

European Affairs Update

October 2025

POLICY	02
FUNDING & INVESTMENTS	04
EVENTS & CALLS FOR PAPERS	07
RESOURCES & PUBLICATIONS	09
OTHER UPDATES	10

Cave paintings, Altamira, location of the EAC2026 Annual Meeting © Altamira Museum



Presidency Council of the European Union: Jul-Dec 2025 Denmark. Jan-Jun 2026 Cyprus. Jul-Dec 2026 Ireland.

Committee of Ministers (CoE) chairmanship: May-Nov 25 Malta. Nov 25-May 26 Republic of Moldova. May-Nov 26 Monaco.

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

Did you know? The Danish Presidency has chosen not to issue a music playlist.

Joint initiative of European Archaeological Council (EAC) and European Association of Archaeologists (EAA).

Prepared by the EAC Assistant Jenni Butterworth.

Contact us at: info@e-a-c.org

European Union

2026 budget: CULT committee opinion on proposed cuts to culture

26 Sep: The [CULT Committee issued an opinion](#) opposing the Council's substantial cuts to Erasmus+ and Creative Europe in the 2026 draft budget, amounting to EUR 257.73 million and EUR 26.4 million respectively. The committee underlined that reducing support for those flagship programmes at the end of the current multiannual financial framework is short-sighted and reflects a lack of vision, and emphasised that those programmes consistently contribute to the priorities of long-term competitiveness, employability and resilience. [Culture Action Europe](#) and other organisations also submitted open objections to the proposed cuts.

2028-2034 multiannual financial framework (MFF): second package

3 Sep: The European Commission adopted [a second package of sectoral proposals](#), building on July's proposal for the MFF, completing the framework for the next long-term EU budget for 2028-2034. The total proposal is for almost EUR 2 trillion (1.26% of the EU's gross national income on average 2028-2034) to address Europe's increasing challenges in security, defence, competitiveness, migration, energy and climate resilience. Significant changes to the structure of the budget, its flexibility and streamlining are proposed. The proposal will be negotiated with the European Parliament and the Council of the EU before final adoption. It should come into force in January 2028.

2028-2034 MFF: AgoraEU- new programme for culture, media and civil society

AgoraEU is one of the proposals made by the European Commission for the EU budget 2028-2034. It aims to: promote cultural and linguistic diversity and heritage; increase the competitiveness of the cultural and creative sectors, in particular the media and audiovisual industries; safeguard artistic and media freedom; protect and promote equality, active citizenship, rights and values. Its structure will cover three strands: Creative Europe- Culture; MEDIA+; Democracy, Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values' (CERV+). AgoraEU has a value of €8.6 billion and represents a doubling of the EU's Culture budget. Culture Action Europe provides an analysis of the relationship between existing funding strands and [proposed AgoraEU strands here](#).

A Culture Compass for Europe

The development of the [Culture Compass](#) was announced by the European Commission at the beginning of its 2024-2029 term: the guidelines attach importance to culture as part of what defines the unique identity of Europe. The European Commission plans to adopt a Political Communication in November 2025, together with a draft Joint Declaration to then be agreed between the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council of the EU before being signed by all three institutions in 2026.

CULT committee meeting

21 Oct: The CULT committee exchanged views with Commissioner Micallef on the new AgoraEU programme for the period 2028–2034 at an [Extraordinary meeting on 20 October](#). The next [Committee on Culture and Education \(CULT\)](#) meeting will be held on 5-6 November 2025.

Council of Europe

25th Anniversary of the Council of Europe Landscape (Florence) Convention

27-28 Oct: Opened for signature in Florence in 2000, the Council of Europe Landscape Convention has become one of the most widely ratified treaties of the organisation, introducing an innovative and inclusive vision of landscapes as a foundation for quality of life, cultural heritage and democratic governance. Over the past 25 years, it has guided policies recognising all landscapes as a shared resource requiring protection, management and planning. Co-organised by the Council of Europe and the Italian Ministry of Culture, [the Conference celebrates this legacy](#) while looking ahead to the future. In light of the Reykjavík Declaration and the Council of Europe Strategy on the Environment, discussions will focus on strengthening multilateral co-operation, encouraging wider accession, and promoting effective implementation of the Convention at national and international levels. By addressing present and emerging challenges - including the triple planetary crisis of pollution, climate change and biodiversity loss - the Conference will aim to reaffirm the Convention's pivotal role and adopt a strategic Declaration to guide landscape action across Europe and beyond.

