

European Affairs Update

January 2025



Gdańsk, location of EAC Annual Meeting, March 2025 © NID

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[Presidency Council of the European Union](#): Jan-Jun 2025 Poland. July-Dec 2025 Denmark. Jan-Jul 2026 Cyprus.

[Committee of Ministers \(CoE\) chairmanship](#): Nov 24- May 25 Luxembourg. May-Nov 25 Malta. Nov 25-May 26 Republic of Moldova.

[European Capitals of Culture 2025](#): Chemnitz (Germany), Nova Gorica (Slovenia).

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

Joint initiative of European Archaeological Council (EAC) and European Association of Archaeologists (EAA). Prepared by the EAC Assistant Jenni Butterworth. [You can join the mailing list here](#). If you wish to be removed from the mailing list, please email info@e-a-c.org.

European Union

Poland assumes presidency of the Council of the EU

1 Jan: [Poland takes presidency of the Council of the EU](#) at a time of increased geopolitical tensions, therefore, the Polish Presidency will support activities strengthening European security in all its dimensions: external, internal, information, economic, energy, food, and health. The focus of the Education, Youth, Culture and Sport council during the presidency will be activities for the benefit of young people, including supporting young artists in starting their professional careers, and addressing the issue of the European identity. The Polish presidency will continue efforts to promote cooperation between EU countries in order to build more resilient and inclusive education and training systems. A high-level discussion will be initiated on a community of young Europeans based on universal values for a common and secure Europe.

Council gives go-ahead to EU annual budget for 2025

25 Nov: the Council approved the joint text on the [EU's general budget for 2025](#). In a deal with member states reached on 16 November, Parliament managed to defend an [ambitious EU budget for next year](#), making sure it addresses current challenges and improves citizens' lives. MEPs also obtained further funding for essential programmes in the 2025 annual budget. They successfully negotiated an additional €230.7 million beyond the Commission's initial draft proposal, focusing on key initiatives including research, health, education, young farmers, coordination of social security schemes, crisis response to natural disasters, climate action, humanitarian aid, military mobility and border management. On top of this extra funding, major increases sourced from previous savings will benefit the 2025 budget, including €422 million for Erasmus+ and €20 million for Horizon Europe. Total commitments are set at €192.768,6 million and the total payments at €149.615,7 million, excluding appropriations foreseen for special instruments outside the multiannual financial framework for 2021-2027 (MFF).

Culture: the Compass for Europe's Future

4 Nov: Glenn Micallef, Commissioner-designate for Intergenerational Fairness, Youth, Culture and Sport, faced a [confirmation hearing before Members of the European Parliament](#). European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen has previously called for a new strategic framework for culture in Europe – dubbed the 'Culture Compass' – to "guide and harness the multiple dimensions of culture." Micallef outlined three main objectives for the Compass: 1) protecting culture and cultural heritage, 2) enhancing regional cohesion, and 3) boosting competitiveness and innovation in culture. Culture is currently present in 20 policy areas and 20 funding instruments, and the Compass will guide cultural integration across various policy areas, both within the EU and externally, and address topics like AI, working conditions in the cultural sector, and cultural diplomacy. However, the standalone funding programme for culture remains uncertain in the upcoming Multi-annual Financial Framework (MFF), which Commissioners are framing as a "simpler, more focused, and adaptable long-term budget" with the potential to bring about significant changes.

CULT committee meetings

21 Jan: The next [CULT Committee meeting](#) will take place on 29-30 January 2025.

Council of Europe

2025 is 50th anniversary of the European Architectural Heritage Year

The Council of Europe's European Architectural Heritage Year 1975 was pivotal in recognizing architectural heritage as a key factor in determining the quality of life and improving preservation efforts across Europe. The Congress of Amsterdam recognised that Europe's unique architecture was the common heritage of all her peoples and declared the intention of the Member States to work with one another and with other European governments for its protection. A number of events in 2025 will celebrate the anniversary.

