



NACE Codes for Cultural Heritage activities

The current NACE Framework classifies cultural activities within Section "R – Arts, Entertainment and Recreation". This section encompasses heritage activities which are grouped in Division 91 and are identified as: "Libraries, archives, museums and other cultural activities", including "operation of historical sites and buildings and similar visitor attractions"¹.

Simply put: this classification is narrow and anachronistic. It does not reflect our current understanding of heritage which is comprehensively described in the Council of Europe's Faro Convention² and is the basis for subsequent European policies and recommendations.

Outcomes arising from the European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018³, clearly demonstrate that it is no longer tenable to identify heritage with fixed assets and places (libraries, museums and historical sites). Heritage is now recognised as a living entity shaped by socio-cultural values, beliefs and priorities, conceived at the personal, local, national and European level.

In order to have countable economic contribution and statistical results of conservation-restoration, it must be recognised in the NACE Codes. These data will also enhance visibility and relevance of the profession. But it is not only about conservation-restoration; we are proposing formal recognition of the entire heritage sector.

The proposed range of economic activities in heritage, within a restructured NACE, describe a range of actions (economic activities) aimed at a group of resources (heritage). These actions are united by the same purpose, namely; the caring and valuing of heritage for sustainable development, contributing to the quality of life in a constantly evolving society. Consequently, any economic activity in the realm of cultural heritage must necessarily be governed by cultural and humanistic values, guaranteeing the creation of new knowledge and the preservation of heritage for the benefit of society today and in the future.

¹ <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/3859598/5902521/KS-RA-07-015-EN.PDF>

² <https://rm.coe.int/CoERMPublicCommonSearchServices/DisplayDCTMContent?documentId=0900001680083746>

³ <https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regdoc/rep/1/2019/EN/COM-2019-548-F1-EN-MAIN-PART-1.PDF>

