

European affairs update

January 2021

Joint initiative of European Archaeological Council (EAC) and European Association of Archaeologists (EAA)
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- *Presidency Council of the European Union January-June 2021: **Portugal*** <https://www.2021portugal.eu/en/>
 - *Committee of Ministers (CoE) chairmanship November 2020 - May 2021: **Germany*** <https://www.coe.int/en/web/presidency/germany>
 - *European Capitals of Culture 2020-2021: **Rijeka (Croatia)** <https://rijeka2020.eu/> and **Galway (Ireland)** <https://galway2020.ie/en/> (until April 2021 due to the pandemic)*

Policy

EUROPEAN UNION

European Parliament adapts text on effective cultural heritage policy for legacy of the European Year

MEPs adopted a resolution on achieving an effective policy legacy for the European Year of Cultural Heritage. "Almost 300 000 people work in the cultural heritage sector in Europe and almost 7,8 million jobs in Europe are indirectly linked to it," stressed the rapporteur [Dace Melbārde \(ECR, LV\)](#) in [plenary debate preceding the vote](#). Due to the effects of COVID-19 pandemic "museums, galleries and other places of cultural significance had to close their doors to the visitors, resulting in drastic fall in revenues, limiting the capacity to maintain and manage the monuments of culture and reducing welfare of those employed in sector".

To address the current crisis, MEPs urged in the resolution for the Commission and the Member States to offer adequate and targeted financial support to alleviate the crisis in the cultural and creative sectors and help the people employed in them. At the same time they praised the quick responses by cultural operators who during the lockdown had made the cultural heritage freely available via digital solutions and stressed the importance of allocating sufficient funding for the digitalisation efforts. They called for a "comprehensive EU framework with funding for the protection and promotion of digitised and born-digital cultural heritage". Read the adopted text [here](#).

The European Union Has Boosted Its Culture Bailout to €2.8 Billion After Pushback From Industry Leaders

Earlier, in November 2020, the European parliament and the European council have finally agreed on an ambitious long-term recovery plan for its 27 member nations. The historic €1.8 trillion (\$2.1 trillion) agreement, which was announced on 11 November, included a provision of €2.8 billion (\$3.3 billion) to support the cultural field.

Called *NextGenerationEU*, the final budget proposed includes an extra €600 million for European member countries to spend on culture over the next seven years, beginning in January 2021. This is a top-up on the initially proposed budget of €2.24 billion euros for Creative Europe, the parliament's pan-continental cultural program. The additional funding for culture came after some culture officials pushed back against the initial budget proposal, as [reported](#) in the media in 2020. Find out more [here](#).

European Capitals of Culture 2021 on hold

Novi Sad, Timisoara and Elefsina were supposed to be the 2021 European Capitals of Culture, before the coronavirus pandemic forced them to postpone their program. The European Parliament and the Council decided to amend Decision no. 445/2014/EU on establishing a Union initiative for European Capitals of Culture from 2020 to 2033. This [Decision](#) enables the cities of Rijeka and Galway to extend the Capital of Culture title until the end of April 2021, while the upcoming Capitals of Culture will take over their confirmed titles from 2022. This is of great importance for the current and future capitals of culture because the planned events had to be cancelled or postponed due to the pandemic, and the organizers could not capitalize on the preparations made. With this extension, the capitals are being offered another chance to achieve their goals in a way that will be both safe and culturally enriching. Find out more [here](#).

New European Bauhaus: Commission launches design phase

The European Commission launched the design phase of the [New European Bauhaus initiative](#), announced by President von der Leyen in her 2020 State of the Union [address](#). The New European Bauhaus is an environmental, economic and cultural project, aiming to combine design, sustainability, accessibility, affordability and investment in order to help deliver the European Green Deal. The core values of the New European Bauhaus are thus sustainability, aesthetics and inclusiveness. The goal of the design phase is to use a co-creation process to shape the concept by exploring ideas, identifying the most urgent needs and challenges, and to connect interested parties. As one element of the design phase, the Commission will launch this spring the first edition of the New European Bauhaus prize. This design phase will lead to the opening of calls for proposals in autumn this year to bring to life New European Bauhaus ideas in at least five places in EU Member States, through the use of EU funds at national and regional level. More information [here](#).

