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PRESS RELEASE

European Heritage Awards Ceremony 2024 in Bucharest:

5 Grand Prix and Public Choice Award announced

*Bucharest, 7 October 2024*

The **winners of the 2024 European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards**, the highest heritage accolade in Europe, were celebrated this evening with a high-profile event held at the iconic Romanian Athenaeum in Bucharest, Romania. This year’s European Heritage Awards Ceremony was co-hosted by **Iliana Ivanova**, European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, andProf. Dr. **Hermann Parzinger**, Executive President of Europa Nostra.

The ceremony assembled some 800 heritage professionals, volunteers, enthusiasts and supporters from across Europe. Among the guests of honour were Prof. Dr. **Sergiu Nistor**, Presidential Adviser; **Raluca Turcan**, Minister of Culture of Romania; and Dr. **Nicușor Dan**, Mayor of Bucharest. The Awards Ceremony was the largest event of the [European Cultural Heritage Summit 2024](https://www.europanostra.org/european-heritage-summit/), which is taking place in Bucharest from 6 to 8 October. Organised by Europa Nostra and co-funded by the Creative Europe Programme of the European Union, the Bucharest Summit is held under the High Patronage of the President of Romania, H.E. **Klaus Iohannis**.

During the Awards Ceremony, the five laureates of the Grand Prix and the winner of the Public Choice Award for 2024 - which receive amonetary award of €10,000 each - were announced. The Grand Prix winners wereselected from among this year’s [26 winners from 18 European countries](https://www.europanostra.org/2024-winners-of-europe-top-heritage-awards-announced-by-the-european-commission-and-europa-nostra/) by the Board of Europa Nostra, based on the recommendation of an independent [jury of experts](http://www.europeanheritageawards.eu/jury/).

The **five laureates of the Grand Prix 2024** are:

[Ignacy Historic Mine, Rybnik, POLAND](https://www.europeanheritageawards.eu/winners/ignacy-historic-mine)

Grand Prix winner in category **Conservation & Adaptive Reuse**

This is a unique renovation project on the site of a former coal mine, one of the oldest in Poland, which was founded in 1792 and was in operation for over 200 years. Thanks to the efforts of the former miners, the City of Rybnik, the Polish state and EU funds, the complex has been saved and adapted to new functions as a cultural and recreational centre.

[Saxon Church in Alma Vii, ROMANIA](https://www.europeanheritageawards.eu/winners/saxon-church-in-alma-vii)

Grand Prix winner in category **Conservation & Adaptive Reuse**

This project restored a cultural landmark that symbolises centuries of history and craftsmanship in the picturesque village of Alma Vii in Transylvania. The comprehensive restoration not only preserved the church's architectural and historical integrity but also empowered the local community and fostered sustainable tourism development. The project, supported by the U.S. Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation and the EEA Grants, was coordinated by Mihai Eminescu Trust.

[Traditional Farm Buildings Scheme, IRELAND](https://www.europeanheritageawards.eu/winners/traditional-farm-buildings-scheme)

Grand Prix winner in category **Education, Training & Skills**

The main objective of this nationwide scheme is to help farmers recognise the cultural value of traditional farm buildings. Participants are supported in acquiring skills to enable them to carry out repairs to return the buildings to functional use. Over 1,000 buildings have been repaired since the creation of the scheme in 2008. Established by The Heritage Council in partnership with the Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine of the Government of Ireland, the scheme is co-funded by the Irish government and the European Union under Ireland’s Rural Development Programme.

[Citizens’ Rehabilitation of the Tsiskarauli Tower, Akhieli, GEORGIA](https://www.europeanheritageawards.eu/winners/citizens-rehabilitation-of-the-tsiskarauli-tower)

Grand Prix winner in category **Citizens’ Engagement & Awareness-raising**

Over three years, 46 Georgian and international citizens worked alongside technical experts and traditional craftspeople to restore the Tsiskarauli Tower. The project raised awareness of the value of Georgian heritage within Europe’s heritage. The International National Trusts Organisation (INTO) was the lead partner, working in close collaboration with the National Trust of Georgia, REMPART (France) and the Chudow Castle Foundation (Poland). The project was supported by a grant from ALIPH – the International alliance for the protection of heritage in conflict areas.

[Society of Friends of Dubrovnik Antiquities, CROATIA](https://www.europeanheritageawards.eu/winners/society-of-friends-of-dubrovnik-antiquities)

Grand Prix winner in category **Heritage Champions**

This civil society association has financed and completed research and conservation projects of Dubrovnik's landmarks, including the City’s Walls, since 1952. The Society was closely involved with the inclusion of the Old City of Dubrovnik on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1979. Ever since, it has played a vital role in ensuring the safeguarding and enhancement of this exceptional site.

