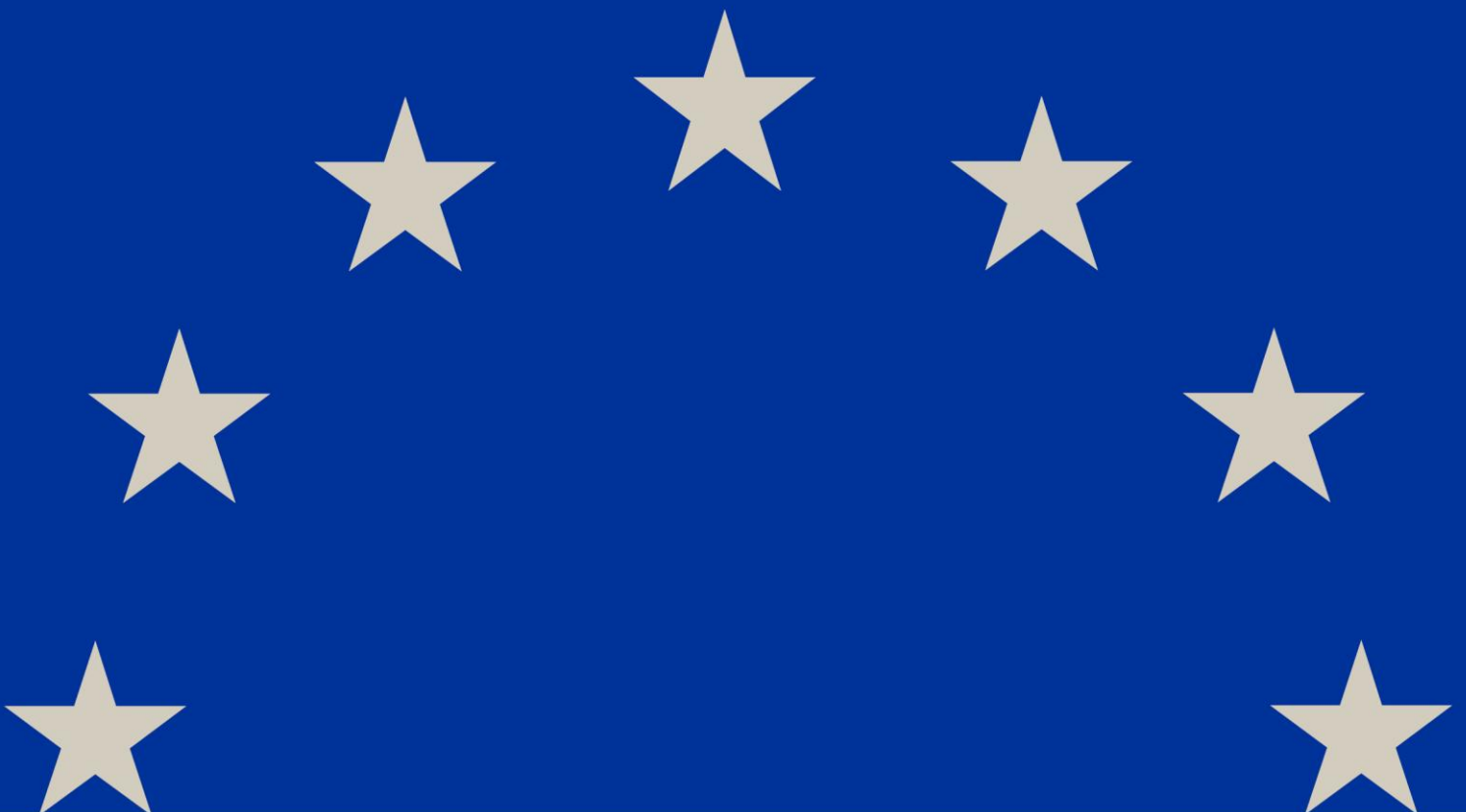


European heritage label 2025 selection report

Report of the European Heritage Label
Expert Panel to the European Commission

December 2025





EUROPEAN
HERITAGE LABEL



2025 Report of the European Panel to the European Commission

in application of Decision 1194/2011/EU
of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16
November 2011 establishing a European Union action
for the European Heritage Label

December 2025

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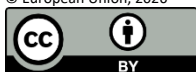
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PREFACE

This Report documents the results of the 2025 Selection Process for the European Heritage Label (hereinafter also abbreviated as EHL). In accordance with Article 8 of the Legal Decision on which the action is based, it includes the European panel's (hereinafter referred to as the Panel) considerations and recommendations regarding the development of this significant instrument in shaping our European identity for the coming years.

The reader will find reports on the twenty applications, thirteen of which were recommended by the Panel to receive the EHL. The new site reports are followed by the Panel's analysis addressing crucial issues regarding the future governance and development of the EHL. This is timely given the momentous year of 2026 is imminent, when the long preparation of the revision of the legal basis of the EHL Action will conclude. It is followed by statistics providing an overview of the chronological and geographical development of the EHL, which will now be proudly held by eighty sites across the European Union.

Drawing on its experience from this, and previous selection rounds, the Panel has included an updated version of its recommendations on how to prepare a robust European Heritage Label application.

The Panel wishes to express their wholehearted gratitude to Gabrielle Bernoville and Judith Videcoq for their indispensable support for the Panel's work.

The Panel also wishes to fully acknowledge the work of the EHL Bureau, led by Vincent Curie, specifically their networking, collaboration, training and communications achievements.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2025, the European Heritage Label Selection Panel successfully accomplished the **ninth selection** of the new sites for the title of the European Heritage Label (EHL). The **number of candidate sites was twenty**, which was **20% more than the previous selection year in 2023**. Finally, the number of selected European Heritage Label sites has also increased by almost **20% percent, now reaching eighty sites**.

As a consequence, there are eleven Member States in the EU: Austria, Belgium, Czechia, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Spain, which can boast at having at least five EHL sites or subsites, and another five Member States, including Bulgaria, Croatia, Finland, Romania and Slovenia, which possess at least three EHL sites or subsites.

Thus, from this year onwards, sixteen EU Members States can enjoy the benefits of a national "EHL network", while simultaneously strengthening their connection with the overall EHL community through cross-border dialogue and cooperation.

Thanks to the significant increase in the number of EHL sites, which is the highest since 2014, the ensemble of sites offers an even more complete geographical and temporal cover of European territory and history. In 2025, **sixteen Member States proposed new sites, and sixteen Member States could potentially increase the number of their EHL sites**. All the great European regions have been assigned new sites, although the increase of EHL sites was most prominent in Southern Europe. The Panel is especially glad to recommend the first site in Malta, which makes it the **23rd Member State with an EHL site**.

The periodisation of the timeline of the EHL sites, that includes the **thirteen new sites**, also demonstrates a more balanced distribution of sites between the great periods of European history: the eighty sites manifest an even spread among the three principal periods: there are **27 premodern sites** (-1500), **26 modern ones** (1500-1900) and **27 contemporary ones** (1900-). As opposed to the previous selection year, when the additional sites were unevenly distributed between three big periods (7-2-4 new sites per period) and the most represented sub-period was the medieval age, with 4 new sites manifesting pan-European intellectual networks of shared values, a *longue durée* ecological infrastructure and search for peace. The **high success rate of the candidate sites**, (75% approved for EHL status, with 65% making the final selection) representing a great cross section of sites, illustrates that communities in Europe are more conscious of owning their cultural heritage and are ready to interpret it from a European perspective. The stories behind these sites invite us, as Europeans, to critically reflect upon our past and to use these reflections to construct our future along shared values, as revealed by the new transnational site, *Places of Peace* (coordinated by Croatia), and by the new national thematic site, *Free Speech Space* (proposed by Czechia).

The selection for attributing the European Heritage Label is carried out in **two stages**. At the national level, each participating Member State pre-selects a maximum of two candidate sites per selection year. At the European level, the Panel carries out the final selection of sites and recommends that the selected sites receive the EHL title. The European Commission is entitled to attribute the European Heritage Label to a maximum of one site per Member State. The three criteria laid down in *Decision No 1194/2011/EU* establishing the initiative, distinguishes the Label from other cultural heritage initiatives.

To be awarded the Label, sites must be of European significance, they must explain their European dimension to European audiences, and they must have the operational capacity to do so. The thirteen new sites, which are presented in this Report, will join the Network of European Heritage Label sites, and will enhance the diversity of the network, providing new opportunities for cooperation amongst the labelled sites. Two sites, which are approved by the Panel conform with the criteria of the EHL Action, but as they were proposed by their Member States with another candidate site, could not be recommended for the EHL. This made for difficult decisions between well-prepared candidatures and shows that the legal base could be revised in terms of the thresholds of selectable new sites per Member State per year. As a result, for the first time in 2025 the panel created a third section in its selection report for suitable candidate sites that could not be selected because of the quotas required by the legal base.

As in previous biannual reports, the 2025 Report not only offers the evaluation of the candidate sites, but also a **set of suggestions and recommendations** for the forthcoming period of the EHL Action. The final part of this Report contains the updated guidelines for preparing a robust EHL proposal, as well as facts and figures about the EHL Action and the current sites. The guidelines are regularly revised, because the Panel is dedicated to encouraging more Member States and more communities to propose candidate sites, with the aim of bringing together the different levels of European identity building (European, national, regional and local) in a reflective unity in diversity. The Panel thanks all the candidate sites, as well as the national coordinators, for making substantial efforts to bridge these levels for a large European public.

In order to achieve a coherent and constructive selection in 2025, the Panel held **four meetings** (in April, June, September and December) as well as participating in the **two EHL Assemblies** in the Lublin EHL site (1569 Union of Lublin) in May and in Nicosia in October. These latter occasions were truly suitable for cooperating with other participants of the EHL Action, including the European Commission, the EHL Bureau and national coordinators. It also allowed time to discuss the possibilities arising from the revision of the legal base and the opportunity to enhance the quality of the applications, as well as considering future cooperative actions among labelled sites.



**SITE
REPORTS**

SITES RECOMMENDED FOR THE EUROPEAN HERITAGE LABEL

Lagar Velho Rockshelter

LEIRIA (PORTUGAL)

27.000 B.C.



Picture Source: © Municipality of Leiria, 2011

Description

Lagar Velho Rockshelter is located in the Lapedo Valley, in the municipality of Leiria, on the left bank of a tributary of the river Lis. Lapedo Valley features remarkable geological, morphological, archaeological, cultural and biological values and is included in the national inventory of geological heritage as a relevant asset. It was discovered in 1998. The detection of human osteological remains immediately prompted archaeological excavation, and revealing the first Upper Palaeolithic child burial in the Iberian Peninsula, which brought worldwide recognition to the Lapedo child. This is the oldest human occupation detected so far at Lagar Velho Rockshelter, dating back approximately 29,000 years. The burial followed a complex protocol, phased in different small gestures and are similar to the patterns documented at other coeval European archaeological contexts. The

child's skeleton and surrounding elements are classified as National Treasure and are deposited at the National Archaeological Museum. It is an individual who, although clearly modern (*Homo sapiens sapiens*), had some typically Neanderthal features (*Homo sapiens neanderthalensis*), which could be explained by the interbreeding of both populations. The disclosure of a possible hybridisation was released in 1999 and went around the world, challenging science due to its controversy. **The Lapedo child revolutionised recent human evolutionary history and demonstrated that the Europeans stem not only from cultural, but also from biological diversity.**

European Significance

Lagar Velho Rockshelter is an exceptional archaeological site in terms of human evolutionary biology and prehistoric archaeology. The discovery of the Lagar Velho I burial bestowed the site with European symbolic value and historical and cultural relevance, since it demonstrates the long history of a culturally and genetically diverse identity that has always made us European. Lapedo child is a key element in the debate on the arrival of Anatomically Modern Humans in Europe and on the extinction of one human species that had previously occupied it, the Neanderthals. This new scientific evidence stimulated reflection on concepts such as integration, genetic constitution and the hybridisation of the human groups that inhabited and still inhabit Europe. Research has revealed the gestures of a recurrent burial ritual, stretching from Siberia to the Iberian Peninsula. Albeit the human osteological

remains belong to a single individual, inferences can be made regarding Europe-wide cultural and symbolic behaviours. The interpretive proposal forwarded by the international team is based on the existence of an unusual evolutionary mosaic: a unique combination of anatomical features, both Modern and Neanderthal. According to the authors, the only possible explanation is phylogenetic. This theory fosters the debate on the values and common elements of European history, going back to the evolutionary, biological and cultural origins, and to the establishment of a common identity. This child tells us about inclusion and respect for diversity.

The application convincingly develops the European narrative of the site by emphasizing the significance of cultural and biological diversity.

The site meets criterion (iii) for European significance, as required for the European Heritage Label.

Strengthening the communication of the European dimension to European audiences (project)

The project aims to raise awareness of the cultural and scientific importance of this outstanding archaeological site and to propagate the significance of diversity as integral part of European identity. To reach a larger public, a mediation and educational programme is being implemented at Lagar Velho Rockshelter Interpretive Centre and Leiria Museum, combined with other museums and monuments managed by the municipality. Tours are available in four European languages (PT, EN, ES, FR), and hopefully more languages will be involved in the future. The European significance is emphasised in guided tours, themed educational workshops and itineraries. It

is an asset that experimental archaeology activities are designed for specific publics, such as blind and amblyopic persons. Rehabilitation programmes include solutions for the active integration of people subject to exclusion due to physical, social or intellectual conditions. The site plans to extend its networking cooperation with other European heritage sites. *The International Day of Monuments and Sites, International Night and Day of Museums and **European Heritage Days*** are being celebrated. The site is already part of the multi-award-winning collaborative project '**Museum in the Village**'. Dates associated with the discovery of the site will systematically be commemorated by fostering synergies between cultural heritage, contemporary creation and creativity.

Optimisation of the mobile application associated with audio-video guides is duly foreseen; release on digital platforms will attract new virtual visitors. A 3D virtual tour and Augmented Reality will be implemented. Partnerships will be strengthened with Polytechnic Institute of Leiria for artist residencies, and with the Polytechnic Institute of Lisbon for dancing activities. The proposed activities comply with the SMART criteria.

The submitted project meets the criteria required for the European Heritage Label.

Organisational capacity (work plan)

Lagar Velho Rockshelter Interpretive Centre and the Lagar Velho Rockshelter are part of the municipal joint management plan. This strategy is centralised through Leiria Museum, which also manages the municipality's cultural and archaeological heritage. The Municipality of Leiria acquired the National Monument and surrounding areas in the Lapedo Valley in 2024. An archaeological

research project is being conducted by the University of Lisbon and the Directorate-General for Cultural Heritage, in partnership with and funded by the Municipality. The cultural relevance of the site led to its classification as a National Monument; the classified zone is a *non-aedificandi* area featuring the buffer zone that surrounds the entire Lagar Velho Rockshelter Heritage Site. In 2021, the Lagar Velho I, skeleton and associated archaeological artefacts were listed as assets of national interest, being classified as 'national treasure'. The marketing strategy considers the surrounding area's extraordinary natural, heritage for sustainable tourism. Interpretive and guiding signposting is available at the Lapedo leisure and picnic area. The Centre's new communications strategy will extend local identity to a European dimension.

The site has adequate operational capacity to implement the submitted project and meets the criteria required for the European Heritage Label.

Recommendation

Lagar Velho Rockshelter and the Lapedo child demonstrate how cultural and biological diversity are interwoven and undeniable elements of European identity for more than 29,000 years.

The Panel recommends that Lagar Velho Rockshelter receive the European Heritage Label.

Provadia Salt-Production and Urban Centre

PROVADIA-SOLNITSATA (BULGARIA)

5600 B.C. – ROMAN PERIOD



Picture source: ©Galina Samichkova, 202

Description

Provadia Salt-Production and Urban Centre is a site of national and European importance. It is an extensive complex spanning an area of 30 hectares in north-eastern Bulgaria. The settlement mound (D=105m) is dated from 5600 to 4350 BC. It is regarded as one of the oldest vital salt production centres in Europe. The region's strategic location facilitated long-distance trade, a significant factor in the development of this community.

The site contains vestiges from the Neolithic, Middle and Late Chalcolithic periods, including a salt production facility, ritual pits, successive fortifications (exemplifying high military construction) from the latter period, a ritual pit field and two necropolises. Notably, there have been successive transformations in the use of the site through the centuries until the Roman period.

The site was of considerable technological, economic and trade significance, contributing to a cultural leap in European prehistory and the

establishment of a trade network in the eastern Balkans.

European Significance

Provadia Salt-Production and Urban Centre complex played a pivotal role in the development of society in Southeastern Europe during the 5th millennium B.C. The extensive utilisation of salt in this region precipitated profound social and economic transformations, encompassing the advancement of trade, the accumulation of wealth and the process of urbanisation. **The salt industry played a pivotal role in the economic and social development of Southeastern Europe as well.** Innovations in knowledge, specialised productions (including metallurgy and salt extraction in prehistoric/neolithic Europe as an early civilisation) were spread to Central and Western Europe, promoting the common values that underpin European integration. The site undoubtedly has a strong symbolic European value and has played a significant role in the history and culture of Europe. The application convincingly develops the European narrative of the site by its historical, cultural, economic and technological contribution. The European significance is clearly articulated in the site's narrative. The site meets criteria (i and iii) for European significance, as required for the European Heritage Label.

Strengthening the communication of the European dimension to European audiences (project)

The project focuses on promoting the Provadia Salt-Production and Urban Centre, as a landmark of European prehistoric urban centres and the earliest examples of innovative technology (salt production), with the aim of raising

European awareness of the site and encouraging its participation in a range of European activities. An educational programme aligned with the research activities conducted at the site is planned. The aim is to foster the interpretation and presentation of the site in relation to its European significance, reaching an international audience, and to develop educational, archaeological and cultural activities connected to European values, such as identity-building and sustainable development. **Among other activities, the creation of a Visitor Centre with digital panels in all major EU languages is planned. Actions to raise awareness of the site will include the use of AR and interactive 3D visualisations, and a mobile app for virtual tours, exploring salt production technologies and trade networks.** The website is being updated, including video, audio and text materials in multiple languages. A new programme offering study visits and practical training courses for students from **Bulgarian and European universities** is being developed for 2026. Priorities include working with school groups from local and distant regions on archaeological practices, analysis of findings, and presentations and talks. **The creation of a project called the *Old Europe Route*, which will promote the historical importance of salt production and trade in forging European connections, is underway.** Participation in a range of European initiatives, including exhibitions in European museums and the establishment of a project entitled *European Salt Routes*, is planned as collaboration and joint projects with prehistoric EHL sites (Krapina, Vucedol, Thracian art). The proposed

activities are linked to presenting the European dimension of the site.

The submitted project meets the criteria required for the European Heritage Label.

Organisational Capacity (work plan)

The Providia Salt-Production and Urban Centre is a national site located within the grounds of PROVADSOL Ltd., a company that focuses on the extraction of underground brine while ensuring environmental protection. The site is public state property, managed by the Ministry of Culture. The Providia Historical Museum, a municipal institution, is responsible for maintaining and protecting the site. The Ministry of Culture designates the protection regulations. This includes protection constructions for sensitive ancient structures, anti-moisture treatment, and the conservation and structural reinforcement of stone fortifications. The Ministry of Culture provides annual funding of between 50,000 and 150,000 euros. Access paths containing information are marked with special signage. An interactive dome has been created to provide an immersive experience. A new construction of a wooden tower for viewing significant parts of the remains is planned. Guided tours are available, except in winter. Facilities at the site include a large parking area, a dedicated access road, a special itinerary for disabled visitors and information panels. Special access to the site is granted to students, young people and senior citizens.

The management plan's main objective is to establish the site as a significant Late Prehistoric landmark in Europe. This will be achieved by improving accessibility in terms of on-site exhibitions, research coordination, excavation planning, and restoration activities. Audio guides in Romanian, Polish, German, French and

Italian will also be available by the year 2025. It is recommended that social media be utilised to disseminate information about the site. Educational and scientific initiatives that promote knowledge and research about the site, as well as cultivating public interest, are recognised as being of strategic importance.

The site has adequate operational capacity to implement the submitted project and meets the criteria required for the European Heritage Label.

Recommendation

The Provadia Salt-Production and Urban Centre as one of Europe's earliest salt productions and fortified urban centres is of exceptional importance to European History and to the social, economic and technological evolution in Southeastern Europe from prehistory to Roman times.

The panel recommends that the Provadia Salt-Production and Urban Centre be awarded the European Heritage Label.

Saint Paul's Catacombs

RABAT (MALTA)

4th century B.C. –



Picture source: © Heritage Malta, 2025

Description

Saint Paul's Catacombs complex is a comprehensive historic burial site situated in the town centre of Rabat, surrounded by modern city fabric. Its historical location was outside the Roman city of Melite, the ancient Maltese capital city of Mdina. Its history goes back to the Punic, Roman and Byzantine periods of Maltese history. The catacombs were still in use in the Middle Ages, when they were transformed into Christian shrines. The complex has more than 30 underground burial units called hypogea, connected with a system of subterranean passages and underground tunnels, with the whole complex covering more than 2000 m². Its architectural shape combines simple burial vaults with burial complexes made of different elements. The historic underground interiors are accessible through a visitor centre, arranged in two pavilions with appropriate facilities serving the visitors' needs, including an exhibition area. Further pavilions provide information on the historic developments of the site.

The name of the site, Saint Paul's Catacombs, is traditional and in harmony with the Book of Acts in the Bible, although there is no tangible scientific evidence that Saint Paul visited the site.

European Significance

Saint Paul's Catacombs are of European significance, based on the rich historic context of the site, which highlights the fact that Polytheist cultures, Jews and Christians have used the same burial place, sharing a freedom of belief and association. **Their coexistence proves freedom, human dignity, tolerance, multiculturalism and equality.** The inscriptions found in the catacombs are also typical of the site, showing a mix of different burial cultures, but especially Greek and Christian burials. The practice of commemorative meals, which were later forbidden in Europe, highlights the uniqueness of the site within the boundaries of cultural exchange. **Equality is symbolised by the fact that the burial practices include both male and female sexes, with children buried together.** The unique feature of the burial ground is that in the beginning different religions used the site, yet in the later periods, the evidence also shows the Christianisation of Europe, a process that played an important role in shaping European culture.

The European significance and trans-national historic legacy are convincingly articulated in the site's narrative. The site meets criteria (I and III) for European significance, as required for the European Heritage Label.

Strengthening the communication of the European dimension to European audiences (project)

The project focuses on the extension of existing activities to provide a more

effective communication of the site's European significance. This will be achieved by updating the exhibition area, enhancing the multilingual audio guide, and developing bespoke events for the European Heritage days and other activities held at the site. The specifically dedicated and permanent pavilion will also be set up to promote European values and their significance. The creative element in the project is the setup of an excavation pit that serves the pedagogical implementation methodology of the site and for the educational activities. Heritage Malta will develop the educational prospects of the project with a passport scheme to provide easy access for school children to the site. Thematic actions, school visits, lectures, workshops and tours are planned to promote the European significance of the catacombs. Multilingualism will also be supported by staff training sessions.

