

24–28 February 2025 – Trieste/Gorizia

T4EU COMMON EUROPEAN HERITAGE WEEK

University of Trieste

The T4EU Common European Heritage Week, organized by University of Trieste in collaboration with GLAM stakeholders offers an immersive exploration of Common European Heritage, with a particular emphasis on border dynamics and shared cultural legacies.

Key highlights of the week include a Transformative Heritage Workshop (24th February), the Second Heritage Conference “*Transborder Heritage: A Multidisciplinary Approach*” (from 25th to 27th February) and a field visit in Gorizia/Nova Gorica (28th February), providing theoretical and practical insights into the challenges of heritage in transborder area.

MA and PhD students are particularly encouraged to participate, but BA students attending their last year are also welcome. The event will be organised in the form of BIP and will include panels, workshops, seminars, field visits, and public lectures (Talks4EU). Participants will be granted 3 ECTS.

Heritage WEEK Programme

- Tuesday, 11th Feb. – Online session for BIP participants.
- Sunday, 23rd Feb. – Travel Day.
- Monday 24th Feb. – Inauguration of the “T4EU Common European Heritage Week” and Digital Cultural Heritage Workshop.
- Tuesday 25th Feb. – Opening of the Second Heritage Conference “*Transborder Heritage: A Multidisciplinary Approach*”. First session: “*Anthropology and Identities between Borders*”: panel (10am), workshop (2pm), and public talk (5pm).
- Wednesday 26th Feb. – Second session: “*History and Memories in Border Areas*”: panel (10am), workshop (2pm), and public talk (5pm).
- Thursday 27th Feb. – Third session: “*Architecture and Transborder Spaces*”: panel (10am), workshop (2pm), and public talk (5pm).
- Friday 28th Feb. – Gorizia–Nova Gorica field visit and student work group presentations.
- Saturday 1st Mar. – Travel Day.

Second Common European Heritage Conference

TRANSBORDER HERITAGE: A MULTIDISCIPLINARY APPROACH

25–27 February 2025 – Trieste/Gorizia

Abstract

The Transborder Heritage: A Multidisciplinary Approach, conference scheduled for February 25–27, 2025, will bring together researchers, students and stakeholders to explore the complex relationships between borders and cultural heritage. The conference will bring together diverse disciplines such as anthropology, history, and architecture, while also emphasizing the need for contributions from additional fields to fully address key questions of identities, memories, legacies, ownership and preservation that are particularly relevant in border regions. In these areas, heritage acts as both a unifying factor and a source of conflict, and is shaped by diverse socio-cultural exchanges and political divides. The conference highlights the need for a multidisciplinary approach to better understand and manage borderlands heritages. In the mornings, thematic panel discussions featuring experts and scholars provide in-depth exploration of key topics, while in the afternoons, interactive workshops encourage students to critically reflect on and engage with the themes discussed. The day concludes with a public talk by experts, open to the wider community, fostering dialogue and connection beyond the academic setting.

Over three days, the conference will focus on three interconnected issues central to transborder heritage:

Day 1 – 25/02/25

Panel on Anthropology and Identities between Borders

Borderless identities? Challenges and opportunities of a Common European Heritage

As members of European alliance T4EU we have the mission to promote mobility within the borders of Europe, envisioning a future of integration. However, alongside this effort, barriers, walls, and borders have proliferated not only outside Europe but also within it.

In this context, heritage increasingly plays a key role in shaping identities. This is especially problematic in border areas, where social and cultural networks often diverge from historical and geopolitical maps. Here, a divide emerges between

grassroots, multifaceted forms of heritage and homogenizing identity-based representations.

Given this complexity, which stems from viewing heritage through the lens of borders, this panel seeks to critically examine the concept of Common European Heritage. Specifically, through the presentation of case studies that explore heritage forms transcending Europe's physical and symbolic borders, we ask: How does the relationship between majority groups and minorities manifest? How are senses of belonging shaped by internal and external mobility across European borders, characterized by heterogeneous heritage?

