

European affairs update

April 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: **Croatia***
<https://eu2020.hr/>
- *Committee of Ministers (CoE) chairmanship November 2019-May 2020: **Georgia***
<https://www.coe.int/en/web/chairmanship>
- *European Capitals of Culture 2020: **Rijeka (Croatia)** <https://rijeka2020.eu/> and **Galway (Ireland)** <https://galway2020.ie/en/>*

Policy

EUROPEAN UNION

EU's response to COVID-19 coronavirus outbreak

The EU leaders endorsed a €540 billion package of three safety nets for workers, businesses and member states at their meeting on 23 April 2020 by video conference. They called for the package to be operational by 1 June 2020.

They also agreed to work towards establishing a recovery fund. Leaders tasked the Commission to analyse the exact needs and to urgently come up with a proposal. EU leaders welcomed a European roadmap towards lifting COVID-19 containment measures and a roadmap for recovery that were presented by Charles Michel and the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen ahead of the meeting. The EU's recovery strategy defines four key areas for action:

- the single market
 - an unprecedented massive investment effort
 - the EU's external actions
 - the EU's resilience and governance
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- [Video conference of the members of the European Council, 23 April 2020](#)
 - [Conclusions of the President of the European Council following the video conference of the members of the European Council, 23 April 2020](#)
 - [COVID-19: More flexibility for deploying EU budget money, 22 April 2020](#)
 - [Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative Plus, 20 April 2020](#)
 - [Joint European roadmap towards lifting COVID-19 containment measures, 15 April 2020](#)
 - [A roadmap for recovery - Towards a more resilient, sustainable and fair Europe](#)
 - [Summary of the EU response to the coronavirus outbreak in support of the cultural and creative sectors](#)

Further details [HERE](#).

EU funds must reach media and creative sector, say MEPs

Additional EU action is needed to make sure EU help reaches the ravaged media and culture sectors, say EP Culture committee members. The culture and creative sector in the EU - especially individual creators and SMEs - are being decimated by the crisis. The European Union must therefore do more to help those struggling sectors to get back on their feet, stress the members of the European Parliament's Culture and Education Committee, in a letter to Commissioners Thierry Breton and Mariya Gabriel, sent on Monday 20 April. To make sure EU funds reach the sector, MEPs are asking the Commission to consider increasing the Cultural and Creative Sectors Guarantee Facility (Creative Europe programme) by topping it up from the 2021 budget, or transferring funds from the European Fund for Strategic Investments. Creating an ad hoc financial instrument under the European Investment Fund to channel funds to the sector should also be considered. [EU response to COVID-19 response](#) is a good start, but more needs to be done.

EU Covid-19 measures for the cultural sector

Following the e-[meeting of the EU cultural Ministers on 8 April](#), Commissioner Mariya Gabriel announced that the Commission will set up two EU-wide platforms for Member States to share their best practices and for the sectors to come up with their own proposals. In an effort to reaffirm the European dimension of the struggle, Commissioner Gabriel further stressed on three horizontal measures already adopted by the European Commission which can apply to professionals from the cultural and creative sectors, namely the [Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative](#) (CRII) and the European instrument for temporary [Support to mitigate Unemployment Risks in an Emergency](#) (SURE), together with the [Temporary Framework for State Aid](#) measures to make use of the full flexibility foreseen under State Aid rules. Commissioner Gabriel said that the Commission is also exploring how to adapt the CCS Guarantee Facility to mitigate the effects of the crisis. However, how and in what measure all these funds will reach the cultural and creative sectors remains to be monitored closely. Some subsectors have already received certain amount of financial support, and the hope is that that the access to any European emergency funds for Culture proposed by the Commissioner will be granted to all cultural operators. Earlier in April, In [an open letter to the EU Commission and the Member States](#), 105 Members of the EU Parliament demanded support for the Cultural and Creative Sectors (CSS) affected by the COVID-19 crisis. Find out more [here](#).

European Commission launches Cultural Heritage In Action programme

[Cultural Heritage In Action](#) is a peer-learning programme for local and regional policymakers to exchange knowledge on cultural heritage, launched in February 2020. The focus of this programme is on participatory governance, adaptive reuse and the quality of interventions. The aim of the European Commission with this programme is to empower cities and regions to strengthen their cultural heritage policies and initiatives and to develop innovative solutions to preserve cultural heritage assets. The peer-learning programme is one of the actions of the Commission's European Framework for Action on Cultural Heritage building on the momentum created by the 2018 European Year of Cultural Heritage.

The consortium led by [EUROCITIES](#) with its partners

- [KEA European Affairs](#),
- [European Regions Research and Innovation Network](#) (ERRIN),
- [Europa Nostra](#) and
- [Architects' Council of Europe](#)

is managing the programme between January 2020 and April 2021. The funding is received from the European Commission's [Creative Europe Programme](#) and the deadline for submissions is 27 April 2020. Find out more [here](#).

2020 Work Programme for the implementation of pilot projects and preparatory actions in the area of education, youth, sport and culture

Earlier in March The European Commission agreed that the maximum Union contribution for the implementation of pilot projects and preparatory actions in the field of education, youth, sport and culture for year 2020 will be set at EUR 37,690,000 and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the following lines of the general budget of the Union – see details [HERE](#).