The projected activities meet the criteria in terms of strengthening the activities to highlight the European dimension at different levels. The development of raising awareness of the site through information activities on the local level will be extended with a transnational dissemination strategy. The planned educational activities in terms of strengthening the activities with a European dimension to European audiences are more elaborate on a regional level, yet, in parallel, Erasmus+ applications will be implemented. The application addresses the promotion of multilingualism in an appropriate way. The intention to participate in international activities and promote contacts with other EHL sites (Ostia and Carnuntum), is a developmental act. The plan to set up enhanced audiovisual experiences, marketing campaigns through social

media, enhanced Google Maps, and planned immersive technologies will raise the attractiveness of the site on a European scale. **The site's role as a driving force of European Heritage Days, ICOM Museum Days, and initial point of Camino Maltes to Compostela also shows the potential to raise European attractiveness and the mobility of professionals.**

The submitted project meets the criteria required for the European Heritage Label.

Organisational capacity (work plan)

Heritage Malta, the project managing organisation, is a competent agency at the national level. It is a multifaceted agency managing over 90 sites, with specific departments for different tasks of management and with appropriate expertise in projects of this scale. The main goal of the management is to preserve the site's integrity while raising its accessibility and fostering visitor engagement, in line with monitored sustainable tourism. The application convincingly presents the preservation of the site, and the managing organisation is fully competent in this field.

The presentation of reception facilities, visitor information and signposting are sufficient, with the new concept of the progression of visitors' routes, relocation of facilities and new audio guide content. Public access to the site will be extended for visitors with disabilities, facilitating their movement, ensuring accessible visual content and providing tailored sessions to meet their needs. Implementing the Open Day's programme is envisioned for the upcoming years to improve visitors' figures. Free or discounted access for school-age children, along with specially guided tours, highlights the site's commitment to

engaging and supporting young people. Measures for realising a sustainable tourism activity are appropriate.

The communications strategy of the site includes local and international levels, and social media. **A local Pavilion will be set up to communicate EHL values, and specific activities with Malta Biennale Art 2026, as well as Google Arts and Culture themes, are planned.** The applicant's organisation will elaborate on a dedicated communications strategy. The applicant outlines appropriate measures for environmentally friendly management and presentation. The operating budget includes the main operating items for the project implementation.

The site has adequate operational capacity to implement the submitted project and meets the criteria required for the European Heritage Label.

Recommendation

Saint Paul's Catacombs represent an important multicultural venue of the Roman and medieval period of southern Europe, which is a significant place of religious tolerance, freedom, human dignity, multiculturalism and equality.

The panel recommends that Saint Paul's catacombs receive the European Heritage label.

The Pader Urban River Landscape

PADERBORN (GERMANY)

9th century –



Picture source: ©Monika Lumperda

Description

The Pader Urban River Landscape is a site that focuses on the Pader River, the shortest in Germany, located in the east of the North Rhine-Westphalia Land. Only 4.6 km long from its springs to its mouth, the Pader flows exclusively through the city of Paderborn (150,000 inhabitants). Rising in a spectacular area with around 200 karst springs, this river, divided into six branches, still flows within the city's medieval walls today. From there it flows through a floodplain landscape, developed as a place for leisure and recreation, the Paderauenpark, to finally empty into the Lippe near the Schloß Neuhaus. In the section that runs through the former episcopal residence, many vestiges of the Pader development remain, including the meadow irrigation systems, mill canals and flood protection, as well as heat recovery facilities. These different areas form a complex of great cultural, historical

and ecological value. It is a unique urban river landscape, punctuated over a short distance by numerous technical innovations introduced over time.

European Significance

The Pader Urban River Landscape is an integral part of Europe's cultural water heritage. On this river, fed by one of the most water-rich intra-urban spring areas in Europe, there is an impressive density of marks that bear witness to life with and around water for over 1,200 years. **From the early economic exploitation of the river to its overexploitation in pre-industrial times and the sustainable use of water today, it reflects the economic and social changes happening all around it.** The use of water in Paderborn and the technical innovations over the centuries are because of the intensive exchange of knowledge and experience across Europe. **Since the Carolingian era and the founding of the imperial palace, Paderborn's unique abundance of water has fostered these processes:** Christianization, spatial planning, Hanseatic trade, technical experimentation, and the exchange of knowledge via cross-border monastic networks, medical cooperation, and more. **This legacy of ecologically, economically and socially responsible water management will in the future serve as a platform for exchange on a European scale.** The symbolic European value of the site is also based on raising people's awareness of conscious and sustainable living from and with the Pader River. **The cultural use of a natural resource such as water also represents a valuable reservoir of knowledge for shaping a liveable future in Europe's urban spaces.**

The European significance of the site is expressed in its narratives: the richness and variety of this urban river landscape is concentrated in a small space, the impressive density of historical evidence spanning 1,200 years is a complex story of man and water. This articulation between water and water related heritage reflect the ecological, social and cultural issues of Europe and include the citizen, science, and intersectoral cooperation at local and European levels.

The site meets criterion (iii) for European significance, as required for the European Heritage Label.

Strengthening the communication of the European dimension to European audiences (project)

Launched to mark the European Year of Cultural Heritage (2018), this project is based on pilot actions carried out in several places of historical, natural and cultural importance, selected along the Pader River to introduce the concept of European water culture. **Called the "laboratory", these 14 learning sites will develop a tangible and virtual experience of heritage based on responsible ecological, social and economic water management.** In cooperation with the University of Paderborn and, in time, with other European countries or networks, the laboratory will serve as a platform for exchange on a European scale, *The Pader for Europe*. The project aims to expand on a series of existing initiatives to raise awareness of the site's European significance amongst a wide audience (classrooms, families, tourists, Europeans of all generations). One initiative aims to familiarize children and young people with Paderborn's water-related cultural heritage and strengthen their sense of

responsibility for sustainable water use. It will do this by building on a long-term collaboration with teacher training programs, the *Wassererlebnis Paderborn* (Paderborn Water Experience) school project, and a Water Academy involving museums, libraries, didactics, students, and staff. The website (www.pader-europe.eu) offers brief explanations in six languages that link to the online encyclopaedia "Paderpedia", using virtual and augmented reality. A new information centre is currently being designed. The museums are involved in artistic and cultural projects on Paderborn's urban landscape, including an interdisciplinary and forward-looking approach to its contemporary living space. **Cooperation is underway for several European and international cultural events, including *Confluence Musikfestival* and projects such as "The European City on Water" and *Landscape and Society Shaped by Water*, (an ERASMUS+-funded project).**

Particular attention should be paid to future cooperation with other European sites (EHL or UNESCO sites).

The submitted project meets the criteria required for the European Heritage Label.

Organisational capacity (work plan)

The Pader Urban River Landscape is managed by the Department of Environmental Protection and Green Spaces, City of Paderborn. It is supported by an interdisciplinary steering group that brings together the relevant departments (Culture, Environmental Protection and Green Spaces, Urban Marketing), the Tourist Office, the University of Paderborn and the association *Freunde der Paderborn e.V.*

The management plans provide for an initial phase (2024-2026) and then an

intensified one from 2027. The protected site is permanently accessible and considered from different perspectives including cultural, ecological and utilitarian. The communications strategy is digitally oriented. The site is promoted as part of the regional, *Modellregion Nachhaltiger Tourismus Teutoburger Wald* (Teutoburg Forest regional model region) for sustainable tourism.

The site has adequate operational capacity to implement the submitted project and meets the criteria required for the European Heritage Label.

Recommendation

The Pader Urban River Landscape illustrates the richness and diversity of an urban river landscape concentrated within a small area, reflecting 1,200 years of complex interactions between people and water, while emphasizing that water is life, essential for both people and nature, and that its sustainable use is a major challenge for today's European community.

The Panel recommends that the Pader Urban River Landscape receive the European Heritage Label.

Rashi of Troyes – Places of Remembrance

TROYES (FRANCE)

11th century



Picture source: © Studio OG - Troyes La Champagne Tourisme

Description

Rashi of Troyes was a French Rabbi who authored comprehensive commentaries on the Talmud and the Hebrew Bible. He was an important Jewish scholar of the Middle Ages and a well-known biblical exegete. **Since the 11th century, Rashi's students have spread his commentaries, ideas, and values in more than 43 European countries and throughout a vast area of present-day Europe.** Hundreds of manuscripts from the Rashi School thus circulated across Europe and are preserved in some forty European institutions today. Six sites in Troyes and Aube preserve and convey Rashi's ideas. They consist of Rashi European University and Cultural Institute (Rashi Institute), old Jewish quarter, Maison Rachi and in Aube Department three murals along the Rashi Trail.

European Significance

Rashi's commentaries, ideas and values are still present in over 43 European countries and large parts of

present-day Europe. They deal with gender equality, tolerance and freedom of expression. **Rashi's legacy in Troyes bears witness to the contribution of Jews and Judaism in shaping a diverse and open Europe from the Middle Ages onwards.** The European significance is clearly articulated in the site's narrative. The site meets criteria (i and iii) for European significance, as required for the European Heritage Label.

Strengthening the communication of the European dimension to European audiences (project)

The sites in Troyes and in Aube Department are preserving and transmitting Rashi's legacy through educational, cultural, and artistic initiatives, including classes, conferences, tours, and tourist attractions enriched with multilingual digital features. The Maison Rachi' welcomes school groups. English-speaking or sign language learning and access officers highlight the European values promoted by Rashi during the visit. English, Spanish, and Hebrew-speaking learning and access officers also guide school groups around the three murals located on the 'Rashi Trail'. School exchanges are in place and a Scavenger hunt available on site and in digital version. Rashi's multilingual legacy will be highlighted through various initiatives. The Public Interest Consortium's (PIC) artistic initiatives will be offered in French, English and German starting this year. Tourist, cultural, and educational activities around the murals of the 'Rashi Trail' are conducted by learning and access officers in English, Spanish, or Hebrew. Those working at 'Maison Rachi' welcome visitors in English and sign language. The PIC plans to extend the offer to European audiences by providing training to learning and access officers via 'Aube Médiation'.

The translation of information brochures for each site into English, German, Spanish, Italian, and Hebrew will further support this initiative. The PIC's digital content will be translated into English, German, Spanish, Italian and Portuguese in Spring 2025. The site plans to cooperate with EHL sites of Kaunas (Lithuania) and Dohány Street Synagogue, Budapest (Hungary) and partnerships with Jewish sites SCHUM, Erfurt are under consideration. The creation of a cultural and tourism offer facilitated by mapping. Analyse Latin and Hebrew sources relating to Rashi and the Jewish communities of the county of Champagne, to create a digital database accessible to European researchers.

Creating a European exchange network to work on joint initiatives and tools for promoting Jewish heritage. They are active in the Cultural Routes (ERJH), EDJC, EHDs. Design of the exhibition 'Being Jewish in Champagne in the Middle Ages: A Land and Its People'. Development of a trail to promote the appreciation of works of sacred art. Implementation of a marketing research-action initiative.

The submitted project includes awareness raising youth involvement, education, multilingualism, participating in networks, new technologies and media.

The submitted project meets the criteria required for the European Heritage Label.

Organisational capacity (work plan)

In 2023 the PIC was founded to coordinate all the initiatives and actions of the sites. The City of Troyes carries out urban renewal initiatives, such as Planned Housing Improvement Operations, which benefit the city centre. Three of the six heritage sites (Rashi Institute, 'Maison Rachi', and the old Jewish quarter) are

located in the city centre of Troyes, which is part of a Conservation and Enhancement Plan. In 2016, 1,500 m² of buildings, housing the synagogue and 'Maison Rachi', were restored to their 17th-century appearance. The restauration and preservation of the site is proven. Each website provides information on how to access the sites (opening hours, contact details). Reception staff, several tour guides and learning and access officers' welcome visitors at each site. The 'Aube Médiation' training programme will guarantee a uniform welcome at each site from spring 2025. The guides will receive training in explaining the European dimension of Rashi's memory and in promoting the European Heritage Label. Regarding accessibility, the Rashi Institute and 'Maison Rachi' have a lift and access ramps. Audio recordings featured in the exhibition at 'Maison Rachi', along with the online broadcasting of lectures by the Rashi Institute, enhance accessibility to this offering, especially for individuals with disabilities. One of the learning and access officers working at 'Maison Rachi' is trained in sign language. The PIC sites welcome school groups (most notably during the Education and Action Week against Racism and Anti-Semitism held in March), organise visits for young visitors and offer courses and events geared towards students. Since 2016, Aube en Champagne Attractivité supports the *Slow Tourism Lab*, one of eight laboratories forming the national network France Tourisme Lab. Troyes was awarded the Innovative Sustainable Destination label in 2023. Developing tourist attractions centred around Rashi creates a virtuous cycle that boosts visitor satisfaction and fosters territorial economic development. The *Grand Est Regional Tourism Agency* has been pursuing a smart tourism offer

since 2023, aimed at promoting responsible and digital tourism. The site is managed eco-friendly and sustainable. The site is funded by the City of Troyes, the Aube Departmental Council and the Grand Est Regional Council.

The site has adequate operational capacity to implement the submitted project and meets the criteria required for the European Heritage Label.

Recommendation

Rashi of Troyes - Places of Remembrance bears witness to the contribution of Jews and Judaism in shaping a diverse and open Europe from the Middle Ages onwards.

The Panel recommends that Rashi of Troyes - Places of Remembrance receive the European Heritage Label.

Places of Peace

ALCÁÇOVAS (PORTUGAL), ALCAÑICES (SPAIN), EVORAMONTE (PORTUGAL), KAYNARDZHA (BULGARIA), TRENČÍN (SLOVAKIA), VASVÁR (HUNGARY), ZADAR (CROATIA)

13th – 19th century



Picture source: © Fabio Simicev, 2022

Description

Places of Peace is a transnational site comprised of 7 partner sites in 6 European countries: Alcáçovas and Evoramonte (Portugal), Alcañices (Spain), Kaynardzha (Bulgaria), Trenčín (Slovakia), Vasvár (Hungary) and Zadar (Croatia) all linked by the ratification of the peace treaties, and is characterized by a great geographical, cultural and architectural diversity. **The application emphasizes the significance of peace treaties in the European history and celebrates one of the most genuine European values: peace.** Regardless of the historical period in which they were signed, those Peace Treaties had a significant impact on the political, economic and social development of Europe and on the creation of the system of democratic dialog and cooperation that characterizes Europe today.

European Significance

Places of Peace is characterised by a great geographical, cultural and architectural diversity, including palaces, castles, parks, civil and religious buildings of different styles and periods: St. Francis Monastery (Zadar, Croatia); Park of the Historical Fountain of Kaynardzha (Kaynardzha, Bulgaria), Paço dos Henriques (Alcáçovas, Portugal), Convention House (Evoramonte, Portugal), Convento de San Francisco/Historical Complex of Alcañices (Alcañices, Spain), House of Peace (Vasvár, Hungary) and Trenčin Castle (Trenčín, Slovakia).

Spanning from Portugal to Bulgaria, the application highlights Europe's shared history, cultural diversity, and intangible heritage, while through joint cross-border actions, **it fosters mutual understanding, intercultural dialogue, and greater European visibility for the sites, expecting to achieve a broader impact than individual efforts and strengthening a common European identity.** These sites are part of a larger initiative - the Association European Network of Places of Peace (hereinafter - ENPP), founded in Portugal in 2010 by public and private entities from five Member States (Portugal, Germany, the Netherlands, Slovakia and Bulgaria), successively extended to further four Member States (Hungary, Croatia, Romania and Spain) and two Candidate Countries (Turkey and Ukraine).

The application is detailed and explanatory, additional information has been presented concerning sites' cross-border and pan-European nature and their place and role in the development and promotion of the common values.

The site meets criteria (i and iii) for European significance, as required for the European Heritage Label.

Strengthening the communication of the European dimension to European audiences (project)

The Project is focusing on the objectives to promote all rights and values enshrined in the "Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union" (i.e. gender and religious equality, freedom of expression, free movement of persons and goods, the right to education and cross-border and transnational cooperation). The project is presented in a declarative form, while more emphasis is set on the ENPP and on individual partner sites, that offer a wide range of projects linked to peace promotion, peace education (artistic and cultural activities: exhibitions, performances etc.). All the sites put great emphasis on young people, raising awareness through creativity and targeted education, increasing access of the site to wider European audiences, use of languages, while stressing the need of digitalization and online interactivity. Well noted that some actions are already in place and are foreseen to be enhanced. **The partner sites are part of the Places of Peace Route - a virtual route that stretches from Portugal to Ukraine via ENPP website, but taking part in the activities of networks of EHL sites is still an objective of the Project, as well as aims to participate annually in the European Heritage Days and integrate into European Cultural Routes.** The site has added a Comprehensive Communications (work) Plan to support the strategic objectives of the transnational application Places of

Peace, while setting clear actions and indicators for the site.

The submitted project meets the criteria required for the European Heritage Label.

Organisational capacity (work plan)

The partner sites of the transnational site Places of Peace are currently managed by public institutions (mostly municipalities), the Association European Network of Places of Peace, while the operational management of the transnational site is ensured by a team of five people (the leader of the application is linked to the Zadar (Croatia) partner site) and each partner site has its own management team. Sites are protected as cultural sites (national monuments, cultural heritage properties, museums) on national level and certain municipal budgets are allocated or other financial mechanisms used (e.g., programs) for conservation and other works, ensuring the preservation of the site and its transmission to future generations. Actions have already been carried out to raise awareness, signal and train staff. There is a lot of emphasis on young people and students, such as special educational programs, free access, etc. Means of sustainable tourism such as seasonality, limiting waste production or promoting wellbeing of local communities are present. The site has adequate operational capacity to implement the submitted project and meets the criteria required for the European Heritage Label.

Recommendation

The transnational site Places of Peace represents the vital role of peace treaties in European history and celebrates peace as Europe's most genuine value, highlighting the continent's shared past, cultural diversity, and intangible heritage - from Portugal to Bulgaria - while fostering mutual understanding, intercultural dialogue, and a stronger common European identity through collaborative cross-border actions.

The Panel recommends that Places of Peace receive the European Heritage Label.

La Nau Cultural Centre

VALENCIA (SPAIN)

1499 –



Picture source: © European Commission, 2024

Description

To celebrate the 500th anniversary of the foundation of the University of Valencia (in 1499), the *La Nau Cultural Centre* was established in 1999. Its aim is to highlight the university's cultural heritage and manage the institution's cultural activities. The historic building of the university, which celebrated the 525th anniversary of its construction in 2024, includes the old rectory, the chapel of Our Lady of Wisdom, the Paraninfo (or Academic Theater) and the Historical Library which has more than a thousand manuscripts and 350 original collections, including that of the Duke of Calabria. In addition, there are two cloisters with a theatre in a colonnade, exhibition spaces and other spaces for university and civic education. The architectural palimpsest of this building is a testament to its history and its close relationship with the important events of European history. In addition to its original appearance from the late Middle Ages, Renaissance and Classicist Baroque, the building also underwent modifications in the 19th and 20th centuries following the

upheavals of the War of Independence (1808-1814) and the Civil War (1936-39).

European Significance

Since 1499, the University of Valencia, known today as the La Nau Cultural Centre, has been associated with the Renaissance and Humanism, movements of cultural and pedagogical renewal that spread throughout Europe in the second half of the 15th century until the Thirty Years' War. Luis Vives was close to the great figures of European Renaissance humanism, such as Erasmus of Rotterdam and Thomas More. Like them, he contributed to the programme of social and civic transformation promoted by the Humanist Renaissance. These were based on the so-called "studia humanitatis" which the universities promoted through their departments of Latin, rhetoric, Greek, law, theology, art and medicine. La Nau continues these programmes annually including the "Luis Vives European School of Thought". These programmes contribute to the consolidation of the democratic values of the European Union. Famous figures such as the internationally renowned philosopher and humanist Luis Vives, the humanists Rojas Clemente and Honorato Juan, the naturalist Cavanilles, the scientist Corachán, the mathematician Tomás Vicente Tosca, the scholars Gregorio Mayans and Francisco Pérez Bayer and the Nobel Prize winner in Medicine Santiago Ramón y Cajal have studied and taught at the university. These figures are widely recognised in European history, science and culture, and have forged and continue to forge a close relationship between the university and European history and integration for more than five centuries. Therefore, the European significance is clearly articulated in the La Nau Cultural Centre's narrative.

The site meets criteria (i, ii and iii) for European significance, as required for the European Heritage Label.

Strengthening the communication of the European dimension to European audiences (project)

The project focuses on programmes such as the “Escena Erasmus”, which brings together students from the University of Valencia and other European universities. Priority is given to intergenerational, inclusive and flexible approaches, in line with the recommendations, approved by the Council of the European Union on 16 June 2022, to promote lifelong learning and thus contribute to building a Europe of knowledge and opportunities, with a particular focus on young people.

La Nau Cultural Centre is committed to improving multilingual access through planned actions in the coming years. These include audio guides focused on promoting knowledge of the cultural heritage of La Nau, the Forthem Alliance and its Multilingualism Laboratory, “Escena Erasmus”, a pioneering initiative that uses the potential of performing arts to connect European Erasmus exchange students with students from the University of Valencia. “Escena Erasmus” has received awards such as the “European Charlemagne Youth Prize” from the European Parliament; “Premi 9 d’Octubre “Lluís Vives” from the Consell de la Generalitat Valenciana”, “Honorary Recognition of the European League of Artistic Societies PEARLE” and others. La Nau's cultural programmes focus on the bilingualism that defines their autonomous community, too. This promotes and preserves the minority language (Valencian). La Nau Cultural Centre is participating in the ChemiNova project funded by the European Union,

that aims to digitise university cultural heritage in Europe. Its priorities include preventive conservation, greater accessibility and inclusivity through intelligent computing. ChemiNova covers Austria, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Romania, Spain and Ukraine. La Nau Cultural Centre is also the founding headquarters of the “European Route of Historic Pharmacies and Medicinal Gardens”. The submitted project meets the criteria required for the European Heritage Label.

Organisational capacity (work plan)

The University Cultural Service of the University of Valencia, through the Cultural Heritage Department, is responsible for the management of La Nau Cultural Centre. The university buildings are in good condition and are under the proper control of the preventive protection authorities. The reception is available to the public 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. La Nau Cultural Centre is open to the public seven days a week. Young university students from Spain (SICUE program), from various European cities (Erasmus+ program) and from further afield (international programme), not only participate in organising and promoting La Nau's cultural workshops but also design and coordinate certain activities themselves. La Nau Cultural Centre is accessible on foot and by bike. La Nau Cultural Centre has a communications department with professional profiles that guarantee the dissemination of activities on the website and social networks including Facebook, Twitter, Youtube and Instagram. They will also adapt the digital communications strategy based on the new social transformations to take place over the next four years. La Nau Cultural Centre is managed in accordance with the *UV sostenibilitat guidelines*. This

guarantees that the University of Valencia is compliant with the Sustainable Development Goals and the well-being of the planet and its people. The site has adequate operational capacity to implement the submitted project and meets the criteria required for the European Heritage Label.

Recommendation

La Nau Cultural Centre demonstrates the long-term process of intellectual and academic engagement that the University of Valencia has been providing for over 500 years, using traditional as well as creative educational forms, involving artistic creativity, combining physical visits to the site with the use of digitalization processes and social networks.