2025 European Year of Digital Citizenship Education

21 Jan: This initiative aims to address the urgent need for increased efforts and investment in digital citizenship education to effectively respond to challenges and opportunities that have emerged or been amplified by digital technologies and environment. The [European Year of Digital Citizenship Education 2025](#) stands as a unique opportunity to enhance the visibility and impact of digital citizenship education and reaffirm its value. This designated year will provide a strategic platform for key stakeholders from the public, private and civil sectors to work together, set common goals and share sense-making practices. It will also provide a concise yet impactful space for measuring achievements and collectively defining a road map for the future of digital citizenship education.

Youth engagement: a priority for the Council of Europe

21 Jan: The Luxembourg Presidency of the Committee of Ministers has made [democratic participation by young people](#) at all levels – local, national and international – one of its priorities, thereby helping to strengthen the rule of law and democracy. It is young people who shape today's society and tomorrow's. It is vital to understand their codes and their communication channels in order to promote the Council of Europe's values among these young citizens.

Council of Europe Landscape Convention: 12th Conference

The [12th Conference on the Convention](#) took place 29-30 October 2024, Strasbourg. The event affirmed the importance of contributing to the Reykjavík Process and the environment and of strengthening the connection with human rights, making landscape a visible priority of the Council of Europe. Participants emphasised the importance of collaborative efforts to tackle pressing issues of the interconnected challenges posed by the triple planetary crisis of pollution, climate change and biodiversity loss on landscape and human rights. National representatives discussed the necessity to have a new information system, the work programme for 2025-26 and the plan to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Convention in October 2025.

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

The 13th session was held [19-21 November 2024](#) in Strasbourg. The meeting report is not available yet.

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 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:

Preparing the post-war recovery of the Ukrainian cultural and creative sectors
[CREA-CULT-2025-COOP-UA-3](#) **Deadline** 6 February 2025.

Fostering Ukrainians' access to culture and cultural heritage
[CREA-CULT-2025-COOP-UA-2](#). **Deadline** 6 February 2025.

[2025 European Cooperation Projects CREA-CULT-2025-COOP1-3](#): With a budget of around €60 million, the action will foster cooperation between organisations active in the field of culture, to increase the cross-border dimension of creation and circulation of European artistic content. It will also encourage the development, experimentation, dissemination, and application of new and innovative practices. The action will support at least 130 projects. **Deadline** 13 May 2025.

Application details for grants: [Small scale](#) [Medium scale](#) [Large scale](#)

Forthcoming calls:

None

JPI on Cultural Heritage and Global Change

Open and forthcoming calls:

None

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.

Nov 24: MEPs secured a compromise on budget cuts to Horizon proposed by member states, allocating €12.8 billion in 2025, down from €12.9 billion in 2024.

Open and forthcoming calls:

None

UK participation in Horizon Europe: 1 Jan 2025 marks one year anniversary of UK association with Horizon Europe, and the UK government has announced plans to [boost UK applications to the fund](#).

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.

<https://erc.europa.eu/news-events/news/erc-work-programme-2025-adopted>

Open calls:

Call for proposals for ERC Proof of Concept Grant ([ERC-2025-POC](#)) **Deadline** 13 March 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 and forthcoming calls:

There are no open or 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:

Interreg indicates that all funds have been committed. [No more open calls are planned](#) during the 2021-2027 programme.

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):

Call for proposals for Networks of Towns ([CERV-2025-CITIZENS-TOWN-NT](#)). **Deadline** 27 March 2025.

Forthcoming calls:

None.

Erasmus+

Open Calls:

The [2025 call is now open](#), **deadline** 6 March 2025.

Call of particular relevance:

Partnerships for Innovation - Alliances ([ERASMUS-EDU-2025-PI-ALL-INNO](#))

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

Call for submissions: EAA 2025 Book prize

The EAA annually awards its Book Prize to honour recent publications by EAA Members. Submissions for the [2025 EAA Book Prize](#) must be received by the EAA Secretariat before 28 February 2025 and will be evaluated by the Book Prize Committee.

