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European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards 2022

Call for Entries

The European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards aim to identify, recognise and champion best practices in the conservation of cultural heritage and as well as innovative developments and knowledge in the care and promotion of tangible and intangible cultural heritage. Through the power of example, the scheme enables the exchange and transfer of experiences and skills across borders and between communities in Europe and beyond. It increases the visibility and understanding of the multiple values of cultural heritage for Europe's society, economy, environment and culture.

The Awards were launched in 2002 by the European Commission and are supported by the Creative Europe Programme.¹ Since its launch, Europa Nostra, the European Voice of Civil Society Committed to Cultural Heritage, has been responsible for running this awards scheme.

As of 2022, on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of this fruitful partnership, the categories of entry and the selection procedure have been revised in line with the latest developments related to heritage policy and practice in Europe.

The **renewed five awards categories**² are:

- Conservation & Adaptive Reuse
- Research
- Education, Training & Skills
- Citizens Engagement & Awareness-raising
- Heritage Champions

Entries can be related to tangible, intangible or digital heritage. The scope of the entries can be ranging from small to large, from local to European and international.

The European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards will honour up to 30 outstanding heritage achievements, among which **up to five Grand Prix** will be awarded within thematic areas that are transversal to the five awards categories.

¹ The continuation of the partnership with the European Commission for the next three years is subject to a positive EC decision by November 2021, following the direct invitation to submit a project proposal for : "EAC/S14/2021 - Organisation and implementation of the annual EU prize for cultural heritage: European Heritage Awards Awards (Editions 2022, 2023 and 2024)".

² Definitions of these categories can be found on page 4 of this document, together with information on the eligibility and selection criteria.

The following are the **thematic areas of the Grand Prix for the 2022 edition**:

- Innovation
- Digital Transformation
- Sustainability & Climate Action
- Social Cohesion & Well Being
- International Relations

Each winner of a Grand Prix will receive a monetary award of €10.000.

In addition, the **Public Choice Award** will be presented to one of the selected award winners, following an **online vote** conducted via the Europa Nostra website.

All entries must be submitted online via europeanheritageawards.eu

The deadline for submissions is **1 February 2022**.

For more information: Elena Bianchi, Heritage Awards Coordinator, eb@europanostra.org

Conditions of Entry

Eligible countries

Entries for the European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards may only be submitted from countries participating in the Creative Europe Programme³, i.e. the 27 EU Member States, the 3 EEA-countries Liechtenstein, Norway and Iceland and other third countries that have signed an Association Agreement with the EU. The following is the list of countries eligible for the European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards: Albania*, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia*, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kosovo*⁴, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro*, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of North Macedonia*, Romania, Serbia*, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Tunisia**, Ukraine*.

Entries submitted by countries that are members of the Council of Europe but are not participating in the Creative Europe Programme are only eligible for the **Europa Nostra Awards**. These countries are Andorra, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Holy See, Moldova, Monaco, Russian Federation, San Marino, Switzerland, Turkey, and the United Kingdom.

N.B.: Entries to the European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards and the Europa Nostra Awards apply through the same entry procedure and are evaluated together through the same process. However, only winners of the European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards coming from countries participating in the Creative Europe programme are also eligible to win a Grand Prix, with a monetary award of €10.000.

Types of heritage covered by all five award categories

- **Tangible heritage:** archaeological sites (including underwater archaeology); architectural heritage (single buildings or groups of buildings in a rural or urban setting), including religious, industrial and engineering heritage; building additions or alterations, or new building projects of any type (cultural, residential, religious, industrial or engineering) within historic areas in urban and rural settings; cultural landscapes, including historic urban environments or townscapes, city or town squares and streetscapes, historic parks and gardens, larger areas of designed landscape or of cultural, environmental and/or agricultural significance; and movable heritage (collections or single works of art or objects of historic significance).

³https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/crea/guidance/list-3rd-country-participation_crea_en.pdf

⁴ 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.

* Entries from countries marked with one asterisk are eligible for the European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards, dependent on their signing of the association agreement to the Creative Europe programme in 2021. In case those countries do not sign the Creative Europe programme by the announcement of the winners in September 2022, they will be eligible instead for the Europa Nostra Awards.

