



EHHF VIRTUAL FIKA

1st February 2023

MINUTES

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WELCOME AND AGENDA

The 3rd EHHF Fika was held online on Wednesday 1st of February 2023. The Fika formats were adopted by the EHHF during the Covid period in order for members to meet despite the travel restrictions. Nowadays, the Fikas format has been retained as an **informal online meeting** for the Heads in between two physical meetings , in order to maintain contact, to share news and relevant information.

The **agenda** for the day was planned by the Troïka and the Secretariat as follows: first, a presentation of the 17th Annual Meeting in Sevilla, followed by a request for feedback. Then, an update on the situation of cultural heritage in Ukraine. During an informal tour de table, the participants were invited to give a brief overview of the situation in their respective administrations (consequences of the war on their work, actions to support Ukraine, other relevant matters). The end of the meeting was dedicated to updates from the two working committees, the EHLF and the Taskforce, and from the secretariat.

Ms. **Margarita Cruz**, on behalf of the Spanish Ministry of Culture - the current chairman of the Troïka - was very happy to welcome the representatives from the **22 countries** present for this social and informal discussion.

Ms. Cruz thanked the participants for their participation in this meeting and their willingness to collaborate with the issues discussed hereinafter.

In terms of acknowledgements, Ms. Cruz thanked the other members of the Troïka (**Scotland** and **Poland**) as well as the secretariat for their help in organising this meeting.

PRESENTATION OF THE 17th ANNUAL MEETING IN SEVILLA & FEEDBACK

Ms. Margarita Cruz reminded the dates of the next EHHF Annual Meeting, which will be held from the **27th to the 30th of September 2023**, in **Sevilla**, a city that has been chosen for being particularly representative of the historical and cultural diversity of Spain.

The theme of the next EHHF meeting will be the celebration of the **20th anniversary** of the UNESCO *Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage*, an agreement to which Spain has been fully committed from the outset.

Under the slogan "**Heritage: a living being**" the idea will be conveyed that heritage is a set of inseparable elements that work together as a living organism: monuments, landscape, agricultural, industrial and intellectual production, spirituality, tradition, knowledge,... Intangible heritage is the fabric that makes all these elements the organic entities embodying cultural heritage as an overall concept.

In this regard, **cultural identity** should be understood as the key concept to articulate the involvement of societies in the preservation of their heritage in general, and intangible heritage in particular. The meeting will be the occasion to address specific topics with experts and colleagues, such as intangible heritage and **climate change** or the protection of intangible heritage in the event of **armed conflict**.

The floor was then opened for participants to share with the host country any **feedback** or **suggestion**, so as to meet as much as possible the expectations they may have about the meeting.

It was raised that the selected topics should have an **interest also for countries which are not part of the UNESCO Convention** on intangible heritage. It should be also the case for administrations for which intangible heritage does not fall under their responsibility.

It is planned to be the case because, within the scope of the topic, there are lots of ways to encompass the responsibilities of the members. There are indeed

necessary connections between different types and kinds of cultural heritage: between culture, traditions, knowledge, history and tangible cultural heritage.

Sometimes, the **fragmentation** between different aspects may be **problematic**, when different institutions are in charge of each facet and do not cooperate. These discussions might **offer solutions** for the ones facing this situation and to provide them with ideas to build useful bridges.

For instance, in protecting the physical places where intangible heritage takes place, intangible heritage can be **deeply intertwined** with the building. It was also underlined that, in some cases, intangible heritage could be used to **strengthen** tangible heritage.

In other words, intangible heritage needs tangible heritage and tangible heritage cannot be understood without intangible heritage. Therefore, even for members in charge of tangible heritage or not party to the convention, these discussions might be inspiring, to **enjoy the heritage in its many facets** and to draw on each other's experience.

For any other suggestions or questions, members can contact - margarita.cruz@cultura.gob.es

Ms. Cruz thanked the participants for their contributions and assured that the host country is looking forward to welcoming the Forum in Sevilla, where they have also planned a set of **activities related to Spanish intangible cultural heritage** such as cultural visits, Mediterranean diet tasting, a Flamenco recital and a few more yet to discover.

SITUATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE IN UKRAINE - OVERVIEW FROM THE FIELD

In this session, the floor was given to Ms. **Kateryna Chuyeva**, Deputy Minister of Culture and Information Policy of Ukraine, to update the members on the situation of cultural heritage in Ukraine in the context of armed conflict.

Ms. Chuyeva warmly **thanked** the Forum for inviting her to take the floor and for the ongoing support of its members.

Between 1917 and 1920, Ukraine had a period of **independence** and tried to build their own state but after the Bolshevik invasion it was not possible, and part of Ukraine became URSS.

It was already their first strong attempt to obtain their State and to build their own institutions, essential for their independence. As many countries were not aware of their situation, Ukrainian folk singers went on a **cultural diplomacy tour** to raise awareness and collect money for their army.

Even though so much has changed in 100 years, they feel at the moment that the past is painfully repeating itself but are grateful to other states for their support.

Compared to the last time Ms. Chuyeva met with the Forum in May 2022, the **situation has much evolved**. She was now connected from their office and with stable electricity which was not the case during her speech at the Annual Meeting. However, many organisations (museums, libraries, archives, etc.) do not have this privilege and are currently working with batteries and generators.

Regarding the preservation of cultural heritage, several actions are currently led:

- **Monitoring of damage assessment**

Efforts are made to make a systematic damage assessment, for which they are notably helped by Poland. However the front line changes every month and it remains sometimes difficult to even have access to the damaged objects.

- **Evacuation of museums collections in progress**

They need to be prepared for a second wave of attacks : for that, they are packing protective material and other types of material. The Northern and Eastern parts of the country are under most risks.

- **Protection and stabilisation of cultural objects on site**

This is possible thanks to many foundations that send financial and methodological support. This also goes hand in hand with damage assessment, and they need to deal with immovable and movable heritage. A lot of objects were looted and stolen by soldiers and authorities. They are now starting large projects, including a database for which a lot of bodies are interested.

- **Digitization of collections and national heritage digital platform**

The platform will include parts for movable and immovable heritage. The goal would be that everything is gathered on this platform. In the previous months, it was not possible to work systematically but now it is better than 11 months ago.

They are working with Polish support, US and other donors on this digital platform.

In a few months, they plan to **open parts of the platform** for other stakeholders to contribute and have the information accessible. This will enable a more comprehensive work, to work with museum collections and to share information with their colleagues and other organisations.

The situation is still very hard, especially since many heritage professionals left the country. They face a **lack of professional support** to work with the evacuation of objects and other tasks. This is now an important part of their work: the direct support to these people in the country who want to protect the cultural heritage and their institutions. It is not possible to do anything without them: they need direct or indirect support for these professionals and they are welcoming ideas and other ways to support these people and their institutions.

Support can also take the form of joint projects and **exhibitions projects** to promote Ukrainian culture, which is less known and they would like to make it more open for different societies and countries. It is possible to organise some exhibitions or **restoration projects** between Ukraine and other international stakeholders.

To support **conservation projects** is also possible, and they would like to make it easier to achieve with conservators or other groups of professionals. If they don't have the second wave they are expecting, they would be able to do it.

About any of these possibilities, members can let them know and they will try to organise everything to achieve it, keeping in mind that the priority is the support towards the team in the Ministry and the professionals there.

SITUATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE IN UKRAINE - POLAND'S ACTIONS OF SUPPORT

Ms. **Dąbrówka Lipska**, on behalf of the National Heritage Board of Poland, shared with the Forum the actions undertaken by Poland to support Ukrainian cultural heritage at war. She stated that the situation is very urgent as we are fast approaching the one-year anniversary since the invasion started.

- The Support Center for Culture in Ukraine, established at the National Institute of Cultural Heritage, is the operational body working to support the Ukrainian cultural sector. The centre coordinates both domestic and foreign initiatives to save Ukraine's

cultural resources, carries out educational activities and information campaigns. They cooperate with national cultural institutions, museums, state archives and libraries.

