



### 2018 will be the European Year of Cultural Heritage.

This is your opportunity to take part in a series of unparalleled events celebrating Europe’s rich and diverse heritage!

Europe’s cultural heritage surrounds us in our cities; our landscapes and our archaeological sites. It is found not only in literature, art, and objects but also in crafts skills, stories, food, songs and films. In its diversity, cultural heritage bring us together. Thanks to technology and the internet, it is now more accessible than ever.

The aim of the European Year of Cultural Heritage is to **encourage more people to discover and explore Europe’s cultural heritage, and to reinforce a sense of belonging to a common European family.** In 2018, the emphasis will be on:

- Cultural heritage’s value to society;
- its contribution to the economy;
- its role in European cultural diplomacy;
- the importance of safeguarding it for the enjoyment of future generations.

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Cultural heritage plays a strong economic role in Europe. Over 300,000 people are employed in the sector and 7.8 million European jobs are indirectly linked to it, for example in tourism and construction. Likewise, cultural heritage has a positive yet undervalued impact on our societies, contributing to the quality of life, social cohesion and intercultural dialogue.

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### How will the Year be implemented?

The European Year of Cultural Heritage will feature initiatives and events at European, national, regional and local levels. At national level, the Year is being organised by coordinators designated by each EU Member State. At European level, the Year is a joint effort of the European institutions: the Commission, Parliament and Council, as well as the Committee of the Regions and the European Economic and Social Committee. Key stakeholders from the professional field are also involved.

### What’s in store?

During 2018, **thousands of activities and celebrations** will take place all across Europe. 10 major European initiatives will make sure the Year has an impact beyond 2018. These initiatives will be implemented by the European Commission in collaboration with key partners (Council of Europe, UNESCO and other European organisations) The 10 initiatives will maximise support for four objectives: engagement, sustainability, protection and innovation.