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European Heritage Label

2024 MONITORING REPORT

OF THE EUROPEAN PANEL
TO THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION



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HERITAGE LABEL**



European Heritage Label Action

2024 Monitoring Exercise

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

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This report has been edited by Gábor Sonkoly, Chairperson, and Zdeněk Novák, General Rapporteur, on behalf of the European Heritage Label Panel.

Unless mentioned otherwise, all photographs illustrating this report are part of the touring exhibition (EU-DG EAC) or were included in the applications or monitoring forms submitted by the European Heritage Label Sites.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The third monitoring exercise of the European Heritage Label (EHL) Action, aimed at assessing sixty designated Sites, took place in 2024.

The key outcome of this monitoring is that all sixty Sites—twenty of which were monitored for the third time, eighteen for the second time, and twenty-two for the first time—continue to meet the criteria for the EHL designation, as confirmed by the Panel’s recommendations.

This success is the result of strong collaboration between all key stakeholders of the EHL Action—the Sites, National Coordinators, the European Commission, the EHL Bureau, and the EHL Panel—culminating in an intense year of monitoring. As was already observed in the [2020 Monitoring Report](#), the Panel once again recognises that this achievement is primarily driven by the enthusiasm of those who are deeply engaged with the EHL Sites. Through their dedicated work, they mobilise local, regional, and even national resources to support the initiative.

The 2024 monitoring process required exceptional commitment from all stakeholders, **as its scope expanded by 57% compared to the previous cycle and by 200% compared to the first one.** Despite this significant growth, the time frame (one year), related activities and available infrastructure remained unchanged. The large number of sites monitored for the first time, alongside the findings of previous monitoring reports provided a fresh perspective, not only for individual Sites but also for the broader evolution of the EHL Action over the past decade.

As a result, the EHL 2024 Monitoring Report includes not only individual site assessments **but also the Panel’s observations and recommendations for the future of the EHL Action.** These reflections are particularly timely, given that a revision of its legal basis, [Decision No 1194/2011](#), is scheduled within the next 1-2 years. The Panel acknowledges the importance of this revision, as it concerns dozens of heritage communities dedicated to European values. **The results of the 2024 monitoring exercise confirm that the EHL Action has successfully defined its unique identity within the landscape of European heritage initiatives.** It has established itself as a key pillar of European identity-building based on shared values. One of the EHL Action’s defining characteristics is its large number of small and peripherally located Sites, which proudly represent and promote a European presence in regions that might otherwise lack such prominent memory spaces.

Beyond confirming that all sixty Sites meet the criteria for renewal, the Panel highlights several positive developments:

Best practices:

Many Sites have demonstrated exemplary initiatives during the 2020-2023 period including;

- **Enhanced cooperation:** Collaboration between Sites has grown significantly, supported by the networking efforts of the EHL Bureau.
- **Alignment with thematic priorities:** In terms of sectorial priorities, the findings of the 2024 monitoring align with the results of the first EHL Bureau Call, which identified future thematic priorities and interregional cooperation

opportunities for the EHL Action.

- **The Budapest Recommendations:**
- The cooperation between EHL stakeholders culminated in the **Budapest Recommendations**, drafted at the October 2024 EHL assembly. These Recommendations reflect a ground-up, shared vision for the future of the European Heritage Label.

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, The monitoring process also revealed certain challenges that require action if the EHL initiative is to be sustained and strengthened.

To address these, the Panel recommends the following measures:

- **Enhanced networking and support initiatives:** Strengthening engagement among EHL Sites, particularly during periods when dedicated support and networking opportunities are limited.
- **Reflection on European significance vs. site-specific projects:** The relationship between the European significance of a site—which has a timeless quality and was not explicitly assessed in 2024—and its site-specific project, originally awarded for a few years but continuously evaluated in subsequent monitoring rounds, must be reconsidered. This reflection should involve all EHL stakeholders and ensure its outcomes are integrated with the upcoming revision of the legal framework.
- **Tailored support for small Sites:** Many EHL Sites are small institutions with limited financial and human resources. Specific assistance programs should be developed to address their capacity-building and training needs.
- **Future monitoring methodologies:** [Following the success of the EHL Meeting in Budapest in October 2024 the](#) Panel suggests organising a similar gathering in early 2026. This would provide a platform to refine the objectives and methodologies for future monitoring exercises.

The increasing number of Sites, the structural and managerial challenges of the monitoring process, and some conceptual ambiguities identified in this third monitoring round have demonstrated that the current legal framework is not sustainable in the long term. Addressing these challenges will be essential to ensure the continued growth and impact of the EHL Action in the years to come.



INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

According to Article 15 of Decision No. 1194/2011, which established the European Heritage Label (EHL), monitoring is a mandatory exercise designed to ensure that designated Sites continue to meet the criteria for their selection. These criteria, as outlined in the Decision, include *European significance*, an *Action Plan* developed by the applicant, and *organisational capacity*. For the first time in 2024, the Panel chose not to evaluate the criterion of *European significance*, recognising it as an inherent and enduring quality of all designated Sites. This allowed for a stronger focus on the Sites' project ("Action Plan"), and organisational capacity.

The Decision establishes a two-step monitoring process taking place every four years. The first round was undertaken in 2016, involving the first 20 EHL Sites designated in 2013 and 2014. The second round, in 2020, assessed 38 Sites—20 of which were being monitored for the second time. While the remaining 18, labelled in 2015 and 2017, were assessed for the first time. **The third round, in 2024, evaluated 60 Sites, including 22 Sites designated in 2019 and 2021 that were undergoing their first review.** The key outcome of this third monitoring cycle is that all 60 Sites continue to meet the criteria for the European Heritage Label, as confirmed by the Panel's recommendations.

Structure of the Report

Consistent with previous EHL Panel reports, this report is structured into three main sections:

- *Introduction and Methodology* – This section includes the *Executive Summary*, an overview of the monitoring process, and key objectives and results of the 2024 monitoring cycle.
- *Site Reports* – Arranged chronologically, these reports provide a concise analysis of each site's project status and operational capacity, highlighting achievements and challenges. They also include the Panel's latest recommendations, which build on previous assessments if the site has been monitored before.
- *Conclusions and Recommendations* – This final section presents the Panel's overarching conclusions on the EHL initiative, based on the findings and challenges of the current monitoring cycle. For the first time, it also includes the *Budapest Recommendations* strategic document, as an appendix—certifying that initiative is fully supported by the Panel.

Implementation and Acknowledgements

The successful monitoring of 60 Sites in a single year was made possible by exemplary collaboration among EHL stakeholders and within the Panel itself. A key factor was the swift and effective establishment of a sub-committee in late 2023, comprising Panel members Riin Alatalu, Flavia Barca, and Paulina Florjanowicz. Their efforts streamlined the monitoring process, making it more practical for both the Sites and the Panel. Their work also initiated a critical examination of the monitoring methodology, which continued throughout the process.

The Panel members rose to the challenge of this significantly expanded task, fostering a cooperative and productive working environment. This collaboration not only resulted in comprehensive site reports and this monitoring report but also generated valuable

insights for the future of the EHL initiative—insights that will inform discussions on revising the legal framework in 2025–2026.

The Panel extends its sincere gratitude to the European Commission for its unwavering support, particularly to Judith Videcoq, Head of the Creative Europe Unit at DG.EAC and Gabrielle Bernoville whose assistance was indispensable.

The Panel also acknowledges the dedication of national coordinators and the EHL Bureau, whose enthusiasm and commitment have been instrumental in the success of this monitoring cycle.



MONITORING METHODOLOGY

MONITORING METHODOLOGY

As established in the Decision basing the action, the monitoring process follows a two-step monitoring process:

- The Member States are responsible for the monitoring of the EHL Sites at the national level; the National Coordinators collect the information from the Sites, prepare a report and send it to the European Commission.
- The European Panel of independent experts examines the information, received by the European Commission, and prepares a report on the state of the EHL Sites with recommendations for the following monitoring period.

New challenges

The third monitoring of EHL Sites presented several challenges that had to be addressed through a specially designed and applied methodology:

- **Increased Number and Diversity of Sites:** The number of monitored Sites increased by 57% in 2024 compared to the previous monitoring cycle and by 200% since the initial cycle.
- **Time Constraints:** The time available for this monitoring process was extremely limited. Legally, the previous selection cycle ended in December 2023, and monitoring began in April 2024. To gather the necessary information from the Sites, the monitoring forms had to be distributed in January 2024, with a submission deadline in March. As in previous years, this issue arose due to the constraints imposed by the EHL monitoring periods, determined by Decision No. 1194/2011, which runs on a calendar-year basis. The additional number of monitored Sites made this challenge more pronounced.
- **Limited Resources:** Despite the significant increase in the number of Sites, neither the number of participating experts nor the duration of the monitoring could be expanded. As a result, a new monitoring form and process had to be developed to manage the increased workload.
- **Varied level of experience among the Sites:** Nearly two-thirds of the Sites had already undergone a second or third round of monitoring since receiving the EHL designation. This accumulated experience needed to be properly acknowledged and assessed using a representative set of indicators, which have been reflected and summarised by the Panel in this report.

New monitoring form

The Monitoring form was the crucial instrument to carry out this process and collect a comprehensive and detailed set of data and information from the labelled Sites, allowing the Panel to assess their performance accordingly.

- In December and January, a subcommittee was voluntarily formed within the Panel to revise the monitoring form inherited from 2020. They simplified, and refocused the form, under less-than-ideal working conditions.

- As a result of this revision, a more actionable and comprehensive **EU Survey** form was distributed among the Sites through the National Coordinators. The eighty-two questions from 2020 were modified as the following table demonstrates.

Units in the Form	Number of questions in 2020	Number of questions In 2024
Identification	6	General description
European significance	13	0
Project implementation	26	6
Operational capacity	37	9

- The site managers had to upload additional information or documentation to respond to the Monitoring Survey.
- A request for additional information was addressed in some cases by the panel to the National Coordinators through the Commission Services.
- The European Commission provided ongoing assistance for the national coordinators and a well-functioning interface between them and the Panel.

The Panel’s monitoring process

The Panel’s methodology followed the previous monitoring years while adapting it to the new 2024 Monitoring’ conditions:

- **Peer-reviewed system:** The examination of the Monitoring reports was based on a peer review system to guarantee transparency, equal treatment and the impartiality of monitoring decisions.
- **Division of Work:** Assessment of the monitoring reports was divided among the panel members and collaboration between Rapporteurs 1 and 2 was strongly encouraged. Similarly, the structure and content of the final report was agreed upon collegially from the monitoring of the process
- **Panel Meetings:** The Panel held six meetings over a total of six full working days (four in-person and two online) between April and December. Additionally, a meeting was held with national coordinators and the two Budapest EHL Sites, co-organised by the EHL Bureau and the European Commission.
- **Interviews with Sites: *As an innovation*,** the Panel requested the opportunity to conduct interviews with Sites whose responses in the monitoring forms raised concerns or questions regarding their projects and/or organisational capacity. The European Commission supported this request, enabling the organisation of these hearings. Despite being conducted online, the interviews provided valuable face-to-face interaction between the site representatives and Panel members. In most cases, these conversations helped the Panel better understand the Sites’ commitment and allowed for deeper insight into the challenges and difficulties faced by the Sites.

Information Sources

Information sources considered in the monitoring process span over: the submitted monitoring questionnaires, the additional responses supplied by the Sites; the Sites’ webSites and other social media sources; the results of the hearings; the

previous EU Panel Monitoring and Selections reports; and/or the Sites' application forms.

Coherence and proportionality of Sites' monitoring

The monitoring process was led by the principle that each site should be assessed in a proportionate manner while keeping in mind the Site's own specificity. Their performance as EHL holders was estimated by the Panel based on the standardised understanding of minimum EHL web presence and a minimum requirement of multilingualism.

Individual Site Reports

The collected information was organised and discussed by the Panel experts using **Individual Site Reports** and a preliminary agreed upon template. Considering the Sites' at a more experienced stage, this template was updated and focused on the project and the operational capacity. The **Individual Site Reports** contain specific feedback from the sites and recommendations which should be read in conjunction with the more general considerations contained in *Conclusion* of the Report.

Considerations about the monitoring process in the future

The Panel stresses the significance of the monitoring exercise, and its role to provide all stakeholders involved in the coordination of the EHL with an opportunity to reaffirm the European value of the Sites and to reveal the value added from their cooperation across the years, as a mutually beneficial learning process. Eventually the monitoring exercise directly contributes to reinforcing the impact and understanding of the EHL Action and to disseminate the message of the site's European significance.

In 2024, the Panel identified several hurdles, which would benefit from being addressed in view of the coming cycles, to increase the efficiency and the role of the EHL Action. Although, most of these challenges will be reflected in the Conclusion, some concerning the methodology should be mentioned in this part of the report too:

- **Uneven experience with Monitoring Exercise:** Some EHL Sites and national coordinators had difficulty grasping the monitoring form questions and end objectives. such as the unclarified relationship between the *European significance element* and the site's Action Plan, the lack of clear indicators and the distinction between ordinary activities of the site and the EHL Action Plan's ones created confusion for some sites.
- **Uneven Capacities:** Some Sites had difficulties due to limited English-speaking staff, or limited engagement with the EHL Action after many years. Finally, some sites reported a limited understanding of EHL as a concept and brand.
- **Cumbersome Monitoring Exercise:** The four-year sequence of the monitoring is not sustainable. The Panel calls for a thorough revision of the EHL Monitoring's aims, tools and procedure. Budapest's October meeting between the EHL stakeholders exemplified that the necessary renewal must come from shared thinking and exchange, and it must happen before the next monitoring due in 2028.



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NEANDERTHAL PREHISTORIC SITE AND KRAPINA MUSEUM

KRAPINA, CROATIA

AWARDED THE EHL IN 2015 | MONITORED FOR THE 2ND TIME



©European Commission

The Hušnjakovo site, discovered in 1899, holds the largest collection of Neanderthal bones and tools. Declared a protected area in 1948, it culminated with the opening of the Krapina Neanderthal Museum in 2010. The museum offers tours, workshops, and events, promoting Neanderthal history. The site highlights Europe's shared history and cultural heritage.

Implementation of the site's project

The site attracts a diverse audience, particularly during Croatia's busy tourist season. The museum primarily focuses on human evolution, integrating aspects of geological history and palaeontology. The website is available in multiple languages, including Croatian, English, and German, with the majority of the content in Croatian and select translations in English and Slovenian. The site is an active member of the EHL Bureau and the *Ice Age Europe Network*, collaborating with other EHL sites in both Croatia and Slovenia. It makes use of cutting-edge technologies, including a digitised collection on the e-Culture portal (some pieces in 3D) and multimedia elements within the exhibitions. The main challenges the site faces include limited financial resources and challenging terrain, which impact its operations.

Organisational Capacity

The site is managed by the *Museums of Croatian Zagorje – Krapina Neanderthal Museum* but it cooperates with the Hrvatske Šume company, which is responsible for the Hušnjakovo site in Krapina, declared the first paleontological monument of nature in Croatia. Preservation of the site is provided on daily basis, recently new

stairs and fences were provided. Due to the difficulty of the terrain the site is mostly inaccessible to visitors with physical disabilities. It cooperates with organisations for people with intellectual disabilities and seniors. There is no sustainable tourism development strategy in place and improvements are difficult to implement due to overlapping layers of legal protection of the site (both related with its natural and cultural values), resulting in complications related to obtaining permits. In terms of ecology, the museum makes attempts to minimise waste but lack of funding makes it difficult to apply environmentally friendly solutions. The main obstacles, apart from lack of funding include difficulty cooperating with stakeholders.

Progress and Reflection to previous recommendations

Recommendations – 2020 Monitoring Report

It was recommended to further develop multilingualism and to enhance activity on social media. *These recommendations are still valid.*

Recommendations for the site

OVERALL QUALITY

The site views the EHL title as a key tool for boosting visibility, focusing on the local community, especially children and youth. However, financial struggles hinder its development. The European significance is not clearly reflected in the museum's programme and is often confused with European branding. Strict protection limitations challenge effective site management.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Panel recommends the following actions:

- Reinforcing the European Significance and narrative of the site, notably its focus on human evolution and collective scientific research methods.
- Further engaging all stakeholders (both managing entities) to improve the site's operation and accessibility within the boundaries of its protection.
- Allocating sufficient financial resources for daily maintenance and development should be provided.
- Designing and implementing more eco-friendly strategies and solutions.

Conclusion

The EHL Site *Neanderthal Prehistoric Site and Krapina Museum* continues to meet the criteria for the designation of the European Heritage Label.

VUČEDOL CULTURE MUSEUM AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE

VUKOVAR, CROATIA

AWARDED THE EHL IN 2021 | MONITORED FOR THE 1ST TIME



©European Commission

The Vučedol Culture Museum and Archaeological Site bears testimony to the Thrace civilisation, on the right bank of the Danube River in Eastern Croatia. The Museum and Archaeological Site bear testimony to this early Neolithic Indo-European cultures, leading the way to innovations such as four-wheel carriages, saws and casting techniques.

Implementation of the site's project

The museum's official website is linked to the EU's "Cultural Heritage" section for its official presentation. Information is provided in eight languages through leaflets and digital media. The site is involved in the international "Thrace and the Classical World" programme, and the EHL logo appears on the Tourist Information Centre's website. However, the European significance of the site could be reinforced. An international online conference on the architecture of the Tomb was held in 2021, but educational activities are still limited, with only brief staff training sessions. The site is preparing a project proposal in partnership with the Vučedol Culture Museum for the EHL BUREAU's Call for Projects. While it is a member of the EHL BUREAU, partnerships with other EHL Sites have not yet been established. The site should invest more in new technologies, aside from social media tools. Challenges raised in the form relate to the COVID-19 pandemic, low recognition of the site, and a lack of funding. The site is actively seeking government funding for preservation and educational programmes.

Organisational Capacity

The ongoing development of the Vučedol Archaeological Park will integrate the Vučedol Culture Museum and Archaeological Site, as outlined in their application. The report does not specify details regarding the preservation strategy for the Archaeological Site itself, focussing instead on measures taken for the Museum building and its exhibits. Signposting around the site directs visitors to key

locations, and preservation work includes improvements to site access, parking, and the surrounding museum area. The site is fully accessible to all visitors, with alternative solutions provided for audiences with impairments or special needs. Planned improvements aim to further enhance accessibility. The Museum's website features virtual guides and exhibitions, and it participates in docuseries showcasing Vučedol Culture. Educational activities such as lectures and workshops for school classes help raise awareness among young people. High school students have also volunteered at special events, assisted with archaeological excavations, working on documentation on even as tour guides. Nevertheless, although Vučedol is among the top ten most visited museums in Croatia, it remains little known among the local community. A high concentration of visitors is noted as a challenge.

Recommendations for the site

OVERALL QUALITY

Consideration of the merge of the Vučedol Culture Museum and Archaeological Site into the Archaeological Park of Vučedol – is still in process – and in the brief time since the labelling, the site has demonstrated a good start. However, limited human resources and structural changes in the site's administration hinder the overall management and further technological improvement is needed.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Panel recommends the following actions:

- Prioritising preservation measures and work within the Archaeological Site.
- Promoting multilingualism on the website, and scientific publications are needed.
- Establishing collaborations with other EHL archaeological Sites and museums.
- Engaging the local community in cultural and educational activities.
- Developing modern technologies and augmented reality to display the history and European narrative of the Site.
- Raising Awareness of the European significance of the site on local and national scale.

Conclusion

The EHL Site *Vučedol Culture Museum and Archaeological Site* continues to meet the criteria for the designation of the European Heritage Label.

ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE OF NEMEA

NEMEA, GREECE

AWARDED THE EHL IN 2021 | MONITORED FOR THE 1ST TIME



©European Commission

The archaeological site of Nemea is significant for hosting the ancient Nemean Games, which began in 573 BC. The site symbolises the origins of European sports and the role of classical sports in the education of youth. It is also linked to the myth of Hercules and his victory over the Nemean Lion. Today, Nemea's well-preserved archaeological remains highlight its importance in the history of sports and mythology.

Implementation of the site's project

In 2023-2024, the site developed two new programs as part of the European Heritage Days, aimed at highlighting its European significance and the effects of climate change on monuments. One of the programs focused on participatory governance, with staff and twenty local community members contributing to the project's design phase. Both initiatives included activities targeting young audiences, such as a digital game. The Nemea Games were revived through a re-enactment event involving numerous volunteers. The Games are connected to the site's European importance, emphasizing the historical role of sports in youth education and fostering peaceful competition. Multilingual communication is primarily in English and Greek. While the site primarily engages with the local community, it also attracts tourists. Public archaeology programs offer students opportunities to learn how to interact with visitors through lectures and other activities. Although the site is not currently an active participant in the European Heritage Label (EHL) Bureau, there are plans to join in the future. Key challenges identified include a shortage of staff and limited space, which can lead to overcrowding in the museum.

Organisational Capacity

The site's management structure remains unchanged since receiving the European Heritage Label (EHL). It continues to operate under the Ephorate of Antiquities of Corinth, part of the Greek Ministry of Culture. A key challenge remains the preservation of the site and its archaeological remains. Educational activities are offered to highlight the site's history and the importance of conservation. Recent additions include a museum shop and informational signage to enhance visitor

experience. The audience development strategy focuses on attracting diverse visitor groups and ensuring an engaging learning experience. Accessibility for individuals with physical disabilities is available at the museum and in the parking area. Staff shortages remain a significant challenge. However, additional funding received after obtaining the EHL enabled the hiring of external collaborators, who developed a teacher's toolkit to support guided group visits. The EHL is recognised as a valuable resource in enhancing the site's appeal and overall development.

