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PRESS RELEASE

Winners of 2014 EU Prize for Cultural Heritage / Europa Nostra Awards announced

The Hague/Brussels, 20 March 2014 - The winners of the 2014 European Union Prize for Cultural Heritage / Europa Nostra Awards are unveiled today by the European Commission and Europa Nostra. The 27 laureates, selected from 160 nominated projects across 30 countries, are honoured for achievements in four areas: conservation; research; dedicated service; education, training and awareness-raising. The award ceremony will take place on 5 May at the Burgtheater in Vienna, under the patronage of the President of Austria, **Heinz Fischer**. **Androulla Vassiliou**, European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Multilingualism and Youth, and **Plácido Domingo**, the internationally-renowned opera singer and President of Europa Nostra, will jointly present the awards. Six of the winners will be named as Grand Prix laureates, receiving €10 000 each, and one will receive the Public Choice Award, chosen in an [online poll](#) conducted by Europa Nostra. As well as celebrating excellence in cultural heritage work, the Prize aims to promote high-quality skills and standards in conservation.

"I would like to warmly congratulate this year's winners and their teams, whose passion and dedication is so inspiring. Europe's heritage is one of our most precious assets. It builds bridges between the past and present, promotes growth, fosters social inclusion and attracts tourism. But many of these works of art and human ingenuity, which have conveyed beauty through the centuries, are increasingly fragile. Their survival depends on long-term investment in preservation and maintenance. I am delighted that our new Creative Europe programme will continue to support the Prize, as well as many other transnational initiatives, and that cultural heritage will continue to benefit from substantial EU funding from different sources including the regional funds and research," stated Commissioner Vassiliou.

"This year's achievements demonstrate that, even in challenging economic circumstances, heritage projects can mobilise talented and passionate people and rally support from public and private sources. Thanks to their skills, commitment and generosity, numerous historic sites have been revitalised and the lives of so many individuals have been embellished and enriched. I hope that our partnership with the European Commission will continue to grow in strength and impact, spreading even wider European excellence in the heritage field," added Plácido Domingo.

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TO FIND OUT MORE

About each winning project:
[information and jury's comments](#),
[high resolution photos](#) and [videos](#)

European Commission: [Culture](#)
[Androulla Vassiliou's website](#)
Twitter: [@VassiliouEU](#)

2014 Award Winners

(listed alphabetically by country)

Category 1 - Conservation

- [Horta Museum, Brussels, BELGIUM](#)
- [Home for Cooperation: Educational Centre in the Buffer Zone of Nicosia, CYPRUS](#)
- [Biblioteca Bardensis, Barth, GERMANY](#)
- [Basilica Palladiana, Vicenza, ITALY](#)
- [Teatro Sociale, Bergamo, ITALY](#)
- [Walser Houses: Preservation of Vernacular Architecture in Alagna Valsesia, ITALY](#)
- [Hovelsrud Villa, Helgøya Island, Nes på Hedmarken, NORWAY](#)
- [Historical Route of the Lines of Torres Vedras, Lisbon, PORTUGAL](#)
- [Dragomirna Church's 17th Century Frescoes, Suceava, ROMANIA](#)
- [Cooperative Wineries Programme, Catalonia, SPAIN](#)
- [Historical Landscape of El Sénia's Ancient Olive Trees, SPAIN](#)
- [Roman Bridge, Gate of the Bridge, Calahorra Tower and Surrounding Areas, Cordoba, SPAIN](#)
- [Abbotsford: The Home of Sir Walter Scott, Melrose, UNITED KINGDOM](#)

Category 2 - Research

- [Roman Vaulted Construction in the Peloponnese, GREECE](#)
- [Transylvanian Castle Gardens, Budapest, HUNGARY](#)
- [Van Dyck in Spain, Madrid, SPAIN](#)

Category 3 - Dedicated Service

- [Gustav Klimt Memorial Society, Vienna, AUSTRIA](#)
- [Kempens Landscape Association, Putte, BELGIUM](#)
- [Iubilantes Association, Como, ITALY](#)

