

## **JPI CH and E-RIHS join forces to promote a research and innovation partnership for the future of Cultural Heritage**

The Joint Programming Initiative Cultural Heritage and Global Change (JPI-CH) is an established strategic Member-State driven alliance of 18 European countries that contributes significantly to the European Research Area, offering valuable structures, instruments and experiences. It aims to play a crucial part in the forthcoming Horizon Europe research landscape. Over the last 10 years, the JPI-CH has set up efficient pan-European governance for research on Cultural Heritage, gaining the long-term commitment of ministries and funding agencies to a strategic research and innovation agenda and to a multiannual financial plan. It is a proven efficient instrument to achieve the essential synergies and to conduct the collaborations with other relevant European partnerships and networks (JPI Urban Europe, JPI Climate, HERA, Time Machine and now E-RIHS) that will enable the joint construction of a streamlined Cultural Heritage research landscape thematic Knowledge Hubs in Europe.

The European Research Infrastructure for Heritage Science (E-RIHS) is an ESFRI Project which is in the process of establishing a European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC). There are currently nearly a hundred research centres renowned for their excellence in the field of Heritage science, from 28 European and non-European countries, participating in this distributed infrastructure project. E-RIHS contributes cutting-edge services – such as access, training, expertise and capacity building – to the Heritage science community and enables joint innovative research for improved interoperability of data, sample and reference materials, methods and instruments. E-RIHS is committed to become a key tool in facilitating the implementation of the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda of the JPI CH. The strategic role of E-RIHS has recently been acknowledged by the joint declaration of the EU Ministers of Culture and Foreign Affairs on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of May 2019 (Paris).

**Research and in-depth knowledge of Heritage materials and Heritage artefacts** is recognized to be a challenge with a considerable impact on heritage sciences, as demonstrated by the important response of the Cultural Heritage research community to the last call for proposals launched by the JPI CH in 2019, on Conservation, Protection and Use. It has implications for the understanding, conservation and transmission of Cultural Heritage, but also strong repercussions on other research fields as environmental issues.

At a time when E-RIHS is refining its scientific vision and operational structure and the JPI CH is updating its former SRA into a Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda, **the convergences and synergies as well as the need for collaboration between the two initiatives have never been more evident.**

The JPI CH and E-RIHS represent two structuring and highly complementary projects for the Cultural Heritage research community. This is all the more true since a great number of Member-States representatives and stakeholders are part of both initiatives. Furthermore, the JPI CH is represented at the E-RIHS Stakeholder Advisory Board, whilst E-RIHS is a member of the JPI CH Scientific and Advisory Board. **Both initiatives involve long-term collaborations** and provide services that go **beyond national interests**. They constitute an ecosystem which, by bringing together Heritage researchers and professionals and a wide variety of stakeholders and citizens, will foster innovation and benefit to the wider society.

Thus, **the JPI CH and E-RIHS have decided to join their forces and experiences** to successfully anchor this large-scale collaboration in the context of Horizon Europe and develop, together, ambitious and long-term programmes.

Both initiatives are convinced that a **Partnership represents the relevant framework for the future of this collaboration**. It will combine and coordinate, in a spirit of rationalization, the main European mechanisms (JPI CH, E-RIHS, Time Machine), associating top-down and bottom-up approaches, and covering all the fields, from fundamental to applied research, valorisation and innovation. It will develop new knowledge and methods, foster interdisciplinarity through the hybridization of disciplinary fields, and contribute to the emergence of a new generation of researchers. **Moreover, it will represent a unique opportunity for Europe to reaffirm its world leadership in Cultural Heritage research and innovation.**

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