European Heritage Hub

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YOUTH. HERITAGE. EUROPE.

LE VIE DEI TESORI

PORTA FELICE

Città di Palermo

REGIONE SICILIANA

YOUTH HERITAGE DAYS #2

22–24 October 2026 | Palermo, Sicily

Youth Heritage Days #2

Young voices for local communities, cultural tourism and the Mediterranean

22–24 October 2026 · Museum of the Cities of the World, Palermo, Sicily · Hybrid event
Organised by Youth.Heritage.Europe. and Le Vie dei Tesori
Within the framework of the European Heritage Hub, co-funded by the European Union

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Acknowledgements

Welcome

Dear participants, speakers and friends,

Welcome to Palermo and to the second edition of the Youth Heritage Days.

This gathering is a milestone for our network. ESACH began in 2017 as a small student initiative and continues today as Youth.Heritage.Europe. It now brings together around 140 students and early-career professionals from more than 25 countries. This year, for the first time, we meet in a hybrid format, so that cost or distance stops no one from joining the conversation.

Our host city could not be more fitting. Palermo sits at the crossroads of the Mediterranean, and here heritage is lived every day by its communities. Our partners at Le Vie dei Tesori show how young people, local residents, and cultural institutions can open up a city's heritage together. Over three days, we will look at three themes: local communities, cultural tourism, and the Mediterranean.

These days are also a moment of delivery. On Saturday we launch the results of the Youth Mapping Initiative: 74 youth-led and youth-focused heritage initiatives from across Europe. It is the result of a year of work within the EU-funded European Heritage Hub, with our NextGen Heritage Ambassadors, and with all of you.

Young people are not only the future of heritage. They are *already* shaping it. Whether in person or online, thank you for joining us and being part of the conversation.

A look back at our 2025 edition.

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Board members and Organisational Committee

Youth.Heritage.Europe.

About Youth Heritage Days 2026

The Youth Heritage Days are the annual gathering of Youth.Heritage.Europe. This year's edition is co-organised with Le Vie dei Tesori and takes place within the European Heritage Hub. It offers a youth perspective on Europe's green, digital and social transformation.

The programme brings together young heritage professionals, students, researchers, and representatives of cultural institutions and civil society from across Europe and the Mediterranean. Four round tables, an open debate and the launch of the Youth Mapping Initiative give space to exchange practice, test ideas and build new networks.

Three themes guide the discussions:

1. **Local communities and heritage** – how young people become active agents of local heritage and community development.
2. **Cultural tourism** – how young people shape, challenge and contribute to sustainable cultural tourism.
3. **The Mediterranean** – what is specific about youth heritage engagement in the region, and how it connects to wider European contexts.

A hybrid event. For the first time, the Youth Heritage Days are hybrid. Sessions take place at the Museum of the Cities of the World and can also be followed online, free of charge.

About the Venue

Museum of the Cities of the World · Museo delle Città del Mondo

Countless Cities – Museum of the Cities of the World is an immersive cultural space in Palermo's historic Convento dei Crociferi, on Via Maqueda, near the Quattro Canti. Evolving from Farm Cultural Park's Countless Cities Biennale, the museum explores how cities shape our lives and our future through contemporary art, architecture, film and human stories. Its exhibitions, artistic installations and workshop spaces invite reflection on peace, freedom, human rights and social inclusion. A Knowledge Center, dedicated library and School of Architecture for Children extend its cultural and educational mission, encouraging dialogue, imagination and collective action towards more just, creative and humane cities.

Programme at a glance

All times are Central European Summer Time (CEST, UTC+2).

