European affairs update

January 2020

Joint initiative of European Archaeological Council (EAC) and European Association of Archaeologists (EAA)
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- ☐ *Presidency Council of the European Union Jan-June 2020: **Croatia***
  https://eu2020.hr/
- ☐ *Committee of Ministers (CoE) chairmanship November 2019-May 2020: **Georgia***
  https://www.coe.int/en/web/chairmanship
- ☐ *European Capitals of Culture 2020: **Rijeka (Croatia)** https://rijeka2020.eu/ **and Galway (Ireland)** https://galway2020.ie/en/*

Policy

EUROPEAN UNION

Shaping the Conference on the Future of Europe
The European Commission set out its ideas for shaping the *Conference on the Future of Europe*, which should be launched on Europe Day, 9 May 2020 and run for two years. The Communication adopted is the Commission's contribution to the already lively debate around the Conference on the Future of Europe – a project announced by President Ursula von der Leyen in her Political Guidelines, to give Europeans a greater say on what the European Union does and how it works for them. The Conference will build on past experiences, such as citizens' dialogues, while introducing a wide range of new elements to increase outreach and strengthen ways for people to shape future EU action. The Commission is committed to follow up on the outcome.
Further details here.

2020 EU budget: Tackling climate change and delivering on other EU priorities
The three EU institutions agreed on and approved the EU's budget for 2020. This will allow the EU to focus its resources on the priorities that matter to citizens: climate change, jobs, young people, security and solidarity in the EU. The 2020 EU budget will also prepare the transition to the next budgetary cycle as it will be the seventh and last one under the current 2014-2020 long-term budgetary cycle. The budget is set at €168.69 billion in commitments (money that can be agreed in contracts in a given year) and €153.57 billion in payment credits (money that will be paid out). Some key features include:
- 21% of the overall budget will go to measures to address climate change. For example, the LIFE Programme for the Environment and Climate Change will receive €589.6 million *(+5.6% compared to 2019)*. Horizon 2020, which traditionally makes a substantial contribution to reaching climate targets, will get €13.49* billion *(+8.8% compared to 2019)*.
- Close to half of the funds – €83.93 billion in commitments *(+4.1% compared to 2019)* – will help making our economy more competitive. Of them, €58.65 billion *(+2.5% compared to 2019)* will go to narrowing economic gaps in and between Member States, boosting growth, job creation and fostering convergence via the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESI Funds).
- The European global satellite navigation system Galileo will be supported with €1.2 billion *(+74.7% compared to 2019)* to expand its worldwide market uptake to reach 1.2 billion users by the end of 2020.
- €255 million will provide incentives for European companies to work together to develop defence products and technology under the European Defence Industrial Development Programme.
- Young people will benefit through a number of programmes: €2.89 billion will go to education through Erasmus+ *(+3.6% compared to 2019)*. The European Solidarity Corps will create opportunities to volunteer or work in projects at home or abroad with €166.1 million *(+15.9% compared to 2019)*.
- European farmers will benefit from €58.12 billion.

- Security and migration management will continue to receive support. For example, €2.36 billion will go to the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, the Internal Security Fund, and the agencies that work in this field (Europol, the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex), EASO, eu-LISA).

Press release on the agreement on EU 2020 Budget
Outcome of the Council of EU meeting on the EU 2020 Budget
Draft EU budget for 2020
Amending Letter No 1 to the draft budget for the year 2020 (AL 1/2020) and Annex
EU 2020 Budget Timeline
Council position

EU Parliament elected the von der Leyen Commission
On 1st December 2019, a new European Commission, led by President Ursula von der Leyen, took office. After the approval of the college of Commissioners by the European Parliament (see President von der Leyen's speech, available in EN, FR and DE), the new European executive team started work in December 2019.
During her opening statement, European Commission President von der Leyen highlighted that appropriate investment and regulatory frameworks will be put into place for Europe to lead the way internationally on a range of critical issues: environmental protection and climate change, growth, inclusion, innovation and digitalisation, as well as the protection of democracy, European values, citizens' rights and the rule of law. President Ursula von der Leyen also announced that the word 'culture' will after all figure in the portfolio title of EU Commissioner Mariya Gabriel from Bulgaria. Gabriel's portfolio, initially entitled '*Commissioner for Innovation and Youth*', has been renamed as '*EU Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth*'. During her speech, Ursula von der Leyen recalled that "*culture and education are what link our history with our future. This is what makes us unique. Our soul, our culture, our diversity, our heritage*".
More information here.

Prospective cuts to Erasmus+ and Creative Europe in EU long-term budget deeply worrying
Ahead of talks among EU leaders on the long-term budget in the European Council 12-13 December, the Chair of Culture and Education Committee, Sabine Verheyen (EPP, DE), issued a statement in which she expressed her concern that "the Finnish Presidency proposal for European Council discussions on the next EU long-term budget is really wide of the mark". Verheyen added that "Although, so far, we have no figures for any of the education, culture and youth programmes, we have been crunching the numbers and the picture is bleak. As things stand, based on equal across-the-board cuts for those programmes where no figure is included, we're looking at 20% cuts for all three programmes compared to the Commission proposal, 48% for Erasmus+ compared to the Parliament proposal and 53% for Creative Europe compared to the Parliament position. This is deeply worrying." In its negotiating mandate on Erasmus+, the EU Parliament called for the budget for the next EU long-term budget to be tripled. Read the full press release here.

Education, Youth, Culture and Sports Council meeting 21-22 November 2019
The members of the Education, Youth, Culture and Sports Council discussed various issues, including the adoption of a Resolution on the cultural dimension of sustainable development, which objective is to strengthen culture's contribution to sustainable development by starting a process that will lead to an action plan on the cultural dimension of sustainable development at EU level. The action plan should ensure coherence among cultural and culture-related measures and approaches at the EU level and it would complement the work of Member States in this regard.
The Council also had a debate on the strengths, innovation potential and global competitiveness of the European cultural, creative and audio-visual industries (CCIs), based on a discussion paper by the Council Presidency.
Further details on the meeting here.

OMC Group on Culture and Social Cohesion meeting on 17 December 2019
The Open Method of Coordination (OMC) group of Member States' experts on Culture and Social Cohesion (set up under Work Plan for Culture 2019-2022) will build on the work and

recommendations by its predecessor group, especially regarding the place-centred approach. The group shall explore further questions on the contribution of culture and the arts to social and territorial cohesion, while more specifically addressing issues such as segregation, demographic challenges, geographical disparities in health and well-being and access to culture, as well as the need for inclusive public spaces for exchanges with other people and civic engagement.
More information on the group's further tasks and planned policy work here.

Creative Europe Programme (2021-2027)
Having considered the possibility of merging the Creative Europe programme with other programmes supporting European values, rights and justice, the European Commission has decided to continue the Creative Europe programme as a stand-alone programme, increasing its budget by 17 %. The only programme focusing exclusively on cultural and creative activities and enterprises, it falls under the 'Cohesion and values' heading of the 2021-2027 multiannual financial framework. Both Parliament and Council have agreed positions on the proposal, and trilogue negotiations started in autumn 2019 with a view to finding agreement before Council's first reading.
See related briefing here.
Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Creative Europe programme (2021 to 2027) and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1295/2013 - Preparation for the trilogue.

