European Affairs Update
May 2024

New EAC guidance, published March 2024

Contents

- **Presidency Council of the European Union**: Jan-Jun 2024 Belgium. Jul-Dec 2024 Hungary. Jan-Jun 2025 Poland.

- **Committee of Ministers (CoE) chairmanship**: Nov 23-May 24 Liechtenstein. May-Nov 24 Lithuania. Nov 24- May 25 Luxembourg.

- **European Capitals of Culture 2024**: Bad Ischl (Austria), Bodø (Norway) and Tartu (Estonia).

Did you know? Every Presidency issues an official music playlist, find the Sound of Belgium here.

Joint initiative of European Archaeological Council (EAC) and European Association of Archaeologists (EAA). Prepared by the EAC Assistant Jenni Butterworth. You can join the mailing list here. If you wish to be removed from the mailing list, please email info@e-a-c.org.

Policy

European Union

2024 European elections - 6 to 9 June 2024
Citizens in the EU Member States will elect their representatives to the European Parliament during the European elections of 6 to 9 June.

20th anniversary of the 2004 EU enlargement
24 Apr: EU and Member States representatives, and young people who were born in 2004, celebrated 20 years of EU enlargement. President von der Leyen highlighted the many benefits that EU membership brought to the then-new Member States, while also underlining the many advantages that the Union itself drew from this enlargement. On 29 Apr, President Charles Michel gave a speech 'Enlargement then and now: A geopolitical investment in peace and security'.

CULT committee: Bringing young people to the forefront of EU policy making
10 Apr: To show its continuous effort to empower and amplify youth voices, the Committee on Culture and Education dedicated the last 3 hours of its Committee meeting on 9 April to the ground-breaking initiative #Engaged4YOUth. Standing rapporteurs discussed with young people the main achievements in the 9th legislature on all areas of CULT competence. Moreover, young people presented their ideas and engaged in a dialogue with policy makers on identifying the priorities in these policy fields. This was a first real 'youth mainstreaming' exercise for the European Parliament to mark the legacy of the European Year of Youth.

Creative Europe: Parliament highlights implementation challenges
16 Jan: Parliament adopted its conclusions on the implementation of the 'Creative Europe' programme. MEPs pointed out the increasing number of applications, resulting in a proportionate decrease in the success rate of applications, and call on the Commission and the Member States to substantially increase the financial allocation of the Creative Europe programme from 2028-2034. They also asked to further simplify the application process and strengthen support for applicants.

11th meeting of the European Commission's Expert Group on Cultural Heritage
9-10 Apr: The Expert Group met in Brussels. The main discussion point of the meeting was cultural heritage support in regional and urban policies of the EU. No meeting report available.

EU long-term budget for 2021-2027: Council concludes mid-term revision
28 Feb: The Council adopted three legislative acts related to the revision of the EU multiannual financial framework for 2021-2027, which is aimed at reinforcing the EU long-term budget in a targeted manner and addressing new challenges. The package includes a regulation amending the multiannual financial framework for 2021-2027, as well as regulations establishing the Ukraine Facility and the Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform (STEP). The amendments to the multiannual financial framework for 2021-2027 reflect the agreement reached by EU leaders on 1 February 2024 and reinforce the EU long-term budget in a limited number of priority areas. In total, €64.6 billion of additional funding will be made available to address new and emerging challenges facing the EU and to meet the EU's legal obligations which could otherwise no longer be accommodated within the current budgetary ceilings. To reduce the impact on national budgets, a portion of this funding, totalling €10.6 billion, will be covered by budgetary redeployments, including €2.1billion from Horizon Europe.

Council of Europe

Steering Committee for Culture, Heritage and Landscape (CDCPP)
The 13th session will be held 19-21 November 2024 in Strasbourg. The agenda is not available yet.

