



## PRESS RELEASE

Strasbourg, 18 April 2018

# European Heritage Days 2018: Call for European Heritage Stories and launch of the European Heritage Makers Week

The [European Heritage Days](#) (EHDs), a joint initiative of the Council of Europe and the European Commission, are the most widely celebrated participatory cultural events shared by the citizens of Europe. The pan-European nature of the events contributes to bringing citizens together and highlighting the European dimension and the value of cultural heritage in the 50 signatory States of the [European Cultural Convention](#). Over 70 000 events are organised every year in order to help raise awareness of Europe's common heritage and the continuous need for its protection, as well as to create shared cultural heritage experiences, promote inclusiveness and foster creativity and imagination.

As one of the key initiatives of the [European Year of Cultural Heritage](#), in this year's edition of the [#EHDs](#) we are celebrating "The Art of Sharing" and launching two new pilot initiatives open to local communities, children and young people.

Launched on 18 April on the occasion of the World Heritage Day and International Day for Monuments and Sites, the EHDs are proud to present the [European Heritage Makers Week](#), a storytelling experience created to celebrate Europe's shared heritage. The official week symbolically takes place between 5 and 9 May, to coincide with the Europe Day celebrated by the Council of Europe and European Union. The preparation and selection days will follow the schedule outlined [here](#).

During this period, children and young people are encouraged to explore their surroundings, get to know the cultural heritage around them and come up with a story of Europe in the selected site. The stories can then be uploaded by their parents or legal guardians in the form of digital images (pictures, drawings, paintings, photographs, graphics, illustrations, and comics) to the [EHD Portal](#) with written stories alongside to give added insight. Following a national pre-selection, a European jury will select the ten most inspiring stories and invite the [#HeritageMakers](#) to visit Strasbourg for a special event in November.

For the first time in the history of the European Heritage Days, the [Call for European Heritage Stories](#) is set as a pilot initiative intending to give a voice to the passionate individuals, organisations and associations to tell their story of Europe in the heritage they cherish.

Storytellers from EHD communities, EU Prize for Cultural Heritage/Europa Nostra Award winners and the European Heritage Label are invited to share their interpretation of a European heritage story and to explore the ways they understand their heritage site or heritage work corresponds with common European values. In addition to encouraging people to engage with Europe's cultural heritage and collecting testimonies/stories and good practice on how communities understand the European

Council of Europe contacts:

[Jelena Mocevic](#) (+33 3 90 21 59 48) - Manager, European Heritage Days Programme, Directorate General of Democracy

[Giuseppe Zaffuto](#) (+33 3 90 21 56 04) - Media Officer

European Commission contact :

[Juliane Ott](#) (+ 32 2 29 55719)- Manager, European Heritage Days Programme, Directorate-General Education and Culture

dimension of local heritage, the Call will give access to direct funding scheme for project proposals connected with the Stories.

Officially launched on 20 April 2018, the storytellers can submit their stories through the Application Form available on the [European Heritage Stories](#) page. 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. A European panel will chose a minimum of 10 European Heritage Stories for a grant to further develop their initiatives. Detailed information can be found in [Call for European Heritage Stories: Terms and Conditions](#).

### **About European Heritage Days**

Celebrated in 50 signatory States to the European Cultural Convention, European Heritage Days highlight the diversity of local skills, traditions, architectural styles and works of art that constitute shared European Heritage. Launched in 1985 in France, the festival has been organised as a joint initiative of the European Union and the Council of Europe since 1999. Enabling citizens to explore a wide range of cultural assets through a number of themed events organised for free, European Heritage Days help uncover hidden histories of people and places that have helped shape the culture and heritage of Europe.

The events take place from late August to October, when local skills, crafts and traditions are put into focus at cultural events all over Europe. The aim is to increase understanding of a shared European past, encourage appreciation of traditional values and inspire new heritage conservation and education initiatives. Cultural heritage is a priority under [Creative Europe](#), the EU's programme for the cultural and creative sectors. The European Heritage Days receive €400 000 in support from Creative Europe and €400 000 from the Council of Europe, with most events being funded with national or regional backing. Pilot initiatives launched in 2018 and announced in this press release will set the stage for engaging communities in the European dimension of heritage, as well as focus on storytelling and European values.

### **To find out more**

European Heritage Days Portal: [www.europeanheritagedays.com](http://www.europeanheritagedays.com)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/EHDDays](https://www.facebook.com/EHDDays)

Twitter: [@JEP\\_EHD](#) #EHDs

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