



VOICES OF CULTURE

Structured Dialogue between the European Commission and the cultural sector

First meeting dedicated to the 2018 European Year of Cultural Heritage

**28 April 2017
Brussels**

**PRESENTATION OF THE PARTICIPANTS TO
THE VOICES OF CULTURE AND HERITAGE PROCESS**

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1. Burghauptmannschaft Österreich

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ABOUT



The Burghauptmannschaft Österreich (BHOe) is responsible for the protection, conservation and management of built Cultural Heritage of the Republic of Austria (e.g. Imperial Palace Vienna, Imperial Palace Innsbruck, Belvedere Castle). Therefore BHOe reps. the CEO of BHOe, Burghauptmann Reinhold Sahl is involved in the preparation of EYCH in Austria and personally invited to join the German preparation group. Additionally, BHOe as part of the Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy will support the Austrian presidency of the Council of the EU in 2018, which is also related to EYCH.

EXPERIENCE/EXPERTISE

Our experience is:

- Maintaining/protecting historic buildings (monuments)
- Managing historic buildings
- Running operation in historic buildings (museum, historic spa)
- Coordinating stakeholder and users of historic areas like Imperial Palace Vienna (total of 2.200 users)

Our activities are:

- Running the European Heritage Label (EHL) for the Imperial Palace Vienna
- Submitting a proposal to finance network activities for EHL sites as applicant
- Developing an education for project manager responsible for maintaining historic buildings (EU-project "MODI-FY")
- Developing an information system for improving energy efficiency in historic buildings as monitoring and evaluation system for end-users and facility managers
- Running maintenance projects in historic buildings
- Running real estate management for historic buildings

VISION FOR THE YEAR

BHOe is organising a yearly European conference, which will be part of the programme of the Austrian presidency of the Council of the EU in 2018. Other activities are scheduled, but depend on budget availability. We also will submit project applications to finance special events to celebrate EYCH.

2. CIVILSCAPE

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ABOUT



CIVILSCAPE is member of the European Cultural Heritage Alliance 3.3. CIVILSCAPE has actively lobbied for the EYCH since 2014. We addressed more than 30 European events, like the Council of Europe Assembly of iNGOs, European Maritime Days 2015+2016 or with own conferences, like the Landscape Forum Berlin, where the attending member organisations bring together over 4 million members. Through our own member organizations and activities, we reach a vast auditory in Europe.

EXPERIENCE/EXPERTISE

CIVILSCAPE was founded 2008, is a network of 125 European NGOs and public bodies dedicated to all aspects of landscape management and development under the principles of the European Landscape Convention: an inclusive and participatory process bringing together the natural and cultural heritage as bedrocks of all European landscapes, not only the those of outstanding beauty or special historic value, but also the everyday landscapes and degraded landscapes, rural as well as urban.

VISION FOR THE YEAR

Our action plan for in the EYCH is targeting on the entire spectrum of society - everyone is welcome to join our efforts. A special target group is younger generations who are the “heirs of the heritage”, along with persons who have had only limited access to cultural heritage up to now. Education and the participation of society will be given special scope in order to achieve the goal of active participation and identification with cultural heritage. We plan more than 100 events promoting cultural landscapes. Together with the national and regional partners will organise European Landscape Days and Landscape Forum events. Furthermore we will provide a prototype toolbox for regional policies development and new governance on cultural heritage as an output of our recent HERICOAST project (Interreg-C).

3. Culture Action Europe

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ABOUT



The importance of the European Year of Cultural Heritage for CAE should be seen from different angles.

We can clearly observe the rise of neo-nationalist/ populist rhetoric in Europe and beyond. Partially, this can be explained by a feeling of unease and insecurity amongst the population, feeling left behind in an increasingly rapidly changing, globalised world. In this context, the EYCH is of major importance. On the one hand, heritage is a factor which can create links between people, reinforce social cohesion and a sense of belonging- an antidote to the abovementioned unease and isolation. On the other hand, heritage is often simplistically 'used' in populist identity discourse by claiming the easy definition of regional/national/European identity, often excluding the perceived 'other'. The EYCH offers the chance to address this challenge and re-claim the discourse in a positive manner, underlining diversity and historical complexity. Heritage dissonance is certainly also a topic to be addressed. Tangible and intangibles heritage, and also its interconnectedness with migration and diasporas, must be taken into account, examining synergies with contemporary artistic creation.

EXPERIENCE/EXPERTISE

Culture Action Europe, formerly EFAH, the European Forum for Arts and Heritage, has a long-standing history of activities in the field of heritage.

The heritage field is also represented in our membership, e.g. NCK - The Nordic Centre of Heritage Learning & Creativity AB, Coop culture, MeltingPro, NEMO- Network of European Museum Organisations, ACCR and ECCOM. Beyond these organisations, we would like to underline that many of our members work with intangible heritage, e.g. music, opera, theatre,...

Current Culture Action Europe activities in the field of heritage include:

Advocacy/ Analysis

- Heritage/ the preparation of the European Year for Cultural Heritage is one of CAE's 2017 advocacy focus points.

- CAE participated in the consultative meeting on the Supranational risk assessment on money laundering and terrorist financing (SNRA) coordinated at a EU level by DG JUST, including illegal trafficking of Cultural Artifacts; in cooperation with Civil Society Europe.
- CAE presented an analysis of illegal trafficking, contributing to stakeholders' understanding of the issues at hand <http://cultureactioneurope.org/news-digest-october-2016/>

Projects

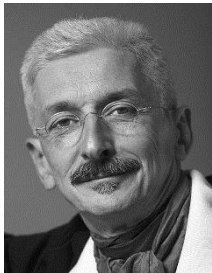
- Participation in the Mu.Sa project (Museum Sector Alliance) motivated by the observed disconnection between formal education and training and the world of work due to the quickening pace of the adoption of ICT in the museum sector. The Mu.SA project aims to close that gap. It seeks to build new European profiles of emerging job roles in museums. Mu.Sa is co-funded by the Erasmus+ programme.
- Supporting stakeholder of Cultural Base (Social Platform on Cultural Heritage and European Identities) and organization of a seminar on January 31st, 2017.
<http://culturalbase.eu/policy-seminar/>

VISION FOR THE YEAR

- In preparation: advocacy document on the implementation of the EYCH
- Advocacy on the importance of heritage and culture in different EU programmes
- October 2017: Focus on the EYCH (preparation) at CAE's Beyond the Obvious conference
- Participation in the EYCH Focus events of Cultural Base and Mu.Sa (see above)
- Planning of a series of talks and papers on cultural heritage (heritage and identity/ populism, heritage and contemporary arts, heritage and migration, participatory decision-making in heritage management, discontinuation of heritage funding)
- Advocacy on culture in EU external relations

4. ECTP-CEU European Council of Spatial Planners

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ABOUT

ECTP-CEU

European Council of Spatial Planners
Conseil européen des urbanistes

Every spatial planning action is a cultural action. Having said that and feeling fully concerned by the heritage dimension of European cities and territories, it is clear that before any intervention on an urban fabric, it is necessary to explore the successive layers which have built layer after layer what constitutes the spirit of place.

The ICOMOS 2008 Québec declaration on 'the preservation of the spirit of place' says: "Spirit of place (...) is constructed by human beings in response to their social needs". This spirit being the combined result of our tangible and intangible, built, cultural and natural heritages which layer after layer built and are still building our land and cityscapes.

The different types of heritage cannot be considered separately anymore; a global and transversal vision of the different components of heritage have to be considered at the same time. An integrated approach is more than ever necessary in the future of urban policies. The European planners are committed to be fully involved in this process.

EXPERIENCE/EXPERTISE

Our organisation is member of several Council of Europe committees and as such was fully involved in the working group who produced the European Cultural Heritage Strategy for the 21st century of the CDCPP, Council of Europe. We are also member of the EU Reflexion Group on Heritage who built, together with the German team, the first concepts of the heritage year. The last big event we participated in is the 2nd European Congress-European Cities and their Heritage organised by the German Federal Ministry in charge last December in Berlin. Two of our Honorary Presidents chaired a forum and two more members were invited as speakers..

VISION FOR THE YEAR

- A new governance for a 'common' heritage redefining the 'common', insist on participatory processes to manage urban heritage in the framework of planning processes.

- Sharing heritage could be the way for a better living together in diversity respectful of differences and cultural approaches.
- Heritage as a factor of a proper 'integration'. Integration means to 'share' and not to impose one vision of the urban historical environment.

More concretely and among other events is the preparation of the next Planning Awards 2018 with the theme on cities and heritage which will be organised in collaboration with the EU Committee of the Regions.

5. E-FAITH, European Federation of Associations of Industrial and Technical Heritage

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Represented by

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ABOUT



E-FAITH is the European platform of local, regional and thematic industrial heritage associations and volunteers.

The federation was at the origin of the campaign '2015 European Industrial and Technical Heritage Year' - which boosted initiatives by local associations and volunteers - and think 2018 will be important as a follow up and to present and profile the industrial heritage as an important part of the general heritage.

EXPERIENCE/EXPERTISE

- Meetings, e.g. an annual weekend for associations and volunteers
- workshops
- exchanging experiences and ideas between associations
- launching European campaigns (for example on factory chimneys and harbour cranes) etc.
- as a part of the 'Genius Loci' project (co-funded under the EU COSME program) E-FAITH is developing a European label for industrial heritage sites, collections, museums and projects, "Industriana" (www.industriana.eu)

Please, see also our website www.industrialheritage.eu

VISION FOR THE YEAR

We had from January 13th to 14th a workshop on EYCH in Barcelona where a series of ideas have been formulated. These are now studied by our members and will soon be presented on our website www.industrialheritage.eu. These include e.g. to set an industrial heritage theme for each month, to develop projects to stimulate the involvement of volunteers and young people, to promote the twinning between associations which have similar aims and objectives, and to launch a mutual support for safeguarding endangered sites.

The Year is seen as a starting point which has to set a roadmap for the future.

6. ENCATC, European Network on Cultural management and Policy Education

www.encatc.org



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ABOUT



ENCATC - the European network on cultural management and policy education and research - represents all disciplines in the arts and culture including cultural Heritage, advocate and promote cultural management and cultural policy education, including the cultural sector professionalization. ENCATC is a platform for discussion and exchange of knowledge, methodologies, experiences at local, national, European, and international level across fields sectors (Economic, Management, Tourism, etc.) and sectors (music, performing arts, visual arts, heritage and museums etc. Our ambition is to stimulate cross-fertilization/ collaboration among all the sectors, fields and disciplines for a mutual benefit.

The ECHY2018 it is a unique opportunity for ENCATC to take stock of the involvement of ENCATC and its members in the field of cultural heritage management and policy education, training and research in order to:

- Promote widely among our members all the activities and publications that ENCATC has already developed during the past 25 years in the field of CH and Museums
- Understand better which members are engaged in the CH field and which activities, what are the main conceptions and issues of cultural heritage in Europe and how they are transferred in the education and research practices;
- Support a critical vision through academic research...
- Analyse and discuss the challenges facing CH to propose possible answers to members directly engaged in the CH
- Analyse, discuss and make proposals on new competences and skills required by cultural managers acting in the CH field. How education and training in the field should evolve to provide competent and efficient actors/ professionals?
- Raise awareness among members involved in other cultural and creative sectors (creation, cultural and creative industries, performing arts, etc.) or peripherals (economics of culture, innovation, etc.) to the challenges of the CH and work together towards an integrated and holistic vision of heritage and its sustainability.
- Define together with the practitioners a list of research needs to better understand the changing context and provide appropriate answers

As for our relationships with other partners and networks worldwide, the ECHY is an opportunity to:

- Promote widely all the activities and publications that ENCATC has already developed during the past 25 years in the field of CH and in particular the outcome of the publication "Heritage Counts for Europe", published in 2015 and now translated in several languages.
- Promote outside our network the need of an integrated and holistic vision of heritage and its sustainability.
- Promote the European Cultural Heritage Strategy for the 21st century and bring the expertise of our members and the ENCATC practices in major discussion arenas concerning CH at European level and beyond (Alliance 3.3, UE, COE, etc.)
- Renew our involvement within the Alliance 3.3 by actively contributing and engaging in joint advocacy actions through partnerships, advice, policy recommendations.

EXPERIENCE/EXPERTISE

Since its creation in 1992, ENCATC was involved in the design and implementation of activities in the field of CH. In particular, to just mention the most recent achievements:

- To stimulate dialogue and exchange between education and training institutions, heritage organisations and research field, in 2007, ENCATC set up the Thematic Area "Understanding Heritage".
- To provide weekly information on cultural policy and cultural management to ENCATC members and non-members ENCATC set up the CH Google Group in 2010.
- To actively contribute to the policy development and advocacy in the field of CH, ENCATC, together with major stakeholders in the field, in 2011, set up the Alliance 3.3.
- To provide evidence of the contribution of CH to the European economy, ENCATC joined in 2014, the project consortium led by Europa Nostra of the project: "Heritage Counts for Europe"
- To provide expertise and contribute to policy development at National and European level, ENCATC accepted in 2014, the invitation to join with the status of observer the intergovernmental group on Heritage.
- To stimulate debate and contribute to new thinking ENCATC has published several scientific articles in its Journal and Scholars on the topic of CH as well as publications (www.encatc.org).

In addition, ENCATC was extremely active in the shaping of the European Cultural Heritage Strategy for the 21st century, and has designed several major seminar, conferences and study visits on the topic of CH in different European countries. Among others:

- Seminar on CH and study visit in Valencia, Spain, October 2015
- Seminar on CH and study visit in Lecce, Italy, October 2015
- "Does Cultural Heritage Count for Europe?", 19 September 2014 // Brno, Czech Republic
- Seminar: "Rethinking education in Museums and Heritage programmes, 6 November 2013 // Antwerp, Belgium
- Roundtable on "Understanding Heritage: A case study of Ferrara and the Delta Po" 11-12 April 2012, Ferrara, Italy
- Conference "Heritage and Public Policy of Education", 1 October 2012 // Hvar, Croatia

VISION FOR THE YEAR

«Culture is changing...directions».

New beliefs, customs and norms; new symbols and languages; new concepts and paradigms; new demands and expressions, are emerging and impacting the behaviours of individuals and communities, and organizations as well. Indeed, people around the world are changing. They are facing radical challenges that are transforming their way of thinking, interacting, working and living at different levels. We all are witnesses and protagonists of a wide world transition shaped by various phenomena that are upsetting the main referent points upon which we have built or destroyed values, identities, economies and lives. We cannot disregard how the digital shift, the climate change, the intercultural interaction, the financial crisis, the terrorism, are shocking, breaking down, transforming our individual, societal and economic status and order towards unknown dimensions and directions. Maintaining cultural continuity or disrupting? How do we conciliate the old order with the new one? How to take into account every upheaval affecting our countries, the European values, and affecting us on a daily basis?

Our vision for the Year 2018 is to stop, look at the state of art and reflect in order to start re-thinking with new eyes, approaches and perspectives the foundations for an European Common Heritage. And as a multidisciplinary network engaged in education & research in the field of cultural management and policy we propose us as a platform for a multidisciplinary discussion and knowledge exchange, with the motto “Beyond boundaries. Sharing Heritage: access, interaction, integration.” Cultural Heritage will permeate the majority of the 2018 ENCATC activities in order to: highlight and support activities, initiatives, publications led by members in the field; promote an integrated and holistic vision of Cultural Heritage (intra and extra the cultural sector)

While continuing posting to our members and non-members our weekly alert on news focusing on CH and our strong commitment inside the Alliance 3.3, ENCATC is preparing among others the following initiatives:

1. February- March 2017: run a survey of the education and research programs and projects led by our member in the field, in order to analyse, exploit, disseminate results as a basis for understanding and discussing CH challenges in today's world
2. 27 September 2017, Brussels: organise a seminar and a study visit in partnership with networks in the field of CH
3. 15-17 November 2017, Bilbao: design and implement in partnership with UNESCO an Academy on “Learning on intangible heritage: building teachers’ capacity for a sustainable future”,

March 2018, Germany: design and implement the ENCATC Academy on Culture External relations with Focus on CH

7. ERIH European Route of Industrial Heritage

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Represented by

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ABOUT



European
Route
of Industrial
Heritage

Industrialisation has left its mark throughout Europe. It shaped our landscapes, influenced our day-to-day lives and its legacy is still evident in the buildings and structures that remain as a reminder of this important European era. Nowadays, many of these monuments are open to the public as cultural places, museums, event locations and countless other uses. Industrial Heritage is European Cultural Heritage.

