

European Partnership for Resilient Cultural Heritage under Horizon Europe

Draft Proposal *Version 14 October 2024*

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1 General information

1.1 Draft title of the European Partnership:

European Partnership for Resilient Cultural Heritage (RCH)

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1.4 Summary (max 500 characters)

Climate change is a global challenge that severely impacts cultural heritage, nevertheless, cultural heritage can provide responses to and help limit the effects of climate change on society. The Partnership for Resilient Cultural Heritage will strengthen research on cultural heritage to develop and promote, through dissemination and capacity building activities, innovative solutions, assessment systems, adaptation and mitigation strategies and risk management models, for transmitting cultural heritage to future generations. The aim is to make Europe more resilient and climate neutral.

2 Context, objectives, expected impacts

2.1 Context and problem definition

2.1.1 Context, problem (drivers), opportunities

Cultural heritage¹ is much more than the sum of knowledge and lessons from our past into the present. It can develop resilience, that can help process recent and ongoing events and strengthen a healthy response for the future. It can inspire adaptation and mitigation measures in the face of climate change and other major societal challenges², through, for instance, the sustainability of adaptive reuse of immovable heritage or the knowledge carried via intangible heritage.

¹ Definition of cultural heritage mentioned in the Council conclusions of 21 May 2014 on cultural heritage as a strategic resource for a sustainable Europe (2014/C 183/08) and recalled in the European Framework for Action on CH, [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52014XG0614\(08\)&from=EN](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52014XG0614(08)&from=EN)

² Recommendation CM/Rec(2022)15 of the Committee of Ministers to Member States on the role of culture, cultural heritage and landscape in helping to address global challenges, <https://search.coe.int/cm?i=0900001680a67952>; CHCfE Consortium (2015), *Cultural Heritage Counts for Europe*, Published by the International Cultural Centre, Krakow, http://blogs.encatc.org/culturalheritagecountsforeurope//wp-content/uploads/2015/06/CHCfE_FULL-REPORT_v2.pdf

Drawing from numerous disciplines across Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM), it can inform policies in all kinds of different sectors and, ultimately, generate numerous positive spillover effects that can help us build a better, more inclusive and more just society. International cooperation in cultural heritage research offers the opportunity to strengthen intercultural dialogue given the dynamic spatial and temporal values of heritage.

The introduction of a specific destination in Cluster 2 of Horizon Europe (Innovative Research on the European Cultural Heritage and the Cultural and Creative Industries) is the recognition, at the European level, of the outstanding universal value of Cultural Heritage (CH) for society, for people's sense of belonging to a community (however large and diverse)³ and as a strategic resource for building climate justice and a climate neutral future. Like other sectors of culture, the economy and society in general, CH is profoundly affected by climate change and faces the need to adapt and respond to the threats posed by this crisis while developing its contribution to Europe's climate neutrality by 2050. This follows EU Regulation 2021/1119, which is part of the EU strategy for green growth aimed at transforming the Union into a fair and prosperous society and ensuring its industry's leadership in global innovation⁴. This is a large-scale challenge that no country can tackle alone.

For many years, research communities throughout the world have been warning about the unprecedented speed and scale of cultural losses and the damaging impacts of the climate crisis on tangible and intangible CH⁵. This has been taken up by the EU and international institutions who have alerted policymakers on the reality of the crisis and the urgency of implementing measures to mitigate it. In particular, more recently this was the case at the 2021 International Meeting on Culture, Heritage and Climate Change co-sponsored by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), in the COP28 Emirates Declaration on Cultural-based Climate Action (2023)⁶, and at the 6th UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-6) on 1

³ The EU's strategic framework for cultural heritage includes the European Council 2023-26 Work Plan for Culture, [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32022G1207\(01\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32022G1207(01)) and the European Framework for Action on Cultural Heritage, <https://culture.ec.europa.eu/document/european-framework-action-cultural-heritage>

⁴ Regulation (EU) 2021/1119 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 June 2021 establishing the framework for achieving climate neutrality, https://climate.ec.europa.eu/eu-action/climate-strategies-targets/2050-long-term-strategy_en

⁵ Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change of 27 February 2022, *Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability – Summary for Policymakers*, <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/sixth-assessment-report-working-group-ii/>; ICOMOS Climate Change and Cultural Heritage Working Group (2019) *The Future of Our Past: Engaging Cultural Heritage in Climate Action*, July 1, 2019. Paris: ICOMOS https://openarchive.icomos.org/id/eprint/2459/1/CCHWG_final_print.pdf; European Commission, Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture, *Strengthening cultural heritage resilience for climate change - Where the European Green Deal meets cultural heritage*, Publications Office of the European Union, 2022, <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2766/44688>

⁶ The Group of Friends of Culture Based Climate Action, Emirates Declaration on Culture-Based Climate Action, p. 1, https://static1.squarespace.com/static/62fbf293c4912c5514ac3b2a/t/65789ec6b4318b54f27afa6e/1702403782880/Emirates+Declaration+on+Culture+Based+Climate+Action_FINAL.pdf

March 2024, which delivered 15 resolutions aiming to boost multilateral efforts to address the triple planetary crisis of climate change, nature loss and pollution⁷.

These alerts and warnings have led to much progress in awareness and research being made: the 2023 systematic literature review of Climate Change Impacts on by the British Council highlighted the growth in climate change and CH research publications since 2018, with a new focus since 2022 on landscapes and intangible heritage⁸. However, there is still a pressing need to intensify these efforts, as demonstrated by the literature review and stakeholder consultations conducted within the framework of the Alliance for Research on Cultural Heritage in Europe (ARCHE) Horizon Europe project (2022-2025), which reaffirmed that climate change is the most significant priority for the CH sector in Europe and beyond. Examples of research in this direction include:

- In 2019, ICOMOS published “The Future of Our Pasts: Engaging Cultural Heritage in climate action” report⁹, which highlighted how climate change drivers (global warming, rainfall, landslides, etc.) affect CH and underlined the potential of CH to make valuable contributions to climate action.
- In 2021, UNESCO warned that “one in six cultural properties are being threatened by climate change hazards”¹⁰, whilst, in the United Kingdom, the National Trust echoed, stating that “70 per cent of the places in our care will be at medium or high risk of climate-related hazards by 2060”¹¹.
- In 2022, ICOMOS’s “International Co-Sponsored Meeting on Culture, Heritage, and Climate Change (ICSM) White Paper” stated that “climate change impacts are exacerbating environmental, social, and cultural risks to heritage”¹²; it also recognised that “although heritage is present in IPCC [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change] literature (Assessment Reports and Special Reports), this inclusion is unsystematic, superficial, and not inclusive of the vast diversity of types of heritage and risks posed by climate change.”
- In 2022, based on the work of the EU Open Method of Coordination (OMC) group of Member States’ experts, EU Publication Office published the document “Strengthening cultural heritage resilience for climate change”¹³, based on the discussions, information, and

⁷ UN Environment Assembly advances collaborative action on triple planetary crisis,

<https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/press-release/un-environment-assembly-advances-collaborative-action-triple>

⁸ The British Council Strategic Literature Review: Climate Change Impacts on Cultural Heritage, p. 34,

<https://www.britishcouncil.org/research-insight/british-council-strategic-literature-review-climate-change-impacts-cultural>)

⁹ ICOMOS Climate Change and Cultural Heritage Working Group. 2019. *The Future of Our Pasts: Engaging Cultural Heritage in Climate Action*, July 1, 2019. Paris: ICOMOS

https://openarchive.icomos.org/id/eprint/2459/1/CCHWG_final_print.pdf

¹⁰ World Heritage n°100 (October 2021), <https://www.calameo.com/read/003329972f1bef553388b>

¹¹ Adapting for climate change | National Trust, <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/our-cause/nature-climate/adapting-for-climate-change>

¹² Simpson, N.P., Orr, S.A., Sabour, S., Clarke, J., Ishizawa, M., Feener, M., Ballard, C., Mascarenhas, P.V., Pinho, P., Bosson, J.B., Morrison, T., Zvobogo, L. (2022) *ICSM CHC White Paper II: Impacts, vulnerability, and understanding risks of climate change for culture and heritage: Contribution of Impacts Group II to the International Co-Sponsored Meeting on Culture, Heritage and Climate Change*. Charenton-le-Pont & Paris, France: ICOMOS & ICSM CHC, <https://openarchive.icomos.org/id/eprint/2718/>

¹³ European Commission, Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture, *Strengthening cultural heritage resilience for climate change - Where the European Green Deal meets cultural heritage*, Publications Office of the European Union, 2022, <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2766/44688>

presentations of the OMC expert group and invited external experts; policymakers are addressed through a set of key recommendations resulted from the group's findings.

- In 2023, the systematic literature review of Climate Change Impacts on Cultural Heritage by the British Council showed that, despite increasing interest, not all climate change drivers and their impacts on different forms of heritage have been equally studied, nor the effectiveness of the remedial measures implemented: *“the prevalence of global warming or increases in temperature was mentioned in 80% of the literature. Rainfall was the second most explored driver, discussed in over half (52%) of the peer reviewed papers, similarly storms were mentioned in a quarter (25%), drought in 19% and sea level rise in 15%... glacial melting (6%), wildfires (4%) and landslides (4%)”*¹⁴.

Despite these and previous reports, and progress made over the recent years, the European Commission acknowledged in 2022 that there are *“no coherent methodologies for obtaining reliable information, quantitative data or deep knowledge about the decay and loss of cultural heritage”*¹⁵. There have certainly been no economic assessments of the impact of climate change on CH¹⁶.

Nevertheless, CH is increasingly seen less as a barrier to climate change mitigation and progressively as an important contributor to the green transition, including to the transition to a circular economy¹⁷. This was acknowledged in July 2021 by the G20 Culture ministers in the Rome Declaration that called for the mainstreaming of CH considerations in the climate agenda and increased research collaboration¹⁸. According to ‘L.I.N.K.E.D.’ - the Council of Europe’s CDCPP Guiding principles for an integrated approach to culture, nature and landscape management¹⁹, there has been a growing understanding over the last few decades of the intertwining of culture and nature and how these complex interactions play a crucial role in sustainable development and ultimately lead to well-being and harmonious living. In a report prepared by the Copernicus Cultural Heritage Task Force on the user requirements in the Copernicus domain to support CH management, conservation and protection, presented in 2020, it was stated that *“any planned Copernicus support should consider natural and Cultural Heritage together when designing or customizing products. Our built heritage and natural environment have co-evolved over countless generations, are inseparable and can only be protected and preserved effectively together”*²⁰. The Joint Programme of Work on the Links between Biological and Cultural Diversity between UNESCO and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity also emphasizes these links by underlying the threat posed by climate change and the biodiversity crisis. The programme seeks to recognize and promote natural and CH and diversity as a pathway to the global biodiversity framework’s vision of living in harmony

¹⁴ British Council, *SLR Climate Change Impacts on Cultural Heritage: Final Report.*(2023),

https://www.britishcouncil.org/sites/default/files/climate_change_impacts_on_cultural_heritage_report.pdf

¹⁵ Ten recommendations on how to better protect cultural heritage from the impact of climate change,

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_22_5353

¹⁶ Cf. footnote 13

¹⁷ idem

¹⁸ Rome Declaration of the G20 of Ministers of Culture, p. 6, <http://www.g20italy.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Final-Declaration.pdf>

¹⁹ L.I.N.K.E.D. Guiding principles for an integrated approach to culture, nature and landscape management, Council of Europe - Steering Committee for Culture, Heritage and Landscape (CDCPP), 2024,

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/culture-and-heritage/linked-principles-culture-nature-landscape-management>

²⁰ Report on the user requirements in the Copernicus domain to support Cultural Heritage management, conservation and protection, https://www.copernicus.eu/sites/default/files/2020-10/CC-2020-37_Copernicus-Cultural-Heritage-Task-Force-Report_0.pdf

with nature by 2050²¹. In May 2022 the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe adopted a recommendation emphasizing the value and potential of culture, cultural heritage, particularly as an enhancer to the quality of life in a constantly evolving society²². Furthermore, in 2023 the UNFCCC/COP28 Emirates Declaration on Cultural-based Climate Action (2023) recognized that CH can contribute to awareness about climate action²³.

While taking all of the above into consideration, the co-funded European Partnership for Resilient Cultural Heritage (RCH) will also address the key research gaps and priorities identified in the 2022 Joint Programming Initiative on Cultural Heritage and Global Change (JPI CH) and JPI Climate White Paper “Cultural Heritage and Climate Change: New challenges and perspectives for research”:

- Addressing the Climate Emergency: Strengthening the commitment of the CH sector to address it.
- The Impacts of Climate Change: Predicting and assessing the impacts of climate change on and through CH.
- Protecting CH: Building protection and adaptation strategies for CH.
- Contributing to Climate Adaptation: Assessing the potential of CH to inform the development of climate adaptation.
- CH as a Resource: Investigating how CH can support societal transformations and be a resource for climate mitigation and sustainable futures²⁴.

In addition, the RCH Partnership will tackle the lack of comparative data on the risk to CH from climate change, identified in the 2023 systematic literature review, through approaches that include:

- The integration of CH into mainstream climate change policies; knowledge of the scale and dimension of climate change damage and loss of CH.
- A coherent methodology for obtaining reliable information and quantitative data; incentives for CH to mitigate climate change effects.
- Resources to research and implement actions that would gather quantitative data on costs and benefits of adaptation measures.
- An inventory or central information point on loss and damage to CH; cross-sectoral cooperation.
- Long term monitoring of CH to document changes; and climate change and scientific expertise²⁵.

²¹ Nature and Culture. Draft decision submitted by the Chair of Working Group II, Conference of the parties to the Convention on biological diversity, Fifteenth meeting – Part II, Montreal, Canada, 7-19 December 2022, <https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/6053/c841/74d109ecc5612ee92c6ee8fd/cop-15-l-10-en.pdf>

²² Recommendation CM/Rec(2022)15 of the Committee of Ministers to Member States on the role of culture, cultural heritage and landscape in helping to address global challenges, adopted on 20 May 2022 in Turin (Italy) at the 132nd Session of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, <https://search.coe.int/cm?i=0900001680a67952>

²³ The Group of Friends of Climate Based Culture Action, Emirates Declaration on Culture-Based Climate Action, p. 2, https://static1.squarespace.com/static/62fbf293c4912c5514ac3b2a/t/65789ec6b4318b54f27afa6e/1702403782880/Emirates+Declaration+on+Culture+Based+Climate+Action_FINAL.pdf

²⁴ JPI Cultural Heritage & JPI Climate (2022), *Cultural Heritage and Climate Change: New Challenges and Perspectives for Research*, <https://www.heritageresearch-hub.eu/white-paper-cultural-heritage-and-climate-change-new-challenges-and-perspectives-for-research/>

²⁵ Cf. footnote 14

Above all, the RCH Partnership represents a major and innovative opportunity to develop, in a holistic and strategic approach, robust basic and applied research at the intersection of climate change and CH and to focus on research/policy/practice collaboration to respond to the global challenge posed by the climate change crisis. The RCH Partnership strongly acknowledges that research projects are indispensable drivers for policies and their implementation and are beneficial to other sectors through inter- and multidisciplinary research and innovation. The RCH Partnership will address the following core challenges:

- **The limited research and evidence regarding adaptation strategies and the impact of climate and environmental change on cultural heritage.**

The RCH Partnership will respond to the pressing need for more international interdisciplinary research and greater policy and public awareness by creating a coordinated evidence base through collaborative work across sectors and regions. The cultural, economic, social and environmental impacts related to losses and opportunities for cultural assets and values from adaptation and mitigation will be addressed through the transnational research the partnership will fund – one of the avenues to explore would be through the concept of *adaptive release* (“an active decision to accommodate and interpret the dynamic transformation of a heritage asset and its associated values and significance”)²⁶. Emphasis will be put on the collection, aggregation, sharing and utilization of data, as well as statistics, methods and knowledge which are indispensable elements in defining policies. It must be remembered that adaptation methods and protection standards vary considerably from one country to another, which means that numerous cultural assets, including World Heritage Sites, are not sufficiently resilient against hazards. Traditions and folklore are also rapidly lost/eroded when local sites and communities are affected (or displaced) by the impacts of climate change²⁷.

- **The need for enhanced understanding, use and recognition of how cultural heritage can inform policies and guide implementation measures, including the role of traditional and local knowledge.**

This aspect has been underlined by several reports. Experts working on the topic under the Work Plan for Culture 2019-2022 noted that only eleven MS and one AC mention CH in their various national climate-related policies²⁸. The Climate Heritage Network²⁹ encourages the sector to further engage with climate action and promote the potential of arts, culture, and heritage to inform and support climate adaptation and mitigation, particularly in the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC, 1994), the Paris Agreement (2015) and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030). The RCH Partnership will address this challenge as well as the myth that CH is a barrier to climate change adaptation, with the clear objective of contributing to the United

²⁶ DeSilvey, C., Fredheim, H., Fluck, H., Hails, R., Harrison, R., Samuel, R. and Blundell, A. (2021) *When Loss is More: From Managed Decline to Adaptive Release*, The Historic Environment: Policy & Practice, DOI: 10.1080/17567505.2021.1957263

²⁷ McDermott, P. & Nic Craith, M. (2024) *Intangible Cultural Heritage and Climate Change: Sustainability and Adaptability in a time of Crisis*, Anthropological Journal of European Cultures, 1-13, DOI: 10.3167/ajec.2024.330102

²⁸ Cf. footnote 13

²⁹ <https://www.climateheritage.org/>

Nation's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the goals of the Paris Agreement. The current situation and the identified gaps in knowledge and structural deficiencies at EU and MS/AC levels strongly argue in favour of a common vision and targeted research investments that will also benefit other sectors³⁰.

These two challenges call for more coordinated and impact-oriented research to help heritage managers, businesses, institutions and policy makers in many regions who have limited information on potential adaptation options. More research and documentation but also data and tools are, therefore, required to design and adapt CH planning and risk and vulnerability management to the emergence of specific threats progressively recognized as the new challenges for CH³¹, in a perspective that reinforces the dynamic of reciprocal care between society and its CH. The RCH Partnership will be able to provide new long-term research funding, collaboration and networking opportunities which would address the fact that "policy and funding can significantly drive research in certain areas [of CH and climate change], while their absence can impede progress in others"³².

In addition, both challenges can only be addressed by including all relevant CH stakeholders and all communities involved or impacted by CH in decision- and policymaking. The RCH Partnership will include and engage in its governing structure and activities these stakeholders and communities and will work to make them benefit from the platforms that provide data and information on CH and climate change risk, mitigation and adaptation, such as those developed by UNESCO³³, JPI CH³⁴, the European Heritage Hub's Heritage Library³⁵ and Policy Monitor³⁶ and Climate-ADAPT³⁷.

Finally, the RCH Partnership will strive to follow and implement the recommendations published in 2022 following the International Co-Sponsored Meeting on Culture, Heritage and Climate Change³⁸:

- Need to collaborate proactively with Indigenous Peoples and local communities through co-production approaches and to acknowledge the value of traditional research practices as contributing to an understanding of climate-related heritage issues equal to scientific approaches.

³⁰ The "Strengthening cultural heritage resilience for climate change" report underlines the lack of research on the impact of climate change on the indoor conditions and stability of museum collections and written heritage gathered in archives and libraries, the lack of knowledge of the intangible aspects of heritage at risk (p.18), the lack of research on the role of existing and non-new buildings in the low-carbon economy and embodied energy (p.21); see specific section of the report titled *Research and innovation: indispensable drivers* (<https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2766/44688>)

³¹ See point 44 in the Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan (Decision 1/CMA.4), https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cma2022_L21_revised_adv.pdf

³² Jeremy Benn Associates for Historic England. *Climate Change and Heritage - A review of recent, current and planned research*. Forthcoming.