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Italy ratifies the Faro Convention

In the presence of the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe and the Director for Democratic Participation, Ambassador Michele Giacomelli, Permanent Representative of Italy to the Council of Europe, deposited the instrument of ratification for the [Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society](#). This latest ratification brings the total number of ratifications to 20, in addition to the 5 other signatories that have not yet ratified. This Convention (known as the "Faro Convention") is based on the idea that knowledge and use of heritage form part of the citizen's right to participate in cultural life. It presents heritage as a resource for human development, the enhancement of cultural diversity and the promotion of intercultural dialogue, and as part of an economic development model based on the principles of sustainable resource use. The Convention will enter into force for Italy on 1 April 2021. More information [here](#).

European Heritage Days 2021: Heritage All-Inclusive!

In 2021, [European Heritage Days](#) is celebrating Inclusive and Diverse Heritage, through the shared theme of Heritage of, by and for Everyone. The strength of European Heritage Days has always been its ability to bring people together to appreciate the rich heritage and culture on their doorstep. During 2021 and beyond, we want to ensure that this can include as many different people as possible. In preparation for this pan-continental theme, the [#EuropeanHeritageDays](#) teams at [Doors Open Days](#) (Scotland) and [Heritage Open Days](#) (England) have put together a special [Inclusive Events Toolkit](#) for developing, delivering and evaluating inclusive #EHDs events. Find out more [here](#).

Manifesto on the Freedom of Expression of Arts and Culture in the Digital Era

The Council of Europe's Steering Committee for Culture, Heritage and Landscape launched on 10 November a [Manifesto on the Freedom of Expression of Arts and Culture in the Digital Era](#) as well as [the concept for a digital @exhibition "Free to Create, Create to be Free"](#).

The Manifesto sums up the importance of artistic creation and cultural industry for our democratic societies as well as the protection of the freedom of expression, which Article 10 of the European convention on human rights extends to the freedom of artistic expression. More information [here](#).

Funding and investments

PROPOSALS FOR THE POST-2020 BUDGETS AND PROGRAMMES

Multiannual Financial framework (MFF)

The European Council adopted the next long-term EU budget for the period 2021-2027 and so the next multiannual financial framework for 2021-2027 is in place as of 1 January 2021. As a result, €1.074 trillion will become available for beneficiaries of EU funding during the next seven years.

In 2021, the European Union will have an annual budget of €164 billion in commitments and €166 billion in payments. The budget, the first under the 2021-2027 multiannual financial framework, will allow the EU to mobilise significant public funds for a continued EU response to the coronavirus pandemic and its consequences; to kick-start a sustainable recovery and to protect and create jobs. It is planned to enable the EU to start investing in the future to achieve a greener, more digital and more resilient Europe.

The budget priority areas include:

- €1.1 billion for the Digital Europe programme for the Union's cyber-defences and to support the digital transition;
- €1.1 billion under the Just Transition Fund and €738.5 million under the LIFE programme to

- support environment and climate action;
- €2.8 billion for the Connecting Europe Facility for an up-to-date, high-performance transport infrastructure to facilitate cross-border connections;
- €2.7 billion for Erasmus Plus to invest in young people, as well as €306.4 million for the cultural and creative sectors through Creative Europe;

Further details and full budget breakdown [here](#).

At the same time, work towards finalising *NextGenerationEU*, the temporary recovery instrument created to fuel Europe's recovery from the coronavirus crisis, continues. Once adopted, the package of a total of €1.8 trillion will be the largest package ever financed through the EU budget. For the Commission to start borrowing under *NextGenerationEU*, thus making the instrument operational, the ratification of the new Own Resources Decision by all Member States in line with their constitutional requirements is still needed. Find out more [here](#).

[Press release on MFF package adoption](#)

[Q&A on MFF package adoption](#)

[MFF website](#)

[Recovery website](#)

[Factsheet on the 2021 budget](#)

[Infographic - Multiannual financial framework 2021-2027 and Next Generation EU](#)

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

Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA)'s new generation of funding programmes for the period 2021-2027 has now been politically agreed.

EACEA's funding programmes for this period will be:

- Erasmus+
- Creative Europe
- the European Solidary Corps
- the Citizenship, Equality, Rights and Values programme (CERV).

These programmes will build on the success of their predecessors (Erasmus+, Creative Europe, the European Solidarity Corps and Europe for Citizens) and the relevant calls for proposals are expected to be published in early spring.

Please note that all new calls for proposals will be published on the European Commission's [Funding & Tender Opportunities Portal \(F&TP\)](#).