ERIH is the most important network for Industrial Heritage Tourism in Europe. The aim of the network is to increase appreciation, understanding, protection and promotion of our common European legacy. We raise awareness of this important part of European Cultural heritage, support the exchange of experience between experts and encourages joint marketing of the sites.

For us, EYCH has potential 'internal' and 'external' benefits and impacts:

Internally, within the cultural sector: EYCH brings together European Cultural networks and other stakeholders to address common challenges. It encourages cooperation and the development of common project ideas.

Internally, within our network: It is a good to gather information about the activities in different countries and at different sites and to discuss and develop common ideas for the content and promotion of EYCH 2018.

Externally: For ERIH, EYCH 2018 is an ideal opportunity to identify and coordinate activities which are already taking place at Industrial Heritage sites across Europe under one common umbrella and to organise a coordinated promotion. We are sure that EYCH 2018 will help to raise overall awareness of European Cultural Heritage and that this will bring long-term benefits for the cultural sector.

EXPERIENCE/EXPERTISE

ERIH is one of the largest cultural networks in Europe. On our website, which was relaunched in 2016, we currently list approx. 1,400 sites in 46 European countries. It is therefore the most comprehensive inventory of industrial heritage sites in Europe and it is our aim to raise awareness of the number and diversity of these sites. We have developed a route system to make European Industrial Heritage better understood: The highlights of our network are the so called **Anchor Points**, the sites which are historically most important and nowadays most attractive for visitors; **Regional**

Routes which explain the history of the regions in the different countries and **European Theme Routes** which describe the European links and explain the history of the different industrial sectors. The website also contains texts about the industrial history of individual countries (currently 15) and biographies (currently 150) of persons who played a role in European industrialisation.

The ERIH Association was founded in 2003 (funded by INTERREG) and in 2008 it became a registered association which currently has more than 250 active members in 28 countries. Since 2014 we have been supported by Creative Europe Network funding, which is helping to strengthen our role as the most important network for Industrial Heritage Culture and Tourism in Europe.

One of our most important tasks is to coordinate and support exchanges of experience across Europe. This is achieved by our Annual Conference which since 2008 has been held in a different country each year; by national representatives in different countries, and by national and thematic working group meetings. We are open to members and non-members and work closely with regional, national and European organisations and networks to ensure productive exchanges of knowledge and experience.

In 2016 we published a brochure “European Industrial Heritage: The International Story” which describes the European links of industrialisation and tells the shared European story which nowadays can be discovered by experiencing the industrial cultural heritage.

We have developed quality criteria for industrial heritage sites and we offer advice and guidance for the economic and cultural development of a site through our experts’ network.

ERIH also engages in lobbying. We regularly attend conferences and meetings where we give presentations about the network and European Industrial Heritage. In 2016 we organised a presentation in the European Parliament hosted by two MEP’s to raise awareness of European Industrial Heritage as a precious cultural asset.

We cooperate with other European Cultural Networks and are part of the European Heritage Alliance 3.0, chaired by Europa Nostra.

VISION FOR THE YEAR

Our vision is to use EYCH 2018 as a springboard for the long-term promotion and development of European industrial heritage as one of the most important parts of our shared European history and culture. We want to tell this exciting story, especially to the younger generation, about how the past influences the present and the future.

Our main topics for EYCH 2018 are:

- Exchange and transfer of skills and knowledge
- Build alliances with like-minded networks and associations
- Develop ideas/headlines for a coordinated marketing and promotional initiative under the umbrella of EYCH 2018
- Establish long-term strategies and achieve long-term impacts

Concrete Actions:

During the ERIH Annual Conference 2016 in Porto we held a workshop at which members discussed project ideas for EYCH 2018. One suggestion was the idea of a European Day/Night/Weekend of Industrial Heritage.

The main outcome of our discussions was that the capacities of staff and budgets at the cultural sites are limited and that there are already many, many good activities at the industrial heritage sites which can be collected and assembled together under one common promotional umbrella.

So one of main tasks will be to list existing events and activities and develop a concept about how to present them under the headline “EYCH 2018”.

We will do this in close cooperation with other European cultural networks and in association with the European Heritage Alliance 3.0, in connection with which we attended a meeting in November 2016 in Leipzig.

“The Industrial Hour”

In addition, we have developed the idea of a coordinated, concurrent activity across Europe – “The Industrial Hour”. At a specific date and time all machines at ERIH Anchor Points (and if possible other sites across Europe) will be switched on. We are currently working on the concept.

Other activities:

In different national meetings we will discuss with ERIH members and other interested stakeholders more ideas such as the intensified use of social media, videos and films, ideas how to address younger target groups, the idea of a mobile “ambassador” (truck, bus, machine etc.) which could travel through Europe etc.).

Common project ideas:

A challenge that all cultural organisations face is “How to address younger audiences?” We attended a meeting of different European networks based in Germany, organised recently in Berlin by the Deutsche Nationalkomitee für Denkmalschutz, and discussed possibilities to collaborate in this field and draft a common project idea.

So we already have many good ideas but we are still in the process of developing more concepts and ideas and are eager to celebrate EYCH 2018. Industrial Heritage is the ideal topic to tell the exciting story of our shared common European Culture.

8. EUNIC

<http://www.eunic-online.eu>



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ABOUT



EUNIC represents the national cultural institutes and the national institutions responsible for culture in all 28 member states. By pooling together the resources and expertise of its members and carrying out joint work on common areas of interest, EUNIC is a recognized partner of the EU and its stakeholders in defining and implementing European policy on culture inside and outside the EU.

EUNIC promotes cultural diversity and cultural dialogue and advocates for a stronger role for culture in public policies and in external relations, both at European and international level. By means of its clusters, EUNIC has a strong capacity to deliver collaborative transnational projects connecting culture and society, as well as significant potential for training and research in cultural diplomacy and cultural relations.

Each EUNIC member has its own approach/strategy for the European Year of Cultural Heritage and EUNIC Global works as an intermediate in order to share the knowledge and expertise between members. In autumn 2017 EUNIC Global will hold an internal knowledge sharing workshop for its members to find common initiatives and share tools and ideas for the Year of the Cultural Heritage in 2017.

EXPERIENCE/EXPERTISE

One of the main aims of our members is to promote cultural relations inside and outside Europe. Hence most of them have experience in working on strengthening cultural heritage, directly or indirectly. Some of our members have significant expertise in the field of CH (the Italian Cultural Institute, the Goethe Institut, British Council, Institut Francais) others are eager to learn more.

VISION FOR THE YEAR

EUNIC is co-funded by Creative Europe project “Crossroads for Culture – Building a European Cultural Relations Sector”. In relation to the Year of Cultural Heritage, EUNIC will gather and map out initiatives within its network and its partners and try to understand better the inter-relation between cultural relations and cultural heritage (both tangible and intangible). There will be online and offline cross-sectorial labs in order to gather this information.

EUNIC will coordinate and work with its members on the initiatives related to their work in cultural heritage throughout the year.

9. EUROCITIES

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ABOUT



The European Year of Cultural Heritage (EYCH) is important for EUROCITIES because

- Cities are key players in cultural provision and in the promotion and valorisation of cultural heritage. 75% of Europe's population lives in cities. Cities are ideal places for culture and creativity to flourish as they provide the diverse, concentrated mix that's needed of creative minds, tailored services, infrastructure, audiences and cultural consumers. Cultural heritage represents a vital aspect of urban life. Cities in Europe have placed culture at the heart of their local development plans and have sound policies and strategies to invest in heritage and, more widely, in the cultural and creative sector.
- It is cities' role to make sure that local heritage remains attractive to diverse audiences. When well managed, heritage sites drive economic activity and become hubs for creativity, culture, community interaction and social integration. Cultural heritage is also a powerful tool that contributes to building cities' identities and increasing their attractiveness.
- Our EUROCITIES culture forum, which gathers over 100 cities, is a platform for cities to network and exchange about policies and practices. It works to promote the increased recognition of culture as a vital aspect of public policies, and to foster access to and participation in culture for all.
- We want to draw on our successful experience from 2008 when our member cities played an active role in the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue (see our publication and recommendations here: <https://tinyurl.com/nvote3t>).
- We want to share the findings of Culture for Cities and Regions, a pilot initiative led by EUROCITIES in partnership with KEA for DG EAC and financed by creative Europe. It is a large peer learning project aiming to examine how cities and regions can make smart investments in culture. 'Cultural heritage as a driver of economic growth and social inclusion' is one of the three main dimensions covered by the project and includes sub themes such as: access to cultural heritage; civic democratic participation; better governance; and urban regeneration. www.cultureforcitiesandregions.eu
- We are member of the European Heritage 3.3 alliance and wish to join forces and share knowledge with other European cultural networks
- We want to contribute to shaping a European Agenda for Culture that reaches cities. Several policy documents have highlighted the role played by cities to maintain and enhance their local heritage (Council conclusions on cultural heritage as a strategic resource for a

sustainable Europe and conclusions on participatory governance in cultural heritage, 2014). The later invite the EC and Member States to 'develop multilevel and multi-stakeholder governance frameworks which recognise cultural heritage as a shared resource by strengthening the links between the local, regional, national and European levels of governance of cultural heritage, with due respect to the principle of subsidiarity, so that benefits for people are envisaged at all levels'. We would usefully contribute to developing such a multi-level governance process. Through our participation to the structured dialogue we want to share what works at the local level with the European Commission and with other organisations, with a view to input future European actions on culture.

EXPERIENCE/EXPERTISE

Our experience/expertise includes the following:

- We have recently surveyed our member cities and have identified 5 key cultural challenges that cities are facing and will be facing in the future. These challenges apply to all local cultural heritage activities and institutions at local level. All our activities aim to help cities and their institutions to overcome these challenges, which are: the demographic challenge; the audience development challenge; the governance and networking challenge; the digital challenge; and the financial and organisational challenge. For more information, please read our article: <https://tinyurl.com/zersu7r>
- Our focused working groups produce toolkits to help cities deal with specific cultural issues. An example is our recent toolkit on culture and the inclusion of refugees and migrants (available here: <http://preview.tinyurl.com/gsoh4ff>) that provides concrete tips to cultural heritage organisations.
- We have collected over 20 case studies on investments made at local level to highlight cultural heritage. These case studies focus on concrete impacts (on social inclusion, economic development, attractiveness, urban regeneration) and on transferability tips. Case studies are available here: <https://tinyurl.com/jjvarkp>
- We arranged 15 specific study visits to help local authority representatives learn from each other's on issues such as: old industrial buildings for new cultural uses (in Barcelona, Bologna and Nantes); management plans for UNESCO city centres (in Regensburg); and new generation museums (in Aarhus). Concrete policy recommendations were produced at the end of each study visit in order to help other cities transfer and implement similar initiatives in their local context. Reports from study visits and policy recommendations are available here: <https://tinyurl.com/hmccaqk>
- We are currently providing expert coaching to 10 cities and regions and are producing tailor made recommendations for policy action on issues such as developing long term cultural policies or highlighting a specific heritage (see report produced for the city of Kaunas to better valorise its modernist heritage here: <https://tinyurl.com/create.php>)
- Our proposed representative in the structured dialogue is Julie Hervé, who has worked as a policy advisor at EUROCITES since 2006. She manages the activities of the EUROCITES Culture forum, develops policy positions and publications on various aspects of culture in cities and represents the interest of member cities towards the European institutions. She is an expert in the Culture for Cities and Regions initiative. Prior to joining EUROCITIES, Julie worked at the coordination office of the European Heritage Days in Lisbon.

VISION FOR THE YEAR

We want to raise our member cities' awareness on the EYCH, to encourage them to use the EYCH 'stamp' to their existing cultural events and to encourage them to develop specific activities. We have informed cities about the proposal to make 2018 the EYCH and many of them have already shown interest.

EUROCITIES is in the process of designing for 2018 a large scale campaign around European values and democracy that will be spread in our member cities through various activities aiming to reach out to Europeans. We could think of ways to add a 'cultural heritage' aspect to the campaign. This is work in progress and we should be able to provide more detailed information by the end of March.

2018 will also see our new ROCK project develop in full swing. ROCK (Regeneration and Optimisation of cultural heritage in Creative and Knowledge cities) is a large scale Horizon 2020 project led by the city of Bologna, with 9 large cities and EUROCITIES as partners. ROCK aims to develop an innovative, collaborative and systemic approach for regeneration and adaptive reuse of historic city centres. It will implement a repertoire of successful heritage-led regeneration initiatives and test the replicability of the spatial approach and of successful models addressing the specific needs of historic city centres. It is a 3-year project starting in May 2017 with a budget of €9.8 million.

Cities are where European connect and share culture. We very much hope to play an active role in the EYCH and celebrate the richness and diversity of urban heritage.

10. Europa Nostra

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ABOUT



Since 1963, Europa Nostra has been campaigning for endangered heritage; raising awareness about the value that cultural heritage provides for Europe's citizens; celebrating excellence and lobbying for greater recognition of the positive impact of cultural heritage on our society, economy, culture and environment.

We strongly supported the idea of organising a European Year of Cultural Heritage (EYCH) since the very first day of its launch and lobbied together with civil society stakeholders (like the European Heritage Alliance 3.3) and with various institutional stakeholders (like German Cultural Heritage Committee DNK and members of the EP Culture Committee, such as its former Chair Silvia Costa MEP and its Vice-President and Rapporteur for the EYCH Mircea Diaconu MEP). Europa Nostra welcomed the first announcements to designate 2018 as the European Year of Cultural Heritage and has closely followed and (where possible) intensively and positively supported the preparations and decisions taken by the EU Institutions involved in elaborating the legal and organisational framework, for instance through regular exchange with representatives of the European Commission (DG EAC), both directly or in the context of meetings of the European Heritage Alliance 3.3.

For many years, Europa Nostra has strongly been advocated the important and positive contribution of cultural heritage to sustainable development and its positive and lasting impact on the economy, society, culture and environment (as demonstrated in the "Cultural Heritage Counts for Europe" project report outlined below). At a time when Europe is going through crises and the very foundations of the European Union are called into question, the specific added value of cultural heritage is its power to (re)connect people in Europe and beyond, to foster cohesion, enhance mutual respect for diversity and encourage identity with our shared heritage and history.

We strongly believe that a European Year provides a unique opportunity to re-discover and celebrate the shared cultural heritage in Europe (and beyond) and the related shared cultural values underpinning the European project. Given Europa Nostra's global threefold mission (saving, celebrating, lobbying for heritage), the Year is essential for us as an occasion for European institutions and heritage stakeholders to further develop EU policies, funding and actions in support of cultural heritage. For Europa Nostra as civil society organisation, the Year presents itself as an outstanding chance to convey a positive and cohesive message about Europe to its citizens. It also offers an invaluable opportunity to further structure, strengthen and expand its pan-European network of heritage professionals and volunteers, organisations and individuals alike.

The EYCH 2018 is also a moment to celebrate outstanding heritage achievements, to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of so many professionals and volunteers across Europe and to encourage Europe's citizens to take ownership of their shared heritage and their shared European project. In essence, the Year is about the "heart and soul" of "Our Europe". Since we believe that part of this spirit is embodied in Europa Nostra, we aim to engage with as many people as possible throughout the Year to spread this message.

EXPERIENCE/EXPERTISE

Europa Nostra as "the voice of cultural heritage in Europe" is probably the most representative civil society network for the safeguarding of Europe's cultural and natural heritage (for more details on the structure and spread of representation see above).

This network is composed of highly skilled and experienced heritage professionals and volunteers who also dedicate their time to the work of the organisation as Awards jury members and assessors, as part of the "7 Most Endangered" programme or by advocating the cause of cultural heritage in national, European or international conferences (e.g. UNESCO World Heritage Committee meetings). Europa Nostra President and UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador Plácido Domingo also regularly lends his own world-renowned voice to the cause of cultural heritage, for instance most recently through a video message on the destruction of cultural heritage as a human rights issue shown at the UN Headquarters in October 2016.

