



16th Annual Meeting in Edinburgh
"Change and Renewal"
18 - 20 May 2022

SCOTLAND

Executive Summary

The 16th Annual Meeting of the EHHF took place in Edinburgh, hosted by Alex Paterson and his team from Historic Environment Scotland. The meeting was held from Wednesday 18th to Friday 20th of May 2022. It gathered more than 50 representatives from 25 countries and regions. Under the theme "Change and Renewal", the EHHF focused on the challenges and opportunities in managing and developing cultural heritage in Europe following the global pandemic. This meeting was also marked by the participation of Ms Kateryna Chuyeva from the Ministry of Culture and Information Policy of Ukraine who presented to the members the destruction of the Ukrainian cultural heritage in the context of the war. The Forum opened with a guided tour of the Royal Mile and Edinburgh's Old Town, followed by the usual welcoming reception on the Wednesday evening, which took place at the National Museum of Scotland. The Thursday and Friday morning were dedicated to the conference itself. Members were welcomed in Edinburgh Castle for the official dinner on Thursday while the optional excursion on Friday gave the Forum the opportunity to discover Abbotsford, home of Sir Walter Scott.

Host - Historic Environment Scotland
Venue - The Royal College of Physicians

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

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WALKING TOUR: ROYAL MILE AND OLD TOWN

Starting at the Castle Esplanade, right in front of the impressive Edinburgh Castle and at the top of the Royal Mile, the group were met by **Dr. Nikki Scott** from Historic Environment Scotland, to talk about the significance of the castle and its location.

The group were then joined by three specialists of the city's historical, social and architectural developments, for a guided tour of the Royal Mile and Edinburgh's Old Town. **Steven Robb**, Chartered Town Planner, Buildings Advisor at HES, and a specialist in Building Surveying and European Urban Conservation, spoke about Edinburgh's early social housing and the housing work of the inter-war City Architect. Historic Environment Scotland's **Simon Green**, architectural historian and former resident of the Royal Mile, spoke about how the buildings have adapted and changed. Finally, **Jenny Bruce**, co-ordinator for the Old and New Towns of Edinburgh World Heritage Site, provided thoughts on the impact of urban developments on the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Site.

PALACE OF HOLYROODHOUSE

The guided tour ended in the courtyard of Holyroodhouse Palace, the official residence of the Queen in Edinburgh. There, the Forum was welcomed by Dr **Lucy Wood**, Learning Manager for the Royal Collection Trust, based at the Palace of Holyroodhouse. She gave the Forum a very vivid version of the Castle history, which started in 1128, when an **Augustinian Abbey** was founded there by the order of King David I of Scotland. Holyroodhouse was the name given to a guest house maintained by the Abbot of Holyrood. The guest house was progressively enlarged over the years by successive Scottish, and later British monarchs. It has hosted notorious historical figures ranging from **Mary Stuart, Oliver Cromwell** and the **Queen Elizabeth II**.

WELCOME RECEPTION : NATIONAL MUSEUM OF SCOTLAND

For the welcome reception, guests gathered at the National Museum of Scotland, where they heard from the museum's Director, **Prof. Chris Breward**, who outlined his philosophy and vision. Prof Breward spoke about how museums have become crucial spaces of connection, inspiration and the promotion of knowledge and understanding. Therefore, the objective of National Museums Scotland is to tell the important **stories** that will make a difference nationally and across the world in the coming decades. Afterwards, the guests enjoyed drinks on the **museum's rooftop** with its unforgettable 360° view of Edinburgh's gems.

WELCOME SPEECH

Alex Paterson, Historic Environment Scotland

Alex Paterson, Chief Executive of Historic Environment Scotland, and host of the 16th Annual Meeting of the Forum, officially welcomed the Forum to Edinburgh and kicked off the formal part of the conference.

Alex remarked on how good it was to be back together in one room, thanking members for giving time to be there. He also welcomed the online guests from Sweden, Czech Republic, and Ukraine.

The theme for the 16th Forum was "**Fit for the Future: how has the global pandemic changed the cultural heritage**".

Alex spoke to this theme on how the last couple of years we have been living through unprecedented, hopefully unique, times. We have all been affected by the pandemic, whether in our personal lives, our professional lives, or even in this Forum, which has not been able to meet since 2019.

When thinking of the theme for the 2022 Forum, it was almost inevitable that we had to focus on the pandemic and its impact. However, Alex made clear that the title had been deliberately chosen so to look to the **future** and the **opportunities** there are for the heritage sector as we come out of this global pandemic.

Over the course of the next couple of days, Alex outlined how members will reflect on several questions that can be summarised as: how has the experience of the **last two years** changed us? And how does it shape our thinking for the future and the world in which we live?

More broadly, the pandemic has given us an opportunity to consider how can cultural heritage speak out, and how we can align what the heritage sector has to offer to **wider government policies**. How do governmental agencies respond to the challenges or the expectations, that society has?

Einstein coined the phrase "in every crisis lies opportunity" and Obama summed it up by saying "never let a serious crisis go to waste". When looking back over the last two years, Alex sees opportunities that have been seized, but also wonders whether there are other opportunities we are **at risk** of missing as we go forward.

To help the Forum unpack this all, Alex presented the programme and the excellent **guest speakers**, chosen to challenge our thinking, and help us bring insights into this theme, looking at how we deliver cultural heritage in Europe in light of the global pandemic.



PRESENTATION OF THE VENUE

Dr Daisy Cunynghame, Royal College of Physicians



As Head of Heritage at the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, Dr. Daisy Cunynghame gave us more details about the **venue** we were sitting in.

It's the home of The Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, established in 1681. They were originally in the college Old Town, before they moved in this purpose-built building in the 1840s. When moving around the college, there are several buildings representing different **periods and styles in History**, from the 18th to the 21st century. The whole building is surrounded by symbols from the History of Medicine, and both Scottish and International figures from the medical profession. We can see them in the designs, the panels, the friezes, and even on the bannisters of the staircases.

The college has the **oldest medical library** in Scotland, including objects, books, and manuscripts, documenting the progression of medicine in Scotland and further afield.

As a membership college for physicians, their role today is still the same as when they were set up in the 1600s, to **represent doctors** and **support** them in their work. They have been and are still involved in several activities in this matter:

- Regulating medical practice and establishing **standards**. Before there was recognised standards, the College hired private investigators to go and examine alleged and dodgy doctors, taking them to court, sometimes with surprising pieces of evidence. Some of which are still displayed in their collections!
- Capturing the **history of very old medicine**, and when medicine connects with other fields. For instance, an Alchemical scroll from the 1800s which tells allegedly the secret of the philosopher stone. A visitor to their library was JK Rowling when she started writing Harry Potter.
- Documenting the **history of pharmacology**. The college has quite a lot of medicine and medicine chests in their collections, including one from the personal physician of Bonnie Prince Charlie used at the battle of Culloden.

The Royal College are currently collecting the history and objects from the **COVID-19 pandemic**. They have vaccines, masks and many other objects related to the pandemic, a collection which will continue to grow.

The college has fellows and users not only in Scotland but **all over the world**. They have recently digitalized 10.000 of their books and, when looking at the top ten most viewed of those books, 3 are in German, 2 in French, 1 in Italian, 1 in Spanish and 3 in English. They are proud of this international audience using their collections online.

WELCOME ADDRESS

Neil Gray, MSP, Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development, and Minister with special responsibilities for refugees from Ukraine

Neil Gray MSP gave the official welcome address. After two years of necessary pandemic restrictions, he welcomed such an event, and the meeting of peers and colleagues in person.

It seemed to him fitting that the EHHF Forum was taking place in this historic setting, continuing the collaborative, international approach of the College. It is also fitting considering the effort of the medical profession throughout the pandemic that we come together in this medical setting to plan the **heritage sector recovery** from the pandemic.

The collaborative approach to solve the pandemic was evident in the importance of working together to teach and to share, to learn and inspire each other.

The pandemic has affected us all but has also given the opportunity to view the sector's strengths and weaknesses with **fresh eyes** and to make significant changes. It is vital that we don't inspire to return to the status quo but rather learn from the innovative responses that the sector has introduced during the pandemic and share our learnings and good practices internationally.

Applying this to a governmental perspective, the Scottish government is determined to ensure we secure a **greener, fairer and more prosperous** country. To help in this, the heritage and culture sector's aspirations and achievements must be reflected in the many areas they engage with throughout society.

To this end, Historic Environment Scotland have been commissioned to undertake a **review of Scotland's historic environment strategy**. This review will prioritize activities that support recovery and renewal and focusing on creating a more resilient and sustainable sector. It will also help the sector to outline the positive contributions that heritage makes, not only to Scotland and its economy, but to the wellbeing of Scotland's people and all those who visit Scotland.

The Scottish government is a strong supporter of multilateralism and very much values working in partnership to address challenges around the world. A recent example of this **international collaboration** was the **COP26** held in Glasgow in November 2021. The sector's activity at COP26 underlined that heritage and culture offer real potential to deliver the societal change required to support our transition towards net zero and adapt to our changing climate. They can foster a better understanding of the transformations of our society throughout history, and present alternatives for the future.

