

European Affairs Update

February 2024



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- [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).

European Union

Belgian presidency of the Council of the EU

1 Jan 24: The [Belgian term takes place January - June 2024](#). Belgium assumes the rotating presidency for the thirteenth time, at a moment when the European Union stands at a crossroads, dealing with the consequences of the Russian illegal aggression in Ukraine, the pandemic, the energy crisis, disinformation, extreme climate events, and a renewed conflict in the Middle East. The Belgian presidency will work towards better protecting European citizens, strengthening cooperation, and preparing a shared future. It will focus on six thematic areas, under the motto 'Protect. Strengthen. Prepare.' and will provide particular attention to maintaining unwavering support to Ukraine. It will support the adoption of the Strategic Agenda 2024-2029 and prepare discussions on the future of the European Union.

10th meeting of the European Commission's Expert Group on Cultural Heritage

4 Dec 23: The Expert Group met online, and [NEMO presented its new research on museums and climate related policies](#). The report supports museums to take political action in the climate crisis and follows up on the findings from NEMO's 2022 research Museums in the climate crisis.

Mental health: cross-sectoral approach to include culture

30 Nov 23: The Council of the EU adopted [Conclusions on mental health](#). The conclusions highlight the importance of addressing mental health and well-being in different contexts in the life course, which benefits both individuals and societies. They recognise the beneficial role of communities, schools, sports and culture in strengthening mental health and life-long mental well-being. The conclusions invite member states to elaborate actions plans or strategies with a cross-sectoral approach to mental health, addressing not only health, but also employment, education, digitalisation and AI, culture, environment and climate factors, among other things.

European Commission commits to a "Youth Check"

10 Jan: the European Commission announced that they will be implementing a "[Youth Check](#)". The "Youth Check" is an initiative aimed at ensuring that EU policies consider the impact on young people during the policy design phase. Its goal is to make sure that the needs and voices of young people are considered across various policy areas. For years, the European Youth Forum has advocated for such a tool to bring young people into the heart of policy making - so that legislation can finally be designed with young people and future generations in mind. This development has been made possible through support from the Council of the EU, the Committee of the Regions and the European Economic and Social Committee - all of which have also called for the implementation of this tool at EU level.

A European approach to artificial intelligence

Jan 2024: [the Commission adopted the AI@EC Communication](#), outlining strategies for improving the Commission's own capabilities in the field of Artificial Intelligence (AI) while emphasizing the importance of safe, transparent, and human-centered use of AI technologies. The guidance (included in the Communication), encourages the Commission to internally adapt, innovate, and adopt AI early on to set an example of best practices. Maximising resources and coordinating investments is a critical component of AI excellence. Both the Horizon Europe and Digital Europe programmes will invest €1 billion per year in AI. The Commission will also mobilise additional investments from the private sector and the Member States in order to reach an annual investment volume of €20 billion over the course of the digital decade. The Recovery and Resilience Facility makes €134 billion available for digital. This will be a game-changer, allowing Europe to amplify its ambitions and become a global leader in developing cutting-edge, trustworthy AI.

EU budget 2025-7: proposal for cuts to Multiannual Financial Framework leaked

Nov 2023: EU Member States ambassadors discussed a new budget proposal made by the Spanish Presidency for the remaining 2025-2027 period of the current Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF). The working document outlined three scenarios for cutting EU funding for 2025-7, including one that suggests a cut as high as 13.5%. If agreed to by the member states and subsequently by the European Parliament, this could cost EU researchers as much as €5.3 billion in the worst case and €1.3 billion in the smallest proposed cut is applied. While Horizon Europe would be in line for the biggest cut, other research-related programmes, such as Erasmus+, EU4Health and Digital Europe, would also see cuts as high as 13.5%. Find out more [here](#).

Council of Europe

Steering Committee for Culture, Heritage and Landscape (CDCPP)

The [12th session](#) was held 15-17 November 2023 in Strasbourg. It included a thematic session on the specific role of culture, heritage and landscape in giving children and young people the necessary references, such as mutual understanding, respect, solidarity, a sense of history, etc to promote positive creativity that will help counter violence or destruction. The thematic session focused in particular on the following issues: The importance of cultural literacy – why and how; Formal education as a common basis – opportunities and intrinsic limits (national core curricula, qualification requirements, teachers' competences); Exploring alternative non-formal approaches (hobbies and leisure activities, lifelong learning for all ages, digital engagement, ...); Cultural services – their role in relation to access to information, preserving mental wellbeing and participation in society.