CREATIVE EUROPE

Creative Europe is the European Commission's framework programme for support to the culture and audio-visual sectors. The Culture and Education committee confirmed the provisional agreements with Council on Erasmus+, Creative Europe and European Solidarity Corps programmes for 2021-2027. For Creative Europe MEPs managed to increase support for the cultural and creative sector by 36%, to raise the importance of gender equality and to demand a European added value in the projects.

Read details on the deal in the press release after the concluding triologue "[Creative Europe: 2.2 billion EUR support secured for artists](#)" (15.12.2020) and [watch statements by EP negotiators](#).

There are no open calls at the moment.

For more information on 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 and the EU concluded a Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) on the terms of their future relationship on 24 December 2020, with its terms taking effect immediately after the transition period concluded on 31 December 2020. The UK's participation in Creative Europe

2021-27, due to start in Spring 2021, was not included in [this Agreement](#).

This will not affect projects funded under the current programme (which runs from 2014 - 2020) which will receive funding for their full duration under the terms of the Withdrawal Agreement, including projects that continue after 1 January 2021.

There was no provision made for funding for a Creative Europe Culture sub-programme domestic alternative, but we are told the UK Government will continue to assess the needs of the sector. It is our understanding that financial constraints due to the global pandemic had a direct impact on decisions in the Spending Review. Since July, when the Cultural Recovery Fund was announced, £1.57bn has been made available by UK Government to support UK cultural organisations in response to the Covid-19 crisis. Creative Europe Desk UK will continue to support the UK sectors to access the opportunities that exist between now and the end of the current programme. [The UK Desk will close on 31 March 2021.](#) Further details on the arrangements post Brexit [here](#).

Read also:

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

[Coronavirus Impact Advice from EACEA](#)

[THE CITIZENSHIP, EQUALITY, RIGHTS AND VALUES PROGRAMME \(CERV\).S](#)

Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV): EU program 2021-2027

A new EU funding period will begin in 2021. The "Europe for Citizens" program, together with the REC (Rights, Equality and Citizenship) program and Daphne, form the EU program "Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values 2021-2027" - CERV for short. CERV - with a budget of around EUR 1.55 billion - will consist of four funding areas with the general goal of maintaining and developing open, rights-based, democratic, equal and inclusive societies. The priorities of "Europe for Citizens" remain.

The first calls are expected at the beginning of the 2nd quarter of 2021.

Further information:

[Info sheet on the CERV program](#)

[CERV program PPT](#)

There are no open calls at the moment.

Read also:

- [Partial Agreement - Proposals for Regulation \(ENG\)](#)
- [Draft regulation for the establishment of the European CERV program \(DE\)](#)
- [Coronavirus Impact Advice from EACEA](#)

[ERASMUS+](#)

[Erasmus+](#) is the EU's programme to support education, training, youth and sport in Europe. The Culture and Education committee confirmed the provisional agreements with Council on Erasmus+, Creative Europe and European Solidarity Corps programmes for 2021-2027. During the talks on the new Erasmus+ programme MEPs managed to secure a 2.2 billion EUR top-up, ensured rules to include significantly more people with fewer opportunities, as well as ensured participation of adult learners in the mobility programme.

[Read details on the deal in the press release after the concluding dialogue](#) on 11.12.2020 and [watch statements by the EP negotiators](#).

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](#)
- [FAQ for Erasmus+ participants](#)

More information about the Erasmus+ programme and the calls can be found on the [Erasmus +](#)

[Funding page](#). For a few examples of heritage-related projects supported by Erasmus+, see [this page](#). The selection results of the latest calls have now been published and can be accessed [here](#). See also the [opportunities for participation in exchange programmes and other Erasmus+ projects](#).

There are no open calls now.

UK's participation in Erasmus+ after Brexit

The UK government has published [a statement regarding the Turing scheme](#), a new programme to replace the UK's participation in Erasmus+, which will provide funding for placements and exchanges starting in September 2021. The new scheme will be administered by the same partnership of British Council and Ecorys which has been delivering Erasmus+ in the UK for a number of years.

This does not affect the UK's participation in the Erasmus+ and ESC programmes (2014-2020). Under the Withdrawal Agreement negotiated with the EU, the UK will continue to participate fully in the Erasmus+ and ESC programmes (2014-2020). This means that the projects successfully bid for during the 2014-2020 programmes will continue to receive EU funding for the full duration of the project, including those where funding runs beyond 2020 and the end of the transition period.

More information can be found on [Erasmus+ Brexit update webpage](#).