As leading pan-European federation of heritage NGOs, Europa Nostra was one of the consortium partners of the EU-funded project "Cultural Heritage Counts for Europe" which resulted in a comprehensive report of 300+ pages published in 2015 that has established itself as a key document of reference in the heritage world.

Recognised for its valuable work by the European Commission Europa Nostra has received funding as one of the European networks supported under the Culture Programme (2007-2013) and currently under the Creative Europe Programme with the network project "Mainstreaming Heritage" (2014-2017). Europa Nostra has also been selected for funding as European network for the period 2017-2021 ("Sharing Heritage – Sharing Values").

Since 1978, Europa Nostra celebrates excellence in heritage with the Europa Nostra Awards which will celebrate their 40th anniversary during the EYCH 2018. In 2002, the European Commission launched the EU Prize for Cultural Heritage / Europa Nostra Awards, organised by Europa Nostra ever since. Now more than 400 laureates form a unique network of "heritage excellence alumni".

On the occasion of its 50th anniversary, Europa Nostra launched a new flagship programme together with the European Investment Bank Institute as founding partner: The 7 Most Endangered. Every two years, first a shortlist and then a final list of the seven most endangered heritage sites is drawn up with the aim of mobilising public and private support on local, national and European level for a sustainable future for these sites.

Europa Nostra is one of the founding members of the European Heritage Alliance 3.3: an informal platform that connects European and international networks active in the wider field of cultural heritage. Since 2011, it has grown to more than 40 members who join forces for advocacy actions. Most recently, Alliance members sent a joint letter to the EU Heads of State or Government to provide adequate support and funding for the EYCH. The Alliance is coordinated by Europa Nostra as one of the key activities of its current network project and, hence, co-funded by the Creative Europe Programme.

VISION FOR THE YEAR

The European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018 is not an aim in itself but rather mark the launch of a renewed and prolonged period of a much stronger and more coherent commitment of public and private stakeholders in Europe to cultural heritage. It should be recognised as a vital resource for a sustainable and peaceful future for Europe and its partners worldwide. Europa Nostra's extensive network of heritage professionals and volunteers can play a significant role in mobilising the wider heritage field so as to maximise the impact and reach of the messages of the European Year both inside and outside the traditional circle of heritage stakeholders. Together with our members and our partners from the European Heritage Alliance 3.3, we have already started planning and preparing our activities for the EYCH but also for the preparatory work in 2017 and the follow-up as of 2019.

At the end of 2017, we shall take active part in the European Cultural Forum organized by the European Commission and at the beginning of the Year 2018, we intend to organise an event jointly with the European Parliament (President Tajani, EP Culture Committee, Intergroup on Cultural Heritage and Tourism), with active participation of all members of the European Heritage Alliance 3.3.

Europa Nostra core events in 2018 will be placed under the overarching motto "Sharing Heritage - Sharing Values" with a special emphasis on raising the awareness about the European dimension of our heritage and of its vital role for the future of Europe and its citizens.

Already before the official proposal for the EYCH was made, Europa Nostra decided to hold its annual European Heritage Congress 2018 in Berlin (Germany) and on the occasion of the Year transform it into a true "European Heritage Summit". As one of THE public highlights of the Year it will take place in the first half of June 2018. Our main partners are German Cultural Heritage Committee (DNK), which played a key role in initiating and promoting the idea for the Year, and our member organisation Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz (Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation). We are also cooperating closely with our country representation Europa Nostra Deutschland and our strategic corporate partner Bertelsmann with all of whom a preparatory meeting was already held on 30-31 January 2017 in Berlin. The Summit will also feature the ceremony of the EU Prize for Cultural Heritage / Europa Nostra Awards 2018 which will be awarded in the presence of Europa Nostra's President Maestro Plácido Domingo and hopefully also in the presence of the President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker and the Federal Chancellor of Germany.

Europa Nostra has also started fostering relations with private foundations active in the field of cultural heritage with the aim of motivating them to contribute actively to and engage in the activities of the EYCH. In autumn 2018, we will celebrate the 5th anniversary of the "7 Most Endangered" programme (a new list of endangered sites will be published in early 2018) culminating in a conference in Nicosia (Cyprus) (tbc) also as part of our special focus on South-East Europe.

We shall aim to design "special EYCH editions" for the various partnerships which we have developed over the years throughout Europe, such as the partnership with The Best in Heritage annual event in Dubrovnik (September 2018).

We shall also encourage our Award winners to undertake "special EYCH related events", such as the already decided cooperation with our Award winner and European Heritage Label site Liszt Academy of Music, for the organisation of a "European Heritage Concert" in Budapest in September 2018.

Meetings of our Board, Council and Advisory bodies will be organised in conjunction with the above events which will take place across Europe.

Besides the above key events, Europa Nostra and its members will participate in numerous events, conferences and campaigns all over Europe to promote the European Year as widely as possible. Throughout 2017, Europa Nostra will continue to mobilise its membership and network to dedicate their own events and meetings to the overarching theme of EYCH.

11. Europeana

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ABOUT



We work together as a community to shape and promote good practice in the world of digital cultural heritage.

Who we are:

The Europeana Network Association represents an active community of individuals interested in digital cultural heritage, who support the values and work of Europeana.

We are the guardians of Europeana Cultural Commons, upholding the principles of mutuality, access, attribution and engagement.

To make our beliefs a reality, we want to build the values of the commons into every aspect of the work Europeana does, including its governance. It is not enough to simply emphasise principles such as trust, reciprocity and collectivity; we must also find practical ways to embed them at every level too.

How we work:

The Europeana Network Association elects its Members Council at the annual General Assembly. Together with the Europeana Foundation, the Members Council decides how Europeana will promote and support digital cultural heritage over the next five years and what its yearly business plan should include. The Members Council also supervises Working Groups and Task Forces which are set up to support the development of the business plan.

We keep the Europeana Network Association up-to-date through our monthly newsletters.

What we stand for:

Europeana brings together the organisations that have heritage to share with the people and sectors who want to view, share and build upon that heritage.

We at Europeana believe in creative collaboration and teamwork. We do this by working closely with a broad community of cultural heritage, creative and technology professionals, with the collective goal of making a cultural impact on Europe.

12. European Confederation of Conservator-Restorers' Organisations

www.ecco-eu.org



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ABOUT



E.C.C.O. is a confederation of national organisations across Europe, which has as its mission the safeguarding of Cultural Heritage for society through high standards in the professional practice of Conservation-Restoration.

For E.C.C.O., EYCH 2018 is an opportunity to raise awareness of the value-laden outcomes, which Conservation-Restoration can provide for Cultural Heritage and Society. This initiative provides the incentive to highlight the many projects, iconic

or otherwise, which our members have directly been responsible for or, participated in, across the member states of the EU and which demonstrate the ways in which Conservation-Restoration contributes to our understanding of and engagement with our Cultural Heritage. Conservation-Restoration is a paradigm; it is a way of approaching Cultural Heritage to ensure its sustainable access and use for the benefit of all. While it is an approach in which all of society can and does participate in, at a professional level the specific training, education and experience resources the Conservator-Restorer with the tools to advocate on behalf of Cultural Heritage and to reveal or add new knowledge where such knowledge can also significantly enhance value. This expertise is required to enable Europeans to engage positively and constructively with the tangible palimpsest of human history which is so densely and multi-layered across Europe. It also helps Conservator-Restorers themselves to engage ever more constructively in this dialogue and negotiation. Conservation-Restoration is a catalyst for sustainable development through innovation and research in the field of Cultural Heritage while knowledge and education in the field of Cultural Heritage is very attractive to younger generations. More and more women are studying the profession of Conservation-Restoration. Student groups are active and vocal in their national associations and the voices of this young generation are heard at European level through membership of E.C.C.O. by these same professional bodies. All Committee members of E.C.C.O. are themselves Conservator-Restorers in professional practice: employed in museums, self-employed, as professors and educators in University; all work across many different specialisations and are nominated by the professional body

in their country. There is therefore, a structure in place, which directly links the individual professional to representation at European level.

This younger generation of professionals also have to respond to new and emerging challenges given the threat of climate change, the effects of an aging society in Europe, the global nature of the illicit trafficking of cultural goods further exacerbated by ongoing armed conflicts, and, not least amongst these issues, is the role of digital access in making redundant the apparent need to conserve tangible cultural material. The ability to identify and address the changing issues around the preservation of Cultural Heritage can only be guaranteed by the exchange of knowledge and skill of experienced Conservator-Restorers with up-coming generations and through the concept of inter- and transdisciplinary cooperation with other players in the field of Cultural Heritage.

Thanks to ECHY 2018 the voices of our members, as discrete experts in the field of Cultural Heritage, can be further disseminated into society and politics, from local to European level.

EXPERIENCE/EXPERTISE

The activity of Conservation-Restoration impacts on Cultural Heritage, affecting our perception and understanding of it, having the possibility to adjust material evidence which may bear historical witness. Thus Conservation-Restoration is in the public interest. In best practice Conservation-Restoration enhances the value of cultural heritage through the creation of new knowledge via the research and documentation generated during the act of Conserving-Restoring.

The legitimacy of the Conservator-Restorer to intervene and make decisions affecting the condition of the Cultural Heritage is conferred via a discrete education which and training governed by a highly developed code of ethics. E.C.C.O. has worked to build a specific professional demographic based on these precepts beginning with the publication of the Professional Guidelines and Code of Ethics in the early 1990s. These Professional Guidelines are now officially recognised and adopted by all our members throughout Europe.

Competences for access to the profession of Conservation-Restoration were developed and published in 2010 by E.C.C.O. Using the European Qualification Framework as a reference in the description of Learning Outcomes, the competence framework maps levels of skills and knowledge required for access to and the exercise of the profession which is set at Masters Degree, equivalent to EQF level 7. The competences have been instrumental in the development of learning outcomes for educational delivery and the work has been supported by the European Network of Conservation-Restoration Educators ENCoRE, who promote Conservation-Restoration education throughout Europe.

From 1999 to 2001 E.C.C.O. was a main Coordinator together with ICCROM in APEL (Acteurs de la sauvegarde et de la conservation du patrimoine culturel et la législation) "Survey of the legal and professional responsibilities of the Conservator-Restorers as regard the other parties involved in the preservation and conservation of Cultural Heritage".

In 2007 E.C.C.O. participated as a consultant in the ECPL European Conservation Practitioner's License. With the support of ICCROM and the participation of ENCoRE in 2009, we submitted a proposal for a European Recommendation for the Conservation-Restoration of Cultural Heritage to the Steering Committee for Cultural Heritage and Landscape (CDPATEP) for possible adoption. Memoranda of Understanding have been signed and agreed between E.C.C.O. and ICCROM and E.C.C.O. and ICOMOS respectively to formalise joint efforts to promote the Conservation-Restoration of Cultural Heritage.

E.C.C.O. has obtained observer status as experts to the Steering Committee for Culture, Heritage and Landscape (CDCPP), and contribute accordingly.

At the 25th anniversary of E.C.C.O. in June 2016, the Declaration of Berlin was adopted by the participants of the Presidents Meeting. In considering the FARO Convention, EU Commissions "Integrated approach to Cultural Heritage for Europe" and the Namur Declaration, it calls to

recognise Conservation-Restoration as a strategic resource for society in the care and valorisation of our common Cultural Heritage; to kindly request that the CoE and other relevant bodies consider developing a charter or a recommendation on the Conservation-Restoration of Cultural Heritage. E.C.C.O. invited all its members to participate at the European Year of Cultural Heritage and will coordinate joint projects if requested.

VISION FOR THE YEAR

The European Year of Cultural Heritage is a chance to raise awareness of all the worthwhile and positive outcomes that engagement with Cultural Heritage provides. It is also an opportunity to use this year as a mechanism to more explicitly pursue connections between experts and the public, politics and civil society, to look back and to step forward towards our common future.

E.C.C.O. as Confederation will serve as a platform to connect ideas, collect information and disperse it amongst our member associations, as well as provide a platform for the activities and projects planned by our members associations according to EYCH 2018.

In April 2018 E.C.C.O.'s General Assembly and its Presidents' Meeting will be held in the European Cultural Capital Valletta at the invitation of our Maltese member organisation. The Presidents of our member organisations will present the projects and activities of EYCH to the other members.

In 2019 a conference will review the activities and meetings held in each country by our member associations.

In cooperation with our members we are proposing the Week of Conservation-Restoration to be publicised in digital medias, and which will include a special Day of the Conservator-Restorer with guided visits on conservation sites and in the workshops of Conservator-Restorers, which are opened to the public.

Our members associations have multifaceted activities planned with the sole intention of sharing heritage and our expertise with the public and to demonstrate why such care is necessary to quality of life. These activities are an awareness raising exercise for the Conservator-Restorer profession; its interdisciplinary nature as it engages with other professions in the field of Cultural Heritage and the outcomes that are arrived at through innovative interactions and technologies. The formats will be conferences, workshops, dialogues with open public debates (so-called "Socrates dialogues"), site visits and Conservation-Restoration awards at national level for best practice.

Several clusters of member associations have already formed in the pursuit of common activities in cross border projects. Others are in the state of formation. The cross border activities are mostly amongst neighbouring states, and currently there is a very intensive project in place between Germany and Romania.

Many of the associations are cooperating with other organisations in the Cultural Heritage field, particularly with their national ICOMOS group, to raise awareness for all stakeholders. E.C.C.O. is also involved in the activities of the network in European Heritage Alliance 3.3, where E.C.C.O. is a member.

For the sustainable outcome of the EYCH beyond the year 2018, E.C.C.O. would be happy to work as a strategic partner in developing a policy framework, discussing the FARO Convention and the Venice

Charter from the point of view of Conservation-Restoration as it continues to evolve and develop as a profession.

The vision of the European Year of Cultural Heritage might be simplified by the words of André Malraux: “Pour aimer, pas pour faire apprendre!” (To love, not to learn).

13. European Association of Archaeologists

www.e-a-a.org



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ABOUT



One of the foremost aims of the EAA as stipulated in its Statutes is to promote the management and interpretation of the European archaeological heritage. The EAA has always endorsed and encouraged the idea of heritage and archaeology as community assets. In the spirit of the Valetta convention and the Faro convention, EAA promotes awareness of archaeology as an essential element of the European cultural life. In addition, EAA promotes the understanding of archaeological heritage as a valuable social resource and archaeology as a democratic practice. The European Year of Cultural Heritage will enable the EAA to promote these aims far more widely. EAA seeks to contribute to the European Year of Cultural Heritage through the planned activities outlined below. Heritage provides a context in which old and new cultural identities can meet, where specialists and the public can engage, where administration and research can integrate successfully. Cultural Heritage embraces local, regional and wider memories and traditions together with old and new cultural distinctions. It provides a unique realm in which the current issues of European society and the European project can be analysed as a whole. It is also an arena in which a shared concept of transnational cooperation can be constructed and shared practices can be developed in spite of conflicts, local interests and contextual values. In archaeology it is achieved by demonstrating and making visible the material expression and variety of past and present culture, not by hiding or denying its complexities in a naïve interpretation of a general European Heritage.

EXPERIENCE/EXPERTISE

Founded in 1994, the EAA is a membership-based association, which has engaged more than 10,000 archaeologists since that time; 2,000 – 3,000 will attend the Annual Meetings in Maastricht (2017) and Barcelona (2018). The EAA dedicates its efforts to the research, protection, promotion and management of cultural heritage in Europe through:

- Annual Meetings
- the quarterly peer-reviewed European Journal of Archaeology
- The European Archaeologist newsletter,
- EAA Committees and Working Parties,
- the promotion and free exchange of information and knowledge, and cooperation with other organisations active on the field of heritage management,

- the European Archaeological Heritage Prize,
- the EAA Code of Practice, EAA Principles of Conduct for Contract Archaeology, EAA Code of Practice for Fieldwork Training and other normative documents.

EAA Annual Meetings extend to all parts of Europe. They feature multiple scientific and working sessions focused on research, heritage projects and issues, and heritage management practice. Discussion is in a pan-European framework with comparative perspectives.

The EAA Archaeological Fair features, among other exhibits, important collaborative European heritage projects led by EAA members and others. These have a significant impact on perceptions of heritage management policy, presentation and practice in the different countries in Europe. Public outreach at EAA Annual Meetings, as well as special events for local communities enhance the important role heritage should play in society.

