

European Partnership for Resilient Cultural Heritage

Future opportunities for funding

Alexandre Caussé

Sigrid Mirabaud

1st June 2026

Brokerage Event - Net4Society



Co-funded by
the European Union



What is a Partnership?

- EU Partnerships are initiatives in which the EU Commission and private and/or public partners commit themselves to **jointly support the development and implementation of a R&I program**.
- The aim is to solve big societal problems that no single country could solve on its own, through transnational research projects involving a **wide range of stakeholders beyond researchers, on the long term**.
- They are **3 types of Partnerships**: Co-funded, Co-programmed and Institutionalised Partnerships.



European Partnerships in Horizon Europe (HE)

- The portfolio of EU Partnerships includes approximately **60 Partnerships**.
- The **budget for the EU Partnerships** includes contribution from the European Commission through HE, especially from the thematic clusters in Pillar 2.
- The RCH partnership will be the first Partnership in Cluster 2 Destination 2 “Culture, creativity & inclusive society”.



The Resilient Cultural Heritage (RCH) Partnership

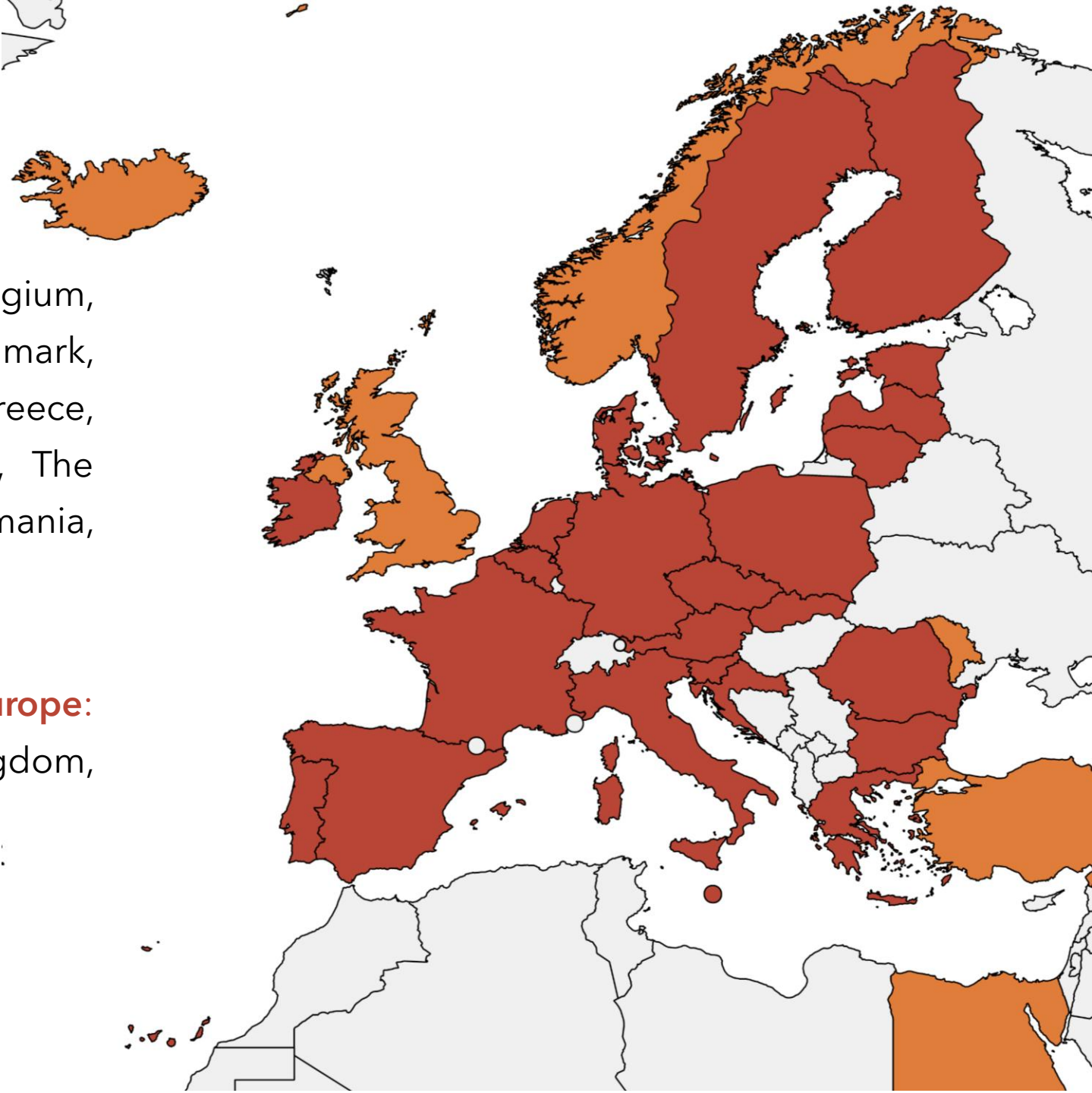
- The RCH Partnership Call was published in **May 2025** on the European Commission's website, the proposal was submitted in **October 2025** and validated in **December 2025**.
- The RCH Consortium is currently working at **preparing the Grant Agreement** with the European Commission.
- The RCH Partnership is expected to last **10 years**; Activities are expected to start in **2026**.
- The overall budget is **200M€** (70% from participating countries, 30% from HEU/Cluster 2)

