



2019 ANNUAL MEETING IN STOCKHOLM / 22 - 24 MAY  
"Cultural Heritage in Society, An Integrated Approach"

# SWEDEN

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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In 2019, the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the EHHF took place in Stockholm, from Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> to Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May. It gathered 56 participants, including keynote speaker, Professor Anthony Appiah, from the University of New York; five representatives from international organizations (Council of Europe, European Commission, Europa Nostra, European Archaeological Council and ICOMOS Sweden); and three additional partners from the Swedish delegation, representing national museums and cultural heritage authorities. 28 countries and regions were represented in total. The forum opened with a traditional fika and a guided tour of the Old Town (Gamla Stan), followed by the usual welcoming reception on the Wednesday evening, which took place at the famous Skansen Museum.

**Host:** [National Heritage Board of Sweden](#) – Riksantikvarieämbetet

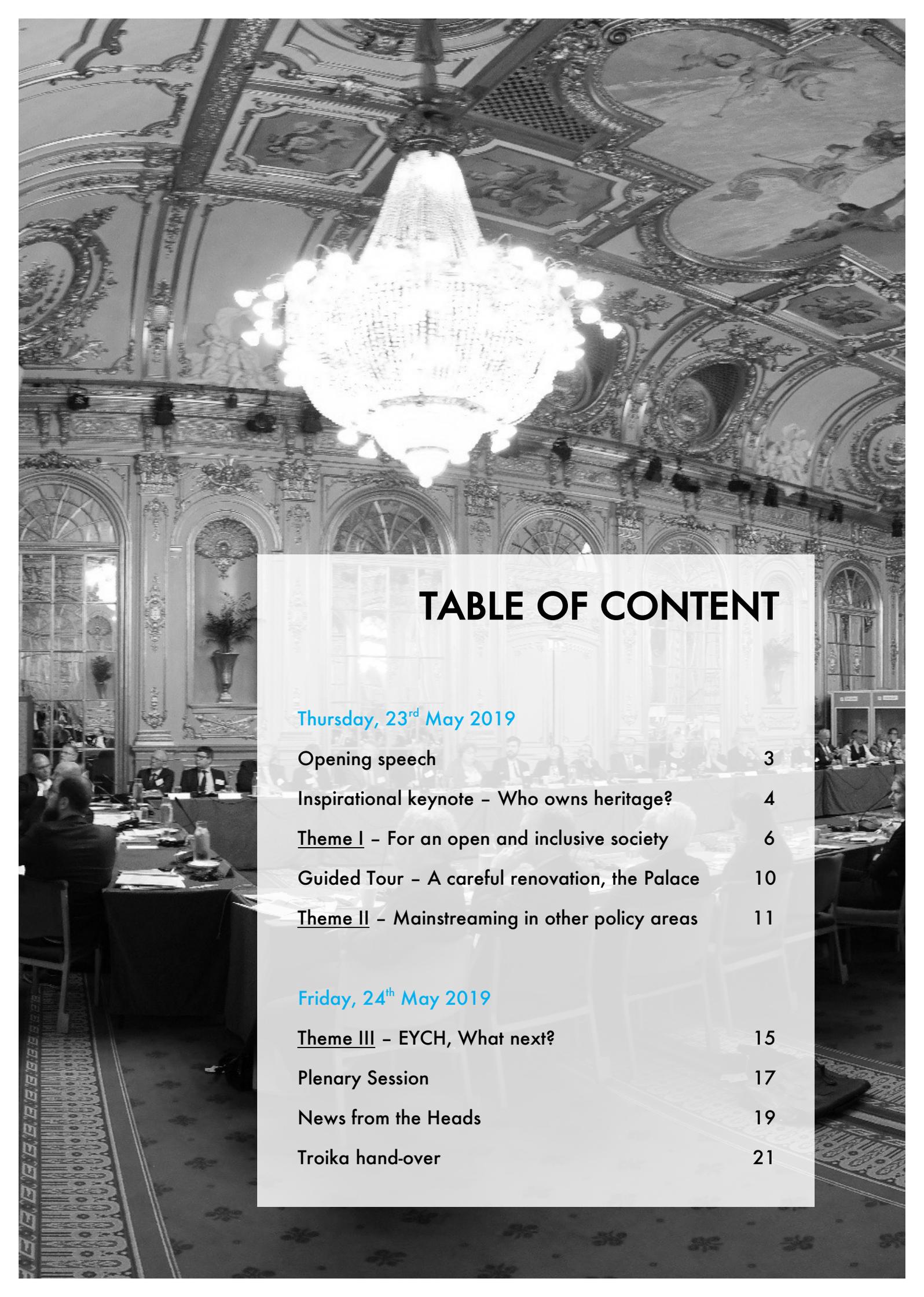
**Venue:** Grand Hotel – Hall of Mirrors, Stockholm

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The related documents (participants list, powerpoints and presentations) are available on the [EHHF website](#) and upon request to the Permanent Secretariat, which of course remains at your entire disposal.