Draft convention establishing an international claims commission for Ukraine finalised

1 Oct: The Parliamentary Assembly adopted its opinion on [the convention](#), noting that the Russian Federation must face legal consequences for its actions against Ukraine, including violations of international laws. To facilitate reparations, the Assembly supports creating an International Claims Commission through a Council of Europe convention. This Commission, alongside the Register of Damage, aims to ensure justice for Ukraine and its citizens, complementing existing international bodies. The parliamentarians concluded that the draft convention "can be adopted and opened for signature as soon as possible".

14th Advisory Forum on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe in Türkiye

24 Oct: The [14th Annual Advisory Forum on the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe](#) took place 22-24 Oct in Cappadocia, Türkiye focusing on "Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe and Landscapes: Advancing Heritage Protection through Cultural and Sustainable Tourism" in the face of increasing climate change, pollution, and development pressures. Prior to the Forum, three important meetings of stakeholders of the Cultural Routes programme were held: an informal meeting of the members of the Enlarged Partial Agreement, governmental authorities of the 43 member states; a meeting of the 49 certified Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe, and a meeting of the University Network for Cultural Routes Studies.

Next CDCPP meeting

The 13th plenary session meeting of the Steering Committee for Culture, Heritage and Landscape ([CDCPP](#)) will take place from 18–20 November 2025 in Strasbourg.

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: find out how the EU distributes the budget of the [Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027](#).

The [Council of the EU](#) agreed its negotiating position with the European Parliament for the 2026 draft budget in July 2025. The deadline for reaching agreement on the annual budget is 17 November 2025.

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

Creative Europe

Creative Europe 2025-2027

26 Sep: The Council of the EU has proposed substantial cuts to Creative Europe in the 2026 draft budget, amounting to EUR 26.4 million. [Culture Action Europe](#) and other organisations have submitted open objections to the proposed cuts.

Open and forthcoming calls

Culture Moves Europe: [Call for individual mobility 2025-2026](#). Deadline 30 April 2026.

Horizon Europe

Open calls

HERIFORGE 1st Open Call (Cultural heritage and immersive technologies for innovation forge). [HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-07-01 - Excellence Hubs](#). Deadline 28 October 2025.

Reverse local construction supply chains for the beautiful re-assembly of reclaimed construction products. [HORIZON-NEB-2025-01-BUSINESS-03](#). Deadline 12 November 2025.

The impact of common space on neighbourhood communities. [HORIZON-NEB-2025-01-PARTICIPATION-01](#). Deadline 12 November 2025.

Forthcoming calls

None.

European Research Council

14 Oct: The [ERC Advanced Grants 2025](#) call closed for applications on 28 August 2025. In its Work Programme 2025, the ERC earmarked €683 million for an estimated 276 Advanced Grants. The selected projects will likely be announced in the spring of 2026. The [ERC Starting Grants 2026](#) call closed for applications on 14 October 2025. The ERC Scientific Council has earmarked €705 million for an estimated 450 Starting Grants in 2026. The projects selected for funding are planned to be announced in summer 2026. In both cases, the ERC received very increased numbers of applications compared to last year.

Open calls

Call for Proposals for ERC Consolidator Grant ([ERC-2026-COG](#)). Deadline 13 Jan 2026.

Forthcoming calls

Indicative schedule of calls for [2026 work programme available here](#).

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.

There are no open or forthcoming calls with direct cultural heritage relevance.

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

The Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) programme was launched in 2021 and runs for seven years until 2027. The budget breakdown for 2025 is just under €225 million and 2025 actions continue to address [policy priorities set under its four strands as for 2023 and 2024](#)

There are no open or forthcoming calls with direct cultural heritage relevance.

Erasmus+

The 2025 call is now closed. The next call is expected to open towards the end of 2025.

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

Inactive funding streams

JPI on Cultural Heritage and Global Change- there have been no open calls since 2023.

Post-2020 European Territorial Cooperation Programmes (INTERREG)- programmes for the 2021-2027 period were agreed in January 2022. No more open calls are planned during the 2021-2027 programme.