The panel seeks to address these pivotal questions to envision a dynamic, processual concept of Common European Heritage – one that remains sustainable across generations and integrates Europe's past, present, and future.

Day 2 – 26/02/25

Panel on History and Memories in Border Areas

Transborder Memories and Shared Narratives in Contested Borderlands of the 20th Century

The borderlands of Trieste and Gorizia–Nova Gorica provide a multifaceted lens into European History, shaped by WWI and WWII, resulting from fluctuating borders, contested sovereignties, and interconnected cultural identities. These regions offer fertile ground and example for analysing how historical events shaped diverse narratives and different collective memories with the dynamics of European border areas, revealing the complexity of transnational identities.

This panel explores the pivotal role of historical methodologies in analysing the layered legacies of these borderlands, where the issues of displacement, conflicts, and reconciliation attempts continue to shape contemporary identities in contested borderlands. Public History approaches and experiences –including museums, memorial projects, and cross-border collaborations– are examined as tools for dealing with contested narratives, fostering dialogue, and creating shared understandings of cultural heritage.

Key questions include: How can History engage critically with the multi-dimensional histories of European contested borderlands while emphasising their transborder and transnational legacies? How can these efforts bridge regional specificities with broader European heritage frameworks?

Drawing on interdisciplinary case studies, this panel seeks to reframe borderlands as spaces of negotiation and interchange of memories, a multidisciplinary "Border Lab" where diverse perspectives inform and build a pluralistic and integrated vision of European heritage.

Day 3 – 27/02/25

Panel on Architecture and Transborder Spaces in partnership with the Marco Zuttioni ODV Association

Dialogues between the Past and Future in Border Areas

The border between Gorizia and Nova Gorica, a symbol of historical and political divisions, offers a unique lens through which to explore how architecture and urban planning can contribute to a new vision for these transborder spaces. In a context where cultural and architectural legacies are shaped by centuries of shifting sovereignties and both shared and conflicting identities, architecture plays a pivotal role in shaping the social and cultural dynamics of the present. The relationship between the two cities, simultaneously united and divided, invites reflection on how urban spaces can become tools of inclusion, reconciliation, and social innovation. The architectural heritage of borderlands is not merely a matter of memory, but an opportunity to rethink urban design, promoting sustainability, social cohesion, and intercultural dialogue.

How can architects and urban planners address contemporary challenges, such as transforming historical buildings into spaces that meet the needs of the future? How can architecture reflect the complexities of transborder identities, contributing to a shared heritage that transcends both physical and symbolic barriers?

Through a multidisciplinary vision that does not forget the past but reinvents it, we can create spaces or connective structures that foster social cohesion, participation, and dialogue across differences.

Call for contributions

The University of Trieste invites experts, scholars, and PhD students from the T4EU Alliance to submit their contributions at the email address t4eu.heritage@units.it by January 20th 2025. This collaboration with T4EU will bring together diverse perspectives from various regions and disciplines, enriching discussions and promoting innovative strategies for inclusive heritage management in borderlands.

Additionally, the *Transborder Heritage Conference* will include a Blended Intensive Programme (BIP) designed to engage students from T4EU partners in an immersive five-day learning experience. The BIP will involve participation in sessions, field visits, and workshops that focus on the unique challenges of heritage in border areas. Visits are designed to enhance academic understanding and facilitate dialogue with local communities and stakeholders. Through this programme, students will acquire practical skills, encourage cross-cultural

exchanges, and deepen their understanding of the intertwined issues characterizing transborder heritage.

Ultimately, the *Transborder Heritage Conference* aims to foster collaborative frameworks with Stakeholders and citizens for sustainable and inclusive heritage management in border areas. By promoting the exchange of ideas and practices across disciplines, the event seeks to provide actionable recommendations that honour and preserve the diverse, interconnected identities of border communities. This multidisciplinary approach is essential for tackling the unique complexities of heritage in these dynamic spaces, where cultural and political histories intersect and continue to evolve.

For more information, please contact:

t4eu.heritage@units.it