



## PRESS RELEASE

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### EU Prize for Cultural Heritage / Europa Nostra Awards 2018: 29 winners from 17 countries announced

**Brussels / The Hague, 15 May 2018** – The winners of the 2018 EU Prize for Cultural Heritage / Europa Nostra Awards, Europe's top honour in the field, were announced today by the European Commission and Europa Nostra, the leading European heritage network. The 29 laureates from 17 countries have been recognised for their impressive accomplishments in conservation, research, dedicated service, and education, training and awareness-raising. As a contribution to the European Year of Cultural Heritage, this year's Awards put special emphasis on the European added value of the selected heritage achievements. The winners will be honoured at a high-profile Award ceremony on 22 June in Berlin, during the first ever European Cultural Heritage Summit.

Citizens from around Europe and the rest of the world can now [vote online](#) for the Public Choice Award and mobilise support for the winning achievement(s) from their own or another European country.

Among the outstanding European heritage "success stories" awarded in 2018 are: the rehabilitation of a Byzantine church in Greece, with its unique series of frescoes dating from the 8th - 9th century, made possible thanks to a fruitful cooperation between Greek and Swiss organisations; the development of a new method to conserve the heritage of Europe's historic houses, the result of a joint venture between five institutions based in France, Italy and Poland; the dedication of an international network of NGOs committed to the protection of Venice for over 30 years; and the establishment of a public educational programme that gives all children and young people in Finland the chance to engage with their cultural heritage and which can serve as inspiration for similar initiatives across Europe.

*"I warmly congratulate this year's "heritage champions" who have been selected as winners of the EU Prize for Cultural Heritage / Europa Nostra Awards. We are deeply impressed by the exceptional skills, creativity, commitment and generosity of so many heritage professionals, volunteers and supporters from all over Europe. They deserve every praise and further support. Our Award winners are living proof that our cultural heritage is far more than the memory of our past; it is key to understanding our present and a resource for our future. We must therefore use the European Year of Cultural Heritage to recognise the value of our shared cultural heritage for the future of Europe!"* stated **Plácido Domingo**, the renowned opera singer and President of Europa Nostra.

*"Cultural heritage in all its different forms is one of Europe's most precious assets. It builds bridges between people and communities as well as between the past and the future. It is central to our identity as Europeans and also has a vital role in driving social and economic development. I congratulate the winners of the 2018 EU Prize for Cultural Heritage / Europa Nostra Awards and their teams for their exceptional and innovative work. Thanks to their talent and commitment, numerous European cultural heritage treasures have been safeguarded and revitalised. And importantly, their work enables people from all backgrounds to discover, explore and engage with our rich cultural heritage, fully in the spirit of the European Year of Cultural Heritage that we are celebrating in 2018,"* said **Tibor Navracsics**, European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport.

Independent [Juries](#) of experts examined a total of 160 applications, submitted by organisations and individuals from 31 countries across Europe, and selected the winners.

The winners will be celebrated at the [European Heritage Awards Ceremony](#), co-hosted by European Commissioner **Tibor Navracsics** and Maestro **Plácido Domingo**, on the evening of 22 June at the Berlin Congress Centre. Seven Grand Prix laureates (each of whom will receive €10,000) and the Public Choice Award winner, chosen from among this year's winning projects, will be announced during the Ceremony.

The European Heritage Awards Ceremony will be honoured by the participation of **Dr. Frank-Walter Steinmeier**, President of the Federal Republic of Germany, in his capacity as the Patron of the European Year of Cultural Heritage in Germany. The Ceremony will be attended by 1,000 people, ranging from high-level officials from EU Institutions and Member States to leading representatives of heritage organisations from all over Europe.

The winners will present their heritage accomplishments at the [Excellence Fair](#) on 21 June at the Allianz Forum. They will also contribute to various other events of the [European Cultural Heritage Summit](#) "Sharing Heritage - Sharing Values" from 18-24 June in Berlin. Co-hosted by Europa Nostra, the German Cultural Heritage Committee (DNK) and the Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation (SPK), the Summit aims to promote an ambitious European Agenda and Action Plan for Cultural Heritage as a lasting legacy of the European Year of Cultural Heritage.

## CONTACTS

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## TO FIND OUT MORE

### About each winning project:

[Information and jury's comments](#),  
[Photos](#) and [Videos](#) (in high resolution)

[Press Release in various languages](#)

[Creative Europe website](#)

## 2018 Award Winners

*(listed alphabetically by country)*

### Category Conservation

St. Wenceslas Rotunda, Prague, CZECH REPUBLIC  
Poul Egede's Mission House, Ilimanaq, Greenland, DENMARK  
Dr. Barner's Sanatorium, Braunlage/Harz, GERMANY  
The Winzerberg: Royal Vineyard at Potsdam-Sanssouci, GERMANY  
Byzantine Church of Hagia Kyriaki, Naxos, GREECE  
Collaborative Conservation of the Basilica at St. Catherine's Monastery, Sinai, EGYPT-GREECE-ITALY  
The Botanical Garden of the National Palace of Queluz, Sintra, PORTUGAL  
The Pavilion of Prince Miloš at the Bukovička Spa, Arandjelovac, SERBIA  
The Bač Fortress, Bač, SERBIA  
Façade of San Ildefonso College, Alcalá de Henares, SPAIN  
Sorolla's Sketches of Spain, Valencia, SPAIN