- From the March 10, 2022 the first shipment of protective materials from the National Museum in Poznań arrived in Lviv. The Center was officially established on 1st April, 2022. Since then, the Center - in cooperation with cultural institutions from all over the country and government agencies, as well as foreign partners - has delivered more than 800 pallets of aid containing materials for the preservation of archives, monuments, and museum collections, to more than 111 Ukrainian cultural institutions.
- The Center has so far effectively delivered transports to 8 cities: Kharkiv, Chernihiv, Dniepro, Kamieniec Podolski, Kiev, Kotelwa, Lviv, Olbia and Vinnitsa. In cooperation with local partners, the aid was effectively distributed to local institutions. These deliveries included, among others: generators, crates, fire blankets, mineral wool, OSB boards, polyester pipes, fire extinguishers, and sandbags.
- On site, the National Institute of Polish Cultural Heritage Abroad POLONIKA has secured 230 historical sites and scanned dozens more, including the Wooden Tserkvas on the UNESCO World Heritage List.
- So far, the value of material support sent to cultural institutions in Ukraine has amounted to over one million euros. Another million earmarked for heritage digitizing projects. Those funds are provided by the Minister of Culture and National Heritage of the Republic of Poland.
- Based on their historic experiences, they have expert knowledge on emergency safeguarding, reconstruction, or restitution. They support Ukrainian colleagues with this knowledge, especially on the basis of the Warsaw Recommendation (24 November 2022, online workshop, cooperation with World Heritage Centre UNESCO). However, the scale of current destruction in Ukraine is appalling and requires attention from heritage experts worldwide.
- Support Ukrainian colleagues on the international arena: the recent decision of the World Heritage Committee to inscribe the Historic Centre of Odessa on the World Heritage List is a proof that protection of the outstanding universal value of the site is the duty of all humanity. They also recall the inscription of the culture of Ukrainian borscht cooking on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding in summer of 2022.
- In cooperation with UNESCO, they organized dedicated training for various types of public security services, to prevent the risk of illicit trafficking of cultural goods through Polish-Ukrainian border (January 2023).
- In August, the Polish Support Center for Culture in Ukraine organized an expert training session on 3D scanning of architectural objects entitled "Modern Technologies for the Inventory of Architectural Monuments. A coherent system of collecting, processing and presenting digital data as a basis for conservation activities in war-threatened areas".

- Safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage, which is a prime carrier of the nation's identity and traditions, is an important part of activities supporting their neighbour. As Poland welcomes an estimated 3.4 million refugees, they published in June a Special report on intangible cultural heritage of displaced Ukrainian communities – the perspective of Poland . The report allowed to provide adequate assistance and conditions for continued practice of intangible cultural heritage in many identified cases.
- Together with the Polish Committee for UNESCO, the Center has organized support for refugee children from Ukraine. Inciting curiosity and openness through sharing of both cultures was a clear objective for the experts of intangible cultural heritage who united their forces with specialists in education. Scenarios and accompanying materials were provided to Polish students in order to familiarize them with Ukrainian culture. In the scenarios the role of intangible heritage has been emphasised, including the knowledge on items entered onto the Representative List.
- In cooperation with the Ministry of Culture and Information Policy of Ukraine, they have been implementing a project to inventory the war damages to the immovable and archaeological heritage in Ukraine. This type of Inventory of cultural losses has two important objectives: to document them as diligently as possible for the sake of future reconstruction and recovery, as well as to collect appropriate evidence allowing prosecutors to bring the perpetrators to justice in front of the appropriate tribunals in the future
- Lot of work on a dedicated report on the impact of the war on Ukraine's culture as well as on a movie on the intentional destruction of Ukrainian identity.
 - This report will be sent out soon in a pdf version.
 - The movie with English subtitles is available on the EHHF website.

Ms. Lipska concluded that they are very much open to cooperate with international partners to raise awareness and strengthen our solidarity with Ukrainians colleagues. The continuity of Ukraine's culture depends on us and on our refusal to become indifferent.