The remarkable rehabilitation of the [Saxon Church in Alma Vii in ROMANIA](https://www.europeanheritageawards.eu/winners/saxon-church-in-alma-vii) is the big winner of 2024: it received a **Grand Prix** and the **Public Choice Award 2024**.This impressive initiative raised the largest number of votes, cast via an online poll with the participation of some 10,000 citizens from all over Europe.

**Iliana Ivanova**, European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, stated: *“Cultural heritage is the foundation of Europe’s identity and diversity. I warmly congratulate the winners of the 2024 European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards on their extraordinary achievements. They are a testament to the power of heritage to inspire innovation, foster community engagement and support sustainable development across our continent. These projects showcase the importance of safeguarding our shared cultural legacy while adapting it to the challenges of the future, for the benefit of future generations.”*

Prof. Dr. **Hermann Parzinger**, Executive President of Europa Nostra, said: “*I am delighted to be in Bucharest for this evening of celebration of the best heritage projects and the most inspiring heritage champions - both individuals and organisations - from across Europe. The winners of the European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards 2024 vividly showcase the multiple values of heritage for Europe’s society, environment and economy. Cultural heritage is a precious resource that must be carefully managed, so that we can reap its many benefits, for both present and future generations. My heartfelt congratulations to all the winners, particularly to the laureates of the Grand Prix and the winner of the Public Choice Award”.*

The European Heritage Awards Ceremony featured live musical performances by the Romanian symphonic ensemble [Violoncellissimo](https://violoncellissimo.ro/), led by Prof. **Marin Cazacu**. The Ceremony takes place annually in the frame of the European Cultural Heritage Summit. Co-funded by the [European Union](https://european-union.europa.eu/index_en), the Bucharest Summit is organised by [Europa Nostra](https://www.europanostra.org/) in close cooperation with the Ministry of Culture of Romania, the City of Bucharest, the Romanian Order of Architects, Pro Patrimonio Foundation, Monumentum Association, Association ARA - Architecture. Restoration. Archeology, ARCHÉ Association, and many [other cultural heritage organisations and partners](https://www.europanostra.org/european-heritage-summit/partners/), both public and private.

**The Call for Entries for the European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards 2025 is now open**. **Applications can be submitted online via** [**www.europeanheritageawards.eu**](https://www.europeanheritageawards.eu/apply/) **by 20 November 2024**.

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Background

European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards

The [European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards](http://www.europeanheritageawards.eu/) were launched by the European Commission in 2002 and have been run by Europa Nostra ever since. The Awards have the support of the [Creative Europe](http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/creative-europe/index_en.htm) programme of the European Union.

For 22 years, the Awards have highlighted and disseminated heritage excellence and best practices, encouraged the cross-border exchange of knowledge and connected heritage stakeholders in wider networks. The Awards have brought major benefits to the winners, such as greater (inter)national exposure, follow-on funding and increased visitor numbers. In addition, the Awards have fostered greater care for our shared heritage amongst Europe’s citizens. The Awards have therefore been a key tool to promote the multiple values of heritage for Europe’s society, economy and environment.

For additional facts and figures about the Awards, please visit [www.europeanheritageawards.eu/facts-figures](http://www.europeanheritageawards.eu/facts-figures).

Europa Nostra

[Europa Nostra](https://www.europanostra.org/) is the European voice of civil society committed to safeguarding and promoting cultural and natural heritage. It is a pan-European federation of heritage NGOs, supported by a wide network of public bodies, private companies and individuals, covering over 40 countries. It is the largest and the most representative heritage network in Europe, maintaining close relations with the European Union, the Council of Europe, UNESCO and other international bodies. Founded in 1963, Europa Nostra celebrated its 60th anniversary last year.

Europa Nostra campaigns to save Europe’s endangered monuments, sites and landscapes, in particular through the [7 Most Endangered Programme](http://7mostendangered.eu/about/), run in partnership with the European Investment Bank Institute. It celebrates and disseminates excellence through the [European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards](http://www.europeanheritageawards.eu/). Europa Nostra actively contributes to the definition and implementation of European strategies and policies related to heritage, through a participatory dialogue with European Institutions and the coordination of the [European Heritage Alliance](http://europeanheritagealliance.eu/).

Europa Nostra has led the European consortium selected by the European Commission to run the [European Heritage Hub](https://www.europeanheritagehub.eu/) pilot project (2023-2025). It is also an official partner of the [New European Bauhaus](https://europa.eu/new-european-bauhaus/index_en) initiative developed by the European Commission, and is a leading European member and supporter of the [Climate Heritage Network](https://climateheritage.org/).

Creative Europe

[Creative Europe](http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/creative-europe/index_en.htm) is the European Commission’s flagship programme to support the cultural and audiovisual sectors, enabling them to increase their contribution to Europe’s society, economy and living environment. With a budget of €2.4 billion for 2021-2027, it supports organisations in the fields of heritage, performing arts, fine arts, interdisciplinary arts, publishing, film, TV, music, and video games as well as tens of thousands of artists, cultural and audiovisual professionals.