

“Objects with a Voice: Small Stories, Great Heritage”

Athens, 7 October 2025

The experiential workshop **“Objects with a Voice: Small Stories, Great Heritage”** was successfully completed on **3–5 October 2025** at the **Society for the Environment and Cultural Heritage (ELLET)**, in Plaka, Athens.

Co-organized by the **Balkan Youth Cooperation (BYC)** and the **UNESCO Chair on Threats to Cultural Heritage at the Ionian University**, the event focused on highlighting women’s intangible cultural heritage through personal objects and stories that connect memory, female experience, and intergenerational continuity.

Over the course of three days, participants engaged in interactive workshops, storytelling exercises, and open discussions, combining theory, oral history, and experiential learning in a creative and inclusive environment.

Detailed Programme

Friday, 3 October 2025

The opening day began with welcoming remarks by **Theodora Vounidis**, Balkanologist, PhD (c), Youth Worker and Co-founder of Balkan Youth Cooperation.

An introductory lecture followed by **Athina Fatsea**, Doctoral Researcher at the **UNESCO Chair on Threats to Cultural Heritage** and Research Assistant at **ELIAMEP**, titled *“Objects as Carriers of Cultural Heritage.”*

A greeting address was also delivered by **Professor Stavros Katsios**, Director of the UNESCO Chair and Head of the **GeoLab – Laboratory for Geocultural Analyses** at the Ionian University.

The day concluded with an **informal discussion and guided tour of the premises of the Society for the Environment and Cultural Heritage (ELLET)**, offering participants the opportunity to exchange ideas and connect in an inspiring setting.

Saturday, 4 October 2025

The second day was dedicated to the **Oral History Workshop**, titled *“Collecting Voices: Oral History and the Power of Objects,”*

led by **Ania Kerneeva**, Balkanologist, PhD (c), adult educator and Co-founder of Balkan Youth Cooperation.

The workshop focused on the collection, documentation, and interpretation of stories through personal objects, highlighting the intergenerational transmission of memory and cultural experience. Participants worked in groups to apply oral history methods in practice and presented their findings at the end of the session.

Sunday, 5 October 2025

The final day featured the **Storytelling Seminar**, delivered by **Dr. Angeliki Kosmopoulou**, archaeologist, strategic storytelling and philanthropy consultant, and Founder of the NGO **StoryMentor**.

Through experiential exercises, participants developed their storytelling skills and explored new ways of connecting with their personal and cultural heritage. The event concluded with participants sharing their own stories in an atmosphere of emotion, reflection, and collective inspiration.

The initiative “**Objects with a Voice**” created a space for dialogue, connection, and shared memory, where personal stories became part of a broader cultural narrative and women’s voices stood at the heart of heritage storytelling.

The **Balkan Youth Cooperation** and the **UNESCO Chair on Threats to Cultural Heritage** warmly thank everyone who contributed to the success of the event.

Co-organized by: Balkan Youth Cooperation & UNESCO Chair on Threats to Cultural Heritage

Storytelling Seminar: StoryMentor

Media Sponsor: Association of International and European Affairs- ODETH/ ΟΔΕΘ

With the kind hospitality of: Society for the Environment and Cultural Heritage

With the support of: EU Youth Hub

Poster design: Christiana Dimitra Frouta