It identifies two core challenges:

- The limited research and evidence regarding adaptation strategies and the impact of climate and environmental change on cultural heritage.
- The need for enhanced understanding, use and recognition of how cultural heritage can inform policies and guide implementation measures, including the role of traditional and local knowledge.

Participating countries

- **24 Member States:** Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, The Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden
- **6 Countries Associated to Horizon Europe:** Egypt, Moldova, Norway, United Kingdom, Iceland, Türkiye



Joint Transnational Calls (JTCs) for proposals

- One of the main activities of the RCH Partnership will be to organise **joint transnational calls**.
- **7 calls will be launched** with topics based on the research priorities and themes identified in the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA).
- The **SRIA priorities** and themes have been defined through the ARCHE project (three-year CSA, 2022-2025).
- Each of this call will fund transnational consortia composed of **3 research teams from 3 different countries** participating in the Partnership.



SRIA Priority A

Cultural Heritage and Environment

- Impact assessment and risk management
- Role of cultural heritage in climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies
- Innovative and green solutions
- Rediscovering human-environment interactions
- Climate change through the lens of cultural heritage



SRIA Priority B

Cultural Heritage and Society

- Addressing the loss and damage of cultural heritage
- Cultural heritage, geopolitical crises, conflicts and climate change
- Traditional knowledge and practices as resources for the resilience of societies
- The role of cultural heritage in fostering well-being and quality of life
- Cultural heritage and critical thinking



SRIA Priority C

Cultural Heritage and Governance

- Cultural heritage and sustainability governance frameworks
- Making the governance of the cultural heritage sector sustainable and climate-neutral
- Connection between climate change and cultural heritage use
- Economics of cultural heritage for climate action
- Relations between climate justice and the right to cultural heritage



Calls roadmap

All calls will address the two main challenges

The text of the calls for proposals is drafted by the funding agencies, in accordance with rules on confidentiality and the prevention of conflicts of interest.

1. *Laying the foundations: risk and impact assessment and management*
2. *Adapting to climate and global changes*
3. *Generating innovative solutions for climate action from the cultural heritage sector*
4. *(Re)activating traditional, local and Indigenous knowledge and practices*

Update of the SRIA

5. *Living in times of climate change: cultural heritage as a contributor to quality of life*
6. *Making cultural heritage a resource for a sustainable future*
7. *To be determined*