Mr Gray also brought his thoughts to the **events in Ukraine**. Heritage is an important part of who we are, and the loss of a significant heritage site does not only affect its respective country, but it affects us all. As the situation in Ukraine deteriorates, we are witnesses to more indiscriminate bombings of civilians as well as heritage and cultural sites. The Scottish government recognizes the vital importance to ensure that we collectively do all we can to protect Ukraine's unique heritage for the future generations as well as our own. The crisis is **humanitarian** and Scotland is proud to play its role in welcoming Ukrainian refugees through Scottish Government's super sponsorship scheme which allows refugees to travel and be looked after by local councils until a permanent safe home can be found.

To conclude, the minister wished the members a productive and informative Forum and thanked them for their commitment to **raising awareness and appreciation** on the importance of recovery and renewal within the heritage sector. He hoped we will continue to learn from each other in the future.

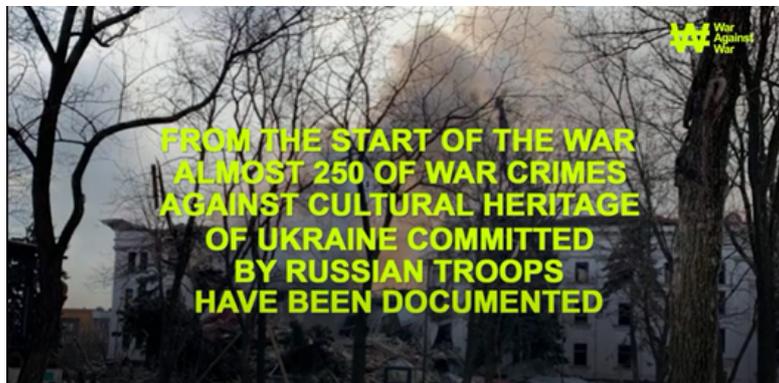
UKRAINE'S CULTURAL HERITAGE IN WARTIME

Kateryna Chuyeva, Deputy Minister of Culture and Information Policy of Ukraine

The Forum was then privileged to have **Ms Kateryna Chuyeva**, Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Culture and Information policy of Ukraine, join via video link to update on the situation for cultural heritage in Ukraine since the war started.

Since September 2021, Ms Chuyeva has held responsibility for cultural protection for museums, for international cooperation and European integration.

Ms Chuyeva's address started with a short video clip showing **destruction of Ukrainian churches and local museums** by Russian forces. Since the start of war, the Ministry has documented damage to almost 250 objects of Ukrainian cultural heritage and cultural institutions.



Ms Chuyeva expressed her pleasure to meet the members of the EHHF, thanking the Forum for this invitation, and for the **unprecedented support** they had received, including the Forum's statement of support from March. Ms Chuyeva started by updating that since the video was made, they have documented nearly **100 more acts**. They are just starting with the documentation of archaeological sites, not previously included in the count. meaning this list becomes longer every day. This is made harder by Ukrainian cultural communities, museum communities and monument protection communities being limited in their resources

They are receiving humanitarian help from different kinds of organizations from all over Europe and the United States, for which they are very grateful. They understood quickly that international conventions do not mean anything in this war. At first, they did not expect that archives and museums would be direct targets for rockets, but they have seen it happen in Kharkiv. It is very difficult to determine how they can save their heritage in this situation. For now their community in Ukraine, volunteers, museum specialists and monument preservation specialists, are doing everything they can to help protect heritage, including evacuation processes, planning for occupation and fire training.

They have priceless numerous archives and libraries so it is a billion objects that must be saved, together with their immovable heritage and the people who are bearers of the traditions of intangible heritage. Ms Chuyeva conveyed that what they are experiencing is the destruction of their identify by Russia, and hoped that this would spark an **international response**. Ms Chuyeva and the Ministry are happy to present their experience to different international groups and in different kinds of forums to try to explain what the international community could do and saving Ukraine's cultural heritage together.

Ms Chueyva thanked the Forum for their commitment to help and wished the group a fruitful and cooperative forum, noting the discussion session the next day which she hoped to join.



In response to Ms Chueyva's moving address, **Neil Gray** MSP thanked the Deputy Minister for their impassioned and emotive statement, noting that being able to make such a statement whilst their country is at war demonstrates what it means to be Ukrainian.

Scottish government offers their support in anything would be of assistance practically and wishes to be able to meet soon virtually to discuss what practical support might be available, and how European nations can come together to show the practical support, beyond solidarity.

The Scottish government will continue to do all they can to support people who have been displaced due to the war and they wish Ukraine can continue to be what it has been for centuries: a proud nation of culture and heritage.





KEYNOTE – Heritage, community wealth and building a Wellbeing economy for all

Neil McInroy, Democracy Collaborative and Community Wealth Building

Our keynote was from **Neil McInroy**, an economist working for The Democracy Collaborative in Washington, and an adviser to Scottish Government on Community Wealth Building.

The **Democracy Collaborative** is an organisational research and development lab tasked with rewiring the current economic system to ensure that we address the crisis, particularly the climate crisis, and the growing injustices across the world. This keynote is to be a smorgasbord of thoughts about how the economy is changing, what needs to change and on how this relates to heritage and culture.

The climate horrors are here

It is the moment to realize the horrors are right here, right now. One of the fundamental issues of those horrors is that we don't address them. The people who will survive are the people who can isolate themselves from the horrors, the wealthy. Therefore, we need to think about the economy and the importance of wealth (who has it and where it goes) if we want to succeed in saving the planet.

The only people who believe in infinite growth in a finite world are madmen and economists

There is a growing movement around the world stating that growth is not the only measure of a successful economy. We need to start to recalibrate our economy and how we run it. We need to break out of a traditional partisan approach to politics and address the crisis which is greater than political parties and ideologies.

« **Capitalism. Time for a Reset.** Business must make a profit but should serve a purpose too.» (The Financial Times, September 2019). This title from The Financial Times of London shows that even those journalists at the centre of global capitalism are calling for a reset. But how do we reset capitalism? It is arguably the challenge of our times.

And then.... Covid !

During Covid we have heard a lot the phrase "let's get back to normal" but this idea is very misleading: the "new normal" would be a better way to call it. The pandemic has been a paradigm shift regarding a lot of aspects: how and where we work? How we relate to places? What we prioritize and value in life? We should rather take in these crisis times opportunity for a new type of belief, a new type of consciousness. It is not anecdotal: it actually changed our perceptions of the world and the world around us.

Empathy, care and concern is on the rise.

The Scottish economist and philosopher Adam Smith said "Though our brother is on the rack, as long as we ourselves are at our ease, our senses will never inform us of what he suffers". This means we need to experience the pain of others to truly be empathetic. Our empathy is our force and it is on the rise.

We need to nurture that to foster change. When thinking in our own work, in our own assets, physical and intangible, we can use our heritage sites to understand the previous times of pain and despair, and how we can use that to move into the future.

Local matters more

Since Covid, more value is being placed on local places, on local services, local products, and local assets. Local economy relates to people's lives. This is an economy that we can construct because the economy is a social construct, a social science, not a natural science. Capitalism has meant we see the economy as something we need to fit within. However, in this moment of crisis, we can construct the economy in a way we want. One that takes into account this empathy, this care and concern to create an economy that truly nurtures the planet.

In the same way, Covid revealed our reliance on core elements of economy. Covid raised this renewed appreciation for core public services and "key workers" who kept the country moving during the lockdowns. This public economy of taxation and services, personifies the type of new economy we need to have.

From an economist perspective: Why do economies go wrong?

We don't have one economy, but three: a commercial economy (wealth creation); a social economy (the forgotten bit); and the public economy (taxation, public services).

The places in the world that are resilient, that will endure, manage to balance these three elements. It is about how do we make money to revive these public goods and services, and all the other things that happen in the social economy (neighbourliness, friendliness, love, etc). These things need to work together. A place can have a huge growth rate but still be un-resilient if money is not there for public services.

Part of that thinking comes from Patrick Geddes, a Scottish town planner who told us that great places are not about individual things. It is about how they work all together as systems. In a heritage perspective, it is to think about how does your assets work as a system in a given place?

Keep your coins, I want change : the system of wealth

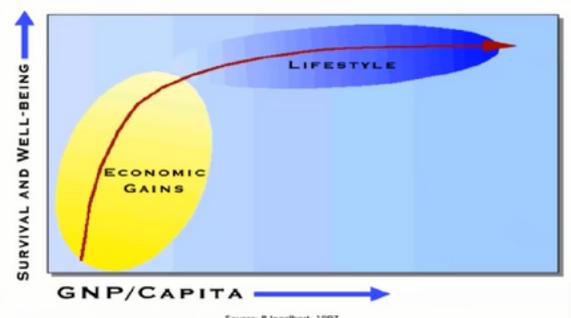
We need to think about how we move from this situation, from a crisis to more people enjoying the economy. We need to think about the system of wealth.

