

European Heritage Days Call for European Heritage Stories

#EHDs pilot initiative oriented towards EHDs communities, EU Prize for Cultural Heritage/Europa Nostra Award winners and European Heritage Label sites

Terms and Conditions

The [European Heritage Days](#) (EHDs) are the most widely celebrated participatory cultural events shared by the citizens of Europe. With over 50 000 events organised every year in 50 European States signatory to the [European Cultural Convention](#) and more than 30 million visitors, the EHDs, as a joint action of the Council of Europe and the European Commission, represent a unique example of a grass-roots initiative organised and shared by millions of European citizens.

Since their launch, the EHDs have taken on an increasingly European dimension, not only in terms of the growing number of participating countries and cultural heritage events organised every year, but also in the general desire to establish cultural links that stretch across the frontiers of our continent. In the last five years, the focus of the European Heritage Days has been on heritage communities and the extraordinary significance of a common vision to protect, promote and enhance shared heritage and common values. The focus on people behind places allowed the Programme to highlight the importance of the human dimension of cultural heritage and work the communities are undertaking on local, regional, national and European level.

Each EHD event and every visitor to those events represent a truly unique European story. The events are organised to celebrate shared heritage, enable access for everyone, create an opportunity for hands-on education of generations to come and strengthen the core of the communities involved in them.

It is precisely with the aim of recognising the role of people within the framework of the European Heritage Days that the Council of Europe, the European Union and EHD National Coordinators have decided to set up a Call for European Stories to give a voice to the passionate individuals, organisations and associations to tell their story of Europe in the heritage they cherish. The Call for European Stories is part of the activities of the European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018 and will be granted special visibility in this context.

WHO CAN APPLY?

The Call for European Stories is open to:

- (1) EHDs communities from 50 European States signatory to the [European Cultural Convention](#) that have organised at least one EHD event in the last three years;
- (2) EU Prize for Cultural Heritage/Europa Nostra Award winners and;
- (3) European Heritage Label sites.

If you are an organiser of a project involving European cultural heritage, with a mission to share your experience with the rest of Europe, or if you have an idea for a new project then

you are indeed the true storyteller we are looking for! All you have to do is fill in the application form and your story will be published on the EHDs portal.

Additionally, if you need resources to execute and further enhance your story with an existing or new project we have prepared a grant procedure for selected projects.

Detailed information on geographical scope and eligibility can be found in Appendix I: Legal Conditions.

In order to have the European Story received and promoted as such, any individual or legal entity can submit their entry.

HOW CAN COMMUNITIES APPLY?

You can submit your story through the Application form that will be available as of 20 April 2018. You can follow the [European Heritage Stories](#) page to find more information and see when the form becomes available.

Each community can submit up to three stories per Call and up to one project proposal to be eligible for the grant procedure (maximum €10 000) connected with one of the submitted stories.

WHAT IS IT?

The *European Heritage Days (EHDs)* [Call for European Heritage Stories](#) is a pilot initiative intending to identify the European Dimension of heritage sites and heritage work undertaken by the communities in Europe. It refers to past or existing "stories" that communities would like to share and potentially develop into a project to further contribute to their communities. The Call for European Heritage Stories is one of the key initiatives within the [European Year of Cultural Heritage \(EYCH\) 2018](#), organised under the two slogans: "European Year of Cultural Heritage: The Art of Sharing" and "Our heritage: where the past meets the future". In the framework of the joint vision of shared European values, the Call is also open to the EU Prize for Cultural Heritage/Europa Nostra Award winners and the European Heritage Label sites.

The objectives of the initiative are:

- (1) To encourage people to engage with Europe's cultural heritage and to reinforce a sense of belonging to the European common space.
- (2) To collect testimonies/stories and good practice on how communities understand the European dimension of local heritage.
- (3) To identify and promote communities working with heritage in line with European values and with a long-term perspective of collaboration.
- (4) To reward communities for their efforts and to encourage them to develop their stories further.
- (5) To motivate and encourage communities to participate in the EHDs.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

It should be noted that one of the objectives of the Call for European Stories is to empower communities and provide for an open space where multiple narratives could and should co-exist. Therefore, the European Heritage Days invites storytellers to outline their own vision of

the European Dimension¹ and what the European values referenced in their heritage sites and work are. Trends identified in this and future Calls will be included in the updated definition of the European Dimension on a European level.

Telling your European Story

We ask for stories to promote as much as possible the priorities for communities. Stories should be assigned to a category (if your project involves multiple areas of heritage, you will be asked to choose a leading category, and provide further details in the description of your project):

- (1) Diversity;
- (2) Cross-frontier collaboration;
- (3) Education;
- (4) Community engagement;
- (5) Youth-oriented.

You will be asked to indicate the category of your **heritage/heritage work**:

- (1) Tangible heritage (physical objects - buildings and historic places, monuments, artefacts, etc.);
- (2) Intangible heritage (e.g. practices, representations, expressions, knowledge, skills, etc.);
- (3) Natural heritage;
- (4) Digital heritage.

You will then be invited to tell your Story and the European Dimension of it.

If you would like to be inspired by the EHD definition of the European Dimension, you may find more information in Appendix I: Legal Conditions, Article 1: Definitions.

Additionally, the final stage of the Application form contains information related to the grant procedure. Completion of this section is not obligatory as you may wish to submit your story without any request for financial support at this time. Only those communities that have declared an interest in the grant procedure will be further considered for the pre-selection and selection stage.

WHAT ARE THE CRITERIA?

Eligibility criteria for the Call

The storyteller should:

- Be an EHD community with at least one EHD event in the last three years, and/or a winner of the EU Prize for Cultural Heritage/Europa Nostra award and/or a European Heritage Label site.
- Be a private individual or a legal entity, as defined in Appendix I: Legal Conditions.
- Submit their story in English.²

¹ We invite storytellers to define their own understanding of European heritage in line with the Council of Europe's expressed values on human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

² Please note that the current limitation applies for the pilot-stage only, due to the innovative nature of the Call and inability to foresee how many stories we may receive. Following the 2018 Call, the EHD Secretariat, together with the National Coordinators, shall decide if it would be possible to open the call in other languages as well.

