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UNESCO attends the European Cultural Heritage Summit in Berlin



Within the framework of the European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018, UNESCO attends the European Cultural Heritage Summit, which was held in Berlin from the 18th to 24th June.

The first [European Cultural Heritage Summit](#) held in Berlin gathered together a large number of citizens and organisations from across Europe. Participants included a wide range of representatives of cultural heritage institutions, universities, museum professionals, conservators-restorers, artists, private owners of historic houses and heritage sites, cultural entrepreneurs and start-ups. High-level representatives of public authorities, as well as Ministers of Culture, members of regional and national parliaments and representatives of European Union institutions were also in attendance.

The motto of the summit was “Sharing Heritage – Sharing Values”, and was one of the main public events of the 2018 European Year of Cultural Heritage (EYCH), co-hosted by Europa Nostra, the Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz (Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation, SPK) and the German Cultural Heritage Committee (DNK).

UNESCO Brussels participated in the summit, with the UNESCO Representative to the European Institutions Mr Paolo Fontani speaking in the concluding panel of the [Heritage Excellence Fair](#), which took place on the 21st of June. During his intervention, Mr Fontani shared his insights on actions to better promote excellence both within Europe and beyond in the field of culture and cultural heritage.

The Heritage Excellence Fair consisted of a further four sessions showcasing the winners of the [2018 EU Prize for Cultural Heritage / Europa Nostra Awards](#), supported by the Creative Europe programme of the European Commission. The 30 winners of the 2018 edition of the awards were given the opportunity to share their achievements in conservation, research, education, training and awareness-raising in the field of cultural heritage. This year’s edition celebrated projects with a particular European dimension, contributing to the [2018 European Year of Cultural Heritage \(EYCH\)](#) for which UNESCO is a key implementing partner as a member of the [EYCH Stakeholders Committee](#).

Following on from the Fair, Deputy-Director of the [UNESCO World Heritage Centre](#), Mr Lazare Eloundou Assomo took part in a European Policy Debate on the 22nd of June, one of the main events of the Summit. The debate was the occasion to build on the current political momentum in favour of culture, following on from the first-ever [European Council conclusions on education and culture](#) adopted on 14 December 2017, as well as from the European Commission’s communication on “[Strengthening European Identity through Education and Culture](#)”.

The Policy Debate concluded with the presentation of the “Berlin Call”, contributing to the "[New European Agenda for Culture](#)" recently proposed by the European Commission and calling for tangible measures to implement a European Action Plan for Cultural Heritage as a lasting legacy of the European Year of Cultural Heritage.

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