The Panel recommends that La Nau Cultural Centre receive the European Heritage Label.

Mariemont

MORLANWELZ (BELGIUM)

16th century –



Picture source: ©Domaine & Museum of Mariemont, 2024

Description

Mariemont is a multifaceted cultural and historical site located in Morlanwelz, Belgium. It encompasses a museum, landscaped park, arboretum, and archaeological remains of princely residences associated with key European historical figures, including members of the Habsburg Imperial family. The museum preserves the extensive collections of Raoul Warocqué, an industrialist and philanthropist of the early 20th century, whose donations led to the creation of a major public collection. The site integrates diverse heritage elements: from Roman, Egyptian, and Asian antiquities to the 18th–20th century European decorative arts.

European Significance

Today, Mariemont is presented as a site of European cultural transmission, shaped by centuries of aristocratic patronage and the philanthropic legacy of Raoul Warocqué. **It emphasizes gender equality, intellectual heritage, and links to European historical movements**

through the figures of Mary of Hungary, Archduchess Isabella, and others. The museum represents European values through its collections, exhibitions, and reinterpretation of heritage from a critical and inclusive perspective.

Mariemont shows clear symbolic European value and a strong relevance to the history and values of Europe. Its commitment to gender inclusion, heritage interpretation, and decolonial thinking strengthens its position. Although it is possible to view certain aspects of Mariemont's heritage critically, the permanent collections are evolving and the Warocqué legacy is being critically assessed, with an open and balanced approach, and understanding of the needs and perspectives of diverse groups of visitors.

The site meets criteria (i and iii) for European significance, as required for the European Heritage Label.

Strengthening the communication of the European dimension to European audiences (project)

The Mariemont project anchors local heritage within a wider European narrative by reinterpreting the site's 500-year history, from the Habsburg Renaissance to the industrial age of Raoul Warocqué, as a crossroads of cultural, political and artistic exchange. Through the flagship exhibition *Mary of Hungary, Art & Power in the Renaissance* (2025-2026), and collaborations within the Europalia Spain programme, Mariemont links the territory to European routes of knowledge, art and diplomacy. **Partnerships with Creative Europe and the Routes of Charles V network strengthen this European visibility.** The museum's revitalisation (2025-2028) will generate employment in culture, education and tourism, while digital innovation stimulates creative

industries. Mariemont provides training for teachers, guides, and university students, fostering transferable skills in heritage interpretation and multilingual communication. By attracting European visitors and scholars, the project contributes to the local economy and enhances the region's cultural profile.

Mariemont engages residents, schools and associations through participatory programmes, co-curation, and citizen events such as the Renaissance Day re-enactment and Marie'ART land-art trail.

Local folklore groups and community volunteers help revive living traditions linked to the site's history, ensuring inclusive ownership of its heritage. Annual activities welcome more than 15,000 schoolchildren and numerous families, building intergenerational bonds with the territory.

The project adopts an eco-design approach to exhibitions and permanent displays, combining energy efficiency with durable digital tools. New immersive installations reconstruct lost Renaissance architecture, music and landscapes, while updated signage, QR codes and tactile tables extend access on-site and online.

These initiatives support sustainable tourism and digital inclusion, aligning Mariemont with EU goals for green and digital transition.

Integrating research excellence, community engagement and European cooperation, Mariemont project meets the European Heritage Label criteria, offering a model of sustainable, participatory and digitally advanced heritage management.

Organisational Capacity (work plan)

The site is managed under the Wallonia-Brussels Federation with a robust governance structure and clear administrative support. Staff count

reaches nearly 100 people, with advisory and citizen councils contributing to participatory management. A balanced and transparent budget is in place, with additional private and EU support.

The institutional framework, staffing, and funding are adequate to implement the EHL project. The museum is professionally operated and capable of managing its ambitious programming. The museum demonstrates the capacity and vision necessary for sustained engagement with European audiences. Since the extensive park represents a significant oasis of greenery in an otherwise predominantly post-industrial landscape, environmental considerations are naturally emphasized. The site has adequate operational capacity to implement the submitted project and meets the criteria required for the European Heritage Label.

Recommendation

Mariemont embodies symbolic European value through its princely history, intellectual heritage and inclusive approach to culture and historical memory.

The Panel recommends that Mariemont receive the European Heritage Label.

Landeszeughaus

GRAZ (AUSTRIA)

17th century –



Picture source: ©Universalmuseum Joanneum, J.J.Kucek 2021

Description

The Landeszeughaus, located in Graz (Styrian Armoury), is the most extensive historical collection of weapons in the world, preserved in their original form. It is a historic municipal and provincial armoury that was established during the Thirty Years' War. Located in a 17th-century building, its primary purpose was to defend the southeastern part of the Habsburg Monarchy, especially during periods of conflict with the Hungarian and the Ottoman forces, and was a repository for cutting, stabbing and firearms. As the political situation calmed and with advances in technology, the armoury lost its importance. In the 19th century it became part of the Provincial Museum Joanneum. Today it is a popular tourist attraction and has been sensitively complemented with modern elements to meet the needs of exhibitions, and the conservation and presentation needs of the collection. The interpretation of the collection is continuously updated to provide a more comprehensive understanding of military conflicts, their

causes, and their impacts. The complex is in the core zone of the "City of Graz – Historic Centre and Schloss Eggenberg", listed on the World Heritage List.

European Significance

The Landeszeughaus played an important role in the military history of Central and Southeastern Europe. Today, its social significance is based on commemorating the importance of peace and mutual understanding by reflecting on war, violence, and the destruction in the past. For centuries, armed conflicts in the region caused the movement of people, goods, and ideas between Austria, Germany, Croatia, Italy, Hungary, Bosnia and other countries. **The Landeszeughaus was an important hub within this European network: this was where the weapons were ordered, plans devised, and strategies created.** The armoury became obsolete with the expansion of economic ties and the end of armed conflict, the establishment of embassies, the opening of borders between countries, and the resulting changes in the perception of "others," reflected, for example, in literature, music, and cuisine. **Peaceful cooperation is one of the fundamental pillars of the European Union.** The current museum of Landeszeughaus critically examines historical circumstances and reflects the shifts in the perception of common values. The application convincingly develops the European narrative of the site by emphasizing the central idea of peace. The site meets criteria (i and iii) for European significance, as required for the European Heritage Label.

[Strengthening the communication of the European dimension to European](#)

audiences (project)

In keeping with its focus on peace, the museum's narrative and programs are being revised. The project includes reworking texts in printed materials and on the website; expanding the range of languages offered; providing a special audio guide for young people; training staff on the European dimension of the museum and its significance regarding current conflicts; new educational programs on Europe and peace; strengthening cooperation with relevant historical monuments and museums in the region and neighbouring countries. For a long time, the educational activities of the Landeszeughaus concentrated on the artistic and technical-historical value of its exhibits. In recent years, however, perspectives have changed and become more diverse. **The focus on Europe and the history of peace has expanded in the school curriculums.** New activities will include the "Voices from Europe programme," where the human dimension from periods of war will now be presented through letters, diaries, travelogues, etc.; in addition, the "Images of the Other" programme will cover the conflict between the Habsburg and Ottoman Empires and will analyse and consider the propaganda tools of the period. The museum website will provide materials for school lessons in several languages, including Slovenian, Croatian and Hungarian: maps, scientific and literary texts, source texts and images will be provided. Proposed activities are linked to presenting the European dimension of the site to a broader audience. The proposed activities comply with the SMART criteria.

The submitted project meets the criteria required for the European Heritage Label.

Organisational capacity (work plan)

The Landeszeughaus belongs to the Universal Museum Joanneum, Austria's oldest and second largest museum. It was endowed to the province of Styria by Archduke Johann in 1811 and today its collection comprises some five million objects. In 2003, the Joanneum was transformed into a non-profit limited company. The Joanneum currently encompasses 20 museums in and outside Graz and a zoo, with several hundred employees in total. The Universalmuseum is funded by the Province of Styria, which also provides the main funding. Within the Universal Museum network, the Landeszeughaus enjoys the benefits of shared strategic considerations and objectives, such as ongoing employee training, the long-term security of the collections, development of a digital strategy and new concepts in marketing and promotion. The Landeszeughaus is a protected monument in accordance with the Austrian Monument Protection Act. A sufficient team of specialists is responsible for the conservation, restoration, interpretation, and education. The museum is wheelchair accessible and environmentally friendly. Admission is free for children and young people up to the age of 19. The candidate site has adequate operational capacity to implement the submitted project and meets the criteria required for the European Heritage Label.

Recommendation

The Landeszeughaus presents the story of war and peace in a diverse and comprehensive way, drawing on Europe's largest collection of historical weapons and related documents from the turbulent history of Central and Southeastern Europe.

The Panel recommends that the Landeszeughaus receive the European Heritage Label.

The Industrial Heritage of Varkaus

VARKAUS (FINLAND)

20th century



Picture source: ©Varkaus Museum Centre

Description

Varkaus is an industrial town in eastern Finland. Its origins date back to the 15th century when the area was first settled along the waterways. In 1909 following the establishment of mills and an episode of metalworking industry, the Ahlström limited company acquired the factories and established a wood processing industry. The company commissioned the first town plan for Varkaus from the Thomé brothers who were also responsible for the design of industrial buildings. In 1939 a new plan was completed by Alvar Aalto, the factory's chief architect. The Ahlström company offered the rapidly growing industrial community not only jobs and housing, but also education, healthcare and leisure activities. To improve the housing conditions, the Warkauden Housing Reform Association was founded in the 1930s, with Alvar Aalto as an architect. In the late 1930s, the first factory producing Aalto's affordable prefabricated wooden houses was opened. These were later used in the post-World

War II reconstruction of Finland and Europe.

By the 2010s the paper production machines in Varkaus had closed. However, in 2015 the production of containerboard began. With its focus on carbon neutrality goals and environmentally friendly technologies, Varkaus now processes 65% of the cardboard packaging recycled by Finnish households.

With the challenges of industrial growth, and its decline and transformation, cooperation between different actors is required to ensure the sustainable future of Varkaus industrial community. Today the city of Varkaus showcases the development of the industrial community from the 18th century to the present day.

European Significance

The industrial story of Varkaus is an example of the emergence of an industrial community in a remote area, thanks to its geographical location and natural conditions. Since the beginning, the factory was the driving force behind the prosperity of the region. The history of the site was not monochrome. Nevertheless, there was a continuous interest in improving the lives of all participants. A law enacted in 1879 prohibited children under the age of 12 from working in industry. The factory provided its employees with housing, education, and healthcare. Improvements in workers' living conditions culminated in the 1930s housing reforms and Alvar Aalto's small house production. The structure of the community also reflected elements of freedom and democracy. The newspaper founded by the factory in 1919 served as a source of information and a forum for discussion. The factory brought together different

classes, including lower income groups and acted as a centre for cultural and civic life that included theatre, music, and sports. The industrial community in Varkaus implemented many of Europe's fundamental values even before they were formalized, emphasising well-being, creating a sense of community, and enabling participation. **Today, its diversified industry aligns with the green transition in the energy industry and the circular economy goals, providing solutions for a more ecologically sustainable Europe.**

The candidate site meets criterion (i) for European significance, as required for the European Heritage Label.

Strengthening the communication of the European dimension to European audiences (project)

The project aims to raise awareness of the stages of European industrial history and its impact on people, the community, and shared values. It intends to produce multilingual pedagogical content on industrial history for various target groups. Part of the project includes an Industrial Heritage Week event, connecting Varkaus to other EHL sites and the European Route of Industrial Heritage sites. Its target audience includes children, youth, industrial community, cultural history professionals, tourists and residents. New videos and augmented reality will become part of their experience of the site. Regarding the involvement of contemporary art, the cooperation with the Regional Dance Centre of Eastern Finland can be highlighted. This cooperation reveals how new perspectives on industrial cultural heritage through modern dance, for example by means of guided dance tours in the Old Varkaus area and performances

in open areas and interiors, are possible. Dance performances will also engage local dance schools. The proposed activities comply with the SMART criteria.

The submitted project meets the criteria required for the European Heritage Label.

Organisational capacity (work plan)

The industrial heritage of Varkaus site contains several dozen buildings belonging to various public and private owners and is in the centre of Varkaus. The site contains three protected nationally significant built cultural environments: the Varkaus factories, the Kommila-Kosulanniemi residential area, and the Päiviönsaari centre. Recently, the Old Varkaus network was established to create an organised and structured body to develop the site. The network comprises about twenty operators, including a local museum and other public organisations, industrial and tourism companies, and non-profit organisations. This network will create a development and action plan for the site. The funding is primarily secured from the municipal budget, and the main responsible member of the governing network is the Varkaus Museum Centre Konsti. The site has adequate operational capacity to implement the submitted project and meets the criteria required for the European Heritage Label.

Recommendation

The industrial heritage of Varkaus tells a shared European story about the role of industry in the birth of a democratic welfare society. **The Panel recommends that The Industrial heritage of Varkaus receive the European Heritage Label.**

Free Speech Space

CZECHIA

1939-1989



Picture source: © Pavel Kořínek, 2024

Description

Free Speech Space is a network of 14 landmark sites from the 14 regions of the Czechia that represent the struggle for free speech and free access to information during the totalitarian regimes of the 20th century in Europe. It includes historical and current sites of Radio Free Europe, former broadcasting jammers, and places that fought for uncensored broadcasting of the Czech media in 1968. These national thematic sites from across the Czechia mirror significant moments in the historical formation of the European Union.

The selection of the sites is the result of systematic archival and historical research, interviews with eyewitnesses and working in close cooperation with local communities. These places can be characterized as follows: a) radio and television broadcasters associated with

the dissemination of uncensored information, where the fight for freedom of speech took place during the totalitarian era, b) historical jammers of free broadcasting, c) the headquarters of Czech Radio, d) places associated with printing samizdat literature containing uncensored information.

European significance

Free Speech Space is based on the authentic contemporary experience of the Czech nation and recalls the different dimensions and tools behind the struggle for freedom of expression and the dissemination of information in a totalitarian state behind the Iron Curtain. This topic has great relevance in the current context when the information society, an important contemporary phenomenon, is fundamentally changing the nature and processes of democracy by influencing the fundamental values and themes that shape the everyday lives of EU citizens.

The selected places and their fates thus contribute to an understanding of European history and the importance of the values that form the basis of European integration and democracy today. This specific historical experience demonstrates the devastating impact that silencing diverse opinions had and how much courage was required to resist repression.

The European significance is articulated through the narratives of the sites. The site meets the criteria (i, ii and iii) for the European significance, as required for the European Heritage Label.

Strengthening the communication of the European dimension to European audiences (project)

The project consists of two interconnected approaches: an umbrella project and several sub-projects. The umbrella project is a broad framework that coordinates activities at the national and international levels. The purpose of this is to support and strengthen the network of all 14 selected landmarks, while implementing separate education activities, supporting artistic creation, networking, and raising awareness of the network's main theme. Sub-projects will respond to the specificities of each site, enhancing their significance by drawing on their historical, cultural and educational contexts. The implementation plan is ambitious, yet coherent and achievable, even though the sites are not traditional cultural heritage sites and are separately located in different landowners' areas. The project's main activities, awareness raising, youth involvement, education, multilingualism, making monuments more accessible, new technologies and cooperative projects with other EHL sites correspond with the expectations of all the criteria. The submitted project meets the criteria required for the European Heritage Label.

Organisational capacity (work plan)

Free Speech Space's 14 thematic sites are coordinated by the Project Strategic Council, the Coordination Committee and site teams that comprise local implementation groups, volunteers and experts. The goal is to preserve the sites and transmit them to future generations, as currently only some sites are protected. The candidate site has adequate operational capacity to implement the

submitted project and meets the criteria required for the European Heritage Label.

Recommendation

Free Speech Space upholds European values by advancing freedom, solidarity, and respect for human rights—the foundational principles of European unity.

The Panel recommends that Free Speech Space receive the European Heritage Label.

Bosco delle Querce Park

SEVESO AND MEDA (ITALY)

1976



Picture source: © Seveso Municipality

Description

Bosco delle Querce regional natural Park of Seveso and Meda is a site born after the ICMESA industrial disaster of July 10, 1976. Opened in 1996 and it was recognised as a regional natural park in 2005. The contaminated land has been transformed into a safe environment, rich in biodiversity and today is a symbol of ecological rebirth. The Bosco delle Querce Park, in the shape of a right triangle of approximately 43 hectares and 6 km perimeter, is located in the province of Monza and Brianza, Lombardy, 20 km north of Milan.

European Significance

Bosco delle Querce Park defines its European significance by its transformation from an environmental disaster into an example of ecological and social rebirth. Built in the area directly affected by the release of dioxin by the ICMESA company in 1976, the park is the result of a vast and innovative environmental reclamation and recovery project. This tragic event also led to the

publication of the “Seveso Directive” (1982/501/EEC), a key EU regulation for industrial risk management. This directive subsequently inspired further regulations that strengthened risk management and remediation of contaminated sites. **The Park is considered "artificial" because it was created from scratch in a contaminated area. It not only celebrates ecological rebirth but also represents a tangible symbol of regulatory and environmental progress at a European level.** Its uniqueness lies in the Park’s transformation from a tragedy into an example of regeneration and sustainability.

The Bosco delle Querce Park extends over an area marked by one of the most serious environmental accidents in Italian and European history. **This accident is known worldwide as the Seveso disaster, which prompted a series of discussions and regulations regarding industrial risk management and safety in Europe, following the Seveso Directive.**

Finally, the Bosco delle Querce Park represents Europe's capacity to turn a tragedy into an opportunity, through the ecological regeneration of a territory, the resilience of its population and the European cooperation that led to the development of common protection rules. Moreover, the site provides a concrete illustration of a long process of regeneration that included cleaning for ten years, followed by the design and creation of the park.

The European significance is clearly articulated in the Bosco delle Querce Park. The candidate site meets the criteria (i and iii) for European significance, as required for the European Heritage Label.

Strengthening the communication of the European dimension to European audiences (project)

The project aims to strengthen the Bosco delle Querce Park as both a place of remembrance and a symbol of environmental resilience. It demonstrates, on the one hand, how a contaminated area can be revitalised and become a robust and accessible ecosystem after a disaster, and, on the other, how a disaster can become a European example, inspiring new ecological legislation that protects our environment. The 50th anniversary of the disaster, which will be commemorated in 2026, will highlight the Bosco delle Querce Park's ambition to disseminate internationally knowledge acquired throughout its history and encourage a sustainable and inclusive use of the park by fostering a connection with its local context.

The site intends to develop ongoing historical and environmental education initiatives, that continue to engage the local community and citizens through an annual program with volunteer days and environmental education workshops.

Additionally, by creating synergies with the EHL's environmental memory sites in Italy including Ostia Antica, Sant'Anna di Stazzema, Forte Cadine, and throughout Europe it can widely share its positive message of regeneration.

Planned projects encompass a multimedia tour linking the municipal library to the "Attic of Memory" installation in the Bosco delle Querce, presenting the Park's history through interactive archives, and a permanent multimedia exhibition at the visitor centre. Moreover, an initiative

entitled "Nature for art and Art for Nature" will combine the discovery of biodiversity with art, promoting activism for environmental protection, involving at least 40 classes of students at all levels. Despite the lack of sufficient attention to multilingualism, the submitted project meets the criteria required for the European Heritage Label.

Organisational capacity (work plan)

The Bosco delle Querce Park is managed in a very inclusive and participatory manner by the Municipality of Seveso and the staff of the Ecology Office housed within the visitor centre. This also ensures the safety of the park. The municipality collaborates with environmental and cultural associations, which participate in opening the visitor centre to the public and training staff. The programme of work emphasises visitor information and the planned implementation of activities and events. As a regional natural park, the Bosco delle Querce Park benefits from a "high conservation status" within Lombardy's protected area system which is well-being-oriented. Open daily and accessible to all, the park is equipped with informative signage in Italian and English, which is planned for renewal.

The site has adequate operational capacity to implement the submitted project and meets the criteria required for the European Heritage Label.

Recommendation

Bosco delle Querce Park exemplifies Europe's ability to transform tragedy into opportunity through ecological regeneration, community resilience, and the cooperative development of shared protection rules. **The Panel recommends that the Bosco delle Querce Park receive the European Heritage Label.**

Krzysztof Penderecki European Centre for Music

LUSŁAWICE (POLAND)

2013



Picture source: © Krzysztof Penderecki European Centre for Music in Lusławice, 2025

Description

Krzysztof Penderecki European Centre for Music is dedicated to the musical training of young European talent and to artistic performances. It is the result of a project led by Krzysztof Eugeniusz Penderecki (1933-2020), director of the Krakow Conservatory and a world-renowned master of contemporary music. The Music Centre, with its ultra-modern architecture, was built on an estate in southern Poland that includes historical buildings, a landscaped park and a 9-hectare Arboretum created by Krzysztof Penderecki.

European Significance

Krzysztof Penderecki European Centre for Music is dedicated to celebrating and promoting European artistic and intellectual life. The Centre, which includes a 650-seat concert hall, rooms for music teaching, a recording studio and dormitories participates in the training of young European musicians and is a hub for cultural exchange. European Grants supported its construction, and the Centre actively promotes common European

values. The estate on which the modern Centre was inaugurated in 2013 is rooted in European culture.

During the Renaissance period, Lusławice was a spiritual centre for the Arians (Polish Brethren), a religious group whose Lusławice School provided education in the field of theology, metaphysics, logic, dialectic, anatomy and physics. The Italian Faustus Socinus, the Arian's leading theologian, is buried in Lusławice. At the end of the 19th century, the estate belonged to Count Karol Lanckoroński, an archaeologist, collector, specialist in the Italian Renaissance, and patron of the arts. At the beginning of the 20th century, the painter Jacek Malczewski, who had closed ties to the European artistic community, stayed at the estate and created a small art school for local children.

The European significance of the Manor and Park Complex at the Krzysztof Penderecki European Centre for Music is clearly presented in the site's narrative. The site meets the criteria (i, ii and iii) of European significance, as required by the European Heritage Label.

Strengthening the communication of the European dimension to European audiences (project)

The Centre's rich musical programme celebrates European musical heritage and showcases musicians from all over Europe. In addition to training young talent, the Centre organises numerous educational activities such as **music therapy workshops, interactive painting workshops exploring European artistic heritage, workshops inspired by Malczewski's work promoting European humanist values, and workshops related to the tradition of botanical collections.** New activities are planned, such as workshops on the interpretation of European classical

music, lectures by master luthiers on **European instrument-making traditions, “Unity in Diversity” workshops where participants create artistic projects inspired by European traditions, and interactive courses on European history through musical works, reflecting key historical moments and cultural transformations on the continent.**

Guided tours highlight the European significance of the site. The promotion of the site’s European significance is also supported by symposiums bringing together academics and cultural figures. There are plans to open the 16th-century Arian Lamus house (Arian's adobe house) to the public and to organise exhibitions on the role of Luśławice in European history. The Centre promotes its activities through its website, a newsletter and social media, in Polish and English. Every year, documentary films present the tree species of the Arboretum and Penderecki's musical compositions.