- Declare that they have the right to submit the story, as outlined in Appendix I: Legal Conditions.
- Not be subject to exclusion criteria as outlined in Appendix I: Legal Conditions or Appendix II: Rule No. 1374 of 16 December 2015 on the grant award procedures of the Council of Europe.

Selection criteria for the Call

All of the Stories that have passed the eligibility criteria will be published as European Heritage Stories and promoted at European level. The stories will be published as written by the storyteller. All of the eligible communities that have declared their interest for the grant procedure will be considered for the pre-selection stage.

The storytellers can submit up to three stories per Call and up to one project proposal to be eligible for the grant procedure (maximum €10 000) connected with one of the submitted stories.

For more information on the pre-selection and selection stage, as well as the dates for the submission of Stories, please check the “What are the important dates” section of these guidelines and Appendix I: Legal Conditions.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE A GRANT?

In order to be able to be eligible for a grant, applicants must be legally recognised entities as defined in Appendix I: Legal Conditions. The person submitting the story and the draft project proposal must be a representative of that legal entity. Please note that in 2018 individuals are not eligible to receive a grant. However, any individuals may submit their Story and have it promoted as a European Story, as outlined the selection criteria for the Call.

The pre-selection of the project proposals will be based on the following criteria:

- (1) Linkage with the EHD priorities of diversity, education, community engagement, youth orientation (20%);
- (2) European Dimension of the project (30%);
- (3) Originality and feasibility (20%);
- (4) Multiplying effect of the project and impact on the communities (15%).

Any one of the following criteria will be considered as an added benefit (15%):

- (1) Long-term perspective of the project (sustainability);
- (2) Cross-frontier dimension of the project;
- (3) Inclusion of vulnerable and minority groups, young people and children.

You may find the full list of exclusion and eligibility criteria in Appendix I: Legal Conditions of this Call.

Ineligible costs

In addition to the ineligible costs as referred to in Article 7 of the *Rule No. 1374 of 16 December 2015 on the grant award procedures of the Council of Europe* (Appendix II), applicants must acknowledge that the grant cannot be spent on permanent staff/permanent equipment or core running costs of the applicant.

Selection criteria for the grant recipients

Through the grants of up to €10,000, we are able to fund activity-focused projects that will benefit people and communities.

When assessing your application we will consider whether the project is relevant to heritage in Europe, whether its outcome will achieve this, how capable your community is of delivering the project and the overall technical and qualitative value of the project proposal.

The selection of the project proposals will be based on the following criteria:

- (1) The quality of the project proposal (25%);
- (2) The originality and concreteness of the project idea (20%);
- (3) The feasibility of the project implementation (20%);
- (4) Budget breakdown (20%).

Any one of the following criteria will be considered as an added benefit (15%):

- (1) Long-term perspective of the project (sustainability);
- (2) Cross-frontier dimension of the project;
- (3) Inclusion of vulnerable and minority groups, young people and children.

We ask applicants to define their own understanding of European heritage. It might include intangible, tangible, digital and natural heritage. Examples include archaeological sites, collections and museums, historic buildings, natural and man-made landscapes, memories, festivals, music, dance, or any history that is valued by a community. Examples of project outputs may include publications, performances, events, restoration work, exhibitions, digital apps, DVDs, or educational resources.

WHAT ARE THE IMPORTANT DATES?

The EHD Call for European Stories is initiated as a pilot initiative within the framework of the [European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018](#) and is set to be continued on a yearly basis. The Call consists of two parts in three stages - the call for European Stories and the grant procedure (pre-selection and selection stage).

20 April 2018: Launching of the Call

As of midnight CEST on 20 April 2018, EHD communities, EU Prize winners and EHL sites can submit their stories/proposals using [an e-form which will be available on the EHD Portal](#). The storytellers may submit up to three stories per Call and up to one project proposal to be eligible for the grant procedure (maximum €10 000) connected with one of the submitted stories.

20 May 2018: Deadline for submission

The application form will be closed at midnight CEST on 20 May 2018³. Submissions entered after this date will not be eligible for the Call. All of the eligible stories will be uploaded on the [EHD Portal](#) and promoted as such. Please note that the stories will be uploaded as is, with no major editorial changes to the language of the submitted stories.

³ If the number of the submitted grant requests is extremely high, the Council of Europe reserves the right to close the Call earlier than foreseen.

30 June 2018: Pre-selection of the Stories eligible to receive a grant

Following the closing of the Call and consequent upload of all the qualified Stories, the a Committee of members of the EHD Secretariat assisted by two international consultants will consider the proposals for a pre-selection of a maximum of 25 most compelling stories which declared their interest for a grant.

The pre-selection of the project proposals will be based on the following criteria:

- (5) Linkage with the EHD priorities of diversity, education, community engagement, youth orientation (20%);
- (6) European Dimension of the project (30%);
- (7) Originality and feasibility (20%);
- (8) Multiplying effect of the project and impact on the communities (15%).

Any one of the following criteria will be considered as an added benefit (15%):

- (4) Long-term perspective of the project (sustainability);
- (5) Cross-frontier dimension of the project;
- (6) Inclusion of vulnerable and minority groups, young people and children.

Pre-selection of Stories/project proposals at the examination stage will be carried out by the EHD Secretariat, assisted by two international experts appointed by the Council of Europe and the European Commission.

1 July 2018: Second stage of the grant procedures

According to the *Rule No. 1374 of 16 December 2015 on the grant award procedures of the Council of Europe* (Appendix II), a maximum of 25 pre-selected stories will be asked to deliver a more detailed total budget and project proposal. The final deadline to deliver the necessary documentation is set at **31 July 2018**.

15 September 2018: Final selection of project proposals

Taking into account the detailed project proposal, total budget breakdown and selection and award criteria, in the period between 1 August and 15 September 2018, the European panel will meet and select a minimum of 10 European Stories to receive a grant of a maximum of €10 000 each.

The total budget of the declared action is €100 000, which allows for the award of 10 grants of €10 000. If the project proposals outline smaller amounts, there is the possibility to select more than 10 European Stories, up to the maximum total budget of the action.

The European panel is agreed by the EHD Programme and consists of seven members: two representatives appointed by the Council of Europe; two representatives appointed by the European Commission; one representative appointed by Europa Nostra; one representative appointed by European Heritage Label Secretariat and one representative appointed by the EHD National Coordinators.