Thursday 22 October, Museum of the Cities of the World

Time	Session
11:00–12:30	Youth.Heritage.Europe. General Assembly *(members only and upon prior registration; first call 11:00, second call 11:30)*
16:30–17:00	Opening session
17:00–17:30	Keynote speech
18:00–19:00	Cultural visit: Museum of the Cities of the World (€10 entrance fee)
19:00	Welcome cocktail, networking and Italian gelato workshop

Friday 23 October, Museum of the Cities of the World

Time	Session
09:30–11:00	Round Table I – Youth Participation and Local Communities: Best Practices in Heritage Projects
11:00–11:30	Coffee break
11:30–13:00	Round Table II – Youth and Cultural Tourism: Best Practices and Emerging Approaches
13:00–15:00	Free time
15:00–17:00	Round Table III – Youth, Heritage and the Mediterranean: Best Practices from the Region
18:00	Evening concert *(upon prior registration)*

Saturday 24 October, Museum of the Cities of the World

Time	Session
09:30–10:00	Launch of the Youth Mapping Initiative
10:00–11:00	Coffee, Culture and Chat – open debate
11:00–11:30	Coffee break
11:30–13:00	Round Table IV – Youth in Heritage
13:00–13:30	Closing session

Sessions in detail

Opening session

Thursday 22 October, 16:30–17:00 · Museum of the Cities of the World (via Maqueda 206, Palermo, Italy) & Online

Youth.Heritage.Europe., Le Vie dei Tesori, together with the European Heritage Hub representatives and local partners officially open the Youth Heritage Days 2026. They welcome participants in Palermo and online, and present the aims and themes of the three days.

Speakers: Marco Coico, Sorina Neacșu, Manon Richard, Prof. Giovanni Ruggieri, Dott.ssa Daniela Segreto
Moderator: Jasna Popović

Keynote speech

Thursday 22 October, 17:00–17:30

Speaker: Stefano Savona

Round Table I – Youth Participation and Local Communities: Best Practices in Heritage Projects

Friday 23 October, 09:30–11:00 · Museum of the Cities of the World (via Maqueda 206, Palermo, Italy) & Online

How do young people help shape heritage initiatives rooted in their communities? This round table presents projects in which youth work alongside residents, local authorities and cultural organisations. Speakers share what made participation meaningful rather than symbolic, and what others can take from their experience.

Moderator: Marco Coico

Speakers: Ángel Marín Berral · Angela Puppini · Adi Softić · Carlo Roccafiorita · Liola Urso

Round Table II – Youth and Cultural Tourism: Best Practices and Emerging Approaches

Friday 23 October, 11:30–13:00 · Museum of the Cities of the World (via Maqueda 206, Palermo, Italy) & Online

Cultural tourism can sustain heritage, and it can also strain it. This round table explores how young professionals design and promote tourism that is sustainable, inclusive and respectful of local communities. It looks both at practices that already work and at new approaches still being tested.

Moderator: Karla Elkan

Speakers: Armine Karapetyan · Patricia Horlacher · Theodoros Alexandridis · Andrea D'Agostino · Daniela Raia

Round Table III – Youth, Heritage and the Mediterranean: Best Practices from the Region

Friday 23 October, 15:00–17:00 · Museum of the Cities of the World (via Maqueda 206, Palermo, Italy) & Online

The Mediterranean shares layers of history, migration and exchange, alongside pressures such as climate change and mass tourism. Speakers from across the region present youth-led practice and discuss how Mediterranean experience connects to wider European heritage debates.

Moderator: Sophia Dibbs

Speakers: Mimi Kotorri · Atakan Budakçı · Athina Fatsea · Viola Bartoli

Launch of the Youth Mapping Initiative

Saturday 24 October, 09:30–10:00 · Museum of the Cities of the World (via Maqueda 206, Palermo, Italy) & Online

The results of the Youth Mapping Initiative, carried out within the European Heritage Hub, are presented to the public for the first time.

The mapping brings together 74 youth-led and youth-focused heritage projects, programmes, networks and organisations from across Europe. The mapping report and an interactive online map are launched in this session.

Presenter: Jasna Popović

Coffee, Culture and Chat – Open Debate

Saturday 24 October, 10:00–11:00 · Museum of the Cities of the World (via Maqueda 206, Palermo, Italy) & Online

Whose Heritage, Whose Future?- collaborative activity on how to balance preservation, community needs and sustainable tourism.

