



Un patrimoine pour l'avenir, une science pour le patrimoine

Heritage for the Future, Science for Heritage

**Une aventure européenne
de la recherche et de l'innovation**

A European Adventure for Research and Innovation

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AVANT-PROPOS / FOREWORD

Cette publication est la somme d'articles rédigés par les intervenants du colloque européen « Un patrimoine pour l'avenir, une science pour le patrimoine », organisé dans le cadre de la Présidence française du Conseil de l'Union européenne les 15 et 16 mars 2022 à Paris.

Les différentes contributions se veulent le reflet des présentations qui ont été données dans le cadre des sessions plénières et des tables rondes durant deux jours. Elles présentent les travaux menés par des doctorants et des chercheurs, mais aussi les initiatives portées par différents acteurs qui contribuent à la préservation, la valorisation et la transmission du patrimoine culturel.

Ces actes comprennent également une série d'articles, plus courts, publiés sur le site internet du colloque afin d'explorer les quatre grands thèmes proposés. Ces articles, présentés dans une section distincte, n'ont cependant pas fait l'objet de présentations lors de l'événement.

Les articles sont proposés en français ou en anglais, et reflètent la diversité des sujets qui animent aujourd'hui le domaine des sciences du patrimoine en France et en Europe. L'ensemble des présentations du colloque est également disponible sur la chaîne [YouTube du Heritage Research Hub](#).

Cet événement a été financé par l'Union européenne. Les vues et opinions exprimées dans le cadre du colloque et dans les actes ne reflètent pas nécessairement celles de l'Union européenne et de la Commission européenne. L'Union européenne et la Commission européenne ne peuvent en être tenues responsables. Par ailleurs, s'il n'a pas été organisé par le Gouvernement français, il est cependant autorisé par celui-ci à utiliser l'emblème de la présidence française du Conseil de l'Union européenne.

This publication is the sum of articles written by the speakers of the European symposium 'Heritage for the Future, Science for Heritage', organised in the framework of the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union on 15 and 16 March 2022 in Paris.

The various contributions reflect the presentations that were given during the plenary sessions and round tables over two days. They present the work carried out by PhD students and researchers but also the initiatives undertaken by various actors who contribute to the preservation, valorisation, and transmission of cultural heritage.

These proceedings also include a series of shorter articles published on the symposium website to explore the four main themes proposed. These articles, presented in a separate section, were not, however, the subject of presentations at the event.

The articles are available in French or English and reflect the diversity of topics currently being discussed in the field of heritage science in France and Europe. All the presentations of the symposium are also available on the [YouTube channel of the Heritage Research Hub](#).

This event was funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed in the framework of this event and in the following proceedings do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union and the European Commission. The European Union nor the European Commission can be held responsible for them. Moreover, the symposium was not organised by the French Government. It was however authorised by the French Government to use the emblem of the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

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PRÉFACE FOREWORD

Mariya GABRIEL

European Commissioner for Innovation, Research,
Culture, Education and Youth
June 2020

There could not have been a better setting for this conference than the Louvre and the National Library of France. Just by looking up, participants were immediately reminded of the beauty and richness of our cultural heritage – and how important it is to protect it.

Modern heritage science plays a fundamental role in this context. Research and innovation, and notably new technologies and digital tools, have completely changed the preservation, protection, and enhancement of the tangible and intangible forms of our heritage. We are now able to take the challenges of our modern times into account, like climate change, social cohesion, economic development, digital transition, and cultural transformations.

The European Commission is proud that the new budget allocated to Horizon Europe 2021-2027 includes, for the first time, an autonomous intervention area for cultural heritage to support collaborations between heritage science and cultural and creative industries, drive innovation further, and eventually develop a new collaborative cloud for museums and cultural heritage institutions.

Through all these initiatives, we will continue to invest in heritage science and in cultural heritage collaborations. And I would like to thank the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union and the Foundation for Heritage Science for organising this symposium on heritage science, as well as the French Ministry of Culture, the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS) and the universities of Paris-Saclay and Cergy Paris – all of them our trusted partners, sharing our ambitions to protect our cultural heritage for the generations to come.