21 September 2018: Notification of selection

Selected stories that have been nominated to receive a grant will be notified by 21 September 2018.

All grant-selected projects will be published in the EHD newsletter as well as on the EHDs portal and through EHD social media channels. For 2018, all grant-selected projects will be published on the EYCH newsletter as well as on the EYCH website.

October 2018: Award Ceremony for the grant recipients

In October 2018 during the European Heritage Days Assembly meeting, the projects will receive the grant at a special Award Ceremony.

November 2018: Start of the project activities

All project actions proposed in the submitted application must start before the end of 2018. Costs incurred under such actions are eligible for the grant justification as of 1 November 2018. The grant recipients are required to keep all original invoices and justifications for the amount spent within the grant. Any unspent amount will be returned to the EHD Programme budget at the end of the implementation period.

January – February 2019: Monitoring stage

The selected grant recipients will work with the Council of Europe to ensure monitoring of the project and to deliver a mid-action draft narrative and financial report on the implementation of the grant. For 2018, all grant-selected projects must include the logo of the EHDs and the logo of the EYCH on their produced material and activities.

30 March 2019: End of the implementation stage

All project actions proposed in the submitted application must end before 30 March 2019. Costs incurred after this date will not be eligible for the justification of the grant.

30 April 2019: Reporting and evaluation

Following the end of the implementation stage, the grant recipients must submit the final narrative and financial report for the justification of the grant. Templates for such reports will be provided by the EHD Secretariat in early 2019.

European Heritage Days Call for European Heritage Stories

European Heritage Days (EHDs) pilot initiative oriented towards EHDs communities, EU Prize for Cultural Heritage/Europa Nostra Award winners and European Heritage Label sites

Article 1 **Definitions**

For the purposes of this Call, the following definitions will apply:

- (1) **Cultural Heritage**, as defined by the [Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society](#), is a group of resources inherited from the past which people identify, independently of ownership, as a reflection and expression of their constantly evolving values, beliefs, knowledge and traditions. It includes all aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time;
- (2) **Heritage Community** consists of people who value specific aspects of cultural heritage which they wish, within the framework of public action, to sustain and transmit to future generations.
- (3) **European Heritage Stories** are stories told by European citizens and communities that aim to increase understanding of the shared history of Europe through one of the characteristics of the European Dimension, the pan-European nature of their heritage sites/work, the links with key European events and movements, or the role of heritage in the development and promotion of common European values.
- (4) As defined in the [EHD European Dimension Report](#), the concept **European Dimension** could be defined as having one or more of the following characteristics:
 - a. **Collaboration on multiple levels** (local, regional, national and international, cross-frontier, transnational initiatives). The difficulty of engaging local populations needs to be addressed. The solution might lie in the focus on the new geography of cultural exchange, which we are experiencing today; empowering local aspects of international activities to operate as a centre of the event, and to engage all participants as equal partners in an international network.
 - b. **A focus on cultural diversity**, according to the texts adopted by the Council of Europe, the European Commission and UNESCO. There should be an emphasis on accessibility in its widest sense. The terms ‘intercultural dialogue’ or ‘intercultural exchange’ may be used as a substitute for ‘cultural diversity’ where the latter has become too politicised.
 - c. Promotion of **cultural exchange of ideas, information, goods and services and the sharing of resources** between different partners in European countries.
 - d. **Active participation / engagement /cooperation between visitors and the local community in the event.**

- e. Focus on a **people-centred activity**, rather than a place or object-oriented activities.
- f. Focus on links **between heritage, history and culture**.
- g. Vision of **cultural heritage as a resource**, rather than an end or goal in itself.
- h. **Principle of sustainable development** – not only external funding. The “European dimension” event should always assume it must anticipate developing resources from within.
- i. Attention to **inclusion of youth** in the project.
- j. **Links between the event and cross-frontier cooperation between cultural and/ or educational structures**.
- k. **Cultural Cooperation** as a value.
- l. **Networking and use of technology** in order to enable a broader reach for the smaller communities and provide access for all. Electronic networks enable European communities to collaborate with each other and to have a voice in event development.

It should be noted that one of the objectives of the Call for European Stories is to empower communities and provide for an open space where multiple narratives could and should exist. Therefore, the Council of Europe and the European Commission invite the storytellers to outline their own visions of European Dimension and what the European values are that are referenced in their heritage sites and work. Trends identified in this and future Calls will be included in the updated definition of the European Dimension on a European level.

Article 2 **Objectives**

The **objectives of the Call for European Heritage Stories** are:

- (1) To encourage people to engage with Europe’s cultural heritage and to reinforce a sense of belonging to the European common space.
- (2) To collect testimonies/stories and good practices on how communities understand the European dimension of local heritage.
- (3) To identify and promote communities working with heritage in line with European values and with a long-term perspective of collaboration.
- (4) To reward communities for their efforts and encourage them to develop their stories further.
- (5) To motivate and encourage communities to participate in the EHDs.

Article 3 **Geographical scope**

The communities from the following countries are eligible to apply: Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Holy See, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Republic of Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom.

Article 4
Participation in the call

The Call for European Stories is open to:

- (1) EHDs communities from the 50 European States signatory to the [European Cultural Convention](#) that have organised at least one EHD event in the last three years;
- (2) EU Prize for Cultural Heritage/Europa Nostra Award winners;
- (3) European Heritage Label sites.

In order to have the European Story received and promoted as such, any individual or legally recognised entity such as not-for-profit associations or organisations, schools, scientific or academic institutes, towns, provinces, communities, regions or national authorities of a country participating in the EHD may submit their story. Different rules apply for the participation in the grant procedure (Article 5).

Article 5
Participation in the grant procedure

In order to be able to be eligible for a grant, applicants must be legally recognised entities (see examples above). The person submitting the story and the draft project proposal must be a representative of that legal entity. Please note that in 2018 individuals are not eligible to receive a grant. However, any individuals may submit their Story and have it promoted as a European Story, as outlined in Article 4.