The European Journal of Archaeology encourages debate about the role of archaeology in society. Articles on heritage management provide new ideas on how archaeological research and practice should address this role in a changing Europe. A special issue for the European Year of Cultural Heritage is currently under consideration.

The European Archaeologist newsletter offers topical information on current affairs in the heritage sector to EAA members and interested public.

The EAA committees and working groups advance policy and practice in different archaeological heritage contexts, such as: the Management of Archaeological Heritage and Tourism; Illicit Trade in Cultural Material; Archaeology and the European Environmental Directive, among many others.

Important heritage organisations and museums support the work of EAA as corporate members, and help to inform EAA's heritage policy.

EAA members frequently engage in pan-European, EU-funded projects, reporting back to members and beyond. Projects feature at Annual Meeting sessions, as articles in the Journal, as news items in The European Archaeologist, or as exhibits at the EAA Archaeological Fair.

EAA engages with and participates in the work of European organisations such as Europae Archaeologiae Consilium, Europa Nostra, and Council of Europe. EAA also coordinates its activity with world organisations, such as World Archaeological Congress, Society for American Archaeology, Archaeological Institute of America.

Since 1999, the EAA European Archaeological Heritage Prize has been awarded annually to individuals, institutions, local and regional governments and European or international officers and bodies for outstanding contributions to the protection and presentation of European archaeological heritage. EAA works to bring the awarded projects to the attention of the public.

By signing up for EAA membership, members adhere to the highest standards of ethical and professional conduct in their work, and comply with the duty to ensure the preservation of the archaeological heritage by every legal means.

VISION FOR THE YEAR

The EAA will reflect on the Year through the themes proposed for the 24th Annual Meeting in Barcelona, 5 – 9 September 2018. The most relevant of these will be Archaeology and the European Year of Cultural Heritage. It will develop upon the discourse dedicated to heritage at recent EAA Annual Meetings: in particular the focus on The Valletta Convention the next 25 years during the 23rd Annual Meeting in Maastricht 2017, and the focus on Managing the archaeological heritage last year during the 22nd Annual Meeting in Vilnius 2016. Contributions presented within the mentioned sessions will be archived in a repository of EAA conference abstracts, to be developed in 2017 – 2018 and thereafter available as open source of reference to all interested scholars and the public. EAA committees and working parties dedicated to heritage management will meet at the 24th Annual Meeting in Barcelona and will publish their reports in The European Archaeologist newsletter and on EAA web page. Some of them, e.g. the working group on Integrating the Management of Archaeological Heritage and Tourism will be involved in the events planned to engage the public. These initiatives have already received full support by the University of Barcelona, and will include workshops, public lectures, and an open day for general public at the EAA Annual Meeting and European Archaeological Fair.

The EJA Editorial Board is considering a special issue on heritage to be published in 2018, with contributions by leading heritage managers as well as members involved in heritage protection. Major integration of heritage issues in the publishing plan of EJA may feed into an EAA publication output specialised on heritage.

EAA will promote full participation of archaeologists across Europe in the European Year of Cultural Heritage and EAA members will promote and disseminate information about the Year in their respective organisations and countries. Many of the corporate members of the EAA are heritage organisations and museums. Many of these already host Heritage Week annually. EAA will engage with and support these activities and especially those activities that are planned to celebrate the Year.

Already at this stage EAA actively plans coordination of the Year's celebrations with fellow organisations engaged in the field of archaeology, especially with *Europae Archaeologiae Consilium* and *Europa Nostra*.

14. European Committee on Democracy and Governance

Council of Europe

www.coe.int

Represented by

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ABOUT



Since 1 January 2014, the European Committee on Democracy and Governance (CDDG) is responsible to implement the Council of Europe's intergovernmental work in the field of democratic governance. It is a forum where senior officials meet to share information, views and good practice on issues concerning territorial reforms, citizens' democratic participation in public life, the modernisation of public administration, the dialogue and

relations between tiers of government, public finances and transfrontier cooperation. The Committee also responds to requests from member States for targeted activities of exchange and assistance (for instance through peer reviews or thematic workshops).

Taking due account of relevant transversal perspectives, the overall aim is to promote the common goal of democratic security through the sharing of information about policy, the dissemination of best practice and the development as appropriate of possible standards relating to: modernisation of democratic institutions, public administration reform, citizens' democratic participation and democratic governance (including e-governance and e-democracy) at all levels, including at the local and regional levels. With this purpose, and taking due account of a gender perspective and to building cohesive societies in the performance of its tasks, the CDDG is instructed to:

- (i) act as a forum where members, associating as appropriate participants and observers, exchange information, views and good practice on: democratic institutions' reforms aimed at making them closer to citizens and enhancing civic involvement in public affairs; public administration reform and democratic governance; dialogue between tiers of government and multilevel governance;
- (ii) provide responses based on domestic legislation, practice and experience to member States so requesting that envisage policy reviews and legislative reforms in such fields as public administration, decentralisation/devolution of functions, good governance, structures of local and regional governance, e-democracy and e-governance and citizen participation;
- (iii) contribute to co-operation and support activities to national initiatives in its field of competence ; enable and encourage its members to share experience, upon request from interested member States, on central, regional and local institutions and processes, modernisation of public administration, trans-frontier cooperation, civic engagement and participation;
- (iv) promote the implementation of the Twelve principles of good governance at local level through targeted action and making use of the tools of the "Centre of expertise for local government reform" and in turn supplement those tools in the light of experience

15. European Cultural Tourism Network (ECTN) AISBL

www.culturaltourism-network.eu



Represented by

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ABOUT



The European Cultural Tourism Network (ECTN) AISBL, an international association based in Brussels, is the only pan-European network for Cultural Tourism development and promotion. ECTN mission is to bring together the cultural and tourism industry professionals to exchange experience and information on best practice and to develop new approaches and innovations. ECTN has currently 27 members, 18 cultural destination authorities, 8 institutes and 1 NGO, in 17 countries (12 EU member states and 5 associated countries). ECTN works through three Working Groups on Policy, Practice and Research, organises an annual Conference and Award contest. ECTN members include European Capitals of Culture and UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

The European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018 is very important for ECTN, in highlighting the vital link between cultural heritage and sustainable cultural tourism. ECTN planned activities for EYCH2018 will facilitate and reinforce this important linkage which goes beyond the existing members of ECTN. Sustainable cultural tourism is indeed a priority for EYCH2018 according to the EC Communication COM(2016)543 and ECTN has the readiness and secured funding to provide this vital link and synergies highly relevant to EYCH2018. ECTN will mobilise additional resources before and during 2018.

ECTN will ensure the direct and active involvement of its members in the EYCH2018 activities. In particular, the following targets are set by ECTN for EYCH2018:

- Strengthen the procedures and instruments for cultural tourism development and promotion, based on cultural heritage assets preservation and deployment
- Involve all key stakeholders in close cooperation between cultural and tourism sectors, including public, private and voluntary sectors, as effective partnerships
- Strengthen the information means, channels and materials for the promotion, education, study and awareness-raising of visitors before, during and after their visits, including creation of multilingual promotion materials
- Create place marketing frameworks, strategies, plans and channels for cultural and heritage tourism in all forms
- Strengthen the sustainability and competitiveness of European tourism through cultural routes and cultural landscapes
- Encourage and facilitate the networking of cultural tourism destinations, including policy makers, practitioners and researchers.

The active involvement is also ensured by adoption and promotion of the ‘Thessalia Charter for Sustainable Cultural Tourism’ during EYCH2018. This Charter aims to build on all relevant previous initiatives, declarations, resolutions, opinions and charters, to exploit synergies and facilitate implementation of the recommendations by the national, regional and local destinations authorities responsible. The overall aim is to encourage sustainable and responsible tourism policies and actions across Europe and beyond, through engaging culture and heritage with innovation and cohesion. The emphasis of the Charter is on tackling climate change impacts at cultural destinations, provision of access for all to cultural resources, building effective partnerships, involvement of local host communities, familiarization of visitors with local culture and heritage towards responsible tourism, enhancing services quality and visitor information, introducing cultural place marketing strategies, promoting cultural routes, industrial heritage, intangible heritage, gastronomy, traditional skills, maritime heritage, conservation, participatory governance, as well as overcoming the economic crisis and its aftermath through employment generation and sustainable development.

EXPERIENCE/EXPERTISE

- Annual International Conference in the field of Cultural and Heritage Tourism at different locations (eg Turku FI 2009, Pafos CY 2013, Volos EL 2014, Riga LV 2015, Guimaraes PT 2016, Sibiu RO 2017) and on a variety of themes (such as Industrial Heritage, Intangible Heritage, Cultural values diversity and heritage), during September in the frame of European Heritage Days and European Cooperation Day
- Annual Award for Sustainable Cultural Destination
- Workshops on Heritage and Cultural Tourism themes
- Study Tours and visits

VISION FOR THE YEAR

- European Workshop on Heritage Digitization for Cultural Tourism, Vidzeme region, Latvia, March 2018
 - Study Tour on Cultural Routes, Lazio Region, Italy, May 2018
 - International Conference in Region of Central Macedonia, Greece, September 2018 (in association with European Heritage Alliance 3.3)
 - Award of Cultural Tourism Destination 2018
 - Workshop at European Week of Regions and Cities in Brussels, October 2018
 - European Workshop on Cultural Routes Development, Pafos, Cyprus, November 2018
- Newsletters

16. European Historic Houses Association

www.europeanhistorichouses.eu



Represented by
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ABOUT



The European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018 provides a unique opportunity to reframe the discourse relating to private heritage ownership in a progressive, positive spirit. The impact of Heritage Year can be maximized by an extensive and persistent awareness-raising effort through branding and message dissemination, combined with a structured program for bringing the public in contact with private historic properties in a manner that highlights their positive social value.

The ideal outcome of the Heritage Year would be an “awakening” of the public opinion to the issue of private historic houses, the beginning of an ongoing dialog among stakeholders relating to the notion of private historic houses and their positive role, as well as an engagement of the public at large with historic houses themselves. This will lay the ground stone for future successful policymaking and legislation.

EXPERIENCE/EXPERTISE

The European Historic Houses Association is a non-profit making association based in Brussels. It is the voice of about 50.000 privately-owned historic houses and gardens across Europe, representing and defending the built heritage’ interests at the European Union level. It is dedicated to the protection, conservation and promotion of the European artistic, cultural, environmental and architectural heritage. Our membership comprises of 24 European National Associations.

The Association’s objectives are as follow:

- To contribute to the recognition of private historic houses and gardens across Europe, as outstanding symbols of Europe’s history and culture which need to be discovered and preserved for future generations to come;
- To encourage the protection and renovation of historic houses, parks, gardens and their landscape to enable society as a whole to enjoy their attractions, beauty and history;
- To provide a platform for the exchange of information and support for national historic house and gardens associations;

- To promote interest in the educational, environmental, economic and social values of historic houses and their gardens.

The Association pursues the defense of its members' interests on several priorities as taxation, environment, illicit trafficking of cultural goods, and the social and economic value of the historic houses etc.

Conscious of the important role the young generation will play in the maintenance and the recognition of the private tangible and intangible heritage, the Association created in 2014 "the Next Generation Group" with the ambition to work on the transmission and education aspect with young delegates and future owners of historic houses and gardens.

VISION FOR THE YEAR

The European Historic Houses Association's plan for 2018 EYCH will focus on two main effort:

On the one hand, the creation and dissemination of a branding message and on the other hand the implementation of initiatives that fulfil and enforce the promise made by the EHHA's common narrative. The first focus involves the creation of a message that reflects the value proposition of historic houses, assembly of a media kit for use by EHHA and all its member associations and a plan for its dissemination by way of widespread and ongoing publicity through media, partnerships and leveraging of connections. The second focus consists of initiatives (events and activities organized preferably at the sites of historic properties). Based on this, EHHA will generate a uniform template of branding-related tasks for use by national associations that will ensure uniformity of the efforts at European level, which will also allow national associations to plan and implement their own initiatives.

A slogan and narrative already been adopted by our Working Group and will be the central message for our core activity during the year which will be our "Private Heritage Days". They should be organised on the 26 or 27 of May 2018 under the slogan "Our House, You Heritage". Two common, unifying actions are suggested (a) photo contest and (b) "historic signature dish", for all national associations. Access could be free or for a nominal fee to cover organizational costs. Local events and activities are also foreseen as exhibitions, tours, displays, concerts, lectures, sports contests, fairs.

The European Historic Houses will also organised its 2018 annual event within the framework of the EYCH and will gather together politicians, experts and stakeholders to discuss the outcomes of the Year. Media coverage with articles dedicated to historic building managers (in an interview format) is also envisaged.

All the activities undertaken by the EHHA in 2018 will have a long term dimension and will support the future objectives of the association and its members.

The European Historic Houses will take part to the [Alliance 3.3](#) initiatives which will be developed throughout 2018 with specific events and media coverage.

17. European Institute of Cultural Routes

www.culture-routes.net

Represented by

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ABOUT



EUROPEAN
INSTITUTE
OF
CULTURAL
ROUTES

The European Institute of Cultural Routes was set up as part of a political agreement between the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg (Ministry for Culture, Higher Education and Research) and the Council of Europe.

Since 1998 its mission is to ensure the continuity and the implementation of the Cultural Routes programme in the 50 signatory countries of the European Cultural Convention, in close cooperation with the Council of Europe.

The EICR is located in the prestigious site of the European Cultural Centre of the Abbaye de Neumünster and houses the documentary resources of the programme as well as a library with books on Cultural Routes and related subjects of interest.

It provides advice to the cultural routes, both certified and projects, and welcomes project managers, researchers and students, this by cooperating with Universities in Europe and beyond.

It collaborates in the setting up and operation of the routes and participates in events and exhibitions, promoting a greater awareness of the links between culture, tourism and the environment. The EICR also carries out evaluations of existing routes and new proposals, using the considerable expertise it has accumulated on the methodology of advising, promoting and evaluating Cultural Routes.

The staff provides advice and expertise to Cultural Routes managers in relation to the organisational, technical and logistical aspects of the conception, development and promotion of Cultural Routes.

After the creation of the Council of Europe Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes, an agreement was signed between the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Luxembourg and the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, establishing the seat of the EPA in Luxembourg, at the EICR.

18. European Museum Forum

www.europeanmuseumforum.info



Represented by

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ABOUT



We have been working for 40 years under the auspices of the Council of Europe and we are strong supporter of the Faro Convention that we promote in all the countries we represent. The Year of Cultural Heritage can represent a bridge to reinforce the values and the spirit of unity that Europe embodies. ; Museum can represent hubs and incubators of dialogue on the common roots of the Europe members' states. Museums can be great advocate and great players for cultural Diplomacy

EXPERIENCE/EXPERTISE

We have been running the European Museum of the Year Award and the Council of Europe Museum Award for 40 years, along with conferences and workshops on the values of culture and cultural heritage, tangible and intangible, models of innovation and of public quality/audience development and managing.

VISION FOR THE YEAR

The Year of Culture should be a year in which individuals, objects and ideas can circulate throughout Europe to meet the broader audience possible. Ideas and European values should circulate also outside Europe in order to reinforce the spirit of dialogue and interculturality. In order to do that, we would like to support the exchange of young professionals of museum studies along with artists, designers, creative people in museums around Europe and abroad creating a network of interconnected young people with strong commitment to the European values and culture in order to facilitate the confront and the dialogue among different points of views and providing them the chance of making practical experience in the museum field, either as young curators, young researchers and makers of new art based on the European Cultural Heritage.

19. European Music Council

www.emc-imc.org



Represented by

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ABOUT



The European Music Council (EMC) is a non-profit organisation dedicated to the development and promotion of all genres and types of music in Europe. It is a network that promotes and supports music-related activities for representatives of both national music councils and European networks involved in the fields of music education, creation, performance, participation, production and heritage. It was founded in

1972 as the European regional group of the International Music Council (IMC), which was founded upon request of UNESCO in 1949.

The EMC contributes to a better mutual understanding amongst people and their different cultures, and promotes the right for their musical cultures to coexist. Therefore, it provides exceptional value to its members through the analysis of policy developments and formulation of policy statements; capacity building and knowledge exchange, as well as creating networking opportunities within and beyond the music sector on an international platform.