Recommendations for the site

OVERALL QUALITY

The site of Nemea has recently joined the EHL Bureau, viewing this as a valuable opportunity for growth and development. However, financial constraints remain a key challenge, leading to staff shortages and limited space. So far, two projects emphasizing the site's European significance have been implemented, along with the revival of the Nemea Games. While the digital game is an engaging addition, it primarily caters to younger, digitally native audiences. Additionally, current programs are largely tailored to Greek visitors due to resource limitations. At present, the site's connection to European heritage—particularly the role of sports in promoting peaceful coexistence—appears to be underrepresented in its programming. Expanding this focus could further enhance its outreach and impact.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Panel recommends the following actions:

- Increasing the visibility of the EHL title, especially on the site's digital platforms, is strongly recommended.
- Implementing an operational strategy focused on highlighting the European values associated with the site—such as peaceful competition, the role of sports (especially for youth), equality, social inclusion, and peaceful coexistence—is advised.
- Identifying and including different stakeholders in the site's management process is essential.
- Attracting a more diverse and international visitor base should be a key focus.
- Ensuring adequate resources for staffing and maintenance is crucial for the site's optimal operation.
- Engaging actively in the EHL@Network could bring significant benefits.
- Promoting the social value of archaeological heritage should remain a priority.

Conclusion

The EHL Site *Archaeological Site of Nemea* continues to meet the criteria for the designation of the European Heritage Label.

THRACIAN ART IN EASTERN RHODOPES: ALEKSANDROVO TOMB HASKOVO, BULGARIA AWARDED THE EHL IN 2021 | MONITORED FOR THE 1ST TIME.



©European Commission

The Museum Centre "Thracian Art in the Eastern Rhodopes" is located near the Aleksandrovo mound and showcases the ancient Thracian civilisation, one of the earliest cultures in Europe. It promotes understanding of this culture's influence on subsequent European civilizations.

Implementation of the site's work plan for the European Heritage Label

The museum's official website is linked to the EU "Cultural Heritage" section, providing an official platform for its presentation. Information is available in eight languages through leaflets and digital media. The site actively participates in the international "Thrace and the Classical World" program, and the EHL logo is featured on the Tourist Information Centre's website. While the site's European significance could be further emphasised, efforts are being made to enhance its visibility. In 2021, the museum hosted an online international conference on the Tomb's architecture. Educational activities are currently limited, with brief staff training sessions, but there is potential for further development. The site is preparing a project proposal in collaboration with the Vučedol Culture Museum for the EHL Bureau Call for Projects. As a member of the EHL Bureau, the site has the opportunity to strengthen its connections with other EHL sites. The use of new technologies is primarily focused on social media, with opportunities to expand digital engagement. Challenges such as the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, public awareness, and financial constraints are being addressed, including efforts to secure government funding for preservation initiatives and educational programs.

Organisational Capacity

Managed by the Regional Museum of History, Haskovo, the site is state-owned and operates without a dedicated budget. It employs four guides, with a strategic focus on preserving the museum's collections while expanding educational programs and visitor activities. Efforts to maintain the monument, particularly its mural

paintings, remain a priority, with opportunities for future preservation initiatives. The museum website offers a virtual guide and multilingual audio options, and group visits for young people are available. Educational programs and interactive workshops engage both local and European youth. The site ensures full accessibility for visitors with physical disabilities, while further consideration could be given to accommodations for individuals with mental disabilities. Enhancing signage around the site may also improve the visitor experience. Staff training covers key topics such as conservation, accessibility, and sustainability. The site aligns with the National Strategy for Sustainable Tourism Development and incorporates environmentally friendly practices. While it does not yet have a dedicated communication strategy, there is potential for future development in this area. Due to its remote location and limited transportation options, visitor access can be challenging, presenting an opportunity to explore strategies for improving connectivity.

Recommendations for the site

OVERALL QUALITY

The Aleksandrovo Tomb and Museum Centre has been awarded the EHL label, marking an important step in recognizing its European significance. The site has made a promising start in showcasing its historical and cultural value, but there is room for further enhancement to fully highlight its European dimension. While not yet fully integrated into the EHL networks, it is actively working to strengthen international educational collaboration. Developing a comprehensive management strategy is essential, with a particular focus on prioritizing preservation efforts. Ensuring the long-term protection of the site and its heritage should be a key objective moving forward.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Panel recommends the following actions:

- Strengthening efforts to further raise awareness of the site's European significance is essential.
- Expanding networking opportunities with other EHL Sites will enhance collaboration and knowledge sharing.
- Improving accessibility through clear signposting and the promotion of multilingualism, especially in publications, is a priority.
- Integrating new technologies and digital tools will enrich the site's narrative and visitor experience.
- Prioritising the preservation and consolidation of the Aleksandrovo Tomb and museum exhibits, in line with national and international standards, is considered vital by the Panel

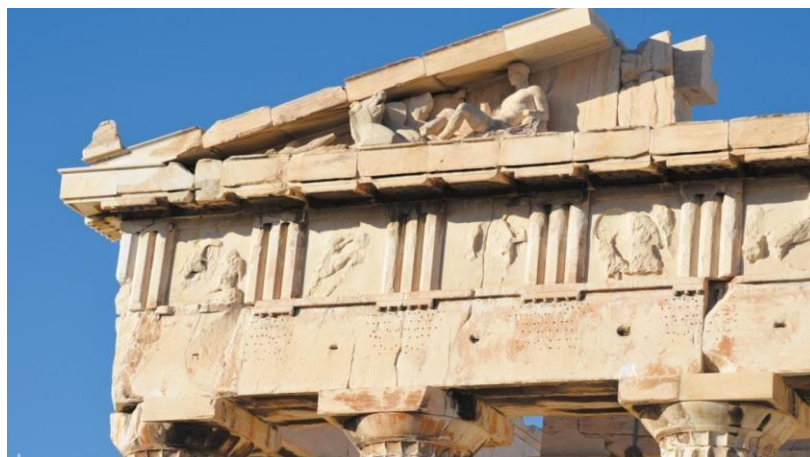
Conclusion

The EHL Site *Thracian Art in Eastern Rhodopes: Aleksandrovo Tomb* continues to meet the criteria for the designation of the European Heritage Label.

HEART OF ANCIENT ATHENS

ATHENS, GREECE.

AWARDED THE EHL IN 2014 | MONITORED FOR THE 3RD TIME.



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The Acropolis and its surrounding archaeological Sites are a testament to ancient Athens' cultural and architectural legacy, spanning over 3,000 years. As the birthplace of philosophy, democracy, and the arts, these Sites shaped foundational values of European civilization.

Implementation of the site's project

Promoting the values of democracy and their ancient origins plays a crucial role in the site's narrative. However, it blends the ancient concept of democracy with modern achievements, such as human rights. Educational activities include training seminars for teachers and university students, as well as a special program for refugees. Due to the site's prestige, numerous artistic events are held throughout the year. The site's website is available in six languages (Greek and five Western European languages). The recruited guards are required to speak at least two languages, as the staff only participates in EHL networking activities available online. There is no mention of any public archaeology programs

Organisational Capacity

The site is managed by the Greek Ministry of Culture, with a strong focus on its preservation, which is central to daily operations. As a UNESCO World Heritage site, it adheres to rigorous standards to ensure its long-term safeguarding. The site has been honoured with the Europa Nostra's Prize for conservation, reflecting its commitment to maintaining cultural heritage. New signage highlighting the site's European significance has been installed, along with leaflets featuring QR codes for various areas of the complex. Accessibility is a key priority, and significant efforts have been made to improve it, especially for visitors with disabilities. New tools for guided tours for visitors with vision impairments have been introduced, along with a special app designed for children on the autism spectrum. One ongoing challenge is the even distribution of visitors throughout the year, but the introduction of reduced ticket prices during the low season has

been effective in addressing this. In 2023, time zones for visits were also implemented to manage crowd flow more efficiently. An important aspect of ensuring the site's sustainability is the management of its ecosystem, particularly the regular flow of water in the stream running through the site. The site participates in Green Cultural Routes and collaborates with a local university on biodiversity initiatives, further strengthening its commitment to environmental stewardship.

Progress and Reflection to previous recommendations

Recommendations – 2016 Monitoring Report

The panel was looking forward to implementing the new vision of the site, including the new website and planned increase in multilingualism.

Recommendations – 2020 Monitoring Report

The site was expected to further improve its presence online, and to finalise its multilingualism project. *The earlier recommendations are still valid, especially in reference to providing information in languages of central and eastern Europe.*

Recommendations for the site

OVERALL QUALITY

The site runs a dynamic and multidisciplinary program that spans preservation, accessibility, sustainability, and education about the past. The challenges it faces are equally varied, but the site's commitment to addressing them is unwavering. Managing visitor crowds while ensuring the site's preservation remains the top priority and requires careful allocation of resources. Additionally, the European significance of the site, particularly in relation to widely recognised values such as democracy, offers great potential but also presents the risk of oversimplification or misinterpretation. As such, a well-designed strategy is essential to crafting a narrative that resonates with and is accessible to diverse audiences.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The panel recommends the following actions:

- Enriching the Site's narrative on democracy with contemporary meanings
- Optimising the site's management and mass tourism flows.
- Raising awareness of the archaeological public value of the site.

Conclusion

The EHL Site *Heart of Ancient Athens* continues to meet the criteria for the designation of the European Heritage Label.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE OF CARNUNTUM

PETRONELL – CARNUNTUM, AUSTRIA.

AWARDED THE EHL IN 2013 | MONITORED FOR THE 3RD TIME.



©European Commission

The Archaeological Park Carnuntum in the east of Austria brings Roman history to life. Carnuntum was an important Roman settlement founded in the middle of the first century AD at a crossing point of trade routes on the Danube. It became one of the most important cities in the Roman Empire. The 400 years of Roman life in Carnuntum reflect a period of history that deeply influenced and shaped Europe's development.

Implementation of the site's project

The European significance of the site, centered around the Roman route network and the region's multicultural heritage, is a key theme in its narrative. As part of the UNESCO World Heritage Danube Limes, the site highlights the river's role as both a border and a vital transportation route, which is emphasised in guided tours and staff training. Through a variety of educational tools, the site fosters awareness of the rich Roman heritage. Children and youth are a crucial part of the site's audience, leading to the development of many activities tailored specifically for them. The website is available in eighteen languages, including eleven EU languages, and recently added languages such as Turkish, Serbian, Croatian, and Arabic. A Latin version of the website is also planned. While the site is aware of the EHL@Network, it has not yet engaged in any EHL BUREAU's activities. However, it benefits greatly from the UNESCO brand and the global networking opportunities that come with it, which are more widely recognised than those of the EHL. The site reports no significant obstacles in its daily operations.

Organisational Capacity

The site is managed by Archäologische Kulturpark Niederösterreich Betriebsges.m.b.H., a non-profit organization. Recently, online sales for tickets and guided tours have been introduced to efficiently manage tourist flow. Preservation efforts are ongoing and strictly adhere to Austrian regulations and UNESCO requirements. The site operates seven days a week, and its accessibility

is continuously being enhanced. Collections are available online free of charge, and a multimedia info-point has been set up in the visitor center. Staff receive regular training on the European significance of the site and the meaning of the EHL. The site's commitment to sustainability is evident in its transportation policies, encouraging visitors to use public transport or bicycles. A weekend shuttle bus is also planned for train travelers. The site has earned the Austrian Eco Label for its environmental efforts. Its communication strategy primarily relies on online tools, and all outdoor printed materials have been eliminated to reduce environmental impact. While the EHL plaque is displayed, the site notes that the brand's influence on its performance remains limited.

Progress and Reflection to previous recommendations

Recommendations – 2016 Monitoring Report

The Panel recommends the site considers networking with other related thematic Sites of the European Heritage Label.

Recommendations – 2020 Monitoring Report

The management is encouraged to promote the European significance of the site and the European Heritage Label, as well as cooperate with other EHL Sites for mutual knowledge exchange. *Although the site is extremely active in areas related to both recommendations, regarding increased participation in the EHL BUREAU and promoting the EHL brand are still valid.*

Recommendations for the site

OVERALL QUALITY

The site is highly dynamic and efficiently managed, with no reported obstacles in its daily operations. However, it positions itself outside the EHL Bureau, not fully recognizing the potential of the EHL brand and the new opportunities arising from the creation of the EHL Bureau. The introduction of a shuttle bus from the train station to the site is a commendable initiative that enhances accessibility and visitor experience.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The panel recommends the following actions:

- Initiating closer cooperation with EHL BUREAU and participate in its activities
- Teaming with other thematic Sites in the EHL BUREAU related to Roman heritage.

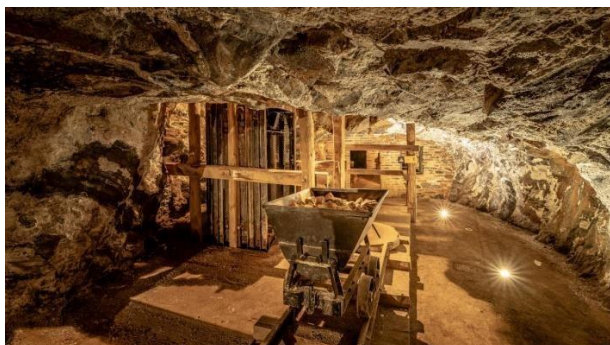
Conclusion

The EHL Site *Archaeological Site of Carnuntum* continues to meet the criteria for the designation of the European Heritage Label.

ALMADÉN MINING PARK

ALMADÉN, SPAIN

AWARDED THE EHL IN 2021 | MONITORED FOR THE 1ST TIME



©European Commission

The Almadén Mining Park highlights the rich industrial, socio-political, and environmental history of the region. It offers visitors a unique experience through its historic mine galleries, museums, and cultural Sites, showcasing over 2,000 years of mining history.

Implementation of the site's project

Two key events stand out: *the Sense of Place Exhibition* (June to October 2022), which highlighted the historical and socio-economic significance of the Minas de Almadén mining territory in the context of land use planning, and the *Historias sobre la Historia* conferences in 2023, marking the 250th anniversary of the San Rafael miners' hospital. Both events featured EHL signage and content. Audience development has been strengthened through Minas de Almadén's active social media presence, where EHL is frequently mentioned, and through communication materials such as a website, brochures, and exhibition spaces, all incorporating the EHL logo and multilingual content. Digital brochures have been created, and EHL is integrated into the broader communication strategy. A Customer Relationship Management system has been established to offer cultural and educational experiences to over 3,000 educational centers across Castilla-La Mancha, Madrid, and Andalusia. Between 2021 and 2023, around 8,000 students aged 7-17 visited the mining park and miners' hospital, where the European connection and EHL significance were highlighted. Four educational units, designed for different age groups, were developed to enhance school visits, each including a chapter on EHL and European values. Approximately 35,000 visitors are expected from 2021-2024, with 11,000 projected for 2024. Currently, English is the only foreign language used for tours, though other languages are planned. While digital tools are still being expanded, a program to extend content through QR codes is in development, along with plans for dedicated digital spaces.

Organisational Capacity

Minas de Almadén is currently undergoing a transformation of its facilities, activities, and cultural spaces, along with the development of a new management structure for the Tourism and Culture Area. This process involves staff reductions

and the outsourcing of maintenance and guide services. The product and price structure are being reorganised based on consumer criteria, with a focus on increasing the length of stay, enhancing the travel experience, integrating MAYASA resources (Dehesa de Castilseras), and adapting facilities to offer improved services (security, museumization, sustainability, energy efficiency, and service equipment), while ensuring compliance with the mandatory services of the BIC-UNESCO World Heritage (fifty buildings and facilities).

Good practices include promoting special tickets for school groups, organizing dedicated visiting days for schools and local institutes, and hosting an open day for the general public. Several subsidies for tourism sustainability programs have been obtained, aimed at updating cultural spaces aligned with EHL values and ESG criteria. A new website and brochures with EHL logos and explanations in the exhibition space related to European values are noteworthy achievements.

The conservation of industrial heritage, which requires significant investment due to its unique characteristics, remains a key challenge, as it presents financial constraints that a tourist or cultural economy cannot fully support.

Recommendations for the site

OVERALL QUALITY

The Almadén Mining Park is a new site awarded the EHL label. The site demonstrated a strong start in its understanding of its European significance but needs to make improvements to highlight it further, especially considering its strong potential.. Great value comes from its educational activities. It is not yet integrated into the EHL networks and it can benefit from more activities in this direction.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The panel recommends the following actions:

- Enhancing multilingual accessibility of the site.
- Strengthening networking initiatives.
- Reinforcing the Promotion of EHL Values in the site's activities.
- Leveraging digital technologies to enhance the Site's visibility.

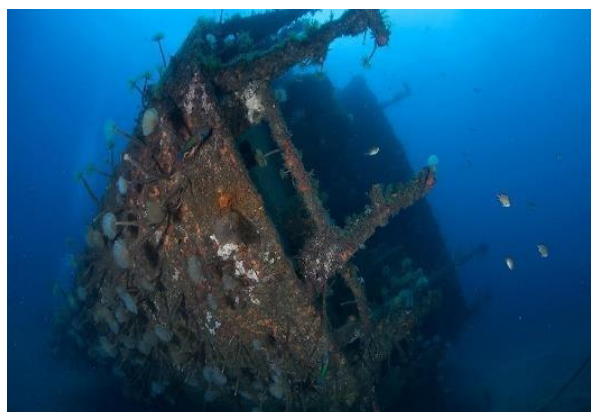
Conclusion

The EHL Site *Almadén Mining Park* continues to meet the criteria for the designation of the European Heritage Label.

UNDERWATER CULTURAL HERITAGE OF AZORES

AZORES, PORTUGAL.

AWARDED THE EHL IN 2019 | MONITORED FOR THE 1ST TIME



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Azores' Underwater Cultural Heritage includes thirty dive Sites featuring shipwrecks from the 15th to the 20th centuries, part of a larger network of over 1000 documented wrecks. These Sites reflect the strategic importance of the Azores for transatlantic voyages, connecting to key European historical events, such as the Silver Route to South America, the transatlantic slave trade, military conflicts, and European emigration to America. The wrecks provide insight into European trade, conflicts, and migration over several centuries.

Implementation of the site's project

Three significant initiatives have been launched in Portugal to raise awareness of European significance: the creation of the first underwater archaeology book collection, *Mar Tenebroso*, which introduces a shared underwater route along the Macaronesia Region, highlighting the Azores' underwater heritage within the context of the Age of Discoveries; the establishment of Knowledge Awareness Centres, offering workshops and exhibitions on underwater cultural heritage; and the enhancement of the Azorean Route, which now features 30-35 sites with improved signposting to promote the European significance of the area. Educational activities and publications for young people are offered in collaboration with local museums across all nine islands. Key publicity materials about Azores Cultural Heritage are available in three languages (English, French, and Spanish), and access to the site is facilitated through the universal scuba diving code. The site also promotes the Biannual Iberian Cultural Heritage event in the Azores and has produced several scientific publications. While the site has not yet fully participated in EHL networking activities, it actively promotes European initiatives such as the European Diving Cultural Heritage Days and advances in European heritage protection technologies. The site engages in numerous European and international initiatives. Challenges such as economic constraints and governmental instability have delayed some implementation strategies. Financing issues and the geographical complexity of the nine-island archipelago are also highlighted as factors impacting progress.

Organisational Capacity

The Azores Regional Directorate for Cultural Affairs has developed a strategy that prioritises both locals and visitors, boosting cultural tourism in the region. Site preservation is crucial, with collaborative efforts from experts at the universities of Lisbon and the Azores. Initiatives include the ongoing Stop Expolio campaign against treasure hunting, new inventory strategies using emerging technologies and international partnerships within the Macaronesia region, and several protection training programs with research centres in Lisbon and Coimbra. Reception facilities are well-equipped, and a range of underwater routes—designed with varying difficulty and heritage values—enhance accessibility. Promoting the site as a sustainable tourism destination remains a top priority, supported by initiatives like a documentary cycle on regional television and a communication strategy focused on social media and online platforms. EHL plaques are displayed and the EHL award is featured on the website, while international environmental guidelines for underwater diving in cultural heritage are strictly followed.

Recommendations for the site

OVERALL QUALITY

The Underwater Cultural Heritage of Azores is a relatively new site awarded the EHL label. The site demonstrated a good start, well focused on its European significance and promoting dynamic management. Although it is not yet well integrated into the EHL networks it advances educational collaboration at both the national and international level.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The panel recommends the following actions:

- Improving the Site's accessibility with signposting.
- Promoting multilingualism on the website and publications.
- Relying on new technologies and digital and interactive means.

Conclusion

The EHL Site *Underwater Cultural Heritage of the Azores* continues to meet the criteria for the designation of the European Heritage Label.

ECHTERNACH SAINT WILLIBRORD HERITAGE

ECHTERNACH, LUXEMBURG

AWARDED THE EHL IN 2021 | MONITORED FOR THE 1ST TIME



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Echternach Saint Willibrord Heritage site honours the legacy of Saint Willibrord, an Anglo-Saxon Irish Benedictine monk. It symbolises the early unification of medieval Europe through faith, diplomacy, and cultural exchange. The site includes physical elements such as Willibrord's crypt, Sarcophagus, and the Abbey Museum, alongside the intangible Hopping Procession, a UNESCO-listed tradition dating back to Willibrord's time.

Implementation of the site's project

The annual dancing procession by pilgrims from across Europe has been recognised by UNESCO as intangible cultural heritage of humanity since 2010, underscoring the European significance of the site beyond its exhibition facilities. Participants from various European countries join the dance and visit the museum, and special Willibrord-Tours are offered for school and children's groups. Local schoolchildren also take part in the procession. The Abbey Museum, the Basilica folder and website, and the Documentation Centre on the regional tourist office website are available in four languages (Dutch, English, French, and German). Networking has been initiated through meetings with other EHL Sites and the EHL Bureau. The museum was closed from July 2021 until May 2022 due to severe floods, and budget constraints and staffing shortages have limited the number of educational activities offered to schools.

Organisational Capacity

The site operates with a small team, primarily composed of volunteers, and coordination is needed among various entities. Restoration work in the crypt and the Abbey Museum was completed after the 2021 floods. Clear signposting throughout Echternach directs visitors to historical highlights, including the Basilica and the former Benedictine Abbey that houses the museum.