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

18th meeting of the Bureau of the Steering Committee for Culture, Heritage and Landscape (CDCPP)

This year, the spring-time meeting of the Bureau of the Steering Committee for Culture, Heritage and Landscape (CDCPP) happened on-line on 28 April 2020. Originally due to take place in Tbilisi, Georgia, the COVID 19 crisis has meant new working methods have had to be put in place. The nine Bureau members will exchange on progress made on current activities and discuss innovative CDCPP action on arts, culture, heritage and the Freedom of Expression, as well as working methods for the future, with a view to preparing the plenary session of the CDCPP, currently set to take place from 30 June to 2 July. [The agenda for the Bureau meeting](#) is available on-line, together with the public documents

Search for ST21 best practices continues in 2020!

COVID-19 is dominating all the news at the moment and the heritage sector is being heavily affected. Planned meetings and events have had to be cancelled, heritage sites have been closed, causing substantial financial losses to tourism and the wider culture/heritage sector. Heritage professionals are further challenged to be as creative as possible and forced to turn to "digital participation" in cultural

heritage. Meetings and events are taking place via video conferencing and online exhibitions and virtual tours are being created, demonstrating the sector's ability to adapt in new ways. In order to mitigate the bad news about COVID, you are invited to send new inspirational best project [examples/practices in the framework of the ST21 work](#). This year, special attention is being given to [heritage education](#) best practices and projects, one of the three main components of ST21 being education and knowledge. At the same time, the Council of Europe are embracing the main [theme of the 2020 European Heritage Days - "Heritage and Education: learning for life"](#). And even if your best practices are not dedicated specifically to education, all the best practices that you send will be considered and published on the [dedicated ST21 website](#). [Submit your entry](#) or find out more [here](#).

The new Faro Convention Brochure: the way forward with heritage

Citizens' involvement in the cultural heritage field is proving to be more relevant than ever. In the light of the important effects of the present COVID-19 crisis on the heritage sector, all stakeholders, including authorities (local, regional and national), heritage communities and civil society representatives, may be looking for new ways of contributing to the management of our common cultural heritage. In this context, the [new Faro Convention brochure](#) aims at fostering joint action in the cultural heritage sector by civil society and authorities at various levels, presenting examples of the Faro Convention principles being applied in concrete cases, inspiring exchanges and opinion sharing, as well as bringing the Faro Convention to the public at large. Find out more [here](#).

COVID-19: Joint statement by the European Committee of the Regions' Conference of Presidents

"As mayors, presidents of regions and local and regional councilors we are on the front-line in the fight against the Coronavirus. The unprecedented nature of the COVID-19 shock requires immediate measures and a bold social and economic recovery plan for the European Union, built on solidarity, sustainability, resilience and social justice, in line with the European Green Deal and digital transition agenda. Together with all levels of government across Europe, we commit to join efforts to fight the pandemic, protect our people and contribute to the economic, social and financial recovery" – this is how the joint statement by the European Committee of the Regions' Conference of Presidents starts. Read the full text [here](#).

Covid-19 - How to explore art, culture and heritage of Europe from home

With Covid 19, a large number of people are currently working at home, confined to their homes for a long time. While nothing can replace the intense experience of a live orchestral concert, or the unique encounter with art in museums and galleries, thanks to the increasingly available digital platforms, art is just a click away. And there is much evidence to show that art and culture contribute to our wellbeing, serenity, inspiration, intellectual stimulation and resilience in facing challenges. The Culture and Cultural Heritage Division of the Council of Europe have prepared a [list of activities you can do and places you can visit](#), without leaving the comfort of your own home.

Funding and investments

PROPOSALS FOR THE POST-2020 BUDGETS AND PROGRAMMES

Multiannual Financial framework (MFF)

European Council President Charles Michel presented a joint roadmap for recovery, prepared together with European Commission President von der Leyen, ahead of the [leaders' video conference on 23 April](#) dedicated to the EU's response to the coronavirus pandemic. The report states that [the future multiannual financial framework \(MFF\) will be a key instrument to support a lasting recovery](#) and a fully functioning and modernised single market. It also states that the MFF will have to take into account the effects of the crisis on regions and affected sectors, including by revamping key programmes to maximise their contribution to repair and recovery. The report calls for the new MFF to be agreed as soon as possible to avoid delays in essential investment and ensure resources can be directed to where they are needed as quickly as possible. On 23 April the members of the European Council welcomed and agreed to the findings of the report. Read the full roadmap report [here](#).

In February, EU heads of state met in Brussels to discuss the EU's long-term budget for 2021-2027, but they didn't manage to reach an agreement. Some of the main issues at stake in the discussions were the overall level, volumes of the main policy areas, financing, including revenues (own resources) and corrections and conditionalities and incentives. Read more about the meeting [here](#).