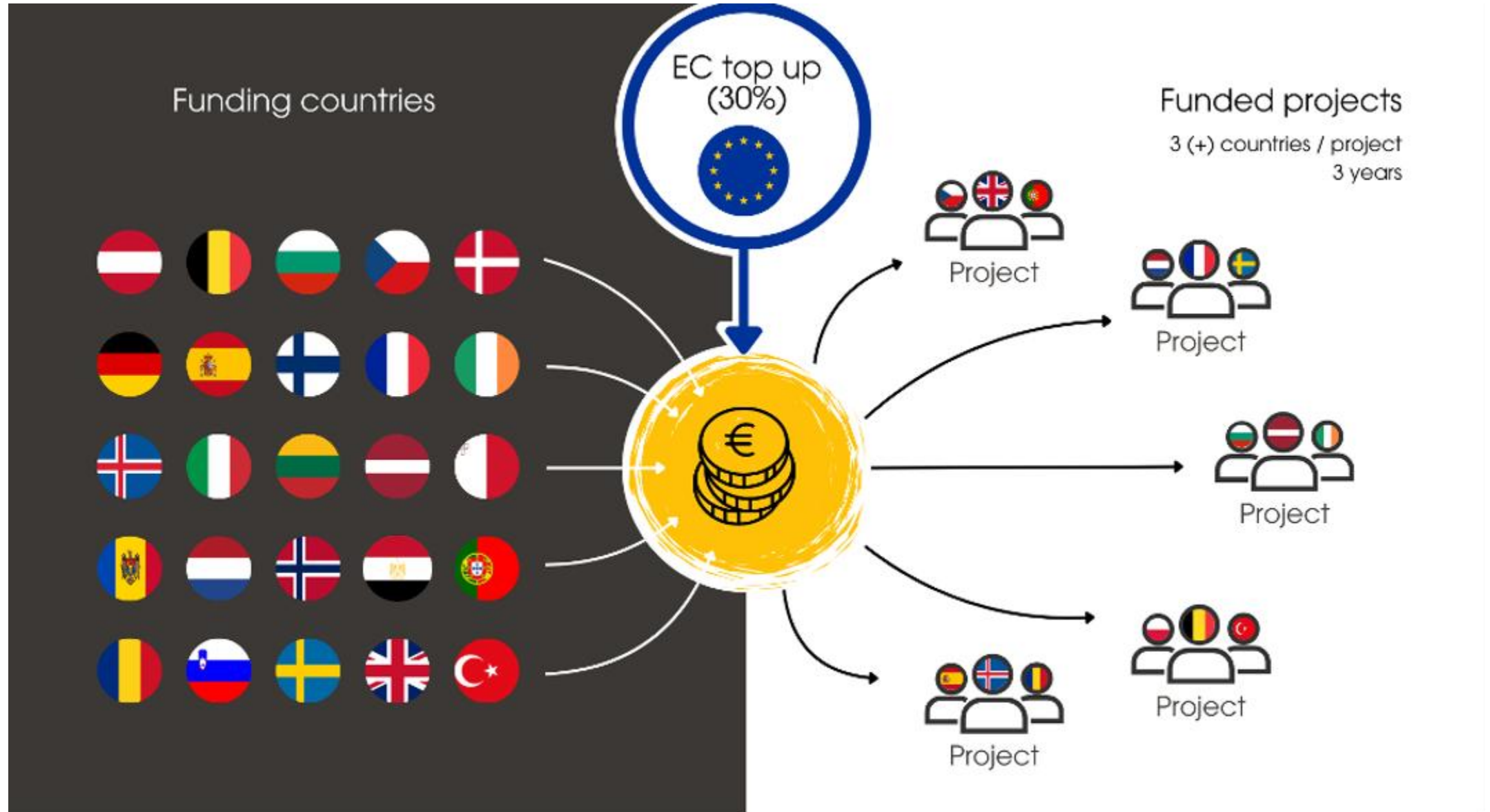
1st call - *Laying the foundations: risk and impact assessment and management*

- *A.1 Integration of data and knowledge for impact assessment, risk prevention and risk management*
- *C.2 Sustainable and climate-neutral cultural heritage management practices and plans*
- *B.1 Addressing the loss and damage of cultural heritage*
- *B.3 Traditional knowledge and practices as resources for the resilience of societies*

This call addresses the question of risks, damages, impacts and losses caused by climate change on cultural heritage. It will develop a holistic evaluation using, amongst other methods, digital technologies and AI. It draws upon stakeholders' experience and innovative risk management practices to build evidence and heritage-based solutions and inform long-term planning for the development of adaptive use, management and governance - which also take into account the environmental impact of cultural heritage.

These themes are being discussed by the call secretariat - subject to change

How do Joint Transnational Calls work?



How do Joint Transnational Calls work?

The RCH partnership will fund transnational projects involving at least **3 countries** participating in the call, with a duration of between **24 and 36 months**.

