

EN
E-001400/2024
Answer given by Ms Ivanova
on behalf of the European Commission
(30.9.2024)

The Commission places high importance on safeguarding cultural heritage. While cultural heritage preservation projects per se fall under Member States responsibilities, the EU can foster, in the remit of the competences conferred on it by the Treaties¹, cooperation and provide support where necessary.

Several EU funding programs², including the European Regional Development Fund³ (ERDF) and the Creative Europe programme⁴, support heritage initiatives.

The ERDF helps restore cultural assets and promotes socioeconomic cohesion. While Creative Europe assists in the promotion of heritage, including religious sites⁵, it does not directly fund restoration projects. Additionally, Horizon Europe⁶ supports research on innovative conservation methods, and a new European partnership for resilient cultural heritage will be introduced in 2025 to enhance collaborative research on climate change impacts.

The Commission notes the suggestion on the financing of heritage, such as a tax-exempt cultural heritage lottery. However, Member States remain responsible for financing their heritage preservation projects in compliance with EU laws.

¹ Article 167 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

² <https://culture.ec.europa.eu/funding/cultureu-funding-guide>

³ https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/funding/erdf_en

⁴ <https://culture.ec.europa.eu/creative-europe>

⁵ Creative Europe programme co-funds the Future for Religious Heritage network (FRH), <https://www.frh-europe.org/>

⁶ https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe_en