



2018 
 EUROPEAN YEAR
 OF CULTURAL
 HERITAGE
 #EuropeForCulture

HERITAGE AT SCHOOL: CHILDREN DISCOVERING EUROPE'S MOST PRECIOUS TREASURES AND TRADITIONS • ENGAGEMENT PILLAR

WHY? • OBJECTIVES

The European Year aims to **raise awareness** of the importance of cultural heritage for Europe through **education** and **lifelong learning**. This will in part be achieved through maximising the impact of Erasmus+ in the field of cultural **heritage education** and encouraging greater awareness of Europe's rich cultural heritage in schools. Children and their parents are also invited to engage with cultural heritage beyond the classroom, through informal and non-formal learning, drawing on the experiences of elderly people (e.g. grandparents) and their local communities.

FOR WHOM? • TARGET GROUPS

School children (in particular 10-15 years old), teachers, parents, local communities.

WHAT? • CONTENT OF THE INITIATIVE

The initiative has several components:

COMPONENT I - VALOURISING ERASMUS+ PROJECTS ON CULTURAL HERITAGE AND STIMULATING NEW INITIATIVES

A campaign to promote the development of heritage-related class projects is underway. This includes the publication of a special book about cultural heritage and an eTwinning prize for cultural heritage projects. The Year will also put a spotlight on over 120 projects in the field of school education, higher education, VET, youth and sport, that relate to cultural heritage. Erasmus+ and eTwinning communication material to share good practices and inspire the development of heritage-related projects and educational activities will be carried out.

KEY DATES:

- **October 2018**
eTwinning weeks (across Europe)
- **25-27 October**
eTwinning conference focusing on cultural heritage, Poland. eTwinning book on cultural heritage to be released
- **End November 2018**
Publication and dissemination of Erasmus+ success stories
- **6 December 2018**
eTwinning Cultural Heritage Prize will be awarded during the EYCH Closing Conference by the EU Presidency in Vienna, Austria

COMPONENT II - AWARENESS RAISING ACTIVITIES FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN: JOINT COMMISSION- UNESCO PROJECT AND A COMMISSION TOOLKIT FOR SCHOOLS

Awareness raising activities are being developed at two levels:

Raising awareness on intangible cultural heritage safeguarding in schools, a joint project with UNESCO (part I – schools)

The project will be implemented with members of the **UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network** (about 2,000 schools in Europe). Teachers will be provided with guidance and tools to integrate cultural heritage in curricular and extra-curricular activities, with a special focus on intangible cultural heritage.

Development and dissemination of a toolkit for schools

The Commission will publish a cultural heritage toolkit for schools that combines communication material and games. The toolkit will target teachers and pupils in primary and secondary schools and will be disseminated through existing teacher networks including eTwinning, the School Education Gateway and EUROCLIO - European Association of History Educators. The Year's website and the Commission's **'teachers corner'** will provide teachers with additional material about the EU.

KEY DATES:

- **May- June 2018**
Start of the project with UNESCO
- **June 2018**
Toolkit for schools will be available

COMPONENT III - ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE EUROPEAN HERITAGE DAYS

The European Heritage Days (EHDs) 2018 will implement the 'European Heritage Makers Week Competition', which will encourage school children to discover the European dimension of local heritage.

KEY DATES:

- **18 April 2018**
(World Heritage Day): official start of the European Heritage Makers Competition
- **September 2018**
Award Ceremony in Strasbourg (tbc)

COMPONENT IV - STRENGTHENING EUROPE THROUGH EDUCATION AND CULTURE

European Economic and Social Committee and Committee of the Regions' initiatives – empowering secondary school children and young people

The European Committee of the Regions (CoR) organised a debate entitled 'Cities and regions as key drivers for strengthening European identity through education and Culture'.

'United in diversity: a younger future for European culture' is a European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)-led initiative that enables secondary school pupils to visit Brussels, discuss the role of culture and cultural heritage in their lives and make policy recommendations. EESC members will also discuss identity, value and cultural heritage in schools.

KEY DATES:

- **January/February 2018**
Visits of European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) members to schools across Europe
- **16-17 March 2018**
Students' visit to Brussels and EESC plenary session/ conference
- **16-17 May 2018**
Strengthening European Identity through Education and Culture plenary by the European Committee of the Regions

PARTNERS

- Within the European Commission, services dealing with culture, youth, sport and communication
- Erasmus+ National Agencies
- UNESCO
- eTwinning network, European Schools Gateway
- National coordinators for the European Heritage Days
- European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), Committee of the Regions



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