

EUROPEAN INITIATIVE no 6:

Cherishing heritage: developing quality standards for intervention on cultural heritage



PROTECTION PILLAR

Draft version 06/12

WHY? - Objectives

The objective of the European Year is to 'promote **debate, research** and the **exchange** of good practices on the **quality of conservation, safeguarding**, innovative **re-use** and enhancement of cultural heritage, and on **contemporary interventions** in the historical environment'.¹

By intervention on cultural heritage it is intended any action which impact, or have potential to impact, upon structures, places or sites of heritage interest, causing any physical change or alteration.

Ensuring that Europe's cultural heritage is safeguarded and enhanced is a priority both for the EU and its Member States. The EU supports cultural heritage through several programmes and actions, including Creative Europe, Erasmus + Horizon 2020, COSME and the Cohesion Funds. But investments can also put heritage in danger, especially when, in the attempt to give heritage sites and buildings a "second life", issues of **reconstruction** and **authenticity** are not properly addressed, wiping off centuries of history and cultural values.

The European Parliament raised this issue in its Resolution of September 2018, urging the Commission to "include in the guidelines governing the next generation of structural funds for cultural heritage a compulsory quality control system, to apply throughout a project's life-cycle"².

This initiative aims at finding the right **balance** between on the one hand **quality in conservation** and safeguarding, and on the other hand **dynamic approaches** to restoration and maintenance, innovative re-use and enhancement of cultural heritage.

FOR WHOM? - Target groups

Policy makers, cultural heritage professionals, heritage organisations, civil society.

WHAT? - Content of the initiative

The initiative will have two main components:

Component I – Research and sharing good practice

¹ Decision (EU) 2017/864, Art. 3 specific objective 2(c)

² <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P8-TA-2015-0293+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN>

NB: This project is still under preparation.

Building on the "Venice Charter", the most influential document on conservation since 1964, an expert group coordinated by ICOMOS (see box below), would produce an updated document on quality standards for cultural heritage interventions in Europe, in order to ensure that decisions on any major changes in the historical environment are based on proper assessment of its values.. Within the Commission, services dealing with regional and urban policy, as well as research and innovation, would provide important input to the initiative and have a key consulting role.

A workshop (50-60 participants) should be held in the first months of 2018 to feed the work of the group with lessons from practical examples/cases of good and bad practices in interventions on heritage through EU funds.

Component II – Consultation and consensus building.

NB: Still under preparation.

The Commission plans to consult an enlarged group of key stakeholders (Including UNESCO, ICCROM, ICOM and Europa Nostra and other members of the EYCH Stakeholders Committee) in order to build broad consensus on key quality principles for interventions on cultural heritage.

The final document, with shared principles, would be discussed and validated in a final Conference by September 2018. A conference, to be held in the autumn 2018 (Venice tbc) would gather decision makers, national administrations, stakeholders and professionals.

The results would guide future discussion on the use of EU funds for interventions on cultural heritage preservation and conservation, and possibly be mentioned in next regulations. Links with the work of the Technical Committee on European standards for cultural heritage CEN/TC3463 of the European committee for standardisation will be ensured.

Timeline (tbc):

- Spring to Autumn 2018 Consultations with stakeholders and consensus building
- 26-27 March 2018 Discussion at the Bulgarian Presidency Conference on cultural heritage in Plovdiv ("Cultural heritage: for a more reliable Europe").
- 18-24 June 2018 – Discussion at the European Cultural Heritage Summit in Berlin
- October / November 2018 - Final conference (Venice tbc)

Project output and legacy: At the end of the project, it is expected to:

- ✓ Produce a guidance document on European principles for quality in cultural heritage interventions in Europe, ensuring that that decisions on any major changes in the historical environment are based on proper assessment of its values, to guide future discussion on the use of EU funds for interventions on cultural heritage preservation and conservation.
- ✓ Deliver a comprehensive analysis and recommendations regarding the influences of **EU policies, programmes and regulations** on the conservation of cultural heritage; and **lessons to be learned** from the previous effects of EU-funded projects on the conservation of the historic built environment.
- ✓ Held a high-level Conference to validate and disseminate results.

³ CEN (European Committee for Standardization), is an association that brings together the National Standardization Bodies of 34 European countries and has been officially recognized by the European Union and by the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) as being responsible for developing and defining voluntary standards at European level.

https://standards.cen.eu/dyn/www/f?p=204:7:0:::FSP_ORG_ID:411453&cs=11079A55D70F8377E3942E1C6704C7664

- ✓ Links with works of the Technical Committee on European standards for cultural heritage CEN/TC346 of the European committee for standardisation (CEN TC346) norms.
- ✓ Collected and disseminated good practices for cultural heritage professionals and policy makers.

WHEN? - Key Events

Activities will be highlighted during the following events taking place throughout 2018

26-27 March 2018	Bulgarian Presidency Conference in Plovdiv
18 April 2018	ICOMOS workshop in Paris (tbc)
18-24 June 2018	European Cultural Heritage Summit in Berlin
October 2018	Final conference for the project (tbc)
November 2018	Leipzig Denkmal Fair (tbc)

PARTNERS:

- Within the Commission, a cross-sectorial collaboration between services in charge of culture, youth, sport, regional development, research and innovation is in place
- ICOMOS⁴
- CEN (European Committee for Standardization)
- Enlarged group of Stakeholders , including UNESCO, ICCROM, ICOM, Europa Nostra and the European Year Stakeholders Committee

⁴ ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites) is an international non-governmental organisation under French law, dedicated to the conservation of the world's monuments and sites, the only of this kind. It was created in 1965, to promote the Venice Charter (International Charter on the Conservation and Restoration of monuments and Sites of 1964) at the same Congress where the Chart was adopted. ICOMOS is an associate partner of UNESCO, and the Advisory Body of the World Heritage Committee for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention, reviewing the nominations and ensuring the conservation status of properties. It has a network of over 10,000 members in 144 countries across the globe, reflecting a wide range of heritage related disciplines (architects, historians, archaeologists, art historians, geographers, anthropologists, engineers and town planners). It is organized in 110 National Committees and 28 International Scientific Committees.