

European Affairs Update

August 2025



Durham, England, location of the June EAC Board meeting

[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](#).

European Union

2028-2034 multiannual financial framework (MFF) presented

16 Jul: The European Commission presented its [proposal for the next MFF](#), 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. The Commission proposed a fundamental redesign of the EU budget to significantly enhance the EU's capacity to deliver on core policies, address new and emerging priorities and continue to support people, businesses, EU countries, regions, partners, and, above all, the EU's collective future. On cultural matters, the long-term budget will continue to invest in the areas of skills, culture, media and values through Erasmus+ and an AgoraEU programme to promote shared values, including democracy, equality and the rule of law and support the European cultural diversity, its audiovisual and creative sectors, media freedom and civil society involvement. 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.

Eurobarometer publishes findings on Europeans' attitudes towards culture

8 May: The European Commission published the results of a new [Eurobarometer survey](#) (conducted Feb-Apr 2025, collected responses from more than 267,300 EU citizens) that reveals the importance of culture in the lives of Europeans. It provides EU citizens' views on many culture-related topics such as artistic freedom, generative AI, the working conditions of artists, and the value of cultural heritage and participation in artistic activities. Culture, values, and history are the three main factors perceived as most strongly fostering a sense of community among EU citizens. Europeans believe their country and the EU should work more closely together on cultural policy matters: making the arts more accessible; protecting cultural heritage sites during wars, natural disasters or climate change; and ensuring artists and cultural workers have fair pay and good working conditions are the top three priorities. **An overwhelming 86% say cultural heritage is important for Europe, confirming that culture and heritage are not just a reflection of the past but a vital part of everyday life.** The Eurobarometer survey will inform the next preparatory stages of the Culture Compass for Europe.

A Culture Compass for Europe: in preparation

30 May: The [Culture Compass](#) will serve as a strategic framework for EU cultural policy. It aims to improve the consistency of EU policies and strengthen coordination between funding and policy. This initiative will: give visibility to EU action in support of Europe's diverse culture and its rich cultural heritage; improve working conditions of artists and cultural professionals; unlock the competitive potential of the cultural and creative sectors. Feedback was collected during a call for evidence in May 2025, and Commission adoption of the initiative is planned for fourth quarter 2025.

Denmark assumes Presidency: 'A strong Europe in a changing world'

1 Jul: the [Danish Presidency](#) will work for a secure Europe as well as a competitive and green Europe. The EU is facing a new international order marked by uncertainty, global strategic and economic competition, and rising levels of conflict. The EU's strength lies in European unity, a solid economic foundation, stable democracies, and socially balanced societies, among other things. This strength must be developed further and used to promote and defend both European interests and the international legal order. The green transition is essential to building a more secure and competitive Europe. In the area of culture, the Presidency will 'emphasize the broader societal role of culture'.

CULT committee meeting

16 Jul: The [Committee on Culture and Education \(CULT\)](#) held a presentation of the priorities of the Danish Presidency with the participation of the Minister of Culture and the Minister of Children and Education. The latter indicated that the Presidency wanted to make vocational education and training more attractive, ensure learning mobility, and focus on how the digitalisation affects learning outcomes. The Presidency will also prioritise negotiations on the next generation of Erasmus+ and on the European education area. Many MEPs expressed their concerns about the future of the Erasmus+ programme. The Minister for Culture highlighted the need to update EU Copyright Regulation to address the challenges posed by artificial intelligence to the cultural and creative sectors. MEPs also raised issues such as protecting heritage against natural disasters.