More information:

- [MFF Negotiations \(background\)](#)
- [General Affairs Council, 10 December 2019](#)

- ❑ [European Council conclusions, 12 December 2019](#)
- ❑ [Statement of the Euro Summit, 13 December 2019](#)
- ❑ [European Council \(Art. 50\) conclusions, 13 December 2019](#)
- ❑ [MFF revised draft negotiating box \(5/12/2019\)](#)
- ❑ [EU's own resources \(background information\)](#)
- ❑ [2021-2027 MFF proposal \(European Commission\)](#)
- ❑ [European Development Fund \(European Commission\)](#)
- ❑ [EU budget for the future \(European Commission\)](#)
- ❑ The [last progress report on the MFF](#).
- ❑ Factsheet [A modern EU budget for a Union that protects, empowers and defends](#)

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.

Coronavirus: deadline for applications extended

The European Commission and the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency extends the deadlines of many calls for proposals. Find out more [here](#).

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](#).

These are the following open calls at the moment:

- [Music Education and Learning](#) (deadline 30/04/2020)
- [Cocreation and co-production scheme for the music sector](#) (deadline 30/04/2020)

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);

Read also:

- [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 from EACEA](#)
- [COVID-19 News](#)
- [FAQ for Erasmus+ participants](#)

Erasmus+ students during Covid-19: MEPs call for more support and clarity

In a letter addressed to Commissioner Mariya Gabriel on Wednesday 22 April, the Members of the Culture and Education Committee pointed out that the Commission's current way of communicating, as well as the different approaches and lack of information from national agencies, do not provide certainty that extra costs will be reimbursed and that Erasmus+ exchange students and participants of the Solidarity Corps programme will be able to retain their status. They also ask for students to be supported to ensure that they do not lose this academic year and can obtain the necessary academic credits via virtual learning. In their letter, MEPs also call on the Commission to ensure that Solidarity Corps programme participants can retain their status as volunteers for the planned duration of their placement, even if it has been suspended. They would therefore be able to complete their voluntary service and not risk losing family income, like child support, that is linked to the volunteer status. They also recommend repurposing the voluntary activities for the suspended European Solidarity Corps participants, for example by deploying volunteers to national support schemes being implemented to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic. Finally, MEPs call for "a clear policy, clearly communicated and consistently implemented across member states", saying that people and organisations affected are "deeply worried" and "need to feel that the Commission is on their side".

Currently 165 000 people across Europe are on an Erasmus+ exchange and 5 000 more are involved in Solidarity Corps volunteering projects. The Commission has communicated that member state agencies which coordinate the projects may invoke force majeure clauses to enable grants to be paid when exchanges are cut short or otherwise interrupted, to enable activities to be postponed and to allow exceptional costs to be reimbursed. Further information [here](#).

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:

- [European Policy Experimentations in the field of Education and Training led by high-level public authorities](#) (deadline 05/05/2020)
- [The Erasmus Charter for Higher Education 2021-2027](#) (deadline 26/05/2020)

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

New organisation registration system released for decentralised projects

The European Commission has released a [new platform for organisations with decentralised projects](#). The platform, which replaces the Participant Portal, allows Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps organisations to manage their information as well as search for other organisations. Organisations that have already participated in an Erasmus+ or European Solidarity Corps project do not have to register again. You will have been assigned a new 'Organisation ID', which you can find by searching for your existing PIC using the Advanced Search function on the new platform. If you have an existing EU Login, please continue to use this. You do not need to create a new one in order to access your organisation's information. More information [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](#)).

Work Programmes 2018-2020

The European Commission has published its proposal for Horizon Europe, an ambitious €100 billion research and innovation programme that will succeed Horizon 2020.

The proposal was made as part of the EU's proposal for the next [EU long-term budget](#), the multiannual financial framework (MFF). Various building blocks were taken into account including the interim evaluation of Horizon 2020, the Lab-Fab-App report (informally the Lamy report), foresight studies and various other reports.

Legal texts, factsheets and video

- [legal texts and factsheets](#) for Horizon Europe
- factsheet about [research and innovation in the new EU budget](#) (French and German versions [also available](#))
- [video explaining the aims of Horizon Europe](#)

The EU institutions reached a [provisional agreement](#) on Horizon Europe on 20 March 2019. The European Parliament [endorsed](#) the provisional agreement on 17 April 2019. More about the policy and the proposal for the future of Horizon Europe and Horizon 2020 [here](#).

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

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

- ***Excellent Science, Future and Emerging Technologies***
 - [Proof of Concept ERC-2020-PoC - Information for applicants](#) (Deadline: 17/09/2020)

