EUROPEAN HERITAGE POLICY AGORA
TOWARDS A EUROPEAN CULTURAL CITIZENSHIP: UTOPIA OR REALITY?
29.09.2023 | VENICE
EUROPEAN HERITAGE POLICY AGORA
“European Cultural Citizenship: Utopia or Reality”

ORGANISED BY
Europa Nostra, the European Voice of Civil Society
Committed to Cultural Heritage

IN THE FRAME OF
European Cultural Heritage Summit 2023 in Venice

WITH THE COOPERATION AND SUPPORT OF
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SAN GIOVANNI
EVANGELISTA
DI VENEZIA

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EUROPEAN HERITAGE POLICY AGORA
“European Cultural Citizenship: Utopia or Reality?”

Before the Europa Nostra General Assembly, this Agora meeting - the final public event of the Venice summit and open to all - will be a moment of reflection, as well as an enriching and uplifting, inspirational and inclusive exchange; one in which the guests will leave with a shared sense of purpose and renewed belonging, reinforced by their common belief and conviction in the importance of the European project and our cultural heritage.

The Agora shall take the form of a conversation with artists, composers, historians and prominent individuals in civil society and the European heritage field, discussing the shared bonds and devotion to heritage across the entire continent that unite us Europeans. The Agora shall conclude with the launching of a statement/publication on European Cultural Citizenship, a document outlining the shared ideals that bring Europeans together through heritage, all the while recalling the last 60 years of Europa Nostra and looking towards the next 60.

Background Information

This Agora will focus on the role culture and heritage can play in transcending national boundaries and bringing peoples and minds together, regardless of political persuasion. One of the most prominent historical examples of such an endeavour was the Republic of Letters, the long-distance intellectual exchange between enlightenment intellectuals of 17th and 18th century Europe and the Americas. Today, at European level, the idea of a cultural citizenship can be seen to continue this intellectual tradition: bridging the gaps that exist in political citizenship and in turn constructing a singular idea of ‘Europeanness’ out of the many already existing political and cultural traditions.

Considering Venice and these themes, it is worth recalling that the city was for over 1000 years an independent maritime republic, with multicultural territories spanning the eastern Mediterranean. As a trade hub Venice was a key link, bringing northern and southern Europe together and linking west with east. Today, these linkages still exist, Venice hosts the Council of Europe's European Commission for Democracy through Law and these pan-European connections in the city continue to be elaborated, notably with the establishment of a Europa Nostra Liaison Office in Venice in 2023. Incidentally, both these organisations celebrate significant milestones these years: Europa Nostra its 60th anniversary in 2023, and the Council of Europe its 75th in 2024.
Presently though, we Europeans find ourselves at a crossroads. And more than ever, to confront the challenges threatening our shared continent, we must gather together, individuals and organisations, to reflect and champion what binds us. Such is the scale of these challenges that they necessitated only the 4th ever summit of European leaders at the Council of Europe, meeting in Iceland in May this year. And here, with the Reykjavik Declaration, Europeans leaders recalled that we are “united around our values,” including peace, democracy and human rights.

But cultural heritage too is one of these key values. And though it was not the core of the Reykjavik Declaration, since the Second World War it has played a key role in unifying Europeans: the 1954 European Cultural Convention was envisaged to establish mutual understanding among the peoples of Europe and reciprocal appreciation of their cultural diversity; and the 2005 Faro Convention is based on the idea that knowledge and use of heritage form part of the citizen’s right to participate in cultural life as defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (which celebrates its 75th year in 2023).

States, NGOs and individuals also acknowledge the role of culture and heritage in strengthening a European narrative across borders: during the 2021 Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the EU, the Porto Santo Charter was launched as a guiding map of principles and recommendations for applying and developing a working paradigm for cultural democracy in Europe; also in its 75th year, the European Movement was founded in the belief that culture and heritage can overcome division on the continent; and leading thinkers too argue that culture is essential in overcoming the crises we face, as articulated by Giuliano da Empoli’s Sept idées pour un plan de relance culturel de l’Union.

Taking into consideration the great success delivered by the European project, the time is therefore ripe to build on this momentum, and to recall that heritage plays a vital role in overcoming all challenges we face. In this 60th year of the Europa Nostra movement, we call on all Europeans to renew their commitment to heritage, pledge to use it in building bridges across our continent, and to bring us to the next 60 years about beyond.
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PROGRAMME

Music curation, Marshall Marcus (IT/AT/UK), Executive & Artistic Director, European Union Youth Orchestra

09:30 – 10:00
REGISTRATION / WELCOME COFFEE

10:00 – 10:30
OPENING SESSION

PRELUDE - Preludio from Bach Partita III in E Major, Marta DETLLAFF (PL), solo violin

Moderated by Jimmy JAMAR (BE), Council member & Head of the Brussels Office of Europa Nostra

Introductory Remarks by:
  - Hermann PARZINGER (DE), Executive President, Europa Nostra
  - Massimiliano DE MARTIN (IT), Environment Councillor, the City of Venice
  - Iliana IVANOVA (BG), European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth (video message)

10:30 – 11:00
INAUGURAL EUROPA NOSTRA LECTURE:
“THE SPIRIT OF THE PLACE: VENEZIA, LA EUROPEANISSIMA!”