Survey: European Heritage Hub request feedback on digital tools

13 Jan: The [European Heritage Hub has launched a survey](#) focusing on two of its flagship digital tools, the Heritage Library and the Policy Monitor. These platforms aim to enhance cooperation, knowledge-sharing, and advocacy within the heritage sector across Europe, supporting the Hub's broader vision for a more sustainable, digital, and inclusive society. The Hub aims to be tailor-made and should be beneficial to all. Feedback is crucial to help refine these tools and ensure they remain useful, accessible, and impactful. Everyone is encouraged to participate in the survey, whether or not they have used the tools before. Participate by 14 February 2025.

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

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

Nominations: European Prize for Citizen Science

The Prize honours [Citizen Science Initiatives in the European Research Area](#) that enact change, expand knowledge, and demonstrate innovative Open Science processes that rethink existing practices while addressing social, cultural, environmental, educational, and political advancement. The Prize invites submissions from a diverse range of initiatives that demonstrate outstanding examples of both citizens engaging with science and research, and scientists and researchers engaging with society. An initiative could consist of a project, a series of projects, an activity, or series of activities. **Deadline** 10 March 2025.

Future calls: Culture and Health Platform

22 Oct: The previous CultureForHealth project evolves into the [CultureAndHealth Platform](#), co-funded by the European Union, Culture Action Europe and 14 European partner organizations. The platform will run for four years from Nov 24, offering exciting opportunities for emerging European artists working at the intersection of culture, health, care, and social sectors. The first calls national calls will take place in 11 countries all over Europe from February/March 2025, a map of the calls is available.

Call for nominations: 2025 UNESCO-Greece Melina Mercouri International Prize for the Safeguarding and Management of Cultural Landscapes

23 Jan: UNESCO is calling on communities around the world to celebrate and protect some of the planet's most stunning cultural landscapes. Nominations are now open for the UNESCO-Greece Melina Mercouri International Prize for the Safeguarding and Management of Cultural Landscapes. The Prize emphasizes the crucial role of cultural landscape preservation in safeguarding our shared heritage while inspiring future action. [Submissions are open](#) until **30 April 2025**.

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 Contributions: 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. Registration has been delayed for administrative reasons, but the [Call for Contributions](#) is now open until 6 February. Session 207 will address 'Participatory approaches in archaeology and museums 20 years on from the Faro Convention's Article 12' and submissions are invited.

Registration open: 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. [Registration open](#) until 7 February.

Cultural Deal for Europe's Annual Policy Conversation

14 Jan: This year's [Cultural Deal for Europe policy conversation](#) – taking place on **4 February 2025** – focuses on three main topics: How can culture and cultural heritage take a leading role in shaping Europe's future? How can they foster a shared European sentiment and a common public space? What steps can we take together to support a democratic, diverse, and peaceful Europe? This is a timely conversation aligning with the start of the new European Commission and ahead of the European Parliament's debate on the MFF. It will help prioritise culture in the EU's legislative agenda as Europe grapples with war, division, and polarisation. Culture and cultural heritage stand as Europe's greatest assets and are great tools to help us envision better futures for our continent.

Registration open: Europe, let's cooperate! 2025

The 11th edition of Europe, let's cooperate interregional cooperation forum takes place on 19-20 March 2025 in Krakow, Poland. The event brings together people from all across Europe to discover how to benefit from interregional cooperation. Join the event in Krakow to celebrate cooperation, the 10th anniversary of the Policy Learning Platform and get inspired by good practices from around Europe. [Registration is open](#) until 27 Feb 2025.

ICOMOS: 60th anniversary and Annual General Assembly 2025

The International Day for Monuments and Sites (IDMS) is celebrated each year on 18 April. The 2025 IDMS celebrations will focus on the 60 years of ICOMOS actions in relation to safeguarding heritage under threat of disasters and conflicts as well as its future objectives in prevention, mitigation, preparation, emergency response, and recovery that we can take to safeguard heritage in times of crisis. The [ICOMOS AGM and Symposium](#) will be held from 13-19 Oct 2025, in Lumbini, Nepal, the birthplace of Gautam Buddha on the theme of *Heritage under Threat of Disasters and Conflicts: Preparedness and Learning from 60 years of ICOMOS Actions*.

