



EHHF WEB CONFERENCE / 24th SEPT 2020
MANAGING CULTURAL HERITAGE
IN THE CONTEXT OF THE PANDEMIC
MINUTES

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AGENDA

The first EHHF Web-Conference was moderated by **Siim Raie, Director General of the National Heritage Board of Estonia**, future host of the 15th EHHF anniversary (Tallinn / 19-21 May 2021) and current chair of the EHHF steering committee. The event gathered a total of 25 participants, from 20 different member-administrations.

After the postponing of the Tallinn meeting to 2021 was announced, **a first informal online meeting - referred to as the Virtual Fika - took place** (cf. Minutes Virtual Fika 04062020). On this occasion, the participants were invited to give **a brief overview of the situation in their respective administrations**, before a larger and more formal web-conference takes place, in September. This time, concrete examples and specific themes were discussed, to facilitate the exchange of information in the context of the pandemic.

PARTICIPANTS

Polyxeni Adam-Veleni (Greece)	Helena Lagerholm (Sweden)
Lars Amréus (Sweden)	Linda Lainvoo (Estonia)
Stefan Bâlici (Romania)	Leena Marsio (Finland)
Vidmantas Bezaras(Lithuania)	Laura de Miguel Riera (Spain)
Anuška Deranja Crnokić (Croatia)	Alex Paterson (Scotland)
Gislaine Devillers (Belgium_ Wallonia)	Siim Raie (Estonia)
Wolfgang K. Göhner (Germany)	Kristin Huld Sigurðardóttir (Iceland)
Iain Greenway (Northern Ireland)	Petr Spejchal (Czech Republic)
Katarina Kosova (Slovakia)	Ben de Vries (The Netherlands)
Manuel Lacerda (Portugal)	Alexandra Warr (England)
Susan Lammers (The Netherlands)	Stefan Wessman (Finland)
Paul Mahringer (Austria)	Cyril Meniolle de Cizancourt (EHHF)
Robert Peskar (Slovenia)	

The permanent secretariat would like to join the following excused members in sending their best regards to all their European counterparts: Markus Harzenetter (Germany), Gwilym Hughes (Wales), Oliver Martin (Switzerland), Patrick Sanavia (Luxembourg), Thierry Wauters (Belgium_ Brussels), Sonja Vablaere (Belgium_ Flanders).

The recording of the session (02h18Min) is available upon request to the EHHF permanent secretariat: secretariat@ehhf.eu.

WELCOME WORDS AND INTRODUCTION

🕒 00:00

As suggested by the troika and agreed in June on the occasion of the virtual fika, Siim Raie was very happy that the members would **come together again**, and this time, with some planned speakers and topics for everyone to consider. Mr. Raie reminded that the traditional News from the Heads and relevant updates should be kept for the end of the session. He invited the participants to use the chat to address their questions, and asked for everyone's approval before the secretary starts recording the meeting, according to the GDPR demands.

The Director General of the National Heritage Board of Estonia and current chairman of the troika was very happy to welcome the 25 registered participants, especially the first-timers and the member-administrations whom we have been longing for for a few meetings. Before he gave the floor to the first speaker, Mr. Raie finally reminded about the 2021 annual meeting in Estonia, hoping that the situation will allow such gatherings.

CONCRETE EXAMPLES FROM MEMBER-ADMINISTRATIONS

HISTORIC ENGLAND

🕒 00:03

THE COLLECTION OF DATA THROUGHOUT EUROPE, AN EARLY INITIATIVE

Ms. Alexandra Warr, Head of International Affairs

On behalf of Mr. Duncan Wilson, Chief Executive

From the very beginning of March and progressively, Historic England has been trying to collect and compare data regarding the corona measures impacting the heritage sector. First in the UK, then across Europe and beyond. In April, this initiative was brought to the attention of the EHHF. Many members answered positively and started sending information about national measures adopted locally to support heritage. Many kept updating the data as well, which was then shared with the English government and ministers in charge of finances.

In May, the government announced the creation of task forces to elaborate roadmaps and think over the reopening phases, one of them being dedicated to leisure, tourism, heritage and sports. As a response, Historic England implemented their own task forces as follows: Covid-19 intelligence and analysis / Sector recovery / Contribution of heritage for the country's recovery / Cultural property in jeopardy / Contingency planning / engagement strategies / Emergency grant schemes. While the easing of the restrictions had began and the first financial responses arrived (first 2M pounds planned in April, to deal with small scale repairs and individual requests), Historic England continued updating the European data on a weekly basis until mid-June.