³³ World Heritage Canopy by UNESCO is a living platform of innovative strategies and practices that integrate heritage conservation with sustainable development. It categorizes case studies relating to climate change impacts, climate change adaptation and climate change mitigation (<https://whc.unesco.org/en/canopy/>)

³⁴ <https://www.heritageresearch-hub.eu/joint-programming-initiative-on-cultural-heritage-homepage/joint-programming-initiative-on-cultural-heritage-about/>

³⁵ <https://www.europeanheritagehub.eu/heritage-library/>

³⁶ <https://www.europeanheritagehub.eu/policy-monitor/>

³⁷ <https://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/en>

³⁸ Morel H., Megarry W., Potts A., Hosagrahar J., Roberts D.C., Arıkan Y., Brondizio E., Cassar M., Flato G., Forgeson S., Jigyasu R., Masson-Delmotte V., Oumarou Ibrahim H., Pörtner H. O., Sengupta S., Sherpa P.-D., Veillon R. (2022) *Global Research and Action Agenda on Culture, Heritage and Climate Change*, Charenton-le-Pont & Paris, France: ICOMOS & ICSM CHC, <https://openarchive.icomos.org/id/eprint/2716/>

- Cultural and social sciences' methods and methodologies involving forms of monitoring, observing and interpreting need to be acknowledged as robust evidence within the scientific fields predominantly used in the study of climate change and in deliberative processes surrounding climate action decision-making.
- To better comprehend adaptation and resilience, more work is needed in understanding the cultural, social, spiritual and political dimensions that are central to a community's capacity and ability to cope with the adverse effects of climate change and biodiversity loss.
- An integrated approach for how to best involve and include individuals and communities (including diverse actors such as Indigenous Peoples and local communities) as equal stakeholders³⁹ in climate change risk assessments and climate change response planning is vital for improved resilience.
- More knowledge about observations and monitoring, as well as evaluations of past or existing communities' or societies' maladaptive responses and unintended lock-ins, are needed to understand better how maladaptation has previously played out and the impact it has had on culture and heritage.

Likewise, the RCH Partnership will promote the recommendations of the European Commission's Open Method of Coordination (OMC) Group on "Strengthening Cultural Heritage Resilience for Climate Change"⁴⁰:

- Include CH in all national and EU climate policies and action plans aiming to address mitigation of and adaptation to climate change.
- Call for a permanent European task force on heritage and climate change comprising eminent experts of different relevant disciplines, senior national representatives and representatives of the private sector, with the mandate of providing advice and input for climate protection policies that integrate heritage preservation, a high-quality built environment and biodiversity.
- Appoint a national coordinator for CH and climate change and encourage/establish a joint state management related to CH and climate change.
- Establish a centralised digital information system related to CH and climate change, which will enable the exchange of new knowledge, data, best practices and strategies. Encourage cross-sectoral coordination to implement CH into climate change policies at all levels.
- At national level, establish policies – to be implemented by all relevant stakeholders – aiming to raise awareness; enhance education, research and training; develop assessment reports; and provide CH climate change risk maps.
- Establish a permanent European expert group on CH comprising individuals with various, multidisciplinary backgrounds and invite climate change experts to participate in meetings of the existing EU CH-related expert groups⁴¹.

³⁹ Also known as rightholders - <https://www.ipbes.net/glossary-tag/rightholder>

⁴⁰ Cf. footnote 13

⁴¹ The OMC Group on "Strengthening Cultural Heritage Resilience for Climate Change" was the first structured group of experts nominated by the Member States to cooperate at European level on climate action applied to cultural heritage. Next to the above recommendations the group also identified 83 good practices of adaptation or mitigation to climate change including some examples where lessons can be learned from heritage practice ('heritage based solutions') and can contribute to the creation of a climate-resilient landscape, such as the system of drystone walling which plays a vital role in preventing landslides, or the

The RCH Partnership can build on the current research, policy and practice momentum which is centred around the realisation that CH is fundamental to climate change understandings, responses and actions and there must be sustained research funding and more equitable inclusion of diverse knowledge systems in decision- and policymaking.

2.1.2 Bottlenecks and rationale for Partnership (public interest)

The research at the intersection of CH and climate change is characterised by a series of gaps which would need to be addressed, as well as by a string of opportunities that could be used by this Partnership, to highlight the role of CH as an active agent in tackling important challenges. The afore-mentioned 2022 White Paper “Cultural Heritage and Climate Change: New challenges and perspectives for research”⁴², revealed the following which could serve as points of departure for future research, policy and practice actions:

- Addressing the Climate Emergency: Strengthening the commitment of the cultural heritage sector to address the climate emergency:

The heritage sector is still facing a pressing need of being strengthened and consolidated in all of its forms, beyond only the tangible manifestations through historical monuments. Further research is needed in order to unleash the scaling-up potential of best practice case studies relating to CH adaptation strategies; this would be backed up by integrating environmental data and support for initiatives that would encourage a broader notion of natural and CH intertwined, interrogating the notion of cultural landscapes (including the especially vulnerable coastal areas), taking into account all forms of heritage on a given territory, and adopting a more comprehensive approach going beyond the monument itself. It is also important to nurture a sense of belonging towards heritage as a common good⁴³, as well as a fostered sense of identity towards elements of heritage which might be lost due to the effects of climate change, and with them, a whole array of stories and meanings of people.

- The Impacts of Climate Change: Predicting and assessing the impacts of climate change on, and through cultural heritage:

The momentum of the recent years should be taken further by integrating the qualitative and quantitative methodologies that would contribute, among others, to the documentation, simulation and analysis of past and future climates and to revealing the long-term processes in which climate change plays a key role (such as sea level rise). In this regard, cultural sites, including World Heritage sites, can be considered repositories of valuable information (data which can be tapped into, for

practice of traditional irrigation of grassland whereby grasslands are artificially fertilized by running water with lime and minerals from rivers, streams and springs.

⁴² Cf. footnote 24

⁴³ UNESCO World Conference on Cultural Policies and Sustainable Development – MONDIACULT 2022 (28-30 September 2022, Mexico City), https://www.unesco.org/sites/default/files/medias/fichiers/2022/10/6.MONDIACULT_EN_DRAFT%20FINAL%20DECLARATION_FINAL_1.pdf; see also UNESCO Global Report, 2022, *Re/Shaping Policies for Creativity – Addressing culture as a global public good* (<https://www.unesco.org/reports/reshaping-creativity/2022/en/download-report>), the Cáceres declaration of the Informal meeting of the EU Ministers of Culture, Cáceres, 25 – 26 September 2023 and the report *Culture as a Public Good: Navigating its role in policy debates*, 2024, International Federation of Arts Councils and Culture Agencies, Sydney, Australia (<https://ifacca.org/news/2024/07/18/culture-public-good-navigating-its-role-policy-deb/>)

example, via satellite monitoring⁴⁴). While further research is needed into the qualitative effects of climate change on heritage⁴⁵, especially the intangible elements, the possible positive side effects of climate change should also be looked into, so as to gain a comprehensive understanding of the phenomena and explore ways in which the positive impacts could be rendered useful without exacerbating the climate crisis itself.

- Protecting Cultural Heritage: Building protection and adaptation strategies for cultural heritage:

There are still various technological, institutional, financial, and social barriers that hinder climate adaptation planning and policy, as well as social misconceptions and myths about heritage⁴⁶, despite research that has proven otherwise⁴⁷. Furthermore, the measures taken for this adaptation have been designed, implemented, monitored and evaluated to a lower level than necessary. Behind climate adaptation planning and policy there should be a series of principles that take into consideration sustainability, technological reuse, localisation, transdisciplinarity and continuous monitoring, as well as encouraging knowledge and data exchanges and the engagement of relevant stakeholders.

This also goes through reconciling specific requirements for the protection of natural and CH that do not always answer the same objectives, and can have, in turn, an adverse impact on CH (i.e. the principle of ecological continuity of watercourses in France, the use of phytosanitary products to destroy invasive plants in heritage sites, or the direct and indirect impact of renewable energies on heritage sites). Green conservation is one important component of the answer to this problem. This would also interrogate the capacity of preserving the common heritage without opposing the conservation of one element to the detriment of another.

- Contributing to Climate Adaptation: Assessing the potential of cultural heritage to inform the development of climate adaptation:

CH can inform the development of climate adaptation through the historical and CH-based data of relevance to climate change, which can support a more profound and nuanced understanding of the ways in which climate adaptation research, practice and policy finds its way across society. Furthermore, there are still important gaps when it comes to the information on the causes and

⁴⁴ Della Giovampaola, I. (2023) *Protection and technologies. The Parco archeologico del Colosseo monitoring and maintenance system*, Economia della Cultura, Società editrice il Mulino, issue 3-4, pages 515-524.

⁴⁵ European Climate Risk Assessment EEA Report 01/2024, <https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/european-climate-risk-assessment>; see also the European Commission Communication “Communication on managing climate risks in Europe”, https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_24_1385

⁴⁶ Myths/misconceptions contradicted by evidence, such as “cultural heritage is about preserving everything” (<https://whc.unesco.org/en/climatechange/>); “cultural heritage is about the past” (<https://www.heritageresearch-hub.eu/app/uploads/2022/10/ICSM-CHC-White-Paper-I-Intangible-Cultural-Heritage-Diverse-Knowledge-Systems-and-Climate-Change.pdf>); “cultural heritage is a barrier to climate adaption” (<https://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/en/eu-adaptation-policy/sector-policies/cultural-heritage/>); “cultural heritage research is not practice-led” (<https://www.greenart-project.eu/>)

⁴⁷ [COP28 declaration](#) demonstrates culture is now being integrated into climate policy; cultural heritage research is, indeed, interdisciplinary (see [SLR Climate Change Impacts on Cultural Heritage: Final Report](#), British Council, 2023), with the projects funded by the [European Commission](#) and the [JPI CH](#) also reaffirming the importance of interdisciplinarity; cultural heritage research does, indeed, collaborate internationally, as proven by the JPI CH, the future RCH Partnership and the Climate Heritage Network

effects of climate phenomena and associated hazards. Better understanding will provide information on how to deal with future challenges.

- Cultural Heritage as a Resource: Investigating how cultural heritage can support societal transformations and be a resource for climate mitigation and sustainable futures.

The multi-faceted character of CH makes it simultaneously a primary resource that would engage in negotiating societal transformations, supporting societal cohesion and steering climate change impacts and pathways towards sustainable development, while carrying the lessons and meanings of past successes and failures. CH is often positioned as a brake on innovation and adaptation, through the mistaken belief that authenticity resides in faithful and unvarying reproduction of CH over time; however, this view reflects a failure to understand and appreciate the dynamism, flexibility, and adaptive capacity of all forms of CH⁴⁸.

Beyond climate adaptation, the possibility for CH to contribute to health challenges should also be explored. CH and CCIs, through traditional knowledge, could play a role and serve as a source of inspiration to reduce the environmental impact of many related sectors and industries, contributing to innovative, sustainable and responsible solutions for agriculture, the building sector or the pharmaceutical and cosmetic industries for instance.

One of the sectors beyond CCIs that cultivates a very special relationship with CH is the tourism industry, as well as the associated technology sector. There is a need to better understand the relation between a more resilient CH and sustainable and responsible tourism: to understand how climate change impacts tourism and associated CH service, as well as the direct and indirect impact of tourism on climate change, including the financial implications and innovative mitigation actions (e.g. utilizing virtual and smart tourism applications, that would, among others, allow people to experience heritage sites without physically travelling to them).

2.1.3 How to build on (evaluations of) earlier R&I investments

The latest R&I Framework Programmes (FP) have financed projects on CH and climate change-related risks and CH vulnerabilities. Past and on-going initiatives in various areas of the EU action also contribute to a solid base for the Partnership and call for more transnational co-ordination. Investments of approximately €600m under Horizon 2020 (H2020) include contributions on which the Partnership can be built⁴⁹. Investigations conducted within the framework of ARCHE project Work Package 1 have shown, through the exploration of a database of more than 700 projects related to CH and funded under FP7, H2020, HE or different Partnerships (JPI CH, HERA, CHANSE, NORFACE), that climate change plays (along with the digital transition) an important transversal role in defining EU research policies in the field. Nevertheless, while the digital transition priority is very much present, the climate change priority is still insufficiently addressed, and previous programmes have so far been unsuccessful in transforming CH stakeholders and researchers in strategic partners of the green transition.

⁴⁸ Cf. footnote 24

⁴⁹ See for example these projects: [PERICLES](#) - PrEseRVing and sustainably governing Cultural heritage and Landscapes in European coastal and maritime regions; [HERACLES](#) - Heritage Resilience Against Climate Events on Site, and [STORM](#) - Safeguarding cultural heritage through Technical and Organisational Resources Management as well as research infrastructures: [DARIAH](#) (Digital Research Infrastructure for the Arts and Humanities), [E-RIHS](#) (European Research Infrastructure for Heritage Science) and [CLARIN](#) (Common Language Resources and Technology Infrastructure).

Beyond the scope of CH and climate change research, there has been a remarkable increase – of over 75% - of the number of CH-related initiatives funded in the 2014-2020 period compared to the 2007-2013 one, according to the abovementioned, non-exhaustive investigations conducted in ARCHE. With the establishment of a dedicated destination “Innovative Research on European Cultural Heritage and Cultural and Creative Industries – Building our Future from the Past” under Horizon Europe’s Cluster 2 “Culture, creativity and inclusive society”, the number of CH-R&I projects that are being funded has been clearly and directly impacted. This has further been supported by moving the field from “open” research proposals, meaning research proposals that do not respond to pre-defined research topics (i.e. submitted under calls issued by the ERC and the Marie Curie programme, COST Actions and, to a certain extent, R&I Partnerships), to programmes that fund thematic consortia-led projects (answering precise calls for proposals to be aligned to EU priorities) with little margins for exploring new topics. In addition to the Coordination and Support Action (CSA) ARCHE, paving the way towards the Partnership, at least 11 ongoing Horizon Europe (HE) projects are directly addressing the challenges related to the sustainable restoration and preservation of CH in the face of the climate crisis, and exposure to natural hazards. They represent a total EU investment of circa 50 million EUR and focus on green technologies and materials for CH, the deeper understanding of the effects of climate changes and natural hazards on CH, and the use of advanced technologies for remote monitoring of monuments and artefacts (these projects are presented in the “Driving a green, digital & innovative European cultural heritage” reports⁵⁰, and three of them – MOXY, GreenArt and GoGreen – are referred to as the Green Cluster, due to their focus on green technologies for CH⁵¹). The RCH Partnership could build upon the work of these projects, but also additional projects such as PITCH⁵² by integrating the results of their research, actively engaging and enhancing communication with their stakeholders’ community.

Climate change as a transversal priority refers to the efforts to protect CH against the risks to the cultural assets and, to this purpose, research, develop and disseminate evidence-based and cost-effective strategies and tools, with the overarching objective to improve the resilience of Europe’s CH from the intensifying effects of climate change. The analysis of previously funded projects demonstrates the importance given to historical studies, in order to reveal tendencies and eventual adaptation techniques that could help improve resilience.

Natural heritage appears much more rarely in previous funded CH projects, dealing mainly with issues related to landscape study, evolution, and development, but also maintaining this link between tangible heritage, intangible practices, and their natural environment. Research looking at the interaction between humans and their natural environment is fundamental for understanding how humanity has impacted their surroundings and, in turn, how changes in nature have been shaping human life and society over the millennia – a dialogue which touches on issues of conservation, sustainable land management, traditional knowledge, or natural and cultural benefits⁵³.

⁵⁰ European Commission, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, *Driving a green, digital & innovative European cultural heritage*, Publications Office of the European Union, 2023, <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2777/600577>, and 2024, <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/3ded8b72-59e7-11ef-acbc-01aa75ed71a1/language-en/format-PDF/source-340656921>

⁵¹ <https://www.moxyproject.eu/green-ch-cluster>

⁵² Petroculture’s Intersections with The Cultural Heritage sector in the context of green transitions, <https://pitch-horizon.eu/>

⁵³ Decision adopted by the conference of the parties to the Convention on biological diversity, 15/4. Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-04-en.pdf>

The RCH Partnership includes scope for new research on the cultural-natural relationship and associated risk, adaptation and mitigation in the context of climate change, that builds upon research results coming from transnational initiatives such as SPARC⁵⁴.

Experience and outcomes of previous R&I Partnerships:

There are currently no EU co-funded, co-programmed or institutionalized Partnerships related to CH R&I, nor any Partnerships under Cluster 2 of HE Pillar 2. According to the mapping conducted in ARCHE's WP1 on 11 different kinds of Partnerships in previous programmes, 64 CH-related R&I projects have been funded between 2007 and 2022 by various Partnership mechanisms, such as HERA⁵⁵ and the JPI CH, as a result of joint research transnational calls. This list of Partnerships includes several ERA-NETs and P2P (public-to-Public) Partnerships. More than half of the total of R&I Partnerships funded projects (37) are focusing on tangible heritage assets.

Among these previous Partnership mechanisms, the JPI CH is the main type of Partnership in the field, which has been successful in bringing together MS and ACs to launch joint activities and programmes for CH since 2010 and consolidate the European Research Area (ERA) on CH, which has ultimately led to recognising the necessity for a European Partnership for Resilient Cultural Heritage. The Vision Document⁵⁶ of the JPI CH, published in 2010 as well as the first Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) published by the initiative, back in 2014, already identified several priority areas in this field. They recognize that environmental and anthropogenic effects including climate change will have an impact on CH in the 21st century and research is required to identify and manage the vulnerability of CH to environmental and other changes. The second version of this SRIA⁵⁷, published in 2020, includes a dedicated research priority on "Cultural heritage facing climate and environmental change".

It is one of the first documents to underline the bi-directional relationship between CH and climate change, meaning that if climate and environmental change are having an increasing and lasting impact on cultural and natural heritage, and there is a need to better adapt to the effects, mitigate the causes and find creative ways of living with them, cultural heritage is also a resource for sustainable development and can contribute to climate action through understanding past resilience and adaptation and its role in a post-carbon economy.

The subsequent White Paper by JPI CH and JPI Climate on CH and climate change was designed to complement HE to best address current CH research needs such as responses to climate change⁵⁸. It proves the relevance of further work on the CH and climate change consequences.

Since 2013, the JPI CH has launched eight transnational calls for research, funding 77 transnational projects involving more than 370 different partners in Europe and beyond for a total of 50 million EUR. One of these calls, Heritage Plus, was co-funded by the EC under FP7 and included several

⁵⁴ <https://www.sparc-knowledge.org/>

⁵⁵ ERA-NET [CHANSE](#) (Collaboration of Humanities and Social Sciences in Europe), [HERA](#) (Humanities in the European Research Area) and [NORFACE](#) (New Opportunities for Research Funding Agency Co-operation in Europe), as well as [Copernicus for Earth observation or common European data space for cultural heritage for digital cultural heritage](#).

⁵⁶ https://www.heritageresearch-hub.eu/app/uploads/JPI_only/Documents/Vision-Dokument_25.5.2010.pdf

⁵⁷ <https://www.heritageresearch-hub.eu/app/uploads/2020/12/SRIA-2020-1.pdf>

⁵⁸ Cf. footnote 24

projects focusing on natural risks and geo-hazards consequences on CH⁵⁹. The third call, launched in 2017, focused on Heritage in Changing Environments and funded five transnational projects⁶⁰. Nevertheless, none of these calls had the size and scope of the last transnational call launched jointly, in 2023, with the JPI Climate and the Belmont Forum. This unprecedented call invested more than 15 million EUR from 15 different countries in Europe and beyond, in order to explore how research can contribute to making CH a readily available resource for climate mitigation, adaptation and for sustainable development, through three complementary themes:

- The Impact of Climate Change on Cultural Heritage;
- Cultural Heritage as a Resource for Climate Mitigation and Adaptation;
- Sustainable Solutions for Heritage.

This call has funded 16 research projects which are starting their research activities in 2024. The projects also benefit from a strong international dimension, as they involve research teams from the United States, Turkey, or Thailand⁶¹. They approach topics such as pastoralism⁶² (pastures represent two-thirds of the world's agricultural land⁶³ and involves anywhere from 100 to 500 million people⁶⁴) or the societal effects of rural land use responses to climate change⁶⁵. Direct links will be established between the RCH Partnership and these projects, accelerating the global outreach of the challenges.

In addition, the Partnership has good potential for synergy with other EU initiatives in order to achieve the proposed objective relating to CH research and climate change innovation and capacity building, such as the recently launched EIT KIC for Culture & Creativity⁶⁶. The EIT KIC for Culture & Creativity aims to focus on innovation and therefore it can enable the further utilization of the RCH results in higher TRL innovation⁶⁷.