The Europa Nostra Lecture programme was created at the suggestion, supported by a generous donation, from Dr Peter Collins, former Chairman of Europa Nostra UK and Europa Nostra Diamond Member, in memory of his late wife Margot, a long-standing supporter of our organisation. The programme is being launched in Venice on the occasion of our 60th anniversary, and this inaugural lecture will aim to inspire the topic of the Agora by the European spirit and story of Venice. As an independent maritime republic for over 1000 years, with multicultural territories spanning the eastern Mediterranean, Venice was, and still is, a melting pot of diverse cultures.

FRAGILITY - Claude Debussy “Syrinx”, Ljubiša JOVANOVIĆ (RS), solo flute
  - Alberto TOSO FEI (IT), renowned author known as “the narrator of Venice”
11:00 – 12:00
PANEL 1: EUROPEAN CULTURAL CITIZENSHIP – A UTOPIA?

Taking the format of a conversation, the moderator will invite the speakers to make their opening statements on the theme of the panel, followed by an exchange between the moderator and speakers.

*REFLECTION* - *Adagio from Bach Sonata no.1 in G, Lyusi HOVHANNESYAN (CY), solo violin*

Moderated by Sneška QUAEDVLIEG-MIHAILOVIĆ (RS/NL), Secretary General of Europa Nostra

Opening online contribution:

- Bettany HUGHES (UK), historian and broadcaster (2018 laureate)

Panel discussion with laureates of the Helena Vaz da Silva European Award or their representatives:

- Jorge CHAMINE (PT/ES/FR), baritone and founding president of the European Music Centre (2023 laureate)
- Oksana LYNIV (UA), conductor (2022 laureate)
- Bishop Paul TIGHE (IE/VA), Secretary of the Vatican Dicastery for Culture and Education, in representation of HE Cardinal José TOLENTINO DE MENDOÇA, Head of the Vatican Dicastery for Culture and Education (2020 laureate)
- Jordi SAVALL (ES), musician and conductor (2015 laureate)

12:00 – 13:00
PANEL 2: EUROPEAN CULTURAL CITIZENSHIP – A REALITY?

*Representatives of selected European partners will be invited to contribute to a "reality check" of our Agora’s aspirations.*

Moderated by Luca JAHIER (IT), Member (and former President) of the European Economic and Social Committee

Opening online contributions:

- Alexandra Mitsotaki (GR), President and co-founder of the World Human Forum & member of the High-level Round table on the New European Bauhaus
Panellists:

- Lars EBERT (DE), Secretary General, Cultural Action Europe
- Petros FASSOULAS (GR), Secretary General of the European Movement International
- Sorina NEACSU (RO), Vice President, European Students’ Association for Cultural Heritage (ESACH) (tbc)
- André WILKENS (DE), Director, European Cultural Foundation

13:00 – 13:30
CLOSING SESSION:
PROCLAMATION OF THE VENICE MANIFESTO ON EUROPEAN CULTURAL CITIZENSHIP

Led by Sneška QUAEDEVLIEG-MIHAILOVIĆ & Jimmy JAMAR

A symbolic Venice Manifesto shall be unveiled. At this final event of the Agora, and the final public event of the Venice Summit before the Europa Nostra General Assembly, all participants shall be invited to share the Venice Manifesto with their own networks, colleagues and partners throughout Europe.

CONCLUSION - Christoph Willibald Gluck “Dance of the Blessed Spirits” from Orfeo, Ljubiša JOVANOVIC (RS), solo flute

13:30 – 14:30
LIGHTLUNCH
EUROPEAN HERITAGE POLICY AGORA
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PANELS

PANEL 1: EUROPEAN CULTURAL HERITAGE – A UTOPIA?

Featuring eminent laureates (or their representatives) of the Helena Vaz da Silva Award, this panel will bring together those engaged Europeans (artists, historians or spiritual leaders) who have dedicated their lives with distinguished activities to disseminate, defend and promote Europe’s cultural heritage.

Inspired by the memory of Helena Vaz da Silva (1939-2002), a Portuguese journalist, writer, cultural activist and politician, in recognition of her remarkable contribution to the promotion of cultural heritage and European ideals, this panel seeks to explore the concept of culture and heritage in Europe as rooting and grounding principles which can unite and create a more cohesive European consciousness leading to a much-needed concept of “European cultural citizenship”.

