



Green Heritage (GH) Final Conference
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Università Sapienza, Roma

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CNR
European and International Programs on Cultural Heritage
and Environmental Sustainability*

Overview

- Growing interest in connecting cultural heritage with environmental sustainability
- Several EU (41) and international programmes support green and resilient heritage projects

Horizon Europe – Cluster 2

- Main EU research and innovation programme, including funding for culture, creativity, and inclusive society under Cluster 2.
- More info:
<https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon-europe>

Horizon Europe – Cluster 2



PART OF EU'S RESEARCH &
INNOVATION FRAMEWORK



THEME: CULTURE,
CREATIVITY AND INCLUSIVE
SOCIETY



FUNDS PROJECTS ON
CLIMATE RESILIENCE, ENERGY
EFFICIENCY, ADAPTIVE REUSE

Horizon Europe – Cluster 2 WP 2026-2027

DESTINATION: Innovative Research on European Cultural Heritage and Cultural and Creative Industries

2026

HORIZON-CL2-2026-01-HERITAGE-05: Creative alliances: Fostering global partnerships in cultural policies and CCI innovation

Potential synergies on **sustainable innovation** in cultural and creative industries (CCI), with relevance to the green economy.

2027

HORIZON-CL2-2027-01-HERITAGE-03: Crafting routes to a circular economy

Directly connected to the circular economy within CCIs and cultural heritage.

HORIZON-CL2-2027-01-HERITAGE-06: Future-proofing sustainable cultural tourism

Focus on **sustainable cultural tourism**, an important green topic.

Horizon Europe – Cluster 2 WP 2026-2027

DESTINATION: Innovative Research on Social and Economic Transformations **2026**

HORIZON-CL2-2026-01-TRANSFO-07: Fostering competences for the green transition
Explicitly linked to the **green transition**, with focus on skills and training.

2027

HORIZON-CL2-2027-01-TRANSFO-01: How does access to nature-positive environments promote social cohesion and reduce inequalities in urban and peri-urban settings? Direct intersection of **environment**, **social cohesion**, and **green urban regeneration**.

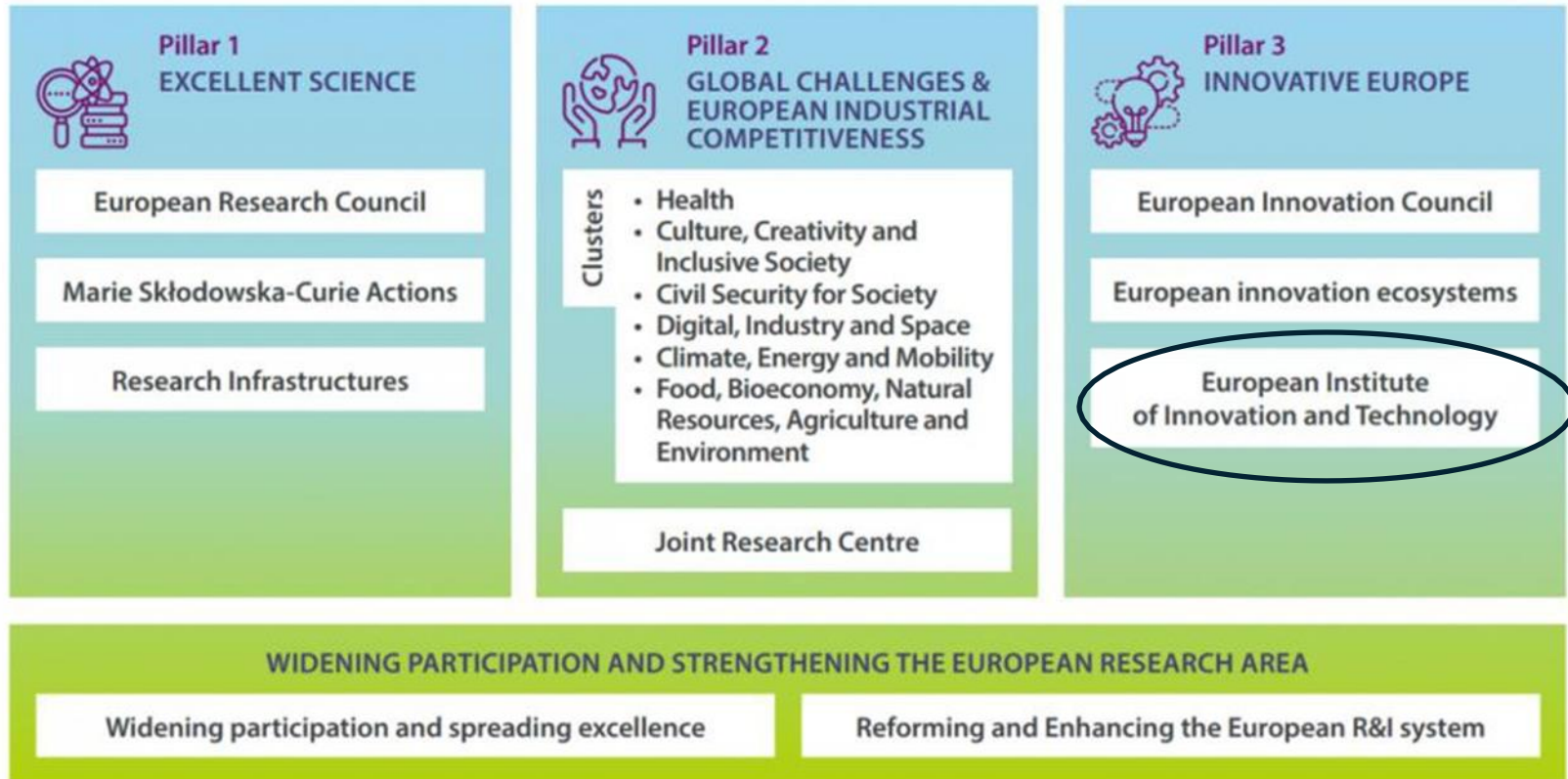
HORIZON-CL2-2027-01-TRANSFO-03: Rethinking sustainable competitiveness beyond traditional perspectives: role and contribution of the Social Economy Includes considerations on **sustainable competitiveness**, potentially involving green aspects.