This time the ***Coffee Culture and Chat*** event will host an interactive programme where participants will work together to explore the complexities of cultural heritage preservation and sustainable tourism through a collaborative case study set in a historic neighbourhood in Palermo. Participants will work in teams to develop youth-led initiatives that balance heritage protection, local community needs, youth participation and tourism. By exchanging

experiences, sharing knowledge and comparing different approaches, participants will reflect on what meaningful youth participation can bring to sustainable cultural tourism.

Facilitator: Ünige Bagdi

Round Table IV – Youth in Heritage

Saturday 24 October, 11:30–13:00 · Museum of the Cities of the World (via Maqueda 206, Palermo, Italy) & Online

The closing panel brings the threads of the three days together. Speakers reflect on where young people stand in the heritage sector today, and on what institutions, networks and young professionals themselves can do next.

Moderator: Sorina Neacsu

Speakers: Vasileios Chanis · Ilona Ghazaryan · Weronika Warzocha · Elena Cautis · Elif Aydın

Closing session

Saturday 24 October, 13:00–13:30

The organisers sum up the key messages of the Youth Heritage Days 2026 and the next steps for the network and the European Heritage Hub.

Speakers: Laura Anello · Marco Coico · Sorina Neacșu · Manon Richard

Moderator: Jasna Popović

Speakers and moderators

Andrea D'Agostino

Born in Palermo, he works in Sicily as a specialised and licensed archaeologist, focusing on preventive archaeology, archaeological supervision, stratigraphic testing, and a wide range of survey methods including direct recording, photogrammetry, laser scanning, GIS processing and graphic documentation for infrastructural, energy and urban renewal projects. He has gained solid experience in complex fieldwork environments, collaborating with archaeological companies, design firms, universities, public institutions and archaeological parks. He has also developed expertise in heritage interpretation and museum enhancement, contributing to surveys, exhibition design, 3D reconstructions, outreach activities and guided tours in the paleochristian catacombs of Porta d'Ossuna and Villagrazia di Carini, as well as in museum projects in Marsala and Mazara del Vallo.

Theodoros Alexandridis, NextGen Heritage Ambassador - European Heritage Hub

Theodoros Alexandridis is an urban planner working at the intersection of cultural heritage, sustainable tourism, and spatial development. He holds an MSc in Tourism and Culture Planning and Development, with research focused on the protection and adaptive reuse of cultural and industrial heritage, and an MSc in Spatial Planning for Sustainable and Resilient Development. He is currently pursuing a PhD on the sustainable development of winescapes, exploring the links between wine heritage, local traditions, and tourism.

He works on EU-funded research and innovation projects in collaboration with universities and local authorities. He is a NextGen Heritage Ambassador of the European Heritage Hub and actively involved in Europa Nostra and Youth.Heritage.Europe, contributing to heritage-related events, communication activities, and youth dialogue initiatives across Europe.

Elif Aydın, Project & Communication Manager - Youth.Heritage.Europe.

Elif is an urban planner and cultural heritage professional with international experience in project management, interdisciplinary research, and EU-funded initiatives in the fields of culture and heritage. She is dedicated to fostering community engagement, strengthening participatory policy- and decision-making methods, and supporting the protection of cultural heritage. She is currently a doctoral candidate at KU Leuven, where she is pursuing her research project INHABIT, and works at Youth.Heritage.Europe., where she oversees the organisation's communication strategy and social media content, alongside project management.

Ünige Bagdi

Ünige is a cultural heritage professional with an academic background in art history and heritage studies. Her experience includes post-war military heritage, contemporary heritage reuse strategies, and community engagement. She currently serves as Programme Manager within the Events Team at Y.H.E. and is the co-founder of Unscenic Amsterdam, a curated cultural service that seeks to foster engagement with the city's cultural landscape.

Beyond her professional practice, she is committed to the transformative potential of collective action and community-based initiatives. In line with this commitment, she is actively involved with the Architects Climate Action Network (ACAN), contributing to advocacy efforts that promote more climate-resilient built environments. Her work reflects an interdisciplinary approach to cultural heritage, community participation, and environmental responsibility.