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Director General Lars Amréus ([National Heritage Board of Sweden](#)), host of the 14<sup>th</sup> EHHF Annual Meeting, opened the meeting by extending a warm welcome to all participants, and especially to his predecessor from Luxembourg, Director Patrick Sanavia ([Service des sites et monuments nationaux du Luxembourg](#)). Mr. Amréus then addressed all the new members of the EHHF; stressing the high participation rate at the meetings in the last few years. He finally thanked the representatives from the international organisations for their attendance and participation, and reminded the Forum that the EHHF meetings are held under Chatham House Rules, where participants are free to use the information as long as the identity of the speaker is not revealed. Mr. Amréus then detailed the outline and key moments of the programme, beginning with the articulation of the three main themes for this meeting, the last one being dedicated to a new panel-discussion format with the international organisations.

- 1/ Heritage management for an open and inclusive society,
- 2/ Mainstreaming of the cultural heritage perspective in other policy areas,
- 3/ The European Year of Cultural Heritage: what next?

Mr. Amréus then introduced the venue for this year's edition: the Grand Hotel, where the Hall of Mirrors is famous as the venue for the Nobel banquets until 1929. Albert Einstein and Marie Curie are amongst the laureates who celebrated their prizes here. Mr. Amréus thanked the team responsible for the organisation of the meeting, and presented the key people from his staff. He finally introduced the Swedish Minister for Culture and Democracy, Ms. Amanda Lind, who could not be present in person, but who had prepared a video to address her welcome to the EHHF.

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In this recorded speech, Ms. Amanda Lind regretted not being able to attend the introductory session in person, and expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to address the heads. She began by acknowledging that cultural heritage has an increasingly prominent role, both at national and international level. She stressed how, managed together, the historical environment and cultural heritage can become a factor of innovation and social development. In Sweden, a more universal approach has been adopted in order to implement a new framework for a better understanding and accessibility of cultural heritage. The aim of the policy is to widen the perspectives and encourage the participation of the public when it comes to values and historic environment. This implies a more comprehensive and strategic approach in other policy areas too: cultural heritage and historic environment are to be taken into consideration at every level of decision making.

Finally, Ms Lind thanked the Forum for its role in the safeguarding and development of an understanding of cultural heritage, and wished all participants a very pleasant and interesting meeting.

## INSPIRATIONAL KEYNOTE – WHO OWNS HERITAGE?

Professor Kwame Anthony Appiah, University of New York

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In the [New European Agenda for Culture](#), published in May 2018, the European Commission stated that one of its strategic objectives is to ‘protect and promote Europe’s cultural heritage as a shared resource, to raise awareness of our common history and values, and to reinforce a sense of common European identity’. Professor Kwame Anthony Appiah was invited by the Swedish National Heritage Board to offer an outsider’s perspective on this articulated focus on identity and values in relation to European heritage policy. Lars Amréus introduced Professor Appiah as the first speaker of the 14th EHHF annual meeting, thanking him in advance for offering a ‘voice of reason’ and for enhancing the Heads’ discussions about the outcomes of the European Year of Cultural Heritage.

### Links of interest:

- Notes from the speaker (EHHF – May 23rd): [Who owns heritage?](#)
- [Videos I & II](#), conference held at Stockholm Kultuhuset Stadsteatern (May 22nd)
- Kwame Anthony Appiah – [Official website](#)

\* \* \*

Professor Appiah first thanked his hosts and expressed his delight at being invited to speak in front of the EHHF. His presentation introduced a universalist approach to culture, heritage and nation, as seen through the filter of the purpose of works of art and museums to society, and outlined the pitfalls of essentialist perspectives. He stressed that, “seeing beauty transcends the feeling of identity” - it helps us to understand our culture, and it invites us to explore the culture of others. As a Professor of Philosophy, Mr Appiah stressed that he is not an expert on arts, heritage or museums, but merely offering his ideas about the “feeling you get when you go to a museum”. In this matter, he said, “we are all experts”.

Through a wide range of examples and anecdotes, from e.g. El Greco, Lord Byron, Ghandi and the former Ashanti Empire, Professor Appiah analysed the way culture, art and civilisations have been presented at different periods in time. Romanticism, for instance, greatly influenced the way people would think of a nation, and these ideas still linger in our society today. According to Professor Appiah, the concept of a “nation’s spirit” is an expression of essentialism. What really brings people together is celebrating art, folk culture and individual creativity across cultures. “People can celebrate the spirit of other people’s cultures and traditions: when Lord Byron speaks about Greek history in his work, this becomes part of Greek Literature”. According to Professor Appiah, the world is a “moral community”, in which humans are undeniably interested in diversity and variety, “Connection is not made through identity, but despite differences.”

Moreover, he stressed that, as culture is formed through interchange and evolution, so too identity changes and for this reason preserving culture poses great challenges. To conclude, Professor Appiah stressed the idea that the circulation of arts and cultural elements is essential for their preservation. “Art is not made by nations, it is made by people”, and if it

belongs to someone then it does not belong to anyone anymore. For instance, past civilizations are gone but we have inherited their architecture and arts, we have been studying and learning how to read and interpret them: their legacy is universal by nature, thanks to culture and cross-influences. Is yoga a national possession? Is the kimono a national belonging? According to Professor Appiah, 'cultural appropriation' involves disparities, but 'ownership' is not the right term either. Speaking about possession means we accept commercial reasons, although exploring other cultures is not a theft, and curiosity is a major component of our humanity.