The Netherlands signs the Faro Convention

10 Jan: In the presence of the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe, the Permanent Representative of Netherlands to the Council of Europe [signed the Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society](#) (also known as the Faro Convention). This latest signature brings the total number of signatures to 5, in addition to the 24 member States that have ratified the Convention. The Netherlands' signature should further encourage citizen engagement in cultural heritage governance and the development of new bottom-up initiatives in this domain, such as the initiatives that already form part of the Dutch Cultural Heritage Agency's ongoing Faro programme.

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:

[European Networks of Cultural and Creative Organisations](#) (CREA-CULT-2024-NET)

Deadline: **07 March 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 (all deadline 7 Feb 2024):

Europe's cultural heritage and arts – promoting our values at home and abroad [HORIZON-CL2-2024-HERITAGE-01-04](#).

Cultural and creative industries for a sustainable climate transition [HORIZON-CL2-2024-HERITAGE-01-02](#).

Leverage the digital transition for competitive European cultural and creative industries [HORIZON-CL2-2024-HERITAGE-01-03](#).

New European Bauhaus – Innovative solutions for greener and fairer ways of life through arts and culture, architecture and design for all [HORIZON-CL2-2024-HERITAGE-01-01](#).

Culture, the arts and cultural spaces for democratic participation and political expression, online and offline [HORIZON-CL2-2024-DEMOCRACY-01-08](#).

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](#). Deadlines **14 March & 17 Sept 2024**

[ERC Public Engagement with Research Award \(ERC-2024-PERA\)](#). Deadline **21 Feb 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.

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:

There are no open calls.

Forthcoming calls:

The [third call](#) for project proposals will be 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:

The indicative schedule for 2024 calls can be downloaded [here](#).

Erasmus+

Open Calls:

[ERASMUS-EDU-2024-EUR-UNIV-2](#) European Universities- Community of practice. Deadline **6 February 2024**.

[ERASMUS-EDU-2024-EUR-UNIV-1](#) European Universities- Development of deep institutional transnational cooperation. Deadline **6 February 2024**.

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 submissions: 2024 European Heritage Days Stories

The [call for European Heritage Days Stories](#) is an initiative designed to spotlight the narratives behind European Heritage Days events. It provides a platform for passionate individuals, organizations, and associations to share their stories. Applicants must have hosted or organized at least one European Heritage Days event between 15 August 2020 and 29 October 2023. Call closes 15 March 2024. European Heritage Days is a joint initiative of the European Commission and the Council of Europe, running since 1999. They are the most widely celebrated participatory cultural events shared by people living in Europe. This year's edition takes place 14-15 Sep 2024.

Consultation: ARCHE Vision and Mission survey

The objective of the Alliance for Research on Cultural Heritage in Europe project (ARCHE) is to engage all cultural heritage actors in member States / Associated Countries in the co-design of research and innovation strategies and roadmaps that lead to research and innovation initiatives requiring multidisciplinary approaches and skills. [ARCHE has started a consultation process](#) on the Vision and Mission to guide the new Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) for cultural heritage. The SRIA aims at guiding policy coordination across Europe, as well as the priorities for future calls for project proposals within the Alliance, hence it is crucial for it to be as representative as possible and for the consultation process to include all relevant stakeholder categories. Open until 4 Feb 2024.

Call for submissions: Targeted Analyses for the ESPON Programme 2030

2 Oct: Since 2007, [ESPON Targeted Analyses](#) has been supporting territorial development processes at local, regional and national levels in Europe by bringing together policy makers who share the same kinds of challenges and who are looking for new territorial evidence and a European perspective. Applying sound methodologies and providing scientific expertise, ESPON Targeted Analyses deliver demand-driven and tailor-made analytical studies in support of territorial decision-making. The third round of submissions is open until [29 Mar 2024](#).