AN INFORMAL ROUNDTABLE

The roundtable was then initiated and the participants were invited to give a brief overview of the situation in their respective countries regarding the consequences of the war on the work of their administration, to update on their actions to support Ukraine or on any other relevant matters.

The following allocutions are listed chronologically.

SWEDEN

Mr. Joakim Malmstrom – DG, National Heritage Board

Mr. Malmstrom mentioned the newest initiatives that Sweden undertook to support Ukraine and its cultural heritage :

- In Sweden, there has been a dialogue with funding bodies regarding supporting research about cultural heritage in Ukraine and specifically this project. [New research project about Swedish and Ukrainian museum objects | SHM](#)
- Quite importantly, the Swedish National Heritage Board in cooperation with the Swedish police have written to all antiquities dealers in Sweden to alert them not to deal with possible stolen objects from Ukraine. The statement does not exist in English but Google Translate can help to get a helpful translation. [Riksantikvarien varnar landets antikhandlare för ukrainskt stöldgods | Riksantikvarieämbetet \(raa.se\)](#)

THE NETHERLANDS

Ms. Susan Lammers – DG, Cultural Heritage Agency

Ms. Lammers gave a two minute heads-up on Ukraine from the Netherlands.

- In December, the government of the Netherlands decided on stepping up financial, military and humanitarian aid to Ukraine up to an amount of 2,5 billion euros in 2023, on top of the 1 billion euros that was donated last year. It was agreed that 2% of the announced aid will be destined on cultural aid and heritage protection. The Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands will take part in organizing a cultural aid programme, in close cooperation with the Ukrainian counterparts, national and international partners.
- They are now focusing on finding an effective approach for Ukraine's culture sector in assessing needs, mitigating risks and offering assistance on various subjects, such as physical protection of cultural objects, collections and sites; massive digitization operations to safeguard Ukraine's collective memory. One of their leading architects, Floris Alkemade, is working in cocreation with Ukrainian architects on the development of spatial plans to rebuild, repair and revitalize historic town centres like Charkiv. They invited Ukrainian experts temporarily based in the Netherlands, like restoration architect Vlada Ovcharenko, to work with them.
- By invitation of DutchCulture, a government and EU-funded network organization for international cultural cooperation, a delegation of museum directors from Ukraine will visit the Netherlands on 27 February. They will be offered a five-day programme addressing ways to solve their museum's most urgent needs, which vary from digitization and on-site protection of collections to learning concepts of how museums

can help Ukrainians deal with war trauma. The Cultural Heritage Agency is working together closely with DutchCulture on this project.

- Their ministry decided in December 2022 that Ukraine will be one of their new priority countries.
- Within the culture sector of the Netherlands, there is a growing awareness of the need to reflect on existing emergency-preparedness and response mechanisms to safeguard cultural heritage. Now that conventional warfare is back on stage in Europe, the issue of physical protection of our country's heritage is brought to attention once again.

SPAIN

Ms. Margarita Cruz – Legal and European adviser, Directorate-General for Cultural Heritage and Fine Arts

- Spain's main aid in the field of culture has been channelled through the Spain-Unesco special fund endowed with 1.5 M € to safeguard heritage in Ukraine.
- The Ministry of Culture has provided technical cooperation for the restoration of immovable heritage by offering training within the framework of the National Emergency and Risk Management Plan.
- The National Dance Company (CND) has taken in several displaced Ukrainian dancers. The Sports Supreme Council's high performance centre Sierra Nevada has also worked to temporarily host athletes displaced by the war in Ukraine.
- In the museums, several symbolic actions have been undertaken. The Prado National Museum edited self-guides in Ukrainian. The Reina Sofia National Contemporary Art Museum made a support statement through l'internationale Network. The Thyssen Museum is also currently hosting an exhibition on Ukrainian avangard (1900-1930) art.

