



## **Heritage Hubs enabled European pupils to share what they regard as important cultural heritage and to discover cultural similarities at European level**

**Heritage Hubs** is a two-year project related to the European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018, co-funded by the Creative Europe programme of the European Union. The project's purpose is to support transnational learning from and about cultural heritage, to allow children and young people to voice what *they* regard as important cultural heritage, and to increase respect for the cultural heritage of others. In *Heritage Hubs*, 10-16-year-old **pupils** from **Spain, Finland** and **Serbia** familiarized themselves with their own and others' cultural heritage, **shared heritage**, and interpreted and practiced the cultural heritage of others. The project, which started in May 2018, is now coming to an end.

*Heritage Hubs* school pilots were organised at 11 schools in 2018-2019 during two main phases. In Autumn 2018, pupils produced **digital presentations of their chosen heritage**, which were shared on [Sharing Heritage platform](#) and on [Heritage Hubs YouTube channel](#). Pupils reported that "Making [heritage] videos was fun and exciting". Their videos show, for example, traditional foods; exploring the history of the Spanish language in Suso monastery; the tranquil nature of a Finnish bog; the Roman ruins of Felix Romuliana; preparations for slava and sauna; traditional dances in La Rioja; and playing mëlkkä and floorball. Their choices illustrate the versatile and changing nature of cultural heritage, and the types of cultural heritage that young Europeans regard as important to them. The second phase, in Spring 2019, was about **experiencing, interpreting and presenting the cultural heritage of during exchange visits**. Teacher **Laura Pérez** (IES Villegas, Spain) believes that *Heritage Hubs* aroused interest in cultural heritage not only among participating pupils and teachers, but also among their families and neighbours. As a consequence, cultural heritage became a new link between pupils, teachers, parents and the wider community, both local and from further afield.

The project's results indicate that **first-hand experiences of cultural heritage**, learning from and about cultural heritage from others (peers, older generation, heritage practitioners etc.) and exploring cultural heritage *together* is important to children and young people. The experience of interpreting heritage was **overwhelming and emotional** for the pupils, teachers and project staff alike. "It shocked me. I didn't think they would do it so big and the whole school was part of it. It was really nice" said **Ingrid**, explaining how it felt to experience her own Finnish-Swedish heritage, Stafettkarnevalen, presented and interpreted in Grocka, Serbia. The pupils discovered cultural similarities and connections at European level, and reported overcoming many pre-existing cultural prejudices and now holding their peers and their culture and heritage in high regard. Commenting on the benefits of the project to the pupils, teacher **Ingelisa Wikholm** (Winellska skolan, Kirkkonummi) explained: "The pupils noticed that one can enjoy also the culture of others and that cultural heritage is something common to humanity even though it may seem different on the surface."

Pupils' videos can be watched on [Heritage Hubs YouTube channel](#) and the full story of the project can be discovered through [videos](#), [newsletters](#), [news](#) and [pictures](#) on the project homepage.



Based on participant feedback, empirical data and other findings collected during project implementation, the partnership has produced a **Manual for Cultural Heritage Education**. The manual also includes **Recommendations** for heritage education to help teachers and heritage professionals integrate cultural heritage and intercultural dialogue into their daily work. A preview of the Manual was presented at **Educa** – the Nordic countries' largest event for the education – in Finland and at the **Cultural Heritage in Education event** in Serbia, garnering positive feedback from the audience. The Manual, shortly available for download from [Heritage Hubs homepage](#), is provided in **English, Finnish, Serbian, Spanish and Swedish**.

Based on the success of the project, along with the expressed need for its work, the partnership is planning a *Heritage Hubs* follow-up. In the meantime, project [homepage](#) and other social media channels will be updated periodically to keep alive the project, and to spread its results and HH methodology for heritage education.

The project is coordinated by the [Association of Cultural Heritage Education in Finland](#) in partnership with [La Fundación San Millán de la Cogolla](#) in Spain, the [Centre for Urban Development](#) in Serbia, and [VITECO](#) E-learning solutions in Italy.

Participating schools include in Finland **Hakkalan koulu** (Lammi), **Harjun koulu** (Lohja), **Winellska skolan** (Kirkkonummi) and **Harjunrinteen koulu** (Riihimäki); in Spain **IES Villegas** (Nájera), **CRA Entrevalles** (San Millán de la Cogolla, Anguiano and Badarán) as well as **Colegio Estudio** and **Colegio Hermanos Amorós** (Madrid); and in Serbia **Đura Jakšić** (Zaječar), **Ilija Garašanin** (Grocka) and **Miroslav Antić** (Belgrade).

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You can find Heritage Hubs at <https://heritagehubs.eu>

Twitter: @HeritageHubs

Instagram: @heritagehubs\_project

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You Tube: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCePPezW4Dvs0yr\\_TG5O6CEg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCePPezW4Dvs0yr_TG5O6CEg)

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