Article 6
Application form

Any stories intended for inclusion in this Call must be submitted to the EHD Programme by means of the application form, typed in English. The official application form is available on the EHD Portal page “European Heritage Stories” as of 20 April 2018. The application process is open until 20 May 2018. Applications submitted after this date will not be taken into consideration for this Call.

The storytellers may submit up to three stories per Call and up to one project proposal to be eligible for the grant procedure (maximum €10 000) connected with one of the submitted stories.

Article 7
European panel

The European panel comprises seven members: two representatives appointed by the Council of Europe, two representatives appointed by the European Commission, one representative appointed by Europa Nostra, one representative appointed by the European Heritage Label Secretariat and one representative appointed by the EHD National Coordinators. Following the pre-selection stage, the European Panel will select a minimum of 10 European Stories to receive a grant of a maximum of €10 000 each.

To avoid any risk of conflict of interest, it is not permitted for the storytellers to contact a member of the panel directly on any issue linked to the Call for European Heritage Stories without going through the Council of Europe. For any questions you may refer to the European Heritage Days website or by email to stories.EHD@coe.int.

Article 8

Selection of the Stories to be promoted as European Heritage Stories

Eligibility criteria for the Call are as follows:

- (1) In order to have the European Story received and promoted as such, any individual or legally recognised entity may submit their entry. By submitting the story, the applicant testifies that their story is part of the European Heritage Days (EHD) in one of the 50 countries participating in the EHD Programme and/or they are an EU Prize for Cultural Heritage/Europa Nostra Award winner and/or a European Heritage Label site.
- (2) EHD communities must have organised at least one EHD event in the last three years and should declare this in the application form.
- (3) The storytellers must declare that they have written the story themselves. If the storytellers did not author the Story, it is their responsibility to ensure they have secured permission from the author(s) before submission. Should the story contain personal data the data subject's consent must have been sought. The Council of Europe and European Commission do not bear responsibility for the Story or its content.
- (4) The facts presented in the submitted story/project proposal must be accurate and the story's content or its presentation must not violate the law of the storyteller's country of residence or the law of the country where the story takes place. The story's content or its presentation must not be contrary to the Council of Europe's values and principles.

The Council of Europe and the European Commission reserve the right to exclude the Story and to remove it from the Portal if there are reasonable doubts as to whether the above eligibility criteria are met. In particular, the stories may be excluded from the Call and removed from the EHD Portal if:

- (1) they are not in line with the Council of Europe's expressed values on human rights, democracy and the rule of law;
- (2) they use hate speech or other forms of offensive language;
- (3) and/or evidence is received after the Call that the information provided has not been accurate or that there are copyright infringements.

The community:

- (1) The applicant must have organised at least one event as part of the European Heritage Days within the last three years, or be an EU Prize for Cultural Heritage/Europa Nostra prize winner/European Heritage Label site.
- (2) Must be able to demonstrate experience of project management and budget management.
- (3) If applying on behalf of a partnership, must be able to demonstrate proof of partnership funding or contributions in kind.

The heritage:

- (1) If the project is focused on tangible heritage, the applicant must be able to provide proof of ownership of the heritage asset, or the relevant permissions secured from the owner of the heritage asset (if applicable).
- (2) If an element of the project involves capital works, the applicant must submit a condition survey with the application in line with current best practice in the area of heritage to which the work applies.

The stories may be excluded or removed from the grant procedure if:

- (1) They have been excluded from the Call based on the criteria mentioned in Article 8.
- (2) They are not submitted by a legal entity.
- (3) They have not declared that they wish to be eligible for the pre-selection process for the grant procedure.
- (4) The submitted project proposal is unable to secure co-funding resources (financial, in-kind, staff, equipment). These can be from partner organisations, or from the organisation's own reserves. There is no outlined minimum of co-funding at this stage.
- (5) The applicant did not acknowledge that the grant cannot be spent on the following costs: staff/permanent equipment/core running costs. The ineligible costs can be mentioned as co-funding resources.

All Stories that are eligible will be uploaded on the EHD Portal (www.europeanheritagedays.com) and the EHD Programme will promote them as such. Eligible Stories that have outlined their interest in being interested in receiving a grant shall be considered in the pre-selection stage of the grant procedure.

Article 9

Pre-selection of the eligible Stories for the grant procedure

The pre-selection of the eligible Stories will be carried out by the EHD Secretariat assisted by two international experts appointed by the Council of Europe and the European Commission. All of the stories eligible for a grant will be assessed based on the selection criteria.

A maximum of 25 of the most compelling stories shall be pre-selected and presented to the European panel for final selection. Pre-selected Stories shall be asked to provide detailed project proposals, budget breakdown and proof of their ability to implement and evaluate the project proposal, if they are chosen by the European panel.

The pre-selection of the project proposals will be based on the following criteria:

- (1) Linkage with the EHD priorities of diversity, education, community engagement, youth orientation;
- (2) European Dimension of the project;
- (3) Originality and feasibility;
- (4) Multiplying effect of the project and impact on the communities.

Article 10

Selection criteria

The final selection of the project proposals will be based on the following criteria:

- (1) The quality of the project proposal (25%);
- (2) The originality and concreteness of the project idea (20%);
- (3) The feasibility of the project implementation (20%);
- (4) Budget breakdown (20%).

Any one of the following criteria will be considered as an added benefit (15%):

- (1) Long-term perspective of the project (sustainability);
- (2) Cross-frontier dimension of the project;
- (3) Inclusion of vulnerable and minority groups, young people and children.

Article 11

Selection of the grant recipients

The selection of the grant recipients shall be carried out by the European panel under the responsibility of the Council of Europe.

The European panel shall evaluate the pre-selected stories and shall select 10 European Stories that will be given a grant of maximum €10 000 each. If the project proposals outline smaller amounts, there is the possibility to select more than 10 European Stories, up to the maximum total budget of the action. The selection shall be based on the detailed project proposal and budget breakdown. If necessary, further information may be requested at the selection stage.

Applicants that are not selected may submit new application for pre-selection in the following years.

Article 12

Award of the grants

An official grant agreement will be signed between the Council of Europe and the grant recipient.

Grant recipients will be responsible for the management of the grant delivery of the proposed activities and will ensure proper monitoring and reporting. The grant agreement will stipulate, among other things, the payment of 100% of the grant upon signature.

