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Abstract

This report is an output of Task 5.6 and a summary presentation of the ARCHE SRIA; proceedings of the Final Event with an overview of presentations and conclusions.

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Executive Summary

The ARCHE Final Event, "Bridging Towards Resilient Cultural Heritage," was held on 11-12 September 2025, in Brussels and online, attracting over 400 registered participants from a wide range of stakeholder groups. The event marked the culmination of the three-year Alliance for Research on Cultural Heritage in Europe (ARCHE) project and served as the formal transition towards the upcoming European Partnership for Resilient Cultural Heritage (RCH). Over two days of presentations, roundtables, and interactive sessions, the event successfully presented the project's key achievements, fostered critical dialogue on the challenges at the science-policy interface, and solidified a shared vision for the future of cultural heritage research in Europe.

The central achievement showcased was the **ARCHE Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA)**, the project's primary legacy and a foundational roadmap for the RCH Partnership. Developed through a rigorous and highly participatory process involving strategic foresight, extensive stakeholder consultations, and collaborative workshops, the SRIA outlines a comprehensive framework for future research. It is structured around three core strategic priorities — Cultural Heritage and Environment; Cultural Heritage and Society; and Cultural Heritage and Governance — which are interconnected by cross-cutting themes and grounded in principles of inclusivity, sustainability, and open science.

A dominant theme throughout the event was the critical need to **bridge the gap between science, policy, and practice**. Discussions repeatedly highlighted the challenges of aligning the different time cycles and languages of research and governance. Key takeaways emphasized that research must be an "indispensable driver" for evidence-based policy, particularly in addressing climate change. This requires proactive engagement from researchers with policymakers at all levels, as well as the development of innovative communication strategies to translate complex findings into actionable insights for diverse audiences.

The proceedings also underscored the necessity of a **holistic and cross-sectoral approach** to cultural heritage. A strong consensus emerged on the need to break down silos between disciplines, particularly between the heritage and climate science communities, where an interactive poll revealed a perceived disconnect. Presentations demonstrated the value of integrating heritage with sectors such as agriculture, environmental management, and rural development, showcasing how traditional knowledge and community-led practices can offer tested, low-carbon, and nature-based solutions. Furthermore, the event explored the multifaceted relationship between cultural heritage and societal well-being, acknowledging both its positive contributions and the potential negative impacts of contested heritage.



Finally, the event championed a move towards **more inclusive and participatory methodologies**. The principle of co-creation was central, advocating for a shift from top-down knowledge transfer to a model of knowledge exchange that values the expertise of local communities, heritage professionals, and civil society as active partners in the research process. The breakout sessions provided practical examples of such methods, including living labs, serious games, and knowledge hubs, which foster collaboration and empower diverse actors.

In conclusion, the ARCHE Final Event successfully consolidated a consensus around a more integrated, resilient, and impact-oriented future for cultural heritage, providing the RCH Partnership with a robust strategic foundation and a mobilized community of stakeholders ready to address the challenges ahead.

Introduction

The ARCHE Final Event, titled "Bridging Towards Resilient Cultural Heritage," was held on 11-12 September 2025, in a hybrid format, with participants convening in Brussels, Belgium, and online. The event served as the culminating moment for the three-year Alliance for Research on Cultural Heritage in Europe (ARCHE) project, a preparatory action funded by the European Union. The event's primary objective was to present the project's key achievements, consolidate its legacy, and facilitate the transition towards the upcoming European Partnership for Resilient Cultural Heritage (RCH).

The event drew significant interest from across the European and international cultural heritage landscape, attracting over 400 registered participants. An analysis of stakeholder affiliations confirms the event's broad reach. The primary constituency was the heritage sector itself, representing 61.0% of attendees, followed by a strong presence from policymakers and representatives of European, national, and regional bodies (14.3%). Other key stakeholders included representatives from the creative and cultural industries, various scientific and professional fields, and civil society, collectively highlighting the event's cross-sectoral appeal and its success in convening a diverse, multi-stakeholder forum.

This report documents the full proceedings of the two-day event. It provides a chronological summary of the presentations, roundtable discussions, and parallel breakout sessions, capturing the key findings, debates, and conclusions that emerged. The report is intended to serve as a comprehensive record of the event and a foundational reference for the next phase of collaborative cultural heritage research in Europe.

ARCHE Final Event Day One

Introductory addresses

The opening session of the ARCHE Final Event featured a series of introductory addresses from the project's leadership and key European Commission representatives. The speakers collectively framed the project's conclusion not as an endpoint, but as a critical transition toward a more structured and collaborative future for cultural heritage research in Europe.

Alexandre Caussé, the ARCHE Project Coordinator, began the proceedings by stating that the event was "not an end, but the informal start of something else." He situated the ARCHE project as a pivotal step in a decade-long effort to build upon the legacy of the Joint Programming Initiative on Cultural Heritage (JPI CH), which funded 77 transnational projects. A primary objective of ARCHE, he noted, has been to bring this legacy to maturity and prepare the community for a new European partnership. He presented the project's central output, the **ARCHE Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA)**, a document co-developed with 18 countries. While noting that over 28 countries have committed to the upcoming Resilient Cultural Heritage (RCH) Partnership, he added a crucial clarification: the Partnership will not cover all research needs identified by ARCHE, highlighting the continued need for support for the social sciences and humanities in future Framework Programmes.

Isabelle Pallot-Frossard, President of the Fondation des Sciences du Patrimoine, spoke on the responsibilities of the heritage community, referencing the proverb that heritage is something "we do not inherit from our ancestors, but borrow from our children." She defined heritage science as an interdisciplinary domain focused on the "understanding, care and sustainable use of heritage so it can enrich people's life both today and in the future." Pallot-Frossard placed ARCHE within the broader context of European support for the field, acknowledging three decades of investment from the European Commission that has enabled major initiatives like the E-RIHS research infrastructure and the new European Collaborative Cloud for Cultural Heritage.

Georg Häusler, Director for 'Culture, Creativity and Sport' at DG EAC, discussed the productive collaboration between Commission directorates. He observed a significant evolution in the perception of cultural heritage at the policy level, from a focus on historical monuments to an understanding of heritage as an active "part of solutions for sustainable environmental practises." He projected that the ARCHE SRIA will serve as a "guiding light" for the coming years and announced that DG EAC is preparing a new strategic framework for cultural policy, the **"Cultural Compass,"** which he stated will be a "big game changer" for the sector.

