

Kick-off event of the European Partnership for Resilient Cultural Heritage

Mucem – Musée des civilisations de l'Europe et de la Méditerranée

29 September 2026 | Programme

Venue: Mucem – Musée des civilisations de l'Europe et de la Méditerranée, 1 esplanade du J4, 13002 Marseille (Auditorium)
& Online

The event is open to all. Registration is mandatory.

8:30–9:00 Welcome of participants

9:00–9:05 **Opening of the event**

9:05–9:30 **Institutional addresses**

- **Marie-Charlotte Calafat**, Chief Heritage Curator and Director of Collections and Research, Musée des civilisations de l'Europe et de la Méditerranée, France
- **Isabelle Pallot-Frossard**, President, Fondation des sciences du patrimoine, France
- **Glenn Micallef**, Commissioner “Intergenerational Fairness, Youth, Culture and Sport”, European Commission (video message)
- **Pilar Aguar**, Director “People: Health and Society”, Directorate-General Research and Innovation, European Commission (video message)
- **Monica Brînzei**, Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Space, France

Session 1 – Building resilience

The RCH Partnership results from longstanding efforts by Member States and the European Commission to fund collaborative research on cultural heritage, and is launched at a time of multiple EU-level initiatives for climate action. This session will present initiatives that paved the way for the RCH Partnership, as well as the pressing needs and challenges that this instrument shall address.

9:30–9:50 **Keynote**

Siri Veland, human geographer, senior researcher, NORCE Norwegian Research Centre, Norway

9:50–10:10 **A decade of joint transnational calls for cultural heritage research in Europe**

Pascal Liévaux, chair of the JPI CH and deputy head of the Delegation for Research, Inspection, and Innovation, in charge of research, Directorate General of Heritage and Architecture, Ministry of Culture, France

10:10-10:30 **Objectives and challenges of the European Partnership for Resilient Cultural Heritage**
Alexandre Caussé, RCH Partnership coordinator and Head of international relations, and **Miruna Găman**, European projects officer, Fondation des sciences du patrimoine, France

10:30-11:00 Coffee break

11:00-12:00 **Roundtable – European policies and initiatives to tackle climate change and safeguard cultural heritage**
Moderated by **Johanna Leissner**, Scientific representative Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft, chair of the EU OMC Group “Strengthening Cultural Heritage Resilience for Climate Change” (2021-2022)

- **Katja Reppel**, Head of Unit, DG RTD, European Commission
- **Michael Keary**, Policy Officer at Climate KIC, Belgium
- **Michael Kotsias**, Head of the European Union and International Organisations, General Secretariat for Research and Innovation, Greece

12:00-13:30 Lunch

Session 2 – Working together across disciplines and countries

The event's second session will focus on cooperation in all its forms: across disciplines, sectors, regions and countries. Just as addressing climate change is a challenge that no country can tackle alone, developing innovative and applicable solutions requires collaboration among researchers and practitioners, and among heritage and climate science communities. As a purveyor of knowledge and good-practice exchange platforms and of collaborative research projects, the RCH Partnership provides its communities with the tools to overcome disciplinary and geographic fragmentation.

13:30-13:50 **Keynote**
Piero Baglioni, Professor of Chemistry, University of Florence, Italy

13:50-14:30 **Dialogue – Interdisciplinarity and transsectoriality for an enhanced heritage-based climate action**
Moderated by **Caitlin DeSilvey**, Professor, Environment and Sustainability Institute, University of Exeter, United Kingdom

- **Salma Sabour**, Postdoctoral research fellow, University of Durham, United Kingdom and Director of Science and Interdisciplinarity, Preserving Legacies
- **Elise Vanriest Dabek**, Head of the Collections and Documentation Department, and **Enguerrand Lascols**, conservateur du patrimoine, Mucem, France

14:30-15:30 **Roundtable – Transnational and international cooperation**
Moderated by **Luiz Oosterbeek**, professor, Polytechnic Institute of Tomar, Portugal

- **Angela Atzori**, Team Leader, DG EAC, European Commission
- **Sophie Gébeil**, Deputy Vice-President for the Humanities and Mediterranean, Aix-Marseille University (amU), France

- **Yiannis Kountouris**, Associate Professor in Economics and the Environment, the Centre for Environmental Policy, Imperial College London, coordinator of the FireCULT project

15:30–16:10 Coffee break & Musical break with Tarek Abdallah

Session 3 – Science, Policy and Society Interface

This session will discuss the active participation of local communities in (research) projects. Connecting diverse stakeholders through research endeavours helps generate scientifically robust, socially relevant knowledge for heritage-based climate action. In this regard, the session explores how both scientific research results and local and traditional knowledge offer necessary perspectives for effective policy-making, both at local and global scales. By examining the actors and processes that lead to the production, dissemination and adoption of research results, it highlights the need for an increased integration of heritage-based solutions into environmental and climate policies.

16:10–16:30 Keynote

Małgorzata Ćwikła, Senior Researcher at the Zurich University of Applied Sciences, Center for Arts Management, and in the "Culture for the Planet" Alliance; Convenor of ISO/TC 354/SC 1/WG 1 "Cultural Organizations", Poland

16:30–17:30 Roundtable – Place-based research and community-led initiatives

Moderated by **Matthew Rabagliati**, Head of Policy, Research and Communications, UK National Commission for UNESCO, United Kingdom

- **Aude Fanlo**, Head of the Teaching and Research Department, Mucem, France
- **Sanela Klarić**, Chairwoman of the Green Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Map4Water: ONE THOUSAND FOUNTAINS CITY, 2024 winner of the New European Bauhaus public award, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- **Wang Yu**, Coordinator, Go2CHANGE COST action, Norway

17:30–18:00 Dialogue – From research results to evidence-based policy: how to bridge the gap?

Moderated by **Andrew Potts**, Director of Policy and Partnerships, Preserving Legacies/Advisor, Europa Nostra

- **Andrew Okem**, Head of Science of the IPCC Working Group II Technical Support Unit, The Netherlands
- **Nathalie Vernimme**, Research programme officer, Flanders Heritage Agency

18:00–18:30 Conclusion by early-career researchers and practitioners

- **Lana Nastja Anžur**, president of Young Researchers in Heritage Science Association Slovenia (Heri Sci), Slovenia
- **Atakan Budakçı**, NextGen Heritage Ambassador
- **Sandra Delali Kemeh**, early career scientist

18:30–19:30 Guided tours (on-site registration, limited capacity)

19:30–22:00 Cocktail reception