Many cultural practitioners see culture and heritage as a vital bridge between diverse countries, nations, and citizens in Europe. Throughout European history many have sought to transcend frontiers (physical and mental) through the power of culture, such as in the framework of the so-called Republic of Letters, which has given rise to a long-distance intellectual and artistic exchange between enlightenment figures. This is not without its challenges, and today in Europe the vital idea of a “European cultural citizenship” is still not fully recognised and its immense potential is still waiting to be unleashed. And this invites the question, is this ambition of a Europe united through culture and heritage realistic? Or is it utopia?

This panel will invite the speakers to share their experience of the role of culture in transcending the physical and mental borders of our shared European continent for the benefit of its better and more peaceful future.
PANEL 2: EUROPEAN CULTURAL HERITAGE – A REALITY?

This panel will bring together European leaders from civil society organisations active in the field of culture or in the wider field of politics, who are already forceful advocates of the power of culture as a unifying force in Europe. On a daily basis, they are faced with the challenges and realities of trying to convince Europe’s opinion and decision-makers of this transformational power.

Presently, we Europeans find ourselves at yet another crossroads: War in Ukraine is threatening our values and shared continent; and the rise of the far-right and other extremist movements are forming a looming prospect one year out from the 2024 European Parliament elections. Not since the Second World War has our continent faced such dangers and uncertainty. More than ever, we must reflect on that which can help us overcome the risks threatening our shared values and the entire European project. A European Cultural Citizenship - with its rights and duties - can do just that and we, as cultural practitioners, both professionals and volunteers, have long been aware of this.

This panel will invite the speakers to share their experiences, and more importantly, their perception of the reality of promoting and enhancing culture and heritage across the European continent as a vector of togetherness and resilience for Europe’s society and its citizens.
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  - Lyusi HOVHANNESYAN (p. 29)

¹ Listed in alphabetical order by last name
Jorge Chaminé
Baritone and Founding president of the European Music Centre (PT/ES/FR)

One of the most original baritones of our times, Jorge Chaminé was born in Porto of Spanish and Portuguese parentage, and began his musical studies (piano, voice, cello, guitar, choral and orchestra conducting) at an early age. Fervent European he has in his blood origins from Ural to the Atlantic.

Acclaimed baritone in all the main opera theatres and prestigious concert Halls, he was soloist with orchestras such as the Boston Symphony, London Symphony, Berliner Rundfunk, Czech Philharmonic, Liceo de Barcelona, Nacional de España among many others.

He is also considered as one of the most interesting recital performers: he sings every season in leading venues including Carnegie Hall, Théâtre des Champs-Elysées, Concertgebouw Amsterdam, Gulbenkian and at leading international music festivals. He has given the first performance of works, some of which were especially written for him, by Bussotti, Kurtag, Xenakis, Lenot, Markeas, Schwarz, Petit, de Pablo, Vlad, ...

Jorge Chaminé has won a number of honors, prices and awards. He was awarded a Human Rights Medal from UNESCO, in recognition for his work for abandoned children and was nominated “1st Musician for Peace” from the “Music for Peace” organization presided by Federico Mayor and Daniel Barenboim. He is frequently invited as a guest teacher and gives master classes in several music academies in Europe, USA, Canada and Brazil. He is at the origin of a workshop for musicians of all disciplines which is held regularly at the Spanish College in Paris (more than 350 musicians from 45 nationalities).

He is President and Artistic Director of the CIMA Festival in Italy (Tuscany) and vice-President of the Georges Bizet Foundation. He is also the creator and artistic director of the Festival de Bougival and the Festival “Ibériades” in Paris, and the creator and President of the project “European Music Center” in Bougival.

Since 2012 Jorge Chaminé is Tutor and Guest Teacher at Stanford University. He is member of the Board of Directors of the “International Yehudi Menuhin Foundation”.

→ Twitter: @ChamineJorge
LARS EBERT
Secretary General of Culture
Action Europe (DE)

Lars Ebert is Secretary General of Culture Action Europe, the major European network of cultural networks, organisations, artists, activists, academics and policymakers, advocating for access to the arts, participation in culture and for public investment in arts and culture.

Until 2022, Lars Ebert was co-director of the cultural centre H401 in Amsterdam, whilst maintaining an independent practice as advisor, facilitator and curator. At H401 Lars implemented international collaboration projects such as Heritage Contact Zone, that investigated the role of contested heritage for community engagement and as laboratories for participatory research.

Previously he was deputy director of The European League of Institutes of the Arts, focussing on the implications of the Bologna Process for Higher Arts Education, including the establishment of a sector specific Qualifications Framework, Quality Assurance processes and capacity building towards a shared understanding of the European Higher Education Area for the arts.