EESC debate on rEUnaissance – A cultural vision for Europe
The European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) hosted a debate on "rEUnaissance - A cultural vision for Europe", discussing the idea of reviving the European project. It was agreed that it is indeed necessary to have a Renaissance for Europe, and culture is the natural carrier and driver for strengthening the EU. During the discussion, EESC members linked culture to many issues such as our natural heritage, sustainability, the rights and dignity of minorities, peace, and social challenges, as well as to education, innovation, digitalisation and a place for artificial intelligence in our societies and daily lives. More information here.

Brexit - Withdrawal agreement signed by the EU
Presidents Charles Michel and Ursula von der Leyen signed the withdrawal agreement in Brussels. Later on the same day, the document was signed by UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson in London.
The European Parliament will hold a vote on the deal on 29 January. Once the Parliament has given its consent, the Council will adopt, by written procedure, the decision on the conclusion of the agreement on behalf of the EU. Once adopted, the withdrawal agreement will enter into force upon the UK's exit from the EU, on 31 January 2020 at midnight (Brussels time).
More on Brexit and its timeline here.

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Fourth annual gathering of the Faro Convention Network (FCN)
The Council of Europe celebrated the fourth Faro Convention Network (FCN) annual gathering, that took place on 3rd - 4th December 2019 in Venice, Italy. Organized with the support of the Venice Office of the Council of Europe, it gathered more than 20 representatives of different cultural heritage initiatives, projects and communities from diverse Council of Europe Member States.
This annual gathering provided a space for presenting diverse heritage initiatives and projects implemented in line with the Faro Convention Principles and was a place for fruitful exchanges among the participants, who were inspired by new ideas and proposals to advance the collaboration and create stronger synergies. With an aim to reinforce the cooperation among heritage communities within the Member States, the present European network could be strengthened by promoting the idea of establishing Faro Convention national networks, the official launch of an Italian specific network during a side-by-side meeting on the 2nd December serving as possible inspiration for other countries.
More information about the event here.

17th meeting of the Bureau of the Steering Committee for Culture, Heritage and Landscape (CDCPP)
The 17th meeting of the Bureau of the Steering Committee for Culture, Heritage and Landscape (CDCPP) took place in Paris (Council of Europe Office) on 25-26 November 2019.
Bureau members exchanged on the progress made in current CDCPP projects in the field of culture, heritage and landscape. They planed the next special thematic session for the CDCPP plenary in June

2020, following the success of this year's event on sustainable development and climate change.

Bureau members also fine-tuned the Council of Europe's forthcoming recommendation on cultural heritage and the challenges of preventing risks in day-to-day management: enhancing the attention of States, specialists and citizens, exchange on a forthcoming publication on Culture, Creativity and Artificial Intelligence and the follow-up to the Nicosia conference on promoting the Council of Europe's Convention on Offences related to Cultural Property (24-26 October 2019).

The next meeting of the Bureau of the Steering Committee for Culture, Heritage and Landscape (CDCPP) will be on 27-28 April 2020. The Steering Committee's next meeting will take place on 17-19 June 2020.

More information here.

Iceland becomes the 40th State Party to the European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe

Iceland becomes the 40th State Party to the European Landscape Convention. The Permanent Representation of Iceland transmitted to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe the instrument of ratification of the European Landscape Convention (ETS 176) on Wednesday 11 December 2019.

More information here.

PACE Standing Committee meets in Strasbourg

The Standing Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) met in Strasbourg on Friday 29 November 2019, on the occasion of the Georgian Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers (November 2019–May 2020).

After the opening of the meeting by PACE President Liliane Maury Pasquier, the parliamentarians held an exchange of views with the Georgian Minister of Foreign Affairs, David Zalkaliani, who will chair the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers for the next six-months. The discussions focused on Georgia's priorities during its Chairmanship and other issues in the framework of the Assembly's ongoing political dialogue with the Committee of Ministers. Other items on the agenda include human rights and business, the reform of Interpol and extradition proceedings, the societal impact of the platform economy, the role of education in the digital era, and education in the new media environment.

More information here.

Funding and investments

PROPOSALS FOR THE POST-2020 BUDGETS AND PROGRAMMES

Multiannual Financial framework (MFF)

Negotiations on the EU's long-term budget took place in December 2019. The European Council underlined that the multiannual financial framework (MFF) for 2021-2017 will significantly contribute to climate action. The discussion on the EU's long-term budget followed the presentation of the MFF negotiating box with figures by Finland's presidency.

EU leaders called on the European Council President Charles Michel to take the negotiations forward with the aim of reaching a final agreement.

More information:
- ☐ MFF Negotiations (background)
- ☐ General Affairs Council, 10 December 2019
- ☐ European Council conclusions, 12 December 2019
- ☐ Statement of the Euro Summit, 13 December 2019
- ☐ European Council (Art. 50) conclusions, 13 December 2019
- ☐ Background brief
- ☐ MFF revised draft negotiating box (5/12/2019)
- ☐ EU's own resources (background information)
- ☐ 2021-2027 MFF proposal (European Commission)
- ☐ European Development Fund (European Commission)
- ☐ EU budget for the future (European Commission)
- ☐ The last progress report on the MFF.
- ☐ Factsheet A modern EU budget for a Union that protects, empowers and defends

CREATIVE EUROPE

Creative Europe is the European Commission's framework programme for support to the culture and audio-visual sectors. Following on from the previous Culture Programme and MEDIA programme, Creative Europe, with a budget of €1.46 billion, supports Europe's cultural and creative sectors.

530 project proposals were submitted under the call for Support for European Cooperation Projects 2018. The full list of selected projects can be found on the Education, Audio-visual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) website. 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 now been published and can be accessed here.

These are the following open calls at the moment:
- Co-Creation and Co-Production scheme for the music sector (deadline 30/03/2020);
- Study on the Health and Well-being of Music Creators (deadline 3/02/2020);

For more information on other funding opportunities under the Creative Europe programme, check the Creative Europe Funding page or contact one of the National Creative Europe desks.

Creative Europe Brexit Update
The UK can fully participate in Creative Europe until it leaves the EU and during the implementation period agreed by the UK and the EU (until the end of 2020). Further details on the arrangements post Brexit here.

Cultural and Creative Sector Guarantee Facility
The Guarantee Facility of the European Commission and the European Investment Fund (EIF) is part of the Creative Europe programme and supports SMEs in cultural and creative sectors. Financial intermediaries are already operating in Belgium, Czech Republic, France, Italy, Romania and Spain. For more information, see this page.

EUROPE FOR CITIZENS
The Europe for Citizens programme aims to strengthen remembrance and to enhance civic participation at EU level. Under the strand 'European remembrance' the programme promotes debate, reflection and cooperation in the field of European integration and remembrance. The 'Democratic engagement and civic participation' strand supports projects aimed at enhancing democratic participation, solidarity and involvement at EU level. These are the priorities for 2018-2020. The deadlines for submission of applications for 2019-2020 have been updated. For more information on the supported activities and the time table, have a look at the Programme Guide (Jan 2020). Check also the 2020 call for proposals and the Programme Priorities 2020.
All open calls details are available on the funding page here.
Currently, the following calls are open:
- Civil Society Projects 2020 (deadline 1/09/2020);
- Networks of Towns 2020 – Round 1 (deadline 3/03/2020)
- European Remembrance 2020 (deadlines 4/02/2020)
- Town Twinning 2020 – Round 1 (deadline 4/02/2020)

ERASMUS+

Erasmus+ is the EU's programme to support education, training, youth and sport in Europe. Its budget of €14.7 billion will provide opportunities for over 4 million Europeans to study, train, gain experience, and volunteer abroad. Set to last until 2020, Erasmus+ merges seven prior programmes and it has opportunities for a wide variety of individuals and organisations.

