

# EUROPEAN HERITAGE DAYS 2024

Routes,  
Networks  
and Connections

European Heritage Days  
A joint action of the Council of Europe  
and the European Union



European Heritage Days  
Journées européennes  
du patrimoine

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Co-funded and implemented  
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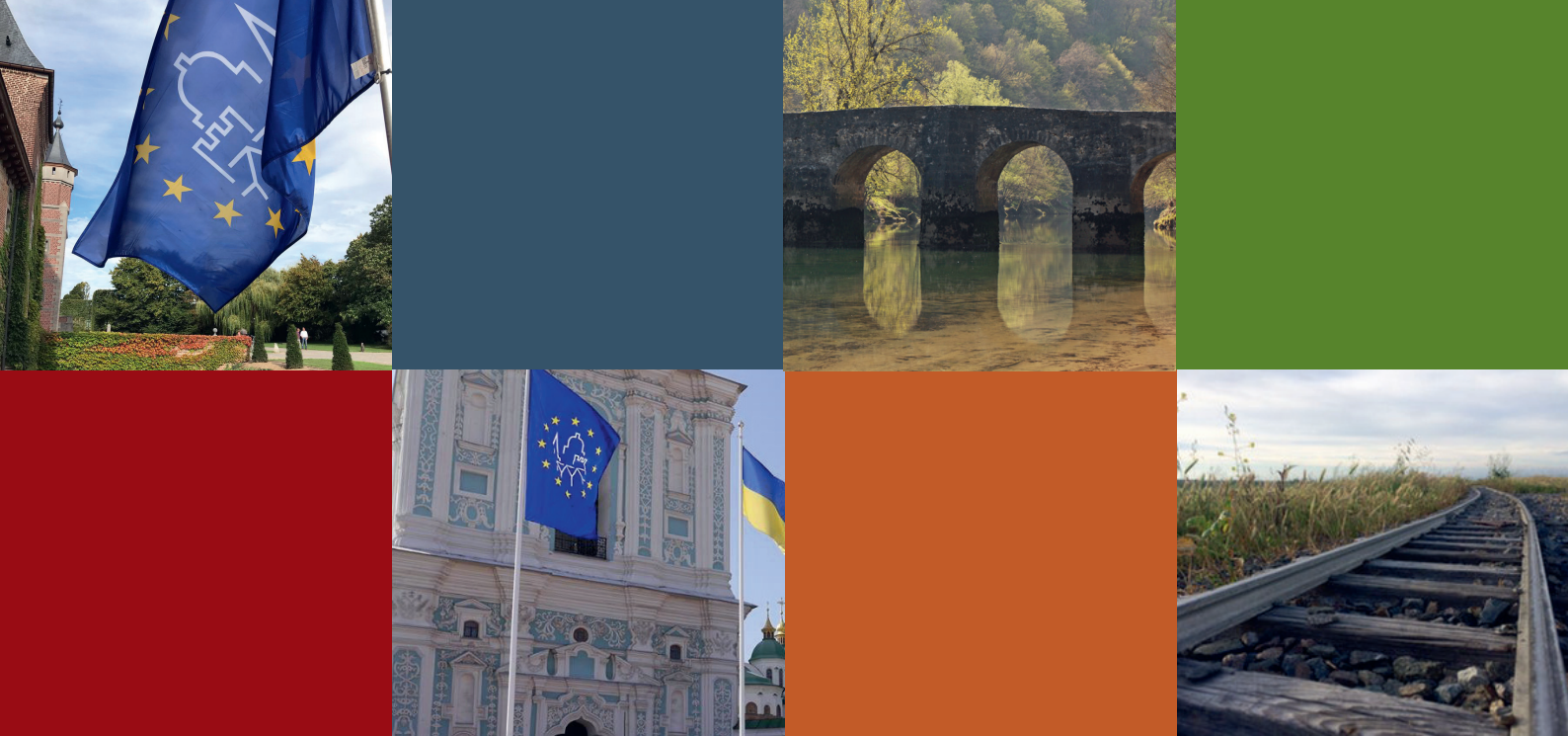
A DIGITAL VERSION OF THIS BROCHURE, CONTAINING LINKS TO ALL ONLINE RESOURCES MENTIONED, CAN ALSO BE FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE.



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# Introduction

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**T**he [European Heritage Days](#) (EHD), a joint action of the [Council of Europe](#) and the [European Commission](#), are the most widely celebrated participatory cultural events shared by people living in Europe. The pan-European nature of the events contributes to bringing people together and highlighting the European dimension and the value of cultural heritage in the signatory States of the [European Cultural Convention](#). Thousands of 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.