Council of Europe Landscape Convention relaunched
Jan 24: At the 4th Council of Europe Summit (Reykjavík, May 2023), the final declaration affirmed that human rights and the environment are intertwined and that a clean, healthy and sustainable environment is integral to the full enjoyment of human rights by present and future generations. Appendix V of the Reykjavík Declaration refers explicitly to the Council of Europe Landscape Convention. At the Summit, the Heads of State and Government launched the Reykjavík Process. This process aims to make the environment a visible priority for the Council of Europe. Its main objective is to focus and strengthen the Organisation's work on aspects of the environment linked to human rights. This objective includes landscape, one of the most human aspects of the environment. The Secretariat General of the Council of Europe has thus reorganised its structures, from 2 Jan 24, with a view to

relaunching cooperation activities between the Parties to the Convention. The secretariat of the Convention has been transferred from the Directorate-General for Democracy and Human Dignity (DG-II) to the Directorate-General for Human Rights and the Rule of Law (DG-I), within a new Department for the Reykjavík Process and the Environment.

Funding and investments

Budgets and programmes

Multiannual Financial framework (MFF)
The multiannual financial framework for 2021-2027 was implemented January 2021. €1.074 trillion is available for beneficiaries of EU funding during these seven years. Find out how the EU distributes the budget of the Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027 - here you can see how much is allocated to each programme.

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

Creative Europe

Creative Europe 2024 work programme
The 2024 Creative Europe Work Programme comes with a budget of more than €320 million. Creative Europe remains committed to addressing the evolving needs of the cultural and creative sectors. The focus of the programme is still the support of the sectors after the COVID-19 crisis and the repercussions of the war in Ukraine. Transitioning the sectors towards sustainability and inclusiveness is also a priority.

14 Sep 23: The Annual Work Programme for Creative Europe confirmed that there will be no open call for large-scale cooperation projects in 2024, and that open calls will be announced once in every two years.

Open Calls:

Living Spaces: peer-learning visits on architecture and the built environment, second call for participants. Deadline 13 May 2024.

Culture Moves Europe: third call for residency hosts. Deadline 15 May 2024

Culture Moves Europe: Individual Mobility Action 2 Deadline 31 May 2024

Call for applications for the 2030 European Capital of Culture title for cities in EFTA/EEA countries, in candidate countries and in potential candidates for EU membership. Deadline 6 Oct 2024

Forthcoming calls:

The indicative timetable for 2023-2024 calls can be downloaded here.

JPI on Cultural Heritage and Global Change

Open Calls:

There are no open calls.

Forthcoming calls:

There are no forthcoming calls.

Horizon Europe

Horizon Europe is the EU's key funding programme for 2021-27 for research and innovation with a budget of €95.5 billion. It tackles climate change, helps to achieve the UN's Sustainable Development Goals and boosts the EU's competitiveness and growth. The programme facilitates collaboration and strengthens the impact of research and innovation in developing, supporting and implementing EU policies while tackling global challenges. It supports creating and better dispersing of excellent knowledge and technologies, creates jobs, fully engages the EU's talent pool, boosts economic growth, promotes industrial competitiveness and optimises investment impact within a strengthened European Research Area. Legal entities from the EU and associated countries can participate.

The Horizon Europe programme is structured around three pillars, divided into specific subjects: Pillar I: Excellent Science; Pillar II: Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness, including cluster Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society; Pillar III: Innovative Europe. The full programme structure can be found here.

Open Calls:

Science for Community – Building the marine Citizen Science data network of the future to valorise data coming from the ocean and increase engagement
HORIZON-MISS-2024-OCEAN-01-04. Deadline 18 Sept 2024

Forthcoming Calls:

There are no forthcoming calls.

UK participation in Horizon Europe: The UK agreed a deal to associate to Horizon Europe on 7 September 2023. All calls in Work Programme 2024 will be covered by association, and the UK guarantee scheme will be extended to cover all calls under Work Programme 2023. The 'Horizon Europe guarantee' scheme provides funding to researchers and innovators who were unable to receive their Horizon Europe funding while the UK was in the process of associating. UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) is delivering the funding through its grant systems on behalf of the Department for Science, Innovation & Technology (DSIT).