Concluding the opening remarks, **Pilar Aguar Fernandez**, Director for 'People: Health and Society' at DG RTD, grounded the discussion in high-level European policy, quoting President von der Leyen's statement that "European identity is bound together by our rich and varied cultural tapestry." She described the ARCHE project's SRIA as a "real, real milestone" that effectively paves the way for future work. Fernandez explained the rationale for selecting the Partnership instrument for the RCH initiative, noting its capacity to pool significant resources—with an expected budget of around €200 million over ten years—and to ensure a governance structure with close stakeholder engagement, which is essential for addressing complex challenges like climate change.

Presentation of ARCHE Project Achievements

Following the introductory addresses, the session transitioned to the project's specific outcomes with the screening of a video produced by project partners at Matej Bel University. The video provided a high-level overview of the ARCHE initiative's mission, scope, and spirit. It positioned ARCHE as a vibrant community uniting researchers, policymakers, and practitioners to address global challenges through cultural heritage research and innovation. The narrative highlighted the project's key pillars, including its use of advanced methodologies for mapping and evaluation, the development of the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda, and its emphasis on international cooperation. Featuring testimonials from partners across Europe, the video underscored the project's collaborative nature and its role in laying the foundation for the "next ambitious step": the European Partnership for Resilient Cultural Heritage. This presentation served as an effective bridge from the strategic context provided by the opening speakers to the detailed results that would follow.

Mapping the European Landscape of Cultural Heritage Research

Juan Climent of the Spanish State Research Agency presented the findings from an extensive mapping exercise designed to provide a comprehensive overview of the research and innovation ecosystem in Europe. The analysis was based on an evidence base that included key policy documents, in-depth interviews, and a database compiling information on 11 European partnerships, 669 funded projects, and the national research programmes of 18 countries.

The findings indicated a high policy interest in "participatory approaches to cultural heritage management and governance," though this was not yet reflected in the volume of funded R&D projects. The mapping also revealed that most funded projects have historically focused on tangible heritage, with identified gaps in research connecting cultural heritage to well-being and its role as an active contributor to the green transition. At the national level, emerging priorities included heritage restitution,

contested heritage, and the political instrumentalization of heritage. The exercise also surfaced several lessons for future initiatives, including the need to address a geographical imbalance in participation, where Central and South-Eastern European countries are involved less frequently, and the bureaucratic challenges that can impede transnational collaboration.

Expanding the International Network: Insights from Global Workshops

A panel presentation followed, with organizers of six international workshops sharing key outcomes from their engagement with research and policy communities across the globe.

- **Silvia Rossi reported** that targeted workshops focused on specific geographical regions resulted in a significant **geographical enlargement** of the future RCH Partnership. These efforts led to five new countries—**Czechia, Croatia, Portugal, Slovenia, and Türkiye**—expressing their commitment to join the alliance.
- **Matija Strlič** discussed the Ljubljana workshop, which focused on Southeastern Europe. He emphasized the importance of transnational **and regional alignment** by leveraging existing networks and fostering inter-sectoral dialogue between ministries of science, culture, and the environment.
- **Shangyun Shen** outlined the innovative "paired" and "integrated" speaker models used in the online workshop for Asia and Oceania. This approach, which combined research and policy experts, was presented as a "powerful blueprint for ensuring our international dialogues effectively bridge the gap between research and policy."
- **Kevin Baumer** reported that the Vienna workshop was a key forum for **engaging diverse stakeholders**, successfully bringing major European initiatives, including E-RIHS and the Common European Dataspace for Cultural Heritage, together to establish a basis for future collaboration.
- **Maria Gravari-Barbas** detailed the **co-creation approach** of the Paris workshop, which engaged the academic community through intensive bilateral meetings and collaborative agenda-setting. The event proved highly successful, with numerous academic institutions expressing their interest to collaborate in the future with the RCH Partnership.
- **Juan Climent** concluded the panel by summarizing the thematic priorities that were consistently identified across all workshops, confirming a strong global **alignment with the SRIA's core areas**, including the role of local

communities, interministerial collaboration, and the importance of heritage education.

Building the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA)

Alison Heritage (ICCROM) and Katherine **Warren** (AHRC-UKRI) detailed the methodology used to develop the ARCHE SRIA.

The process was anchored in **strategic foresight**, a structured approach for thinking about long-term futures. Alison Heritage explained that "foresight is not forecasting; it does not seek to predict the future, but rather, it challenges assumptions to reveal unconsidered futures." The methodology began with **trend scanning** of future-oriented literature, organized using the PESTLE¹ framework to identify key drivers of change.

The findings were then advanced through a series of participatory workshops. Katherine Warren described this collaborative process, which included a **Driver Mapping** workshop to prioritize trends, a **SWOT Analysis** of the previous 2020 JPI CH agenda, and a **Visioning** workshop. The final versions of the ARCHE Vision and Mission were then circulated for public online consultation to ensure they were co-created. The speakers concluded by mentioning both ARCHE final agreed **Vision** (By 2040, ARCHE will have created new opportunities for Cultural Heritage research collaboration which will have resulted in the strengthened ability to respond to societal challenges and an improved quality of life) and **Mission** (ARCHE will co-create multidisciplinary joint research funding actions, knowledge exchange and capacity building activities in order to strengthen the resilience of cultural heritage in Europe during the twin digital and green transition. Through a unique partnership of funding agencies, ministries, researchers, practitioners and citizens, common opportunities and challenges will be addressed, societal resilience will be strengthened and research impact will be scaled up). Roundtable: Paving the Way Towards the RCH Partnership

The final session of the day, moderated by **Mariachiara Esposito**, was a roundtable discussion on the legacies of ARCHE and the path forward with the RCH Partnership.

