

EUROPEAN INITIATIVE no 4:

Heritage in transition: re-imagining industrial, religious and military spaces for the regeneration of urban and rural areas



SUSTAINABILITY PILLAR

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WHY? - Objectives

The European Year is an invitation to "encourage synergies between cultural heritage and environment policies by integrating cultural heritage into **environmental, architectural and planning policies**".¹

This initiative aims at promoting smart ways and good practice to transform Europe's **industrial, religious** and **military** heritage for new use(r)s and to turn it into a driver of economic and social development for European cities and regions.

With the evolution of European societies, a lot industrial, religious and military heritage have lost their original function. Yet through **smart restoration, renovation or transformation**, these buildings and sites can find new, mixed or extended uses. As a result, their social and economic value increases, while their cultural or historical significance is respected. Once they are transformed into "third places"², cultural venues or attractions for tourists, these sites bring economic and social dynamism in cities and regions where they belong. The regeneration of industrial, religious and military heritage for new uses is a clear contribution to the Sustainable development objectives of the EU and this initiative is therefore to be seen in the wider context of the EU Regional Policy and Urban Agenda.

FOR WHOM? - Target groups

Local and regional policy-makers, heritage professionals and architects.

WHAT? - Content of the initiative

The initiative will have three main components running concomitantly:

Component I – Exchange of good practice

The initiative will identify and showcase successful re-use of industrial, religious and military heritage so as to sensitize local/regional authorities to their cultural, social and economic benefits. Creative Europe- funded networks (ERIH - European Routes for Industrial Heritage, FRH - Future for Religious Heritage and ACE - Architects' Council of Europe) as well as ICOMOS committees (IcoFort on military heritage and PRERICO on places of religion and rituals) will organise **conferences to share experience and discuss reuse challenges**. The relevant EU Prizes for Cultural Heritage

¹ Decision (EU) 2017/864, Art. 2 specific objective 2(f)

² 'Third places' are meeting places and open spaces for cooperation and connections where citizens meet and interact. Such places can be cultural centres, libraries or other open spaces.

(Europa Nostra) and Contemporary Architecture (Mies van der Rohe Foundation) will also contribute with awarded good examples.

Timeline:

- 9 March 2018 Conference on Urban Regeneration and Adaptive Reuse, Dublin
- 25-26 April 2018 Conference on ecclesiastical heritage and its future challenges, Lund (SE)
- 11-13 October 2018 Future for Religious Heritage's biennial conference on religious heritage, Paris
- 1 December 2018 Architects' Council of Europe conference on cultural heritage, the Netherlands (city tbc)

Component II - Engagement

To promote the discovery, enjoyment and reuse of industrial heritage, the **Work it out! Dance event** with young people will be organised in ERIH sites on 1 May 2018. Thousands of young people will dance simultaneously at about 100 ERIH sites. The aim will be celebrating industrial monuments and museums throughout Europe. **E-Faith** (European industrial and technical heritage volunteers and voluntary associations) will launch a campaign for cross-border twinning between associations and dedicate their monthly activities of October 2018 to Adaptive re-use. FRH's **Torch Initiative** will collect personal stories related to religious heritage and travel throughout Europe; they will also organise a Photo Walk.

Timeline:

- 8 January 2018 Kick-off ceremony of FRH's Torch initiative in Leeuwarden
- 1 May 2018 Work it out! A pan-European dance performance of young people dancing together at about 100 ERIH sites to the Beethoven's Ode to Joy
- 24-27 May 2018 Open doors days for private chapels throughout Europe
- October 2018 E-Faith activities dedicated to adaptive re-use
- 11-13 October 2018 Arrival of the Torch at FRH's conference on religious heritage, Paris

Component III – Urban/rural regeneration and sustainable development

A number of URBACT/INTERREG/Horizon 2020 projects focus on the issue of adaptive reuse and show the positive impact it can have on the revival and socio-economic development of the surrounding areas. The **Horizon 2020 project ROCK³** will, for example, develop an innovative, collaborative and circular systemic approach for regeneration and adaptive reuse of historic city centres. ERIH will carry out a survey on the **economic impact of reuse** and FRH participates in Erasmus+ project EuropeTour, which will result in 8 toolkits on rural tourism.

The role of architects is key to rehabilitate, enhance and retro-fit heritage buildings. Environmental issues such as the increased safety and energy-efficiency of retro-fitted buildings as opposed to the negative **environmental impact** of destructions will also be addressed: they can be determining factors for the sustainable development of our cities and regions.

Local and regional decision-makers will be reached through Eurocities (who led the EU project on "[Culture for Cities and Regions](#)"), the Committee of Regions, the Urban Group of the Parliament and partners of H2020 and EU Regional Funds projects.

Timeline:

- Throughout 2018
- 3 major URBACT projects on vacant or abandoned military spaces will deliver their results in May 2018

³ <https://rockproject.eu/>

WHEN? - Key Events

8 January 2018	Kick-off ceremony of FRH's Torch initiative in Leeuwarden, European Capital of Culture 2018
8-9 March 2018	Meeting of European Directors of Architecture and Conference on Urban Regeneration and Adaptive Reuse, Dublin
1 May 2018	Work it out! A pan-European dance performance of young people dancing together at about 100 ERIH sites to Beethoven's Ode to Joy
24-27 May 2018	Open doors days for private chapels throughout Europe
September 2018	Young Talent Architecture Award (YTAA) ceremony at La Biennale di Venezia (Architecture)
11-13 October 2018	FRH's biennial conference on religious heritage, Paris
1 December 2018	ACE conference on cultural heritage, NL (city tbc)

PARTNERS:

- In the Commission, services dealing with culture, regional development and research and innovation will play a key role.
- Urban Group of the European Parliament, Committee of Regions;
- Eurocities
- ICOMOS Committees: IcoFort (on military heritage), PRERICO (on places of religion and rituals)
- Creative Europe-funded Networks: ERIH (industrial), FRH (religious), ACE (architects)
- EU Prizes: Foundation Mies van der Rohe (Architecture), Europa Nostra (Heritage)
- E-Faith (voluntary association for industrial heritage)