In October 2018, during the European Heritage Days Assembly meeting, the projects will receive the grant at a special Award Ceremony.

Article 13

Implementation period

All project actions proposed in the submitted application must start before the end of 2018. Costs incurred under such actions are eligible for the grant justification as of 1 November 2018.

The grant recipients are required to keep all the original invoices and proof of expenditure for the amount spent within the grant. Any unspent amount will be returned to the EHD Programme budget at the end of the implementation period.

All project actions proposed in the submitted application must end before 30 March 2019. Costs incurred after this date will not be eligible for the justification of the grant.

Article 14

Ineligible costs

In addition to the ineligible costs as referred to in Article 7 of Appendix II: Rule No. 1374 of 16 December 2015 on the grant award procedures of the Council of Europe, applicants must acknowledge that the grant cannot be spent on permanent staff/permanent equipment/core running costs of the applicant. These costs can be declared as the co-funding costs in support of the application.

Article 15
Publicity

Beneficiaries must clearly acknowledge the European Union's and the Council of Europe's contribution in all publications or in conjunction with activities for which the grant is used.

In this respect, beneficiaries are required to give prominence to the names and logos of the Council of Europe, the European Commission and the European Heritage Days⁴ on all their publications, posters, programmes and other products realised under the co-financed project. Projects in countries participating⁵ in the European Year of Cultural Heritage should include the EYCH logo on in addition to the other logos.⁶

If this requirement is not fully complied with, the beneficiary's grant may be reduced in accordance with the provisions of the grant agreement.

Article 16
Monitoring

The selected grants recipients shall work with the Council of Europe to ensure monitoring of the project and deliver a mid-action draft narrative and financial report on the implementation of the grant by 28 February 2019.

Article 17
Reporting and evaluation

The selected grant recipients will submit a final report of the project, together with all the original invoices and proof of expenditure made within the framework of the grant by 30 April 2019.

The Council of Europe will establish, in cooperation with the European Commission, common indicators and templates for the grant recipients to ensure a coherent approach to the reporting and evaluation procedure.

Article 18
Financial provisions

The total budget of the declared action is €100 000, which gives scope for 10 grants of €10 000 each. If the project proposals in the pre-selection stage outline amounts of less than €10 000, the Council of Europe reserves the right to select more than 10 European Stories, up to the maximum of total budget of the action.

Article 19
Acceptance of the Terms and Conditions

The very act of submitting the application to the EHD Call for European Heritage Stories within the framework of the present call implies complete acceptance of the following terms and conditions in decreasing legal value:

⁴ <http://www.europeanheritagedays.com/EHD-Programme/Publications/>

⁵ EU 28 plus Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, FYROM, Iceland, Montenegro, Norway, Serbia and Switzerland

⁶ https://europa.eu/cultural-heritage/toolkits_en?field_eych_tool_type_tid=All&field_eych_toolkit_type_tid=249&=Apply

- 1) These Legal Conditions in Appendix I as well as any rules contained in the Terms and Conditions;
- 2) Rule n°1374 of 16 December 2015 on the grant award procedures of the Europe in Appendix II;
- 3) The terms and conditions for the use of the [EHD Portal](#).

Article 20

Cancellation of the Call for European Stories

The Council of Europe reserves the right to cancel the Call for European Stories at any point without any further justification.

If the number of the submitted grant requests is extremely high, the Council of Europe reserves the right to close the Call earlier than foreseen.

Article 21

Dispute Settlement

Any disputes as to the application or interpretation of any of the terms, conditions or legal instruments listed in Article 19 shall be settled amicably without recourse to any form of national legal process.

Appendix II



Rule No. 1374 of 16 December 2015 on the grant award procedures of the Council of Europe

The Secretary General of the Council of Europe,

HAVING REGARD to the Financial Regulations, in particular its Article 36, and Supplementary Provisions of the Council of Europe, adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 29 June 2011 at the 1117th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies, as amended (hereinafter referred to as "Financial Regulations");

HAVING REGARD to Rule No. 1282 of 18 October 2007 on the declaration of interests in the context of procurement;

HAVING REGARD to Rule No. 1296 of 18 December 2008 on the acceptance of fees, gifts, decorations or honours, invitations and other advantages from third parties;

HAVING REGARD to Rule No. 1327 of 10 January 2011 on awareness and prevention of fraud and corruption;

HAVING REGARD to the underlying principles of grant award procedures, which are transparency, non-retroactivity, non-cumulative awards, not-for-profit, co-financing and non-discrimination;

CONSIDERING that a Rule should lay down in detail procedures for the award of grants by the Council of Europe;

D E C I D E S:

PART I – GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1 – Scope of the Rule

1.1 This Rule lays down the procedures for the award of grants by the Council of Europe.

1.2 For the purposes of this Rule, a grant shall constitute a provision of financial assistance by the Council of Europe to a grantee which is intended to:

- a. assist the grantee achieve its goals or objectives; and
- b. promote the values or policies of the Council of Europe.

1.3 A grant by the Council of Europe may finance an action or a project by the grantee or its operational expenditures.

1.4 The following, *inter alia*, do not constitute grants within the meaning of this Rule:

- a. administrative arrangements as defined in Article 40, paragraph 1bis, of the Financial Regulations;
- b. contracts for the supply of goods, services and works to the Council of Europe governed by Rule No. 1333 of 29 June 2011 on the procurement procedures of the Council of Europe;

c. reimbursement of travel and subsistence expenses incurred by, or where appropriate any other indemnities paid to, persons invited or mandated by the Council of Europe;

d. prizes given as rewards for contests.

1.5 This Rule shall not apply to the grant award procedures by Eurimages and European Youth Foundation programmes which are governed by specific regulations.

Article 2 – General principles

Grant award procedures in the Council of Europe shall be based on the principles of transparency, non-retroactivity, non-cumulative awards, not-for-profit, co-financing and non-discrimination as described below.

2.1 Principle of transparency

2.1.1 Grants shall not be awarded without a call for proposals, as referred to in Article 8 of the present Rule.

2.1.2 Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 2.1.1 above, when the total value of grants to be awarded is less than⁷ 15,000 euros, grants may be awarded directly to a particular grantee without a call for proposals.