DESTINATION: Innovative Research on Democracy and Governance **2026**

HORIZON-CL2-2026-01-DEMOCRACY-06: Governing global commons sustainably Relevant to **sustainable governance** of global commons (e.g. climate, oceans, biodiversity, space).

Horizon Europe – Pillar 3

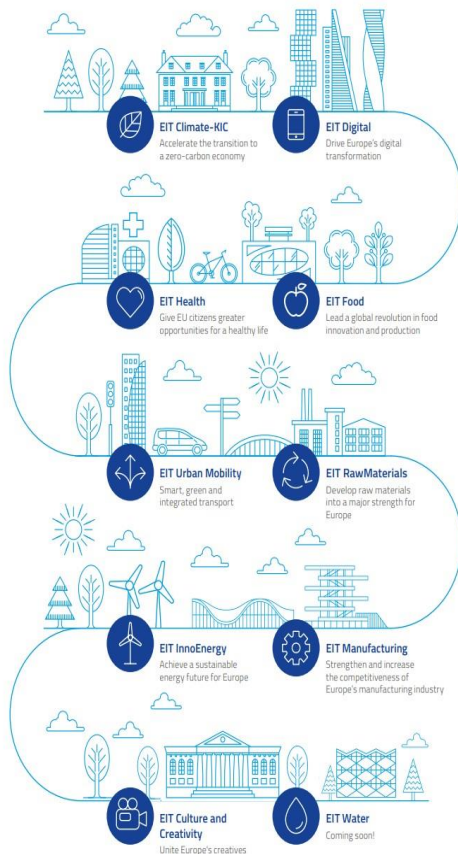
THREE PILLARS FOR IMPLEMENTATION



Knowledge and Innovation Communities

The EIT does not directly award funding to individual projects. It operates through KICs (Knowledge and Innovation Communities). KICs are large-scale, long-term pan-European partnerships that bring together companies, universities, and research centers. Implication: There is no generic "EIT call for proposals." Opportunities are managed entirely by individual KICs.