- [FET-Open Challenging Current Thinking](#) (deadlines: 3/06/2020)
- [Individual Fellowships](#) (9/09/2020)
- [Environmental Intelligence](#) (deadline 2/07/2020)
- [Co-funding of regional, national and international programmes](#) (deadline 29/09/2020)
- [FET Proactive: emerging paradigms and communities](#) (deadline 2/07/2020)
- [Research and Innovation Staff Exchange](#) (deadline 12/05/2020)
- [Integrating Activities for Starting Communities](#) (deadline 14/05/2020)
- [Pilot for a new model of Integrating Activities](#) (deadline 14/05/2020)
- [Innovation pilots](#) (deadline 14/05/2020)
- [Strengthening the human capital of research infrastructures](#) (deadline 14/05/2020)
- [Integration and consolidation of the existing pan-European access mechanism to public research infrastructures and commercial services through the FOSC Portal](#) (deadline 18/06/2020)
- **Industrial Leadership**
 - [Fast Track to Innovation](#) FTI (deadlines: 09/06/2020, 27/10/2020)
 - [Digital Excellence](#) (deadline 5/05/2020)
 - [Boost rural economies through cross-sector digital service platforms](#) (deadline 17/06/2020)
 - [SME instrument](#) (deadline 7/10/2020)
 - [Fast Track to Innovation \(FTI\)](#) (deadlines: 9/06/2020, 27/10/2020)
 - [Peer learning of innovation agencies](#) (deadlines 14/10/2020)
- **Societal Challenges, SC3 Secure, Clean and Efficient Energy**
 - [Social Sciences and Humanities \(SSH\) aspects of the Clean-Energy Transition](#) (opens on 5/05/2020; deadline 1/09/2020)
- **Societal Challenges, SC4 Smart, Green and Integrated transport**
 - [Virtual Centre](#) (deadline 16/06/2020)
- **Societal Challenges, SC6 Europe in a changing world – Inclusive, innovative and reflective societies**
 - [The European Capital of Innovation Award \(iCapital\)](#) (deadline 23/06/2020)
- **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](#).

Launch of the new peer review call

The Policy Learning Platform is opening a new call for interregional peer reviews. It is launched on 9 October 2019 and remains open permanently.

Managing authorities and public bodies in charge of local or regional development policies can submit their application at any time, while a series of cut-off dates are foreseen. Read the [terms of reference](#) and [apply](#). Peer reviews are a great way to receive hands-on feedback and advice from other European regions (peers) on the implementation of your policies and programmes. Whether you are struggling with your programme measure on energy efficiency, searching for new ways to support the internationalisation of SMEs or intending to invest in digital rural mobility solutions, exchanging with policy experts and practitioners from other regions can help you to receive new inspiration and solutions with an unbiased view from 'outside'. More information [here](#).

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](#).

COVID-19 Support and Advice Webinars

To help cities navigate the current crisis and implement appropriate responses, the European Commission's Intelligent Cities Challenge is launching a series of city-focused interactive webinars to learn, exchange practises and support city administrations.

[Financial instruments to face COVID-19 – 30 April 2020](#)

[COVID-19: Post-pandemic recovery plans – webinar on 14 May 2020](#)

The first programming committee meeting of Interreg Europe took place on 11 December 2019. Representatives of 30 Partner States came together in Helsinki (Finland) to launch the discussions on what the post-2020 future will hold for Interreg Europe. The programming committee members kicked off the discussion by sharing their thoughts on the core features of the **2021-2027 Interreg Europe**. These initial talks set the basis for further programming that will advance in parallel with the EU-level negotiations on the budgetary and regulatory framework. The work will continue during 2020. Interreg Europe will continue supporting the [258 projects](#) running within the current programme, whilst developing the programming of the **post-2020 future** will intensify over the course of the year. Further information [here](#).

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](#).

HELPFUL SOURCES ON EUROPEAN FUNDING

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

Events

Adapt Northern Heritage Conference 2020 (5-7 May 2020, Edinburgh, UK)

The international conference is now taking place virtually on 5th & 6th May 2020, freely accessible to everyone online.

Climate change is threatening historic places across the world, especially in the northern regions. The international Adapt Northern Heritage Conference 2020 will explore practices and research concerned with assessing the environmental impacts of climate change on, and associated risks to, historic places and planning or implementing adaptation measures to make historic places more resilient to, or manage their loss because of, climate change. This peer-review conference offers themed parallel session over the course of two days with oral and poster presentations. On the third day, relevant case study visits and other social activities are on offer. The conference is organised by the European project Adapt Northern Heritage (2017-2020), which is supported by the European Union, Iceland and Norway through the Interreg Programme for the Northern Periphery and Arctic. More information [here](#).

IE Conference: Fostering heritage communities (8-11 May 2020, Haapsalu, Estonia) – now a web conference

Heritage communities are a cornerstone of the Council of Europe's Faro Convention. But how do heritage sites actually become meaningful for everyone? What triggers volunteer engagement and what boosts someone's sense of fulfilment? Join the web conference for a packed programme of inspiring speeches, presentations and more. Gain an insight into practices in other countries and enjoy exchanges with people from all over the world, when we explore how interpretation can bring heritage communities to life. You can find more information [here](#).

Innovating Cities: Cultural Heritage in Action (14-15 May 2020, Bologna, Italy)

Currently the page is closed, the event is probably cancelled, but keep an eye on it as further information may be available soon

For three years, ten cities participating in the ROCK project – [Athens](#), [Bologna](#), [Cluj-Napoca](#), [Eindhoven](#), [Liverpool](#), [Lisbon](#), [Lyon](#), [Skopje](#), [Turin](#), and [Vilnius](#) – were developing innovative solutions that demonstrate how cultural heritage can be the driving force behind the city's overall sustainability. Supported by service providers and knowledge brokers from among project partners, the ROCK cities tested and advanced numerous tools and approaches aimed at shaping sustainable, heritage-led urban futures. At the final project conference, they will share their results, lessons learned, and best practices, while the subsequent business matching event will become a forum for promoting innovative solutions for historic urban centres. More information [here](#).

