



PRESS RELEASE

European project HERITAGE HUBS wins European Heritage Award / Europa Nostra Award 2021

Brussels / The Hague, 25 May 2021

The European Commission and Europa Nostra have just announced the **2021 winners of the European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards**, the EU prize for cultural heritage funded by the Creative Europe programme. This year, Europe's top honour in the heritage field goes to 24 exemplary achievements from 18 European countries (*for the full list see below*). Among this year's winners is [HERITAGE HUBS](#) with a consortium composed of **Finland, Spain, Serbia and Italy**, in the category of **Education, Training and Awareness-raising**.

The announcement of the Award winners 2021 has just been made at a live online event co-hosted by **Mariya Gabriel**, European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, and **Hermann Parzinger**, Executive President of Europa Nostra.

The Award winners were selected by independent [juries](#) composed of heritage experts from across Europe, upon evaluation of candidatures submitted by organisations and individuals from 30 European countries.

Heritage Hubs, FINLAND/ITALY/SERBIA/SPAIN

Heritage Hubs brought together young people aged 10-16 from Finland, Serbia and Spain in a two-year programme aimed at exploring, presenting and sharing their own cultural heritage and interpreting the heritage of other countries through exchange visits and an e-learning platform. The project was coordinated by the **Association of Cultural Heritage Education in Finland (AHEF)** in collaboration with **La Fundación San Millán de la Cogolla (FSMC)** in Spain, **Urban Development Centre (UDC)** in Serbia, and **VITECO e-Learning solutions** in Italy.

The project received funding from the EU Creative Europe programme as part of the European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018, the Swedish Cultural Foundation in Finland, the Finnish National Agency for Education, the Serbian Ministry of Culture and Information, and the Serbian Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development.

In 2018-2019, Heritage Hubs pilot projects were organised in 11 primary and secondary schools in Finland, Serbia and Spain. These projects included teacher training and heritage workshops with pupils first engaged with their own cultural heritage. Then they were involved in testing, interpreting and presenting the heritage of other countries, both online and during exchange visits. To ensure an impact beyond the participating pilot schools, the **Heritage Hubs organised external events, training an impressive total of more than 800 teachers.**

The jury particularly appreciated the methodology of the project: "Heritage Hubs provided a solid methodology on heritage education, implemented by many schools. The programme partners are given the opportunity to develop their skills. Many materials were produced, also in digital format, to help the creative interaction with the wider community. This includes a combination of virtual and non-virtual heritage experiences through transmedia narratives and multisensory activities. **The educational approach is based on the concept of learning from heritage: participants 'exchange' their heritage with others, learning through other cultures and experiences**".

The project has enabled countless cultural discoveries by pupils, teachers and local communities. For example, pupils from Grocka, Serbia, presented the Serbian Orthodox festival 'Slava' to their partners in Kirkkonummi, Finland. These pupils came to see their heritage in a different light, thanks to the interpretation of 'Slava' by the Finnish pupils, who designed it in analogy to their Lutheran (but originally Catholic) tradition of St Lucia.

As well as helping the pupils to overcome pre-existing cultural prejudices and to increase their respect and curiosity towards the culture and heritage of their peers, the Heritage Hubs handbook was created, presenting the final format of the HH heritage education methodology and the practical ways of applying it. All the results were made available on the HH Virtual library, created by the Ignacio Larramendi Foundation and added to large European repositories, such as HISPANA and Europeana. "The network they have built is solid and reaches several countries in Europe. It is built on synergies with other European projects such as European Heritage Days and Europeana, thus increasing the impact achieved. There are also ideas for the future of the project that demonstrate its sustainability," said the jury.

Speaking at the online event, European Commissioner **Mariya Gabriel** said: *"The winners of the European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards 2021 are ambassadors of the beauty of heritage in Europe, whether it be traditions and know-how, breath-taking architecture or the way that heritage can unite communities and generations. I truly believe that the successful preservation of our tangible and intangible heritage depends on the commitment of the people behind it. With these awards, we therefore honour all those exceptional men and women, heritage professionals, architects, scientists and volunteers who bring our common heritage closer to our hearts. Their vision should be applauded."*