Knowledge and Innovation Communities



1. EIT Climate KIC
2. EIT Digital
3. EIT Health
4. EIT Food
5. EIT Urban Mobility
6. EIT RawMaterials
7. EIT InnoEnergy
8. EIT Manufacturing
9. EIT Culture and Creativity
10. EIT Water (in progress)

Erasmus+

- Supports education, training, youth, and sport with a focus on mobility, cooperation, and capacity-building.
- Relevant for cultural and educational institutions.
- More info: <https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu>

European Solidarity Corps

- Supports youth volunteering and solidarity projects promoting inclusion, citizenship, and cultural engagement.
- More info: <https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu>

European Partnership for Resilient Cultural Heritage (RCH)

European Partnerships are initiatives in which the European Commission and private and/or public partners commit themselves to jointly support the development and implementation of a research and innovation program. The aim is to solve big societal problems that no single country could solve on its own, through transnational research projects involving not only researchers, but also professionals, public administration, civil society, etc., so that the results of the research are disseminated and useful on as wide a scale as possible. A European Partnership is primarily funded through Member States contributions, with supplementary funding from the European Commission.

- <https://www.heritageresearch-hub.eu/european-partnership-for-resilient-cultural-heritage/>

Digital Europe

Accelerates digital transformation across sectors, with funding for digital skills, tools, and infrastructure relevant to CCS.

The Digital Europe Programme can support cultural heritage by promoting digitalisation, the creation of access platforms (such as Europeana), the adoption of technologies like artificial intelligence for analysis and reuse, and the strengthening of digital skills within the sector. This contributes to more effective management and the enhancement of heritage in terms of sustainable tourism and education, while also ensuring a secure and sustainable digital infrastructure for future generations.

More info: <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/activities/digital-programme>

CERV

The **Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) Programme** can support **green heritage** in several impactful ways, even though its core focus is on civic engagement, equality, and rights. Here's how:

- **Promoting Environmental Citizenship**
- **Civic Participation for Sustainable Heritage**
 - Fund **local initiatives** that link environmental sustainability to the **preservation of heritage sites**.
 - Foster **intergenerational dialogue** around green practices in heritage conservation.
- **Education & Awareness Campaigns**
- **Fostering Inclusion in Green Heritage Projects**
 - Support **inclusive projects** where underrepresented groups (e.g. youth, minorities) engage with green heritage.
 - Use heritage as a tool to **promote equality and community cohesion** in the context of climate and sustainability.

Interreg and Transnational Programmes

- **Interreg Europe**

<https://www.interregeurope.eu>

- **Interreg MED** – Focus on sustainable tourism and biodiversity

<https://interreg-med.eu>

- **Interreg Central Europe** – Cultural and natural heritage

<https://www.interreg-central.eu>

- **Danube Transnational Programme** – Environment and culture cooperation

<https://www.interreg-danube.eu>

Interreg and Transnational Programmes

Interreg is part of the EU's Cohesion Policy and supports cross-border, transnational and interregional cooperation. It offers great potential for the preservation, enhancement, and sustainable use of natural and cultural heritage, especially when linked to green and climate objectives.

Cross-border Cultural-Natural Heritage Projects

Support for the restoration, protection and promotion of shared cultural and natural assets (e.g. historic landscapes, cultural parks, traditional architecture).

Sustainable Tourism & Climate Resilience

Funding for green tourism models based on heritage sites (eco-tourism, nature trails, zero-carbon visitor strategies).

Joint actions to adapt heritage sites to climate change, such as risk prevention and nature-based solutions.

Capacity Building and Networking

Facilitates knowledge exchange among heritage professionals, environmental experts, local authorities and communities across countries.

Supports the creation of transnational strategies for sustainable cultural heritage management.

Education and Citizen Engagement

Community-led projects involving schools, NGOs and local actors in green heritage awareness, especially among youth and marginalised groups.

Digital Innovation

Promotes digital tools for heritage monitoring, participatory mapping, and access to cultural heritage data (e.g. via platforms or AR/VR).

Interreg and Transnational Programmes

E.g., Alpine Space Programme

Cross-border cooperation on natural and cultural heritage

Focus on sustainability, adaptation, and landscape conservation

Creative Europe (2021–2027)

- Flagship EU programme for culture and media, supporting artistic creation, mobility, audience development, and innovation.
- Budget: €2.44 billion (2021–2027)
- More info:
<https://ec.europa.eu/culture/creative-europe>

Creative Europe (2021–2027)



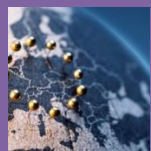
CULTURE strand

Supporting and promoting Europe's culture sector



MEDIA strand

Supporting and promoting Europe's film and audiovisual sector.