European Research Council

10 Jul 2023: The ERC's 2024 Work Programme was adopted by the European Commission. The plan includes new elements in the assessment of research proposals and candidates' CVs, and in the evaluation process, and introduces lump sum funding in Advanced Grants and makes changes in the structure of evaluation panels. Find out more here.

Open calls:

ERC Proof of concept grants ERC-2024-POC. Deadline **17 Sept 2024**

15 Dec 23: A Common Understanding between the European Commission and the Swiss authorities should pave the way for Switzerland's association to the EU Research and Innovation programme Horizon Europe. Transitional arrangements will allow researchers based in Switzerland once again to be accepted for calls under the ERC's 2024 Work Programme.

Digital Europe

The Digital Europe Programme is the first EU programme that aims to accelerate the recovery and drive the digital transformation of Europe. Worth €7.6 billion, the Programme is a part of the next long-term EU budget, (the Multiannual Financial Framework), covering 2021-2027. It will provide funding for projects in five crucial areas: supercomputing, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, advanced digital skills, and ensuring the wide use of digital technologies across the economy and society. The Digital Europe Programme will complement the funding available through other EU programmes, such as the Horizon Europe programme for research and innovation and the Connecting Europe Facility for digital infrastructure, the Recovery and Resilience Facility and the Structural funds.

Open calls:

There are no open calls with direct cultural heritage relevance.

Forthcoming calls:

Further calls under the 2023-2024 Work Programme will be published later this year.

Post-2020 European Territorial Cooperation Programmes (INTERREG)

Interreg programmes for the 2021-2027 period were agreed in January 2022. Interreg funds projects that bring together policy organisations from across Europe. For four years, they learn from each other and work together on a shared policy issue. The lessons they learn lead to the improvement of regional policies and a more sustainable economic, social and environmental impact on the ground for the people and the place they serve.

Open calls:

The third call for project proposals is open from **20 March to 7 June 2024**.

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

Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV): EU program 2021-2027
CERV - with a budget of around EUR 1.55 billion - consists of four funding areas with the general goal of maintaining and developing open, rights-based, democratic, equal and inclusive societies. The Commission adopted and published Implementing Decision on the financing of the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values programme and the adoption of the work programme for 2023-2024 in Dec 2022.

Open calls:

Call for proposals for Town Twinning (CERV-2024-CITIZENS-TOWN-TT) Deadline 19 September 2024

Migration, de-colonisation and multicultural European societies (CERV-2024-CITIZENS-REM-HISTMIGRATION). Deadline 6 June 2024.

The indicative schedule for 2024 calls can be downloaded here.

Erasmus+

Open Calls:

There are no open calls with direct cultural heritage relevance.

UK participation: The UK has opted not to take part as an associated third country in the Erasmus+ programme 2021-27. All projects in the 2014-2020 programme will continue until their completion on the same basis under which they were selected. A limited number of opportunities from 2021 onwards will remain open to UK participation because they are open to institutions or individuals from all over the world.

Other calls

Call for Applications: Transnational Access Grants
The ATRIUM project invites researchers to apply to participate in Transnational Access training visits to support their research. ATRIUM's Transnational Access (TNA) scheme offers researchers the possibility to apply for a fully funded placement at several different partner organisations to access expert knowledge and advice from leading Data Management organisations across Europe. The TNA scheme

aims to recruit and support approximately 200 Arts and Humanities researchers with mentorship and access to knowledge, data and tools from 14 different institutions across Europe. Researchers who are successful in their applications will be supported to visit the infrastructure providers in our consortium in person, benefiting from direct contact, knowledge sharing and network building. There are two types of types of TNA applications:

- Individual Access – These are individual applications based on a specific research topic proposed by the applicant that match the specialisms of the host organisation.
- Summer School Access – These are fixed events during the year that provide access for a group of researchers based on a set of predetermined specialised topics.