Viola Bartoli - Farm Cultural Park

Viola Bartoli, 17, grew up in Favara's Farm Cultural Park, which shaped her personal and educational journey through SOU – School of Architecture for Children, TEDx Torino and Prime Minister – School of Politics for Young Women. She moved to Palermo at 13. Attending the International School of Palermo, she led SOU activities on The Culture of Peace in 2024/2025, exploring connections between people, communities and spaces. Her experiences include internships at Alain Ducasse's Les Ombres in Paris and UN simulations: CWMUN in New York (2023) and MedMUN in Menton (2025).

In 2025, she studied Disaster Psychology at Brown University and volunteered with Bishop Mazzoldi School in Kenya, teaching Italian online before spending two weeks in Ongata Rongai. Alongside her sister Carla, she is helping shape Farm Cultural Park's future, including through The Art of City Making in Singapore, guided by curiosity, service and a desire to give back.

Atakan Budakçı, NextGen Heritage Ambassador - European Heritage Hub; Culture Solutions

Atakan Budakçı is a researcher at Culture Solutions and a NextGen Heritage Ambassador. His work focuses on cultural heritage, collective memory, and cultural relations, with particular attention to youth engagement and dialogue through heritage across Turkey and the Western Balkans. He holds a Master's degree in Public and Cultural Diplomacy and contributes to research, podcasts, and international cultural projects.

Elena Cautiș, Researcher

Elena-Maria Cautiș is an independent researcher with a PhD in Environmental Sustainability and Wellbeing from the University of Ferrara. Her research focuses on international climate change policy, sustainable development governance and the socio-cultural dimensions of

climate change adaptation and mitigation, with particular attention to the intersections of culture, heritage and sustainability transitions.

Vasileios Chanis, Postdoctoral Researcher - EPFL

Vasileios Chanis is a postdoctoral researcher at the Laboratory LAPIS of EPFL. His thesis (EPFL, 2026) explored the cultural interpretations of vernacular architecture, with a particular focus on the environmental role of traditional craftsmanship. In addition, Vasileios is active in the heritage sector, contributing to the protection and dissemination of traditional craftsmanship as a collaborator of the Boulouki collective in Athens and the Braillard Foundation in Geneva. His academic work has been supported by funding from the EU, the Swiss National Science Foundation, the Swiss Federal Government, and various private foundations. He trained as an architect at the TU Delft and the University of Patras.

Marco Coico – Le Vie dei Tesori

Marco Coico is an archaeologist, art historian and cultural innovator, specialising in heritage interpretation, community engagement and the development of cultural ecosystems. Combining research and cultural entrepreneurship, he works to connect local heritage with citizens through new models of participation.

He holds two Master's degrees - in Archaeology and in Art History, specialising in Cultural and Creative Industries - as well as a Postgraduate Master in Economics and Management of UNESCO Heritage. Marco works on international projects at Fondazione Le Vie dei Tesori, one of southern Italy's largest bottom-up cultural organisations. As co-curator of the Borghi dei Tesori Festival, he contributes to the revitalisation of 60 Sicilian villages facing demographic decline by promoting cultural participation and sustainable tourism. As Secretary-General of Italea Sicilia, he works within a national roots tourism strategy connecting millions of people of Sicilian ancestry worldwide under the patronage of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He is a founding member of Fondazione Marea, which counteracts the Sicilian brain-drain.

Sophia Dibbs, Programmes Officer - Youth.Heritage.Europe; MSCA Doctoral Researcher

Sophia Dibbs is Programmes Officer at Youth.Heritage.Europe and an MSCA joint doctoral researcher in anthropology and cultural heritage studies at the Public University of Navarre and the University of Pau. Her research explores the cultural landscape of textiles in rural communities across the Pyrenees and Navarre, with the aim of safeguarding both tangible and intangible wool heritage through stronger national and international policy frameworks. She has also conducted ethnographic fieldwork in Romania, documenting the living heritage of communities in Maramureș. Her professional experience spans the cultural heritage sector in the UK, France and Spain, with a particular interest in museology and cultural heritage protection.

