

EUROPEAN INITIATIVE no 2:

Heritage at school: children discovering Europe's most precious treasures and traditions



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WHY? - Objectives

The objective of the European Year is to '**raise awareness** of the importance of Europe's cultural heritage through **education** and **lifelong learning**, in particular by focusing on children, young and elderly people, local communities and hard-to-reach groups'¹.

The aim of the initiative is to maximise the impact of the Erasmus + programme in the field of cultural **heritage education** and to encourage greater awareness in schools of Europe's rich cultural heritage in all its forms, throughout visits, encounters with heritage experts and **playful educational activities**. Invite children and their parents to engage with cultural heritage beyond the classroom, drawing on the experiences of elderly people (e.g. grandparents) and local communities, thus contributing to the intergenerational dialogue.

Enhancing the "social and educational value of European cultural heritage, its contribution to job creation, economic growth and social cohesion" is a general policy priority of the Erasmus + Annual Work Programme for 2018: "*In the context of the European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018, priority will be given to actions contributing to raising awareness of the importance of Europe's cultural heritage through education, life-long learning, informal and non-formal learning, youth as well as sport, including actions to support skills development, social inclusion, critical thinking and youth engagement. New participatory and intercultural approaches to heritage, as well as educational initiatives aimed at fostering intercultural dialogue involving teachers and pupils from an early age will be promoted.*"

FOR WHOM? - Target groups

School children (in particular 10-15 years old), teachers, parents, local communities.

WHAT? - Content of the initiative

The initiative will have several components running concomitantly:

Component I - Valorising Erasmus + projects focusing on Europe's cultural heritage and stimulating new initiatives within Key Action 2

Since 2013 Erasmus+ has funded numerous projects on cultural heritage, for over 29 million €, notably in Strategic Partnerships. The Year will be an opportunity to boost significantly the number of projects under this topic, through the support of Erasmus+ National Agencies. These agencies will

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

play a key role in reaching to educational institutions, academia, individual learners, NGOs and business in the 28 Member States.

The initiative will also help valorizing the projects already supported through the programme. Some examples are the "From symbols to symphonies" project, a strategic Partnership for Schools focusing on personal histories, immigration and mutual respect; the "Europe is One" project promoting youth mobility linked to cultural heritage, multiculturalism and European values, and "Volunteer P.A.T.H.", a project aiming at capacity building for children in ACP countries, Latin America and Asia, linked to destruction and loss of heritage sites due to threat from globalisation and extremism.

The Year will also stimulate vocational education and training skills related to tangible and intangible heritage - please see Initiative no 8 - Skills for Heritage.

Timeline:

-November 2018 - annual conference of the E-twinning network

Component II –Awareness raising activities for school children: UNESCO project and a toolkit for schools

Awareness raising activities are planned at two levels:

(1) Raising awareness on intangible cultural heritage safeguarding in schools a joint project with UNESCO (part I - schools)

The project, **still under preparation**, may be implemented through a series of activities with schools in the Member States of the European Union, working in particular with members of the UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network (about 2000 schools in Europe). Teachers will be provided with guidance and tools for integrating cultural heritage protection and safeguarding in existing school programmes and extra-curricular activities. The objective is to encourage teachers to sensitize children and young people about the importance of their heritage in general and intangible cultural heritage in particular.

Outreach: 2000 schools in Europe will be provided with guidance and tools for integrating cultural heritage protection and safeguarding in existing school programmes and extra-curricular activities..

(2) Dissemination of the toolkit for schools, including through e-twinning

A toolkit for schools will be prepared in early 2018. It will combine new communication material about cultural heritage for children and existing resources by UNESCO, the House of the European History, EUROPEANA, Interpret Europe and others... The material will target history teachers in primary and secondary schools, it will be disseminated through existing teachers networks, including e-twinning (which in 2018 will have a main focus on cultural heritage), the School Education Gateway and EUROCLIO - European Association of History Educators. The EYCH2018 website and the Commission's ['teachers corner'](#) (a portal providing teachers with material on the EU) will be used for broader dissemination of material.

Timeline:

- February 2018, start of the project with UNESCO (tbc)
- Spring 2018 – toolkit for schools will be available (tbc)
- November 2018 (exact date and location to be determined) – e-twinning annual conference.

Component III – Activities for children in the framework of the European Heritage Days

The European Heritage Days 2018 will be a privileged opportunity to implement dedicated actions targeting school children. See also European Initiative n°1 - shared heritage.

Component IV – European Economic and Social Committee initiative - empowering secondary school children

"United in diversity: a younger future for European culture" is an initiative led by the European Economic and Social Committee that will bring secondary school pupils, from 28 EU Member States and five candidate countries, to visit Brussels on 15-16 March 2018. They will discuss the role of culture and cultural heritage in their lives and make policy recommendations. At the same time, members of the European Economic and Social Committee will go local and visit schools in their constituencies and discuss identity, value and cultural heritage.

Timeline:

January/February 2018 – visits of European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) members to schools, focus on Europe's cultural heritage

16-17 March 2018 plenary session/conference in Brussels

WHEN? - Key Events

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

16-17 March 2018	"A younger future for European culture" - plenary session in Brussels (EESC)
April/May	"European Heritage Makers Week" taking place in different EU Member States as part of the EHDs (tbc)
November 2018	e-twinning annual conference focusing on cultural heritage (exact date and location to be determined)

PARTNERS:

- Within the European Commission, services focusing on Culture, Youth, Sport and Communications
- UNESCO
- E-twinning network, European Schools Gateway
- National coordinators for the European Heritage Days