Wealth currently defines all economic systems: Who has it? Where does it go? How can we make more people have their hands on it?

At the moment, the 10 richest men in the world have the same amount of wealth as half of the people on the planet. This concentration of wealth is unprecedented in human history and the misallocation of that wealth is a fundamental issue we need to address in our economical thinking.

One way to think about wealth is to see the **flows of wealth** like streams and rivers. Where is does it flow to? Where are the leaks? Where can it be captured? If we think like this, we can perhaps address some of the inequalities and problems we have in the world.

Another way to think about wealth is **when is economical gain enough?** When does a society stop thinking about growth and start thinking about happiness and lifestyle? This is where Scotland's thinking now is; we are a wealthy nation, but how do we start thinking more about our wider wellbeing rather than endless economic growth? In this context, we need to think differently about growth, about assets, and what happens to them.



Towards a robust, resilient wellbeing economy for Scotland

Scotland has reported upon the "wellbeing economy approach", which looked holistically at the **four pillars of capitals**: Business; People; Environment; Community. These capitals are part of a well-being economy approach, but to make it practical and real, Scotland is looking towards community wealth building.

The dimensions of community wealth building are:

- Shared ownership of the economy
- Making financial powers work for local places, our wellbeing, and equality
- Fair employment and just labour markets: ensuring real living wages for workers, unionization, good terms and conditions, child care and processes in place to ensure that work is virtuous and creates wellbeing.
- Progressive procurement of goods and services: make sure we are supporting companies that believe in fair work, in net zero carbon, in progressive ideas.
- Socially just use of land and property: how do we use land not just for economic growth but for wider wellbeing purposes (such as heritage).



The objective of community wealth building is to rewire our current economic system around these 5 dimensions and build a fairer, greener country from it.

Turning to heritage assets: Stretching the value of heritage assets

Heritage is an intangible value and fundamental to a wellbeing economy. In our current economy, heritage assets have no formal economic value, but they do in an wellbeing economy through their intrinsic social value.

To stretch the existing value of heritage in economic and in social terms, we can think about heritage assets as anchors for community wealth building and for wellbeing. This way heritage sits alongside private businesses, assets providers, and local governments, as a strong anchor of the community.

For instance, ask yourself now: how is your asset supporting community usage, providing employment, creating more inclusive ownerships of your supply chains, recirculating finance or supporting local/sustainable economy?

A final few thoughts about the future - Age of experiments

Philosopher and politician Robert Mangabeira Unger advises in this age of crisis to experiment, try things, take risks. We need to be bold because if they work then we build them up, amplify and do it again in an innovation cycle.

These small test cases foreshadow the bigger change and through them we build progressively this new world. The future has to have a more relational economy. We need an economy that builds empathy.

Heritage is important as it reminds us of these past relations, but it is equally important in how we build future relations, and how we make sure our institutions and our work build an economy which works for all.

Photo credit: Aivar Kallamaa



Opening speech of the 15th EHHF Annual Meeting, Siim Raie - National Heritage Board of Estonia



THEMATIC DISCUSSION – View from Scotland: Culture in Placemaking

Phil Prentice, Scotland's Towns Partnership

Phil started his presentation by recalling several important events that happened in Scotland since 2014, making it very visible worldwide. He showed in this way the **sense of place** and the sense of pride that can be developed if people get a positive message about the country where they come from, their heritage, their culture.

Scotland is a nation of **towns** and towns are the lifeblood of Scotland. It is where more than 2/3 of the people reside and where more than 2/3 of their businesses exist. Scotland is a tiny nation invented through the modern world, it is a story of creativity and their heritage is their story book in this journey. For some times, government and partners have begun to see more and more how critical it is that we preserve, nurture and value the heritage in these towns.

Scotland's Towns Partnership is involved in several actions to support and develop towns:

- They have a platform to **encourage collaboration around improving towns**. To do so they have several tools: a platform that has modelled towns everywhere in Scotland; a town calculator to help people with urban design; resources linked to histories; prime mechanisms to have Scottish government to finance local authorities and local stakeholders to improve the place. They run regularly cross-party sessions in the parliament to keep political awareness high, and lots of media campaigns.
- They focus on **business improvement**: they have rebranded Scotland district in order to foster communities involvement. They have 40 improvement districts in Scotland. Importantly they have stretched the model to have other types of improvement districts (tourism, digital, food and drink, highland, and, hopefully soon, culture and creative).
- Third thing they do is **policy**. Their policy is internationally seen as best practice. Very often they host delegations looking at their action plan to fix the issues of towns.

However, if the policy was good, the action actually making it happen was not. Therefore, they spent the Covid time reviewing the **town centre action plan** and they published a new feature for Scotland's towns which took all the learnings of the last 7 years and looks at the bigger systemic issues. Importantly, they identified economic and fiscal inequities. They are now looking at a VAT issue (and a potential moratorium on out of town broad developments); at the repopulation of town centres and at how to deal with bigger densities within towns, now that the car dependence is being questioned and localism is growing back again. Some of the bigger issues are therefore being challenged.

Several ways that they developed to respond to these challenges:

- **Scotland loves local**: They have developed this brand to try reinforce the message of localism and sustainability. They have been running a number of national media campaigns to reinforce that. Encouraging people to reward their local businesses, to build resilience, to feed security and supply chain etc.
- **Fundings**: Scottish government has now built a central program for government and they issue funds to different community groups to try again to embed the concept of sustainability, localism and climate action.

- **Digital currency:** as part of Covid recovery the first minister recently gave a 80 millions pounds investment. A lot of that is going on to "Scotland loves local gift card" meant to design their district economy. Holder of the card must spend the amount on local businesses in their town centre. It is GPS tracked, so local authorities have their own platform and can invest in that to target young people, elderly who needs help, or people on poverty. The card enable to pay for a whole range of thing: energy, food, clothes, etc. within the local authority bankery. This is really driving home the whole concept of localism through giving people currency to stimulate that.

SCOTLAND'S TOWN

Neil's point is to be optimistic even though we are in challenged times, and what they have done through the town's partnership is to show people that this can be done. For instance, they had a **media serie** that they ran for four years as supplement to the Sunday newspaper about all the progresses that they have made around the country.

An example of a success story is the industrial town of **Falkrik** sets between two tourist towns and seen as uninteresting. In 10 years they made 10 millions people come thanks to culture, heritage and folklore actors coming together and giving the town a sense of renewal and revival. There is a story in every single town across the country and sometimes even just **a story helps with the regeneration**. Winckton reinvented itself around books and festivals, Reckery around craft and art, Aubun around seafood and again festivals and tourism.

During the decade leading up to pre-covid times, there was **very little investment** going in town centres eventhough we were aware of the shift of depopulation, the change of retail online and out of town and destination. We were watching all this but we were not worrying very much about it. Covid times gave time to **pause and reflect**. They got the politicians into the room on town and on the Scottish level to tell :we really need to start to take this seriously and living at peace, the climate is critical so we need to start using our living enviroenment, we need to secure our heritage, we need to make sure people are actually brought in all of that. SO a special investement programme was launched in 2021 whose first fund went to local authorities. In adiditon to that the Uk government gave fund as well as Towns capital, from Scotland Loves Local, from the investment bank etc. Important thing is that they now have money. To make these bigger investemnts

Covid also implied a **behaviour change**: more people are now working remotely but we also have changed our ways of educating, of engaging with the economy, of considering tourism, etc all these shifts going on to more localism and actually helping to secure some of our carbon footprint. Now we are driving towards recovery, we need to make sure that we keep all that.

Towns should be the heart of Scotland's communities

Phil concluded that town centres are there for everybody regardless of their age, colour, class, provided we just bring our lives back in, put assets at the forefront and add faicilities/infrastructure to meet people needs. He left us eventually with an open question: Is the golden age of our town and city centres something to look back on or something to look forward to? To finish optimistically, he thinks deep down that we are starting to move in the right direction as he notices that institutional investors, pension funds, larger developers are now starting to engage with them about this more sustainable approach.

THEMATIC DISCUSSION – View from Scotland: Climate change

Ben Twist, Creative Carbon Scotland

As a theatre director, Ben Twist deplures that, in relation to climate change, “**economic has dominated the discourse** around climate change”. Ben encouraged the ones around the table and others who are not economists to also speak strongly about climate change. We need the economists but it needs to be balanced by other voices.

Ben showed a short film called “**Climate Action Needs Culture**” created by Creative Carbon for the COP26 in Glasgow. It highlights the importance of the stories we tell. Everyone in this room is in some way creating a narrative, whether it is through regulation, planning decisions, examples or curation. If we continue to promote a narrative of high consumption, high carbon, perpetual growth we are promoting an unsustainable future. These are the **stories we need to change**. Museums, galleries, libraries and historic environment have the power to paint a new vision for the future.