JPI ON CULTURAL HERITAGE AND GLOBAL CHANGE

[Cultural Heritage, Identities & Perspectives: Responding to Changing Societies Joint Call : RESULTS AVAILABLE](#)

The European Joint Programming Initiative Cultural Heritage (JPICH) organizes a series of joint transnational calls for proposals in the field of cultural heritage. These calls aim to support research into strategies, methodologies and tools to safeguard and use the physical components of cultural heritage.

The call [Cultural Heritage, Identities & Perspectives: Responding to Changing Societies \(CHIP\)](#) invited scholars to submit research proposals on the role of heritage in society from different (inter)national perspectives and value systems. In the JPICH CHIP Call for Proposals, 90 interdisciplinary research proposals were submitted by transnational consortia within the context of a single project. Six projects are elected for funding. The funded research projects range in subject matter from Olive Heritage to South-East Asian Sound Archives. More information [here](#).

HORIZON EUROPE

The EU institutions reached a [political agreement on Horizon Europe](#) on 11 December 2020. The new EU research and innovation programme will have a budget of around €95.5 billion for 2021-2027 (current prices). This includes €5.4 billion (current prices) from *NextGenerationEU* to boost our recovery and make the EU more resilient for the future, as well as an additional reinforcement of €4.5 billion (current prices). This represents a 30% increase vis-à-vis the current research and innovation programme, Horizon 2020 (comparing Horizon Europe against Horizon 2020 for EU27, in constant prices) and makes it the most ambitious research and innovation programme in the world. The agreement is subject to formal approval by the European Parliament and the Council of the EU.

The European Parliament and the Council of the EU reached in March and April 2019 a [provisional agreement](#) on Horizon Europe. The European Parliament [endorsed](#) the provisional agreement on 17 April 2019. In 2018 the Commission proposed an ambitious €100 billion research and innovation programme - Horizon Europe - to succeed Horizon 2020: [read about the proposal and what shaped it](#) [Presentation outlining Horizon Europe](#) in 23 languages.

Implementing Horizon Europe - strategic planning

Following the political agreement, the Commission began a strategic planning process. The result of the process will be set out in a multiannual Strategic Plan to prepare the content in the work programmes and calls for proposal for the first 4 years of Horizon Europe.

The strategic planning process will focus in particular on the Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness pillar of Horizon Europe. It will also cover the Widening Participation and Strengthening the European Research Area part of the programme as well as relevant activities in other pillars. All activities will be streamlined through a specific intervention area, under Cluster 2 of the programme, *Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society*. Having a dedicated section for cultural heritage means that the sector can be dealt with in a holistic fashion that encompasses tangible, intangible heritage, arts and creative sectors. Further details on Horizon Europe [here](#).

UK participation in Horizon Europe.

U.K. researchers will remain eligible for European research funding despite the country having left the European Union, thanks to a long-term trade and cooperation agreement struck on 24 December 2020. In exchange for a contribution to the EU budget, the United Kingdom will join the forthcoming Horizon Europe research program, which will spend €85 billion over the next 7 years. More information [here](#).

For More Information

- [Horizon Europe, general overview \(factsheet\)](#)
- [Coronavirus research and innovation](#)
- [Horizon Europe webpage](#)
- [Recovery plan](#)
- [2021-2027 long-term EU budget & Next Generation EU](#)

POST-2020 EUROPEAN TERRITORIAL COOPERATION PROGRAMMES “INTERREG”

New Cohesion Policy

For the next long-term EU budget 2021-2027, the Commission proposes to modernise Cohesion Policy, the EU's main investment policy and one of its most concrete expressions of solidarity. With the political agreement by the European Parliament and the Council on the Commission's proposals for 2021-2027 on the [Recovery Assistance for Cohesion and the Territories of Europe package \(REACT-EU\)](#); the [Common Provisions Regulation \(CPR\) for shared management funds](#); the [European Territorial Cooperation programmes \(“Interreg”\)](#); the [European Regional Development Fund \(ERDF\) and the Cohesion Fund \(CF\)](#) and the [Just Transition Fund \(JTF\)](#), all instruments related to cohesion policy for the period 2021-2027 have now been agreed and are pending the final approval of the legal texts by the European Parliament and the Council.