The first collection date is 31 May 2024, and applicants will be notified by 28 June, 2024. Calls for applications will be issued several times per year throughout the duration of the project (March 2024 to December 2028). Individual Access applications will be offered on a rolling basis with a deadline every three months. Summer Schools will be offered 1 to 2 times a year with a fixed deadline 3 to 4 months ahead of the scheduled event.

Call for submissions: Sustainable Cultural Tourism Awards 2024
Mar 24: The theme of the 2024 edition of Destination of Sustainable Cultural Tourism Awards is "European Collaboration for Smart and Sustainable Cultural Tourism Destinations". The Awards will be given to cultural tourist destinations which have produced significant results, such as enhancing the visitor experience, respecting traditions and involving local communities. Applications in 5 categories are open to all tourist destinations across Europe, national, regional and local authorities, tourism boards and associations, destination management organisations, museums, interpretation centres, cultural routes, festivals and cultural NGOs. Apply by 5 June.

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

Helpful Sources on European Funding

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

'How to communicate your project' guide intended for beneficiaries of Erasmus+, European Solidarity Corps and Creative Europe programmes.

Events and Calls for Papers

Registration: 2024 Annual Meeting of the European Association of Archaeologists (EAA)
The 30th EAA Annual Meeting will be held 28-31 August 2023 in Rome, Italy, and online. The concept of the meeting is 'Persisting with Change', and the themes are: the material record; archaeological science, humanities and the digital age; archaeological heritage in society; theory and archaeological scrutiny; all road lead to Rome, multiscalar interactions; the Mediterranean from within; archaeology of sustainability. The EAC is delighted to be chairing a session [592] on Decision-making and Assessing and Articulating Archaeological Significance. List of accepted abstracts is available, and registration is open now.

Webinar: Sharing Local Stories: Digital Transformation in Cultural Heritage
Webinar 17 May, the European Heritage Hub invites participants to discover local good practices on cultural heritage and the digital transformation. Participants will share inspirational stories and practical examples while engaging in a wider conversation on the role of cultural heritage in an urban context.

Webinar: Paradata, metadata and data for 3D acquisition in cultural heritage
Webinar 17 May, organized by UNESCO Chair on Digital Cultural Heritage at Cyprus University of Technology in collaboration with EUreka3D, to discuss the most advanced requirements and cases of the use of paradata and metadata in the digital documentation of the Past in 3D, for enriching 3D assets, creating knowledge and promoting reusability. The webinars are addressed to the Digital Cultural Heritage community to establish a definitive description and differentiation of what paradata and

metadata are, and the benefits they are bringing to the stakeholders, owners, multidisciplinary community and digital scholarship, as well as to the European Commission.

18th annual EHHF meeting
The 18th edition of the Forum is scheduled for May 2024, under the Polish presidency of the Troika. The members will meet in Krakow, Poland, for a meeting whose theme and programme will be announced shortly. Attendance by invitation only.

Europeana Digital Storytelling Festival 2024
Every year, the Europeana Initiative runs the Digital Storytelling Festival. The international event encourages cultural heritage professionals, educators, creatives, and students from Europe and beyond to boost their storytelling skills and tell stories exploring culture. The aim is to inspire participants to create connections between art, culture and history and the contemporary world. Event is online 21-22 May 2024.

2024 European Heritage Days
This year's edition of the European Heritage Days takes place 14-15 Sep 2024.

European Cultural Heritage Summit 2024
8 Apr: The European Cultural Heritage Summit 2024 will take place in Bucharest, Romania, from 6-8 October. This year's Summit is organised by Europa Nostra, in the frame of the network project European Cultural Heritage Agora co-funded by the European Union, in close cooperation with the Romanian cultural heritage organisations and partners.

10th European Conference on Sustainable Cities and Towns
The 10th edition of the ESCT will be hosted by the City of Aalborg (Denmark) on 1-3 October 2024. Over 800 participants from local and regional governments, European and international institutions, multilateral organisations, the research community, businesses, and civil society will be present

Resources and Publications

Please find below a list of publications and resources on culture and cultural heritage related topics that have been published in the past months by EU and Council of Europe organs, UNESCO and European networks and projects.

