

EUROPEAN YOUNG HERITAGE PROFESSIONALS FORUM

Zadar, Croatia, 20 to 24 May 2019



CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

UNESCO, in partnership with the European Union, is organizing the European Young Heritage Professionals Forum from 20 to 24 May 2019 in Zadar, Croatia. The Forum is hosted by the Croatian Commission for UNESCO and the Croatian Ministry of Culture.

As part of the World Heritage Education Programme and as the legacy of the European Year of Cultural Heritage (EYCH 2018), the five-day Forum is designed to foster intercultural learning and exchange. It will bring together up to 30 young professionals, one representative from each of the EU Member States, to address for the first time, both tangible and intangible cultural heritage, exploring the potential synergies and challenges of their protection and safeguarding in the European context.

The Forum is developed in cooperation with the NGO Diadrasis.

OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The Forum will be an opportunity for participants to develop a deeper understanding of the [1972 World Heritage Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage](#) and the [2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage](#), and learn more about the values promoted by the [EYCH 2018](#): engagement, protection, innovation and sustainability.

Accompanied by experts, the participants will gain insights into the processes and working practices of both Conventions. Working with peers from different cultural backgrounds from across Europe, they will be able to further elaborate their projects, and potentially also develop joint initiatives.

In terms of **expected outcomes**, in addition to enhancing their projects, the participants are expected to create a joint activity for a selected local target group, applying the knowledge and skills acquired during the Forum and also convey their insights from the Forum through a 'Message'. After the Forum, the participants will be encouraged to become '**Cultural Heritage Messengers**' by actively engaging in raising awareness about cultural heritage protection and safeguarding at the national and local levels.

METHODOLOGY

The Forum will use different interactive methodologies, including peer-to-peer learning, teamwork, site visits, presentations, round-table discussions, project laboratories and hands-on activities.

The individual projects presented by each of the participants will be addressed from several complementary perspectives, including: tangible heritage protection, intangible cultural heritage safeguarding, raising awareness for heritage preservation and innovative tools for heritage promotion.

Two case studies will be used to develop an interactive and inspiring learning environment:

The ['Venetian Works of Defence between the 16th and 17th Centuries: Stato da Terra – Western Stato da Mar'](#), a property inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2017. The site consists of six components located in Italy, Croatia and Montenegro. The part located in Croatia finds itself in the host city of Zadar. The Venetian Works of Defence is a significant example of a sequential and transnational World Heritage Site. These defensive systems were developed as a response to the advances in the military techniques of the time, a fact reflected in the architectural design of modern fortresses. Although fortresses no longer play a defensive role nowadays, they still reflect the former power of the Republic of Venice and symbolize the common actions of different European territories sharing a common goal.

The ['Art of dry stone walling, knowledge and techniques'](#), an element inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2018 jointly by Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Slovenia, Spain and Switzerland. A millenary tradition, the dry stone walling is a technique of making stone constructions by stacking stones upon each other without any binder. Through the ages, dry-stone walls have been erected with plain stones from the ground. They fall and are built again, over and over again, creating shapes and spaces without disturbing the environment. This traditional technique is a symbol of the harmonious sustainable coexistence of environment and builder-men, the continuity of human know-how and the ability to adapt throughout the centuries.

ORGANIZATION AND PRACTICAL INFORMATION

The Forum will take place **from 20 to 24 May 2019** in Zadar, Croatia. The participants are expected to arrive on Sunday 19 May, remain available for the entire duration of the Forum, and not leave before Saturday 25 May.

All expenses related to the participation in the Forum will be covered for the selected participants (including transportation - economy class, meals and accommodation for the duration of the Forum).

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Participants are expected to:

- have relevant experience in the field of tangible and/or intangible cultural heritage;
- be citizens of one of the - EU Member States;
- be between 25 and 32 years of age by the date of application;
- be fluent in English (the Forum will be held only in English);
- submit a project proposal (idea, or a project in initial implementation stages) focusing on tangible and/or intangible cultural heritage to further develop during the Forum;
- be committed to become an engaged 'Cultural Heritage Messenger' at the European, national and local levels.

APPLICATIONS

Candidates who wish to apply for the European Young Heritage Professionals Forum are invited to submit an **online application form, together with a recent CV and a letter of reference** from their supervisor (e.g. professional supervisor, university professor, etc.) **by 28 March 2019 at 23:59 CET.**

Interested candidates please apply [here](#).

Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Successful applicants will be informed by the beginning of April 2019.

SELECTION CRITERIA

The selection process will be based on the above-mentioned requirements. Special attention will be paid to:

- Potential of disseminating the knowledge gained during Forum at the European, national and local levels;
- Diversity of professional backgrounds;
- Balance between project proposals focusing on tangible and intangible cultural heritage;
- Motivation;
- Gender equality.

For any questions regarding the Forum and/or any difficulties encountered during the application process, kindly contact Ms Ioana-Maria Tamas, at the following email: im.tamas@unesco.org