Iconic Houses Conference (2-8 June 2020, Rotterdam, The Netherlands)

The conference has been moved to 1-7 June 2021

The programme for next year's Iconic Houses Conference in Rotterdam is being finalised at the moment– it will include visits to circa 23 unique houses in the Netherlands, Belgium and France. You can see the full programme and register [HERE](#). We advise you to check this website regularly or to subscribe to the newsletter to always be in the know of our updates. More information [here](#).

'Europe, let's cooperate! interregional cooperation forum' (9 June 2020, Dubrovnik, Croatia)

No change to announced dates or format at the moment.

Save the date and get ready for the next edition of #europecooperates! Join us to celebrate the

results and impact of interregional cooperation and take part in the discussion about the post-2020 future of Interreg Europe. More information will be available in spring 2020 [here](#).

28th EBLIDA Annual Council Meeting & EBLIDA Conference "Libraries Working for a better World: Implementing Sustainable Development Goals in Europe" (22-23 June 2020, Belgrade, Serbia)

Annual Council postponed, Conference cancelled, webinar to be confirmed

In light of recent public health crisis in Europe, and with the view to ensuring the well-being and safety of participants, the general public and assisting in the global response to combatting the spread of Coronavirus disease (COVID-19), EBLIDA EC decided to decouple the EBLIDA Conference from the EBLIDA Annual Council Meeting. **The EBLIDA Annual Council** needs to approve several official EBLIDA documents; a meeting **will be held in the second half of 2020**.

The decision was also taken to **cancel the 2020 EBLIDA Conference in Belgrade** and to examine different options for an EBLIDA event in the future.

It was also decided to **maintain the joint LIBER-EBLIDA workshop** on *Citizen science supporting sustainable development goals: the possible role of libraries* and to transform it into a **webinar**.

[Please check back later for more information!](#)

You can follow EBLIDA on Twitter [@eblida](#) and [Facebook](#) if you have any question, please contact: eblida2020@sciencesconf.org. More information [here](#).

2020 ENCATC Capacity Building Days and Youth in Action Day (25-26 June 2020, Stockholm, Sweden)

There is no change to announced dates or format of the event at the moment

The focus of the 2020 edition of this activity is on digitalisation. Participants will analyse and discuss how the use of the technology and data analytics offer opportunities for value creation, promotion and impact on community engagement, cross innovation and new business models. The two-day programme will be a mix of lectures, case study and project presentations, and study visits. Participants will also meet representatives from local cultural institutions and organisations, which will give them the opportunity to discuss and learn from their own practice and widen their professional network. More information [here](#).

SKBL International Summer School (3-11 July 2020, The Netherlands)

The curatorium of SKBL Summer School 2020 has decided, due to measures taken to prevent the spread of the COVID 19 virus, to **cancel the 2020 edition**. However, SKBL will organize a Summer School in 2021 and they will keep the public informed of their plans.

You can find more information [here](#).

WAC 2020: World Archaeological Congress (5 – 10 July 2020, Prague, Czech Republic)

Postponed to next year

As a result of the COVID-19 Coronavirus pandemic, the Council of the World Archaeological Congress has unanimously decided to postpone the Ninth World Archaeological Congress, which was scheduled to be held in Prague, Czech Republic, between 5 and 10 July 2020. The WAC-9 will now be held a year later, between 4 and 9 July 2021 in Prague. You can read the full statement / announcement [here](#).

26th EAA Annual Meeting (26-30 August 2020, Budapest, Hungary)

The conference will take place virtually, details TBC

The Covid-19 pandemic and associated challenges globally have had significant consequences for the EAA: for its members, its conference organisers in 2020, and for its conference organisers in the coming three years. It has become clear that the EAA Annual Meeting cannot be held onsite in Budapest in 2020. Specific plans for the virtual meeting in the last week of August 2020 are not yet in place. However, EAA expect to be able to communicate details about it in a few weeks from now. The plan is to keep the scientific programme as planned, including the motto, themes and most, if not all, of the sessions and individual contributions. The Scientific Committee has generously offered to continue its work, and the session organisers will be contacted immediately. EAA will provide information on refunds of the 2020 Budapest Annual Meeting registration fees paid. The practicalities of this will be made clear in a forthcoming statement which will be issued at the

earliest opportunity. 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](#).

12th edition of the International Conference on Structural Analysis of Historical Constructions (SAHC 2020) (6-11 September 2020, Barcelona, Spain)

The organisers are keeping the dates for now but monitoring the situation. More information will be available in May 2020 – keep an eye on the page below.

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](#).

Postponed: SEMINAR Digital Technology and heritage – Challenges and Issues (29th-30th September 2020, 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 postponed the Digital and heritage conference scheduled for 12-13 March 2020. The conference will instead take place on Tuesday 29 and Wednesday 30 September. The hours initially planned remain the same: Tuesday 29 from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Wednesday 30 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](#).