FINLAND

Ms. Tiina Merisalo – DG, Finnish Heritage Agency

SUPPORT TO UKRAINE

- One delivery of conservation and protection materials delivered to Lviv in collaboration with Finnish National Gallery, Forum Marinum and National Museum in Stockholm and consultation with conservators and management.
- Second delivery is being prepared in FHA, coordinated by Ministry of the Interior in collaboration with Ministry of Culture in Ukraine (based on the request for equipment supply); well functioning channel and process for transportation of materials through European Union Civil Protection Mechanism, applies also to cultural heritage.

- Photo exhibition in collaboration with Helsingin Sanomat –news company combining new press photos and journalistic archive photos about Ukraine and Ukrainian culture in FHA's collection.
- Two summer camps at the National Museum of Finland for 180 Ukrainian refugee children in collaboration with Swedish Beredskapslyftet and supported by several companies & associations.

ENERGY CRISIS

- Efficient actions to save energy in all properties, public and private: lowering the room temperatures by 1-2 degrees; public information; mild winter → electricity consumption savings -8%!
- Self-sufficiency in energy production rising in Finland (wind, Olkiluoto 3 nuclear power plant).

PREPAREDNESS

- An overall theme since February. FHA working with their role and responsibilities in preparedness & cultural heritage.
- Funding from the Ministry of Education and Culture for a pilot project to develop a systematic model of 3D modelling of built heritage.
- The Hague Convention: finishing and updating the national listing of valuable heritage for the government decision of principle.
- The cooperation model for comprehensive security in Finland is internationally unique and respected. It's a model for collaboration in preparedness for public authorities, businesses, NGOs and citizens.
- Security Strategy for Society from 2017 lays out vital functions in society, i.e. the basic functions – also cultural heritage - that must be safeguarded under all conditions and at all operative levels.

https://turvallisuuksomitea.fi/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/YTS_2017_english.pdf

→ goal to strengthen the role of cultural heritage as part of the mental and psychological resilience in the society as well as get a clear mandate and recognition and even some resources as an official actor and agency in this field.

- Parliament elections in April; proposals for enhancing preparedness in heritage given to government program through the Ministry of Education and Culture.

NORWAY

Ms. Noelle Dahl-Poppe – Head of section, Directorate for Cultural Heritage

Norway expressed their deepest empathy with the Ukrainian people and complemented their fellow European countries on their efforts to provide necessary help to Ukraine.

- Norway's main policy so far has been to provide help through established partners, such as UNESCO. As a loyal partner to the organization, Norway provides economic support which is channelled for instance through the Heritage Emergency Fund as well as the Fund under the 1954 Hague Convention and its 1999 Second Protocol.
- Norwegian museums and research institutions etc. have provided direct support by sending equipment and by giving lectures at workshops on fire protection, for instance with the Heritage for Peace group.
- Lastly, Norway expressed their support for the inscription of Odessa to the UNESCO list of World Heritage in danger.

BULGARIA

Ms. Margarita Trendafilova – Chief expert, Ministry of Culture

Ms. Trendafilova mentioned that the help that Bulgaria provides for the Ukrainian refugees is diverse (shelter, medicine, education, jobs). Related to cultural heritage the following can be highlighted:

- On December 29, 2022, at the request of the Minister of Culture and Information Policy of Ukraine, Mr. Oleksandr Tkachenko, a video conference meeting was held between him and Prof. Velislav Minekov, Minister of Culture of the Republic of Bulgaria.
- In addition to regular schools, Ukrainian children can also be admitted to the arts and culture schools of the Ministry of Culture. Bulgarian galleries and museums can employ people whose professions are related to art. It is possible for Bulgarian and Ukrainian cultural institutes to cooperate in the implementation of joint activities financed through the National Fund for Culture.
- Emphasis on the importance of creating an international commission to assess the state of destruction of immovable cultural monuments. Prof. Minekov stated that he is ready to assist Ukraine with specialists in the field of immovable cultural heritage, and suggested his own participation in such a commission as a minister.
- Bulgaria's assistance was expressed in the purchase of materials for the preservation of movable cultural heritage in museums. They were provided with a list of preferred materials to purchase. The transportation of the materials was organized with the help of the Bulgarian Ministers of Transport and Foreign Affairs. There was also a decision to send generators to support the work of cultural institutes.
- At the meeting, Prof. Minekov expressed concern about a possible illegal trade of objects with cultural value. According to him, there should be complete information

about the stolen and/or captured valuables, which should not only be handed over to the Bulgarian customs and services, but also to the EU and the USA.

