



EUROPA
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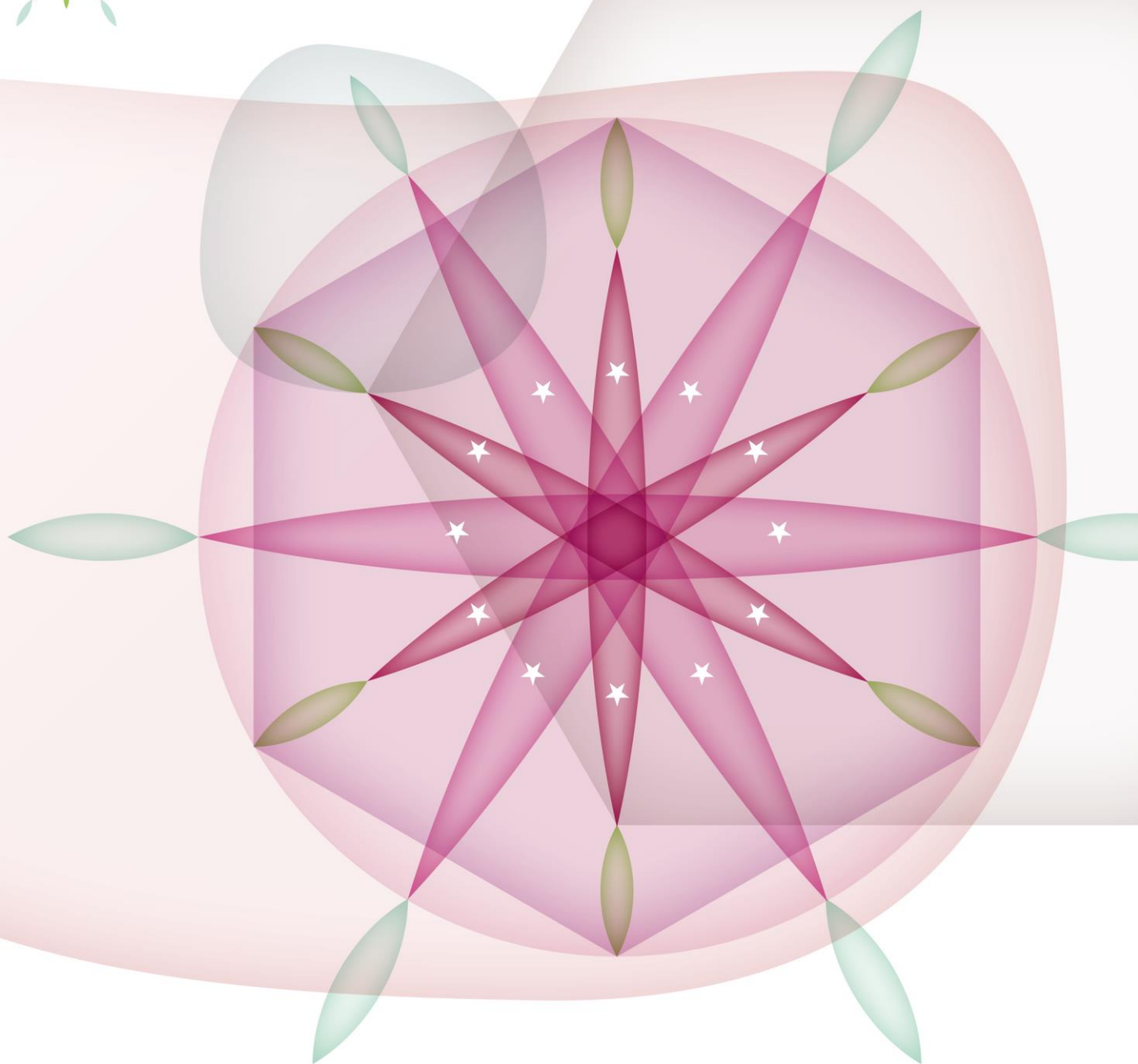
PRAGUE MANIFESTO

"FOR A VALUE AND CULTURE-DRIVEN EUROPE"

SEPTEMBER 2022



EUROPEAN
CULTURAL HERITAGE
SUMMIT PRAGUE





Prague Manifesto

“For a Value-based and Culture-driven Europe”

We, the civil society actors committed to culture and cultural heritage at all levels, from local to international,

Representing hundreds of organisations as well as thousands of individuals, throughout Europe and beyond,

Gathered in Prague from 25 to 27 September 2022 on the occasion of our annual [European Cultural Heritage Summit](#), as part of the official programme of the Czech Presidency of the Council of the European Union, and as a contribution to the European Year of Youth 2022 and the New European Bauhaus initiative,