Although there is disabled access, the infrastructure remains vulnerable and is not always fully operational. The Willibrord tour for school classes raises awareness

among youngsters, while the Ministry of Economy – General Directorate of Tourism offers job opportunities for students in the Mullerthal Region, with some working at the Documentation Centre. The regional tourism strategy focuses on sustainability, and communication campaigns by the regional tourist office emphasise that public transport in Luxembourg is free. A documentary produced by MR Films showcases the Willibrord Heritage, and straightforward, well-explained signposting and information brochures throughout Echternach help visitors navigate the region. Local tourist offices also provide detailed information on Echternach and Willibrord Heritage. Staff shortages and the aftermath of the July 2021 floods continue to challenge efforts to fully achieve these objectives.

Recommendations for the site

OVERALL QUALITY

Considering the short time since its labelling, the site has made a strong start under fresh management. While limited financial and personnel resources constrain services and overall management, the commitment to preserving the dancing procession as a living tradition is invaluable and deserves recognition.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The panel recommends the following actions:

- Collaborate with local and international stakeholders to benefit from others specialist expertise and share resources. The Site's dependance on its impressive voluntary workforce means its resources are very limited.
- Actively cooperating with other EHL Sites would be very beneficial and should be encouraged.

Conclusion

The EHL Site *Echternach Saint Willibrord Heritage* continues to meet the criteria for the designation of the European Heritage Label.

ABBEY OF CLUNY

CLUNY, FRANCE

AWARDED THE EHL IN 2014 | MONITORED FOR THE 3RD TIME



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Founded in 910, the Abbey of Cluny became a major monastic centre, spreading people, knowledge, and art across Europe. The Cluniac order profoundly influenced Western Christianity during the Middle Ages, and its spirit endures through modern initiatives.

Implementation of the site's project

The site hosts the European College of Cluny, promoting European values and attracting many young visitors each year. Students from the École des Arts et Métiers learn about preservation here. While the site offers various cultural activities, it makes limited use of multiple EU languages; the website is available in French, English, and German, though much of the content is only in French. There has been no collaboration with other EHL Sites or participation in EHL networking, though joint projects with the Echternach Saint Willibrord Heritage site are planned. Additionally, virtual school tours (L'Abbaye de Cluny en 360°) are offered, but the accompanying information is only available in French.

Organisational Capacity

The report lacks clarity on collaboration with public authorities, private companies, civil society, and educational institutions. Management objectives are unclear, with no specific indicators provided. As a national monument managed by the Centre des Monuments Nationaux, the Abbey is well-preserved, with recent restoration work completed. The site is accessible to persons with reduced mobility and offers free entry for EU students under 26. Events hosted by the Abbey and the European College of Cluny raise young people's awareness of its European significance. Documentaries produced by Arte Germany are part of its communication efforts, and the site is committed to environmentally friendly management practices

Progress and Reflection to previous recommendations

Recommendations – 2016 Monitoring Report

The Panel looks forward to the planned activities, including creating a cultural space, research programmes, publications, and enhancing multilingual communication of Cluny's European significance for online visitors. The CMN has supported research and publications, with basic information on Cluny now available in three languages online.

Recommendations – 2020 Monitoring Report

The site should display its EHL award on the website as required and promote its digital initiatives and educational programmes to international audiences through the EHL network. The 2020 report lacks references to cultural space, research programmes, publications, and multilingual communication mentioned in the previous report. *The Panel still recommends implementing these suggestions and requires displaying the EHL label on the site's official website.*

Recommendations for the site

OVERALL QUALITY

The preservation of the site, as a national monument and World Heritage Site, is managed by the state organisation, but the report lacks clarity on the management structure and strategy. The EHL status seems underemphasised in terms of communication, impact, and collaboration, which undermines its potential contribution. Little information is provided about the collaboration with other stakeholders and with other Sites and related EU heritage initiatives.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Panel recommends the following actions:

- Raising awareness of the European significance of the site.
- Organising educational activities, especially for young people, which
- Increasing the understanding of the common history of Europe.
- Promoting multilingualism in website and through scientific publications
- Extending networking with other EHL other monastic complexes.
- Strengthening the participation of the local communities in activities of the site.
- Using and improve modern technologies for the narrative of the site.
- Making the EHL status of the site more visible.

Conclusion

The EHL Site *Abbey of Cluny* continues to meet the criteria for the designation of the European Heritage Label.

OLOMOUC PREMYSLID CASTLE AND ARCHDIOCESAN MUSEUM
OLOMOUC, CZECHIA
AWARDED THE EHL IN 2015 | MONITORED FOR THE 2ND TIME



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The Archdiocesan Museum, located in the Chapter Deanery at the Premyslid Castle, preserves the artistic heritage of the Olomouc Archdiocese. The castle, with its rich history spanning from the Bishop's and Prince's Palaces to Baroque and Rococo styles, is a key symbol of Moravian presence in European history. The museum highlights the archbishops' patronage of the arts and serves as an exemplary site of heritage conservation and early Christian influence in the region.

Implementation of the site's project

The site serves as a mentor for other Czech and Slovak EHL Sites, having organised the first EHL@N meeting in 2020 and participated in meetings in Portugal and Hungary. It also presented at an EU event in Italy during the Italian presidency in 2023. The site actively trains and collaborates with other EHL Sites. A new exhibition with three tour circuits was introduced, and the museum now boasts an educational department and new attractions outside the museum. A wide range of events caters to diverse audiences. Operations are primarily conducted in Czech and English, with audio guides available in English, German, Polish, Czech, as well as Mandarin, Korean, and Russian. Staff have ongoing opportunities to enhance their foreign language skills. The site features clear signage and engages in cross-marketing with other regional sites. It is well-connected with other cultural initiatives, including UNESCO World Heritage Sites, and cooperates with ICOM. New technologies like VR and AR are in use, and a grant has been submitted to explore AI.

Organisational Capacity

The site, operated by the Czech Ministry of Culture, is well-maintained and underwent reconstruction works between 2021 and 2023, including the installation of an advanced security system for the building and artifacts. The site collaborates with organisations supporting individuals with mental and physical disabilities. While accessibility is somewhat restricted due to heritage preservation

requirements, the site offers various programs tailored to young visitors and families, catering to a wide range of audiences. Media and social media coverage is strong, and the EHL label is prominently used and promoted. The site engages in joint activities with the region to promote sustainable tourism, though collaboration efforts and task distribution could be more clearly defined. Environmental concerns are addressed through waste treatment, the use of LED lighting, and the avoidance of disposable tableware. Staff also utilise sustainable transportation for travel.

Progress and Reflection to previous recommendations

Recommendations – 2020 Monitoring Report

The Olomouc Museum of Art – Archdiocesan Museum continues to meet the criteria for the European Heritage Label. Exhibitions have been organised to disseminate the European significance. Promotional materials, the website and all information activities also contribute consistently to this aim. The site is an active participant in the EHL network and is taking part in various European projects. The site will certainly increase its reach to various European audiences if it further improves the multilingualism of its website and strengthen its social media presence. *The recommendations for multilingualism and presence in social media have been addressed.*

Recommendations for the site

OVERALL QUALITY

As the oldest EHL site in Czechia, it has played a key role in training other EHL sites in both Czechia and neighboring countries. The site serves as a strong example of effectively implementing EHL principles and values. In many aspects, it demonstrates good practices that others can follow.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The panel recommends the following actions

- Implementing a sustainable tourism strategy reflecting the interests of many stakeholders.
- Cooperating more formerly with the EHL BUREAU

Conclusion

The Site *Olomouc Premyslid Castle and Archdiocesan Museum*, continues to meet the criteria for the designation of the European Heritage Label.

LEIPZIG'S MUSICAL HERITAGE SITES

LEIPZIG, GERMANY

AWARDED THE EHL IN 2017 | MONITORED FOR THE 2ND TIME



©European Commission

Leipzig's Musical Heritage Sites consist of nine locations that highlight the city's rich musical history, including churches, educational institutions, ensembles, and composers. These Sites reflect Leipzig's vibrant musical activities dating back to the 13th century. They embody the enduring European tradition of music and civic engagement.

Implementation of the site's project

Between 2020 and 2024, numerous initiatives were undertaken to showcase the European significance of the EHL site. A key highlight is the Notenspur Leipzig collaboration project, European Music Trails, which has received support from Creative Europe. This ongoing initiative celebrates composers and musicians who have lived, studied, or worked in Leipzig and have made a notable impact on European culture. A diverse range of educational activities has been implemented, with a strong emphasis on European heritage. While many documents and programs are available in multiple European languages, there remains potential for further linguistic inclusivity. In terms of networking, the site is strengthening its engagement with European cultural routes such as Via Regia and Jewish Heritage. Furthermore, all events within the European Music Trails project are organised in close cooperation with European partner institutions, fostering international collaboration.

Organisational Capacity

The management of the site has improved, leading to a significant positive impact on activities. Currently, 1.5 FTE staff members are dedicated to site management. Numerous preservation efforts have been carried out across various locations, contributing to the site's long-term sustainability. Additionally, the launch of a new website and the development of multimedia content have enhanced public access to the sites. While there are no specific audience development strategies or staff training programs, efforts have been made to promote inclusion, particularly

through interventions and services for people with disabilities. Several initiatives targeting young audiences have been successfully implemented, resulting in increased engagement in recent years. However, no dedicated measures explicitly highlighting the site's European significance have been demonstrated. Tourism has gained importance, though there is no explicit focus on sustainability within this context. The overall communication strategy and the role of the EHL remain underdeveloped; however, certain initiatives, such as the podcast series, represent positive steps forward. Additionally, some environmental considerations have been integrated into site management.

Progress and Reflection to previous recommendations

Recommendations – 2020 Monitoring Report

The panel recommends that while the Sites continue this successful path of development they would benefit if they developed a joint communication strategy for reaching wider audiences in more languages of the EU. It is encouraged to take part in the activities of the network of Sites awarded with the European Heritage Label to exchange experiences, cooperate in artistic and scientific initiatives and share best practices. *The recommendations seem to have been followed, although both networking and increasing multilingualism could still be improved.*

Recommendations for the site

OVERALL QUALITY

The overall evaluation is highly positive. The project is well-developed, with a strong and well-structured management framework. This is further reflected in the quality and attention to detail demonstrated in the survey. The site's potential for growth is promising and merits continued support. Notably, the EHL label has served as a catalyst, accelerating innovative and transformative processes. Its influence has contributed to new initiatives and strengthened the site's role within the broader European cultural landscape.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The panel recommends the following actions:

- Improving multilingualism in its facilities and communication materials
- Expanding digital activities
- Implementing targeted measures to engage young people in the site's European significance would enhance its outreach.
- Increasing audience development initiatives could further strengthen engagement.

Conclusion

The EHL Site *Leipzig's Musical Heritage Sites* continues to meet the criteria for the designation of the European Heritage Label.

HISTORIC CENTRE OF TURAIDA SIGULDA, LATVIA AWARDED THE EHL IN 2021 | MONITORED FOR THE 1ST TIME



©European Commission

The Historic Centre of Turaida, featuring Turaida Castle, the Folk Song Park, Church Hill, and the Turaida Estate, highlights Latvia's integration into Europe through Christianity. It was also a key site in the Singing Revolution, which aided Latvia's reintegration into the EU, promoting values like freedom and cultural diversity.

Implementation of the site's project

The project has prioritised activating and utilising the resources of the central museum (Museum-Reserve) to enhance research opportunities and expand audience engagement. Since the site was only recently awarded the EHL label, a key milestone was the official opening ceremony in Turaida in June 2022. To support outreach efforts, bilingual promotional materials were published. In 2023, the site launched the *School of Archaeology*, a program aimed at young people, and successfully hosted the *Day of Archaeology*, which attracted a large audience. Additionally, a mobile app-guide was introduced in six languages, improving accessibility for visitors. The site is also part of the *European Cultural Tourism Network* (ECTN). However, it has not yet joined the EHL BUREAU during the monitoring period. A declining budget has been identified as a significant challenge, affecting some planned activities and initiatives.

Organisational Capacity

To enhance visitor services, a project has been initiated to renovate parking areas. Significant restoration work has also been carried out in the historical forest park, with particular attention to the conservation of rare insect species. The Museum Reserve remains open to visitors nearly every day and has extensive experience collaborating with schools. To further engage young people in cultural heritage, plans are underway to introduce a dedicated youth section on the Museum Reserve's website. While efforts have been made to improve accessibility, full access for people with disabilities has yet to be fully ensured.

Recommendations for the site

OVERALL QUALITY

The Panel acknowledges the achievements made during the previous period and notes the obstacles mentioned in the monitoring report. The emphasis on the protection of natural values and biodiversity, which is not common among EHL Sites, should be underlined. The tradition of nature conservation is undoubtedly one of the values associated with European identity, which deserves to be promoted and is naturally linked to the Site's European significance.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The panel recommends the following actions:

- Acknowledging the achievements of the previous period, the Panel also notes the obstacles mentioned in the monitoring report.
- Clarifying the European significance of the project and activities for European audiences, which should remain a focus.
- Strengthening networking with other EHL Sites could yield positive results in promoting European significance.
- Reducing local funding can be offset by applying for EHL or EU grants.
- Integrating multilingual communications into both on-site tools and the website design.

Conclusion

The EHL Site *Historic Centre of Turaida* continues to meet the criteria for the designation of the European Heritage Label.

IMPERIAL PALACE

VIENNA, AUSTRIA.

AWARDED THE EHL IN 2015 | MONITORED FOR THE 2ND TIME



©European Commission

Founded in 1240, the Imperial Palace was home to the Habsburgs, rulers of much of Europe for 700 years. A multi-ethnic empire, the Habsburgs shaped Central and Eastern Europe's political, social, and economic landscape. Today, the palace houses the Austrian Federal President, five world-class museums, the Spanish Riding School, and other cultural institutions.

Implementation of the site's project

The site has introduced notable innovations and a wide range of activities to raise awareness of its European significance. A new information center is set to be completed in 2024. In addition, QR codes have been added to audio guides, and a new logo for the entire complex, along with a smartphone app aimed at young people (available in English and German), has been launched. During the monitoring period (2020-2024), the site welcomed 150,000 participants across 100 tours. The organization of educational activities is effective, with collaborations established with universities and vocational schools focused on specific crafts. While the site promotes multilingualism, the functional division of the site presents some challenges. Currently, only the museum's audio guides are available in four European languages (English, French, German, and Spanish). The European Heritage Academy has provided training courses since 2017, and the site plays a leading role in the Cultural Route Via Habsburg. However, limited human resources for educational activities have been identified as a key obstacle.

Organisational Capacity

The holistic management of the buildings is well-maintained, with preservation efforts balancing historical integrity and modern requirements to meet the diverse needs of site users. Accessibility, fire protection, energy efficiency, and digital maintenance are all prioritised. The site is equipped with the necessary technical

infrastructure to ensure broad public access. The palace is nearly fully accessible. Youth engagement strategies vary due to the functional division between Burghauptmannschaft Österreich (BHÖ) and the Museums. The BHÖ focuses on backstage tours for schools and related publications as part of its approach.

Progress and Reflection to previous recommendations

Recommendations – 2020 Monitoring Report

In the years to come, it is recommended that the site works to enhance its online activities related to raising its profile as a proud EHL holder. The site's online activities have been enhanced, stressing its European Significance to its international audience.

Recommendations for the site

OVERALL QUALITY

The Imperial Palace of Vienna is an exemplary site, effectively implementing a strategy constructed on its European significance. The holistic management of the site, the high level of its organisation and the variety of educational activities for different target groups are impressive.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The panel recommends the following actions:

- The Site demonstrates remarkable participation in the networking of EHL Sites, the site has implemented an EU Commission and PROHeritage pilot project to improve energy efficiency and skills in traditional crafts and is serving as an exemplary model for others.
- Encouraging The development of a communication strategy is encouraging. It emphasises the Site's European relevance, includes educational publications for young people, and features the logo. The Panel also commends the BHÖ's environmental management system.
- The Panel recognizes the acknowledgement of the EHL and its European significance in a video with the site manager which the Panel considers good practice.
- The Panel recommends the expansion and broader dissemination of multilingualism, recognising its potential for greater impact.

Conclusion

The EHL Site *Imperial Palace of Vienna* continues to meet the criteria for the designation of the European Heritage Label.

ARCHIVE OF THE CROWN OF ARAGON BARCELONA, SPAIN. AWARDED THE EHL IN 2014 | MONITORED FOR THE 3RD TIME



©european commission

Founded in 1318, the Archives of the Crown of Aragon centralised the monarchy's administrative, economic, and political records. Over centuries, it amassed documents that illuminate regional history and major European events, becoming one of medieval Europe's most significant archival collections.

Implementation of the site's project

The EHL strategy was aligned with the priorities of the Subdirectorate during Spain's EU Presidency in the second half of 2023. The logos are prominently displayed both on-site and online. The Archive offers free guided tours to the public across its two buildings, with specialised tours available for all levels of the educational system. The site welcomes 600 researchers annually, organises numerous exhibitions and conferences, and provides information through various media and social media channels. In 2023, it hosted a meeting of the Heads of Conservation of European National Archives. The site operates in Spanish, Catalan, English, Portuguese, Italian, and French, and publications are produced in at least two EU languages. It is well-connected with other cultural initiatives. Staff receive training in innovation, social media, and the digitization of documentary heritage. Exhibitions are being planned both on-site and in collaboration with other institutions. The website offers information on collections, buildings, and virtual tours, while the General Directorate is preparing to implement VR and AI technologies in the Archives. Some challenges in organizing events, particularly due to COVID, have been noted.

Organisational Capacity

The Archive is part of Spain's State Archives Network, managed by the Ministry of Culture and overseen by the ACA Board of Trustees. The Ministry supports sustainability through recent maintenance and environmental improvements. Open seven days a week and free of charge, the Archive ensures accessibility for people with disabilities, with staff trained to assist visitors. It offers customised,

free visits for student groups and maintains strong partnerships with schools and universities. The EU-funded Tandem project provides valuable training for young graduates in history and archival studies. In addition to serving researchers, the Archive organises activities for a range of audiences. Located near the Barcelona Cathedral and Royal Palace, the Archive emphasises its European significance with informative panels and interactive screens. The EHL logo is displayed both on-site and online, and the Archive adheres to energy-saving guidelines.

Progress and Reflection to previous recommendations

Recommendations – 2016 Monitoring Report

The Archive of the Crown of Aragon has made good progress in implementing its project and is preparing its 700th anniversary. The Panel looks forward to a more visible profile of the site and its European significance on the web, in more languages to reach wider European audiences.

Recommendations – 2020 Monitoring Report

Challenges have been addressed in the areas of multilingualism, activities for youth, better access for disabled and sustainability. *The Panel acknowledges that the site properly addressed issues, which were raised in previous reports. The role of the Archive in the programme of the Spanish Presidency of the EU in the second half of 2023 is highly commendable.*

Recommendations for the site

OVERALL QUALITY

The Archive of the Crown of Aragon is operating as an academic research institution as well as an educational and cultural destination for wider audience. The site has developed several well targeted awareness raising programmes in many languages. The site continues to respect the project submitted to the European Heritage Label.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The panel recommend the following actions:

- Continuing cooperation with high schools and universities is highly valued and should be sustained.
- Organizing high-level meetings to promote the importance of archives is a best practice that should be maintained and further encouraged.

Conclusion

The EHL Site *Archive of the Crown of Aragon* continues to meet the criteria for the designation of the European Heritage Label.

MEDIEVAL WALL PAINTING IN GEMER AND MALOHONT REGIONS

RIMAVSKÉ BREZOVO, SLOVAKIA

AWARDED THE EHL IN 2021 | MONITORED FOR THE 1ST TIME



©European Commission

The medieval wall paintings in the Gemer and Malohont regions, found in twelve churches, reflect the international character of European art and cultural exchange during the Gothic period. These paintings demonstrate economic, cultural, and artistic interactions across Medieval Europe, using a shared artistic language understood by diverse communities. They embody the European principle of accepting and adapting values, illustrating how regions across Europe embraced ideas from more developed areas.

Implementation of the site's project

The site has been actively promoted through a variety of cultural, scientific, educational, tourism, and informational activities, ensuring its continued relevance in the context of its European significance. Relevant information about the site's importance has been shared through conferences, workshops, and presentations aimed at high school students and the general public, held at various institutions such as galleries, libraries, and museums. In 2022, a photo exhibition was organised at the sub-sites, and some churches hosted workshops for contemporary art students, which included field trips and the creation of frescoes. The site communicates in three languages (Slovak, Hungarian, and English) both on-site and via its website. Since 2022, the site has participated in all in-person meetings organised by the Bureau and has actively engaged in networking opportunities. However, the site is not yet a member of the EHL BUREAU.

Organisational Capacity

The thematic site is primarily coordinated by the Gothic Route civic association (CA) with 1.5 FTE. Renovation work was completed on the roof of one of the church buildings (a sub-site). Visits to the EHL site are free of charge. Cycling routes with information about the European significance are signposted (partially completed in

2023), and every sub-site church gate feature tables with logos, contact details, and QR codes for audio guides and other online materials. The site collaborates with local and regional DMOs and experts to promote sustainable tourism. Educational workshops for children were organised in 2022 and 2023, along with a weekly summer camp in 2023 and school trips during the same period. The site communicates its activities through press releases and utilises the social networks of relevant stakeholders. It maintains a website and Facebook page. To reduce its carbon footprint, the site consistently employs local guides and has implemented a paper- and gadget-free system for audio guides, using QR codes that allow visitors to use their own phones.

Recommendations for the site

OVERALL QUALITY

Medieval wall painting in Gemer and Malohont Regions represents one of the key European principles, namely the ability to accept values. It is proof of how communities across Europe are able to adopt the values created by more developed regions, a feature that is still important for the elimination of regional disparities and the competitiveness of the European Union.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The panel recommends the following actions:

- Continuing the signposting of cycling routes with information about European significance is recommended by the Panel.
- Further developing the visitor facilities is considered important by the Panel.
- Supporting the implementation of a train connection between the sub-sites during the summer season is endorsed by the Panel.