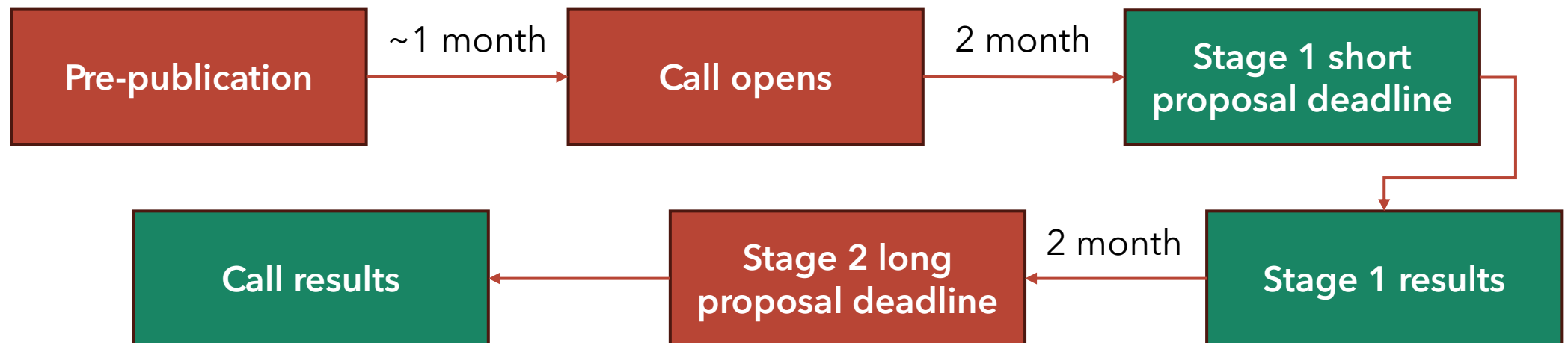
- 2-step process:

A scientific document (in English) comprising a detailed proposal, a work plan, a budget, a timetable and deliverables - a **short version for stage 1**, and a **detailed version for stage 2**.

- Appendices:

CVs of the Lead PI and each country's PIs (at least 2)

List of relevant publications by consortium members related to the project theme (max. 1 page, often limited to 10 publications).



How do Joint Transnational Calls work?

- Applications must be submitted via the partnership's **general platform** + additional submission on national platforms, depending on national rules.
 - 1) 1st step : eligibility check (**national rules applicable**) and scientific evaluation (3 experts)
 - 2) 2nd step : scientific evaluation (3 experts)
- Introduction of a right of reply (**rebuttal**) prior to the Stage 2 plenary session: applicants can address practical questions regarding the project's feasibility raised by certain expert reports in preparation for the plenary meeting (duration of the rebuttal: 5 working days, announced in advance).
- Applicants will have access to the (anonymised) **final committee report** at the end of stages 1 and 2. In stage 2, applicants will have access to the pre-committee report.
- Monitoring of funded projects:
 - 1) Administrative monitoring (requests for extensions or project modifications),
 - 2) Scientific monitoring (drafting of interim and final reports, and a data management plan to be provided by the researchers, which is a condition for the continued disbursement of allocated funds).

Additional activities

WP2 Mapping activities

mapping ecosystems (regional/national/transnational levels), research & professional communities, best practices and infrastructure services, to leverage collaboration opportunities.

WP6 Living Labs

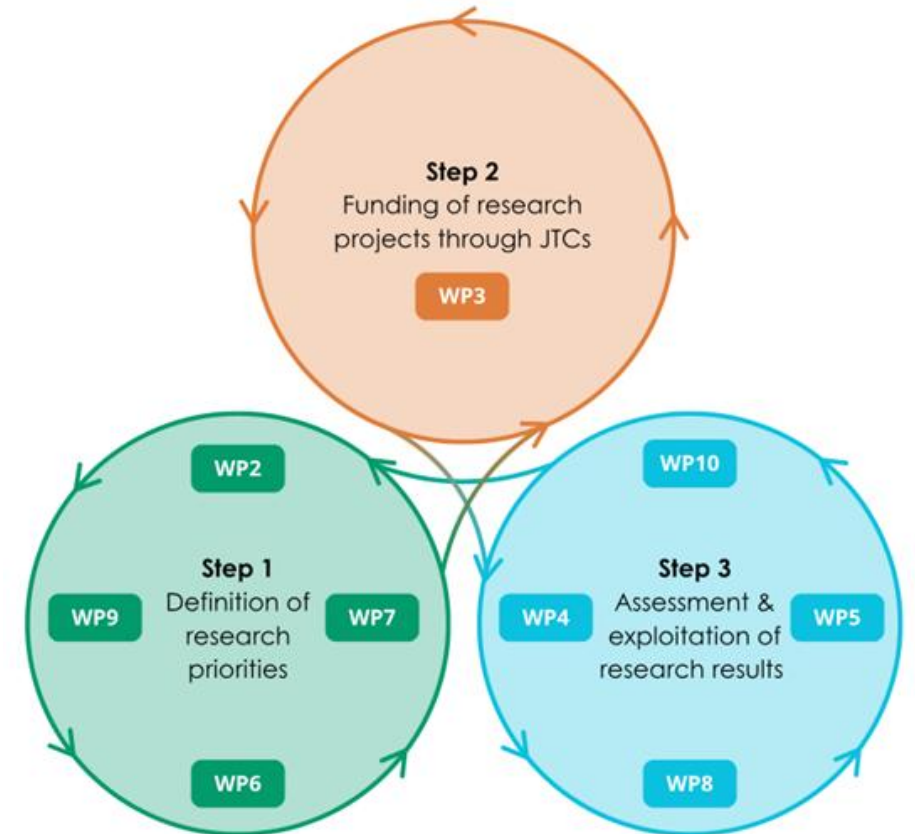
Mapping, testing, upscaling and creating a sustainable network of living labs as a complementary way to implement research and accelerate transfer to policy and society.