Karla Elkan, Youth.Heritage.Europe.

Karla Iulia Elkan is a cultural manager working in Romania and internationally. She is currently Assistant Project Manager for the Arts and Health programmes at Cluj Cultural Centre and Communications Officer at Youth.Heritage.Europe. With a background in Law, she holds an MA in Cultural Studies from Erasmus University Rotterdam. Her interests include cultural relations, cultural policy and research, with a particular focus on community engagement and equitable access to arts and culture.

Athina Fatsea

Athina Fatsea is PhD Candidate at the Ionian University, Greece (A.G. Leventis & ESDC Doctoral Fellow). She works as Research Assistant to the Director General and European Programme Manager at ELIAMEP. She serves as a Research Fellow at the UNESCO Chair on Threats to Cultural Heritage, the Institute of International Economic Relations, and the Laboratory for Geocultural Analyses. She is a member of the Youth Advisory Board of the European Heritage Label Bureau as well as DG INTPA's Youth Sounding Board for International Partnerships. She holds an MA in International and European Governance and Politics (NKUA). She has participated in conferences in Europe, Africa and Asia, and has contributed with publications to collective volumes, scientific journals and conference proceedings.

Ilona Ghazaryan

Ilona Ghazaryan is a Communication Manager at SIREH, the Center for the Study, Preservation, and Enhancement of Armenian Cultural Heritage. Her work focuses on cultural heritage communication, media relations, social media strategy, and international collaboration.

With a background in European Languages and Communication, she works across Armenian, English, and Russian, connecting audiences, institutions, and cultural heritage professionals. Through her involvement with SIREH and the European Heritage Hub, she contributes to raising awareness of Armenian cultural heritage and strengthening connections between local initiatives and the wider European heritage community.

She is particularly interested in the role of young people in safeguarding and reinterpreting cultural heritage, as well as in making heritage more accessible, relevant, and engaging for new generations. She believes that communication, collaboration, and youth participation are essential to building a more inclusive and sustainable future for cultural heritage.

Patricia Horlacher

Patricia Horlacher is an early-career researcher with a background in cultural heritage, sustainable tourism, and island studies. Originally from Austria, she has lived, studied, and worked in nine European countries, experiences that have shaped her interest in how communities create, preserve, and transform their relationships with places and cultural traditions.

She holds a Master's degree in Sustainable Destination Development from Uppsala University and is currently pursuing an Erasmus Mundus Master's in Islands and Sustainability at the University of Groningen and the University of the Aegean. Her work explores community engagement, living heritage, and the connections between cultural identity, place, and sustainability. Through research and experience across island communities, she is particularly interested in how local knowledge and everyday practices contribute to a sense of belonging and community resilience.

Alongside her academic work, Patricia has contributed to sustainable tourism initiatives and community-building projects, bringing together research, practice, and a strong belief that heritage is not only something we inherit from the past, but something communities continually shape in the present.

Armine Karapetyan, Cultural Heritage Advocate

Armine Karapetyan has an interdisciplinary background spanning Oriental (Arabic) Studies, youth engagement, civic initiatives, and human rights, but cultural heritage has always held a special place in her interests. Growing up in Armenia, a country shaped by centuries of history and rich cultural traditions, she has developed a deep appreciation for the role heritage plays in preserving identity and connecting generations.

Her interest in history began at school through History and Church History Olympiads, national poetry recitation competitions, and traditional dance. Since 2016, she has contributed to Armenian Wikipedia as an editor and translator, making historical and cultural knowledge more accessible in her native language.

In 2026, she participated in the European Heritage Hub's Heritage in Action workshop in Armenia, conducting field observations and interviews at three cultural heritage sites. At Youth Heritage Days 2026 in Palermo, she will share the group's observations during a roundtable on youth and cultural tourism, exploring how heritage can become more accessible, engaging, and meaningful to future generations.