He serves on the board of various organisations in the areas of culture, education and research such as EQ-Arts, the first interdisciplinary and transnational accreditation agency for higher arts education institutions and programmes, which he co-founded, and where he is the chair of the board.


→ Twitter: @CulturalDealEU
→ Twitter: @actforculture
Petros has been the Secretary General of the European Movement International since July 2015. Previously Petros worked as ACCA’s Head of Public Affairs Europe. He was also EU Affairs Adviser at the UK’s Financial Services Authority and before that he was EU Affairs Adviser at the UK Parliament.

In his first stint in Brussels Petros worked for the European Commission, the Committee of the Regions as well as in advocacy and lobbying. Petros comments frequently on EU issues and has featured on BBC News, CNN, Bloomberg, Euronews as well as the Guardian, Le Soir, El Pais, Ta Nea, Der Spiegel, Euractiv, Politico Europe among others.

He holds a degree from the University of Wales, Aberystwyth and a Masters from the London School of Economics.

→ Twitter: @PetrosFassoulas

→ Twitter: @EMInternational
Professor Bettany Hughes is an award-winning historian, author and broadcaster, who has devoted the last 25 years to the vibrant communication of the past. Her speciality is ancient and mediaeval history and culture. A Scholar at Oxford University, she has taught at Oxford and Cambridge Universities and lectured at Cornell, Bristol, UCL, Maastricht, Utrecht, Manchester and Swansea.

Her first book Helen of Troy: Goddess, Princess, Whore has been translated into ten languages. Her second, The Hemlock Cup, Socrates, Athens and the Search for the Good Life was a New York Times bestseller and was shortlisted for the Writer’s Guild Award. Her latest book Istanbul – A Tale of Three Cities was shortlisted for the Runciman Award and was a Sunday Times bestseller. Istanbul A Tale of Three Cities has already been translated into twelve languages. She has written and presented over 50 TV and radio documentaries for the BBC, Channel 4, Netflix, Discovery, PBS, The History Channel, National Geographic, BBC World and ITV. Her programmes have now been seen by over 250 million worldwide. In 2010 she was awarded the Naomi Sargent Education Prize for Broadcast Excellence and was given a Special Award for Services to Hellenic Culture and Heritage. In 2011 she was Chair of the Orange Prize for Fiction and was made an Honorary Fellow of the Historical Association and a Fellow of Cardiff University. She was awarded the Norton Medlicott Medal for services to History in 2012. In 2013 she was given an Honorary Doctorate by York University in recognition of her ‘outstanding’ contribution to history and to its international promotion. In 2014 she was awarded the Distinguished Friend of Oxford Award for her contribution to the academic life of the University. In 2018 she was awarded the prestigious Helena Vaz de Silva European Award for Raising Public Awareness of Cultural Heritage – Bettany was the first woman ever to receive this award. Next year she will be given the International Fem 21 Award for journalism. In 2017 she was chosen as one of London’s 20 most influential cultural people by the Evening Standard in their 1000 awards. In 2019 Bettany became Chair of the Man Booker International Prize for Fiction, and was awarded an OBE for services to history.

Bettany has co-founded SandStone Global, a TV, film and audio production company based at Somerset House, London dedicated to making ‘the best work, by the best people, for the best reasons’. The work of SandStone Global is values-driven and internationalist.
ILIANA IVANOVA
European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth (BG)

2023 – present
European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth
2013 – 2023
Member of the European Court of Auditors
2009 – 2012
Member of the European Parliament
2007 – 2009
Member of Sofia City Council
2004 – 2006
Investment and business analyst in various financial and banking institutions in the US
1999 – 2002
Coordinator for international financial institutions for the Ministry of Agriculture and Food

Source: https://commissioners.ec.europa.eu/iliana-ivanova_en#biography

→ Twitter: @Ili_Ivanova
→ Twitter: @EU_Commission
LUCA JAHIER
Former President of the European Economic and Social Committee (2018 – 2020) (BE/IT)

Luca Jahier, Italian, 61, journalist, economist, expert in Third sector and Social economy, International cooperation, Africa and SDGs.

Member since 2002 of the EESC European Economic and Social Committee (the House of organized civil society at EU level, the consultative Assembly established by EY Treaty of Rome, 65 years ago now). There I served in several positions, last Groupe 3 / Various Interest Group President from October 2010 to April 2018 and EESC President from April 2018 to October 2020.

Now European Semester Group President, dealing with assessment of NRRPs related to the Recovery and Resilience Facility of the EU. As EESC President I chose #EUnaissance as motto of my EESC Presidency program, putting #Culture as one of 3 main priorities, first EU Institutions President doing so, since the Treaty of Rome.