The European Archaeological Council is pleased to announce the release of a new set of guidelines, designed to support its members and others in the management of archaeological heritage. They are:

The Benefits of Development-led Archaeology (EAC Guidance 4, 2024) and case studies The Benefits of Development-led Archaeology in Europe and Beyond (EAC Guidance 5, 2024)

Revisiting the Valletta Convention for the Digital Age: Position statement on archiving primary archaeological data (EAC Guidance 6, 2024)

The Value of Developing a Research Framework (EAC Guidance 7, 2024)

More guidance will follow later this year.

-

New Challenges: Archaeological Heritage Management and the Archaeology of the 18th to 20th centuries Proceedings of the 2023 EAC Heritage Symposium held in Bonn, Germany (Archaeolingua, 2024)

Archaeological Heritage Management and the Archaeology of the 18th to 20th centuries. EAC symposium proceedings (Internet Archaeology issue 66, 2024)

European Heritage Hub: Policy Review (Oct 23- Feb 24)

The impact of climate change on cultural heritage (EPRS 2024)

Access to archives in the digital age: Implementation of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe Recommendation No. R (2000) 13 on a European policy on access to archives (2024)

Architecture Policies in Europe (Architect's Council of Europe 2024)

REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL pursuant to Article 14(3) of Regulation (EU) 2019/880 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 April 2019 on the introduction and the import of cultural goods (Dec 2023)

European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT) Innovation Guide (2024)

New webpage for the Common European data space for cultural heritage

Other updates

UKRAINE
A wide range of organisations have issued statements and launched initiatives to support Ukraine and its cultural heritage. A (non-exhaustive) list:

- Second phase of Europa Nostra and Global Heritage Fund's crowdfunding campaign to support the defenders of Ukraine's endangered heritage

- Polish Support Center for Culture in Ukraine: the task of the Center is to coordinate support to save the Ukrainian cultural heritage threatened by hostilities.

- The Working Group of the Europeana Initiative is open to anyone who would like to volunteer their efforts to support Ukraine's cultural heritage sector and our Ukrainian colleagues.

- EU supports Ukraine through culture.

- European Parliament: Russia's war on Ukraine's cultural heritage

- Council of Europe: War in Ukraine.

- Statements by UNESCO, ERC Scientific Council, Europa Nostra, ICOMOS, ICOMOS Europe Group, Europeana Foundation, ENCATC, JPI CH, Libraries for Ukraine, EESC

- ICOMOS: Resources for individual Ukrainian professionals, scholars or students in the arts and the heritage field

- Network of European Museum Organisations: Museums support Ukraine- resources.

- Culture Action Europe: #CultureForUkraine- resources

- ERC for Ukraine: jobs for researchers fleeing Ukraine.

- SUM- Save the Ukraine Monuments- project to save digital documentation of Ukrainian cultural heritage.

2024 Annual Meeting of the European Archaeological Council (EAC)
The 25th EAC General Assembly and Heritage Symposium was held on 21-23 March 2024, in Brussels. The event was hosted by Urban.Brussels and was organized within the framework of the Belgian presidency of the Council of the European Union during the first semester of 2024. The theme was 'Urban Archaeology and the Cities of Tomorrow', and a wide range of papers was delivered. Th EAC was also pleased to celebrate its 25th anniversary during the event.

EAA: Benchmarks for Archaeology and Heritage Protection 2024 – 2029
For the second time, the European Association of Archaeologists has compiled "Benchmarks for Archaeology and Heritage Protection". This list comprises the five most pressing topics that fall into the remit of the European Parliament. The political parties running in the EU elections in 2024 will be asked to clarify their position and plan of action regarding these topics to help voters to make an informed decision about whom to vote for.

