ESACH
EUROPEAN STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE

By young people, for young people

2024

In 2024, the European Students' Association for Cultural Heritage (ESACH) actively participated in and organised several events to promote cultural heritage among young professionals and students. Among others, ESACH was also present at Europa Nostra's European Cultural Heritage Summit in Bucharest and had the opportunity to organise a side Summit event "Youth Forum". Below is a summary of these activities.

Our Programmes & Projects

ESACH Talks!

"Women in Heritage: challenges in the sector "
15th March 2024, 7pm CET
On the occasion of celebrating Women's Day, this event delved into the obstacles encountered by women within Europe's heritage sector. Our esteemed speakers shared their personal challenges and approaches, shedding light on gender dynamics.

"Cultural Heritage and Community Engagement "
18th December 2024, 7.30pm CET
The event focused on fostering youth engagement and raising awareness about the critical role of communities in safeguarding heritage. The session featured five speakers with ranging backgrounds, who explored successful strategies and key methodologies for community engagement while addressing the challenges of community-driven projects.

Watch the event's video here.

Keep an eye on our agenda in 2025!

"Youth for the Future of Cultural Heritage in Europe" Position Paper

Following the 2023 launch of the "Youth for the Future of Cultural Heritage in Europe" position paper, ESACH was involved in the first spin-off events promoting the 5 principles for our sector's sustainable development.

ESACH encouraged applications for spin-off events throughout 2024, inviting university groups, NGOs, and peer networks with a strong interest in cultural heritage to organize events that align with the organization's key principles. This series of events will continue to take place in the first quarter of 2025.

Read our Position Paper here.

The five principles are:

1. **Inclusion - Heritage as a confluence;**
2. **Collaboration - Heritage as a collective network;**
3. **Intergenerational exchange and dialogue - Heritage as a bridge;**
4. **Strengthen the sector - Heritage as a future profession;**
5. **New technologies - Heritage as an expanding field;**

Spin-off events in 2024

1. **Heri Sci Association - Young Experts of Heritage Science of Slovenia, 19th of September 2024**

Sign the pledge for a sustainable and inclusive future!

Do you agree that sustainability, inclusion, and climate change should be central themes in the European and Global heritage approach? Join ESACH and our partners in our call for preserving and promoting cultural heritage.

Go to our website and sign the pledge!

The Youth Dimension within the European Heritage Hub

9 online interviews within the Charter Project. Available here.
These interviews helped us identify a few key needs:

- **Bridging Skills Gaps;**
- **Focus on Sustainability and Resilience;**
- **Transversal Competences collaboration, digital literacy, and adaptability;**
- **Pathways and Curricula Development.**
- Joined the European Heritage Hub Social Forum
- Youth Presence at the European Heritage Hub Forum

JOURNEY OF HERITAGE - Cultural Narratives

Launched in 2024, ESACH's "Journey of Heritage" is a blog series that delves into diverse cultural narratives, exploring traditions, rituals, and practices across various regions. Each entry offers an in-depth look at unique cultural expressions, highlighting their historical significance and contemporary relevance.

The 2024 entries are all available here.

ESACH MAGAZINE

The 2024 issue of the ESACH Magazine marks its fourth consecutive edition, reaffirming our commitment to empowering youth voices in cultural heritage. Created *by young*

people, for young people, the magazine provides a platform for sharing ideas, perspectives, and initiatives that promote youth engagement in preservation, policymaking, and advocacy. This year's edition focuses on the critical link between cultural heritage, conflict, and peace, highlighting the urgency of protecting heritage in times of crisis. Through three powerful contributions, young professionals reflect on heritage as a source of both tension and healing, underscoring its role in fostering peace, resilience, and intercultural dialogue.

Download the full 2024 issue here.

Our Collaborations

ESACH was present as a voice for youth in cultural heritage on many occasions. See some of our contributions below:

- **#OdetoJoy Challenge**
- European Cultural Heritage Summit (October 2024), including through the side Summit event **"Youth Forum"**
    - On the afternoon of 5 October 2024, ARCUB Cultural Center in Bucharest welcomed eighteen passionate students and young professionals for the Youth Forum - a dedicated pre-event to the European Cultural Heritage Summit 2024. Organized by ESACH in partnership with Europa Nostra and framed by the European Cultural Heritage Agora project (co-funded by the EU's Creative Europe programme), the Forum featured three lively panel discussions on the future of the heritage sector, digital transformation, and sustainability. Supported by the Romanian NGO Heritage for the Future and the National Institute of Heritage, this gathering marked ESACH's largest in-person event to date, offering a dynamic platform where young voices demonstrated their growing influence in driving meaningful change across Europe's cultural heritage landscape.
- **"Why Cultural Matters"** Symposium in Timisoara (October 2024)
- **ACMC - Arts and Cultural Management Conference** (November 2024)
- ACTIVA, organised by the Emerging Professionals Commission of ICOMOS - Spain, in collaboration with the Faculty of Geography and History, UCM.
- **CHARTER Alliance** EU Conference in Barcelona
- **DE-BIAS Capacity Building Event** (11 December 2024) - co-organised by ESACH and MCA, this online event aimed to strengthen the inclusivity of cultural heritage. It featured discussions on addressing biases and promoting diversity within the cultural heritage sector.

Our New Team Members

In 2024, we welcomed new members as part of our Coordination Committee.

- Unige Bagdi
- Anna Bundalo
- Sophia Dibbs
- Karla Iulia Elkan

- Léa Guillemant
- Ece Karakaş
- Irene Reyes Suero
- Lorenzo Venezia

Our Members

Becoming an ESACH member is very easy and free of charge.

Our Online Presence

Among all the social media channels managed by ESACH (including Instagram, X, LinkedIn, and YouTube) Instagram proved to be the most engaging platform, generating the highest level of interaction and visibility for our calls and campaigns. Throughout 2024, we published 57 original posts across our channels. While some of these posts featured our partners, the majority focused on promoting our own campaigns and initiatives.

A total of 12 newsletter issues were sent out in 2024 to a whopping 1620 recipients.

YouTube I Twitter I Instagram I LinkedIn I Facebook

Our partners (in alphabetical order), whom we would like to thank:

ENCATC

Europa Nostra

European Heritage Volunteers

Europeana Initiative

Future for Religious Heritage

“Heritage for the Future” Cultural Association

Hispania Nostra

ICOMOS

Michael Culture Association