Council of Europe

Council of Europe adopts new guidelines on AI and cultural policy

25 Apr: A new [Council of Europe policy document about AI](#), complementing Council of Europe standards in the fields of culture, creativity and cultural heritage has been adopted by the CDCPP. The guidelines aim to provide a set of policy measures - presented in four policy objectives - to member States of the Council of Europe. Based on the Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law, the CoE has worked to understand how culture, creativity and cultural heritage are influenced by emerging technologies, particularly AI. A rich set of opportunities and challenges have been identified to develop clear, future-oriented and stepwise guidelines aimed at encouraging a use of AI systems that guarantees equal and safe access to everyone and that fosters co-operation and builds trust in societies. The Guidelines reflect the current priorities in the domain and lay the groundwork for innovatory developments.

No Culture – No Democracy

13 Jun: Luxembourg marked the end of its Presidency of the Committee of Ministers, during which it celebrated the 70th anniversary of the European Cultural Convention, highlighting its role as a significant step towards recognising the importance of culture as a pillar in the defence of human rights. In honour of this historic milestone, a [high-level conference in Strasbourg](#) was held to underline the importance of artistic freedom as an indicator of the vitality of democratic societies. The conference drew attention to the threats posed by the corrosive effects of the politicisation of culture, as well as to the fundamental role of culture in regenerating intercultural dialogue and in nurturing mutual understanding. The current Maltese Presidency aims to highlight the important role of culture and cultural heritage as strategic necessities for democratic resilience and as a powerful antidote to division and hate - which is needed more than ever today.

Towards A New Democratic Pact for Europe

12 May: The [2025 Secretary General's report](#) assesses the state of democracy, human rights, and the rule of law across the Council of Europe's 46 member states over the two years since the last full report was published in 2023. "Towards A New Democratic Pact for Europe" recognises the important role of culture and creativity in fostering pluralism, in countering the backsliding of democracy, in civic engagement and human rights, while pointing out to current challenges from funding cuts, to censorship, artist intimidation and political pressure on cultural institutions, as well as the consequences on the creative sector of the widespread use of AI.

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](#).

16 Jul: The European Commission presented its [proposal for the next MFF 2028-2034](#), amounting to almost EUR 2 trillion. Significant changes to funding instruments are proposed, including a new European Competitiveness Fund, worth EUR 409 billion, to invest in strategic technologies. The Fund, operating under one rulebook, and offering a single gateway to funding applicants, will simplify and accelerate EU funding and catalyse private and public investment. It will focus its support on four areas: clean transition and decarbonization; digital transition; health, biotech, agriculture and bioeconomy; defence, and space.

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

Creative Europe

Creative Europe 2025-2027

23 Sep 2024: with a budget of almost €340 million, in 2025 [Creative Europe](#) continues to support the creative and cultural sectors, including audiovisual. It will build on the achievements of the past four years and integrate further green, digital and social inclusion aspects. In addition to the existing actions in the Culture strand, the European Commission will publish a number of new calls in 2025, including: European Cooperation Projects; call to select three consortia to help Ukrainian cultural and creative sectors organisations, artists and culture professionals tackle the ongoing and future consequences of the war, in cooperation with organisations from other Creative Europe countries; call to select a pillar-assessed organisation or organisations to implement the Culture Moves Europe action; call to select an organisation (or a consortium of organisations) active in the field of heritage tasked with the implementation of a new EU Prize for Jewish Cultural Heritage.

Open and forthcoming calls

No open calls. The second edition of Culture Moves Europe for 2025 will open for calls in Autumn. The first edition awarded 7,274 individual grants in July 2025.

Horizon Europe

Open calls

A European Collaborative Cloud for Cultural Heritage - Innovative use cases

[HORIZON-CL2-2025-01-HERITAGE-03](#) Deadline 16 September 2025

Co-funded European partnership for Resilient Cultural Heritage [HORIZON-CL2-2025-03-HERITAGE-01](#) Deadline 16 September 2025

Innovative approaches to intangible cultural heritage for societal resilience [HORIZON-CL2-2025-02-HERITAGE-02-two-stage](#) Deadline 16 September 2025

Bridging historical past and future potential through conservation, preservation, and adaptive use of Europe's contentious and dissonant heritage [HORIZON-CL2-2025-01-HERITAGE-08](#) Deadline 16 September 2025