Pascal Liévaux, Chair of the JPI CH, identified the consolidation of a shared, holistic approach to heritage—encompassing its tangible, intangible, digital, and natural dimensions—as a major achievement of the past decade. Looking ahead, he

¹ The acronym stands for **P**olitical, **E**conomic, **S**ocial, **T**echnological, **L**egal, and **E**nvironmental factors, all of which can influence strategic decision-making and the long-term success of an organization. The PESTLE analysis is a strategic management framework that could be used to evaluate the external factors affecting their operations, providing a structured way to identify opportunities and threats.

highlighted two challenges: first, the need to involve heritage professionals as active **actors** in research from its inception; and second, the need to foster genuine collaboration between the heritage science and environmental science communities, a process that must begin at the national level.

Katja Reppel, Head of "Democracy, Equality & Culture" Unit at DG RTD, stated that a collaborative and cross-disciplinary approach is the "DNA of the research framework programmes." She identified long-term instruments like the RCH Partnership and European Research Infrastructure Consortia (ERICs) as key mechanisms for ensuring sustainability. She provided a positive outlook for the future, noting that cultural heritage is referenced in the proposal for the next framework programme (FP10) and is explicitly mentioned in the new European Competitiveness Fund.

Catherine Magnant, Head of "Cultural Policy" Unit at DG EAC, observed the strong alignment between ARCHE's findings and the lessons from the 2018 European Year of Cultural Heritage. She identified the different "time cycles" of policy-making and research as a primary challenge to full alignment. However, she pointed to the clear policy trajectory—from the European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018 to the 2022 OMC report 'Strengthening cultural heritage resilience for climate change – Where the European Green Deal meets cultural heritage', and now to the RCH Partnership—as a concrete example of how sustained, collaborative effort can build long-term impact.

The discussion was opened to the audience, which raised two key questions. The first question concerned the measurement of the social and economic value of heritage research beyond scientific metrics. In response, Reppel acknowledged the challenge, explaining that while Horizon Europe has mandates for impact evaluation, these often focus on economic indicators. She noted that capturing societal impact is more difficult but is a critical consideration for the Commission's evaluation units.

The second question addressed the risk that aligning research with policy could limit it to politically acceptable topics. The panel outlined several safeguards in the European system. Magnant highlighted the pluralistic nature of EU policy development, which involves broad consultations to prevent singular political influence. Reppel explained the dual structure of Horizon Europe, which balances policy-driven "programmed" research with "bottom-up" funding streams (e.g., ERC, MSCA) that ensure scientific autonomy. Finally, Liévaux added that long-term national research strategies, developed with the scientific community, provide a stable framework that insulates research from short-term political pressures.

Conclusion of the Day One

The first day of the ARCHE Final Event successfully showcased the project's comprehensive achievements and laid a strong foundation for the future of coordinated cultural heritage research in Europe. The collaborative development of the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda, built on a rigorous foresight process and broad international consultation, stands as the project's central legacy. The proceedings demonstrated a clear and powerful consensus on the need for a holistic, resilient, and impact-driven approach to cultural heritage, paving a confident way forward for the upcoming Resilient Cultural Heritage Partnership.

ARCHE Final Event Day Two

Presentation of the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA)

Vania Virgili, Director General of the E-RIHS ERIC, presented the finalised ARCHE Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda. She began by emphasizing that the SRIA is a "really shared work" that belongs to all who participated in its extensive development process, such as the work of strategic foresight presented on the day before. Virgili noted that while the document builds upon the foundation of the 2020 JPI CH SRIA, a full revision was necessary to address the changed context and newly emerged challenges.

The process was described as highly collaborative and participatory, involving three hybrid stakeholder workshops, eight working groups, and a public consultation that garnered 240 contributions from 27 countries. Virgili explained that every page of the document reflects the diverse voices of ARCHE partners, the scientific community, advisory boards, and national representatives.

She outlined the SRIA's structure, which is built around three strategic priorities:

1. **Cultural Heritage and Environment:** Addressing the impacts of climate change, risk assessment, adaptation, and the need for sustainable, nature-based solutions.
2. **Cultural Heritage and Society:** Exploring how heritage supports social resilience, well-being, and inclusion.
3. **Cultural Heritage and Governance:** Rethinking how heritage is managed, funded, and protected in a fair, participatory, and forward-looking manner.

These priorities are interconnected by three cross-cutting themes: Communication and Public Engagement; Science, Technology, and Innovation; and the Science-

Policy-Society Interface. The entire framework is grounded in seven guiding principles, including equity, diversity, inclusion, capacity building, and open science. Virgili concluded by positioning the SRIA as a "perfect bridge" and the central legacy of the ARCHE project, providing a fundamental document for the future Resilient Cultural Heritage (RCH) Partnership.

ARCHE SRIA and its Synthesis – Executive Summary

The Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) of the Alliance for Research on Cultural Heritage in Europe (ARCHE) is built on extensive stakeholder consultation, the achievements of the Joint Programming Initiative on Cultural Heritage and Global Change (JPI CH) created in 2010 and its 2020 SRIA, and on the 2022 joint JPI CH - JPI Climate White Paper on Cultural Heritage and Climate Change. It also takes into account the latest strategic recommendations from key international conventions and policy documents.

The ARCHE SRIA has been developed by the cultural heritage and climate communities, engaging a broad and diverse range of stakeholders and key organisations, to strengthen interdisciplinary cooperation in cultural heritage research. It is designed to foster close cooperation and synergies at European and international levels.

The ARCHE SRIA reflects the evolution of the cultural heritage research landscape since the launch of the 2020 JPI CH SRIA, aligning research priorities with today's challenges. It presents an integrated strategy for research to highlight the multiple roles that cultural heritage can play in a society facing global environmental and socio-political crises and challenges.

Principles, Cross-Cutting Themes and Priorities

Based on these foundations, three **Priority Areas** and three **Cross-Cutting Themes** have been identified to address key policy challenges and research and innovation opportunities:

Priority Areas

1. Cultural Heritage and Environment: Strengthening Resilience through Risk Assessment and Management, Climate Mitigation and Adaptation.
2. Cultural Heritage and Society: Enhancing the Resilience of Society.
3. Cultural Heritage and Governance: Seizing Opportunities towards Sustainable Development.

Each Priority Area includes a number of **Core Themes** that aim to develop innovative and transdisciplinary research within cultural heritage and in related fields.