INTRODUCTION

Isabelle PALLOT-FROSSARD

President of the Foundation for Heritage Science

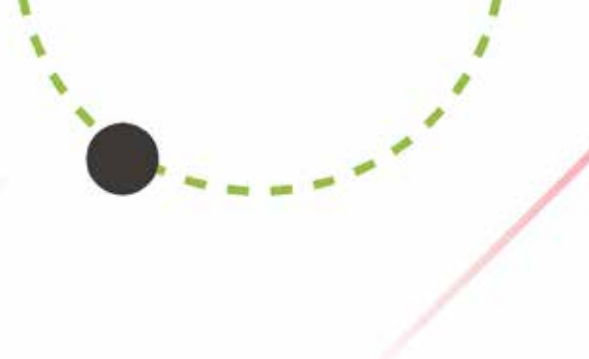
The notion of cultural heritage has very ancient roots and, over the course of history, it has taken many different forms depending on historical periods, geographical areas and cultural contexts. Object of attachment, admiration, recognition, cement of identity, but also target for destruction, hostage of political conflicts and ideological controversies, heritage has also been, for more than two centuries, a research subject. Archive often silent of past societies, cultures and technologies, the heritage object, taken in the broad sense, must be decoded, preserved and enhanced by the cross-disciplines and social sciences and humanities, experimental sciences and now, digital and engineering sciences. Today, heritage science encompasses a vast and interdisciplinary scientific domain that contributes to the identification, understanding, conservation and transmission of heritage, whether tangible, intangible, natural or digital. This field is subject to a robust and wide structuring that brings together researchers, heritage professionals, non-governmental organisations and associations that aim at transcending national visions and interests.

Organised by the Foundation for Heritage Science (FSP), the French Ministry of Culture, the National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS) and the universities of Cergy Paris and Paris-Saclay, within the framework of the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union and with the support of the European Commission, the symposium 'Heritage for the Future, Science for Heritage', was opened on 15 March 2022 by Roselyne Bachelot-Narquin, Minister of Culture, and Mariya Gabriel, European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth. It met a great success as soon as the call for papers was launched in June 2021. The 182 proposals were examined by an international scientific committee, which selected the most relevant ones and those that allowed the broadest possible coverage of the symposium's vast and ambitious themes. During the different sessions held at the Musée du Louvre, the Ecole du Louvre, the Centre for Research and Restoration of Museums of France (C2RMF) and the National Library of France (BnF), participants heard 82 oral communications, organised into five plenary sessions and 15 round tables with a wide range of topics.

Speakers and participants came from 28 different European countries, such as, Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom, and also from further away like Brazil, Canada, Iran, Tunisia, and the United States. Testimony of this success, nearly 1,500 people registered for the event and had the opportunity to participate in the exchanges, both on-site and remotely, many happy to be able to exchange ideas directly with other heritage professionals, in the margins of the sessions and during the times of conviviality.

The programme of the symposium covered all the fields of heritage, the scope of which has now become very wide and is still widening: monuments, archaeological sites, historic towns and cities, urban and rural landscapes, industrial heritage, museum collections and intangible heritage. The concepts of resilience, tourism reuse and exploitation, conservation, identity, social values and human rights, knowledge, multi-sensory approach, transmission, climate change, biodiversity, green conservation, and creative industries were all discussed. Digital technology was encountered everywhere to manage, reconstruct, imagine, transmit and communicate, opening very broad prospects for progress, but also giving rise to anxiety in the face of a field that not everyone has mastered.

The main theme of these days was, as the organisers had expected, the association of three concepts: research, which is the action, science, which is the result, and heritage, which is the object; a fundamental association without which one cannot know and recognise, conserve and transmit. Through the four main themes that structured the symposium: a reflective heritage for a resilient society, sustainable management of cultural heritage, cultural heritage in a changing context, cultural heritage in the face of climate and environmental change, one saw the importance of transdisciplinarity. It is this transdisciplinary approach that the Foundation for Heritage Science promotes daily, with its five main founders, the universities of Cergy Paris, Versailles Saint-Quentin and Paris-Saclay, the Louvre, the Palace of Versailles



and the National Library of France, with the collaboration of its 15 partners, by supporting research on tangible heritage, with the objective of 'understanding and preserving for better transmission'.