Conclusion

The EHL Site *Medieval wall painting in Gemer and Malohont Regions* continues to meet the criteria for the designation of the European Heritage Label.

GREAT GUILD HALL

TALLINN, ESTONIA

AWARDED THE EHL IN 2013 | MONITORED FOR THE 3RD TIME



© European Commission

The Great Guild Hall of Tallinn merchants was the most important organization in the city for centuries. The Great Guild's interactions with the Hanseatic League reveal the intriguing story of a European integration in medieval times.

Implementation of the site's project

The Great Guild Hall museum showcases the story of European "integration" during medieval times. Its basement features a permanent exhibition on the Great Guild's history, organization, and significance. Since 2022, temporary exhibitions have explored broader cultural, political, and societal events. Educational programs for young people, tailored to all school levels, complement these exhibitions. The museum offers thematic displays on medieval European processes and their local connections. Exhibition texts and audio guides are available in Estonian and English, with the permanent exhibition also in Russian, German, Spanish, and Finnish. English-language task cards help visitors explore the site. Additional language options depend on the museum's audience and budget. Currently, there are no specific training programs tailored to EHL.

Organisational Capacity

The Great Guild Hall, a national monument located in Tallinn's UNESCO World Heritage Old Town, adheres to heritage conservation guidelines for construction. Since 2022, a dedicated Green group has been working to improve sustainability efforts. The introduction of digital museum tickets has facilitated smarter travel planning, while the increased use of digital media has reduced reliance on paper for outreach campaigns. Collaboration with tourism companies has contributed to a rise in visitor numbers. To enhance service quality and knowledge, annual training sessions are held for employees and Tallinn city guides. The communication strategy aligns with the museum's broader goals, utilizing the website, digital advertisements, and social media to reach a wide audience. The

site engages foreign tourists, locals, and teachers, with the EHL label supporting external communications. Locally, it participates in events like Hanseatic Days and Medieval Days, while on a European level, it takes part in Museum Night and Heritage Days. The site employs at least three full-time staff members, with additional support from cross-functional workers. Despite challenges such as shifting museum priorities and adapting to COVID-19, the site has engaged in online training and strengthened its connection with Estonia's second EHL sites

Progress and Reflection to previous recommendations

Recommendations – 2016 Monitoring Report

The Panel recommended that the "museum team look into ways to better articulate and emphasise the European significance of the Great Guild Hall in the site's narrative, and to develop more actions for European audiences including through an improved multilingual presence on the web."

Recommendations – 2020 Monitoring Report

It is apparent from the monitoring report that the site has taken up this recommendation as demonstrated by the programming, planned exhibition and the new position of curator. The Panel recommended to maintain this path of development and to enhance engagement with the network of EHL Sites. *These recommendations have been taken up but have been challenged by the COVID pandemic.*

Recommendations for the site

OVERALL QUALITY

Proper management exists and efforts are made to share the diverse dimensions the EHL label stands for. As one of the oldest EHL Sites, the Great Guild Hall has gained experience, which could be more efficiently exploited for the whole of the EHL Action.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The panel recommends the following action:

- Strengthening the visibility of the Great Hall and the museum, along with its specific EH Label, is advised for the management of the site.
- Enhancing the visibility of the EHL could be achieved by using digital communication tools, possibly by highlighting connections with similar or related EHL Sites.
- Being active in the EHL network is encouraged for the site.

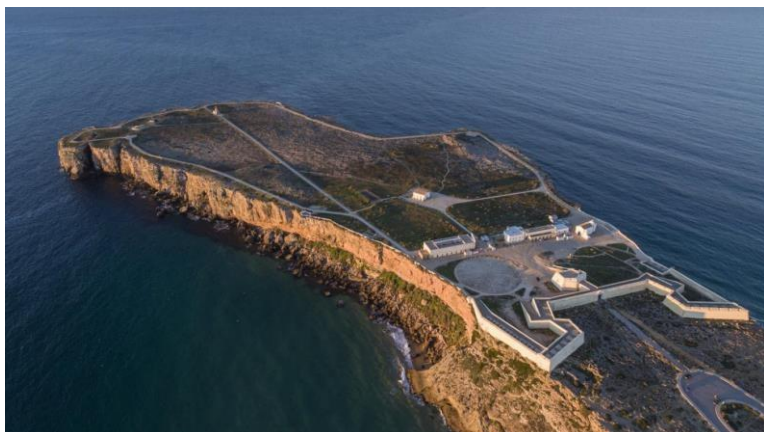
Conclusion

The EHL Site *Great Guild Hall* continues to meet the criteria for the designation of the European Heritage

SAGRES PROMONTORY

SAGRES, PORTUGAL

AWARDED THE EHL IN 2015 | MONITORED FOR THE 2ND TIME



©European Commission

The Sagres Promontory, located at the southwest tip of the Iberian Peninsula, is a site rich in cultural and historical significance. It was the base of Prince Henry the Navigator's maritime expansion in the 15th century. This key location in the Age of Discoveries played a pivotal role in shaping European exploration, culture, and commerce, influencing the modern world.

Implementation of the site's project work plan for the European Heritage Label

The site has hosted a significant number of events at both scientific and public levels, and a new exhibition was launched in 2022. Two virtual training sessions were conducted for staff on the European dimension and the EHL project. The EHL logos are prominently displayed both on-site and online. The site offers a variety of educational programs tailored to different audiences. The standard operations and website are available in Portuguese, Spanish, and English, with audio guides offered in English, German, Portuguese, Spanish, and French. New multimedia options have been effectively integrated. The site has participated in conferences and networking events organised by the EHL Bureau, as well as other European initiatives, within the limits of its available resources. It maintains strong connections with other cultural initiatives. Staffing shortages have been identified as a key challenge.

Organisational Capacity

Fortaleza de Sagres was previously part of the Regional Directorate of Culture of the Algarve, without a dedicated budget and relying on the entity's overall plan. Limited technical staff presents a challenge for timely execution of management plans. Located in a peripheral area with limited local businesses, the site is protected as a monument, and recent facility improvements have enhanced accessibility for people with reduced mobility and blindness. The site offers discounted entry fees and organises various special events, including the

"European Heritage Label - Map of Values" game for young people in 2021. It provides targeted activities for diverse audiences and enjoys strong media and social media coverage. The site effectively uses new technologies to promote the EHL. Collaborative activities with other associations and the introduction of a new exhibition centre help mitigate the effects of seasonality. Additionally, the site utilises energy from photovoltaic panels, minimises plastic use, reduces paper consumption, and reuses materials in its educational services. Specialised activities focused on nature protection are also offered.

Progress and Reflection to previous recommendations

Recommendations – 2020 Monitoring Report

The site demonstrates visible progress in meeting all the criteria on raising awareness of the European significance, implementation of projects and work plans recognised by the EHL title. This benevolent trend deserves to be maintained for the next monitoring period with new energy of an enlarged number of dedicated staff.

Recommendations for the site

OVERALL QUALITY

The site is a significant example of European maritime exploration since 15th century. The site promotes the age of exploration as a phenomenon that influenced the modern world. It is a good example of a site dedicated to European values and expressing them in a remote locality with limited human and financial resources.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The panel recommends the following actions:

- Given its location in a peripheral area, the site requires additional support for daily activities and promotion.
- Increasing staff capacity is necessary for the site.

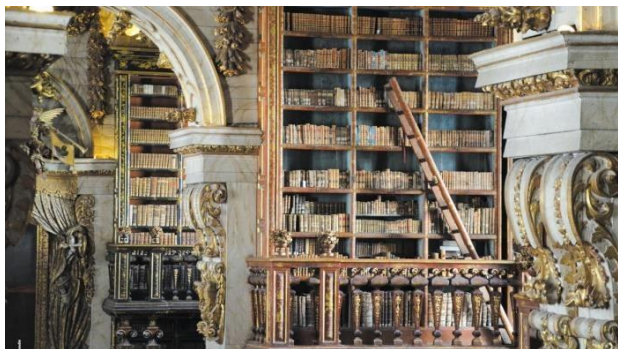
Conclusion

The EHL Site *Sagres Promontory* continues to meet the criteria for the designation of the European Heritage

GENERAL LIBRARY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF COIMBRA

COIMBRA, PORTUGAL

AWARDED THE EHL IN 2014 | MONITORED FOR THE 3RD TIME



©European Commission

The General Library of the University of Coimbra was established before 1513 and contains one of the most remarkable and innovative library buildings of Europe of the early 18th century, the Joanina library. It was one of the first libraries in Europe to provide subject catalogues (1743) and never allowed any censorship in darker periods. Many documents of European significance are kept here.

Implementation of the site's project

The Library (BGUC), part of the University of Coimbra, resumed its activities after COVID, hosting nearly sixty events in 2023. These events strongly align with the site's European significance, highlighting its history of providing public access to books since the 16th century, its role in resisting censorship, and its contributions to librarianship in Portugal. Several exhibitions have targeted young audiences, and since 2020, nine traveling exhibitions have contributed to the creation of a new library (BIJUCA) in Alcobaça, which now houses over 4,000 children's books. The Library also produced an illustrated leaflet about the baroque library in multiple languages, including Portuguese, English, Spanish, French, Italian, and Japanese. While the Library now offers an English version of its website, news and events are still primarily shared in Portuguese. The Library has also been actively cooperating with other EHL Sites, and although initial interactions with the EHL network were less favorable, recent engagements with the EHL Bureau have been more positive. While COVID-19 lockdowns affected many planned activities, the Library remains committed to its mission and growth.

Organisational Capacity

The 2020-2023 Action Plan outlines clear responsibilities and objectives, with stakeholders aligning efforts. Significant renovations to the specialised workshop in 2020-2021 added new machinery and staff, restoring thousands of volumes and improving restoration facilities. The Edifício Novo receives annual minor updates, while Joanina underwent major renovations. In 2019, visitor reception was moved to the University Science Museum, improving amenities and accessibility. All public spaces are accessible, with the "Inclusive Library" launched in 2021 to support

individuals with impairments using advanced technology. The Library introduced policies promoting youth engagement, multiculturalism, and environmental education. EHL strengthened the Youth Strategy, with students actively participating in events. Although visitor numbers to Joanina were reduced in 2021, the decision wasn't linked to EHL. The primary audience is University of Coimbra students, with international students making up 20% of users. The Library integrates its European significance into its strategy, while the University of Coimbra is recognised as Portugal's most sustainable higher education institution.

Progress and Reflection to previous recommendations

2016 Recommendations

The Panel looks forward to seeing the impact of the virtual visit and an intensified presence on the web, in more languages.

2020 Recommendations

The Panel recommends more concentrated efforts on communication activities, including the European Heritage Label visual presentation and information related to the action on the website, and to further maximise the opportunities from committed networking and cooperation with other European Heritage Label Sites' initiatives. The panel also recommends better training for staff focused on the EHL symbolism. *The recommendations appear to have been taken up by the site management.*

Recommendations for the site

OVERALL QUALITY

Proper management exists and efforts are made to share the diverse dimensions that the EHL label stands for, particularly through the activities and the outreach of the site. The has proved the outstanding potential to play a role in several thematic cooperation within the EHL Network.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The panel recommends the following actions:

- Improving communication on the European Heritage Label's visual presentation is recommended.
- Continuing to maximise opportunities from networking and cooperation with other European Heritage Label Sites' initiatives is necessary.
- Maximizing synergies between various partners on the site is suggested to enhance joint management.

Conclusions

The EHL site *General Library of the University of Coimbra* continues to meet the criteria for the designation of the European Heritage Label.

THE UNION OF LUBLIN

LUBLIN, POLAND

AWARDED THE EHL IN 2014 | MONITORED FOR THE 3RD TIME



©European Commission

The 1569 Union of Lublin united Poland and Lithuania into the Commonwealth of Both Nations, with a shared monarch, parliament, and currency. Commemorated by three monuments in Lublin, the Union stands as a unique example of European peaceful, democratic integration among diverse ethnic and religious groups.

Implementation of the site's project

The description of actions related to European significance is broad, but several cultural events have been successfully organised. Notably, activities for young people have been conducted, including cooperation with Lublin Youth Capital 2023. Joint activities with the EHL site in Münster and collaborations with Lithuanian institutions have been key highlights. Educational initiatives were also significant, and the site effectively utilised multilingual communication and dissemination platforms. However, there has been limited recent information on the integration of new technologies. Financial constraints and the impact of COVID-19 were noted as challenges during the monitoring period.

Organisational Capacity

No significant changes in the management structure or increase in FTE were reported. However, some new preservation activities have been undertaken, with a strong focus on accessibility for individuals with disabilities. While the EHL logo is regularly displayed at city events, the connection between these events and EHL actions is not clearly explained. The site's environmentally friendly management practices are appropriately demonstrated.

Progress and Reflection to previous recommendations

Recommendations – 2016 Monitoring Report

Work to date on the Union of Lublin Sites has focused on conservation monitoring and communicating to Lublin-based audiences. The Panel recommends that the three organisations adopt a coordinated approach to new activities during the period 2017-2020. These should focus on communicating the relevance of the Union of Lublin to local and European audiences, and in particular to investigating links with Lithuania and if possible, Belarus and Ukraine.

Recommendations – 2020 Monitoring Report Recommendations

The EU Panel recommends: the staff to be trained on EHL; to develop further the multilingualism by introduction of more languages of the European Union; and the use of new technologies and interactive means; to enhance further the networking and cooperation with other EHL Sites; as well as to explore the opportunities of cooperation with other European cultural heritage programmes and initiatives. *The only recommendation clearly implemented is the one concerning multilingualism*

Recommendations for the site

OVERALL QUALITY

The Union of Lublin, awarded the EHL label in 2014, has shown progress in understanding its European significance, but further improvement is required in highlighting it. The project's communication has been challenging, because there is some organisational confusion between the site, the managing organization and the city of Lublin, which has been complicating the monitoring process. Compared to 2020, activities have decreased, and the survey was less thorough, which can partially be explained by the effects of COVID-19. The site remains underdeveloped in its integration within the EHL network and community.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The panel recommends the following actions:

- Increasing coordinated communication activities is required.
- Enhancing the European vision by connecting European values with ongoing activities (modeled on successful initiatives like the Guides of Inspiration) is suggested.
- Strengthening networking activities and links with the EHL community is strongly recommended.
- Valorizing Lublin's designation as the European Youth Capital 2029 in connection with its EHL title is encouraged.

Conclusion

The EHL Site *the Union of Lublin* continues to meet the criteria for the designation of the European Heritage.

HISTORIC ENSEMBLE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TARTU

TARTU, ESTONIA

AWARDED THE EHL IN 2015 | MONITORED FOR THE 2ND TIME



©european commission

The University of Tartu Ensemble, designed by Johann Wilhelm Krause in the early 19th century, is located in the historic centre of Tartu, around Toome Hill. Founded in 1632 by the Swedish King Gustav II Adolf, the university has been shaped by various countries, including Sweden, Poland, Germany, and Russia. In 1802, Russian Emperor Alexander I reopened it, and by the mid-19th century, it became a key centre for Russian-German cultural exchange.

Implementation of the site's project

The University of Tartu complex is an important symbol of European values in Estonia, showcasing these values through its indoor and outdoor exhibitions. Notably, Tartu has been designated the European Capital of Culture for 2024. The museum maintains strong engagement with European partners and organises an average of 400 educational programs annually, reaching around 7,000 participants. These programs help foster community identity and promote awareness of Tartu's international significance. The site primarily uses Estonian, English, and Russian in its materials, with additional languages, such as German, Finnish, Swedish, and French, provided during excursions. The management is actively involved in EHL activities and networking, although operations have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing geopolitical situation regarding Ukraine.

Organisational Capacity

The historic complex of the University is managed by various departments, with the University Museum coordinating activities. The preservation and development of the University's historical buildings are integrated into the University's broader development plan. Although full conservation work has not yet been completed, efforts remain focused on preserving these buildings. Recent attention has been given to improving user-friendliness, with the ongoing renovation of the Old

Observatory complex (2022-2024) aimed at enhancing both digital and physical accessibility in museum spaces and exhibitions. The University prioritizes young people, fostering an environment conducive to study and engagement, with special focus on children and youth through its museum programs. While the EHL label has not yet played a major role, it holds potential for supporting targeted youth activities. All initiatives are closely aligned with European-level efforts, as the university and its research are highly international. Despite the significant impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on tourism, the EHL label has been vital in highlighting the University of Tartu complex and reinforcing its European value. Sustainability continues to be a key priority across all areas.

Progress and Reflection to previous recommendations

Recommendations – 2020 Monitoring Report

The panel recommended the site to increase the multilingualism of its website and further improve the consistent raising of awareness of its European significance through further networking with other EHL Sites.

These recommendations have been taken up but have been challenged by the COVID pandemic and the Russian invasion in Ukraine.

Recommendations for the site

OVERALL QUALITY

Proper management exists and efforts are made to share the diverse dimensions the EHL label stands for. The site aims to be active in the EHL network. The great potential of the site within the EHL network are not sufficiently exploited yet.

RECOMMENDATIONS

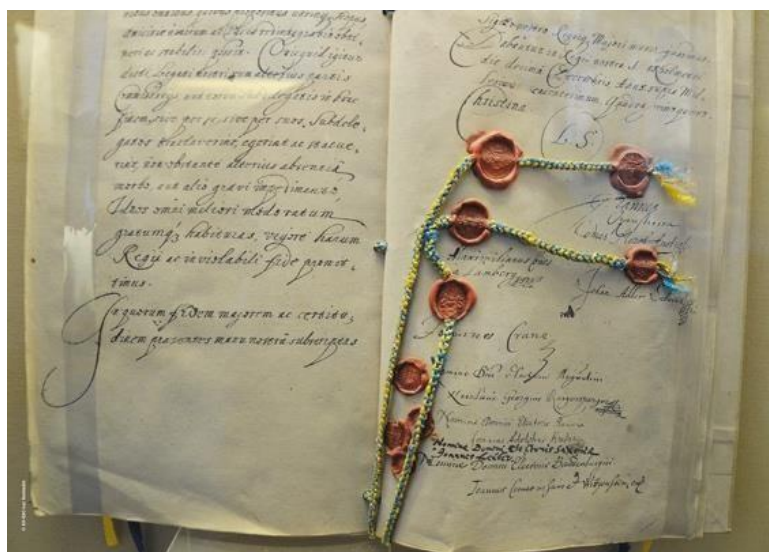
The panel recommend the following actions:

- Aligning the management plan with the changing conditions in which the EHL site is embedded.
- Enhancing the visibility of the EHL in digital communication, possibly by highlighting connections with similar or related EHL sites.
- Continuing active participation in the EHL network.

Conclusion

The EHL Site *Historic Ensemble of the University of Tartu* continues to meet the criteria for the designation of the European Heritage Label.

SITES OF THE PEACE OF WESTPHALIA MÜNSTER AND OSNABRÜCK, GERMANY AWARDED THE EHL IN 2015 | MONITORED FOR THE 3RD TIME



©European Commission

The Peace of Westphalia describes the totality of the peace treaties that were negotiated and agreed upon in the cities of Münster and Osnabrück in 1648. They brought an end to the Thirty Years' War (1618-1648), in which all major European powers were involved and which was not only a conflict between states, but also between religions. The Peace of Westphalia was a seminal event in the development of the modern state and of international law. The principles there developed remain in effect and decisively shaped the order of today's Europe.

Implementation of the site's project

The European significance of the Münster and Osnabrück subSites is central to their communication strategies. In 2023, to celebrate the 375th anniversary of the Peace of Westphalia, 500 events were held, including an international conference and the Westphalian Peace Summit. Interactive events like Peace Encounter and Sounds of Peace attracted broad audiences. The EHL designation has strengthened efforts to engage young people, with ongoing collaboration with schools and universities, although this remains challenging. Digital communication has been increased, with digital content available in English and German. Brochures are available in multiple languages, and 3D virtual tours have been created. Both sub-sites feature the EHL logo and participate in EHL activities such as European Heritage Days and International Museum Day. Despite budget limitations, they rely on third-party funding and stakeholder cooperation.

Organisational Capacity

The Office for the Culture of Peace of the Department of Culture of the City of Osnabrück is responsible for the site. In Münster, this role is assumed by the Peace Office. The full-time equivalent for the management of the EHL is estimated at 0.1 in Osnabrück and 0.25 in Münster. With regard to the

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conservation of the site, major work has been carried out to maintain and conserve the buildings. The Osnabrück council meeting room underwent a complete renovation in 2020, including an energy efficiency upgrade. The 16th-century staircase has also been renovated. In Münster, the Peace Room has undergone a complete restoration of the floor and an intensive three-year cleaning programme. Both sites are wheelchair accessible. Admission to the town halls is free, but there is a charge for visiting the Münster Peace Room. Some information is available for people with sensory impairments. The site continues to improve access and information for all types of audiences (the urban community, surrounding areas, schools, tourists). The sub-sites are central to the tourism strategies of the towns and regions concerned and are linked to sustainable development objectives. A Friedensroute (Peace Riders' Trail) has been created between the two sites.

Progress and Reflection to previous recommendations

2016 Recommendations

In 2016 a clearer articulation of the global significance of the national thematic site was recommended, as well as a stronger coordination of the activities between Münster and Osnabrück under the responsibility of the coordinator.

2020 Recommendations

In 2020 the Sites were encouraged to further activate their participation in the EHL network and continue to extend the activities of the Peace House in Münster. *A significant effort has been made to improve these criteria. Numerous valuable activities have been carried out as a response to these suggestions.*

Recommendations for the site

OVERALL QUALITY

The Site is dedicated to the promotion of processes for maintaining or recreating peace, which are major issues in today's Europe. The site organised many important events and also created original concrete initiatives such as the *Friedensroute*, which could inspire other EHL Sites.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Developing a dedicated website shared by both subSites is recommended.
- Enhancing cooperation with other EHL Sites, particularly those focusing on similar themes such as peace, democracy, and multilateralism, is advised.