Cross-Cutting Themes

- Communication, Education and Public Engagement
- Science, Technology and Innovation
- Science, Policy and Society Interface

Research and Innovation Principles

Aligned with the European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity, seven guiding principles will shape implementation:

- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
- Capacity Building and Learning Opportunities
- Minimized Environmental Footprint of Research Activities
- Open Science and Open Innovation
- Digital Pathways
- Collaborative Research Across Disciplines and Sectors
- Complementarity and Additionality with Existing Initiatives

Implementation, Vision & Mission

The ARCHE SRIA will be implemented by ARCHE partners through joint activities, seeking new opportunities with other initiatives and countries, in line with the 2024 Vision and Mission for the ARCHE Alliance.

By 2040, ARCHE aims to create new opportunities for cultural heritage research collaboration, strengthening the ability to respond to societal challenges and improving quality of life.

Vision:

To create new opportunities for Cultural Heritage research collaboration that strengthens societal resilience and improves quality of life.

Mission:

To co-create multidisciplinary joint research funding actions, knowledge exchange and capacity building activities that strengthen the resilience of cultural heritage in Europe during the digital and green transitions. Through a unique partnership of funding agencies, ministries, researchers, practitioners and citizens, ARCHE will address common challenges, strengthen societal resilience and scale up research impact.

Dynamic Exercise on Communicating Research Results

Following the presentation, **Shangyun Shen** from the Fondation des Sciences du Patrimoine moderated a dynamic exercise using the Mentimeter platform. The exercise was designed to gather audience perspectives on how the future RCH Partnership should communicate its research.

A key initial question asked whether participants felt there was a strong link between the cultural heritage and climate science research communities. The result was noteworthy, with a majority of respondents indicating that the link is currently not strong, suggesting a significant gap that the future partnership will need to address. When asked how to foster this connection, prominent suggestions from the audience included joint projects, networking, open communication, and shared workshops.

Participants identified professional jargon, the complexity of topics, and a lack of clear impact as the primary challenges in communicating research to a broader audience. When asked about preferred creative mediums for communication, "creative workshops" emerged as the leading choice, followed by exhibitions and artistic performances. The session generated numerous concrete suggestions for the RCH Partnership to effectively engage stakeholders outside academia, including the use of social media, podcasts, school programmes, and community events.

Roundtable | Challenges at the Science-Policy Interface

This session, moderated by **Margareth Hagen** of the European Alliance for Social Sciences and Humanities, explored the complex relationship between research and policy through presentations from four distinct projects, followed by a discussion.

Project Presentations:

- **Irene Bianchi** presented the **PALIMPSEST** project, a research and innovation action exploring how creative practices can drive landscape sustainability. She highlighted that co-creation at the art-science-policy interface is challenging, as it requires finding common ground among actors with different methods, languages, and interests. She posed critical questions for the field, asking whether current research and policy frameworks are adaptive enough to allow for open-ended experimentation and whether they are capable of capturing the value of processes, not just objects.
- **Johanna Leissner**, scientific representative for Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft, discussed the **EU OMC Member States' expert group report on Strengthening Cultural Heritage Resilience for Climate Change**. She emphasized that this was the first time a political mandate had been given to this topic at the EU level. The group's work identified key climate threats, mapped risk potential by

heritage type, and successfully advocated for the inclusion of cultural heritage in national climate adaptation plans. A central finding was that research programmes are "indispensable drivers for implementation" but are often missing at the national level.

- **Jelena Kulušić** introduced the work of the **Dragodid Association**, a Croatian NGO dedicated to preserving the traditional knowledge of dry-stone walling. She framed this practice as a model of resilience and a nature-based solution that supports water management, soil protection, and biodiversity. Through volunteer camps, workshops, and a citizen-science geoportal, the association facilitates the direct transfer of intergenerational knowledge. The project serves as a clear example of how traditional knowledge offers tested, sustainable, and low-carbon solutions that can inform modern policy.
- **Andreas Wiesand** presented the **HERIWELL Project**, which developed a pan-European methodology to analyse the impact of cultural heritage on societal well-being. The project concluded that cultural heritage contributes positively and transversally to well-being, particularly in areas of education, place identity, community relationships, and economic development. However, it also found that cultural heritage can have negative impacts, especially in cases of contested or neglected heritage, where social cohesion can be severely affected.

Discussion:

The discussant, **Katarzyna Bałucka-Dębska** from EIT Climate-KIC, drew parallels between the communication challenges in the climate and culture sectors. She noted that scientific evidence alone is often insufficient to drive action due to the "tragedy of the horizons," where immediate concerns overshadow long-term risks. She advocated for a joint effort to redefine core concepts like "competitiveness" and "resilience" to include well-being and sustainability. She stressed that the green transition is not merely technical but requires a change in mindsets, which can be fostered through creative communication and engagement with mass culture to make complex issues more relatable.

The subsequent panel discussion offered advice for researchers and policymakers. Key suggestions included thinking beyond disciplinary silos, engaging directly with local communities, and actively inviting political representatives to research events to bridge the gap between science and governance. The panel also touched on the need for "popularisation" of heritage knowledge to counter the populist instrumentalization of heritage.

Parallel Breakout Sessions

Following a short break, participants in-person attended one of four parallel breakout sessions focused on specific methodologies and challenges.

[Serious game: dealing with heritage loss in times of climate crisis](#)

This interactive session, led by **Eva Stegmeijer** from Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands, engaged participants in a game simulating crisis decision-making about heritage loss due to climate change. Tasked with protecting 20 heritage sites from an impending flood with limited time and resources, participants assumed different stakeholder roles and negotiated which sites to save, adapt, or abandon. The exercise was designed to convey the experience of being unprepared for a crisis. The post-game reflection highlighted that the time pressure forced pragmatic decisions and moved discussions beyond emotional attachments. Key conclusions from the participants were that climate-heritage risk maps are urgently needed to inform emergency planning and that the heritage sector has a crucial role not only in preservation but also in developing strategies to manage inevitable loss and facilitate community mourning.

