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PRESS RELEASE

EUROPE'S TOP HERITAGE AWARDS HONOUR 30 EXEMPLARY ACHIEVEMENTS FROM 18 COUNTRIES

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The European Commission and Europa Nostra have just announced the **2022 winners of the European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards**, funded by the EU Creative Europe programme. This year, which marks the 20th anniversary of Europe's most prestigious Awards in the heritage field, **30 outstanding heritage achievements from 18 European countries have been awarded** in five categories. These categories are in line with the latest developments and priorities related to heritage policy and practice in Europe.

The winners will be celebrated on **26 September** in **Prague** at the **European Heritage Awards Ceremony**, to be held at the recently restored State Opera and co-hosted by the European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, Mariya Gabriel, and Europa Nostra's Executive President, Prof. Dr. Hermann Parzinger.

Reacting to the announcement of the 2022 winners, the European Commissioner **Mariya Gabriel**, stated: *"I warmly congratulate all the winners of this year's European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards for the exceptional quality of their work and their openness to innovation. 2022 is a special year as we are celebrating the 20th anniversary of the EU Prize for Cultural Heritage, which has become the most prominent award for the European heritage community. Many of the awarded initiatives demonstrate the enormous interest and engagement of young people for our heritage, our history, and our cultural identity, which is particularly relevant in this European Year of Youth. A special thought goes to the two Ukrainian laureates. Creative Europe, which is co-funding the Awards, stands for promoting culture and creativity in building inclusive and cohesive societies founded on our core European values."*

Europa Nostra's Executive President, Prof. Dr. **Hermann Parzinger**, said: *"This year's Award winners are powerful examples of how our heritage reconnects us with nature, helps create a sense of belonging and place, and is an integral building block in developing a circular economy that supports a sustainable and inclusive way of life. I congratulate these exceptional winners - professionals and enthusiasts alike - for their essential and commendable work"*.

2022 Winners of the European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards¹

Conservation and Adaptive Reuse

[Aachen Battery, Atlantikwall Raversyde, West-Flanders, BELGIUM](#)

Aachen is the only German WWI coastal battery of which enough remains for visitors to grasp its structure. This gives the restoration and regeneration of the site great European significance and pedagogical value.

[Villa E-1027, Roquebrune-Cap-Martin, FRANCE](#)

Villa E-1027 was designed in the 1920s by the Irish architect and furniture designer Eileen Gray with the Romanian architect Jean Badovici. Its complete restoration, down to all interior objects and materials, including advanced systems to avoid corrosion, is exemplary for the future preservation of Modernist Architecture.

[Monument of Episkopi, Sikinos, GREECE](#)

This impressive Roman mausoleum was converted to a Byzantine church, meaning it has survived nearly intact. Meticulous research was combined with cautious conservation, resulting in a high-quality restoration project.

¹ The winners are listed alphabetically by country

[Atlungstad Distillery, Ottestad, NORWAY](#)

Established in 1855, this is the oldest Norwegian distillery still in use. Its rehabilitation included the reuse of the old factory machinery, restoring the building's industrial character and giving it new socio-cultural purposes.

[Convent of the Capuchos, Sintra, PORTUGAL](#)

Built in 1560, this monastic complex in the native forest of Sintra breathes spiritual devotion and asceticism. All buildings and their decorative features were restored, combining traditional techniques and innovative solutions.

[House of Religious Freedom, Cluj-Napoca, ROMANIA](#)

This 15th-century building is one of the oldest and most significant in Cluj-Napoca. After a decade-long restoration process, the townhouse was reopened as a cultural centre dedicated to the ideals of religious freedom and tolerance.

[Illa del Rei, Menorca, SPAIN](#)

The rehabilitation of Illa del Rei is the result of a fruitful collaboration between a foundation established by local volunteers, who turned the naval hospital built in 1711 into a museum, and a Swiss art gallery, which restored and sensitively repurposed the Langara outbuildings.

[St. Andrew's Church, Kyiv, UKRAINE](#)

This comprehensive and well documented restoration has returned a monument with significant cultural and spiritual value to the people of Ukraine. The church now functions as a museum and hosts church services, scientific and educational events and chamber music concerts.

Research

[Heritage Opportunities/threats within Mega-Events in Europe \(HOMEE\), CYPRUS / ITALY / POLAND / UNITED KINGDOM](#)

This project investigated the opportunities and challenges of organising mega-events in heritage cities and established an important quality framework for future events.