*"My people made the great wall of China,  
and the Sistine Chapel."*

\* \* \*



*Photo credit: Henrik Löwenhamn - Riksantikvarieämbetet*

The talk was followed by a brief Q&A session where questions included: could the EYCH be seen as an attempt to create a "national spirit" not of one people but of many peoples? Does the fact that the idea of a common European heritage is a subjective condition make it more or less valid? Why do you think this idea is called upon at this point in time? What was lost (in terms of values attached to material) in the fire at Notre Dame de Paris – and what survived? What are the components of an "aura" (in terms of cultural heritage) and how do we decide what is special?

Professor Appiah ended by expanding on his idea of the magic and beauty of art: *"If you get a philosopher to use the word magic positively then you must be aware that he does not have a lot of analytical things to say. Sometimes it's not about the esthetics. One thing that matters is the sensation, the sense of connection, the story that connects you to something. A place or things can matter, but for very different reasons. People will tell you different things about it, and it would have mattered to them. (...) We want people to know the truth and to express themselves freely".*

## **THEME I – HERITAGE MANAGEMENT FOR AN OPEN AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETY**

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In order to gauge the different perspectives of the members of the Forum and create a base for discussion, a survey was constructed prior to the meeting, based on statements from recent documents on heritage policy published by the European Commission and the Council of Europe. 60% of members of the Forum answered the questionnaire and the results were illustrated and presented at the meeting to support the group discussions (c.f., Theme 1 and 2 below) and to introduce the panel debate (Theme 3). The results from the survey showed much agreement but also some confusion and contradiction. A brief review of the results of the survey was presented:

- ⇒ A majority agreed that Cultural Heritage can generate a sense of belonging to a country or to Europe, and engender a sense of pride. However, most respondents avoided the more direct nationalist statements.
- ⇒ More than half of the respondents believe that heritage is unique to cultural groups and communities and that it should 'serve the interest and values of communities.
- ⇒ The Forum was split over the issue of whether there is a specific common European culture or heritage.
- ⇒ Many feel that heritage 'has an intrinsic value' (linked with authenticity) but are happy to treat heritage as a resource to promote economic or social development.
- ⇒ A majority of the respondents agreed that heritage constitutes an important resource for the solving of social challenges (cohesion and integration through the regeneration of historic buildings and areas, the creation of locally rooted jobs, and the promotion of a shared understanding).
- ⇒ Another general agreement was reached regarding the necessary access to cultural heritage of any nation, and its role in the development of curiosity and empathy.
- ⇒ When it comes to co-operation with 'other sectors', many agencies are still closest to the arts and culture sector – although many comment that a wider mainstreaming of the heritage perspective in other policy areas would be beneficial and even vital for heritage management in the future.

The majority of respondent agree that the preservation should remain the most important role of heritage management in the future, together with the educational aspiration of learning about the past and other people. At the same time, they want heritage to speak to contemporary needs and concerns, and to serve the interest of communities.

The group discussions were held in an adjoining room. The Heads were invited to sit around seven smaller tables, with a "mentor" allocated to each table. The discussions centered on questions (cf. below) relating to the theme "Heritage management for an open and inclusive society". Post-it-notes were used to collect answers in a more participative way.

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## QUESTION 1\_

DOES OUR WORK AFFECT THE DEMOCRATIC DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIETY?

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**Summary from the National Heritage Board of Sweden:** *Yes – heritage management can be an instrument for change and democratic development. However, our role as civil servants is to preserve and curate – not to tell people what to think (i.e. to provide policy and practice rather than aspiration and ideology).*