Results of previous evaluations and assessments:

In 2021, the Annual report on Public-Public Partnerships⁶⁸, published by the ERA-LEARN network⁶⁹, featured the collaboration between the JPI CH and the JPI Climate - initiated in 2019 - as an example on best practice between different Partnership schemes. As described in the report, this collaboration is motivated by the belief that tackling climate change and building resilient and sustainable societies will benefit from greater collaboration between the CH and climate research communities. The 2021 White Paper underpinned the “Heritage for the Future, Science for Heritage”

⁵⁹ See FP7 - HERITAGE PLUS initiative and its three projects: [PROTHEGO](#) - PROTection of European HEritage from Geo-hazards; [HeAT](#) - Heritage and Threat, and [CLIMA](#) - Cultural Landscape risk Identification, Management and Assessment. These were included as case studies by the EC back in 2018 - <https://cordis.europa.eu/article/id/230161-cooperation-key-to-tackling-cultural-heritage-threats>

⁶⁰ <https://www.heritageresearch-hub.eu/call/heritage-in-changing-environments/>

⁶¹ <https://www.heritageresearch-hub.eu/call/climate-cultural-heritage-joint-call/>

⁶² <https://jpi-climate.eu/project/pasture-adaptation/>

⁶³ FAO (2022) *Land use statistics and indicators. Global, regional and country trends – 2000–2020*, FAOSTAT Analytical Brief, no. 48. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc0963en>

⁶⁴ McGahey, D., Davies, J., Hagelberg, N., and Ouedraogo, R. (2014) *Pastoralism and the Green Economy – a natural nexus?* Nairobi: IUCN and UNEP. x + 58p

⁶⁵ <https://jpi-climate.eu/project/just-scapes/>

⁶⁶ <https://eit-culture-creativity.eu/about-us/>

⁶⁷ TRLs (Technology Readiness Levels) describe the different stages of development of a technology, product or service on a scale from 1 to 9 in the EU-funded R&I actions since TRLs were introduced in the 8th EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation Horizon 2020 (2014–2020), see [h2020-wp1617-annex-ga_en.pdf \(europa.eu\)](#)

⁶⁸ https://www.era-learn.eu/documents/annual_report_2021

⁶⁹ <https://www.era-learn.eu/>

symposium⁷⁰ organised under the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union and is one of the significant outcomes of this collaboration, leading to the joint call launched in 2023.

On the same level, the ERA-LEARN 2022 annual report⁷¹ showcases the SD-WISHEES project (Supporting and Developing Widening Strategies to tackle Hydroclimatic Extreme Events: impacts and Sustainable solutions for cultural heritage) as another good example of connecting the scientific communities from the climate, water and CH nexus. This project, uniting several partners from the previous Water JPI (and now Water4all Partnership) and the JPI Climate, benefits from the involvement of the JPI CH in the Advisory Group and is a widening CSA aiming to build a Thematic Annual Programming set of activities around this topic, exploring important avenues that could be developed further by the RCH Partnership, with a view to foster collaboration with other sectors and Partnerships as well.

Beyond the state-of-the-art of the Partnership collaboration assessments, the ex-post evaluation of Horizon 2020⁷² draws important conclusions that can demonstrate further the relevance of the Partnership approach for the RCH goals. It demonstrates how the H2020 programme has contributed to highlight areas that were relevant from a European perspective but in some cases less of a priority at national level, and which required funding and research development, such as CH. In this ex-post evaluation, one case study (CS12) has been analysing the relevance, effectiveness and EU added value of CH actions under Societal H2020 Societal Challenge 6 (Europe in a changing world - Inclusive, innovative and reflective societies), and the main key findings show several important aspects regarding the main added value of the transnational European approach to the question:

- Europe appears as a reference place for the identification of heritage management and governance;
- The European approach facilitates inter-sectoral cooperation in the definition, evaluation and safeguarding of tangible and intangible CH, as well as the strategical articulation of CH communities and related social practices.

Moreover, the case study observes a very high level of industry participation, with strong commitment to the development and application of Future and Emerging Technologies (FET)⁷³. It underlines that CH demonstrated the capacity to play a significant role in the development of novel applications and technologies for the benefit of society and that *“there is clear evidence that several SC6 actions have produced important technology-related results and offered innovative solutions, social innovations included. (...) Analysis of EC data revealed that a few SC6 projects have resulted in filed patents, commercialized applications and services. Notably, actions from the culture and cultural heritage sector proposed many market-ready products and services.”*

These different assessments demonstrate the strong added value of the transnational approach through the Partnership instrument to the RCH challenges, which facilitates disciplinary, sectoral and geographical convergences, but also fosters innovation and economic returns.

⁷⁰ <https://www.heritageresearch-hub.eu/heritage-for-the-future-science-for-heritage/>

⁷¹ <https://www.era-learn.eu/news-events/news/annual-report-on-public-public-Partnerships-2022-published>

⁷² https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_24_461

⁷³ <https://apre.it/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/evaluation-study-of-the-european-framework-programmes-KI0323179ENN.pdf>

2.2 Common vision, objectives and expected impacts

2.2.1 Vision and ambition

The Vision and Mission for the RCH Partnership are the result of a series of steps undertaken within the ARCHE project, that build upon the results/recommendations of a European heritage R&I landscape assessment, complemented by a foresight analysis. The foresight analysis identified four priority megatrends which have been shaping heritage practice and policy and will continue to do so over the coming decades (namely geopolitics and global economics, the climate crisis, changing societies and the digital transformation) and three cross-cutting themes (changing and competing values, sustainability and wellbeing) that are deeply interconnected with the megatrends and, since they represent emerging value systems and responses to change, they can majorly impact heritage⁷⁴.

At the same time, the foresight study uncovered several avenues through which heritage can help build resilience. These go as follows:

- Addressing inequalities via human rights-based approaches, acknowledging and recognising different knowledge systems, as well as by empowering communities and flattening hierarchies;
- Reducing societal tensions via the acknowledgement of dissonance and the embrace of change, a strengthened social cohesion through good governance, and by facilitating platforms for connecting and listening;
- Centring sustainability and wellbeing, via the enhancement of a holistic thinking regarding culture and nature, the contributions of heritage to sustainability and the pursuit of wellbeing as a goal of heritage;
- Re-imagining learning, via co-creativity and lifelong learning and the development of skills, competencies and capabilities;
- Evidencing the societal and environmental benefits of heritage, so that heritage is recognised as an integral part of health and societal wellbeing;
- Using anticipation, via the development of futures thinking and engaging with the tools and techniques of foresight so as to face major global challenges.

This analysis stage was followed by a series of virtual workshops with stakeholders (attended by stakeholders representing a broad range of environments - academia to public administration, international networks, civil society and practice) as well as a survey that circulated via social media. The virtual consultations were particularly useful in narrowing down what would be the key elements. They considered words such as “societal challenges” or “knowledge exchange” should be used. The process revealed the following **Vision and Mission** of the European Partnership for Resilient Cultural Heritage:

VISION

By 2040, the Partnership will have created new opportunities for Cultural Heritage research collaboration which will have resulted in the strengthened ability to respond to climate change challenges and opportunities.

⁷⁴ Wollentz, G., Heritage, A., Morel, A., Forgesson, S., Iwasaki, A., Cadena-Irizar, A., Groentjes, M., El Morabet, L., Caussé, A., Cazenave, E., Găman, M. (2023) *Future Trends on Cultural Heritage Research & Innovation* ARCHE Consortium., https://www.heritageresearch-hub.eu/app/uploads/2024/04/ARCHE_D2.1_Report-on-Future-Trends-on-Cultural-Heritage-RI.pdf

MISSION

The Partnership will co-create multidisciplinary joint research funding actions, knowledge exchange and capacity building activities in order to strengthen the resilience of cultural heritage in Europe during the twin digital and green transition. Through a unique Partnership of funding agencies, ministries, researchers, practitioners and citizens, common opportunities and challenges will be addressed, societal resilience will be strengthened, and research impact will be scaled up.

2.2.2 Objectives and intervention logic

The objectives for the RCH Partnership have been established in such a way that they are anchored in broader EC policy objectives and priorities, as well as the SDGs - considering the global character of the climate crisis. Some of the most relevant strategic directions that laid the foundations for the hereafter-mentioned objectives are the following:

- The need for a stronger cooperation among EU Member States, which can later serve as basis for heritage policies and governance⁷⁵.
- The promotion of intercultural dialogue and of cultural diversity, in which heritage can play a significant role⁷⁶.
- The need to protect and promote CH as a shared resource⁷⁷ and safeguard it against both natural and human-made disasters⁷⁸, especially considering that their consequences are amplified by the negative effects of climate change⁷⁹.
- The significant role arts and creative practices, CCIs and CH can play in the fight against climate change⁸⁰ and in fostering sustainable actions and environments⁸¹, including in urban contexts⁸².

Furthermore, the objectives of the Partnership align with the key strategic orientations for R&I under the HE Strategic Plan 2025-2027, namely the green and digital transitions and a more resilient, competitive, inclusive and democratic Europe⁸³. This also includes addressing certain specific cross-

⁷⁵ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: *Towards an integrated approach to cultural heritage for Europe* (2014), <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM:2014:477:FIN>; European Commission, Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture, *European framework for action on cultural heritage*, Publications Office, 2019, <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2766/949707>

⁷⁶ <https://www.coe.int/en/web/interculturalcities/cultural-heritage-and-diversity>

⁷⁷ A New European Agenda for Culture (2018), <https://culture.ec.europa.eu/document/a-new-european-agenda-for-culture-swd2018-267-final>

⁷⁸ EU Work Plan for Culture 2023 – 2026, [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32022G1207\(01\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32022G1207(01))

⁷⁹ https://civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/what/civil-protection/eu-civil-protection-mechanism_en

⁸⁰ “The impact of climate change on cultural heritage”, [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2024/762282/EPRS_BRI\(2024\)762282_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2024/762282/EPRS_BRI(2024)762282_EN.pdf)

⁸¹ European Commission, Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture, *European framework for action on cultural heritage*, Publications Office, 2019, <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2766/949707>

⁸² Action 9 “Observatory on Culture/Cultural Heritage and climate change in the urban framework” of the Urban Agenda for the EU Partnership “Cultural and Cultural Heritage” Action Plan: https://www.fondazione scuolapatrimonio.it/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Action-9_Booklet.pdf

⁸³ European Commission, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, *Horizon Europe strategic plan 2025-2027*, Publications Office of the European Union, 2024, <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2777/092911>

cutting issues, such as gender balance⁸⁴, the added value of SSH in R&I in a way that they complement STEM disciplines, the dissemination and exploitation of research results⁸⁵, sharing the research results through the Open Science practices or fostering synergies.

Last but not least, the Partnership's objectives are also aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the forthcoming Pact for the future, especially considering the fact that the EU has committed itself to implementing them through all of its policies and is also actively contributing towards their achievement through the official development assistance (ODA) globally⁸⁶. The Goals that can be directly targeted without ruling out the possibility of integrating CH into the others, as it was the case in the 2020 JPI CH SRIA⁸⁷, are the following: SDG 3 Good Health and Well-being, SDG 4 Quality Education, SDG 5 Gender Equality, SDG 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth, SDG 9 Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure, SDG 10 Reduced Inequalities, SDG 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities, SDG 12 Responsible Consumption and Production, SDG 13 Climate Action, SDG 16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions and SDG 17 Partnerships for the Goals.

Taking all of the above priorities into consideration, the RCH Partnership will:

- **Build** capacity by fostering new application-oriented interdisciplinary (SSH and STEM) research collaborations between the CH and climate research communities.
- **Increase** collaboration across countries and regions and to move away from a focus on individual geopolitical regions to overcome the fragmentation of the wide landscape of stakeholders, competences, resources, policies, programmes and initiatives.
- **Provide** resources and incentives to conduct holistic research and nurture collaborative actions to drive the transformation towards more sustainable development, just futures and a healthier way of life and overall well-being.
- **Develop** a coherent methodology for obtaining reliable information, quantitative and qualitative data about CH and climate change and about the costs and benefits of adaptation measures, particularly those emphasizing processes and lifecycles relating to circular economy.
- **Improve** the long-term monitoring of CH, through the use of innovative technologies and risk management models to document, inventory and predict the negative and positive impacts of climate change on and through CH.
- **Create and disseminate** new knowledge, techniques, skills, strategies and materials for sustainable preservation, conservation, and management of climate-related risks in the CH field as well as preventing from other man-made related risks.
- **Promote** innovations in industries and to provide scaled-up solutions and applications for climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- **Integrate** CH into mainstream climate change and environmental regulations, policies and adaptation strategies, by operationalizing heritage-based solutions and knowledge of the past,

⁸⁴ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, *A Union of Equality: Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025* <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52020DC0152>; European Commission, Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture, Menzel, A., *Towards gender equality in the cultural and creative sectors – Report of the OMC (open method of coordination) working group of Member States' experts*, Menzel, A.(editor), Publications Office, 2021, <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2766/122208>

⁸⁵ <https://www.heritageresearch-hub.eu/app/uploads/2020/12/Heritage-Research-Matters.pdf>

⁸⁶ https://international-Partnerships.ec.europa.eu/policies/sustainable-development-goals_en

⁸⁷ <https://www.heritageresearch-hub.eu/strategic-research-and-innovation-agenda-2020-sria/>

thus contributing to the EU Green Deal, European Framework for Action on Cultural Heritage and the UN SDGs.

- **Develop** policy recommendations to enhance social cohesion and the European sense of belonging through CH in communities and societies impacted by climate change.

The Partnership foresees the following **expected outcomes** from the implementation of these objectives:

- Existing fragmentation in the European Research Area (ERA) is overcome through a holistic research and innovation multi-annual programme of activities related to CH, climate neutrality and green transition (European Partnership for Resilient Cultural Heritage) and improved coordination and networking of funding agencies, ministries, researchers, practitioners and citizens, resulting in sufficient, well-distributed resources, expertise, and competences of various types. The collaboration will be reinforced through a long-term SRIA, strengthening Europe's leadership in the field.
- Investments in research and innovation at the intersection of CH and climate sciences are upscaled and better coordinated, reinforcing exchange of knowledge, integrated approaches, cross-disciplinary and cross-sectorial expertise, and the emergence of new techniques, skills, curricula and training opportunities for both scientific and professional communities. Through the sharing of findings, qualitative and quantitative data, tools and methodologies across sectors, the Partnership will benefit society as a whole, contributing to the relevant UN SDGs and the targets of the Paris Agreement.
- Engagement and trust between a wide range of stakeholders from the climate change and CH communities in the EU, Associated Countries (AC) and worldwide will be consolidated, beyond academia, including professionals, civil society and the general public. Social cohesion and resilience will be fostered through co-creative, inclusive and intergenerational approaches to research, contributing, in the end, to more effective climate change adaptation and mitigation measures.
- Multilevel uptake of research-based results and recommendations by policy and decision-makers is facilitated in different local, regional, national and international sectors of governance, including local communities, thus improving transnational mobility and capacity. The costs and benefits of various adaptation measures will be better addressed and monitored on a global scale, by drawing lessons from the past and living areas of different populations.
- The connection between research funders, policymakers, practitioners, research communities from various scientific disciplines – covered by STEM (natural and formal sciences, technology, engineering, and mathematics) and SSH (social sciences and humanities) – and the industry and the market is accelerated, thus fostering the emergence of innovative and tradition-based solutions, prototypes, applications, materials and technologies, and facilitating their uptake to address CH climate change risk, adaptation and mitigation.

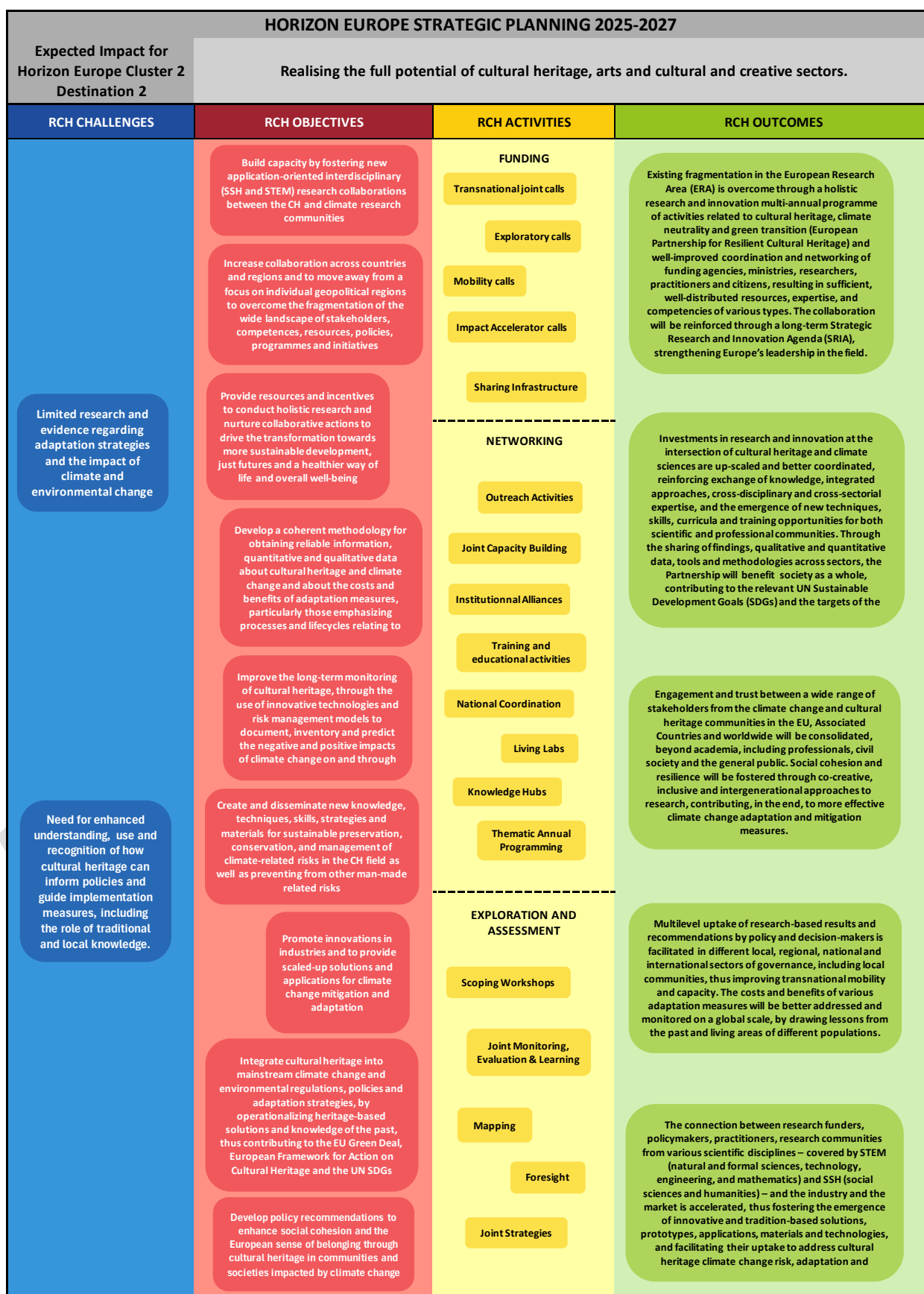


Figure 1_RCH Partnership Intervention Logic

2.2.3 Links and/or collaboration opportunities (at EU level).

The Partnership should address climate change issues that impact CH on both a national and global scale. In line with the “Coherence and Synergies of candidate European Partnerships under Horizon Europe” report, RCH will seek to underline the collaboration opportunities between Cluster 2 and the other Clusters, in particular Cluster 4 (Digital, Industry & Space) – due to the role satellite technology can help with the remote monitoring of historical sites through systems such as Copernicus, for instances, and Cluster 5 (Climate, Energy & Mobility) – since the energy efficiency of historical and cultural buildings (such as museums) is an important aspect to take into consideration for addressing the climate crisis⁸⁸. Moreover, the RCH Partnership will further develop synergies with other DGs, programmes and funds of the EU, starting with the Creative Europe Programme, DG REGIO (the Just Transition Fund, ERDF), DG AGRI (European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development), the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF), or the European Investment Fund and Bank (EIF and EIB). The RCH will explore synergies with the New European Bauhaus Facility (NEB), for example on aspects related to circular and regenerative approaches to the built environment⁸⁹, as well as with other Partnerships, for example on developing the research base, disseminating research results or designing policy⁹⁰. Partnerships that RCH would reach out to include, without being limited to:

- Blue Economy⁹¹,
- Driving Urban Transition⁹² (e.g., from the perspective of historical city centres as drivers for sustainable development⁹³),
- Biodiversa+⁹⁴ (exploring links on natural heritage),
- Water4All⁹⁵ (on issues related to, for instance, flood-related risks or historical water streams)
- Built4People⁹⁶.

The RCH partnership will also maintain existing synergies with existing P2P partnerships such as HERA⁹⁷, CHANSE⁹⁸, or the JPI Climate⁹⁹.