The submitted project meets the criteria required for the European Heritage Label.

Organisational capacity (work plan)

Krzysztof Penderecki European Centre for Music is a cultural institution managed by the Polish state and registered with the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage. It is jointly managed by the Lesser Poland Region and the Krzysztof Penderecki Academy – International Music Centre Association. Heritage conservation regulations (the various elements are listed in the register of monuments) protect the Luśławice estate and park. The renovation of the 16th century Arian centre (Lamus), the modernisation of the park's infrastructure and accessibility, the digitalisation of the archives and the creation of virtual exhibitions are actions planned for 2024-2028.

The site has adequate operational capacity to implement the submitted project and meets the criteria required for the European Heritage Label.

Recommendation

Krzysztof Penderecki European Centre for Music stands as a remarkable showcase of Europe’s artistic past and present, uniting historical heritage, contemporary performances, innovative architecture, and the preservation of a designed landscape.

The Panel recommends that Krzysztof Penderecki European Centre for Music receive the European Heritage Label.

APPROVED, NON-SELECTED SITES

Scladina Cave

ANDENNE (BELGIUM)

Prehistoric period



Picture Source: © Sophie Bernard Photography, 2022-2024

Description

The Scladina Cave is located next to the Meuse River in the Walloon (Andenne) region. The site is supported by the Espace Muséal d'Andenne (EMA) museum, which is in the centre of Andenne and showcases Europe's prehistoric heritage, with a particular focus on the discoveries made at the Scladina Cave. It is a national site. Systematic excavation of the cave began in 1978 under the direction of Louvain University. **In 1990, the discovery of the jawbone of a Neanderthal girl, the oldest Neanderthal remains found in Belgium, provided significant impetus for further investigation of the findings.** A research programme has been underway since then. The cave is 60 metres long and 6 metres wide. The museum is dedicated to the study and preservation of the heritage and houses a collection of artefacts and fossils uncovered through the ongoing

excavations. The museum offers an interactive experience displaying both Ardenne ceramics and Scladina discoveries.

European Significance

The Scladina Cave is of significant value in the field of the European prehistory, particularly about the subject of Neanderthals, who are regarded as the earliest human species to have inhabited the continent (c. 400.000 years ago). It provides a comprehensive exploration of the customs, the evolution of the lifestyle of these individuals, as well as their mobility patterns. The museum (EMA) plays a central role in facilitating a more nuanced understanding of European identity. Its archaeological centre and museum make it a unique place, combining scientific research with cultural mediation. The promotion of fundamental European values, including the preservation of both natural and cultural heritage, scientific cooperation, access to knowledge and the dissemination of information, are convincingly explained. The cross-border nature of the site is also evident. The European significance is clearly articulated in the site's narrative through its historical and cultural role, its scientific development, and its environmental and cultural values.

The candidate site meets the criteria (i and iii) for European significance, as required for the European Heritage Label.

Strengthening the communication of the European dimension to European audiences (project)

The project focuses on promoting the site as a European centre for prehistoric heritage excavation and culture. The site's activities involve ongoing excavation; research initiatives focused on

Neanderthal's culture, educational programs and exhibitions at the museum. Throughout the FRONTIERES programme, Interactive visits to the museum and archaeological site for young visitors, especially children, contribute to an understanding of the site's European significance. The project aims to highlight Scladina Cave's importance as a key site for understanding European prehistory, particularly Neanderthal life. The ongoing excavation forms the core of the project, aiming to preserve the site while making it accessible to the public. The site's objective includes research, educational programs, and public engagement through immersive exhibits. The Espace Muséal d'Andenne supported by the city of Andenne manages the project, along with a network of international institutions. The site is part of the Cultural and Artistic Education Pathway (PECA) and is participating in an ongoing project focused on sound, making use of its prehistoric and ceramic collections. As part of the Ceramic Festival organised by the Andenne Cultural Centre, the museum and the Cave host exhibitions of ceramic works, created by students from Belgian academies, artistic creations, including live theatre performances and concerts. New activities proposed include the construction of a new website and the creation of a 3D model of the Scladina Cave. The latter is created as part of a European project and will make the cave accessible to a wider audience and virtually to individuals with disabilities. The site intends to cooperate with other prehistoric sites such as Krapina (Croatia) and to develop new collaborations with educational institutions. Offering the website in multiple languages and translating the permanent exhibition labelling will help present the European dimension of the site to European audiences.

The submitted project meets the criteria required for the European Heritage Label.

Organisational capacity (work plan)

The Scladina Cave is owned by the City of Andenne, which delegates the cave's administration, tourism, science, archaeology, and heritage management to the non-profit organisation Espace Muséal d'Andenne (EMA). Supported by a team of 20 professionals, the Scladina archaeological centre operates as a dynamic hub for research, conservation, and public engagement. It is divided into five areas: scientific, conservation, education, communications and administration. Preservation measures have been implemented to safeguard the integrity of the cave from external factors that could compromise its stability or authenticity. **The number of annual visitors is restricted. The site has been included in Belgium's indicative list for potential designation as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.** The museum is housed in a modern accessible building. Scheduled guided tours of the museum and cave are offered in French, Dutch and English. Information panels and visual and audio aids complement the museum's displays. Among the proposed site development measures are including, enlarging the walkway, creating a reception counter for visitors, and constructing a new archaeological centre or extending an existing one. Over the next few years, EMA will develop a broader project for the protection of the Scladina Cave and nearby karstic sites. Measures have been taken to ensure the environmentally friendly management of the site. Upcoming measures include renovating and insulating the roof of the archaeological centre/museum and organising shuttle buses for visitors in case of major events.

The candidate site has adequate operational capacity to implement the submitted project and meets the criteria required for the European Heritage Label.

Conclusion

The Scladina Cave, a major European prehistoric site preserving 400,000 years of natural and human evolution - including the remains of a Neanderthal juvenile -, offers valuable insights into European prehistory and identity.

The proposal meets all three established criteria.

Teatro Olimpico

VICENZA (ITALY)

16th century



Picture Source: ©Musei Civici di Vicenza – Teatro Olimpico

Description

Teatro Olimpico is one of the artistic wonders of Italy. **Located in the city of Vicenza, it is inscribed on the World Heritage List. It was the first permanent indoor theatre in the world, miraculously preserved in its original appearance and integrity.** This theatre represents the pinnacle of creativity of one of the greatest Italian architects: Andrea Palladio. The theatre, inspired by ancient classical theatres, was completed by Vincenzo Scamozzi who embellished it with splendid wooden sections. It was officially inaugurated in March 1585 with the play Oedipus Tyrannus by Sophocles, a resounding success according to the chroniclers at the time. Not only is the Teatro Olimpico believed to be the oldest indoor theatre of the modern age, but it also represents a bridge between the ancient and modern world. It holds European significance through its link to Mariano Rumor, president of the Accademia Olimpica (1958-1990) and a key figure in European integration. Mariano Rumor believed in a democratic Europe based on shared moral, spiritual, and cultural values.

European significance

The Teatro Olimpico is of significant symbolic value in Europe as the first permanent indoor theatre of the modern age and a masterpiece by Andrea Palladio, one of the continent's most influential architects. **The theatre is a spectacular example of Renaissance architecture and a masterpiece of the Palladian style and an architectural model for theatres throughout Europe, promoting the common artistic and aesthetic values of Europe.** Mariano Rumor, an Italian statesman and president of the Accademia Olimpica from 1958 to 1990, enhanced the Olimpico's role as a space that reflects the values of dialogue, cooperation and cultural heritage. These values are essential for fostering European identity. The site is part of the "European Route of Historic Theatres".

The candidate site meets the criteria (i and iii) for European significance, as required for the European Heritage Label.

Strengthening the communication of the European dimension to European audiences (project)

The European relevance of the Teatro Olimpico will be promoted through targeted initiatives such as conferences and publications (EULIMPICO) about Palladio's impact on theatrical architecture in Europe and a video-mapping project about the theatre's history and role in European culture. The Teatro Olimpico during European Heritage Week will highlight the importance of theatre at a European level and involve a wide audience. The existing educational activities are of a high standard and new training modules are planned to raise awareness of the site's relevance in Europe among local schools. The site has expressed its intention to collaborate on several joint projects with four other sites

that have also been awarded the label, including theatres and performances. **The activities of the Teatro Olimpico have been identified as a significant catalyst for exchange and professional development among European artists, particularly in the context of festival and musical events, thus underscoring its role in fostering cultural and artistic collaboration within the European continent.**

Outreach to young people is promoted by offering reduced admissions for students up to 25 years, as well as free admission for children up to 17 and students from Vicenza.

Therefore, the submitted project meets the criteria required for the European Heritage Label.

Organisational capacity (work plan)

Teatro Olimpico is part of the site inscribed on the World Heritage List: "City of Vicenza and the Palladian Villas" since 1994. Since 2024, it has been listed as a National Monument. The Municipality of Vicenza owns the site. The UNESCO Office initiated a management plan for the site (2024-2030) with the objective of implementing seismic rehabilitation measures for the theatre and mitigating the risks associated with flooding. In addition, a programme for the refurbishment of the building's external façade has been prepared. **Training courses for staff are planned.** A virtual theatre tour will be developed to ensure access for a wider public online. The site is accessible for individuals with disabilities. The site is an integral part of Vicenza's sustainable tourism strategy. The drafted communications strategy for the forthcoming years is of a general nature and does not specify the actions to be taken, this could be improved. Self-guided tours and signposting are available

in both Italian and English. The extension of multilingualism is a priority.

The candidate site has adequate operational capacity to implement the submitted project and meets the criteria required for the European Heritage Label.

Conclusion

The joint expression of an architectural model by Andrea Palladio, a renowned European architect, as well as Mariano Rumor's legacy, reflects the values of dialogue, cooperation and cultural heritage in a single space.

The proposal meets all three established criteria.

OTHER CANDIDATE SITES

Santa María la Real of Aguilar de Campoo Monastery

AGUILAR DE CAMPOO (SPAIN)

12th-13th century



Picture Source: ©Fundacion Santa María la Real

Description

Santa María la Real of Aguilar de Campoo Monastery is a late-Romanesque complex that was consolidated as a Premonstratensian abbey in the 12th century in Palencia, Castilla y León, Spain. The Monastery was founded as a French-origin religious institution within the pan-European movement of monastic expansion, a key force in the revitalisation and cohesion of medieval territories. Its economic and organisational influence extended across a vast region, connecting it to broader European dynamics.

After playing a significant economic and cultural role in the surrounding territory from the 12th century on, it was abandoned in the 19th century. **Restored and rehabilitated in the 20th century, it now houses a range of educational, cultural, and tourism-related activities that coexist harmoniously with the original medieval structures.** Its spaces accommodate an educational institute, and a museum centre open to

the wider community. **The Monastery serves as the nerve centre and emblem of the Santa María la Real Foundation.**

European Significance

Santa María la Real of Aguilar de Campoo Monastery played a key role in the history and integration of Europe as a hub for medieval thought and culture, structuring its immediate territory and facilitating the spread of knowledge and the arts. **Today its symbolic European value is rooted in the Foundation's efforts to promote knowledge and conservation of Romanesque art, a major European intellectual and artistic movement.**

As a single national site, the pan-European nature of the site belonging to the phenomenon of monasticism and the emergence of Romanesque art does not sufficiently present and explain the European Significance. As a single national site, the application does not provide evidence of the pan-European (exemplary) economic development of its surroundings, or its drive towards the Romanesque architectural style in the area, that is part of the wider European medieval monastic tradition. **Its dialogue with the political power in addition, the application does not fully illustrate the broader European context in which the site's significance has evolved, nor how this is manifested across different parts of Europe. While the Santa María la Real of Aguilar de Campoo Monastery presents clear potential to further articulate its European dimension – including, in the future, possibly within a transnational or thematic framework, the current submission does not yet demonstrate the degree of European significance required**

under the criteria of the European Heritage Label.

Strengthening the communication of the European dimension to European audiences (project)

The project is focused on extending the Foundation's activities to promote the Monastery's cultural values and maintain its commitment to heritage, people, and landscape. The aim is to restore the educational, cultural and development role that the medieval monasteries once played and their place in European identity. The aim is to achieve this by strengthening the digital promotional and cultural resources, expanding the activities into different languages, increasing the site's presence in European networks, and promoting programs for young people. The integration of the European dimension within the site's educational activities currently remains focused mainly at the regional level and therefore does not fully address criterion (b). Similarly, while steps have been taken toward promoting multilingualism, this aspect would benefit from further development. A more explicit treatment of the European, and, where relevant, Iberian, historical context surrounding the evolution of its Romanesque heritage (for example in the encyclopaedias) would also help strengthen the project's capacity to engage in international activities and foster exchanges with other EHL sites. At the same time, the proposed staff training and skills development initiatives are encouraging, and the ongoing efforts in digitalisation, including the development of apps and a new website, are positive elements that contribute to meeting criterion (e). Overall, despite these promising aspects, the project in its current form does not yet fully meet the criteria required for the European Heritage Label.

Organisational capacity (work plan)

The Santa María la Real of Aguilar de Campoo Monastery was declared a National Monument in 1866 (it was further developed in 1910) after its disentanglement and abandonment (1835). In the 1970s the ruined building complex was largely restored and reused. In 2018 the Regional Ministry of Education opened it as the Historic Teaching Centre of Castile and Leon. Today, the ROM Exhibition Centre manages the site. Visitor information is currently provided primarily through guided tours, while the multilingual offer remains limited to two languages. Plans to expand multilingual provision in the coming years would benefit from greater elaboration. The management organisations demonstrate solid experience in implementing diverse initiatives both within the site and in the surrounding region. The application also refers to a potential expansion of visitor areas within the Monastery; however, further clarification would be needed to justify this development and to explain its potential impact on the existing structure and its heritage values. Additionally, the site's work plan would benefit from more detailed articulation, particularly regarding how the site intends to highlight and communicate its European significance. Information for visitors is provided in the form of guided tours, while the multilingual offering is limited to two languages and plans to develop this aspect further in the year(s) ahead are also limited.

Recommendation

Whilst the Santa María la Real of Aguilar de Campoo Monastery presents convincing architectural and historical aspects; the application does not meet the qualifying criteria.

The Panel recommends that this application does not receive the European Heritage Label.

Baroque Town-Fortresses

OSIJEK (CROATIA), TIMIȘOARA, ALBA IULIA (ROMANIA)

17th - 18th century



Picture Source: © Paolo Mofardin, 2019, Institute of Art History, Zagreb

Description

The transnational application includes three fortifications in Croatia and in Romania. These Baroque town-fortresses were strategically built along rivers in the Carpathian basin. The sites played a significant role in the Habsburg Monarchy and symbolize the centuries-long defence of the Holy Roman Empire and the Habsburg lands against the Ottoman Empire. The fortified towns of Osijek, Timișoara and Alba Iulia represent a cornerstone of Europe's Baroque fortification heritage.

European Significance

The Baroque town-fortresses played a role in the development of fortifications on the eastern edge of Central Europe to defend and preserve European culture. The fortifications themselves are a testament

to European urban architecture and bear witness to interaction, European exchange and issues of fortification. The narrative of fortified cities could overcome that of war memorials and emphasise reflection and understanding in Europe. **The reinterpretation of the fortresses and their transformation into centres for art, education and dialogue has strong potential to illustrate how places once shaped by imperial divisions and conflicts can today embody a united Europe with a shared cultural heritage. However, this promising perspective is not yet sufficiently reflected or elaborated in the current description of the sites' European significance. As submitted, the application does not fully demonstrate the level of European significance required by the criteria for the European Heritage Label.**

Strengthening the communication of the European dimension to European audiences (project)

The project outlines joint research, conservation efforts and public outreach activities intended to highlight the European dimension of these fortified towns. Proposed actions include collaborative studies, cross-border cultural events and educational programmes, supported by a dedicated coordinating team that would also develop sustainable tourism strategies and digital platforms to enhance visibility. The sites offer valuable opportunities for partnerships among local communities, heritage specialists and EU institutions. Numerous educational initiatives, particularly those aimed at young audiences and designed as cooperative endeavours, are planned. Measures to ensure multilingualism are foreseen, including guided tours offered in Croatian, English and German, as well as bilingual information panels in key locations. The

planned collaborations with the Imperial Palace in Vienna, the Via Habsburg cultural route, the Danube Wine Route and the EHL site Vučedol Museum demonstrate a willingness to engage in joint cultural and educational programmes. The project also intends to make use of new technologies and to develop a range of artistic activities. Despite these constructive elements, the application does not yet meet the criteria required for the European Heritage Label. In particular, the sites' joint vision and the articulation of coordinated activities that would convey their shared European significance are insufficiently developed.

Organisational capacity (work plan)

The three Baroque town-fortresses are listed buildings in their respective countries and are well preserved. There are sufficient staff, coordination of the sites and funding for the projects. Overall, operational capacity appears to be sufficient, even if it is not evenly distributed amongst the partners.

The candidate sites have adequate operational capacity to implement the submitted project. Nevertheless, work could continue on a joint project with an even distribution of tasks.

Recommendation

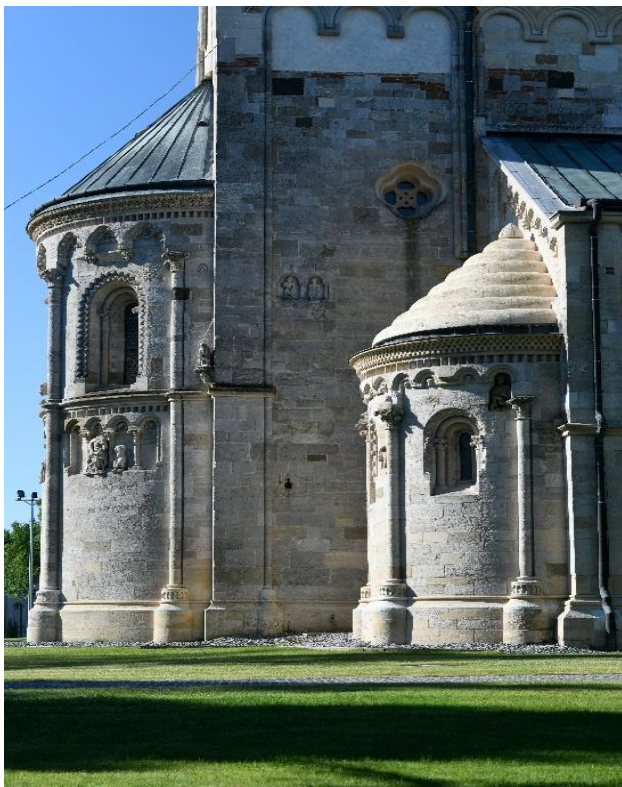
The Baroque town-fortresses represent a cornerstone of Europe's Baroque fortification heritage. The sites played a role in the development of fortifications on the eastern edge of Central Europe for the defence and preservation of European culture. The fortifications themselves represent a testament to European urban architecture and bear witness to interaction, European exchange, and fortification techniques.

The Panel recommends that this application does not receive the European Heritage Label.

Saint George Church of Ják

JÁK (HUNGARY)

13th century



Picture Source: ©Pal Tamas Horogszegi, 2022

Description

Saint George Church of Ják is a Romanesque monastic church located in western Hungary, originally founded in the 13th century by the Ják family and affiliated with the Benedictine order. It is one of Hungary's best-preserved examples of Romanesque ecclesiastical architecture. The site has undergone several restorations, including a major intervention, completed in 2024. It is protected as a national heritage monument and is being developed as a cultural and educational hub that promotes Christian liturgical and architectural traditions. Its application emphasises its link to European Benedictine traditions, as well as its role in transmitting religious and architectural heritage across Europe.

European Significance

The application claims that Saint. George Church of Ják represents European significance through its Benedictine roots, Romanesque architecture, and long-standing role in Christian tradition. It notes symbolic links to European integration through shared monastic heritage and restoration history, including a reference to the 1964 declaration of Saint. Benedict as patron saint of Europe. It also highlights connections to Cluny Abbey and the cultural diffusion of Romanesque art across borders.

While the site clearly holds significant national value as a Romanesque church and as part of the Benedictine network, the application does not yet sufficiently articulate a transnational European dimension. The symbolic value presented remains rather general and is mainly framed through architectural or heritage-preservation aspects, without a clearer demonstration of how the site has influenced—or been shaped by—broader European events, personalities or movements. References to potential connections with Cluny Abbey or the wider Benedictine heritage in Europe are promising, but they would benefit from further substantiation, including supporting documentation or evidence of active partnerships. The European significance is not sufficiently demonstrated in the application. The narrative lacks a strong articulation of the site's role in shaping or reflecting shared European values or history. It does not meet the threshold required for the criteria of the European significance of the site.

Strengthening the communication of the European dimension to European audiences

The proposed project includes educational workshops, a visitor centre, museum pedagogy rooms, and mobile applications

with 3D models. The activities also include digital interpretation, collaboration with art and music academies, and some youth programming. The project also plans to expand multilingual access via audio guides and online tools.

The project presents several positive intentions, including the use of digital tools and creative engagement with young audiences. However, it remains at an early stage of development. The communication of the site's European significance is not yet sufficiently articulated, with the European dimension more implied than explicitly expressed through the proposed activities. Cooperation with other EHL sites is still conceptual, and several components of the project require further elaboration. In addition, the website's current availability only in Hungarian limits accessibility for a wider European public. To meet the expectations associated with high-level communication, the project would benefit from more targeted and explicit messaging on European values, a stronger multilingual approach, and the establishment of concrete partnerships with other EHL sites. In its current form, the submitted project does not yet meet the criteria required for the European Heritage Label.

Organisational capacity (work plan)

The site is currently managed by the Diocese of Szombathely, with a non-profit entity under development. Major restoration has been completed, and further infrastructure improvements, including a new visitor centre, are underway. Plans include accessible design, multilingual information, and environmentally friendly solutions (e.g., solar panels, LED lighting, reuse of buildings).

There is a clear intent to improve operational management, but the governance structure is still in flux, and

current staffing is limited. The long-term financial and human resources needed to deliver the project are not yet secured. While physical infrastructure is being enhanced, visitor services and European-themed content are not yet in place.

The site's operational arrangements are not yet sufficiently developed to meet the organisational capacity criterion. Further strengthening of staffing structures, more formalised governance mechanisms, and clearer evidence of operational readiness would be needed to fully demonstrate compliance with this requirement.