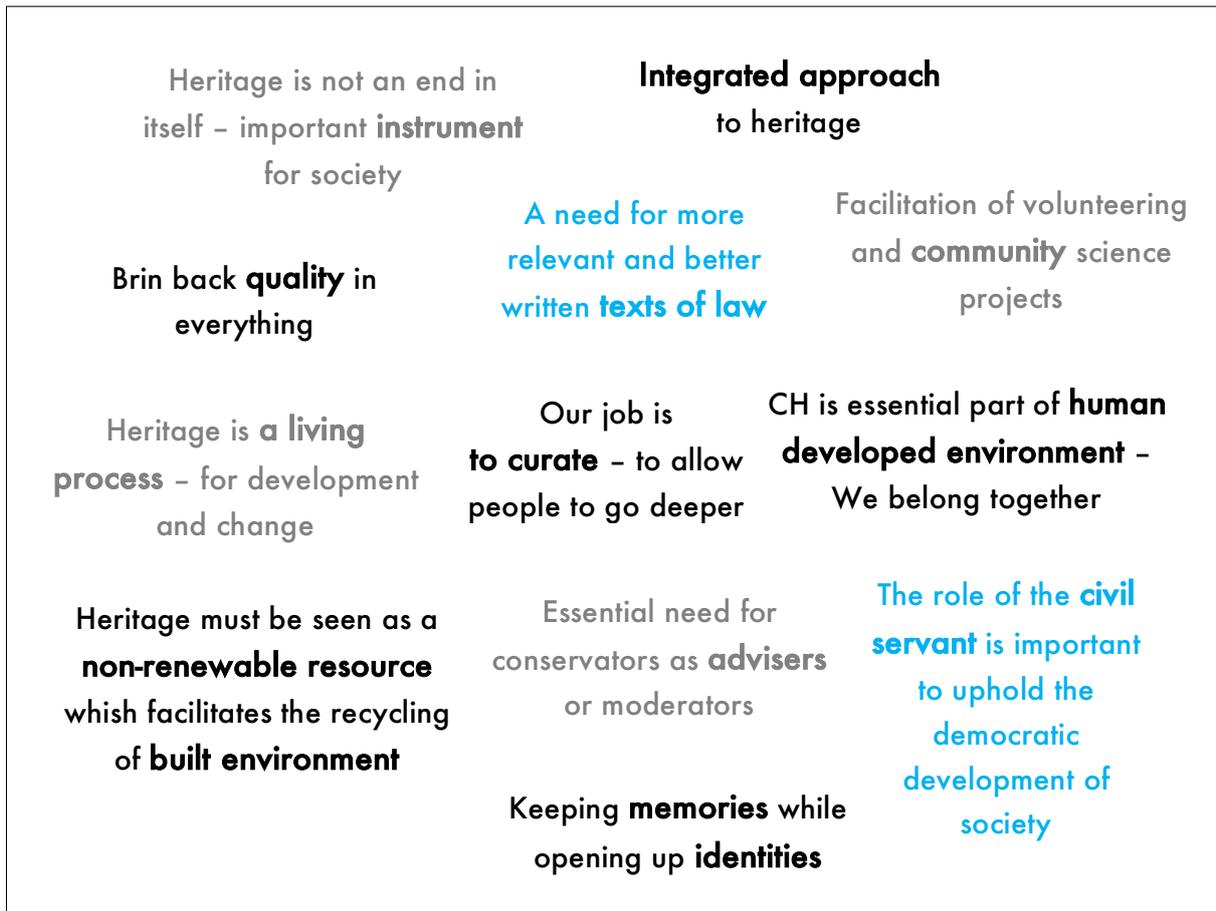


Photo credit: Henrik Löwenhamn - Riksantikvarieämbetet

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## QUESTION 2\_

IN WHAT WAYS CAN WE, AS HERITAGE MANAGERS, SUPPORT AN OPEN AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETY?

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**Summary from the National Heritage Board of Sweden:** *By making sure that everyone can access, enjoy and explore cultural heritage (through education, new technology, participation).*

<p><b>Access and interpretation</b></p> <p><b>Education</b></p> <p>Experts need to ask <b>open questions</b> and include others</p>	<p>Creating meaningful connection to heritage for everyone</p> <p>Adapt to new <b>technologies</b> and media for accessibility and diversity of stories</p>	<p><b>Need for much deeper CH education</b></p> <p>Use international <b>conventions</b> as tools to change heritage to be more democratic</p>
<p><b>Re-evaluation of listed CH</b></p> <p>Stand against income-based <b>gentrification</b></p>	<p>Creating interest for <b>everyone</b></p> <p>Use any means of <b>accessibility</b> to heritage – real or digital.</p>	<p><b>Who makes decisions – Participation for inclusion?</b></p> <p>Inclusion of public into <b>defining CH</b> (Faro convention)</p>
<p><b>Involving communities in defining heritage</b></p> <p>Monuments from <b>communist era</b> spark discussions about democracy</p>	<p>Use heritage sites to discuss the past and its different <b>interpretation</b> to different societies</p> <p>People are much more <b>involved in heritage</b> now in former Eastern Europe</p>	<p>Participation in heritage is participation in <b>democracy</b></p>
<p><b>Built trust in order to look like faithful partners</b></p> <p>Reach our public (use new <b>vocabulary</b>)</p>	<p>Use a <b>common language</b>: economy, society, law</p> <p><b>Make other people talk: citizens, politics</b></p>	<p><b>Engaging new generation in heritage – social media etc</b></p> <p><b>Build awareness</b> throughout our political leaders to collect trust in return</p> <p>More open and inclusive <b>planning</b> process</p>



Opening Speech,  
Amanda Lind,  
Swedish Minister for  
Culture and Democracy



Inspirational Keynote,  
Kwame Anthony Appiah,  
« Who Owns Heritage? »

## **GUIDED TOUR –** **A CAREFUL RENOVATION OF THE ROYAL PALACE** Swedish National Property Board

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The members of the Forum were invited to a visit to the Royal Palace and an informal audience with HRH Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden. The visit included a presentation of the renovation of the palace by the [Swedish National Property Board](#). The idea behind this visit was to present the pressures involved in managing an iconic heritage environment that serves as a home, as a work place and as a tourist attraction. The ongoing cooperation between the Royal Court and the National Property Board is committed to finding new solutions to reflect an ancient institution in a modern Sweden. A wide range of measures are being taken to ensure the palace will be able to face the challenges of tomorrow, and to keep on developing its activities in a sustainable way. Amongst these projects, the gradual conversion to LED lighting, the transition to electric cars for the Court and of course, the ongoing project of mounting solar panels on the roof.



