

European Heritage Awards Ceremony  
Burgtheater, Vienna, 5 May 2014

Announcement of the Public Choice Award  
by **Denis de Kergorlay**  
Executive President of Europa Nostra



**Madame Commissioner,  
Mr Minister,  
Mr President,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is a grand honour for me to announce the laureate of our Public Choice Award 2014. More than 10,000 persons - double the amount of the previous year, voted on our website for their preferred projects from amongst the 27 laureates. They voted for their three favourites, of which only one could be from their home country.

This evening, we have experienced incredible achievements and remarkable people. I hope that you agree that they all deserve to win the Public Choice Award... but this is a competition and so there can only be one winner.

I can already tell you the two finalists in our 2014 ranking.

In **third place**, the Conservation of the **Basilica Palladiana in Vicenza, Italy**.

In **second place**, the Conservation of the **Roman Bridge, Gate of the Bridge, Calahorra Tower and Surrounding Areas in Cordoba, Spain**.

I congratulate these two admirable achievements, which have captured the imagination and support of a wide audience.

And now, it is time to present the winner of the Public Choice Award 2014.

Describing our winner, one voter has written: "This is a place steeped in history and spirituality, which deserves to be preserved for future generations."

And let me quote this almost too revealing sentence: "This project celebrates the heritage of southeastern Europe through sacred architecture, and creates a genuine relationship between European and world heritage."

The restoration of this monument was not an easy task. It took a great deal of cooperation between professionals and volunteers from many different European countries. The Jury of the Awards praised this project's high-level of professionalism and very sophisticated conservation. The restorers used traditional, natural materials and have done an outstanding job...

This remarkable artistic work consists of 900 square meters of frescoes that were returned to their original splendour.

The Laureate of the Public Choice Award 2014 is...

**The 17th Century Frescoes of Dragomirna Church, in Suceava, ROMANIA!**