Recommendation

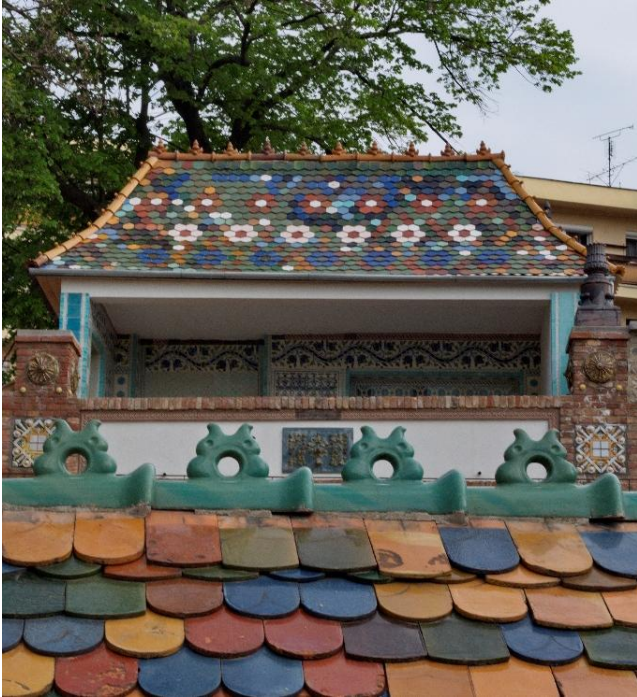
While the site is a valuable heritage monument within Hungary, and its restoration and community outreach are commendable, the application does not meet the European Heritage Label criteria in its current form. The European narrative is not clearly developed, the proposed project lacks depth in European messaging, and the operational capacity remains in transition.

The Panel recommends that this application does not receive the European Heritage Label.

Zsolnay Cultural Quarter

PÉCS (HUNGARY)

19th century



Picture Source: ©Zsolnay Heritage Management Non-Profit

Description

The Zsolnay cultural quarter was created on the former site of the Zsolnay ceramics factory, founded in Pécs in 1853. The unique pyrogranite architectural ceramics decorate major period buildings in Hungary. Moreover, the factory played a significant role in shaping the image of European cities, including Subotica, Sarajevo, Vienna, Târgu Mureş, and Paris. In 2010, the area was revitalised as a part of the Pécs 2010 – European Capital of Culture project and transformed into a vibrant cultural hub. The site combines the preservation of old industrial buildings, the promotion of ceramics created by the Zsolnay factory and an active cultural centre.

European significance

The history of the site is linked to the great industrial design movement that developed in Europe in the second half of the 19th century. Ceramics created by the Zsolnay factory have adorned Art Nouveau and Art Deco buildings throughout Europe. Nationalised by the Communist regime, the factory was assigned to the production of utilitarian objects, although from time to time it has had some artistic activity (notably production for the artist Victor Vasarely). The site operated until the end of the 20th century, but in a state of gradual disrepair. When Pécs became European Capital of Culture in 2010, the site underwent major renovation. The home of the founders, the Zsolnay family, has been converted into a museum. Other buildings house ceramics exhibitions. The former workers' quarters have been transformed to the Street of Artisans. The site offers cultural activities of all kinds. It also hosts musical events and contemporary art festivals. It became the main tourist attraction in Pécs.

The European significance is convincingly articulated in the site's narrative. The candidate site meets the criteria (i and iii) for European significance, as required for the European Heritage Label.

Strengthening the communication of the European dimension to European audiences (project)

The site offers a wide range of engaging activities, such as puppet theatre, a planetarium and summer science camps. It also hosts valuable artistic events, including the Art Light Festival. However, the European dimension of these initiatives is not yet clearly articulated. The evaluation of the 2017 application noted that "the nomination focuses mainly on the national and local significance of the site rather than its European dimension."

In the current application, the site presents several initiatives intended to strengthen its European relevance, such as the development of a professional

visual database reflecting European values and the presentation of Zsolnay ceramics from a European perspective. The intention to expand pan-European networking in the event of receiving the Label is also noted.

There are positive aspects in the site's development, including the high quality of the existing website, even if it remains only bilingual. At the same time, the Panel had expected the site to use the period since its previous candidacy in 2017 to advance activities that highlight its European significance—particularly through cooperation with existing EHL sites and other relevant European networks. The application indicates that progress in this direction has so far been limited, and the timetable for planned actions lacks sufficient specificity.

Although the post-2010 development of the site shows that there is potential for future participation in the EHL network, the project in its current form does not yet demonstrate that this potential has been sufficiently realised. Consequently, the site does not meet the criteria required for the European Heritage Label.

Organisational capacity (work plan)

Zsolnay Cultural Centre is managed by Zsolnay Heritage Management Nonprofit Ltd., owned by the municipality of Pécs. The site is listed in the Hungarian Heritage Register. The buildings are classified as historical monuments, and their preservation is a priority. Specialised professionals are responsible for the preservation of the site. Operating income includes a government subsidy, a municipal subsidy and its own revenues. In 2023 the Quarter attracted 281000 visitors. All locations are wheelchair accessible. Particular attention is paid to families. The centre is connected to the city centre of Pécs by public transport.

The candidate site has adequate operational capacity to implement the submitted project and meets the criteria required for the European Heritage Label.

Recommendation

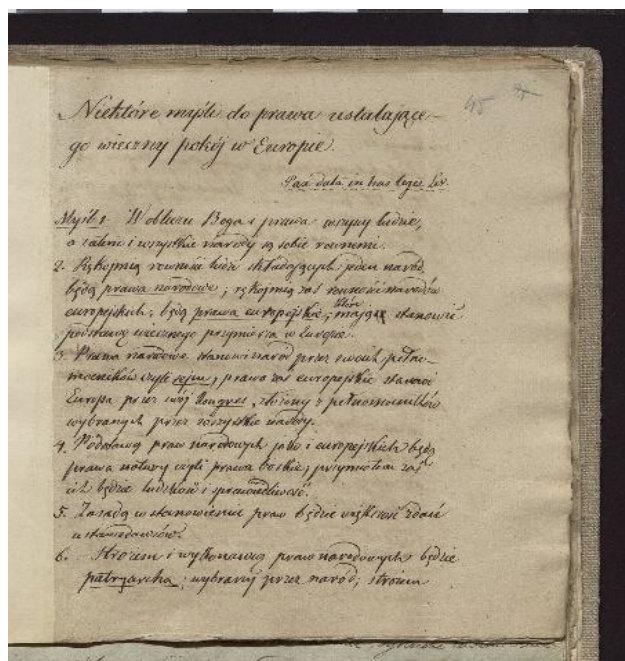
Zsolnay Cultural Centre is a highly valuable industrial and artistic heritage site and a dynamic cultural venue, whose European significance could be clearly and measurably articulated in the project. Projects aimed at participating in European networks, and strengthening the European significance of the site could be implemented.

The Panel recommends that this application does not receive the European Heritage Label.

A Draft Constitution for Europe

WARSAW (POLAND)

1831



Picture Source: © AGAD, 2024

Description

A draft Constitution for Europe by Wojciech Bogumił Jastrzębowski (1799-1882), a paper document in bound form, forms part of the archival unit kept in Archiwum Główne Akt Dawnych (AGAD, Central Archive of Historical Records) in Warsaw in the collection of the Towarzystwo Królewskie Warszawskie Przyjaciół Nauk (Royal Warsaw Society of Friends of Sciences, Sign. ref.: AGAD, Towarzystwo Królewskie Warszawskie Przyjaciół Nauk, No. 78, 7-44, 45-67). Wojciech Bogumił Jastrzębowski wrote it after the extremely bloody Battle of Olszynka Grochowska (1831). The battle was a brutal conflict between the Polish and Russian armies, which claimed nearly 17,000 casualties in 24 hours. The text is entitled "The Leisure of a Polish Soldier, or

Thoughts on an Eternal Alliance between Civilized Nations", but the author himself also called it a Draft. It contains a list of provisions that, according to the author, are necessary to implement among "civilized nations". The Draft Constitution for Europe remains valid to this day. The European values promoted by universal elections (almost), freedom of religion or the creation of the Guard of Rights (point 50) – a kind of government under the ruler (Patriarch) to supervise the whole and enforce the rights – are also associated with Article VII of the 3rd May Constitution from 1791, an EHL Awarded Site (since 2014).

European significance

The Draft Constitution for Europe offers a distinctly European perspective and can be regarded as a visionary proposal for unity, anticipating several principles that underpin today's European Union, such as customary law, parliamentary governance and the removal of internal borders. It identifies the central challenge facing Europe at the time—recurrent destructive wars—and underscores peace as an essential condition for the continent's future. The text also highlights core values of European civilisation, including individual freedom, personal empowerment, equality among nations and the primacy of common legal principles.

While the Draft Constitution may appear utopian given the geopolitical context of the 19th century, its forward-looking character is notable. It anticipates developments that would only materialise many decades later, ultimately resonating with the contemporary European project. The site's narrative presents these aspects clearly and convincingly.

The Draft Constitution for Europe therefore meets criteria (ii) and (iii) concerning European significance, as required for the European Heritage Label.

Strengthening the communication of the European dimension to European audiences (project)

Previous projects and initiatives undertaken by the Archiwum Główne Akt Dawnych (AGAD, Central Archive of Historical Records) and the We, Citizens of the European Union – Wojciech B. Jastrzębowski Foundation indicate that citizens of Central and Eastern Europe often regard cultural heritage as a shared responsibility. Building on this understanding, the project focuses on future outreach and awareness-raising activities inspired by the message of the Draft Constitution for Europe. These initiatives aim to strengthen awareness of European heritage, reinforce the European identity of Poland and its citizens, and highlight the Draft Constitution for Europe as an early and symbolic reference point for peace on the continent.

Information on the Draft Constitution for Europe is also planned for inclusion in the forthcoming academic textbook *Law of the European Union*. AGAD is preparing a series of events to mark the 200th anniversary of the document in 2031. The text of the Draft Constitution will be made accessible online for non-Polish audiences through the AGAD website. Planned collaborations include partnerships with European Heritage Label sites such as the Museo Casa Alcide De Gasperi (Pieve Tesino, Italy) and the Robert Schuman House (Scy-Chazelles, France), as well as cooperation with the Deutsches Polen-Institut in Darmstadt and the House of European History in Brussels.

The pacifist ideas expressed in the Draft Constitution for Europe also provide a compelling basis for renewed cooperation with the Mundaneum in Mons, itself an EHL site. It is also noted that the Draft Constitution for Europe and the Constitution of 3 May—already awarded the European Heritage Label—have been

exhibited together at the Central Archives of Historical Records. Further planned initiatives include an artistic presentation of the Draft Constitution across all Polish voivodeships and the production of a short film featuring the renowned Polish actor Olgierd Łukaszewicz, founder of the We, Citizens of the European Union Foundation.

Despite these promising elements, the submitted project does not meet the requirements of criterion (iv) for the European Heritage Label. Although cooperation with several EHL sites is foreseen, no future collaboration is planned with the most relevant EHL site—namely, the Constitution of 3 May—which would be essential to fully address this criterion.

Organisational capacity (work plan)

The Draft “Constitution for Europe” is managed by Archiwum Główne Akt Dawnych (AGAD, Central Archive of Historical Records) and the submitted projects will be implemented by this state institution in cooperation with We, Citizens of the European Union – Wojciech B. Jastrzębowski Foundation with the support of Polish Voivodeships.

The Draft Constitution for Europe has adequate operational capacity to implement the submitted project and meets the criteria required for the European Heritage Label.

Recommendation

Although the Draft Constitution for Europe has a symbolic value for Europe, great potential and an important place in promoting and developing common European values on which European integration is based, the application (in its present form) does not meet the qualifying criteria.

The Panel recommends that this application does not receive the European Heritage Label.



RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATIONS

The past year, 2024, was not only a monitoring year of the EHL sites, but also the second year of the **external evaluation** of the EHL Action, which resulted in an evaluation report.¹ The general findings of this evaluation are that “the European Heritage Label action was successful in making progress in achieving its objectives over the evaluation period, and remains highly relevant to the EU’s cultural heritage needs”.² This statement meets the Panel’s convictions about the EHL Action. **It in this context, the Panel is truly glad to recommend the second largest number of new sites for the European Commission since 2013.**

Nevertheless, the Evaluation Report identifies several elements of the EHL Action, which could and should be reconsidered and improved in the near future, in compliance with the approach and the objectives of the **Culture Compass for Europe** that has been adopted by the European Commission.

In accordance with these suggestions and considering the experience of the 2025 selection year, as well as the discussions with the other stakeholders of the EHL Action in Brussels, Lublin and Nicosia, the Panel decided to assemble this year’s recommendations in **six units**. Of these, the first three allude to the definition and the role of the EHL Action as a standard-giving international cultural heritage reference (I), whereas the following ones appertain to its functioning (II).

I.1. European Heritage Label: a tool for inclusive identity construction

Complying with European significance is the first criterion to become an EHL site. During the first eight selection processes, the Panel has been confronted with the difficulty of the candidate sites’ ability to comprehend and to meet this criterion. It is a positive and noteworthy development that **85% of the candidate sites met this first criterion in 2025**. The other criteria could boast similarly high results: 75% for C2 (project) and 90% for C3 (operational capacity). This reassuring outcome of this year’s selection simultaneously demonstrates the efficiency of the training programmes co-organised by the EHL Bureau, and stakeholders of the EHL Action, and by the growing commitment and capacity of the candidate sites to reinterpret habitual frames of identity buildings.

The Decision No 1194/2011/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 November 2011 establishing a European Union action for the European Heritage Label states that one of the objectives of the EHL Action is to increase “European citizens’ understanding of the history of Europe and the building of the Union, and of their common yet diverse cultural heritage, especially in relation to the democratic values and human rights that underpin the process of European integration” (Article 3, 2), b). Accordingly, **an understanding of European history and the building of the Union in relation to shared values** is a reflection which are expected to appear in the proposal. Nevertheless, this understanding is not necessarily obvious and does not necessarily stem from the habitual models of identity buildings.

¹ European Commission: Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture and PPMI, *European Heritage Label 2024 evaluation – Report*, Publications Office of the European Union, 2025, <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2766/6899715>

² *Ibid*, p.9.

Modern and contemporary European identities have often been shaped in a rather exclusive way, in which hierarchies and orders have been established to prove the

superiority of a politically and ideologically chosen level (i.e., national), race (i.e., 'white'), religion or economic status (i.e., 'developed'). What is common in these approaches is the conflictual definition of indicators (national versus European or national versus global/universal, etc.; white versus non-white, Catholic versus protestant; developed versus non-developed, etc.) and their arbitrary and biased hierarchisation supposing that one is superior to the other. In contrast to this approach, European identity (re)defined by shared values and human rights does not search for reasons of political or ideological hierarchies, but for the (re)interpretation of a chosen 'site' to bring levels (from universal to local) and other elements of identities in a **consensual and inclusive manner**. In this sense, the universal and national levels, for example, are not in conflict with the European one. Instead, they are understood as its constructive constituent parts that enhance its role of symbolising and expressing shared values and human rights. The high success rate of candidate sites in addressing this matter may prove that this approach has been appropriated by an increasing number of European heritage stakeholders.

1.2. European Heritage Label: network of hubs for cultural ecosystems

Within the current international debates about the role of culture/cultural heritage, it is important to position the **EHL Action and the increasing number of EHL sites as network/hubs of cultural ecosystems**. The recent discussions on the outcomes of the exchanges at MONDIACULT reveal that positioning culture as the fourth pillar of sustainable development —alongside the economic, environmental, and social pillars— could make more evident the crucial contribution of culture to sustainable development. It is worth recalling that the 2013 Hangzhou Declaration, "Placing Culture at the Heart of Sustainable Development Policies," put forward this very vision in the context of the revision of the Millennium Development Goals. However, as reflected in the limited presence of culture within the Sustainable Development Goals, the efforts made in Hangzhou were largely in vain.

Nonetheless, various voices argue that reducing culture to an instrument, primarily as a component of the cultural industries, tourism, and similar sectors— overlooks its broader dimensions and practices. At a more abstract level, it can be argued that culture is not a separate "fourth dimension" by which sustainable development can be measured. It is easy to understand that the way each society perceives the economic, environmental, and social pillars is itself culturally related. This does not mean that culture lacks its own place; rather, it reminds us that **culture permeates everything**, taking multiple forms and operating at many levels.

If we envisage cultural heritage as the (metaphorical) stage - created and preserved by communities in the past— on which cultural activities occur and in which new cultural expressions are generated by individuals and communities, then cultural heritage becomes the space where people negotiate, reflect, and imagine the future together. In this sense, **it is a core element of what democracy stands for**.

Following the reflections of Justin O'Connor³, cultural infrastructure, extending beyond its physical form, should be regarded as essential as **equitable and accessible** education

³ <https://culturepolicyroom.substack.com/p/mondiacult-sdgs-and-the-culture-goal>

and healthcare. This involves establishing and nurturing cultural ecosystems to ensure that cultural resources and opportunities are available to all. A strong connection to “sites” can make access to culture both possible and meaningful. Global agencies can play a key role in facilitating partnerships among cultural sectors at national and regional levels.

This is where European Heritage Label sites and projects can make a valuable contribution. They can reaffirm the central role of states —and associations of states such as the European Union— together with other partners, in developing **the cultural sector as an essential component of the broader cultural commons**. European Heritage Labelled Sites can be identified as such places —as the “playing fields” or “stages” (to return to the metaphor)— on which cultural production, reflection, and imagination can be co-created. An EHL site should merit the status required to receive the Label, based on the criteria established in the Call and in accordance with its legal framework.

1.3. European Heritage Label: its role in education and awareness-raising

The Panel's experience to date shows that placing the obligation to educate about the values of an EHL site on this site itself, in accordance with the provisions of Article 7, b), i), c), vii) and related provisions of the Decision, does not entirely contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the Decision, in the Panel's opinion. Using an omnibus survey, it was found that **neither the professionals nor the public are aware of the EHL Action** in the territory of the Member State in question, let alone the values of EHL sites in the territory of other Member States or of the Decision. The education systems of the Member States have not yet included the EHL sites in the education process at any level of the educational system. The European Commission's programme based on the Decision still remains in the shadow of UNESCO's programmes which is focused on awareness-raising in the field of tangible and intangible cultural heritage or Council of Europe programmes (Capitals of Culture, European Cultural Routes).

The Panel does not wish to undermine the important role that the aforementioned activities of UNESCO and the Council of Europe play in building a positive relationship between Europeans and cultural heritage, its protection and care, but considers that the European Commission's programme based on **the Decision is distinct in its focus**. It is also focused on those values that have helped to create the current form of Europe and the European Union with guaranteed rights and instruments of freedom as well as eminent living conditions in the world. For example, a constitution cannot be inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity (UNESCO), or, for example, the Village of Schengen cannot be inscribed on the World Heritage List (UNESCO). **Therefore, sites designated as EHL have in many cases a much stronger and more direct relationship with the quality of life of European Union citizens than properties of outstanding universal value. In the Panel's opinion, it is desirable to find alternative ways to ensure the purpose and objectives of the Decision are met/achieved.**

In the Panel's opinion, it is beneficial **to involve the education systems of the Member States** at all levels and to update the Decision in this spirit. For example, children in kindergarten and primary school can draw EHL sites based in their own country to illustrate their favourite topics (Halloween, Christmas, holidays), and universities can commission a BA, MA or even a doctoral thesis on the topic of EHL sites and their importance for the quality of life in the European Union. The Commission can, through the EHL Bureau, announce pan-European competitions for pupils and students at all levels of the education system and help the EHL sites benefit from European education and training. Through social networks, pupils and students can share visual stories about the values of EHL sites,

unaccompanied by language commentary, which still acts as a barrier to communication. The EHL Bureau can also announce a competition between travel agencies. Evidence shows that there are aficionados who visit a site immediately after it is inscribed on the World Heritage List (UNESCO). Many travel agencies behave similarly and include new world heritage sites in their travel plans. This has not yet happened in the field of EHL sites, because there is very little awareness of their values.

Although the Decision stipulates that the EHL site should pay "special attention to young people, in particular by providing them with access to the given monument under preferential conditions", in the opinion of the Panel, it is necessary to choose more attractive ways to reach even the youngest citizens of the European Union. John Amos Comenius recommended learning through play (*Schola ludus*). This way, not only children, but also playful youth and adult citizens of the European Union can be engaged. **An EHL educative gaming strategy could be developed.** The pan-European (worldwide) popular assembly of various things from LEGO building blocks and building blocks compatible with it (Cobi, etc.) offer a way to make EHL sites more attractive. Video games could also be applied for the digital representation and promotion of our shared European heritage.

II.1. Recommendations for EHL governance

The governance of the EHL has undergone considerable improvements in the last few years. This was also affirmed by the 2024 evaluation and by the results of the 2024 monitoring year, according to which all 60 sites maintained their EHL title. Nevertheless, to ensure both the short- and long-term **validity of the EHL status**, a sustainable management system must be put in place that guarantees the preservation and safeguarding of the site. It should also ensure fair and reliable access to, and understanding of, the site – particularly regarding the characteristics that justified its nomination.

- **Management is typically project-driven**, which implies that for both the long term and the short to medium term, adequate resources and governance structures should be planned and implemented (at least for the short to medium term). This management should be sustainable –in all senses of the term: long-lasting, resource-efficient, and socially embedded— as well as robust and resilient.
- On a regular basis, the management should be evaluated to determine whether it continues to ensure the preservation and safeguarding of the EHL site, and whether it maintains **fair and reliable access** and interpretation for visitors and communities. Both updated long-term and updated short-term (until the next monitoring cycle) management capacities should be assessed.
- The **prolongation of the approved EHL site projects** could be a field in which a renewed EHL governance is constructed soon. Projects are proposed for a limited period, and it is a challenge, both from the perspective of the particular sites and that of the EHL Action, as to how to carry on these activities, which are time embedded in the appropriate segments of the EHL networks.
- Thus, they require consulting and contribution from different stakeholders, such as sites, national coordinators, EC and the EHL Bureau– of the EHL Action. This evolution of the workplans could also be the focus of future monitoring processes, since the other two criteria (European significance and organisational capacities) raise fewer challenges for the sites than the long-term validity of their projects.

- Thus, tailored monitoring frameworks for individual sites or groups of sites which are clustered thematically by their projects and networks, while ensuring that common challenges and objectives are addressed, could allow for further learning and cooperation opportunities and provide a more robust approach to designing the next development phase for the EHL sites in question.

II.2. Recommendations for the selection procedure

The composition, stability and methodological coherence of the EHL Panel play a decisive role in the quality and consistency of the second and final stage of the selection process. This year's work benefited significantly from the fact that two thirds of the members had already participated in previous cycles, which strengthened analytical continuity and fostered a shared understanding of the evaluation criteria. This positive outcome was facilitated in part by the European Parliament's decision to extend the mandate of four of its previously appointed experts.

In line with the observations of the 2024 Evaluation Report, the Panel recommends a **reconsideration of both the methodology and the duration of Panel mandates**. The current three-year term, combined with frequent changes in membership, does not allow sufficient time for members to fully internalise the complexities of the selection and monitoring frameworks. Extending the mandate to **four or even five years** would help ensure greater continuity, deepen institutional knowledge, and enhance cooperation within the Panel.

Furthermore, the Panel invites the Commission and the EHL Bureau to reflect on the **overall structure and timing of the selection cycle**. Several complementary avenues could be explored:

- **Adjusting the frequency of the selection cycle**, whether on an annual or a biennial basis, depending on the number of candidate sites and the administrative capacities of stakeholders.
- **Introducing a two-phase selection procedure**, beginning with a focused assessment of Criterion 1 (European significance). This would allow the Panel to identify early which sites meet the fundamental threshold of the Label before engaging in the full assessment of project proposals and operational capacity.
- **Alternatively, maintaining a one-phase model** but refining the distribution of workload, guidance to candidates and timelines could increase clarity and reduce administrative burden.