Category 4 - Education, Training and Awareness-Raising

- [Cultural Heritage without Borders' Regional Restoration Camps, Tirana, ALBANIA](#)
- [Passage: From a Rusty City to a New Miskolc, HUNGARY](#)
- [The Coen Case, Hoorn, THE NETHERLANDS](#)
- ['Encounters with Heritage' Radio Programme, Lisbon, PORTUGAL](#)
- [Shaping 24: Promoting Heritage in Norwich and Ghent, UNITED KINGDOM and BELGIUM](#)

A Europa Nostra Award is also presented to projects from two European countries not taking part in the EU Culture Programme (2007-13):

- [Conservation - Agate Rooms in Pushkin, St. Petersburg, RUSSIA](#)
- [Conservation - Belle Époque Steamers on Lake Geneva, Lausanne, SWITZERLAND](#)
- [Research - Church Architecture of the 7th Century in South Caucasus, Moscow, RUSSIA](#)

Cultural Heritage without Borders' Regional Restoration Camps

CHWB (Cultural Heritage without Borders) Regional Restoration Camps are part of a Balkans-wide push to encourage people to value and care for their local heritage. They represent a simple and successful training model which has grown, over the past seven years, from a few students in Albania to multiple sessions in four countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo and Serbia) with participants from a further eighteen countries. The aims are to use cultural heritage to build relations among young professionals, creating conditions for reconciliation as a prerequisite for peace and democracy, as well as to preserve traditional crafts and techniques.

Over the course of two weeks, participants follow a rigorous but fulfilling schedule, combining theory – through lectures and presentations from conservators and academics – with hands-on restoration work on historic monuments. Each such intervention directly helps local residents by repairing their valuable buildings with the use of traditional materials and techniques and providing new ways of understanding and revitalizing them: substantial benefits to both community and the environment.

“The Jury especially admired the sustained success of this project in providing practical training for young professionals and inter-regional networking opportunities. This success has been proven: since 2007, 370 participants from 19 countries have taken part in a succession of intensive, well-organised two-week camps in the Balkan region. The jury appreciated the involvement of master craftspeople and academic teachers from local and international institutions in providing this valuable learning environment.”

Background

This year's winners of the EU Prize for Cultural Heritage / Europa Nostra Awards join the 360 laureates recognised by the European Commission and Europa Nostra since 2002. [Specialist juries made up of independent experts](#) from across Europe assess the nominated projects in four categories: conservation; research; dedicated service; education, training and awareness-raising. All the winners receive a plaque or trophy. The six Grand Prix winners also receive €10 000 each.

The awards have been supported by the [EU Culture Programme](#), which invested almost €40 million in co-financing heritage-related projects between 2007 and 2013. Other EU programmes have also provided support: in the same period, the European Regional Development Fund allocated €6 billion for the protection and preservation of cultural heritage, development of cultural infrastructure and support for cultural services such as vocational training, arts and heritage education. The EU Programmes for Research and Technological Development have provided a further €150 million for cultural heritage since 1998.

The new [Creative Europe](#) programme, which has a budget of nearly €1.5 billion over the next seven years (9% more than previous levels), will continue to support transnational cooperation projects in the heritage field.

As well as its intrinsic value, cultural heritage brings a significant contribution to job creation and growth. Spending on conservation of cultural heritage by public and private bodies is worth an estimated €5 billion a year. [Figures](#) published by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) show that 40% of worldwide tourism has a cultural dimension. Cultural heritage is also a key resource for sustainable development and social cohesion.

[Europa Nostra](#) - the Voice of Cultural Heritage in Europe - is a growing citizens' movement for the safeguarding of Europe's cultural and natural heritage. With its vast pan-European network of members (organisations and individuals), associates and partners, Europa Nostra is a highly influential lobby for cultural heritage. It also campaigns to save Europe's endangered monuments, sites and landscapes. In 2013, Europa Nostra celebrated its 50th anniversary.

The 2014 award ceremony in Vienna is part of Europa Nostra's annual [European Heritage Congress](#), which will be held under the patronage of the President of Austria, Heinz Fischer. The European Commission, its Representation in Austria, the Austrian Federal Ministry for the Arts and Culture, Stiftung Fürst Liechtenstein, the Erste Stiftung, and Austrian national public broadcaster ORF are among the partners of the 2014 Congress.