Science and Art VIII Edition – Science and technology applied to heritage conservation (14-16 October, 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](#)

28th ENCATC Congress on Cultural Management and Policy (28-30 October 2020, Prague, Czech Republic)

There are no 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](#).

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](#).

Destination of Sustainable Cultural Tourism Awards 2020: Apply by 1 July

The 2020 edition of the Destination of Sustainable Cultural Tourism Awards is now open for applications. The theme of the third edition of the Awards is "Special Interest Tourism Development and Promotion based on Cultural Heritage". The scheme was launched during the European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018 and seeks to contribute to its legacy. The Awards enhance the visibility of European cultural tourism destinations, create a platform for sharing experience and knowledge, and promote networking between destinations. The Awards contest is open to tourist destinations across Europe, to showcase their results and outputs in sustainable cultural tourism under five selected categories: Industrial Heritage, Maritime, Coastal and Aquatic Heritage, Innovation and Digitalisation in Sustainable Cultural Tourism, Transnational Thematic Tourism Products and Wine Tourism. More information [here](#).

Other updates

New publications and reports on culture and heritage

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

- [Report on the comprehensive economic policy response to the COVID-19 pandemic](#) (European Council, Council of the European Union, April 2020)
- [EAC Occasional Paper 19 "Archaeological Sites and Monuments in the Care of the State - Sharing Our Experiences"](#) (European Archaeological Council, March 2020)

- [Methodology Development For Assessing The Cultural And Socio-Economic value of Digital Cultural Heritage](#) (Maximilino Barrios, Selene Verdial and Paula Conte, Fundación Santa María la Real del Patrimonio Histórico, JPI-CH & The State Agency for Innovation of the Spanish Government, April 2020)
- [SPECIAL FILE : Climate change and sustainable development as it relates to culture, heritage and landscape](#) (Council of Europe, CDCPP, April 2020)
- [SEDEC Bulletin N°1 - COVID-19 impact and response measures](#) (The Commission for Social Policy, Education, Employment, Research and Culture (SEDEC) at the European Committee of the Regions, April 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, April 2020)
- [Rethinking education in the digital age](#) (EPRS|European Parliamentary Research Service Scientific Foresight Unit (STOA), March 2020)
- [Beyond the urban - Contemporary arts and culture in non-urban areas as keys to a sustainable and cohesive Europe](#) (Culture Action Europe, ENCC, IETM & Trans Europe Halles, March 2020)
- [3D documentation and reuse of data within the cultural heritage sector in Ireland](#) (Europeana, March 2020)
- [Bringing 3D into Digital Invasions](#) (Europeana, April 2020)

Europa Nostra launched wide consultation on the impact of COVID-19 on the heritage world

Europa Nostra has launched on 26 March a wide-reaching consultation on this topic among its large pan-European network of members. The objective of the consultation is to collect information and insights that will be used by Europa Nostra as a basis for its advocacy efforts towards the European Union, Member States and other relevant international, European and national bodies. The wide-ranging impacts of COVID-19 on the heritage sector both at the present time and in the long-run are still uncertain. However, the first effects of the pandemic and of the measures to contain it are already taking a considerable toll on the heritage world, as demonstrated by the immediate reactions of heritage stakeholders from all across Europe. More information [here](#).

Collaboration launched on a “European Heritage Green Paper”

Europa Nostra announced a new collaboration with ICOMOS (the International Council on Monuments and Sites) on the key and timely topic of cultural heritage and climate change. Europa Nostra, already an active member of the [Climate Heritage Network](#), will develop a “*European Heritage Green Paper*” as the policy and advocacy framework for a wide mobilisation of heritage stakeholders to contribute to the success of the European Green Deal, as part of Europe’s post-pandemic social and economic recovery. ICOMOS and its pioneering Climate Change and Heritage Working Group (CCHWG), through its Coordinator and leading expert and activist on climate heritage Andrew Potts, is the partner for this vital mobilisation of the wider heritage community. The “*European Heritage Green Paper*” will focus on the role and potential of cultural heritage in achieving the ambitions of the European Green Deal (EGD). It will be led by the expertise of Andrew Potts, working in close cooperation with the Europa Nostra Board and Secretariat. More information [here](#).

European Archaeological Council gathered in Prague for its 21st Annual Symposium

The 21st Annual meeting of the European Archaeological Council was held in Prague from 5 to 7 March 2020 and was attended by more than 100 representatives of various heritage institutions across Europe, including from Israel and the Russian Federation. The meeting was organized by the National Heritage Institute of the Czech Republic, with the support of the National Museum in Prague. The theme of the Prague conference was the *Public Benefit of Archaeology*. Twenty presentations provided insight into the topic from different countries, discussed ways of understanding the issue better and proposed approaches to demonstrating the value of archaeology to society. More information [here](#).

Ten new sites awarded with European Heritage Label

The European Heritage Label has been awarded to ten new sites that have played a significant role in the history and culture of Europe or the building of the European Union. The awards were announced on 31 March 2020. The European Heritage Label is awarded by the European Commission to sites that are milestones in the creation of today’s Europe. Spanning from the dawn of civilization to the Europe we see today, these sites celebrate and symbolise European ideals, values, history and integration. You can see the full list of award winners and more information [here](#).