These adjustments aim to improve fairness, efficiency and transparency, and to ensure that the selection procedure remains proportionate to the number of applications while maintaining high standards of quality and rigour.

II.3. Recommendations for the EHL community

The Panel emphasises the importance of strengthening the EHL community through more structured, frequent and thematically focused exchanges among stakeholders. Community-building is essential not only for the visibility of the Label but also for fostering shared learning and ensuring that the EHL evolves as a coherent and interconnected network. To support this objective, the Panel recommends the following actions:

- **Establish regular, problem-based stakeholder meetings**, building on the successful examples of the gatherings in Lublin and Nicosia. These meetings should offer

opportunities for open discussion, collective problem-solving and the sharing of good practices across countries and sectors.

- **Organise thematic meetings hosted at EHL sites**, focusing on cross-cutting issues such as education, ecological sustainability, technological innovation, community ownership, or audience development. Holding these sessions directly at EHL sites would reinforce the visibility and role of the sites within the network and promote peer learning anchored in concrete experiences.
- **Develop shared evaluation and reflection mechanisms** for the projects and calls managed by the EHL Bureau. Joint assessments would help identify common challenges, clarify expectations, and enhance coherence across the network's activities, while also improving transparency.
- **Strengthen project-based community building**, as outlined in Recommendation II.1. Sites working on similar themes or challenges could be grouped in clusters and supported in creating collaborative initiatives, thus cultivating long-term partnerships and fostering a sense of collective ownership within the EHL ecosystem.

Taken together, these measures would deepen cooperation, reinforce the identity of the EHL community, and contribute to the broader strategic development of the Action.

PHOTO CREDITS

Unless mentioned otherwise, all photographs illustrating this report were included in the 2025 applications.

WORD OF THANKS

The Panel wishes to thank the twenty candidate sites for their enthusiastic participation in the 2025 selection process. They contribute to a greater awareness of our cultural heritage on a local, national, and European level. They unite in diversity. The European Heritage Label has got to this stage thanks to all of the applicants since 2013.

The Panel is very grateful to the European Commission for the excellent and smooth co-operation and support given to the Panel during and in between the meetings. We are truly indebted to Gabrielle Bernoville for her highly efficient and thoroughly kind-hearted management of the preparation and the organisation of the activities of the Panel during the selection year, which has not been without challenges. We are equally grateful for Judith Videcoq, for Monika Baric and for Isabel Smyth.

The Panel addresses its gratitude to the National Coordinators for their continuous efforts in explaining the objectives and criteria of the European Heritage Label to candidate sites and their support to the sites. We are especially thankful for the lively and highly constructive debates that we could conduct in Lublin and in Nicosia in 2025. Special thanks to the European Heritage Label Bureau –in particular Vincent Curie, Paolo Roquete and Miguel Senra Hermana–, to the European Commission as well to the local organisers for orchestrating these two valuable meetings.

The Panel addresses its thanks to its former members who helped shape the process and are excellent ambassadors for the initiative.



FACTS AND FIGURES

ANNEX 1 - FACTS AND FIGURES

About the European Heritage Label

The European Heritage Label originated out of an intergovernmental initiative created in 2006, under which 68 sites in 19 countries received the label. The current criteria and selection procedure were introduced in 2011 when the European Heritage Label was established at the level of the European Union (EU) by Decision 1194/2011/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 November 2011 (published in the Official Journal of the European Union, OJ L 303, 22.11.2011, p. 1- 9).

The objective of the European Heritage Label is to highlight cultural heritage that has made a contribution to European history and culture and/or the building of the European Union and thereby to increase the European citizen's understanding of the history of Europe and the European Union, and of their common yet diverse heritage.

All types of cultural heritage - or 'sites' in the jargon of the European Heritage Label - are eligible: "monuments, natural heritage, underwater cultural heritage, industrial or urban sites, cultural landscapes, places of remembrance, cultural goods and objects, and intangible heritage associated with a place, including contemporary heritage".

To be awarded the Label, sites have to meet the three criteria, which were introduced when the European Heritage Label became an EU initiative: they have to demonstrate their European significance, communicate their European dimension to European audiences, and demonstrate their operational capacity to carry out these activities. The labelled sites are also required to take part in networking activities and cooperation projects. These new requirements are an intrinsic part of the added value of transforming the European Heritage Label into an EU initiative.

The selection process takes place every other year. Participation is open to all Member States provided that they confirmed their interest. The procedure for attributing the European Heritage Label is carried out in two stages: at the national level a maximum of two candidate sites are pre-selected every two years. Out of these and based upon the recommendations made by the European Panel of independent experts, the European Commission attributes the European Heritage Label to a maximum of one site per participating Member State per year.

Sites awarded the European Heritage Label are monitored in order to ensure that they continue to meet the criteria for which they were selected. Monitoring occurs every fourth year.

An external and independent evaluation takes place every six years.

The first cycle of the European Heritage Label covered the years 2013 to 2018:

- 2013 and 2014: selection and transition years. In 2013 participation was restricted to those Member States which had not taken part in the intergovernmental initiative, whilst 2014 was reserved for candidate

sites from the Member States which had been involved in the intergovernmental initiative.

- 2015 and 2017: selection years.
- 2016: first monitoring year.
- 2018: first independent external evaluation report.

The second cycle covered the years 2019 to 2024:

- 2019, 2021, 2023: selection years.
- 2020, 2024: monitoring years.
- 2024: second external evaluation year.

The third cycle started in 2025 with the new selection. This cycle will be largely impacted by the revision of the legal base, which is due in 2026.

Key figures 2013 – 2025

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2023	2024	2025
S selection M monitoring E evaluation	S	S	S	M	S	E	S	M	S	S	M E	S
Eligible Member States	5	18	24	-	24		25	-	25	25	-	26
Sites to Consider	9	36	18	20	25	38	19	38	21	16	60	20
Thematic national sites	1	1	-	1	-	1	-	1	2	-	4	1
Transnational sites	1	-	-	-	4	1	3	1	-	2	9	2
Member States participating	5	13	11	13	19	24	15	18	15	17	22	16
Sites recommended for the EHL	4	16	9	-	9	-	10	-	12	7	-	13
Thematic national sites	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Transnational sites	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	1	-	1
Member States concerned	3	10	9	-	9	-	12	-	12	11	-	16
Total number of sites recommended for the EHL	4	20	29	-	38	-	48	-	60	67	-	80

Participating Member States

The *European Heritage Label* is open to the participation of the EU Member States on a voluntary basis and the first two years were transition years (articles 4 and 19 of the *Decision 1194/2011/EU establishing the European Heritage Label*). The following lists provide an overview of the participating Member States per year.

2013 Selection year for Member States that did not participate in the intergovernmental initiative.

5 Member States confirmed their interest in the *European Heritage Label* and sent applications*

AUSTRIA* - DENMARK* - ESTONIA* - LUXEMBOURG* - NETHERLANDS*

2014 Selection year for Member States that participated in the intergovernmental initiative.

18 EU Member States confirmed their interest in the *European Heritage Label*

13 Member States* sent applications

BELGIUM* - BULGARIA - CYPRUS* - CZECHIA* - FRANCE* - GERMANY* - GREECE* - HUNGARY* - ITALY* - LATVIA - LITHUANIA* - MALTA - POLAND* - PORTUGAL* - ROMANIA - SLOVAKIA - SLOVENIA* - SPAIN*

2015 Selection year

24 Member States confirmed their interest in the *European Heritage Label*

11 Member States* sent applications

AUSTRIA* - BELGIUM* - BULGARIA - CROATIA* - CYPRUS - CZECHIA* - DENMARK - ESTONIA* - FRANCE* - GERMANY - GREECE - HUNGARY* - ITALY* - LATVIA - LITHUANIA - LUXEMBOURG - MALTA - NETHERLANDS* - POLAND* - PORTUGAL* - ROMANIA - SLOVAKIA - SLOVENIA - SPAIN

2016 Monitoring year

13 Member States with *European Heritage Label sites* selected in 2013 and 2014

AUSTRIA - ESTONIA - FRANCE - GERMANY - GREECE - HUNGARY - ITALY - LITHUANIA - NETHERLANDS - POLAND - PORTUGAL - SLOVENIA - SPAIN

2017 Selection year

24 Member States confirmed their interest in the *European Heritage Label*

19 Member States* sent applications and/or were involved in a transnational application

AUSTRIA* - BELGIUM* - BULGARIA* - CROATIA* - CYPRUS - CZECHIA* - DENMARK - ESTONIA* - FRANCE* - GERMANY* - GREECE* - HUNGARY* - ITALY* - LATVIA* - LITHUANIA - LUXEMBOURG* - MALTA - NETHERLANDS* - POLAND* - PORTUGAL* - ROMANIA* - SLOVAKIA* - SLOVENIA* - SPAIN

2018 Evaluation year

2019 Selection year

25 Member States confirmed their interest in the *European Heritage Label*

15 Member States* sent applications and/or were involved in a transnational application

AUSTRIA* - BELGIUM* - BULGARIA - CROATIA* - CYPRUS - CZECHIA* - DENMARK -

ESTONIA - FINLAND (new) - FRANCE* - GERMANY* - GREECE - HUNGARY* - ITALY* - LATVIA* - LITHUANIA - LUXEMBOURG - MALTA - NETHERLANDS* - POLAND* - PORTUGAL* - ROMANIA - SLOVAKIA* - SLOVENIA* - SPAIN*

2020 Monitoring year

18 Member States with *European Heritage Label sites* selected in 2013, 2014, 2015 and

2017

AUSTRIA - BELGIUM - CROATIA - CZECHIA - ESTONIA - FRANCE - GERMANY - GREECE - HUNGARY - ITALY - LITHUANIA - LUXEMBOURG - NETHERLANDS - POLAND - PORTUGAL - ROMANIA - SLOVENIA - SPAIN

2021 Selection year

25 Member States confirmed their interest in the *European Heritage Label*

15 Member States* sent applications and/or were involved in a transnational application

AUSTRIA - BELGIUM* - BULGARIA* - CROATIA* - CYPRUS - CZECHIA - DENMARK - ESTONIA - FINLAND* - FRANCE - GERMANY* - GREECE* - HUNGARY* - ITALY* - LATVIA* - LITHUANIA - LUXEMBOURG* - MALTA - NETHERLANDS - POLAND* - PORTUGAL* - ROMANIA* - SLOVAKIA - SLOVENIA - SPAIN*

2023 Selection year

25 Member States confirmed their interest in the *European Heritage Label*

17 Member States* sent applications and/or were involved in a transnational application.

AUSTRIA* - BELGIUM* - BULGARIA* - CROATIA* - CYPRUS - CZECHIA* - DENMARK - ESTONIA - FINLAND* - FRANCE* - GERMANY* - GREECE - HUNGARY* - ITALY* - LATVIA - LITHUANIA - LUXEMBOURG - MALTA - NETHERLANDS* - POLAND* - PORTUGAL* - ROMANIA* - SLOVAKIA* - SLOVENIA* - SPAIN*

2025 Selection year

26 Member States confirmed their interest in the *European Heritage Label*

16 Member States* sent applications and/or were involved in a transnational application.

AUSTRIA* - BELGIUM* - BULGARIA* - CROATIA* - CYPRUS - CZECHIA* - DENMARK - ESTONIA - FINLAND* - FRANCE* - GERMANY* - GREECE - HUNGARY* - IRELAND - ITALY* - LATVIA - LITHUANIA - LUXEMBOURG - MALTA* - NETHERLANDS - POLAND* - PORTUGAL* - ROMANIA* - SLOVAKIA* - SLOVENIA - SPAIN*

Timeline of the sites recommended for the European Heritage Label (2013 - 2023)

-500	
Neanderthal Prehistoric Site and Krapina Museum, HUŠNJAKOVO/KRAPINA (CROATIA)	2015
Lagar Velho Rockshelter, LEIRIA (PORTUGAL)	2025
Provadia Salt-Production and Urban Centre, PROVADIA-SOLNITSAVA (BULGARIA)	2025
Vučedol Culture Museum and Archaeological Site, VUKOVAR (CROATIA)	2021
Archaeological Site of Nemea, ANCIENT NEMEA (GREECE)	2021
Thracian Art in Eastern Rhodopes: Aleksandrovo Tomb, HASKOVO (BULGARIA)	2021
Archaeological Area of Ostia antica, OSTIA (ITALY)	2019
Saint Paul's Catacombs, RABAT (MALTA)	2025
Heart of Ancient Athens, ATHENS (GREECE)	2014
Archaeological Site of Carnuntum, PETRONELL-CARNUNTUM (AUSTRIA)	2013
Almadén Mining Park, ALMADÉN (SPAIN)	2021
500 – 1500	
Azores' Underwater Cultural Heritage, AZORES (PORTUGAL)	2019
Echternach Saint Willibrord Heritage, VILLE D'ECHTERNACH (LUXEMBOURG)	2021
The Pader Urban River Landscape, PADERBORN (GERMANY)	2025
Abbey of Cluny, CLUNY (FRANCE)	2014
Rashi of Troyes – Places of Remembrance (FRANCE)	2025
Cisterscapes, BAMBERG (GERMANY - coordinator); GRATWEIN (AUSTRIA); PLASY (CZECHIA); WAGROWIEC (POLAND); KONTANJEVICA NA KRKI (SLOVENIA)	
Olomouc Premyslid Castle and Archdiocesan Museum, OLOMOUC (CZECHIA)	2015
Leipzig's Musical Heritage Sites, LEIPZIG (GERMANY)	2017
Historic Centre of Turaida, SIGULDA (LATVIA)	2021
Places of Peace, ZADAR (CROATIA – coordinator); ALCÁÇOVAS (PORTUGAL), ALCAÑICES (SPAIN), EVORAMONTE (PORTUGAL), KAYNARDZHA (BULGARIA), TRENCÍN (SLOVAKIA), VASVÁR (HUNGARY)	2025
Imperial Palace, VIENNA (AUSTRIA)	2015
Archive of the Crown of Aragon, BARCELONA (SPAIN)	2014
Medieval wall painting in Gemer and Malohont Regions, RIMAVSKÉ BREZOVO (SLOVAKIA)	2021
Great Guild Hall, TALLINN (ESTONIA)	2013
Sagres Promontory, SAGRES (PORTUGAL)	2015
La Nau Cultural Centre, VALENCIA (SPAIN)	2025
1500-1800	
Monastery of San Jerónimo de Yuste, CUACOS DE YUSTE (SPAIN)	2023

General Library of the University of Coimbra, COIMBRA (PORTUGAL)	2014
Mariemont, MORLANWELZ (BELGIUM)	2025
Union of Lublin (1569), LUBLIN (POLAND)	2014
Historic Ensemble of the University of Tartu, TARTU (ESTONIA)	2015
Landeszeughaus, GRAZ (AUSTRIA)	2025
Sites of the Peace of Westphalia (1648), MÜNSTER (coordinator) & OSNABRÜCK (GERMANY)	2014
Our Lord in the Attic Museum, AMSTERDAM (THE NETHERLANDS)	2023
Living Heritage of Szentendre, SZENTENDRE (HUNGARY)	2019
The Oderbruch, SEELOW (GERMANY)	2021
3 May 1791 Constitution, WARSAW (POLAND)	2014

1800-1900

Kynžvart Chateau – Place of diplomatic meetings, LÁZNĚ KYNŽVART (CZECHIA)	2019
Colonies of Benevolence, WORTEL - MERKSPLAS (BELGIUM - coordinator); FREDERIKSOORD - WILHELMINA OORD - WILLEMSOORD, OMMERSCHANS, VEENHUIZEN (THE NETHERLANDS)	2019
Royal Theatre Toone, BRUSSELS (BELGIUM)	2023
Hambach Castle, HAMBACH (GERMANY)	2014
The Kalevala – Living Epic Heritage (FINLAND)	2023
"Zdravljica" - the Message of the European Spring of Nations (1848), LJUBLJANA (SLOVENIA)	2019
Dohány Street Synagogue Complex, BUDAPEST (HUNGARY)	2017
Fort Cadine, TRENTO (ITALY)	2017
Seminaarinmäki Campus – Equality in Education, JYVÄSKYLÄ (FINLAND)	2021
Charter of Law for the Abolition of the Death Penalty (1867), LISBON (PORTUGAL)	2014
Site of Remembrance in Łambinowice, ŁAMBINOWICE (POLAND)	2019
Franz Liszt Academy of Music, BUDAPEST (HUNGARY)	2015
Romanian Athenaeum, BUCHAREST (ROMANIA)	2023
Mundaneum, MONS (BELGIUM)	2015
Palace of the European Commission of the Danube, GALAȚI (ROMANIA)	2021

1900 - 1945

Peace Palace, THE HAGUE (NETHERLANDS)	2013
The Industrial Heritage of Varkaus, VARKAUS (FINLAND)	2025
Javorca Memorial Church and its cultural landscape, TOLMIN (SLOVENIA)	2017
World War I Eastern Front Cemetery No. 123, ŁUŻNA – PUSTKI, (POLAND)	2015
Student Residence or "Residencia de Estudiantes", MADRID (SPAIN)	2014
Kaunas of 1919-1940, KAUNAS (LITHUANIA)	2014
Werkbund Estates in Europe 1927-1932, STUTTGART (GERMANY - coordinator); WROCŁAW (POLAND); BRNO, PRAGUE (CZECHIA); VIENNA (AUSTRIA)	2019
Camp Westerbork, HOOGHALEN (NETHERLANDS)	2013
Former Natzweiler concentration camp and its satellite camps, ALSACE-MOSELLE, HAUT RHIN (FRANCE - coordinator); BADEN-WÜRTENBERG, HESSEN, RHINELAND-PALATINATE (GERMANY)	2017
Ventotene Manifesto, VENTOTENE (ITALY)	2021
Franja Partisan Hospital, CERKNO (SLOVENIA)	2014
Lieu de Mémoire au Chambon-sur-Lignon, CHAMBON-SUR-LIGNON (FRANCE)	2019
Sant'Anna di Stazzema, STAZZEMA (ITALY)	2023

1945 -

Alcide de Gasperi's House Museum, PIEVE TESINO (ITALY)	2014
Sighet Memorial, SIGHET (ROMANIA)	2017
European District of Strasbourg, STRASBOURG (FRANCE)	2015
Robert Schuman's House, SCY-CHAZELLES (FRANCE)	2014
"Three Brothers", RĪGA (LATVIA)	2019
Free Speech Space (CZECHIA)	2025
Bois du Cazier, MARCINELLE (BELGIUM)	2017
Bosco delle Querce Park, SEVESO and MEDA (ITALY)	2025
Historic Gdańsk Shipyard, GDANSK (POLAND)	2014
Village of Schengen, SCHENGEN (LUXEMBOURG)	2017
Pan-European Picnic Memorial Park, SOPRON (HUNGARY)	2014
Maastricht Treaty, MAASTRICHT (NETHERLANDS)	2017
MigratieMuseumMigration (MMM), BRUSSELS (BELGIUM)	2021

Sites recommended for the European Heritage Label per selection year

- 2013** Archaeological Site of Carnuntum, PETRONELL-CARNUNTUM (AUSTRIA)
Great Guild Hall, TALLINN (ESTONIA)
Peace Palace, THE HAGUE (NETHERLANDS)
Camp Westerbork, HOOGHALEN (NETHERLANDS)
- 2014** Heart of Ancient Athens, ATHENS (GREECE)
Abbey of Cluny, CLUNY (FRANCE)
Archive of the Crown of Aragon, BARCELONA (SPAIN)
Union of Lublin (1569), LUBLIN (POLAND)
Sites of the Peace of Westphalia (1648), MÜNSTER (coordinator) & OSNABRÜCK (GERMANY)
General Library of the University of Coimbra, COIMBRA (PORTUGAL)
3 May 1791 Constitution, WARSAW (POLAND)
Hambach Castle, HAMBACH (GERMANY)
Charter of Law for the Abolition of the Death Penalty (1867), LISBON (PORTUGAL)
Student Residence or "Residencia de Estudiantes", MADRID (SPAIN)
Kaunas of 1919-1940, KAUNAS (LITHUANIA)
Franja Partisan Hospital, CERKNO (SLOVENIA)
Robert Schuman's House, SCY-CHAZELLES (FRANCE)
Alcide de Gasperi's House Museum, PIEVE TESINO (ITALY)
Historic Gdańsk Shipyard, GDANSK (POLAND)
Pan-European Picnic Memorial Park, SOPRON (HUNGARY)
- 2015** Neanderthal Prehistoric Site and Krapina Museum, HUŠNJAKOVO/KRAPINA (CROATIA)
Olomouc Premyslid Castle and Archdiocesan Museum, OLOMOUC (CZECHIA)
Sagres Promontory, SAGRES (PORTUGAL)
Imperial Palace, VIENNA (AUSTRIA)
Historic Ensemble of the University of Tartu, TARTU (ESTONIA)
Franz Liszt Academy of Music, BUDAPEST (HUNGARY)
Mundaneum, MONS (BELGIUM)
World War I Eastern Front Cemetery No. 123, ŁUŻNA – PUSTKI (POLAND)
European District of Strasbourg, STRASBOURG (FRANCE)
- 2017** Leipzig's Musical Heritage Sites, LEIPZIG (GERMANY)
Dohány Street Synagogue Complex, BUDAPEST (HUNGARY)

Fort Cadine, TRENTO (ITALY)
 Javorca Memorial Church and its cultural landscape, TOLMIN (SLOVENIA)
 Former Natzweiler concentration camp and its satellite camps, ALSACE-MOSELLE,
 HAUT RHIN (FRANCE - coordinator); BADEN-WÜRTENBERG, HESSEN, RHINELAND-
 PALATINATE (GERMANY)
 Sighet Memorial, Sighet (Romania)
 Bois du Cazier, MARCINELLE (BELGIUM)
 Village of Schengen, SCHENGEN (Luxembourg)
 Maastricht Treaty, Maastricht (Netherlands)

2019 Archaeological Area of Ostia antica, OSTIA (ITALY)
 Azores Underwater Cultural Heritage, AZORES (PORTUGAL)
 Living Heritage of Szentendre, SZENTENDRE (HUNGARY)
 Colonies of Benevolence, WORTEL - MERKSPLAS (BELGIUM - coordinator);
 FREDERIKSOORD - WILHELMINAOORD - WILLEMSOORD, OMMERSCHANS,
 VEENHUIZEN (THE NETHERLANDS)
 Kynžvart Chateau – Place of diplomatic meetings, LÁZNĚ KYNŽVART (CZECHIA)
 "Zdravljica" - the Message of the European Spring of Nations (1848), LJUBLJANA
 (SLOVENIA)
 Site of Remembrance in Łambinowice, ŁAMBINOWICE (POLAND)
 Werkbund Estates in Europe 1927-1932, STUTTGART (GERMANY - coordinator);
 WROCŁAW (POLAND); BRNO, PRAGUE (CZECHIA); VIENNA (AUSTRIA)
 Lieu de Mémoire au Chambon-sur-Lignon, CHAMBON-SUR-LIGNON (FRANCE)
 "Three Brothers", RĪGA (LATVIA)