EXPERIENCE/EXPERTISE

The EMC's key values are to protect and promote musical diversity in Europe. This diversity cannot be imagined without the great musical heritage that exists in Europe. At the same time manifold musical traditions (heritages) from all over the globe are present in today's musical landscape. To celebrate and emphasise this richness, the EMC co-ordinated an EU funded project "ExTra! Exchange Traditions". This project aimed to stimulate exchange between different music traditions present in today's multicultural Europe. Its main focus was on the integration of musical traditions of migrant and minority cultures in Europe. Alongside numerous musical events and practical workshops in various countries, the project also included a publication "Music in Motion". The themes of the publication are diverse, as is the topic of cultural heritage, they range from urban area, gender perspective, music education, ethnic/religious minority communities to policy and media. Most of them are part of contemporary ethnomusicological discourses.

The EMC was also partner in another important project focusing on music and heritage: Safar – Music of Afghanistan, which was a collaboration with the Franz Liszt University Weimar (HfMW) and the Afghan National Institute of Music (ANIM).

Furthermore, through the International Music Council (IMC), the EMC actively participates in the international policy debates revolving around the topic of (intangible) cultural heritage and the role of music.

The IMC/EMC membership includes expert umbrella organisations that deal with this issue, such as the “International Council of Organizations of Folklore Festivals and Folk Arts” CIOFF.

VISION FOR THE YEAR

The notion of “Cultural Heritage” from the perspective of the music sector is much wider than some public image might imply, where cultural heritage seems to be limited to sites, monuments, churches, heritage preservation and conservation.

Therefore, the EMC advocates for a European Year of Cultural Heritage that adopts a 360° understanding of the term “cultural heritage”. This will include intangible cultural heritage, education/transmission and performance practices, music instruments, heritage and technology (digital musical heritage), cultural heritage and urbanism, cultural heritage and social practices, etc. The year should have an approach that will see cultural heritage as something “living”, something to work with and experience. The term heritage is often perceived as static and fixed (which might be true for monuments), however, intangible cultural heritage also offers dynamics, development and change, including contemporary practices.

During the year 2018, the EMC’s work plan will give special attention to the EU Year of Cultural Heritage. The role of music as an intangible cultural heritage will be addressed through several activities. The EMC will collaborate with (member) organisations such as the Association Nationale Cultures et Traditions (ANCT) and the International Council of Organizations of Folklore Festivals and Folk Arts (CIOFF) to underline the relevance of intangible heritage and oral transmission. Furthermore, recent musical repertoire that is at risk of disappearing completely will be in the focus of a cooperation with the French research institute in contemporary music IRCAM and others.

Concretely, the EMC European Forum on Music 2018 is planned to take place in Oslo, Norway focusing on “the role of music in cultural heritage”. We envisage to also include the Sami Council, which represents this cultural tradition of the Nordic countries. Furthermore, the EMC is planning a new publication series, *Tracks – Snapshots on Music in Europe*, the 2018 edition of which will focus on the topic of Music as Intangible Cultural Heritage.

20. European Theatre Convention

www.etc-cte.org



Represented by

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ABOUT



Theatre is 50% heritage and 50% innovation. Theatre started to exist 2000 years BCE. Today, we still perform classical Greek texts that date back to over 300 years BCE. Theatre, as part of the performing arts, belongs to the immaterial cultural heritage. It comprises the practices, representations, expressions, knowledge, skills – as well as the instruments, objects, artefacts and cultural spaces associated therewith – that communities, groups and individuals recognize as part of their cultural heritage. Theatre creates cultural heritage and allows people to take ownership through joint creation and sharing of it.

As the European network of state theatres, the European Theatre Convention (ETC) is proud to have 8 German theatres among its members. The German theatre landscape is awarded UNESCO immaterial cultural heritage for its globally unique density of theatre structures and its impact and place it has in society. The German model was inspirational for the Central European theatre structures. In this view, we consider it important for us, as representatives of our network at the European level, to take part in the upcoming Voices of Culture consultation related to the European Year of Cultural Heritage. We think that not only our German theatre members, but also the rest of our network of over 30 theatres from all over Europe, would greatly benefit from our participation, by being informed about the outcomes, through dissemination of the resulting position paper.

The work of ETC is dedicated to the constant revitalization of the many traditions of Europe's theatres and to expand the horizons of audiences and artists alike. As transnational artistic creation, professional representative and advocacy network, we wish to further contribute to the cultural policy decision making process and ensure that the voice of the theatre makers, artists and theatre audiences is heard in taking part in policy debates on culture at EU level.

ETC's experience in the field of cultural heritage is reflected in its mission statement, having guided our work in the past 25 years with the aim to foster contemporary drama as part of Europe's cultural and linguistic diversity and promotes access to it for all citizens as important part of the European intangible cultural heritage through education, outreach, and accessible programming.

Our key priorities are:

- as artistic cooperation network, ETC encourages its members and artists to collaborate transnationally and offers actions to exchange and internationalize careers of artists and cultural managers alike, as well as nourish international artistic programming.

- as professional network, ETC provides theatre makers with new skills, competences and know-how, through trainings, research and publications, in strengthening the capacity to address and adapt to change by digital technologies, audience development and new business models.
- as network, ETC pools, strengthens and disseminates the interests of theatres in Europe and hence enables international networking in order to facilitate access to professional opportunities and acts beyond the cultural sector engaging with stakeholders such as representatives of civil society, governmental bodies, educational institutions and the private sector.

EXPERIENCE/EXPERTISE

Having been a member of the previous Structured Dialogue platforms between the European Commission and the cultural sector (access to culture, creative and cultural industries and promotion of multilingualism, audience development via digital means, participatory governance of cultural heritage, the inclusion of refugees and migrants through culture), we hope to continue our work as new member in the brainstorming session and to strengthen the advocacy capacity of our sector in this policy field.

Theatre represents immaterial cultural heritage. It is live, and that is something that needs preserving. We are aware that modern art and entertainment is increasingly technology-driven and virtual, rather than physical and actual. That interaction between artists and audiences can happen only in live performance. So the future of theatre depends on the young generation – who spend much of their time online – becoming the theatre-goers of tomorrow.

This challenge has led in ETC to new strategies to engage the new, more culturally diverse and more internet-savvy generation. We are testing and experimenting with unprecedented forms of engagement, addressing younger audiences and older citizens alike, developing a participatory approach in theatre creation. Three examples below.

The “European Theatre Lab: Drama goes digital” (ETL) is our current Creative Europe funded project, which kicked off in October 2016. The ETL brings together Europe’s leading theatres and scientists in the pursuit of one goal: to use new technology to bring Europe’s stages into our communities and online. With an ambitious schedule of public events like OpenLabs, performances, workshops and conferences, the ETL creates a digital strategy for Europe’s state theatres so that they can open their doors to new audiences, bringing theatre’s vitality and immediacy online and to new communities, including people new to Europe or theatre.

“Young Europe”, a project for young and multilingual creation and education in theatre, meant that a drama repertoire was being specifically designed for young people and largely co-written by them, tackling head-on the issues that appeal to teenagers. 4 new plays and 6 new performances staged in 8 languages were performed in European schools and theatres. Some 20.000 young people from very diverse backgrounds had a theatre experience and the opportunity to engage with the artists in workshops and debates. They also connected with young people from other countries through the project’s online platform, and even met them at the Young Europe Talent Campus as part of the project’s festival in 2013.

“The Art of Ageing” investigated how public theatres react, interact and position themselves against current demographic challenges; and how they develop stories for the stage, mirroring the effects of ageing in the 21st century. ETC and 8 European theatres worked on a joint artistic research process.

As a result 4 new collaborative cross-cultural research and documentary theatre formats were created and 5 new international theatre performances, while nurturing an intergenerational audience as part of the creative process.

VISION FOR THE YEAR

Cultural diversity and digitization challenge and shape the way we live as a society in Europe, in urban and rural areas alike. At the same time, questions of belonging and identity are now more crucial and fundamental than ever before: at stake are core democratic values for the continent, as they are under threat from international terrorism as well as nationalist, isolationist, and right-wing movements. In light of these charged circumstances, as representatives of European culture we must ask ourselves: What do today's challenges mean for European theatrical traditions? How can we assert our voice in society as defenders of European cultural heritage, dedicated to preserving and transforming this heritage for today's and tomorrow's audiences?

The stories of our people are as diverse as we are. Theatre is not only a place where those stories are told, but also a place where society can congregate to explore questions of belonging and identity in a meaningful, sometimes even difficult, way. It is these stories that form the essential backbone of the intangible cultural heritage that nourishes intercultural dialogue between communities, with the goal of passing on traditions and live forms of artistic expression that we inherited from our ancestors and will pass down to our descendants.

In order to renew, strengthen, diversify and ensure the bright future of this tradition, the ETC has developed "ENGAGE", a comprehensive, ground-breaking four-year project intended to champion, foster and develop theatre suitable for our fast-changing world and shifting audience needs. ENGAGE sets out to create theatre for European audiences to enlighten and entertain, enrich our lives and inspire us, and help us break down stereotypes and barriers – whether linguistic, cultural or economic.

With ENGAGE we will pursue two long-term global objectives: promote contemporary drama as an integral component of European cultural and linguistic diversity and promote access to theatre for all citizens through education, outreach, and accessible programming, in light of its intrinsic role in Europe's intangible cultural heritage; promote a socially engaged, vibrant form of theatre reflecting an increasingly diverse, digital society in terms of ethnicity, religious background and multiculturalism, while at the same time strengthening the competitiveness of the wider creative and cultural sector.

As part of the project, we engage on a cross-sectorial level via two strong strategic partnerships to strengthen cooperation and capacity building between Europe's theatre sector and the leading performance art organizations in teaming up with Opera Europa and PEARLE. Together we will initiate a joint campaign to be launched in 2018 as part of the EU Year of Cultural Heritage. The campaign will celebrate the performing arts in Europe and promote access to European cultural heritage through performing arts. It will culminate in a European-wide event with theatres and operas around Europe opening their doors for a night of free performances, a 'Fête de la culture'. We imagine this to become an annual ritual in the tradition of the popular format 'Fête de la musique'.

21. European Youth Forum

www.youthforum.org

Represented by

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ABOUT



“The vision of the European Youth Forum is to be the voice of young people in Europe, where young people are equal citizens and are encouraged and supported to achieve their fullest potential as global citizens.”

The European Youth Forum (YFJ) is the platform of youth organisations in Europe. Representing 100 youth organisations, both National Youth Councils and International Non-Governmental Youth Organisations, we believe youth organisations are the tool through which we empower, encourage, involve, represent, reach out and support young people. The Youth Forum brings together tens of millions of young people from all over Europe, organised in order to represent their common interests.

The Youth Forum works to empower young people to participate actively in society to improve their own lives by representing and advocating their needs and interest and those of their organisations. In the current uncertain political and social context that affects young people, they can be powerful catalysts for positive change and contributors of innovative solutions to Europe’s problems.

To overcome the challenges faced by young people, the European Youth Forum has three main goals:

- Greater youth participation
- Stronger youth organisations
- Increased youth autonomy and inclusion

With these goals in mind, the Youth Forum will continue its advocacy work to become an agenda-setter on youth affairs, empower member organisations to maximise the impact of their expertise and enforce a rights-based approach in all that it does.

22. FARO

<http://www.faro.be>

Represented by

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ABOUT



FARO. Flemish interface center for cultural heritage (FARO.Vlaams steunpunt voor cultureel erfgoed vzw) is headquartered in Brussels, Belgium and supports cultural heritage organisations and communities in Flanders and Brussels. FARO is a partner in international networks and projects and is accredited by UNESCO (NGO90053), both for the 2003 UNESCO Convention and as a consultant organization. It is affiliated to the UNESCO chair on critical heritage studies and the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel. FARO is a member of ICA, ICOM, SIEF and CERL and the ICHNGO Forum. FARO is the secretariat of the national UNESCO Memory of the World Committee, in Flanders/Belgium. FARO actively promotes cultural heritage in Belgium and abroad. As a national and well-known institution we will be able to communicate The European Year of Cultural Heritage and we will actively take part.

EXPERIENCE/EXPERTISE

FARO is a not-for-profit organization that supports the sector of tangible and intangible cultural heritage in Flanders and is subsidized by the Flemish government. It is the hub between international policy, research (critical heritage studies and all relevant heritage disciplines) and professional organisations in the heritage sector. FARO staff members are experts in the fields of conservation, intangible heritage, museums, archives, community building, volunteer works, local and regional heritage and cultural policy. In an interdisciplinary team of on average 21 collaborators, five have a PhD. and 16 a MA in heritage related disciplines. Next to this kind of expertise, our staff members are 'cultural brokers' who all work in a highly collaborative and participatory way with partners in the field of cultural heritage. We specialize in the development and innovation of methodologies to enhance social innovation and to empower communities. We assist collection administrators in caring for their collections, offering both advice and practical help. We enhance the expertise of professional and volunteer heritage workers. We stimulate discussion and collaboration, also beyond our borders. We develop new participatory, inclusive and co-creative heritage practices. We research, inform and publish. We mediate between governing bodies and the field. We promote cultural heritage to a wide audience, for example by organising the annual Heritage Day (on average 700 participating organisations and 200.000 visitors). We contribute to a diverse, inclusive and sustainable society.

FARO was partner in the European project Enumerate (2011-2014) (www.enumerate.eu). The primary objective of the ENUMERATE Thematic Network (TN) was to create a reliable baseline of statistical data about digitization, digital preservation and online access to cultural heritage in Europe. Between 2007 and 2009 FARO was a partner in the research project Heritage 2.0 that aimed at developing an online distribution of digital cultural heritage (funded by the Flemish government).

Between 2009 and 2011 FARO was a partner in EPICS that aimed at developing an E-learning Platform in the Cultural heritage Sector (funded by the Flemish government). Between 2009 and 2011 FARO was a partner in Archipel, a network-centered research approach to sustainable digital archives (2009-2011) (funded by IWT-PIM in Flanders).

VISION FOR THE YEAR

We will actively communicate the European Year of Cultural Heritage via our website and blog that are intensely read by the cultural heritage sector. We will take part in the meetings, consult our stakeholders and contribute to the meetings. We are located in Brussels and we can offer space for networking and meetings. We can write an article in our journal that is widespread on the European Year of Cultural Heritage actions.

23. Federation for European Storytelling

www.fest-network.eu



Represented by

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President

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ABOUT



The Federation for European Storytelling (FEST) is a European network (International Non Profit Organisation) of organizations and associations active in the field of Storytelling. Storytelling is understood to be the live oral telling of stories, engaging directly with the audience to create a shared experience, as a performing art. Presently the FEST network has 54 member organizations in 20 different European countries.

Narrative is known to be a fundamental structure of human meaning making, identity building and personal development. It provides people with a sense of history, a sense of community, a sense of generations, a sensitivity to oral language and its importance to heritage.

Storytelling and heritage are linked to each other in many ways:

1. There is intangible oral heritage (stories, local legends etc.) and it is clear that storytelling plays an important role in the disclosure and dissemination of this type of heritage.
2. There is the art of storytelling as a performing art and as cultural expression
3. There is storytelling playing an essential role in the interpretation of tangible heritage, in a narrative approach to interpreting heritage.

The FEST European network is working on the following strands of specific objectives:

Strand 1: Structural development of the Storytelling sector

FEST is the only European network organization for the professional Storytelling sector.

Strand 2: Enhancing the visibility of Storytelling as a performing art

FEST wants to enhance the visibility and the recognition of Storytelling as a performing art, by developing marketing tools, by appointing Storytelling curators, by linking up with other performing arts networks and initiatives, and by promoting and further develop the World Storytelling Day.

Strand 3: Professional development of storytellers

FEST tries to contribute to the professional development of storytellers through the analysis of training needs, the development of a curriculum for training, residencies and performance opportunities for young storytellers and continued professional development (CPD) for established storytelling artists.

Strand 4: Storytelling in other sectors in society

FEST promotes and supports the use of stories and storytelling techniques in different sectors of society: community work, work with immigrants and refugees, the socio-cultural sector, education, tourism and heritage, and raise the quality of the storytelling activities in these sectors by introducing professional storytellers and their competences.