In early July, the government agreed on a culture recovery fund of 1,57 Billion pounds. 88M would go to heritage and was to be distributed by Historic England in collaboration with the national heritage fund. Mid-August, a complementary 50M capital funding was delivered, following three main strands: projects, repair grants and new partnerships. The main aim was to deliver quickly what was necessary to repair the heritage assets for the public benefit, but also stimulate the demand for heritage related skills, services and employment. Money was put to evaluate the effectiveness of the grants along the way.

The early mapping across UK, Europe and beyond and the weekly basis update were absolutely key in demonstrating the needs of the sector to our finance ministry. Providing data was crucial to negotiate the grant schemes. In that sense, the EHHF could contribute greatly to the research, collection and comparison of data and standards for the sector.

**DEALING WITH BUDGET CUTS
AND EXCEPTIONAL COMPENSATIONS**

Mr. Stefan Wessman, Senior Adviser

On behalf of Ms. Tiina Merisalo, Director General

Slides are available upon request to the secretariat.

The Finnish government, together with the president of the republic, declared the state of emergency as from mid-March. The heritage agency and the museums were clearly identified as one of the official sectors of activity, critical to the functioning of the society, due to its role in building resilience and sense of community, especially in times of recovery. A specific internal team was implemented and met on a daily basis. The management had extra corona meeting every week, and the staff was briefed on a weekly basis as well. All museums, sites and events were closed and simply cancelled by mid-march for at least two months. Public gatherings were restricted to 10 people. Given the context, the agency strongly recommended remote work when possible, this is still ongoing. Employees were invited to take anything they would need to create a working environment back at home. The digital solutions went increasing internally, and new online services were provided to the public even before an extra-corona budget was announced by the government.

The budget of the agency is very dependent on the revenue from national museums and related in situ businesses (cafés, restaurants, boutiques). Festivals and events are also a big resource usually. As a first impact scenario was being prepared, there was uncertainty regarding possible new restrictions, and therefore regarding the appropriate budget projections. A first 600k EUR fund arrived to compensate immediate revenue losses. The application for another extra budget was made in May. The calculation of the losses was based on 2019 revenues, and three different recovery scenarios were proposed: 30% 50% or 70% of the normal revenue for the remaining of the year. The fourth extra state budget contained 1,7M EUR to compensate the losses, raising the total compensation to 2,3M EUR in total. The government granted another extra budget for the whole cultural sector based on application. The national art institutions got a little bit than 3M EUR, the actors and professional communities in cultural arts and creative sector 18M EUR, professional museums orchestras and theatres 18M, art education 3M, film industry 1M.

Museums opened again in June with restrictions. The whole capital region was locked down for a month, impacting greatly the frequentation of Helsinki museums; but elsewhere, internal tourism was blooming and smaller museums received unpredicted visitors. Nothing is over yet but so far, Finland has been coping relatively well. The Finnish economy as a whole was reduced less than any other EU country. The GDP in April-June period is -3.2%, the average in the EU is 11.7%

NATIONAL HERITAGE BOARD OF ESTONIA
**RISK MANAGEMENT AND ORGANISATION
OF COMPLEX EVENTS**

🕒 00:29

**Ms. Linda Lainvoo, Director of Art Heritage Field,
& Head of Museums and Art Heritage Department**

Slides are available upon request to the secretariat.

Museum is on fire! Improving heritage safety and security has been amongst the priorities of the national heritage board for a few years now. Too often, people consider risk management as another administrative burden, and underestimate the threat. Rescuers are our partners, and it is in our interest that they understand the specific value of heritage as much as possible in case of emergency, in order to mitigate risks and improve procedures. After she participated to an ICCROM seminar in Rome, Ms. Lainvoo was able to implement an inter-agency, scenario based exercise for cultural heritage, involving both the Rescue Board and the police. When the pandemic hit, it was agreed to maintain the table top exercise, and to have it online eventually. When planned and executed carefully and with precision, risk management can become a real eye-opener. It gives a concrete overview of actual capacities, vulnerabilities, division of roles and coordination mechanisms in case of emergency, as well as it is a great input to review emergency plans. As a result, the Estonian National Heritage Board is currently involved in the development of a guideline for online scenario based learning, in collaboration with ICCROM, which will be finished by the end of October.

At two in the morning. In 2020, Estonia was supposed to host the traditional summer Baltic museology school, which brings together museum professionals from Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia every year. The event was to take place at the beginning of August. At that time, it was possible to bring people together in the Baltic bubble, but the main lecturer was supposed to fly from Washington DC, USA. Given the professional context and substantial reason, the permit was granted, involving a test and an isolation until she was proved negative. Tickets were booked and everything was up and running. Although several additional confirmation documents were provided, she was refused both the access to the plane and to the Schengen zone: the main lecturer was not going to make it, and it was decided to go online. She would give her speech at 2am from Washington two nights in a row, and the participants were still truly pleased with the experience.

