

Fiume Charter

European Decalogue for Cultural Heritage

We, the undersigned people of Europe, gathered on 6 May 2025 at Palazzo Modello in Fiume/Rijeka and together with those joining online, aware that **Cultural Heritage** consists of a set of tangible and intangible works that live in the stories, languages, everyday gestures and traditions we share, recognizing that every person has the right to participate in cultural life and to contribute to the transmission of what makes our shared European identity unique, convinced that culture is a bridge between generations, peoples and territories, capable of uniting in diversity and of building a fairer, more inclusive and sustainable future,

whereas

- in Italy, Cultural Heritage is enshrined in Article 9 of the Italian Constitution and its promotion involves public institutions, local authorities, private and international organizations;
- in Croatia, the promotion of Cultural Heritage is pursued through a combination of public policies, educational programmes, tourism initiatives and international cooperation;
- the Veneto Region, through Regional Law No. 39 of 25 September 2019, promotes Cultural Heritage through a series of actions on historical assets linked to the Most Serene Republic of Venice, with particular attention to the areas of Istria, Dalmatia and the Mediterranean;
- cross-border cooperation under the Interreg Italy–Croatia programme promotes Cultural Heritage as a lever for more sustainable and balanced territorial development, supporting shared projects between the two countries for the enhancement, protection and tourism promotion of cultural sites through exchanges, innovation and integrated local development along the Adriatic coast;
- the Treaty between the Italian Republic and the Republic of Croatia on minority rights, signed in Zagreb on 5 November 1996, assigns a central role to culture, particularly in the protection of the Italian minority in Croatia, recognizing and supporting the Italian Union as the main representative organization of the Italian minority;
- in the Agreement between Italy and Croatia signed in Zagreb on 16 October 2008 and entered into force on 29 September 2012, culture is understood as a bridge to promote cultural exchanges between the two shores of the Adriatic, as an instrument of dialogue, cooperation and protection of identities, including educational exchanges and the enhancement of minorities;
- Europe, through the Faro Convention, promotes Cultural Heritage as a right of all, emphasizing the active involvement of communities, cultural diversity, education, accessibility and its role as a social and sustainable resource;

we therefore are

people who believe in the principle of European subsidiarity that guides our cities, provinces, counties, regions and nations, as well as people inspired by the values of the Faro Convention and by experiences of cooperation among Adriatic communities;

people who, in the following **10 points**, affirm their commitment to caring for, enhancing and promoting European Cultural Heritage understood as a **living, shared good**.

European Decalogue for Cultural Heritage

1. The person at the centre

Every person has the right to participate in cultural life and to enjoy the Cultural Heritage handed down by those who came before us.

2. Heritage as a living resource

It is not only to be preserved: Cultural Heritage is a force that can foster the sustainable growth of people, communities and the economy.

3. Shared responsibility

Cultural Heritage belongs to everyone: citizens, institutions, communities and businesses must work together to protect and enhance it.

4. Active heritage communities

People who recognize the value of a cultural asset must be protagonists in safeguarding it and passing it on to future European generations.

5. Value in diversity

Cultural Heritage is rich because it is diverse: it must be protected to promote dialogue and respect among cultures, learning from the mistakes of the past.

6. Heritage education

Schools and lifelong learning must help people to know, understand and love Cultural Heritage, from an early age.

7. Sustainable use

Cultural Heritage must be used responsibly, preventing it from being exploited by a few for profit alone or, worse, damaged and instrumentalized for ideological purposes.

8. Access for all

Cultural Heritage must be accessible to everyone, with particular attention to young people, the elderly, minorities and vulnerable persons.

9. Active participation

Citizens are not spectators: they are called upon to be protagonists in the care and promotion of Cultural Heritage.

10. Memory and future

Preserving Cultural Heritage means giving roots to our present and hope to our European future.

This document, “**Fiume Charter – European Decalogue for Cultural Heritage**”, is published on <https://adriaticeurope.org> with the possibility of free adhesion by any person who shares its contents and wishes to promote them. The text will be translated into Croatian and English.

Signed on 6 May 2025 – Fiume/Rijeka, Palazzo Modello

Engim Veneto, SMSI Rovinj, SMSI “Dante Alighieri” Pula, ISIS “D’Annunzio Fabiani” Gorizia, CI Pula, CI Rovinj, CI Rijeka, CI Mali Lošinj, ANVGD Nazionale, Europa Adriatica Nordest.