

# EUROPEAN HERITAGE HEADS FORUM

## E-Newsletter # 03 / December 2011

Dear colleagues,

As president of the Association of State Conservators in the Federal Republic of Germany (VDL) and on behalf of the German National Committee for Conservation (DNK) and the Association of State Archaeologists (VLA), I am glad to present you the third E-Newsletter of the European Heritage Heads Forum (EHHF). After this year's inspiring conference in Amsterdam, Germany has assumed the secretary for the EHHF meeting in 2012 and I am looking forward to welcoming you all as our guests in Berlin and Potsdam. This newsletter will briefly inform you among other things about next year's main topic and some organisational aspects. The annual meetings of the European Heritage Heads Forum have proved to be an excellent and important communication platform. Every year it is very motivating and a great pleasure to exchange experiences and information with colleagues from all over Europe.

Hopefully next year's conference will be inspiring again for all of us.



Gerd Weiß

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## **EHHF Conference Germany, Berlin / Potsdam 23-26 May 2012**

*Main topic 2012*

2012's meeting of the European Heritage Heads Forum will take place in Germany. From 23-26 May 2012 the heads of the European state heritage authorities are invited to join the 7th EHHF Conference in Berlin and Potsdam. The venue will be the beautiful palace of Glienicke, a small classical residence designed by Prussia's famous architect Karl Friedrich Schinkel and since 1990 part of the UNESCO World Heritage site "Palaces and Parks of Potsdam and Berlin".

Next year's main topic, as discussed at the first preparation meeting in Wiesbaden (Germany) on 17 October 2011, is "Public Engagement with cultural Heritage". In times of societal changes and technical progress, state conservation officers have to ask themselves, if their communication and education strategies are appropriate and up-to-date in order to address a vast variety of target groups including pupils, monument owners, peers and politicians. In this regard the future of the EHHF will also be an important subject of the discussion.

A call for papers on these topics and further information on the conference will be sent out early next year.

### **Announcements**

*Overview on latest developments on heritage in the European countries*

As our Dutch colleagues, we will ask all European state heritage offices to send us an overview -size A4 - with the latest update on the developments on heritage in your country until 1 May 2012. Please keep this at the back of your minds.

*Accommodations during EHHF Conference 2012*

**We have reserved 70 rooms (100,- € per night / single room) for our participants at the Steigenberger Hotel Park Sanssouci in Potsdam (<http://www.steigenberger.com/en/Potsdam/>).**



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**Because of the high tourist traffic in Potsdam this contingent is only available until 12 March 2012. Because of that and due to organisational reasons (the daily meeting point for our bus shuttle to Glienicke Palace is in the lobby), we recommend to make use of this offer. For reservations, we will soon send you a form, which you can send back to us.**

*Please note: Later cancellations have to be arranged directly with the hotel and include cancellation charges.*

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## Two new Internet Portals on European Heritage

NET-HERITAGE (European Network on Research Programme Applied to the Protection of Tangible Cultural Heritage) is the first important initiative which has begun to coordinate national Research and Technical Development (RTD) programmes of European countries, and support European programmes in research applied to the protection of tangible cultural heritage. The ERA-NET is a partnership of ministries, funding agencies and national RTD authorities from 14 European countries. It makes a significant contribution to overcome the barriers of exchanging information on coordinated research activity applied to the protection of tangible cultural heritage.

> More information on: <http://www.netheritage.eu>

The Heritage Portal is funded by the European Commission via the Seventh Framework Programme 'NET HERITAGE'. It is maintained by the Arts & Humanities Research Council, UK and provides an online news magazine, archive and networking for cultural heritage research, conservation, restoration, policy, education and training across Europe.

> More information on: <http://www.heritageportal.eu>

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## European Heritage Label

During its plenary session on 16 November in Strasbourg, the European Parliament has adopted the European Heritage Label in second reading. A final decision by the Council is awaited by the end of the year.

The new scheme will start in 2013 – replacing the intergovernmental heritage label scheme. It will highlight sites that celebrate and symbolise European integration, ideals and history. EU countries can nominate sites for the label, to be awarded by the EU on the basis of an assessment



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by independent experts.

> More information on: <http://ec.europa.eu>

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## News from Brussels

The EU will invest € 50bn in infrastructure – connecting Europe, boosting competitiveness and creating jobs. Smart, sustainable and interconnected transport, energy and digital networks are priorities for Europe’s economic future. The financial crisis has diminished the flow of private and public funding to infrastructure projects. As a result, the Commission is proposing a new funding plan to speed up long-term investments in roads, railways, energy grids, pipelines and high-speed broadband networks. The €50bn fund would be used to encourage investors from the private and public sectors to help finance such projects. It would also promote cleaner transport modes and renewable energy – in line with Europe 2020, the EU’s growth and jobs strategy.

> More information on: <http://ec.europa.eu>

The EU can help national governments raise the quality of higher education, make curricula more relevant to market needs and open access to students from a wider range of backgrounds. Some of Europe’s 400 universities and higher educational establishments rank among the best in the world. But not all of them have been able to keep pace with economic and social changes. According to a recent forecast, 35% of jobs in the EU are likely to require a higher education qualification by 2020. But today, only 26% of the workforce holds a degree, far below the levels in the US, Japan and Canada. A new strategy to modernise higher education points out the reforms EU governments need to make so enough people graduate with the skills needed to contribute to innovation, economic growth and job creation.