As a conclusion: it is worth going against odds. Work with risk management allows you to be more prepared and resilient next time a crisis hits you. Training yourself and your people to deal with something unknown, will get everyone better prepared, solution oriented, resilient and quick.

Complementary information provided by the Croatian delegation through the chat:
<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/44116/st08208-en20.pdf>

Mr. Ben de Vries, Project Manager Strategy and International Affairs

On behalf of Ms. Susan Lammers, Director General

Notes are available upon request to the secretariat.

1. The first trend is that the Dutch government is **investing budgets instead of cutting budgets**. For the time being, there is political consensus in Parliament on this matter. The official figures show the Dutch GNP is down to -8,5%; the cultural and creative sector to even -37%. A *first recovery-fund* for the cultural heritage sector was implemented in April. About 400 million euro was spent in new schemes as a compensation for the loss of income from visitors, cancellation of events. Mostly the largest institutions in the cultural industry have benefited from this public funding. At the same time, independent cultural workers and self-employed creative professionals received special funding. Besides, we implemented a new loan facility of 50 million euro through the National Restoration Fund to compensate owners of monuments that are open to the public, but had to close down temporarily. In the beginning of September, a *second emergency package* over 542 million euro was spent on heritage, effective till July 2021.

2. **Cross-innovation**: the financial help is necessary to adapt ourselves to the new situation and find innovative solutions and new ideas to keep the cultural infrastructure alive, agile and resilient. Obviously, a new balance is needed between income and costs. *Museum blockbusters* seem to be out of fashion. Instead, small-scale, more intimate cultural experience closer to your home, are up and running. The measures are meant to sustain those transitions. We are convinced that there is an opportunity for dense metropolitan areas, and remote, lagging regions alike, to reconsider growth models moving away from culture-based large-scale tourism, towards models fostering cross-innovation that can be incorporated into creative tourism programmes. *In many ways the lockdown has accelerated the transfer and adaptation of culture to digital space as well*. Rapidly we created other formats and built more online content platforms and live-streaming, which proved to be very successful. Our online meetings are domain-driven and networks with our 12 provinces were made stronger. *And what does corona mean for the cultural landscape as an heritage asset?* Stimulated by re-thinking on climate change and sustainability, there are now new chances for domestic tourism. Many people re-discovered the beauty of the Dutch landscape.

3. Finally, there is a third trend, and that is the effect on **societal level**. The pandemic gave a clearer perspective on where the society is heading and generated many new forms of dissent, **solidarity**, activism and political imagination. The lockdown experience was not entirely negative. It also brought introspection and reflection, resulting in rethinking priorities and self-improvement.

Complementary information provided by the Croatian delegation through the chat:

https://min-kulture.gov.hr/UserDocsImages/arhiva/HRPRES2020/Measures_Covid19_cultural%20and%20creative%20sectors_20-07-20.pdf

**UPDATE ON ESPON II: CULTURAL HERITAGE
AS A SOURCE OF SOCIAL WELL-BEING**

**Mr. Paul Mahringer, Deputy Manager - Austrian Monuments Board
& Chair of the EHHF Task Force on Economy and Statistics**

Slides are available upon request to the secretariat.

ESPON I: The Material Cultural Heritage as a Strategic Territorial Development Resource: Mapping Impacts Through a Set of Common European Socio-economic Indicators _ REMINDER: <https://www.espon.eu/cultural-heritage>

- 11 countries and regions, +200.000EUR budget for a year
- Observations were made on the period 2013-2016
- Everything was thought through so that the results are comparable and the method repeatable.
- As requested, the documentation allows other countries to join and repeat the study. In that matter, the chair of the Task Force reminded the opportunity for every member of the EHHF to use this method, if not done already. Besides, this can prove very useful in the context of the pandemic. To compare data from 2019 and 2020.

ESPON prepared a working paper after the results of the first targeted analysis came:
<https://www.espon.eu/working-paper-cultural-heritage>

ESPON II: CH as a Source of Societal Well-being in European Regions / HERIWELL
<https://www.espon.eu/HERIWELL> | Lead contractor: Istituto per la Ricerca sociale (IRS)

- An invitation to participate was sent to all the EHHF members
- Observations on a period of about 10 years, including intangible cultural heritage, digitalization, EU funded investments and qualitative case studies.
- Overall budget +700.000 EUR, and a lifetime of about two years.
- A specific focus on the covid-19 context and impact will be provided.
- Some questionnaires might follow very soon.

The main questions of the study: How can the societal impact of cultural heritage be defined? / How to measure it? How to express it in quantitative terms, considering reliability and validity, at the territorial level? How to compare the results across different European regions? How can digitalization of cultural heritage have an impact on well-being in terms of education, knowledge, etc.? What are the impacts of EU funded investments in cultural heritage on societal well-being in cities and regions?