[SILKNOW, FRANCE / GERMANY / ITALY / POLAND / SLOVENIA / SPAIN](#)

This Horizon 2020 project produced a comprehensive intelligent computational system that goes beyond current technologies to improve our understanding and knowledge of Europe's silk heritage.

[Heritage Quest, THE NETHERLANDS](#)

This large-scale citizen science project in the field of archaeology has uncovered new archaeological objects and combined state-of-the-art technologies with the building of community.

[Safeguarding of Sicilian Puppet Theatre, ITALY](#)

This project proposes measures to safeguard, promote and sustainably manage the intangible heritage of Sicilian Puppet Theatre.

Education, Training and Skills

[Masters and Apprentices, FINLAND](#)

Younger and older generations are brought together on equal terms in this project, to collaborate on shared activities around cultural heritage - an exciting new model for the transmission of intangible heritage.

[International Course on Wood Conservation Technology, NORWAY](#)

The cross-disciplinary approach to this course allows professionals from different backgrounds and countries to further their education and expertise within the field of wooden heritage.

[TISH Jewish Food Festival, Warsaw, POLAND](#)

Through this celebration of Jewish food heritage, participants talk about their shared history, combat stereotypes and break down barriers through a series of culinary workshops and food tastings.

[Piscu School Museum and Workshop, ROMANIA](#)

Cultural heritage, contemporary art and ceramics come together to generate a cultural and educational hub in a former pottery factory. Summer schools, workshops and cultural events help transmit this fascinating heritage.

[Sewn Signs, ROMANIA](#)

This project helps pass on the skills and knowledge around the traditional Romanian shirt and makes a strong statement against the "fast fashion" industry.

[Symphony, SPAIN](#)

With an immersive audiovisual experience, Symphony raises greater awareness and appreciation for the heritage of classical music among new generations.

Citizens' Engagement and Awareness-raising

[Rivers of Sofia, BULGARIA](#)

By means of pop-up architectural interventions and cultural and educational events, this initiative made the artificial river beds of Sofia publicly accessible spaces - for the first time in 80 years - and increased their visibility.

[Return to the Sámi Homeland, FINLAND](#)

A thoughtful programme of public dialogue preceded the return of an important collection of Sámi cultural heritage from the National Museum of Finland to the Sámi Museum Siida and represents a very important example of the effective restitution of heritage.

[Swapmuseum, Apulia, ITALY](#)

Swapmuseum enables collaborations between museums and young people in the museums' daily practice to help refresh and enrich small, local cultural institutions.

[Va' Sentiero, ITALY](#)

A three-year grassroots expedition by a group of young enthusiasts who walked and documented the 8000 km of Sentiero Italia, the longest hiking route in the world. 3000 participants from 10 countries and many local communities took part.

["Lumbardhi Public Again" Project, Prizren, KOSOVO](#) ²

Lumbardhi Public Again is a successful initiative to save the historic Lumbardhi Cinema from privatisation and demolition. Their activities have reclaimed the cinema as a heritage site which has become a vibrant centre for cultural activities.

[Museum in the Village, PORTUGAL](#)

This cultural programme brings together museums, artists and communities to enjoy art and culture, learn about and revive local folklore and heritage and improve access to cultural activities in rural areas.

[PAX-Patios de la Axerquía, Córdoba, SPAIN](#)

This is an innovative system of governance for heritage buildings that fosters a new model of urban regeneration through social innovation in a heritage context, based on the rehabilitation of the abandoned patio-houses (*casa de vecinos*) of Córdoba.

[Wikipedra, SPAIN](#)

Wikipedra utilises citizens' science to develop a knowledge database that could save the dry-stone heritage of Spain and border regions from oblivion through a website and mobile app.

[World Vyshyvanka Day, UKRAINE](#)

What began as a small student mob is now an annual holiday celebrated internationally that helps preserve the iconic Ukrainian embroidered shirt (*vyshyvanka*) as an important element of the heritage of the Ukrainian people.

Heritage Champions

[Costa Carras †, Athens, GREECE](#) (*posthumously*)

For over 50 years, Costa Carras worked tirelessly in favour of Greece's and Europe's cultural and natural heritage to create a more sustainable, inclusive and beautiful world for future generations. He was a visionary conservationist, an eminent historian and a true European.

