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**PRESS RELEASE**

**EUROPE’S TOP HERITAGE AWARDS HONOUR**

**24 EXEMPLARY ACHIEVEMENTS FROM 18 COUNTRIES**

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**[[1]](#footnote-1)**:

**Category: Conservation Projects**

[Gare Maritime, Brussels, BELGIUM](https://www.europeanheritageawards.eu/winners/gare-maritime/)

[Fredensborg Palace Garden, DENMARK](https://www.europeanheritageawards.eu/winners/fredensborg-palace-garden/)

[Vardzia Rock-Cut Complex, GEORGIA](https://www.europeanheritageawards.eu/winners/vardzia-rock-cut-complex/)

[Haus Am Horn, Weimar, GERMANY](https://www.europeanheritageawards.eu/winners/haus-am-horn/)

[Plaka Bridge, Epirus, GREECE](https://www.europeanheritageawards.eu/winners/plaka-bridge/)

[18 Ormond Quay Upper, Dublin, IRELAND](https://www.europeanheritageawards.eu/winners/18-ormond-quay-upper/)

[Wooden Church of Urși Village, Vâlcea County, ROMANIA](https://www.europeanheritageawards.eu/winners/wooden-church-ursi-village/)

[Besòs Water Tower, Barcelona, SPAIN](https://www.europeanheritageawards.eu/winners/besos-water-tower/)

[Mas de Burot, Els Ports Natural Park, SPAIN](https://www.europeanheritageawards.eu/winners/mas-de-burot/)

**Category: Research Projects**

[FIBRANET - FIBRes in ANcient European Textiles, DENMARK/GREECE](https://www.europeanheritageawards.eu/winners/fibranet-fibres-ancient-european-textiles/)

[Control Shift - European Industrial Heritage Reuse in Review, GREECE/NETHERLANDS](https://www.europeanheritageawards.eu/winners/control-shift-european-industrial-heritage-reuse-review/)

[ART-RISK - Artificial Intelligence Applied to Preventive Conservation, SPAIN](https://www.europeanheritageawards.eu/winners/art-risk-artificial-intelligence-applied-preventive-conservation/)

**Category: Dedicated Service to Heritage by Organisations & Individuals**

[Gjirokastra Foundation, ALBANIA](https://www.europeanheritageawards.eu/winners/gjirokastra-foundation/)

[Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage, CYPRUS](https://www.europeanheritageawards.eu/winners/technical-committee-cultural-heritage/)

[Rita Bargna, ITALY](https://www.europeanheritageawards.eu/winners/rita-bargna/)

[GEFAC - Group of Ethnography and Folklore of the Academy of Coimbra, PORTUGAL](https://www.europeanheritageawards.eu/winners/gefac-group-ethnography-folklore-academy-coimbra/)

**Category: Education, Training and Awareness-raising Projects**

[Following in the Steps of Bulgarian Folklore, BULGARIA](https://www.europeanheritageawards.eu/winners/following-steps-bulgarian-folklore/)

[Heritage Hubs, FINLAND/ITALY/SERBIA/SPAIN](https://www.europeanheritageawards.eu/winners/heritage-hubs/)

[The Invention of a Guilty Party, Trento, ITALY](https://www.europeanheritageawards.eu/winners/invention-guilty-party/)

[Holidays! In the East and West - The School Church, Groningen, THE NETHERLANDS](https://www.europeanheritageawards.eu/winners/holidays-east-west-school-church/)

[European Solidarity Centre - Permanent Exhibition, Gdańsk, POLAND](https://www.europeanheritageawards.eu/winners/european-solidarity-centre-permanent-exhibition/)

[Morón Artisan Lime, Morón de la Frontera, SPAIN](https://www.europeanheritageawards.eu/winners/moron-artisan-lime/)

[Archaeology at Home, UNITED KINGDOM](https://www.europeanheritageawards.eu/winners/archaeology-at-home/)

[Morus Londinium: London’s Heritage through Trees, UNITED KINGDOM](https://www.europeanheritageawards.eu/winners/morus-londinium-londons-heritage-trees/)

The Award winners were selected by independent [juries](http://www.europeanheritageawards.eu/jury/) composed of heritage experts from across Europe, upon evaluation of candidatures submitted by organisations and individuals from 30 European countries.

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 online event was opened with a forceful and engaging [video message](https://youtu.be/v2chQjgmD3E) by the President of the European Parliament. **David Sassoli** paid tribute to the Award winners:*“Through your professionalism, your dedication, your artistic sensitivity, you have helped revitalise the Europe of today and to project it into the future”.*Referring to the [Conference on the Future of Europe](https://futureu.europa.eu/) and the [New European Bauhaus](https://europa.eu/new-european-bauhaus/index_en), two major initiatives recently launched by the European Institutions, the President of the European Parliament emphasised: “*Culture and artistic heritage are not secondary elements, but they represent fundamental tools to foster cohesion, to strengthen our humanity, to give meaning to our belonging. (…) Culture and heritage are essential elements from which to start again and from which to relaunch our European policies.*”

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*.”

The Portuguese Minister of Culture and Acting Chair of the EU Council of Ministers **Graça Fonseca** responsible for Culture also shared her [video message](https://youtu.be/f7ebewlX9dw) of congratulations:“*Cultural heritage does not recognise borders. Languages, science and art sail beyond the limits that geography and history establish. (…) My congratulations to all who participated and to the winners, because it is your work, dedication and talent that best represent these ideals. My thanks to the European Commission and Europa Nostra for this annual initiative, one that is so important for our shared European project*.”

**IMPORTANT:** Heritage supporters and enthusiasts from across the world are now encouraged to discover the winners and[vote online](https://vote.europanostra.org/) 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 on 23 September in Venice, the epidemiological situation permitting. The **Grand Prix** laureates, each of whom will receive a monetary award of €10,000, will also be made public on this occasion.

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**Background**

**European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards**

The [European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards](http://www.europeanheritageawards.eu/) 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](http://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](https://ilucidare.eu/) 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](https://www.europanostra.org/) 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](http://7mostendangered.eu/) 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](https://europeanheritagealliance.eu/). Europa Nostra was the EU's key civil society partner during the [European Year of Cultural Heritage](https://europa.eu/cultural-heritage/about_en.html) in 2018. It also figures among the first official partners of the [New European Bauhaus](https://europa.eu/new-european-bauhaus/index_en) initiative recently launched by the European Commission.

**Creative Europe**

[Creative Europe](http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/creative-europe/index_en.htm) 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.

1. The winners are listed alphabetically by country [↑](#footnote-ref-1)