The European Commission has published the Erasmus+ 2020 Call. All the deadlines and application details are contained in the 2020 Call for Proposals and the 2020 Programme Guide.

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.

These are the open calls now:
- European Policy Experimentations in the field of Education and Training led by high-level public authorities (deadline 21/04/2020)
- SPORT 2020 (deadline 2/04/2020)
- European Universities (deadline 26/02/2020)

- [Sector Skills Alliances](#) (deadline 26/02/2020)
- [Knowledge Alliances 2020](#) (deadline 26/02/2020)
- [Social Inclusion and Common Values: the Contribution in the Field of Education and Training](#) (deadline 25/02/2020)
- [Jean Monnet - Activities 2020](#) (deadline 20/02/2020)
- [Centres of Vocational Excellence](#) (deadline 20/02/2020)
- [Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees 2020](#) (deadline 13/02/2020)
- [Capacity Building in the field of Youth 2020](#) (deadline 5/02/2020)
- [Capacity Building in the field of higher education 2020](#) (deadline 5/02/2020)

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

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

JPI ON CULTURAL HERITAGE AND GLOBAL CHANGE
The [Joint Programming Initiative on Cultural Heritage and Global Change (JPI CH)](#) supports the alignment of cultural heritage research in Europe in order to avoid fragmentation and to maximize the efficiency and added-value of national investments. In 2016 the JPI CH launched [a new 4-year (Horizon 2020) project](#) which supports further alignment and joint activities. During this 4-year phase JPI CH will launch four complementary calls, each with a specific thematic focus. Two calls were completed in 2017 and another one in 2019. There aren't any open calls now.

HORIZON 2020
Horizon 2020 is the EU's main funding programme for research and innovation in Europe. It is a financial instrument implementing the Innovation Union, a Europe 2020 flagship initiative aimed at securing Europe's global competitiveness. The business and academic world are also challenged to come up with solutions and ideas to tackle societal issues that arise across Europe.

The Horizon 2020 programme is built around three pillars: Excellent Science, Industrial Leadership and Societal Challenges and some horizontal actions. Depending on your work area or research interest opportunities might be found under all pillars. Detailed information on calls can be found in the multiannual Work Programmes (see [WPs under sections](#)).

Work Programmes 2018-2020
The European Commission has published its proposal for Horizon Europe, an ambitious €100 billion research and innovation programme that will succeed Horizon 2020.
The proposal was made as part of the EU's proposal for the next [EU long-term budget](#), the multiannual financial framework (MFF). Various building blocks were taken into account including the interim evaluation of Horizon 2020, the Lab-Fab-App report (informally the Lamy report), foresight studies and various other reports.

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

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

See the online programme for 208-2020 here all relevant reference documents here.

Results of the Horizon Europe implementation co-design exercise: towards a sound implementation framework
After a broad agreement on the draft Orientations towards Horizon Europe Implementation strategy, simplifications under Horizon 2020 are considered as a good basis for further simplification under Horizon Europe. However, there is scope for further improvements across the entire project lifecycle under the next EU research and innovation programme. Read more in the final report on the Horizon Europe implementation co-design exercise.

During the Horizon Europe implementation strategy process, 2 major sets of co-design activities took place between July and October 2019. Firstly, an open web consultation on Horizon Europe co-design implementation that collected 1,549 replies between 31 July 2019 and 4 October 2019. Respondents appreciated the continuity approach taken by the Commission regarding the rules of participation and by extension in a wider sense, to Horizon Europe's implementation. Secondly, through meetings and exchanges at the European Research and Innovation Days (24-26 September 2019), which attracted a large stakeholder community of almost 4,000 participants. The feedback collected will feed into the on-going work on the Horizon Europe Implementation Strategy.

Transition of the ERC to Horizon Europe – operational considerations
The ERC's mission and funding principles have been fully maintained by the European Union (EU) Parliament and Council during the negotiations on Horizon Europe, the successor programme to Horizon 2020. The ERC Scientific Council is satisfied with this fact, as it is in line with its position paper on that matter. Consequently, it is working to ensure a smooth transition of the ERC to Horizon Europe, which is expected to start in January 2021 and cover the period until the end of 2027.

ERC Scientific Council's planning for the 2021-2022 calls for proposals:
As in previous transitions between consecutive EU research and innovation framework programmes, the calendar of the calls in the initial year of Horizon Europe may differ from the calendar of 2020 calls for proposals. All mono-beneficiary ERC calls (Starting, Consolidator, Advanced Grants, PoC) are expected to be launched in 2021 and 2022, but their opening and closing dates will be shifted so that the first calls will be launched only in January 2021. The Scientific Council expects the call schedule to be back to the usual opening and closing timeframes by mid-2022. The modified planning will likely not include a Synergy Grant call in the ERC Work Programme 2021. This call will probably be included again in the Work Programme 2022. The Scientific Council's intention is to launch this call in the summer of 2021 with a deadline in November of the same year.
Find out more about this here.

Horizon 2020 Results New Platform

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

- ***Excellent Science, Future and Emerging Technologies***
  - Proof of Concept ERC-2020-PoC - Information for applicants (Deadline: 23/04/2020, 17/09/2020)
  - FET-Open Challenging Current Thinking (deadlines: 13/05/2020)
  - FET Proactive: emerging paradigms and communities (deadline 22/04/2020)
  - Research and Innovation Staff Exchange (deadline 28/04/2020)
  - Co-funding of regional, national and international programmes (deadline 29/09/2020)
  - Individual Fellowships (9/09/2020)
  - Integrating Activities for Starting Communities (deadline 17/03/2020)
  - Pilot for a New Model for Integrating Activities (deadline 17/03/2020)
  - Co-Innovation platform for research infrastructure technologies (deadline 17/03/2020)
  - Innovation Pilots (deadline 17/03/2020)
  - Strengthening the human capital of research infrastructures (deadline 17/03/2020)
  - Environmental Intelligence (deadline 23/06/2020)
  - Integration and consolidation of the existing pan-European access mechanism to public research infrastructures and commercial services through the EOSC Portal (deadline 22/04/2020)

- ***Industrial Leadership***
  - Fast Track to Innovation FTI (deadlines: 19/02/2020, 09/06/2020, 27/10/2020)
  - Boost rural economies through cross-sector digital service platforms (deadline 22/04/2020)

- ***Societal Challenges, SC5 Climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials***
  - Smart Cities and Communities (deadline 29/01/2020)