⁸⁸ Directive (EU) 2023/1791 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 September 2023 on energy efficiency and amending Regulation (EU) 2023/955 - <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2023/1791/oj>; 2021/C 501 I/03. Council conclusions on culture, high-quality architecture and built environment as key elements of the New European Bauhaus initiative. - [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52021XG1213\(03\); NEB Investment Guidelines - European Union \(europa.eu\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52021XG1213(03); NEB Investment Guidelines - European Union (europa.eu)

⁸⁹ https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/get-inspired/selection-your-contributions/commission-launches-consultations-2025-27-priorities-new-european-bauhaus-facility-2024-06-20_en

⁹⁰ Directorate-Generale for Research and Innovation (2020) *Coherence and Synergies of candidate European Partnerships under Horizon Europe*, https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2020-10/ec_rtd_coherence-synergies-of-ep-under-he.pdf

⁹¹ <https://bluepartnership.eu/>

⁹² <https://dutpartnership.eu/>

⁹³ Jones, S., Bonacchi, C., Robson, E., Broccoli, E., Hiscock, A., Biondi, A., Nucciotti, M., Guttormsen, T.S., Fouseki, K., Díaz-Andreu, M. (2024) *Assessing the dynamic social values of the ‘deep city’: An integrated methodology combining online and offline approaches*, *Progress in Planning*, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.progress.2024.100852>

⁹⁴ <https://www.biodiversa.eu/>

⁹⁵ <https://www.water4all-partnership.eu/>

⁹⁶ <https://built4people.eu/>

⁹⁷ <https://heranet.info/>

⁹⁸ <https://chance.org/>

⁹⁹ <https://jpi-climate.eu/>

In addition, there may be common objectives that cross over with missions such as the Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change¹⁰⁰ and with the Mission Restore Our Ocean and Waters¹⁰¹, as coastal and underwater CH sites are at high risk of facing negative impacts due to climate change.

Moreover, the Partnership will be strongly linked to the European Institute of Innovation and Technology's Knowledge and Innovation Community - EIT Culture & Creativity, which has gradually started its activities in 2023. There is a common aim to scale up and widen a culture and creativity-driven European innovation ecosystem¹⁰² to as many MS/ACs as possible. This link should contribute to associate the CCIs in achieving the goals of the Partnership and building a competitive CH sector, which would further boost the existing capacity and achievements that include, among others, the fact that CCIs (including CH) represent approximately 3.95% of EU value added and employ around 8 million people, including around 1.2 million firms - out of which 99.9% are small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)¹⁰³.

The ecosystem will be enriched in the future by the European Collaborative Cloud for Cultural Heritage (ECCCH) which is being developed and implemented under HE Cluster 2 calls from 2023 onwards. The ECCCH will be a unique digital collaboration and co-creation platform for European CH professionals, expected to contribute decisively to make Europe a world leader in deploying digital technologies in CH preservation and management. Since ECCCH focus on deployment, RCH supports enhancing ECCCH particularly towards future technologies for resilient CH.

An additional link will be established with the DIGITAL Europe Programme that aims *inter alia* to accelerate the digitisation and digital preservation of CH assets, both tangible and intangible, and their use in education, sustainable tourism, community empowerment, facilitating documentation and knowledge sharing, as well as in the CCSIs¹⁰⁴. While the Data Spaces for Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and the Green Deal¹⁰⁵ provide a data infrastructure, RCH enables an adequate enhancing particularly towards future technologies for resilient CH.

Finally, the proposed Partnership will facilitate interactions and knowledge transfer with other economic sectors such as cultural and creative sectors and industries (CCIs), the digital technology sector, agricultural and forestry policy, blue economy sectors, sustainable tourism, circular and social economies, infrastructures and construction, as well as society changes and transitions; urbanization, spatial planning, and regional growth, sustainable tourism development¹⁰⁶.

¹⁰⁰ https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe/eu-missions-horizon-europe/adaptation-climate-change_en

¹⁰¹ https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe/eu-missions-horizon-europe/restore-our-ocean-and-waters_en

¹⁰² https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/sectors/cultural-and-creative-industries_en

¹⁰³ Annual Single Market Report 2021 Accompanying the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions Updating the 2020 New Industrial Strategy: Building a stronger Single Market for Europe's recovery, https://commission.europa.eu/system/files/2021-05/swd-annual-single-market-report-2021_en.pdf

¹⁰⁴ see Digital Decade objectives in https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/europe-fit-digital-age/europes-digital-decade-digital-targets-2030_en

¹⁰⁵ <https://www.ds4scc.eu/>

¹⁰⁶ Potts, A. (Lead Author). 2021. *European Cultural Heritage Green Paper*. Europa Nostra, The Hague & Brussels. <https://issuu.com/europanostra/docs/20210322-european-cultural-heritage-green-paper-fu>

2.2.4 Necessary R&I investments

It is expected from a majority of MS and ACs to contribute financially and non-financially to the Partnership in two ways:

- through external calls for proposals and equivalent funding instruments described in the section 3.1.1 below, in the thematic and cross-thematic R&I domains defined jointly in the future SRIA (using Financial Support to Third Parties);
- through additional activities described in sections 3.1.2 and 3.1.3, which are distinct from but will complement the financial support to third parties/external calls through funding instruments.

To this end, partners will mobilise financial and/or non-financial assets, the latter being referred to as “contributions to additional activities”. Contributions to additional activities were formerly known as “in-kind contributions” in the context of co-funded European Partnerships. These are material resources made available to a Partnership which can be used in the context of external calls (e.g. access to research infrastructure) or of other activities (e.g. training or coordination activities). Partners will also provide administrative support to the Partnership, as well as supporting coordination policies and the societal uptake of results, stakeholder engagement, and dissemination of research results where relevant

One benchmark for assessing the expected overall necessary R&I investments of the RCH Partnership comes from operational data of the JPI CH, which has already been presented as one of the previous Partnership-type successful examples of promoting cooperation of MS and ACs in the field. During the last H2020 Programming Period and beyond (2013 – 2024), JPI CH pooled resources from 18 MS and ACs to organize calls for a total value of 47,2 million EUR. This amount corresponds to 8% of the circa 600 million EUR allocated to CH R&I through H2020 for almost the same period.

The ambition of the Partnership is first to progressively involve all EU MS and ACs with a more than realistic target of about 80% of EU MS and at least 50% of AC. In 2023, the overview of Strategic Programme Committee positions following the Commission services’ assessments about European Partnerships under the 2nd HE Strategic Plan showed that more than 50% of MS are already in favour of the co-funded Partnership approach to the RCH Partnership – this translates by the fact that such a target should be met from the start of the Partnership. In addition, 22 MS and AC are already collaborating through the JPI CH and/or ARCHE to prepare the ground for the Partnership.

Looking at the HE calls for proposals opened in 2021, 2022 and 2023, the resources allocated to Cluster 2 Destination 2 relating to CH were well below demand, with low success rates of 8% in 2021, 8% in 2022 and 11% in 2023. Compared to the sum of the two other Destinations in the same Cluster, CH attracted at least the same number of proposals throughout the programming period – 180 against 199 for both Destinations 1&3 in 2021, 335 against 410 in 2022 and 198 against 200 in 2023. The results of the 2022 call on “Effects of climate change and natural hazards on CH and remediation” with 50 proposals and only three funded projects (6%) demonstrate the urgent need to increase the level of investments in this area to address the huge demand. This is also coupled with the fact that, since the very concept of heritage has been expanding, so have the specialisations that can fall under its umbrella. The 78 million EUR invested in 2023 for the 22 successful proposals under the Destination 2 barely covers the estimated 700 million EUR that would be needed to fund the 198 proposals received.

The available resources for the RCH Partnership will be increased as a result of more funding organisations and institution participations compared to any previous partnership-type

collaborations, but also because its future SRIA is expected to have a strong aligning effect on national agendas. Factors that will push in this direction are the co-creation process used for developing the SRIA - which will give a larger number of national priorities to be included, as well as the requirements of the new ERA on directionality and increased effort of co-programming along the EU main policy directions, which have a strong relation with CH R&I. The EC top-up funding under the chosen co-funding scheme will also play a considerable leverage effect for significantly increasing the national contributions.

Under these conditions, it would be reasonable to expect that the RCH Partnership can pool resources for joint funding in the next 7 to 10 years that are close and even exceed the triple of national investments in the JPI CH during the 2013-2024 period, reaching circa 150 million EUR. In addition to this, around 50 million EUR-equivalent in additional activities (see Section 3.1) would be necessary to complement the transnational funding activities and ensure greater impact. This level of participation is even more justified by the actual resources committed through the latest Call on Climate and Cultural Heritage (CCH call) launched by the JPI CH, reaching more than 15 million EUR.

Moreover, it is expected that the EC will contribute through the co-funding mode to a maximum of 100 million EUR in this Partnership, which would represent, with the national financial investments and additional activities, an envelope of 250 to 300 million EUR to implement the Partnership's objectives.

The monitoring of these investment targets will be done in accordance with the monitoring and evaluation activities already implemented for more than 10 years in the JPI CH and will also follow the EC guidelines. This monitoring will allow, during the course of the Partnership, to adjust, if necessary, to the changing needs and evolving landscape, through regular updates of the SRIA and possible amendments to the RCH GA.

2.2.5 Transformational changes: qualitative national and sectorial impacts.

Based on the preliminary impact objectives identified for the RCH Partnership in 2023 and submitted for structured consultation by the EC to the MS and AC, and in line with the Pathways of Impact principle, the RCH Partnership unfolds a solid intervention logic that includes the development of instruments for transformative research and innovations that will boost the heritage sector's ability to experiment with, implement and upscale novel solutions. Further unravelling the transformations that are needed to achieve this, a distinction is made between shorter- and longer-term impacts.

Short-term impact (2030)

Complex challenges are addressed coherently through shared actions:

As observed by ERA-LEARN, what distinguishes European Partnerships is their ability to deal with complex, multifaceted societal challenges, that *"require[s] more than the development of a single (technological) solution, they must be built on holistic/systemic, inter- and transdisciplinary programmes to support transformational change"*¹⁰⁷. The Partnership will provide coordination and funding to build the evidence base for the climate change risk, adaptation and mitigation for CH. Key to achieving this will be its SRIA, co-designed with the broad heritage R&I community and committed to by all partners. Building on a three-year CSA that culminates in a SRIA (see Annex 1 hereafter), RCH is particularly well-positioned to identify and address the complex challenge of environmental

¹⁰⁷ <https://www.era-learn.eu/support-for-Partnerships/additional-activities/strategic-research-and-innovation-agendas>

and societal resilience. RCH's portfolio of activities will contribute to *“better structuring the CH R&I system in Europe and co-ordinate common actions and strategies by all relevant players and decision-makers from various levels and areas of responsibility.”*¹⁰⁸

National capacities are enhanced through alignment with RCH programme:

At the European level, earlier heritage-related H2020 and HE R&I projects have successfully promoted transdisciplinary approaches, increased international research collaboration, and coordination of priorities and funding. This offers a strong basis that the Partnership can further develop, while also enhancing national alignment and strategies. The substantial and long-term national commitment to RCH and the SRIA implementation process can promote further national coordination and prioritisation, particularly through the foreseen joint activities such as Thematic Annual Programming (TAP) (see 3.1.2), learning from experiences, best practices and research approaches in other regions dealing with the same climate challenge, RCH will also directly contribute to *“building national and regional capacity to encourage the use of research-driven and innovative long-standing applications for sustainable CH assets”*¹⁰⁹.

Integral productive interactions with stakeholders (including CCI) are the norm:

Through productive interactions, the societal impact of research can be greatly enhanced. The RCH Partnership will promote applicable research results, by furthering demand-driven research that involves end-users from the start (formulating research needs, not just passively receiving results). Meaningful co-creation requires long-term, sustainable involvement of stakeholders beyond the academic realm. One of the routes to explore in this respect is how to value the contributions and interests of the various participants to the research. The RCH Partnership will consider if European top-up can be employed to promote impact and fund stakeholder involvement throughout a project's lifetime, from co-designing the research (needs, questions, approach), to conducting the research (e.g. in communities of practice or in living labs) and interactively formulating results. Stakeholders may be practitioners, policymakers, citizen groups or (small) businesses. In particular, CCI are relevant here, as they are both part of and benefitting from CH practice. Their involvement in interactive and iterative research is instrumental for developing comprehensive value chains, as they have strong IP portfolios in technologies related to climate-change adaptation, carbon capture and storage, and waste treatment¹¹⁰.

Cross-sectorial heritage outlooks are broadening (climate) policy horizons:

RCH considers heritage as a resource that should be mainstreamed into climate change policies and regulations. In similar, CH is cross-cutting other policy areas as well, and its potential for innovation in a variety of key sectors (e.g. sustainable economy, green transition, health and well-being, CCI, new digital services) is increasingly acknowledged. For heritage and culture to be able to support diverse ends and contribute to more holistic policy development, a fundamental shift is required in how heritage expresses its goals and potential, and articulates its outcomes (ARCHE deliverable D2.1,

¹⁰⁸ European Commission, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation (2023), *Co-funded and co-programmed European Partnerships under the second Horizon Europe Strategic Plan: Draft concept papers for proposed candidate partnerships*, https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2023-07/ec_rtd_candidate-list-european-partnerships.pdf

¹⁰⁹ idem

¹¹⁰ European Commission, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, *Science, research and innovation performance of the EU, 2020 – 11 recommendations for a fair, green and digital Europe*, Publications Office, 2020, <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2777/520136>

Report on Future Trends on Cultural Heritage R&I¹¹¹). This will demand broader cross-sectoral research that integrates heritage policy with economy, health and law, and the social domain among other disciplines (ARCHE D2.1). Also, to encourage cross-sectoriality, the more detailed presentation of the multiple expressions of CH and its holistic character is to be a focal point for a future Partnership in the field (ARCHE D1.3 Lessons learned and recommendations from ERA-NET Co-funding schemes). The holistic character of CH (tangible, intangible, digital, as well as the connection natural-cultural) could be better employed and benefit of more targeted dissemination, in order for different research fields and sectors to get better acquainted with it. This way, RCH will be *“making a stronger and measurable contribution of tangible and intangible CH as well as natural heritage, to EU growth and social cohesion”*.

Long-term impact (2040)

Knowledge culture and mutual understanding are strengthened:

In line with the Impact Pathways method, on which the JPI CH's impact framework (2023) is built, research impact *“can contribute to or help individuals/organisations change or benefit mindset, opinions, awareness, understanding, and possibly society, policy or economy”*. The RCH Partnership develops the frame for individual research projects and has the potential to impact both individual mindsets and the knowledge culture at the societal level. Particularly in times of growing distrust in both science and in the magnitude of the climate challenge (e.g. deniers), by its essence heritage research has the potential to bridge intergenerational gaps and can promote connections and understanding through for instance cocreation and storytelling. Promoting these skills and research approaches is directly in line with the ARCHE observations under WP1 that, while participatory approaches to CH management and governance are increasingly acknowledged in EU policy documents, yet few research projects actually focus on it.

A circular economy and just society are promoted:

In past European R&I FPs, CH research has been funded in many clusters, indicating its contribution to a wide range of EU goals like attractive territories, innovative SME's, the green and digital transition and creating more resilient, inclusive, democratic European society. Yet, its contribution to, for instance, health and to (the cultural change that is needed for) the green transition is rarely mentioned: CH is approached as a beneficiary rather than an active player/strategic partner that can boost various transitions - including the digital and green one. Heritage is a resource for territorial development, particularly for peripheral/fragile areas (ESPON studies¹¹²). RCH sees a great opportunity in promoting the social and the territorial dimension of R&I projects, thereby liaising with the cohesion policy. As long-term impact (by 2040), *“the Partnership will seek to make CH play an active role in the transition to more sustainable socio-economic and governance models in EU MS and AC”*.

2.2.6 Transition / phasing out strategy

Previous collaboration through the JPI CH is based on a sustainable structure and self-sufficient governance model. At the end of 2018, a new governance structure was adopted by the JPI CH Governing Board, supported by a Financial Annex, framing the financial and in-kind contributions of the members. This structure, still in place, has been renewed for a new 3-year mandate (Nov. 2024

¹¹¹ Cf. footnote 74

¹¹² <https://www.espon.eu/cultural-heritage>

to Nov. 2027), to support the transition to the new Partnership and prepare the implementation of its main activities. This new mandate will also contribute to fill the gap between the end of the ARCHE project (September 2025), and the effective start of the Partnership’s activities, in 2026 (see Fig 2 below).

The European “glue money” has been decisive for the structure of the JPI CH, as it will be for the future RCH Partnership. It contributed especially to the implementation of the first calls for proposals, the SRIA, the Action Programme, through various CSAs (JHEP, 2011-2015 and JHEP2, 2016-2019) and one ERA-NET (Heritage Plus, 2014-2018). But, as it was underlined during the Workshop on European Partnerships phasing-out strategies, organised in Brussels, on 21 September 2023, “EU contribution is important glue money, nevertheless, scarcity of resources might require more agility of the network”¹¹³, calling for Partnership to consider alternative funding in case EU funding would be discontinued. In other words, EU funds are essential, but they can present a risk of dependency.

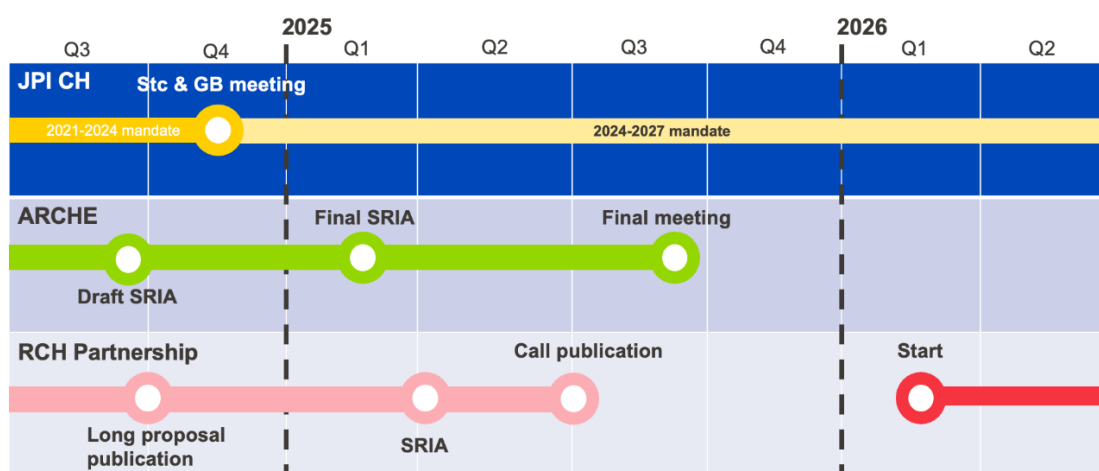


Figure 2. Comparative timeline JPI CH / ARCHE / RCH Partnership

Thus, JPis have proven to be efficient initiatives to secure long-term commitments and mitigate discontinuity of resources. JPis are tried and tested flexible instrument, with more than 13 years of existence, that are used to the lifecycle approach of Partnerships and can be continued in the future without adding too many layers to the existing structure. In addition, the ARCHE CSA has envisaged different scenarios, one of which would be to continue the present collaboration between MS/ACs in the event of no Partnership, by creating a Research Alliance.

Considering the necessity at some point of the RCH Partnership to gradually reduce dependency on the EU funding, one suggested strategy is to keep the JPI CH at a lower level of activity (or sleeping mode) during the RCH Partnership full duration, to be able to revive the network after the Partnership ends, assimilating the outcomes of ARCHE and of the Partnership in the renewed structure. This is more akin to a continuity strategy than a phasing-out strategy. Several arguments call for this solution, starting with the thematic scope of the JPI CH research priorities identified in the 2020 SRIA, which is broader than the thematic scope on the RCH Partnership, and should continue to be addressed during the duration of the Partnership. A supplementary argument lies in

¹¹³ European Commission, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation (2023), *Minutes of the workshop on European Partnerships phasing-out strategies – 21 September 2023*, <https://www.era-learn.eu/news-events/events/workshop-on-european-partnerships-phasing-out-strategies/workshop-on-phasing-out-strategies-minutes.pdf>

the longer-term perspective of JPis, which are not time-bound instruments, compared to Partnerships, with a more medium-term scope (7 to 10 years). Thus, continuing the JPI CH can be very complementary, for the valorisation of the Partnership's results within a wider perspective and for conducting foresight analysis of the R&I ecosystem, playing a proactive role in identifying the future tendencies and trends for research.

2.3 Necessity for a European Partnership

Addressing the objectives of Horizon Europe and common political priorities of the EU MS & AC:

The candidate Partnership is expected to increase coordination in the European Research Area (ERA) by developing a framework for a holistic and strategic approach to R&I in the field of CH and climate change responses on a scale that no MS/AC or the EC could achieve alone – especially considering the state of current efforts¹¹⁴. Researchers and MS/AC experts strongly call on the EU and its MS and HE ACs to propose new actions at European level, including R&I area to foster the role of the CH sector in mitigation and adaptation vis-à-vis climate change and its impacts, in line with the Paris Agreement¹¹⁵. CH research is fundamental towards enabling effective policies and projects which hold the potential of positive spillover effects to other sectors by fostering inter-, multi- and trans-disciplinary R&I.