Other calls

Open funding call: AHRC-DFG Research Grants: Round Eight (2025 to 2026)

16 Oct: funding for projects composed of two highly integrated national teams based in the UK and Germany. All proposals must demonstrate the added value of international collaboration to research objectives. Projects can last 24- 36 months. [Deadline 11 February 2026.](#)

Cascading funding call: Engagement and Collaboration with the ECCCH

1 Oct: The second Cascading Grants Call will support 20 projects, with up to €29,800 available per project. It is targeted at Cultural Heritage Institutions (CHIs) working with tangible and/or intangible heritage with the purpose of raising awareness of the ECCCH and expanding its community. In particular, the projects should support skills development and capacity building, especially for small and medium-sized CHIs. [Deadline 30 January 2026.](#)

Call for submissions: Young European Heritage Makers

1 Sep: Children and young people across Europe are being called upon to explore, celebrate, and reimagine their cultural roots through the Young European Heritage Makers competition, part of the European Heritage Days, the continent's largest cultural celebration jointly organised by the Council of Europe and the European Union. The initiative aims to put young voices at the centre of Europe's heritage conversation. From hand-drawn artworks to short films, the competition asks participants a simple but profound question: [What does heritage mean to you?](#)

Survey: use of AI in Archaeology

15 Oct: The Managing Artificial Intelligence in Archaeology Cost Action have launched a [survey on the use of Artificial Intelligence in and around archaeology](#). The aim is to understand how professionals in this field perceive, use, and expect AI technologies to evolve, insights that will help guide future research, training and ethical discussions. The survey is anonymous, takes about 10-15 minutes, and is open to anyone working in or around archaeology, heritage, data science, or related disciplines

Archaeology recordings wanted for testing the Speech Transcription Portal

18 Jul: As part of the upcoming ATRIUM Researchers' Forum about the Transcription Portal, ATRIUM is [inviting archaeologists to provide recordings](#) in Dutch, German, Italian and English, which can be used for testing the new summarisation and translation features that will be provided by the Portal. The Transcription Portal is a web service hosted by the University of Munich and made discoverable through CLARIN Language Resource Switchboard, one of the ATRIUM Services. It requires an academic login (either via your home institution or CLARIN).

Call for Bids: Host the 11th European Conference on Sustainable Cities and Towns

The conference is tentatively planned for 2027 and will build on the success of the 10th ESCT Conference, which was hosted by ICLEI Member Aalborg (Denmark). The previous conference enabled the participation of attendees from multiple fields to discuss implementing transformative change in Europe. [Deadline 16 Feb 2026](#).

Call for experts for 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

2026 Annual Meeting of the European Archaeological Council

The 27th EAC General Assembly and Heritage Symposium will be held on **19-20 March 2026** in Altamira, Santillana del Mar, Spain. The symposium will be followed by an excursion on 21 March 2026. The event is organised by the Ministry of Culture of Spain, and is hosted by the Museum of Altamira. The theme of the heritage symposium is 'Bridging Borders in Heritage Protection: towards best practice for prevention of archaeological crime'. [The call for papers is now open](#).

2026 Annual Meeting of the European Association of Archaeologists (EAA)

The 32nd EAA Annual Meeting will take place in Athens, Greece, **26-29 August 2026**. The theme is Resonant Pasts, and topics are: Widening perspectives in material culture studies; Crossing the divide. Archaeology and the open world; Museums and cultural heritage in the era of 'permacrisis'; Transforming archaeology through interdisciplinarity; Changing worlds and environments in the past, present and future; Transient theories; Interaction, connectivity and mobility and Beyond the Middle Sea: rethinking the Mediterranean in motion. [Call for sessions is now open](#).

20th annual EHHF meeting

The [20th edition of the Forum](#) will take place in will take place from 20-22 May in Zagreb, Croatia, hosted by the Directorate for the Protection of Cultural Heritage of the Ministry of Culture and Media. The annual meeting will provide the opportunity to discuss cultural heritage resilience in the face of contemporary challenges. Attendance by invitation only.

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.

E-RIHS ERIC Opening Days

17 Oct: the E-RIHS ERIC Opening Days is a three-day event bringing together members, partners and stakeholders to explore the future of heritage science in Europe. It takes place **12-14 Nov 2025**, Florence, Italy. Key topics include: Engaging young heritage professionals; Unlocking opportunities from the integration of E-RIHS services and resources; Showcasing the infrastructure's role in strategic European initiatives, such as the European Cultural Heritage Cloud. [Programme and registration here](#).