- ***Societal Challenges, SC6 Europe in a changing world – Inclusive, innovative and reflective societies***
  - New forms of delivering public goods and inclusive public services (deadline 12/03/2020)
  - Centres/Networks of European research and innovation (deadline 12/03/2020)
  - Culture beyond borders – Facilitating innovation and research cooperation between European museums and heritage sites (deadline 12/03/2020)
  - Technological transformations, skills and globalization - future challenges for shared prosperity (deadline 12/03/2020)
  - Society and innovations: understanding the contexts, processes and consequences (deadline 12/03/2020)
  - Evolving European media landscapes and Europeanisation (deadline 12/03/2020)
  - Innovative approaches to urban and regional development through cultural tourism (deadline 12/03/2020)
  - Sustainable practices for the integration of newly arrived migrants into societies (deadline 12/03/2020)
  - European Competence Centre for the preservation and conservation of Monuments and Site (deadline 12/03/2020)
  - Curation of digital assets and advanced digitisation (deadline 12/03/2020)
  - Support to the networking of national R&I Think Tanks for helping co-shape and share a common perspective on R&I policy across Europe (deadline 12/03/2020)
  - Narratives on migration and its impact: past and present (deadline 12/03/2020)
  - Society and innovations: understanding the contexts, processes and consequences (deadline 12/03/2020)

- ***Spreading excellence and widening participation***
  - Widening Fellowships (deadline 9/09/2020)

- ***Science with and for Society***
  - Research innovation needs & skills training in PhD programmes (deadline 15/04/2020)
  - Supporting research organisations to implement gender equality plans (deadline 15/04/2020)
  - Supporting the development of territorial Responsible Research and Innovation (deadline 15/04/2020)
  - Taking stock and re-examining the role of science communication (deadline 15/04/2020)

UK participation in H2020

Regardless of the Brexit outcome, the UK government has guaranteed to underwrite all live and successful Horizon 2020 awards submitted before exit and to fund projects for their duration. The government also guarantees a post-EU extension underwrite to fund successful UK participants under H2020 schemes open to third country participants submitted after exit until end of 2020.

Interreg V 2014-2020 (European Territorial Cooperation) is a framework for the implementation of joint actions and policy exchanges in Europe between national, regional and local actors from different member States. The framework is part of the Cohesion Policy and promotes innovation, a better environment and harmonious economic, social and territorial development of the Union as a whole. Interreg is built around three strands of cooperation: cross-border (Interreg A, 60 cooperation programmes), transnational (Interreg B, 15 cooperation programmes) and interregional (Interreg C, 4 cooperation programmes.). There are 11 thematic objectives which guide the ERDF investments 2014-2020 of which Interreg is part. Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage is one of the investment priorities (priority 6c).

Find the programme of your interest and its details via this page.

Interreg Europe (former IVC)
Interreg Europe helps regional and local governments across Europe to develop and deliver better policy. The programme facilitates exchange platforms and co-finances projects in which regional and local authorities (and other partners) can exchange good examples and ideas on public policy to improve the strategies for their citizens and communities. Specific objective 4.1 (see page 21-23 of Programme Manual) includes support to cultural heritage. Interreg Europe monitoring committee has conditionally approved 74 projects out of 170 applications received in the fourth call for project proposals. Have a look at the projects approved in the fourth call for proposals. Or download a list of them.

Launch of the new peer review call
The Policy Learning Platform is opening a new call for interregional peer reviews. It is launched on 9 October 2019 and remains open permanently.
Managing authorities and public bodies in charge of local or regional development policies can submit their application at any time, while a series of cut-off dates are foreseen. Read the terms of reference and apply. Peer reviews are a great way to receive hands-on feedback and advice from other European regions (peers) on the implementation of your policies and programmes. Whether you are struggling with your programme measure on energy efficiency, searching for new ways to support the internationalisation of SMEs or intending to invest in digital rural mobility solutions, exchanging with policy experts and practitioners from other regions can help you to receive new inspiration and solutions with an unbiased view from 'outside'. More information here.

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

Results of 2019
2019 was the year when the Interreg Europe's early projects started achieving results. From policy changes to mobilised EU funds, the programme presented some of these results to you in a web-documentary. More information on the Interreg Europe 2019 projects here.

Open call for expressions of interest for the establishment of a pool of experts to be potentially members of the Panel for the Union action "European Capital of Culture"
Open call for expressions of interest for the establishment of a pool of experts to be potentially members of the Panel for the Union action "European Capital of Culture" under Decision 445/2014/EU
Interested experts are invited to send their application at any time prior to the last 3 months of validity of the list (deadline 31/12/2020). More information here.

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

Events

Digital Past Conference 2020 (12-13 February 2020, Aberystwyth, Wales, Uk)
Digital Past is a two-day conference which showcases innovative digital technologies for data capture, interpretation and dissemination of heritage sites and artefacts. New technologies in heritage, interpretation and outreach. The conference will offer a combination of papers, hands-on workshops and demonstrations to investigate the latest technical survey and interpretation techniques and their practical application in heritage interpretation, education and conservation. More information here.

12th International Conference on Agents and Artificial Intelligence (ICAART) (22-24 February 2020, Valletta, Malta)
Artificial Intelligence and Digital Heritage: Challenges and Opportunities - ARTIDIGH 2020: Call for papers deadline 15/11/2019
This special session aims to discuss and present the technical and societal challenges (e.g. labour to produce labelled datasets, heterogeneity of data, bias in training sets) digital heritage professionals and researchers are facing when trying to capitalise on the transformative power of artificial intelligence in the context of digital archive, image, and audio/visual collections.
Find out more here.

European Archaeological Council (EAC) 2020 Symposium "Archaeology and Public Benefit: moving the debate forward" (5-7 March 2020, Prague, Czech Republic)
The 21st EAC Symposium will focus on the public benefit of the development-led archaeology in Europe, in attempt to create a much stronger case for its continued support. This case needs to prove it creates public value in terms of tangible benefits to state, public, developer and archaeologist. Having demonstrated this proof, EAC will try to encourage innovation in the way archaeology is conducted to ensure that these benefits become 'operationalized' through standard procedures. As outlined in the Valletta Convention (Article 9) the public must be the key beneficiaries of archaeological work and the theoretical concept of public benefit has become well recognised across our profession but there is still some way to go to fully understand and maximise its potential. More information here.

Cultural Heritage and Digitization – current issues and challenges (12th-13th March 2020, Paris, France)
The objective of this event is to create the conditions for a scientific exchange on the current challenges of the digitization of heritage. Part of the event will also be devoted to exploring the new possibilities offered by digital tools for knowledge production and dissemination. The event will bring together researchers, project leaders currently funded by the ANR and its partner agencies as part of national and international programmes, including the latest call for proposals of the Joint Programming Initiative on Cultural Heritage and Global Change (JPI CH) on the theme « Digital Heritage ». More information here.

Building Peace through Heritage Symposium (13-15 March 2020, Florence, Italy)
Highlighting the power of heritage, both cultural and natural, tangible and intangible, as the diversity of cultural expressions is crucial for operating in respect of and in collaboration with the environment for the great movement of people at worldwide level. This Symposium will discuss the potentialities of dialogue for the sustainable development of all the cultures gathering transversal experiences from a multiplicity of fields to allow a wider understanding and a cross-fertilization among different sectors. The event will be developed along three subthemes dealing with economic,

socio-cultural, environmental aspects highlighting the importance of the promotion, protection and enhancement of local cultural expressions (craftmanship, artists, less known institutions, small businesses etc) – powerful resources for the sustainable development of places.
For more information [here](#).