[Foresight for heritage and research: the role of Living Labs](#)

Moderated by **Ian Thomas** (British Council) with **Alison Heritage** (ICCROM) and **Jörn Fricke** (Breda University of Applied Sciences), this session explored the value of Living Labs and strategic foresight as participatory research methodologies. Living Labs were defined as trust-based, bottom-up collaborative frameworks, while strategic foresight was presented as a systematic approach to exploring a range of possible futures to better inform present-day actions. The discussion concluded that these methods are highly valuable for the heritage sector, particularly for including underrepresented groups, exploring intangible heritage, and helping the sector navigate change by opening up new, transformative pathways. The session also addressed practical challenges, such as the need for longer-term project funding to build community trust and the necessity for more researchers to be trained in participatory methods.

[Knowledge Hubs for boosting outreach and transferring research results](#)

This session, moderated by **Aleksandra Ćwik-Mohanty** (KEA European Affairs) with **Maria Caballero Pons** (VITO), **Charlotte Lorentz Hjorth** (EKIP project) and **Csaba Borboly** (European Committee of the Regions), focused on how knowledge hubs and the Cultural and Creative Industries (CCIs) can collaborate to disseminate research,

especially in rural contexts. The discussion identified a need for an "entrepreneurial mindset" within both public administration and academia to foster innovation. A central conclusion was the unique role CCI can play within the "quintuple helix" model of innovation (which connects the public sector, business, academia, civil society, and the environment). Participants asserted that creative practitioners are ideally positioned to act as the "voice of nature," translating complex scientific and environmental data into accessible and compelling narratives for a broader public.

Capacity building and the interplay of different forms of knowledge

Moderated by **Mariachiara Esposito** (FSP), with **Jermína Stanojev** (KU Leuven) and **Maria Gravari-Barbas** (Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne University), this session argued for a fundamental shift in capacity building from a one-way "knowledge transfer" to a reciprocal model of "knowledge exchange." A key insight was the expanded definition of "knowledge producers" to include policymakers, who shape the processes through which knowledge is applied. The discussion emphasized the need to integrate soft skills—such as critical thinking, communication, and mediation—into heritage training. It was suggested that these skills are better "nurtured" through innovative formats like mentorship programs rather than simply "taught" in a traditional manner, requiring a change in the formats and approaches to professional development in the heritage sector.

Wrap-up and Conclusions

The final session of the event brought all participants back together for reports from the breakout sessions and concluding remarks. The moderators of the four parallel sessions each presented the main takeaways from their respective discussions, highlighting themes of proactive planning, participatory methods, entrepreneurial thinking, and knowledge exchange.

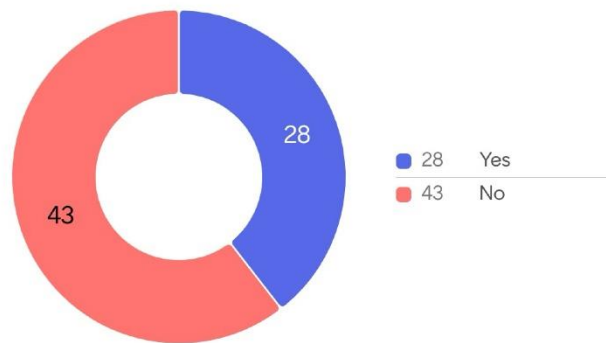
Alexandre Causse provided the final summary, using the metaphor of "building bridges" to synthesize the event's discussions. He listed the many connections that the ARCHE project and the wider community must continue to build: bridges with past projects, between sectors and disciplines, with stakeholders and communities, between different scientific fields, between countries, and between research, policy, and practice.

The event concluded with a final reflection on hope, action, and engagement, leaving participants with a sense of shared purpose and a clear direction for the future of resilient cultural heritage in Europe.

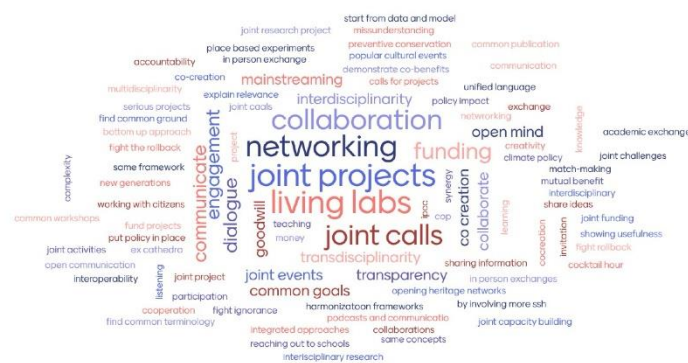
Annex I - Mentimeter results



Do you think there is a strong link between the cultural heritage and climate sciences research communities?



How can stronger connections between the cultural heritage and climate science research communities be fostered to maximize societal benefits?



What challenges arise when communicating research results to a broad audience?



What would be your preferred creative medium of communicating research results for the future RCH Partnership?