In line with the previous appeals launched at the European Cultural Heritage Summits in [Berlin](#), [Paris](#) and [Venice](#),

Inspired by the motto of the Czech Presidency of the EU “*Europe as a Task*”, which builds on the legacy and leadership of Václav Havel, great European and former President of the Czech Republic,

Appalled by the dramatic evolution of the geopolitical situation in Europe, due to the unjustifiable and brutal Russian aggression against Ukraine, but also greatly moved by the heroism of the Ukrainian people and the resilience of Ukrainian cultural heritage defenders,

Profoundly distressed not only by the human cost of the war, but also by the huge toll paid in these dramatic circumstances by Ukraine’s invaluable cultural heritage which is also Europe’s,

Equally disturbed by the rapid deterioration of the fundamental values that represent the very core of the European project, and in particular the increasing threats to democracy, peace and solidarity in Europe and elsewhere in the world,





Recalling the deep commitment of the cultural and heritage worlds to the defence of Europe's fundamental values, which were duly reaffirmed during the powerful [State of the Union Address](#) by the President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen on 14 September 2022 and subsequently during her meaningful [keynote address at the 10th annual Athens Democracy Forum](#) on 29 September 2022,


Convinced more than ever of the critical role of culture and cultural heritage for the endurance and vitality of these endangered values and of their contribution to the future of Europe and to the wellbeing of its citizens, as outlined in the [Cultural Deal for Europe](#) initiative jointly proposed and promoted by [Europa Nostra](#), [Culture Action Europe](#) and the [European Cultural Foundation](#) together with our numerous members and partners,

Equally aware of the intrinsic relationship between the promotion of culture and cultural heritage and the protection of our living environment, which is increasingly endangered every day by the ever-growing severe effects of climate change,

In consideration of the above, we urgently and firmly call upon all European leaders as well as all actors of the cultural and heritage worlds at all operational levels to:

- 1. Integrate** cultural heritage as a strategic and crosscutting priority in the **Work Plan for Culture 2023-2026** which will be adopted by the EU Council of Ministers during the Czech Presidency of the EU, as well as enhance the role of cultural heritage in the further promotion and implementation of the **New European Bauhaus** initiative. In this context, invest necessary resources in training and employment of the young generation of heritage professionals and custodians.
- 2. Highlight** the crucial role of culture and cultural heritage as a means to promote the much-needed sense of togetherness and of belonging to a wider European endeavour in the ongoing discussions on shaping a **European Political Community** which will bring together all European countries dedicated to our shared values.
- 3. Deploy** the vital resources of the culture and heritage sectors within **Europe's emergency support and recovery schemes for Ukraine**, by intensifying our joint commitment for the prevention of irreparable damages to Europe's cultural heritage in Ukraine and for its long-term restoration and reconstruction in line with high quality standards,

