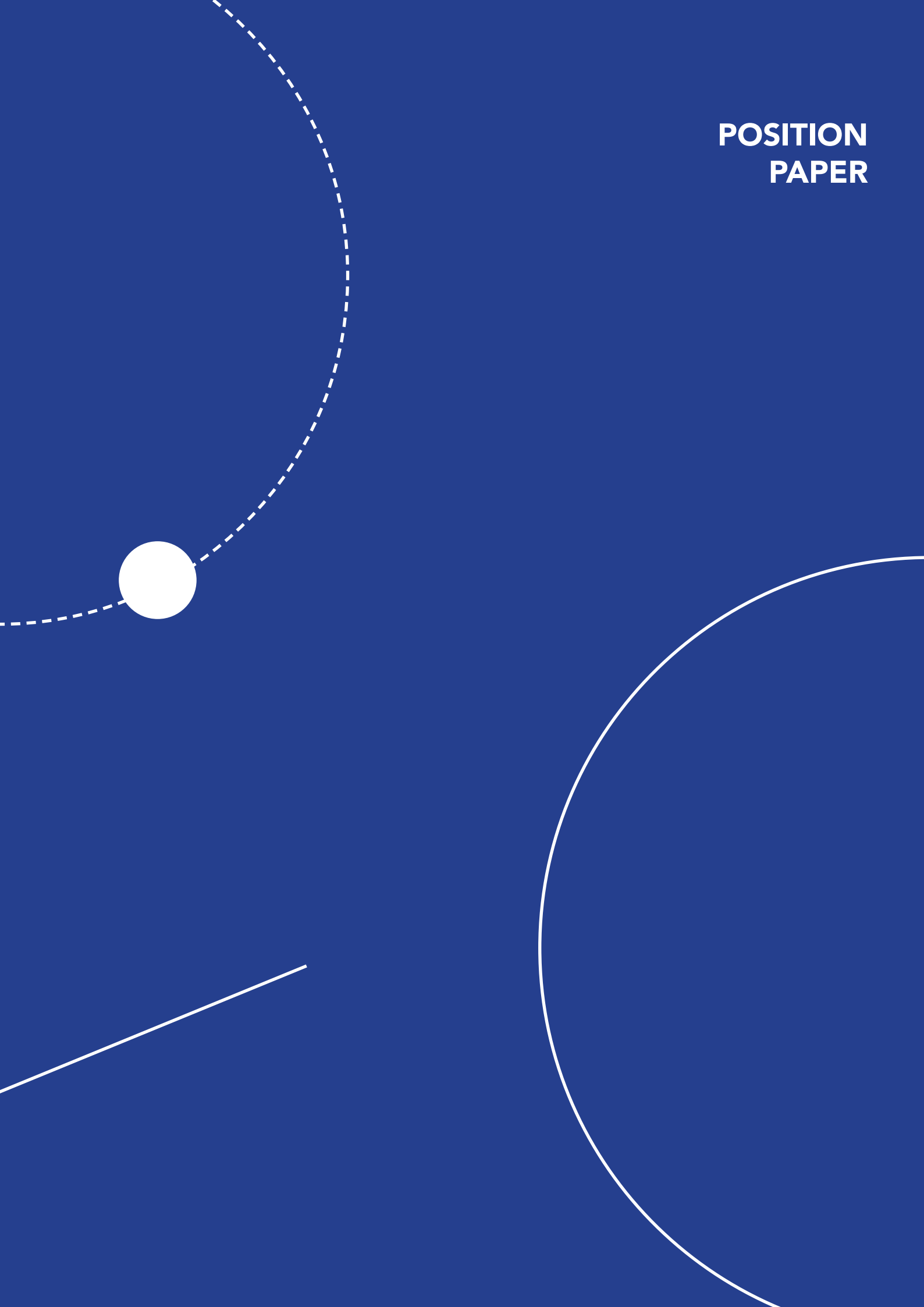# POSITION PAPER

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The symposium highlighted, at the European level, the dynamism of heritage science in its interdisciplinary and intersectoral dimensions. Interdisciplinarity embraces humanities, social, experimental, and digital sciences. Intersectorality is a result of co-creation processes between academics, professionals, entrepreneurs, users and communities.