Deliveries: Inception delivery, 29 September 2020: definition of CH and how it is related to societal well-being – published on the website! • Interim delivery, 29 January 2021 • Second Interim delivery, 31 May 2021 • Draft Final delivery, 30 August 2021 • Final Delivery, 28 February 2022

NEWS FROM THE HEADS

ICELAND – [CULTURAL HERITAGE AGENCY](#)

🕒 01:25

Ms. Kristin Huld Sigurðardóttir – Director General

DG Sigurðardóttir was very keen to exchange with the other Heads on the evolution of the sector over the last decade in Iceland, and especially regarding the work environment within heritage management.

In the early 2000s, the government and public bodies were still the only responsible for massive constructions plans. The people involved in these plans were respectful towards the Cultural Heritage Act. Today, it seems only small property owners are keen to consider heritage management properly.

Nowadays, the Cultural Heritage Agency of Iceland is being kept very busy, all year long, by private entrepreneurs and owners of protected buildings who systematically appeal the public heritage authority's decision and take it to court. If the permit is not granted, they demand compensations that simply cannot be reached. The Agency also faces situations where the entrepreneurs, often in larger towns, are supported by the municipalities. It seems the system is not moving in favor of heritage in Iceland, as the municipalities are both the planning power as well as the permit provider. DG Sigurðardóttir wonders if this is not to be qualified as '*dysfunctional act on environmental assessment*', or even corruption in some cases.

SWEDEN – [NATIONAL HERITAGE BOARD](#)

🕒 01:28

Mr. Lars Amréus – Director General

Mr. Amréus wanted to elaborate with the participants on the long-term effects of the covid-19 pandemic, as well as on the unexpected opportunities that might have emerged from it. "The world will not be quite the same when we come out of it."

Some consequences of the crisis, especially regarding the loss of foreign travelers, might last even longer and grow even bigger than forecast. "The longer this pandemic goes, the more conscious we should be about the long term effects." This is a challenging situation, especially for the institutions that have high dependency on revenue from foreign visitor, and we as heritage managers should bear this in mind while discussing recovery packages and financial outcomes. On the other hand, other aspects are to be considered with great attention: the new behaviors towards historic environment and country sides, the growth of the whole digital system and how to reach out to the youngest generations. We need to have information structure available for them.

Finally, the Head of the Swedish National Heritage Board reminded his European counterparts that this web-conference would actually be his last EHHF meeting, as his mandate ends in March 2021. After 10 years at the SNHB and nine EHHF meetings, Mr. Amréus wanted to thank the EHHF members for this great collaboration and privilege of being part of such a strong, valuable and useful corporation.

"I would also like to say that it feels very reassuring to hand and relay this baton on to you Siim, and to Estonia. I do hope it is possible for you all to have a physical meeting next year. My best for the years to come, and I wish the EHHF a long and glorious future."

In return, Siim Raie expressed his gratitude on behalf of all the participants and remaining members for Lars' contribution over the years and for the organization of the 2019 annual meeting in Stockholm.

The successor of Mr. Amréus should be able to meet with the Heads in May, in Tallinn.

PORTUGAL – [CULTURAL HERITAGE DIRECTORATE](#)

🕒 01:34

Mr. Manuel Lacerda – Architect, Senior Adviser

After a two-months lockdown and state of emergency, the Portuguese economy was largely impacted. From mid-March until 11th May, the museums and sites were closed, resulting in huge loss of revenues from ticketing and a global drop of 70% in frequentation. The tourism industry suffered great losses and the unemployment increased importantly.

Although the construction field was strongly impacted at the beginning of the crisis, it is now recovering. As for the Cultural Heritage Directorate, all the administrative and management work was maintained, thanks to remote working and the implementation of new digital solutions. The museums and monuments developed many online projects as well, resulting in a very creative period.

From a budgetary point of view, all the maintenance and restauration investments in museums and monuments were maintained, the financial situation being directly managed by the ministry of culture and the ministry of finance. After the lockdown, in summer-time, there has been an immense increase in interior tourism, especially in the country side. This was very positive for cultural heritage all around the country.

The crisis in the tourism sector, of which Portugal is very dependent, drags the current crisis of monuments and museums, and thus the need to reconsider and rethink alternatives in the long terms (5-10 years), as well as or complementarities. The uncertainty regarding the future raises the question of new meanings and objectives for museums and monuments, and new forms of management.

Mr. Petr Spejchal – Vice-Director

In May, the NHI forecast a drop of revenue of around 6,5M EUR. So far, the situation is slightly better than expected, but there is still some time left before the end of the year. Mr. Spejchal stressed four “contradictions” the National Heritage Institute had to deal with, to present the situation in Czech Republic.

