

COUNCIL OF EUROPE OFFICE IN VENICE

RESULTS IN 2025



The Council of Europe Office in Venice serves as a **vibrant bridge between citizens, culture, and democratic values**. Positioned in one of Europe's most symbolic cities, it promotes human rights, democracy, and the rule of law through cultural and heritage-based initiatives that make the Council of Europe's mission and visible tangible. In 2025, the Office played a central role in marking two milestones: the 75th anniversary of the European Convention of Human Rights and the 35th anniversary of the Venice Commission. Through exhibitions, concerts, and high-level events, **Venice became a stage for celebrating Europe's shared democratic legacy**.

BY THE NUMBERS: A PLATFORM FOR ACTION | AS OF JANUARY 2026



2 DEDICATED STAFF MEMBERS CO-ORDINATING HIGH-PROFILE AND PUBLIC-FACING INITIATIVES.

IMPACT OF COUNCIL OF EUROPE WORK THROUGH THE OFFICE IN VENICE

DEMOCRACY AND RULE OF LAW

Promoting understanding of constitutional practices. The exhibition "Democracy through law: from the Serenissima Republic to the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe" at Doge's Palace traced how Venice's constitutional history connects to the Council of Europe's modern legal standards. By early 2026, over 212 000 visitors are expected to have experienced the exhibition, which deepens public understanding of how the Venice Commission advances democracy and the rule of law.

Strengthening dialogue on multilateralism and democratic values. At the Venice International Geopolitical Festival, the Office gathered more than 300 participants to discuss human rights, multilateralism, and democratic resilience in a shifting global context. The event underscored the important role it has to reflect on Europe's democratic future.

CULTURE AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Empowering civil society through cultural participation. For the 2025 European Heritage Days, the Office co-ordinated over 90 citizen-led events across Italy, showing how local communities use cultural heritage to connect with human rights, inclusion, and democratic participation.

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EQUALITY AND INCLUSION

Advancing gender equality in cinema. In partnership with Eurimages and the Venice International Film Festival, the Office co-organised the annual seminar on gender equality and inclusion in the film industry. The event fostered dialogue among filmmakers and industry stakeholders on how to ensure equal opportunities and diverse representation across European cinema.

Celebrating linguistic and cultural diversity. On the European Day of Languages, the Office brought together over 200 students in Venice and Trevis for interactive events and a school contest with 23 participating classes. These activities promoted multilingualism and cultural diversity as pillar of European unity.

Preserving memory and combating intolerance. Marking Holocaust Remembrance Day, the Office mobilised more than 150 participants for educational and commemorative activities that encouraged reflection and vigilance against antisemitism and intolerance.

CULTURAL HERITAGE AND CO-OPERATION

Strengthening the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe. The Office supported the “Via Querinissima” in its preparations for certification under the Cultural Routes programme, connecting Venice’s maritime heritage with wider European cultural networks and promoting sustainable cultural tourism.