Strand 5: Raise the European dimension of Storytelling events and transnational cooperation in the sector

Establishing the recognition of storytelling as a performing art and establishing the link between storytelling and cultural heritage is an important aim for FEST, this also in the frame of professional development of storytellers and building a 'culture for storytelling' (audience development).

EXPERIENCE/EXPERTISE

FEST regularly organises conferences and meetings and it speaks for itself that heritage is an important element since storytelling is heritage and is closely linked to other elements of heritage. The main aim of the network is professional development and sharing. On many occasions heritage came in. We work with examples of good practice, training opportunities, sharing and mobility of artists...

The official seat of FEST non-profit is based in Alden Biesen, an international cultural center based in a historic castle (www.alden-biesen.be) owned by the Flemish Government (BE). The center acts as an international support center for the art of storytelling. Also via this angle we have a strong relationship with heritage.

VISION FOR THE YEAR

The FEST network has applied for a network grant in the frame of the Creative Europe programme (results available in May 2017). In this grant application we already envisaged a clear action plan to support initiatives to relate storytelling to oral heritage. These actions are linked to the European year of Cultural Heritage (2018).

- a) Promotion and support of storytelling initiatives (by the members) related to the European year of Cultural Heritage (2018)
- b) An international on-line survey report on the use of storytelling in cultural and heritage settings.
- c) An on-line collection (database) of European good practices of applied storytelling in cultural settings, local heritage clubs and for heritage
- d) An international expert meeting on the connection of storytelling with cultural heritage
- e) Supporting mobilities for experts and trainers on the use of storytelling in heritage contexts
- f) At least 5 national training events (in member countries, organized by members) for local heritage clubs, tourist guides... with an international trainer/expert.

24. Fondazione Matera Basilicata 2019

www.matera-basilicata2019.it



Represented by

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ABOUT



The Matera Basilicata Foundation is implementing the cultural project of the Matera-Basilicata European Capital of Culture 2019. The Sassi and the Park of the Rupestrian Churches of Matera are Unesco World heritage since 1993. The huge tangible and intangible heritage of the city and its region is at the core of the whole programme of the ECOC. The European Year of Cultural Heritage in 2018 matches the same intents. Furthermore we intend to work with locals and europeans to create a new "cultural inhabitant", a responsible and aware citizen that means the culture as a common primary good, ethic sum of humanistic, scientific and economic knowledge.

EXPERIENCE/EXPERTISE

Since the nomination of the ECOC in 2014 until the Capital year in 2019, numerous events or long term programme linked with the local heritage (immovable, tangible and intangible) has happened and will happen regularly. These cultural actions (performances, site specific, community projects, exhibitions, specific antropologic/archive project,...) will be enriched by the european vision and interpretation in a contemporary way. A capacity building programme and best practice sharing for cultural operators is also included in the programme.

VISION FOR THE YEAR

The good practices we've collected so far are being analysed in the preparation of our participation to The European Year of Cultural Heritage in 2018. It fits in perfect timing with the schedule of the Matera-Basilicata 2019 ECOC programme. Both programmes share the vision of cultural heritage being a strong bridge between cultural diversities, past and future, helping to write some common european narratives. Most of the preparatory activities for the implementation of the programme will already happen in 2018 and can easily be connected to the European Year of Cultural Heritage.

25. Future for Religious Heritage

www.frh-europe.org



Represented by

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ABOUT



Future for Religious Heritage (FRH) is an independent, Brussels based, non-faith, not for profit organisation that promotes the protection and use of religious buildings, their contents and their traditions. It is the only European network to bring together all those who wish to save, protect and promote the continent's religious heritage. It has already attracted 145 members throughout Europe, members that in turn represent institutions and membership based associations.

Religious heritage represents perhaps 50% of Europe's cultural patrimony - the 500,000 buildings themselves, churches, chapels, synagogues, mosques, cathedrals, monasteries, convents: their contents, furnishings, monuments, sculptures, paintings, frescos, silver, vestments, libraries: the architects, artists & musicians they have inspired over the centuries: their record of national, local and individual history and traditions and living expressions dating back well over a 1,000 years.

On top of the difficulties faced by cultural heritage throughout Europe, the sector faces the particular challenges of adapting to changing practices in religious observance. The relative importance of religious heritage goes largely unremarked and the sector is often under-represented in debate about the future of Europe's cultural heritage.

EYCH 2018 therefore presents FRH with a remarkable opportunity to:

- Remind Europeans of the unique place religious heritage holds in the continent's built environment and in its cultural identity
- Indicate to policymakers the huge potential economic and social value of this patrimony
- Discuss the organisational changes that are required to develop religious tourism, to adapt buildings to modern usage and to promote the greater use of religious building for non-worship purposes

FRH is convinced that the Year will provide an important impetus to provoking real debate about the future of the sector and to improving sustainability through the development of policy at European level, much broader public awareness and stronger support networks. For FRH itself the Year will provide a strong stimulus to network building.

EXPERIENCE/EXPERTISE

Since its foundation in 2011 FRH has:

- Attracted 145 members in 38 different countries. FRH's members include not-for-profit sector organisations, national and regional networks, universities, religious organisations, businesses, individuals, local and national governments in Europe and beyond.
- Built up nearly 1,000 subscribers to its monthly newsletter. FRH now regularly also attracts over 30,000 monthly visitors to its website
- Organised five international conferences: on 'Extended Use of Religious Heritage' – Venice 2012, on 'Moveable Religious Heritage and Tourism' – Utrecht 2013, on 'Sustaining Europe's Rural Religious Heritage' – Halle 2014, on Religious heritage and Tourism – Utrecht 2016 (jointly with UNWTO) and on 'Tourists, Travellers and Pilgrims' – Vicenza 2016 as well as numerous smaller member events
- Carried out a Poll of 6,000 Europeans in eight countries, which demonstrates that 79% consider that preserving and protecting churches and other religious buildings is crucial for their community's current and future life.
- Contributed to the writing of 'Cultural Heritage Counts for Europe' and worked to ensure that religious heritage was properly included in the paper voted in the European parliament in September 2015
- Organised an open day on religious heritage in the European Parliament
- Corresponded with Commissioners Vassiliou and Navracsics concerning the future of Europe's religious heritage
- Set up a Friends' Association in conjunction with La Fondation Roi Baudouin
- Set up an office in Brussels and developed the Association's Governance through formalisation of its structures
- Raised over €600,000 from its members and friends to finance the costs of running its Brussels office and to developing its projects

FRH is also in the process of developing, in association with its members, a number of cross border projects of benefit to the sector:

- FRH Inform – a sector-wide study to provide a first step in the development of a European policy in support of religious heritage. A pilot has been carried out with Junior Consulting Sciences Po and a call is ready to be circulated to identify potential education establishments to carry out the research.
- Religiana - FRH's online tool for managers of and visitors to religious heritage buildings. The initial modules providing tourist and events information are already functional. On-line donations is in hand. Work has been done on issuing cross-border tax certificates and on developing pilgrimage and tourism routes. Long-term, this project should not only become financially self-sustaining but also provide an important on-line forum for discussion and information about activities in the sector
- FRH is exploring the expansion across Europe of the successful French initiative 'Le Plus Grand Musée de France' (supported by the French president, UNESCO and the Michelin Foundation), which links university students, religious heritage and experts from the field, and to transform the project into 'Europe's Largest Museum'
- FRH has also initiated a number of strong, long-term partnerships, several of which have resulted in successful European projects: ALTERheritage (Leonardo – completed 2015); EUROPE TOUR (Erasmus+, in hand); Inception (Horizon 2020, in hand); FRH Connect

(Creative Europe, application made); Religion, Past present and Future (Horizon 2020, application made).

VISION FOR THE YEAR

FRH plans to:

- Organise a major conference in Paris on the future of Europe's religious heritage in autumn 2018
- Present at this conference the initial results of its sector study - FRH Inform
- Develop, with its members, a number of bespoke initiatives across Europe in educational, community and tourism sectors

To be of lasting value, the conference will look to provide answers to issues such as:

- Promotion of new use / extended use / reuse of religious heritage,
- Development of religious tourism (such as pilgrimages),
- Greater community use of religious buildings,
- The organisation and finance of repairs, maintenance and adaptation of buildings to modern use
- Organisation of sustainable volunteer support

FRH is recruiting a major European educational establishment to prepare a study – FRH Inform. Initial conclusions, to be presented at the Paris conference, will cover:

- Methodology to measure the cultural, social, economic and environmental value of Europe's religious patrimony
- Outline mapping of the sector,
- Comparative analyses of the challenges facing it
- Examples of best practices in organisational change.
- Recommendations as to how to provide structured support to the large numbers of volunteer bodies working across Europe to preserve the continent's religious heritage
- Suggestions for future studies and in particular how to set up a cross border data base of sector information

The conference will underline the potential for building relationships with schools using for example 'Europe's Largest Museum' initiative noted above. Welcoming refugees is part of many Churches' social outreach programmes across Europe. One of the aims of the study will be to provide recommendations as how to promote and to measure the value of such actions.

FRH will be looking to develop specific members' initiatives for EYCH 2018. Examples already under review include:

- Cooperation with the city of Leeuwarden, European Capital of Culture 2018

FRH kick-off event with Alde Fryske Tsjerken (Old Frysian Churches), located in the Dutch European Capital of Culture 2018, Leeuwarden.

- Participation in an Olympic torch

This will travel from one religious heritage site to the other throughout the Year.

- Focus on Village Churches

Europe's rural religious heritage forms an integral and historically developed part of regional cultural landscapes but suffers from difficulties of funding, accessibility and a declining population. In cooperation with Förderkreise Alte Kirchen, Germany, FRH will be using the Year to promote the building of support networks for such churches.

FRH looks forward to participating actively with other European organisations involved in EYCH 2018 in developing complementary initiatives and co-ordinated PR. It will also develop a PR multilingual toolkit in conjunction with its own members to ensure maximum visibility throughout the year.

26. House of European History

www.europarl.europa.eu/visiting/en/brussels/house-of-european-history

Represented by

Taja VOVK VAN GAAL

Leader of the academic project team

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ABOUT

The House of European History is located in the beautifully renovated Eastman Building in leafy Parc Léopold. Its exhibits will be available in all 24 official European Union languages and entrance will be free. Tailored resources will be available for schools, families and groups, offering a fascinating experience for all.

The House of European History's permanent exhibition will guide visitors through an outline of European history.

To give visitors a better understanding of the tumultuous events of the 20th century, the permanent exhibition will focus firstly on the convictions and beliefs that defined the 19th century – Europe's 'entry into modernity' – before moving on to consider Europe's descent into war and destruction.

This will be followed by the search for a better life in an increasingly united Europe.

Visitors will be encouraged to think about the Europe of today, the status and position of the European Union, and the part that everyone can play in shaping Europe's future.

27. ICCROM

www.iccrom.org

Represented by

Paul ARENSON

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ABOUT



ICCROM is the only institution of its kind with a worldwide mandate to promote the conservation of all types of cultural heritage. We are an intergovernmental organization at the service of our Member States.

In an age in which economies, cities and ideas are rapidly evolving within a globalized world, cultural heritage provides roots and a sense of identity to communities and individuals. It is the essence of what makes us human and is a part of our daily lives.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights proclaims, “Everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits.” Caring for cultural heritage ensures this right and promotes societal wellbeing.

ICCROM contributes to this endeavour by providing knowledge, tools and training to those who are working hard to conserve culture. We work at the international and governmental level, and with institutions and professionals on the ground. Through selected outreach activities, we aim to engage and inform new generations of upcoming professionals and the general public with an interest in heritage.

We also maintain an active, engaged network of professionals from around the world who are passionate about heritage and its protection.

We contribute to preserving cultural heritage in the world today and for the future through five main areas of activity: **Training, Information, Research, Cooperation and Advocacy.**

28. ICOM EUROPE

www.network.icom.museum/europe



Represented by

LUÍS RAPOSO

President

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ABOUT



Museums are an European land-mark. ICOM Europe stands as the most representative ONG representing museums and museums' professionals in all Europe. We are of course strongly committed

with the programming and practical benefits of this Year. This kind of events is often only ritual in nature, without truly impact in everyday of citizens (common people, visitor in our case, as professionals). It is our duty to prevent that and we are willing to contribute with our practical experience.

EXPERIENCE/EXPERTISE

We have fully and deep knowledge of museums and museums' professionals all along Europe. Our National Committees constitute a net of highly qualified ONGs, usually with easy access to civil society and authorities. All international and European charts and recommendations regarding museums were made with the involvement of ICOM. In recent years we have prepared referential documents regarding the particular situation of Europe, especially after the crises emerged by the end of last decade.

VISION FOR THE YEAR

A few proposals to consider are:

- travelling exhibitions on European landmarks program, including commonly assurance facilities
- sharing researchers or other staff program
- sharing services (restoration, inventory, digitization, insurances, etc.) program
- support services (HR, ICT, accountancy, facilities) program
- inserting of collections in international networks program
- building collection programs, educational programs with other public bodies...

29. ICOMOS - International Council on Monuments and Sites

www.icomos.org



Represented by
MARIE-LAURE LAVENIR for the first meeting
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Represented by
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ABOUT



45 of ICOMOS' National Committees are in Europe – representing 60 % of our membership. Organised in the ICOMOS Europe Group, under the guidance of an ICOMOS Vice President, these Committees cooperate also at the regional level – e.g. Baltic States, Nordic Committees, etc. The European Committees meet at least twice a year, regional meetings are held regularly, and information is constantly circulated through an electronic distribution list.

Ever since the idea of a new European Year of Cultural Heritage was floated, ICOMOS has encouraged its confirmation – through its participation at events such as the 6th Conference of the Council of Europe of Ministers responsible for Heritage, Namur, April 2015, and subsequently the Council of Europe expert meeting, Paris, December 2015, but also through the organisation of the event “Europas Kulturelles Erbe - gemeinsame Chancen und Herausforderungen / Europe’s Cultural Heritage – Joint Opportunities and Challenges” co-organised by ICOMOS in Berlin, November 2015 – which promoted the idea of such a European Year and presented the ICOMOS publication “A Future for Our Past - The 40th anniversary of European Architectural Heritage Year (1975–2015)”. ICOMOS also promoted the confirmation through its participation in the European Heritage Alliance 3.3 platform.

As soon as the Year was officially announced in April 2016, ICOMOS submitted a document called « Initial Reflections » with its vision and ideas for the Year to the European Commission (Ms Erminia SCIACCHITANO).

Taking into account the reflections put forward in the Concept Paper “Sharing Heritage”, September 2015, and current challenges facing Europe – such as the need for a better understanding of the benefits of European Union membership; the rise of nationalism; coping with the refugee crisis - the European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018 represents an outstanding opportunity for promoting the

notion of sharing, building bridges and tolerance at various levels, through a bottom-up and people-centered approach - among other by:

- raising awareness among European citizens and communities that European heritage policies have a significant and positive impact on their own lives and those of future generations, as heritage is central to our identity and community life and a strategic resource for economic development and sustainability
- building bridges between citizens and countries by encouraging an interpretation and transmission of heritage which places the national discourses in a wider European context and enriched by the shared aspects of our past and common destiny with our neighbours
- fostering recognition of the various influences and interactions with the rest of the world which shaped European cultural heritage and therefore its existing cultural diversity - and the history of displacement/migration within Europe itself (and the heritage sites linked to it)- so as to encourage understanding of the plight and cultural identities of refugees and migrants
- bridging the gap between generations – through education, capacity building, developing heritage-related skills and knowledge transmission to build a sound foundation to preserve and develop Europe's diverse cultural heritage

EXPERIENCE/EXPERTISE

At the service of cultural heritage since its founding in 1965, ICOMOS is dedicated to the development of common doctrines, the evolution and circulation of knowledge, the creation of improved conservation techniques, and the promotion of cultural heritage significance. ICOMOS has built a solid philosophical, doctrinal and managerial framework for the sustainable conservation of heritage around the world.