Conclusion

The EHL Site *Sites of the Peace of Westphalia* continues to meet the criteria for the designation of the European Heritage Label.

LIVING HERITAGE OF SZENTENDRE

SZENTENDRE, HUNGARY.

AWARDED THE EHL IN 2019 | MONITORED FOR THE 1ST TIME.



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Szentendre, with roots dating back to Roman times, has been shaped by Serbian refugees and cross-border cultural influences. The city embodies multi-ethnic tolerance, urban resilience, and creativity, bridging Eastern and Western Europe. Its rich architectural and artistic heritage reflects the blending of cultures, particularly during totalitarian regimes.

Implementation of the site's project

Szentendre has long been dedicated to preserving and enriching the traditions that define its history, particularly the peaceful coexistence and cooperation of diverse nationalities. The city has been a strong supporter of interethnic programs, as well as ethnic festivals that provide young people the opportunity to explore and appreciate each other's traditions, customs, and cultures. A particular emphasis has been placed on educational activities. One notable example is the cultural quiz for primary school pupils from Pest County, which culminated in a two-day program at three nearby EHL Sites—the Franz Liszt Academy of Music, the Dohány Street Synagogue, and Szentendre. The winning student groups had the chance to attend concerts at these cultural venues, further enriching their experience. A key goal of the project is to make the city's multi-ethnic cultural heritage, including the Serbian minority's traditions, more accessible to visitors. There has been a strong focus on raising young people's awareness of European values. Local youth learn about the European values embedded in their own city, while young people from other European countries have the opportunity to experience a local interpretation of shared European culture through various programs celebrating Serbian traditions. While recent leadership changes in both the municipality and site management have posed some challenges, the ongoing commitment to these initiatives remains a priority.

Organisational Capacity

Currently, the management structure involves two individuals, and there are no specific plans for expansion. To protect Szentendre's heritage, car traffic is restricted, and large events that may not align with its cultural values are carefully avoided. The staff at the Szentendre Tourist Information Office regularly participate in training sessions aimed at enhancing tourism communication strategies, in line with national trends. Several initiatives have been implemented to improve accessibility for people with disabilities. While there have been initiatives for young people, there is potential to more clearly highlight the site's European significance. Szentendre's cultural institutions play an active role in promoting the town and its European value-based programs, though the EHL is not yet prominently featured on the website. The Tourism Office also offers apps and digital services, and the city is mindful of environmental sustainability. The impact of COVID-19 has posed challenges to the site's operations, yet efforts continue to move forward.

Recommendations for the site

OVERALL QUALITY

The Living Heritage of Szentendre, a relatively new site awarded the EHL label in 2019, has made a promising start in understanding its European significance, though there is room for improvement in emphasizing the EHL connection. The city's history and values align well with the EHL project, but more focus is needed on showcasing the Label. While the city has structured activities, educational initiatives, communication strategies, and tourist attractions, greater commitment to EHL goals and the community is needed. The educational activities add significant value, though some confusion exists between the EHL and tourism strategies.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The panel recommends the following actions

- Focusing the strategy on the European values of the project and engaging more deeply in the EHL network is necessary.
- Increasing the visibility of the Label and strengthening the focus on EHL objectives is encouraged.
- Dedicating more attention to digital initiatives is recommended.
- Expanding audience-development strategies and related staff training programs is strongly advised.

Conclusion

The EHL Site *Living Heritage of Szentendre* continues to meet the criteria for the designation of the European Heritage Label.

THE ODERBRUCH

SEELOW, GERMANY

AWARDED THE EHL IN 2021 | MONITORED FOR THE 1ST TIME



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The Oderbruch exemplifies anthropogenically formed landscape as a product of European history. The settled river polder features a water system defined by immigration and expresses the tradition of ecological care and social participation in European past and present. The Oderbruch landscape is the result of civic and state actions resolved in democratic processes of communication.

Implementation of the site's project

Upon receiving the European Heritage Label, the Oderbruch network launched the "People Make Landscape" exhibition in Brussels, highlighting the people who shaped the landscape and showcasing its diverse aspects, including its construction culture, hydraulic system, agriculture, and rural society. The exhibition also emphasised the connections between Oderbruch and Europe. The European Heritage Label has been prominently featured across the forty-three locations in the Oderbruch network. The site is actively involved in several international educational workshops, offering visits to heritage sites, creating comics, podcasts, and videos. It has established strong partnerships with eleven local schools, engaging over 1,000 children and young people annually. Communication and dissemination efforts are carried out in three languages. In alignment with the European Landscape Convention, the Oderbruch actively contributes to the design of programs and other activities, particularly on social media, in collaboration with the EHL Bureau. Additionally, it partners with the Brandenburg Museum Association to organise a training workshop focused on digital museums. Two challenges have been identified: (1) expanding outreach to children and young people from other countries, as the site is not an international educational center; and (2) a need for expertise in text editing, including review, proofreading, and visitor support services.

Organisational Capacity

The Oderbruch site, which consists of forty-three locations coordinated by Museum Altranft, combines a professional structure (4 FTE) supported by local

municipalities, the district, and Brandenburg state, with a network of local volunteer initiatives. Its strategic goal is to engage all partners while addressing the challenges of generational change. As a culturally rich landscape with a high concentration of architectural monuments, Oderbruch is undergoing ongoing transformation. The site aims to contribute to sustainable landscape management through initiatives such as publications on energy transition, cultural debates, and Landscape Days. Joint presentations, which highlight local stories, culminate in an annual catalogue and a large exhibition. New storytelling formats are being developed to incorporate contributions from both young and senior residents.

The site continues to improve accessibility for people with disabilities and has launched a new brand identity for its activities. Its communication strategy targets a wide audience via blogs, social media, and digitization projects. A new website with a dynamic map is being developed to present the forty locations in a simplified and cohesive manner. The site promotes sustainable tourism by encouraging walking, cycling, and the use of public transport, with brochures printed on recycled paper. Most advertising is digital, and all projects are designed with environmental sustainability in mind. Generational change, including an aging staff and population at each location, has been identified as a key challenge. However, it also presents an opportunity to promote intergenerational collaboration, preserve traditional knowledge, and engage both younger and older generations.

Recommendations for the site

OVERALL QUALITY

A very promising young EHL site on a theme that is crucial for the future of Europe. It boasts a solid structure and a consistent project that requires support to be deployed, and that other Sites could benefit from it. The treatment of the challenge of aging could be instrumental not only for other EHL Sites, but also for the construction of a shared European knowledge about this problem.

RECOMMENDATIONS

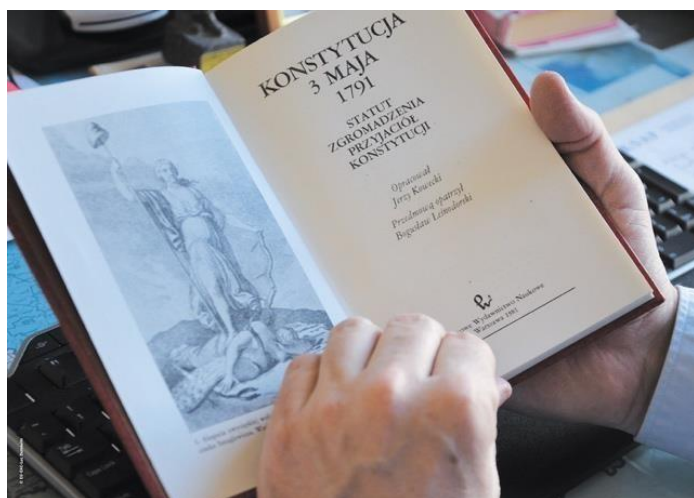
The panel recommends the following actions:

- Expanding engagement with young people beyond the school context would be highly beneficial.
- Developing tools specifically designed to welcome foreign visitors, both young and adult, would enhance the site's accessibility.
- Collaborating with other EHL Sites to explore solutions for addressing generational transitions in volunteer-run branches or Sites would be valuable.

Conclusion

The EHL Site *The Oderbruch* continues to meet the criteria for the designation of the European Heritage Label

3 MAY 1791 CONSTITUTION WARSAW, POLAND AWARDED THE EHL IN 2014 | MONITORED FOR THE 3RD TIME



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Adopted on 3rd May 1791, the Constitution of the Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth aimed to promote freedom, political equality, and establish a constitutional monarchy. Reflecting Enlightenment ideals of reason, law, and religious tolerance, it is one of Europe’s earliest modern constitutions.

Implementation of the site

The EHL designation has elevated the site from a national symbol to a recognised European landmark, fostering collaboration with Lithuania. The site has made significant strides in emphasizing its European significance, including offering multilingual content on the Constitution and its history. For the 230th anniversary in 2021, the original text was published in Polish and English. As a member of the EHL Bureau, the site participated in European cultural events and worked to enhance social media activities and cooperation with other EHL sites, though efforts were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. A planned Polish-French symposium on the 1791 Constitutions was cancelled, but connections with other EHL sites, such as the European District in Strasbourg and Hambach Castle, were initiated. During the pandemic, the site expanded online access to the Constitution, making it available digitally. It continues to engage in network activities, using synergies with other European programs to enhance its reach.

Organisational Capacity

The original documents are carefully safeguarded and are regularly monitored for preservation. In 2023, they underwent stability testing for exposure. Additionally, a collaborative research project on the ink used in the documents was launched with the Faculty of Chemistry at Warsaw University. Educational activities are

regularly organised, particularly in the week leading up to the 3rd May Constitution Day. Schools are provided with historical resources and presentations about the Constitution tailored to students of various age groups. Access to the site is free of charge, and it is housed in a historic building that adheres to preservation guidelines. While the building does not currently have a lift or specific facilities for disabled visitors, significant efforts have been made to enhance accessibility through the website and social media channels. Staff have also participated in specialised training to better accommodate the needs of people with disabilities. Although physical visits were limited during the COVID period, the site saw a notable increase in online engagement. The site has also established a strong partnership with the local Tourist Guides Association to further promote its offerings. Management of the EHL site involves 1 to 1.5 FTEs, and the EHL signage is prominently displayed both on-site and on the website.

Progress and Reflection to previous recommendations

2016 Recommendations

In 2016 it was recommended that the site develop communication activities on the European dimension of the site in more languages, in particular for on-line visitors, young people and audiences in Lithuania.

2020 Recommendations

In 2020 it was noted that the site had made considerable progress in the communication of its European significance. It was recommended to enhance social media activities and to further develop cooperation with other EHL Sites. *Significant efforts have been made to develop digital communication and cooperation with other EHL Sites.*

Recommendations for the site

OVERALL QUALITY

The awarding of the EHL has changed the status of the Site from a national symbol to a European one. As the physical presentation of the manuscript is necessarily limited, the Site has made good use of online representations to publicise the document and highlight its European values.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The panel recommends the following actions:

- Developing cooperation with other EHL Sites where archives play a significant role is recommended.
- Initiating cooperation with other EHL Sites, particularly Polish ones linked to the idea of equality, is suggested.

Conclusion

The EHL Site *3 May 1791 Constitution* continues to meet the criteria for the designation of the European Heritage Label.

KYNŽVART CASTLE – PLACE OF DIPLOMATIC MEETINGS

LÁZNĚ KYNŽVART, CZECHIA

AWARDED THE EHL IN 2019 | MONITORED FOR THE 1ST TIME



©European Commission

Kynžvart Castle in the Czech Republic, rebuilt by Prince Klemens von Metternich in the 19TH century, houses significant collections, including a renowned library and daguerreotypes. Open to the public since 1828, it was the centre of Metternich's 1840 Peace League Proposal, a key moment in European diplomacy.

Implementation of the site's project

The site has hosted numerous events at both scientific and public levels, with the launch of the EHL Label receiving significant attention. A 2023 publication highlights the role of key European diplomats' meetings at Kynžvart Castle in finding a solution to the looming war in Europe. Additionally, a touring exhibition and nature trail have been developed. The site offers a variety of educational programs and worksheets tailored to different audiences. A planned international conference was held on a national level due to COVID-19 restrictions. Standard operations and the website are available in Czech, English, and German, while audio guides are offered in English, German, and Russian. Printed texts are also available in French. Staff language training is actively supported. The site is well-connected with other cultural initiatives, and the EHL logo is prominently displayed both onsite and online. It also effectively cross-markets other EHL Sites. While challenges such as event organization due to COVID-19 and translation issues have been encountered, these have been creatively addressed using automatic translation tools on social networks. Additionally, an exhibition on daguerreotypes faced some obstacles due to a partner institution but is expected to progress.

Organisational Capacity

The site operates as part of a state institution, benefiting from strong maintenance and protection. Several improvements have been made, including upgrades to fire safety, restoration of elements, enhanced storage facilities, and the creation of an

online catalogue for artifacts. A children's corner has been introduced, along with various facility improvements, and a new parking lot is under construction. Accessibility is well addressed, with the orientation system, barrier-free route, and haptic model earning the site recognition as "the friendliest to handicapped people" in 2021. The site offers reduced entrance fees, special events, and numerous programs for young audiences. Additionally, it provides summer employment opportunities for students. Collaborative activities with related associations are also in place, and the new exhibition centre has helped mitigate the impact of seasonality. The EHL Label is appropriately utilised and promoted. Strong cooperation with the Nature and Landscape Agency plays a vital role, with a special project focused on bat protection and other ongoing initiatives that integrate nature conservation into educational activities. An important challenge is the site's integration into a large state organisation, which provides robust methodological support but can also lead to limitations due to its inherent inflexibility.

Recommendations for the site

OVERALL QUALITY

Kynžvart Castle has developed successful integrated communication, education and cultural events highlighting its European significance, in good cooperation with other EHL Sites and national and local institutions. The site continues to respect the project submitted for the European Heritage Label.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The panel recommends the following actions:

- Continuing cooperation with other EHL Sites is important.
- Maintaining collaboration with nature protection institutions to preserve valuable species like bats is recommended.
- Employing additional staff for management and promotion would be an asset, with the potential of the EHL headquarters being fully developed through the addition of a 0.5-1.0 FTE project worker (currently 0.25 FTE).

Conclusion

The EHL Site *Kynžvart Castle* continues to meet the criteria for the designation of the European Heritage Label.

COLONIES OF BENEVOLENCE

BELGIUM, THE NETHERLANDS

AWARDED THE EHL IN 2019 | MONITORED FOR THE 1st TIME



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The Colonies of Benevolence is a transnational site with seven subSites in Belgium and the Netherlands, established in the 19th century to combat poverty through agricultural settlements. These colonies, some "free" for families and others "unfree" for vagrants and orphans, reflect the evolving European approach to marginalised people and their rights as full members of society.

Implementation of the site's project

A specially designed toolkit has been developed to highlight the European significance of the site. A theatrical audio tour, based on stories from former colonists, enables visitors to explore the social history of the landscape. Staff training programs have been organised to raise awareness of European values. Additionally, a Dutch-language podcast addressing European perspectives on poverty, paternalism, and social engineering has been created. The acquisition of the European Heritage Label has positively influenced the site's youth strategy, which includes targeted activities for students through initiatives such as the Heritage Audacity project. The museums and visitor centres regularly welcome school groups, and a workshop using Artificial Intelligence allows children and teenagers to engage with the site's history in an interactive way. Audio guides are available in several languages; however, there has been limited attention to multilingualism across other communication tools, particularly the website, which is currently only available in Dutch due to an ongoing migration process. Printed documents are also primarily in Dutch, reflecting the site's local audience, predominantly Dutch and Flemish speakers. While multilingual audio guides are available at visitor centres, further expansion of communication materials in multiple languages would be beneficial to better promote the site across Europe. The site participated in international events and EHL activities in 2021 and 2022 but did not engage in such activities in 2023.

Organisational Capacity

The site operates on a bi-national basis, which involves navigating different legal frameworks for its management. Multiple stakeholders, including municipalities, provinces, museums, government bodies, and companies, are actively engaged in its operations. Each subsite is managed independently and follows its own strategic plan, with biannual one-day meetings held to coordinate transnational collaboration. National EHL coordinators also meet regularly via video calls. The Colonies are recognised as land and village-scapes, and all preservation activities are legally regulated. The site was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2021. Restoration and extension projects have been implemented to preserve the various subsites, covering a total of 80 km² of landscapes, which are consistently maintained. A new museum is planned to open in 2026 at Veenhuizen, which attracted 120,000 visitors in 2023. Frederiksoord, which has been part of the site since it was awarded the European Heritage Label, welcomed 40,000 visitors in 2023. The visitor centres and museums are open year-round, at least six days a week. Efforts to improve accessibility have been undertaken, and environmental protection is ensured through collaboration with local partners. The development strategy focuses on promoting sustainable tourism that enhances living conditions in rural areas while generating funds for landscape restoration.

Recommendations for the site

OVERALL QUALITY

This recently awarded transnational site addresses critical issues that are highly relevant in contemporary Europe, particularly poverty management and the social role of agricultural work. While the site offers many engaging activities, it would benefit from placing greater emphasis on its European dimension and its membership within the EHL network.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The panel recommends the following actions:

- Expanding the site's audience beyond the local area is recommended.
- Engaging in cooperation with other EHL Sites, particularly those sharing common themes (social care, agricultural practices), is encouraged.
- Practicing multilingualism in all forms of communication and participating in EHL network activities is considered necessary. A multilingual website is strongly recommended.

Conclusion

The EHL site *Colonies of Benevolence* continues to meet the criteria for the designation of the European Heritage Label.

HAMBACH CASTLE HAMBACH, GERMANY AWARDED THE EHL IN 2014 | MONITORED FOR THE 3RD TIME



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Hambach Castle, built in the Middle Ages, became a symbol of political change in the 19th century. On 27th May 1832, around 30,000 people from Germany, France, and Poland gathered at the castle for the Hambach Festival, advocating for civil rights, political freedoms, equality, and democracy. The event marked the castle as a symbol of Europe's struggle for civil liberties.

Implementation of the site's project

The Hambach Castle Foundation, is a democratic and European place of remembrance, learning, and communication, committed to fostering connections with democracy and Europe. This is achieved through a permanent exhibition on the Hambach Festival of 27 May 1832, emphasizing its European significance; events that encourage debate on the past, present, and future of democracy; guided tours on various aspects of the castle; workshops for school groups on historical and political topics; full accessibility throughout the site; a rich cultural and event program; and participation in regional, national, and European networks. The site offers a variety of educational programs, along with discussions, cultural events, and festivals for young people. In 2022, the foundation updated its corporate design and website, now available in English and easy-to-read language. Brochures and audio guides for the exhibition "Show Your Colours" and the interactive station "Ways to Hambach" are available in German, French, English, and Polish. Between 2019 and 2022, the foundation was a partner in the EHL@N project. In 2022, the Hambach Sketchbook was displayed at the House of European History. A comic exhibition will commemorate the 2024 anniversary of the Hambach Festival. Additionally, the site features NW+'s "Up to the Castle Reality" app, using augmented reality and 3D simulations to immerse visitors in the historical period from the perspective of a historical participant.

Organisational Capacity

Due to limited exhibition space, it has not been possible to display exhibition texts in

multiple international languages. Additionally, the translation and production of the website and brochures in other languages have not been feasible due to financial constraints. Implementing international projects or events also presents a significant challenge, as there are insufficient human and time resources. The Hambach Castle Foundation team currently consists of fifteen members. During the monitoring period, several key improvements were made, including the creation of a research assistant position. This role focuses on communicating the significance of the Hambach Festival for both Germany and Europe, as well as addressing attempts by populist forces to misappropriate the site. Furthermore, an advisory board was established, which includes French and Polish members, underscoring the importance of Hambach Castle for the values of democracy and the European ideal.

Progress and Reflection to previous recommendations

2016 Recommendations

In 2016, the Panel was generally satisfied with the site but encouraged it to highlight the European sections in the online material and in the exhibition and to make it available in more languages.

2020 Recommendations

In contrast to the previous report, the 2020 Panel recommended a more visible use of the EHL symbol and to fully exploit the potential of networking with other EHL Sites. *While the management structures were further sharpened and expanded, a resumption or continuation of networking activities regarding the EHL recommendation from 2020 to network more closely with other EHL Sites, would be desirable. The higher visibility of the EHL desired in 2020 remains a recommendation.*

Recommendations for the site

OVERALL QUALITY

In recent years, Hambach Castle has developed a range of initiatives, events, and exhibitions that have successfully highlighted the European dimension of the site, blending both tangible and intangible heritage. One of the key tasks the site is actively addressing is combating the appropriation of the castle by right-wing populist groups. While efforts have been made to improve multilingualism, the castle's online presence currently remains bilingual—German and English. The website is still under development, and not all functions have yet been fully implemented.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The panel recommend the following actions

- Completing the site's website and translating it into several European languages are recommended.
- Resuming and/or expanding the site's EHL network activities is also advised.

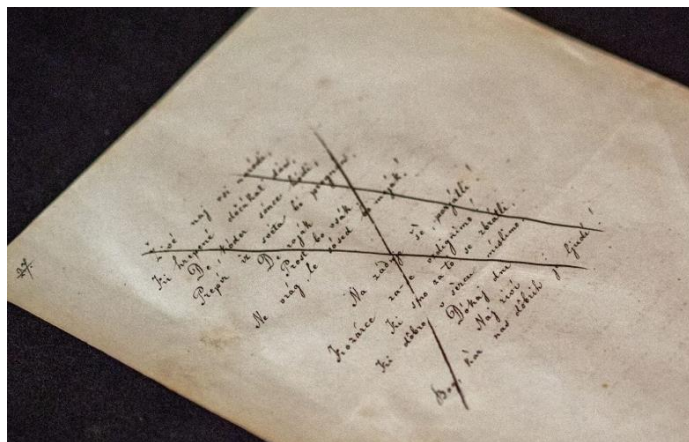
Conclusion

The EHL Site *Hambach Castle* continues to meet the criteria for the designation of the European Heritage Label.