** Entries from Tunisia will be eligible for the European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards, dependent on their signing of the association agreement to the Creative Europe programme. In case Tunisia does not sign the association agreement by 1 February 2022, they will be ineligible for the European Heritage Awards and the Europa Nostra Awards.

- **Intangible heritage**, including traditions, cultural and social practices and knowledge and skills related to traditional crafts⁵.
- **Digital heritage**: born-digitally or converted into digital form from existing analogue resources.

Awards categories & conditions for submitting an entry

1. Conservation & Adaptive Reuse

Outstanding projects aiming at the conservation, regeneration and adaptation to new uses of cultural heritage, including cultural landscapes.

- Must have been completed during the past three years (within the period between January 2019 and January 2022).
- Must adhere to the most up-to-date principles and standards of heritage conservation. (identification and respect of heritage values, materials, legibility, compatibility and reversibility).
- Should be accessible to the public.
Buildings or sites that are regularly used by large numbers of people, for instance schools or office premises, are considered accessible. Private buildings or sites that are regularly open to visitors, at least once a year, are also considered accessible.

2. Research

Innovative research projects which lead to tangible effects for the safeguard and enhancement of cultural heritage and/or to improve the access, enjoyment and understanding of heritage assets by communities.

- Must have been completed during the past three years (within the period between January 2019 and January 2022).
- Should entail one or more of the following types of activity:
 - Research study
 - Scientific publication on the results of research
 - Applied research
 - Pilot projects
 - New/innovative methodologies, techniques, models or tools that lead to new knowledge about a given cultural heritage site/ asset or with regard to the safeguard and/or the enhancement of cultural heritage.
- Should be innovative in nature with a clear methodology and scientific approach that are reproducible.
- Should clearly present qualitative and quantitative results that generated an improvement for heritage sites/assets, as well as for their users and stakeholders in the given context.

⁵ Intangible cultural heritage, as defined by UNESCO, refers to practices, representations, expressions, knowledge and skills – as well as the instruments, objects, artefacts and cultural spaces associated therewith – that communities, groups and, in some cases, individuals recognise as part of their cultural heritage (*inter alia* oral traditions and expressions, performing arts, social practices, rituals and festive events, knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe and traditional craftsmanship). Source: [UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage](#)

3. Education, Training & Skills

Exemplary projects or initiatives related to cultural heritage with the aim of fostering knowledge transfer, capacity-building and/or enhancing traditional or new skills and crafts related to heritage.

- a) Must have been completed during the past three years (within the period between January 2019 and January 2022), or should be ongoing and at an advanced stage in order to have led to tangible results (quantitative and qualitative) that have generated an improvement for heritage sites/assets, as well as for their users and stakeholders in the given context.
- b) Should be interactive and participatory and lead to the engagement and empowerment of the participants.
- c) Should reach beyond the standard educational or academic framework.

4. Citizens Engagement & Awareness-raising

Outstanding heritage-led projects which foster social cohesion, inclusion, multicultural dialogue and understanding, nurture a sense of place and belonging, celebrate diversity and multiple identities as well as stimulate citizens' engagement, ownership and civic responsibility.

- a) Must have been completed during the past three years (within the period between January 2019 and January 2022), or should be ongoing and at an advanced stage in order to have led to tangible results (quantitative and qualitative) that have generated an improvement for heritage sites/assets, as well as for their users and stakeholders in the given context.
- b) Should be interactive and participatory and lead to the engagement and empowerment of the participants.

5. Heritage Champions

Influential and inspiring individuals or organisations whose exemplary action demonstrates an exceptional level of dedication, impact and civic engagement for the safeguard and enhancement of cultural heritage.

1. Candidates must be nominated by another individual or organisation.
2. The nominee(s) can be an individual, organisation or group of people.
3. The achievement in question may be remunerated or non-remunerated/voluntary.
4. The nominee(s) must demonstrate a high degree of commitment, coupled with excellence in the protection, conservation and enhancement of cultural heritage in Europe.
5. The achievement must have far exceeded normal expectations from heritage professionals or volunteers in the given context.
6. The results achieved by the nominees must have generated an improvement for heritage sites/assets, or for their users and stakeholders in the given context.