JPI Cultural Heritage Dissemination Event

The Joint Programming Initiative on Cultural Heritage and Global Change (JPI CH) holds its major dissemination event **26-27 November 2025** at the Château de Versailles, France and online. The conference will unveil results of 22 international research projects funded under 2019-2022 calls. Five sessions address: Digital Innovations & New Methodologies in Heritage Research & Protection; Heritage Under Pressure: Environmental Change, Risk, and Material Resilience; Co-creating Heritage: Community Engagement, Identity, and Sustainable Futures; Reinterpreting Pasts, Shaping Futures: Narratives, Ethics, and Social Justice in Heritage; Heritage in Context: Landscapes, Integrated Management, and Socio-Economic Dimensions. [Register here](#).

Interpret Europe Conference: Re-interpreting heritage in the light of Faro

Twenty years after the adoption of the Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (the Faro Convention), its call for a people-centred and value-based approach to heritage remains highly relevant. The Convention emphasises that everyone has both the right to engage with heritage and the responsibility to respect the diversity of meanings that others attach to it. Interpret Europe will meet **16-19 April 2026** in Faro, Portugal. [Find out more about the theme and call for papers](#).

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.

EAA Book Prize winners 2025:

Kamash, Z (2024) *Heritage and Healing in Syria and Iraq* Manchester University Press

Knight, M et al (2024) *Must Farm Pile-dwelling Settlement (Vols 1 & 2)* McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research

King, H (2024) *Knowth* Royal Irish Academy

[UNESCO global report on cultural policies, Culture: the missing SDG](#) (UNESCO, 2025). Available in English, French and Spanish.

[UNESCO Virtual Museum of Stolen Objects](#) (UNESCO 2025)

Perry, S et al (2025). [Towards New Futures for Archaeological Data Production: Challenging Archaeonormativity through Storytelling](#). *Journal of Field Archaeology*, 1–20.

[International charter and guidance on sites with intangible cultural heritage](#) (ICOMOS 2024)- now available in English, French and Spanish

[Towards the Culture Compass: a sector blueprint](#) (Culture Action Europe, 2025)

[Mapping Frontier Research on the New European Bauhaus](#) (2025, European Union)

[The European Archaeologist](#) (Issue 85, Summer 2025) EAA 2025. Including article 'New Guidelines from the European Archaeological Council'.

[Alliance for Research on Cultural Heritage in Europe \(ARCHE\): Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda and its Synthesis](#) (2025)

Teppati Losè, L., & Rinaudo, F. (2025). [A Systematic Literature Review to Assist in Defining New Guidelines and Practical Handbooks for the Documentation of Built Heritage](#). *Heritage*, 8(7), 249.

[European Heritage Hub Educational Study Kit: A Practical Toolkit for Tomorrow's Heritage Leaders](#) (European Heritage Hub 2025)

Other updates

2025 Annual Meeting of the European Association of Archaeologists (EAA): online

The 31st EAA Annual Meeting took place online, 3-6 September 2025. The [programme and abstracts are still available here](#). Matters related to the situation in Gaza impacted the event, and going forward, the EAA intends to revisit the nature of politics and political activism with regards to the EAA Statutes, spirit and ethos and critically reflect on the EAA internal practices. The Board ask for necessary patience as they deal with this crucially significant situation.

The EAA Heritage Prize 2025

[Both prizes were awarded](#) to recipients working to safeguard the archaeological heritage of Ukraine. The individual prize was awarded to Maksym Levada, who established Ukraine's only permanent heritage-monitoring unit, recovering more than 15,000 artefacts, initiating over 130 criminal cases, and ensuring that confiscated objects were rapidly catalogued, conserved, and exhibited to the public. The institutional award went to NGO Scientific and Research Lab "Archaic" for pioneering digital preservation, producing more than 300 high-quality 3D records of unique artefacts and sites, including parts of the UNESCO-listed Historic Centre of Odesa, Paleolithic dwellings at Mezhyrich, and the Kernosivskiy Idol.

19th annual EHHF meeting

The 19th edition of the Forum took place in Valletta, Malta, in September hosted by the Superintendence for Cultural Heritage. The annual meeting provided the opportunity to discuss the 30th anniversary of the Valletta Convention for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage of Europe. Members of the EAA Board were invited to attend to speak about the history of the Convention and the future of Archaeological Heritage in Europe. [Material from the meeting is available on the EHHF website](#).