The film resulted from the fact that culture didn’t really feature in the annual UN climate change talks. Cultural activities going on alongside the COPs tend to feel peripheral and doesn’t have much impact. They felt however that culture could play a central role in the COP. Culture in the widest sense is the ways in which we live in the world, and in that wider sense, we live in a culture of consumption. Climate change is a product of that consumption. Culture in a narrower sense – the arts, heritage, screen and so on – reflects, expresses and **interrogates that wider culture**. If we want to change the wider culture we need to change the narrower one.

Scottish National Culture for Climate group

For the film, they invited the national cultural institutions and bodies directly funded by the Scottish Government, including the national museums, galleries, libraries, funding bodies and agencies, to join an **informal group**. All of them have duties under Scotland’s climate change legislation to take action on carbon reduction and adaptation to the impacts of climate change. Despite that, these bodies hadn’t previously convened on this topic. The informal group gathered money for the film and the event, discussed the arguments they should make and they learned from each other what their particular fields, institutions and sectors could bring to the table.

Is Culture the untapped ally of climate policy? How Culture can help shift society.

The focus of the film and event was the role cultural institutions and agencies have in contributing to the transformation of society to address climate change.

As expert in cultural heritage, our role includes planning, regulation and, regarding visitors, learning and engagement. These activities can all contribute to changing society in response to the existential threat that climate change poses.

There is a need for **collaboration**. Climate change is a challenge for every part of society, and nobody has the perfect answer. Creative Carbon demonstrated that actors can learn from each other, share knowledge and resources and make big strides in addressing climate change. They also learned that at least some people at the sharp end of climate change work – in local and national government, environmental organisations etc. – also want to collaborate with cultural actors. They need legitimacy for their actions and new ways of working which cultural and creative practitioners can bring to the table. Their call-out at the end of the film for joint work is: cultural actors are here to help.

Some collaborative work undertaken by Creative Carbon Scotland:

- **Cultural Adaptions Projects with local governments.** Creative Carbon has worked with local government on climate change adaptation. An example of that is the big success of Creative Ireland's €2m Creative Climate Action fund bringing together local governments and cultural actors in Ireland.
- **Climate Beacons Project** for COP26 which harnessed the power of **cultural venues** to provide a dedicated space for and to promote collective thinking. Seven Climate Beacons around Scotland have formed partnerships of cultural venues with researchers, activists or civic society groups. When people come to a theatre, museum or heritage site they set aside time to think about specific things, guided by whoever has curated the event, exhibition or site. And they do so alongside others, who have likewise come to experience and think about the same things. Cultural venues and cultural participation **promote collective thinking and action**, helping to build the social capital that provides the capabilities and confidence to participate fully in climate discussion and decision making.

How has the pandemic changed things?

As Greta Thunberg would say – when the house is on fire, we need to take **drastic action**. And yet. Scientists have been warning about a major pandemic for years, if not decades. This wasn't a surprise but we didn't prepare. Similarly we've known for some time what Putin was capable of. But we were dependent on Russia's money, oil and gas and we didn't act. The war in Ukraine is partly a result of that inaction. We've also known about climate change for decades. But we're addicted to energy, oil and gas and so we have avoided thinking about the downsides. Now, our inaction is beginning to hurt, all over the world and particularly in the global south. What the pandemic has changed, is that we now know that these **warnings are real**, inaction is perilous and we need to act as if the house is on fire. And it has shown that we can undertake transformational change quickly.

A Climate Emergency and Sustainability Plan for Creative Scotland

Last year, Creative Scotland (the development agency for the arts, screen and creative industries) decided to develop a Climate Emergency and Sustainability Plan.

Creative Carbon Scotland won the tender to work on this and write it for them, working with an expert team. The governing Board of Creative Scotland was very clear that they wanted Creative Scotland and the arts, screen and creative industries to be an **agent of change in the transformation of society** and not just support the sector in complying with Scotland's net zero target. This enabled this climate change plan to take a very bold stance.

Creative Scotland itself, along with the sectors that it supports and influences, will need to change radically to take on this role. Creative Scotland will need to fund and support different work, use different incentives and place different requirements on those they support. Similarly, different artists and organisations will thrive – those that are placing climate change at the heart of their work.

Conclusion

Ben's provocation to our party was: how can we work together with climate people and culture people to bring about that transformation? If our organisation, ministry or agency was to decide to make it a core purpose to be an agent of change in the transformation of society necessary to address climate change, what would it look like? How would you need to change to enable that shift among the organisations, the sites, the people that you support? How could you change the story?

Q&A SESSION

- **Everyone in this room is a storyteller so what advice do you have for this audience in terms of changing the providing narrative of cultural heritage?** The need to interrogate what you are saying, the narrative that you are putting out. One of the things they recommended to Creative Scotland in the actions they need to do is review all of their policies, all of their procedure. In the same way, cultural heritage needs to **review all the stories** that it tells and see whether it is promoting a high carbon approach or lifestyle and how you can change that. For instance, a petrol, steel or oil heritage site, how do we interpret that, how do we reinterpret that for the new world? What we have seen from the Covid pandemic and when move out of covid is how important the cultural assets, became important to the local community. People need to recognize and become more aware of their heritage that is on their doorstep, it does not have to be a big grand national cathedral, that everybody goes to, it can be just a small historic building in your local community that can be brought back into more **productive use**, making all the stakeholders speak to each other. The different strategies need to align and to be implemented at ground level.
- **What are their views on the "addiction" of our sector to big shiny new projects, usually for people to make their career. How do we change that unsustainable habit and look first at retro fitting, adaptation or new ways of operating that don't require a great sort of show off set pieces?** Creative Carbon recommended to Creative Scotland to do a **survey of the cultural estate** to see what elements of the cultural estate they can rely on, how they could be able to achieve net zero, how they can be adapted to meet the challenge of the impact of climate change. Other piece of work that need to be done: to make a wider review of their cultural estate and say what is going to be necessary in 2045. What is going to be fit for purpose and what is going to be necessary to keep? Probably not everything can be kept and look after. This issue too can find answers in the cross sectoral collaboration as solutions can be found in the mixed use of the heritage buildings to make them relevant, and properly fitting and answering specific needs.
- **Today we talk about circular economy and new sustainable ways of building but we don't really talk about sobriety. The pandemic has pushed us to accept to live with less resources: the world had to use less and do less. But today everything is going back to what it was while we should continue in that direction. If this impulse can be brought from the cultural sector, how does this theme becomes political? Today in politics it is forbidden to talk about living with less resources, consuming less and renouncing to some things. How do we change this?** Culture is indeed not the one taking these decisions (especially since it is often tight up to national funding) but it can contribute to it by **launching these difficult conversations** with those in charge of the political debate. The pandemic has shown that the government could **spend money differently** and that people could behave differently and that is a start. Culture has a very important role to play there to talk to society about that and to government about that. In their experience, society is often way ahead of politicians. Initiatives taken in one country can also use as example in other, like the UK followed Ireland when seeing that a smoking ban was possible. Governments need to get their story straight first to have citizen to follow, otherwise it is confusing and unproductive.

TWO MINUTES, TWO SLIDES – Examples of Adaptation during and after the Pandemic

Examples from national experience

SCOTLAND. Digital solutions

Historic Environment Scotland revisualised the visitor's experience by using high resolution 3D models, exhibitions and events online. They also had to imagine **on-site solutions**: new apps, timed-ticketing to book online, QR codes for interpretation and audio guides on user's phone. They have multiplied learning online, mainly with educational resources for schools. The conclusion was very positive with high demand, very good numbers of participants and positive feedbacks from the visitors. They have now a **new digital strategy** that they wish to develop among which: create a better digital journey for the user/applicant; looking at the viability of a digital membership with exclusive content; looking at the user purchase journey on their websites; a Youth Forum prototypes and Innovation Hubs.

ROMANIA. Pandemic Resilience

In response to Covid, physical access to cultural activities, institutions and information was limited or nonexistent. Participation in indoors activities was almost nonexistent. Under these circumstances, the Romanian National Institute of Heritage focused entirely on online mediums. **Digitalisation** has played a crucial role in the presentation, promotion and protection of cultural heritage. Institutions that managed mobile heritage collections have moved to maximise their accessibility by achieving online public access through virtual tours, promoting existing digital content and online events. They maximised **online accessibility** to cultural information, via digital cultural libraries, virtual museum tours, 3D scans of art pieces and online cultural events. Research, inventory, documentation and restoration works have been slowed down. The institutions managing these activities organised the activities of design, approval, restoration, protection of historical monuments online with the result in online development of specialised commission and approval of restoration works. On intangible heritage, the institute promoted the craft on their online platforms and make them accessible. They built a **database** to promote the different craftsmen.

