

CONCEPT NOTE

SCIENCE AND HERITAGE FOR PEACE: KYIV DIALOGUE 2025

*An International High-Level Forum within the Framework of UNESCO's
World Science Day for Peace and Development*

Date: 10 November 2025 | 14:00 – 18:30 (Kyiv Time / CET +1)

Venue: United Nations Office in Kyiv (Hybrid Format – Full Online Participation Encouraged)

Languages: English & Ukrainian (with Simultaneous Interpretation and Real-Time Subtitles)

1. Vision and Purpose

The “Kyiv Dialogue 2025” serves as a pivotal pan-European ministerial platform, harnessing science, education, and cultural heritage as powerful tools for peacebuilding and mutual understanding.

Aligned with UNESCO’s 2025 theme — “Trust, Transformation and Tomorrow: The Science We Need for 2050” — this Forum transforms scientific collaboration and shared cultural memory into a robust framework for fostering trust, resilience, and sustainable peace across Europe.

Officially endorsed by the Government of Ukraine (including the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Education and Science, and Culture and Strategic Communications), the Office of the President of Ukraine, and the Verkhovna Rada Committees on Education and Culture, the event will convene European Ministers of Education and Culture, UNESCO representatives, leading historians, scientists, and cultural experts in a dynamic hybrid dialogue. This initiative underscores Ukraine’s commitment to European integration through heritage diplomacy, inviting all EU and partner states to contribute to a united future.

2. Core Theme — Kyivan Rus as a Common European Heritage

At the Forum’s heart is the launch of the International Consortium “Kyivan Rus: Common Heritage” (2025–2029), a collaborative platform uniting universities, museums, and research institutions to re-examine the Kyivan Rus era (IX–XIII centuries) as a foundational pillar of European civilization, bridging Eastern and Western narratives.

Inspired by the European Cultural Heritage Strategy for the 21st Century, the Consortium promotes:

- **National Showcases:** Each participating country presents its unique perspectives through research projects, digital exhibitions, or interactive historical reconstructions.
- **Multilateral Collaboration:** Structured around tri-level partnerships — Country A ↔ Ukraine ↔ Pan-European Network — to co-create digital archives, AI-driven heritage analysis, and joint educational curricula.
- **Innovation Focus:** Leveraging digital humanities to preserve and reinterpret shared history, addressing contemporary challenges like disinformation and cultural divides.

This approach not only enriches Europe’s collective identity but also aligns with EU priorities for cultural diplomacy, offering opportunities for cross-border projects that strengthen peace and innovation.

3. Preliminary Programme (Kyiv Time)

- **14:00 – 14:30: Ministerial Opening Session** (Featuring addresses from UNESCO, UN representatives, and Ukrainian Government officials; online participation for all ministers).

- **14:30 – 16:00: Panel I – Science and Heritage for Peace** (Exploring how scientific research and cultural heritage can mitigate conflicts; moderated by UNESCO experts, with interventions from European ministers).
- **16:00 – 17:30: Panel II – Kyivan Rus as Shared European Heritage** (Discussions on reinterpreting historical narratives for modern unity; featuring case studies from participating countries).
- **17:30 – 18:00: Interactive Session – Digital Heritage for Peace** (Hands-on demonstrations of 3D reconstructions, AI tools, and youth-led virtual projects; open for online engagement).
- **18:00 – 18:30: Closing – Presentation of the “Kyiv Principles” & Symbolic Signing** (A roadmap for heritage-based peace diplomacy, followed by hybrid signing of the Consortium’s Memorandum of Cooperation).

4. Confirmed International Partners (as of October 2025)

- **Portugal:** Universidade Autónoma de Lisboa (Dept. of History, Arts and Humanities); ISEC Lisboa; ISG – Business & Economics School; Polytechnic University of Coimbra (Penedo da Saudade Cultural Centre); Ministério da Educação, Ciência e Inovação (via DGES and ESHTE).
- **Albania:** University of Arts in Tirana.

Ongoing negotiations with institutions from United Kingdom, Iceland, Switzerland, and other EU states. We invite your ministry to join this growing network and nominate partners to amplify your country's voice.

5. Participation and Expected Outcomes

Ministries are cordially invited to:

1. **Confirm Participation:** Of the Minister or a designated representative by 5 November 2025 (via QR code / online form, email to info@cultureua.org (cc: ukrainian_culture@ukr.net)). Virtual attendance ensures full visibility without travel.
2. **Nominate Institutions:** For the Consortium by 20 December 2025, facilitating tailored bilateral coordination and project development.

Benefits Include:

- Access to collaborative funding under Horizon Europe, Erasmus+, and Creative Europe (potential co-financing up to €1.5 million for cultural, educational, and digital initiatives).
- Enhanced diplomatic ties through joint publications, exhibitions, and youth exchanges.
- Contribution to EU-wide peacebuilding efforts, positioning your country as a leader in heritage innovation.

6. Key Message

“Shared history is the bridge to shared peace. Through the Kyiv Dialogue 2025, Europe unites science, heritage, and digital innovation to build trust, transform narratives, and secure a collaborative future for all.”

7. Contact and Coordination

Charity Foundation “Culture.UA” (Kyiv, Ukraine)

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In partnership with the UNESCO Office in Ukraine and the Goethe-Institut.