→ Twitter: @LJahierEU
→ Twitter: @EU_EESC
After studies in Law and International Relations in Belgium, Switzerland and the United States, Jimmy Jamar worked for 30 years in the European Commission, where he served as Head of the Commission Representation in Belgium and the Netherlands at the end of his career. His previous assignments were with the Commission services responsible for Research, Education and Culture, and Communication. After his retirement in 2019, he became Head of the Brussels Office of Europa Nostra, the main civil society organisation representing the voice of Cultural Heritage in Europe. Jimmy has written seven books, mainly on Europe. His last one, entitled “Letters to Jean Monnet”, was published in 2022.
LJUBISA JOVANOVIĆ acquired his B.A. and M.A. degrees in Belgrade under the mentorship of Prof. Miodrag Azanjac. He had further training with Prof. Christian Lardé in Paris where he received his Diplôme Supérieur de Concertiste in 1983. After that he has established a long-lasting collaboration with Aurèle Nicolet, one of the greatest musicians and flute pedagogues of the 20th century. He has performed at all the major festivals in the world.

Ljubisa Jovanovic won the First Prize for Interpretation at the at the International Review of Composers in Sremski Karlovci and Novi Sad in 1992 and in Belgrade in 1998. He also received the Golden Medal in honor of the 75th anniversary of the Belgrade Philharmonic Orchestra (1998) and the University of Arts Silver Medal for his merits in improvement of the teaching process (2000), the City of Belgrade Award for 2008 & 2013, the St. Sava National Award (2009), Aleksandar Pavlovic Award and the Serbian Composers Association Award for the year 2017., the “Classical Music Review Award” for best performer in Serbia 2018., as well as Kolarac Plaque Award “For Outstanding Merits in the Program Activity of the Ilija M. Kolarac Endowment”, for 2020.

He is a permanent member of the Ensemble for New Music and the trio Anima. Ljubisa Jovanovic has performed with some of the most prominent flute players of our times. He has recorded more than 50 CDs. In the course of over 40 years of artistic activities, he has given more than 100 first-run performances of solo compositions and chamber music by Serbian authors. For 25 years he was a solo flautist at the Belgrade Opera & Ballet Orchestra (1978-88), Serbian Radio and TV Symphony Orchestra (1988-89) and the Belgrade Philharmonic Orchestra (1989-2004). He has been working at the Faculty of Music in Belgrade since 1994, now in the position of a full professor of flute. From 2002 to 2009 he was a Vice-Dean for Artistic and Scientific Work and International Cooperation at the Faculty of Music in Belgrade. He is the founder and the president of the professional ensemble Camerata Serbica (2004). Since 2010, he has been the artistic director and conductor of the Lola Classic ensembles, and in 2013 he founded the BUNT festival. Ljubisa Jovanovic is an artistic director and conductor of the Children’s Philharmonic Orchestra, as well as the artist of the “Haynes Flutes”.

OKSANA LYNIV
Conductor and Winner of the Helena Da Silva European Award, for Raising Public Awareness of Cultural Heritage 2022 (UA)

The Ukrainian conductor Oksana Lyniv, herself the daughter of two musicians, received her musical education at the music academy of her hometown in Lviv and Hochschule für Musik Carl Maria von Weber. In 2013 she was appointed assistant to the general music director Kirill Petrenko at the Bavarian State Opera. In 2017 Oksana Lyniv became chief conductor of the Graz Opera; in 2022 she became general music director at the Teatro Comunale di Bologna. Last year, she celebrated her successful debut as the first female conductor in the history of Bayreuth Festival with Wagner’s Der fliegende Holländer. In December 2021 she gave her debut at the Royal Opera Convent Garden London, in March 2022 she led a new production of Puccini’s Turandot at the Rome Opera and in June 2022 celebrated a great success with Dvorak’s Rusalka at Staatsoper Stuttgart.

In addition to her international career, Oksana Lyniv is a passionate advocate for classical music in Ukraine and Ukraine’s cultural ambassador to the world. She founded the international festival LvivMozArt in Lviv in 2017, which was inspired by the historical work of Mozart’s son Franz Xaver in Lviv. In 2016 she initiated the founding of the Youth Symphony Orchestra of Ukraine, whose artistic director and chief conductor she has been ever since.

→ Twitter: @LynicOksana
MARSHALL MARCUS
Secretary General of the European Union Youth Orchestra (IT/AT/UK)

European Union Youth Orchestra Executive & Artistic Director, International Youth Foundation CEO, Sistema Europe President, member of the Honorary Council of the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment. Marshall is also Founder of Sistema Europe, Sistema Africa, the SERA Archive, La Orquesta Barroca Simón Bolívar de Venezuela, and Co-founder of The European Music Campus and the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment.

Inspired by and involved in the world of music since the 1960s, Marshall had a 25-year career as a professional violinist, and as a curator, writer, educator, broadcaster and executive, has worked in more than 70 countries across 5 continents. He is particularly interested in the role of culture as a driver of social development and a helper meeting the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. He was General Editor of the European Commission's Voices of Culture Structured Dialogue brainstorming report Culture and the UN's Sustainable Development Goals: Challenges & Opportunities.