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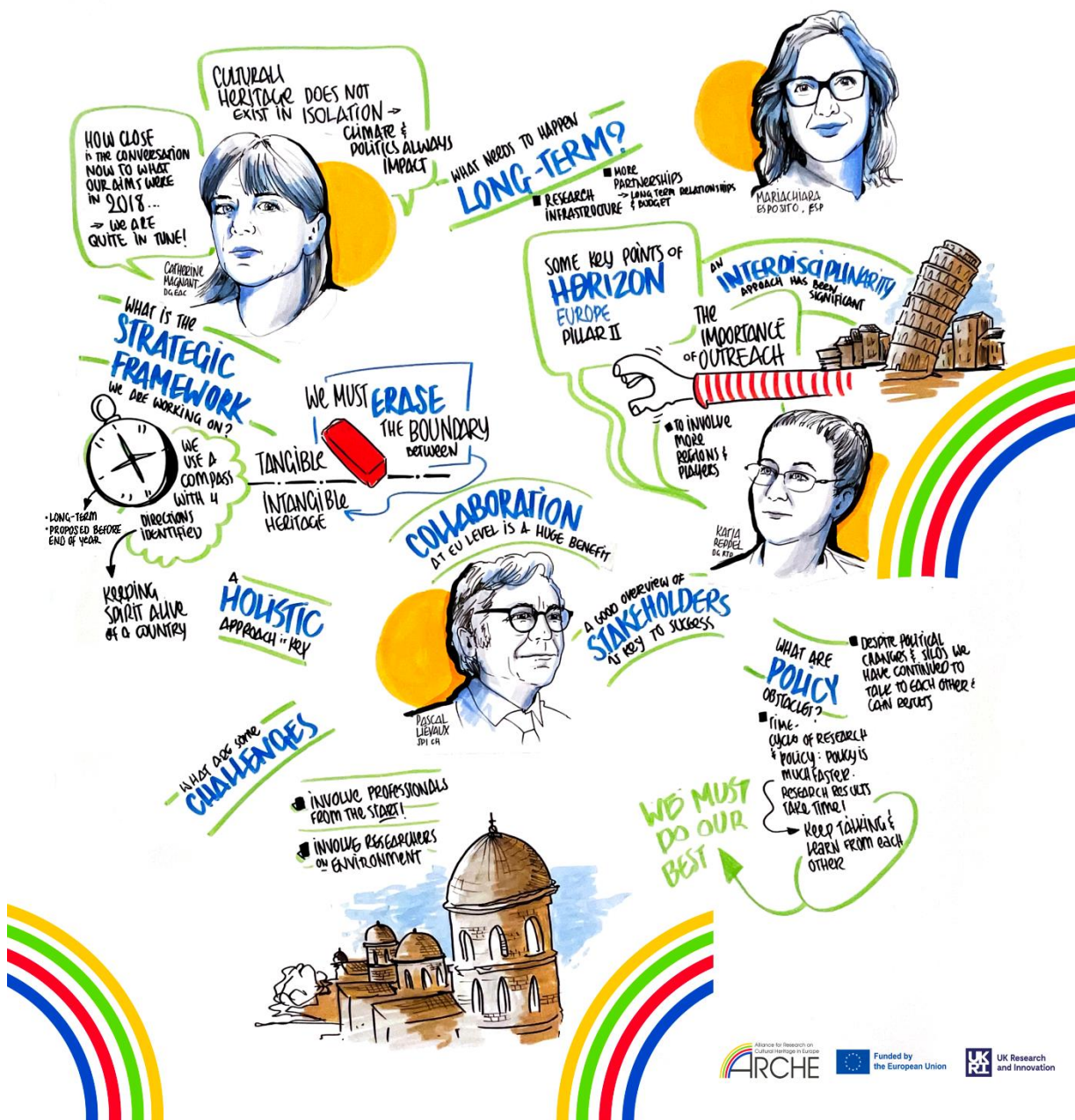
Annex II - Visual harvesting by Iris Maertens





ROUNDTABLE

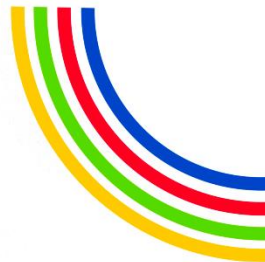
THE LEGACIES OF ARCHE & JPI CH FOR HERITAGE RESEARCH





WHAT ARE CRUCIAL TOOLS?

- HORIZON EUROPE
- NEW CHALLENGES CALL FOR FUTURE COORDINATION OF LONG-TERM PROJECTS



WHAT ARE RISKS & THREATS?

HOW TO STAY OPEN & ALIGNED WITH RESEARCH & POLICY: WHAT IS DEEMED "USEFUL" BY POLITICIANS... & WILL THAT LIMIT OR INFLUENCE OUR WORK? → LOOK AT USA

- NEAR-FUTURE RISK: BUDGET IS THERE, BUT ALSO A LOT OF PROJECTS AND UPCOMING ISSUES
- EU CULTURE IS UNDER ATTACK: CLEARLY VISIBLE IN UKRAINE; WHERE RUSSIA IS ACTIVELY DESTROYING CULTURE.
- CO-CREATION WITH HORIZON EUROPE IS KEY TO TACKLE ISSUES
 - BUDGET IS DECEASEDLY KEPT VAGUE
 - MEMBERS STATES → WHAT IS THEIR PRIORITY?