MACCH Annual Conference: Trust and Transparency in Art and Heritage Practices (15-17 March 2020, Maastricht, The Netherlands)
On 15 - 17 March 2020, the Maastricht Centre for Arts and Culture, Conservation and Heritage (MACCH) will host its annual, transdisciplinary conference together with UNESCO. This year's theme 'Trust and Transparency in Art and Heritage Practices' will explore ways of enhancing transparency in the art trade by building trust in provenance and the circulation of cultural objects while reducing abuse through illegal business practices. More information [here.](#)

Reusing Churches. New Perspectives in a European Comparison (23-25 March 2020, Hanover, Germany)
From 23 to 25 March 2020, experts from Germany, The Netherlands, Belgium, Switzerland and Great Britain will meet for a Herrenhausen Symposium at Herrenhausen Palace in Hanover to discuss the issue of reusing church buildings for the first time from a European comparative view. The intention is to develop new perspectives. More information [here.](#)

2020 March - Documentation Strategies in (Archaeological) Open-Air Museums (25-27 March 2020, Berlin, Germany)
There are probably about 3,000 archaeological house reconstructions around the world, most of them in (archaeological) open-air museums. This means we have already a huge amount of information and experience "locked-in" these buildings. The same is true for all other craft activities carried out in open-air museums. A lot of knowledge relating to crafts is known as tacit knowledge, meaning difficult to transfer using words. It is learned through experience. The multiple challenges will be explored during this EXARC conference. More information [here.](#)

Conference: Critical Digital Heritage (27-28 March 2020, Oslo, Norway)
NIKU is pleased to announce the conference 'Critical Digital Heritage' to be held at Gamle Museet in Oslo 27-28 May 2020. The conference will discuss how recent technological inventions and digital media can define new and extended functions for cultural heritage in society today. What opportunities does new digital heritage offer? What novel methods for digital registration, documentation and communication open up? Will digital heritage create new ways to perceive cultural heritage? Will digital cultural heritage contribute to a more open and inclusive society? These are some of the questions that the Critical Digital Heritage Conference 2020 will address. More information [here.](#)

INTO Incubator International Learning Workshop (29 March-4 April 2020, Cirencester, UK)
The INTO Incubator is an international learning workshop. Participants will learn about the hugely successful National Trust model for heritage conservation and how this can be applied in their own organisations. Participants will spend five days at the Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester, England. Two preparatory webinars will take place online in December.
Please find more information [here](#).

HTHIC 2020 – Living Heritage and Sustainable Tourism (6-8 April 2020, Mendrisio, Switzerand)
Following successful conferences in Istanbul (Turkey), Amsterdam (Netherlands) and Pori (Finland), USI – Università della Svizzera italiana (Lugano, Switzerland) and consultancy Elgin & Co. (The Hague, Netherlands) are pleased to announce the 4th Heritage, Tourism and Hospitality, International Conference (HTHIC2020), and cordially invite researchers, practitioners and policymakers to share their knowledge and experience. HTHIC2020 overall theme is 'Living Heritage and Sustainable Tourism', while the main focus is on the question: How can tourism destinations succeed in attracting tourists while simultaneously engaging all stakeholders in contributing to the preservation of natural and cultural heritage? You can find more information about this event [here](#).

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

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

IE Conference: Fostering heritage communities (8-11 May 2020, Haapsalu, Estonia)
Heritage communities are a cornerstone of the Council of Europe's Faro Convention. But how do heritage sites actually become meaningful for everyone? What triggers volunteer engagement and what boosts someone's sense of fulfilment? Join the IE conference in Estonia on 8-11 May 2020 for a packed programme of inspiring speeches, workshops, presentations and study visits, when you will explore how interpretation can bring heritage communities to life.
The deadline for the delivery of papers is 15 April 2020. You can find more information here.

Innovating Cities: Cultural Heritage in Action (14-15 May 2020, Bologna, Italy)
For three years, ten cities participating in the ROCK project **–** Athens**,** Bologna**,** Cluj-Napoca**,** Eindhoven**,** Liverpool**,** Lisbon**,** Lyon**,** Skopje**,** Turin**,** and Vilnius **–** were developing innovative solutions that demonstrate how cultural heritage can be the driving force behind the city's overall sustainability. Supported by service providers and knowledge brokers from among project partners, the ROCK cities tested and advanced numerous tools and approaches aimed at shaping sustainable, heritage-led urban futures. At the final project conference, they will share their results, lessons learned, and best practices, while the subsequent business matching event will become a forum for promoting innovative solutions for historic urban centres. More information here.

Iconic Houses Conference (2-8 June 2020, Rotterdam, The Netherlands)
The Iconic Houses Foundation is proud to present its 6th International Conference from 2-8 June 2020 at Het Nieuwe Instituut in Rotterdam. The lectures on the two conference days (4 and 5 June) will be devoted to two themes: Thursday will focus on the "Pioneers of the Dutch Modern House" in the Netherlands and their impact on architectural history; Friday will have an international scope with presentations about "Saving Icons at Risk". More information here.

'Europe, let's cooperate! interregional cooperation forum' (**9 June 2020, Dubrovnik, Croatia)**
Save the date and get ready for the next edition of #europecooperates! Join us to celebrate the results and impact of interregional cooperation and take part in the discussion about the post-2020 future of Interreg Europe. More information will be available in spring 2020 here.

28th EBLIDA Annual Council Meeting & EBLIDA Conference *"Libraries Working for a better World: Implementing Sustainable Development Goals in Europe" (22-23 June 2020, Belgrade, Serbia)*
The 28th EBLIDA Conference represents a unique opportunity for librarians willing to embark upon Sustainable Development Goals initiatives which are vibrant and may change the world.
Sustainable Development is not taking place aside or ahead of libraries; it is happening inside of them, and now. UN SDGs are bursting into library activities and providing new, fascinating developments to conventional and innovative library work. The proposal of a European Green Deal made by Ms Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission, aims to make the 28 countries in the European Union "climate neutral" by 2050. All European Commission programmes are being modulated in order to attain the seventeen SDG objectives and new funding opportunities will be created. More information here.

2020 ENCATC Capacity Building Days and Youth in Action Day (25-26 June 2020, Stockholm, Sweden)
The focus of the 2020 edition of this activity is on digitalisation. Participants will analyse and

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

SKBL International Summer School (3-11 July 2020, The Netherlands)
The first edition of the sKBL International Summer School will start in 2020. Many associate England, France and Germany with beautiful castles and stretched-out rural estates. Within Europe, the Netherlands is not as often associated with this, even though contains hundreds of special castles, historic country houses and rural estates. The sKBL International Summer School wants to change this by focusing on this versatile Dutch monumental heritage with knowledgeable participants of various nationalities. The organisation also aspires to create an international network of connoisseurs and professionals, which can be of great use to Dutch castles, country houses and rural estates. The 2020 edition is open for participants outside the Netherlands who are conducting professional research on topics that relate to the preservation and conservation of monumental heritage. It is important that we establish interaction between not only the participants, but also the owners of the domains to be visited. This way, knowledge, science and stories come together, and we can learn and enrich ourselves. You can find more information here.