→ Twitter: @marshallmarcus

→ Twitter: @euyotweets
ALEXANDRA MITSOTAKI
President and co-founder of the World Human Forum & member of the High-level Round table on the New European Bauhaus (GR)

Alexandra Mitsotaki is co-founder & president of the World Human Forum, a global citizen initiative which has its symbolic base in Delphi.

In 2019 she launched the Convergences Greece Forum. In 1998 she founded the Greek affiliate of ActionAid, the international organisation against poverty and injustice, ActionAid Hellas.

For the last 10 years she was in charge of the Hellenic Cultural Centre in Paris, of which she is now vice-chair, with the aim of establishing a tool of cultural diplomacy for Greece in the Francophone world. Reacting to the financial crisis in Greece, in 2014 she co-founded Action Finance Initiative, the first microcredit organisation in Greece with partners ActionAid Hellas and Adie France.

She holds a Bachelor’s degree in Political Studies from the Institute of Political Studies of Paris and a Post graduate degree on Development Issues.

In the past she has worked at the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), where she specialised further in poverty issues in the developing world.

She is a profound believer in civil society mobilisation and in citizen responsibility and their capacity to hold governments accountable at all levels of civic engagement.
SORINA NEACŞU  
Vice President, European  
Students’ Association for Cultural Heritage (ESACH) (RO)

Sorina Neacșu (Romania) has a background in Art History and Political Science. She is passionate about the sustainable intersection of cultural heritage, arts, and the community, subjects she tackles with on a daily basis.

As a result, Sorina is a dedicated cultural manager with a proven track record in organising and promoting diverse cultural projects, events, and initiatives.

She is a part of ESACH (The European Students’ Association for Cultural Heritage) where she holds the role of Vice-President, the “Heritage for the Future” Cultural Association (RO), as well as Trans Europe Halles (SE).
HERMANN PARZINGER
Executive President of Europa Nostra (DE)

Prof. Dr Hermann Parzinger (born 1959 in Munich, Germany) is an archaeologist, historian and cultural heritage expert who, since 2008, has been the President of the Stiftung Preussischer Kulturbesitz (Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation), one of the world’s largest cultural institutions including museums, libraries, archives and research institutes. He studied Prehistoric Archaeology and History and holds a PhD from the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität in Munich. From 2003 to 2008, he was President of the Deutsches Archäologisches Institut (German Archaeological Institute), and from 2015 to 2018, the Founding Director of the Humboldt Forum, Berlin. Since 1996, he has been teaching at the Freie Universität Berlin.

In 2018, he was appointed, in a voluntary capacity, Executive President of Europa Nostra, a pan-European federation for cultural heritage that represents civil society organisations seeking to safeguard Europe’s cultural and natural heritage.

He is also active on the Board of the Stiftung Berliner Philharmoniker; the Convention of Baukultur of the Federal Foundation of Baukultur; the Founding Directorate of the Humboldt Forum, Berlin; the Research Board of the Austrian Academy of Sciences; the Conseil International du Musée des Civilisations de l’Europe et de la Méditerranée (MuCEM), Marseille; the Senate of the Deutsche Nationalstiftung; and the International Advisory Board of the State Hermitage Museum, St. Petersburg.

He has led archaeological field projects in Spain, Turkey, Siberia, Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Iran and is still actively pursuing research activities. He is a member of Academies of Sciences in Germany, Great Britain, Spain, Russia, Romania, China and the United States, and has received multiple awards, medals and other academic honours in Germany, Italy, Russia and Spain. He regularly publishes on a wide variety of subject areas, including archaeology, history, cultural heritage and cultural and academic policy issues.

Twitter: @hparzinger
SNEŠKA QUAEDVLIEG-MIHAILOVIC
Secretary General of Europa Nostra (RS/NL)

Sneška Quaedvlieg-Mihailovic has dedicated her life to championing Europe’s shared values and shared cultural heritage. She has been working for Europa Nostra, the European Voice of Civil Society Committed to Cultural Heritage, during a period of over 30 years, and was appointed as the organisation’s Secretary General in 2000. She regularly interacts and works closely with all EU institutions, the Council of Europe, UNESCO and numerous public and private bodies committed to cultural heritage at all levels of governance, from local to global.

In 2022, Sneška was elevated to the rank of Knight of the national order of the Legion of Honour, the highest distinction conferred by the French Republic, for her “unreserved commitment to the preservation of heritage in Serbia and more widely in Europe, in close collaboration with France” and for her “dedication and commitment to the cultural dimension of the European project”.