With a budget of €8 050 million, the 6th generation of Interreg will support cooperation between regions, citizens and economic stakeholders over their respective land and maritime borders. The new legislation will also cover the cooperation between regions at transnational level in the framework of the Macro regional and Sea basin Strategies: Baltic, Ionian/Adriatic and Black seas, Danube and Alps. For the first time, a specific allocation will be dedicated to strengthening the cooperation of [outermost regions](#) with their neighbouring environment, such as the Caribbean regions, to stimulate economic exchanges among regional partners and their mutual development. Interregional cooperation will also continue to promote exchange of expertise, good practices and capacity building through a dedicated set of programmes: [Interreg Europe](#), [Urbact](#), [Interact](#) and [ESPON](#).

For More information

[Interreg - European Territorial Co-operation](#)
[EU cohesion policy action against coronavirus](#)
[Cohesion Open Data Platform](#) and [COVID-19 dashboard](#)
[Recovery plan](#)
[2021-2027 long-term EU budget & Next Generation EU](#)

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 \(2017 edition\)*](#)
- [*How EU funding works \(Information on the different types of EU funding available, the application process, eligibility and rules\)*](#)

Events

ICOMOS Webinars

As a positive consequence of the COVID-19 crisis, ICOMOS, along with its Committees and the cultural heritage community has mobilized to offer scientific symposia online and compensate for the cancellation of all events since March 2020. Enjoy e-learning with ICOMOS Webinar series! [Videos of the past events](#) are accessible by clicking on the posters on that page. Check ICOMOS [calendar](#) for the webinars to come.

Arts & Cultural Management Conference (28-30 January 2021, online)

This year's ENCATC Capacity Building Days and Youth in Action Day is taking place in the format of a conference for students and emerging professionals. The 2021 Arts & Cultural Management Conference "REvisiting Borders" will take place online from 28-30 January. Borders can be physical, digital, imagined, and cultural, to name just a few. They can empower yet restrict. They give definition but also create limitations. #ACMC21 aims to provide an engaging space for students and emerging professionals to explore, question, and discuss what borders mean in today's world, especially within the arts and culture field. Learn more about this conference and its themes [here](#).

Digital Past Conference 2021 New technologies in heritage, interpretation and outreach (10-12 February 2021, online)

Organised by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales, Digital Past is an annual two-day conference which showcases innovative digital technologies and techniques for data capture, interpretation and dissemination of the heritage of Wales, the UK and beyond. Running for the twelfth year, in light of the uncertainty caused by COVID-19 Digital Past 2021 will be held as an online conference via the Zoom platform. One day of presented talks on Wednesday 10 February will be supplemented by workshops across the week of 8 to 12 February 2021. Bringing together individuals from the commercial, public, academic, third sector and voluntary sectors, the conference aims to promote learning, discussion and debate around a range of digital technologies in current use, or in development, to record and understand the historic environment. Delegates will be offered a combination of online presentations and workshops in a friendly and informal atmosphere that aims to promote networking and exchange of ideas. More information [here](#).

International Heritage: A roundtable discussion with John Darlington (WMF) (24 February 2021, online)

Join Europa Nostra Young Members and John Darlington, Executive Director of the World Monuments Fund UK, for a discussion about what opportunities and challenges international heritage projects have and will face as a result of the Global Coronavirus Pandemic. John Darlington will also provide some useful advice for young people interested in a career in International Heritage. More information [here](#).

World Cities Culture Summit (10-12 March 2021, Milan, Italy)

The pandemic has put extraordinary pressures on our cities and communities, but also revealed the deep value of culture. It will be more important than ever for our members to come together to share challenges and learn from one another. Milan was chosen to host next year's summit due to its diverse population, cultural vibrancy and its role as a leading city for cultural workers. Further information [here](#).

Solidarity in culture: Heritage protection under conditions of crisis (18-20 March 2021, online)

In response to the current global threats to world heritage that call for urgency in developing comprehensive heritage protection strategies, the National and University Library in Zagreb is organising the international conference "*Solidarity in culture: Heritage protection under conditions of crisis*", from 18 to 20 March 2021. The organizers have recognized the synergetic benefits of the solidarity networks of cultural institutions, yielding the most effective and immediate results in prevention, response and recovery efforts in culture, adding towards the existing general emergency services support. The aims of the conference are to facilitate understanding and dialogue about new approaches to integrated conservation and risk management based on solidarity and cooperation between diverse partners that provide potential for resilience-building to disasters. Due to COVID-19,

HPCC Conference converted into a completely virtual event. More information [here](#).

1st International Online Conference on Digital Transformation in Culture and Education (14-16 April 2021, online)

The Conference provides an excellent forum for digital librarians, researchers and practitioners to present and discuss the latest advancement and problems as well as future directions and trends in digital transformation in today's ubiquitous virtual environment challenged by pandemic "new normal". More information [here](#).