Mimi Kotorri, Project Director - M. & M. Ivanaj Foundation Institut

Mimi Kotorri is an architect and cultural heritage professional whose work brings together architectural conservation, academic research, education, and cultural project management. She currently serves as Project Director at the M. & M. Ivanaj Foundation Institute in Tirana, where she develops and leads initiatives focused on cultural heritage, education, youth engagement, and innovation.

She is pursuing a PhD in Cultural Heritage at the University of Tirana, researching sacred heritage in Albania as a social, cultural, and architectural space. Her professional background includes architectural restoration, heritage conservation, archaeological research, and academic teaching. Actively engaged in European heritage networks, including Europa Nostra,

her interests focus on cultural memory, identity, and interdisciplinary approaches to heritage interpretation, preservation, and its relevance to contemporary society.

Ángel Marín Berral, NextGen Heritage Ambassador - European Heritage Hub

Ángel Marín Berral is an Art Historian with a PhD in Cultural Heritage from the University of Córdoba, and has been a visiting researcher at the Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla focusing on architectural conservation. He is a European Heritage Hub Ambassador, one of only twelve selected across Europe to advocate for the sector's social, green, and digital transformation. In addition, he is the Territorial Delegate for Hispania Nostra in Córdoba and a member of Europa Nostra. His work centers on heritage management and the active engagement of youth and local communities in preserving historical assets. Bridging scholarly research with cultural governance, Ángel is dedicated to promoting participatory stewardship and cross-border collaboration across European cultural landscapes.

Sorina Neacsu, President, Board Member - Youth.Heritage.Europe.

Sorina Neacșu is a cultural manager specialising in cultural heritage, with solid experience in the NGO sector and in interdisciplinary cultural projects. Her work focuses on cultural heritage management, project coordination, youth and volunteer engagement, museum education, and art history. She is also particularly interested in heritage-related writing and reporting, as part of her broader commitment to increasing the visibility and relevance of cultural heritage in today's society.

She is dedicated to promoting greater public awareness of the role heritage plays in everyday life and in sustainable development. Since December 2020, she has been involved in the coordination of the European Heritage Youth Ambassadors Programme within ESACH, which has since become a formalised association under the name Youth.Heritage.Europe. She currently serves as President of the Y.H.E. Sorina also represents the Romanian Cultural Association *Patrimoniu pentru Viitor*.

Jasna Popović, Secretary, Board Member - Youth.Heritage.Europe.

Jasna Popović holds a law degree from the University of Belgrade and two master's degrees: one in Public International Law and another in Human Rights. She is currently a PhD candidate at Carlos III University of Madrid (UC3M), where she researches the relationship between cultural heritage and sustainable tourism.

She works independently in the cultural heritage sector, focusing on youth participation, community involvement in heritage initiatives, and European Union-funded projects. Since September 2022, she has served as ESACH's secretary on a voluntary basis, a role she continues to hold in the association now known as Youth.Heritage.Europe.

Angela Puppini

Angela Puppini is an Italian Service Designer and Project Coordinator with a background in community-driven development and social innovation. She holds a Master's degree in Product-Service System Design from Politecnico di Milano and has experience managing European and regional funding programmes.

Her work focuses on sustainable mountain development, cultural heritage enhancement and community engagement. She collaborates with public institutions, universities, local communities, NGOs and international partners to design and coordinate initiatives that strengthen the connections between people, heritage and local development.

In 2026, she represented Italy at the UNESCO World Heritage Young Professionals Forum, held in conjunction with the 48th session of the World Heritage Committee. This experience further strengthened her commitment to contributing to international heritage initiatives and fostering collaboration across communities and generations.

She believes that local communities are essential to shaping sustainable futures for their territories, not only as custodians of heritage but as active contributors to how it is interpreted, experienced and carried forward.

Daniela Raia

Since 2013 she has worked as a specialised and licensed archaeologist and deputy director of ArcheOfficina, coordinating research and rescue archaeology projects for public institutions and private clients. She has extensive experience in planning and directing excavations, archaeological supervision, stratigraphic testing and preliminary assessments across Sicily, collaborating closely with regional heritage authorities.

