

EDITORIAL SCIRES-IT: AN OVERVIEW ON THE EUROPEAN YEAR OF CULTURAL HERITAGE – EYCH 2018

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Abstract

This First Issue of 2019 “European year of Cultural-Heritage. A laboratory for heritage-based innovation” focuses on an overview of European Year of Cultural Heritage held in 2018; Guest Editor of this Issue is Ermina Sciacchitano.

Keywords

SCIRES-IT, Editorial, European Year of Cultural Heritage, EYCH 2018.

SCIRES-IT Manifesto states that it is an “eco-sustainable open-access journal providing an international forum for the exchange and sharing of know-how in the areas of Digitalization and Multimedia Technologies and Information & Communication Technology (ICT) in support of Cultural and environmental Heritage (CH) documentation, preservation and fruition.” (SCIRES-IT Manifesto, 2011).

Therefore we decided to dedicate first Issue of 2019 to an overview on European Year of Cultural Heritage – EYCH 2018 whose goals were set by the European Institutions¹.

“The aim of the European Year of Cultural Heritage is to encourage more people to discover and engage with Europe's cultural heritage, and to reinforce a sense of belonging to a common European space. The slogan for the year is: Our heritage: where the past meets the future.

The year will see a series of initiatives and events across Europe to enable people to become closer to and more involved with their cultural heritage. Cultural heritage shapes our identities and everyday lives. It surrounds us in Europe's towns and cities, natural landscapes and archaeological sites. It is not only found in

literature, art and objects, but also in the crafts we learn from our ancestors, the stories we tell to our children, the food we enjoy in company and the films we watch and recognise ourselves in.

Cultural heritage has a universal value for us as individuals, communities and societies. It is important to preserve and pass on to future generations. You may think of heritage as being ‘from the past’ or static, but it actually evolves through our engagement with it. What is more, our heritage has a big role to play in building the future of Europe. That is one reason why we want to reach out to young people in particular during the European Year.

Cultural heritage comes in many shapes and forms:

tangible – for example buildings, monuments, artefacts, clothing, artwork, books, machines, historic towns, archaeological sites.

intangible – practices, representations, expressions, knowledge, skills - and the associated instruments, objects and cultural spaces - that people value. This includes language and oral traditions, performing arts, social practices and traditional craftsmanship.

natural – landscapes, flora and fauna.

digital – resources that were created in digital form (for example digital art or animation) or that have been digitalised as a way to preserve them (including text, images, video, records).

Through cherishing our cultural heritage, we can discover our diversity and start an inter-

¹ European Parliament and Council of the EU (2017). Decision (EU) 2017/864 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2017 on a European Year of Cultural Heritage (2018), OJ L 131, 20.5.2017, pp.1–9

cultural conversation about what we have in common. So what better way to enrich our lives than by interacting with something so central to who we are?

Cultural heritage should not be left to decay, deterioration or destruction. This is why in 2018, we search for ways to celebrate and preserve it.” (The EYCH 2018. Website dedicated to the Year).

Indeed SCIRES-IT number 1 of 2019 is a special Issue with a special goal.

With the aim to achieve this objective, we asked Erminia Sciacchitano, Chief Scientific Advisor of the European Year of Cultural Heritage, to be Guest Editor.

She suggested the “European year of Cultural-Heritage. A laboratory for heritage-based innovation” as the key topic of this Issue, inviting to contribute with their articles:

Silvia Costa (MEP Committee on Culture and Education, Chairwoman 2014- 2016), whose article gives a political overview of European year of Cultural Heritage.

Christer Gustafsson (Uppsala University, Sweden), whose article focuses on new challenges and opportunities in Cultural Heritage management.

Uwe Koch (Head of the Board of German Cultural Heritage Committee), whose article focuses on European dimension of European year of Cultural Heritage.

Sneška Quaedvlieg-Mihailović (Europa Nostra’s Secretary General) and Lorena Aldana (Europa Nostra’s Outreach Officer), whose article focuses on civil society mobilisation for Cultural Heritage.

Susan Corr (President of European Confederation of Conservator-Restorers Organisations - ECCO), Elis Marçal (ECCO representative Voices of Culture and group speaker), Nessa Roche (Open Method of

Coordination Irish representative and co-Chair), whose article investigates the opportunities offered by European cooperation for traditional and emerging professions in the field of Cultural Heritage.

Andrew Ormston (Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh and Director of Drew Wylie Projects), whose article focuses on cross-sectoral and interdisciplinary working across culture, contemporary creativity and Cultural Heritage.

Neil Forbes (Associate Dean, Faculty of Arts & Humanities Coventry University, UK) and Silvana Colella (University of Macerata, Italy and Coventry University, UK), whose article focuses on participatory approaches to Cultural Heritage.

Jermína Stanojev (Uppsala University, Sweden), whose article also focuses on participatory approaches to Cultural Heritage.

Ioanna Lykourantzou (Utrecht University, Netherlands) and Angeliki Antoniou (University of Peloponnese, Greece), whose article is on Digital Innovation for Cultural Heritage.

Annalisa Cicerchia (Istituto Nazionale di Statistica, Rome) whose article focuses on evidence-based policy making for Cultural Heritage.

Teresa Della Corte (Federico II University, Naples), whose article offers a short synthesis of European year of Cultural Heritage - EYCH 2018.

This Special Issue opens the ninth year of SCIRES-IT journal (Valzano, 2014), and its second year as an ANVUR – “Class A” Journal (Valzano & Cigola, 2018).

With this Issue we would like to participate and contribute to cultural and environmental heritage documentation, preservation and fruition in Italy and Europe:

“Our heritage: where the past meets the future”.

(The EYCH 2018. Website dedicated to the Year).

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