

Social Platform for Holistic Heritage Impact Assessment

The way cultural heritage is preserved and enhanced is a major factor defining Europe's identity and its place in the world. In this sense, high quality interventions in cultural heritage contribute to local communities' well-being and to the development of sustainable cultural tourism. On the other hand, low-quality interventions in cultural heritage may not only damage irreplaceable historical elements, their environment and related intangible heritage but also foster negative perceptions by society. Under this context, SoPHIA promotes collective reflection within the cultural and political sector in Europe on the impact assessment and quality of interventions in historical environment and cultural heritage. The EU policy framework on cultural heritage is based on an integrated, cross-cutting, holistic and participatory approach. But, what is the impact that actions and policies on cultural heritage wants to produce for the benefit of the populations?, how to measure the impact? SoPHIA attempts to address the quality issue as the final element of the framework.

The Social Platform, a vast and diverse community of stakeholders from different fields and disciplines, is working together towards the definition of an effective cultural heritage impact assessment model, quality standards and guidelines for future policies and programmes. The model will cover four dimensions, the cultural, social, economic and environmental, and will be based on three axes: people, domains and time.

SoPHIA structures the analysis through a targeting process in three stages:

1. Exploration of the general topic and the current situation as regards models and policies, and the definition of a draft holistic impact assessment model.
2. In depth analysis with case studies, applying the draft model and refining it.
3. Synthesis of the findings against the results and draft recommendations for practitioners and policy makers on the impact assessment of interventions on cultural heritage.

This is a project funded under the Horizon 2020 programme of the European Union, coordinated by Roma Tre University in partnership with Interarts Foundation (Spain), European Museum Academy (The Netherlands), EDUCULT (Austria), National Technical University of Athens (Greece) and the Institute for Development and International Relations (Croatia), over a period of two years, 2020 – 2021.

Website <https://sophiaplatform.eu/en>

Twitter [@sophia_platform](https://twitter.com/sophia_platform)

Facebook [SophiaPlatform](https://www.facebook.com/SophiaPlatform)

Email info@sophiaplatform.eu



Alhambra, Granada, Spain, by Marco Montero Pisani on unsplash