ZDRAVLJICA – THE MESSAGE OF THE EUROPEAN SPRING OF NATIONS

LJUBLJANA, SLOVENIA

AWARDED THE EHL IN 2019 | MONITORED FOR THE 1ST TIME



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"Zdravljica," a poem written by France Prešeren in 1844 and published in 1848, became Slovenia's national anthem in 1991. It symbolises the 1848 Spring of Nations and promotes Slovenian identity and peaceful coexistence among nations. The manuscript is housed at the National and University Library in Ljubljana.

Implementation of the site's project

The project has focused on raising awareness of the significance of European literary and linguistic heritage. The facsimile of Zdravljica and the printed EHL sign are permanently displayed in showcases in the Lobby of the National and University Library, which is open to the public. The library offers guided tours for children of all ages, from preschool to high school. Zdravljica was the central theme of Slovenia's EU Presidency in 2021, and the facsimile, accompanied by a transcript and study in all EU official languages, was presented as the highest gift to visiting foreign dignitaries. In 2023, during the Frankfurt Book Fair, an exhibition on Prešeren's international impact was held at the Deutsches Romantik Museum in Frankfurt, and a scientific monograph on Zdravljica was published. A challenge arises from the inscription of the National and University Library building on the World Heritage List in 2021, as the protection conditions do not permit the placement of the EHL plaque on the building itself.

Organisational Capacity

The National and University Library's status as a leading cultural institution in Slovenia ensures the proper preservation and care of the site. The document has been made freely accessible online through digital copies and high-quality facsimiles, while the original manuscript of the poem is carefully stored and only displayed on rare occasions. Guides are trained to include a presentation of the

European Heritage Label (EHL) during every tour. The EHL designation has also significantly influenced the selection of exhibition themes and topics for publications. During the monitoring period, Zdravljica was featured in four exhibitions and three publications organised by the library. As France Prešeren is considered Slovenia's greatest poet and Zdravljica is recognised as the national anthem, its inclusion in the curricula of elementary and secondary schools makes it a natural focal point in school group tours, which occur regularly. Visitors are encouraged to access the building by foot, as it is located in the historical center of Slovenia's capital.

Recommendations for the site

OVERALL QUALITY

With its message of peace, Zdravljica aligns closely with the core principles of the EHL network. The Panel commends the site's management for effectively highlighting the European significance of the poem, particularly through its use during the Slovenian EU Presidency, where Zdravljica served as a symbol of contemporary cooperation among European countries and peoples within the European Union.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The panel recommends the following actions:

- Expanding multilingual communication to include not only document translations but also the website is recommended.
- Encouraging the management of the site to engage more actively in the existing network of EHL monuments is suggested.
- Viewing the strict conservation of the library building as an opportunity, rather than an obstacle, to create positive synergies between the European Heritage Label and UNESCO World Heritage Sites is advised.

Conclusion

The EHL Site *Zdravljica – the Message of the European Spring of Nations* continues to meet the criteria for the designation of the European Heritage Label.

DOHÁNY STREET SYNAGOGUE COMPLEX

BUDAPEST, HUNGARY

AWARDED THE EHL IN 2017 | MONITORED FOR THE 2ND TIME



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The Dohány Street Synagogue in Budapest, built between 1854 and 1859, is Europe's largest synagogue. The complex includes the Jewish Museum, the Temple of Heroes memorializing 10,000 Jewish soldiers, the Holocaust cemetery garden, and the Wallenberg Memorial Park. It symbolises integration, remembrance, and openness to dialogue.

Implementation of the site's project

The site organised a conference with EHL Sites from the Visegrad Group countries and a series of educational sessions for children, focusing on the European significance of the site. EHL Sites from the Visegrad countries were showcased at a workshop in Budapest, hosted by the Director of the Hungarian Jewish Museum. From 2018 to 2022, the Hungarian Jewish Museum and Archives carried out an educational program in connection with the site. Multilingualism is prominently featured in the synagogue's guided tours, which are offered in nine languages: English, German, French, Italian, Spanish, Russian, Polish, Hebrew, and Hungarian. The site also maintains regular cooperation and shared school programs with the other Budapest EHL site, the Franz Liszt Academy of Music. It has become a member of the EHL@NETWORK, and digitalization at the Hungarian Jewish Museum and Archives has made significant progress in recent years. No specific obstacles have been identified.

Organisational Capacity

No major renovations or works have been carried out on the Synagogue in recent years. However, educational programs were successfully transitioned to an online platform, ensuring continued accessibility. The site is fully barrier-free, with some information also available in Braille. Young visitors benefit from discounted entry tickets, and the site offers several youth programs throughout the year, including the annual Jewish educational and music quiz for children. Located in the historic

city center, the site enjoys convenient public transportation access, which is the preferred option for visitors. The site's communication strategy has been enhanced to effectively engage both domestic and international tourists.

Progress and Reflection to previous recommendations

Recommendations – 2020 Monitoring Report

The panel appreciated the substantial increase in the number of visitors since the award. When assessing measures to highlight European significance, the *2020 Report* found that due to the institutional complexity of the site, the European dimension remained more in the background, rather than being a leading message in the overall narratives and activities. Therefore, the *2020 Report* recommended to develop in the 2020–2023 more networking activities and cooperation with other EHL Sites, to enrich and extend the narratives of its European significance in more languages to wider European audiences.

Recommendations for the site

OVERALL QUALITY

The Site's management provided an exceptional amount and range of activities and turned the site into an important member of the EHL network. The suggestions expressed in the 2020 Monitoring Report have been taken into account. The coordination of the parallel demands of heritage preservation, education, tourism and the specific needs of a religious and commemorative site is exemplary.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The panel recommends the following actions:

- Providing an exemplary range of activities, the site's management has successfully transformed the site into an important member of the EHL network, while incorporating the suggestions from the 2020 Monitoring Report.
- Maintaining this trajectory is commendable, ensuring that the site's focus on both the light and dark periods of European history continues to receive significant attention.
- Dividing online information across several websites, the Panel recommends developing a more transparent and user-friendly access system.

Conclusion

The EHL Site *Dohány Street Synagogue Complex* continues to meet the criteria for the designation of the European Heritage Label.

FORT CADINE

TRENTO, ITALY

AWARDED THE EHL IN 2017 | MONITORED FOR THE 2ND TIME



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Fort Cadine, an Italian site, illustrates a representative defensive system of about eighty forts built between 1860 and 1915 in the Trento region. The site is a historic reminder of past international antagonisms, military conflicts, and contested borders, and provides the right context for appreciating today's Europe in terms of open borders and the free movement of people, goods and ideas.

Implementation of the site's project

Fort Cadine, managed by the Fondazione Museo Storico del Trentino (FMST), reinterprets the legacy of World War I within the context of a peaceful and cooperative Europe. The site has transitioned from a WWI fortress to a platform promoting peace, cooperation, and youth awareness. Its educational programmes include guided tours and the video project Fort – Europe Nice to Meet You, which highlights European values like cultural diversity and freedom, alongside videos on WWI and Fort Cadine's role in Trento's defense. Additionally, the Back to Europe online course, developed in collaboration with the House of European History, combines digital content with active participation from students, teachers, and European experts. The site also offers guided tours, readings, performances, games, and a temporary immersive installation spanning seven Italian locations, showcasing the biographies of twelve distinguished Europeans. Multilingualism is actively promoted, with a trilingual brochure and educational videos featuring English subtitles available on YouTube. FMST engages in various EHL activities, collaborating with sites like Fondazione Trentina Alcide De Gasperi, Parco Archeologico Ostia Antica, and Bois du Cazier, and participates in events such as the We Are Europe Festival, Euregio Tirolo-Alto Adige-Trentino, European Heritage Days, and International Day of Museums.

Organisational Capacity

Fort Cadine, managed by Fondazione Museo Storico del Trentino (FMST), is part of

a prestigious network of historic and cultural sites and benefits from a comprehensive preservation plan with architectural restrictions. Despite challenges related to limited human resources and the need for more focused communication strategies, the site has received positive feedback from visitors, with encouraging survey results, active social media engagement, and favorable comments. Promoted as a sustainable tourism destination by local and regional organizations, including the Trento Film Festival, the site offers unique experiences such as trekking and guided tours. Fort Cadine embraces environmentally friendly practices, including waste separation, promoting public transport and car sharing, and ensuring responsible use of the site and surrounding sensitive areas. Accessibility for people with disabilities is steadily improving, with the Fort being nearly fully accessible, though further work is needed on the toilets. Two key challenges remain—(1) the integration of the site’s activities within the broader FMST framework, which can sometimes divert focus, and (2) a limited budget and minimal management staff—but the site has significant potential for growth, thanks to its strong foundation and commitment to sustainability and inclusivity.

Progress and Reflection to previous recommendations

Recommendations – 2020 Monitoring Report

The site was recommended to develop its distinct social-media profile, and to continue its beneficial cooperation and networking activities with other EHL Sites and European heritage initiatives.

Recommendations for the site

OVERALL QUALITY

Fort Cadine has developed successful integrated communication, education and cultural events highlighting its European significance, in good cooperation with other EHL Sites and national and local institutions. The site continues to respect the project submitted on the European Heritage Label.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The panel recommends the following actions:

- Separating Fort Cadine's EHL activities from those of FMST in communication and dissemination (surveys, website, and catalogues) is essential.
- Including the EHL Label in all materials and tools is highly recommended.
- Promoting Fort Cadine further as a sustainable tourism destination is a valuable practice to continue.
- Developing activities for young people that are not directly related to the school framework would be beneficial.
- Updating the website with current information and dates is necessary to keep it relevant and informative.

Conclusion

The EHL Site *Forte Cadine* continues to meet the criteria for the designation of the European Heritage Label.

SEMINAARINMÄKI CAMPUS JYVASKLYLA, FINLAND AWARDED THE EHL IN 2021 | MONITORED FOR THE 1ST TIME



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Based on the tradition of the first Finnish-speaking teachers' college created in 1863, the school transformed into the multidisciplinary University of Jyväskylä (JYU) in the 20th century. It represents the Finnish education system and the high-quality teachers' training promoting equality of all people. The Seminaarinmäki Campus provides a foundation for a democratic European social system that prevents social exclusion and maintains diversity and peaceful coexistence of people.

Implementation of the site's project

Founded in 1863 as the first Finnish-speaking teachers' college, the multidisciplinary University of Jyväskylä (JYU) embodies the core values of the Finnish education system, serving as a cornerstone for a democratic European social system that promotes inclusivity, diversity, and peaceful coexistence. In 2022, the site launched the Tietoniekka, Science for All project, aimed at creating an academic centre for continuous learning, where the rich European history of Seminaarinmäki seamlessly integrates with the dynamic world of contemporary science in both training and research. In autumn 2023, two discussion series were introduced as part of the university course on Modern Discourses in the Study of Museology, complementing the broader Science for All initiative. The significance of European history is now also incorporated into the curriculum of the Children's University, JYUniorit. As a member of the FORTHEM alliance, a consortium of fifty European universities funded by the European Commission, JYU collaborates with various other EHL Sites to further promote European values. Additionally, the JYU Science Museum is part of the UNIVERSEUM network of European university museums and a member of ICOM, further reinforcing its commitment to the European heritage landscape.

Organisational Capacity

Managed by a team of 14 full-time equivalents (FTEs), the site's conservation plan is scheduled for completion in 2024-2025. This plan encompasses building protection, the preservation of the natural environment, as well as considerations for mobility, parking, and potential future construction. The campus is accessible through various institutions, including the university's museums and the University Library, which, after its renovation in 2021, has become a popular destination for children, students, staff, and local citizens. It now serves as a science showroom and an accessible entry point to the university. Signposts and information materials have been created to enhance the experience of visitors to the Seminaarinmäki garden. The University of Jyväskylä actively promotes sustainable development, participating in initiatives such as the Campus Development Programme (2019-2030), aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the 2030 Agenda. The university is also part of the Nature Positive Universities network. The university's communication strategies now include the European Heritage Label, which is featured prominently in most materials and branding tools. A new communication plan targeting international students is under development, alongside a handbook for international staff and visitors, which will highlight the history of the University of Jyväskylä and its European significance.

Recommendations for the site

OVERALL QUALITY

the approach to implementing the objectives of the European Heritage Label (EHL) demonstrates a highly positive and self-reflective commitment. From the EHL perspective, one of the key challenges for this cultural heritage site, situated within a university, is ensuring accessibility for non-academic visitor groups. Additionally, effectively conveying the European values that define this site across various levels of understanding presents another significant challenge.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The panel recommends the following actions:

- Emphasizing the development of broader, non-academic, international audience groups is recommended.
- Expanding the multilingual presentation, at least online, is suggested.
- Widening the visibility of the EHL designation both online and on site is advised.

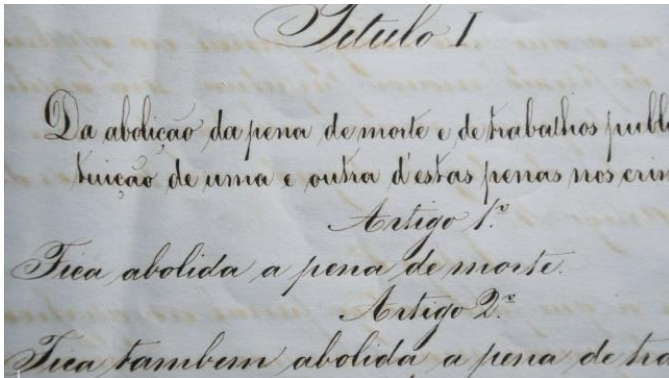
Conclusion

The EHL Site *Seminaarinmäki Campus* continues to meet the criteria for the designation of the European Heritage Label.

CHARTER OF LAW OF ABOLITION OF THE DEATH PENALTY (1867)

LISBON, PORTUGAL.

AWARDED THE EHL IN 2014 | MONITORED FOR THE 3RD TIME.



©European Commission

Approved in 1867, the Charter of Law Abolishing the Death Penalty, preserved in Portugal's National Archives, is one of the first to permanently suspend capital punishment in a national legal system. Portugal is a pioneer in this regard, and the document upholds values that are now part of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights.

Implementation of the site's project

The site actively promotes thematic exhibitions and conferences focused on human rights, freedom, democracy, and citizenship, reflecting the philanthropic and humanist values of the European Enlightenment, particularly through the works of Cesare Beccaria and the abolitionist movements. Alongside the permanent exhibition, the reception area provides historical context, emphasizing the document's European and global significance through the use of maps, text, QR codes, translations into six European languages, and multimedia links. The Education Service offers customised activities and online materials for schools, with staff trained to lead tours in at least two languages. One challenge in continuing the multilingual project is the difficulty and cost of translating legal terms accurately. The site is an active participant in EHL@N and EHL Bureau activities and collaborates with European archives for exhibitions. However, limited financial and human resources present obstacles to the production of promotional materials, staff training, and the development of the site's communication strategy and technological infrastructure.

Organizational Capacity

The site is experiencing a reduction in human resources (a 25% decrease in FTE), which has impacted the production of promotional materials and the specialised training of guides. Given the document's significance in Portugal's political and institutional history, it is preserved under strict conservation conditions in the Archives' vault. To ensure wider access, a facsimile of the document is being incorporated into the educational offerings, allowing participants to engage with

its relevance, importance, and civilizational significance. The National Archives provides free access, and wheelchairs are available for visitors with physical disabilities.

Progress and Reflection to previous recommendations

Recommendations – 2016 Recommendations

The 2016 recommendations have not yet been implemented - the website of the [150 Anos da Abolição da Pena de Morte em Portugal](https://dglab.gov.pt) site (dglab.gov.pt) listed in the 2024 monitoring form is only available in Portuguese; the document of the Charter itself can then be found on the website in six other EU languages, but link to reach these languages is exclusively in Portuguese.

Recommendations – 2020 Monitoring Report

In 2020, it was recommended that the 150th anniversary be used to strengthen the European idea and the Charter's exemplary character for today's enlightened Europe. *Efforts have not progressed very far beyond initiatives aimed at the Portuguese public and in particular, educational institutions. The further development of the training programmes recommended in 2020 has certainly begun.*

Recommendations for the site

OVERALL QUALITY

The Charter of Law for the Abolition of the Death Penalty is a significant cultural asset, symbolizing enlightened European values of fundamental rights, freedom, and human dignity. The 2020 exhibition *The Abolitionist Movement in Europe: Discourses and Strategies* effectively communicates these core values. Expanding the site's reach beyond Portugal would be beneficial, as many projects currently focus primarily on (young) Portuguese audiences. This can be achieved by promoting multilingual offerings and developing international and transnational exhibition and conference programmes.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The panel recommends the following actions:

- Translating the website into several European languages, as was done with the Charter, is highly recommended. This would help to increase the site's visibility and European significance beyond Portugal's borders.
- Focusing on attracting more diverse and international visitor groups, both on-site and online, should be a priority.
- Strengthening international networking and cooperation activities is advised.

Conclusion

The EHL Site *Charter of Law for the Abolition of the Death Penalty* continues to meet the criteria for the designation of the European Heritage Label.

SITE OF NATIONAL REMEMBRANCE IN ŁAMBINOWICE ŁAMBINOWICE, POLAND AWARDED THE EHL IN 2019 | MONITORED FOR THE 1ST TIME



©European Commission

The Site of Remembrance in Łambinowice includes key locations along the Road of Remembrance, such as the Old Cemetery of Prisoners of War, former Stalags VIII B and 318/VIII F, the Cemetery of Soviet POWs, the former Labour Camp and its Cemetery, and the Central Museum of Prisoners-of-War. This site preserves and presents the tragic legacy of the World Wars as part of Europe's dark heritage, using modern and environmentally friendly methods.

Implementation of the site's project

The Museum implemented a social and art project titled 'They Were Here'. The EHL graphic logo has been prominently featured on the Museum, its website (www.cmjw.pl), and in all publications, exhibitions, and promotional materials. Between 2020 and 2024, the Museum's educational activities engaged 1,091 participants in both in-person and online classes and workshops. Additionally, the Museum organised 22 educational meetings and four sessions for teachers and educators. In 2020, the Museum launched a project creating a Virtual Tour of the Museum and the Site of National Remembrance in Łambinowice, accessible via this link: <https://panorama.cmjw.pl/#/>. In 2021, the virtual tour was made bilingual, further expanding its accessibility (<https://panorama.cmjw.pl/#/>). In 2022, the Museum introduced a bilingual exhibition, Site with a Scar, in Polish and English, and incorporated Braille inscriptions and QR codes linking to the English version of the website. The Museum regularly participates in the Opole Night of Museums, aligned with the Europe-wide International Day of Museums. It also participates in international EHL Network events, including the EHL award ceremony and a meeting organised by EHL@NET in June 2020 as part of European Heritage Days.

Organizational Capacity

The Museum has established the Public Council for the Protection of the Site of National Remembrance in Łambinowice, overseeing its activities while working in synergy with the Museum's own initiatives. Comprehensive conservation efforts have been carried out on the remains of the brick cottages, as well as the Warsaw Insurgents Memorial. Ongoing conservation work is also taking place in both the Old War Cemetery and the Soviet Prisoners of War Cemetery. The Museum's collection, which comprises 26,427 objects, undergoes regular conservation treatments to preserve its integrity. In 2023, a new pavilion was opened, featuring an accessible entrance area, a visitor information point, a museum shop, and a spacious conference room for museum events. Plans are underway for a new storage and garage building with solar panels, along with modifications to the surrounding area set for 2024 and the construction of a parking lot in 2025. Since 2006, a historic and natural path has been available for exploration, developed by the Museum in collaboration with the Tułowice Forest Inspectorate, with bicycle rental services offered at the Museum. In 2020, the offering expanded to include electric car rentals. Four individuals manage the EHL activities at the Museum, dedicating an estimated 25% FTE per month. A lift has been installed for visitors with mobility impairments, and a new permanent exhibition is under development, designed to meet accessibility standards. The Museum has organised educational activities for young people from Poland and abroad, with a total of 65 volunteers involved during the monitoring period. Information is disseminated through the Museum's website, and sixteen other websites have reported on the Site's award of the European Heritage Label.

Recommendations for the site

OVERALL QUALITY

The Site of is an excellent example of a museum that preserves and presents information about the unfortunate legacy of the World Wars as a part of dark European heritage in modern, environmentally friendly ways. It is active in networking and works exemplary with young people.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The panel recommend the following actions:

- Developing further networking and cooperation projects with other EHL Sites and participating in other European heritage initiatives (e.g., European Cultural Routes) is recommended by the Panel.
- Improving multilingualism in virtual communication, particularly through social media, is also recommended.

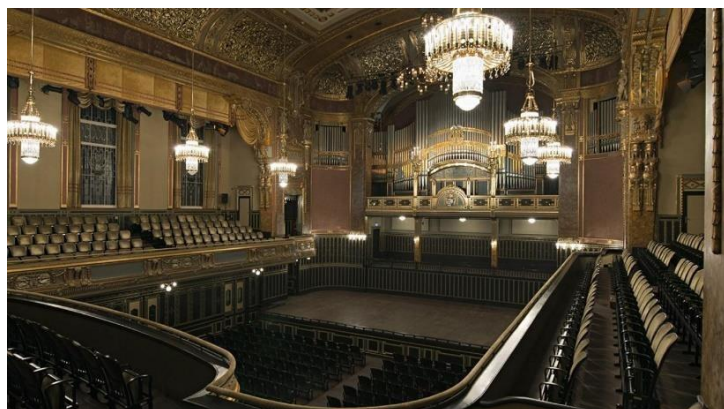
Conclusion

The EHL Site: *Site of National Remembrance in Łambinowice* continues to meet the criteria for the designation of the European Heritage Label.

FRANZ LISZT ACADEMY OF MUSIC

BUDAPEST, HUNGARY.

AWARDED THE EHL IN 2015 | MONITORED FOR THE 2ND TIME



©European Commission

The Franz Liszt Academy of Music was founded in 1875 by the composer and musician himself. The Academy is a teaching establishment, an international university of the musical arts and a venue for around 600 concerts a year. The Academy is housed in a 1907 building considered to be a masterpiece of the Hungarian Secession. The site includes the Franz Liszt Memorial Museum and Research Centre, the Kodály Institute and the Kodály Museum.