Sneška is a regular speaker/author on cultural heritage related matters of importance for a more beautiful, sustainable and inclusive future of Europe. She has been the spokesperson of the European Heritage Alliance – an informal platform of over 50 European/international heritage networks – since its creation in 2011. She has played a prominent role in advocating and implementing the European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018 and is now a member of the EC Expert Group on Cultural Heritage. She is also committed to climate action and is the regional co-Chair of the Climate Heritage Network. She is a member of the Europeana Foundation Advisory Board, the European Union Youth Orchestra Advisory Council and the Steering Committee of the European Music Centre in Bougival.

Before joining Europa Nostra at its headquarters in The Hague, Sneška Quaedvlieg-Mihailovic worked for the EU Institutions in Brussels and in her native city Belgrade. In 1991, she was one of the founders and first Secretary-General of the European Movement in Yugoslavia. She holds a graduate degree in International Law (Belgrade, former Yugoslavia) and a post-graduate degree in European Law and Politics (Nancy, France).

Twitter: @SneskaEN
Jordi Savall is one of the most versatile musical personalities of his generation. For more than fifty years, he has rescued musical gems from the obscurity of neglect and oblivion and given them back for all to enjoy. A tireless researcher into early music, he interprets and performs the repertory both as a gambist and a conductor. His activities as a concert performer, teacher, researcher and creator of new musical and cultural projects have made him a leading figure in the reappraisal of historical music. Together with Montserrat Figueras, he founded the ensembles Hespèrion XXI (1974), La Capella Reial de Catalunya (1987) and Le Concert des Nations (1989), with whom he explores and creates a world of emotion and beauty shared with millions of early music enthusiasts around the world.

With his key participation in Alain Corneau’s film Tous les Matins du Monde (awarded the César Cinema Prize for the best soundtrack), his intense concert activity (about 140 concerts per year), his record releases and the creation in 1998, together with Montserrat Figueras, of his own record label, Alia Vox, Jordi Savall has shown that early music does not have to be elitist, but rather that it appeals to an increasingly wide and diverse audience of all age groups.

Jordi Savall has recorded and released more than 230 discs covering the Medieval, Renaissance, Baroque and Classical music repertoires, with a special focus on the Hispanic and Mediterranean musical heritage, receiving many awards and distinctions such as the Grammy Award. In 2008 Jordi Savall was appointed European Union Ambassador for intercultural dialogue and, together with Montserrat Figueras, was named “Artist for Peace” under the UNESCO “Good Will Ambassadors” programme.

Jordi Savall’s prolific musical career has brought him the highest national and international distinctions, including the order of Chevalier de la Légion d’Honneur (France), the Praetorius Music Prize awarded by the Ministry of Culture and Science of Lower Saxony, the Gold Medal of the Generalitat of Catalonia, the Helena Vaz da Silva Award and the prestigious Léonie Sonning Prize, which is considered the Nobel prize of the music world. This year, he has been elected Honorary Member by the Royal Philharmonic Society, the Royal Swedish Academy of Music and la Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia.
A native of Navan, County Meath in the Republic of Ireland, Mgr Tighe graduated from University College Dublin in 1979 with a degree in Civil Law. Having studied for the priesthood in Holy Cross College in Clonliffe and at the Irish College in Rome, he was ordained a priest of the Dublin Diocese in 1983. His first appointment was as parish chaplain and teacher in Ballyfermot. Later, he went on to study Moral Theology at the Gregorian University in Rome. From 1990 he was a lecturer in Moral Theology in the Mater Dei Institute in Dublin, where he was appointed head of the Theology department in 2000. Mgr Tighe has a particular interest in the interface between politics and religion. He was advisor to the Irish Episcopal Conference on a range of social and ethical issues of national and international interest. In 2004, he was charged with overseeing the restructuring of the Archdiocese of Dublin Communications Office and also established for the first time in the Diocese an Office for Public Affairs, providing a more effective link between the Dublin Diocese, government, public bodies and non-governmental organisations in Ireland and Europe.

In 2007, he was appointed as Secretary of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications. In that capacity, he was involved in promoting Church reflection on the importance of digital culture and in the launch of some of the social media initiatives of the Holy See.

In 2015, he was nominated to the Pontifical Council for Culture and as titular Bishop of Drivastum. At the Council, where he served as Secretary General, he followed questions related to digital culture (impact of technology on social and political discourse), ethics and contemporary literature. In 2017 Tighe participated in a panel dealing with faith and culture at the annual South by Southwest Festival in Austin, Texas. The panel was one of the festival’s first attempts to consider the role of faith in secular discussions.