WAC 2020: World Archaeological Congress (5 – 10 July 2020, Prague, Czech Republic)
WAC has now confirmed the list of themes, and the Local Organising Committee (LOC) is pleased to invite session submissions for the WAC-9 Prague 2020 Congress scheduled to take place at the Cubex Centrum in Prague, Czech Republic from 5–10 July, 2020. More details here.

26th EAA Annual Meeting (26-30 August 2020, Budapest, Hungary)
The motto of EAA 2020 Annual Meeting in Budapest is "Networking!". It was chosen because Budapest, at the centre of Hungary and the Pannonian Basin has always been a continuous interface between different networks and networking systems in the past. This is where the cultures of East and West, North and South met in the past and it is where they still meet. This is proved by the diverse Hungarian Cultural Heritage. The choice of the motto "Networking" means more than this, however. Networking is a feature of trans-modern society and has become more immediate as a consequence of globalization. It is also an ever-present characteristic of human societies. Archaeology, more than any other discipline, has proved this to be more frequent than expected in the past. We have learnt that "Networking" is not only about humans but about culture and materials and Institutions. "Networking" reflects ties that bind us to our reality, to the complex relationships we live by. Call for sessions is open until Thursday 7 November 2019. More information here.

Association of Critical Heritage Studies 5th Biennial Conference (26-30 August 2020, UCL, London, UK)
The conference's theme—*Futures*—invites participants to explore a range of issues, including the future of critical heritage studies; newly emerging concepts, themes and methods for the study of heritage; the future of heritage management, governance and diplomacy; evolving and nascent forms of heritage, and how they might be recognised; heritage as future-making; the "time" of heritage and its relationship with the past, present and future; future impacts of climatological, ecological, economic, political and social change on heritage; future relations of natural and cultural heritage in the light of the recognition of the Anthropocene; and the future of heritage itself. More information here.

12th edition of the International Conference on Structural Analysis of Historical Constructions (SAHC 2020) (6-11 September 2020, Barcelona, Spain)
During the last decades the study and conservation of historical structures has attained high technological and scientific standards. Today's practice involves the combination of innovative non-destructive inspection technologies, sophisticated monitoring systems, advanced numerical models for structural analysis and respectful intervention solutions for restoration and retrofit. More than ever, it is understood that the studies must be performed by interdisciplinary teams integrating wide expertise. Due to all this, the study of historical structures is still facing very strong challenges that

can be only addressed through sound international scientific cooperation.

Taking these ideas in mind, the 12th edition of the SAHC conference aims at creating a new opportunity for the exchange and discussion of novel concepts, technologies and practical experiences on the study, conservation and management of historical constructions. More information here.

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

Hosted in the culturally vibrant city of Prague, academics, trainers and researchers from the cultural management and policy educational fields with cross-disciplinary interests can mingle with professionals, policy makers and artists to bridge the knowledge gap, promote research esteem and the evolution of pedagogy. The programme will include keynote speeches, debates, panel discussions, study visits to inspiring cultural institutions as well as the 2020 ENCATC Research Award Ceremony, and the 2020 ENCATC Research and Education Session.

More information soon here**.**

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.

- European Capitals of Culture. In search of the perfect cultural event (Katsarova, Ivana; EPRS / European Parliamentary Research Service, November 2019)
- Cultural heritage in EU discourse and in the Horizon 2020 programme (Anna Zygierewicz, EPRS / European Parliamentary Research Service, November 2019)
- Creative Europe programme 2021-2027 (Magdalena Pasikowska-Schnass, EPRS / European Parliamentary Research Service, November 2019)
- The Cultural and Creative Cities Monitor. 2019 edition (Montalto V., Tacao Moura C. J., Alberti V., Panella F., Saisana M.; Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2019)
- Report from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, The European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on the implementation, results and overall assessment of the European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018 (European Commission, Brussels, October 2019)
- European Journal of Cultural Management and Policy (ENCATC, December 2019)
- Culture | 2030 indicators (UNESCO, 2019)
- European tourism: Trends and Prospects (Quarterly Report, 2019, Market Intelligence Group of the European Travel Commission (ETC) by Tourism Economics (an Oxford Economics Company)
- Adaptive Strategies for Water Heritage – past, present and future (ed. Carola Hein, Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment, Technical University Delft, Delft, Zuid-Holland, The Netherlands, October 2019)
- Target-based visibility assessment on building envelopes: Applications to PV and cultural-heritage values (David Lingforce, Tim Johansson, Joakim Widén, Tor Broströmc, Upsala university, Sweden, October 2019)

90 Cultural Organisations in Europe urge EU leaders to increase the future budget of Creative Europe

On 22 November in a joint letter addressed to EU leaders from Europe's Cultural and Creative Sectors, 90 signatories collectively urged the European Council to support the European Parliament's proposal of increasing funding for Creative Europe to €2.8bn total. The letter supports the European Parliament's position to increase the budget for the Creative Europe Programme and underlines the importance of this increase, referring to the contribution of the cultural and creative sectors to the development of open and inclusive societies. Negotiations on the overall EU budget 2021-2027 (known as the Multi-Financial Framework or "MFF"), including the Creative Europe Programme, are ongoing between the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers. The letter was drafted by several organisations in different cultural and creative sectors (Culture Action Europe, FEP – Federation of European Publishers, FERA – Federation of European Film Directors, IMPALA – Independent music companies association, and UNIC – International Union of Cinemas).

Find out more about the initiative here.

Download the letter here.

Europa Nostra protests against intentionally targeting cultural heritage as a weapon of war
Following the worrying escalation of tensions in the Middle East and remembering the disastrous destruction of the cultural heritage of humanity in the region caused by terrorist groups only a few years ago, Europa Nostra finds it unacceptable that the President of the United States should threaten to intentionally destroy cultural heritage sites in Iran as a weapon of war. As the European Voice of Civil Society committed to cultural heritage, they stood in solidarity with numerous heritage professionals and organisations in the US, Iran and worldwide who have expressed their deep concern about such objectionable threats. The deliberate targeting of cultural property in the event of armed conflict is prohibited by international law *(*)* and has been recognised as a war crime by the International Criminal Court. The historic 2347 Resolution of the UN Security Council, adopted in March 2017, which "deplores and condemns the unlawful destruction of cultural heritage (…) in the context of armed conflicts". Find out more here.

Europa Nostra with key heritage stakeholders release Paris Manifesto: Relançons l'Europe par la culture et le patrimoine culturel!'
Europa Nostra has released the PARIS MANIFESTO '*Relançons l'Europe par la culture et le patrimoine culturel !'* with the endorsement and support of hundreds of key culture and cultural heritage stakeholders who attended the European Cultural Heritage Summit that took place on 27-30 October in Paris. The Paris Manifesto conveys a strong message on the strategic role of cultural heritage for tackling some of the most urgent challenges which Europe and its citizens are facing, as well as on its significant contribution for the future of Europe.
The draft text of the Paris Manifesto was presented at the European Policy Debate *'Cultural heritage at the heart of the revival of the European project'* held on 30 October 2019 at the Collége des Bernardins as the concluding event of the European Cultural Heritage Summit 2019. The European Cultural Heritage Summit was organised by Europa Nostra under the high patronage of Emmanuel Macron, President of the French Republic, in cooperation and with the support of the European Commission and the French Government, as well as in partnership with the Fondation du Patrimoine. The Paris Summit brought together key representatives of the EU Institutions and Member States, international organisations and hundreds of representatives of the world of culture and cultural heritage, coming from all parts of Europe, including the distinguished laureates of the European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards run by Europa Nostra in partnership by the European Commission.
The Paris Manifesto encapsulates the key policy conclusions of the Paris Summit. By means of the Paris Manifesto, participants to the Paris Summit assert how much culture and cultural heritage represent Europe's DNA and therefore call upon European leaders to explicitly place culture and cultural heritage at the heart of the revival of the European project.
The Paris Manifesto is available in French and English.
You can read more about it here.