European Houses of Culture: 5 Pilot Projects Selected

On 17 January, the international jury selected five pilot projects of the preparatory action “*European Houses of Culture*”, which was [launched in April 2019](#) with the publication of a call for ideas. The selected projects should be implemented between March and October 2020 with a budget of €50,000 each. The pilot project “*European Houses of Culture*” is testing new ways of working together among EU

Delegations, EU National Institutes of Culture and the local cultural sector to help deliver the European Union's strategy on cultural relations. The Preparatory Action was initiated by the European Parliament to test and implement innovative collaboration models between European actors (EUNIC members and EU delegations) and local stakeholders in non-EU countries. More information [here](#).

Europa Nostra Agora launched

Europa Nostra have launched the *Europa Nostra Agora*: a virtual platform to share and promote digital best practices related to culture and cultural heritage from across Europe and the world. By joining forces through creative and innovative solutions, they hope to give more visibility and understanding of Europe's "Unity in Diversity" while advancing the digital shift and optimising people's confinement time. By sharing and promoting news and content, Europa Nostra wishes to make a modest but meaningful contribution to enhancing the mental health of citizens during the trying times of the COVID 19 pandemic. More information (and to access the Europa Nostra Agora) [here](#).

Culture 2030 Goal Covid-19 Statement

#CultureCovid19 #Culture2030Goal

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. Entitled 'ENSURING CULTURE FULFILLS ITS POTENTIAL IN RESPONDING TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC', the statement's preamble emphasizes:

"With the world faced with the COVID-19 pandemic today and the need to rebuild our societies tomorrow, culture should be at the heart of the response. Culture brings inspiration, comfort and hope into people's lives. To harness this potential, the Culture 2030 Goal movement, in the context of its engagement in the United Nations 2030 Agenda, calls on UN agencies, governments and all other stakeholders to act." You can download the statement in English, French and Spanish [here](#).

Coming together in isolation - mobilising digital transformation in the face of COVID-19

The cultural heritage sector faces an unprecedented challenge in the face of COVID-19. How can Europeana, as the initiative which supports the digital transformation of the sector, help? Harry Verwayen, Executive Director of the Europeana Foundation, and Georgia Angelaki, Europeana Network Association Vice-Chair, share their thoughts. Find out more [here](#).

More on Europeana's collection of inspiration from across the sector on how cultural heritage organisations are working to engage audiences with their collections, tools and services online as they face temporary closure due to COVID-19 [here](#).

CifA and ALGAO issue joint statement on COVID-19 and archaeology in the UK planning system

[ALGAO UK and CifA have published a statement](#) on adapting to challenges to archaeology in the planning system. The statement notes that contractors and clients may need to adjust expectations as to whether work is possible at the current time. However, archaeology remains a necessary part of planning and pre-application evaluation requirements and on-site mitigation works necessary for the fulfilment of planning conditions are still expected to be completed as they would with any other planning requirements. Where works cannot be undertaken safely, in accordance with professional standards, and to the level necessary to satisfy planning rules these works may need to be delayed. Read the full statement [here](#).

IMPACTOUR: Europa Nostra launches consultation on sustainable cultural tourism

The EU-funded project [IMPACTOUR](#) began in January 2020 with the aim of improving the performance of tourism in Europe, especially by supporting marginalised locations. However, in the light of the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, the project has taken on a new urgency of purpose. In addition to the vital aim of building more sustainable tourism, now is added the urgent need to help rebuild local economies that have suffered from the impact of the health crisis and need help. In this context, Europa Nostra has launched on 1 April 2020 a consultation among its wide-ranging network of members, partners and laureates of the [European Heritage Awards/ Europa Nostra Awards](#) to ask for their input on good practice models of cultural heritage tourism, especially those from which others who need help can find inspiration and practical support. In these testing times, sharing experience can help others to plan for recovery. You can read the [Call for Help](#) and respond in whatever way you can – initially responses were invited by 8 April, but you are welcome to submit your ideas and views afterwards as well. More information [here](#).

UNESCO's Global Education Coalition - #LearningNeverStops

More than 1.5 billion students and youth across the planet are affected by school and university closures due to the COVID-19 outbreak. The Global Education Coalition launched by UNESCO seeks to facilitate inclusive learning opportunities for children and youth during this period of sudden and unprecedented

educational disruption. Investment in remote learning should both mitigate the immediate disruption caused by COVID-19 and establish approaches to develop more open and flexible education systems for the future. The COVID-19 outbreak is also a major education crisis. Find out more [here](#).

Winners of the European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards 2020 to be announced on 7 May

The 21 outstanding winners of the European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards 2020 will be announced on 7 May by Europa Nostra and the European Commission through a joint press release. Organisations and individuals from 30 countries across the continent will be celebrated with Europe's top honour in the field. The Awards are supported by the Creative Europe programme of the European Union. More information [here](#).