MONDIACULT 2025: Faced with global divisions, UNESCO calls for culture to be made a priority

1 Oct: At a time of heightened geopolitical tensions and multiple crises, more than 160 countries gathered in Barcelona in September for [MONDIACULT](#), UNESCO's largest World Conference on Cultural Policies, organized in partnership with Spain. UNESCO presented its first [Global Report on Cultural Policies](#). For the first time, this Report provides structural indicators on the state of culture around the world, which will be used to monitor developments in the sector and guide public policy and the Organization's work in the years to come. The initial results are encouraging: a vast majority of countries now incorporate culture into their development policies, while cultural and creative industries currently account for 3.39% of global GDP. However, significant disparities remain: per capita cultural spending is up to 2,000 times higher in high-income countries than in low-income ones. Countries have scheduled their next edition of MONDIACULT for 2029, which will be hosted by Saudi Arabia.

Culture and education for resilient and inclusive futures: ENCATC at MONDIACULT

2 Oct: ENCATC co-created the event “[Culture and Education as a Key Tool for a World in Crisis](#)” at MONDIACULT to put a spotlight on the role of culture and education in tackling global challenges. One of the focuses was on the necessity for education to go beyond preparing students for specific jobs, equipping them with resilience, critical thinking, cultural awareness, and the ability to learn continuously in uncertain times. In increasingly diverse classrooms, the challenge is to balance authenticity and hybridity, ensuring that students are not only consumers of culture but active shapers of it. Current funding models, however, often remain top-down and disconnected from citizens’ agency, limiting culture’s transformative potential. To foster sustainable futures, young people and communities must be empowered to create and influence culture from an early age.

Culture Action Europe unveils its blueprint for future cultural policies in Europe

29 Sep: To coincide with MONDIACULT, Culture Action Europe presented a discussion paper ‘[Towards the Culture Compass: A Sector Blueprint](#).’ This paper proposes a direction for European cultural policies, co-created by and for the sector, represented in its diversity. Networks collaborated around key priority topics: 1) artistic freedom; 2) working conditions; 3) artistic research, culture and innovation; 4) international cultural relations; 5) culture and health and well-being; 6) culture and sustainability; 7) cultural participation; 8) access to cultural and arts education; 9) culture and security; 10) culture and digital. Attention turns to the next Multiannual Financial Framework 2028-2034, which will determine the funding architecture for culture. There is broad support for a visible and well-resourced Creative Europe-Culture Strand within the proposed AgoraEU programme. There is broad recognition that international cultural relations should be a key strand of EU cultural policy.

Europeana 2025 Policy Forum Call to Action - ‘Ready for the future: Building preparedness in digital cultural heritage’

This [Call to Action](#) draws on insights from the Policy Forum ‘Preserving Cultural Heritage: Protecting Heritage at Risk and Enhancing Cybersecurity’, held on 11 June at Europeana 2025. It is inspired by the Polish Presidency’s priorities to strengthen Europe’s security. It outlines five principles and five actions to ensure our sector can anticipate, respond to and recover from crises — fostering a more secure, agile and resilient digital ecosystem.

ECHOES: Value Chain and Cost-Benefit Workshop presentations

25 Sep: ECHOES and partners from the University of Antwerp hosted a workshop, ‘Value Chain and Cost-Benefit Analysis of digital services for cultural heritage’. The programme, presentations and summary notes can be found via the [ECHOES website](#).

ECHOES: 10 new ECCCH projects

6 Oct: The 2024 Call for projects to contribute to the Cultural Heritage Cloud (ECCCH) resulted in ten projects being selected, the first six of these starting October with the other four due to kick-off at the start of 2026. The [Call covered five topic areas](#), focussing on the development of innovative tools for a range of applications involving digitisation and analysis, data organisation and enrichment, visitor experiences and conservation. The selected applications cover industrial heritage, musical organs, archaeology and palaeontology, music, burials and colour. Digital twins, 3D, knowledge graphs and artificial intelligence feature in many of the projects with some providing high-level applications that can be used across many disciplines to others which are focussed on specific domains.

GoGreen: Defining Green Conservation

23 Aug: After nearly three years of research, consultation and discussion, the conservation field has reached a definition for “Green Conservation”. The [normative definition describes what green conservation should be](#) based on standards and the aspirational definition describes the ideal goals of green conservation. The definition can be used to align the sector and all stakeholders on what we aim for when thinking about improving conservation practice. We envision that it can be used to shape policy, advocate for greener options and choices, and drive research, material development, and innovation.