Moreover, the Partnership holds the potential of acting as a forum for mediating and addressing challenging topics, such as the safeguarding and mitigation of the direct and indirect damages caused by climate change natural and human-made disasters, conflicts and civil unrest¹¹⁶, and it will also provide the basis for enabling the science/policy/practice and society interface by furthering dialogue amongst different stakeholders in the CH sector and beyond.

As mentioned previously in the objectives in Section 2.2.2, the RCH Partnership will follow the key orientations and impact objectives of the HE Strategic Plan 2025-2027, and beyond. To address the three key political orientations – green transition, digital transition and a more resilient, competitive, inclusive, and democratic Europe – the Partnership will consider CH as one of the critical resources to implement the Green Deal¹¹⁷ objectives, i.e. by promoting less polluting conservation practices, generating quality and sustainable jobs¹¹⁸ in the area, and demonstrate further, such as the New European Bauhaus is doing, that CH can play a crucial role in implementing the green transition. This will be intertwined with the digital transition, through an essential contribution to the development

¹¹⁴ Cf. footnote 13

¹¹⁵ Council Decision (EU) 2016/1841 of 5 October 2016 on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Union, of the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32016D1841>; The report *Strengthening cultural heritage resilience for climate change – Where the European Green Deal meets cultural heritage* (see footnote 13) stresses the need for research on a wide range of topics, such as the economic costs of climate change adaptation/mitigation, specifically for cultural and natural heritage; data collection mechanisms; data analysis; capacity building and upskilling of experts.

¹¹⁶ *Concept on Cultural heritage in conflicts and crises. A component for peace and security in European Union's external action*, European External Action Service (EEAS), <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-9962-2021-INIT/en/pdf>

¹¹⁷ European Commission, Directorate-General for Communication, *European Green Deal – Delivering on our targets*, Publications Office of the European Union, 2021, <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2775/373022>

¹¹⁸ <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-eurostat-news/w/ddn-20230824-1>

of major technologies development via research that will benefit CH, CCIs but also and above all other sectors such as climate and environmental sciences. It will then contribute, by securing the CH resource in the face of climate change, to building more resilient and cohesive societies, in two ways: first, by demonstrating how the losses and damages on CH can lead to significant threats to the EU's social, economic and civil security – in the form of natural and human-made disasters, conflicts and crimes, biodiversity loss¹¹⁹, food insecurity, economic and health hazards or migrations – and, second, by demonstrating how CH research can efficiently contribute to all these challenges.

Just as HE Cluster 2 is already doing to deliver on these key orientations, the Partnership will help produce evidence-based strategies, emphasizing the link between art, culture and health, increasing awareness and understanding of the political, cultural and socio-economic challenges caused by environmental crises, and supporting transdisciplinary and human-centred approaches to increase societal resilience.

It will answer to the Cluster 2 impact objectives, meaning that *“the full potential of cultural heritage, arts and cultural and creative industries and sectors as drivers of both sustainable innovation and a European sense of belonging is realised through a continuous engagement with society, the general public, and economic sectors”*¹²⁰. It will also contribute to numerous cross-cluster impacts, as the Cluster 2 is already doing, starting with Cluster 3, building societal resilience through a better protection of CH, Cluster 4 or Cluster 6.

Last but not least, the Partnership will make essential contribution to the 14 European megatrends framing European policy priorities, as this was demonstrated during the 20 November 2023 Webinar on Commission proposal for a Partnership on CH organised by the JPI CH¹²¹: 1) accelerating technological change and hyperconnectivity; 2) aggravating resource scarcity; 3) changing nature of work; 4) changing security paradigm; 5) climate change and environmental degradation; 6) continuing urbanization; 7) diversification of education and learning; 8) widening inequalities; 9) expanding influence of East and South; 10) growing consumption; 11) increasing demographic imbalances; 12) increasing influence of new governing systems; 13) increasing significance of migration; 14) shifting health challenges. Megatrend 5 emerged as the lead megatrend on which the Partnership could contribute, followed by Megatrend 7.

RCH will also address objectives of the EU industrial strategy, such as boosting the competitiveness of the European industry in order to continue driving sustainable growth and employment in Europe or fostering initiative and the development of particularly small and medium-sized undertakings. Furthermore, RCH will seek to take into account the objectives of the Member States' Recovery and Resilience Plans (such as accelerating the green and digital transitions while increasing resilience, cohesion and sustainable growth)¹²².

Addressing common challenges more effectively:

Since the first Partnerships were introduced under the FP6, the ambition has been to overcome the fragmentation of research effort by aligning R&I agendas and by creating a critical mass of funding in strategic areas. The HE Partnerships are set up to have a more strategic, coherent and impact-

¹¹⁹ https://knowledge4policy.ec.europa.eu/biodiversity_en

¹²⁰ https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/wp-call/2023-2024/wp-5-culture-creativity-and-inclusive-society_horizon-2023-2024_en.pdf

¹²¹ <https://www.heritageresearch-hub.eu/jpi-ch-successfully-organised-the-workshop-on-commissions-proposal-for-a-partnership-on-cultural-heritage/>

¹²² https://reform-support.ec.europa.eu/what-we-do/recovery-and-resilience-plans_en

oriented approach. This includes stronger focus on the delivery of EU priorities as well as other initiatives at EU, national or local level. Thus, the RCH Partnership will build critical mass in capacity, resources and expertise that reaches far beyond the achievements of traditional actions through national programmes (additionality and directionality). In particular, a co-funded Partnership holds the necessary instruments to approach the following:

More effectiveness:

The RCH Partnership will continue the work initiated through the JPI CH to overcome fragmentation on national research policies by giving directions to deliver more efficiently on EU and global scales. Fragmentation cannot be overcome through classic HE calls, while building a coordinated and coherent approach is an essential prerequisite to address efficiently challenges that cannot be addressed at the national scales solely. The RCH Partnership will generate speed through EU support over and above what can be done by a single country in line with the ERA.

Increased flexibility and capacity:

The Partnership will steer and align the R&I efforts of EC, MS and AC, through alignment of financial and material resources (contributions to additional activities), and a strong flexibility and capacity to integrate a wide range of activities that are needed, with a high return on public R&I investments. This will be concretized through an optimization of national investments at the transnational level, such as the use of research infrastructures (e.g., E-RIHS, DARIAH ERIC, CLARIN ERIC, EPOS ERIC¹²³) and of transfer mechanisms for knowledge and technologies.

Better connect between previous and future research with a longer-term perspective:

This Partnership will also allow the consolidation and convergence of previous interventions and results in the field and generate critical mass by providing an overarching platform to foster seamless collaboration and integration of R&I programmes and monitoring schemes for which resources will be aligned between the European, regional, national and local levels at an unprecedented magnitude. In addition, it will offer the sector a necessary longer-term perspective.

Increased cross-sector, cross-thematic and cross-border cooperation:

The Partnership approach will foster, at an unmatched scale, horizontal cooperation on cross thematic areas, between ministries and sectoral policies on a national level, and between DGs at the European level. It will also foster the links at regional level (outermost regions included), including regional programmes and better coordination¹²⁴ and synergies with European Structural and Investment Funds¹²⁵. Particular attention will be devoted to identifying and addressing cross-region and region-specific agenda priorities, expertise and experience across geographic and cultural regions to address pan-European as well as global challenges, while ensuring that regional specificities are addressed at regional level where necessary. For this, a partnering with existing cross-regional networks and initiatives will take place¹²⁶.

¹²³ <https://roadmap2021.esfri.eu/projects-and-landmarks/browse-the-catalogue/>

¹²⁴ European Court of Auditors (2020) *Special report 08/2020: EU investments in cultural sites: topic that deserves more focus and coordination*, https://www.eca.europa.eu/en/publications/SR20_08

¹²⁵ Commission Notice *Synergies between Horizon Europe and ERDF programmes 2022/C 421/03*, [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52022XC1104\(02\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52022XC1104(02))

¹²⁶ Examples of such networks and initiatives include the [Interregional Partnership "Virtual and Smart Cultural Tourism" \(VSCT Partnership\)](#) and the [European Regions Research and Innovation Network \(ERRIN\)](#)

Increased global dimension:

At the same time, the global dimension and impact of R&I towards EU science diplomacy with the neighbouring countries and beyond will be increased, as well as the transnational knowledge transfer and the market uptake of results as different actors are working under the same umbrella.

Improved cooperation beyond R&I programmes:

This approach will also foster cooperation much beyond R&I programmes. It is not only a matter of creating new knowledge and evidence but also about building capacities to take better use of existing experiences, solutions and approaches. Thus, beyond research activities, the Partnership will contribute to shape a platform for exchanging, disseminating, replicating, and learning, as a key to speed up development through its portfolio of activities. This will open opportunities to connect and support also other HE funded projects and projects funded from other national or European programmes and connect them to the challenges addressed by the Partnership.

Stronger national coordination:

The transnational approach through the Partnership will also be reflected through stronger coordination at the national level, which is not achievable only through classic HE calls. This is already anticipated in the governance model by including national coordination mechanisms as well as a cooperation with funding agencies and programme owners at the very basis of the transnational research policies development. The cooperation of national programmes and policy makers also allows to consider national regulations and frameworks, within and across countries and connect global strategies to local actions. This advancement of national frameworks and structuration of national research landscapes will then be complemented by a transnational alignment and cooperation of R&I funders, programme owners and public authorities.

The RCH Partnership will foster cooperation and networking among MS, AC and relevant stakeholders, both from a funding as well as a policy perspective. Activities like transnational calls and different networking and capacity building instruments as outlined in Section 3.1 will contribute to improved policy uptake of comparative and transdisciplinary R&I results among relevant national authorities and other stakeholders. The RCH will provide partners with new knowledge and hence effective measures and instruments for adaptation and mitigation as related to CH and climate change.

Multi-stakeholders' approach:

A Partnership offers framework conditions that are open for all stakeholder groups, and that go beyond traditional approaches for research funding, because it commits the various relevant actors to address the whole chain of research and innovation in a coordinated way. These conditions will support co-creation and multi-stakeholder involvement, as well as local experimentations (living labs). In turn, this will facilitate the sharing of knowledge, evidence and data, as well as the dissemination of research results towards policy makers and other relevant actors (scientific communities, public authorities, businesses, citizens, societal actors, NGOs, etc.) at appropriate levels and scales, accelerating capacity building in research.

Better science and policy linkage:

With such a multi-stakeholder and systematic approach to the exploitation of Partnership outputs, the Partnership will boost the connections between science and policy. It will help and support policy makers, citizens, and businesses in taking adequate and data-based action at European,

national and local level, and to better monitor gradual changes, as well as track progresses towards the fulfilment of EU and global commitments.

2.4 Partner composition and target group

Building upon collaboration networks and initiatives that are currently existing:

There has been significant momentum in the past years about the ways in which CH can contribute to addressing the climate crisis. Beyond the work of the JPI CH, the JPI Climate and ARCHE, this energy has made tangible through policy papers, networks, top-down initiatives and research reports, among others. The RCH will, first and foremost, build upon the existing research results, directions and connections set up through the following, while allowing room throughout its seven-year implementation to incorporate any future developments on the same line:

- Noah's Ark on Global Climate Change Impact on Built Heritage and Cultural Landscape funded by the EU 6th R&I Framework Programme (2004-2007)¹²⁷.
- "The Future of Our Past: Engaging Cultural Heritage in climate action" (2019)¹²⁸, a report by ICOMOS which highlights how climate change drivers affect CH and underlines the potential of CH considerations, knowledge, and skills to make valuable contributions to climate action. The report approaches CH in a multi-disciplinary fashion and proposes pathways where CH could meet with the objectives of the Paris Agreement, including on issues such as enhancing adaptive capacity or and planning for loss and damage.
- Climate Heritage Network¹²⁹ (launched in 2019): this network, set up by a group of cultural and heritage organisations, encourages the sector to further engage with climate action and promote the potential of arts, culture, and heritage to inform and support climate adaptation and mitigation, particularly towards climate frameworks such as the United Nation Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). In November 2021, thanks to their commitment, almost thirty heritage and culture-related events took place at UNFCCC/COP26. The network was similarly present to the following two editions of the event, namely COP 27¹³⁰ and COP 28. Furthermore, in 2021 the Network saw the addition of a Youth Forum that would boost synergies with other youth-oriented organisations and nurture intergenerational dialogue on the topic of climate change¹³¹.
- In 2020, the Cultural Deal for Europe called for a strengthened cultural dimension of the EU Green Deal¹³².
- New European Bauhaus (launched in 2020), an EC initiative which invites everyone "to revisit Europe's cultural heritage and shape its future" for more sustainable, inclusive, and beautiful forms of living.
- Open Method of Coordination (OMC) meetings (launched in 2021), another EC initiative, which aimed at "strengthening Cultural Heritage Resilience for Climate Change"; an OMC is a light but

¹²⁷ <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/501837>

¹²⁸ Cf. footnote 9

¹²⁹ <https://www.climateheritage.org/about>

¹³⁰ <https://www.climateheritage.org/cop27-events>

¹³¹ <https://www.climateheritage.org/youth>

¹³² <https://culturaldeal.eu/>

structured way of cooperation bringing together experts that share knowledge, identify best practices, and whose recommendations will support the implementation of heritage policies for climate change.

- In March 2021, Europa Nostra, ICOMOS and the European Investment Bank Institute released the European Cultural Heritage Green Paper (March 2021)¹³³, which demonstrates the role of CH in achieving the ambitions of the European Green Deal and stresses the role of research and innovation in doing so.
- The Rome Declaration (July 2021)¹³⁴, a document published by the G20 Culture Ministers that calls for the mainstreaming of cultural considerations in the climate agenda; they also commit to “facilitate target research and increased scientific cooperation on the reciprocal effects of climate change and culture”.
- ICOMOS-IPCC-UNESCO Co-Sponsored Meeting (December 2021)¹³⁵ to assess the state of knowledge and practice in connecting them, identify research gaps and catalyse research and collaboration. Three white papers were prepared to support the discussion and the report resulting from the meeting will serve as a resource for the IPCC Seventh assessment cycle¹³⁶.
- “Youth for the future of cultural heritage in Europe” position paper (September 2022)¹³⁷, a document jointly drafted by ESACH – European Students’ Association for Cultural Heritage, The Future is Heritage initiative and Europa Nostra, which underlines the commitment the young generations involved in CH have for a strong sustainability component, of both their involvement and as a greater overarching goal towards which society should strive.

The Partnership will aim at involving (non-exhaustively) the communities around the JPI CH, ARCHE Heritage Research Forum (which is open to organisations of all types and sizes), the community around the Joint Programming Initiatives Climate and Urban Europe, while aiming to create synergies with various communities that are not yet involved in the ARCHE or JPI CH initiatives, including EIT KIC Culture & Creativity, NEMO (Network of European Museum Organisations), ACE (Association of European Cinematheques), EUNIC (EU National Institutes for Culture), Culture Action Europe, Eurocities, communities of relevant recent HE projects from Cluster 2, the European Heritage Hub community, EKIP¹³⁸ or projects funded by Creative Europe such as Cultural Heritage in Action¹³⁹.

¹³³ Cf. footnote 106

¹³⁴ <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2021/210730-culture.html>

¹³⁵ <https://www.ipcc.ch/event/ipcc-icomos-unesco-co-sponsored-meeting-on-culture-heritage-and-climate-science/>

¹³⁶ Orlove, B., Dawson, N., Sherpa, P., Adelekan, I., Alangui, W., Carmona, R., Coen, D., Nelson, M., Reyes-Garcia, V., Rubis, J., Sanago, G., Wilson, A. (2022) *ICSM CHC White Paper I: Intangible Cultural Heritage, Diverse Knowledge Systems and Climate Change. Contribution of Knowledge Systems Group I to the International Co-Sponsored Meeting on Culture, Heritage and Climate Change*. Charenton-le-Pont & Paris, France: ICOMOS & ICSM CHC; Simpson, N.P., Orr, S.A., Sabour, S., Clarke, J., Ishizawa, M., Feener, M., Ballard, C., Mascarenhas, P.V., Pinho, P., Bosson, J.B., Morrison, T., Zvobogo, L. (2022) *ICSM CHC White Paper II: Impacts, vulnerability, and understanding risks of climate change for culture and heritage: Contribution of Impacts Group II to the International Co-Sponsored Meeting on Culture, Heritage and Climate Change*. Charenton-le-Pont & Paris, France: ICOMOS & ICSM CHC; Shepherd, N., Cohen, J.B., Carmen, W., Chundu, M., Ernten, C., Guevara, O., Haas, F., Hussain, S.T., Riede, F., Siders, A.R., Singh, C., Sithole, P., Troi, A. (2022) *ICSM CHC White Paper III: The Role of Cultural and Natural Heritage for Climate Action: Contribution of Solutions Group III to the International Co-Sponsored Meeting on Culture, Heritage and Climate Change*. Charenton-le-Pont & Paris, France: ICOMOS & ICSM CHC.

¹³⁷ <https://www.esach.org/position-paper-youth-for-the-future-of-cultural-heritage-in-europe.html>

¹³⁸ The Horizon Europe funded innovation policy platform for the CCIs (2023- 2026), <https://ekipengine.eu/>

¹³⁹ <https://culturalheritageinaction.eu/>

The Partnership will reach out to European networks supported by Creative Europe such as for instance Trans-Europe Halles¹⁴⁰ or the Creative Hubs network¹⁴¹.

Type and composition of partners: justification and ambition

The RCH Partnership will have an open character and shall not be limited to partners already involved in existing CH and climate change research initiatives. The core partners – forming the decisional level (see Section 3.3) - will be sectoral ministries (ministries of culture and of environment), ministries in charge of R&I policy, research funding agencies and councils, regional and federal bodies, all with their possible associated or affiliated partners, as well as other beneficiaries providing in-kind contributions to its activities.

The European Commission, as a major financial contributor to the RCH Partnership, will also participate to the decisional level with the core partners.

Beyond the afore-mentioned core partners, the Partnership will also benefit from the involvement of other public bodies (such as CH institutions & administrations, museums, local authorities), academia (both universities and their affiliated research centres), the private sector (SMEs, large-scale enterprises and trade organisations), research performing organisations (RPOs) as well as the non-governmental sector (foundations, associations and/or other types of organisations representing civil society).

By having this diversity of partners, a successful dialogue between top-down and bottom-up approaches can be carried within the Partnership and therefore ensuring that the Partnership successfully reaches its objectives and also leads to or paves the way towards sustainable impacts. The composition of partners in the RCH Partnership is underpinned by the fact that it shall address the following points:

- Secure the necessary financial resources, contribute to the coordination of policies and support and monitor the implementation of activities around the SRIA, with the ultimate goal of ensuring medium- and long-term systemic changes.
- Support and develop awareness, dissemination and mediation activities¹⁴² amongst different categories of stakeholders and the general public, so as to recognise that both tangible and intangible heritage is, in many instances, in the ownership or custodianship of private citizens, and therefore their engagement is crucial for the success of any practitioner- or policy-led initiative; this would ultimately consolidate the Partnership's impacts by nurturing them at grassroots level.
- Provide a base for the training for stakeholders and decision-makers regarding feasible climate adaptation solutions (including effective methods to evaluate benefits and harm of conservation actions for climate adaptation); this training is also valid for ensuring effective heritage education activities directed at the future generations that will not only actively

¹⁴⁰ <https://www.teh.net/>

¹⁴¹ <https://creativehubs.net/>

¹⁴² McGhie, H. A. (2023). *Museums for Better Futures: taking action for sustainable development*. Churchill Fellowship Report. Curating Tomorrow, UK; McGhie, H. (2021). *Mobilising Museums for Climate Action: Tools, frameworks and opportunities to accelerate climate action in and with museums*. Museums for Climate Action, London; McGhie, H.A. (2020). *Museums and Disaster Risk Reduction: building resilience in museums, society and nature*. Curating Tomorrow, UK.

engage with heritage, but could also benefit from its positive impacts regardless of their degree of familiarity with it; this specific training complements the one conducted via universities and research centres and targeting the future generations of CH professionals and researchers.

- Nurture effective collaboration between public bodies and regional, national and European stakeholders, which holds significant potential in fostering inclusion and social cohesion.
- Promote the development of new services amongst the business sectors (notably CCI, tourism, digital), therefore ensuring the adaptability of the Partnership's approaches to the dynamic contemporary environments.