Impacts of culture and the arts on health and well-being [HORIZON-CL2-2025-01-HERITAGE-09](#) Deadline 16 September 2025

Cultural Strategies for Peace: culture and creativity as catalysts for conflict prevention and post-conflict reconciliation [HORIZON-CL2-2025-01-HERITAGE-07](#) Deadline 16 September 2025

Evolution of culture in a virtualising world [HORIZON-CL2-2025-01-HERITAGE-05](#) Deadline 16 September 2025

Leveraging artificial intelligence for creativity-driven innovation [HORIZON-CL2-2025-01-HERITAGE-04](#) Deadline 16 September 2025

Social, economic and cultural drivers, and costs of land degradation [HORIZON-MISS-2025-05-SOIL-02](#) Deadline 30 September 2025

Boosting the attractiveness of agriculture and the connection between the farming community and society [HORIZON-CL6-2025-03-GOVERNANCE-03](#) Deadline 24 September 2025

Forthcoming calls

None.

European Cooperation in Science and Technology: COST Action

The European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST) is a funding organisation for the creation of research networks. These networks offer an open space for collaboration among scientists across Europe (and beyond). Researchers can create a network – based on their own research interests and ideas – by submitting a proposal in any science field. [The annual call for new COST Actions is open](#), the **deadline (collection date) is 21 October 2025**.

European Research Council

8 July: ERC Work Programme 2026 was adopted. Several changes to the submission of applications and the evaluation of proposals will apply. In addition, researchers currently based outside Europe and applying for a Starting, Consolidator or Advanced Grant will be able to request up to €2 million in additional funding to facilitate the relocation of their laboratory or team to the European Union or a country associated to the ERC part of the Horizon Europe programme. Details of the [changes are available here](#).

Open calls

ERC Proof of Concept Grant ([ERC-2025-POC](#)). Deadline 18 September 2025.

ERC Advanced Grants ([ERC-2025-ADG](#)). Deadline 28 August 2025.

ERC Starting Grant ([ERC-2026-STG](#)). Deadline 14 October 2025.

Forthcoming calls

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

JPI on Cultural Heritage and Global Change

There are no open or forthcoming calls.

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.

Post-2020 European Territorial Cooperation Programmes (INTERREG)

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

Interreg programmes for the 2021-2027 period were agreed in January 2022. Interreg indicates that all funds have been committed. [No more open calls are planned during the 2021-2027 programme](#)

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

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](#)

Open calls

Call for proposals for Town Twinning (CERV-2025-CITIZENS-TOWN-TT) Deadline 17 September 2025.

Forthcoming calls

None.

Erasmus+

The 2025 call is open, but there are no open calls of direct cultural heritage relevance.

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

Other calls

Call for nominations: 7 Most Endangered

15 Jul: The [7 Most Endangered Programme](#) is run by Europa Nostra - the leading European heritage civil society network - in partnership with the European Investment Bank Institute. It is supported by the Creative Europe programme of the European Union, through the network project Europa Nostra Heritage Agora. Since 2013, the 7 Most Endangered Programme has brought visibility, support, and urgent action to 70 monuments and heritage sites in 33 countries. Each site on the final list is eligible to receive an EIB Heritage Grant of €10,000 to support the first steps towards saving the site. Deadline 15 September 2025.

Call for Access to E-RIHS ERIC Services

30 Jun: E-RIHS (European Research Infrastructure for Heritage Science) supports the study, interpretation, conservation, documentation, and management of cultural heritage. The Catalogue of Services is the single-entry point to request access to the four integrated service platforms of E-RIHS. The resources and services of the four access platforms as well as the expertise and know-how of the E-RIHS teams operating the facilities are offered to the community to conduct research and foster innovation in heritage science. Access to these services is granted via competitive peer-reviewed calls, [the first call is open until 30 September 2025](#). Researchers and professionals based in EU Member States and Associated Countries, as well as international applicants, are welcome to apply.