Europe celebrated heritage award winners in Paris
The winners of the 2019 European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards, Europe's top honour in the field, were celebrated on 29 October with the Grande Soirée du Patrimoine Européen at the recently restored Théâtre du Châtelet in Paris, France. These 25 winners were announced in May.
The Grande Soirée was the largest public event of the European Cultural Heritage Summit, which has been taking place in Paris from 27-30 October (you can watch live streaming from the Summit here).

The European Heritage Tribune officially launched in Paris
During the European Cultural Heritage Summit in Paris, a new pan-European electronic platform and newsletter that specialises in sharing news on Europe's cultural heritage was officially launched. The EHT project is a legacy of the European Year of Cultural Heritage. Europa Nostra is a founding partner of this new communication medium.
Find out more and subscribe here.

Climate Heritage Network Global Launch, Edinburgh
The Climate Heritage Network Global Launch took place during a two-day programme devoted to urgently mobilising the cultural heritage sector for climate action across the globe. The programme served as a key catalyst for accelerating the ambition of culture and heritage actors to help the communities they work in to deliver on the ambitions of the Paris Agreement.
A key outcome of the programme was the launch of the new Climate Heritage Network, a voluntary, mutual support network of local and city, state/provincial and regional, indigenous and tribal, and national arts, culture and heritage offices and agencies (working together with related NGOs, universities and other organisations) committed to aiding their jurisdictions in tackling climate change and achieving the ambitions of the Paris Agreement.
More about this here.

Global Cultural Leadership Programme gathers in Brussels young leaders from around the world
The Global Cultural Leadership Programme (GCLP) is the main training component of the [Cultural Diplomacy Platform](#), an EU-funded project to enhance EU's external cultural relations. The GCLP's main objective is to support young cultural managers emerging on the international scene to develop and strengthen their cultural leadership skills.
The fourth edition of GCLP took place in Brussels from 23 to 25 October 2019. For the first time, the event gathered alumni of previous GCLP editions coming from EU Member States and EU's strategic partners with the aim to strengthen the GLCP community of cultural leaders and foster project cooperation between EU and non-EU participations.
More information [here](#).

MEPs call for EU response to extreme weather threats to historic cities such as Venice
During its Plenary session on 26 November in Strasbourg, the European Parliament discussed the need for a joint EU response to extreme meteorological events and their impacts on urban areas and their cultural heritage. Over 30 Members of the European Parliament took the floor to address this important topic, many of them recalling the alarming situation related to Venice and its Lagoon and calling for urgent and resolute solidarity and action by EU Institutions. Read more about this [here](#).

Five cities short-listed for European Capital of Culture 2025 in Germany
Chemnitz, Hannover, Hildesheim, Magdeburg, Nurnberg have been shortlisted in the competition to become European Capital of Culture 2025 in Germany. Once the relevant German authorities formally endorse the panel's recommendation, the shortlisted cities will have until the summer of 2020 to complete their applications. The panel will then meet again in Berlin in September 2020 to recommend the German city to become the European Capital of Culture 2025. In 2025, Germany will host the European Capital of Culture for the fourth time, after Berlin in 1988, Weimar in 1999 and Essen for the Ruhr in 2010. In the same year, there will also be a European Capital of Culture in Slovenia. The pre-selection round in Slovenia will take place in February 2020. Bad Ischl was also recently announced to be the European Capital of Culture 2024 in Austria. More information [here](#) and [here](#).

A new website for the Compendium of Cultural Policies & Trends
Just in time for the new decade, the Compendium of Cultural Policies & Trends launched its renewed platform ([Culturalpolicies.net](#)) on Thursday, December 5th. Established in 1998 by ERICarts and the Council of Europe, the Compendium is an online information and monitoring system of national cultural policies and related development. At the heart of this platform lies the Compendium database, which encompasses 43 cultural policy country profiles. These profiles are written and updated by independent cultural policy experts, in consultation with respective ministries.
More information [here.](#)

European Heritage Makers visit Strasbourg
The [European Heritage Days](#) celebrated the end of the second edition of [European Heritage Makers Week](#) with this year's storytellers, who travelled from across Europe to visit Strasbourg from 1st to 4th December 2019. The [selected stories](#) came from North Macedonia, Latvia, Russian Federation, Ukraine, Serbia and Georgia. The idea of European Heritage Makers originated in Finland in 2013 as a means of inspiring young heritage explorers to share their stories. It has since been expanded to a European level, and in 2018, as part of the European Year of Cultural Heritage, it became a regular part of the European Heritage Days calendar. Young storytellers from 13 countries shared their stories in 2019. They demonstrated great creative potential in designing stories that connect their local cultural heritage to the European narrative within the common theme of "[Arts and Entertainment.](#)" Original stories featuring various well and lesser-known works of art, writers, public figures and cultural places presented local and European heritage in a new way, seen through the eyes of creative 12-18-year-old heritage makers.
More information [here](#).

Transposing the Directive on Copyright in the Digital Single Market: A Guide for Libraries and Library Associations', **published by EBLIDA, IFLA, LIBER and SPARC Europe**
Organisations representing libraries across Europe have launched guidance on the transposition of the European Union's Directive on Copyright in the Digital Single Market in Member States. The goal is to provide essential background to libraries, library associations, researchers and others involved in national discussions about the new rules, the choices that will need to be made, and goals that libraries can adopt. The guidelines have been created jointly by [EBLIDA](#), [IFLA](#), [LIBER](#) and [SPARC Europe](#), and cover 12 of the Articles in the Directive, looking at text and data mining, education, preservation, contracts and technological protection measures, out-of-commerce works, works of visual art in the public domain, press publishers rights and platform liability. **The guidelines are available from a** [secure page](#)**.** Access will be granted to librarians, library associations, academics and research organisations interested in working to promote an implementation of the Directive that delivers a

positive result for libraries. Please provide the relevant information requested on the page so that we can verify your affiliation and interest. Find out more [here](#).

ENCATC Congress 2019: How can cultural and creative spillovers help us understand sustainability within the arts, culture and creative industries?
Between 2 - 5 October 2019 in Dijon, cultural academics, researchers and managers from across the world met for ENCATC's Annual Congress, hosted by the Burgundy School of Business. It was an opportunity to present [Cultural and creative spillovers in Europe - a follow-up review](#), an evidence review that was commissioned by the [European Partnership on Cultural and Creative Spillovers](#) in 2018. It was a moment to reflect on the report findings and the utility of the spillover framework within a discussion about the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The sector has moved on from its early indignance over culture not being explicitly acknowledged in any of the 17 SDGs (perhaps a cause of its delayed sector embrace). Now, reassured by numerous [communications](#) and [high-level discussions](#), it's broadly accepted that culture should be central in the [vision of the world that we want to see in 2030](#).
More information [here](#).