- Minister Tkachenko insisted on initiating the inclusion of Odessa in the list of cultural heritage at risk. At the 18th extraordinary session of the World Heritage Committee held on January 24-25, 2023, the Bulgarian side supported the inclusion in the discussion of the three urgent files (Ukraine, Yemen and Lebanon) in the agenda and expressed full support for the Odessa file. Within the session itself, they successfully opposed, together with Belgium, Greece, Italy and Japan, Russia's attempts to discredit the dossier or postpone the debate. After the adoption of the point, they also made a national statement in defence of the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine and full support for the preservation of Ukraine's cultural heritage.
- A separate issue of the Living Heritage magazine, published by the Regional Center for the Protection of Intangible Cultural Heritage under the auspices of UNESCO, was also entirely devoted to the preservation of the intangible cultural heritage of Ukraine.
- An invitation to visit Bulgaria was sent by Prof. Minekov to Mr. Ernesto Ottone, Assistant Director-General for Culture of UNESCO, during which the situation with the cultural heritage of Ukraine would be also discussed.

LATVIA

Ms. Anna Ancane – DG, Monuments Board

Ms. Ancane was attending the meeting on behalf of Mr. Juris Dambis, Director General of the Latvian National Heritage Board, who transmitted his greetings to the Heads. Ms. Ancane underlined the need to be united to protect the values of Humanity.

- An exhibition of sculptures by Lviv Baroque masters was on display last summer at Rundāle Palace, in Latvia. The exhibition featured 20 wooden sculptures by the outstanding late Baroque sculptor Johann Georg Pinsel, as well as other masters from the Lviv region. All the works on display are from the collection of Lviv National Art Gallery and were on display until the end of May in Vilnius. As it was risky to return the sculptures to Lviv in war conditions, the Rundāle Palace Museum proposed to temporarily house them in its premises, giving the residents of Latvia and visitors from abroad the opportunity to get to know an important part of Ukraine's cultural heritage. This was one of the most significant events in the cultural life of Latvia last year.
- At the end of February, an invitation will be sent out to the Heads for an international conference taking place in Riga, around May. Ms Ancane apologised for the late warning, due to the delayed adoption of the budget. On this occasion, they will be delighted to welcome the representatives of the EHHF countries.
- Latvia also wanted to share about a platform for cooperation on cultural heritage in European countries. Its aim is to gather recommendations, to bring high quality

assistance to new members and to set the tone for heritage preservation. It promotes care, professional approaches, focus for recognition, examples of good practice and sustainable thinking.

EHLF UPDATE

Ms. Tove Ihler – Senior advisor at Riksantikvaren.

Replacing Chair of the European Heritage Legal Forum

Tove Elise Ihler was stepping in for Wolfgang Göhner, Chair of the EHLF. Tove is also a member of the EHLF secretariat, representing the Norwegian Directorate for cultural Heritage there. Tove made an update of the EHLF work during the last year, and presented the plans for the coming year.

In the past months, the EHLF work was in many ways defined by the **energy crisis** in Europe and the war in Ukraine.