2021 Archaeological Area of Ostia antica, OSTIA (ITALY)
 Vučedol Culture Museum and Archaeological Site, VUKOVAR (CROATIA)
 Archaeological Site of Nemea, ANCIENT NEMEA (GREECE)
 Thracian Art in Eastern Rhodopes: Aleksandrovo Tomb, HASKOVO (BULGARIA)
 Almadén Mining Park, ALMADÉN (CIUDAD REAL) (SPAIN)
 Echternach Saint Willibrord Heritage, VILLE D'ECHTERNACH (LUXEMBOURG)
 Historic Centre of Turaida, SIGULDA (LATVIA)
 Medieval wall painting in Gemer and Malohont Regions, RIMAVSKÉ BREZOVO
 (SLOVAKIA)
 The Oderbruch, SEELOW (GERMANY)
 Palace of the European Commission of the Danube, GALAȚI (ROMANIA)
 Seminaarinmäki Campus – Equality in Education, JYVÄSKYLÄ (FINLAND)
 Ventotene Manifesto, VENTOTENE (ITALY)
 MigratieMuseumMigration (MMM), BRUSSELS (BELGIUM)

2023 Cisterscapes, BAMBERG (GERMANY - coordinator); GRATWEIN (AUSTRIA); PLASY
 (CZECHIA); WAGROWIEC (POLAND); KONTANJEVICA NA KRKI (SLOVENIA)
 Monastery of San Jerónimo de Yuste, CUACOS DE YUSTE (SPAIN)

Our Lord in the Attic Museum, AMSTERDAM (THE NETHERLANDS)
Royal Theatre Toone, BRUSSELS (BELGIUM)
The Kalevala – Living Epic Heritage (FINLAND)
Romanian Athenaeum, BUCHAREST (ROMANIA)
Sant’Anna di Stazzema, STAZZEMA (ITALY)

2025

Lagar Velho Rockshelter, LEIRIA (PORTUGAL)
Provadia Salt-Production and Urban Centre, PROVADIA-SOLNITSATA (BULGARIA)
St Paul’s Catacombs, RABAT (MALTA)
The Pader Urban River Landscape, PADERBORN (GERMANY)
Rashi of Troyes - Places of Remembrance, TROYES (FRANCE)
Places of Peace, ALCÁÇOVAS (PORTUGAL), ALCAÑICES (SPAIN), EVORAMONTE (PORTUGAL), KAYNARDZHA (BULGARIA), TRENČÍN (SLOVAKIA), VASVÁR (HUNGARY), ZADAR (CROATIA - coordinator)
La Nau Cultural Centre, UNIVERSITY OF VALENCIA (SPAIN)
Mariemont, MORLANWELZ (BELGIUM)
Landeszeughaus, GRAZ (AUSTRIA)
The Industrial Heritage of Varkaus, VARKAUS (FINLAND)
Free Speech Space (CZECHIA)
Bosco delle Querce Park, SEVESO AND MEDA (ITALY)
Krzysztof Penderecki European Centre for Music, LUSŁAWICE (POLAND)

Sites recommended for the European Heritage Label, per selection year, per Member State

2013	AUSTRIA	Archaeological Site of Carnuntum, PETRONELL-CARNUNTUM
	ESTONIA	Great Guild Hall, TALLINN
	NETHERLANDS	Peace Palace, THE HAGUE Camp Westerbork, HOOGHALEN
2014	FRANCE	Abbey of Cluny, CLUNY Robert Schuman's House, SCY-CHAZELLES
	GERMANY	Sites of the Peace of Westphalia (1648), MÜNSTER (coordinator) & OSNABRÜCK Hambach Castle, HAMBACH
	GREECE	Heart of Ancient Athens, ATHENS
	HUNGARY	Pan-European Picnic Memorial Park, SOPRON
	ITALY	Alcide de Gasperi's House Museum, PIEVE TESINO
	LITHUANIA	Kaunas of 1919-1940, KAUNAS
	POLAND	Union of Lublin (1569), LUBLIN 3 May 1791 Constitution, WARSAW Historic Gdańsk Shipyard, GDANSK
	PORTUGAL	General Library of the University of Coimbra, COIMBRA Charter of Law for the Abolition of the Death Penalty (1867), LISBON
	SLOVENIA	Franja Partisan Hospital, CERKNO
	SPAIN	Archive of the Crown of Aragon, BARCELONA Student Residence or "Residencia de Estudiantes", MADRID
2015	AUSTRIA	Imperial Palace, VIENNA
	BELGIUM	Mundaneum, MONS
	CROATIA	Neanderthal Prehistoric Site and Krapina Museum, HUŠNJAKOVO/KRAPINA
	CZECHIA	Olomouc Premyslid Castle and Archdiocesan Museum, OLOMOUC
	ESTONIA	Historic Ensemble of the University of Tartu, TARTU
	FRANCE	European District of Strasbourg, STRASBOURG
	HUNGARY	Franz Liszt Academy of Music, BUDAPEST
	POLAND	World War I Eastern Front Wartime Cemetery No. 123, ŁUŻNA – PUSTKI
	PORTUGAL	Sagres Promontory, SAGRES
2017	BELGIUM	Bois du Cazier, MARCINELLE

FRANCE	Former Natzweiler concentration camp and its satellite camps, ALSACE MOSELLE, HAUT RHIN (FRANCE - coordinator); with BADEN-WÜRTENBERG, HESSEN, RHINELAND-PALATINATE (GERMANY)
GERMANY	Leipzig's Musical Heritage Sites, LEIPZIG Former Natzweiler concentration camp and its satellite camps, BADEN-WÜRTENBERG, HESSEN, RHINELAND-PALATINATE; with ALSACE-MOSELLE, HAUT RHIN (FRANCE - coordinator)
HUNGARY	Dohány Street Synagogue Complex, BUDAPEST
ITALY	Fort Cadine, TRENTO
LUXEMBOURG	Village of Schengen, SCHENGEN
NETHERLANDS	Maastricht Treaty, MAASTRICHT
ROMANIA	The Sighet Memorial, SIGHET
SLOVENIA	Javorca Memorial Church and its cultural landscape, TOLMIN
2019	
AUSTRIA	Werkbund Estates in Europe 1927-1932, VIENNA; with STUTTGART (GERMANY - coordinator); WROCŁAW (POLAND); BRNO, PRAGUE (CZECHIA)
BELGIUM	Colonies of Benevolence, WORTEL - MERKSPLAS (coordinator); with FREDERIKSOORD - WILHELMINAOORD - WILLEMSOORD, OMMERSCHANS, VEENHUIZEN (NETHERLANDS)
CZECHIA	Kynžvart Chateau – Place of diplomatic meetings, LÁZNĚ KYNŽVART Werkbund Estates in Europe 1927-1932, BRNO, PRAGUE; with STUTTGART (GERMANY - coordinator); WROCŁAW (POLAND); VIENNA (AUSTRIA)
FRANCE	Lieu de Mémoire au Chambon-sur-Lignon, CHAMBON-SUR-LIGNON
GERMANY	Werkbund Estates in Europe 1927-1932, STUTTGART (coordinator); with WROCŁAW (POLAND). BRNO, PRAGUE (CZECHIA); VIENNA (AUSTRIA)
HUNGARY	Living Heritage of Szentendre, SZENTENDRE
ITALY	Archaeological Area of Ostia antica, OSTIA
LATVIA	"Three Brothers", RĪGA
NETHERLANDS	Colonies of Benevolence, FREDERIKSOORD - WILHELMINAOORD - WILLEMSOORD, OMMERSCHANS, VEENHUIZEN; with WORTEL - MERKSPLAS (BELGIUM - coordinator)
POLAND	Site of Remembrance in Łambinowice, ŁAMBINOWICE Werkbund Estates in Europe 1927-1932, WROCŁAW; with STUTTGART (GERMANY -coordinator); BRNO, PRAGUE (CZECHIA); VIENNA (AUSTRIA)
PORTUGAL	Azores Underwater Cultural Heritage, AZORES
SLOVENIA	"Zdravljica" - the Message of the European Spring of Nations (1848), LJUBLJANA
2021	
BELGIUM	MigratieMuseumMigration (MMM), BRUSSELS

BULGARIA	Thracian Art in Eastern Rhodopes: Aleksandrovo Tomb, HASKOVO
CROATIA	Vučedol Culture Museum and Archaeological Site, VUKOVAR
GERMANY	The Oderbruch, SEELOW
GREECE	Archaeological Site of Nemea, ANCIENT NEMEA
SPAIN	Almadén Mining Park, ALMADÉN (CIUDAD REAL)
FINLAND	Seminaarinmäki Campus – Equality in Education, JYVÄSKYLÄ
ITALY	Ventotene Manifesto, VENTOTENE
LUXEMBOURG	Echternach Saint Willibrord Heritage, VILLE D'ECHTERNACH
LATVIA	Historic Centre of Turaida, SIGULDA
ROMANIA	Palace of the European Commission of the Danube, GALAȚI
SLOVAKIA	Medieval wall painting in Gemer and Malohont Regions, RIMAVSKÉ BREZOVO
2023 AUSTRIA	Cisterscapes, BAMBERG (GERMANY - coordinator); GRATWEIN (AUSTRIA); PLASY (CZECHIA); WAGROWIEC (POLAND); KONTANJEVICA NA KRKI (SLOVENIA)
BELGIUM	Royal Theatre Toone, BRUSSELS
CZECHIA	Cisterscapes, BAMBERG (GERMANY - coordinator); GRATWEIN (AUSTRIA); PLASY (CZECHIA)
	WAGROWIEC (POLAND); KONTANJEVICA NA KRKI (SLOVENIA)
FINLAND	The Kalevala – Living Epic Heritage (FINLAND)
GERMANY	Cisterscapes, BAMBERG (GERMANY - coordinator); GRATWEIN (AUSTRIA); PLASY (CZECHIA); WAGROWIEC (POLAND); KONTANJEVICA NA KRKI (SLOVENIA)
ITALY	Sant'Anna di Stazzema, STAZZEMA
NETHERLANDS	Our Lord in the Attic Museum, AMSTERDAM
POLAND	Cisterscapes, BAMBERG (GERMANY - coordinator); GRATWEIN (AUSTRIA); PLASY (CZECHIA); WAGROWIEC (POLAND); KONTANJEVICA NA KRKI (SLOVENIA)
ROMANIA	Romanian Athenaeum, BUCHAREST
SLOVENIA	Cisterscapes, BAMBERG (GERMANY - coordinator); GRATWEIN (AUSTRIA); PLASY (CZECHIA); WAGROWIEC (POLAND); KONTANJEVICA NA KRKI (SLOVENIA)
SPAIN	Monastery of San Jerónimo de Yuste, CUACOS DE YUSTE
2025 AUSTRIA	Landeszeughaus, GRAZ (AUSTRIA)
BELGIUM	Mariemont, MORLANWELZ (BELGIUM)
BULGARIA	Provadia Salt-Production and Urban Centre, PROVADIA-SOLNITSATA (BULGARIA)
	Places of Peace, ALCÁÇOVAS (PORTUGAL), ALCAÑICES (SPAIN), EVORAMONTE (PORTUGAL), KAYNARDZHA (BULGARIA), TRENČÍN

	(SLOVAKIA), VASVÁR (HUNGARY), ZADAR (CROATIA - coordinator)
CROATIA	Places of Peace, ALCÁÇOVAS (PORTUGAL), ALCAÑICES (SPAIN), EVORAMONTE (PORTUGAL), KAYNARDZHA (BULGARIA), TRENČÍN (SLOVAKIA), VASVÁR (HUNGARY), ZADAR (CROATIA - coordinator)
CZECHIA	Free Speech Space, CZECHIA
FINLAND	The Industrial Heritage of Varkaus, VARKAUS (FINLAND)
FRANCE	Rashi of Troyes - Places of Remembrance, TROYES (FRANCE)
GERMANY	The Pader Urban River Landscape, PADERBORN (GERMANY)
HUNGARY	Places of Peace, ALCÁÇOVAS (PORTUGAL), ALCAÑICES (SPAIN), EVORAMONTE (PORTUGAL), KAYNARDZHA (BULGARIA), TRENČÍN (SLOVAKIA), VASVÁR (HUNGARY), ZADAR (CROATIA - coordinator)
ITALY	Bosco delle Querce Park, SEVESO AND MEDA (ITALY)
MALTA	St Paul's Catacombs, RABAT (MALTA)
POLAND	Krzysztof Penderecki European Centre for Music, LUSŁAWICE (POLAND)
PORTUGAL	Lagar Velho Rockshelter, LEIRIA (PORTUGAL)
	Places of Peace, ALCÁÇOVAS (PORTUGAL), ALCAÑICES (SPAIN), EVORAMONTE (PORTUGAL), KAYNARDZHA (BULGARIA), TRENČÍN (SLOVAKIA), VASVÁR (HUNGARY), ZADAR (CROATIA - coordinator)
SLOVAKIA	Places of Peace, ALCÁÇOVAS (PORTUGAL), ALCAÑICES (SPAIN), EVORAMONTE (PORTUGAL), KAYNARDZHA (BULGARIA), TRENČÍN (SLOVAKIA), VASVÁR (HUNGARY), ZADAR (CROATIA - coordinator)
SPAIN	La Nau Cultural Centre, UNIVERSITY OF VALENCIA (SPAIN)
	Places of Peace, ALCÁÇOVAS (PORTUGAL), ALCAÑICES (SPAIN), EVORAMONTE (PORTUGAL), KAYNARDZHA (BULGARIA), TRENČÍN (SLOVAKIA), VASVÁR (HUNGARY), ZADAR (CROATIA - coordinator)

Sites recommended for the European Heritage Label per Member State, per selection year

AUSTRIA	2013	Archaeological Site of Carnuntum, PETRONELL-CARNUNTUM
	2015	Imperial Palace, VIENNA
	2019	Werkbund Estates in Europe 1927-1932, VIENNA; with STUTTGART (GERMANY coordinator); WROCŁAW (POLAND), BRNO, PRAGUE (CZECHIA)
	2023	Cisterscapes, BAMBERG (GERMANY - coordinator); GRATWEIN (AUSTRIA); PLASY (CZECHIA); WAGROWIEC (POLAND); KONTANJEVICA NA KRKI (SLOVENIA)
2025	Landeszeughaus, GRAZ	
BELGIUM	2015	Mundaneum, MONS
	2017	Bois du Cazier, MARCINELLE
	2019	Colonies of Benevolence, WORTEL - MERKSPLAS (coordinator); with FREDERIKSOORD - WILHELMINAORD - WILLEMSOORD, OMMERSCHANS, VEENHUIZEN (THE NETHERLANDS)
	2021	MigratieMuseumMigration (MMM), BRUSSELS
	2023	Royal Theatre Toone, BRUSSELS
2025	Mariemont, MORLANWELZ	
BULGARIA	2021	Thracian Art in Eastern Rhodopes: Aleksandrovo Tomb, HASKOVO
	2025	Provadia Salt-Production and Urban Centre, PROVADIA-SOLNITSATA
	2025	Places of Peace, ALCÁÇOVAS (PORTUGAL), ALCAÑICES (SPAIN), EVORAMONTE (PORTUGAL), KAYNARDZHA (BULGARIA), TRENČÍN (SLOVAKIA), VASVÁR (HUNGARY), ZADAR (CROATIA - coordinator)
CROATIA	2015	Neanderthal Prehistoric Site and Krapina Museum, HUŠNJAKOVO KRAPINA
	2021	Vučedol Culture Museum and Archaeological Site, VUKOVAR
	2025	Places of Peace, ALCÁÇOVAS (PORTUGAL), ALCAÑICES (SPAIN), EVORAMONTE (PORTUGAL), KAYNARDZHA (BULGARIA), TRENČÍN (SLOVAKIA), VASVÁR (HUNGARY), ZADAR (CROATIA - coordinator)
CZECHIA	2015	Olomouc Premyslid Castle and Archdiocesan Museum, OLOMOUC
	2019	Kynžvart Chateau – Place of diplomatic meetings, LÁZNĚ KYNŽVART
	2019	Werkbund Estates in Europe 1927-1932, BRNO, PRAGUE; with STUTTGART (GERMANY - coordinator), WROCŁAW (POLAND), VIENNA (AUSTRIA)
	2023	Cisterscapes, BAMBERG (GERMANY - coordinator); GRATWEIN (AUSTRIA); PLASY (CZECHIA); WAGROWIEC (POLAND);

	2025	KONTANJEVICA NA KRKI (SLOVENIA) Free Speech Space
ESTONIA	2013	Great Guild Hall, TALLINN
	2015	Historic Ensemble of the University of Tartu, TARTU
FINLAND	2021	Seminaarinmäki Campus – Equality in Education, JYVÄSKYLÄ
	2023	The Kalevala – Living Epic Heritage
	2025	The Industrial Heritage of Varkaus, VARKAUS
FRANCE	2014	Abbey of Cluny, CLUNY
	2014	Robert Schuman's House, SCY-CHAZELLES
	2015	European District of Strasbourg, STRASBOURG
	2017	Former Natzweiler concentration camp and its satellite camps, ALSACE MOSELLE, HAUT RHIN (coordinator); with BADEN-WÜRTENBERG, HESSEN, RHINELAND-PALATINATE (GERMANY)
	2019	Lieu de Mémoire au Chambon-sur-Lignon, CHAMBON-SUR-LIGNON
	2025	Rashi of Troyes - Places of Remembrance, TROYES
GERMANY	2014	Sites of the Peace of Westphalia (1648), MÜNSTER (coordinator) OSNABRÜCK
	2014	Hambach Castle, HAMBACH
	2017	Leipzig's Musical Heritage Sites, LEIPZIG
	2017	Former Natzweiler concentration camp and its satellite camps, BADEN WÜRTENBERG, HESSEN, RHINELAND-PALATINATE; with ALSACE-MOSELLE, HAUT RHIN (FRANCE - coordinator)
	2019	Werkbund Estates in Europe 1927-1932, STUTTGART (coordinator); with WROCŁAW (POLAND); BRNO, PRAGUE (CZECHIA); VIENNA (AUSTRIA)
	2021	The Oderbruch, SEELOW
	2023	Cisterscapes, BAMBERG (GERMANY - coordinator); GRATWEIN (AUSTRIA); PLASY (CZECHIA); WAGROWIEC (POLAND); KONTANJEVICA NA KRKI (SLOVENIA)
	2025	The Pader Urban River Landscape, PADERBORN
GREECE	2014	Heart of Ancient Athens, ATHENS
	2021	Archaeological Site of Nemea, ANCIENT NEMEA
HUNGARY	2014	Pan-European Picnic Memorial Park, SOPRON
	2015	Franz Liszt Academy of Music, BUDAPEST
	2017	Dohány Street Synagogue Complex, BUDAPEST
	2019	Living Heritage of Szentendre, SZENTENDRE
	2025	Places of Peace, ALCÁÇOVAS (PORTUGAL), ALCAÑICES (SPAIN), EVORAMONTE (PORTUGAL), KAYNARDZHA (BULGARIA), TRENCÍN (SLOVAKIA), VASVÁR (HUNGARY), ZADAR (CROATIA - coordinator)
ITALY	2014	Alcide de Gasperi's House Museum, PIEVE TESINO

	2017	Fort Cadine, TRENTO
	2019	Archaeological Area of Ostia antica, OSTIA
	2021	Ventotene Manifesto, VENTOTENE
	2023	Sant'Anna di Stazzema, STAZZEMA
	2025	Bosco delle Querce Park, SEVESO AND MEDA
LATVIA	2019	"Three Brothers", RIGA
	2021	Historic Centre of Turaida, SIGULDA
LITHUANIA	2014	Kaunas of 1919-1940, KAUNAS
LUXEMBOURG	2017	Village of Schengen, SCHENGEN
	2021	Echternach Saint Willibrord Heritage, VILLE D'ECHTERNACH
MALTA	2025	St Paul's Catacombs, RABAT (MALTA)
NETHERLANDS	2013	Peace Palace, THE HAGUE
	2013	Camp Westerbork, HOOGHALEN
	2017	Maastricht Treaty, MAASTRICHT
	2019	Colonies of Benevolence, FREDERIKSOORD - WILHELMINA OORD WILLEMSOORD, OMMERSCHANS, VEENHUIZEN; with WORTEL - MERKSPLAS (BELGIUM - coordinator)
	2023	Our Lord in the Attic Museum, AMSTERDAM
POLAND	2014	Union of Lublin (1569), LUBLIN
	2014	3 May 1791 Constitution, WARSAW
	2014	Historic Gdańsk Shipyard, GDANSK
	2015	World War I Eastern Front Wartime Cemetery No. 123, ŁUŻNA - PUSTKI
	2019	Site of Remembrance in Łambinowice, ŁAMBINOWICE
	2019	Werkbund Estates in Europe (1927-1932), WROCŁAW; with STUTTGART (GERMANY - coordinator); BRNO, PRAGUE (CZECHIA); VIENNA (AUSTRIA)
	2023	Cisterscapes, BAMBERG (GERMANY - coordinator); GRATWEIN (AUSTRIA); PLASY (CZECHIA); WAGROWIEC (POLAND); KONTANJEVICA NA KRKI (SLOVENIA)
	2025	Krzysztof Penderecki European Centre for Music, LUSŁAWICE
PORTUGAL	2014	General Library of the University of Coimbra, COIMBRA
	2014	Charter of Law for the Abolition of the Death Penalty (1867), LISBON
	2015	Sagres Promontory, SAGRES
	2019	Azores Underwater Cultural Heritage, AZORES
	2025	Lagar Velho Rockshelter, LEIRIA
	2025	Places of Peace, ALCÁÇOVAS (PORTUGAL), ALCAÑICES (SPAIN), EVORAMONTE (PORTUGAL), KAYNARDZHA (BULGARIA), TRENCÍN (SLOVAKIA), VASVÁR (HUNGARY), ZADAR (CROATIA - coordinator)
ROMANIA	2017	Sighet Memorial, SIGHET

	2021	Palace of the European Commission of the Danube, GALAȚI
	2023	Romanian Athenaeum, BUCHAREST
SLOVAKIA	2021	Medieval wall painting in Gemer and Malohont Regions, RIMAVSKÉ BREZOVO
	2025	Places of Peace, ALCÁÇOVAS (PORTUGAL), ALCAÑICES (SPAIN), EVORAMONTE (PORTUGAL), KAYNARDZHA (BULGARIA), TRENCÍN (SLOVAKIA), VASVÁR (HUNGARY), ZADAR (CROATIA - coordinator)
SLOVENIA	2014	Franja Partisan Hospital, CERKNO
	2017	Javorca Memorial Church and its cultural landscape, TOLMIN
	2019	"Zdravljica", the Message of the European Spring of Nations (1848), LJUBLJANA
	2023	Cisterscapes, BAMBERG (GERMANY - coordinator); GRATWEIN (AUSTRIA); PLASY (CZECHIA); WAGROWIEC (POLAND); KONTANJEVICA NA KRKI (SLOVENIA)
SPAIN	2014	Archive of the Crown of Aragon, BARCELONA
	2014	Student Residence or "Residencia de Estudiantes", MADRID
	2021	Almadén Mining Park, ALMADÉN
	2023	Monastery of San Jerónimo de Yuste, CUACOS DE YUSTE
	2025	La Nau Cultural Centre, VALENCIA
	2025	Places of Peace, ALCÁÇOVAS (PORTUGAL), ALCAÑICES (SPAIN), EVORAMONTE (PORTUGAL), KAYNARDZHA (BULGARIA), TRENCÍN (SLOVAKIA), VASVÁR (HUNGARY), ZADAR (CROATIA - coordinator)

Members of the European Heritage Label Panel

COMPOSITION OF THE 2025 PANEL

Designated by the European Commission (2023-2026)

Mr Gábor Sonkoly, *Chair*
Ms Anne-Marie Thiesse
Mr Koenraad Van Balen

Designated by the European Parliament (2021-2023, 2024-2026)

Ms Eleni Anna Chlepa
Ms Claire Giraud-Labelte
Mr Martin Horáček
Mr Zdeněk Novák, *General Rapporteur*

Designated by the Council (2025-2027)

Ms Sigita Bugenienė, *General Rapporteur*
Ms Goranka Horjan
Mr János Krähling
Ms Eva Maria Seng

Designated by the Committee of the Regions (2025-2027)

Ms Anne Karjalainen

FORMER MEMBERS OF THE PANEL

Designated by the European Commission

Ms Dessislava Gavrilova (2013; 2014-2016)
Mr Jacek Purchla (2013; 2014-2016)
Mr Christer Gustafsson (2014-2016; 2017-2019; 2020-2022)
Ms Csilla Hegedűs (2013; 2017-2019; 2020-2022)
Ms Bénédicte Selfslagh (2013; 2014-2016; 2017-2019; 2020-2022)
Ms Riin Atalu (2023-2024)

Designated by the European Parliament

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Mr Michele Rak (2013-2014; 2015-2017)
Ms Beatrice Kelly (2013-2014; 2015-2017; 2018-2020)
Ms Martine Pastor (2016-2017)
Ms Idoya Otegui (2018-2020)
Mr Anton Rombouts (2018-2020)
Mr Marcello Verga (2018-2020)

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Ms Irma Grigaitienė (2013-2015)
Mr Francisco Prado-Villar (2013-2015)
Mr Michel Thomas-Penette (2013-2015)
Ms Teti Stamatia Hadjinicolaou (2016-2018)
Ms Françoise Lempereur (2016-2018)
Mr Josef Štulc (2016-2018)
Ms Pia Leydolt (2016-2018)
Ms Svetlana Hristova (2019-2021)
Ms Pille Runnel (2019-2021)

Ms Eva-Maria Seng (2019-2021)
Mr Juris Urtāns (2019-2021)
Ms Flavia Barca (2022-2024)
Ms Antoaneta Dimitrova (2022-2024)
Ms Paulina Florjanowicz (2022-2024)
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Mr Matthias Ripp (2013-2015; 2016-2018; 2019-2021)
Mr Alin-Adrian Nica (2022-2024)



**HOW TO PREPARE A
ROBUST EUROPEAN
HERITAGE LABEL
APPLICATION**

ANNEX 2- HOW TO PREPARE A ROBUST EUROPEAN HERITAGE LABEL APPLICATION

Based on the experience gained from reading the applications and in order to help future candidate sites in making more robust applications, the Panel is providing the following clarification of the key concepts of the *European Heritage Label* as well as some advice on how to prepare a *European Heritage Label* application.