2024 Young European Heritage competition announced

15 May: [Young European Heritage Makers](#) is a competition for the young people of Europe, part of the European Heritage Days. It is an opportunity for them to explore their surroundings, learn about their local tangible and intangible cultural heritage and share a story of Europe. The competition is open to entries [1 Sep 2023 – 28 Feb 2024](#).

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 Archaeological Council (EAC)

The [25th EAC General Assembly and Heritage Symposium](#) will be held on 21-23 March 2024, in Brussels. The theme is 'Urban Archaeology and the Cities of Tomorrow'. The event is hosted by Urban.Brussels and is organized within the framework of the Belgian presidency of the Council of the European Union during the first semester of 2024. Registration is open until 6 Feb 2024.

Call for papers: 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. Call for papers open until 8 February, and registration is open now.

Call for nominations: EAA election 2024

The EAA Nomination Committee would like to invite you to consider nominating yourself or a colleague for one of the [open positions in the 2024 EAA election](#). Use the link to view the chart which shows the current composition of the EAA Executive Board and Nomination Committee – positions that will become vacant for the election in 2024 include the Treasurer (to be elected for term 2024-2025, to complete the original term of Esa Mikkola (2019-2025), who resigned last year), two Ordinary Executive Board Members and a Nomination Committee Member. Completed nominations must be received at the EAA Secretariat [before 2 April 2024](#) in order to be considered in the nomination process.

Call for papers: Special Issue of International Journal of Heritage Studies

The special issue of the [International Journal of Heritage Studies](#) focuses on interdisciplinary heritage science and targets the question how demographic instability – mainly depopulation – affects cultural transmission, and considers means for the safeguarding cultural heritage. The main theme of the call is the relationship between demographic trends and intangible cultural heritage in regions threatened by depopulation, with special emphasis on its sustainability. Call closes [31 March 2024](#).

Registration is open for Europe, let's cooperate! 2024

The 10th edition of Europe, let's cooperate interregional cooperation forum takes place on 20-21 March 2024 in Antwerp, Belgium. This year, [Europe, let's cooperate!](#) brings together people from all across Europe to discover how to benefit from interregional cooperation and launch the third call of project proposals. Registration is open until 5 March 2024.

Registration: European Citizen Science Association 2024 conference

The European Citizen Science Association (ECSA) will host its [5th conference in Vienna. 3-6 April 2024](#). The conference will focus on the motto 'Change', reflecting the current era of rapid transformations on multiple levels. The aim of the event is to address different approaches to change from all kinds of perspectives within the realm of citizen science and participatory research. This includes discussions and networking opportunities for citizen science practitioners, researchers, activists, scientists, policymakers, artists, and more. The event will highlight the potential of citizen science as a catalyst for change in both research and society, emphasizing its role as a valuable tool to navigate ongoing transformations. Registration is open until March 15, 2024.

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

Registration: Summit on Safeguarding Cultural Heritage in a Changing World

TEFAF (The European Fine Art Foundation) will hold its [inaugural summit](#) during the TEFAF Maastricht fair. The event is hosted in association with the Netherlands Commission for UNESCO on 11 Mar 2024. As a platform for meaningful discourse and collaboration, the TEFAF Summit seeks to raise awareness and promote actionable solutions towards safeguarding our world's invaluable cultural treasures and heritage. It will feature critical discussions hosted by various partner organizations, including the Netherlands Commission for UNESCO, Cultural Emergency Response, and the World Monuments Fund.

32nd EBLIDA Conference: Charting the future of libraries/ Staffing the library of the future

Due to economic challenges, demographic changes, developments within the information society – in social media and in artificial intelligence- and the threats to democracy, the needs of citizens and of society are changing in an unprecedented speed and direction. Libraries – as always – try to adjust to the needs of the community they serve. Looking back, the changes in libraries in the past decades have been enormous, transformative and are reflective of a strong and flexible profession. It is no longer the case that training in library academies sufficiently prepares students for the profession at hand. The speed of change has surpassed the time needed to prepare traditional curricula and execute training programs. Training programs in library academies therefore lag behind the demands of the sector. It is our aspiration that the conference will lead to new initiatives for exchange and cooperation to the benefit of the future of libraries in Europe. [The EBLIDA conference](#) takes place in Lisbon April 9-10, 2024, early bird registration until 11 Feb.