Every year there is a theme for European Heritage Days, which all participating countries are encouraged to adopt for their annual programme.

This brochure will help you think about how to deliver your 2024 programme based on the theme of *Routes, Networks and Connections*.

# Routes, Networks and Connections



**N**ational Coordinators have chosen the theme of Routes, Networks and Connections for European Heritage Days 2024. Event organisers are welcome to adapt this theme in ways that would best suit their language and culture.

At the heart of this theme is the notion that our heritage, in both its tangible and intangible forms, has much to tell us about how peoples, communities, countries and cultures have long been connected, and how they continue to be, through common values, shared practices and a desire to protect and share the stories and places that make up our individual and collective histories.

Heritage represents local identity and continuity, but it also reflects the influences, ideas and peoples that have travelled and shaped it over time. From our buildings and monuments, our streets and houses, to our food, our rituals and our language, all are products of the movement of people across Europe and beyond.

The buildings that constitute our cities, town and villages have their own unique style, and are also subject to many wider influences in design and function. It is through the physical, and more recently the virtual, flows of people, objects and ideas, that heritage is enriched in its diversity, at the same time revealing our shared histories and unique stories. Today we rely on new and evolving forms of digital connection, which are creating new routes through which we exchange and share with each other.

With this theme we seek to inspire heritage professionals and event organisers at the local and national level to explore the ways in which our pasts and cultures are inter-connected. In opening the doors of heritage sites as part of the European Heritage Days, organisers and visitors contribute to the creation of new routes, networks and connections in our communities today. The theme therefore offers an opportunity to explore how the ways we move

have evolved, and in organising events around this subject, to create new opportunities for new connections and relationships to form.

Through the work of the European Heritage Days organisers in participating countries, we wish to encourage communities to reflect upon the connections behind our heritage sites and practices and to help reveal those stories that are trans-national, and which cut across the centuries. Through exploring the ways that heritage has long been, and continues to be, shaped by the movement of people, stories, and objects, we can create opportunities for meaningful cross-cultural dialogue.





# Interpreting routes, Networks and Connections



**T**he traces of physical routes that cross landscapes and borders are a reminder that societies have always been on the move, and peoples have travelled, in times of peace and war, for pilgrimage, farming, conquest, trade and discovery. From the straight roads laid down during the Roman Empire to the ancient winding paths used by pilgrims, and from former railways that once linked our towns and cities, to the rivers and canals that facilitated trade, routes and roads are the very connections that brought communities together.

Marking important locations along these roads and routes, our built heritage illustrates the layers built by the past and how people, objects, ideas and beliefs travelled between places. Across the centuries the influences of other cultures and traditions has been ever-present as migrations, trade and technologies have ebbed and flowed. Literary figures, real and fictional, along with religious leaders, artists, philosophers, tradesmen and politicians have long travelled and left their mark on our cities. Our architecture, our streetscapes and even the names of our streets, all illuminate the influences of and encounters with other cultures.

As individuals, communities and societies we work within networks that frequently extend beyond borders and we share connections and boundaries that both unify and differentiate us. As tourists and travellers, we experience the heritage of others and we have opportunities to recognise how this heritage reminds us of our own pasts, and at the same time, a wider collective heritage. The shadows of old empires have left their impression upon our landscapes and cities and are visible in the layout, stylistic features, decorative detail, and the contents of our museums and galleries. Our culinary heritage also represents the influences of seemingly far away places. Our language and vocabulary are living artefacts of our historic connections. Our heritage demonstrates tremendous commonality, and at the same time, culture takes a specific shape depending on the places in which it roots.

Our heritage invites us to ask questions about the origins of structures, objects, rituals and practices, and in exploring these histories, often in very personal ways, we can discover the very things that once connected us and that continue to shape our ways of life today.





# Building on our Networks



**T**oday, through social media we are networked like never before, united across borders through our shared interests, activities and aspirations. However, despite the speed of our new digital connectivity, it is useful to remember that many of these connections have deep historical routes in trade, migration, invasions, and more recently, in tourism. The exploration of our tangible and intangible heritage from this theme's perspective allows us to better understand our historical connections and responsibilities, reminding us of the roots of our shared values. The theme offers an opportunity to refresh our recognition of the importance of diversity as a means of working towards social cohesion and the protection of human rights.