Implementation of the site project

The Franz Liszt Academy underscores its European significance through high-quality training for young musicians and a diverse concert program focused on European music. The site has initiated a European cultural itinerary project in collaboration with other Liszt memorial sites and has earned the Europa Nostra label. It is also part of the European Musicians' Houses and Museums network and has participated in initiatives such as the European Capital of Culture, International Monuments Day, and the Europa Nostra Prize. The Academy encourages young musicians to engage with the Erasmus+ program and offers a range of activities for children, including Liszt's Kid Academy. In 2021, to mark Liszt's 210th anniversary, the Academy organised an international conference and festival exploring his artistic and intellectual networks. Multilingualism is emphasised, with audio guides for the permanent exhibition available in 16 languages. Actively involved in the EHL Bureau, the Academy maintains strong ties with other Hungarian and Eastern European EHL Sites. Its well-designed website, available in Hungarian and English, includes a virtual tour and detailed resources. During the Covid pandemic, the Academy launched an online concert hall platform to reach broader audiences. However, activities have been affected by the pandemic, the subsequent energy price crisis, and a significant budget reduction in 2023. While the annual government budget supports essential tasks, additional activities depend on unsuccessful grant applications. The site also faces challenges in promoting the EHL due to limited human resources, with 0.5 FTE dedicated to EHL and European initiatives.

Organisational capacity

The Department of International Affairs and Development oversees the creation and review of the strategic plan every four years. The Concert Centre hosts a variety of concerts and children's programs, enriching the site's cultural life. The Liszt Memorial Museum preserves and showcases the composer's legacy, with a collection of instruments, digitised manuscripts, books, and original furniture. Regular maintenance ensures the site's historic integrity, and accessible facilities, such as elevators, are available for concertgoers. The site collaborates with other Hungarian EHL Sites, like the Dohány Street Synagogue and Szentendre, on projects including concerts and guided tours for schoolchildren, promoting European heritage. Social media platforms and printed materials are available in Hungarian and English, informing visitors about the site's offerings. The Academy building, a renowned example of European modernist/art nouveau architecture, attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors annually. As a historic monument, renovation work follows strict preservation guidelines, limiting energy efficiency improvements while maintaining its cultural and architectural significance.

Progress and Reflection to previous recommendations

Recommendations – 2020 Monitoring Report

In 2020, it was recommended that the site improve its communication policies in order to increase its multilingualism and EHL visibility, as well as its cooperation with EHL network and other European initiatives and programmes. *As recommended in the previous report, multilingual communication has been improved. Cooperation with the other EHL Sites has been initiated.*

Recommendations for the site

OVERALL QUALITY

The Site is one of Europe's leading music venues, offering training and events of the highest quality. Such an important EHL site is expected to be more involved in network activities and the promotion of European values.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The panel recommends the following actions

- Displaying the EHL logo both on the site and on the website is required.
- Hiring at least one FTE equivalent (or part-time) for the EHL programme is recommended.

Conclusion

The EHL Site *Franz Liszt Academy* continues to meet the criteria for the designation of the European Heritage Label.

MUNDANEUM

MONS, BELGIUM

AWARDED THE EHL IN 2015 | MONITORED FOR THE 2ND TIME



©european commission

The Mundaneum, founded by Henri La Fontaine and Paul Otlet, is a key European intellectual landmark. Advocates of peace through dialogue and knowledge sharing, the founders aimed to gather and classify all available information worldwide using the Universal Decimal Classification system. The Mundaneum laid the foundations for modern information science and is considered as a precursor to internet search engines.

Implementation of the site's project

The Mundaneum has highlighted its European significance by promoting peace through knowledge sharing. Since 2019, it has integrated themes such as feminism, pacifism, citizenship, and interculturality as core aspects of European identity. Its tours connect this European dimension with its mission as "a laboratory of peace through knowledge." In 2023, it hosted a conference on European identity and has organised events for Europe Week in previous years. Between 2020 and 2023, media education projects for 15–25-year-olds focused on critical issues like conspiracy theories, algorithms, filter bubbles, and media literacy through workshops, radio programs, and educational materials. Exhibitions are offered in French, Dutch, and English, with some available in Croatian. While primarily focused on local and regional partnerships, the Mundaneum has also fostered collaborations with the European Capital of Culture Rijeka (Croatia) and the Croatian Border Museum. In addition to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the primary obstacle to progress has been the reduction in funding for its archival activities. Budget constraints and rising energy costs have further limited the capacity for new projects and engagement in EHL network activities

Organisational Capacity

The Mundaneum's focus on local and regional collaboration is reflected in its current capacity for EHL activities, which stands at 0.4 FTE. With the support of the General Commission for Tourism, the site has made significant improvements to its facilities and equipment. The Mundaneum's accessibility policy includes staff training, accessibility tools, enhanced wheelchair access, and the availability of wheelchairs for visitors. Its pricing structure is designed to be inclusive, offering reduced rates for young people and students. Sustainable preservation efforts are actively underway, including the restoration of collections and enhanced communication of conservation initiatives. Future plans include digitizing the collection to minimise physical exposure. Additional sustainability initiatives focus on promoting bicycle mobility, recycling exhibition materials, and donating surplus food. A key challenge for the Mundaneum remains the ongoing investment required for conservation efforts, as well as the maintenance of essential systems such as air control, humidity regulation, and heating, which are vital to preserving the site's collections.

Progress and Reflection to previous recommendations

Recommendations – 2020 Monitoring Report

The 2020 Monitoring report suggested a better definition of the priorities of the site in terms of its EHL project and identity. *The Mundaneum actively responded to the recommendations, through internal discussions regarding priorities and identity. Improved teamwork and a new narrative emphasise the unity of the museum and the archives centre.*

Recommendations for the site

OVERALL QUALITY

The Mundaneum is a landmark in the intellectual and cultural landscape of Europe, symbolizing the evolution of values important to Europe. It has undergone important internal growth and created a new narrative to unite its different identities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The panel recommends the following actions:

- Accelerating the renewal of its website is necessary for the Mundaneum to better communicate its events, activities, and updated narrative.
- Focusing on strengthening the international dimension should be prioritised in the upcoming period, with active networking with other EHL Sites in Belgium and across Europe strongly encouraged to support these efforts.

Conclusion

The EHL Site *Mundaneum* continues to meet the criteria for the designation of the European Heritage Label.

PALACE OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION OF THE DANUBE

GALATI, ROMANIA

AWARDED THE EHL IN 2021 | MONITORED FOR THE 1ST TIME



©European Commission

The European Danube Commission Palace in Galati, Romania, was built to house the headquarters of the European Danube Commission (EDC), established after the Paris Peace Congress in 1856 to regulate navigation on the river system. The site served as the headquarters of an important international organization that contributed to European integration and peaceful development, exemplifying collaboration for a prosperous Europe.

Implementation of the site's project

Since receiving the EHL label in 2021, the site has launched a range of initiatives to further enhance its European dimension. These initiatives include participation in both national and international conferences and offering young people opportunities to engage with European history through re-enactments of the Danube Commission sessions. During the European Heritage Days in 2022, the site hosted guided tours, book exhibitions, and artistic performances. In 2023, for the International Day for Monuments and Historic Sites, the site organised a major exhibition at a shopping center in Galati, attracting thousands of visitors. Additionally, the site has been actively involved in several EHL-related events, such as networking days and inter-site activities. The EHL logo is prominently displayed both on-site and on the website. An interactive 3D virtual tour of the Palais has been developed, and a digital conference is planned for the near future. Despite challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine, and budget reductions, the site continues to work towards its goals, having had to postpone some activities as a result.

Organisational Capacity

The building houses the V.A. Urechia Public Library, which employs 79 staff

members, though not all are dedicated to the EHL site. Owned by the Galati territorial unit, the building is a historical monument, with a newly added storage area for Danube Commission documents. Access is free, and the site is equipped with facilities for disabled visitors, including tactile equipment for the visually impaired. Plans are underway to develop a website section tailored for visually impaired users. A partnership with local educational institutions has been established, and both online and offline events for young people have been organised. Visitors can enjoy activities such as escape rooms and treasure hunts. Preservation work on the historic monument follows strict regulations. After receiving the European Heritage Label, the institution secured European funding under the Recovery and Resilience Facility, enabling building preservation, energy efficiency improvements, and the installation of environmentally friendly equipment. Guided tours are available in English and French, and communication is effectively managed through press releases, leaflets, and social media.

Recommendations for the site

OVERALL QUALITY

Despite a difficult context, notably the nearby war in Ukraine, this site, which recently received the EHL label, has made significant efforts to promote the idea of international cooperation and peace. The original initiative offering young people the chance to immerse themselves in history by re-enacting the sessions of the Danube Commission might inspire initiatives at other EHL Sites.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The panel recommends the following actions:

- Improving multilingualism on the website and other communication channels, as well as expanding activities with other EHL Sites, is recommended.
- Initiating regional cooperation in areas such as South Eastern Europe and the Danube region holds significant potential and should be further developed in the future.

Conclusion

The EHL Site *Palace of the European Commission of the Danube* continues to meet the criteria for the designation of the European Heritage Label.

PEACE PALACE

THE HAGUE, THE NETHERLANDS

AWARDED THE EHL IN 2013 | MONITORED FOR THE 3RD TIME



© Carnegie Stichting

Opened in 1913, the Peace Palace in The Hague symbolises Europe's commitment to peace. It hosted the 1899 First World Peace Conference and became a hub for dispute resolution and arms regulation. Today, it houses institutions like the International Court of Justice and the Permanent Court of Arbitration, representing ideals of peace and international law.

Implementation of the site's project

In 2020, the Peace Palace was illuminated blue for the UNRIC's Turn Europe UN Blue initiative. Educational programs focus on international relations, peace, justice, and cooperation. Partnering with Cultuurmenu in 2020-2021, the Peace Palace engaged schools in The Hague to promote European values. It also hosted a Eurovision performance by Ilse de Lange and Michael Schulte, singing Ein Bisschen Frieden. Information is available in Dutch, English, and French, with a 10-language audio tour enhancing visitors' experience. The site participated in the 2022 EHL Conference and continues to engage with the national EHL network. During the COVID-19 pandemic, a virtual tour was launched, and a 360-degree tour has been available on the website since July 2021.

Organisational Capacity

The site is managed by the Carnegie Foundation, which operates with three teams and a total of thirty-five full-time equivalents (FTE). A dedicated team of volunteers also supports the Visitor Centre. Recent care and maintenance efforts for the Peace Palace included the renovation of the carpet, restoration of the Danish Fountain, and modernisation of the heating and insulation systems. The site has focused on enhancing the digital accessibility of the Peace Palace's values by enriching its publicly accessible website. This includes the digitisation of historical photo books and providing information about the artwork displayed in the palace. Additionally,

the site replaced traditional audio devices, offering visitors the option to listen to commentary via their own phones, a feature particularly appealing to younger audiences. While the European context of the Peace Palace is deeply integrated into the core of its story, it is not always explicitly highlighted. However, the European dimension is frequently referenced in media coverage. On social media platforms such as Instagram and Facebook, the site has dedicated posts highlighting the EHL designation and emphasizing the European context of the site.

Progress and Reflection to previous recommendations

Recommendations – Monitoring Report 2016:

The Peace Palace in The Hague is working to find the right balance between being a workplace for international institutions and providing access to the public and being an active site of the European Heritage Label. The Panel looks forward to seeing how the site meets this challenge and how it fully exploits its potential.

Recommendations – Monitoring Report 2020:

While maintaining this beneficial development path, it is recommended that the Site apply for the Blue Shield and create a network and new projects with other EHL Sites. *The 2024 Monitoring Report as well as its website, FB and Instagram show that the Site is actively fulfilling the previous recommendations of the Panel. It applied for the "Blue Shield" unsuccessfully. There are no new Blue Shields to be awarded.*

Recommendations for the site

OVERALL QUALITY

The Peace Palace actively and effectively embodies the EHL message, both at the site and through its website and social media channels. It employs engaging methods of communicating European heritage values that resonate with all audiences, both on-site and online, with a particular focus on appealing to younger generations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The panel recommends the following actions:

- Preparing special programs for groups with visual and hearing impairments would align with the sub-criteria established for organizational capacity.
- Recommending the dissemination of information about the Peace Palace in additional languages, particularly from Eastern European Union countries, would broaden its reach.
- Participating in other European activities, such as European Heritage Days and European Cultural Routes, is recommended for enhancing synergy in related cultural heritage initiatives.

Conclusion

The EHL Peace Palace site continues to meet the criteria for the award of the European Heritage Label.

JAVORCA, MEMORIAL CHURCH AND ITS CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

TOLMIN, SLOVENIA

AWARDED THE EHL IN 2017 | MONITORED FOR THE 2ND TIME



©European Commission

The Javorca Memorial Church, an Art Nouveau gem built in the mountains by WWI Isonzo Front soldiers, honours fallen soldiers of all origins and cultures. Today, it remains a symbol of reconciliation and the unifying power of collaborative artistic creation.

Implementation of the site's project

The Javorca Memorial Church, a Place of European Remembrance, showcases its significance through information boards, guided tours, exhibitions in collaboration with two other Slovenian EHL Sites, multilingual publications, and a book of poems. Educational programs and workshops are hosted at both Javorca and the nearby Tolmin Museum, which is integral to the region's cultural landscape. The site's visibility has been enhanced through a BBC World program. Most materials are available in Slovenian and English, with additional publications and tours in German, Italian, and Croatian for visitors from neighboring countries. Javorca is connected to other Slovenian EHL Sites, such as the Franja Partisan Hospital and Zdravljica, and is exploring partnerships with sites like the WW1 Eastern Front Cemetery No. 123 in Poland. A Krapina Neanderthals exhibition is planned for Tolmin in autumn 2024. The site is also active in EHL@Network initiatives, including the EHL webpage, social media, a photo competition, and a comic book project. A major challenge is the limited language proficiency among local tour guides, which affects the ability to offer tours in additional languages.

Organisational Capacity

The site is managed by three key stakeholders: the Tolmin Municipality, Tolmin Museum, and the Institute for Tourism in Soča Valley, overseeing maintenance, promotion, and educational activities. Efforts to create a new management plan with sustainable solutions were interrupted. The 3 FTE staff collaborate with experts to enhance their expertise. Preservation focuses on monitoring the church's wooden parts and addressing water leakage risks. Accessibility challenges

remain, but transportation options and a virtual tour of the Tolmin Museum, along with two online exhibitions and a digital model of the church, are available for those unable to visit. The Tolmin Municipality organises lectures on current tensions and conflicts, and Javorca hosts extracurricular activities, Erasmus+ programs, and regional kindergarten groups. Communication channels include information boards, printed publications, videos, a YouTube promotional video, websites, and social media. In 2023, the site received media attention from outlets such as Croatian TV and the BBC. As part of Triglav National Park, Javorca is included in the Soča Valley Tourism Strategy 2020–2025 and shares activities with the European Cultural Routes Initiative and UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

Progress and Reflection to previous recommendations

Recommendations – 2020 Monitoring Report

The Panel recommends the site consistently promote its European significance, focusing on regularly updating its website and enhancing multilingualism. Strengthened networking and collaboration with other EHL award recipients, including Franja Partisan Hospital (Slovenia), Łuźna Pustki (Poland), Sites of Peace of Westphalia (Germany), Peace Palace, and Camp Westerbork (Netherlands), as outlined in the application, would be beneficial. *The Site duly accepted the recommendations of the Panel and extended its network both within and outside the EHL Action.*

Recommendations for the site

OVERALL QUALITY

The Javorca site has consistently raised awareness of its European significance through its activities and various communication channels as well as initiatives by the Tolmin Museum and Municipality. However, its own activities could be more clearly identified. There is also a willingness to implement a new management plan to address the Site's vulnerabilities and foster cooperation with other EHL Sites,

RECOMMENDATIONS

The panel recommends the following actions:

- Supplementing staff training, particularly through direct participation in EHL Bureau activities, should be prioritised.
- Updating and further developing the website, including reciprocal links to the Tolmin Museum, is recommended.
- Expanding multilingual outreach and diversifying dissemination materials should be considered.
- Designing and implementing a practical management plan that addresses the site's vulnerabilities while coordinating all stakeholders is essential

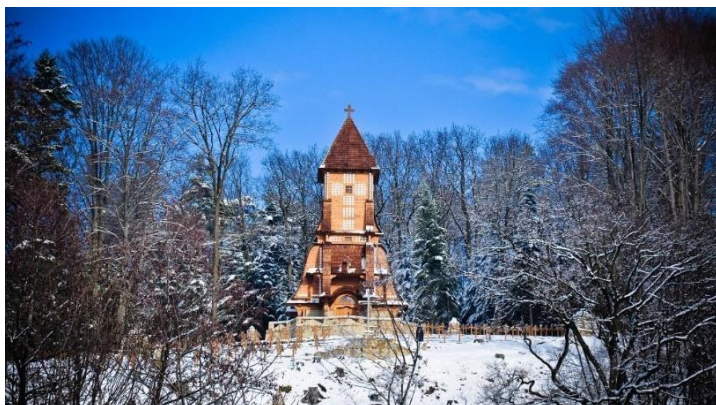
Conclusion

The EHL Site *Javorca, Memorial Church and its cultural landscape* continues to meet the criteria for the designation of the European Heritage Label.

WORLD WAR I EASTERN FRONT CEMETARY NO. 123

ŁUŻNA – PUSTKI, POLAND

AWARDED THE EHL IN 2015 | MONITORED FOR THE 2ND TIME.



©European Commission

Wartime Cemetery No. 123, established in 1918 on Pustki Hill, honours soldiers from the Battle of Gorlice, a key World War I battle. It is the final resting place for soldiers from Austro-Hungarian, German, and Russian armies of various nationalities and religions. The cemetery symbolises ecumenism, treating all fallen soldiers equally.

Implementation of the site's project

The Panel commends the site's collaboration with international institutions in organizing exhibitions, promoting the EHL through both print and digital materials, and hosting World War I-related lectures and events. The site has also made significant improvements in the quality of its personnel. Łużna Pustki Hill is an annual venue for historical events and seminars, attracting both Polish and international guests. It offers educational activities for all age groups, with a focus on youth, including a special program on World War I for children aged 7-14. The site communicates European values in four languages through online and printed materials. It actively participated in the 10th anniversary meeting of the European Heritage Label and EHL@NETWORK in Olomouc in 2020 and collaborates with other EHL Sites, such as Lublin, Olomouc, and the Constitution of 3 May 1791 in Poland. The site also engages in key networking events like European Heritage Days. The Panel appreciates the Military Cemetery No. 123 Łużna Pustki website's 24-hour online camera access, allowing visitors to observe the site remotely.

Organisational Capacity

The site is managed by the Łużna Commune with regular support from volunteers, scouts, and local school students. Thanks to funding from Małopolska Voivodeship, renovations were made to the fence, crosses, and the Gontyna Chapel. Access to the site is free, and in 2023, efforts were made to improve transport infrastructure around the cemetery. The site organises history lessons for school pupils and offers an online guide about the cemetery. It also hosts annual heritage competitions for

primary school students and International Youth Meetings in Łuzna Municipality. Promoting the military cemetery as a sustainable tourism destination, the site is involved in regional and local projects. Both the Łuzna local government and the Malopolskie Voivodeship are committed to reducing environmental impact and preserving cultural heritage. The site operates sustainably by implementing practices such as waste separation, avoiding pesticides, and using energy-efficient lighting. The site actively shares its activities on Facebook, Instagram, and its website, which is available in Polish, English, German, and Russian.

Progress and Reflection to previous recommendations

Recommendations – 2020 Monitoring Report

The Panel highlighted that the site should continue sustaining the trend of commemorative intercultural venue by enhancing cooperation with relevant EHL Sites, based on their legacy from the WWI. *The Panel verified from the Monitoring report as well as from the Site's website, Facebook and Instagram pages that the Site is actively fulfilling the Panel's previous recommendations.*

Recommendations for the site

OVERALL QUALITY

The World War I Eastern Front Cemetery No 123 is a place of remembrance embodying the idea of ecumenism, with its identical treatment of the fallen, regardless of their military, ethnic or religious affiliation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Then panel recommends the following actions:

- Sustaining the trend of the commemorative intercultural venue by enhancing cooperation with relevant EHL Sites is recommended.
- Improving multilingual communication is also recommended.

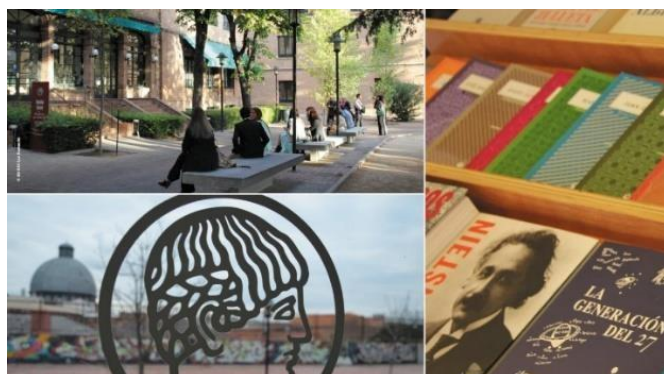
Conclusion

The EHL Site *World War I Eastern Front Cemetery No. 123* continues to meet the criteria for the designation of the European Heritage Label.

RESIDENCIA DE ESTUDIANTES

MADRID (SPAIN)

AWARDED THE EHL IN 2014 | MONITORED FOR THE 3RD TIME



©European Commission

The Residencia de Estudiantes, built between 1913–1915, is a campus of four architecturally significant buildings that played a key role in Spain's early 20th-century modernization. It became a hub for intellectual and scientific exchange, where prominent figures in arts, philosophy, and science gathered for dialogue. Today, it continues to promote free-thinking, cooperation, and cross-disciplinary exchange, remaining a renowned centre for cultural and generational understanding across Europe.