At a time when UNESCO is preparing to celebrate the half-century of the World Heritage Convention, at a time when the war at the gates of Europe is destroying human lives and major cultural assets, raising legitimate emotions everywhere, one can see how much heritage is felt to be a common asset of humanity beyond borders, often hostage to conflicts, but also a source of peace, understanding and great international collaborations. On this occasion, we must send a message of warm solidarity to the Ukrainian population, which has been severely affected, and especially to all our research and professional colleagues, who fear both for their lives and for the preservation of their priceless heritage. May they be assured of our support and our contribution, when this will be possible and when heritage science will and shall be mobilised to ensure, in the best conditions, the conservation and restoration of sites, monuments and collections impacted by the war. The French Ministry of Culture is already providing funding for students, artists and cultural professionals.

The European Commission, which has been providing significant funding for heritage research for the past thirty years, must be particularly acknowledged and thanked for its support of this meeting and the publication of its results. Thanks to the support of the European Commission, an important European consortium, coordinated by the Foundation for Heritage Science, is now working on the maturation of a future Partnership on cultural heritage that could be launched in the framework of the second wave of the Horizon Europe programme. Our gratitude also goes to the very active hosts of these two days, the Musée du Louvre, the Ecole du Louvre, the National Library of France, the C2RMF and the Pompidou Centre. A message of thanks must also be addressed to Pascal Liévaux, from the Delegation for Inspection, Research and Innovation at the Directorate General for Heritage and Architecture at the Ministry of Culture and President of the Joint Programming Initiative 'Cultural Heritage and Global Change', who initiated this event and brought it to a successful conclusion, as well as to the entire team of the Foundation, who spared no effort in bringing this publication to fruition.

A Micro-Museum Quarter in Sombor, Serbia, as a Sustainable Model for Managing Cultural Heritage in Small Shrinking Cities in Europe

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Résumé

Le quartier-musée est présenté comme un modèle efficace pour la régénération des grandes métropoles. Néanmoins, il n'a jamais été appliqué aux plus petites villes ou aux villes en décroissance dont les sites patrimoniaux sont pourtant d'une grande richesse. Ces villes deviennent une « nouvelle normalité » dans le paysage européen et font face à des restrictions institutionnelles, organisationnelles et économiques. Construire des quartiers-musées à une micro-échelle dans de telles villes pourrait être une solution pour surmonter ces restrictions. Cet article présente un micro quartier-musée émergeant dans la ville historique de Sombor en Serbie où l'initiative a pris racine au niveau local afin de lutter contre la rapide décroissance de la ville.

Mots-clés: quartier-musée, villes en décroissance, petites villes, régénération, urbanisme

Keywords: museum quarter, shrinking cities, small cities, regeneration, urbanism

Urban shrinkage is a new `normality' for Europe. Smaller and more remote cities which are losing population due to economic, institutional, and administrative constraints particularly dominate in the Eastern post-socialist half of Europe¹. Consequently, such cities had to plan their future in line with this challenge. This also includes the issue of cultural heritage, which is paradoxically well-preserved in many such cities, as they have not had recent intensive development. Hence, its sustainable protection and utilisation are imperative for the desired regeneration of these cities².

Forming a museum quarter is one of the sustainable models to regenerate cities with rich cultural heritage. Museum quarters are the areas that include (1) high-profile museums, (2) usually housed in the valuable historic buildings or complexes, (3) which are further located in inner urban cores with (4) extraordinary accessibility, and (5) surrounded by well-designed open public space³. By this definition, they are similar to the other culture-led models of urban regeneration, such as museum districts, museum clusters, and cultural or creative quarters.



Figure 1. Famous museum quarter in Vienna, © B. Antonić

Museum quarters are still a phenomenon in bigger cities (**Figure 1**). Therefore, the aim of this paper is to examine how this model can be customised to small heritage cities in a more rational approach to address the aforementioned local constraints. This is further exemplified by a micro-museum quarter in the city of Sombor in north-western Serbia.