Building on the previous themes of [Sustainable Heritage in 2022](#) and [Living Heritage in 2023](#), we can see that routes, networks and connections are emerging and developing all the time. Routes and pathways develop at the intersection between the past and the pursuit of new horizons and new futures. New routes and connections are constantly being

forged by the creative ways people move through the places where they live, work and play, and as people travel, so too does their heritage, kept alive because it has value and meaning to new communities. In the context of conflict and the challenges of large-scale migrations, the ability to maintain and express peoples' traditions and heritages is crucial to their freedom.

Networks are often built upon our intertwined histories and our built heritage, museum objects, artworks, traditions and crafts are all reminders of common pasts. Routes, both physical and thematic, provide opportunities for bringing heritage and communities together. European Heritage Days offer an ideal creative opportunity to draw attention to the ways in which our heritage is frequently a product of a number of different influences and connected to other places and cultures. Opening up our heritage through routes, be they local, regional, national or trans-national, enables us to connect with each other through space and time.



# Routes, Networks and Connections and Europe



**T**he theme Routes, Networks, and Connections coincides with the 70th anniversary of the [European Cultural Convention](#). The theme shares the convention's emphasis on the intricate web of cultural connections that have evolved over the past seven decades. Celebrating the convention's anniversary, the theme explores and celebrates the connections between the histories of its signatory States. Through events and activities centred around this theme, the celebration becomes a dynamic exploration of the interconnected histories, shared stories, and collaborative cultural endeavours that have been fostered by the convention's guiding principles for seven decades.

At the foundation of the 2005 Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society ([Faro Convention](#)) is a recognition of our 'common heritage' and of the need to mobilise this heritage as a way of promoting dialogue amongst cultures and religions. While respecting the diversity of heritage and different interpretations, the Faro Convention also recognises cultural heritage as an educational resource to facilitate peaceful co-existence by promoting trust and mutual understanding. In using heritage to point out our connectivity and similarities, as well as our distinctiveness, and in drawing upon the ways that communities and societies have been and remain networked in physical and thematic ways, we are in the position to better understand what we collectively share. This is the case for both our tangible and intangible heritage.

In line with the Faro Convention, the 2023 Living Heritage theme was valuable in drawing attention to the value of traditional knowledge and socio-cultural practices and the importance of maintaining these through protection and inter-generational transmission. The focus in 2024 on Routes, Networks and Connections will build on this by recognising that intangible heritage moves over time and has

crossed borders with the movements and migrations of people and ideas. In doing so, the content of this heritage may change, and traditions become adapted to suit new environments, but we can still trace its foundations.

How we share our heritage is specifically referenced through the [Cultural Routes](#) of the Council of Europe Programme which was established in 1987 as way of demonstrating via journeys, through space and time, that the heritage of the country members of the Council of Europe contributes to a 'shared and living cultural heritage'. This Programme is the embodiment of the values of the Council of Europe focusing on human rights, cultural diversity, intercultural dialogue and mutual exchanges across borders, delivered at grassroots level. There are 47 certified trans-national Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe covering different themes and representing over 3,000 organisations. The Routes are based upon networks that collaborate sustainably for the benefit of their shared heritage, their local communities and small businesses, young people and enjoyment for national and international tourists. The Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe ensures the implementation of the programme and decides on its strategy. It benefits today from the political and financial support of 40 member States. The European Institute of Cultural Routes, based in Luxembourg, is the technical agency of the programme and provides advice to Cultural Routes candidates network and certified Cultural Routes. It also delivers custom-made trainings for EPA member States wishing to further implement the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme at national level.



# Routes, Networks and Connections and the European Heritage Days



In the context of European Heritage Days, there is tremendous opportunity not only to open individual heritage sites and the specific practices of intangible heritage, but also to put these into a wider context of how they can connect – physically, thematically or both - with wider histories and geographies. Discovering links and connections about our heritage helps us to discover the links and connections we have as people. There are fascinating stories to tell about the origins of sites and practices; how they have travelled and adapted over time and how we can recognise European and global influences in the heritage that is on our doorstep. Such stories can often stimulate uncomfortable questions but nonetheless important ones and can be the start of genuine inter-cultural, trans-national dialogue.

Heritage routes also exist at national and local levels too, including pilgrimage ways and even city trails that have particular themes and can be either guided or self-guided. All work in similar ways by putting heritage into a wider context and recognising its connectivity.