2.1.3 Grants may also exceptionally be awarded directly to a particular grantee without a call for proposals where, for unforeseen reasons of urgency not attributable to the administrative entity awarding a grant, a call for proposals cannot be followed or where the characteristics of the grantee or of the action or project leave no choice.

2.1.4 Information about awarded grants shall be published annually, excepted when specific confidentiality measures shall be taken by the Council of Europe to preserve the vital interests of the grantee.

2.2 Principle of non-retroactivity

2.2.1 No grant may be awarded for an action or a project already completed.

2.2.2 When a grant is awarded for an action or a project which has already begun, costs eligible for financing shall not have been incurred prior to the date of submission of the grant application.

2.3 Principle of co-financing

2.3.1 The Council of Europe shall finance only part of the action or of the project referred to in Article 1.2 and 1.3 of the present Rule.

2.3.2. The grantee shall contribute to the action or the project either by way of its own resources or by contribution from third parties. Co-financing may take the form of financial or human resources, in-kind contributions or income generated by the action or project.

2.4 Principle of non-cumulative awards

2.4.1 Each action or project shall give rise to the award by the Council of Europe of only one grant per grantee.

2.4.2 Under no circumstances a grant by the Council of Europe may finance part of an action, or part of a project which is already financed by any other resources.

2.5 Principle of no-profit

⁷ Note: modified to ensure linguistic consistency with the French version.

Grants shall not have the purpose or effect of producing a surplus over the eligible costs incurred by the grantee as defined in Article 6 of the present Rule.

2.6 Principle of non-discrimination

Grant award procedures shall comply with the Council of Europe's policy on non-discrimination on grounds of gender, disability, age, marital or parental status, colour, ethnic origin, religion, belief, citizenship, nationality, sexual orientation, language, political or other opinion, social origin, association with a national minority, property, birth or other status.

PART II - GRANT AWARD PROCEDURE

Article 3 – Responsibility for the grant award procedure

3.1 Commitments officers, as referred to in Article 31 of Financial Regulations, shall be responsible for grant award procedures. They shall ensure compliance of each procedure with the provisions of the present Rule. They shall in particular:

- a. decide whether conditions for a direct award referred to in Article 2.1 are met;
- b. approve the call for proposals, including appropriate publication means and the arrangements for the submission of applications;
- c. appoint a staff member (hereinafter "Coordinator") who shall be responsible for the smooth running of the grant award procedure, including overall planning and organisation of the applications' reception and evaluation process;
- d. appoint an Evaluation Committee, as referred to in Article 13 of the present Rule;
- e. decide to award grants on the conditions laid down in Articles 9.2, 14.5 and 14.7 of the present Rule;
- f. inform applicants of the decision on their application;
- g. sign the grant agreement;
- h. decide, when appropriate, on specific confidentiality measures to be taken to preserve the vital interests of the grantee in accordance with Article 2.1.4;
 - i. where appropriate, suspend implementation of the grant agreement;
 - j. where appropriate, terminate the grant agreement;
 - k. where appropriate, reduce grant amounts or recover them in full or part.

3.2 Commitments officers may, as necessary, delegate in writing any of the responsibilities referred to in paragraph 1 above to a cost center manager in his or her administrative entity.

Article 4 – Exclusion grounds

4.1 General exclusion criteria

4.1.1 Applicants shall be excluded from the grant award procedure where they:

- a. have been sentenced by final judgment on one or more of the following charges: participation in a criminal organisation, corruption, fraud, money laundering;
- b. are in a situation of bankruptcy, liquidation, termination of activity, insolvency or arrangement with creditors or any like situation arising from a procedure of the same kind, or are subject to a procedure of the same kind;
- c. have received a judgment with res judicata force, finding an offence that affects their professional integrity or constitutes a serious professional misconduct;
- d. do not comply with their obligations as regards payment of social security contributions, taxes and dues, according to the statutory provisions of the country where they are established.

4.1.2 Applicants shall deliver, when submitting their application, a declaration on their honour certifying that they are not in any of the above-mentioned situations.

4.1.3 The Council of Europe reserves the right to ask applicants to supply the following supporting documents:

- a. for the items set out in paragraphs 4.1.1. a), b) and c), an extract from the record of convictions or failing that an equivalent document issued by the competent judicial or administrative authority of the country where the applicant is established, indicating that these requirements are met;
- b. for the items set out in paragraph 4.1.1. d), a certificate issued by the competent authority of the country of establishment.

4.2 Other exclusion grounds

Applicants shall be excluded from the grant award procedure:

- a. if they fail to comply with the arrangements for the submission of their applications as set out in the call for proposals;
- b. if they are subject to a conflict of interests;
- c. in case of misrepresentation.

Article 5 – Eligibility and award criteria

5.1 The eligibility criteria set out in the call for proposals shall be such as to make it possible to assess the applicant's ability to complete the proposed action or project.

5.2 The award criteria set out in the call for proposals shall be such as to make it possible to assess the quality of the applications submitted in the light of the objectives and priorities set. Award criteria shall be weighted.

5.3 The eligibility and award criteria shall be objective, in the sense that they shall not confer any unfair advantage on an applicant and shall not constitute an unjustified obstacle to competition. Social and environmental criteria may also be taken into account.

5.4 The criteria, once made public, shall not be changed. The same rule applies to the weighting of each of the award criteria.

Article 6 – Eligible costs

6.1 Grants shall not exceed an overall ceiling expressed in terms of an absolute value which shall be established on the basis of estimated eligible costs. Grants shall not exceed the eligible costs.

6.2 To be eligible, direct costs must:

- a. be necessary for the purpose of the grant;
- b. comply with the principles of sound financial management, in particular best value for money and cost-effectiveness;
- c. have actually been incurred by the grantee during the implementation period as defined in the grant agreement;
- d. be identifiable and verifiable, in particular being recorded in the grantee's accounts and determined according to the accounting standards applicable to the grantee;
- e. comply with the requirements of applicable tax and social security legislation;
- f. be backed up by originals or certified copies of supporting documents; and
- g. have been indicated in the estimated overall budget of the action or project.