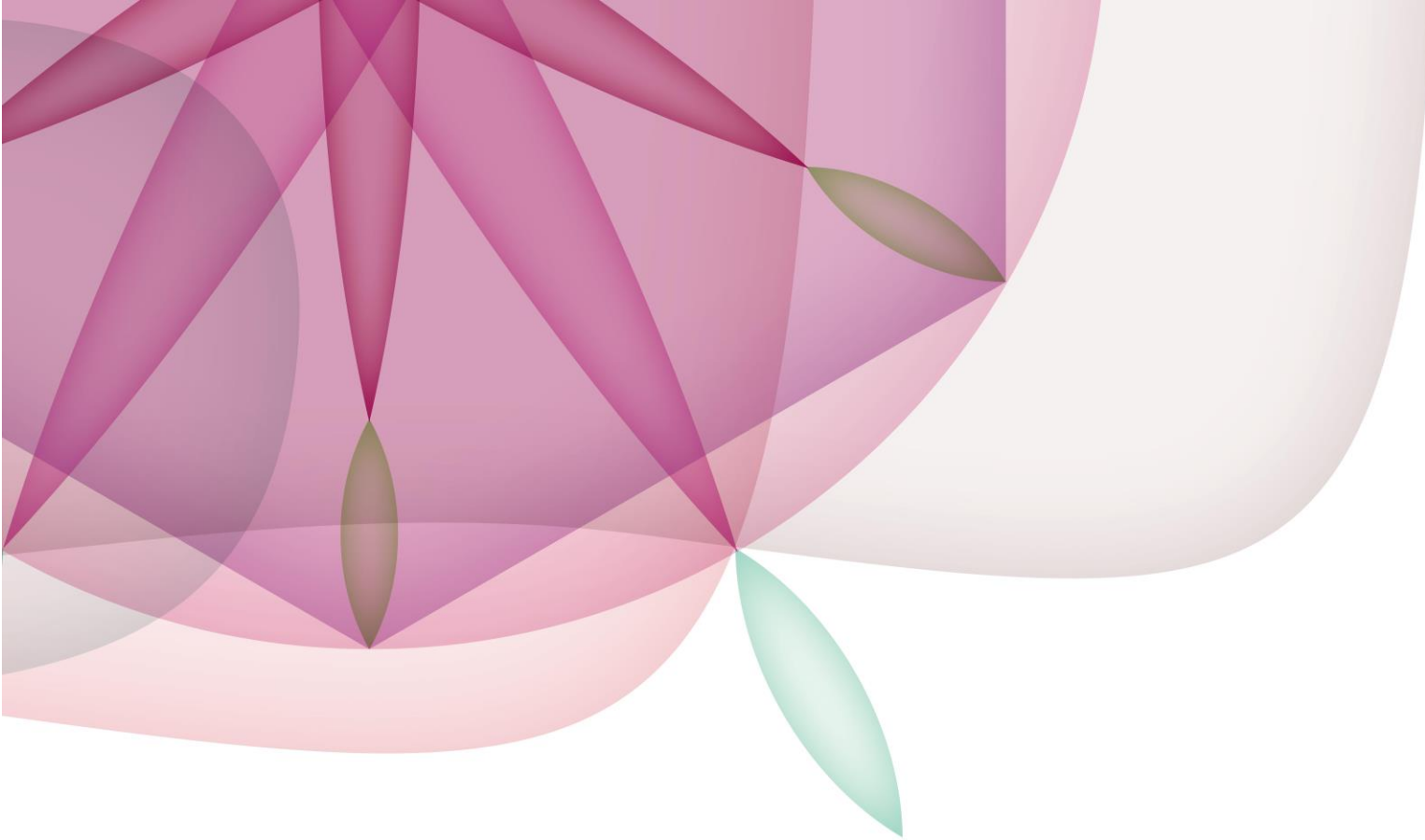


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4. **Designate** culture and cultural heritage as strategic assets to **foster value and equality-based cultural diplomacy and international cooperation** which promote peace, solidarity, dialogue, social and economic progress and stability in the wider Europe and across the globe.
 5. **Strengthen** the creation of **public-philanthropic partnerships**, including social investment, for the protection and promotion of culture and cultural heritage, both inside and outside Europe.
 6. **Champion**, in the context of the UNESCO MONDIACULT Conference held on 28-30 September in Mexico and of the upcoming COP27 to be hosted by Egypt, the key contribution of culture and cultural heritage to help Europe become a **green, climate-neutral continent** and advocate the need to duly add a **dedicated specific Cultural Goal** within the **UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.
 7. **Incorporate** in policies implemented at all levels of governance, the fundamental and irreplaceable role of culture and cultural heritage as **a vector and strategic resource to address Europe's manifold challenges**, from peace and social cohesion to the green transition and sustainable development.

2022 has undoubtedly increased our collective awareness of the serious threats to peace and democracy in Europe and the rest of the world. Europe can only address these challenges and continue to be a positive reference in the world if it demonstrates its ability to defend and enhance the fundamental values which represent some of its main contributions to humankind.

We deeply believe culture and our shared cultural heritage are the very heart and soul of Our Europe and of our common humanity. They play a crucial role in fostering peace and solidarity, in shaping our sense of shared identity and vision and in successfully achieving a more sustainable, more inclusive and more beautiful society and living environment. Therefore, it is high time for their role to be fully recognised and mobilised in building a value-based and culture-driven Europe.





PRAGUE MANIFESTO “FOR A VALUE AND CULTURE-DRIVEN EUROPE”

was presented at European Heritage Policy Agora held on 27 September 2022 at the Žofín Palace, as the concluding event of the European Cultural Heritage Summit 2022 in Prague.

The **European Cultural Heritage Summit 2022**, included in the official programme of the Czech Presidency of the Council of the European Union, was organised by Europa Nostra and Europa Nostra's Representation in the Czech Republic with the **cooperation and support** of the:

European Commission

Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic

National Theatre

National Museum

District Prague 1

European Commission Representation in the Czech Republic

City of Prague

The Summit was also a **contribution to** the European Year of Youth 2022 and the New European Bauhaus initiative.

The Summit is partially funded by the Creative Europe Programme of the European Union.