Entry procedure for all awards categories

- The project/entry may be submitted in one category only. In case of hesitations about the most suitable category, please contact awards@europanostra.org or +31 70 302 40 52.
- Entries may be submitted by individual(s) or organisation(s) who are entitled to represent the initiative, as long as they have included the consent from the owner of the related heritage site or collection (for category Conservation), from the author or owner of the

project (for categories Research, Education, Training & Skills and Citizens Engagement & Awareness-raising), or from the nominee (for category Heritage Champions).

- Entries may be re-submitted once, with the necessary adapted text of the entry dossier and/or with additional documentation.
- Incomplete entries will not be considered.
- Entries must be submitted in English.
- By submitting an entry, the entrant agrees to the processing and sharing of data in accordance with Europa Nostra's [Privacy Policy](#)
- Receipt of an entry dossier will be acknowledged by an automatic system.

Overarching Selection Criteria

The following are the overarching qualitative criteria for the selection of submitted entries in all award categories.

1. Quality

The selected entries should represent the highest quality of best practice in the heritage sector and be fully in line with professional European and International standards, among which the [Faro Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society](#), adopted under the auspices of the Council of Europe, the [European quality principles for EU-funded interventions](#) prepared by ICOMOS, the [Davos Baukultur Quality Principles](#) and the principles of the [New European Bauhaus](#).

2. European significance

The selected entries should contribute to developing a sense of belonging to a European community and shape a common European identity; exemplify how cultural heritage is a driver for international cooperation; have significance and relevance for Europe's integration and social cohesion; and/or be exemplary of European shared values. This includes embracing the value of "unity in diversity" in Europe as well as championing the value of peace and mutual trust and understanding between culture and communities.

3. Community engagement

The selected entries should demonstrate interaction of the community with the heritage, the urban or landscape context and its contribution to the improvement of this context. The selected entries should demonstrate how heritage relies on communities for giving meaning and preserving the notion of authenticity - this is especially relevant in terms of sustainable tourism and residents' well-being. Community engagement also entails providing access to heritage (including marginalised areas of heritage) and activities which promote social inclusion in heritage (for instance, the active engagement of communities of people or members of society who are not usually engaged in heritage activities).

4. Results/impact

The selected entries should demonstrate that they have achieved outstanding qualitative and quantitative results within the available resources. The results achieved must have generated an improvement for heritage sites/assets, as well as for their users and other stakeholders in the given context.

5. Knowledge transfer and dissemination

The selected entries should demonstrate that knowledge about heritage has been enlarged and/or deepened and subsequently shared and disseminated. The selected entries should be exemplary in nature and transferable or applicable to different contexts, based on clear documentation and communication of the methodology and principles

Criteria for the Selection of the Grand Prix Winners

The Grand Prix are awarded not per category but per transversal theme and according to the list of criteria indicated below:

Innovation

An outstanding achievement which implements new ideas, knowledge or methods and generates an improvement for heritage, its users and stakeholders in the current or previous context, also in terms of well-being.

- It is highly innovative (innovation being conceived in one or more different areas, such as cultural, political, economic, social, technological, legal and/or environmental area).
- It is feasible to implement in other locations and has high potential for transferability.
- It is a result of interdisciplinary collaboration.

Digital Transformation

An outstanding achievement which uses digital technology to deliver value to users, audiences and communities and/or contributes to the transformation of the heritage sector powered by digital means.

- It makes heritage accessible through the digitalisation or digitisation of heritage collections or tools.
- It is innovative and creates solutions for contemporary issues facing cultural heritage with the help of digital technologies (these tools can be newly created or newly applied to heritage settings/assets).
- It is interdisciplinary in nature.
- It has high potential for transferability.

Sustainability & Climate Action

An outstanding achievement which demonstrates the capacities of cultural heritage to assess and/or mitigate the effects of climate change and to contribute to key areas of the European Green Deal, including Clean Energy, Circular Economy, Renovation Wave, Smart Mobility, Farm to Fork, Green Finance and a Just Transition, Research and Innovation, Education and Training, as well as Green Deal Diplomacy.

- It is innovative and creates solutions for problems and challenges caused by the climate crisis.
- It raises awareness and addresses the multiple effects of the climate crisis and empowers communities most affected by the climate crisis.

- It is interdisciplinary in nature.
- It demonstrates the special relevance of heritage to climate action.
- It is replicable and exhibits high potential for transferability.