1/ As from March 4th, the state of emergency was declared and all sites were closed for two months. All business trips were cancelled, although the construction work kept on going. “We were supposed to be on site to ensure the preservation of cultural heritage, but travel trips were not allowed in the country.”

2/ When the government thought about lifting the measures, the decision to pick a date for the reopening of the sites was the responsibility of the NHI. When it was decided to reopen cultural sites, the attention was drawn towards cinema and theatres, but no measures were taken regarding museums and cultural heritage at all, the NHI had to decide independently.

3/ The NHI had to shut down reconstruction and renovation sites for six months. After the lockdown, they were able to invest 40M EUR in the reconstruction sector. Although, there is immense pressure as the projects need to be prepared and completed either by the end of 2020 or 2021. Besides that, there are no specific recovery plan.

4/ The sanitary equipment was deficient. How to sanitize and be prepared for the rest of the season?

Other aspects showed that people enjoyed a lot more outdoor activities. In summer, the frequentation rates of parks, gardens and for small guided tours increased (10-20% bigger). To facilitate this kind of activities, online payment was made possible, it might become a norm for everything. Finally, a major question remains in how to keep contact in the future, besides the digital solutions.

Ms. Polyxeni Adam-Veleni – Director

The Greek museums and archaeological sites suffered greatly from the lockdown and the lack of tourism. Although the sites were able to reopen as from June 18th, with very strict protocols, the situation of course created many problems in the cultural sector and the economy as a whole. All events were transferred online, even artistic, theatrical and musical performances. Only a few events were able to take place during summer, with strict restrictions, smaller groups and social distancing.

According to the Head of the Greek heritage agency, people need to get use to a new life after the pandemic. From an administrative point of view, the Directorate of Antiquities and Cultural Heritage had to deal with a great variety of issues and to take some very serious decisions about how people will be able to enjoy cultural sites, events and historic environments in the future. This is a great responsibility, and even though digital is of great importance in that matter, it cannot replace physical visits and contact.

"Let us hope we will succeed in dealing with this new reality!"

ROMANIA – [NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HERITAGE](#)

🕒 01:52

Mr. Stefan Bâlici – Director General

In Romania, most of the museums and monuments do not rely on revenue and were able to reopen as from mid-May, with restrictions of course. Although their main public aim is diminished, their regular activities towards research and maintenance of collections were no impacted as much as in other parts of Europe. Theatres and other cultural premises reopened in September, the impact was much stronger but again, most of them are public budgeted and not dependent on revenue. From this perspective, the impact on the cultural sector and the professionals is lower, but of course, the impact of the sector on the society has been affected greatly.

In terms of tourism, all the foreign tourism as well as the revenues from large festivals were lost. But interior tourism has increased a lot and most of the important destinations were packed with national travelers.

Romania can also relate to another problematic presented above, caused by the pressure of new projects and the need to respond and apply to funds in a very short stretch of time. Especially in regards to the next European funding period and all of the related programming that is happening now; and also the funding that comes for the resilience and reconstruction, which is adding a lot of stress to a system that is already stretched to its limit by the lack of staff and resources. In Romania as well as in other parts of Europe, this is becoming a huge perspective of producing good projects but also a huge pressure to deal with it as we speak now, as we are doing all these plans.

GERMANY – [CULTURAL HERITAGE COMMITTEE](#) / [EUROPEAN HERITAGE LEGAL FORUM \(EHLF\)](#)

🕒 01:59

**Mr. Wolfgang Karl Göhner – Chief Legal Officer, Bavarian State Conservation Office
& President on Law and Tax Affairs, German Cultural Heritage Committee
& Chair of the European Heritage Legal Forum**

Germany has been very attentive to the political situation in Europe and especially

regarding the New Green Deal, a topic the EHLF has been regularly reporting about over the last year. Very important things are being discussed and implemented for the next seven years, and in the current situation, culture is not part of it. As chair of the Legal Forum and President of the DNK commission on Law and Tax Affairs, Mr. Göhner strongly recommends to get involved in the development of this crucial and ethical debate, especially now that Germany takes over the EU presidency for six months.

All the participants agreed that considering the European Year of Cultural Heritage in 2018 - and even given the context of the sanitary crisis, EU policies could have been more sensitive and sensible towards Cultural Heritage. Unfortunately, it seems the situation changed massively over the last two years and it is urgent that everyone now gets involved to ensure that the new plans will not backfire on cultural heritage. There are other instruments to support and promote a better consideration of culture, like the Renovation Wave for instance, which is supposed to be very generously funded and which does not mention culture, nor cultural heritage, not the protected buildings yet.

Finally, the chair of the EHLF wanted to remind all participants about the biocidal products regulation, another subject the Legal Forum has been reporting about lately. Germany, alike a few other European countries, has now protected its nitrogen chambers consisting of in situ generated nitrogen for the protection of cultural heritage.