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 to establish a pool of experts to the Panel for the European Capital of Culture Action

The European Commission invites interested experts to apply for this open call for expressions of interest for the establishment of a pool of experts for potential members of the panel of experts for the European Union action European Capital of Culture. Applicants should submit their expression of interest through the [online form on EU Survey](#) at the latest 3 months before the list expires, on **31/12/2027**

Helpful sources on European funding

[CulturEU funding guide](#) covers opportunities linked to the European Commission's flagship programme Creative Europe, as well as a wide spectrum of around 20 other EU funding programmes, from Digital Europe to LIFE and EU Structural Funds.

[How to communicate your project](#) guide intended for beneficiaries of Erasmus+, European Solidarity Corps and Creative Europe programmes.

Events and Calls for Papers

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

The 31st EAA Annual Meeting will take place online, 3-6 September 2025. The reason for this hard decision is the uncertainty surrounding the development of the current political situation in Serbia. This decision in no way diminishes the EAA's support and appreciation for Serbian archaeology and our Serbian colleagues. [Registration is now open.](#)

19th annual EHHF meeting

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

ARCHE final event: Bridging Towards Resilient Cultural Heritage

The ARCHE project will close on 11-12 September 2025 in Brussels and online, with its final event “Bridging Towards Resilient Cultural Heritage”. The programme simultaneously looks at the project’s achievements over the past three years, what legacy ARCHE wants to leave for future projects and initiatives, and what main aspects need to be taken into account when it comes to tackling societal challenges and fostering resilience through cultural heritage research. [Draft programme published and registration open](#).

Aerial Archaeology Research Group annual meeting

The [42nd AARG meeting](#) will be held on the 11- 12 September 2025 in Trondheim, Norway followed by a field trip on the 13 September. Call for posters and Registration are still open.

Culture and Health Forum

The international Culture and Health Forum will take place 29-20 September 2025, Turku, Finland. It will focus on artists working at the intersection of culture, health, care, education and social sectors. The event is open to everyone interested in themes arts, culture, health and well-being and international cooperation. [Registration open until 12 September](#).

ICOMOS: 60th anniversary and Annual General Assembly 2025

The [ICOMOS AGM and Symposium](#) will be held from **13-19 Oct 2025, in Lumbini, Nepal**, the birthplace of Gautam Buddah on the theme of Heritage under Threat of Disasters and Conflicts: Preparedness and Learning from 60 years of ICOMOS Actions.

World Conference on Cultural Policies and Sustainable Development: MONDIACULT 2025

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

ENCATC Congress 2025

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

NEMO European Museum Conference

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

30th CHNT-ICOMOS Annual Conference

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

Call for papers: New Perspectives for the Sustainable Conservation of Cultural Heritage

Climate change is exerting a growing and lasting impact on cultural heritage: tangible and intangible assets are exposed to new risks, and their vulnerability is enhanced significantly. The ICOM-CC resolution, ICOMOS recommendation and UNESCO strategy on cultural heritage address these issues. They aim to guide and support management decisions regarding artefacts, structures and spaces. Methodologies and materials related to conservation that have a low impact on the environment and do not threaten health are in growing demand. This balance in terms of conservation efficiency, durability and the effect on the health of the public and environment is a major concern. All of these topics will be gathered in a Special Issue entitled '[New Perspectives for the Sustainable Conservation of Cultural Heritage](#)', to be published in *Heritage* in 2025. The deadline for the manuscript submission **30 September 2025**.

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.

Coltofean, Arnold, Bartosiewicz (eds) [Connecting People and Ideas: Networks and Networking in the History of Archaeology](#) (EAA 2025).