[La Paranza Cooperative, Naples, ITALY](#)

This cooperative of young friends has worked, since the early 2000s, to transform the catacombs of Naples into a vibrant attraction for visitors, also bringing about the tangible revitalisation of the Sanità neighbourhood.

[Elżbieta Szumska, Złoty Stok, POLAND](#)

With her tireless dedication, Elżbieta Szumska helped transform the former gold mine of Kopalnia Złota, located in the small town of Złoty Stok, into one of Poland's most well-known tourist attractions.

In addition, a **Europa Nostra Award** is presented to a remarkable heritage achievement from a European country not taking part in the EU Creative Europe programme:

² This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

[Kenan Yavuz Ethnography Museum, Bayburt, TURKEY](#) (Citizens' Engagement and Awareness-raising)

This museum aims to preserve and revive the tangible and intangible cultural heritage of Bayburt and Anatolia by providing interactive experiences to its visitors, designed in collaboration with the local community.

The Award winners were decided by the [Jury](#) composed of heritage experts from across Europe, upon evaluation by the independent [Selection Committees](#) of candidatures submitted by organisations and individuals from 36 European countries.

2022 European Heritage Awards Ceremony

The winners will be celebrated on **26 September** at the State Opera of **Prague** at the **European Heritage Awards Ceremony**, to be co-hosted by the European Commissioner for Culture and the Executive President of Europa Nostra. The **Grand Prix laureates** and the **Public Choice Award winner**, chosen from among this year's winning projects and entitled to receive €10,000 each, will be announced during the Ceremony. Between **mid-August and mid-September**, heritage supporters and enthusiasts are encouraged to [vote online](#) for the **Public Choice Award** and mobilise support for the winner(s) from their own or another European country.

The European Heritage Awards Ceremony will be a highlight of the **European Cultural Heritage Summit 2022** to be held on **25-27 September** in **Prague**. The Summit, which has been included in the programme of the Czech Presidency of the Council of European Union, is organised by Europa Nostra with the support of the European Commission.

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TO FIND OUT MORE

[Press release in various languages](#)

About each Award winner:

[Information and Jury's comments](#)

[Videos](#) (in high resolution)

[Photos & e-banners](#) (in high resolution)

[Creative Europe website](#)

[Commissioner Gabriel's website](#)

Background

The [European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards](#) were launched by the European Commission in 2002 and have been run by Europa Nostra ever since. The Awards scheme has the support of the [Creative Europe](#) programme of the European Union. For 20 years, the Awards have highlighted and disseminated heritage excellence and best practices, encouraged the cross-border exchange of knowledge and connected heritage stakeholders in wider networks. The Awards have brought major benefits to the winners, such as greater (inter)national exposure, follow-on funding and increased visitor numbers. In addition, the Awards have fostered a greater care for our shared heritage amongst Europe's citizens. The Awards have therefore been a key tool to promote the multiple values of cultural and natural heritage for Europe's society, economy and environment. For additional facts and figures about the Awards, please visit www.europeanheritageawards.eu/facts-figures.

[Europa Nostra](#) is the European voice of civil society committed to safeguarding and promoting cultural and natural heritage. It is a pan-European federation of heritage NGOs, supported by a wide network of public bodies, private companies and individuals, covering more than 40 countries. Founded in 1963, it is today recognised as the largest and the most representative heritage network in Europe, maintaining close relations with the European Union, the Council of Europe, UNESCO and other international bodies.

Europa Nostra campaigns to save Europe's endangered monuments, sites and landscapes, in particular through the [7 Most Endangered Programme](#). It celebrates excellence through the [European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards](#). Europa Nostra actively contributes to the definition and implementation of European strategies and policies related to heritage, through a participatory dialogue with European Institutions and the coordination of the [European Heritage Alliance](#).

Europa Nostra is among the official partners of the [New European Bauhaus](#) initiative developed by the European Commission, and is the Regional Co-Chair of the [Climate Heritage Network](#) for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States.

[Creative Europe](#) is the EU programme that supports the cultural and creative sectors, enabling them to increase their contribution to Europe's society, economy and living environment. With a budget of €2.4 billion for 2021-2027, it supports organisations in the fields of heritage, performing arts, fine arts, interdisciplinary arts, publishing, film, TV, music, and video games as well as tens of thousands of artists, cultural and audiovisual professionals.