Furthermore, the international dimension of the Partnership is crucial for succeeding in addressing these afore-mentioned points, namely because it helps foster inclusion, ensures a plurality of perspectives, and pools together know-how and innovation, helping stakeholders exchange both good practices and solutions to various challenges they encounter in relation to CH and global climate change. Furthermore, this international dimension also contributes to the cross-pollination of disciplines and helps nurture dialogues across multiple categories of stakeholders, thus enhancing the potential of heritage of acting as an exercise in empathy that would foster mutual understanding and cooperation, especially considering the global scale of the issues that need to be tackled.

Including international partners in this endeavour would bring much added value for the EU. First of all, this would reinforce the collaborative character of the EU and its openness to building bridges and engage in constructive dialogues. Second, it would reinforce the EU's role on the global cultural stage.

Last but not least, international collaboration to face the global challenge of climate change opens new avenues for the uptake of R&I results, which can further nurture the R&I within the EU itself.

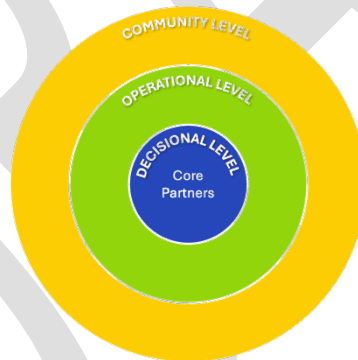


Figure 3_RCH Partnership target groups

Envisaged target groups and stakeholders' communities:

The way in which the target groups and stakeholders interplay is represented in Figure 3 above. They represent a very diverse range of stakeholders which hold the potential of getting involved in RCH as core partners (and thus at decisional level), yet most of them will mainly form the operational and community levels of the RCH Partnership. The operational one addresses those directly engaged through the RCH Partnership's activities, while the larger community benefits from the results of the work carried out at the operational level (such as third parties supported by the RCH Partnership) and holds an important role in the communication and dissemination of the outside of the already established and engaged groups. It also plays an active role as a consultative basis for the bottom-up definition of R&I priorities and policies.

Some of the targeted stakeholders include (without being limited to) organisations and networks already involved in the JPI CH and ARCHE advisory structures, such as: The Architects' Council of Europe (ACE); European Confederation of Conservator-Restorers' Organisations (ECCO); European Research Infrastructure for Heritage Science (E-RIHS); Europa Nostra; The Europeana Foundation; The Humanities in the European Research Area (HERA); The International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM); The International Council of Museums (ICOM); The International Council of Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS); The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN); UNESCO. Other groups that the RCH Partnership will engage with, besides the afore-mentioned ones, will include the following:

Target groups	Stakeholders	Envisioned ways of engagement
Citizens communities & Civil society	Citizen associations, NGOs, and national trusts with a specific interest in CH and climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage in co-design of research activities Provide feedback on the reach, outcomes and impacts of the Partnership Contribute to the communication and dissemination around the Partnership's objectives and activities
	Local authorities, communities and stakeholders (municipal or neighbourhood level)	
	Lobbying climate change and CH, research, and cultural policy associations	
	Young CH and climate change communities	
Economic and creative sectors	Social innovators: Spin-off, start-ups, fablabs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uptake the results of the Partnership's calls for projects and additional activities, so that the spillover effects of CH spread across sectors Advise on how the activities could be finetuned throughout the Partnership's lifetime so that it responds to the evolving needs Contribute to the communication and dissemination efforts
	Actors of the Cultural and Creative Industries (e.g. trade associations, businesses in publishing, audiovisual, design and architecture)	
	SMEs, private companies, and industries in scientific, IT, and technological sectors	
	Institutions, enterprises, and professionals from the Heritage, Cultural, Creative, Hospitality, Tourism sectors	
	Institutions, enterprises, and professionals from the construction sector	
	Luxury industry	
Heritage and Research professionals' communities	Museums and other institutions of the GLAM sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Being directly involved in the Partnership's calls for projects and additional activities Provide feedback on how the Partnership addressed the gaps and needs that their work aims at addressing, as well as how the results could be uptaken Act as bridges between the Partnership and relevant local and national institutions which could get involved in the Partnership at a later stage and/or contribute to its long-term impacts
	Professionals in charge of conserving, restoring, transmitting, and valorising CH	
	R&I communities working in the scientific fields related to CH and climate change	
	Actors of the academic and education world	
	Climate and Environmental sciences, IT, SSH	

Figure 4_RCH Partnership list of stakeholders

3 Planned Implementation

R&I will be the most important part of the RCH Partnership. Based on the SRIA to be developed, key research and innovation gaps and opportunities will be identified. Each SRIA priority area will contain thematic descriptions, objectives for R&I, and describe how it contributes to the UN SDGs. The envisaged portfolio of activities below highlights the necessary instruments to meet the challenges and objectives of the Partnership. They are based on seven underlying R&I guiding principles, which have been the basis of all previous collaboration in the JPI CH:

A holistic approach:

The CH research and innovation requires a holistic approach to develop new knowledge that is needed to meet important societal challenges. This will meet research questions that cut across challenges/knowledge needs in society, sectors, business and academic communities. CH has long been considered without enough regard to climate change and its environment, including the impact of human activities on cultural and natural resources and areas. It is therefore relevant to consider the interactions between cultural and natural heritage and climate in a more inclusive and multidimensional way. With this in mind, CH is looked at the intersection of its tangible, intangible and digital forms.

Collaborative and inter-, intra- and transdisciplinary research:

Based on SRIA priority areas, currently being discussed, the collaboration on research projects will be fostered among heritage researchers and professionals, climate scientists, civil society organisations, businesses and other relevant stakeholders from the public and private sector on the basis of commonly established vocabularies¹⁴³. This should result in research across all disciplines and sectors and provide experience-based knowledge. Research should be truly integrative and foster opportunities towards “heritage-based solutions”, including those inspired by or based on natural means, for global challenges by exploring all forms of CH (tangible, intangible and digital). It is important to have a broad geographical but also intergenerational outlook and involvement.

Public and business-led research and community engagement:

Public and business-led research and community engagement must be a catalyst for innovation and guarantee greater impact. Citizen science and the co-design and co-production of research are highly recommended, especially through the involvement of practitioners in the design phase of research priorities. Knowledge sharing and co-creation are essential and a range of methods and educational tools to engage the broader public should be developed. Public and community engagement as well as participatory approaches should be at the core of activities and thought should be given to who creates knowledge, narrative and the role of communities in identifying, understanding and caring, participating, advocating for and shaping heritage. These approaches will enhance civic engagement

¹⁴³ Thomas, H., Guest, K., Carlisle, P., Guiden, N., Allan Orr, S. (2024) *Creating a Vocabulary of Climate Change Hazards for Heritage*, UCL Institute for Sustainable Heritage, <https://historicengland.org.uk/research/results/reports/13-2024>

and reinforce democracy and social cohesion¹⁴⁴. Businesses will be encouraged to contribute with a view to develop new services and support data management in the field of CH.

Digital approach:

Heritage researchers should be encouraged to apply and embed new and emerging technologies and tools and explore new research avenues, such as the role of artificial intelligence. This is due to the fact that digital and space technologies enable comprehensive data collection on various facets of heritage and climate change impacts, through sensors, satellites and other digital devices. This wealth of information is then analysed using digital tools and adequate methodologies to identify patterns, trends, and vulnerabilities. In addition, digital technologies play a pivotal role in facilitating the sharing of data, statistics and knowledge through interactive data visualisation, by allowing stakeholders to collaborate and analyse data more effectively. This visualisation makes complex information more accessible and actionable, leading to more informed and impactful policies and facilitating communication with diverse audiences, from policymakers to the public.

Education and training:

The Partnership aims to inspire, engage and support a new generation of CH researchers, innovators, professionals and societal actors across Europe through capacity building, new curricula, formal and informal learning opportunities and involvement, especially for young people. Young CH professionals and researchers will be both those leading in the use and uptake of green technologies and those benefiting from the new CH applications to climate action and a more sustainable society. Thus, a dedicated strategy will be prepared that will also include links with artistic disciplines and their potential contribution in shifting behaviours and mindsets. Research should provide opportunities for the provision of training and to support researchers and CH professionals at different stages of their careers, and promote inclusive research and diversity in researchers' gender, socio-economic and ethnic background.

Communication, dissemination and impact:

The Partnership aims to build a culture and tools that enables researchers and stakeholders to share their findings and demonstrate the impact, both scientific and popular science to a broader spectre of target groups. Researchers need to develop the competences to transfer the results of their research in an impactful way to CH professionals and stakeholders. There should be greater support for research to underpin the development of policies and guidelines for the preservation and use of CH, like science for policy and science for society. CCIs and their creative capacities to reach out will play an important role to support the development of convincing narratives on the importance and value of CH research.

Complementarity and additionality with existing initiatives:

Working with other initiatives and infrastructures in Europe and beyond will be paramount. The Partnership encourages collaboration and the use of existing networks to avoid duplication, whilst also considering which new initiatives and infrastructure developments are needed. They should also build on and be complementary with existing European (i.e. Partnerships, Missions) and national

¹⁴⁴ European Commission, Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture, Hammonds, W., *Culture and democracy, the evidence – How citizens' participation in cultural activities enhances civic engagement, democracy and social cohesion – Lessons from international research*, Publications Office of the European Union, 2023, <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2766/39199>

programmes and activities. The instruments presented will provide added value for the research community, research funders, policymakers, local authorities, practitioners, the private sector, NGOs, citizens' organisations, youth and education organisations, community groups, communicators, and all interested individuals.

In addition to these principles, also recalled in the report "Stormy times – Nature and humans – Cultural courage for change – 11 messages for and from Europe"¹⁴⁵, the Partnership will emphasize ethical aspects in the research and innovation development, like respect for persons, beneficence and non-maleficence, justice, informed consent, confidentiality and data protection, integrity and avoiding conflict of interest. It will also promote Open Science through open access to scientific publications and promoting research and society's use of its results. This will ensure that researchers, business, the public sector and the wider society will access the latest research.

3.1 Activities

The portfolio of activities presented below is non-exhaustive and aims to cover the whole ecosystem and research continuum, from fundamental to applied research, from the collaborative and participatory design of research priorities to the effective implementation of research, the dissemination, transmission, and uptake of results. The final set of activities shall answer to the needs and priorities identified in the Partnership's future SRIA and will be separated between three main categories of instruments as summarized in Figure 5 below: Funding instruments; networking and capacity building instruments; exploration and assessment instruments.

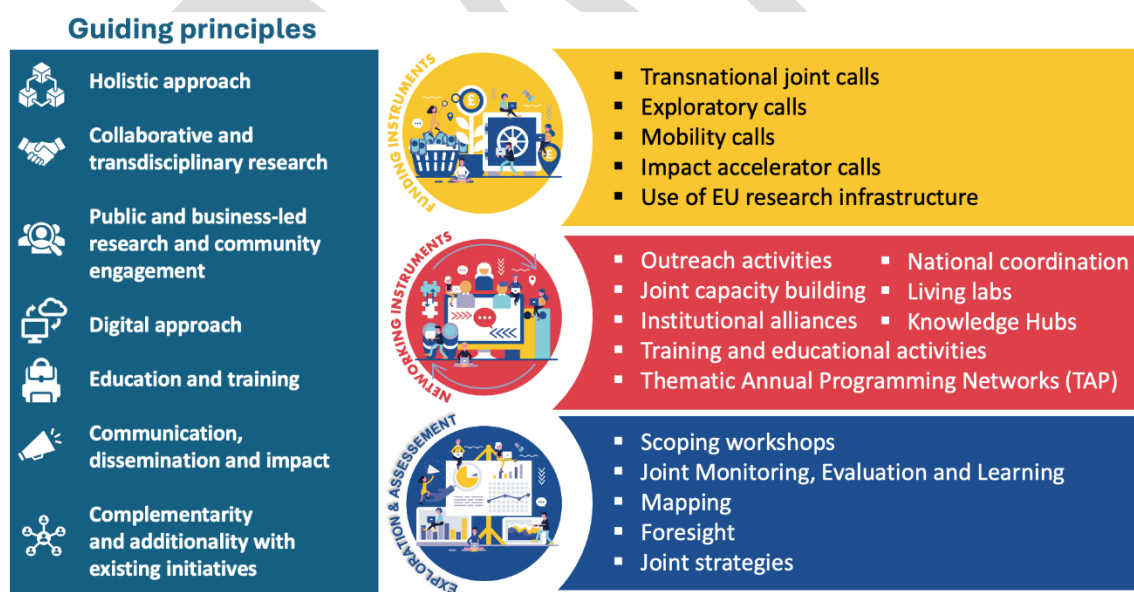


Figure 5_RCH Partnership guiding principles, Activities & Instruments

3.1.1 Funding Instruments

Funding instruments enable the mobilisation of new financial resources for research from the participating partners in order to launch joint actions. This would enable a better use of public

¹⁴⁵ European Commission, Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture, *Stormy times – Nature and humans – Cultural courage for change – 11 messages for and from Europe*, Publications Office of the European Union, 2022, <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2766/90729>

resources and avoid duplication of efforts. These instruments include Calls – meaning the potentially co-funded calls for collaborative proposals of research and innovation which are organized by the Parties during the lifetime of the RCH Partnership and represent one of the main objectives of the RCH Partnership. The calls can have one or more of the following forms:

- **Transnational joint calls**, by stimulating exchanges among relevant research communities across sectors and regions, these calls are expected to contribute to knowledge advances by tackling the gaps identified in the SRIA at the global level, according to a roadmap.
- **Exploratory calls** are smaller calls and will be a stepping-stone to transnational joint calls (see above), enable the involvement of policymakers, civil society, and younger generations, and answer the challenges of inclusion, co-creation, and participation. Small-scale exploratory calls will also contribute to build capacity in the research community in a given topic, allowing the community to address the knowledge gaps in more detail in subsequent larger scale calls (including calls from the European Framework Programme).
- **Mobility calls** are targeted calls to underpin mobility and integration of emerging and established researchers in research institutions, national and other relevant agencies, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), industry, and other relevant organisations. These calls may also support staff exchange schemes between research institutions and practitioners and policymaking institutions, as well as promote uptake of research results.
- **Impact accelerator calls** are calls to develop new knowledge exchange and engagement activities. These calls will support staff exchange schemes between research institutions and practitioners and policymaking institutions, but also enhance further implementation of expected and unexpected projects' results/innovations after they have ended. Impact accelerating calls in conjunction with thematic calls **focus on productive interactions**.
- Efficient collaboration with and use of EU **research infrastructure** and access to shared infrastructures will allow, through the different funding schemes described above, to grant parallel access to shared infrastructures such as infrastructure projects coordinated by the E-RIHS ERIC (European Research Infrastructure Consortium) or synergies with Copernicus services¹⁴⁶. This will enable greater complementarity between the RCH Partnership and these initiatives, fostering the alignment of research and innovation strategies, but also strong efficiency gains, by ensuring coherence and synergies between several national investments at the transnational level. Such initiatives and alignment mechanisms have already been explored by other Partnerships, such as the Sustainable Blue Economy or the Water4all Partnerships.

In line with the intervention logic for the RCH Partnership the calls will be developed with a focus on transformative research, innovation and impact. The instruments will enable experimentation, the implementation and upscaling of research results, thus appending to transformational changes (see Section 2.2.5 above). Furthermore, knowledge synthesis will contribute to inform evidence-based recommendations for developing heritage management strategies and policy making on the crossroads of heritage, climate policy and the green and/or digital transition. All calls will be inter- and transdisciplinary and co-designed with a broad range of partners.

¹⁴⁶ <https://www.copernicus.eu/en/copernicus-services>

3.1.2 Networking and capacity building instruments:

Networking and capacity building instruments focus on knowledge exchange, capacity building, communication and dissemination across relevant communities and sectors (from the transnational to the regional level – from researchers, businesses, policy makers, to practitioners and citizens) and promote joint activities between these communities, in cooperation with other instruments and to enhance their impact. They will include:

- **Outreach and valorisation activities** (e.g., workshops, conferences, seminars, exhibitions, and other research uptake activities) that will bring together researchers, policymakers, practitioners, and other relevant stakeholders from across Europe (and beyond) which are essential knowledge exchange and networking opportunities. By promoting knowledge exchange and networking among different communities (i.e. with knowledge exchange fellowships), these activities aim to increase the impact of the funded research. This instrument will be combined with other instruments, particularly with transnational and exploratory calls.
- **Joint capacity building** will allow skilling, upskilling and reskilling of researchers and other relevant actors at different levels (local, regional, national, European, global) with a focus on conducting multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary, and transdisciplinary research at the transnational level. This research is expected to generate the knowledge needed to inform the implementation of relevant national, European, and international policies in the field of CH and climate change, knowledge which could also be used to inform policies from other sectors. This instrument can be combined with other instruments, particularly with exploratory, mobility and impact accelerator calls.
- **Thematic Annual Programming Networks (TAP)**, as clusters of already funded transnational or national projects, facilitate exchange of knowledge on research methods and results in a given topic. These are “light” alignment tools, fostering the alignment of national research programmes, promoting the international cooperation and coordination of national research projects. For the projects/researchers involved, TAP is a way to “tap into” international networks and enhance their outreach and impact. For the Partnership, besides capacity building, TAP helps affiliate national research funding, in addition to transnational calls. In effect, it fosters collective efficiency, helps avoid duplication and enhance mutual learning and impact. Some of the possible activities of a TAP group include: (bi)annual meetings to exchange knowledge, methods, tools, data and results; contributions to policy initiatives in an advisory role (e.g. vision for future research programmes) and scientific and policy-oriented documents (e.g. policy briefs, joint scientific publications, harmonisation of protocols etc.). The RCH Partnership can build on the experiences and outcomes of the TAP that is currently developed by SD-WISHEES¹⁴⁷, a CSA targeting widening countries, involving JPI Water, JPI Climate and some prospective RCH partners. Its theme is highly relevant to RCH, though thematically narrow in scope: CH and extreme hydroclimatic events, highlighting the monitoring of impacts as well as adaptation and mitigation strategies. A series of complementary TAPs can be envisioned, on topics such as other climate impacts that include slow processes (e.g. drought, sea level rise, wildfires, salinisation), as well as the societal dimensions of what heritage can contribute to climate change mitigation (e.g.

¹⁴⁷ <https://sd-wishees.irsas.cnr.it/>

awareness, behavioural change, sustainable development), to societal adaptation (reuse of CH including knowledge), and to the pressures related to climate-induced migration.

- **Institutional alliances/ Pooling capacities** include the co-development of a joint transnational research programme that promotes cooperation and builds alliances and shared knowledge and expertise. This could include sharing infrastructure, such as hardware (e.g., high-performance computing), equipment, software (community models), databases, or knowledge portals.
- **Knowledge Hubs** aim to provide a networking platform to promote exchange, synthesis, integration, and generation of knowledge on CH and climate change that would support the development and implementation of related policies at different levels (local, regional, national, European, global). These Hubs will be able to build on already existing platforms or create new ones to facilitate the interaction between research and policy professionals with different disciplinary backgrounds and expertise by assessing and communicating recent scientific and socio-economic developments at an aggregation level adjusted to ongoing themes and debates in policy and wider public arenas.
- **Cultural diplomacy, widening and internationalisation activities** will guarantee that RCH Partnership takes into account global developments, considering that its challenges can only be addressed efficiently on a global scale. These activities, in synergy with other initiatives from DG INTPA, DG NEAR, the Council of Europe, the Climate Heritage Network, UNESCO and National Commissions for UNESCO, ICOM, ICOM-CC, IPCC or ICOMOS, and other transnational networks, such as the Belmont Forum, will contribute to develop capacity, communities, joint actions and share best practices and experiences in countries in which the research landscape is yet to be sufficiently developed on these questions. Incentives will be developed to encourage countries, notably but not only from the Global South and the Eastern Partnership to contribute and participate in the RCH Partnership's activities (such as capacity building opportunities and sharing of good practices). Synergies will be sought with EU funded programmes on CH in external relations, in terms of knowledge exchange, so as to reinforce the role of CH for sustainable development¹⁴⁸.
- **National coordination activities:** Many countries participating in the JPI CH have developed national coordination mechanisms such as Mirror Groups or National Consultation Panels (NCPs) to ensure that the voice of the regional/national community is efficiently transmitted to the transnational level. These mechanisms do ensure coherence and synergies in relation to major national, regional and sectoral policies, programmes and activities, by fostering a better structure of national research landscapes in the field. Unfortunately, these are still often underdeveloped. In addition, if the number of national strategies in this field of research has greatly increased since 2010, there are still important gaps to which the Partnership will contribute by disseminating best practices.
- **Living labs** will help furthering networking, capacity building and impact at the regional level by building on local knowledge and broader scientific insights. Living labs are open innovation ecosystems in real-life environments using iterative feedback processes throughout a lifecycle approach of an innovation in order to create sustainable impact. They focus on co-creation, rapid prototyping and testing, and scaling-up innovations and businesses, providing (different types of) joint-value to the involved stakeholders. The living

¹⁴⁸ Council Conclusions on EU Approach to Cultural Heritage in conflicts and crises, <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/50557/st09837-en21.pdf>

labs proposed should demonstrate effective and inclusive, integrated, and cross-sectoral approaches to increase the resilience of CH and society (through heritage) in the face of climate change.