19th annual EHHF meeting

The [19th edition of the Forum](#) will take place in Valletta, Malta, hosted by the Superintendence for Cultural Heritage. The annual meeting will provide the opportunity to discuss the 30th anniversary of the Valletta Convention for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage of Europe. Attendance by invitation only.

2025 ICAHM Annual Meeting

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 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.

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 programme has been issued. <https://spma.org.uk/post-medieval-archaeology-congress-2025-programme>

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. The theme is "Digital Horizons: Embracing Heritage in an Evolving World". Early registration is 3 Feb-9 Mar.

World Conference on Cultural Policies and Sustainable Development: MONDIACULT 2025

Paving the way towards the recognition of culture as a standalone goal in the post-2030 Agenda MONDIACULT is the world's biggest cultural policy conference. The 2025 edition takes place in Barcelona, Spain from 29 Sept- 1 Oct 2025. With the conclusion of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda in sight, the 2025 UNESCO Conference is a decisive moment to build a consensus and momentum to establish culture as a 'stand-alone' goal within the next United Nations development strategy. Cultural rights must be guaranteed for all - and upheld by all. This is why UNESCO will ensure the presence of a wide array of participants, from policymakers, the civil society, artists to young people at [MONDIACULT 2025](#).

ENCATC Congress 2025

The ENCATC Congress will be organised from 15-17 Sept 2025 as a face-to-face event in Barcelona, Spain. The [2025 ENCATC Congress](#) is closely aligned with the Mondiacult Conference 2025, both taking place in Barcelona. This connection fosters a synergistic dialogue on the role of culture in advancing sustainable development and global quality of life. By linking the Congress to the prestigious Mondiacult platform, the event emphasises shared objectives such as promoting cultural rights, addressing contemporary challenges, and enhancing international cooperation in cultural policy and innovation.

NEMO European Museum Conference

The next [NEMO European Museum Conference](#), taking place from 26-28 October 2025 in Horsens, Denmark, will explore museums' role in wellbeing and (mental) health. Registration opens in June 2025.

30th CHNT-ICOMOS Annual Conference

The annual conference on [Cultural Heritage and New Technologies](#) will take place in Vienna, 3-5 Nov 2025 and online. Registration is now open.

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.

Binding, C., & Tudhope, D. (2024). [Vocabulary mapping for archaeological infrastructure](#). Journal of Information Science, 0(0).

[The Preservation of Knowledge in the Digital Age](#) (Arcadia Fund)

[Two new tutorial videos](#) about the ARIADNE portal

[Good practices for the 3D digitisation of cultural heritage](#) (Eureka3D)

[Policy Review on Cultural Heritage and Green Transition](#) (European Heritage Hub)

[World Heritage Regional Action Plan for Europe and North America](#) (2024-2031) [user friendly version]

[Connected journeys: Holistic audience measurement in the age of digital](#) (NEMO)

[CHARTER's Recommendations: A roadmap for a thriving heritage sector](#)

[Mapping Europe's Urban Tapestry: An Interactive Exploration of Towns and Cities \(ESPON\)](#)

Interactive dashboard offering deep dive into the urban landscape of Europe, providing a dynamic and detailed map of towns and cities across the continent.

Other updates

UNESCO recalls obligation to respect and protect the integrity of heritage sites

30 Oct 24: "In the Middle East more than seventy exceptional sites are recognized and protected as World Heritage by UNESCO. These sites are now under threat, particularly in Lebanon, Palestine, Israel and Yemen. UNESCO recalls to all parties their obligation to respect and protect the integrity of these sites. They are the heritage of all humanity and should never be targeted."

Damaged cultural sites in Ukraine verified by UNESCO

22 Jan: [UNESCO announced](#) that it has verified damage to 476 sites since 24 February 2022 – 149 religious sites, 241 buildings of historical and/or artistic interest, 32 museums, 33 monuments, 18 libraries, 1 archive and 2 archaeological sites.