BELGIUM. Adaptation of public accessibility in regional properties: Villers-la-Ville abbey

Villers is a listed site of 30 hectares and an ancient Cistercian abbey. It contains the ruins of religious buildings but also gardens and standing buildings. It is used for tourism, cultural activities and events, in particular for large audiences. Adaptation during the health crisis: the buildings were closed and activities had to stop. However, **outdoors areas** were kept open with adaptation to the tours. They welcomed artists and organised musical shows with different types of music and thereby of interest to various audiences. The site was rediscovered by local communities and they developed broadcast and new video conferencing technologies. The impact was mixed. There was a fewer loss in revenues than what was expected. On the other hand, the site provided a real service to the public and supported the artists and the cultural sector in general. It also allowed to **develop a local base** which was a way for people to meet, gather and to maintain some activities. This implied a change in visitor's profile. It brought more local visitors that offset the decline in foreign citizens. It made a better balance between visitors and spectators.

SWITZERLAND. No lockdown but...

In Switzerland the pandemic did not have a very strong impact on the built heritage because they never had full lockdown. Museums remained opened, works on site continued. Because of the travel ban, they noticed a **growing interest for local sites**, more interest for heritage sites in general and the number of visitors have increased. The changes linked to digitalisation were both positive and negative, especially the broad introduction of Home-Office. Finally, there was a comprehensive financial support for culture, not needed for the heritage or the Baukultur sector. After the pandemic, important questionings remain around the **mandatory physical presence in Office**: to be or not to be in a meeting? Me and my work or our team? More informal gatherings? At the moment they don't have a strong political support for heritage. The biggest concern of the government is the energy crisis, since they came out of nuclear in 2016, there is a major need for renewable energies.

WALES. Local heritage in focus

The major highlight was the new interest on local history and heritage, and people discovering and investigating what was in their immediate area. People being limited in where they could travel, they were tight to their homes. They developed a scheme called **15 minutes heritage** based on the 15 minutes city concept, stating that you can reach everything in 15 minutes walk from your home. They have moved on from that towards more digital online provision opportunities for communities to tell their own stories of their heritage through story maps. They have come with this **History on your doorstep** concept: the everyday heritage that are around us, seen through the lens of different communities. These story maps online resources are the opportunity for people to tell the stories of their heritage and make them accessible.

In summary, **three key take aways** from the pandemic have really change their thinking: telling the story of their heritage with a new focus on the lens of the communities themselves, making these heritage resources accessible online, telling the stories of our everyday local heritage, an heritage on our doorsteps.

SLOVENIA. The pandemic paradox

In 20-21, Slovenia spent substantial part of their time in complete or partial lock-down, preventing a majority of employees to work from the workplace. Yet, they had a greater work-load than during pre-pandemic times. Their institute issues **development consent** whenever people want to build or modify something on their heritage building. In 20-21 they had much more applications and they issued more consents than before. As a result, despite the pandemic and with no additional employees, they were able to perform this public service **fully and on-time**. How was it possible? It is a factor of good technical and human capacity that they had. They were apparently well prepared both in terms of technical capacities (equipment, digitalised databases, simplified procedures allowed) and in employees working from home quite efficiently (good organisation of work – even if required improvisation and goodwill). **Consequences** for the future ? The work from home is here to stay. Although not for everyone: you can't be really efficient working from home and repairing a fresco in a church. It is therefore important to have good human, technological and organisational capacity in your institution to cope with these kinds of situations.

LUXEMBURG. Taking time for you

In Luxemburg they understood from the beginning of the lockdown that they would have time to do other things than taking in charge their restoration projects. They decided to take care of themselves and tried to apply a **new law on cultural heritage** which is also about built heritage, architecture and they took advantage of this to change their name: they are now the National Institute for Architectural Heritage. In order to create this law they needed the government to act more quickly. Now only one action from the government is enough to act on some buildings in the city. They have also published a new programme on architecture heritage, started to list new buildings, and published more than 1700 pages on buildings which are not still listed. Today, more than 2000 buildings are listed in Luxemburg, in a few years they want to have more than 20.000. They also want to reach a wider audience publishing 12 projects on fortified/feudal heritage. Finally, they have worked with private instances to show that heritage gives us a lot of **opportunities for work and for the wellbeing economy**. They have been able to show to their country that heritage is a very good resource.

SPAIN. Examples of adaptation during and after the pandemic 2020 and 2022.

Some initiatives that took place during the quarantine period and the most hard months of the health crisis: virtual temporary exhibitions and virtual display of permanent collections were developed by several Spanish museums, free services for **cultural enjoyment at home** were made available by most public and private institutions (ex. all operas recorded by the national opera theatre). Regarding more technical issues, the Institute of Spanish Cultural Heritage published a guideline document containing recommendations to **disinfect cultural buildings and assets** in a harmless way from a conservative and preservation point of view. In the post-pandemic situation, when the situation became safer, the government along with other cultural institutions promoted numerous initiatives to **boost the cultural field again**: the Ministry of Culture youth cultural voucher (400EU voucher to be spent in cultural activities and assets for people turning 18 in 2022); the awareness raising campaigns; and the #cultureissafe hashtag (#LaCulturaEsSegura) under which most of the cultural centres and institutions progressively reassumed their normal activities.

MALTA. Heritage calling

The Superintendence of Cultural Heritage is the national regulator for heritage in Malta. Their job is to be in **constant contact** with the general public and especially architects and developers when it comes to projects that may have an impact on the cultural heritage. When the pandemic started and the employees of the Superintendence were at home without their hard phones, the building industry continued to flourish. They faced a situation where architects, developers and general public were not able to communicate with their staff. After receiving a lot of complaints, they decided to integrate **soft telephony**. In Malta, they are the first government department to introduce this system. It resulted in being quite successful, cost effective and it allowed employees to be reachable from any location. Currently they are still working in a hybrid situation and employees are therefore **reachable from any location**. Soft telephony provides flexible communication from wherever via a computer or a smartphone. It is a lot cheaper than the hardware phone as the system is connected with the internet, it can be installed on desktops and mobile devices, the setting up is easy and it has all the features of a desk phone.

NORWAY. Climate strategy for cultural environment management 2021-2030

The strategy was developed during the pandemic, not because of it but mostly related to the threat of climate change. The climate strategy is divided in two parts: I. Cultural heritage and the contribution to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. II. Cultural heritage and the management of adverse climate change consequences. To fulfil Norway's **climate goals and commitments** under the Paris agreement, immediate cut in greenhouse gas emissions and the implementation of climate measures are vital. Studies show that the most sustainable building is the one that has already been built. Therefore, **rehabilitation** is a better option than demolishing on a 30-year horizon towards 2050. It can take up to 80 years for a new building to offset greenhouse gas emission from the construction process. Reuse and transformation do also have a cultural, economic and social dimension. The **cultural environment management** has extensive expertise within the fields of reuse. This needs to be communicated to the public, to private sectors and to society in general. This is essential to the EU green deal and recovery plan. This strategy is available online and Norway can provide the documents to those interested.

ENGLAND. Data on the heritage sector

In internal changes, moving to remote working gave them the challenge of equipping everybody with hardware and providing training. They are a big organisation and some people are living far away so the only way to meet with lots of people is **virtually**. On the other hand, it means losing the benefits of being physically in the same location, and informal chat. They are working at how to manage that for the future. The other thing they had to do very quickly was to **map the heritage ecosystem** and get better data on the heritage sector. To make the case to government for rescue packages, they needed that data. That is a good legacy of Covid for them, thanks to this data collection, they managed to get investment of 140 millions pounds in the heritage sector for resilience and recovery grounds and 91 million for the heritage repair just to keep the heritage sector going and vibrant.

Another contribution was the focus on **public investment and local places**. They already had a programme of high streets investment to try to sustain heritage of high streets. The pandemic underlined the importance of doing that and the engagement to people was precious to them. It has been welcomed that they give attention not just to the high status heritage but also to centres of towns and cities which they don't look after so well.

ICELAND. Not only a pandemic

From November 2019 onwards, Iceland has faced **other major threats**. In 2019, they had mold in the basement of their agencies so they had to move out. Then Covid started in February 2020. In December 2020, they had a **landslide** in eastern Iceland and they had the Reykjanes eruption in March 2021. At the agency they did not have special difficulties due to Covid, they did not have to close down (only the museums) but they have brought some fundings to support heritage. They got money to support the buildings damaged by the landslide, to transfer them in the same village and to restore them. There are earthquakes everyday there so they expect a new eruption. Other fundings were dedicated to the **registration of archaeological remains** where the eruption is and evolving their archaeological database. Due to Covid they received support for employment (mainly aimed at the people restoring buildings) and extra funding for the restoration of old buildings. If learning to use TEAMS/ZOOM and home offices were positive outcomes, it has set a distance between employees and generated some communication failure.

LITHUANIA. The pandemic period: a challenge but also an opportunity for new ideas

When the door is closed, the screen opens: remote work gave opportunities for international conferences and for organ restoration. People worked from home and it made it difficult to organise meetings, inspection actions and restoration works. The government prepared a special programme for stimulate the economy and a big financial support to restoration and compensation. Financial institutions and people understood that heritage is a stimulous for economic development.