Europa Nostra supports the creation of a History teaching Observatory for Peace in Europe
Ahead of the meeting of Education Ministers of the State Parties to the [European Cultural Convention](#) organised in Paris on 26 November in the frame of the French Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, Europa Nostra expressed its full support for the creation of a History teaching Observatory for Peace in Europe (HOPE). This support was expressed in a letter addressed to the French Minister of Education Jean-Michel Blanquer and the French Secretary of State in charge of European Affairs Amélie de Montchalin. During the meeting, 23 countries have confirmed their [support](#) to this initiative, whose objective is to stimulate debate and sharing of best practices in teaching our common history and heritage. It ultimately aims at promoting peace, European values, mutual respect and at fostering a sense of belonging to Europe.
Find out more about this initiative [here.](#)

Europa Nostra appeals to preserve "in situ" the antiquities at the Venizelos Metro Station in Thessaloniki
On 16 December 2019, following the latest worrying developments regarding the invaluable antiquities that had been discovered at the Venizelos Metro Station in Thessaloniki, Greece, Europa Nostra made an appeal to the Central Archaeological Council (ΚΑΣ) as well as to the Greek Government expressing its concern about the recently suggested plan against their in situ preservation. This appeal was made public prior to the meeting of the Central Archeological Council held on 18 December.
The antiquities of the Venizelos Metro Station in Thessaloniki came into the international spotlight again due to a recent suggested revision of the initial plan to keep the antiquities in their original context. The proposed revision of the initial plan was due to be voted on Wednesday 18 December by the Members of the Central Archaeological Council (ΚΑΣ). The new plan foresees the removal of the antiquities from their original setting, invoking financial criteria and arguments related to the further delay of the metro development project in case the initial plan of the "in situ" preservation of the antiquities is implemented.
More about this [here](#).

14 European heritage sites shortlisted for the 7 Most Endangered programme 2020
The 7 Most Endangered programme, launched in January 2013, is a civil society campaign to save Europe's endangered heritage. While not providing direct funding, it raises awareness, prepares independent assessments, proposes feasible action plans to mobilise public and private support.
Nominations were submitted by civil society or public bodies which form part of Europa Nostra's network of member and associate organisations from all over Europe. An [advisory panel](#), composed of 15 international experts, selected the most endangered heritage sites on the basis of their historic and cultural value and the urgency of the threat they are facing. It also takes into account the community engagement, the commitment of public and private stakeholders, the long-term sustainability and the socio-economic potential of the site. You can access the list of the 14 shortlisted sites [here](#).
The final list of 7 most endangered heritage sites in Europe will be announced in March 2020.

Winners of the destination of Sustainable Cultural Tourism Awards 2019 announced
The 'Destination of Sustainable Cultural Tourism' Awards enhance the visibility of European cultural tourism destinations, create a platform for sharing experience and knowledge and promotes networking between destinations. The 2019 edition of the Awards aimed to contribute towards the legacy of the European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018. The Awards contest was open to tourist destinations across Europe, to showcase their results and outputs in sustainable cultural tourism under seven categories. The winners were announced during the Award ceremony that took place in the Carmen de los Mártires Palace in Granada, Spain on 24 October. You can see the list of all prize winners [here](#).

Thirty-five new elements inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity
The Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage meeting in the Colombian capital inscribed 35 elements on the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. The new inscribed elements include 13 practices and traditions from Europe. The Representative List seeks to enhance visibility for the traditional practices and know-how of communities without recognizing standards of excellence or exclusivity. Full list of the new elements and further details here.

Court ruling converting Turkish museum to mosque could set precedent for Hagia Sophia
The Church of St Savior in Chora, which was converted into the Kariye Mosque in the early 16th century by an Ottoman vizier, was designated a museum by the Turkish government in 1945. Its 14th-century frescos and mosaics are regarded among the world's finest examples of Byzantine art. Turkey's Council of State, the country's top administrative court, ruled last month that the historic cabinet decision that made Kariye a museum was unlawful because a mosque "cannot be used except for its essential function". Now, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan is expected to implement the court's verdict or issue a new regulation to protect its status, according to Yeni Safak newspaper. The ruling has repercussions for other monuments from Turkey's Christian past, especially the Hagia Sophia, Christendom's greatest cathedral for a millennium before Constantinople's conquering Ottoman sultan, Mehmed II, claimed it as his imperial mosque in 1453. In 1934, the Turkish republic's secularising founder, Mustafa Ataturk, made Hagia Sophia a museum in a goodwill gesture towards the West. More information here.

7,000-Year-Old Ritual Site Unearthed in Poland
A massive Stone Age monument that dates back almost 7,000 years and was probably used as a ritual and sacred site has been uncovered in Poland. This structure is almost three times the size of the circle of stones at Stonehenge. This find is providing archaeologists with a unique insight into a prehistoric society. It is believed that people worshiped divine forces there in a similar way that they did at Stonehenge. Specialists at Szczecin University carried out carbon dating on some items found at the enclosure and they established that the site dates back about 6,800 years ago. The structure measures some 360 feet (120 meters) in diameter and it consists of four circular trenches . According to Newsweek the enclosure "is over three times the size of the inner Sarsen Circle at Stonehenge and roughly the same size as the monument's outer ditch". More information here.

Announcing the winners of the Europeana Research Grants Programme 2019
The theme of this year's call was Digital Cultural Heritage for Open Science, which offered valuable food for thought about the limits and potential of the reuse of digital collections as a source for research. The winning proposals are listed here.

Former Roman Empire frontier in bid as World Heritage Site
The Netherlands is to lead the way, in cooperation with the German states of North Rhine-Westphalia and Rhineland-Palatinate, in applying for the "Wet Limes" region to become a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The application is to be submitted to UNESCO in Paris on Thursday, January 9, 2020. A decision could be announced by July 2021. The Lower German Limes runs between Bad Breisig in the German state of Rhineland-Palatinate, through the state of North Rhine-Westfalia, to the seaside resort Katwijk in the Netherlands. The approximately 400-kilometer-long (ca. 250 miles) border area follows the course of the Rhine River and was a frontier during Roman times. More information here.

Five Bulgarian monasteries to get a facelift with European funds
Five of the oldest Bulgarian monasteries, that have been declared monuments of culture - Bachkovski, Troyanski, Kremikovski, Kilifarevski and Plakovski, are expected to be renovated with European funds, the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works announced. The goal is to make these religious centers even more attractive to pilgrims and tourists. The funds will be allocated under the Operational Programme "Regions in Growth" 2014-2020 which is managed by the Ministry. More information here.

Biggest ever Roman shipwreck found in the eastern Mediterranean
Having languished at the bottom of the sea for around two millennia, the ship has now been rediscovered by archeologists, along with its cargo, and dated to between 100 BCE and 100 CE. It has already been judged to be the largest classical shipwreck found in the eastern Mediterranean. The wreck of the 110-foot (35-meter) ship, along with its cargo of 6,000 amphorae, was discovered at a depth of around 60m (197 feet) during a sonar-equipped survey of the seabed off the coast of Kefalonia -- one of the Ionian islands off the west coast of Greece. The survey was carried out by the Oceanus network of the University of Patras, using artificial intelligence image-processing techniques. The research was funded by the European Union Interreg program. More information here.