

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

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REACH project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme, under grant agreement No 769827.

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2018
Policy Review
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Innovation in
Cultural Heritage
Research

For an integrated European Research Policy



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Regimes of cultural heritage

Regime	Period	Norm	Institutions
First	1880s-1960s	National heritage Predominantly monuments	National and local institutions
Second	1960s-1990s	World Heritage Tangible and Natural Heritage	UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies
Third	1990s-	Holistic approach Tangible, Intangible, Natural, Cultural landscape, Cultural rights, etc.	The potential role of the European Union

2.1. Integrated and innovative cultural heritage research: The CH Experience

The current notion of CH moves from a conservation-oriented approach to a **value-oriented** one (**European values**)

The proper management of change can contribute to the instigation of an **inclusive society** due to a closer integration of economic and social values represented in CH (**cultural integration**)

This CH is a **source of democracy and well-being** (**shared values and cultural diversity**)

2.1. Integrated and innovative cultural heritage research: The CH Experience

There are important **regional differences** in the perception of this CH (**East-West, North-South, etc**)

Ideally, the recognition of local CH can lead to democratization and integration, but it can also bear a **non-critical use of the past** in a society with authoritarian reflexes to avoid the critical standards of the SSH (**non-critical cultural identity constructions**)

2.2. Integrated and innovative cultural heritage research: concepts

Contemporary European CH has a great potential to determine the elements of a **positive and gratifying European identity**, on condition that its composite nature, its inner differences and the related local/regional/national values are taken into consideration. (**EU and civic initiatives**)

For the development of a critical and inclusive European CH studies, SSH and other cultural heritage related disciplines need to undergo a **paradigm shift**, which is different from the previously experienced methodological “turns”, because it requests not only the discipline’s paradigmatic redefinition, but also its repositioning within the rest of the society (**CH and Academia**)

2.2. Integrated and innovative cultural heritage research: concepts

The critical heritage studies and the **heritage conservation sector** need to be in a productive dialogue with each other – the first in order not to alienate itself into the academic sphere only, and the latter to be able to engage with wider key issues in society (**CH is par excellence intersectoral**)

Intersectoral, participative and **co-creative** research

2.3. Integrated and innovative cultural heritage research: methodology

The reception of European and national CH discourses and its **linguistic and historical determinateness** on the different levels of European identity formations is a crucial topic for research

From the European perspectives of CH research, **methodological nationalisms** should be avoided in order to achieve a more robust outcome of the multinational projects than their national sums

One of the major domains of CH-related property rights stem from its **extended digitalisation**. It can be an obvious instrument of democratisation. However, the promise of the digital realm as a phenomenon that would open access to CH as a social resource has not entirely been kept. The digital divide has mixed existing and new forms of exclusion.

Questions: identities and CH

Comparative research on the **notion of CH** and on the reception of international (EU and UNESCO) discourses on national, regional and local levels - (**heritage, patrimoine, kulturelles Erbe, patrimonio,etc**)

European varieties of **intangible heritage** and their significance (**cultural rights, current nation-building**)

The current re-institutionalisation of **monument/tangible heritage** protection in Europe (**the problems of Authenticity**)

The impacts of the institutionalisation of cultural heritage on **Social Sciences and Humanities** (**European cultural heritage chairs and studies from a comparative and interdisciplinary perspective**)

Questions: CH communities

The **Historic Urban Landscape** in Europe (in small, medium-sized and big cities) (**Smart Cities?**)

Urban intangible heritage and its relationship to **creative industries** (cultural **tourism, rehabilitation, media, etc**)

Network-based territorialities of migration- or cultural diffusion generated cultural heritage versus homogeneous territories of national cultures (**Roma, diaspora, economic networks**)

Rural heritage and European approaches to the **cultural landscape** (**water, soil, sustainability**)

Questions: CH proper methodologies

Co-creative methods to bring heritage stakeholders, practitioners and academics together in the definition and recognition of European cultural heritage

Democratic practices in the appreciation of the societal significance of cultural heritage

Participatory practices in the formation and recognition of cultural heritage to fight against social and cultural **inequalities**

The **actorship** in the processes of cultural heritage in the digital age

CH-SOCIETY-ECONOMY-ECOLOGY

F o u r P i l l a r s o f **S U S T A I N A B I L I T Y**





RE-designing access to cultural heritage for a wider participation
in preservation, reuse and management of European culture

Thank you for your attention!

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