- The Legal Forum enabled the administrations to react and respond to the consultation of the revised *energy performance in buildings* directive – the EPBD. Of course we are all positive about energy efficient housing, but we need tailormade solutions, especially for historic buildings. Germany and Romania especially were very helpful in drafting the problematic issues in this regulation. Our goal was to make sure cultural heritage is given exemptions. The legal forum is an informal network, without competence to influence in the EU directly – but we do circulate alerts and point out problematic regulations to each other, which the member states are free to use or not.
- To achieve exemptions, we need rhetoric for cultural heritage in line with the goal of the regulations. Now, cultural heritage indeed has a place in the green deal, and we can be both relevant and a resource in this matter.
- At the last EHLF annual meeting 10 countries were represented. There were fruitful discussions on the revision of national heritage acts with valuable insights for those revising their national acts. Latvia and Hungary also gave presentations in regard to EU law and energy solutions such as solar panels.
- As from March this year, it was decided to form a working group looking into the competition law and the direct restoration assistance to owners of enlisted and protected buildings. The backdrop is concerns from an initiative prompting us to investigate this matter further and find a legal solution to problems they addressed.

What is planned in the coming months?

- To follow the European energy regulations, and the implementation process at the national level this year and the coming years. We see that the renovation wave and the regulations give both challenges and possibilities for the cultural heritage sector. The possibilities lay in the programs for lifting the cultural heritage as a relevant factor in the Green Deal. This is a huge communications task, and obviously outside the EHLF mandate.

- To continue to ensure exemption for cultural heritage in the EU regulations, especially as they get smaller with the Commission's ambitions in the energy and climate policy framework. The obtained exemptions must be known by municipalities, owners of enlisted homes and at the government level.
 - Thanks to an invitation by Czechia the EHLF will meet for a physical annual meeting in April this year, in Prague. The goal is to get prepared for the EHHF meeting in Sevilla.
- If you have **any topics you would like the EHLF to discuss** before the annual meeting, please let the secretariat know.

Thank you to the countries who shared their knowledge and experience on both EU regulations and on best practice from their national heritage acts.

TASKFORCE UPDATE

Mr. Paul Mahringer – Head of Dept., Federal Monuments Board

Chair of the EHHF Task Force on Economy and Statistics

Greetings from Mr. Christoph Bazil, who could not be present for the Fika.

As chair of the Taskforce, Mr. Mahringer passed on some information related to the current activities of the Taskforce.

- The last online meeting of the Taskforce took place on November 21th. On this occasion, the Taskforce came up with the idea to organise a workshop about the results of the ESPON HERIWELL study, a study about Cultural Heritage as a Source of Societal Well-being in European Regions. The workshop would enable the Taskforce to discuss the ways to cope with statistical gaps and how to make the ESPON studies sustainable. This was also the opportunity to discuss new statistical topics for the Taskforce to study regarding cultural heritage, f.e. environment/carbonate footprint.
- For the future of the Taskforce, Mr. Mahringer announced some good news:
 - ESPON is willing to organise a one-hour online meeting to **present the HERIWELL results to the HEADS** and the taskforce. Maybe in April?
 - ESPON will support a physical workshop in Vienna in June with 16.000€, to discuss the outputs of the HERIWELL study, the missing data and the question of future topics to explore. **Every head should feel free to come or send someone for this workshop.**

The Taskforce will design a concept for the workshop in the near future.

EHHF CURRENT AFFAIRS

Before the end of the Fika, the Administrative secretary Juliette Toussaint said a few words about current matters and EHHF internal affairs.

GREETINGS

The secretary passed on greetings from a few members who were not able to participate at the Fika: Director **Alex Paterson** (*Historic Environment Scotland*), Director General **Peter de Wilde** (Flanders Heritage Agency), and Director General **Thierry Wauters** (URBAN Brussels) asked the secretariat to share their best wishes with the participants.

FINANCES

Thank you for sending your commitment letters for the 2023-2025 period, despite the sometimes complicated administrative processes. The EHHF has currently **29 administrations** which **committed to contribute** to the EHHF project for the next three years. The corresponding expense claims will be sent out in the course of February.

EHHF PUBLICATIONS AND WEBSITE

It was finally reminded to the participants that the website was renovated with two brand new sections: one for **sharing events** and another one to **share experiences and good practices**. Therefore, Heads are encouraged to send to the secretariat the events they want to share with the network and/or their questions or requests to exchange good practices .

Thank you all for your participation and see you in Seville !