

EUROPEAN INITIATIVE no 8:

Skills for Heritage: enhancing education and training for the traditional and new professions



INNOVATION PILLAR

Draft version 6/12

WHY? - Objectives

The objective of the European Year is to 'support the development of **specialised skills** and improve **knowledge management** and **knowledge transfer** in the cultural heritage sector, taking into account the implications of the **digital shift**'.¹

Europe is renowned for its exceptional skills in the field of cultural heritage. But European excellence in heritage preservation and conservation is jeopardised by the combined effect of the age pyramid and cuts in public budgets; this affects the **transmission of heritage knowledge** and **skills** to the younger generations. A lack of high-level professionals in "traditional" heritage occupations is already predictable. It is therefore important to explore possible responses in the short, medium and long term, since the cycle of **professional preparation** in these areas is often very long. In addition, heritage professions should be adapted to the 21st century. **New skills** and **competences** are needed to make better use of new technologies for heritage preservation, and enhance the visitor's experience in sites and museums.

This initiative aims to **attract young people** to heritage-related jobs and ensure the **transmission** of European expertise in the field, while accompanying the adaptation of heritage-related professions to the **digital world**.

FOR WHOM? - Target groups

Cultural heritage training professionals, young people.

WHAT? - Content of the initiative

The initiative will have 3 main components running concomitantly:

Component I - Experience sharing and policy recommendations

26 Experts from EU Member States have already started working for the first time ever to exchange good practices and design policy recommendations for Ministries of Culture and Education. Their recommendations will be made public in the autumn of 2018. Their discussions will be enriched by the contribution of a group of 35 stakeholders, under the structured dialogue scheme we operate under the name of "Voices of Culture". This group has already produced a Brainstorming report on skills for Heritage, which has been discussed with Member States experts.

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

Timeline:

- November 2017 Voices of Culture report of stakeholders on heritage professions
- 5-7 February 2018, 4th meeting of the OMC expert group, on heritage professions (three meetings held in 2017)
- 5-8 February 2018, Conference RLICC Professionalism in Built Heritage Sector in Leuven - Raymond Lemaire International Centre for Conservation
- May/June 2018 - 5th meeting of the OMC expert group
- Autumn 2018 (– Final meeting of the OMC expert group and dissemination of policy recommendations

Component II – Opportunities for cultural heritage professionals

Against the backdrop of the Skills Agenda, the initiative should tackle the need for address the shortage of high-level professionals in "traditional" heritage occupations and help developing new professional skills, including making better use of new technologies for heritage preservation

During 2017 and 2018, a large publicity will be made regarding Erasmus + and Horizon 2020 funding possibilities for cultural heritage professional skills and training needs.

The 2018 European Vocational Skills Week (VET Week) will have a focus on heritage-related skills and professions, to sensitise young people to the value of professional career in the field of heritage. The Commission will also participate in November 2018 in the Leipzig Denkmal Fair, and intends to co-organise an event involving some of the Member States, to raise awareness on the value of heritage-related jobs (**still under preparation**) .

Based on the recommendation from the European Parliament, supported by the cultural heritage stakeholders' community, the possibility for the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) establishing, under its next Strategic Innovation Agenda, Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KIC) in the field of cultural heritage and creative industries, is being scrutinized (subject to a public consultation). It could provide researchers and students in many disciplines (including arts, culture, cultural heritage, cultural industries, humanities, economics, business and social sciences, ICT and applied hard sciences) and entrepreneurs of the CCIs and other sectors with the knowledge and skills necessary to deliver innovative solutions and to turn them into new business opportunities.

Timeline:

- February/March 2018 – activation of Erasmus + and Horizon 2020 funding possibilities (with a start already in 2017)
- November 2018 – European Vocational Skills Week
- November 2018 - Leipzig Denkmal Fair (tbc)

Component III - Training actions for young people

We will widely promote the opportunities for training for young people available through Erasmus +, Erasmus Mundus masters and the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions. We will increase synergies with the EU Heritage Prize/Europa Nostra Awards winners in the category "Education and training".

As a part of this component, the Erasmus+-funded Mu.SA project (Museum Sector Skills Alliance) is investigating necessary skills and competences to support museum professionals in their digital transformation journey. The project will inform the development of specific training programmes for developing both hard/digital and transferable skills for ICT related jobs for museum professionals.

WHEN? - Key Events

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

5-8 February 2018	Conference RLICC Professionalism in Built heritage Sector in Leuven – Raymond Lemaire International Centre for Conservation
20 March	launch at the joint EAC-RTD conference on science for heritage
18-24 June 2018	European Cultural Heritage Summit in Berlin - mid-term communication
November 2018	VET (Vocational Education and Training) Week in Brussels
November 2018	Leipzig Denkmal Fair - Presentation of the Recommendations of the OMC WG on heritage professions(tbc)

PARTNERS:

- Within the Commission, services dealing with education, culture, employment and communication will be involved in this initiative.
- Europa Nostra
- Raymond Lemaire Center (Leuven)
- Erasmus + managing authorities