



Europa Nostra and ALIPH reinforce their partnership to protect cultural heritage in EU neighbouring countries and against the impact of climate change

Paris, 1 December 2023 – **Europa Nostra**, the European Voice of Civil Society committed to Cultural Heritage, and **ALIPH**, the International alliance for the protection of heritage in conflict areas, have strengthened their cooperation on two fronts. The first is to contribute to the protection of cultural heritage in EU neighbouring countries, in the frame of the EU-funded **European Heritage Hub** pilot project. The second is to support a Global Campaign for Culture-based Climate Action, led and financially supported by the Ministry of Culture of the United Arab Emirates.

On Wednesday 29 November, these two agreements were signed by **Sneška Quaedvlieg-Mihailović**, Secretary General of Europa Nostra, and **Valéry Freland**, Executive Director of ALIPH, at the Hôtel de la Marine in Paris on the occasion of the celebrations of Europa Nostra's 60th anniversary and of the French laureates of the 2023 [European Heritage Awards](#).

Valéry Freland, Executive Director of ALIPH, said “ALIPH congratulates Europa Nostra on this remarkable milestone, and today we celebrate its role as a leader in the promotion of cultural heritage both in Europe and on the world's stage. The two agreements that we sign today signify not just our ongoing, trusted partnership with Europa Nostra, but also symbolise that in the face of crises and climate change, no one organisation is enough to protect humanity's cultural heritage. We need an alliance of the willing to ensure that our patrimony is protected for future generations. I would also like to thank the European Union for its support to the European Heritage Hub, and the Ministry of Culture of the United Arab Emirates for funding the Global Campaign for Culture-based Climate Action.”

Sneška Quaedvlieg-Mihailović, Secretary General of Europa Nostra, said “Europa Nostra and I wish to extend our sincere gratitude to the ALIPH Foundation for its confidence and increased support and we warmly welcome this important global cultural heritage player as a new associate partner of the European Heritage Hub project which is funded by the European Union. In partnership with ALIPH, with its vast experience in safeguarding heritage in conflict areas, we shall together encourage and enable heritage-led and cross-border activities that encourage peace-building, reconciliation, dialogue and promote



our shared values through the care for our shared heritage. We shall also join our voices and forces to demonstrate the vital role of culture and cultural heritage for climate action at all levels, from local to global. Special thanks to the UAE government for their support to this key action. We look forward to implementing these important objectives together with the entire European Heritage Hub Consortium and many other partners.”

Support to Heritage-related Projects led by Civil Society in 11 neighbouring countries of the European Union

ALIPH has committed 110.000 USD to contribute to the launch and running of the European Heritage Hub Small Grants Scheme, which has been conceived to **encourage and empower** heritage stakeholders from Ukraine, Moldova, the Caucasus (Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia), and the Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo¹, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia) to become active protagonists of the wider European heritage movement.

These countries are either confronted with armed conflict, facing post-conflict challenges, or are in need of preventative measures, should tensions arise. The Small Grants Scheme will thus provide support for:

- Building the capacity of civil society;
- Enhancing the key role of cultural heritage for the triple transformation of our society, economy, and the environment (green, digital and social);
- Building peace, stability, reconciliation, intercultural and interreligious dialogue through heritage-led activities.

The Small Grants Scheme will be an **agile and flexible** funding instrument for allocating small, medium and larger grants to heritage-led initiatives. The Call for Applications will be published by January 2024 and submissions will be reviewed by a Selection Committee composed of partners of the European Heritage Hub project.

The Small Grants Scheme is part of the European Heritage Hub pilot project co-funded by the **European Union**.

¹ All references to Kosovo, whether the territory, institutions or population, in this document shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations' Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.



Support to a Global Campaign for Culture-based Climate Action

This campaign, which is led and funded by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Ministry of Culture in partnership with the Climate Heritage Network/Europa Nostra and the ALIPH Foundation, will build on the growing determination of the heritage community and arts and creative sectors to put culture at the heart of climate policy. To help with planning, and to scale-up culture-based climate action, the campaign will **demonstrate the vital intersections between culture, heritage and climate action.**

With the support of the UAE Ministry of Culture, ALIPH has committed 100.000 USD to assist Europa Nostra in its capacity as the Leader of the European Heritage Hub Consortium, which is also providing the Secretariat for the “Culture at COP28 Working Group” of the Climate Heritage Network. Three civil society organisations are also a part of this strategy: **Julie’s Bicycle** (based in the UK), the **Petra National Trust** (based in Jordan), and the **Siam Society** (based in Thailand).

The primary objective of this initiative is to mainstream cultural and heritage perspectives into climate change policies, supporting and inspiring climate action by cultural voices, building the capacity of cultural actors for ambitious climate action, raising the alarm about climate change impacts on culture and heritage, and mobilising resources for its protection.

As put forward in the recently launched [Global Call to Action](#), the two main focuses are to: a) ensure support by leading cultural voices and civil society organisations, from local to global levels, to create a “UNFCCC Group of Friends of Culture-Based Climate Action” to be launched at COP28 in Dubai during the “High-Level Ministerial Dialogue on Culture-Based Climate Action” on 8 December 2023; b) advocate for the adoption, within the UNFCCC framework, of a ground-breaking **“Joint Work Decision on Culture and Climate Action,”** to pave the way for the implementation of a new, landmark UN work plan on culture, heritage, and climate action.



About

Europa Nostra

[Europa Nostra](#) is the European voice of civil society committed to safeguarding and promoting cultural and natural heritage. It is a pan-European federation of heritage NGOs, supported by a wide network of public bodies, private companies and individuals, covering over 40 countries. It is the largest and the most representative heritage network in Europe, maintaining close relations with the European Union, the Council of Europe, UNESCO and other international bodies. Founded in 1963, Europa Nostra celebrates its 60th anniversary this year.

European Heritage Hub

The [European Heritage Hub](#) is an EU-funded pilot project bringing together heritage actors and initiatives across Europe to support the green, digital and social transformation of our society. It is run by a consortium of 20 partners led by [Europa Nostra](#). The project will run for an initial two-year period from May 2023 to April 2025.

ALIPH

The [International alliance for the protection of heritage in conflict areas](#) (ALIPH) is the main global fund exclusively dedicated to the protection and rehabilitation of cultural heritage in conflict zones and post-conflict situations. It was created in 2017 in response to the massive destruction of cultural heritage over the past two decades, predominantly in the Middle East and the Sahel. ALIPH is a public-private partnership assembling several countries (China, Cyprus, France, Kuwait, Luxembourg, Morocco, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates) and private donors. Based in Geneva, this Swiss foundation also benefits from the privileges and immunities of an international organisation. To date, ALIPH has supported about 440 projects in more than 35 countries on 4 continents. Thanks in part to its agility, ALIPH has become the first institution to deploy emergency heritage aid in areas threatened by conflict or crisis. Building on the strength of these first six years of experience, ALIPH is now committed to protecting the heritage of vulnerable countries against the impacts of climate change. ALIPH finances concrete initiatives carried on the ground, hand-in-hand with local partners, authorities, and communities. Its mission places cultural heritage protection as a central contributor to peace and sustainable development.



Contact

Europa Nostra

Christy Drummond

Communications Manager

cd@europanostra.org

+32 2 894 74 99

ALIPH

Sandra Bialystok

Director of Communications and Partnerships

sandra.bialystok@aliph-foundation.org

+41 79 897 48 89