They implemented the new ArcGIS platform for the **Monitoring of Cultural Heritage Objects**: Quality, Sustainability, Scalability. It implied a lot of changes at their administrative level. For instance, the restoration works were adapted. They gathered European experts who could communicate with computer, telephone and cameras creating new conditions of work, more organised, quicker and cheaper. Finally, they also had a big challenge in adapting the **FIXUS MOBILIS project**, dealing with preventive monitoring and maintenance for cultural heritage and that was supposed to be developped in 2019.

SWEDEN. The pandemic and the transformation of museums

Five years ago the National Heritage Board was given a national responsibility to **support and coordinate all the museums** in Sweden. The general consensus among museums is that the National Heritage Board has done nothing with this big challenge. A year ago, they were asked by the museums to address this challenge. The pandemic had a huge impact on the museums which had to shut down with the restrictions. They were very creative and acted very quickly in adapting to these circumstances and in digital ways. In the first year after the pandemic, they managed to increase the number of digital visits to 216 millions which is a 10 time increase. Digital operations offered added value: reaching more people in more places (in the country or outside), new forms of presenting heritage, collections are brought to life and secured for future use.

They realised that very little existed in Sweden in digital format. There has been no coordination as to how to digitalize cultural heritage, what methods, what standards to use or what platforms to convey the cultural heritage. Recently there was a report presented to the government of Sweden suggesting a major investment in digital cultural heritage (75 million euro), expressively saying that the Heritage Board in Sweden should coordinate this. They have also pushed for a national strategy for digital heritage. This is a big opportunity for them to be this proactive force for museums.



GROUP DISCUSSION – PAST FORWARD

Prof. Irene McARA-McWILLIAM OBE, Deputy director Research and innovations at Glasgow School of Art set up the challenge for this session. The Forum engaged in a "design project" which necessitates both to collaborate and to create. In design terms, there needs to be a tangible output out of this collaboration. The goal was to pick a place, a site or a topic and to address it with the collective experience of the participants and with the inputs from the morning in order to create new stories of cultural heritage. The process aimed at designing the "future of the past" by sharing experience, exchanging points of views and creating something tangible.

Urban and Regional Planning

- This matter is still very often a **top-down, government led approach**. Sometimes they don't even discuss their plans with heritage authorities. It also lacks of community involvement, often included at the very end of the process. However, the pandemic helped to foster **community pride** and interest in the local heritage. As a result, communities want to be more invested in planning. The focus should be on that scoping phase where communication happens at the right time with a vast range of actors. This greater inclusion would also enable to debate and include **wider issues** such as the aesthetics value of new buildings or the way we might look at the present with the eye of the past.
- At policy level, heritage is perceived as part of these wider policy making or standards of public services. Perceptions have been changing over the last two years, heritage is becoming to be part of **restarting economy** and a new system, which has an approach based on a well-being economy.
- Distinctive approaches must be adopted on the protection of **natural and cultural heritages** and the differences in approach to them in environmental impact assessment, The protection of natural resources is more measurable than protection of cultural heritage which is more opinion based and focus on professional judgment. However, we cannot cure the climate crisis with a culture crisis. We know an energy transformation is needed. In that, grey energy: it is the main asset of the built heritage. It is conserved and preserved there.

Tourism

- The pandemic resulted in more interest in **local** places and in **digital** cultural offer. Having an on-line presence encourages people to visit attractions and destinations.
- It encouraged discussion on a more **sustainable tourism**. 'Connectivity' emerged as a key word, looking at how we can shift to a more responsible cultural tourism and a better quality of the visitor's experience looking at the wider national context and what we can do in our locality. A better visitor's experience should focus on fewer but longer stays, greener transport and infrastructure, sustainable procurement, local resources and producers, reinvesting profit into the local economy and the preservation of cultural sites. There is also a need to include policies on sustainable tourism in local plans and particularly in World Heritage Site management plans.
- The future of tourism needs to find a balance between **economic interests** and the need to reduce **carbon's emissions**. During the pandemic, localism and local tourism gained relevance, whilst international tourism was halted. It had no impact on some places but it had dramatic repercussions on others. The revenue from tourism is very important although there was a lot of discussions as how much of the revenues actually go to the local community (with ships in particular).
- There is a mixed picture for the future of tourism in Europe. Increased fuel, energy and living costs may have an impact on cheap flights and mass tourism. Tourism may only be limited to the wealthy. Likely, costs for greener travel options can be prohibitive for most people, and can lead to a rise in **inequalities**. Lowering the cost of greener means of transport might be a good option, as well as disincentivising flying by penalising air passengers with taxation, rather than rewarding air miles.

Community Participation

- Looking at Cardiff bay, where the history of the docks co-exists with the history of Somali and Yemeni migrants, which led to the first purpose-built mosque built in the UK, and then at other multi-cultural regions in Europe where language, as a carrier of heritage, can be political and divisive at times, the focus was on 'How can we harness these culturally different stories, so that we can give a voice to **different perspectives** on different heritages?'
- The suggested approach is to focus on **bottom-up stakeholder engagement** to really listen to people's ideas when creating plans, in an open and inclusive way. The main visual concept that emerged was the one of a '**tapestry**' of heritages, and the idea of 'weaving' different stories to give a comprehensive picture of the diverse identities of a place.
- The question of '**contested**' heritage, and how the Black Lives Matter movement had opened an honest dialogue on colonialism, its impact on our societies and the rise of inequalities. There's an opportunity here to promote these **different voices** and use digital online platforms, such as 'Story Map', to feature these stories in a more interactive and inclusive way.
- **Street art** and **social media** have also been flagged as a good way to portray and raise awareness of communities' heritages that would otherwise remain untold and unknown.
- Communities have rediscovered their local heritage and landscapes during the pandemic. Heritage has formed a common focus for people - especially in situations where society has become more fragmented.
- The pandemic has placed a focus on **community well-being**. There are links between volunteering/heritage and increased well-being. Visitors are often most satisfied when they have visited a heritage attraction.
- There should be a role for **experts** as heritage is made more relevant to communities. It is the job of experts to earn the respect of communities by engaging with them and not patronising them. There are big opportunities to talk and exchange information.

Build heritage, Skills & Training

- Common agreement that the disconnection between **skills, training, profession** is leading to a complicated situation. It is possible to have education or training in some countries, but not all. In most countries, only those with a proper education are allowed to work in the buildings restoration. In some countries, those working within restoration get a **license** that they have to show as a proof they are able to work. In other countries, accidents happened particularly in regard to privately owned or church owned heritage. Sometimes they receive the help of entities that have damaged or even destroyed heritage, using **wrong techniques**. The conclusion is that the necessary investment in building skills has not happen, there is a lack of skilled craftsmen. The market is not aligned with some of our needs.
- What could be done to ensure **quality of work**? There are inspiring solutions in different countries. For instance, Romania's lack of craftsmen was solved by **summer schools** where younger craftsmen are trained by the older ones. Other countries developed **online trainings**.
- Some positive initiatives exist in terms of **information sources**: there are information booklets to show how to retrofit and do net zero. However, this might work only to a certain point because these sources very often target socio-economic success and not environmental improvement.
- To ensure charismatic places, there is a need to stress regularly the required standards. It also starts by **educating** and **forming** owners and professionals to create a line between the different domains. This is challenging but it could be influenced by **charismatic heritage professionals** that can make that link between educators, trainers and construction services.
- Possible solutions include: creating some **information platforms**: sharing or publishing **research papers** on these topics; sharing knowledge and **best practices** from different countries about education and training of specialists and workers, but also about the techniques and regulations for working in restoration.

DISCUSSION ON UKRAINE –

Moderated by Joakim Malmström, in presence of Kateryna Chuyeva

Our members have been committed to the cause in Ukraine and supporting the colleagues there in protecting the cultural heritage from the war. The EHHF coordinated a statement of declaration of support for Ukraine which was signed by many. Now, it is time for us to share insights and thoughts on how to support Ukraine, and discuss and follow up if there are ways in which we as a network we can continue to build on the statement that we did in strong support.

In **Sweden**, they have undertaken several actions, in close contact with the director of national museums for Ukrainian history who has lived for many years in Sweden.

- To spread awareness on the situation in Ukraine, the threat to cultural heritage institutions. A strong statement was issued by the Minister of Culture in support of their Ukrainian colleagues
- Following a request, they set up a support fund to assist Ukrainian colleagues now and in the future when it comes to rebuilding. It is handled by the Nordic museum in Stockholm where the public, private donors and cultural institutions can support with their money.
- They are in contact with the Swedish government and urge them to make cultural heritage matters in Ukraine an important part of the Swedish government policy in assisting and supporting Ukraine.
- They have meetings with a number of large private research funding institutions in Sweden to see how they can contribute with research funding on Ukrainian cultural heritage.

Here are some insight and ideas on how **Scotland** support Ukraine.