70 new COST Action networks open for joining

Sep 25: [70 new networks funded in the 2024 round opened this month](#). The success rate for applications in the call was 8.3%. Successful networks include: Global network on Culture Heritage Conservation Under Climate Change (Go2CHANGE)- aimed at addressing the significant vulnerabilities of cultural heritage sites and their communities in the face of climate change; Cultural Property Protection for All- aims to build a network of excellence that will enhance knowledge accessibility and cultural property protection across Europe and beyond; and Cultural Heritage in Crisis: Transdisciplinary Assessment of Legal and Regulatory Frameworks safeguarding cultural heritage during times of crisis- seeks to create transdisciplinary research networks to enhance our understanding of how crises impact the cultural heritage sector and develop sound policy proposals for its protection.

JPI on Cultural Heritage/ European Climate Change Adaptation Conference (ECCA)

Jun 25: JPI CH brought together researchers, practitioners, and policy experts at ECCA to explore how cultural heritage can drive climate resilience in both coastal and mountain areas. The session featured presentations from four key actors: CULTIVATE, a project funded by JPI CH, and RESCUEME, a Horizon Europe project offered research-driven insights into how cultural heritage and local knowledge support climate adaptation; while the other two practical case studies, Cinque Terre National Park and Alpe Pedroria/Alpe Madrera, highlighted on-the-ground experiences of heritage-based resilience, land stewardship, and community engagement. The session concluded by zooming out to the broader European landscape, with reflections on how JPI CH, the ARCHE project, and the upcoming European Partnership on Resilient Cultural Heritage are helping to [embed cultural heritage in EU climate adaptation policy](#).

European Heritage Hub Educational Study Kit: A Practical Toolkit for Tomorrow's Heritage Leaders

30 Jul: [The educational study kit](#) is a practical and insightful resource for professors and students alike. It showcases best practices, innovative approaches, and peer learning outcomes from a series of five educational study visits across Una Europa universities. Non-formal education and continuous education examples are featured in the document, drawing from practices recognised through the European Heritage Hub, Una Europa universities or programmes such as the European Heritage Awards, with the objective of bridging the gap between academia and the evolving needs of the labour market.

2025 European Heritage Awards winners celebrated

13 Oct: The winners of the 2025 European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards, the highest heritage accolade in Europe, were celebrated at a [high-profile event held in Brussels, Belgium](#). This year's European Heritage Awards Ceremony was co-hosted by Glenn Micallef, European Commissioner for Intergenerational Fairness, Youth, Culture and Sport, and Prof. Dr. Hermann Parzinger, Executive President of Europa Nostra. The full list of the Grand Prix winners, from Belgium, Norway, Slovakia, Serbia and Denmark [can be found here](#), with the Spanish winner of the Public Choice Award.

Creative Europe reinforces support for Ukraine's cultural and creative sectors

8 Oct: The EU continues its support for Ukraine's cultural and creative sectors with the selection of four new large projects, bringing [Creative Europe funding for Ukraine](#) to €7 million in 2024-2025. These projects are ZMINA Resilience, Culture Helps, Culture Horizons, and UkrAinian cultural eXchange with the European Union (UAXEU).

Advancing Immersive Technologies for Cultural Heritage

The [Voice-Activated Augmented Reality Heritage Tours \(VAARHeT\)](#) is a project looking at voice-activated interactions in XR applications aimed at museum visitors. Championing a user-centred approach, project partners XR Ireland and Āraiši ezerpils Archeological Parks designed and implemented three pilot applications to enliven the way visitors engage with the museum exhibits, while simultaneously extending the museum's offerings and addressing challenges such as limited interpretive resources, accessibility and seasonal restrictions that apply particularly in open-air museums. The test pilots returned very good results from a technological perspective, with post-test user feedback giving valuable insights into the priority needs of museum visitors when experiencing voice-activated XR applications.

Evidence of neolithic cannibalism among farming communities at El Mirador cave, Sierra de Atapuerca, Spain

7 Aug: [new research at El Mirador cave in Sierra de Atapuerca](#), Spain, led by IPHES-CERCA and published in Scientific Reports provides evidence of 5,700-year-old human cannibalism. The bones of several individuals showing signs of systematic cannibalism were uncovered, with no sign of ritual or funerary intent. Researchers think the event was most likely the outcome of intergroup violence, possibly between locals and other farming communities or newcomers.

Joint initiative of European Archaeological Council (EAC) and European Association of Archaeologists (EAA). Prepared by the EAC Assistant Jenni Butterworth. Contact us at: info@e-a-c.org