

# Cultural Heritage

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## Introducing the Focus Area

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### An inclusive and holistic understanding of cultural heritage

As an interdisciplinary research area, Cultural Heritage contributes to understanding identities and promoting cohesion in communities disrupted by change and economic instability.

Una Europa's approach to cultural heritage includes all artifacts and mentifacts to which a society attributes a value at a given moment in its history, in the context of projects that are important for the present and future of that society.

The term 'cultural' thus refers to the relationship of value that society attributes to these elements, whether tangible or intangible, shaped by man or by nature.

This also includes digital cultural heritage, which plays a crucial role in ensuring the preservation, accessibility, and dissemination of a wide range of cultural and historical materials, artifacts, documents, artworks, and more.

### Focus Areas: Inspiration, not limitation

Una Europa's six Focus Areas – Cultural Heritage, Data Science and Artificial Intelligence, Europe and the World, Future Materials, One Health, and Sustainability and Climate Protection – reflect pressing global and societal challenges. Inherently interdisciplinary, they are designed to bring together experts in a wide range of fields to find new ways of collaboratively conducting the research of the future and forging new paths in education and societal outreach.

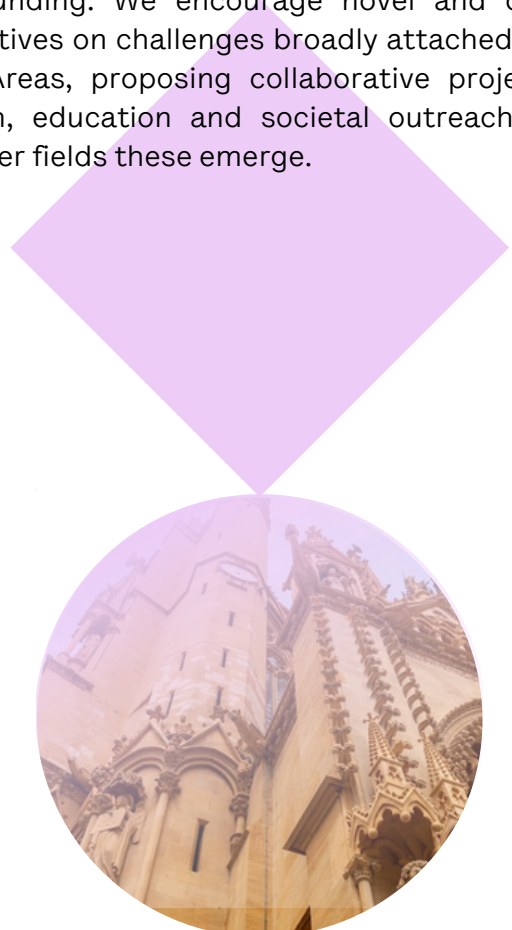
The Focus Areas are intended to inspire researchers, not limit them. No discipline is excluded from applying to secure Una Europa Seed Funding. We encourage novel and diverse perspectives on challenges broadly attached to the Focus Areas, proposing collaborative projects in research, education and societal outreach, from whichever fields these emerge.



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# Case studies



## Sample Seed Funding-supported projects in Cultural Heritage

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As with the Focus Areas themselves, these case studies are intended to provide inspiration only and are in no way indicative of research topics that are more likely to succeed in securing Una Europa Seed Funding in the future.

**Project:** Dante and the Multiplicities of Cultures in Medieval Europe

**Description:** This project built a research network involving scholars across European universities, working jointly towards exploring how Dante's writings reflect and interact with the variety of cultures of medieval Europe and the reception of Dante's works in various European countries. The outcomes of the project were presented in thematic panels at the International Dante Conference, Alma Dante 2021, providing a crucial contribution to celebrate the 700th anniversary of Dante's death. The findings have been published on the open access platform Alma DL – University of Bologna Digital Library/AMS Acta.

**Duration:** July 2020-March 2022

**Funding:** €16,970

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**Project:** MUSEUROPA: Local Museums and European Identities

**Description:** This project examines local heritage museums in order to understand the role of heritage in experiences and practices of belonging on the local, national and especially European level. Local heritage museums are often grass-roots organisations, run largely on voluntary work, and representative of how citizens with no professional or scholarly interest in the past still engage with historical objects and narratives to shape their own identities and that of their communities. It also helps redefine the public's perception of what a 'museum' is. The project aims at a comparative approach to such local heritage organisations in 5 different national or local settings, and will result in a virtual European museum of local heritage.

**Duration:** May 2021-June 2022

**Funding:** €12,800

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**Project:** Forever Young: Celebrating 50 Years of the World Heritage Convention (WHC@50)

**Description:** In 2022 the World Heritage Convention (WHC) celebrates 50 years. Thanks to its 194 State Parties, the WHC represents a major tool for International (Cultural Heritage) Law, a powerful promotor of cultural identity, and a formidable boost for national economies. WHC@50 aims to retrace how the WHC was conceived, to present its current formulation and application in practice, to illustrate its meaning for the preservation and enhancement of world heritage governance, to analyse its strengths and weaknesses, and to indicate its needs for reviews and reforms. By combining the insights of jurists, political scientists, historians, architects and economists, WHC@50 embarks on a multiperspective analysis that will result in a high-quality open access publication. Beyond the original research group, further young scholars have been involved in the WHC@50 activities through a call for papers.

**Duration:** January 2022 - December 2022

**Funding:** €11,000

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