Audience with HRH Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden  
*Photo credit: Emelie Öberg - The Royal Court of Sweden*

## **THEME II – MAINSTREAMING OF THE CULTURAL HERITAGE PERSPECTIVE IN OTHER POLICY AREAS**

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The growing realization that a greater range of policy areas need to interact in order to preserve and develop heritage sites and the historic environment, drove the National Heritage Board to propose a focus on how to mainstream the heritage perspective in a more efficient way.

The second theme invited the Heads to explore and discuss the different processes through which the cultural heritage perspective can be taken into better consideration in other policy areas. The Swedish National Heritage Board, together with [Historic Environment Scotland](#) (EHHF 2021), introduced this topic with very concrete examples of ‘mainstreaming’. The two presentations were followed by group discussions.

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The cultural heritage sector is facing major changes as the responsibility for the historic environment is increasingly shared between a number of government authorities and stakeholders, such as city planning, tourism, rural development, forestry and infrastructure.

In Sweden, a specific government commission (June 2017) asked ten public agencies to produce strategies for how they will manage the cultural heritage perspective within their respective areas of remit. In order to support the work with the ten strategies, The National Heritage Board, implemented a programme named [TVÄRS](#). At the same time, the Heritage Board realised that it needs to change and adapt its internal and external processes. Working horizontally across different sectors and organisations presents complex pedagogical issues for heritage professionals, and a very challenging procedure for everyone. The answer to the question “What’s in it for us?” needs a lot of preparation. Maintaining that culture and heritage have a positive impact does not help the other agencies. On the contrary, integrating the heritage perspective in other policy areas involve long-term collaboration and targeted support.

“We are building the road  
while walking on it”

In Scotland, a new National Historic Environment Strategy, called [Our Place in Time](#) is being implemented, with a focus on creativity, culture and the environment. But heritage management is not limited to these areas - ten out of Scotland’s eleven public departments are spending money in the management and innovation of the infrastructure of the cultural and natural environment. Historic Environment Scotland (HES) offers advice, expertise and support for a better understanding of how cultural heritage is part of everyday life, and how its management should be involved at the very beginning of any decision process. Changing

perceptions and achieving increased relevance is hard work, but as the necessary outcomes have been agreed, the involved parties are starting to see the benefits coming through. The voice of heritage professionals should and will benefit other fields, but it implies proactiveness and perseverance. The strategy is not about how cultural heritage can confront climate change, but about how to head in the same direction and fight climate change together.

“We are here to allow the right things to happen,  
not only to prevent things from happening.”

Before splitting into smaller groups to discuss the outcomes of a potential mainstreaming of the cultural heritage perspective in other policy areas, the Heads had the opportunity to ask the speakers questions. Two main concerns were discussed; the risk of a competition with other sectors, and the risk of delusion (that mainstreaming will benefit heritage?). The experience of Sweden and Scotland shows that introducing an integrated approach and encouraging the understanding of the benefits of cultural heritage for society does not prevent other sectors from becoming competitors. However, different objectives do not necessarily keep you from heading towards the same direction. You can either define common priorities, or aim to reach a common goal. Regarding the risk of delusion and the insurance that mainstreaming will not mean being pulled out of the debate at the end of the day, it is important that policy keeps its role of balance. Mr. Paterson stressed that heritage professionals need opportunities to comment and to share expertise, but we also need confrontation and compromise. In the short term, heritage authorities might lose some control of the direct work of preservation, but the social impact and the understanding of the true potential of cultural heritage management might increase significantly in the long term.

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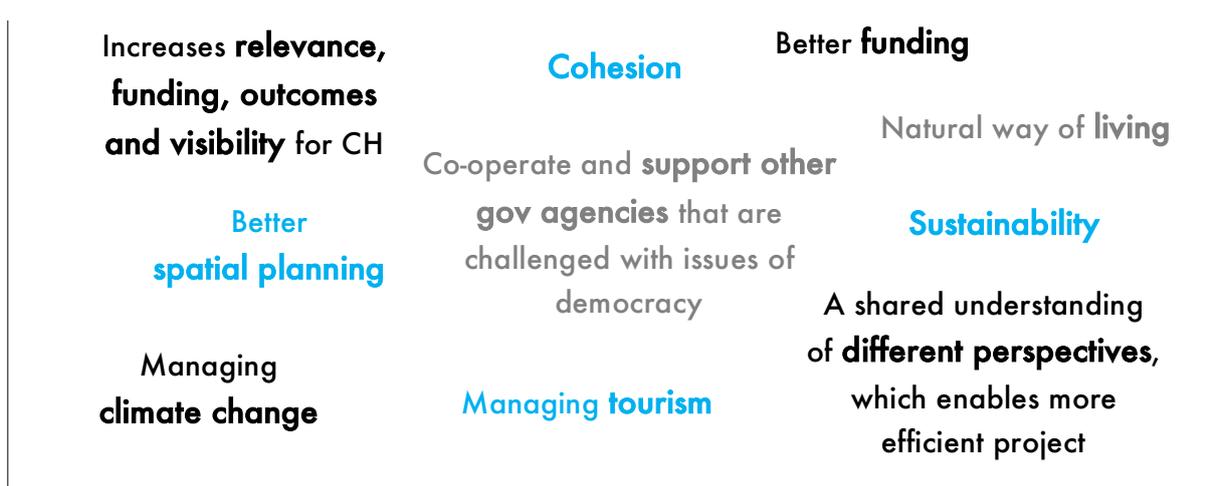
**QUESTION 1\_**