It demonstrated that Heritage Science strongly contributes to positioning cultural heritage at the core of major contemporary challenges, whether societal, environmental or economic, through a multi-perspective approach to cultural heritage, both at conceptual and operational levels. In a holistic approach to the field, smells, food, graffiti, and the memory of human work, together with monuments, sites, archaeological objects, artworks, can become heritage today, be it tangible, intangible, natural or digital, in order to preserve and study what may disappear over time.

Viewpoints on policies, the diversity of the EU context, and the global conditions of the twin green & digital transition were addressed in plenary sessions. At the same time, exciting case studies were further discussed in various roundtables.

Regarding the green transition, the combination of climate change and cultural heritage issues enables us to approach not only the essential aspects of conservation and restoration from other angles (green conservation), but also to think afresh about the challenges of a reasonable use of digital devices for both research and heritage management. Digital frugality in heritage science is still an area to be explored. Putting heritage at the heart of the green transition should be a priority for decision-makers. While its vulnerability to climate change makes it part of the problem, its long-term resistance to environmental stress and its conservation can be considered part of the solution.

Regarding the digital transition, it has been confirmed in the most striking way that research on digital tools strongly contributes to the conservation and restoration of cultural heritage by enabling the production, sharing and storage of various and heterogeneous data, to its accessibility through virtual visits or serious games, as well as to its democratisation by facilitating citizen participation at all stages of the heritage process.

By supporting heritage science, the European Union promotes a European grammar of cultural heritage, liberated from restrictive and exclusive identities. This approach unveils new opportunities while reinforcing the need for a common European approach to research perspectives on cultural and environmental heritage.

Based on the research projects and innovative actions presented during the two days of the symposium, **the principles of this European grammar of heritage** can be identified:

-        **The principle of active plurality** is not the accumulation of juxtaposed diversities. A plurality of heritage and plurality of actors are democratic conditions for making heritage without making the economy of dissensus, and epistemological conditions for studying it.

-        **The principle of collaboration,** transnational and trans-European, at different scales and across sectors, crossing academic, cultural, and artistic worlds. This collaboration includes the participation not only of European citizens but also of «non-EU residents».

-        **The principle of ecology,** understood as an "ecosophy", articulates the three ecological registers: that of the environment, social relations and human subjectivity. This European grammar of heritage would draw attention to the remains of the past - even the most invisible or less visible ones - and would be centred on the finality of work and human activities and the articulation of heritage with social and cultural memory. Finally, it would emphasise the social appropriations of heritage, its uses and re-uses.

This grammar must be operative. It allows us to combine temporalities (past, present, future) based on the idea that heritage is a constantly renewed and reflexive actualisation of the relationship to the past, a present-day reading of the past for the future. It thus leads to identifying the source of heritage, by making the archaeology of the processes of patrimonialisation (heritage-making) and by considering them from a critical point of view, but also to recall to what extent heritage and memory are exposed to disappearance or instrumentalisation. This grammar implies a variety of modes, underlines the potentialities of heritage, and promotes experiences rather than imperatives. It leads to linking and articulating rather than choosing or establishing a hierarchy. And last but not least, it is based on a principle of adaptability to various configurations and contexts, and a translation principle that goes beyond the creation of common vocabularies.

There is an **indispensable effort of training and education to be made by all actors of Heritage Science,** in an interdisciplinary, intersectoral perspective for the invention of new practices, and new professions adapted to global change. The process is well underway but must be consolidated, developed, and constantly adjusted to respond to contemporary challenges.

In times of war and extreme climatic events over Europe and the world, the participants of the "Heritage for the future, Science for heritage" symposium are convinced that keeping our cultural heritage must be the foundation for our future and that it requires dynamic interdisciplinary research and the participation of all the stakeholders in Europe and beyond.