There are many other examples of cultural routes that work based on making connections between distinct types of heritage, from different time periods and across various places and spaces. Well known cultural routes such as that of Santiago de Compostela: Camino Francés and Routes of Northern Spain are also UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Several 'Serial' World Heritage Sites such as the Frontiers of the Roman Empire and the Silk Road across eastern and central Asia recognise the once physical and thematic historical connections. Sites such as the Great Spa Town of Europe are both included in the World Heritage List and certified by the Council of Europe as European Route of Historic Thermal Towns. The European Union funded UNESCO project [World Heritage Journeys Europe](#) has developed transnational themed routes using thematically connected World Heritage Sites.







## Event ideas

The following are suggestions and ideas that could inspire you participate in and animate the theme of Routes, Networks and Connections, which offers an opportunity to find new stories and interpretations hidden within familiar places. The majority involve building some form of partnership and this, in itself, is all about developing new networks!

### 1 Celebrating 70 Years of the European Cultural Convention: Anniversary Gala and Exhibition:

Marking the 70th anniversary of the European Cultural Convention, host a grand gala and exhibition that pays tribute to the Convention's profound impact on European cultural cooperation. Bring together artists, cultural ambassadors, and enthusiasts for an evening of performances, keynote speeches, and cultural displays. Feature interactive displays highlighting the transformative journey of cultural connections over the past seven decades.

2 **Research and organise walks** along 'forgotten' routes – old stretches of former railway lines, old paths or roads.

3 Does your town or city ever host performers who visit to share their theatre, musical or circus shows? Have they done so for a long time? **Create an archive** of people's photographs and memories of these performances, or research their histories and the places they travel through.

4 **Host a workshop exploring traditional skills** and influences that have shaped them, such as sewing, knitting, or making clothes.

5 **Organise a route through several local heritage sites**, based on a theme of your choosing, that follows a 'treasure hunt' map, and offer participants quiz sheets to help them explore what they find there. Look for new connections between the objects, buildings and stories you find on the way.

6 **Organise 'explorations' – 'discovering the source of'** – of local rivers and the heritage of their use as routes and ways of connecting with other people.

7 **Invite local history societies and heritage groups to offer guided tours** highlighting the trans-national stories behind a place or important international characters who lived, worked in or visited them.

8 Is there an important event in the history of travel connected to your hometown, for example the opening of a new train station or tramway, or even something on a larger scale, such as the first international flight in Europe? **Design an exhibition** about the influence this had on the place you live.

9 Many present and former industries share connections through trade, migrant labour, use of technology and innovation and their international struggle for better conditions. Working with trade unions or industrial heritage sites, **organise a workshop that explores the shared histories of workers** in other parts of the world.

10 **Explore the rights of way or publicly accessible countryside** in your local area, and the stories of how these places have changed. Explore the natural landscapes, wildlife and plants that share these places with us. Animals have their own routes and paths through the countryside, too, can ecologists or wildlife protection organisations help you track them?

11 **Organise jewellery-making workshops** for young people in schools or clubs inspired by international cultures. In the workshop they might make things from natural materials, or from beads and locally produced fibres.

**12 Open the doors of historical transportation hubs and sites**, such as old train stations, river locks, bridges, ports, and airports, showcasing the growth of transportation networks over time. Highlight the architectural evolution and the role these hubs played in connecting communities.

**13 Nautical Networks:** Dive into the maritime history of Europe, discussing the significance of sea routes, port cities, and maritime trade. You can go further and explore their connections with inland waterways.

**14 Virtual Reality Tours:** Use modern technology to offer virtual reality tours of historical routes and connections, allowing visitors to experience the past in an immersive way.

**15 Work with your local museum to identify their most widely travelled objects** and help trace the journey they took on their way there.

**16 Host a map workshop with your local library**, studying old editions of maps of your town. By comparing them you can see how it has grown and changed over the years, and you could update the collection by drawing new versions together.

**17 Organise a stargazing workshop** with local experts and explore what connections you can see when looking at things from a different angle.

**18 Create a guided tour** of a National Park or nature reserve near you, to share your knowledge with others.

**19 Organise tour guide training** for young people, to give them a chance to tell the stories that matter to them about their neighbourhood or town.

**20** Many traditional skills have local roots and were dependent on what was available locally, what could grow, what type of stone or rock lay underground, and the availability of clean water. Ask a historical geographer to give a talk about the aspects of your **local landscape** that have defined your place and how to provide a platform for the development of innovative ideas in heritage management.

**21** Organise a **tree identification workshop** and raise awareness of old trees as both nature and cultural monuments. Trees also offer a gateway to understanding ecological networks and the connections in local ecosystems.

**22 Plan an urban wildlife-watching expedition** and meet the animals, birds and plants that share our towns and cities with us.