SLOVAKIA – [NATIONAL MONUMENTS BOARD](#)

Ms. Katarina Kosova – Director General

Written contribution from the Monuments Board of Slovak Republic.

ATTACHMENT:

"Voluntary budget reduction as the expression of solidarity in the time of pandemic"

THE NETHERLANDS – [CULTURAL HERITAGE AGENCY](#)

Mr. Ben de Vries – Project Manager Strategy and International Affairs

Written contribution and update from the Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands.

ATTACHMENT:

- New ed. (2020): "Re-use, re-develop, re-design: how the Dutch deal with heritage"
- The European Heritage Tribune: <https://heritagetribe.eu>

CONCLUSIONS / ESTONIA 2021

FORMAT AND ATTENDANCE

The EHHF web-conference gathered 25 participants, from 20 different member-administrations, a 40% increase compared to the "Virtual Fika" organized in early June 2020 by the Troika. Both online events are considered successful in regards to the context, but most of all in terms of frequentation and format. Once again, the Heads were able to exchange informally about their concerns, strategies and expectations, and to share information in a collegial atmosphere.

CONTENT: KEY QUESTIONS AND FURTHER DISCUSSIONS

The EHHF Web-conference on *Managing Cultural Heritage in the Context of the Pandemic* allowed the participants to consider and appreciate very concrete examples from different regions of Europe. Except for a few isolated examples: protocols, trends and responses seem quite comparable from one country to another, with "different accents and slight differences", as the Head of the Romanian National Heritage Institute would say. Although the financial situation can defer greatly whether the public heritage authority rely on revenue or not, we have seen a lot of similarities in terms of digital developments and renewed interest for cultural heritage and historic environment at national level. We have also seen that decision making in times of crisis can benefit greatly from anticipation and preventive risk management. This echoes a lot of with the work and surveillance of the two EHHF standing committees; and of course with the early initiative from Historic England, the collection of data throughout Europe, and how it could help other members in the future should anything similar ever happen again.

The Web-conference therefore questioned the role of the EHHF regarding the collection of European data and standards, as well as its positioning regarding upcoming EU policies. Although the EHHF was never thought nor promoted as a lobby or a place to produce recommendations per say, its members could benefit greatly from more active discussions and feedbacks throughout the year, on how to promote and foster the societal impact of heritage. The idea of using digital means more often and therefore organizing virtual meetings on a more regular basis was considered with great interest, especially in regards to the EU policies that have been discussed above. The two standing committees could also participate more actively to the preparation and documentation of this/these meeting(s),

TALLINN-ESTONIA, 19-21 MAY 2021

REMINDER

The 15th anniversary unfortunately had to be postponed due to the sanitary crisis. The members will thus gather in Tallinn-Estonia on 19-21 May 2021. Programme and registration will be made available in early 2021.

APPENDIX

INVITATION & PROGRAMME

The conference was first announced in May, the date was confirmed in July and then reminded to all member-administrations in early September, with the opening of the registrations.

EUROPEAN
HERITAGE
HEADS
FORUM

THURSDAY 24th SEPTEMBER 2020

14:00 UTC+2 | On ZOOM

MANAGING CULTURAL HERITAGE IN THE CONTEXT OF THE PANDEMIC

Moderated by DG Siim Raie, National Heritage Board of Estonia

KEY QUESTIONS ON BUDGET, DIGITAL AND MANAGEMENT ORIENTATIONS

CONCRETE EXAMPLES FROM MEMBER-ADMINISTRATIONS

FEEDBACK ON EXPERIENCE AND EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

⇒ [LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER](#)

Access details will be communicated to registered participants only, the day before.

The final programme is available below. It was designed based on 10min presentations followed by open discussions.

FINAL PROGRAMME (ENG)

