



RE-designing Access to Cultural Heritage for a wider participation in preservation, (re-)use and management of European culture



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The meeting in Brussels is called by the REACH Social Platform for participatory approaches in culture and social innovation. With the aim of initiating the actions for the establishment of the European Cluster on CH, REACH is providing the secretariat and its online platform to support the organisation of the meeting and the follow-up actions.

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DIGITAL MEETS CULTURE .net

Image: "A meeting between Louis XIV of France and Philip IV of Spain. Stipple engraving with etching by E. Jeaurat after C. Le Brun, 1728. | Charles Le Brun" Credit: Wellcome Collection via Europeana

HORIZONS FOR HERITAGE RESEARCH TOWARDS A CLUSTER ON CULTURAL HERITAGE

At the first-year anniversary of the high-level conference of the European Year of Cultural Heritage, we would like to invite you to our symposium in Brussels, hosted by the European Commission, to take stock of European research policy developments and to discuss the needs and benefits of a joint co-ordination effort, in the light of the role that Cultural Heritage will play in the ensuing Horizon Europe.

2018 
EUROPEAN YEAR
OF CULTURAL
HERITAGE
#EuropeForCulture

COVENT GARDEN, BRUSSELS
20 MARCH 2019

SYMPOSIUM

One year after the Brussels launch of the European Year of Cultural Heritage (EYCH) at the Innovation and Cultural Heritage conference on 20th of March 2018, we would like to invite you to assess the legacy of the year and to prepare for the next steps to be taken. Together with our high-level policy guests, we will reflect on the results achieved, difficulties and obstacles encountered and feedback received from stakeholders. Questions such as ‘Did the EYCH trigger a lasting policy dynamic for research?’, ‘What is the legacy of the EYCH for research and innovation?’, ‘Which improvements are required, and what resources can be mobilised?’, and ‘How could we shape our mission within a longer perspective?’ will be the thread throughout our sessions.

As a second topic for our symposium, we propose a discussion on the idea of a Cluster of Cultural Heritage stakeholders, intended as a network of networks. Structures and instruments of coordination are necessary to support the ambitions set during the EYCH. Because of the very wide range of disciplines concerned with research on Cultural Heritage, the effort of coordination is even more challenging than in other domains of research. We think that leveraging the idea of research clustering would be a wise approach. The Cluster would gather R&I consortia of different partners from the EU and beyond, funded by international programmes and organisations, as well as groups and associations of public and private organisations sharing a common interest in cultural heritage.



Heritage is our identity. It is not only a past to be protected, but also a resource for the future (Faro Convention, 2005). In this light, we consider that, in order for cultural heritage to be protected, sustainable, and resilient, a strategy that promotes inter-disciplinary learning is required. The Cluster will be a space to continue research-related debates on key questions raised during the EYCH, with an holistic approach that includes, among many other SSH disciplines, history and literature, heritage conservation, economics, education, cultural studies, digital cultural heritage and citizen science, visual arts, design and creativity, while simultaneously providing a bridge to Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). From this point of view, the Cluster will be a network that looks for and produces results that are technologically advanced as well as economically, environmentally and socially sound.

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO
WELCOMING YOU AT OUR SYMPOSIUM**

Liaisons

A liaison is considered to be established with ECHOES, the Cluster on Cultural Heritage Conservation (<http://www.ehc.eu/>) and with other existing and under-development clusters on CH.

The background of the Cluster is represented by the Policy Paper ‘Innovation in Cultural Heritage Research – For an integrated European Research Policy’ written by Gábor Sonkoly and Tanja Vahtikari (2018).