### Category Research

EPICO: European Protocol in Preventive Conservation, coordinated in Versailles, FRANCE  
Textile from Georgia, Tbilisi, GEORGIA  
CultLab3D: Automated Scanning Technology for 3D Digitisation, Darmstadt, GERMANY  
Research and Cataloguing of the State Art Collection, Belgrade, SERBIA

### Category Dedicated Service

The Wonders of Bulgaria Campaigners, BULGARIA  
Mr. Stéphane Bern, FRANCE  
Association of the International Private Committees for the Safeguarding of Venice, ITALY  
The Hendrick de Keyser Association, THE NETHERLANDS  
Mrs. Tone Sinding Steinsvik, NORWAY  
Private Water Owners of Argual and Tzacorte, Canary Islands, SPAIN

### Category Education, Training and Awareness-Raising

Ief Postino: Belgium and Italy Connected by Letters, BELGIUM  
Culture Leap: Educational Programme, FINLAND  
National Institute of Cultural Heritage: Educational and Training Programme for Conservators, FRANCE  
The Alka of Sinj Museum, CROATIA  
The Rising from Destruction Campaign, coordinated in Rome, ITALY  
Open Monuments, ITALY  
GeoCraftNL: Minecraft Heritage Project by GeoFort, THE NETHERLANDS  
Plečnik House, SLOVENIA

A Europa Nostra Award is also presented to a remarkable heritage achievement from a European country not taking part in the EU Creative Europe programme.

### **Category Conservation**

Zografyon Greek School, Istanbul, TURKEY

## **Background**

### **EU Prize for Cultural Heritage / Europa Nostra Awards**

The [European Union Prize for Cultural Heritage / Europa Nostra Awards](#) was launched by the European Commission in 2002 and has been run by Europa Nostra since then. It celebrates and promotes best practices related to heritage conservation, research, management, voluntarism, education and communication. In this way, it contributes to a stronger public recognition of cultural heritage as a strategic resource for Europe's economy and society. The Prize is supported by the **Creative Europe** programme of the European Union.

In the past 16 years, organisations and individuals from **39 countries** have submitted a total of **2,883 applications** for the Awards. Concerning the number of entries by **country**, **Spain** is first in the ranking, with 516 projects, followed by **Italy**, with 296 entries, and the **United Kingdom**, with 289 applications. With regard to the **categories**, Conservation has had the most submissions (1,677). Next comes Education, Training and Awareness-Raising (505), then Research (362), and, finally, Dedicated Service to Heritage (339).

Since 2002, independent expert juries have selected **485 award-winning projects** from **34 countries**. In line with the number of entries, **Spain** tops the list with 64 awards received. The **United Kingdom** is in second place (60 awards) and **Italy** comes third (41 awards). Regarding the **categories**, Conservation has the most winners (279) followed by Dedicated Service to Heritage and Education, Training and Awareness-Raising (73 each), and, lastly, Research (60).

A total of **102 Grand Prix** of €10,000 have been presented to outstanding heritage initiatives, selected from among the award-winning projects.

The EU Prize for Cultural Heritage / Europa Nostra Awards has further strengthened the capacity of the heritage sector in Europe by highlighting best practices, encouraging the cross-border exchange of knowledge and connecting various stakeholders in wider networks. It has also brought major benefits to the winners, such as greater (inter)national exposure, follow-on funding and increased visitor numbers. In addition, it has raised awareness of our shared heritage amongst the general public while highlighting its intrinsic European character. The Prize is therefore a key tool to promote Europe's heritage.

## **Europa Nostra**

[Europa Nostra](#) is the pan-European federation of heritage NGO's which is also supported by a wide network of public bodies, private companies and individuals. Covering more than 40 countries in Europe, the organisation is the voice of civil society committed to safeguarding and promoting Europe's cultural and natural heritage. Founded in 1963, it is today recognised as the most representative heritage network in Europe. Plácido Domingo, the world-renowned opera singer, is the President of the organisation.

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 EU Prize for Cultural Heritage / Europa Nostra Awards. It also contributes to the formulation and implementation of European strategies and policies related to heritage, through a structured dialogue with European Institutions and the coordination of the European Heritage Alliance 3.3. Europa Nostra has strongly promoted and is actively contributing to the [European Year of Cultural Heritage](#) 2018.

## **Creative Europe**

[Creative Europe](#) is the EU programme that supports the cultural and creative sectors, enabling them to increase their contribution to jobs and growth. With a budget of €1.46 billion for 2014-2020, 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. The funding allows them to operate across Europe, to reach new audiences and to develop the skills required in the digital age.