14:00 Welcome word and Introduction from Siim Raie

14:10 **UK_England - Alexandra Warr**

The collection of data throughout Europe, an early initiative

14:20 *Open discussion*

14:30 **Finland - Stefan Wessman**

Dealing with budget cuts and exceptional compensations

14:40 *Open discussion*

14:50 **Estonia - Linda Lallivoo**

Risk management and organisation of complex events

15:00 *Open discussion*

15:10 **The Netherlands - Ben de Vries**

Covid-19, heritage and the Dutch

15:20 *Open discussion*

15:30 **Task Force on Economy and Statistics - Paul Mahringer**

ESPON II: Cultural heritage as a source of social well-being, update

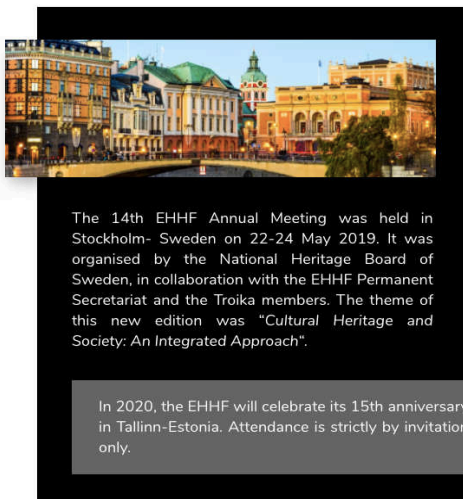
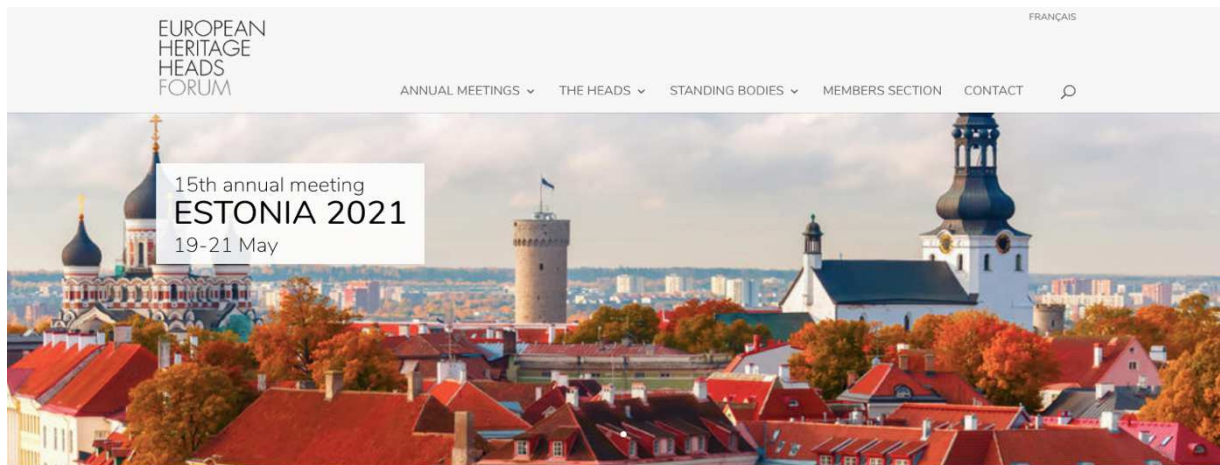
15:40 *Questions*

15:50 **News from the Heads**

16:20 **Conclusions / Estonia 2021(19-21 May)**

16:30 *End of session*

WEBSITE RENOVATION IN PROGRESS



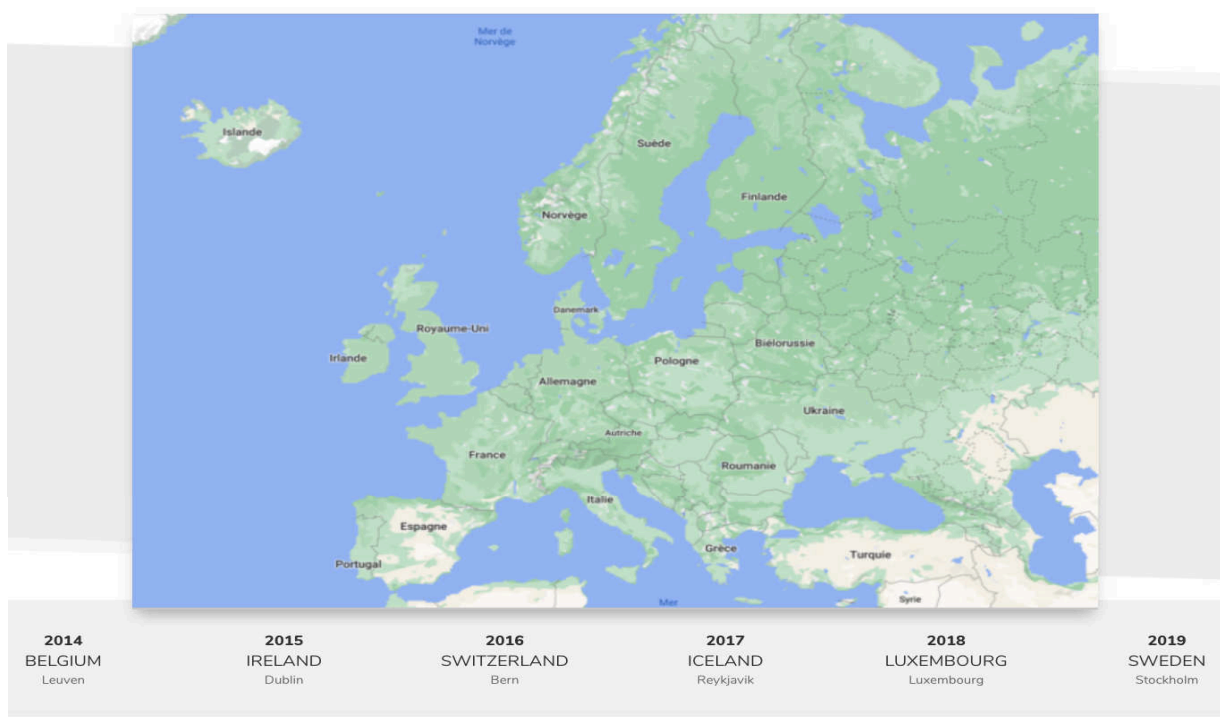
The European Heritage Heads Forum (EHHF) is an informal, professional and expert network for national heritage heads (built heritage, landscapes and archaeology) of the countries of the European Union, the European Economic Area and the member-states of the Council of Europe. It provides a forum for information and experience exchange about the management of the historic environment in the 21st century.