**WHAT ARE THE MAIN BENEFITS OF MAINSTREAMING?**

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**Summary from the National Heritage Board of Sweden:** *A shared understanding of issues relating to the historic environment lead to a more efficient delivery, increased funding and relevance for heritage in society (i.e. achieving the heritage objectives).*





## QUESTION 2\_

WHAT ARE THE MAIN CHALLENGES ASSOCIATED WITH MAINSTREAMING?

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**Summary from the National Heritage Board of Sweden:** *Sharing the responsibility for heritage management may lead to loss of authority, focus and influence and to increased bureaucracy.*



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The EHHF members and their guests had some free time before they headed to the Vasa Museum for the traditional dinner. The Swedish National Heritage Board had reserved an authentic old steam ferry boat, recently renovated, to discover Stockholm's harbour on their way to the Vasa ship. The Heads were then welcomed by the Directors of the Swedish National Maritime and Transport Museums and the Vasa Museum for a tour of the museum.



**European Heritage Heads Forum  
in session, Hall of Mirrors –  
Stockholm Grand Hotel**



**Guided tour  
Old Town – Gamla Stan**

The European Heads of Heritage gathered for a second day of conference, usually dedicated to an exchange with international organisations and the EHHF plenary session, which is only accessible to members.

Lars Amréus opened the day by thanking the participants for their active contributions to the group discussions the day before. He continued with a quick overview of the programme of the day, informing about the new panel format for the exchange with international organisations. This year's panel was dedicated to a feedback on the European Year of Cultural Heritage (EYCH 2018). The European Commission, the Council of Europe and Europa Nostra were invited to participate to the discussion. Other international organisations were still welcome to participate as observers.

Finally, and before the discussion about the outcomes of the EYCH began, the Heads were reminded and encouraged to make good use of the News from the Heads session, during the Plenary session. Traditionally, this moment is dedicated to the presentation of new members, of new achievements or concrete projects within the member-administrations.

### **THEME III –**

#### **THE EUROPEAN YEAR OF CULTURAL HERITAGE: WHAT NEXT?**

European Commission, Council of Europe and Europa Nostra

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The panel discussion with international organisations moderated by Director General Siim Raie, from the Estonian National Heritage Board. Before he gave the floor to Dr. Uwe Koch, Director of the German National Heritage Board, for a brief summary of the outcomes of the Sharing Heritage initiative, Mr. Raie first invited the three panelists on stage: Policy Officer Ms. Erminia Sciacchitano, Directorate for Education and Culture - European Commission; Mr. Kathrin Merkle, Chief of the Culture and Cultural Heritage Division - Council of Europe; and Mr. Piet Jaspert, Vice-President of Europa Nostra.

Mr. Raie introduced the discussion by focusing on current thoughts on cultural identity, the potentiality of a European sense of belonging and the role of cultural heritage professionals in that regards. Stating that "the European Year of Cultural Heritage (EYCH 2018) is now history", Mr. Raie went on to ask a few questions: *What next? Did we manage well? Shall we continue and how?* Although philosophical, these questions imply a pragmatic and critical approach. Questioning the concept of a European identity means that we are now questioning the very definition of 'Europeanness': How do we define ourselves as Europeans? How to cope with others, who call themselves Europeans as well? How can we evaluate this? One of the most important questions, according to Mr. Raie, is whether this initiative succeeded in making all the people across Europe feel meaningful, distinctive, connected, positively included and competent?

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Dr. Uwe Koch, director of the German National Heritage Board and one of the key partners in the implementation of EYCH 2018, then presented some of the most important outcomes of the [Sharing Heritage](#) initiative. Mr. Koch first mentioned the great number of projects and events, which took place in Germany within the framework of the EYCH, and how public authorities are now assessing the input. He stressed the level of participation at European level, emphasizing the wide variety of actors, institutions and people involved in the celebration of cultural heritage, and how, according to Mr. Koch, heritage can become an important parameter in the definition of a common identity.

The European Summit, which took place in Berlin in June 2018, was mentioned as one of the key events during EYCH 2018. Mr. Koch reminded the forum of the so-called 'Berlin Call to Action' as an initiative to make cultural heritage more integrated into European policies in the future. In Mr Koch's view the EYCH "is not only an institutional initiative", as many people have found a home in Europe, and are looking for ways of identification. Actors gathered under the EYCH banner propose that Europe is one of the possible and "most concrete answers to this". What are the most important outputs of the Cultural Heritage year?