ICOMOS extensive network of over 10 000 members covers over 130 countries, and is organised in 110 National Committees, of which 45 are in Europe. Its 28 International Scientific Committees (ISC) are at the forefront of scientific inquiry and exchange in a wide variety of topics. structures; archaeology; cultural landscapes; cultural routes; cultural tourism; earthen architecture; economics of conservation; energy efficiency; fortifications and military heritage; documentation; towns and villages; intangible heritage ; interpretation and presentation; legal issues; polar heritage; risk preparedness; rock art; sacred, spiritual and religious heritage ; shared built heritage; stained glass; stone; theory and philosophy; training; twentieth century heritage ; underwater cultural heritage; vernacular architecture; mural paintings; wood.

In addition to an associate status with UNESCO, ICOMOS also has long standing cooperation with many partner and affinity organisations. It provides support and advice to national and local heritage authorities, governments, international and regional organisations, private heritage organisations and all other groups involved in heritage conservation.

ICOMOS is one of the founding members of the Blue Shield network, working to protect the world's cultural heritage threatened by armed conflict, natural and man-made disasters.

ICOMOS' values: united around heritage

Social and cultural diversity:

ICOMOS brings together members' ideas and expertise in a spirit of common purpose and respect for all cultures.

Impartiality:

ICOMOS provides institutional advice, relying on an interdisciplinary global network of members who give independent technical assessments whilst respecting ethical guidelines.

International exchange, dialogue, and solidarity:

ICOMOS facilitates the participation of members who are geographically isolated or work in difficult conditions, and mobilises experts to prepare emergency measures for heritage affected by disasters.

Transfer of knowledge and youth involvement:

ICOMOS creates and participates in training programmes, and fosters individual professional development and the active involvement of young members.

Free access to information:

ICOMOS has a strong commitment to publishing its knowledge for the benefit of defenders of heritage, and supports free and unrestricted access to scientific publications.

ICOMOS' programmes focus on:

- Promoting best practice through its charters and doctrinal texts
- Providing expert advice
- Disseminating knowledge through its publications, Documentation Centre, Open Access Archive and events
- Involvement in international conventions including UNESCO conventions on World Heritage, Underwater Cultural Heritage, Intangible Heritage and the 1954 Hague Convention. As an official advisory body to the World Heritage Committee ICOMOS evaluates nominations and advises on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List
- Alerting on threats to heritage and advocating its protection wherever possible
- Fostering education and training on heritage and conservation (e.g. E-learning course for Syrian heritage professionals)
- Researching emerging issues such as rights based approaches to heritage management and sustainability
- Enriching the professional development of its members

VISION FOR THE YEAR

ICOMOS, through its network, wishes to encourage its European National Committees to work together and share ideas in developing their programme for the Year – so as to ensure that it achieves a truly European dimension rather than implementation on a national basis. So as to ensure its impact beyond 2018, ICOMOS will ensure that the outcomes of the Year serve to build its agenda for the coming 5 years and feed into future activities.

ICOMOS as the main international professional organisation in the field of cultural heritage conservation wishes to involve itself in areas for which it has a particular competency – these include:

- Interpretation & Transmission: promoting a more “European” interpretation of heritage sites which would enhance understanding and articulate the national approach within a wider European context, notably through its International Scientific Committee on Interpretation and Presentation
- Capacity-building and networking for the next generation of European heritage professionals to ensure its relevance and generational renewal – ICOMOS is currently putting in place a strategy to engage and mentor a greater number of young heritage professionals in its work

- Fully integrating the European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018 into ICOMOS' strategic plan. The themes already chosen by ICOMOS for 2017(Heritage and Democracy), 2018 (Sustainability: Cultural Heritage and Sustainable Development) and 2019 (Territory: World Rural Landscapes Initiative) cover many of the European issues of concern raised in the Concept Paper "Sharing Heritage"
- World Heritage Context – ICOMOS has experience and on-going initiatives which relate to issues mentioned in the Concept paper – such a serial and transboundary sites; the relationship between cultural and natural heritage (ICOMOS is currently involved in a joint project with IUCN called "Connecting Practice"); rights based approaches to heritage management
- Heritage practices from outside Europe: drawing on its own international network, ICOMOS can contribute case-studies and approaches to issues from outside Europe and share the results of the European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018 with the rest of the world
- Networking with the wider heritage field: whilst archaeological and built heritage are the starting point, the European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018 should of course take into account all forms of heritage. Through its participation in networks, such as the Blue Shield, ICOMOS maintains very close relations with organisations such as ICOM (Museums), IFLA (Libraries), ICA (Archives), but also with other more specialised heritage bodies (TICCIH, DOCOMOMO, etc.). Working together we can ensure a more effective sharing of our common cultural heritage

Tools and Means:

- ICOMOS through its website and e-news, as well as National Committee websites and electronic distribution lists, can raise awareness and promote the year during 2017; publish our own event calendar and relay announcements of important external events & links to official sites in 2018, and then disseminate results of ICOMOS events in 2019 (we can also disseminate the results of major official EU events by including links in our website/e-news/uploading in our Open Access database)
- The annual ICOMOS Europe meeting should be especially dedicated to the strategic theme(s) chosen for the Year
- European ICOMOS National Committees will be encouraged to organise events in 2018 and to begin raising awareness from 2017

30. International Scientific Committee on Economics of Conservation of ICOMOS

www.icomos.org

Represented by

ANTONIA GRAVAGNUOLO for the first meeting

Researcher

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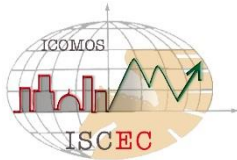
Represented by

LUIGI FUSCO GIRARD

President ISCEC

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ABOUT



ISCEC is the International Scientific Committee on Economics of Conservation of ICOMOS, International Council on Monuments and Sites, the only global non-government organisation which works for the conservation and protection of cultural heritage places. ISCEC has the task to analyse and improve the state of the art of the Economics of Conservation of Cultural

Heritage, so as to develop new guidelines and suggestions for sustainable integrated conservation plans, programs and projects. Cultural heritage is a cross-cutting theme that plays a role in all elements of human development. Passing from single monument as object of art to cultural landscape, historic cities and serial properties, the concept of cultural heritage has been extended beyond tangible attributes up to its intangible dimensions.

Since its birth in 1987, ISCEC supported many initiatives aimed at promoting cultural heritage as a vital aspect of social development and sustainability. More recently it is engaged for the positive integration of culture and cultural heritage into urban development plans and policies as a way to enhance sustainability of urban area through heritage, in the context of the Agenda 2030 as the 15-year sustainable development goals. ISCEC is still today working at reinforcing the role of culture in the cultural heritage target (11.4) and at developing indicators and metrics to support it. Maintaining cultural heritage and historic cities as a reference model for sustainability by their adaptive capacity, the commitment of ISCEC concerns: integrating heritage conservation in the urban planning framework; establishing and sharing a formal legal mechanism for recognizing and documenting cultural heritage; linking this designation to programs and incentives for conservation and redevelopment of their urban areas; developing integrated land use regulations and financial measures focused on containing urban sprawl and regenerating existing urban areas; engaging civil society with innovative governance.

Recognizing the contribution of cultural heritage to economic growth and social cohesion in Europe, whereas this contribution is not enough known and valued, the European Year of Cultural Heritage

aims to raise awareness of European history and values and to strengthen a sense of European identity in the globalization process. Combining with ISCEC approach, this view highlights cultural heritage not only as basis of our identity but also as driving force for our future development, capable of innovating and regenerating our sedimented culture.

In balance between past and future, cultural heritage has a developmental dimension, as it is both the heritage which storages local knowledges, strictly linked to relations between people and place, both the culture, which in turn produces new cultural heritage.

The European Year of Cultural Heritage provides to ISCEC a great opportunity to contributing to celebrate the specific identity, as diversity and richness of our European culture, using cultural heritage as a resource for both the economic development and the regeneration of our common memory. At the same time, it provides the opportunity to raise awareness in the European community about the role of Cultural Heritage for sustainable development and to share with European relevant stakeholders visions, approaches and practices.

EXPERIENCE/EXPERTISE

As President of ISCEC, vice-acting president of ICOMOS Italia, Coordinator of UN-HABITAT HUB on Urban Regeneration, Director of Laboratory on Creative and Sustainable City, member of “Best Practices Steering Committee”, United Nations Center for Human Settlements, member of the Global Urban Development Board of Directors and co-president of the research program “Celebrating the Cultural Heritage”, I deal with cultural heritage integrated conservation.

My work and research are fully integrated with the activity of ICOMOS in Economics of Conservation field. I’m member of ISCEC since its foundation and President since 2008. I’m engaged in the campaign for recognizing the contribution of cultural heritage to sustainable development .

I contributed to the Concept Note “Cultural Heritage, the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and the New Urban Agenda for the United Nations Agenda 2030 and HABITAT III”.

The commitment of ICOMOS in comparing economic and social costs and benefits of conservation and making better use of all kinds of limited resources available for conservation led to founding ISCEC in 1987, with the aim of improving the state of art and developing guidelines and suggestions for sustainable integrated conservation plans, programs and projects.

ISCEC actively contributed to many ICOMOS initiatives to promote cultural heritage as a vital aspect of social development and sustainability. The ICOMOS Symposium in Paris (2011) anticipated UN Conference on Sustainable Development and resulted in the Paris Declaration "Heritage as a Driver of Development". This theme was addressed in other scientific symposiums too (“No Past, No Future”, Italy 1999, “The Wise Use of Heritage”, Mexico 1999; ICOMOS meetings in Nara 1997, Xi’an 2005, Quebec 2008, and Valletta 2011. In 2012 we held in Naples a Conference on Port Cities as Hotspots on Sustainable Urban Development and an ISCEC meeting in Valletta.

Through the activity of ISCEC with CIVVIH (International Committee on Historic Town and Villages) ICOMOS participated at UN-Habitat’s World Urban Campaign and preparations in the run up to 2016 Habitat III. In 2014, ICOMOS General Assembly adopted a resolution to ensure that culture and cultural heritage are acknowledged in the proposed Goals and Targets in SDGs and Agenda 2030. Most recently, ICOMOS contributed to the UNESCO Policy Document for the Integration of a Sustainable Development Perspective into the Processes of the World Heritage Convention adopted by the General Assembly of the States Parties to the World Heritage Convention (November 2015).

ISCEC contributed to the various statements put out by the #culture2015goal collective (UN-Habitat World Urban Campaign meetings and the Habitat III - Preparatory Conference II, Nairobi 2015; side event in 39th session of UNESCO World Heritage Committee, Bonn 2015; submission to the UN Statistics Division (UNSD) and Inter-Agency and Expert Group on the Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDG) to measure the SDG Target 11.4. Recognizing that the Outcome Document “Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” adopted by the UN Summit falls short of the full understanding of the role of culture in sustainable development, ISCEC is collaborating to expand it and to monitoring the real implementation of SDGs in the city/territory system.

VISION FOR THE YEAR

Our vision of EYCH aims at operationalizing the approach proposed by Faro Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (2005), which, introducing the idea of “heritage community”, pointed out the ability of cultural heritage to make communities.

Cultural heritage can produce wealth both directly, through use values, which meet demand and supply, both indirectly, through relational values, which get the foundation of symbiotic processes and in turn generate added economic, social and environmental values. In this way, cultural heritage can subvert bad dynamics which affect our times, by producing synergies and symbiosis, in front of the loss of relations, and by regenerating common memories and knowledges, in front of the globalization process. Local communities are fundamental in cultural heritage, as they contributes both to understand and to share its complex values, reinforcing their perception and enhancing the real availability to pay for conservation.

In the framework of UN-Agenda 2030, the regeneration of cultural landscape, supported by circular relationship between city and countryside, is critical to achieve most of the SDGs. In fact, the major issues of sustainability lie in the landscape: poverty and social inequality, distribution and consumption of resources, production of waste, climate change, loss of biodiversity.

Acting on landscape is not only possible to regenerate cultural heritage, but to deal in a structural way the main challenges of our time too.

To implement this vision, EYCH should be a comprehensive laboratory, experimenting in vivo a hybrid approach, in which cultural heritage becomes engine of community. As “laboratory of civil aesthetic” (Fusco Girard 2012), this approach sees cultural landscapes as place of synergies between artists, architects, firms, enterprises, third sector associations, financial bodies, institutions with the objective of producing both aesthetic and social values. Cultural heritage, which in past came from the integration between art and built environment, becomes driver of new forms of communication between culture and community, regenerating both the material culture, giving it new life, both social bonds, rebuilding a climate of trust and cooperation.

In practice, while one level of action is in identifying indicators that recognize the “complex social value” (Fusco Girard 1987, 1997) of integrating cultural heritage conservation with inclusive and sustainable urban development, a second is in developing actions that can help with such integration across different goals and targets. Further, our action plan aims at identifying innovative governance, business, financial and decision support tools developed through hybrid evaluations and at proposing guidelines for integrating cultural heritage/landscape with socially and economically inclusive sustainable urban development.

Such an approach would integrate cultural heritage/landscape with urban planning, infrastructure development, poverty alleviation, affordable housing, disaster risk reduction and conservation of

tangible and intangible heritage. It would also propose tools for assessing the way that conservation is implemented in a development perspective at local level, improving evaluation methods for comparing the multidimensional impacts coming from integrated conservation of heritage, in order to convincing public, private and social bodies that integrated conservation is an investment and not

31. Interpret Europe - European Association for Heritage Interpretation

www.interpret-europe.net



Represented by

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ABOUT



The EYCH supports Interpret Europe's purpose and aims to encourage European citizens to:

- experience heritage in order to learn from it;
- respect one's own heritage as well as the heritage of others;
- search for personal meaning behind heritage;
- take ownership of local, regional and European heritage;
- consider through heritage the roots of the European idea;
- reflect at heritage sites upon the paths taken in European history and what this means for us today.

Heritage interpretation is a non-formal learning approach which was explicitly developed for visitors of heritage sites. It has spread in many countries around the world and can be studied at universities up to master's degree level. This assures comprehensive empirical research on the success of the concept.

The purpose of the Interpret Europe network organisation, as written in our constitution, is to deepen understanding for the care of cultural assets and to support international attitudes and tolerance in all fields of culture. Interpret Europe intends to foster heritage interpretation at the European level.

Interpret Europe is convinced that the interpretation of our cultural heritage will play a critical role in further European development. Within the EYCH, Interpret Europe sees its role especially in focusing on this concern.

EXPERIENCE/EXPERTISE

Interpret Europe has been involved in four projects from the EU Lifelong Learning Programme:

- HeriQ – Quality in Heritage Interpretation (Leonardo da Vinci)
- HISA: Heritage Interpretation for Senior Audiences (Grundtvig)
- Interpreting Our European Heritage (Leonardo da Vinci)
- InHerit: Heritage Interpretation in Adult Education (Grundtvig)

Since 2010, Interpret Europe has organised annual conferences on heritage interpretation. The two latest conferences were on 'Sensitive heritage – sensitive interpretation' (Poland 2015) and 'Heritage interpretation – for the future of Europe' (Belgium 2016). During these conferences, Interpret Europe focussed explicitly on heritage sites where crucial European concepts, such as peace or human rights, were challenged (e.g. Flanders Fields, Kazerne Dossin, Auschwitz).

Against this background, Commissioner Navracsics addressed Interpret Europe stating: "Through interpretation, I believe heritage can contribute to the building of communities, not just at local level, but also on national and European levels. Bringing citizens closer to their heritage is about bringing them closer to each other, and this is an important step towards a more inclusive society".

Encouraged by this statement and to reengage with those ideals on which Europe is built (such as a peaceful society for everyone who lives in Europe, the protection of human rights, the democratic development of active citizenship, the striving for sustainability and the stimulation of a life-long attitude of learning from others and together with others), Interpret Europe published the 'Call from Mechelen – Learning from our European heritage' in May 2016, stimulating like-minded institutions to support the initiative for the 2018 European Year of Cultural Heritage and provide opportunities for citizens all over Europe to visit their heritage sites in order to reconsider what our shared European values mean to us (see downloads at www.interpret-europe.net/2016conference.html).

Interpret Europe has an active cooperation agreement with ICOMOS-ICIP (ICOMOS' International Scientific Committee on the Interpretation and Presentation of Cultural Heritage Sites) in order to develop policy statements and guidance notes regarding the use of inclusivity and authenticity at cultural heritage sites.

In order to inspire other networks and to learn from their experiences, Interpret Europe is also a member of the European Heritage Alliance coordinated by Europa Nostra (<http://europeanheritagealliance.eu>).