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 Archaeologist](#) EAA Issue 79 - Winter 2024

Aspöck, E and Julian D. Richards, JD (eds) '[International Data Aggregation for Archaeological Research and Heritage Management: the ARIADNE experience](#)' *Internet Archaeology*: Issue 64 (2023)

[Museums, Climate and Politics: taking political action in the sustainable transition](#) Network of European Museum Organisations (2023)

[Catalogue of good examples of cities and regions driving high-quality architecture](#) EU (2023)

[EU Factsheet: Culture](#) EU (2024)

[Strategic Plan: Artificial Intelligence in the European Commission \(AI@EC\) Communication](#) EU (2024)

[Youth for the future of cultural heritage in Europe: position paper](#) The Future is Heritage (2023)

[Enhancing our heritage toolkit 2.0: assessing management effectiveness of World Heritage properties and other heritage places](#). Manual. UNESCO & ICCROM & ICOMOS & IUCN (2023)

Czech Translation of [EBLIDA Recommendations on Library Legislation and Policy in Europe](#) EBLIDA (2023)

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.

Experts to draft recommendations to safeguard cultural heritage in Ukraine

22 Jan: The European Commission's [expert sub-group dedicated to the safeguarding of cultural heritage in Ukraine](#) met at the end of January following their previous meetings in June and September 2023. Their goal is to draft policy recommendations for the reconstruction of cultural heritage in Ukraine, focusing on recommendations on the following priority areas: risk management; recognition of cultural heritage; documentation, monitoring and data collection; recovery. The meeting was the occasion for the group to update their draft recommendations and identify additional priority areas for reflection.

UNESCO trains military personnel from the Baltic region in cultural property protection

31 Jan: Civil and military personnel from Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania attended [a workshop organized by UNESCO](#) from 9 to 11 January 2024 in Estonia. The unique UNESCO modules, delivered by international experts, covered a range of subjects including the rules and innovative approaches to the protection of cultural property in the event of conflict. The 23 participants also learned about the international legal obligations stipulated in the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and its two Protocols (1954 and 1999).

'Group of Friends of Culture-Based Climate Action' launched at COP 28 in response to Global Campaign by Cultural Voices

9 Dec 23: Over 30 Ministers or government representatives and a large delegation of committed cultural advocates from across the Globe attended the inaugural meeting of recognising the key role of culture for transformative climate action. One month after the launch of the [Global Call to put Culture at the Heart of Climate Action](#), the first ministerial meeting on this topic was convened and chaired by the Ministers of Culture of the UAE and Brazil. More than 30 governments were represented as well as key intergovernmental organisations: UNESCO, ALECSO; ICESCO and the European Union represented by the European Commission. Find out more [here](#).

40 EU cities come together to call for an ambitious future EU urban policy

24 Jan: 40 of Europe's biggest cities took part in a high-level event discussing the future of the EU urban policy. The conclusions of the discussions were captured in the "[Brussels Declaration of European Mayors](#)" to advance "a European urban policy fit for the future". Through six recommendations to EU and national decision makers, the declaration aims to set the groundwork for an ambitious European urban policy in the next European political mandate 2024-2029. These include, amongst others,

recommendations for establishing a more binding dialogue and involvement of local governments at the European level; deeper integration of urban matters at the European level; more accessible and urban-friendly EU funding and regulations. Culture and heritage are not mentioned.

Eurocities: the role of culture in shaping a better Europe

18 Jan: Ahead of the EU elections, in the '[A better Europe starts in cities' Eurocities manifesto](#), local governments are asking the EU to increase targets set for the Green Deal: "at least a 90% net reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2040". Culture can be often overlooked, yet it has a significant impact on our environment and sustainable initiatives can make a difference. Findings from the '[Greening the Creative Europe Programme' report published by the European Commission](#) suggest several opportunities for the Creative Europe Programme to enhance its contribution to climate, biodiversity mainstreaming, and behavioural change. For example, creative and cultural content can drive change towards a more environmentally responsible society. Find out more [here](#).

