European Cultural Heritage Year 2018

Information on Project Status
March 2017

Europe's cultural heritage is an essential part of our common European as well as local identity. Its preservation and promotion is our permanent task. The European Cultural Heritage Year 2018 shall provide a significant impetus in this regard.

On 9th February 2017 provisional agreement on a decision establishing a European Year of Cultural Heritage was reached by the Representatives of the the EU Council of Ministers, and the European Parliament. During March the proposal will be submitted for formal agreement to the Parliament and the Council. On 22nd November 2016, the EU Council of Ministers for Culture already agreed on a draft resolution, based on the legislative proposal by the European Commission from 30th August. The resolution will soon be passed in the trialogue procedure. This decision had been preceded by numerous supportive initiatives by the EU Council of Ministers, the European Parliament as well as by the Council of Europe. By reallocation of budgetary resources the Year shall be supported with 8 million Euros.

The legislative proposal stresses a thematically broad and integrative approach, including all aspects of cultural heritage. As a primary objective of the European Year it is noted: to encourage the sharing and appreciation of Europe's cultural heritage, to raise awareness of common history and values, and to reinforce a sense of belonging to a common European space.

“SHARING HERITAGE”

The concept paper “Sharing Heritage” has served as an essential reference. It was drafted by the Reflection Group “EU and Cultural Heritage” and presented in Berlin on 13 November 2015.

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iii https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regdoc/rep/1/2016/EN/1-2016-543-EN-F1-1.PDF


meeting---brussels,-25-november-2014/.


vi https://rm.coe.int/CoERMPublicCommonSearchServices/DisplayDCTMContent?documentid=090000168029a59
Summary of the concept paper “Sharing Heritage”

The aim of the European Cultural Heritage Year is to share our common cultural heritage and its potential for identification, participation and development with each other in the light of a heterogeneous European social structure and against the background of current political, social and economic challenges. It is the best witness to Europe’s rich history, which has been strongly influenced by values such as diversity, tolerance and intercultural dialogue. The European Cultural Heritage Year builds in particular upon the fact that our shared cultural heritage is always both local and European. The European Year highlights this dimension and uses it to respond to current challenges. It also builds on new opportunities to preserve and develop cultural heritage while underscoring the need to do so, because our cultural heritage is an essential, unique, irreplaceable part of Europe’s social and economic potential which is closely tied to many other areas and is thus the foundation of our shared development in Europe.

The European Year is intended to reach the entire spectrum of society. 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, also using the new possibilities offered by digitization. Discovering and understanding Europe’s cultural diversity and non-European links improves our shared dialogue; and cultural orientation and recognizing the value of one’s own cultural heritage promotes acceptance of the cultural identities of others.

The European Year will provide the opportunity for a comprehensive exchange among European partners at all levels. The European Year will be organized by the European Union in cooperation with the Council of Europe. All European countries that are not member states of the European Union as well as all political, professional, social and regional institutions and civil society will be invited to become actively involved, especially via participatory procedures.

The European Year will include all forms of cultural heritage – tangible, intangible and digital – in cooperation with the public and private institutions where they are kept, looked after and promoted: museums, memorial sites, archives, libraries, private collections, associations, etc. Archaeological and built heritage can serve as a starting point, because it is the most visible expression of our shared European cultural history, one that we see every day. Other forms of tangible and intangible cultural heritage can also be included, as the various forms of cultural heritage best illuminate each other. The European Year will also highlight the many connections between cultural heritage and other areas such as research and development, education, cultural and creative industries, tourism and nature conservation as well as regional and rural development.

Find the complete concept paper on www.sharingheritage.eu

Preparations in Germany

In March 2015, the Federal Government and the German federal states agreed to support the initiative for a European Cultural Heritage Year. In doing so, they are following the German Cultural Heritage Committee (DNK) who launched an initiative in 2013 having since, spearheaded it in Germany. A national programme advisory board, whose inaugural meeting took place in June 2015, was set up for content preparation.

The advisory board is currently working with the Federal Government, the federal states and the municipalities to develop a structure for formats and funding. Simultaneously, an increasing number of institutions and associations are beginning to develop their own ideas and projects. On 20th March 2017 a “Call for Participation” will be announced through the press by Chancellery Minister of State Prof. Monika Grütters, MdB and the President of the DNK, Minister Dr. Martina Münch.

The Federal Government is providing 3.6 million Euros for the preparation of the German contri-
bution as well as for initial projects beginning in 2017\textsuperscript{vii}. Funding structures are currently being established.