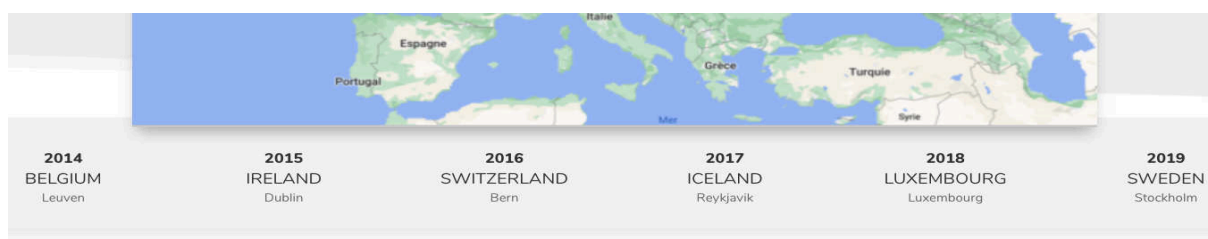
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HEADS
FORUM



The Heads are mostly the directors-general of national administrations or departments, agencies or institutes in charge of the conservation and the protection of cultural heritage within the national relevant ministries or institutions. Since 2006, the members of the EHHF gather once a year, each time in a different country. Attendance is by invitation only.





STANDING EXPERT COMMITTEES

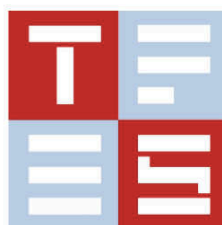
The members of the EHHF are able to name representatives and send experts from their own staff to participate to the activities of the two standing committees. The constituted groups then refer to the Heads on an annual basis.

EUROPEAN HERITAGE LEGAL FORUM



A forum of legal experts and policy officers appointed by the members of the EHHF, who ensure that relevant information on the development and potential consequences of proposed legislation developed by the European Union is circulated in a timely manner to heritage state authorities.

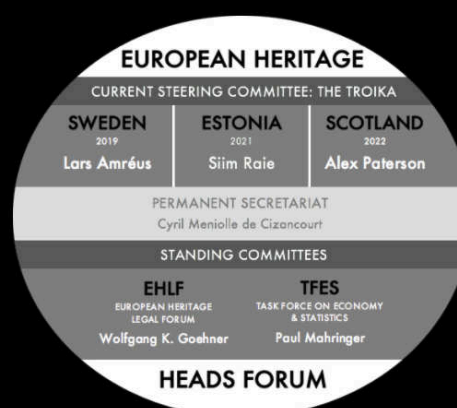
TASK FORCE ON ECONOMY AND STATISTICS



The task force was missioned by the EHHF to create a common methodology for collecting economic data of cultural heritage and formulate clear indicators on the socioeconomic contribution of immovable cultural heritage.

A LITTLE BIT OF HISTORY

A European Heritage Summit was first organized in London on 26–28 April 2006 by Dr. Simon Thurley, former Chief Executive Officer of English Heritage. The mission of the Summit was to gather for the first time the European cultural heritage leaders who had the opportunity to exchange their experience and initiate common actions. It was attended by 23 European states which agreed in the Final Statement to continue to meet annually as a forum of European heritage heads, known as the "European Heritage Heads Forum". Future hosting countries are chosen by general agreement at the annual meeting.



The website renovation project is ran by the administrative secretary, under the supervision of the troika members. The call for tenders was won by service provider Yellowpimento.com. The final version of the website, together with its new intranet, will be presented for approval to all the Heads by the end of 2020.

WEB-CONFERENCE SCREENSHOT



Thursday, 24th September 2020 on ZOOM

The screenshot was performed by Siim Raie, with the agreement of the remaining participants, at the end of the session.

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