Social Cohesion & Well-being

An outstanding achievement which shows the relevance of heritage for the positive integration and exchange between different age groups or communities as well as the significance of heritage to the health (physical and mental) and well-being of individuals and their communities.

- Activities that include and empower marginalised or underrepresented people in heritage activities and/or activities that are created and led by marginalised or underrepresented people in heritage activities
- Activities that contribute to the improvement of individual and collective well-being and quality of life, including in terms of physical and mental health, happiness and life satisfaction, allowing individuals and their communities to realise their full potential and engage in society to their fullest capacity.

International Relations

An outstanding achievement which builds relations and cooperation between countries and/or communities through, among others, sharing expertise, capacity building, joining resources or community engagement activities.

- It uncovers, demonstrates and promotes the shared cultural heritage-related knowledge and values of two or more countries and/or communities.
- The project generates an improvement for heritage, its users and stakeholders in the present or past context (that may include one or more among the cultural, political, economic, social, technological, legal, environmental dimensions or axes).
- It fosters international cultural relations, peace and trust building, reconciliation and better mutual respect and understanding across nations and communities.

The Selection Process

1. Preliminary screening of the entries against the eligibility criteria by the staff of Europa Nostra

2. Examination of the eligible entries and selection of a shortlist of up to 60 projects by the five Selection Committees

Five Selection Committees (one for each category) will thoroughly examine, evaluate and discuss all eligible submitted dossiers in a series of online and/or in-person meetings and will shortlist up to 60 projects across the categories, in proportion to the number of entries per category.

3. Assessment of up to 60 shortlisted projects in situ by local experts with written reports.

After visiting the site/project (if conditions allow) or interviewing the applicant/nominated individual or organisation via a video call or a phone call, the assessors will submit a written report in accordance with the assessment guidelines and a standard report form provided by Europa Nostra. These reports have an advisory value and will be made available to the Jury/Board of Europa Nostra prior to and

during their meeting to select the Award and Grand Prix Winners. The assessment reports are confidential and are not shared with the entrant/nominator.

4. Evaluation and final selection of up to 30 winners of the Awards and shortlisting of up to 15 Grand Prix candidates by the Heritage Awards Jury

The Jury will evaluate the shortlisted projects across categories ensuring a balanced spread of the Awards in geographical terms and also in terms of types of heritage and heritage achievements.

The Heritage Awards Jury, appointed by the Board of Europa Nostra, will be composed of each Chair of the five Selection Committees and up to ten other experts from different European countries who will cover various fields of expertise.

Entrants will be informed of the decision of the jury via email. The decisions of the jury are final and correspondence may not be entered into regarding the decision of the jury.

5. Selection of the (up to) five Grand Prix winners by the Board of Europa Nostra

Up to five Grand Prix will be awarded per thematic areas transversal to the five categories of entry and selected from among the awarded initiatives. The winners will be announced at the European Heritage Awards Ceremony.

6. Selection of the Public Choice Award through online voting

Through an online voting system via the Europa Nostra website, citizens from around the world will have the chance to vote for their favourite projects from among the annual laureates.

The winner will be announced at the European Heritage Awards Ceremony.

Awards & Publicity

- The winners of the European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards 2022 will be celebrated in the autumn during the European Heritage Awards Ceremony. The Ceremony will take place in a hybrid format in Prague, in the framework of the Czech Presidency of the European Union.
- All award-winning entries will receive an award certificate as well as a bronze wall plaque which has to be placed *in situ*, in a visible location accessible to the public.
- In addition, the winners of a Grand Prix, chosen from among the laureates of the European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards, will receive a monetary award of €10.000.
- The award-winning achievements will be widely publicised throughout Europe.
- Upon notification of the Jury's decision, Europa Nostra may ask for additional photo/video material. All photo/video material provided must be copyright free for Europa Nostra's use for publicity and other aims; any photo/video credits will be duly acknowledged.
- The Europe-wide public announcement of the awarded achievements will be coordinated by Europa Nostra's Secretariat.
- After this announcement, the award winners are expected to organise a (hybrid) event *in situ* to celebrate their award with, among others, those involved in the implementation of their project and with the local community. This should be organized in close consultation with the Europa Nostra country representation or member organisation in their respective country. They are also expected to promote their achievement in various other ways at local, regional, national and/or European/international level.