Cooperation on culture enriches contacts between societies and promotes cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue. At the same time, cultural and creative industries, craft-based SMEs and tourism can help stimulate economic growth. In line with the EU strategy on international and cultural relations, the EU supports a vibrant cultural sector in Belarus, which engages citizens, state actors and cultural operators alike, strengthens civil society and affords greater economic opportunities.

WHAT IS BEING DONE

POLICY SUPPORT
Fostering the role of culture and creativity in social and economic development

CREATIVE EUROPE
Promoting cultural cooperation through the EU’s flagship culture programme

CULTURE FOR DEVELOPMENT
Involvement of local communities in creative industries and heritage

CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION
Funding for cross-border culture, heritage and tourism projects

Our heritage: where the past meets the future

Creative Europe
Creative Europe is the EU’s flagship programme to support the cultural, creative and audiovisual sectors. Although Belarus is not a full member of the programme, organisations from Belarus can get involved with any culture project that has the minimum amount of eligible partners. The Creative Europe Culture programme supports projects in:

• cultural cooperation
• literary translation
• cultural networks
• platforms for cultural operators promoting emerging artists

Find out more:
www.ec.europa.eu/programmes/creative-europe

Culture and creativity programme
During three years from February 2015 to January 2018, the Eastern Partnership Culture and Creativity Programme supported the role of culture and creativity in the social and economic development of the six Eastern Partner countries, including Belarus. The project’s website and resources remain online and are being maintained, including:

• key policy briefs and country resources developed by the programme
www.culturepartnership.eu/en/article/list-of-publications

• 14 online training courses
www.culturepartnership.eu/en/publishing/online-learning

• Eastern Partnership Cultural Observatory, an NGO set up by the programme to continue its policy work
www.observatory.culturepartnership.eu

Find out more:
www.culturepartnership.eu

Cultural heritage can be tangible (buildings, monuments, artworks, books), intangible (knowledge, skills, traditions, language), natural (landscapes, flora and fauna), or digital (resources created in digital form or digitalised to preserve them).

Cultural heritage has a universal value for us as individuals, communities and societies. It is important to preserve and pass on to future generations. While we may think of heritage as being ‘from the past’, it evolves as we engage with it, and has a key role to play in building the future.

Find out more:
www.europa.eu/cultural-heritage/european-year-cultural-heritage

2018 is the European Year of Cultural Heritage

Find out more:
www.europa.eu/cultural-heritage/european-year-cultural-heritage

2018 is the European Year of Cultural Heritage

Find out more:
www.europa.eu/
Margarita Lazarenkova is fully engaged in the development of the creative industries in Belarus. She began by establishing the creative space Balki, and now conducts motivational ‘Creative Mornings’ while developing her NGO Creative Belarus. Margarita was also involved in the EU-Eastern Partnership Culture and Creativity programme’s ‘Creative cities and regions’ initiative, mapping the urban DNA of Svetlogorsk – ‘the youngest town in Belarus’ – and developing a set of recommendations to unleash its creative potential, including ways to develop youth culture, rebranding the city on the Belarus map, and support for creative entrepreneurship.


The town of Mscislaŭ received support from the EU-funded COMUS project (Community-Led Urban Strategies in Historic Towns – 2015-17) in an initiative that worked to involve local residents in creating a strategy for sustainable development of heritage in the town. The strategy focused on promoting tourism and the restoration and management of historical sites.

Find out more: https://pjp-eu.coe.int/en/web/comus/mstislav-belarus

“Even before the project was over, there were signs that local residents had changed their attitude to ancient cemeteries and that they recognised them as historical-cultural objects and places of memory.”

Node of Life

Fundied by the EU through the CHOICE programme – ‘Cultural Heritage: Opportunity for Improving Civic Engagement’ – the Node of Life project, implemented by the Mogilev Jewish Community Public Association, worked with young local volunteers on the rehabilitation and preservation of Jewish cemeteries in the region, including cataloguing of tombs and translation of inscriptions, and awareness raising in local schools and communities. Other projects implemented by CHOICE in Belarus have ranged from highlighting Belarusian poster art to saving the work and memory of a master wood carver, from art for children to preserving the local culture of traditional songs.

Find out more: http://choiceproject.eu/category/actions-belarus/