On 4 December, the European Project "Cultural Heritage Counts for Europe: Towards a European Index for Cultural Heritage" organised its second Steering Committee meeting in Brussels. 14 representatives from the consortium's six partners gathered to discuss the project's methodology to collect existing data on the impact of Europe's cultural heritage on society and the economy. With the results, the project aims to raise greater awareness on the multiple benefits of cultural heritage and present policy recommendations for tapping into heritage's full potential.

Leading the project's data collection phase are The International Cultural Centre in Poland and the Raymond Lemaire International Centre for Conservation (KU Leuven) in Belgium. Both institutions presented their collaborative working methodology, research tools and data analysis approach to the consortium. Their challenge will be to understand and interpret the results of hundreds of research studies and more specifically heritage's social and economic effects on society as well as its impact on smart, sustainable, inclusive growth and quality of life.

In 2014 these two organisations, with the support of the other CHCFE project partners, will continue to map evidence-based research that has already been carried out at the European, national, regional, local and/or sectoral levels. They will conduct an extensive review of academic literature and collect research and case studies from renowned heritage experts as well as members of the Heritage Alliance 3.3 (an informal European sectoral platform composed of 30 European or international networks and organizations active in the wider field of cultural heritage). In order to take advantage of Europe's rich linguistic diversity, external experts will be key in providing data results that have not yet been translated into the working languages of the project partners.

In early 2014, the project partners will disseminate details on the submission criteria for contributions of existing research and case studies for those who would like to support to the project's data collection phase.

Project partners expect to have a draft report by the end of 2014 to invite members of the Heritage Alliance 3.3 to consult the policy recommendations before the final report is presented in Olso, Norway in June 2015.

To learn more about this project, click here.