

Climate Action, Social Cohesion and the Future of Venice: a collaborative dialogue

***The Home of the Human Safety Net, Piazza San Marco 105, Venezia
15 July 2024, from 18:30 to 20:00***

***The meeting will also be live streamed and accessible from the
[website of the European Heritage Hub](#)***

**Organised by Europa Nostra and the European Heritage Hub
Kindly hosted by The Human Safety Net**

Welcoming remarks

Alexia Boro, Director - The Home of the Human Safety Net

Introductory remarks

Carla Toffolo, Programme Manager - Europa Nostra | European Heritage Hub

Moderator

Marco Zatterin, Columnist – NEM Group

Contributors

Sara Bronin, Chair – US Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and member of the Advisory Council of the European Heritage Hub

Pierpaolo Campostrini, Director – CORILA, Consortium for coordination of research activities concerning the Venice lagoon system

Alessandro Costa, Director General – Venice Sustainability Foundation and member of the Advisory Council of the European Heritage Hub

Emma Ursich, Executive Officer - The Human Safety Net

Closing remarks

Carla Toffolo, Programme Manager - Europa Nostra | European Heritage Hub

The meeting will be in English

Policy context

The [European Heritage Hub](#) is an EU funded pilot project run by a large European consortium led by Europa Nostra. It brings together heritage stakeholders and initiatives across Europe to support a successful transition towards a more sustainable, digital and inclusive society. The project is running for an initial two-year period from May 2023 to April 2025.

In September 2023, at the Human Safety Net, during its European Cultural Heritage Summit, Europa Nostra organised the European Heritage Hub Forum on [Reimagining the Anthropocene: Putting Culture and Heritage at the Heart of Climate Action](#). This Forum focused on culture-based solutions to climate change. Discussions fed into a [global call](#) to action to put culture and heritage at the heart of climate action, which led to the creation of the Group of Friends of Culture-Based Climate Action at COP28 held in Dubai with the adoption of the [Emirates Declaration on Cultural-based climate action](#).

Among others, the policy action of the European Heritage Hub aims to analyse, observe trends, and identify gaps across the policy and regulatory environment at European, national and local level. Its aim is to contribute effectively, with policy papers and recommendations, to shaping the next phase of policy and decision-making at EU level having direct or indirect impact on Europe's cultural heritage and historic environment.

The word sustainability first appeared already 40 years ago, in 1983, when the UN World Commission on Environment and Development stated in the Brundtland Report that "sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." In addition, UNESCO noted that: "sustainability is often thought of as a long-term goal (i.e. a more sustainable world), while sustainable development refers to the many processes and pathways to achieve it." Sustainability has, therefore, become a cornerstone of our contemporary society and also lies at the heart of the European Heritage Hub's mission and action.

The City of Venice is considered a resilience hub by the UNDRR (United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction) and has the ambition of becoming a world capital of sustainability. The creation of the Venice Sustainability Foundation supports this ambition. The European Heritage Hub is keen to contribute to this positive and welcome development by stimulating a collaborative dialogue, learning from each other's experiences and perspectives in Europe and beyond.

The intertwining of all aspects of our lives, irrespective of the city or country where we live, are patent. This is the reason why an exchange of views is needed on the way in which climate change affects the preservation and enhancement, not only of our tangible heritage but also of our intangible heritage, taking into due consideration the related social repercussions, in particular on the most vulnerable members of our society. Our event will focus on Venice, a potential positive example for other historic cities, in the light of the proven resilience of the city.

Europa Nostra has the ambition of establishing its next Heritage Hub in the lagoon city (after Krakow, Athens, Nicosia and Lisbon) to provide a platform for a regular dialogue and mutually beneficial collaboration among different European and non-European actors active in the preservation of our cultural and natural heritage, and in the wider field of culture. We shall aim to connect places, people and projects to exchange their practices and knowledge and build partnerships for the benefit of a more sustainable, more inclusive and more beautiful future for Venice and its citizens, and for Europe as a whole.

About the speakers

The dialogue will be moderated by **Marco Zatterin**, a journalist from Rome of a Venetian origin, he was previously head of the Economy, Brussels correspondent and deputy editor of the daily newspaper La Stampa. He is currently a columnist for the Nem group newspapers. The author of numerous essays, including "Trafalgar" (Rizzoli, 2005) and "Il gigante del Nilo" (Oscar Storia 2019). He is passionate about European geopolitics, archives and history. His main vocation is to connect the dots.