Second draft of AI Code of Practice

19 Dec: Independent experts present the [second draft of the General-Purpose AI Code of Practice](#). Each draft is a work in progress and reflects the views of stakeholders participating in the Code of Practice Working Groups and Provider Workshops, consisting of around 1000 stakeholders, including EU Member State representatives and European and international observers. This draft includes several new obligations for AI providers, such as appointing a contact person for rightsholders and implementing safeguards against copyright-related overfitting, where AI-generated outputs closely resemble copyrighted input materials. However, the measures also contain notable caveats. [Several concerns have been raised by Culture Action Europe regarding the draft](#). One issue is that the proposed KPIs focus on formalistic measures rather than outcomes, potentially limiting their effectiveness. Additionally, many obligations do not apply to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), which could create loopholes for certain businesses. The draft does not cover significant issues such as clear guidance on handling datasets containing infringing content, deepfake labelling, and strategies for compensating creators for the use of their intellectual property. Plans for removing infringing content from datasets remain absent as well.

Hub publishes Third Policy Review on Cultural Heritage and Green Transition

6 Nov: The Policy Team of the European Heritage Hub has published its [third Policy Review](#), based on the findings of the Policy Monitor. This thematic review examines trends on green policies identified in the Policy Monitor up to October 2024. This Policy Review outlines preliminary observations, trends and findings on green policies included in the Policy Monitor to date. In particular, it highlights EU laws and policies, as well as national and regional green strategies that aim to contribute to the triple transformation of our sector. It does so by shining a light on three key green policies implemented at EU level that may impact directly or indirectly the cultural heritage field. It also considers examples of national, regional and local plans that translate these overarching EU policies to action.

Eurocities: #100daysEU campaign

2 Dec: To mark the first 100 days of the European Commission, Eurocities [#100daysEU campaign](#) highlights 10 priorities for a better Europe. As first set out at the European Mayors Summit, city leaders envisage ways to strengthen democracy, accelerate climate action, and address citizens' most pressing needs. One priority is ['a sustainable and inclusive culture'](#): Culture, arts, and creative industries are powerful tools for societal transformation and economic development. The EU should take stronger action to green these sectors, ensuring they contribute to sustainability while fostering inclusion and urban vibrancy.

18th annual EHHF meeting

The 18th edition of the Forum took place in Kraków, organised by the Polish National Heritage Institute in collaboration with the EHHF Permanent Secretariat. The theme was 'Heritage in Emergencies', all [conference content is available on the EHHF website](#).

CHARTER's Recommendations: A roadmap for a thriving heritage sector

19 Dec: Recommendations published by [CHARTER - The European Cultural Heritage Skills Alliance](#), at the conclusion of the Erasmus+ funded project. The recommendations highlight a strategic path forward for strengthening the heritage sector by addressing critical gaps in education, training, and labour market requirements. The 12 actionable proposals aim to foster sustainability, inclusivity, and innovation, positioning cultural heritage as a powerful driver of social, economic, and environmental progress. Each recommendation is supported by specific implementation actions, clearly categorised by the relevant stakeholders. Additionally, the document provides detailed sections tailored for recommendations involving the European Union, Member States and Regional Authorities, Education and Training providers, and Heritage institutions and employers, ensuring a comprehensive and actionable roadmap for the sector.

CARE: Culture for Mental Health

18 Nov: More than 85 million citizens in the EU are affected by mental health problems. Following the recommendations of the CultureForHealth project, the CARE project leverages the potential of arts and cultural experiences to enhance mental health and well-being of youth, working people and people with disabilities. [Culture for Mental Health](#) is funded by the Creative Europe Programme of the European Union, and brings together expertise from across Europe to explore the intersection of arts, culture, and mental health for a healthier future. A budget totalling 1.4 million euros will be implemented over a period of 3 years. Stakeholders from culture, health, education and business collaborate on innovative approaches and solutions to improve health and well-being through access to and participation in culture across Europe.