> More information on: <http://ec.europa.eu>

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## Europa Nostra - European Heritage Alliance 3.3 and Europa Nostra Awards 2011

The “European Heritage Alliance 3.3.” was recently launched by 27 European and international networks and organisations active in the wider field of cultural heritage on the occasion of the European Heritage Congress 2011, which was organised by Europa Nostra in Amsterdam. The name of the newly created Alliance refers to the article 3.3. of the consolidated version of the Lisbon Treaty of the European Union which stipulates that “[The Union] shall respect its rich cultural and



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linguistic diversity, and shall ensure that Europe's cultural heritage is safeguarded and enhanced." Europa Nostra will be acting as the facilitator of this alliance.

On 7 September a few members of the Alliance have gathered in Brussels to discuss, among other things, the preparation of a joint plea to the European Commission to finance a comprehensive and comparative study on Europe's cultural and natural heritage assets.

More information on:

<http://www.europanostra.org/news/164>

<http://www.europanostra.org/news/186>

Each year, Europa Nostra and the European Union reward the best of cultural heritage achievements. Through the *European Union Prize for Cultural Heritage / Europa Nostra Awards*, they celebrate excellence and dedication by architects, craftsmen, volunteers, schools, local communities, heritage owners and media. In 2011 27 projects won the coveted awards. They were presented on 10 June during a ceremony at the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam in the presence of Androulla Vassiliou, European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Multilingualism and Youth, and Plácido Domingo, the world-renowned tenor and president of Europa Nostra. Out of the 27 winning projects, six were named as 'grand prix' laureates at the ceremony as 2011's most outstanding heritage achievements. The applications for the Europa Nostra Award 2012 have been closed on 1 October 2011. 226 award entries were received. The European Heritage Awards Ceremony will take place in Lisbon 30 May – 2 June 2012 at the European Heritage Congress.

More information on:

<http://www.europanostra.org/laureates-2011>

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## **Report on the 4th European Heritage Forum, Wroclaw 10-12 October 2011**

What positive and negative influence does the financial crisis have on heritage? To what extent, can the broadly defined use of the economic potential of heritage, in the context of creating regional and extra-regional development strategies, act as a catalyst for economic growth and prosperity of the societies of the united Europe? How does heritage influence the local communities? To what extent can such resources include the capital of the tangible and intangible cultural heritage of these countries? Seeking an answer to these questions became the purpose of the discussions of the 4th annual European Heritage Forum, which this year was held on 10-12 October in Wroclaw. The idea of the organisers – the Council of Europe, the European Commission and the National Heritage Board of Poland – was to hold a meeting that would become an opportunity to look at heritage as a permanent element in long-term development strategies,



Logo Europa Nostra



especially in the time of the economic crisis.

[Read more](#)

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## **International Conference „Cultural Heritage: A resource for Europe. The Benefits of Interaction”, Bruges 9 December 2010**

At the conference of the Belgian EU-Presidency 'Cultural heritage: a resource for Europe' on 9 December 2010 the importance of cultural heritage and the major challenges related to it were discussed from a European perspective. The speakers included Claire Giraud-Labelte (Université Catholique de L'Ouest France and heritage delegate for the European network of Cultural Administration Training Centers), Simon Thurley (English Heritage) and Alison Crabb (European Commission, DG Education and Culture).

The speakers explored in-depth a number of potential strategies for better incorporating the interests of cultural heritage into the EU-policy. Prof Jan Beyers (University of Antwerp) demonstrated the way that interest groups in other sectors work and how this could offer a potential model.

Hubert David (Chairman European Environment and Sustainable Development Advisory Councils) presented the strategies that the environmental sector has used to place its interests on the EU-agenda. Liesl Vanautgaerden made an interesting presentation on the prospects offered by territorial cohesion for an integrated policy that encompasses cultural heritage, and specifically landscapes.

At the roundtable discussion, a number of leading actors debated the vision for the future.

More information on: <http://heritageconference.rwo.be>

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## **Creative Europe: European Commission plans to launch a programme to support cultural and creative sectors**

With a proposed budget of €1.8 billion for the period 2014-2020, the European Commission plans to support the cultural and creative industries, which are a major source of jobs and growth in Europe.

The new programme would allocate more than €900 million in support of the cinema and audiovisual sector (area covered by current MEDIA programme) and almost € 500 million for culture (presently covered by the Culture programme).

The Commission is also proposing to allocate more than €210 million for a new financial guarantee facility, which would

enable cultural operators to access up to €1 billion in bank loans, and would provide around €60 million in support of trans-national policy cooperation and would also aim to foster innovative approaches to audience building and new business models.

> More Information on: <http://ec.europa.eu>

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## **“Horizon 2020”, cancellation of Research on Cultural Heritage!**



The European Commission plans to cancel the research on cultural heritage within the upcoming 8th framework research programme “Horizon 2020” – a decision, which will bring 25 years of successful research to an abrupt end with drastic consequences for the preservation of cultural heritage. Up to now the unique support programme has promoted 41 international projects with a total capacity of 40 m Euro. Among them are many large-scale research and application projects, in which common strategies for the long-term preservation of historical monuments and practical solutions for museum work as well as other general questions concerning conservation have been developed. The cancellation of the research on cultural heritage is a devastating signal for Europe’s reputation as a continent of culture. Therefore the German Association of Restorers (VDR), the Fraunhofer Society and the journal RESTAURO have prepared a petition in order to protest against this intent.

> More information on “Horizon 2020” on:  
<http://www.h2020.net>

If you want to sign the petition, please visit:  
<http://openpetition.de>

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## **Links**

<http://www.ehhf.eu>  
<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk>

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## **Colophon**

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This e-newsletter is temporarily issued by the Association of State Conservators in the Federal Republic of Germany, 65203 Wiesbaden.

**Remarks or questions?**

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