**23 Host a market for local craftspeople**, traditional and present-day, to help them to make connections and share their work with new people.

**24** Work with a local theatre group to **organise performances** based on the history of a significant local route or journey in the history of your town or area, which asks people to visit several locations on a route.

**25** Does your country have a **traditional dance** that has been changed or modified by over time? Compare the different versions, and discuss with young people what prompted these changes and why.

**26** Have there been occasions of major emigration out of your community, or movement of people into it as part of the creation of industry or jobs? You could **research and map the routes they took**, and see how much you can discover about the communities they arrived from and moved into.

**27 Host a fashion show** showcasing traditional outfits, inviting communities of all kinds to participate in designing and sharing clothes that are part of their different cultures.

**28 Work with a local railway or bus station, tram network or port authority** to open their doors for a day and tell their history and how they are link different parts of your city, or even reach faraway parts of the world.

**29** All of the 47 certified **Cultural Routes** of the Council of Europe begin with networks based around commonly identified themes that link more than three member countries of the Council of Europe. **Explore a theme** that you may be able to develop linking your heritage with heritage sites and partners in other countries.

**30** The Jewish people are integral to all countries in Europe, and one of its most mobile populations, as pilgrims, emigrants and victims of prejudice. Taking inspiration from the [European Route of Jewish Heritage](#), explore the contributions of the Jewish community to the social, political, economic and religious life of your town or city.

**31** **Explore the stories of the [European Fairy Tale Route](#)** and do some research into the folklore of your local area, to see if you can draw connections between the stories you find.

**32** **Organise tour guide training workshops with local community groups** to give local diasporic communities space to devise their own heritage tour of your town or city, focusing on the places and sites that are important in their recent pasts.

**33** **‘Spot the Street-Sign’** -explore the history of street names that have their roots in other parts of the world.

**34** How much do you know about the networks below the ground? Does your city have underground transport networks? How has it shaped your perception of the city, and informed your choices about how you move through it? **Explore the historic maps in your local library** to see how the underground networks have shaped the city.

**35** **Partner with local restaurants** which serve international cuisines to tell their story of how they came to your town, and maybe to host a ‘taste of home’ evening.

**36** Using a statue or birthplace or museum object, **identify travellers from your town or city and create maps** to look into where they travelled to and why.

**37** Work with a local church or place of worship of any faiths practiced in your locality, to trace the routes of religious figures, real or figurative, who have played important roles for the community - for example, explore St Augustine’s links to Italy, the UK and beyond, or you might find inspiration in the [Saint Olav Ways](#).

**38** Organise guided tours of towns and cities that focus on the influence of different architectural styles such as details with Roman or Greek origins.

**39** With local specialists, organise tours exploring architectural and design features of local buildings to discover their international influences.

**40** **Each year the European Commission issues a [Call for proposals on Town-Twinning and Networks of Towns](#)**. Organise an event with your local authority exploring connections that could be made with towns in other European countries, and see if there is potential for preparing a proposal.

**41** **If you have one, work with your existing ‘twin town’ or ‘sister city’** to create an exhibition about what they have in common and why are they ‘twinned’.

**42** **Organise an exhibition of traditional crafts**. The exhibition might include different tools and utensils used in practicing the crafts, in addition to the original objects as products of the crafts.

**43** Devise a game for children that focuses upon finding an object or a part of a building that illustrates a historical link between their locality and somewhere further afield – a trans-national **treasure hunt**.

**44** Work with diasporic and migrant communities and offer an opportunity for them to share personal stories, based on a chosen theme, about events and objects significant to them..

**45** **Get in touch with local overseas groups, societies and associations** – e.g. such as the British Spanish Society or the Anglo Danish Society – to encourage them to speak about how they recognise aspects of their heritage in your country/city.

**46** **‘Collect’ creatures of the world** – challenge school groups to visit heritage sites and find references (carvings, images, statues etc.) of exotic animals, real and mythical – elephants, tigers, dragons – to inspire discussion about how people learned about and discovered these creatures in the past.

**47** Encourage young sports fans to trace the routes by which a particular sport has links with other countries. **Take part in the next edition of the [Young European Heritage Makers initiative](#)**, which invites young people to explore their cultural surroundings and find their story of Europe, while finding creative ways to share it with their peers across the continent. Encourage young people to take a photo, make a video or tell a story and share it with the rest of Europe on our website as part of the next edition. To attract more young people, it’s important to link the past with the present, **connect** heritage with current issues, contemporary art, music or popular culture.