- 1/ It actually took place!
- 2/ It reached millions of people.
- 3/ CH institutions were mobilised at local, regional, national and European level.
- 4/ News views and new thinking were promoted.
- 5/ Different people were brought together.
- 6/ CH was commonly recognized as a common task and as a shared responsibility.
- 7/ It marked a turning point in the overall recognition and importance of CH professionals' work and investment in the long term.

In Dr. Koch's opinion, the EYCH made sense, as it sent the message to a great diversity of people, from the public and to the decision makers.

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Mr Raie then started the discussion with the panelists, with a focus on cultural heritage management and the potential continuation of the EYCH feeling, energy and momentum. The discussion evolved around issues around the definition of European culture. The panelists talked about the great diversity of Europe and agreed that Europe's culture is a driving question for anyone interested in its future.

The panelists discussed the legacy of the EYCH and emphasised the democratic aspects of the initiative and especially the participation of civil society and younger generations. The heads were then invited to ask questions and the discussion centered on the roles and responsibilities of heritage professionals in relation to the expectations of initiatives such as the EYCH.



Photo credit: Henrik Löwenhamn - Riksantikvarieämbetet

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Mr. Raie briefly summarised the discussion and stressed the importance of communication and education as it takes resilience and hard work to make people understand the true message behind such an initiative: cultural heritage is not only about preservation and conservation, it is first of all about common history, shared responsibility and building a more open and inclusive future for everyone.

## **EHHF PLENARY SESSION – ANNUAL REPORTS FROM THE EHHF STANDING COMMITTEES AND THE PERMANENT SECRETARIAT**

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The EHHF annual plenary session is the occasion to hear the reports from the two standing committees: the European Heritage Legal Forum (EHLF) and the Task Force on Economy and Statistics. Further information is available in the 2018 EHHF Annual Report and on the [EHHF website](#).

### **EUROPEAN HERITAGE LEGAL FORUM**

Chairman Wolfgang K. Göhner, Senior Legal Adviser from the Bavarian State Conservation Office), was very happy to present the recent activities of the [Legal Forum to](#) the Heads. Mr. Göhner first reminded, as he did last year in Luxembourg, about the lack of legal threats in the field of heritage in the last five years, which partly explains the limited information reported by the EHLF.

The main activity for the committee since the last EHHF meeting was concentrated around the European Summit on Cultural Heritage, which was held in June 2018 in Berlin (Charlottenburg Castle), in the framework of the European Year of Cultural Heritage. On

this occasion, the EHLF was happy to welcome new members and to engage in a reflection regarding the mandate of the committee, or more precisely, on the operational guidelines and the way things are achieved internally. The main question every year remains the same: who are the members? How to renew a committee with low attendance and participation? And how to attract new delegates, especially from southern Europe?

The Chairman of the Legal Forum then introduced a few cases in which the committee might have identified a risk for cultural heritage, mainly in regards to building and treatment material (cf. 2018 EHHF Annual Report).

## TASK FORCE ON ECONOMY AND STATISTICS

The report on the [Task Force](#) activities since the last annual meeting also started with a focus on membership. Chairman Paul Mahringer, Deputy Manager in charge of Monuments Preservation at the Bundesdenkmalamt (Austria), reported about 13 members and six meetings in total, split between Brussels and Vienna. The increasing number of meetings can be explained by the commitment of the Task Force towards the ESPON Targeted Analysis, which has been running for more than a year. The EHHF standing committee was indeed engaged in the monitoring of a study on the economic impact of cultural heritage on society. Mr. Mahringer detailed the importance of methodology in this context, and how both the Task Force and the ESPON stakeholders had to face the lack of data.

Former Chairman Mr. Terje Nypan completed the Task Force report on the ESPON project, as main stakeholder. Mr. Nypan stressed that part of the mandate of the Task Force was to create common methodology for the collection of data. Thanks to the ESPON project, this objective is almost fulfilled. The frame was built and tested, it works but it needs to be improved.

Finally, the Task Force members explained how ESPON is considering launching a second and more ambitious project, in which the collection of data at national level would become 'mandatory'. This second study would go forward and include wellbeing indicators, besides the economic factors that were used initially. Even though the ambition seems complicated, the first barrier was passed, and the Ministries should be more involved in the future. This development means that the Task Force would be able to continue the work. Its members therefore asked for approval to engage in this new project, stressing how the participation to the Task Force and the sending of a representative could be of great interest for each of the Heads. The Heads agreed that the Task Force should continue its work with ESPON in the future.

## THE PERMANENT SECRETARIAT

The full EHHF Permanent Secretariat report is available in the 2018 Annual Report.

Administrative Secretary Mr. Cyril Meniolle de Cizancourt formally reported to the Heads about the end of the ongoing three-year period for the financing of the Permanent

Secretariat. The secretary stressed the good balance of the budget in the last three years and explained the small variations one could see from one year to another (travel expenses in regards to the hosting country, etc.). The secretary also invited the Heads to consider renewing their contributions for another three-year period 2020-22. Commitment letters are already available and will be collected before the end of the year.