Sara C. Bronin - Chair, US Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and member of the Advisory Council of the European Heritage Hub.

Sara is an architect and attorney who was nominated by President Joe Biden and confirmed by unanimous consent by the United States Senate to serve as the 12th chair of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP). The ACHP is the American historic preservation agency, devoted to advancing sound preservation policies at the federal, state, and local levels.

While chairing the ACHP, Chair Bronin is on leave from her tenured position at Cornell University, where she serves as a professor on the planning, real estate, law, and architecture faculties. Her interdisciplinary research in the areas of property, land use, historic preservation, and energy has focused on how law and policy can foster more equitable, sustainable, well-designed, and connected places.

Chair Bronin received a J.D. from Yale Law School, an M.Sc. from the University of Oxford (where she was a Rhodes Scholar), and a B.Arch. and B.A. from the University of Texas at Austin.

Pierpaolo Campostrini - CORILA, Consortium for coordination of research activities concerning the Venice lagoon system

Pierpaolo is the Director of CORILA, the scientific body that coordinates and conducts research on the Venice lagoon system.

He represents Italy in several European research committees, such as the JPI Oceans initiative and the Knowledge Hub on Sea Level Rise. He was the founder of Lagunet and EUROMEDLAG, the Italian and European networks for research on lagoon systems. He is the coordinator of several European projects on sea and coasts, including "ecological restoration" and climate change adaptation actions.

He was from 2015 to 2020 Procuratore di S. Marco, in charge of the maintenance of the Basilica, and received the Manageritalia Award for managerial excellence in scientific research.

Since 2000 he has dedicated his professional activity mainly to the preservation of his city and its natural, artistic and cultural heritage.

Alessandro Costa, Director General – Venice Sustainability Foundation and member of the Advisory Council of the European Heritage Hub

Alessandro holds a Ph.D. in Environmental Science, is an academic expert and consultant in sustainable urban development, energy policies & studies, relations with institutions and universities, with a proven expertise in starting up foundations.

In fact, between 2011 and 2015, as director, he activated the Enel Foundation, funded by Enel Group and devoted to research, institutional capacity building and dissemination in the areas of: energy, socioeconomics, sustainable development. He is also a member of the editorial board of the Journal of Sustainability Research and member of the World Energy Council's (global) Programme Committee.

Since May 2022 he is director general and chair of the management board at the Venice Sustainability Foundation; he also holds the position of senior manager at Snam SpA, responsible for Sustainable Integrated Projects Advisory.

Emma Ursich, Executive Officer - The Human Safety Net

Emma is Group Head of Corporate Identity for insurance multinational Generali and Executive Officer of the company's The Human Safety Net Foundation. Launched in 2017, today the Foundation is present in 24 countries and working alongside more than 60 NGOs and social enterprises, through partnerships focusing on social mobility, early childhood development and refugee integration through work. In Venice, Emma cooperated with social entrepreneurs, architects and designers to shape the building we are in now, Generali's Procuratie Vecchie, into the Home of the Human Safety Net and a new hub for social innovation. Emma was born in Italy, holds dual Italian and British nationality and obtained a BA Honours and MA in Oriental Studies, Chinese from the University of Oxford.

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 celebrated its 60th anniversary last year.

European Heritage Hub

The [European Heritage Hub](#) is an EU-funded pilot project 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.

The launch of the Hub comes at a strategic time for Europe. Using the green, digital and social triple transformation of Europe as the overarching theme for all its activities, the project builds the capacity for action and advocacy of the European heritage sector to support the transition towards a more sustainable, innovative and inclusive future.

The European Heritage Hub also aims at building meaningful bridges between regions, countries and communities beyond the European Union and as such extends its activities to EU neighbouring countries in the Western Balkans, the Caucasus, Ukraine and Moldova.

Over the past decade, the contribution of cultural heritage to many key policy priorities of the European Union has been clearly demonstrated. The Hub builds on the success of the European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018 and the ensuing European Framework for Action on Cultural Heritage, an ambitious set of 60 actions established by the European Commission. It will also carry on the legacy of the European Year of Youth 2022 and the European Year of Skills 2023.