Bradley, R [Insularity and Identity: Prehistoric Britain and the Archaeology of Europe](#) (EAA 2025)

[Europeans' attitudes towards culture \(EU Special Barometer Survey 2025\)](#) Full report as well as fact sheets for each of the 27 EU Member States.

[Guidelines given the latest technological developments, such as AI, complementing Council of Europe standards in the fields of culture, creativity and cultural heritage: policy guidelines](#) (CDCPP, adopted 2025)

[European Heritage Hub Policy Review 5th Report: Cultural Heritage Alignment and the Triple Transformation at the Regional Level](#) (2025)

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

[Cities and regions driving high-quality architecture](#) (Living Spaces Final Report 2025)

[Guidance document on strategies for inclusion in the fields under the responsibility of the Steering Committee on Anti-discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion](#) (CDADI) (Council of Europe 2025)

[Toolkit for Cross-Border and Local Heritage Events](#) (European Heritage Days 2025). Available in English, Finnish, Norwegian and Polish.

[Heritage Samples Archives: A Guide for Management](#) (ICCROM 2025)

[Heritage Driver Cards: A free resource to expand outlook](#) (ICCROM 2025)

[Agency, participation and solidarity: People-centred sustainable development - A guide for museums and cultural institutions](#) (Curating Tomorrow 2025)

[Updated STiCH Carbon Calculator](#) (GoGreen 2025)

Reminder: EAC new guidance to support heritage management

The European Archaeological Council released new guidelines in March 2025, designed to support its members and others in the management of archaeological heritage.

[Assessing Archaeological Significance: key concepts](#)

[The EAC Guidance on developing a Research Framework](#)

[The Use of Airborne Laser Scanning \(Lidar\) in Archaeology](#)

Other updates

Regulation on the introduction and the import of cultural goods comes into force

28 Jun: [Regulation \(EU\) 2019/880 of the European Parliament and of the Council of the European Union](#), on the introduction and the import of cultural goods, came into effect. It primarily focusses on items entering the Union, and aims to combat illicit trafficking and safeguard cultural heritage. It sets out three categories of cultural goods, including those exported illegally from their country of origin and prohibited from entry; items seen as being at a greater risk of looting and trafficking which may be imported if a licence is obtained; and low-risk goods, which may be imported subject to acquiring an import licence or submitting an importer statement.

European Heritage Hub: 5th policy review

25 May: The European Heritage Hub has released its [fifth Policy Review](#), exploring how cultural heritage is shaping and being shaped by the green, digital, and social transformations across European cities and regions. This review builds on previous thematic analyses, including heritage's role in digital and green transitions, and offers new perspectives on the intersection of heritage with sustainability, innovation, and social inclusion. It highlights the need for more inclusive, participatory governance frameworks to support heritage policy innovation, as well as the integration of heritage concerns into wider urban and regional development planning. Despite significant progress, the review underscores persistent challenges, including fragmented competencies, uneven funding, and limited institutional capacity at the local level. Nonetheless, it affirms the strategic role of cultural heritage in building more sustainable, connected, and resilient communities.

ARCHE Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) published

May 2025: The SRIA will take over the JPI CH 2020 SRIA and be the masterplan for future research and innovation activities on cultural heritage in Europe, including joint calls. The SRIA has been developed by the Alliance for Research on Cultural Heritage in Europe (ARCHE) project using wide-ranging consultation over 3 years, and the [final version was published in May 2025](#).

47th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee

11 Jul: [47th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee](#) took place in Paris. The (Paleolithic) Prehistoric Sites of the Khorramabad Valley, Iran were officially inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List, along with a number of other sites.