European Heritage Hub: first policy review
11 Apr: The Policy Team of the European Heritage Hub has published its first Policy Review, based on the findings of the Policy Monitor. Launched in March 2024, the Policy Monitor maps out policies impacting cultural and natural heritage at all levels, aiming to analyse, observe trends, and identify gaps across the policy and regulatory environment. This first review, covering the period Oct 23-Feb 24,

contains a snapshot of the rich policies that have so far been found from 18 countries across the European continent at EU, national and regional level. The information the Policy Team is gathering will serve to draft a series of research publications at the end of the pilot phase of the Hub. For that reason, the scope of the review intentionally takes a more observational and holistic narrative. However, with a preliminary search for information the Policy Team is already beginning to gain a great understanding of the 'policy map' of Europe. In particular, the Policy Team has observed a concentration of Heritage Preservation policies, while those policies relating to the Digital Transition and International Cultural Relations appear more irregularly. Next report expected by May/June 2024.

European Heritage Hub: Innovative cultural heritage/ green/ digital/ social practices in cities across Europe
24 Mar: The [European Heritage Hub](#) has announced the selection of 10 initiatives, aimed at identifying exemplary local practices in the field of cultural heritage that contribute to the green, digital, and social transformation of our society. Running from November 2023 to January 2024, the selection criteria evaluated the alignment of submitted practices with the overarching themes of the Hub project, giving particular attention to the triple transformation concept and the innovative character of the initiatives. This initiative will inform future capacity-building activities of the Hub. In 2024, peer-learning visits, each open to 20 participants, will be held in two cities selected among the 10 winners of the Call. There will be a third visit organised in the Caucasus in 2025.

ARCHE Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda
ARCHE continues its consultation process to guide the new [Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) for cultural heritage](#). It will take over the JPI CH 2020 SRIA and be the masterplan for future research and innovation activities on cultural heritage in Europe, including joint calls. As a strategy document, it shall ensure that ARCHE long-term vision is translated into concrete roadmaps with measurable objectives. To finalise the ARCHE SRIA design, three Stakeholders' workshops will be organised in a physical mode In Apr 24, Florence Sept 2024 and Feb 2025 to launch the SRIA.

ESPON Role of small and medium-sized towns and cities in territorial development and cohesion
Arp 24: [Policy brief and working paper](#) issued emphasising the critical role of small and medium-sized towns and cities in achieving balanced territorial development and fostering economic, social, and territorial cohesion. Through insightful case studies, policy analyses, and strategic recommendations, the publication provides valuable guidance for policymakers and stakeholders. With a focus on achieving strategic transformation, the policy brief aims to position these towns and cities as drivers for regional development. By equipping them with the necessary knowledge and tools, it encourages the implementation of policies that foster growth, resilience, and sustainability, ultimately contributing to a more balanced and inclusive territorial landscape.

ERC Advanced Grants: €652 million for leading researchers in Europe
11 Apr: The European Research Council (ERC) announced the names of 255 outstanding research leaders in Europe set to be awarded [ERC Advanced Grants](#). The new grants, worth in total nearly €652 million, are part of the EU's Horizon Europe programme. Example projects include the University of Burgos 'Biocultural roots of diversity and inequality in Mexico: 500 years of mestizo stories (AdMEXture)' project which will use advanced techniques in the field of bioarcheology to examine human remains.

ARIADNE+: European dendrochronological data added to the Portal
Apr 24: The Digital Collaboratory for Cultural Dendrochronology (DCCD) is a digital repository and interactive library of tree-ring data. Its content is developed through research of, among others: archaeological sites (including old landscapes), ship wrecks, buildings, furniture, paintings, sculptures and musical instruments. The collection which consists of 3,817 records covers datasets mainly from the Netherlands and Brussels but also from the UK, Scandinavia and Spain and eastern Europe. Find out how to [access the collection here](#).

