

## CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS TO AN ONSITE PEER-LEARNING VISIT IN NANTES (FRANCE) ON 6-8 NOVEMBER 2024

CULTURAL HERITAGE AS AN ASSET FOR A MORE SUSTAINABLE, INNOVATIVE AND  
INCLUSIVE SOCIETY

**Opening date of the Call: 15 July 2024 - Closing date 6 September 2024**

### Background

The [European Heritage Hub](#), a two-year EU-funded pilot project, brings together heritage stakeholders and initiatives across Europe to support the transition towards a more sustainable, innovative, and inclusive society. It is formed by a consortium of [20 partners](#) led by Europa Nostra with Europeana Foundation, Eurocities, KU Leuven, and ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, as co-beneficiaries.

The Hub aims to foster cooperation between existing and future heritage initiatives and actors, adopting holistic and integrated approaches to heritage policies at all governance levels.

The project offers this training and **capacity-building opportunity aimed at city representatives and heritage professionals to share good practices and equip them with the skills to tackle environmental, digital, and social challenges** related to heritage, in their local contexts.

### Peer-learning visit

A peer-learning visit is an opportunity for selected local decision-makers and stakeholders to spend time in another city/region and see first-hand how it has implemented policies, projects, and practical solutions that can be relevant and inspiring in diverse contexts.

It is a chance for meaningful exchanges among peers already active in cultural heritage as well as for those eager to transform their heritage initiatives and policies into more sustainable, innovative, and inclusive ones.

Participating in a peer-learning visit means discussing policies and projects, top tips, pitfalls, and local experiences, in a private and friendly expert environment. Selected participants will get useful information and ideas for improving or initiating local projects, as well as transferring some of the presented practices.

### **Host city: Nantes (France)**

Nantes will be the host city for the Hub's second peer-learning visit this year. The city was selected through the Hub's [Open Call for Local Good Practices](#), launched in November 2023, recognising exemplary local solutions in cultural heritage that contribute to the green, digital, and social transformation of our society. Nantes was among the 10 selected practices having presented its project "[Nantes Cultural Heritage 2.0 — Digital portal developed with citizens for discovery of the city's heritage](#)", which will be the main focus of the visit.

[Nantes Cultural Heritage 2.0](#) is an online platform where citizens access information on the everyday heritage of their city and neighbourhood. Citizens can contribute and become actors in the life of their city through subjects that bring them together and represent them. The project provides digital tours, articles and interactive cartography showcasing urban history, daily life, architecture, historical events, and the latest news on city heritage. The online platform was launched in May 2019. Since then, it has significantly grown: more contributors, more content, and new digital features have been developed to offer even more ways of discovering local heritage.

Furthermore, the visit will focus on the municipal cultural heritage policies, urban renewal projects related to the city's industrial heritage, as well initiatives related to remembrance and inclusive storytelling.

The interactive programme aims at addressing the following relevant questions:

#### **1. Green transformation:**

- How to preserve the region's heritage by adopting a reasoned and sensible approach to land management, to enable its adaptation to ecological challenges by respecting existing features and drawing on local know-how.
- Analysing, conserving and disseminating knowledge of the area's history and memory, to better understand its environment and influence its

development.

## 2. Social transformation

- Enhancing the value of our heritage and memories means (re)understanding the life trajectories of our residents and their cultural diversity, thus combating all forms of discrimination.
- Encouraging everyone to take action, through all forms of contribution, to help safeguard our common good.

## 3. Digital transformation

- Managing the digital aspects of the project, including the back office, updates, and other technical components
- Internal organisation to ensure regular updates of the website.
- Organising training sessions for citizens unfamiliar with digital tools.

While discussing different aspects and local examples of:

- Citizens participation
- Social transition
- Cultural rights and the Faro convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society
- Urban development strategies
- Remembrance policies

### Participants' profile

If you work on cultural heritage for a local, regional or national administration, civil society organisation, cultural initiative or project **across Europe**, including Ukraine, Moldova, Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo<sup>1</sup>, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia) and the Caucasus region (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia) – then this opportunity is made for you!

The group of **20 selected participants** will be composed of representatives from European cities and regions but is also open to a limited number of cultural heritage stakeholders.

### The group will ideally be represented by:

- Min. 12 policymakers, representing areas of expertise related to cultural

---

<sup>1</sup> This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

heritage, both at political/decision-making and technical levels (from local or regional administration);

- Up to 4 representatives of national/federal administrations, with areas of work/expertise related to cultural heritage;
- Up to 4 individual participants representing heritage professionals and custodians, civil society organisations (e.g., young people's representatives, entrepreneurs, organisations representing Indigenous communities), NGOs, cultural initiatives/projects, local/regional organisations, thematic associations or other relevant stakeholders with thoroughly demonstrated interest and expertise in related topic and coming from countries other than the country of hosting city.

The following criteria will be considered in the selection:

- Overall quality of the application
- Motivation to participate in the peer learning visit: improve a specific practice or project, implement a new practice or initiative...
- Match between the theme of the visit and the needs/local context of the applicant
- Commitment to take part in the visit and to allocate time to preparation and follow-up
- Balance of the delegation: political/technical/decision-making level, broader mandate than culture, different thematic departments/areas of work/expertise, gender balance.

### Format & covered costs

The visit will last 2.5 days and **2 nights** and will combine meetings with local policymakers and stakeholders, site visits, and facilitated, solution-building workshops. The **working language will be English**.

During the visits:

- You will be introduced to the host city context and successful practices related to culture and cultural heritage. You will get useful information and ideas for improving your existing local projects, initiating new ones or transferring some key elements of the presented practices.
- Our peer learning methodology is designed to stimulate interaction, collaborative learning and solution-building! You are expected to ask a lot of questions & exchange with the group.

- To prepare for the visit, each participant will receive a participants' pack before the visit.

The European Heritage Hub will **cover** travel\* and accommodation (2 nights) costs for participants as well as meals during the stay. The hotel booking will be taken care of by the organisers, however, the participants will arrange and book their individual travels to and from the destination – for which they will be reimbursed.

\*The travel reimbursement will be done with accordance to the [European Commission Decision](#)<sup>2</sup>, e.g. if you travel from Berlin to Nantes the fixed amount for a return trip is 288 EUR. You can use this [online tool](#) to calculate the travel distance relevant for you (Table 2).

**If selected, you will be contacted by our team to explain and coordinate all the logistical aspects, at least a month in advance of the visit.**

#### Additional benefits

- International visibility to your city/region/work at European level and through [European Heritage Hub](#) tools and channels.
- Joining a community of practice and fellow experts, stakeholders and decision-makers in sharing knowledge and experience on heritage projects and policies.
- On-site learning, and application of tested solutions to your local context.

**[APPLY ONLINE](#) BY 6 SEPTEMBER 2024**

**Application form full link:**

[https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/CALL\\_FOR\\_PARTICIPANTS-Visit\\_in\\_Nantes](https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/CALL_FOR_PARTICIPANTS-Visit_in_Nantes)

**If you have additional questions**, you can write to:  
[iwona.lopacinska@eurocities.eu](mailto:iwona.lopacinska@eurocities.eu)

---

<sup>2</sup>[https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/unit-cost-decision-travel\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/unit-cost-decision-travel_en.pdf)