TCZ: Training for the Contact Zone

13 Nov: [Training for the Contact Zone](#) (TCZ), is an Erasmus+ Adult Education project, running from Sep 24- Aug 26 that aims to raise awareness about the importance and challenges that museums and heritage sites face in reaching and serving a broad and diverse audience. TCZ addresses the needs identified by previous project, the Heritage Contact Zone (HCZ), which worked with cultural mediators and artists to open up current heritage structures as "contact zones" towards more inclusive narratives. The continuation of this work in TCZ will result in the development and testing of training materials for heritage sector professionals, artists, cultural mediators, staff, and volunteers, as well as conducting training sessions to enhance the skills of cultural mediators and innovate their practices. The main goal is to make heritage institutions more representative of contemporary European societies, promoting a transnational view of history and contributing to greater social inclusion.

ARTEMIS project begins

1 Jan: [ARTEMIS \(Applying Reactive Twins to Enhance Monument Information Systems\)](#) is a Horizon Europe project within a framework that develops content for the European Collaborative Cloud for Cultural Heritage (ECCCH). A total of €110 million has been allocated for the digital transformation of the cultural heritage sector under this framework. ARTEMIS will develop new digital tools that will be freely accessible within the ECCCH cloud. The project focuses on preserving, restoring, and protecting cultural heritage using digital twin technology. These digital twins will serve as the foundation for leveraging technologies like augmented reality (AR), virtual reality (VR), repositories of digital documentation for heritage objects with 3D models, or simulations of real object behaviours under various conditions and external factors.

RICHeS - Research Infrastructure for Conservation and Heritage Science launched (UK)

Oct 24: The [UKRI Arts and Humanities Council](#) (AHRC) unveiled 31 projects to grow the UK heritage economy and protect cultural heritage for future generations. The projects will unlock the potential of existing heritage collections and provide access to untapped cultural assets to safeguard and grow the UK's £29 billion heritage sector. New, state-of-the-art facilities will drive innovations in other areas including sustainable building practices, bio-imaging, carbon-dating and materials analysis. The RICHeS programme is funded by an £80 million investment from the UKRI Infrastructure Fund and is delivered by AHRC.

2025 European Heritage Days: Heritage and Architecture: Windows to the Past, Doors to the Future

The theme for [European Heritage Days 2025](#), "Architectural Heritage," marks the 50th anniversary of the "European Architectural Heritage Year" 1975. "Architectural Heritage" invites communities to explore and celebrate the diverse architectural styles, periods, and materials that have shaped Europe's built environment. It encourages a deeper appreciation for the craftsmanship and intangible cultural heritage involved in creating these structures, recognizing the importance of preserving both the physical buildings and the skills used to construct them. The 2025 European Heritage Days aim to foster a greater understanding of how our built environment reflects and influences our shared history, while also inspiring efforts to protect and conserve this heritage for future generations.

Free NEMO Trial Memberships for 2025

15 Jan: 10 museums, museum-oriented organisations, or museum service providers will be selected for NEMO's 2025 Trial Membership programme. 5 of these memberships are specifically reserved for organisations based in Ukraine. [Applications are welcome](#) until [9 February 2025](#). Selected organisations will receive one year of free membership (March 2025 – March 2026), gaining full access to NEMO's resources and benefits.

Creative Europe announces the results of its 2024 calls

15 Jan: The Creative Europe programme published information about the main results of five calls for proposals: Cooperation projects, Circulation of literary works, European networks of cultural and creative organisations, Pan-European cultural entities, European platforms for the promotion of emerging artists. Full details of successful projects can be [downloaded from the website](#).