This research is a single case study. A set of criteria to examine the case of the Sombor quarter is derived from two given theoretical discourses, by which a micro-museum quarter had to:

1. Include the museum of the highest significance at the local/regional level;
2. Be housed in the buildings which are officially cultural heritage;
3. Be located in a well-defined historic urban core;
4. Have an urban character – several buildings with intermediate open space;
5. Reuse old buildings and spaces;
6. Be formed and maintained in a strategic manner;
7. Be in an area of higher urban density;
8. Include at least one 'thematic museum';
9. Be a revitalising force for its urban surroundings; and
10. Be developed as a private-public partnership.

Sombor is one of twenty-eight official cities in Serbia. It is also a borderland city, close to Hungary and Croatia. This location has negatively impacted the city; Sombor has lost approximately fifteen per cent of the population since 2000.

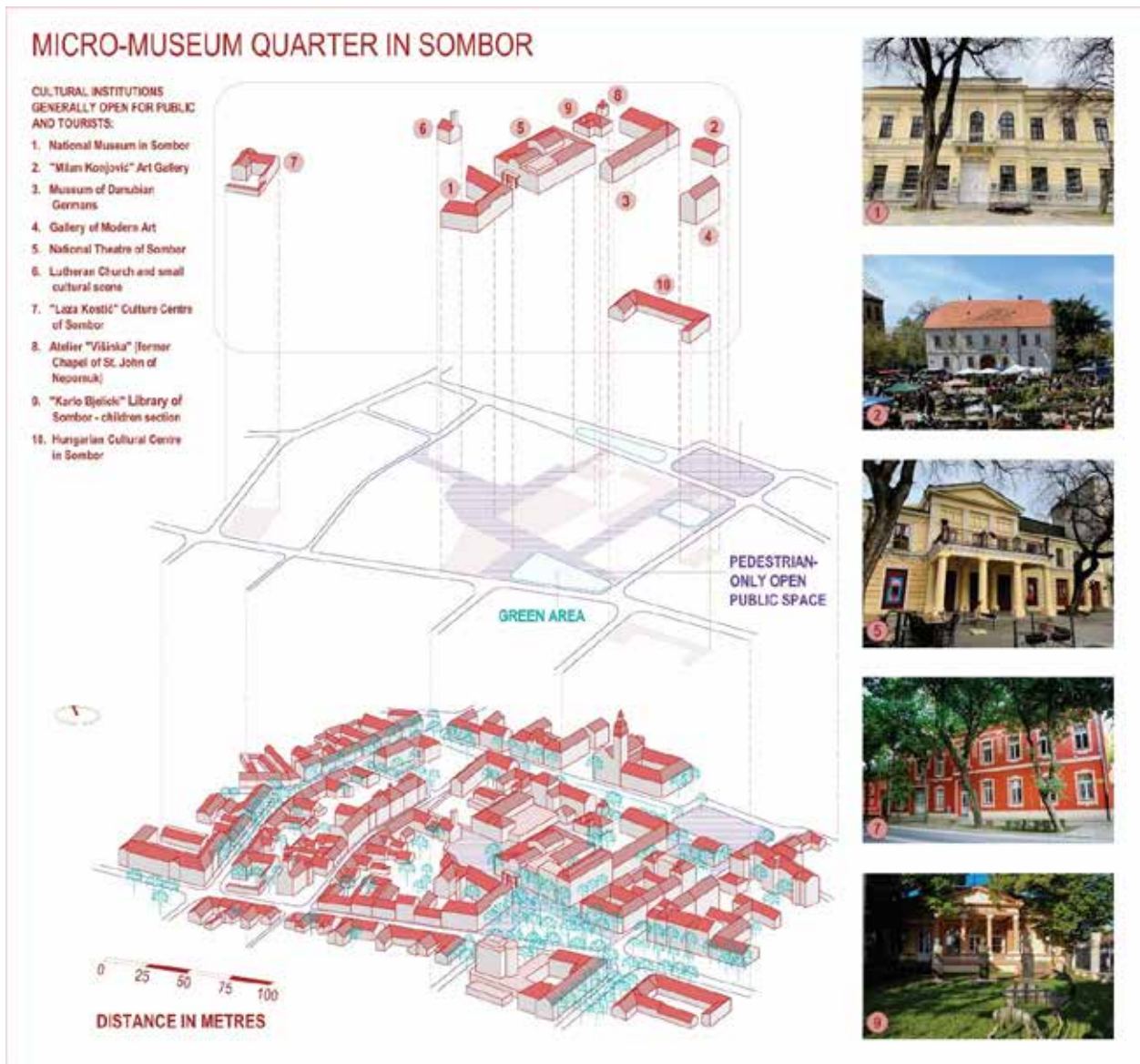


Figure 2. Micro-museum quarter in Sombor © B. Antonić

On the other side, Sombor has the best-preserved historic core among middle-size cities in Serbia, known as 'Venac' (Coronet), as it is surrounded by four boulevards with rich greenery. The city has been an important cultural hub in Southern Pannonia since 1749, when it gained free city status⁴.

The micro-museum quarter has been developed in an old administrative area in the western part of Sombor core, close to the main street. Many historic buildings in this area have already housed cultural institutions. However, city authorities started the new 'wave' of urban regeneration of the area in 2009, by adopting a new detailed plan, adding two new museums, and refurbishing and pedestrianising the entire open public space between the main buildings (**Figure 2**). They have opted for a more rational, microscale project. The project is currently entering the second phase, where the elements of creative industries and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) in the tourist sector are targeted in the form of private-public partnerships.

Considering the criteria, the micro-museum in Sombor completely satisfied five of them (1, 2, 3, 4 & 7). Four criteria are partly satisfied; (criteria 5) there are still empty or semiempty buildings, (6) the strategy needs an update, so a new plan is in preparation, (8) 'thematic museums' are small and still underrepresented, and (9) the revitalisation of urban surroundings is still slow due to a gap between private ownership and public interest. Criterion No 10 about private-public partnerships is the only which is not satisfactory, but it is planned for the future.