She serves as the technical and scientific director of the San Nicola Archaeological Field School in Carini, under the supervision of the Palermo Superintendency, and works as an external researcher with the University of Palermo on the paleochristian catacomb of Villagrazia di Carini for the Pontifical Institute of Christian Archaeology. She holds a PhD in Archaeology, with research focused on late antique and medieval topography, territorial reconstruction and historical settlement patterns.

Manon Richard, Project Manager - European Heritage Hub, Europa Nostra

Since 2023, Manon Richard has been the project manager of the EU-funded European Heritage Hub. In this position, she ensures the successful implementation of the project, liaises with institutional and civil society partners, as well as focuses on the broadening and amplification of the Hub activities in EU neighbouring countries.

Ms. Richard first joined Europa Nostra in The Hague in 2015, working on networking, youth empowerment, communication and policy/advocacy activities. In 2020, she joined the

Brussels Office of Europa Nostra to strengthen strategic partnerships with private and public stakeholders, particularly the EU institutions. In 2023, Ms. Richard worked for an NGO in the food safety sector as a project and policy coordinator.

Ms. Richard holds a BA in Applied Foreign Languages and Business Studies (Université de Lorraine, Nancy, France) and a MA in European and International Political Science (Sciences Po Strasbourg, France). As part of her studies, she completed a traineeship at the Council of Europe (PACE, sub-committee on culture, diversity and heritage) in Strasbourg in 2014. She enjoys traveling, discovering new cultures and making gastronomic experiences. In her free time, she practices long distance running, CrossFit and Hyrox.

Carlo Roccafiorita

Project manager and creative strategist working across urban regeneration, circular economy, cultural management, and social innovation. With more than ten years of experience in the third sector, he has collaborated with organisations, institutions, and multidisciplinary teams developing projects focused on sustainability, reuse, and territorial transformation.

His practice combines project management, fundraising, branding, and communication strategies with research into circular systems and material regeneration. As an entrepreneur, he has developed nationally awarded projects dedicated to social and environmental impact. His current interests include circular economy, rural innovation, data culture, and emerging forms of collaborative production.

Adi Softić, Founder and Chairman - Dictum Factum

Adi Softić is a Bosnian brand strategist, creative lead and organizational leader working at the intersection of strategy, creativity, marketing and partnerships. With over a decade of experience across the business services sector, culture, entertainment and nonprofit initiatives, he helps organizations translate complex ideas into clear strategies, distinctive stories and meaningful experiences.

As Members Relations Manager at ABSL Bosnia and Herzegovina, Adi contributes to the strategic development of the business services sector, drives membership growth, cultivates high-level partnerships and advances the country's positioning as a competitive destination for international business. He is also the Founder and Chairman of Dictum Factum, a Maglaj-based nonprofit organization advancing youth engagement, cultural heritage and community development through regional and international projects.

He is the founder and creative lead of Maglaj Spirit Weekend, a cultural festival that transforms the historic Maglaj Fortress into a vibrant meeting point for film, music and storytelling. By bringing cultural programming into a significant heritage setting, the festival connects local identity with contemporary creativity, sustainable tourism and regional cooperation, attracting approximately 1,600 visitors per evening. Alongside his leadership

roles, Adi works independently as a Brand Strategist & Creative Lead. He holds a BA in Political Science and International Relations, with a minor in International Business, from the University of Buckingham.

Liola Urso, Social Media Trainee - Europa Nostra

Liola Urso is a Communications and Social Media Trainee at Europa Nostra, where she works on the communication of European projects and initiatives, particularly in the context of the European Heritage Hub. She previously worked in cultural organisations, museums and art galleries in Italy and the Netherlands. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Cultural Heritage, and Master's degrees in Management of Artistic and Cultural Resources and in Cultural Economics and Entrepreneurship. Her academic work focused on cultural and creative networks, agglomeration economies and urban development, and her research was later published in the European Journal of Creative Practices in Cities and Landscapes.