Interreg: results of third call

10 Dec: Interreg Europe monitoring committee conditionally approved 113 projects out of 206 applications received in the third call for project proposals which closed in June 2024. [Full list of projects here](#). They include ECoCLongRun (Maximising the impact of the European Capitals of Culture beyond the spotlight year); Herition (New models for a participatory heritage management in natural protected areas); INCREMENTAL (Intangible Cultural Heritage and local development. Communities, safeguard and resilience); PEAT-EU (Ambitious policies for peatland restoration, conservation, and sustainable management in Europe); PROSPERO (Culture and Creativity driving prosperous development); PROTECH 2024 (Preventive approaches To the conservation of Europe's Cultural Heritage); SMART-TOUR (Smart Tourism - Smart Destinations: Digitalisation, Sustainability, Cultural Heritage and Creativity).

ERC Grants 2024/2025: results and facts and figures

23 Jan: In the final round of the 2024 European Research Council (ERC) Proof of Concept grant competition, [134 projects will receive support](#), bringing the total number of grants awarded under the 2024 work programme to 245 worth €36.75 million. The Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim, receives a grant for project PReCise (Precise, Rapid and Scalable Proteomics Solutions for Archaeology, Ecology, Wildlife Forensics and Food-chain Authentication). The ERC [Consolidator Grants 2025](#) call closed for applications on 14 Jan 2025. Preliminary data shows that the ERC received 3,121 applications, marking a 35% increase compared to the previous call and a 46% increase compared to the 2023 call. The highest number of applications came from the Physical Sciences and Engineering domain with 1 268 submissions (41%) followed by Social Sciences and Humanities with 1 033 submissions (33%), and Life Sciences with 820 submissions (26%).

AI4Culture: Cooking up solutions: Recipes for cultural heritage

12 Dec: New step-by-step [Recipes available on the AI4Culture platform](#) empower cultural heritage professionals to solve challenges with AI. Two months since the launch of the AI4Culture Platform, it is upgraded with a new category of dynamic resources: 'Recipes'. Recipes are curated guides that provide step-by-step instructions on how to use and combine different features of AI tools and other resources to solve complex tasks. Recipes may describe, for example, how visual analysis or automatic translation tools can be used for enrichment purposes in combination with metadata management platforms; or how automatic subtitling and optical character recognition tools can be used together with tools that facilitate validation and post-editing of the automatically produced results. Currently, there are five recipes on the AI4Culture platform that guide the user - be they a cultural heritage professional, aggregator, researcher or developer - through different tasks of high interest to the cultural heritage community.

Honouring Jewish heritage across Europe through cultural routes

23 Jan: Under the auspices of the Luxembourg Presidency of the Committee of Ministers, the [European Association for the Preservation of Jewish Heritage](#) celebrated its 20th anniversary at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg. The event aimed at underscoring the commitment to protect and promote the richness and diversity of Jewish heritage across Europe, recognised as Cultural route of the Council of Europe.

Winner and finalists of the Religious Heritage Innovator of the Year 2024

10 Dec: Future for Religious Heritage announced the 2024 overall winner and four finalists of the [Religious Heritage Innovator of the Year 2024](#), an annual award recognising the best projects to protect, enhance and promote European historic places of worship. The selected projects of 2024 were: "Recording Scotland's Closing Churches: A Race Against Time" by the Scotland's Churches Trust; "Buurtbakens Haarlem" by the Municipality of Haarlem in cooperation with seven congregations; "Una catedral en el páramo: Villamorón – Burgos, España" by Asociación Amigos de Villamorón; "3D Sacral Art of Rivne region" by Rivne Museum of Local Lore; and "Focus Craftership: Ora et Labora" by PARCUM (Belgium).

EUNIC to Lead Part of New Africa-Europe Programme in Sub-Saharan Africa

9 Jan: A new [Africa-Europe Partnerships for Culture](#) programme from the European Commission in Sub-Saharan Africa. programme recognises the European Spaces of Culture approach as a model to develop international cultural relations in the region. Africa-Europe Partnerships for Culture is a 30 million EUR programme, funded by the European Commission's Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA), which seeks to strengthen and expand partnerships with African actors and civil society across the continent. EUNIC will implement part of the continental component, while Goethe-Institut, Expertise France, and UNESCO will manage the Western and Southern Africa branches.

In 2025, 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!