In 2016, Interpret Europe promoted the European Heritage Label and for the European Heritage Days 2017 on 'Heritage and Nature', it developed recommendations on how to include heritage interpretation into the work of cultural heritage sites in 50 European countries (to be found at www.europeanheritagedays.com), supporting the continuous aim to turn heritage days in single European countries into real European heritage days.

Right now, Interpret Europe is preparing for its Spring Event 'Crossing borders' which will take place in May in Prague. One motivation is to discuss how inequalities between different European countries can better be bridged. Two of the keynote speakers will be the Council of Europe's Programme Leader of the European Heritage Days, Jelena Močević, and the Coordinator of UNESCO's Chair of Museology and World Heritage, Lenka Mrázová.

Interpret Europe's next conference will take place in October in Scotland.

VISION FOR THE YEAR

In 2014, the Council of the European Union recognised cultural heritage as “an important component of the European project” and as “a strategic choice for the 21st century”. The European Commission echoed this sentiment by designating Europe as “a laboratory for heritage-based innovation”.

Interpret Europe’s vision is that in 2018 the European Commission will advance the EYCH in a way that it can play a significant role in that and help to master the challenges Europe is currently facing. Young people should especially be further encouraged to visit mainly sensitive heritage sites. They should be enabled to reflect upon them, to work on European narratives, and to sustain the European idea during upcoming decades. This requires some training in the field and Interpret Europe will be ready to contribute to that.

In 2018, Interpret Europe will cooperate with all partners in the European Heritage Alliance and with all other European stakeholders that share the belief that facilitated experience of heritage sites will empower citizens to reflect on the paths the European development took and to come to decisions to make in future.

In this context, Interpret Europe will play its strength as a holistic approach to connect stakeholders from rather different fields, such as conservation and learning, natural and cultural, tangible and intangible heritage.

In 2016, all responsible bodies of Interpret Europe decided to focus the key activities and instruments of the organisation in 2018 on the EYCH. This means that Interpret Europe will:

- run at least one conference closely related to the EYCH;
- emphasise the aspects of the EYCH within its training programme;
- support questions coming up in this context within its research programme;
- communicate EYCH concerns within, and also outside, the field of cultural heritage interpretation.

32. Michaël Culture Association

www.michael-culture.eu



Represented by
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Represented by
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ABOUT



Michael Culture is the only European transsectorial network for Digital Cultural Heritage. It aims at promoting and valorizing cultural heritage thanks to digital CH and advocacy for its role in society challenges as a key pillar for sustainable & inclusive development of European societies and territories.

This EYCH is very important for MCA and its network because it's a great opportunity to foster the awareness of citizens and politics on the role and values of CH & especially through DCH both on national and European and International level ; to exchange with all the stakeholders in order to reinforce the place of Ch & DCH in european & national policies and programmes -finding and make a new step on access to CH, use of DCH tools, defining Roadmaps for future and advocacy for its values such as intercultural dialogue, human rights, memory...

This EYCH is also for us a great framework to foster transversal and transsectorial peer-learning to improve understanding of the innovative use of DCH in Education, History, cultural Mediation, social challenges thanks to debates, events, trainings that we would like to take part in and thanks to the activities we planned for 2018.

It's a great opportunity to valorize all the stakeholders and experiments and results in this area and convince of the strong innovative potential of DCH as well as to focus on the challenge of a more participative governance of Cultural Heritage and the necessity of increasing the access to CH thanks to DCH.

We would be very interested to participate to the Voices of Culture process and share our experience and networks in this perspective.

EXPERIENCE/EXPERTISE

Michael Culture AISBL (MCA) is the European transsectorial network for promotion & valorization of digital cultural content.

It's an Aisbl founded in 2007 as a sustainable action of European research project, by French ministry of Culture, Italian ministry of Culture and institutions from CH communities.

MCA gathers members and experts from over 250 cultural institutions private and public - museums, libraries, Archives, Research centers - ministries of culture from Europe (e.g French ministry), from 22 countries from EU and beyond. It is a not-for-profit organization created in 2007.

It aims at Promoting and valorising European cultural heritage by its digitization and dissemination to a European and worldwide audience and valorizing the role of digital cultural heritage for innovative, inclusive and sustainable societies.

Its activities are:

- Support and development of the transmission and exchange of information, particularly via publications, conferences and events;
- Research and training on related subjects;
- Networking and participation in European and international projects.
- Developing the use of DCH in Culture and Heritage, Social challenges, Memories, Education, Tourism areas.

Michael Culture Aisbl is a member of European networks. MCA is in the board member of Culture Action Europe and has signed a partnership agreement with « NEMO – Network of European Museum Organizations » and is member of the Alliance for Arts and Culture.

MCA has also close relations with Europeana, Daria EU and Eurocities.

MCA is a major operator at European level and has been involved in many European projects: Minerva, Minerva+, Michael, Athena, AthenaPlus, DCH-RP, Indicate, DC Net, Net Heritage, Linked Heritage, CEF - DSI1 and CEF - DSI 2.....(PCRD, Culture, H2020,...)It has been supported by EU in 2010 as European Network. MCA is the partner of Europeana for aggregation and support for museum communities. We have a strong experience in Advocacy, Roadmap, events, workshops, trainings, design and development of innovative ICT tools.

VISION FOR THE YEAR

According to its aims and activities, Michael Culture has planned to valorize EYCH and especially topics linked to DCH and ensure communication on debates, events and conclusions of the EYCH and has included specific events in relation with the main topics of the EYCH in its projects and regular events : annual general assembly, trainings, WS. In addition, the Aisbl will support the communication and "flagship activity" toward its European and International members. In addition, MCA is in discussion with his partners and members to organize specific events related to the EYCH (NEMO, Culture Action Europe, Ministries of Culture...)

In addition, MCA has applied - as full member of consortium - in February to 4 H2020 calls linked to Cultural Heritage and planned specific activities in each projects in relation with EYCH.

33. NEMO - The Network of European Museum Organisations

www.ne-mo.org



Represented by
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ABOUT



Museums safeguard material evidence of the man-made and natural world for current and future generations. They are the guardians of cultural heritage and they are warehouses of the mind. Their collections offer a rich variety of stories and interpretation of our history, present and future. Museums can facilitate dialogue because they stimulate us to think, learn, reflect and to celebrate differences and discover interconnections. The EYCH2018 will be a chance for museums to visibly show their potential to add value to society in different sectors, learning, social, economical.

EXPERIENCE/EXPERTISE

NEMO was founded in 1992 as an independent network of national museum organisations representing the museum community of the member states of the Council of Europe. Together, NEMO's members speak for over 30.000 museums across Europe.

Since 1992, NEMO connects European museums and their organisations to help to ensure their place in the cultural development of Europe.

NEMO believes that museums are key players in safeguarding cultural heritage and they are central figures on the way for a better understanding within Europe.

NEMO advocates for the cause of museums at European level and through its members on national level and influences policies that are museum-relevant.

NEMO informs its members and the museum sector at large of current and prospective European policies on culture and museums, and of the funding opportunities offered by various EU programmes, thereby helping museums to work and act at European level and internationally.

NEMO enables museums to network and share best practice at all levels, building on their capacity and improving the service they offer to the public. It also works to help increase the skills of museum staff to provide a quality public service.

Through its network NEMO empowers museums to collaborate on multilateral projects at European level and beyond.

NEMO works with other cultural organisations in Europe to emphasise common causes and objectives and to show how cultural activities can be strengthened by working together. It establishes links with relevant stakeholders to create an environment for its members to work and prosper internationally.

VISION FOR THE YEAR

NEMO will raise awareness for the potential that Cultural Heritage has for Europe and tapping its potential by activating and connecting the museum sector with regard to it, by (among others):

- kicking off the EYCH at NEMO's annual conference in Ghent on 9-11 November 2017, NEMO's major event bringing the network together and connect it to museums, stakeholders and policymakers from Europe.
- Generating and facilitating advocacy tools through aggregating and generating data, research to support the value of museums. In connection to EYCH2018 NEMO will promote the study "champion Museums" to the public and promote the potential of museums in various aspects to society.
- disseminating the topic to the European museums and actively interconnecting national activities
- discussing policy strategies of the EYCH with different stakeholders on national and European level

34. Pearle* - Live Performance Europe

www.pearle.ws

Represented by

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ABOUT



Pearle - Live Performance Europe represents through its members' associations the interests of more than 10,000 theatres, theatre production companies, orchestras and music ensembles, opera houses, ballet and dance companies, festivals, producers, comedy, variety, circus and other organisations within the performing arts sector across Europe. This includes profit as well as non-profit organisations, ranging from micro-enterprises to companies over 250 employees.

For a long time, the debate on Cultural Heritage focused on (touristic) sites and monuments. Indeed, many theatres are of great historical and heritage value, and discuss across Europe how to preserve and restore their buildings: A great challenge is to continue offering the music and theatre performances in a historic venue whilst taking into consideration the demands of today to keep the venue operational and fit for hosting audiences.

Alongside this, theatrical texts and traditions, oral expressions, practises and representations, as well as music, songs, festivals etc. are to be included as part of the "living" heritage, also called intangible cultural heritage. As it is stressed on the UNESCO's website: "Cultural heritage does not end at monuments and collections of objects."

Live performance organisations give a stage to diverse artistic expressions and European traditions; they help to maintain cultural diversity and, at the same time, they contribute to the shaping of our future heritage. Pearle hopes to address this message during the European Year of Cultural Heritage.

EXPERIENCE/EXPERTISE

In the last decades, the term 'cultural heritage' has changed content considerably and today also includes intangible aspects of culture. Pearle* - Live Performance Europe monitored this development and encourages national member organisations to get involved in campaigns with the aim to protect and safeguard intangible cultural expressions. Since then, a high number of performing arts practices have been listed by the UNESCO, such as puppetry theatre in Slovakia and the Czech Republic, the German theatre and orchestra landscape, different music practices and traditional dances from ethnic minorities and several festivals all over Europe.

Performing arts and music organisations also build up digital archives of their performances to preserve the heritage for future generations.

In 2016, Pearle* has started to liaise with the tourism sector on the one hand and the cultural heritage sector on the other hand with the aim to join forces and promote European Cultural Heritage.

VISION FOR THE YEAR

In the frame of the Year of Cultural Heritage, Pearle will work closely with its members as well as other sectors (such as the tourism and heritage sector) to discuss the following actions:

- Awareness raising campaign in the Member States
- Audience development campaigns
- Visibility of intangible cultural heritage

The vision for the Year would be to highlight the importance of the intangible cultural heritage sectors alongside its wonderful and rich variety of historic theatres and where existent the still functioning backstage mechanics and sceneries.

35. Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in South-Eastern Europe under the auspices of UNESCO

www.unesco-centerbg.org



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ABOUT



The European Year of Cultural Heritage will be an opportunity to highlight the importance of cultural heritage for the economic, social, cultural and ecological development of Europe. This initiative will raise awareness about the possibilities of cultural heritage to contribute to the

sustainable development, but also about the challenges it faces. The mission of the Regional Centre for safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage in South-Eastern Europe under auspices of UNESCO is to promote the cooperation in the field of ICH on national, regional and international level and to carry out initiatives for safeguarding and popularization of ICH of the countries of the region. The notion of intangible cultural heritage is relatively new as well as the instruments for safeguarding and promoting ICH on national and international level. We hope that the European Year of Cultural Heritage will support the efforts of Regional Centre Sofia to focus the attention of the European societies on the important issues about ICH. It will create opportunities to foster the international cooperation, the exchange of best practices in the field and to enhance the cross-sectoral interaction. We believe that the Year will create synergies on European level to enhance the knowledge and awareness of the potential of ICH of all decision makers and stakeholders on national level and thus to improve the development of evidence-based policies and measures aimed at safeguarding and promotion of intangible cultural heritage.

EXPERIENCE/EXPERTISE

The Regional Centre for safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage in South-Eastern Europe under auspices of UNESCO is one of the eight category 2 centres in the field of intangible cultural heritage in the world and the only one in Europe. Until 2016 the Centre has 15 Member States - Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Georgia, Greece, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey. Each country is represented through institution, responsible for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage on their territory - Ministry of Culture (10), National Commissions for UNESCO (3), national research institutions (4), one Ministry of Foreign affairs and one international non-governmental organization. As Category 2 centres under the auspices of UNESCO the Centre is expected to contribute directly to achieving the Strategic Programme Objectives or programme priorities and themes of the Organization. The key objectives of the Centre are: to promote the UNESCO (2003) Convention for

the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage and contribute to its implementation; to increase the participation of communities, groups and individuals in safeguarding ICH in the region; to coordinate and exchange information in relation with ICH; to foster regional and international cooperation between the countries in the region and UNESCO; to support and participate in activities aiming to enhance the capacity of experts in the field of ICH;

From its beginning (2012) until now, the Centre is realizing three key types of activity.

Capacity building - One of the main goals of the Centre is to support and encourage the countries of the region to strengthen their capacity for safeguarding of ICH at national level. In this regard the Centre is organizing a series of training seminars in the frame of UNESCO's global capacity-building strategy. Until now 8 seminars were successfully delivered in 5 countries in the region (Bulgaria, Albania, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Romania and Croatia).

Networking -Regional Centre focuses its efforts to enhance the regional and international cooperation through networking and active partnerships. Pursuing this goal, the Centre is realizing activities aiming at exchange of information and knowledge for the safeguarding of ICH and the promotion of best practices in related policies. Among them are the organization of annual meetings of the South East European Experts Network on Intangible Cultural Heritage, meetings of related category 2 centres, workshops and seminars on various topic such as Intellectual Property, ICH and Traditional Medicine, ICH and museums, audiovisual productions and intangible cultural heritage etc.

Raise awareness - Through various actions and events the Centre endeavor to raise awareness about the ICH in the region, to inform the wide public about the dangers that threaten this heritage as well as the initiatives undertaken for the implementation of the Convention of 2003. In fulfillment of this objective the Regional Centre is supporting and organizing international representative events such as film festivals, exhibitions, concerts, promotion materials etc.

VISION FOR THE YEAR

For the next years the Regional Centre will continue to work actively in order to intensify its cooperation with the countries of South-Eastern Europe and to expand the network of experts, to increase the capacity for the safeguarding of ICH and for implementing the 2003 Convention at the national level and to be a platform for dissemination and exchange of information in the field of the ICH.

For the Year 2018 the Regional Centre is planning the organization of at least three international conferences on specific topics in the field of Intangible cultural heritage such as for example the problems of documentation and research of ICH, the application of new technologies in order to improve safeguarding and enlarge access to ICH, development of policies and safeguarding plans for ICH, development of ICH-based cultural tourism etc.

The Centre will continue to organize training seminars in the frame of UNESCO's global capacity-building strategy aimed at strengthen the capacity for safeguarding of ICH on national level. At least four seminars are planned for 2018.

In order to exchange of knowledge, expertise and information in 2017 the Regional Centre will develop an online platform for intangible cultural heritage in South-East Europe. The platform should be operational in 2018 and will provide information about institutions, experts, policies, inventories, activities, funding etc. in the field of ICH.

Specific set of activities will be focused on young generation, the Centre will actively engage in initiation of discussion within educational and research institutions, including development of student programs and internships in the field of ICH.

All of the activities in the work plan for 2018 of the Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in South-Eastern Europe under the auspices of UNESCO will be dedicated to the marking of the European Year of Cultural Heritage.

37.UNESCO Liaison Office in Brussels

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ABOUT



On 16th of February 2011, UNESCO opened a Liaison Office in Brussels in order to develop close coordination and cooperation with the European Union institutions and to strengthen the visibility of the Organisation and its actions in the European landscape.

UNESCO and the European Union cooperate in many areas since 1996, with the signature of a framework agreement that harmonized their administrative and financial procedures. This document was amended in February 2004, when a new agreement between UNESCO and the European Commission was established, which allowed UNESCO to accede to the Financial and Administrative Framework Agreement (FAFA) concluded between the UN and the European Commission in 2003.

The next step of this cooperation process is for UNESCO and the EU to become strategic partners, by elaborating common strategies about shared priorities and joining forces in areas of mutual interest.

The UNESCO office in Brussels will play thus a key role in bringing closer UNESCO and the EU, in identifying common areas of actions and informing headquarters on the EU's policies and decisions.