For Germany the archaeological and built heritage serves as a starting point. Special consideration will be given to projects that show how additional forms of tangible and intangible cultural heritage can be integrated. Five themes illustrate key aspects of the European Cultural Heritage Year:

Europe has always been characterized by an exchange of goods as well as cultural practices or intellectual ideas; this exchange took place within Europe and beyond Europe's borders and still takes place today. Archaeological evidence, buildings and many other forms of cultural heritage are the witnesses. Taking these as point of origin, \textbf{Theme 1 - Europe: Exchange and movement} asks of the importance and significance of Europe's common routes, paths and axes.

On one hand, borders are a sign of division, on the other hand, this never really holds true - rather, boards are at different levels open to trade as well as cultural transfers. For this reason, border regions have their own character that has shaped them as special European cultural landscapes and that has a connective effect today. This connective aspect is the starting point for \textbf{Theme 2 - Europe: Border and encounter regions}.

\textbf{Theme 3 - The European city} puts at its heart the city, which is a central element of our common European cultural heritage and presence and manifestation of history. As the European city is a permanent cultural melting pot and home for the majority of the European population, it offers a special opportunity to discuss the role of cultural heritage in the face of current social and political challenges.

2018 is also marked by the memory of European wars and peace agreements. \textbf{Theme 4} recalls reasons and wounds of the European wars, their paths to peace as well as the subsequent peaceful departure with its associated hopes. Common European as well as local perspectives of remembrance and changes of perspectives of remembrance are the focus of projects; motto of theme is \textbf{Europe: Remembrance and new starts}.

Europe's rich intellectual and social history with its many common antique and humanist roots is reflected in various forms of our cultural heritage. Networks for preserving and giving source of and also exchanging and sharing such cultural heritage are the common ground for \textbf{Theme 5} with the title \textbf{Europe: Heritage lived}. It is the search for our common European identity and European values such as diversity, tolerance and intercultural dialogue in Europe’s cultural heritage.

In accord with the Year’s objective of supporting identification with heritage and a readiness to preserve it as well as promoting its perception as part of a common, cross-cultural European heritage, projects addressing relevant criteria are to be supported. Possible activities take in cross-regional and/or intercultural approaches, a communicative dimension taking into account ongoing digitalisation, opportunities for exchange on different way to access the topic of heritage, opportunities for an exchange of experiences, civic involvement as well as the Year’s relevance to current social and political opportunities and challenges.

A key element of the European Year will be the platform „Sharing Heritage“. It is considered as an information and participation forum for the entire society. It is here, where ideas, approaches and formats should be shared, where a substantive exchange takes place and where the enthusiasm for the Year is reflected. From summer 2017 projects in Germany can be posted on the platform as activities of the European Cultural Heritage Year. Entries can already be sent to contact@sharingheritage.eu.

A main focus should be laid on children and youth mediation work. This is a universal task that should be followed across all themes.

All planned activities should have the potential to continue beyond 2018 or have a longer-reaching effect. Existing projects are to be further qualified, new ones to be initiated.
The appointment of a number of ambassadors is in preparation. They will be the faces and voices of the European Cultural Year, lending their name to promote its objectives.

In December 2016, Germany has appointed the first ambassadors for the year. Their faces and voices are meant to represent the year and its intentions, their different backgrounds mirror the diversity of Europe’s cultural heritage. Already appointed ambassadors are:

- Sir David Chipperfield, Architect
- Prof. Dr. Dr. hc. mult. Hermann Parzinger, President of the Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation
- Prof. Dr.-Ing. Dr. Sabine Kunst, President of the Humboldt University Berlin
- Janne Teller, Writer and member of the jury of the Peace Prize of the German Book Trade
- Harald Haugaard with folkBALTICA and Helene Blum, Musician

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**Intended Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>March 2017</th>
<th>Formal agreement on provisional resolution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20th March 2017</td>
<td>“Call for Participation”, presentation will be open to the press</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer 2017</td>
<td>Launch of the platform “Sharing Heritage”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Preparations and start of initial projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>European Cultural Heritage Year “Sharing Heritage”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The website [www.sharingheritage.eu](http://www.sharingheritage.eu) provides up-to-date news, contents and voices about the year.

Subscribe to our newsletter: contact@sharingheritage.eu

German Cultural Heritage Committee ([www.dnk.de](http://www.dnk.de))