SHADE COST Innovators Grant Kick-off Meeting, Brussels

1 Dec: The [SHADE COST Innovators Grant kick-off meeting](#) was held in Brussels to start the planning process for the future of the ARIADNE AISBL. Membership, costs, training and data aggregation were discussed. One aim is to extend the range of data types in the Portal, e.g. audio data and 3D and to use text enhancement and extraction so that journal articles, for examples, can be linked to datasets. A national workshop is being organised in Greece in Spring 2024 to encourage organisations there to open up their data. Liaison with the European Archaeological Council is important for ARIADNE as members consist of Heritage Managers from key organisations. The current EAC Archives Working Group will publish their results in March 2024 when their annual conference is being held in Brussels.

New round of project ideas selected under European Spaces of Culture

24 Jan: 35 countries around the world responded enthusiastically to the new Call for Ideas launched by EUNIC to identify innovative projects designed to bring a novel approach on cultural relations between European and local organizations in countries outside the EU. The European Spaces of Culture jury convened selected 8 ambitious cultural relations project ideas for implementation between June 2024 – October 2025. Find the full list [here](#).

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.

Position Paper - Youth For the Future of Cultural Heritage in Europe

[The Future is Heritage](#) is an international network and platform that aims to strengthen the position of young people working in the heritage field throughout Europe by initiative of Dutch regional heritage organisation Erfgoed Brabant. The network has its basis in the collaboration between both young and established professionals in the cultural heritage field, in order to initiate an international and intergenerational dialogue and collaboration. [This position paper](#) is the result of a large collaboration by ESACH, Europa Nostra and The Future is Heritage, written by a team of volunteers from over 15 countries and supported by various networks and partners. The position paper puts into words the youth's vision for the sustainable future of cultural heritage. At the same time, the paper invites the cultural heritage field to act on youth priorities and fully integrate young people on all levels, from decision-making, to on-the-ground actions.

7 Most Endangered Programme 2024 shortlist

30 Jan: The monuments and heritage sites in Europe shortlisted for this year's edition of the 7 Most Endangered Programme were announced, they include sites in Albania, Armenia, Belgium, France, Greece, Italy, Poland, Serbia and Türkiye. Full list [here](#).

Be.CULTOUR project finale: Stories of Action Plans' post-project sustainability

The Be.CULTOUR project aims to promote sustainability and circular practices in the cultural tourism sector through the implementation of six Action Plans. These actions focus on various innovation areas and emerging trends identified by the project, with each action targeting different aspects of circular and responsible tourism in remote cultural heritage sites. As the Be.CULTOUR project nears its completion, [stories are being collected to ensure its post-project sustainability](#) and the long-term implementation of the Action Plans. These stories will serve as a source of inspiration and knowledge for individuals and organisations interested in similar cultural tourism initiatives. By sharing experiences, anecdotes, and memories related to cultural tourism, sustainable practices, community engagement, and the implementation of the Action Plans, stakeholders will contribute to shaping the future of cultural tourism and ensuring its positive impact on communities.

AURORA, ANCHISE and ENIGMA Project Innovations at European Commission Presentation

1 Dec 23: The [AURORA, ANCHISE and ENIGMA projects presented to the European Commission](#) DG RTD. AURORA's Coordinator underscored the project's commitment to preserving and protecting Cultural Heritage through the convergence of blockchain, advanced nanomaterial research, pioneering miniaturized devices, and artificial intelligence. This pivotal opportunity allowed for an insightful discussion on current and future threats to cultural heritage. The session became a forum for sharing novel ideas and synergic strategies to counter these challenges effectively.

Religious Heritage Innovator of the Year 2023

18 Dec 23: The [2023 edition of the annual award](#) recognising the best European projects to protect, enhance and promote our historic places of worship ran from 28 June to 30 November 2023. The winners were evaluated based on the five pillars of the European Commission's Framework for Action for Cultural Heritage: cooperation, innovation, inclusion, resilience and sustainability. The overall winner was the York Minster Precinct Neighbourhood Plan by the Chapter of York (UK). The award ceremony of the Religious Heritage Innovator of the Year will take place in the context of the 2024 FRH Conference (22-24 September in Krakow, Poland).

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!