

PRESS RELEASE regarding the activities of the JOINT PROGRAMMING INITIATIVE ON CULTURAL HERITAGE AND GLOBAL CHANGE: A NEW CHALLENGE FOR EUROPE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STRATEGIC RESEARCH AGENDA FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE IN EUROPE PUBLISHED

Joint Programming Initiative for Cultural Heritage and Global Change identifies four key priority areas for cultural heritage research.

Developing a Reflective Society; Connecting People with Heritage; Creating Knowledge and Safeguarding our Cultural Heritage Resource are the four key priority areas identified by a new Strategic Research Agenda for cultural heritage, published this month by the Joint Programming Initiative for Cultural Heritage and Global Change.

This Strategic Research Agenda, the first of its kind for European heritage, is the result of an extensive consultation and development process that saw national consultation panels convened in 16 European member states (Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and UK) in order to provide feedback on what they saw as heritage research priorities both nationally and internationally.

In addition to identifying key priorities for cultural heritage research, the Strategic Research Agenda lists specific research areas and topics for development, as well as looking at potential future requirements for the field.

Antonia Pasqua Recchia (Italy), coordinator of the Joint Programming Initiative for Cultural Heritage and Global Change, describes the document as “a structured, forward-thinking assessment of the possible future research landscapes [in cultural heritage]” and adds that

“This Strategic Research Agenda will create a foundation for innovative research as well as inspiration for new research and skills in the fascinating field of protecting and fostering our common tangible, intangible and digital cultural heritage”.

Professor Koenraad Van Balen (Netherlands), chair of the Scientific Committee which was instrumental in pooling national consultation panel feedback to create the final Strategic Research Agenda, highlights the dynamic nature of the strategy produced:



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“As is the case in the world of cultural heritage, this SRA is just a starting point of a dynamic process that will lead to a continuous update of this agenda, the more it is cherished and shared the more it will contribute to the preservation and the enhancement of heritage in Europe through relevant and effective research. “

The Strategic Research Agenda document is free to download at: <http://www.jpi-culturalheritage.eu/2014/02/strategic-research-agenda-sra/> and at <http://heritageportal.eu/About-Us/A-Strategic-Research-Agenda-for-Cultural-Heritage-in-Europe/> . All related documentation, including an extensive Foresight study and details of each individual National Consultation Panel’s input, is available at the same link.

The Joint Programming Initiative on Cultural Heritage and Global Change (JPICH) is an EU-level initiative, aimed at the greater coordination of research resources across Member States and Associated Countries in order to address the particular issues affecting Europe’s cultural heritage resources in times of rapidly evolving global and societal change.

Ireland participates in the JPICH via the Heritage Council of Ireland (who hold representatives on its Executive Board and Steering Committee) and via the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (who hold representatives on its Governing Board).

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Notes for editors:

- The EU Joint Programming Initiative, Cultural Heritage and Global Change (JPICH) is an innovative and collaborative research initiative that will streamline and coordinate national research programmes to enable more efficient and effective use of scarce financial resources, exploit synergies and avoid duplication. With seventeen Member States and eight Observer Countries participating, its Strategic Research Agenda will help to identify, address and tackle these research challenges not only to protect cultural heritage but also help Europe’s future economic growth and jobs creation. Further information is available at www.jpi-culturalheritage.eu
- The JPICH also manages an online resource for cultural heritage research at www.heritageportal.eu
- Ten collaborative research and networking projects have recently been approved for funding under the JPICH/JHEP Joint Pilot Call for Research Proposals. Details of these can be found at: <http://www.jpi-culturalheritage.eu/2014/02/projects-approved-for-funding-by-jpi-cultural-heritage-jhep-pilot-call/>
- A Joint Programming Initiative (JPI) is a structured and strategic process whereby Member States agree, on a voluntary basis and in a partnership approach, on common visions and Strategic Research Agendas (SRA) to address major societal challenges. The overall aim of the Joint Programming process is to pool national research efforts in order to make better use of Europe's public R&D resources and to tackle common European challenges more effectively in a few key areas. The JPI was launched as a policy tool by the European Commission in 2008. There are currently ten JPIs up and running, in areas ranging from cultural heritage, to Alzheimer’s research and water quality. Further details can be found at: http://ec.europa.eu/research/era/joint-programming-initiatives_en.html

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If you would like more information about this topic, or to schedule an interview, please contact Eimear O’Connell at the numbers or email address listed above.



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