's devastating fire, should be rebuilt exactly as it was.

France's incoming culture minister said earlier that there was a "large consensus" that the spire of Notre-Dame cathedral in Paris should be rebuilt as it was before. [Macron](#) had previously spoken in favour of adding a contemporary "touch" to the 13th-century monument. He vowed to rebuild [Notre-Dame](#) in less than five years after a major fire on April 15 largely destroyed the 850-year-old Gothic cathedral's roof and spire. His pledge prompted concern among architects, conservationists and academics from around the world, who have called for [caution](#) in restoring the badly damaged edifice. Find out more [here](#).

### **European Heritage Days presents 11 selected stories**

The [Call for European Heritage Days Stories](#) intends to identify the European Dimension of heritage sites and heritage work undertaken by the communities in Europe. It refers to past or existing "stories" that communities would like to share and potentially develop into a project to further contribute to their communities. The Call for European Stories was launched as an activity of the [European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018](#), the successes of which it now aims to build on, and supporting the [European Framework for Action on Cultural Heritage](#), adopted in December 2018 to secure the long term impact of the European Year of Cultural Heritage. In the framework of the joint vision of shared European values, the Call is also open to the EU Prize for Cultural Heritage/Europa Nostra Award winners and the European Heritage Label sites. Further details [here](#).

### **Germany Calls for Online Contributions to its 2020 European Heritage Days Programme**

On the 13th of September, Germany will once again take part in European Heritage Days, but this year it will be in a digital format. 2020 is like no other year in the history of celebration of European heritage - it has brought unimaginable challenges, but Germany's Open Monument Day is ready to meet these and explore new opportunities. In the context of COVID-19, Germany's participation in European Heritage

Days 2020 will be a versatile programme, and organisers can apply to take part in the one-day event online. This call from The German Foundation for Monument Protection gives opportunity to break new ground and create innovative strategies for communicating cultural heritage with the public. It also targets new, media-savvy visitor groups and hopes to inspire organisers to develop creative ideas, such as virtual tours, recorded lectures and online photo galleries with spectacular views of monuments and heritage objects. Find out more [here](#).

### **The Best in Heritage 2020 goes digital**

The annual milestone event highlighting best practices in museums, heritage and conservation is to take place in a digital edition. Estimating realistically the consequences of a long pandemic, the gathering event in Dubrovnik comprising the conference and the awards will not take place this year, but the 2020 edition of The Best in Heritage is planned, delivering the annual overview of best practices in museums, heritage and conservation. The goal is to offer insights into these award-winning achievements and share these further with the professional and civil society heritage community. Visit [The Best in Heritage 2020 Digital Edition](#).

### **The newly transformed Archaeology Data Service (ADS) Library**

In March 2020, a project to redevelop the ADS Library was completed. The Library brings together bibliographic records and Open Access copies of published and unpublished documents relating to archaeology and heritage. It holds over 100,000 open access documents including unpublished fieldwork reports – the so-called ‘grey literature’ – as well as e-prints of journals and monographs; since 2015 there have been 680,372 downloads. The redevelopment has focussed on enhancing accessibility and creating a more intuitive framework for enabling resource discovery. Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs) have been created for most of the Journal articles within the Library, and in general given a more prominent role in a push towards encouraging better citation practices. Find out more [here](#).

### **Handbook on the European Heritage Days for National Coordinators and Stakeholders**

The [European Heritage Days](#) are pleased to announce the publication of new [Handbook for National Coordinators and Stakeholders](#). Democratic participation in cultural life and the right to practise one’s own culture is essential for the well-being of societies where multiple identities and narratives are important assets. The European Heritage Days, a joint Programme of the [Council of Europe](#) and the [European Commission](#), are the most widely celebrated participatory cultural events shared by people living in Europe. The pan-European nature of the events contributes to bringing citizens together and highlighting the European dimension and the value of cultural heritage in the 50 signatory States of the [European Cultural Convention](#). Read more about this [here](#).

### **Heritage Digital – Free Digital Skills Training for the UK Heritage Sector**

The Heritage Alliance launched the National Lottery Heritage Funded Heritage Digital project alongside skills specialists Media Trust, Charity Digital and Naomi Korn Associates. Until the end of July 2021, free digital skills training will be available as part of this partnership project, based around the themes of digital communications, digital marketing strategy, digital rights and digital technology. Webinars, digital guides and in-depth masterclasses will be available, alongside peer networking opportunities and both virtual and face-to-face conference days (the latter coming in 2021). Staff, volunteers, Trustees and freelancers associated with heritage organisations across the UK are eligible to take part. To keep up to date with the latest project news and events, head to the training portal and sign up to [The Heritage Alliance newsletter](#).

### **Website launches European archaeology resource**

Some of Europe’s most important archaeological sites will be available online shortly. Information for professional and leisure use is to be brought together on one site by academics at the University of York. The Archaeology Data Service (ADS) based at the University, has been awarded 608,000 Euro by the European Union’s Culture 2000 programme to develop a system of conserving, spreading and retrieving information. Under the ARENA project (Archaeological Records of Europe: Networked Access) key archives will be made available on the internet via a European portal. The ARENA project will allow people to search for information about archaeological sites in six European countries - Poland, Romania, Denmark, Iceland, Norway, and the United Kingdom. Find out more [here](#).