Heritage & Development – 6th Heritage Forum of Central Europe (16-18 June 2021, Krakow, Poland)

The International Cultural Centre in Kraków is pleased to announce the call for papers for 6th Heritage Forum of Central Europe. The period of political and economic transformation in Central European countries has given rise to a vast utilisation of heritage assets, both tangible and intangible, for the purpose of economic development. However, alongside the benefits, the process has brought also many instances of neglect of many heritage assets due to their unprofitability, a staggering mercantilisation of others, and, instead of permanent growth, a development exceedingly fragile in times of crisis, such as the Covid-19 pandemic, by which tourism-oriented historical cities in Central Europe were particularly affected. In light of the above, the aim of the 6th Heritage Forum of Central Europe is to discuss and analyse the links and mutual dependencies between heritage and development. While investigating the relationship between the two, special consideration is to be given to an attempt to challenge various dichotomies that have traditionally shaped our way of thinking about heritage and development, and their antithetical rapport. More information [here](#).

2021 ICAHM Annual Meeting - Archaeological Heritage Management: Towards a People-centred Approach (25 June 2021, online)

The 2021 ICAHM Annual Meeting will be organized online in close cooperation with Dutch partners: Faculty of Archaeology (Leiden University), Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands, Reinwardt Academy and the LDE Centre for Global Heritage and Development. This meeting is free of charge and open to all. There will be morning and afternoon parallel discussion sessions to allow participants from around the world to attend. More information [here](#).

European Archaeological Council (EAC) Heritage Symposium 2021 - Climate Change and Archaeology (1-3 July 2021, Hainburg, Austria)

The next EAC Heritage Symposium will be held on 1-3 July 2021 in Hainburg, Austria as a hybrid event, with enhanced digital capabilities and live streaming. The event is hosted and organised by the Federal Monuments Authority Austria (Bundesdenkmalamt). The topic of the Heritage Management Symposium will be '*Climate Change and Archaeology*'. The call for papers is now open and submissions are invited until 15 March 2021. Concept note and further information [here](#).

27th Annual Meeting of the European Association of Archaeologists (EAA) (8-11 September 2021, Kiel, Germany)

'Widening Horizons' is the motto of the 27th EAA Annual Meeting, as it combines the 'sense of place' of Kiel and its position in Europe, with the orientation of its university and the Johanna Mestorf Academy (the host organizer of the 2021 AM) and our shared ambition to think, speak about and act widely on environmental sustainability and climate change. It is hard not to imagine that our unsustainable resource use of the Earth has in some way caused the current rampant world pandemic. We will need intellectual, political and cultural horizons wide open to re-establish the balance of global society with its environment. EAA encourages all members to propose sessions relevant to the main themes of the Annual Meeting that include the "environmental" perspective in their scope. EAA particularly welcomes session proposals that reflect on the socio-political dimensions of archaeological knowledge and heritage, in order to facilitate the realignment of accepted practice with current and future requirements adapted to the new normal of COVID and post-COVID era. Fully adapted to the new situation, the Kiel AM is now conceived and planned as a hybrid meeting, to facilitate on site and remote attendance at the same time. Annual Meeting registration is now open. Please register via the online form available under [registration tab](#). Find out more [here](#).

Interpret Europe conference: Recreating tourism through heritage interpretation (1-4 October 2021, Sigüenza, Spain)

Under the theme 'Recreating tourism through heritage interpretation' we will merge heritage interpretation with sustainable tourism in order to offer unique opportunities along the tourist service chain to both locals and visitors. Everything you have come to expect from an IE conference – inspiring speakers, hands-on workshops, study visits related to our theme, parallel sessions, a very eye-catching venue and an incredible heritage to discover – can be taken for granted! More information [here](#).

European Week of Regions and Cities (11 to 14 October 2021)

The #EURegionsWeek organisers are glad to announce the dates of the next edition of the European Week of Regions and Cities: 11 to 14 October 2021 (save the date!). The following 4 themes emerged very clearly out of the 819 replies received to the post event survey, and will therefore constitute the focus of the 19th edition: Green, Cohesion, Citizens, Digital. 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.

