

## **THE EUROPEAN HERITAGE HEADS FORUM (EHHF)**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Throughout Europe there is a range of cultures influencing the sense of identity and memory.

Nevertheless there are issues common to all countries, but the priorities and responses to those issues will differ from state to state.

The cultural heritage in Europe both poses and faces major challenges.

This is driven by some powerful forces:

- Globalisation
- Democratisation
- Migration
- European unity

Our concept of what constitutes heritage continues to evolve in response to social and intellectual development and this impacts on the way we work. These new concepts require new kinds of communication within and beyond the heritage community. This also requires the development of heritage experts able to draw on a wide range of skills and communicate widely to all sections of society.

Significant issues affecting a number of European countries include:

- Redundancy of use of historic structures
- Short-term approach to development and economic pressures
- Identity and historical importance
- Impact of tourism
- A broad spectrum of social impacts and social issues
- Planning approaches and stakeholder participation
- Lack of awareness of the value of heritage



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## **ACTION PLAN**

We agree that we will:

- Continue to meet as a forum of European heritage heads, known as the “European Heritage Heads Forum” to:
  - Exchange experience, ideas and best practice
  - Strengthen and support existing networks dealing with heritage and tourism
  - Carry out the following specific agreed actions

## **SPECIFIC ACTIONS:**

- Make a high level public statement of the outcomes of this meeting
- Develop common statistical information on European heritage by strengthening our commitment to HEREIN and other available tools
- Commit to using the new European Heritage Forum to exchange information and to share best practice on all aspects of the management of the historic environment and its sustainable use
- Develop as a specific publication from the European Heritage Forum an analysis of the economic and social benefits of investment in the historic environment, including sustainable tourism

## **FUTURE MEETINGS:**

The forum should meet annually hosted by a different member organisation.

The forum should establish a secretariat, to be provided by a member organisation for a three-year period, to ensure continuing communication.



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