Finally, the Troika members were happy to announce that the Heads agreed to the renewal of the Administrative Secretary contract, and for the continuation of the part-time position for another three years.

## **NEWS FROM THE HEADS – COMMUNICATION OF NEW DEVELOPMENTS AND RELEVANT ISSUES BY THE HEADS**

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### **SWITZERLAND**

The Swiss Head of Section for Cultural Heritage (Federal Office of Culture) and former member of the Troika Mr. Oliver Martin wished to present the next [Davos Conference](#), which will be held in Geneva on November 4-5 2019, focusing on the concept of Quality. Mr. Martin reminded his colleagues and counterparts about the Davos Declaration regarding the “Culture of the Built Environment” (Baukultur). Although the last Davos meeting was political, the one to be held in November will be more scientific.

Mr. Martin, who also operates as Chair of the ICCROM Council, took this opportunity to remind the Heads about the internal reform, which is currently being processed, and offered to answer any questions related to this matter.

### **THE NETHERLANDS**

The Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands presented a new project of a digital newsletter for Heritage professionals and authorities, called the [European Heritage Tribune](#). This platform aims to gather the latest news and to collect the best practices from all over Europe, especially when it comes to the legacy of the EYCH 2018. Summaries from different sources and contents will be presented (radio, papers...).

The EHT was inspired by the Dutch initiative, the “Voice of Heritage”, which has been there for CH professionals for about ten years. Everyone can subscribe as a person for free. It is also possible to endorse this initiative in the name of one’s organization, to join as a partner, or simply to contribute by giving the contact of any information offices.

## **GREECE**

The new Head of the Hellenic [Directorate for Antiquities and Cultural Heritage](#), Ms. Polyxeni Adam-Veleni, who participated for the first time to the EHHF, first addressed a warm thank you for the way she was welcomed by the Heads.

She then presented her administration in a few words, focusing on the Hellenic Ministry's strategy for the creation of a dialogue with civil society and the promotion of cultural heritage towards all communities. The European Year of Cultural Heritage was a great opportunity for Greece, as it gathered a wide range of actors and attracted a lot of citizens. It also helped implementing new partnerships, through specific programming.

Finally, Ms. Adam-Veleni was happy to announce that Athens would like to be considered as a future host for a meeting of the EHHF.

## **SPAIN**

The new delegate for Cultural Heritage and European Affairs within the [Spanish Ministry of Culture](#), Ms. Monica Redondo Alvarez, was also very grateful to be here amongst the Heads and expressed her hope that Spain will be able to work further and deeper with the EHHF in the future.

## **ROMANIA**

The Director General of the [Romanian National Heritage Institute](#), Mr. Stefan Balici, kindly reminded about the invitation that was sent to the Heads via the EHHF Secretariat, regarding the conference on quality principles. He warmly thanked all the administrations that were represented during the conference, insisting on the very good participation (180 in total attended).

Mr. Balici invited the Heads to have a look at the conclusions and to encourage the collect of relevant studies and data to develop new practices, to reinforce the institutions' work and to create more collaboration.

## **POLAND**

The new director of Poland National Heritage Board, Mr. Bartosz Skaldawski, presented some of the main projects his administration achieved this year, especially the [UNESCO international conference on reconstruction](#) (Warsaw Recommendation).

Mr. Skaldawski also mentioned the recent listing of Warsaw as International Intangible Heritage, the collection of data for immovable heritage in the framework of a three-years EU funded project; and finally the new strategic programme for the preservation of monuments, which is currently being implemented by the Ministry of Culture.

## TROIKA HANDOVER – LUXEMBOURG – SWEDEN – **ESTONIA** – SCOTLAND ...

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### SAVE THE DATE 15<sup>th</sup> EHHF ANNUAL MEETING IN TALLINN, 27-30 MAY 2020

*Note: Change of dates! Initially, the meeting was announced on 20-22 May.*

Lars Amréus thanked Director Patrick Sanavia for the meeting in Luxembourg and for great collaboration within the Troika before handing over the chairmanship of the Troika to Estonia.

Director General Mr. Siim Raie, from the [National Heritage Board of Estonia](#), shortly introduced the next annual meeting, which will be held in Tallinn, 27-30 May 2020. The schedule will remain similar to what the EHHF members are used to, although part of the meeting will be held in Haapsalu, a castle on the western coast, which was recently reopened as a museum. Mr. Raie gladly invited the Heads to share their expectations with him and the other Troika members. He finally announced the main theme for next year: Reconstruction, stressing how this everyday issue can easily become problematic for the heritage authorities.

Before the official closing of the meeting, the new troika member was introduced. In 2021, the hosting country for the 16<sup>th</sup> edition of the EHHF will be Scotland, under the direction of Mr. Alex Paterson, Chief Executive of [Historic Environment Scotland](#). Until the next annual meeting, the Troika will thus be composed of Sweden, Estonia and Scotland.

*EHHF 14th Annual Meeting – Executive Summary  
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EUROPEAN  
HERITAGE  
HEADS  
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