- EU HAS VARIOUS STAKEHOLDERS: NOT JUST POLITICS
- HORIZON EU HAS NO SAY IN WHAT ITS RESEARCHERS DO... IT IS BOTTOM-UP

DON'T UNDERESTIMATE OR UNDERVALUE... THE SOCIAL IMPACT

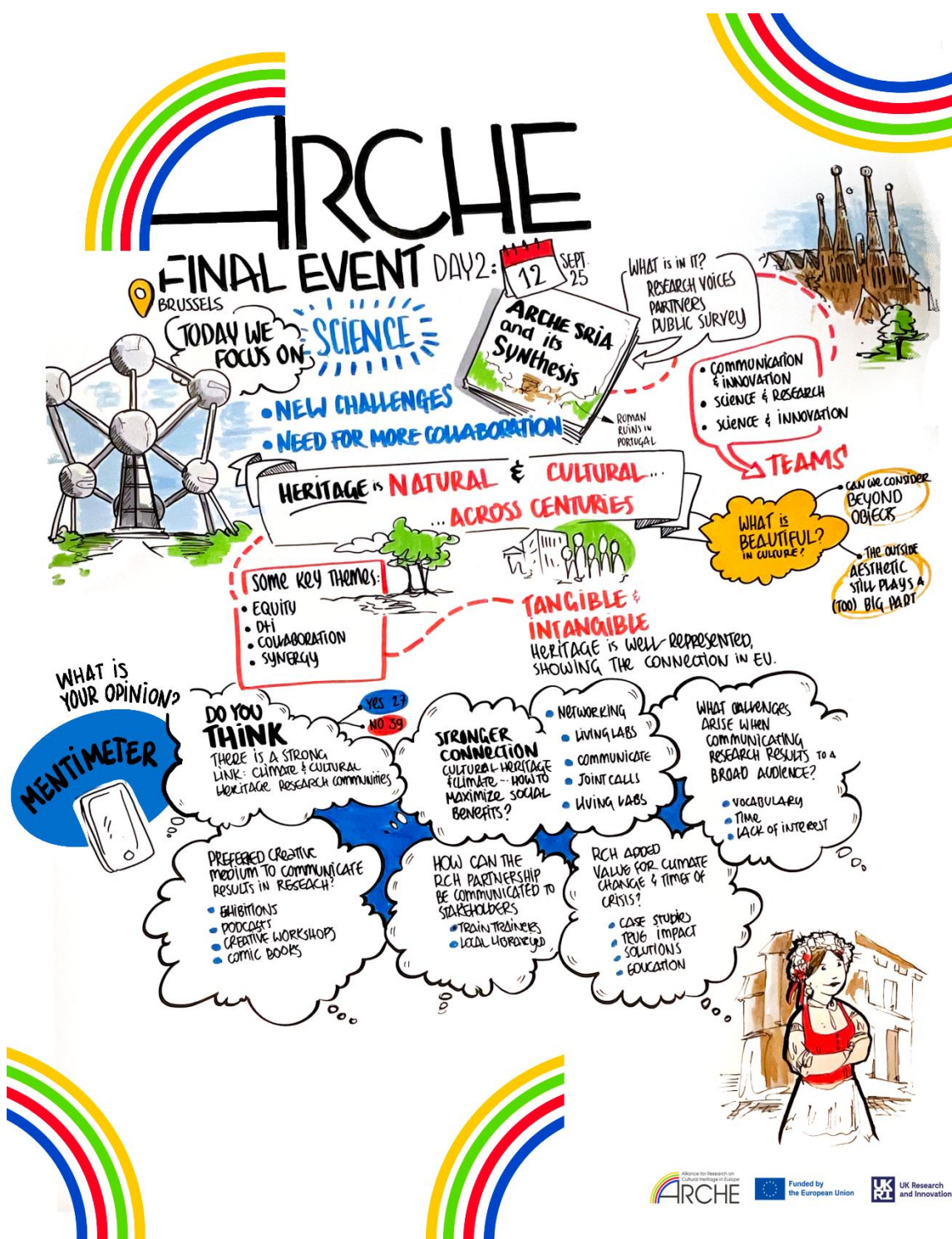
- WHAT IS SIGNIFICANT BEYOND GDP?

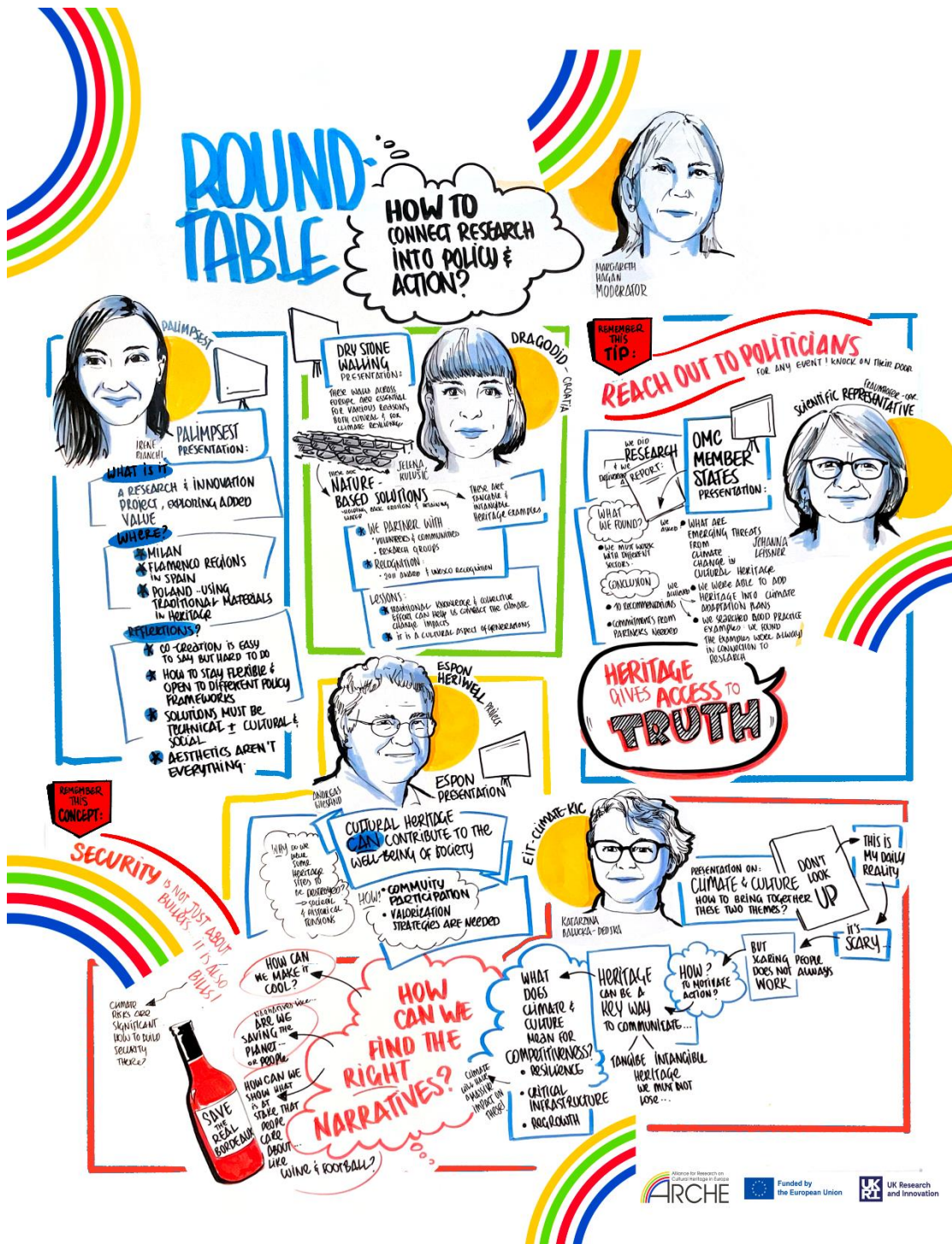


ARCHE
Alliance for Research on Cultural Heritage in Europe

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WORKSHOPS

1. SERIOUS GAME:

DEALING WITH HERITAGE LOSS IN TIMES OF CLIMATE CHAOS



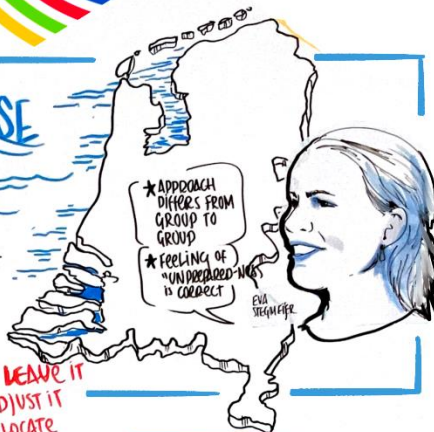
SEA LEVEL RISE

NOW!