Weronika Warzocha

Weronika Warzocha comes from Poland and currently holds the position of a legal officer at the European Commission's Directorate-General for Budget. She previously worked at the European Education and Culture Executive Agency, supporting EU grant programmes, and spent several years managing cultural and educational projects at Poland's National Centre for Culture.

With academic backgrounds in both law and art history, she is interested in how policy, funding and local initiatives can work together to support cultural heritage and engage communities. In her free time, she paints and draws, and takes part in heritage volunteering and youth projects, where she enjoys exchanging experiences with other heritage professionals and stakeholders.

Practical information

Venue	Museum of the Cities of the World (via Maqueda 206, Palermo) Museo delle Città del Mondo
Online participation	Free. Join via the links shared by organisers to registered participants via email
Language	English
Certificate of attendance	To be issued by organisers based on presence, after the event.
Contact	info@youthheritageeurope.org
Follow and share	Instagram LinkedIn YouTube
Photography	Photos and video are taken during the event and may be used to communicate about Youth.Heritage.Europe. the European Heritage Hub, as well as co-organisers and local partners.. If you prefer not to be photographed, please let the organisers know at registration.
Festival Le Vie dei Tesori	Check out The Festival's programme here.
Quick Lunches & Street Food – Palermo City Centre	**I Cuochini** – Traditional Palermo-style deli offering mini savoury pastries, small pizzas and calzones. €5–10 **Basile** – Traditional Sicilian cuisine, daily specials and street food, near Teatro Massimo. €10–15 **Ke Palle** – Classic and gourmet Sicilian arancine (stuffed rice balls), on Via Maqueda. €4–9

Restaurants & Traditional Trattorias – Palermo City Centre

Nino u' Ballerino – Traditional Palermo street food, including spleen sandwiches, chickpea fritters (panelle) and potato croquettes. €5–12

Bisso Bistrot – Located at Quattro Canti, serving Sicilian cuisine and traditional pasta dishes. €12–20

Osteria Mercede – Near Teatro Massimo, specialising in Sicilian cuisine and fresh seafood dishes. €20–30

Il Salumaio di Santamarina – Located on Via Maqueda, offering pasta dishes, seafood and pizza. €15–25

Antica Focacceria San Francesco – Located in Piazza San Francesco, serving traditional Palermo specialities and typical Sicilian pasta dishes. €15–25

About the organisers and partners

Youth.Heritage.Europe.

Youth.Heritage.Europe. connects and empowers young people in the cultural heritage field across Europe through collaboration, knowledge exchange and advocacy. It continues the work of the European Students' Association for Cultural Heritage (ESACH), a youth-led network founded in 2017. Today it brings together around 700 students and early-career professionals from more than 30 countries. Its activities include policy contributions, talks, publications, campaigns and the NextGen Heritage Ambassadors programme, which it coordinates within the European Heritage Hub.

www.youth-heritage-europe.org

Le Vie dei Tesori

Le Vie dei Tesori is a Palermo-based festival and cultural organisation that opens heritage sites to the public and involves local communities, volunteers and young people in caring for and telling the story of their heritage.

www.leviedeitesori.com

European Heritage Hub

The European Heritage Hub is a knowledge, networking and advocacy platform for cultural heritage in Europe, co-funded by the European Union and led by Europa Nostra with a consortium of partners. It supports the heritage sector in the green, digital and social transformation through research, a Heritage Library and Policy Monitor, communities of practice, training and policy work. Youth.Heritage.Europe. is an affiliated partner of the Hub and runs youth activities within it, including the Youth Policy Debates, the Youth Mapping Initiative and the NextGen Heritage Ambassadors.

www.europeanheritagehub.eu

Acknowledgements

Youth.Heritage.Europe. thanks Le Vie dei Tesori for hosting the Youth Heritage Days 2026 in Palermo, and Europa Nostra, the European Heritage Hub consortium and the European Union for their support. We also thank all speakers, moderators, NextGen Heritage Ambassadors, volunteers and participants, in the room and online.

Co-funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

2026