



# Heuright

## HEURIGHT

### Project Summary

This project investigates how human rights guarantees in relation to cultural heritage are being understood and implemented in the EU and in its neighbouring countries. It focuses on Poland, the United Kingdom and Italy - countries representing different cultural, political and legal traditions - and their relations with other states and non-state cultural communities. Acknowledging the changing nature of the right to cultural heritage, the project will map how this rights evolving content affects the forms of protection, access to and governance of cultural heritage. The added value of the project consists in combining an analysis of the relevant laws, their implementation and enforcement. Firstly, it will provide a theoretical re-conceptualization of the right to cultural heritage, focusing not only on positive law and jurisprudence, but also on soft-law rules, diplomacy and cultural cooperation as possible alternative devices for fostering inter-cultural dialogue and understanding. Secondly, in its practical perspective, the project analyses how the technical tools used to manage and protect cultural heritage, in particular digitization processes with the development of databases, virtual museums, etc., are currently considered and how they could be further developed to strengthen the enforcement of the right to cultural heritage throughout the

EU, including its external action. Thus, the project will contribute to the development of sustainable strategies for protecting and managing cultural heritage as a means to foster inter-national and inter-cultural dialogue within the European region. Its outcomes will be twofold: i) a path breaking contribution to an interdisciplinary scholarship in this area, disseminated through various publications (articles, reports, workshops and a monograph); ii) the elaboration of recommendations and guidelines – openly accessible via a new online platform – concerning best practices on the use of cultural heritage for the benefit of states and communities which all have an intrinsic interest in its protection and enjoyment.

### Application and impact

The project fits within the aims of the Heritage Plus Call, as it offers an innovative research-based knowledge to promote the sustainable use and management of cultural heritage and so to meet societal challenges and contribute to the wider development of society. It will be based on a collaborative, transnational, interdisciplinary research consortium focused mainly on tangible cultural heritage research, while also including the interlinked aspects of intangible and digital heritage. In such a guise, the project will lead to

significant advances in the understanding of cultural heritage across the broader research community and in society, within the European Union. Through broadly defined methods of knowledge dissemination, including an online platform, the project will promote and transfer its research outcomes to community groups and the general public.

While dealing with the issues relating to the changing rights and responsibilities around cultural heritage, including changing forms of access and governance, both nationally and at the EU level, the project develops and investigates the core thematic areas covered by the Heritage Plus Call, i.e. the variety of relations between human communities and cultural heritage, thus touching upon the area of human rights, including their collective

dimension. Accordingly, it will contribute to a better understanding of how the significance and the values that cultural heritage holds for individuals and communities is influenced by political, social changes, with particular focus on three countries: Poland, the United Kingdom and Italy, and their international relations with other neighbouring countries and communities. Thus, the project will deal with the meanings that cultural heritage may have for various cultural communities and how they perceive, use and interpret it in the changing geopolitical and social reality of contemporary Europe, considering the contested and conflicting issues around access to and enjoyment of cultural heritage. In addition, the new tools of providing the right to cultural heritage will be explored, including the process of digitalization.

## Coordinator

University of Fine Arts in Poznań (POLAND).

## Participants

- British Institute of International and Comparative Law (UK)
- University of Trieste (ITALY)

## Dates

15/06/2015 - 31/05/2018

## Budget

Total project funding: € 412.684,00

Funding awarded: € 399.478,00

## Subject area(s)

Cultural rights, human rights, cultural heritage, cultural cooperation, enforcement of rights

## Project website

[www.heuright.eu](http://www.heuright.eu)