The analysis implies that the urban project in Sombor can be labelled as a micro-museum quarter. It thus shows that well-known concepts and models of culture-led urban regeneration, usually implemented in bigger cities, can also be successful in smaller shrinking cities. A key element is the use of a spatially rational approach – micro-scale – primarily initiated and strategically developed by the city itself, with a certain awareness regarding local constraints.

The research also emphasises the elements of micro-museum quarters that are crucial for the cities of similar size and historical value. The first one is that a museum quarter should be developed in the historic fabric that is not the main retail and shopping zone, so it can develop its own identity. Second, open public space in the quarter is not just one of its segments; it is important for the new identity, as it unifies all points of the quarter as a unity. Third, many small cities usually rely on general (regional or municipal) museums as a core of their culture scene; nevertheless, it seems that thematic museums are more appealing for prospective users. The last, although the public-private partnerships are an important and useful tool for project implementation, small shrinking cities are usually unprepared for this step, so they need the support of higher level – national, regional, international.

Acknowledgments

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¹. RESTREPO CADAVID, Paula, CINEAS, Grace, QUINTERO, Louis, ZHUKOVA, Sofia, *Cities in Eastern Europe and Central Asia: A Story of Urban Growth and Decline*, Washington, World Bank, 2017.

². KNIPPSCHILD, Robert, ZÖLLTER, Constanze, *Urban Regeneration between Cultural Heritage Preservation and Revitalization: Experiences with a Decision Support Tool in Eastern Germany*, Land, vol. 10, 2021.

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⁴. DJUKIĆ, Aleksandra, STUPAR, Aleksandra, ANTONIĆ, Branislav, 'The consequences of urban policies in socialist Yugoslavia on the transformation of historic centres: the case study of cities in Northern Serbia', *Journal of housing & built environment*, vol. 33, no. 3, 2018, 555-573. DOI: 10.1007/s10901-018-9612-7.

POSITION PAPER



POSITION PAPER

The symposium highlighted, at the European level, the dynamism of heritage science in its interdisciplinary and intersectoral dimensions. Interdisciplinarity embraces humanities, social, experimental, and digital sciences. Intersectorality is a result of co-creation processes between academics, professionals, entrepreneurs, users and communities.