### **Europeana launches guide to organising online events**

Four months on from turning all Europeana events online, they have learned a lot. Now, Europeana are sharing that in a guide to organising online events and the recording of their webinar on the same subject. This document is a work-in-progress. It is being designed so that there are a set of useful and usable guidelines for digital events organised by Europeana or organised in cooperation with Europeana. Find out all these [here](#).

### **New virtual museum lets visitors explore Malta's underwater archaeology**

The general public can now access 10 underwater archaeological sites in the comfort of their own homes. 'The Virtual Museum- Underwater Malta' website is an online museum which ranges from old archaeological findings to sunken aircrafts and submarines. Launching the underwater museum at Fort St Elmo, Professor Tim Gambin from the University of Malta explained that through means of virtual reality, one can be able to experience the underwater world, which is usually explored only by divers. He said that the concept of the museum highlights the importance of Malta's heritage found underwater. Find out more [here](#).

### **Three cities short-listed for European Capital of Culture 2026 in Finland**

A panel of twelve independent experts recommended the shortlist from competing Finnish cities at the outcome of a 2-day (partially digital) meeting in Helsinki. In 2026, Finland will host the European Capital of Culture for the third time, after Helsinki in 2000 and Turku in 2011. Finland invited applications from interested cities in April 2019. Three cities submitted applications by the deadline of 5 May 2020: Oulu, Savonlinna and Tampere. Being shortlisted for the European Capital of Culture title can result in significant cultural, economic and social benefits for the cities concerned, if their bid is part of a longer-term culture-led development strategy. Read more [here](#).

### **Digitalisation: an alternative to culture?**

Following the stories on [how COVID-19 has affected Matera, Rijeka and Timisoara](#) at the Interreg Europe's Seminar "Continuing, restarting and adjusting amidst COVID-19", the audiences raised the question of "Is digitalisation the solution for all cultural expressions?" "People are tired of being online" said Vania Cauzillo, representing Matera 2019 Project Leaders Committee. "Kids are stressed with digital school, and the elderly cannot access such tool." Maintaining the desire of culture, therefore, is even more vital in a COVID-induced online world. Nevertheless, when they talked about theatre as a method to be human, and to connect humans, digital tools are of great help. Two-thirds of Matera 2019 budget was spent on their community co-creation process, which actively involves the audiences in theatre productions. [The pressure to go digital is also visible for Rijeka 2020](#). The possibility of organising large-scale, international ensembles and productions is still uncertain. To maintain a physically safe distance between attendees, theatres can only house a-third of their capacity, which offers no realistic financial frame to make such events feasible. As social measures are lightened, art and culture flows in Rijeka's veins again. [Rijeka 2020 summer programme has recently been announced](#), with around 120 events in Rijeka and its nearby regions in July and August. The programme incorporates a wide spectrum of arts, including music festivals and weekend concerts, drama and dance performances and stand-up shows, as well as ensembles of classical music, choirs, opera, orchestra, and exhibitions.

### **Pandemic resilience as a criterion for ECoC 2026**

On 24th June, the panel for the European Capital of Culture (ECoC) 2026 announced the cities to proceed to the second and final bidding round - Tampere Region 2026 (Tampere), Oulu2026 (Oulu), and Saimaa-ilmiö 2026 (Saimaa Phenomenon 2026). Pandemic resilience will be a benchmark of not just the ECoC 2026 final round, but also of the EU's Cohesion Policy 2021-2027. The new Cohesion Policy will transition from [11 former thematic objectives](#) to [5 policy objectives](#), envisioning a Europe of innovativeness, carbon-free, connectivity, social development and equality, and closer to citizen. The qualities of adaptability and resilience – the enablers of quick and adequate responses to pandemics, also often mentioned in the efforts against the adverse impacts of climate change, are highly relevant to cohesion and need to be embedded in all of the objectives. It is even more crucial to the [overall mission](#) of Cohesion Policy now than ever, as COVID-19 is expected to and is already increasing economic and employment disparities between EU's more and less advanced regions. Further details [here](#).

### **Archaeology of Greece Online now searchable with Fasti Online**

Fasti Online is delighted to announce that, fully ten years after it was first proposed, the splendid Chronique des fouilles en ligne / Archaeology of Greece Online  [<https://chronique.efa.gr/?kroute=homepage>](https://chronique.efa.gr/?kroute=homepage), run jointly by the French  [<https://www.efa.gr/fr/>](https://www.efa.gr/fr/) and British  [<https://www.bsa.ac.uk/>](https://www.bsa.ac.uk/) School at Athens, can now be searched simultaneously with Fasti Online through our search engine. Credit for this collaboration goes to Catherine Bouras and Louis Mulot of the EFA and Michael Johnson of L-P Archaeology  [<http://lparchaeology.com/>](http://lparchaeology.com/): the initiative was supported by the European Infrastructure project ARIADNEplus. Further details [here](#).