- [CULT newsletter December 2020](#)
- [Togetherness - A new heritage deal for Europe](#) (Parzinger, H., EIB, 2020)
- [Adaptive heritage reuse - Learning from policy and governance frameworks across Europe](#) (Open Heritage, Dec 2020)
- [NEMO follow-up report on the continued impact of Covid-19 on the museum sector](#) (NEMO, Jan 2021)
- [Cultural heritage essentials: policy findings for city makers, urban practitioners and cultural heritage lovers](#) (EuroCities, ROCK, Dec 2020)
- [What if technology and culture combined to boost a green recovery?](#) (EPRS, Dec 2020)
- [Ten issues to watch in 2021](#) (EPRS, Jan 2021)
- [European Cultural and Creative Cities in COVID-19 times](#) (Montalto, V., Sacco, P.L., Alberti, V., Panella, F. and Saisana, M., Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2020)
- [Heritage and the Pandemic: An Early Response to the Restrictions of COVID-19 by the Heritage Sector in England](#) (Guest, K., Historic England, Taylor & Francis online, Dec 2020)
- [EU-Presidency Trio Conference: Museums and Social Responsibility – Values Revisited](#) (NEMO, Deutscher Museumsbund e.V, Jan 2021)
- [The pandemic: culture and tourism in the eye of the storm](#) (Ibrahimova, M, Unesco Courier 1, p. 42-46, Jan 2021)
- [Preliminary analytical report on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the cultural and creative industries, and the findings of the ResiliArt movement](#) (UNESCO, Jan 2021)
- [The Best we share: nation, culture and world-making in the UNESCO World Heritage arena](#) (Brumann, C., UNESCO, Jan 2021)

Commission sets up a Centre for digital preservation of cultural heritage and launches projects supporting digital innovation in schools

The EU Commission launched a European competence centre aiming to preserve and conserve European Cultural Heritage. The centre, which will work for a period of three years, has been granted up to €3 million from the Horizon 2020 programme. It will set up a collaborative digital space for cultural heritage conservation and give access to repositories of data, metadata, standards and guidelines. Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare in Italy coordinates the team of 19 beneficiaries that are coming from 11 EU Member States, Switzerland and Moldova. Earlier this month, the Commission has also launched two projects to support digital education, worth up to €1 million each, through Horizon 2020. Find out more [here](#).

"A Cultural Deal for Europe" – major initiative by Europa Nostra, Culture Action Europe and the European Cultural Foundation

One year after the first '[La Rentrée](#)' debate of September 2019, Europa Nostra, also on behalf of the [European Heritage Alliance 3.3.](#), [Culture Action Europe](#) and the [European Cultural Foundation](#) for the second time brought together cultural and heritage stakeholders as well as European decision-makers to discuss the strategic ways of putting culture where it belongs: at the heart of the European project. On November 18, more than 500 viewers followed the high-profile online discussion with contributions by representatives of EU institutions, Member States, major pan-European cultural and heritage networks as well as civil society. Based on the discussions held on this occasion, the organisers have launched on 25 November a [Joint Statement entitled A Cultural Deal for Europe: A central place for culture in the EU's post-pandemic future](#). The Joint Statement puts forward an overarching and transversal Cultural Deal for Europe, including a series of concrete proposals for realising the potential of culture and heritage as major forces in the EU's socio-economic recovery and its long-term future. Find out more [here](#).

Cultural Heritage in Action project publishes catalogue of best practices

Following an open call for contribution launched in February 2020, the selected 32 local and regional practices are featured in the European catalogue of good practices. These are policies, projects, events or organisational structures developed by local and regional authorities.

The catalogue of inspiring local stories focuses on 3 main topics:

1. Participatory governance of cultural heritage.
2. Adaptive reuse of built heritage.
3. Quality of interventions on cultural heritage.

Discover [the catalogue and the selected good practices](#).

The 32 initiatives, selected from more than 120 applications, were carefully evaluated by the Cultural Heritage in Action consortium members in collaboration with the European Commission

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

Cultural Heritage in Action peer-learning scheme shall now put in place capacity building and knowledge exchange activities for local authorities and stakeholders. Find out more [here](#).

European Commission and Europa Nostra announce Europe's top heritage award winners 2020

The [winners](#) of the 2020 European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards, were celebrated in November 2020 with a virtual gathering that connected heritage lovers, professionals, volunteers and supporters from across Europe and beyond.