- **Training and educational activities:** These will include hands-on and on-line training courses for researchers and professionals at all stages of their career to implement research findings in practice, but also to reinforce the role of research for innovation and professional development. It is expected that the Partnership's activities will contribute to the development of a responsive educational and training system, by identifying and contributing to the adaptation of existing or the creation of new curricula and ensure qualitative professional development to address the main challenges of the Partnership. In line with the principles and recommendations of the Erasmus+ Blueprint project CHARTER – European Cultural Heritage Skills Alliance¹⁴⁹ (Cultural Heritage Actions to Refine Training, Education and Roles) and the 4CH competence centre for digital preservation¹⁵⁰, the RCH Partnership will propose activities and interventions to have CH professionals, researchers and other target groups of the RCH Partnership adequately trained to operate in a well-functioning cross-sectoral ecosystem, from both the point of view of scientific/hard skills as well as by integrating soft skills. These newly trained professionals will advocate for the power and value of CH in driving social and societal resilience, promoting a sustainable future for Europe, delivering economic benefits and addressing the main contemporary challenges.

3.1.3 Exploration and assessment instruments:

Exploration and assessment instruments touch upon those required to gather, assess, and synthesise the knowledge needed to inform and guide decisions that would address the identified knowledge gaps. Exploration and assessment instruments should consider developments in the research and policy landscapes to inform the design of future collaborative actions between the Partnership, and other European and international partners, in the field of CH and climate change. To achieve these goals, this category also includes monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) instruments, designed to assess the progress and performance of the joint collaborative actions, developed to address the knowledge gaps. These instruments are also expected to serve as a learning tool to inform the design of future implementation actions. They include:

- **Scoping workshops**, providing organized input from researchers and relevant stakeholders (policymakers, local authorities, practitioners, the private sector, NGOs, citizens' organisations, youth and education organisations, community groups, communicators, as well as all interested individuals). Scoping workshops can build on the knowledge gaps already identified and help shape the scope of some of the funding instruments listed above (transnational joint calls, for example).
- **Joint Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) exercises**, using various methodologies and data sources (e.g. data analysis, surveys, interviews, narratives, case studies), such as resilience dashboards¹⁵¹, that allow tracking the progress and performance of joint

¹⁴⁹ <https://charter-alliance.eu/>

¹⁵⁰ <https://www.4ch-project.eu/>

¹⁵¹ https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/strategic-planning/strategic-foresight/2020-strategic-foresight-report/resilience-dashboards_en

collaborative actions and programmes and which serve as a tool for learning, informing the design of future actions and programmes (i.e. leverage reports¹⁵²).

- **Mapping exercises and knowledge synthesis papers**, systematically collecting and analysing existing knowledge, data and activities in a field in order to provide an overview and capture statistical information for evidence gathering.
- **Foresight exercises**, using a range of methodologies, such as scanning the horizon for emerging changes and societal challenges, analysing megatrends, and developing multiple scenarios, to reveal and discuss useful ideas about the future. These methodologies have already been applied successfully during the ARCHE project for the SRIA development and feature in the report “Future trends on Cultural Heritage Research and innovation”¹⁵³. The aim of the Partnership is to make these foresight activities more sustainable and systematic in anticipating and designing future research policies in the field, contributing therefore to a greater resilience of the sector, by making it more capable to anticipate changes and evolutions in the landscape and corresponding challenges. On this aspect, existing collaborations with ICCROM (International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property) and synergies will be explored further¹⁵⁴.
- **Joint strategies and papers**, allowing partners to agree on a strategy on how to prioritise and share work or infrastructure in a particular research area or challenge (i.e. white papers). Joint strategy papers can include planning for various forms of collaboration or alignment such as those listed above.

3.2 Resources

In line with section 3.1 above and the list of additional activities, EC, MS and AC’s commitments are required for realising and implementing the RCH Partnership, for the time of its duration. As already mentioned above, these commitments can be financial and/or non-financial (contributions to additional activities), depending on the possibilities and policy of each contributor and on the purpose of the commitment (see above in section 2.2.4 Necessary R&I investments). The available budget will be known once the partners’ commitments are provided later in 2024. The distribution of the budget and the kind of contributions to carry out the Partnership’s tasks and actions will be further elaborated during the SRIA and Partnership preparation.

Partners signing the Grant Agreement (GA) with the EC will receive EU contributions (= beneficiaries). Together with the EC, the beneficiaries will decide on strategic matters, including budget allocations, ensuring and monitoring the effective operation and implementation of activities and the achievement of the objectives of the Partnership. Associated/strategic partners can be involved in strategic decisions, except for decisions on the use of the EC contribution, i.e. budgetary issues, proposal reporting, proposal implementation, as they will not be allowed to receive EU funding.

¹⁵² Sofaer, J., Whyton, T., Tsoraki, C., Greenway, E. (2023) *HERA Leverage 2010 – 2022*, University of Southampton, <https://heranet.info/assets/uploads/2023/06/HERA-LeverageReport-7June.pdf>

¹⁵³ Cf. footnote 74

¹⁵⁴ Communication From the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council, *2023 Strategic Foresight Report Sustainability and people's wellbeing at the heart of Europe's Open Strategic Autonomy*, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52023DC0376>

The importance and the complexity of the challenges that CH faces regarding the crisis of climate change – the unprecedented speed and scale of cultural losses and the damaging impacts of this crisis, but also the necessity to expand and strengthen the recognized capacity of CH to provide affordable and accessible answers to the crisis and to contribute to limiting its impact on our societies – undoubtedly require an unprecedented research effort from all those involved, may it be directly or indirectly.

This means that as many as possible research projects should be funded as well as additional activities and monitoring, to maximise the impact of research and, when possible, to shorten the delay between the results of research and their dissemination and concrete adaptation into society.

Furthermore, considering the strong multi-disciplinary approach that the RCH Partnership aims at having, as well as the mainstreaming of its results into other sectors, it is crucial to have enough resources in order to keep the trained specialists in the field and that, at the same time, would attract specialists from adjacent fields that have been noteworthy for their financial offers.

At this stage, the final commitments of the members of the RCH Partnership are not known and, therefore, it would be unrealistic and misleading to already attempt to set a detailed budget for the seven years or, even, an annual one. Nevertheless, an overall objective of 150 million EUR from the members of the RCH Partnership for the years 2026-2032, complemented with a 50 million EUR-equivalent participation in additional activities would be in keeping with the challenges faced and would reflect the ambition of the RCH Partnership, as already explained in Section 2.2.4. In that context, the following possible commitments are:

Financial and non-financial commitments to run the RCH Partnership:

These include the participation to the Partnership Assembly and, when applicable to the Executive Board and to the Coordination Team, and to all events (conferences, etc.) for the promotion of the Partnership and the dissemination of its results. It also includes the costs related to the Observers Group and the Scientific, Advisory and Ethics Board. The objective is to ensure a well-functioning management and membership structure, an open and transparent process of decision-making and a robust circulation of information.

Financial and non-financial commitments to joint calls and equivalent funding instruments:

These include the provision of national budgets for joint calls as well as the coverage of personal costs for the call coordination and management at national level and within the Call Steering Committee and the Call Secretariat. These financial and material contributions will add to the EC's funded part. Close attention will be given to ensure that the Partnership remains attractive to all its members and to potential newcomers. In addition, contributions from funding agencies in terms of personal costs to develop new and/or improve existing instruments are expected.

Financial commitments and contributions to additional activities:

These additional activities – to be more clearly defined and selected once the final RCH Partnership SRIA will be published, and in conjunction and complementarity with the planned calls – are seen as an important contribution to ensure that the Partnership efficiently responds to the challenges of the crisis of climate change.

Efforts for national coordination to ensure mobilisation of relevant stakeholders:

These commitments, mostly in-kind, are seen as essential for coordinating and strengthening national priorities and for the alignment of local, regional and national strategies. The creation of

national Mirror Groups will greatly contribute to this mobilisation, as will also the Heritage Research Forum.

3.3 Governance

The governance of the Partnership will be further refined in 2024 and 2025 and the current proposal has to be considered as a preliminary suggestion. It will be a central aspect of the future RCH Consortium Agreement and part of the GA between the consortium and the EC. The below mechanisms for the RCH governance, including the EC role, are drafted based on best practices from past collaborations as well as from ongoing partnerships.

The governance of the RCH Partnership comprises different interlinked and interdependent entities and is headed by a Chair and two Vice-Chairs. A high degree of coordination is expected between them and the Chair and the Vice-Chairs. As shown in Figure 6 below, the governance structure covers three different levels: Decisional level, Operational level and Consultative level, with their respective roles and degrees of involvement in the running of the Partnership¹⁵⁵. Ensuring wide and regular consultation and efficient flow of information between these three levels will guarantee the full transparency and openness of the R&I policies design process and the drafting of the corresponding work programmes (see also, infra, section 3.4.5).

In all governance bodies, as much as possible, decisions will be taken by consensus. Otherwise, there will be voting procedures – that shall be based upon ARCHE Deliverable 3.2 and D3.3 and will be renegotiated during the preparation of the GA and Consortium Agreement.

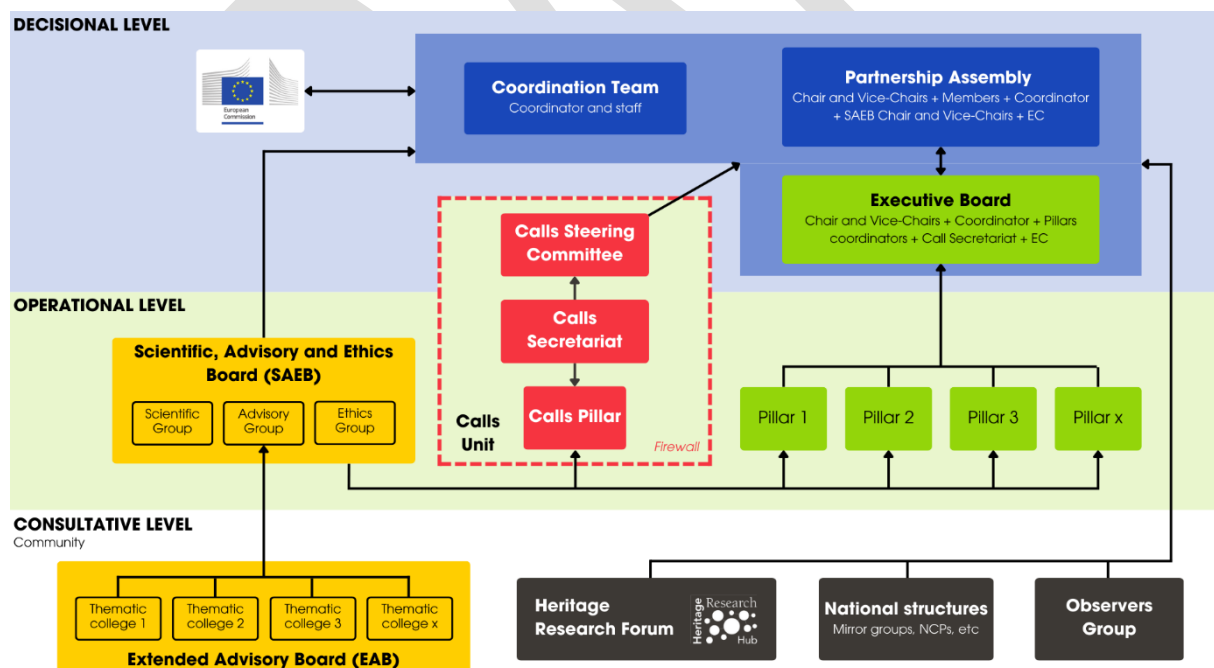


Figure 6_Governance Structure of the RCH Partnership

¹⁵⁵ For more information on the R&I partnerships' governance models see <https://www.era-learn.eu/support-for-partnerships/governance-administration-legal-base/governance-structure-and-committees>

3.3.1 Decisional level

The Partnership Assembly (PA):

The RCH PA is the ultimate body responsible for the RCH Partnership, making the decisions regarding governance, strategic orientation, operational implementation and any other matter concerning the RCH Partnership and Consortium.

Its strategic decisions are based primarily on advice provided by the Executive Board, the Scientific, Advisory and Ethics Board and the Coordination Team, but also on advice from other entities such as the Observers Group and the Heritage Research Forum.

The PA is composed of:

- One representative and one deputy representative per Member (also called Beneficiary) of the RCH Partnership
- The Chair
- The two Vice-Chairs:
- The Chair and the Vice-Chairs of the Advisory, Scientific and Ethics Board
- The Head of the Coordination Team
- One EC representative and deputy representatives for DGs involved in the RCH Partnership

The PA is chaired by the Chair or, if he/she is unable to conduct the work and/or deliberations of the PA, by one of the two Vice-Chairs.

The primary tasks of the PA are to set up and manage the governance of the RCH Partnership, elaborate the strategy of the Partnership and oversee its implementation, and promote the RCH Partnership and communicate with other structures beyond the RCH Partnership.

Observers may be invited to attend ordinary meetings of the PA as non-voting participants. They cannot participate in decision-making processes but can be invited by the Chair to participate in the discussions on a consultative basis, except those concerning the use of the EU contribution.

The Executive Board (EB):

The EB is the executive body of the Partnership. Its purpose is to implement the strategy defined and issued by the PA, to which the EB is subordinated.

The EB prepares recommendations for the consideration of the PA and monitors the progress of the activities and the implementation of the decisions made by the PA.

The Executive Board is composed of:

- The Chair of the PA
- The two Vice-Chairs of the PA
- The Head of the Coordination Team
- The Coordinators of each Pillar
- A representative of the Call Secretariat

The EB is chaired by the Chair of the PA and/or by one of the two Vice-Chairs, depending on their availability.

The Chair and the Vice-Chairs of the Advisory, Scientific and Ethics Board may be invited to attend the EB for specific discussions. Similarly, the EB may invite experts to attend a specific meeting with a consultative voice. Members of the PA, not comprised in the above list, may be invited for specific discussions of the EB.

The primary roles of the EB are to prepare recommendations for the consideration of the PA, to draft the guidelines for the elaboration, by the PA, of the strategic plan of activities for the implementation of the SRIA, to prepare, for approval by the PA, the proposal of the Annual Implementation Plan (Annual Work Programme – see below section 3.4.5 Establishment of annual work programmes), and to coordinate the implementation and follow-up of other Joint Activities.

The Chair and the two Vice-Chairs of the PA:

The role of the Chair and Vice-Chairs is to advocate the interests of the RCH Partnership and to chair the PA and the EB as proposed in this section and further developed in the rules of procedures. At least two of these three people must be Members of the Partnership Assembly and come from different countries. The Chair is not counted as a national delegate. Under the supervision of the PA, the Chair and Vice-Chairs are responsible for the general organization and implementation of the activities of the RCH Partnership, in collaboration with the Coordination Team, in order to ensure that all tasks agreed upon are accomplished in their set timeframe, to the highest quality and best value for money.

The Coordination Team:

The Coordination Team is in charge of organising the day-to-day management of the RCH Partnership and implementing the tasks assigned to it by the PA and the EB, reporting to both of them and to the Chair of the PA. It provides a high-quality technical support to all the different bodies of the RCH Partnership. It is supervised by the Chair of the PA.

The Coordination Team is also responsible for ensuring regular and fluid communication with the EC services, in particular regarding the RCH transnational calls and their implementation rules, the monitoring and reporting of progress and budget use and the preparation of the Annual Implementation Plans (Work Programmes).

3.3.2 Operational level

This is the level at which policies are implemented, calls elaborated, projects selected and monitored, consultation carried out, advice sought and provided.

Call Unit:

To ensure the independence of the Calls Unit and avoid conflicts of interest, all persons involved in the call process shall sign a confidentiality agreement. This confidentiality agreement ensures that no information from the Calls Unit and call process is released to any potential applicant to the call - including Partnership Members not participating in the call - that may provide an advantage in the preparation of an application. These measures are represented in the scheme by the term “firewall”.

The evaluation of the proposals will follow Horizon Europe rules regarding the independence of peer reviews.

Each call is managed – at different moments – by three interconnected structures: the Call Pillar, the Call Steering Committee, and the Call Secretariat.

The role of the Call Pillar is to develop and update the broad themes and the chronology of the calls specified in the SRIA and approved by the PA.

The Call Steering Committee is the ultimate decision-making body of the call. There is one Call Steering Committee per call. It is composed of all the funding ministries and agencies, members of

the RCH Partnership, taking part in and committing a budget to the call. The EC sits on the Call Steering Committee.

The Call Secretariat is responsible for the coordination and management activities of the call. It is also in charge of the daily management of the Call Steering Committee. It is composed of representatives from two or more funding ministries or agencies Members of the RCH Partnership. The Call Secretariat shall assist the Call Pillar in organizing the writing of the Call for proposals. It informs the EB and the PA of the organisation of the call and of its progress after its launch and communicates the results of the call to both bodies. It is also responsible for the coordination and management activities and the writing of the relevant application documents.

Pillars (Work Packages)

These are the core foundation of the RCH Partnership in which the activities defined in the GA and in the description of work submitted to the EC are carried out. Each Pillar will encompass a certain number of activities, within a time framework (schedule, deliverables) and with dedicated resources (in cash or in kind). Each activity is dedicated to a Task. Members of the SAEB and external experts may be invited to join a Pillar but not as coordinators.

Pillars and their related Tasks will render the activities and the RCH Partnership visible and comprehensible to those who are not part of them (e.g. a Pillar on communication).

Scientific, Advisory and Ethics Board (SAEB):

The role of the SAEB is to advise the PA and the EB – and more generally the RCH Partnership – on strategic policy, scientific issues and ethics considerations. Its main role is to ensure 1) that the activities of the RCH Partnership remain relevant to the research needs (including dissemination of results, impact, networking, etc.) of those researchers, stakeholders and general public involved in CH and climate research, and of high scientific quality, and 2) that all questions regarding ethics are, as much as possible, anticipated and, should there be a concern, promptly and correctly dealt with.

Members of the Scientific, Advisory and Ethics Board should demonstrate scientific excellence, cross-disciplinary competence and broad research perspective. The Board should also represent diversity in expertise, field of research and age, spatial distribution and gender equality.

The Scientific, Advisory and Ethics Board will be composed of three independent groups of selected representatives: the Advisory Group, the Scientific Group and the Ethic Group. The PA will decide on the size and membership of these bodies according to the needs of the RCH Partnership. The Scientific Group will be composed of experts from countries involved in or outside of the RCH Partnership. The Advisory Group will comprise European and international private and public bodies and organizations, representing all major stakeholders relevant to the RCH Partnership (i.e. Digital, CCI). The Ethics Group will be composed of experts of the different ethical issues that may be raised in the calls or the organisation and running of the RCH Partnership (conflict of interests, equality, fairness, transparency, etc.).

The composition of the Advisory Group will reflect the diversity of the scientific, industrial and societal interests of the RCH Partnership and, to that effect, it will be partly composed of the representatives of the Thematic Colleges constitutive of the Extended Advisory Board (see, infra, EAB).

3.3.3 Consultative level

This is the level at which the broadest consultation can be led so to ensure that a bottom-up approach is reflected in the decisions taken by the RCH Partnership.

Extended Advisory Board (EAB):

To allow a maximum of flexibility in the working of the Advisory Group, an Extended Advisory Board is created for meetings between specific Thematic Colleges, following the principle of variable geometry. This Board will be a dynamic discussion forum and the main place to ensure connection with the major initiatives and projects in the field, while maintaining an evolutionary nature and a high degree of porosity with the other bodies forming the Consultative level.

Each Thematic College corresponds to one of the themes defined in the SRIA and comprises stakeholders involved in that field. The number of Thematic Colleges can vary according to the needs of the RCH Partnership, and each one will nominate a coordinator, who will sit on the Advisory Group.