**48** Are you an organiser of a project involving European cultural heritage, with a mission to share your experience with the rest of Europe? Do you have an idea for a new project to further develop your story? If you organise an EHD event, you will be eligible to **take part in the next edition of our Call for European Heritage Days Stories**. We particularly encourage applications from projects based on the upcoming theme.

**49 Find your nearest Cultural Route of the Council of Europe** to discover the rich and diverse heritage of Europe, and the living heritage that has grown from the places it crosses. Find out what it has to offer for responsible heritage tourism and sustainable development.

**50 Pick a place!** Examine the interactions between people and community who meet in this place. Consider how the place itself has contributed to local history, and how it might continue to do so.

**51 Create a map or an inventory** of significant cultural heritage in the area you live. It might be displayed in a public building or made into a mural, or a smaller version might be printable and distributed as a leaflet locally to encourage people to explore their surroundings in new ways.

**52** Towns located near borders might **host exchange visits** of folk dancers' clubs or traditional music bands with the closest cross-border town. What is shared, and what is unique about their traditional performances?

**53** Digital technologies have an increasing role as a tool to interpret and disseminate multiple forms of heritage. Bring together a group of community members and specialists including historians, heritage managers, data scientists and IT specialists to workshop new ideas together, depending on what is needed in your town.

**54 Organize an online photography competition** that captures the cultural heritage of specific communities, emphasizing the routes, networks, and connections that define their unique identity.

**55 Digital Storytelling Platforms:** Create online platforms where people can share their own family stories, photographs, and artifacts related to migration and journeys.

**56** Recreate a medieval trade fair in a historical market square. Artisans and traders can demonstrate traditional crafts, and visitors could experience the bustling trade atmosphere of the past.

**57** Visitors can be invited to **join archaeologists at excavation sites** along old roads and pathways, participating in real archaeological digs and learning about the artifacts uncovered.

**58 Music of the Mediterranean:** A concert series showcasing music that emerged from the cultural connections along the Mediterranean Sea, featuring traditional instruments and melodies that have travelled across borders.

**59** Organise workshops highlighting the **role of rivers** as important trade routes and hubs of innovation, discussing the historical impact of river networks on economic growth.

**60 Create an exhibition** exploring the historic division of Europe and the network of barriers and connections that defined the Cold War era followed by a discussion on the Council of Europe's values of fostering dialogue, understanding, and cooperation among European nations.

**61 Explore the literary connections** that have shaped European culture. Organize guided tours that visit locations featured in famous novels, plays, and poems, highlighting the impact of literature on shared European identity.

**62 Celebrate the diverse linguistic connections** across Europe. Host workshops on language evolution, dialects, and multilingualism, emphasizing the role of language in connecting communities.

**63 Explore the history of postal services and communication networks.** Display artifacts related to mail delivery and early communication systems, emphasizing their role in connecting people.

**64** Work together with schools and universities to **showcase the impact of educational exchange programs**. Display artifacts, stories, and photos of students who have participated in exchange programs, fostering cross-cultural connections.

**65 Hiking and Cycling Routes Exploration:** Encourage outdoor activities by organizing guided hikes or cycling tours along historic routes. Participants can experience the physical connections between landscapes, communities, and cultures.

**66 Recreate ancient trade markets** with historical accuracy, showcasing goods and crafts that were traded along historic routes. Invite artisans to demonstrate traditional craftsmanship.

**67 Organize panel discussions** on the complex relationship between migration, identity, and heritage. Experts and individuals with diverse backgrounds can share their experiences and insights.

**68 Host sports events that cross national borders**, emphasizing the connections created through friendly competition. These events can showcase traditional sports from different regions.

**69 Create an online platform** where people can share personal stories, photos, and videos of their own journeys, highlighting the connections formed through travel and exploration.

**70 Organize an interactive game** where participants take on the roles of traders, navigating historical trade routes, negotiating deals, and experiencing the challenges of building successful trade networks.

**71 Host a symposium** exploring the networks of scholars, scientists, and thinkers that connected European centres of learning. Discuss how these networks contributed to the exchange of knowledge and ideas.

**72 Conduct architecture tours** that highlight the influence of city networks on urban planning and design. Explore how cities evolved as interconnected hubs along trade and cultural routes.

**73 Explore the historical connections between different European empires** and their impact on trade, culture, and governance. Examine how these networks shaped the course of history.

**74 Bring together local stakeholders** to discuss the ecological networks that have influenced Europe's landscapes and biodiversity. **Explore the interconnectedness of ecosystems** and the importance of conservation.