6.3 Costs which cannot be identified as direct costs necessary for implementing the action or project may nevertheless be considered as eligible when they are incurred by the grantee in connection with the action or project concerned. These costs may not include ineligible costs as referred to in Article 7 or costs already declared under another cost item or heading of the estimated budget. These costs shall be covered by a flat-rate laid down in the grant agreement, which shall not exceed 7% of the total eligible costs.

Article 7 - Ineligible costs

7.1 The following costs shall not be considered eligible:

- a. expenditure already financed by other sources;
- b. debts and provisions for losses or debts incurred prior to the award;
- c. costs incurred outside the implementation period as defined in the grant agreement;
- d. expenditures unrelated to the project or action;
- e. interest owed;
- f. purchases of land or buildings;
- g. currency exchange losses;
- h. loans to third parties.

7.2 Costs for refurbishment (office renovation, restoration) of current premises are not eligible costs unless they are directly related to project activities.

7.3 Additional ineligible costs may be defined in a grant agreement to satisfy the contractual obligations of the Council of Europe, in particular with regard to its donors.

Article 8 – Publication of calls for proposals

8.1 Subject to the provisions of Article 2.1.2 and 2.1.3, calls for proposals shall be published.

8.2 The means of publication chosen shall target relevant audience, be non-discriminatory in nature and shall not have the effect of restricting the access of applicants to the award procedure.

8.3 The call for proposals shall specify:

- a. the objectives pursued by the action or project to be implemented;
- b. the co-financing requirements;
- c. the arrangements for the submission of applications;
- d. an email address to which potential applicants may request, in writing, supplementary information;
- e. the planned date by which all applicants shall have been informed of the outcome of the evaluation of their application and the indicative date for the signature of the related grant agreements;
- f. the indicative timetable for the action/project implementation;
- g. the exclusion and eligibility criteria, and the list of relevant supporting documents to be submitted by applicants, as may be appropriate given the nature of the grant to be awarded;
- h. the award criteria, their respective weighting and the relevant supporting documents to be submitted by applicants, as may be appropriate given the nature of the grant to be awarded;
- i. the number of potential grantees and the total value of grants to be awarded;
- j. the terms of the grant agreement to be concluded with the potential grantee, drawn up on the basis of the standard template established by the Council of Europe for this purpose and including, in particular,
 - i. the arrangements for financing and fund transfer terms;
 - ii. the financial guarantee that the Organisation may require; as well as
 - iii. any specific clauses to be included in the grant agreement in addition to those set out in the standard template.

8.4 When a potential applicant requests supplementary information, in accordance with the conditions specified in the call for proposals, the information given to that applicant shall be made available to all potential applicants.

Article 9 – Direct award

9.1 When the conditions set out in Article 2.1.2 and 2.1.3 are met, the competent Commitments Officer may decide to directly award a grant to a particular grantee.

9.2 The Commitments Officer's decision must be duly substantiated, in light of the criteria set out in Article 2.1.2 and 2.1.3.

Article 10 – Submissions of applications

10.1 Applications shall be submitted in accordance with the requirements of the call for proposals.

10.2 An estimated budget for the action or project shall be attached to the application, indicating the estimated eligible costs of the action or project.

10.3 Applicants shall further be required to indicate whether they have received or applied for any additional funding from the Council of Europe or other sources in respect of the same action or project or for its operational expenditure and what the respective amounts of additional funding are.

10.4 Applicants may be asked to submit their proposals in two stages. In this case, they shall be first asked to submit a concept note. The applicants whose concept notes successfully pass the first-stage evaluation shall be asked to develop their respective concept notes and to submit a detailed proposal for the second-stage evaluation.

10.5 Applications submitted after the deadline shall automatically be excluded from the procedure, unless the applicant proves that his/her application could not be submitted in time because of *force majeure*. The Evaluation Committee shall indicate in its consensus report to the Commitment Officer concerned whether it considers that there has been a situation of *force majeure* or not.

Article 11 – Receipt of applications

11.1 The reception process shall ensure that the integrity of data, the confidentiality of applications and the protection of personal data in accordance with the requirements of Council of Europe legal framework concerning data protection are observed.

11.2 Applications shall only be opened after the deadline for their submission. They shall be opened by the Coordinator of the procedure in the presence of a member of the Evaluation Committee. A record of the applications shall be established and signed by those present.

11.3 The applications shall be given identification numbers.

Article 12 – Exclusion and eligibility check

12.1 The Coordinator shall make a preliminary evaluation of the applications against the exclusion and eligibility criteria set out in the call for proposals. A draft report shall be drawn up.

12.2 The Coordinator may ask an applicant to provide additional information or to clarify the supporting documents submitted in connection with the application, provided that such information or clarification does not substantially change the application. Records of such contacts shall be kept.

12.3 All applications together with the draft report referred to in paragraph 1 above shall be handed over to the Evaluation Committee.

Article 13 - Evaluation Committee

13.1 The Evaluation Committee shall be made up of at least three persons including at least one member of the Secretariat of the Council of Europe. Only members of the Secretariat with no hierarchical link between them may be appointed to sit in the Evaluation Committee.

13.2 Members of Evaluation Committee who are not members of the Secretariat of the Council of Europe shall be appointed only with a view to contribute with specific technical expertise or to comply with the obligations of the Council of Europe, in particular with regard to its donors.

13.3 Members of the Evaluation Committee shall:

- a. act objectively and impartially and shall treat all applicants equally;

- b. not disclose any information other than that intended to be made available to applicants;
- c. protect the confidentiality of the information imparted by applicants;
- d. declare any conflict of interests and withdraw in case of such a conflict.

13.4 They shall be considered as faced with a conflict of interest if they are in particular in any of the following situations:

- a. were involved in the preparation of a proposal;
- b. benefit directly or indirectly if a proposal is accepted;
- c. have a family or personal relationship with an applicant;
- d. are involved in the management of an applicant;
- e. are employed or contracted by an applicant or any of its subcontractors.

13.5 All members of the Evaluation Committee shall sign a declaration on the absence of any conflict of interests. Members of the Evaluation Committee who are not members of the Secretariat of the Council of Europe shall in addition sign a declaration of confidentiality.

13.6 The Evaluation Committee may seek advice from competent Council of Europe entities on the conduct and fairness of the evaluation and/or the application of the exclusion, eligibility or award criteria.