- They underline the importance of these meetings with European and Ukrainian colleagues to understand the needs in Ukraine to make sure our support is targeted. There is this vital nature of building networks and sharing intelligence among European and international partners.
- Feeding information to Unesco and they try to understand the scale of the damages and of the infrastructures that require rebuilding. This international dimension also means providing support through international networks such as ICOM, where they convey support through museums.
- Supporting partners in maintaining aspects of the Hague Convention through work with their national police services as well in monitoring looting and other elements that may occur to transportation of elements for that.
- Bringing support to government colleagues in the broader support plans, using heritage along lines.
- Members of their own organisation who are serving members of the British army are already at work within the cultural protection unit within the British Army working with other international agencies to make sure that the EU convention is teared to top actions against aggression with transgression.
- Local governments and other third sector to provide support in our country through education, learning or make available heritage professionals that can provide support .

Kateryna Chuyeva thanked the members of the EHHF for the support they have received already. They have a very dynamic situation and it is difficult to have swift reactions as their bureaucratic system is unprecedentedly challenged. For now, they have elaborated a program considering three types of temporality

- In the short term, an emergency response with the Heritage Emergency Rescue initiative associated with the Ministry of culture. There is a bank account which was established especially to help and to find assistance for the cultural heritage preservation. The aim of this account is to accumulate funds for the next step for the restoration and conservation and documentation of objects within the frame of the coming years. As immediate response as well, in the perspective of one or two years, they need to document, to make evaluation in order to start with immediately needed works on conservation.
- There is an emergency to cover the basic needs of the people who are still in Ukraine. This month, a number of their institutions didn't receive their salary. It could be that within one or two months they will face a crisis of basic needs and payments for the professionals in the cultural sphere. We have to think about the possible ways to support them.
- In the longer time perspective, development of strategical programmes for restoration and recovery of cultural heritage in Ukraine. All these programmes will include movable and immovable heritage and intangible heritage.

- One of the most important challenge is to support their specialists in the field. The specialists that are in Ukraine who cannot leave their collections or their institutions. She would like to ask us to think about programmes for them for the post war period. They will need to obtain some possibilities for their specialists for their own rehabilitation. Some of them are now somewhere in Europe because they have received some fellowship etc so they are very grateful for this.

Poland also described to the members what they do to help and shared some experience.

- Their Minister of Culture decided to make a **special task team** for the culture in Ukraine. This is a state initiative which has got public funding and whose centre operates from the National Institute of Heritage. This task team represents 8 people, half of them are Ukrainian so they work in Ukrainian which also makes them work faster.
- There are a lot of museums and institutions that contact them directly so they constituted a large **database** with different actors: libraries, archives, theatres, music institutions, cultural institutions.
- They organise support and they **transport**. The most challenging part is transportation (train and trucks) because you never know if and when it will reach the destination. International partners can send their help to their warehouse then they pack it again and they make the dedicated transport to coordinators or to the museums. In coming weeks they will operate along with other humanitarian actors which is going to be easier and faster. Sometimes there are also problems with taxes and customs like it is the case with UK material.
- The other thing is that they collect **data about the destruction** of monuments, collections and archaeological sites. The database online made by the Ukrainian Ministry is updated day by day.
- Everything is dynamic. They learned recently that Russians is also luting at private collections to Crimea. This refers to the issue of **illicit trafficking** of cultural goods. On this topic, there was a meeting of the 1970 convention subsidiary committee during which they negotiated that Unesco will have to make a report about the illicit trafficking of culture goods from Ukraine for the next session.
- Related to Unesco as well, they translated in Ukrainian a book that they did with Unesco about **reconstruction and recovery** based on their experience of Warsaw's reconstruction.
- They are also committed at **training their customs** about the cultural heritage that might be exported illegally from Ukraine through their borders.
- Classes about intangible culture heritage of Ukraine are organised in Polish schools for Ukrainian refugees students to adapt better.
- ICOM Poland has scholarship programs for the culture professionals that stayed and who need support, project cooperation and some kind of financing. They will concentrate on programme to support specialists.
- Poland and Lithuania have created a special fund of 1 million euro for digitalization of museums inventories, which is very important in case of illicit trafficking. Yet, there are a lot of organisational problems with transferring the money.

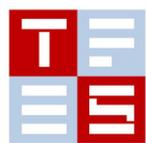
In the **United Kingdoms**, their ambassador to Unesco has been chairing the fence of Ukraine and is working very closely with permanent delegation over there to support in anyway possible.

In **Netherlands**, they have been backing material. For now, they are preparing to have a fellowship for five or more specialists for the upcoming period. Having heard the need is much bigger, they will discuss what other things they might do and maybe they can offer some programmes for students or facilities for refugees or for volunteers in Ukraine.

To end this session, Joakim underlined the obvious commitment of the EHHF to assist and help our Ukrainian colleagues and looking forward to become aware with the letter from the deputy minister Chuyeva. The EHHF will make sure that we are as much coordinated and as much in contact with each other as possible to ensure that our assistance and help really meets the needs of Ukraine and our colleagues there.

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

Note - The content of these presentations can be found in greater details within the EHHF Annual Report



Economic taskforce

- Paul Marhinger

In 2021, the Taskforce engaged with the ESPON study focusing on the **economic impact of cultural heritage** in 12 European countries and regions. This study was published in 2019 and presented during a web conference. Since 2020, they are involved in the ESPON study "Heriwell" about the **societal well-being** through cultural heritage. In the previous year, the Taskforce held several online meetings to discuss the ESPON "Heriwell" project but also to question the **aims** of the taskforce beside ESPON and "Heriwell". The ESPON study shows gaps in common and comparable European definition of cultural heritage and this important existing **data gaps** creates difficulties for the study. To come to better statistics results, the Taskforce was asked to give inputs and to engage in closing these gaps. Another question relates to how to measure the potential positive impact of material cultural heritage on our environment. The study will finish in May 2022 and the report will be shared with EHHF members when available.



EHLF

- Wolfgang Karl Göhner

Between September 2021 and May 2022, the EHFL, the EHLF Secretariat and its Chair worked on four major topics.

- The **EU Energy Policy 2030-2050** and the amendments to the Energy performance of the buildings Directive, the Renewable Energy Directive and the Energy Efficiency Directive.
- Case studies from different European countries were presented during the "Online Forum: Integrated Approaches to **Europe's Dissonant Heritage**: Insights Networks and Future Perspectives" organised by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development of Germany.
- Standardization work on the draft of the "**Development of resilient cities** - Framework and guidelines for implementation in historic areas".
- The **EU ban on lead** and its impact on the restoration and presentation of Cultural Heritage & Property: informing the sector about the issue, encouraging to participate in consultation and production of a model statement in English.

Troika & Permanent Secretariat

The work of the secretariat can be summarized in four main activities, that would be: communication; monitoring membership; administration; and support towards the two standing committees.

COMMUNICATION. The objective is to ensure efficient communication between the members of the Forum and encourage the exchange of good practices.

- Three main channels: emails, the recently renovated website and a newly created LinkedIn account, to give visibility to some of the Forum's activities.
- Some successful examples of exchange of good practice: help Romanian colleagues with digital transformations in the field of heritage; solutions to our Icelandic colleagues regarding what chemicals to use to remove or prevent graffiti on nature stones; clues to our Estonian colleagues to prepare their case for a Natura 2000 exception to protect a dam.
- How to preserve knowledge exchanges and make them accessible? A solution would be replacing the online Forum by an "online library" gathering the inputs on a given topic.

MEMBERSHIP implies to update contact information for all administrations involved, but also try to establish or re-establish contact with new or lost members.

- Call on members' help to keep the secretariat informed when there are changes in your administration or by sharing the contacts from other countries that would be interested in joining/re-joining the EHHF.

ADMINISTRATIVE matters concern the organisation of the Annual Meeting and the budget.

- Budget-wise, the EHHF is in a good position with 30 contributing members and therefore an increasing budget. Important spare were made in 2020-22 due to the usual expenses being decreased during the pandemic. 2022 marked a "back-to-normal" situation.
- This year is the end of the 2022-22 budget period. It will therefore mean to collect new 3-year commitments for the 2023-2025 period.

VOTES

- Members voted in favor of holding a virtual Fika in the Fall.
- A renewal of the secretariat's 3-year contract, under the current conditions, was voted.
- Members voted in favour of pursuing the three-years contributions, under the current conditions.



TOUR DE TABLE – Communication of new developments and relevant issues by the Heads

FINLAND gave us an overview of their current projects and their progress.

- The Finnish Heritage Agency is finalizing several major projects: the Action plan for the [sustainability](#) of their workplace; the Inventory of [Nationally Significant Archaeological Sites](#); the Action plan for [underwater](#) and other water-related cultural heritage.
- Some reforming work is ongoing as well: reform of the [Land Use and Building Act](#) (which will be two separate Acts in the future); and the renovation of the Old Antiquities Act (1963) into a new [Archaeological Heritage Act](#).
- The Agency has been involved in several projects: [LIDARK](#), an AI project involving automatic defining of archaeological sites using laser scanning material; the [National Architectural Policy Programme](#); and the [Charter project](#), a European wide (14 EU states), Erasmus co-funded project, for 4 years. It aims at creating a blue print for future skills on heritage and a sustainable and comprehensive strategy that will guarantee that we have the necessary cultural heritage skills for the future. They seek to bridge the gaps between educational and occupational systems and employer needs.
- Launch of a working group for the [Cultural Heritage Strategy](#), the first one done in Finland. It will be an overall cultural heritage strategy, including all forms of heritage.