**75 Innovation and Invention Trail:** Organize a trail that highlights locations where significant innovations and inventions emerged. Showcase how these breakthroughs contributed to the development of networks across industries.

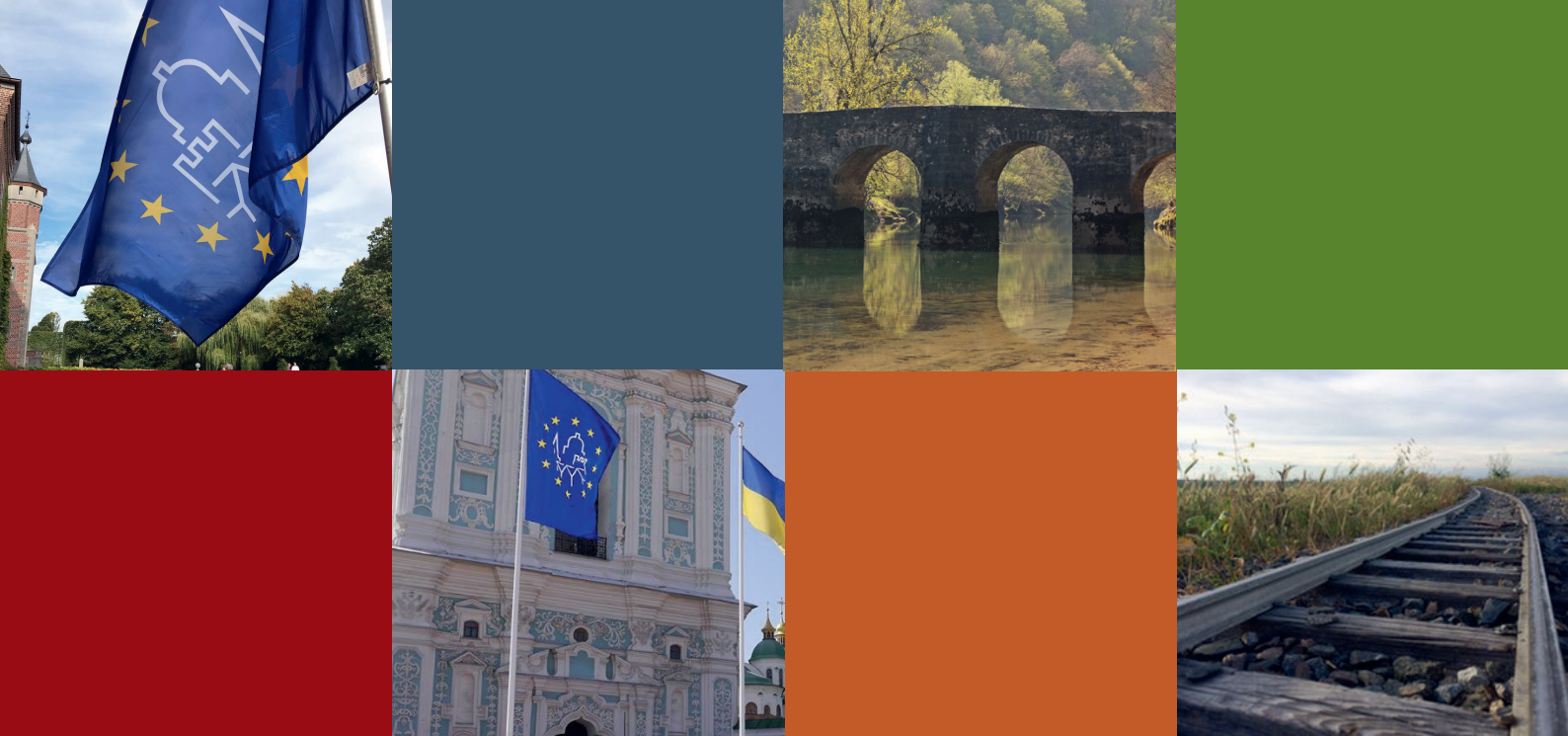
**76 Recreate historical diplomatic meetings** and negotiations that shaped alliances and collaborations between nations. Discuss the impact of diplomatic networks on European history.

**77 Historical Currency and Trade Exchange:** Set up booths featuring historical currencies and trade goods, showcasing the interconnectedness of economic networks and the evolution of trade practices.

**78 Explore the history of radio and broadcasting networks**, discussing their role in disseminating information, culture, and entertainment across Europe.

**79 Invite experts and individuals** to participate in panel discussions about migration, diaspora communities, and the networks they have formed that transcend borders.

