EU Prize for Cultural Heritage / Europa Nostra Award 2018
for Botanical Garden of the National Palace of Queluz

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. The rehabilitation of the Botanical Garden of the National Palace of Queluz is among this year’s winners. 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.

CONTACTOS DE IMPRENSA

Europa Nostra
Joana Pinheiro, jp@europanostra.org
T. +31 70 302 40 55; M. +31 6 34 36 59 85

Comissão Europeia
Nathalie Vandystadt
nathalie.vandystadt@ec.europa.eu, +32 2 2967083

Centro Nacional de Cultura
Representação da Europa Nostra em Portugal
Teresa Tamen, ttamen@cnc.pt, +351 21 346 67 22

Botanical Garden of the National Palace of Queluz
Manuel Baptista, manuel.baptista@parquesdesintra.pt
T. 00351219237300; M. 00351925417052

PARA SABER MAIS
Sobre cada projeto vencedor:
informação e comentários dos júris,
fotografias e videos (em alta resolução)

Creative Europe website

www.cnc.pt

www.parquesdesintra.pt

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
Mosaics 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 Tazacorte, Canary Islands, SPAIN

Category Education, Training and Awareness-Raising
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**

The Botanical Garden of the National Palace of Queluz

The Botanical Garden of the National Palace of Queluz, built in around 1770, was destroyed by catastrophic flooding in 1984. In 2012, work began on a research project studying the feasibility of the informed reconstruction of the garden based upon the documentation available and the identification of the ornamental and constructed features displaced during the flooding along with the restoration of the other remnants. The botanical collection was established with support from Botanic Gardens Conservation International and involved various European partners. The restoration was entirely self-financed by Parques de Sintra through recourse to funding obtained exclusively from that generated by the welcoming of visitors and ticket sales.

«This project was highly successful in rediscovering and recovering a garden otherwise thought lost. To this end, recourse was made to archaeological research, analysis of the remaining garden fragments and of the existing documentation», the jury noted.

The archaeological excavation to obtain further information took place prior to beginning with the restoration of each aspect of the garden, which enabled the conservation team to make informed choices in terms of the landscape design and architecture. The works included the reconstruction of four greenhouses and the restoration and conservation of the painted tiles and other stonemasonry features, such as the ornamental fountain and its surrounding statues. These pieces were returned to their original places in the garden. The process of restoration included working on the walls, the pavements and the introducing of new power supply, water management and security systems. Work also extended to producing an educational and interpretative project.

«The project is an excellent example of interdisciplinary collaboration that also involved the local community. The dissemination of results was strong and enabled the conclusion of the project. This shall create greater awareness as regards the results and guarantee their sustainability», the jury highlighted.

Queluz hosted one of the four botanical gardens built in Portugal in the 18th century, with connections to some of the longest established botanical gardens in Europe during the Enlightenment period, such as Padua (Italy), Madrid (Spain) and Amsterdam (Holland). The discovery of the index of the species originally cultivated in 1789, a list of all the plants known to the botanists of that period, completed the research and drove the researchers to enter into contact with botanical gardens across Europe in order to source plants from their seed banks and plant collections.

The meticulous studies and research of the archaeological features and the recovery of the remains, the detailed examination of the existing structures and the absolute respect for the original layout turn the reconstruction of the Botanical Garden of the National Palace of Queluz into a European case study for the methodology applied to the rebuilding of a historical garden in the wake of a natural disaster.

**Background information**

**European Union Cultural Heritage Prize / Europa Nostra Awards**

The European Union Prize for Cultural Heritage / Europa Nostra Awards was launched by the European Commission in 2002 and organised by Europa Nostra ever since. This range of Awards celebrates and fosters the best practices in conservation, research, management, volunteering, education and communication in the field of heritage. Hence, this has contributed towards the growing public recognition of cultural heritage as a strategic resource to the European economy and its societies. These Awards receive support from the European Union Creative Europe Programme.

In the last 16 years, organisations and individuals from 39 states have presented a total of 2,883 applications to the Awards. In relation to the number of candidacies per country, Spain leads the way on 516 projects, followed by Italy with 296 candidates and the United Kingdom on 289 applications.

Since 2002, juries made up of independent experts have selected 485 award winning projects from 34 countries. In keeping with the number of candidates, Spain leads this list with 64 awards received. The United Kingdom ranks second on the list on 60 awards trailed by Italy on 41 awards.
A total of **102 Grand Awards**, with each receiving a prize of €10,000, were delivered to the very best projects selected from among the winners.

**Europa Nostra**

*Europa Nostra* is a pan-European federation of non-governmental heritage focused organisations receiving support from a broad network of public entities, private companies and individuals. Spanning 40 countries in Europe, this is the voice of civil society committed to safeguarding and promoting the cultural and natural heritage of Europe. Founded in 1963, Europa Nostra is today recognised as the most representative heritage organisation in Europe. **Plácido Domingo**, the globally renowned opera singer, is its current president. Europa Nostra acts to save Europe’s most threatened monuments, sites and landscapes in particular through the programme ‘The 7 most threatened’; celebrates excellence through the European Union Cultural Heritage Prize / Europa Nostra Awards; and contributes to the formulation and implementation of European policies and strategies for the heritage field through structured dialogue with the EU institutions and the coordination of the Alliance for European Heritage 3.3. Europa Nostra has strongly promoted and is actively contributing to the [European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018](https://europa.eu/efayeh2018).

**Creative Europe**

*Creative Europe* is the European Union support programme for the cultural and creative sectors, empowering them in order to boost their contribution towards employment and growth. With a budget of €1.46 billion for the 2014-2020 timeframe, the programme supports organisations that act in the fields of heritage, the scenic arts, cinema, music and television, among others, as well as dozens of thousands of artists and cultural and audiovisual professionals.