Article 14 – Evaluation of applications

14.1 The Evaluation Committee shall adopt the report on exclusion and eligibility criteria referred to in Article 12.1.

14.2 Only applications considered eligible shall be evaluated against the announced award criteria.

14.3 Each member of the Evaluation Committee shall give scores and elaborate on their attribution of points to each proposal. Members' individual reports shall be communicated to the Coordinator.

14.4 On the basis of members' individual reports the Coordinator shall prepare a draft consensus report representing the view of the Evaluation Committee. The draft consensus report shall contain an assessment of each proposal and rank the proposals according to the scores obtained and announced weighting. An arithmetic average (median value) of the individual scores shall be taken as the final score for each application. If necessary, a meeting of the Evaluation Committee may be organized to agree on the final score and comments.

14.5 Once adopted by the Evaluation Committee, the consensus report shall be transmitted to the competent Commitments Officer who shall take a decision on:

- a. The overall amount of funding;
- b. The list of selected proposals;
- c. The list of non-selected proposals.

14.6 The decision of the Commitments Officer shall provide for reasons of his/her choices and shall be based on whether:

- a. The grant(s) is(are) in line with the objectives pursued;
- b. The costs and other aspects appear reasonable;

- c. That sufficient funds are available;
- d. The consensus report is fully justified and documented.

14.7 If a call for proposals has elicited no applications or if, in the opinion of the Evaluation Committee, no application meets the minimum required standards, the Commitments Officer may decide that the grant shall not be awarded, that the grant shall be awarded directly, or that a new call for proposals shall be launched.

14.8 The Commitments Officer shall inform the successful applicant(s) of the award in writing.

14.9 The Commitments Officer shall inform in writing the unsuccessful applicants within 15 (fifteen) calendar days after information has been sent to the successful applicant(s). The letter shall indicate the reasons for their rejections, and modalities for enquiries by the unsuccessful applicants. The deadline for the introduction of such an enquiry shall not be shorter than 7 (seven) calendar days after reception of the abovementioned letter.

Article 15 - Enquiries and complaints procedure

15.1 Unsuccessful applicants shall submit their enquiries before the deadline indicated in the information letter referred to in Article 14.9.

15.2 The answer to an enquiry shall be sent without delay, address the issues raised by the unsuccessful applicant and include information on the complaints procedure as well as on modalities for the submission of a complaint.

15.3 If the applicant is not satisfied with the given answer, and believes that there have been shortcomings in the handling of his or her proposal, and that these shortcomings have jeopardised the outcome of the evaluation process, the applicant may submit a written complaint within 30 (thirty) calendar days after receiving the answer to the inquiry referred to in Article 15.2. The complaint shall indicate the reference of the call, the identification number of the proposal, and shall be duly substantiated.

15.4 The Coordinator shall acknowledge receipt of the complaint and shall promptly examine it. If the Coordinator concludes that a manifest error was committed during the evaluation procedure, the issue shall be brought to the attention of the Evaluation Committee. The Evaluation Committee shall re-evaluate the application and make a recommendation to the Commitments Officer who shall decide on the appropriate means of redress.

15.5 In all other cases the Coordinator shall refer the complaint to the internal evaluation Review Board without delay. A meeting of the Review Board shall be convened within 30 (thirty) calendar days following the receipt of the complaint. Complaints that do not deal with the exclusion or eligibility checking or with the evaluation of a specific proposal against award criteria will not be considered.

15.6 The Review Board shall be composed of the Director of Internal Oversight, the Director of Legal Advice and Public International Law and the Treasurer or their respectively appointed representative(s).

15.7 The Review Board shall work independently. It shall provide opinions on the implementation of the evaluation process on the basis of all the available information related to the proposal and its evaluation. The Review Board shall not evaluate the proposal but shall ensure a coherent interpretation of exclusion, eligibility and award criteria and equal treatment of applicants. If the Review Board considers that there has been a failing in the exclusion or eligibility checking or in the evaluation process that is likely to have jeopardised the decision not to fund the proposal, it may recommend a re-evaluation of the proposal by the Evaluation Committee which should be made aware of the initial evaluation's shortcomings. The opinion of the Review Board and, where relevant, the results of re-evaluation by the Evaluation Committee shall be submitted to the Commitments Officer concerned who shall decide on the appropriate means of redress.

15.8 The Commitments Officer's decision referred to in Articles 15.4 or 15.7 above shall be notified to the complainant.

Article 16 – Allegations of fraud, corruption or misconduct

Article 15 shall not be interpreted as preventing applicants from reporting to the competent Council of Europe entities any allegation of fraud, corruption or misconduct of a person involved in the grant award procedures in accordance with Rule No. 1327 of 10 January 2011 on awareness and prevention of fraud and corruption.

Article 17 – Grant agreement

17.1 Grants shall be covered by a written agreement concluded between the Council of Europe and the grantee.

17.2 The Council of Europe and the grantee(s) shall enter into a grant agreement drawn up on the basis of the standard template established by the Council of Europe for this purpose.

17.3 The grant agreement shall allow for the action or project to be clearly identified and specify at least the subject, the grantee(s), the implementation period, the duration, the maximum amount of funding, a detailed provisional budget and the obligations of the grantee.

17.4 The grant agreement shall, *inter alia*, contain provisions stipulating that third parties with whom the grantee may enter into contracts for the purposes of implementation of the grant shall have no rights vis-à-vis the Council of Europe under those contracts.

Article 18 – Record-keeping

The administrative entity concerned shall establish a file in respect of each grant award procedure in which it shall store all documents mentioned in this Rule. These documents shall be kept by the administrative entity concerned, for a minimum of ten years.

PART III - FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 19 – Interpretation

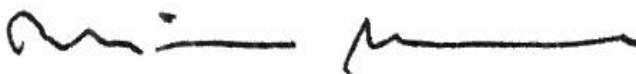
The Rule shall be interpreted in good faith, in accordance with the ordinary meaning to be given to the terms used in the Rule and in the light of its preamble. A Practical Guide and templates shall support the implementation of the legal framework established by the present Rule.

Article 20 – Entry into force

This Rule shall enter into force on the day of its signature by the Secretary General.

Strasbourg, 16 December 2015

The Secretary General



Thorbjørn JAGLAND