National Structures:

Each participating country in the RCH is encouraged to set up its own consultation structure, may it be national or/and regional (such as mirror groups, national consultation panels, etc.). Each country is responsible for the format and for the consultation procedure.

The National structures complement the Extended Advisory Board in as much as they bring to the notice of the Partnership Assembly, and more generally to the Partnership, the CH state of art in each country. Given the scope and size, the RCH Partnership will establish structured national contact points/desks, in order to oversee the implementation and visibility efforts of the initiative.

The Observers Group (OG):

The OG is composed of those entities interested in following the development of the Partnership, and even in participating in some actions on a voluntary basis without funding from the EC nor any related contractual commitment towards the latter. The OG has a flexible composition, adjusted annually by decision of the PA. The OG will include:

- Entities not eligible to be Members of the RCH Partnership but that are interested in contributing to some activities.
- Eligible entities getting involved or planning to get involved in some activities over the course of the Partnership or becoming members of it.

Observers can be invited to attend the ordinary meetings of the RCH Partnership Assembly, without the right to vote. They cannot participate in decision-making processes but can be invited by the Chair to express their views in a consultative capacity.

Heritage Research Forum (HRF):

The Heritage Research Forum is an existing informal community forum hosted on the Heritage Research Hub webpage. It is based on the efforts implemented by the ARCHE project to develop an inclusive and active forum to support the whole process of the SRIA designing. It is composed of several groups gathering stakeholders of close interests that can be consulted through documents and/or surveys. This consultation is decided by the PA.

3.3.4 Involvement of the European Commission

As the Granting Authority for the RCH Partnership and financial contributor, the EC will play a role in the Partnership's governance and in the decision-making and strategic processes. At the time of the preparation of the GA, the EC may request voting rights within the Partnership's governing bodies. The GA between the EC and the Partnership consortium will include relevant provisions to ensure the defence of EU public interests related to the RCH scope, the implementation of EU R&I policy objectives, as well as provisions on relevant consultation mechanisms.

The EC services will be consulted during the preparation of the Partnership SRIA and involved in the Call Steering Committee to coordinate with other EU R&I actions programmed by the Commission. The Partnership consortium will consult the EC services on EU R&I and other relevant policies, in particular in the fields of culture, CH and climate change, and on R&I priorities to be taken into account in all RCH activities, in particular in the preparation of all calls for proposals under the Partnership.

The EC will follow the elaboration of the RCH annual implementation plans/work programmes, the regular updating of the RCH SRIA, and assess which areas could be addressed by topics in the work programmes of the European R&I FP as a complementary approach to the Partnership. The EC shall contribute towards ensuring that the RCH interacts adequately with other relevant European partnerships and missions and that it is informed of EU and international policy developments. DG RTD, as the lead DG for the Partnership, will be a Member of the RCH PA.

The participation and involvement of the EC will be possible at other levels of the governance structure. EC DGs other than DG RTD will also be invited to take part to the Advisory structures, such as the SAEB, or the Extended Advisory Board.

3.4 Openness and transparency

3.4.1 Transparency, sectorial and geographical openness:

Clear and transparent governance will be implemented from the beginning of the Partnership, allowing the participation of a broad range of actors, with no unjustified barriers. The Openness principles proposed for the RCH Partnership will build on the principles with a proven track record in involving public funding institutions in existing Partnerships or similar large-scale initiatives, such as the JPI CH. The JPI CH has always included in its statutes the principle of openness to membership, meaning that any EU MS or any AC to the European R&I FP can be a Partner.

One of the key points of the research challenges and objectives addressed by the RCH Partnership is their highly cross-sectorial, cross-border and transdisciplinary nature, which means that these challenges cannot be answered appropriately without respecting one of the most important underlying principles already expressed in the JPI CH SRIA 2020:

“Collaborative and transdisciplinary research: Collaborative research with heritage professionals, NGOs, associations and a broad range of heritage institutions and management bodies (public and private) is encouraged. The priority research areas identified should provide the space for investigator-led and curiosity-driven research across all disciplines. Research should be truly integrative and provide opportunities to explore all forms of cultural heritage (tangible, intangible and digital) alongside its many interfaces with natural heritage and the environment. It should

involve collaboration and work across disciplinary, conceptual, theoretical, methodological and international boundaries.”

Efforts to encourage a good geographic coverage will be further developed within the Partnership, with a special focus on certain regions that are not yet sufficiently represented by the countries that they are composed of, such as the East and South-East parts of Europe (Balkans, including Western Balkans, Central Europe, Eastern Baltic, and Black Sea Countries), but also on widening countries, countries newly associated to HE, and other third countries beyond Europe. The CCH Call (Climate and Cultural heritage) launched in 2023 by the JPI CH, jointly with the JPI Climate and the Belmont Forum has demonstrated two important facts: the relevance of adopting a worldwide approach to the challenges faced, involving countries such as the United States, Thailand or Turkey, and the existence of important gaps in the geographical coverage of the approach to this research challenge, such as in Africa. The Partnership could continue to build on this approach to meet the objectives of the Commission Communication on the Global Approach to Research and Innovation Europe's strategy for international cooperation in a changing world¹⁵⁶.

During the preparation phase of the Partnership, ARCHE already foresees the organisation of five workshops between October 2024 and June 2025 to raise awareness of the RCH challenges and objectives, including in the underrepresented regions of the European continent and beyond.

In addition, the Partnership will encourage equitable research and innovation collaborations with low- and middle-income countries and or LEAP-RE programme¹⁵⁷. Specific activities will be implemented to increase the participation and success of these countries, their research communities and national stakeholders, including:

- Organisation of staff exchanges, sharing of good practices on how to improve the participation and success of smaller research communities, development of specific documentation and factsheets. This will contribute to building the capacity of staff from key organisations from these countries;
- Capacity building regarding the activities of the Partnership through info days and specific events in these countries, increasing awareness and capacities from the research community on the opportunities offered by the Partnership;
- Promotion of tools and organisation of networking events to help build new connections between research communities through the use of matchmaking instruments.

The Partnership will remain open to new members throughout its lifetime. A pro-active policy will be set-up to involve a high diversity of partners and stakeholders beyond the core ones, with a view to improving the joint programming and the integration of resources and policies in the ERA R&I. The wide participation is crucial to ensure a link between research, innovation and policy, to better consider and integrate research and policy making temporalities and to improve the uptake of knowledge to support policies and actions. The integration of new partners halfway through the implementation of the Partnership will be possible depending on their effective commitments and the eligibility conditions set up by the EC rules. The Observers Group described in Section 3.3.1 above will serve as an antechamber for these newcomers, while waiting for their effective inclusion as full partners to be decided by the Partnership Assembly.

¹⁵⁶ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM%3A2021%3A252%3AFIN>

¹⁵⁷ <https://www.leap-re.eu/>

The Partnership Assembly meetings and activities in the different Pillars will be open to all countries, whether members or observers, provided that they bring the necessary human resources and under the conditions exposed above in section 3.3. Governance. The inclusion in the Advisory, Scientific and Ethics Board of nationals from countries not yet involved in the Partnership will also be promoted.

Participation in the Partnership will follow the principle of variable geometry, considering that it might not be relevant or possible for all partners to engage in every activity of the Partnership. Specific procedures will also be agreed by the Partnership Assembly to deal with requests for the observer status or any potential withdrawal from the Partnership, in accordance with EC rules.

3.4.2 Dissemination, access to information and results

The Partnership will be supported for its dissemination by a communication strategy implemented through the Pillars, Tasks and a Communication Committee. Subject to the EC rules, the visual identity of the Partnership will re-use and adapt the previous graphical elements used by the JPI CH and the ARCHE project, so as to preserve a certain continuity and familiarity with the community already engaged in previous activities.

The well-identified Heritage Research Hub website will play a central role in this strategy as a dedicated website which will give an overview of its SRIA, Work Programmes, and of completed, ongoing and future activities. The Heritage Research Hub, implemented by the JPI CH in 2020, was created on and for the wider CH research community and is a legacy of all previous transnational efforts to improve coordination in the field. It benefits from a very high visibility, from both the side of the community and of the general public, while also having a significant presence on social networks. Throughout the whole research implementation process it will provide continuous access to information and to relevant tools, from the collaborative and inclusive design of the RCH SRIA and research priorities (Heritage Research Forum and online surveys), to the implementation of the various activities (matchmaking platform, information about events, funding opportunities), and the communication, dissemination and transmission of research results (monitoring tool, access to public results and deliverables, assessment reports).

Digital platforms empower communities to actively participate in the policy development process by providing them with access to relevant data, statistics, and knowledge. The online engagement and information channel through the Heritage Research Hub and corresponding Social Media channels will be supplemented by different kind of physical and hybrid information channels such as workshops, seminars, roundtables and conferences. These will cover different key moment of the implementation of the Partnership's activities starting with transnational calls for proposals, by proposing public engagement events at each of the different stages of their implementation (kick-off, mid-term, final review).

The Partnership will undertake several additional actions to increase the impact from its activities, ensure broad awareness within key bodies and guarantee non-discriminatory access to information. These include:

- Regular information to MS/ACs through the corresponding Programme Committee of the EU R&I FP to allow all countries to access equal information;
- Direct involvement of EC representatives in the planned consultations and activities to ensure synergies with thematic projects under HE (and the subsequent FP) calls and alignment with EU political priorities, its ongoing and planned actions relevant to the Partnership;

- Regular workshops with interested partners from MS/ACs and related networks to identify potentials for cooperation with national R&I programmes as well as other networks and Partnerships, including international Partnerships concluded by the EC;
- National consultations to promote linkages with national strategies and programmes and to support decision making on national commitments. The Partnership will promote efficient coordination mechanisms and best practices at national levels such as the implementation of Mirror Groups and National Consultation Panels (or equivalent structuration)
- Other large-scale events to reach out to various stakeholders' communities beyond the academic and political fields.

3.4.3 Participation of new partners and actors in the definition of common priorities

The SRIA co-designing process for the Partnership, which is described in Annex I, will build on the combined stakeholder communities and relevant achievements of the JPI CH and ARCHE, offering a first entry point for the inclusion of new relevant European as well as international partners and actors. The SRIA design will combine several consultations of the stakeholders' community, through online surveys, virtual and physical workshops, wider engagement through the Heritage Research Forum online platform as described above.

The governance of the RCH Partnership will offer a second entry point. Organised on three different levels, the governance is based on the community level, which makes up the consultative basis for the different set of activities implemented by the Partnership. This community level also represents a pool of potential new players, and there is a certain porosity between this level and the two other upper levels (the decisional and the operational ones). As an example, the Extended Advisory Board, as one of the three elements of the consultative basis, together with the national coordination mechanisms and the Heritage Research Forum, will serve as an entry door to the other levels through a possible participation in the Scientific, Advisory and Ethics Board. In general, actors from the community will be mapped, engaged and consulted for the definition of common priorities through different channels, sometimes cross-cutting, with the main ones being the Heritage Research Forum, the National coordination mechanisms, and the Extended Advisory Board.

3.4.4 Recruitment policy:

The recruitment policy will cover two important aspects. The first one covers the recruitment of appropriate persons and organisations to assume the different positions for the governance structure of the Partnership. The second one is complementary but represents how the Partnership will ensure that relevant actors and target groups involved in it continuously reflect the evolving needs and dynamic landscape of the research field.

This proactive recruitment policy will be open and based, in priority, on the quality of applicants, while relying and building on the experiences and broad pool of talents involved in the previous initiatives, such as the JPI CH. In order to specify requirements recruitment procedures, the ARCHE project will publish in 2024 a specific Deliverable (D3.4) describing the staffing plan for the future RCH Partnership. This report will address in priority issues related to the recruitment and composition of all operational staff of the Partnership, especially the coordination team and the call Secretariat. It will then detail the methodology and concrete procedures for identifying the organisations and persons that will be proposed for higher functions within the RCH Governance

bodies, as well as proposing a general timeline for the establishment of the various governing bodies, the appointment of their members and the organisation of elections to the specific functions.

Throughout the whole recruitment process, the RCH consortium will take all measures to implement the principles set out in the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers¹⁵⁸, regarding working conditions, transparent recruitment processes based on merit, and career development. All researchers and all participants involved in the Partnership will be made aware of the abovementioned principles.

Complementary to the staffing, the recruitment policy will also reflect the evolving needs of the sector in a proactive recruitment policy to relevant and corresponding new memberships, paying attention to several target groups, including:

- New countries and regions;
- New programme owners and funding agencies;
- New stakeholders and researchers;
- Other networks and Partnerships.

These will represent efforts to widen the network. In this regard teaming up with other networks, platforms and initiatives will be seen as strategic for facilitating community building, synthesis, exploitation, transmission and uptake of research results to and by the professional community, as well as the co-design of the programme and its activities.

3.4.5 Establishment of annual work programmes:

The process of establishing annual work programmes and consulting relevant stakeholders and entities for the identification and design of research priorities and activities will be “as open as possible, and as closed as necessary”¹⁵⁹. Annual work programmes are to be submitted to the EC for approval (see above under 3.3.1) through a process which will be decided during further discussions on the final Partnership proposal and formalised in the GA between the Partnership consortium and the EC. The first annual work programme will be part of the RCH proposal, together with the full partnership proposal and its SRIA.

The openness of the process of establishing annual work programmes, through bottom-up approaches for the suggestion of topics and priorities, will ensure that these prioritised topics that are to be implemented (through the different set of activities presented in Section 3.1) can attract a critical mass of organisations. This will also guarantee that relevant communities, and especially professional communities, are involved throughout the whole continuum of research implementation, from the design of research priorities to the implementation, dissemination, transmission and uptake of results, ensuring that the results of research are both useful and used.

Clear and transparent processes have been developed and are being implemented by the ARCHE project to prepare the future SRIA of the RCH Partnership and its corresponding roadmap for implementation, process which is described in Annex I of this proposal. This process mixes several

¹⁵⁸ Commission Recommendation of 11 March 2005 on the European Charter for Researchers and on a Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers (Text with EEA relevance) *OJ L 75, 22.3.2005, p. 67–77*, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX:32005H0251>

¹⁵⁹ https://rea.ec.europa.eu/open-science_en

consultation channels and instruments associating the broad community and the different groups that will be targeted by the RCH Partnership: online and physical workshops, online surveys and consultations, public presentations of the results during the different stages of the SRIA development.

The annual work programmes will be decided based on the inputs from all the Partnership's members and from all the different Advisory bodies, so as to be in line with the highest EC quality standards. More precisely, these consultation mechanisms will follow the three different channels forming the "consultative basis" of the Partnership (see Section 3.3.3), in order to define relevant topics and work programmes:

- National Structures
- The Heritage Research Forum
- The Extended Advisory Board

Several instruments (workshops, online consultation) will be used to consult these different channels. The Partnership partners will then be asked to prioritise among the different topics coming out from the consultations, and the priority groups of topics for future programmes and calls will be taken into account when developing the annual work plans. For each joint call, the development and implementation of the call, including the elaboration of call text, will be made by the Call Unit, composed by the Call Pillar, the Call Steering Committee, and Call Secretariat, the latter which provides assistance to the first two. These three bodies will be isolated from the rest of the Partnership's members by several firewalls, to avoid any conflict of interests throughout the process.

In particular, in order to remain "as closed as necessary" and avoid any conflict of interest, the Call Steering Committee will act as filter body between decisions taken in the part of the governance dedicated to the calls' preparation and the rest of the Partnership.

3.4.6 Open Science

The Partnership will commit as much as possible to Open Science, enabling others to collaborate, contribute, reuse, redistribute and reproduce the research and its underlying data and methods. In this regard, it will also make sure to implement FAIR data principles (findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable) as outlined in the European Open Science Cloud Declaration (2017)¹⁶⁰.

By applying these principles, the Partnership will ensure that data generated in activities implemented will be made available to the scientific community and the public at large. Furthermore, collaboration with existing data sharing initiatives and infrastructures will be promoted and developed to enable the most efficient open access to research data obtained through the Partnership activities. These especially include the European Science Cloud, the E-RIHS ERIC data platform Digilab, and the latest progresses of the European Collaborative Cloud for Cultural Heritage (ECCCH).

¹⁶⁰ [European Open Science Cloud: EOSC Declaration](#)

Annex I Description of the planned process for developing a SRIA

The process to initiate the preparation of the RCH Partnership Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) has been carried out by the ARCHE project. ARCHE (Alliance for Research on Cultural Heritage in Europe (ARCHE, <https://www.heritageresearch-hub.eu/ arche-home/>) is the Coordination and Support Action (2022-2025) funded by Horizon Europe Cluster 2 to prepare the ground for the future RCH Partnership. This process is aligned to the development of a purpose-built governance structure engaging both existing networks as well as new relevant partners.

As a starting point, the development of the new SRIA has taken into account the importance of achieving a strong future-facing agenda through a Foresight Study comprising a review of future-oriented literature spanning the environment, economics, health, education, arts and culture, and heritage and identifying megatrends and crosscutting themes, and possible opportunities for action for the heritage sector. This Foresight study has been published in Deliverable 2.1, “Report on Future Trends on Cultural Heritage R&I”¹⁶¹ and has served as the backbone for the first of four Stakeholder Virtual Workshops (April to September 2023). The other three workshops have been focusing on other aspects of the SRIA (SWOT analysis, Visioning).



Figure 7_RCH Partnership SRIA drafting process

It is important to underline that all these workshops have been convened through a strong and inclusive approach thanks to engaging a wide variety of stakeholders (e.g., practitioners, members of academia, young professionals and early career scientists, representatives of various Cultural and Creative Industries and sectors and initiatives, national funding agencies, international organisations as well as civil society organisations) and facilitating their views and inputs towards the future SRIA.

Following these workshops, the SRIA preparation process has organized a call for expression of interest among the ARCHE partners towards participating in Working Groups (WGs) for the actual drafting of the SRIA. The WGs have been established, as a starting point, under the themes of the four priorities of the JPI CH SRIA 2020, namely: Reflective heritage for resilient society; Cultural heritage facing climate and environmental change; Cultural heritage in a changing context; and Sustainable management of cultural heritage. The WGs has kickstarted the SRIA’s development by reviewing and updating content, while ensuring alignment with the latest outcomes. As we move forward, the SRIA will evolve and be shaped through iterative discussions and further contributions from a wide range of stakeholders.

¹⁶¹ Cf. footnote 74

In addition, along with this process, a desk-study towards identifying recent and new policy frameworks established since 2020 on the topics related to the SRIA (e.g., 2023 UNESCO Policy Document on Climate Action for World Heritage; and Pact for the Future) towards providing further background relevant policies. An open online Heritage Research Forum was launched in April 2024 towards maximizing outreach to other relevant stakeholders during the drafting process.

The timeframe for the completion of the SRIA allows for other opportunities for online and in-person stakeholder engagement process. In September 2024, an additional stakeholders' workshop has been organized in Florence, to disseminate the Deliverable 2.5 – ARCHE SRIA key messages and preliminary findings – to the general public and launch an online public consultation between October and November. In parallel to the consultative process, Working Groups will continue their work, while expanding to include partners not involved in ARCHE and interested to commit to the RCH Partnership. The launch of the finalized SRIA is expected for the first quarter of 2025 and will be accompanied by a strong dissemination, communication and awareness-raising process.

The process for the SRIA development can be followed at the webpage: <https://www.heritageresearch-hub.eu/arche-home/sria/>.

Annex II List of Abbreviations

AC	Associated Country (to Horizon Europe)
ARCHE	Alliance for Research on Cultural Heritage in Europe
CCIs	Cultural & Creative Industries
CH	Cultural Heritage
CSA	Coordination and Support Action
DG	Directorate General of the European Commission
EC	European Commission
ECCCH	European Collaborative Cloud for Cultural Heritage
ERA	European Research Area
E-RIHS	European Research Infrastructure for Heritage Science
EU	European Union
FAIR	Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable
FP	Framework Programme
GA	Grant Agreement
H2020	Horizon 2020 – 8 th EU Framework Programme for Research & Innovation 2014-2020
HE	Horizon Europe – 9 th EU Framework Programme for Research & Innovation 2021-2027
JPI	Joint Programming Initiative
JPI CH	Joint Programming Initiative on Cultural Heritage and Global Change
MS	Member States
OMC	Open Method of Coordination
P2P	Public-to-public
RCH	Resilient Cultural Heritage Partnership
R&I	Research & Innovation
RTD	Research and Innovation Directorate General of the European Commission
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SME	Small and Medium Enterprises
SRIA	Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda
SSH	Social Sciences and Humanities
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
TRL	Technology Readiness Level
WG	Working Group
WP	Work Package