European Partnership for Resilient Cultural Heritage (RCH)

RCH is a [European Commission proposal for a European Partnership](#) under the Horizon Research and Innovation Cluster 2: Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society. European Partnerships are initiatives in which the European Commission and private and/or public partners commit themselves to jointly support the development and implementation of a research and innovation program. The aim of the RCH Partnership is twofold: to strengthen the means of preserving Europe's cultural heritage and to contribute to climate neutrality in other sectors by bringing forward traditional and innovative practices, techniques and materials resulting from cultural heritage research. It will address two main challenges: 1) the limited research and evidence regarding adaptation strategies and the impact of climate and environmental change on cultural heritage; and 2) the need for enhanced understanding, use and recognition of how cultural heritage can inform policies and guide implementation measures, including the role of traditional and local knowledge. The bid will be submitted in September 2025 and if successful will start in 2026.

Expert Group on the Common European Data Space for Cultural Heritage

21-22 May: The 8th meeting of the [Commission's Expert Group on the Common European Data Space for Cultural Heritage took place online](#), gathering more than 60 participants including representatives from Member States, cultural heritage professionals, and European Commission officials. European Commission representatives gave an overview of recent policy and funding developments, including the Competitiveness Compass, the Culture Compass, funding opportunities under the Digital Europe and Horizon Europe Programmes, as well as the preparations for the next Multiannual Financial Framework. A significant update covered the publication of The Future of Europe's Past report, taking stock of Member States' progress towards reaching the cultural heritage digitisation targets set out in the 2021 Recommendation on a Common European Data Space for Cultural Heritage.

European Heritage Label: 2025 second call results

15 Jul: In March, the European Heritage Label (EHL) Bureau published its second call for projects, inviting the 67 EHL sites to join in shaping a shared European cultural narrative. 7 collaborative project proposals were submitted from 14 EHL sites in 11 countries. Each proposal showcases the richness of local heritage blended with pan-European themes, such as youth empowerment, digital storytelling, inclusive education, and peacebuilding. Each project will receive up to 30,000€ in funding to implement activities that foster cross-border cooperation and community engagement. [The full list is available here](#).

Team Europe for Cultural Heritage in Ukraine

11 Jul: The Commission announced the “[Team Europe for Cultural Heritage in Ukraine](#)” approach and an additional €2 million under the Creative Europe programme. The funding will deepen cultural cooperation with Ukraine and strengthen European support to the Ukrainian cultural sector and Ukraine’s cultural heritage. As part of this new approach, 22 EU countries will put in place over 60 initiatives starting in 2025. These aim to protect and preserve cultural heritage in Ukraine and improve skills for cultural heritage professionals. They will include targeted training, scholarships, and support for storing, showcasing, and preserving artefacts at-risk.

Living spaces final report is published

16 Jun: Living spaces was the 2023-24 peer-learning initiative designed for local and regional authorities to learn how to plan and implement high-quality architectural policies and projects. The programme facilitated exchanges between cities, regions and EU countries on processes and good practices, with a view to improving living spaces, with a focus on sustainability and innovation through residents’ participation. The [catalogue presents 30 case studies](#), many of which include heritage elements.

2025 European Heritage Awards winners

12 Jun: The European Commission and Europa Nostra have announced the winners of the [2025 European Heritage Awards/Europa Nostra Awards](#). For 23 years, the Awards have been a key tool to recognise and promote the multiple values of cultural and natural heritage for Europe’s society, economy and environment. Three of this year’s winners come from countries that are not associated to Creative Europe, namely the Holy See, Moldova, and the United Kingdom. As they cannot benefit from the EU’s programme, they are honoured by Europa Nostra with a separate ‘Europa Nostra Award’ instead.

Young European Heritage Makers event

21 May: What does European heritage mean to young people? Which stories, places, and traditions are worth preserving for the future? These are the questions that [Young European Heritage Makers 2024](#) winners reflected on during a visit to Strasbourg. They took part in creative workshops, visited key European institutions and showcase their work in an exhibition at the Council of Europe’s headquarters. The presence of more than 20 young winners at the Council of Europe is a strong recognition of the role of youth in shaping the future of heritage. Their creative projects prove that heritage is not only about history, but also about identity, community and a shared European future.