In July 2022, he was appointed by Pope Francis as a member of the Dicastery for Bishops. In October 2022, he was appointed as Secretary of the newly established Dicastery for Culture and Education, where he will have particular responsibility for the Culture section.
ALBERTO TOSO FEI
Writer

Alberto Toso Fei has deep roots in Venice. He is descended from a family of glassmakers in Murano, with a history reaching back to 1351. Toso Fei is a writer and essayist with a passion for history and he is an expert on Venetian legends, basing his work on the recovery of oral tradition that risked being lost. He has written more than 20 books that have been translated into several languages, including “The Graffiti of Venice” (with Desi Marangon, a one-of-a-kind research with which over six thousand historical graffiti in the city were investigated for the first time). He is currently the Artistic Director of the Festival "Veneto: Mystery Shows", which traditionally kicks off in November in one hundred locations in the Veneto region.

Toso Fei’s skill as a storyteller marks him as a key player in the cultural life of Venice, while his extensive knowledge of the history of this fascinating city and its remarkable people has earned him the unofficial title of ‘the narrator of Venice’. His performances enliven recitals, lectures and online events, bringing the spirit and heritage of the city to life, in full colour.

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→ Facebook: @Venezian1minuto
ANDRÉ WILKENS
Director of European Cultural Foundation

André Wilkens is the director of the European Cultural Foundation in Amsterdam which mission is to grow a European sentiment through culture and education.

André is also the Board Chair of Tactical Tech, the co-founder of the Initiative Offene Gesellschaft and a founding member of the European Council on Foreign Relations.

In the past he worked as Strategy Director of Stiftung Mercator, as Director of the Open Society Institute Brussels and as Head of Strategic Communications of UNHCR in Geneva.

André is the author of two books, on Europe (Der diskrete Charme der Büрокratie, S. Fischer 2017) and on Digitalisation (Analog ist das neue Bio, Metrolit 2015), and a regular media contributor.

→ Twitter: @ECF_tweets
MARTA DETTLAFF (PL)
EUYO Violonist

Marta Dettlaff began the violin aged four via the Suzuki method. She is the First Prize winner of the Wanda Wiłkomirska Polish Music Competition (2020), the OPUS Competition (2022), and together with her sister Wiktoria of the International "Talents for Europe" Competition (2019). Like Davide, she has been a member of EUYO since 2020.

LYUSI HOVHANNESYAN (CY)
EUYO Violonist

Born in 2000 into a family of violinists, Lyusi Hovhannesyan soon began lessons with her father, Robert Hovhannesyan. Aged 13, she made her solo debut with the Cyprus Symphony Orchestra, and now holds an Academy position with the Bochumer Symphoniker. Lyusi is an EUYO veteran: 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2023!
EUROPEAN HERITAGE POLICY AGORA
“European Cultural Citizenship: Utopia or Reality”

ABOUT

EUROPA NOSTRA

Europa Nostra is the European voice of civil society committed to safeguarding and promoting cultural and natural heritage. It is a pan-European federation of heritage NGOs, supported by a wide network of public bodies, private companies and individuals, covering over 40 countries. It is the largest and the most representative heritage network in Europe, maintaining close relations with the European Union, the Council of Europe, UNESCO and other international bodies. Founded in 1963, Europa Nostra celebrates its 60th anniversary this year. Europa Nostra campaigns to save Europe’s endangered monuments, sites and landscapes, in particular through the 7 Most Endangered Programme. It celebrates and disseminates excellence through the European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards. Europa Nostra actively contributes to the definition and implementation of European strategies and policies related to heritage, through a participatory dialogue with European Institutions and the coordination of the European Heritage Alliance.

Since 1 May 2023, Europa Nostra has led the European consortium selected by the European Commission to run the European Heritage Hub pilot project. Europa Nostra is also an official partner of the New European Bauhaus initiative developed by the European Commission, and is the Regional Co-Chair for Europe of the Climate Heritage Network.

CREATIVE EUROPE

Creative Europe is the EU programme that supports the cultural and creative sectors, enabling them to increase their contribution to Europe’s society, economy and living environment. With a budget of €2.4 billion for 2021-2027, it supports organisations in the fields of heritage, performing arts, fine arts, interdisciplinary arts, publishing, film, TV, music, and video games as well as tens of thousands of artists, cultural and audiovisual professionals.
EUROPEAN CULTURAL HERITAGE AGORA

The network project European Cultural Heritage Agora: “Empowering Europe’s Civil Society Movement for Heritage” (2022-2024) is carried out by Europa Nostra and funded by the Creative Europe Programme of the European Union.

The main objectives of the Agora project are:
- To support the cultural and heritage ecosystems to thrive, be more resilient, innovative, diverse and democratic through the emergence of new approaches;
- To promote a people-centred and participatory approach to cultural heritage governance; and
- To raise awareness of the multiple values of cultural heritage for our economy, society and the environment, both in the framework of Europe’s recovery as well as its long-term future.
EUROPEAN HERITAGE POLICY AGORA

BOOKLET

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