European Call to Save 7 Most Endangered Heritage Sites

Europa Nostra and its partner organisation, the European Investment Bank Institute, jointly call for solidarity and mobilisation of decision-makers and heritage stakeholders (public and private) to save Europe's heritage sites which have been selected for the 2020 List of 7 Most Endangered. Experts representing Europa Nostra and the European Investment Bank Institute, together with nominating organisations and with other partners, will visit the listed sites and meet with key stakeholders. These multidisciplinary teams will provide expert advice, identify possible sources of funding and help mobilise wide support to save these heritage landmarks. They will formulate and widely communicate a set of recommendations for action. As of 2020, this programme will be run on an annual basis. The Call for Nominations for the 7 Most Endangered Programme 2021 will be published in June 2020. You can see the list of the 2020 7 Most Endangered Heritage sites and find out more [here](#).

Digital library project spans six countries

The Adrinetbook project is creating a digital library linking six EU countries, to help preserve cultural heritage in the Adriatic-Ionian region. Italy's Macerata municipality is leading the project to create an Adrinet collection that will have links with the Europeana Collections, the web portal of Europe's cultural treasures. The aim is to create a virtual tour of the countries' cultural and tourism heritage. In doing so, Adrinetbook hopes to contribute to conserving, promoting and developing the region's cultural heritage. The activities Macerata will hold as part of the project include events for the tourism industry to exchange best practices, training in cataloguing and digitizing books, and creating tourist itineraries in the countries involved. The project is a partnership between the Municipality of Macerata (IT), Central Institute for the Union Catalogue of Italian Libraries (IT), Municipality of Gjirokastra (AL), Museum of Contemporary Art Zagreb (HR), Zadar County Rural Development Agency (HR), National Library of Serbia (RS), Municipality of Thassos (EL) and the Research and Educational Centre Mansion Rakičan (SI). The 30-month-long project started on 2 March 2020 and is receiving funding of EUR 1.5 million. This Interreg project is funded under the Interreg Adriatic Ionian programme. More information [here](#).

Cooperation across borders: Interreg celebrates 30 years of bringing citizens closer together

The year 2020 marks 30 years since the start of Interreg, the EU's emblematic scheme that aims to encourage territorial cooperation across borders. Launched in 1990, the European Territorial Cooperation (ETC), better known as Interreg, is an emblematic Cohesion Policy scheme that provides a framework for the implementation of joint actions and policy exchanges between national, regional and local actors from different Member States. The overarching objective of European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) is to promote a harmonious economic, social and territorial development of the Union as a whole. Interreg is built around three strands of cooperation: cross-border (Interreg A), transnational (Interreg B) and interregional (Interreg C). The Interreg cooperation programmes cover the entire European continent with a total budget of over €12 billion, including EU and Member States' contribution, during the 2014 - 2020 programming period. The Interreg 30-year campaign will roll out throughout 2020 under the themes: neighbours, green and youth. The campaign will take stock of the past achievements and look forward to what can be done more and better in the future. More information [here](#).

Croatia's EU Presidency Conference on Cultural Heritage at Risk

The conference "*Fostering European Cooperation for Cultural Heritage at Risk*" took place on 27-28 February 2020 in Dubrovnik, Croatia. The objective of the conference was to discuss the state of play at national, international and European level of preparedness strategies and to raise awareness on the available instruments at EU level for risk reduction, both in terms of innovation and management. Moreover, the event also stressed the importance of the integration of cultural heritage in disaster risk management and the necessity to foster international and European coordination at multiple levels, especially in case of disasters with a transnational impact. Around 160 participants from national, European and International institutions, such as the European Commission, UNESCO, Europa Nostra, ICOMOS and ICCROM, universities and civil society organisations attended the conference, certainly one of the most relevant cultural heritage events organised during the Croatian Presidency. The event was organised during Croatia's EU Council Presidency by the Ministry of Culture of Croatia with the support of

the European Commission, the City of Dubrovnik, the Dubrovnik-Neretva County and the Dubrovnik Tourist Board. More information [here](#).

ERDF-funded restoration projects bring cultural sites back to life

An [ERDF-funded project in Latvia](#) is restoring six cultural monuments and developing new tourism services at the sites. The monuments are all of national significance and include several castles and Eastern Orthodox cathedrals.

Two other ERDF-funded projects have been launched to [restore historic walls and parks in the Crete city of Heraklion](#). The restorations will focus on monuments dating back to between 13th and 16th centuries.

In Malta, thanks to ERDF, [14 shrines and statues have been restored in Marsamxett](#), a residential and harbour area. Research by qualified conservators was undertaken so that their original colours could be restored wherever possible.

Portugal: After 20 years of silence, the restored Carillons of the Mafra National Palace played for over 6,000 people

After 20 years of silence and a complex restoration process, the [Carillons of the Mafra National Palace](#) were played during a memorable inaugural concert that assembled over 6,000 people in the square in front of the Palace on the afternoon of 2 February. More information [here](#).

Time Machine - Adding a new dimension to the past

The Time Machine project joins Europe's rich past with the future of digital breakthroughs, creating a living resource that allows you to travel not only through space, but through time. Time Machine builds a large-scale simulator mapping 2000 years of European History, transforming kilometres of archives and large collections from museums into a digital information system. Time Machine aims to develop the *Big Data of the Past*, creating a huge distributed digital information system mapping the European social, cultural and geographical evolution across times. More information [here](#).