CROSS-SECTORAL strand

Initiatives promoting innovative actions and collaboration across the audiovisual and cultural sectors.

Creative Europe (2021–2027)



EU's flagship programme for culture and creative sectors



Supports sustainability, innovation, and resilience in cultural heritage



Focus on cross-border cooperation and green transition in the arts and culture

European Partnership for Resilient Cultural Heritage (RCH)

Co-funded partnership (EU + Member States)

Builds heritage resilience to climate change and environmental risks

Supports joint research, policy support, and pilot projects

<https://www.heritageresearch-hub.eu/european-partnership-for-resilient-cultural-heritage/>

European Heritage Hub – Small Grants Scheme

The European Heritage Hub project – co-funded by the European Union and run by a consortium of 20 partners led by Europa Nostra – launches a Small Grants Scheme to support projects protecting cultural heritage in EU neighbouring countries. This initiative is supported by the ALIPH Foundation.

- <https://www.europeanheritagehub.eu/call-for-applications-small-grants-scheme-for-heritage-related-projects-led-by-civil-society-in-eu-neighbouring-countries/>

European Heritage Hub – Small Grants Scheme

Led by Europa Nostra
with EU support

Supports civil society-
led projects in EU
neighbourhood
countries

Focus: green, digital,
and social transitions

ECHOES Cascading Grants

Linked to the European Collaborative Cloud for Cultural Heritage

Supports data contribution and digital innovation in heritage

Indirect links to sustainability
(efficiency, shared access)

New European Bauhaus

The **New European Bauhaus (NEB)** is an interdisciplinary EU initiative that connects **culture, environment, social innovation, and design**. It plays a key role in promoting the **sustainable transformation and enhancement of cultural and natural heritage**.

https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/index_en

New European Bauhaus

How NEB Supports Green Heritage?

Sustainable Regeneration of Heritage Sites

NEB supports projects that transform historic buildings and spaces in ways that are eco-friendly, inclusive, and aesthetically pleasing, blending sustainability with heritage preservation.

Nature-Based Solutions

Encourages the use of eco-compatible materials, bio-architecture, and energy-efficient approaches in restoring and reusing heritage assets.

Participatory Cultural Innovation

Involves citizens, artists, researchers, and local communities in co-designing sustainable solutions that reimagine heritage in response to environmental challenges

Education and Awareness

Promotes creative and educational programmes that raise awareness of ecological values linked to heritage, especially among young people and local communities.

Link with the European Green Deal

NEB is a cultural and creative pillar of the EU Green Deal, helping to develop new models of sustainable development through heritage.

ARCADIA FUND: SUPPORTS CULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS

Arcadia is a family philanthropic foundation, founded by Lisbet Rausing and Peter Baldwin in 2002 (some sources mention 2001).

It is governed by a donor board, supported by an advisory board and a small team based in London.

Operational funds are provided by family trusts. Grants are awarded through the Arcadia Philanthropic Trust, a trust governed under Liechtenstein law.

Arcadia concentrates its work in two key thematic areas:

1. Nature / Environment - To preserve and restore nature, and support solutions to climate change and biodiversity loss.
2. Cultural Heritage / Culture- Digitally document endangered cultural heritage, safeguard languages, archives, material culture, and at-risk sites.

<https://arcadiahfund.org.uk/who-we-are>

UNESCO – World Heritage Fund



INTERNATIONAL FUNDING
FOR WORLD HERITAGE
SITES



EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE
AND CONSERVATION IN
CLIMATE-SENSITIVE AREAS



INCLUDES THE RAPID
RESPONSE FACILITY FOR
URGENT ACTIONS

Key Takeaways

Strong funding ecosystem in
Europe for heritage and
sustainability



Projects should address climate
change, energy efficiency, adaptive
reuse, or digital transition



Multidisciplinary collaboration is
key

Next Steps

Explore calls via the CulturEU
Funding Guide

https://culture.ec.europa.eu/funding/cultureu-funding-guide?utm_source=chatgpt.com

Check national/regional
programmes with co-funded EU
resources

Consider multi-disciplinary project
teams (culture + environment +
tech)

THANK YOU

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