7 Most Endangered Heritage Sites 2024 announced
19 Apr: Europa Nostra announced the list of the 7 most endangered monuments and heritage sites in Europe for 2024, sites in: Roubaix-Tourcoing FR, Cycladic Islands GR, Gessate and Siena IT, Sabac RS, Hatay Province TR. [Full list here](#).

Innovation and Integrity: Museums paving the way in an AI-driven society
20 Mar: Conference facilitated by NEMO to enable discussions with the sector and policy makers on the role, challenges and the potential of museums in an increasingly AI-driven society. The conference closed with the presentation of three recommendations for policymakers aiming to support museums to tap their full potential and to find their role in the rapid development of artificial intelligence (AI): A

clear political vision for museums and cultural heritage in an AI-driven society; Financial investments to apply AI successfully in the Public Cultural Domain; Establishment of a European AI innovation hub for cultural heritage. Summary and presentations here.

Libraries for a Sustainable Future – Manifesto for the 2024 EU Elections
Apr 24: Leading European library associations and organisations have released a manifesto calling on candidates for the European Parliament elections to ensure libraries realise their potential to build a stronger, fairer, more sustainable Europe. Jointly produced by the European Bureau of Library, Information and Documentation Associations (EBLIDA), the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), the Association of European Research Libraries (LIBER), Public Libraries 2030 (PL2030) and National Authorities on Public Libraries in Europe (NAPLE Forum), the manifesto sets out concrete actions that future Members of the European Parliament – as well as the other EU institutions – can take in their areas of competence to realise libraries' potential.

2024 UN Ocean Conference in Barcelona
12 Apr: The conference - co-organized by UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC/UNESCO) - centred around the identification of the future challenges and priorities for ocean knowledge and science. Experts from the ICOMOS International Committee on Underwater Cultural Heritage (ICUCH) attended the conference. Aligned with the objectives of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development 2021-2030, the Side Event "Human Ocean – Where the Past Guides the Future – The Tangible and Intangible Heritage of the Ocean" featured a presentation by ICOMOS ICUCH experts on "Potentials of underwater cultural heritage for science, tourism, and education," and underscored the significance of the ocean's cultural dimension.

Paris 2024 Olympic Torch Relay: a journey through UNESCO World Heritage sites
16 Apr: The lighting of the Olympic flame took place on Tuesday 16 April at the Archaeological Site of Olympia (Greece), inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List in 1989. The flame will then reach Marseille (France) on 8 May before continuing its journey through a number of French regions. This relay, organized by Paris 2024, will pay tribute to cultural and natural heritage, passing through some thirty sites on UNESCO's World Heritage List. The flame will end its journey in Paris on July 26 for an opening ceremony which, for the first time in the history of the modern Olympic Games, will take place within a UNESCO site.

Intangible Cultural Heritage: UK becomes the 183rd State to join UNESCO's Convention
12 Apr: Created in 2003, UNESCO's Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage recognizes traditional craftsmanship, oral traditions and expressions, performing arts, social practices, rituals and festive events, knowledge and practices related to nature and the universe. The UK ratified the convention which will be effective on 7 June 2024. Over the past seven years, the number of ratifications of UNESCO's Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage by Member States has accelerated with 11 additional countries joining the Convention: Angola, Kiribati, Libya, Malta, San Marino, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Suriname, Tuvalu, and the UK.

Bartmann Goes Global - the cultural impact of an iconic object in the early modern period
Feb 24: Over the next three years, a new Anglo-German research project, funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) and the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) will explore the iconic Bartmann jugs made in Germany, and found at archaeological sites across the globe. The team includes researchers based at MOLA (UK), LVR-State Service for Archaeological Heritage in the Rhineland, the LVR-LandesMuseum Bonn, Bonn University, Tübingen University, and external partners in The Netherlands, Sweden and the United States of America. The project will host a crowdsourced website that will enable anyone around the world to report these finds.

In 2024, we will be refreshing the EAC website and European Affairs Update mailing list. If you subscribe to this newsletter that way, you will receive an email asking you to sign up again. We very much hope you will do this!