When preparing an application, it is essential to keep in mind that the selection for attributing the *European Heritage Label* is carried out in two stages. At the national level, each participating Member State pre-selects a maximum of two candidate sites. Out of these, the European Commission attributes the *European Heritage Label* to a maximum of one site per Member State, based upon the recommendations of a European Panel of independent experts. Transnational and serial applications are preferred above one single site applications. The selection on the European level takes place during the odd years, e.g. 2021, 2023 etc.

The distinctive nature of the European Heritage Label in essence

The *European Heritage Label* is the first EU action that brings to the fore cultural heritage with a European dimension. All types of heritage, from monuments and landscapes to books and archives, objects and intangible heritage linked to a place, are eligible provided that they are of European significance in terms of the history and culture of Europe or European integration. Because they are connected to a place, they are called 'sites'. There can be 'single sites', 'transnational sites' or 'national thematic sites'.

The three selection criteria also distinguish the *European Heritage Label* from other heritage initiatives. To be awarded the *European Heritage Label*, sites must not only be of European significance (a), but they must explain their European dimension and present a project to convey this European dimension to European audiences (b), and have the capacity to carry out this project (c). In addition, sites awarded the *European Heritage Label* become part of a *European Heritage Label Network* to which they are invited to cooperate and contribute. Through the network, they support each other in making the *European Heritage Label sites* better known to the people in Europe. These audiences should also gain an even deeper knowledge of their own history and the European context.

Before you start

Read the selection criteria carefully: they are reproduced on page 55 of the *European Heritage Label Guidelines for Candidate sites*. The Panel reports on the selection process in previous years and monitoring contains a wealth of information: skimming through them may give you some ideas on how to approach your own application.

Make sure that you are a rightsholder and have the legitimacy to submit the candidate site. If not, reach out to rightsholders and partners to secure their cooperation: this can only be beneficial for the submission of the application.

Think about the three selection criteria as a whole - European significance, project, capacity - because they are interlinked. Experience has shown that a clear focus on the three selection criteria leads to stronger applications than trying to embrace the general and long-term objectives of the *European Heritage Label* initiative.

Description

Not all Panel members will be familiar with your candidate site, its history and location. Make sure to provide a clear description of the candidate site. Make clear for which part of the site the *European Heritage Label* is requested: e.g., for the whole archive and its building, the collection, a series or only one archival document?

Provide good maps to indicate the location and the components of the site, when applicable. Photographs of good quality and any documentary illustrations should support the description of the site and illustrate its European significance. Choose the illustrations and photographs carefully: they are an opportunity to provide extra information and to highlight the key messages contained in the application. Do not forget to caption the illustrations and to provide all information related to copyrights. Use only photographs that can be used in the Panel's reports with the copyright information you provided.

Make sure that the title of the candidate site matches the nature of the site and reflects its European significance. It is recommended to provide a simple and descriptive title. If you wish to add an adjective in the title, it should be concrete and referring to a shared European value.

(a) EUROPEAN SIGNIFICANCE

Presenting the European significance of the candidate site is paramount. The two strands of European significance - 'European history & culture' and 'European integration' - are of equal importance. Candidate sites must show evidence in the application of their significance under one or both strands, by demonstrating one or more of the following sub-criteria (*article 7-1-a of Decision 1194/2011/EU*):

- Their cross-border or pan-European nature: how the influence and attraction of the site, both past and present, transcend the national borders of a Member State.
- Their place and role in European history and European integration, and their links with key European events, personalities or movements.
- Their place and role in the development and promotion of the common values that underpin European integration.

Candidate sites must indicate which sub-criterion applies. Attempts to demonstrate all three sub-criteria when they do not apply may weaken the application. The justification for meeting sub-criteria should be examined reflectively considering the historical context of the site.

Any claims should be substantiated.

Do not focus on the importance of your site as such or in its national context,

without paying attention to the European context, which is one of the key requirements for the *European Heritage Label*.

When assessing whether or not the candidate sites meet the criterion of European significance, the Panel also checks to see whether the European significance is fully understood, well-articulated and sufficiently conveyed by the sites. This remains a challenge for many: cultural heritage sites are used to presenting a national narrative to a mainly national audience. In contrast, the purpose of the *European Heritage Label* is to contextualise and interpret cultural heritage sites of European significance in a European geographical and historical context, thus going beyond national borders and audiences.

Presenting the European significance in clear terms and site-specific terms is equally challenging. You are asked to summarise and capture the essence of the European significance in sixty words. When presenting the symbolic European significance of your site in more detail, avoid a narrative that is based on today's values and written in such generic terms that would suit almost any candidate site.

E.g. do not claim that your site is an expression of multiculturalism and tolerance if you cannot demonstrate what sets it apart from other similar places in the region.

Make sure to take all the aspects of your site and its characteristics into account: oversimplification of the narrative should be avoided. Other pitfalls are presentism, anachronisms, reading today's values into sites and events of yesterday, or constructing simplistic direct or cause and effect relationships between a site and today's values. Applications should demonstrate a critical, nuanced and reflective approach to the past. Many sites invite reflection upon current values and practices, which is very welcome; however, this does not necessarily mean that sub-criterion (iii) for European significance ("development and promotion of the common values that underpin European integration") is applicable.

Please take into account that the site may hold different meanings and values for different groups and communities; the purpose of the European Heritage Label is not to impose a common narrative but to engage reflection and dialogue from a European perspective.

The title of the application should be centred on the cultural heritage that carries the European significance. Stick to the name of the site and refrain from using subtitles: most sub-titles proposed by previous candidate sites did not have added value and could have been claimed by other sites too.

Project and Operational Capacity

To receive the *European Heritage Label*, candidate sites need more than just a strong European dimension:

- European significance without a strong project and good management is not enough.
- A strong project and/or good management without European significance is not enough either.

In addition to their European significance, candidate sites must present a project of activities, which they intend to develop within the framework of the *European Heritage Label* and is focused on broadly communicating this European significance to European audiences.

They should also demonstrate that they have the operational capacity to implement their project, to manage the site and to take care of its conservation. This operational capacity is called 'work plan' in the *Decision 1194/2011/EU*.

Extract of *Decision 1194/2011/EU* of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 November 2011

Article 7 - Criteria

1. The attribution of the label shall be based on the following criteria ('criteria'):

- (a) Candidate sites for the label must have a symbolic European value and must have played a significant role in the history and culture of Europe and/or the building of the Union. They must therefore demonstrate one or more of the following:
 - (i) their cross-border or pan-European nature: how their past and present influence and attraction go beyond the national borders of a Member State.
 - (ii) their place and role in European history and European integration, and their links with key European events, personalities or movements.
 - (iii) their place and role in the development and promotion of the common values that underpin European integration.
- (b) Candidate sites for the label must submit a project, the implementation of which is to begin by the end of the designation year at the latest, which includes all the following elements:
 - (i) raising awareness of the European significance of the site, in particular through appropriate information activities, signposting and staff training.
 - (ii) organising educational activities, especially for young people, which increase the understanding of the common history of Europe and of its shared yet diverse heritage and which strengthen the sense of belonging to a common space.
 - (iii) promoting multilingualism and facilitating access to the site by using several languages of the Union.
 - (iv) taking part in the activities of networks of sites awarded the label in order to exchange experiences and initiate common projects.
 - (v) raising the profile and attractiveness of the site on a European scale, inter alia, by using the possibilities offered by new technologies and digital and interactive means and by seeking synergies with other European initiatives.

The organisation of artistic and cultural activities which foster the mobility of European culture professionals, artists and collections, stimulate intercultural dialogue and encourage linkage between heritage and

contemporary creation and creativity is to be welcomed whenever the specific nature of the site allows this.

(c) Candidate sites for the label must submit a work plan which includes all the following elements:

- (i) ensuring the sound management of the site, including defining objectives and indicators.
- (ii) ensuring the preservation of the site and its transmission to future generations in accordance with the relevant protection regimes.
- (iii) ensuring the quality of the reception facilities such as the historical presentation, visitors' information and signposting.
- (iv) ensuring access for the widest possible public, inter alia, through site adaptations or staff training.
- (v) providing special attention to young people, by granting them privileged access to the site.
- (vi) promoting the site as a sustainable tourism destination.
- (vii) developing a coherent and comprehensive communications strategy highlighting the European significance of the site.
- (viii) ensuring that the management of the site is as environmentally friendly as possible.

2. As regards the criteria laid down in points (b) and (c) of paragraph 1, each site shall be assessed in a proportionate manner, considering its characteristics.

(b) PROJECT

The project, the second requirement for the *European Heritage Label* (article 7-1-b of Decision 1194/2011/EU), is often the least effective part of the applications, but it is critical: that the candidate site communicates its European significance on the European level is a condition for being awarded the *European Heritage Label*.

The Panel observed that when the European significance of a candidate site is not well-established, often the proposed project is not tied into its European significance: however interesting the prospective activities may be, the proposed project for such sites almost never meets the threshold for the *European Heritage Label*. The Panel recommends that candidate sites prepare and plan their project very carefully.

Develop the general strategy and objectives to raise the awareness of the European significance of your site among European audiences, then detail the activities you intend to develop during the next four years.

To be eligible for the *European Heritage Label*, activities should highlight in some way the European significance for Europe-wide audiences. Some candidate sites already run numerous activities to communicate their European significance. For these, the challenge will be to add a new dimension to their work whenever possible. The Panel needs to know which of the proposed activities are new and which of them build on or improve current activities.

The Panel urges candidate sites to take care of the *genius loci* and authenticity of their site, and to ensure that their activities are sustainable. The project should thus include activities that are dependent on the characteristics, the carrying capacity and the needs of the candidate site. Hence the projects are expected to be as diverse as are the sites, e.g. how to highlight and present the significance of archival documents to the public, how to balance access and preservation, how to present intangible values of a site to younger generations, etc. The proposed educational activities should be equally very site-specific and intrinsically linked to the European significance of the site. Cultural tourism is one aspect among many objectives of the *European Heritage Label*; it should not be the dominant one.

A goal of the *European Heritage Label* is to provide access to a range of audiences, not only to local citizens and visitors. The Panel always pays particular attention to the website of each candidate site because this is the easiest way for the majority of the European citizens to access the sites. There are various levels of acceptable web presence, from a nice section on an existing site to an interactive website.

But in all cases, it is important that the website is easy to find, regardless of the national language or country of origin of the on-line visitor, and that the European significance is well explained in several languages. Multilingualism is a requirement, thus providing information in only two languages is not sufficient. When specific countries are concerned by the candidate site, particular attention should be given to their national language(s).

The communications on the European significance of the site should be robust and the Panel expects the candidate sites to develop a strategy to that effect. The *European Heritage Label* status, the European significance of the site and the *European Heritage Label Network* must be adequately presented in all communications.

To assist the candidate sites in improving their visibility on the web, a quick checklist is presented below.

- The Panel recommends that all European Heritage Label sites:
 - Put a 60-word statement outlining the European significance of their site on the front webpage/homepage of their website.
 - Add the logo of the European Heritage Label to their front webpage/homepage and link it to the website of the European Commission.
 - Put on their front page/homepage a link to a subpage with more information on why the site received the European Heritage Label.
 - Ensure that their webpage/website is easy to retrieve, regardless of the language in which the search is made; and
 - Update the descriptions of their site in free online encyclopaedia.

The Panel considers that information sessions and/or training for their staff on the *European Heritage Label* in general, and on the particular reasons why their site received the Label, should also be an important element of the project. Providing training for staff members to improve their language skills may need to be considered by some candidate sites.

The Panel identified the following priority actions for the sites that have already been awarded the *European Heritage Label*: reinforcing their presence on the web in more languages, providing staff training on the *European Heritage Label* and the reason why their site received the Label, ensuring that staff members have the necessary language skills, providing the largest possible access for all with a special attention for the needs of the impaired, and developing the European dimension in the educational activities targeted at schools and young people. Candidate sites should make every effort to include activities related to these priorities in their project.

Recommendations for educational activities:

- The European significance of the *European Heritage Label sites* should be clearly articulated in educational programmes.
- Educational programmes should not only focus on school students and young people, but target visitors of all ages and families.
- Specific educational material should be developed which is different from publications presenting the sites.
- Educational material should be translated into other European languages, in particular the languages of the region and the languages of the peoples who created the heritage.
- Educational activities should not be confused with general communications activities; and
- Education activities should be assessed regularly to improve and enrich the educational strategy of the site.

Cooperation with other sites that have been awarded the European Heritage Label is a requirement; this cooperation should not be limited to the sites from the same country.

Applications for candidate sites where major works are planned, are premature; they should be submitted after completion of the works.

In summary:

- ✓ Focus on the European dimension
- ✓ Be site-specific
- ✓ Prioritise your activities
- ✓ Think in terms of 'progress'
- ✗ Do not be over-ambitious
- ✗ Do not seek extra visitors as the main objective
- ✗ Do not apply until major works are completed

Project specific indicators & timetable

When assessing whether a candidate site meets the 'project' criterion, the Panel examines the proposed activities within the project as well as how the candidate site intends to make progress during the next four years. In the application form, candidate sites are requested to identify appropriate indicators for each activity submitted as part of their project and to provide a timetable. The purpose of the indicators is to monitor progress and to assess whether the

intended outcomes are being achieved.

Thinking from the start about key indicators helps to transform vague ideas into a real project with activities, described in precise terms.

It takes time to launch a European project and to reach new audiences, therefore the proposed timetable for implementing the activities should be realistic. Candidate sites may wish to start their project by expanding the communications of their European significance to local communities and visitors first, before reaching out to European audiences. This is fine; however, the goal should be to reach out to European audiences, and this should be demonstrated through the indicators and timetable.

The Panel shall use the indicators and the proposed timetable during the monitoring process, conducted every fourth year.

In summary:

- ✓ Take the time to identify good key indicators
- ✓ Use them to measure progress
- ✓ Check the description of your project against the key indicators
- ✗ Do not be over-ambitious in your time tabling of future actions

(c) OPERATIONAL CAPACITY

The third criterion for the *European Heritage Label* concerns the operational capacity (called 'work plan' in article 7-1-c of Decision 1194/2011/EU). Candidate sites should demonstrate that there is a stable, professional and viable structure ensuring the functionality of the site. Candidate sites should explain by whom the site is managed, who is responsible for the scientific content, and what the relations are between management and scientific content. In other words: how the management functions. For most sites no substantive changes will be required should they receive the *European Heritage Label*. Some sites, however, may need to reinforce their operational capacity in terms of human resources and/or funding in order to carry out the proposed project: this should be indicated in the application form.

The focus of the *European Heritage Label* is not on conservation and restoration. However, the heritage status of the candidate site should be mentioned as well as any preservation/conservation issues affecting the status of the site. These should be handled in accordance with the legislation applicable and international conservation standards and reported to the National Coordinator.

The candidate sites should demonstrate that they are able to carry out the proposed project. They need to demonstrate that they do have the capacity to conduct activities specifically targeted at European audiences. The Panel recommends that the sites seek cooperation with academics or other experts to ensure that their narratives and activities are grounded on established facts and on the latest progress in science. Many successful sites have already established such cooperation, on a European level.

Candidate sites often expect the European Commission to make the *European Heritage Label* better known through branding and communications to achieve greater visibility. The candidate sites themselves can contribute to this objective by a better integration of the *European Heritage Label* in their own communication. They should explain how they intend to do this. Their communications strategy should go beyond using the logo of the *European Heritage Label* and the communications materials provided by the European Commission. There are interesting examples of awarded sites that, although part of larger institutions, managed to use the designation and drew upon their own strengths to overcome administrative and financial obstacles to implement their project with a lot of creativity.

Candidate sites may have received EU funding or recognition under other programmes or initiatives. This is of interest, however, a selection under one EU programme does not automatically result in the awarding of the *European Heritage Label*: the requirements for each programme are different as they must each achieve differing objectives.

In summary:

- ✓ Present your management system
- ✓ Present your communications strategy
- ✓ Clarify the relationship between the management and scientific teams
- ✓ Check whether you need additional resources
- ✗ Do not assume the European Heritage Label as a given if you have previously obtained an EU grant or designation such as European Capitals of Culture for your site

Transnational and national thematic sites

According to *Decision 1194/2011/EU*, transnational sites are to be considered as a whole. The main issue is thus not that all the participating sub-sites are the most representative of their kind, but that the candidate site as a whole, with the sub-sites, presents a common narrative and that common activities are included in the project in addition to activities specific to each sub-site. The value of a joint application should be well argued. Evidence of the cooperation agreement between the sub-sites should be provided.

One of the sub-sites needs to act as a coordinator. This coordinator should have the capacity to implement its own project and the operational capacity to oversee the coordination of the site and the entire project. Setting up and strengthening the cooperation between the sub-sites may be part of the project. When not all sub-sites have the same operational capacity, reinforcing their capacity should be a goal for the future.

Presentation of the applications

All elements must be included in the submission. The content of the applications is more important than their presentation, but there are a few elements to take into account by the candidate sites when they prepare their applications.

Because the application form follows the order of the sub-criteria in *Decision 1194/2011/EU*, there are some repetitions in the form, such as the reference to young people in both the 'project' and the 'operational capacity'. Under the 'project' the candidate site should provide information on planned future activities. Under the operational capacity, details should be given on structural and long-term managerial aspects.

Candidate sites should be aware that where descriptions and argumentation in the application exceed the required number of words or pages this may actually disadvantage the applicant.

Drafting applications on cultural heritage in a foreign language requires special skills which are not equally available in all parts of Europe. To ensure that the application does convey the intended key messages, candidate sites are encouraged to seek the help of a proof-reader for the draft application and also to find a competent proof-reader for English translations.

In summary:

- ✓ Provide for compelling reading
- ✓ Illustrate your key points with attractive material
- ✓ Bear in mind that not all readers know your site
- ✓ Call upon proof-readers and good translators
- ✗ Do not exceed given text limits
- ✗ Do not refer to too many annexes

Frequently asked questions

The *European Heritage Label* Panel assesses all applications forwarded by the Member States according to the three selection criteria. All conditions must be met, but *Decision 1194/2011/EU* also requires the Panel to assess the candidatures on the basis of their own merit and in a proportionate way, taking into account their character and scale.

[Does a candidate site have to be of 'Outstanding Universal Value'?](#)

No, this is a requirement for World Heritage nominations but not for the *European Heritage Label*. Likewise, for the *European Heritage Label*, candidate sites do not need to be 'the best', 'the greatest' or 'the most representative'.

[Does the Panel seek to achieve a geographical balance or a balance between sites presenting 'positive' and 'negative' aspects of European history and culture and integration?](#)

Seeking such balances would 'colour' the selection process and is not part of the Panel's mandate. The Panel's duty is to examine each application with care against the three selection criteria. All candidate sites are assessed based on their own merit and not according to a geographical balance or whether they are associated with 'positive' or 'negative' emotions. The only constraint for the Panel is that it can only recommend one site per Member State per selection year.

[Why isn't the list of the Labelled sites well balanced and representative?](#)

The selection process combines a bottom-up and a top-down approach. It is dependent on sites that apply and a maximum of two candidate sites per selection year are submitted by Member States; candidate sites are not selected by a group of experts (only top-down). All *European Heritage Label sites* meet the three criteria, but they are not a homogeneous and representative group. The Panel hopes that over time the network of *European Heritage Label sites* will form a tapestry that will become richer and richer, to more fully reflect Europe's culture and history and its diversity.

For other frequently asked questions - such as [Who can apply?](#) [What countries are participating?](#) [Is it a Label for eternity?](#) See the website of the European Commission or ask the National Coordinator in your country.

Concluding remarks

The Panel is very grateful to all those who are considering or have made an application. Whether their sites are recommended for the *European Heritage Label* or not, the work on their site is important. It contributes to new areas of focus in the field of cultural heritage: defining the European dimension of cultural heritage and sharing heritage experiences at the European level.

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