



EUROPEAN COMMISSION



PLATFORMS ON THE FUTURE OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

Prague Platform, 7+ 8 October 2019

At the Czech National Library (Klementinum 190, 110 00 Prague) and the Dominican Monastery of Prague (Jilská 7a, 110 00 Prague).

Factsheet

WHY IS THE EU COMMISSION ORGANISING THE PRAGUE PLATFORM AND WHAT IS ITS GENERAL CONTEXT?

- The European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018 was a remarkable year of reflection and call to action on the transformational potential of cultural heritage in a variety of different spheres. Its achievements are safeguarded and extended in a European Framework for Action on Cultural Heritage, which outlined 60 actions for EU policies in 2019 and 2020.
- One aim is to look at the future of cultural heritage. The European Commission has therefore launched meetings on the future of cultural heritage, in the form of global problem solving platforms. The purpose of these meetings is to create a space for exchanging ideas between professionals from various backgrounds, including heritage professionals, activists, academics, local authorities, and representatives of foundations and centralised institutions such as the European Commission.
- Each Platform will discuss a specific topic, and will consist of innovative reflection on policy related issues, built upon the experience of the invited institutions, stakeholders, and communities worldwide.
- Given the nature of the Platforms, participants, with a background in the specific subject matter, will be invited to attend the appropriate Platform.

What is the Prague Platform about?

- The Prague Platform meeting will take place on 7 and 8 October 2019. It will focus on **cultural heritage and digitalisation**; looking in depth at the potential of cultural heritage in an environment where technology is developing at a rapid rate. It will centre around the following three themes:
 - ✓ **Intangible cultural heritage and digitalisation:** New technologies have created an unprecedented opportunity to allow for the preservation, protection, transmission, research, valorisation, and access to intangible cultural heritage. This theme explores how digital processes relating to intangible heritage can be implemented and improved, and the possibilities they create for the expanded preservation and use of intangible cultural heritage.
 - ✓ **Digital cultural heritage, the tech industry, and smart and inclusive growth:** Technological innovation plays a key role in the development of economies and communities, but currently most of this innovation has been concentrated in a few hubs. How will future technologies disperse these benefits and developments? This theme explores how technology and cultural

heritage can interact economically at the local and regional level, reducing stress on big cities and distributing the benefits of the use of cultural heritage in commercial applications.

- ✓ **Enhanced digitally enabled cultural heritage participation for all citizens:** Digitally connected technologies allow for widespread dissemination and access to cultural heritage elements in a variety of formats. Cultural organisations have an opportunity to act as enablers and hubs for digital cultural heritage goods and can play a key part in stimulating active citizenship. This theme looks at how organisations can utilise new platforms to reach wider audiences and provide deeper and more personal access to various cultural goods as well as the effects of this expanded access on individuals, culture, and society more broadly.

HOW WILL THE FORUM BE STRUCTURED?

- The three topics will be explored in parallel sessions, each moderated by a facilitator. These will be the Fitzcarraldo Foundation, European Creative Business Network, and the Berkman Center for Internet and Society, Harvard University. While the facilitators will have relative independence in their methods for interaction and participant engagement, there will also be many opportunities to coordinate approaches, and to interact among the participants in the different themes.
- In addition to these parallel sessions, the programme will also feature three inspirational presentations by speakers with an expertise in the three themes.
- The aim of participating in the Prague Global Platform is to share background knowledge and expertise and jointly explore possible approaches, methods and solutions for heritage-based solutions to societal challenges.
- The Platform project is open-ended: there is no pre-determined purpose or outcome to the meetings. Instead, they are intended to lead to a continuous flow of cooperative thinking, ongoing dialogue, and possible future initiatives related to the themes of the Platforms.

WHO WILL TAKE PART?

National and regional level policy-makers from the EU, key global institutions and agencies, practitioners, academics, and members of civil society.

WHAT IS EXPECTED OF PARTICIPANTS?

A very active participation, based on your experience and skills, but with no formal presentation or speech. This Prague Global Platform is neither a seminar nor a workshop. Case studies and best practices may be useful, but only to the extent that they can support the illustration of the participants' ideas and proposals. Ideas will flourish from the interaction rather than being prepared in advance and the sessions will unfold according to the facilitators' formats. Apart from the official introductory speeches, there will be three inspirational presentations, one for each theme, delivered in the first plenary session to provide a few initial elements to kick-off the sessions.

No official written record of the individual sessions will be prepared, and participants will be able to give their contribution without concerns. The facilitators will compile a short report for their session, which may be published, but without any specific reference to individual contributions. The facilitators will also make sure that each participant can actively contribute.