WHAT SHALL WE SAVE & WHAT NOT?

CAN WE APPLY TRIAGE TO CLIMATE RISKS?

- LEAVE IT
- ADJUST IT
- RELOCATE HERITAGE



2. WHY?

FORESIGHT

FOR HERITAGE & RESEARCH: THE ROLE OF LIVING LABS IN TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE

UNDER-REPRESENTED GROUPS FEEL THEY ARE HEARD

WHAT DO YOU NEED FOR A LIVING LAB?

- TIME
- BUY-IN
- CLEAR PLAN

CONSERVATION PRINCIPLES & PAST - PRESENT - FUTURE... WE NEED TO THINK MORE SYSTEMATICALLY. WHO WOULD A LONG-TERM PLAN WORK FOR? WE TEND TO WORK TOO MUCH IN THE PRESENT

SAFE SPACES

- TRUST-BASED TOOLS
- REACH UN-REPRESENTED GROUPS
- PEOPLE-CENTRED!



3. KNOWLEDGE HUBS FOR BOOSTING

ENTREPRENEUR-MINDSET NEEDED IN CITY HALLS & SCIENCE! OUTREACH & TRANSFORMING RESEARCH RESULTS

ECO-SYSTEM SERVICES NEEDED TO "COME OFF THE PAPER"

CREATIVE INDUSTRIES?



ACTIVITIES IN KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE MATTERS. NOT KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

PART OF COMMUNITY SHOULD BE POLICY-MAKERS

CHANGE FORMATS & TRAINING MODALITIES WE NEED SOFT SKILLS & NURTURE THEM!

4. CAPACITY BUILDING

& THE INTERPLAY OF DIFFERENT FORMS OF KNOWLEDGE

- HOW TO MAKE RESEARCH VALUABLE TO A POLICY LEVEL?
- START EARLY WITH GRASS ROOTS CAN BE IMPORTANT



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CLOSING SESSION



HOPE

IS OFTEN MISUNDERSTOOD AS PASSIVE WISHFUL THINKING, RATHER THAN THE ACTIVE, COURAGEOUS FORCE IT TRULY IS.

REAL HOPE INVOLVES TAKING ACTION & ENGAGEMENT.

LET'S ACT

TRANSFORMATIVE POWER

WE MUST BUILD BRIDGES

GENERATIONS!

INNOVATION

OMC REPORT

BUILD KNOWLEDGE

BREAK SILO'S

GET STAKEHOLDERS ON BOARD!

CLIMATE SCIENCE



Annex III - Event programme



Programme - Day I

Herman Teirlinck Building, Havenlaan 88
Room: Auditorium

- 13:30 - 14:00 Welcome and registration
- 14:00 - 14:30 **Introductory addresses**
- **Alexandre Caussé**, ARCHE project coordinator, Fondation des Sciences du Patrimoine (FSP), France
 - **Isabelle Pallot-Frossard**, President, FSP, France
 - **Pilar Aguar Fernandez**, Director, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation (DG RTD)
 - **Georg Häusler**, Director, Directorate-General for Youth, Sport and Culture (DG EAC)
- 14:30 - 15:50 **ARCHE achievements**
- ARCHE in a nutshell
 - Mapping of national, transnational and EU policies and programmes in CH R&I
 - Expanding the international network
 - Building the ARCHE Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda
- 15:50 - 16:20 Coffee break
- 16:20 - 17:20 **Roundtable | The legacies of ARCHE and JPI CH for heritage research**
- Moderator: **Mariachiara Esposito**, FSP
- **Pascal Liévaux**, Chair, Joint Programming Initiative on Cultural Heritage and Global Change (JPI CH)
 - **Katja Reppel**, Head of Unit, DG RTD
 - **Catherine Magnant**, Head of Unit, DG EAC
- 17:20 - 17:30 **Conclusions of Day I**
- 17:30 - 19:00 **Cocktail reception**



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Programme - Day II

Herman Teirlinck Building, Havenlaan 88
Polyvalent room

09:00 - 09:30

Introductory session

- **The Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA)**
- **Dynamic exercise with the audience** - how should the RCH Partnership transmit and communicate its research results?

09:30 - 10:45

Roundtable | Challenges at the science-policy interface

Moderator: **Margareth Hagen**, Board Member, European Alliance for Social Sciences and Humanities

Discussant: **Katarzyna Bałucka - Dębska**, EIT Climate-KIC

- **Irene Bianchi**, PALIMPSEST Project
- **Johanna Leissner**, Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft
- **Jelena Kulušić**, Dragodid Association, Croatia
- **Andreas Wiesand**, HERIWELL Project

10:45 - 11:00

Coffee break

11:00 - 12:15

Parallel breakout sessions

(in person only)

1 - Serious game: dealing with heritage loss in times of climate crisis

- With **Eva Stegmeijer**, Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands

2 - Foresight for heritage and research: the role of Living Labs in tackling future challenges

- Moderated by **Ian Thomas**, British Council
- With **Alison Heritage** (ICCROM) and **Jörn Fricke** (Breda University of Applied Sciences)



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Programme - Day II

3 - Knowledge Hubs for boosting outreach and transferring research results

- Moderated by **Aleksandra Ćwik-Mohanty**, KEA European Affairs
- With **Maria Caballero Pons** (VITO), **Charlotte Lorentz Hjorth** (EKIP project) and **Csaba Borboly** (European Committee of the Regions)

4 - Capacity building and the interplay of different forms of knowledge

- Moderated by **Mariachiara Esposito**, FSP
- With **Jermína Stanojev** (KU Leuven) and **Maria Gravari-Barbas** (Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne)

12:15 - 13:00

Wrap-up and conclusions



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