It demonstrated that Heritage Science strongly contributes to positioning cultural heritage at the core of major contemporary challenges, whether societal, environmental or economic, through a multi-perspective approach to cultural heritage, both at conceptual and operational levels. In a holistic approach to the field, smells, food, graffiti, and the memory of human work, together with monuments, sites, archaeological objects, artworks, can become heritage today, be it tangible, intangible, natural or digital, in order to preserve and study what may disappear over time.

Viewpoints on policies, the diversity of the EU context, and the global conditions of the twin green & digital transition were addressed in plenary sessions. At the same time, exciting case studies were further discussed in various roundtables.

Regarding the green transition, the combination of climate change and cultural heritage issues enables us to approach not only the essential aspects of conservation and restoration from other angles (green conservation), but also to think afresh about the challenges of a reasonable use of digital devices for both research and heritage management. Digital frugality in heritage science is still an area to be explored. Putting heritage at the heart of the green transition should be a priority for decision-makers. While its vulnerability to climate change makes it part of the problem, its long-term resistance to environmental stress and its conservation can be considered part of the solution.

Regarding the digital transition, it has been confirmed in the most striking way that research on digital tools strongly contributes to the conservation and restoration of cultural heritage by enabling the production, sharing and storage of various and heterogeneous data, to its accessibility through virtual visits or serious games, as well as to its democratisation by facilitating citizen participation at all stages of the heritage process.

By supporting heritage science, the European Union promotes a European grammar of cultural heritage, liberated from restrictive and exclusive identities. This approach unveils new opportunities while reinforcing the need for a common European approach to research perspectives on cultural and environmental heritage.

Based on the research projects and innovative actions presented during the two days of the symposium, **the principles of this European grammar of heritage** can be identified:

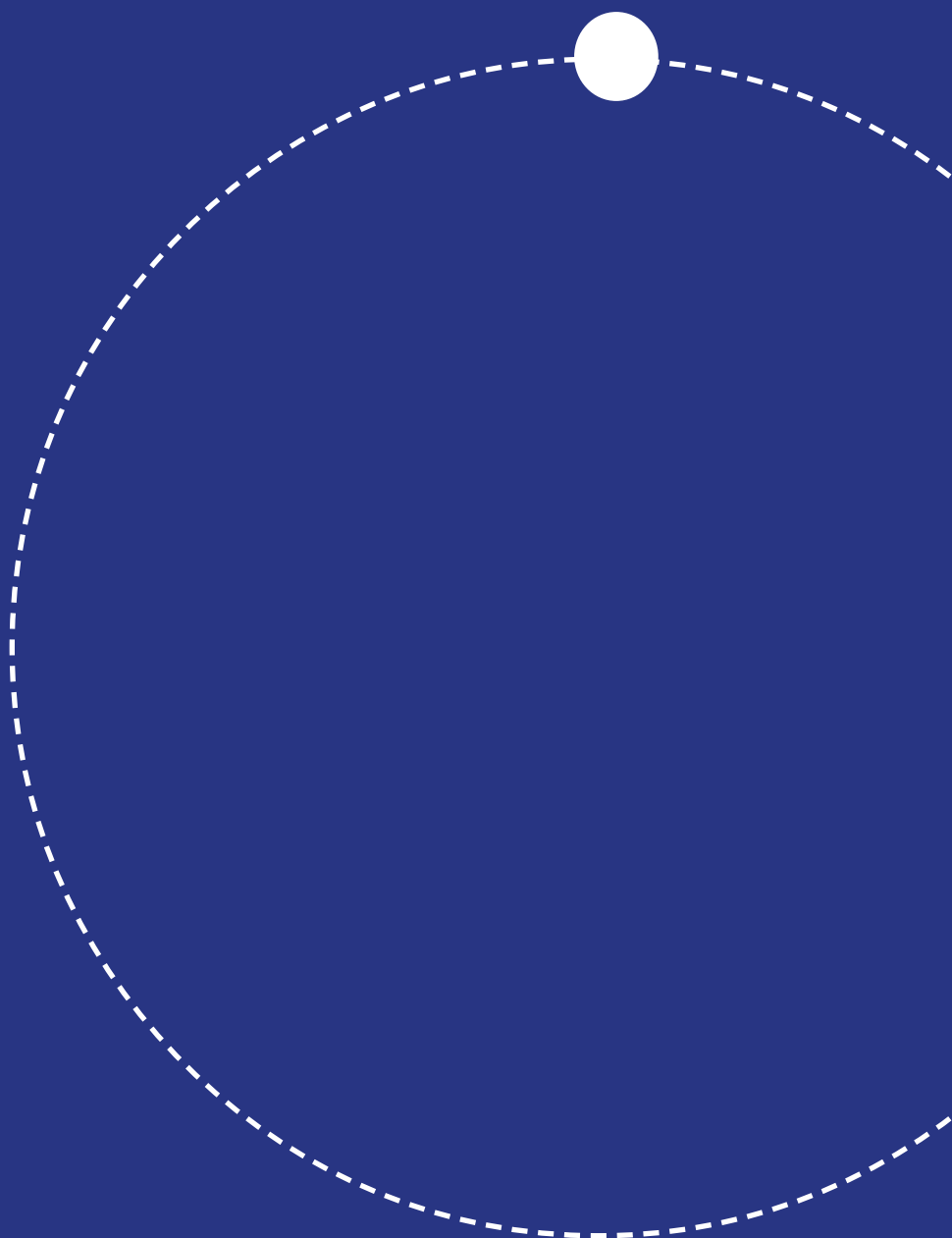
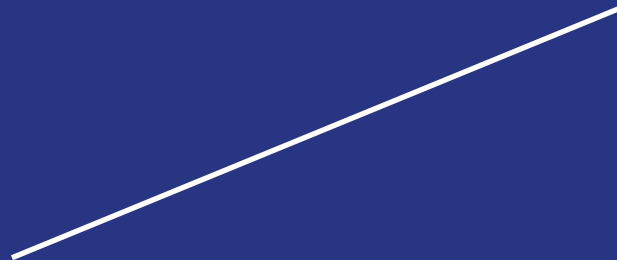
- **The principle of active plurality** is not the accumulation of juxtaposed diversities. A plurality of heritage and plurality of actors are democratic conditions for making heritage without making the economy of dissensus, and epistemological conditions for studying it.
- **The principle of collaboration**, transnational and trans-European, at different scales and across sectors, crossing academic, cultural, and artistic worlds. This collaboration includes the participation not only of European citizens but also of «non-EU residents».
- **The principle of ecology**, understood as an “ecosophy”, articulates the three ecological registers: that of the environment, social relations and human subjectivity. This European grammar of heritage would draw attention to the remains of the past - even the most invisible or less visible ones - and would be centred on the finality of work and human activities and the articulation of heritage with social and cultural memory. Finally, it would emphasise the social appropriations of heritage, its uses and re-uses.

This grammar must be operative. It allows us to combine temporalities (past, present, future) based on the idea that heritage is a constantly renewed and reflexive actualisation of the relationship to the past, a present-day reading of the past for the future. It thus leads to identifying the source of heritage, by making the archaeology of the processes of patrimonialisation (heritage-making) and by considering them from a critical point of view, but also to recall to what extent heritage and memory are exposed to disappearance or instrumentalisation. This grammar implies a variety of modes, underlines the potentialities of heritage, and promotes experiences rather than imperatives. It leads to linking and articulating rather than choosing or establishing a hierarchy. And last but not least, it is based on a principle of adaptability to various configurations and contexts, and a translation principle that goes beyond the creation of common vocabularies.

There is an **indispensable effort of training and education to be made by all actors of Heritage Science**, in an interdisciplinary, intersectoral perspective for the invention of new practices, and new professions adapted to global change. The process is well underway but must be consolidated, developed, and constantly adjusted to respond to contemporary challenges.

In times of war and extreme climatic events over Europe and the world, the participants of the “Heritage for the future, Science for heritage” symposium are convinced that keeping our cultural heritage must be the foundation for our future and that it requires dynamic interdisciplinary research and the participation of all the stakeholders in Europe and beyond.

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