Europa Nostra's Executive President **Hermann Parzinger** stated: *"Each year, the winners of the European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards exemplify the incomparable creativity and commitment of those who work to protect, valorise and pass on Europe's precious inheritance to the next generation. This year's laureates powerfully demonstrate how heritage offers solutions and paths to recovery in the face of seemingly insurmountable challenges, as we take action for the climate, mobilise for sustainable urban and rural development and tackle the many threats to our core European values. We applaud their outstanding achievements: may they serve as inspiration and encouragement for future action for so many heritage professionals and enthusiasts across Europe and beyond."*

Heritage supporters and enthusiasts from across the world are now encouraged to discover the winners and [vote online](#) to decide who will win this year's **Public Choice Award**. The Public Choice Award winner will be announced during the European Heritage Awards Ceremony, which will take place in the autumn of this year. The **Grand Prix** laureates, each of whom will receive a monetary award of €10,000, will also be made public on this occasion.

2021 Award Winners ¹

Category Conservation

[Gare Maritime, Brussels, BELGIUM](#)

[Fredensborg Palace Garden, DENMARK](#)

[Vardzia Rock-Cut Complex, GEORGIA](#)

[Haus Am Horn, Weimar, GERMANY](#)

[Plaka Bridge, Epirus, GREECE](#)

[18 Ormond Quay Upper, Dublin, IRELAND](#)

[Wooden Church of Urși Village, Vâlcea County, ROMANIA](#)

[Besòs Water Tower, Barcelona, SPAIN](#)

[Mas de Burot, Els Ports Natural Park, SPAIN](#)

Category Research

[FIBRANET - FIBRes in ANcient European Textiles, DENMARK/GREECE](#)

[Control Shift - European Industrial Heritage Reuse in Review, GREECE/NETHERLANDS](#)

[ART-RISK - Artificial Intelligence Applied to Preventive Conservation, SPAIN](#)

¹ The winners are listed alphabetically by country

Category Dedicated Service to Heritage by Organisations & Individuals

[Gjirokastra Foundation, ALBANIA](#)

[Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage, CYPRUS](#)

[Rita Bargna, ITALY](#)

[GEFAC - Group of Ethnography and Folklore of the Academy of Coimbra, PORTUGAL](#)

Category Education, Training and Awareness-raising

[Following in the Steps of Bulgarian Folklore, BULGARIA](#)

[Heritage Hubs, FINLAND/ITALY/SERBIA/SPAIN](#)

[The Invention of a Guilty Party, Trento, ITALY](#)

[Holidays! In the East and West - The School Church, Groningen, THE NETHERLANDS](#)

[European Solidarity Centre - Permanent Exhibition, Gdańsk, POLAND](#)

[Morón Artisan Lime, Morón de la Frontera, SPAIN](#)

[Archaeology at Home, UNITED KINGDOM](#)

[Morus Londinium: London's Heritage through Trees, UNITED KINGDOM](#)

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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](#)

<https://heritagehubs.eu/>

Background

European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards

The [European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards](#) were launched by the European Commission in 2002 and have been run by Europa Nostra ever since. This Awards programme has the support of the Creative Europe programme of the European Union. The Awards highlight and disseminate heritage excellence and best practices, encourage the cross-border exchange of knowledge and connect heritage stakeholders in wider networks. The Awards bring major benefits to the winners, such as greater (inter)national exposure, follow-on funding and increased visitor numbers. In addition, the Awards programme fosters a greater care for our shared heritage amongst Europe's citizens. The Awards are therefore 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.

In 2021, two **ILUCIDARE Special Prizes** will also be awarded from among the submitted applications to the European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards. The shortlisted projects will be announced on 10 June and the winners will be unveiled in the autumn of this year. [ILUCIDARE](#) project is funded by Horizon 2020 with the aim of establishing an international network promoting heritage as a resource for innovation and international relations.

Europa Nostra

[Europa Nostra](#) is the European voice of civil society committed to safeguarding and promoting cultural and natural heritage. A pan-European federation of heritage NGOs, supported by a wide network of public bodies, private companies and individuals, it covers more than 40 countries. Founded in 1963, it is today recognised as the largest and the most representative heritage network in Europe. Europa Nostra campaigns to save Europe's endangered monuments, sites and landscapes, in particular through the [7 Most Endangered](#) Programme. 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 was the EU's key civil society partner during the [European Year of Cultural Heritage](#) in 2018. It also figures among the first official partners of the [New European Bauhaus](#) initiative recently launched by the European Commission.

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 €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.