**80 Safeguarding Cultural Heritage: Nicosia Convention Symposium:** In recognition of the Council of Europe's Nicosia Convention on Offences Relating to Cultural Property, organize a symposium to delve into the significance of this crucial agreement. Gather experts, legal professionals, and cultural heritage enthusiasts for insightful discussions on the convention's impact in safeguarding Europe's cultural treasures. Explore the networks and collaborations established through the Nicosia Convention, emphasizing its role in preventing the illicit trafficking of cultural artifacts.



# Resources

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## Youth

Many of the above Event Ideas involve giving young people opportunities to engage in exploring and sharing their heritage. Beyond the local universities, colleges and schools that should of course be approached as potential partners, the following resources may also be useful:

- ▶ Young European Heritage Makers - [Young European Heritage Makers | European Heritage Days](#)
- ▶ The European Youth Card Association - [The Card - EYC & Do more. Be more. \(eyca.org\)](#)
- ▶ The European Youth Foundation - [Funding and grants Council of Europe EYF - European Youth Foundation \(coe.int\)](#)
- ▶ [The European Youth Forum - The biggest platform of youth organisations in Europe](#)
- ▶ Many of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe are engaged with youth exchange programmes in line with their themes and each is different - [Explore all Cultural Routes by theme - Cultural Routes \(coe.int\)](#)
- ▶ The heritage theme linked to connecting with other countries in the EU can be supported through Erasmus+ - [Mobility projects for young people - "Youth Exchanges" | Erasmus+ \(europa.eu\)](#)

## Local Community Organisations

Depending on what area of heritage your events will address, and who you would like to visit them, it is a good idea to develop your programme in collaboration with local organisations and networks. For example, if you are working with histories of local industry and commerce, trade associations and the business sector may be useful partners at local level, particularly if they have a story that connects them both to their 'roots and routes'.

Place based associations are valuable partners especially if they have active connections and shared heritage. Local history societies are a reliable source of stories linking their localities with other places in the world. Town and cities with 'twins' often have interesting historical connections and are usually engaged in some form exchange - <http://www.twinning.org/en/page/your-national-association>.

The heritage and stories of migrant groups, past and present, are particularly relevant to this theme. Crafts, skills, festivals, songs and dances travel with migrant communities and have always done so. Working with diasporic communities and their heritage provides great insight into how heritage connections are constantly being re-made.

In the wider heritage sector museums, libraries, and all heritage sites are potential partners. These are often locally, regionally or nationally focused so some encouragement may be required for them to think trans-nationally. Stories of connections, past and present, do generate good news stories and can bring international attention.

## European Networks

There are multiple examples of European and international associations, organisations and networks that link heritage sites together through particular themes or activities. This European Heritage Days theme is the ideal opportunity to harness their networks and partner with them. Examples include:

- ▶ Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe and the European Institute of Cultural Routes (Luxembourg) (<https://www.coe.int/en/web/culture-and-heritage/cultural-routes>)
- ▶ European Walled Towns Association - [European Walled Towns | International Association For Sustainable Development Of Walled Towns](#).
- ▶ European Network of River Museums - [enorm-online.eu](#) – [European Network of River Museums](#)
- ▶ European Heritage Label Sites [Culture and Creativity \(europa.eu\)](#)
- ▶ Organisation of World Heritage Cities– [OWHC \(ovpm.org\)](#)
- ▶ UNESCO Creative Cities Network - <https://en.unesco.org/creative-cities/home>
- ▶ UNESCO World Heritage Sites - <https://visitworldheritage.com/en/eu>
- ▶ UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage List - [Browse the Lists of Intangible Cultural Heritage and the Register of good safeguarding practices](#) - [intangible heritage](#) - [Culture Sector](#) - [UNESCO](#)

Brochures on our previous themes are a useful source of event ideas, and are available on the [Publications](#) page of our website.

We hope that you find some inspiration from these examples for delivering Routes, Networks and Connections as part of your events programme in 2024.

A digital version of this brochure, containing links to all online resources mentioned, can also be found on our website.

Feel free to share your practices and projects with us and we can share them widely with the National Coordinators, and highlight them on the EHD website. Submit project summaries and relevant links to **jep-ehd@coe.int**.

## Join the Conversation



The member states of the European Union have decided to link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders.

**<http://europa.eu>**

The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It comprises 46 member states, including all members of the European Union. All Council of Europe member states have signed up to the European Convention on Human Rights, a treaty designed to protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The European Court of Human Rights oversees the implementation of the Convention in the member states.

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