GERMANY. The overarching topic in Germany is the question of [energy security](#) and [sustainable renovation](#). It has been stressed by the war in Ukraine. Monument protection often arrives as a disruption in the transformation of buildings and the cultural landscape. There is a serious danger that the previous special position for the area of monument preservation will be replaced by a [legal priority](#) for energy related renovations. The state conservators in Germany therefore drafted off a statement to communicate in the political arena with the aim to make active and attractive offers that came from the [specific competences](#) of the field of monument preservation. In this regard, various publications produced by HES are extremely useful and support the discourse in Germany.

SWITZERLAND. In 2018, Switzerland organised a conference of Ministers of Culture that adopted the [Davos Declaration on High Quality Baukultur](#). Since then, discussions on this concept have been ongoing, and there has been an OMC group at the EU level with many national strategies and policies in this field. In 2021 the international editorial group also defined the concept of "quality baukultur system". When it comes to the high changes that we are facing (climate, wellbeing, quality of life), this holistic concept of Baukultur can help to develop our reflections further. That is why Switzerland will be organising a second ministerial conference on the same topic on the [15th and 16th January 2023](#), in cooperation with the World Economic Forum that is going to take place at the same moment. Official invitations will be sent in the summer. The theme for this second conference is the relation to the [businesses](#) and the [industries](#) in the field of high quality Baukultur. There have been a lot of discussions among the public and the professional bodies but developers and investors are always missing, while they have a big impact on these issues. The aim will be to take them on board and discuss where and how we can improve the cooperation in this field.

NETHERLANDS. Netherlands sent a letter on behalf of the Cultural Agency of the Netherlands to the European chemicals agency as a response to their plan to include [lead](#) in the list of [substances subject to authorization](#). They think the importance of lead in heritage field asks for an exceptional position because the use of lead is essential to preserve cultural heritage in its original state. The letter has been sent to EHHF members through the secretariat, with a [call on members](#) to express their concern on this regulation too.

NORWAY. There is a great interest in the field of cultural heritage from other sectors. They believe the interest can be increased by highlighting the environmental, economic, and social effects of protection. Some highlights are:

- A white paper from 2020 sets out new national goals for Norway's cultural heritage with emphasis on involvement, [sustainability](#), and [diversity](#). The directorate has worked to follow up this white paper.
- Launch of a [climate strategy](#) for the management of cultural heritage.
- New strategy for the management of [urban cultural heritage](#).
- New strategy for cooperation with the [voluntary sector](#).
- Development of [new conservation strategies](#) in which the different levels of management can work together for protection and sustainable development.
- Process of choosing [thematic areas](#). For now, the selected themes are reuse or circular economy and coastal cultural heritage.
- Norway's [Cultural Heritage Act](#) will be revised. Experiences from other countries will be very useful in this process. The EHHF online library could be used to share the policy ideas.

ENGLAND. England has published its [Levelling Up Bill](#) (previously Planning Bill) which will review their planning system. It is basically working within the same framework of local government being the planning authority but with a greater emphasis on [digital consultation](#). It is speeding up the process but still retaining the heritage protection that they strongly defend. They are relieved to see that some changes such as the obligation on local authority to keep a comprehensive historical environment record has now become a statutory requirement. It is also strengthening path to intervene where heritage is being deliberately left to fall down where developers are sitting on the side.

- Proposal to write a [join letter to Unesco](#), signed by the members of the EHHF asking them to address the rules of procedure of the World Heritage Committee. Russia happens to be the current chair and Unesco are finding it very difficult to address this situation. We should ask that [the rules are changed](#) so that any members who had contravene the core principles and purpose of Unesco is not allowed to remain in the Chair. As with the first statement, we can start with a draft and then get support of national governments and respective ministers. England offers to [share a draft](#) and then we'll go through the process to put our names on the letter.



NEWS FROM THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION –

Mariachiara Esposito, Cultural Heritage Policy Officer, DG-Education Youth, Sport and Culture

As Cultural Heritage Policy Officer, Mariachiara Esposito gave us an update on policy developments and on some activities in which the Commission is involved that can be relevant to our work. Their DG works with cultural heritage in a very transversal way.

Framework of priorities and funding sources. The "Workplan for Culture" is the framework in which they work in order to position culture as much as possible in all programmes and interventions of the Commission.

- Four main cooperation programmes: Creative Europe; Erasmus+; Horizon Europe; European Regional Development Fund. They have all been increased for the new period.
- The recovery and resilient fund was approved to support Member States to recover and have a resilient development after the pandemic, through loans and grants.
- EU initiatives are linked to four main pillars: engagement, sustainability, protection and innovation.
- Recent developments: 63% increase in the Budget of Creative Europe, allowing now medium scale projects. Creation of the Cultural Heritage Expert group which is a forum of advisers at Commission level to advise in a bottom up approach the Commission towards policies and programmes and to get feedbacks on the ongoing actions.

The Green Deal frames the current programme and the cultural policies.

- They try to mainstream the green deal priorities in Creative Europe through a line dedicated to sustainability in a horizontal way. In every annual work program, there will be specific priorities that guide the applicant for projects to provoke behavioural change.
- This aspect is testified by the criteria that are targeted in the evaluation system and through Work Packages that applicants can identify.

The new European Bauhaus is a project cross-cutting a number of programmes and tools of the Commission. It is linked to the cultural dimension because it calls the cultural sector for engagement into more interdisciplinary and creative ways of designing future ways of living.

- The movement has established four main areas on which heritage can act as an important protagonist of change: reconnecting to nature; regaining a sense of belonging, prioritising the places and people that need it the most; and the need for long term, life cycle thinking in the industrial ecosystem.
- The OMC experts group on "High-quality architecture and built environment for everyone" Created a set of criteria for experts and practitioners in the architectural and cultural heritage fields to balance the different aspects of investing and intervening on the built environment to perceive it as a common good.
- Two other OMC groups are ongoing, linked with the priorities on sustainable development and climate change. Launched in January 2021, the results are expected in 2022.

Some other initiatives: Development of **Cultural Heritage and Education** with the projects CHARTER and INCREAS; capacity building and experimental actions to develop recommendations on **Culture, Mental Health and well-being**; new section to support Ukraine and its cultural practitioners called **Creative Unite** for Ukraine; the **European Cloud for Museums and Cultural Heritage Institutions**, to have a common space for data storage and exchange, and for advancing in the digital ways of technological collaboration and services.

Troïka Handover

...Estonia - Scotland - Spain...



The Cultural Heritage and Fine Arts General Directorate is truly excited to invite the European Heritage Head Forum to meet again **in September 2023 in Sevilla**. A Power Point presentation (available on the EHHF website) gave members a foretaste of what our Forum will experience in the South of Spain.

Our Spanish colleagues have already given some thoughts to the **theme to be discussed** during this Forum, and they might ask for some feedback on their ideas. For now, the theme of "**Heritage: A Living Being**" is at the forefront and would be directly linked with the 20th anniversary of the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. Our Forum could therefore explore the vision of Heritage as an ensemble of inseparable elements that work together as living organism.

The broad theme for September 2023 would therefore revolve around monuments, landscape, agricultural and industrial production, intellectual production, spirituality, tradition, knowledge, identity, and all this **intangible heritage** being the tissue that makes of all those elements the organic entity cultural heritage is.

The **17th EHHF Annual Meeting** will provide an opportunity to explore these and other issues, while discovering the richness of Spain's heritage.

Indeed, the event will take place in the **Reales Alcazares**, an ancient Omeya government seat from the 10th century. The planned visits and activities could include the West Indies General Archives, the Museum of Fine Art of Seville, Seville's Cathedral and the Italica Archaeological Site, as well as mediterranean diet experiences and flamenco performance.

See you there !



Excursion to Abbotsford, home of Sir Walter Scott

The optional Friday excursion took the Forum to a **landscape of folklore and legend** in the Scottish countryside. The Abbotsford house was built as the residence of historical novelist and poet Sir Walter Scott who lived there between 1817 and 1825. The site can count on the help of a hundred **volunteers** from the local community who play a crucial role within the Abbotsford Trust and work closely with the site staff team to care for and share with visitors this fascinating heritage site. Several of them made us discover the place that began the craze for **Scots Baronial architecture** and inspired Walter Scott as he became the biggest selling author of his days. It is the place from where Scott's writing transformed how the world saw Scotland and Scotland saw itself. The tour ended with a **traditional afternoon tea** during which members could try some typical scones, cakes and sandwiches.