The 2020 Grand Prix laureates are:

- 1) the exemplary restoration of the Basilica of Santa Maria di Collemaggio, L'Aquila (Italy), heavily damaged by the devastating earthquake of 2009;
- 2) the outstanding project Tramontana Network III (France, Italy, Poland, Portugal and Spain), dedicated to the research of the tangible and intangible heritage of Europe's mountainous regions; and
- 3) the major exhibition Auschwitz. Not long ago. Not far away (Poland/Spain), marking the 75th anniversary of the liberation of the largest Nazi concentration camp.

The Public Choice Award went to the education, training and awareness-raising project The Ambulance for Monuments (Romania), which has rescued hundreds of heritage-listed buildings in the country through a large network of active heritage organisations. More information [here](#).

Nominate a Site to the 2022 World Monuments Watch

The [World Monuments Watch](#), or "the Watch," is a two-year program that seeks to discover, spotlight, and take action on behalf of heritage places facing challenges or presenting outstanding opportunities of direct relevance to our global society. Every two-year cycle of the Watch includes 25 heritage places from around the world, selected for their cultural significance, the cause for action in light of internationally pressing issues, and the potential for World Monuments Fund to make a meaningful difference. The 2022 cycle of the Watch is taking place amidst circumstances that have revealed the profound interconnectedness of our world. In its global spread the Covid-19 pandemic has brought tragic loss of life and livelihood and continues to disrupt the functioning of many societies. In challenging the well-being of communities, the pandemic has also upset the operations of heritage places while bringing about drastic reductions in the resources available to them. The most competitive nominations to the 2022 Watch will illuminate and propose innovative ways to address these challenges or point to other challenges and opportunities that are emerging. More information [here](#).

European Heritage Green Paper preview: a debate on the value of cultural heritage for the green future of Europe

On 19 November over 120 attendees joined the online event "*Putting Cultural Heritage at the Centre of the European Green Deal: A preview of the European Heritage Green Paper*". The event, organised by the [Climate Heritage Network](#) in partnership with Europa Nostra and [ICOMOS](#) and with the support of the [European Investment Bank Institute](#), was dedicated to the preview of the upcoming "European Heritage Green Paper". Organised in the framework of the Climate Heritage Network's campaign [Culture X Climate 2020](#), the event was one of the highlights of the Climate Heritage Week 2020, organised between 16-22 November 2020. Find out more [here](#).

Partnership on culture / cultural heritage publishes final action plan

The [Urban Agenda for the EU's Partnership on Culture/Cultural Heritage](#) has published its final action plan. The Partnership aims to: "*enable municipalities, Member States, EU institutions and interest*

groups, NGOs and partners from the industry to work together on an equal footing to find solutions that improve the management of the historic built environment of European cities, promote culture, and preserve the quality of urban landscapes and heritage". You can find out more about its eleven actions [here](#) and download the full action plan [here](#).

12 European heritage sites shortlisted for the 7 Most Endangered Programme 2021

Europa Nostra – the European voice of civil society committed to cultural and natural heritage – and its partner organisation, the European Investment Bank Institute, have announced the 12 most threatened heritage sites in Europe shortlisted for the 7 Most Endangered programme 2021. See the list of the nominated sites and find out more about them [here](#).

Launch of OurWorldHeritage

[OurWorldHeritage](#) is a new initiative by citizens of more than 50 countries launched in November 2020 with an online discussion on the challenges facing our shared heritage with political and professional leaders. Created to guarantee the conservation/protection of the World's Heritage by increasing the role of civil society, the initiative welcomes all who believe that in our rapidly changing world there is an urgent need to preserve all heritage, at international, national and local levels. During 2021 solutions and tools will be developed in a series of monthly online activities open to all, aimed at debating the critical issues facing heritage conservation today and shaping practical proposals to adapt the World Heritage system to the needs of the 21st -Century. Find out more [here](#).

UK Black Country Living museum became a TikTok sensation

The [Black Country Living Museum](#) is an open-air attraction that tells the story of Britain's early manufacturing history, set in the humble town of Dudley, in England's industrial Midlands. Among the exhibits that have earned it a clutch of awards are two mine shafts, a lime kiln and a collection of post-war [trolley buses](#). The visitor attraction gained another, more unexpected accolade in January 2021, becoming the most popular museum in the world on TikTok. It has more than 350,000 followers worldwide, and its short video clips, often featuring a cast of re-enactors in historic dress, can attract many more viewers. A [recent video](#) featuring a character called "1920s grandad" offering advice in a tar-thick Black Country accent has been viewed more than 2.2m times. "My favourite TikTok account giving me LIFE right now," reads one of the clip's almost 12,000 comments. Read more about it [here](#).