WP7 Foresight

Analysis on future R&I cultural heritage challenges and update of the SRIA.

WP9 International collaboration

Mapping and unlocking international funding opportunities in Europe and beyond, enlarging the Partnership network and aligning with global policies and multilateral frameworks.



Additional activities

WP4 Networking activities

Creating a Knowledge Hub, developing and engaging the consultative basis of the Partnership.

WP5 Capacity building

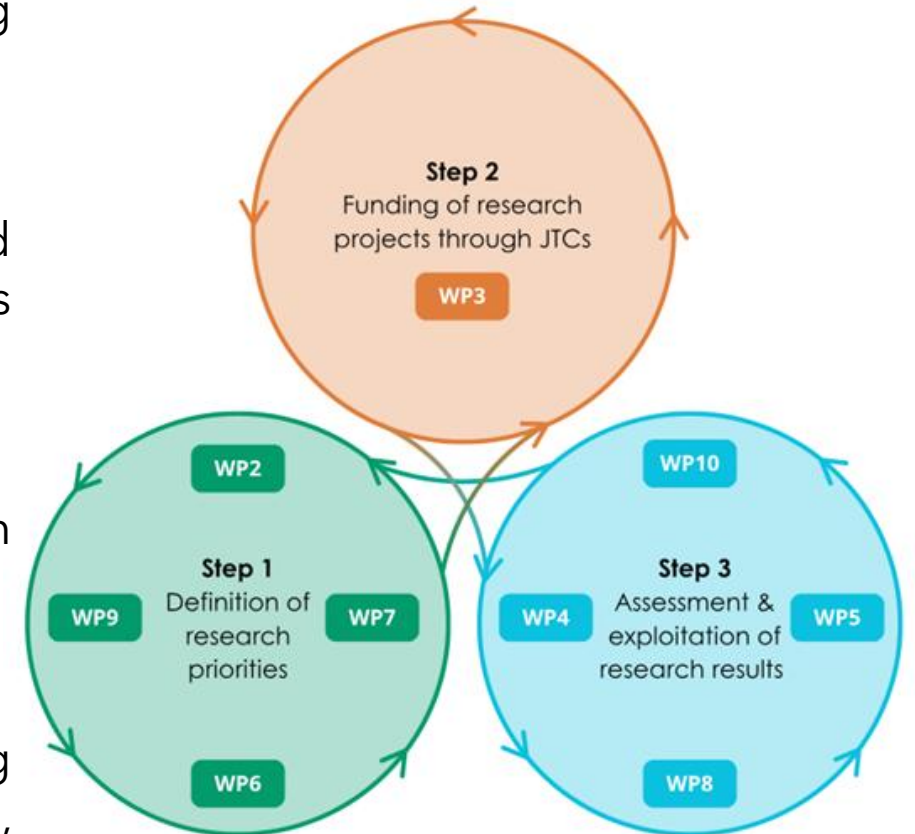
Better referencing and implementing a dedicated programme of training opportunities for researchers and professionals.

WP8 Monitoring

Evaluating results and impact assessment activities (on research projects and the partnership).

WP10 Dissemination, Exploitation and Communication

Online & offline community engagement, bridging Cultural Heritage with Climate research communities, and harnessing the potential of GLAMs, CCIs and heritage sites.



The Heritage Research Hub

- This website aims to create an **online location** where everyone who works in or with cultural heritage-related research can share and search for different contents;.
 - It collects and displays **online resources on and for heritage researchers and professionals**.
 - The HRH will be the **reference platform** for the future RCH Partnership's activities and funding opportunities.
- ➔ Create an account and subscribe to the newsletter to stay tuned!

<https://www.heritageresearch-hub.eu/>