Implementation of the site's project

During the monitoring period, the Residencia organised nearly fifty activities centered on European themes, including scientific events that highlighted its European significance and connection to the EHL network. The site's signage has been improved, and staff training programs have been enhanced to raise awareness about its European importance among employees and collaborators. The Residencia has established strong partnerships with institutions such as the University of Exeter and Newcastle University, as well as the MA programme in Intellectual Property at the Autonomous University of Madrid. It continues to maintain student internship agreements with both Spanish and international universities. Cultural activities included a photography contest and the "Poetry in the Garden" program, which featured young poets from Spain and Ibero-American countries. Brochures about the Residencia de Estudiantes have been translated into several European languages, and the site has initiated and participated in joint projects that promote collaboration among EHL Sites.

Organisational Capacity

The management structure of the Residencia de Estudiantes has remained unchanged since the last report. Measures have been implemented to conserve the buildings, gardens, and other cultural elements, as well as improving accessibility for visitors with impairments. The Residencia offers a 12-month residency program for researchers and authors under 30. From 2020 to 2023, it hosted events for the International Day of Women and Girls in Science, promoting

gender equality in science at Madrid schools. The site has also improved environmental management by reducing resource consumption, minimizing waste, and enhancing energy efficiency (e.g., recycling kitchen oil). The Residencia has become a key stop on city tours, with events like Madrid Architecture Week and the International Open House Festival attracting many visitors. A regular newsletter is sent to 15,000 users. The COVID-19 pandemic led to increased digital communication, and despite limited resources, a small team successfully managed various events. The Residencia would appreciate coordinated support within the EHL Action.

Progress and Reflection to previous recommendations

Recommendations – 2016 Monitoring Report

It was recommended that the site improve access for online visitors, greater engagement with young people, and its potential role within the network of EHL Sites.

Recommendations – 2020 Monitoring Report

The panel appreciated the progress, especially the collaboration with universities and the focus on women rights and gender equality. *Since the first two monitoring, much work has taken place in terms of training their staff and engaging with young people.*

Recommendations for the site

OVERALL QUALITY

The overall quality of the Site's mission deserves acknowledgments. The Panel highlights the thematically diverse activities of the site and the commitment of the staff in line with the idea and mission of EHL. Artistic activities are integrated into the Site's life in an exemplary way.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The panel recommends the following actions:

- Acknowledging the overall quality of the site's mission, the Panel highlights the thematically diverse activities and the staff's commitment in line with the EHL idea and mission.
- Utilising the newly introduced grant mechanisms can strengthen the internationalisation of these activities within the EHL Sites network.
- Enriching and clarifying the website and introducing more languages in the site's dissemination and communication, as recommended in the 2016 Report, is urged by the Panel.

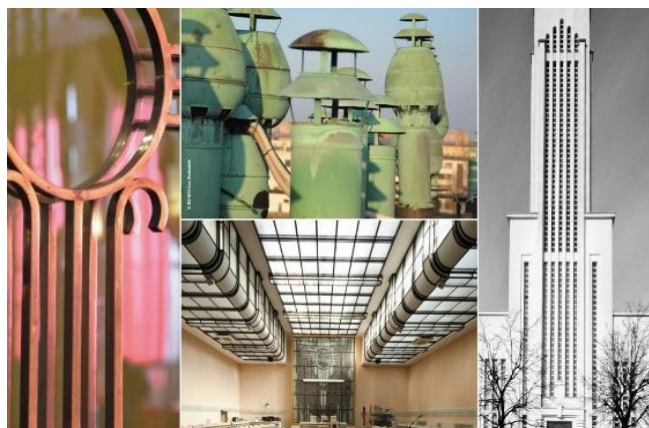
Conclusion

The EHL Site *Residencia de Estudiantes* continues to meet the criteria for the designation of the European Heritage Label.

KAUNAS OF 1919-1940

KAUNAS, LITHUANIA

AWARDED THE EHL IN 2014 | MONITORED FOR THE 3RD TIME



©European Commission

During the interwar period, the city of Kaunas was the temporary capital of Lithuania and developed into a modern, vibrant and dynamic cultural centre of the country. Many Lithuanians, who studied in other European countries, brought back knowledge and ideas to Kaunas, where a fruitful mix of modern tendencies and old traditions prompted the country's prosperous development in the city's architecture of the period.

Implementation of the site's project

Over 500 activities and events were held in Kaunas and its district, a decrease compared to the 2016-2019 period due to the COVID pandemic. Kaunas addressed the Panel's 2020 recommendation by linking the EHL to the European Capital of Culture (ECoC). In 2022, the Lithuanian Government acquired the Kaunas Central Post Office building and established the National Institute of Architecture as a legacy of Kaunas – ECoC 2022. The city hosted international conferences, summer schools, seminars, and forums, offering diverse cultural experiences. In 2020, the "Modernist's Guide" was published in English, Lithuanian, and Japanese, followed by the "Modern Kaunas" guide in 2023, available in several languages. Since 2020, the Interwar Architecture app has promoted Lithuanian interwar architecture, and Braille information boards have been installed at key EHL Sites. In 2023, an exhibition on EHL Sites in Europe was part of the Days of Francophonie. However, the site has not participated in other EHL activities, except for the Awards Ceremony in 2022.

Organisational Capacity

The site is managed by the Cultural Heritage Division of Kaunas, which has integrated its preservation into municipal plans, including the Comprehensive and Strategic Action Plans. Although there is no specific position for managing the EHL

Site, progress has been made. Over the past four years, Kaunas Municipality renovated over twenty EHL-designated buildings through its Kaunas Heritage Restoration Programme. The Tourism Information Centre created a virtual route map in Lithuanian and English, along with an iPhone app that highlights modernist architecture and introduces the EHL. Accessibility improvements include Braille information boards and ramps for people with reduced mobility. In 2022, the European Capital of Culture Year featured numerous events, particularly for children and youth, accompanied by a vibrant cultural program, further promoting the site's European significance.

Progress and Reflection to previous recommendations

2016 Recommendations

In 2016, it was recommended that the site develop communication activities about the European dimension on its site in more languages, in particular for on-line visitors, young people and wider public in Lithuania.

2020 Recommendations

In 2020, the panel reiterates its recommendations from the 2016 and suggests that the site should develop a more in-depth networking and concrete collaborations with other European Heritage Label Sites with a view to further enhancing awareness of the site at European level. *The Panel reiterates that not enough has been done for the integration of the Site into the EHL network and strongly suggests that new opportunities offered by the EHL Bureau should be exploited.*

Recommendations for the site

OVERALL QUALITY

The synergies fostered during Kaunas' tenure as the European Capital of Culture brought significant benefits to the Site and provided an excellent opportunity to raise awareness of the values it represents on a broader scale. The wide range of cultural and artistic activities played a key role in promoting the site's European significance. The Panel encourages the site to continue these efforts with the same enthusiasm and dedication moving forward.

RECOMMENDATION

The panel recommends the following actions:

- Developing a more structured and distinct communication strategy is required to enhance the site's visibility.
- Expanding international collaborations is proposed to increase global awareness of the site.
- Leveraging the EHL network and its activities is recommended, as they offer valuable resources for more effective promotion.

Conclusion

The EHL Site *Kaunas of 1919-1940* continues to meet the criteria for the designation of the European Heritage Label.

WERKBUND ESTATES IN EUROPE 1927- 1932

GERMANY, AUSTRIA, CZECHIA, POLAND

AWARDED THE EHL IN 2019 | MONITORED FOR THE 1ST TIME



©European Commission

The Werkbund Estates in Europe 1927-1932 is a transnational site, comprising four countries (Germany, Poland, Czech Republic, Austria) and 5 towns (Stuttgart, Wroclaw, Brno and Prague, Vienna). After World War I, there was an urgent problem across Europe of a widespread lack of suitable housing. In response, under the banner New Objectivity, avantgarde architects from different parts of Europe wished to find affordable solutions that combined social need with well-designed, high-quality buildings. The Estates are a manifestation of the European origins of this movement with substantial developments in different European countries.

Implementation of the site's project

The EHL award was celebrated in Stuttgart in 2022 with a central event and a two-month exhibition. European significance was highlighted through collaborations with national architecture institutes, universities, and schools. Prague and Vienna launched new websites, while Brno and Prague established information points on their estates. Stuttgart plans to open a new visitor centre in 2027 with digital guidance, emphasizing its European significance. Museum staff and guides are regularly updated, with new guides receiving training. Workshops are organised for universities and schools, with a focus on dwelling concepts for secondary schools in Stuttgart. Brno, Prague, and Vienna introduced mobile apps for individual visitors. Educational activities are still in the early stages due to the pandemic, and no joint activities have taken place between sub-sites in the past four years. A key challenge is communicating its European significance to estate owners in the Czech sub-sites. The joint website of the Werkbund Estate Network is available in English, German, Polish, and Czech, with plans for additional EU languages in Stuttgart's new visitor centre. To enhance international visibility, sub-sites collaborate with organisations like UNESCO and the Foundation Le Corbusier. Vienna has developed promotional materials and looks forward to further collaboration with the EHL Bureau. The use of digital media has increased, expanding outreach during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Organisational Capacity

The sublocations have different ownership structures, with local monument protection authorities managing the estates and overseeing the developments outlined in the application. The network holds annual meetings to monitor and improve progress. Clear implementation of management plans would help clarify progress. Additional employees from city administrations, museums, and other institutions have supported site management. Special programmes, such as guide training, have been developed. All subSites are protected under state monument laws as cultural monuments. In Stuttgart, the Museum Weissenhof in the Le Corbusier House coordinates visitor information. The estate will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2027, with plans for a new visitor centre and digital guidance system. In Wroclaw, Brno, Prague and Vienna, new info points and mobile apps provide visitor information. All Sites are accessible to less mobile visitors, except for the Weissenhof Museum in Stuttgart, in which barrier-free solutions could not have been implemented due to monument protection regulations. However, the new visitor centre will address this issue. All Sites collaborate with young people through high schools, universities and the European Voluntary Year of Culture, offering workshops on the European impact of the Werkbund housing estates. Given that these Sites are inhabited, they are mainly visited by people interested in the subject, often through educational activities. The 100th anniversary of the Weissenhofsiedlung and International Building Exhibition in 2027 will lead to an increase in the number of visitors that will be managed by the new visitor centre. In Stuttgart, a working group is developing a digital communication format for use from 2027, with similar formats already in place at other Sites.

Recommendations for the site

OVERALL QUALITY

This particular architectural movement with its social implications is well represented by the EHL site including various subSites. The subSites are duly working on the implementation of the activities mentioned in the jointly created work plan.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The panel recommends the following actions

- Accelerating educational activities and creating a more structured communication strategy could strengthen the site's local and international impact.
- Enhancing the website to better showcase joint or coordinated EHL activities and improving integration across sub-site platforms would highlight shared heritage values and exchanges.
- Increasing the visibility of past, ongoing, and future joint activities—such as community, scientific, and academic events—on the general EHL website is essential. Strengthening coordination and management across sub-sites is strongly recommended.

Conclusion

The EHL Site *Werkbund Estates in Europe 1927 – 1932* continues to meet the criteria for the designation of the European Heritage Label.

CAMP WESTERBORK

HOOGHALEN, THE NETHERLANDS

AWARDED THE EHL IN 2013 | MONITORED FOR THE 3RD TIME



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Former Camp Westerbork bears witness to Europe's interwar and post-World War II history, marked by economic depression, a refugee crisis in the 1920s and 1930s, Nazi occupation, and the persecution of Jews, Sinti, and Roma. It also reflects the post-war rebuilding of society, the fight against antisemitism, and the site's evolution into a lieu de mémoire, commemorating the Holocaust and addressing themes of decolonization and the emergence of a multicultural society.

Implementation of the site's project

The site and its landscape, though with few physical traces, hold a deeply documented history, addressing Holocaust distortion, denial, and the legacies of decolonization. Committed to a Culture of Peace and Reconciliation, it fosters European memory through memorial ceremonies, educational programs reaching 35,000 people annually, teacher training, and international exchanges. Enhancing accessibility, the site offers multilingual resources, sign language support, and a digitised collection emphasizing European values of remembrance and human rights. In collaboration with other memorials and universities, it is part of the Liberation Route Europe and the MEMORISE project. The 1944 Westerbork film, included in the UNESCO Memory of the World Register, ensures this history remains safeguarded for future generations.

Organisational Capacity

Since 2022, the Remembrance Centre has focused on redeveloping the camp grounds and renovating the museum as part of a long-term strategy for preservation, communication, and fundraising. The site employs 25 FTE, including logistics and catering staff. Historical features, such as railway tracks, are highlighted, and staff language training has expanded, emphasizing multilingual

volunteers. The site integrates five websites and engages diverse stakeholders within a European heritage framework. Visitors are encouraged to use cycling and walking routes, while eco-friendly management practices, including sustainable landscaping and adjusted lighting, support environmental responsibility.

Progress and Reflection to previous recommendations

Recommendations – 2016 Monitoring Report

As the Site had planned to extend its museum and remodel the site itself, the Panel recommended that it would make every effort to preserve the spirit of the place and to balance attendance and preservation of this fragile place.

Recommendations – 2020 Monitoring Report

The Site was in contact with other camps and received a delegation from the former Natzweiler Camp EHL Site (France, Germany), but there was no evidence about further collaboration. The site could focus on collaboration between former Natzweiler Camps for mutual exchange. It should be ensured that the development of the new museum respect the spirit of the place. *The particular attention dedicated to the spirit of place emphasised in previous recommendations continues to be necessary during the renovation of the Remembrance Centre and the campgrounds.*

Recommendations for the site

OVERALL QUALITY

The Site continues to expand its activities and online offerings. However, measuring progress remains a challenge, even within the Communication and Fundraising Plan, now a key focus of the Remembrance Centre. While multilingualism is not a primary priority, efforts to enhance collaboration with other **European Heritage Label (EHL) Sites** present opportunities for stronger partnerships and shared initiatives.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The panel recommends the following actions:

- Establishing genuine collaboration with the former Natzweiler camps and other **European Heritage Label (EHL) Sites** sharing similar values is essential.
- Providing clearer and more detailed information on the planned **renovated Remembrance Centre** is necessary.
- Ensuring regular updates to the website will enhance accessibility and engagement.

Conclusion

The EHL Site *Camp Westerbork* continues to meet the criteria for the designation of the European Heritage Label

FORMER NATZWEILER CONCENTRATION CAMP AND ITS

SATELLITE WORK CAMPS

ALSACE-MOSELLE, HAUT RHIN. FRANCE, BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG, HESSEN, RHINELAND-PALATINATE, GERMANY
AWARDED THE EHL IN 2017 | MONITORED FOR THE 2ND TIME



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The former Natzweiler concentration camp and its satellite labour camps, active from 1941 to 1945, held prisoners from across Europe, who were mainly resistance fighters. Today, it serves as a site of European collective memory, reflecting on Nazism and resistance. Memorials were created despite casual local opposition, emphasizing the fight for civil rights and remembrance.

Implementation of the site's project

The project aimed to serve both educational and research purposes, enhancing the Site's infrastructure to better engage visitors. Plans included new visitor centers at former camps and the creation of a cross-border commemorative route. Additionally, a trilingual web portal was envisioned, featuring a deportee database, an interactive camp map, and a comprehensive bibliographic and filmographic section. Today, the Site offers a wide range of educational programs, tours, and workshops for children, students, and families. Teachers can access downloadable materials to prepare school visits. Since receiving the European Heritage Label (EHL), major conservation efforts have been undertaken, and visitor numbers have significantly increased. Audio guides are now available in six languages, and digital outreach has expanded with Instagram and dynamic content, including videos, supplementing its X and Facebook presence.

Organisational Capacity

The implementation of some subprojects was delayed in the last monitoring period, which can be attributed to both the pandemic and staff changes in the administration of the Site. Nevertheless, the situation was stabilised in 2024 and the management of the site is gaining momentum. In addition to the soft activities, conservation work continues on some of the historic buildings, while facilities are being upgraded, e.g., electric vehicle charging stations are being built.

Progress and Reflection to previous recommendations

Recommendations – 2020 Monitoring Report

The Panel acknowledged the number and variety of cultural, educational and commemorative activities taking place in the localities. As a result, the Report encouraged the site to fulfil its intention of developing a web portal detailing the history of the camp network and a database of prisoners and to work more closely with other EHL Sites. *The Panel acknowledges the efforts that have been made to develop a multilingual website, which properly reflects the Site's history and its place within the EHL Action. However, there is still space for further improvement in this crucial area of communication.*

Recommendations for the site

OVERALL QUALITY

The site has undergone recent management changes, which, as noted in the current report, have the potential to drive positive future developments. However, it faces specific challenges due to its historical context and its hilly, rural location, which can make access difficult, particularly for visitors with limited mobility. The Panel welcomes ongoing efforts to improve accessibility and accommodate the needs of individuals with mobility impairments and other disabilities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The panel recommends the following actions:

- Completing a web portal with comprehensive historical data as a crucial step, while recommending future multilingual expansions to reflect the former camp's multi-ethnic population, potentially leveraging AI tools to ease personnel demands.
- Emphasizing the continued relevance of fostering cooperation within the **European Heritage Label (EHL) network**, particularly with Sites sharing similar values and messages.

Conclusion

The EHL Site *Former Natzweiler concentration camp and its satellite camps* continues to meet the criteria for the designation of the European Heritage Label.

VENTOTENE MANIFESTO VENTOTENE, ITALY AWARDED THE EHL IN 2021 | MONITORED FOR THE 1ST TIME



©European Commission

Ventotene, a small island, holds historical significance for European unity. In 1941, Altiero Spinelli and Ernesto Rossi wrote the Ventotene Manifesto, advocating for a federal Europe to ensure peace and democracy. Today, the island continues to promote democracy and European ideals through various initiatives.

Implementation of the site's project

The Ventotene Manifesto, advocating democracy, solidarity, and freedom, remains a cornerstone of European unity. Today, the Municipality of Ventotene continues to strengthen its role as a hub for European education, hosting seminars on European Federalism inspired by the Manifesto. The site actively engages students in historical projects, collaborating with schools and the Historical Archives of the European Union to develop educational programs. European Heritage Label (EHL) events include youth-centered initiatives, such as a memorial monument (2023) and Manifesto murals (2024). While a dedicated website is not yet available, plans for its development are underway.

However, the site has not participated in EHL networking activities since receiving the label, and limited municipal support is hindering the implementation and impact of its programs. The primary challenge in elevating its European profile is the Municipality's reduced capacity from November to April, compounded by communication difficulties. Additionally, adverse weather and sea conditions often disrupt event planning, though these limitations are not clearly defined

Organisational Capacity

The administration's strategy aims to empower the local community as the driving force behind initiatives on Ventotene and S. Stefano, transforming them from mere venues for European celebrations into active hubs for education on European history and values. Since 2022, a reorganization has integrated the town into the European Heritage Label (EHL) project, streamlining administrative processes, launching new building projects, and expanding public history activities from primary schools to universities. The long-term vision is to develop the islands into an open-air museum, showcasing Ventotene's pivotal role in shaping Europe. A key milestone in this effort was the 2023 inauguration of the Political Exile Memorial.

Currently, four of the island's ten public administration staff intermittently work on the EHL project. Several organizations, including the European Federalist Movement, the School of Europe, and ANPPIA, host impactful seminars for both locals and visitors. Additionally, the Municipality has introduced a training program to strengthen young citizens' awareness of the island's European identity.

However, the Municipality's limited financial resources remain the main obstacle to operational activities and management. Insufficient funding continues to affect both the quality and scope of planned initiatives.

Recommendations for the site

OVERALL QUALITY

The EHL site is still in its early stage of implementing its Project and has not yet launched significant new initiatives since receiving the label. Key challenges include communication issues and the need for greater municipal involvement in supporting and promoting activities. The primary obstacle is limited funding, which affects the quality and scope of planned initiatives.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Panel recommends the following actions:

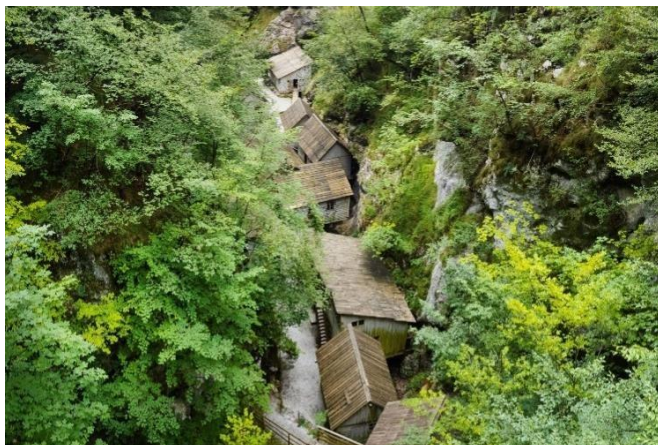
- Improving access to the Island of Ventotene for the European public, given its remote location, requires a minimum level of professionalisation, particularly in online presence. Modernising the website and making it multilingual is urgently needed.
- Updating and implementing the communication strategy is recommended to increase the Site's impact and relevance for a broader audience.
- Strengthening international collaborations could boost the site's visibility, with the EHL network and activities offering valuable ideas for the better promotion the Site.

Conclusion

The EHL Site of *Ventotene Manifesto* continues to meet the criteria for the designation of the European Heritage Label.

FRANJA PARTISAN HOSPITAL

CERKNO, SLOVENIA
AWARDED THE EHL IN 2014 | MONITORED FOR THE 3RD TIME



©European Commission

The Franja Hospital, a secret World War II facility operated by Slovenian partisans, was part of the resistance against Nazi occupation. It treated wounded soldiers from both Allied and Axis forces, with doctors from across Europe. Hidden with the help of local people, it is now a museum dedicated to promoting solidarity, democracy, and human rights.

Implementation of the site's project

The Franja Partisan Hospital, a clandestine medical facility from 1943 to 1945, stands as a testament to resilience, solidarity, and humanitarian values. Providing care regardless of nationality, its European significance is powerfully conveyed through its narrative and outreach. The traveling exhibition Franja Partisan Hospital – A Hidden Gem of Europe has been showcased at multiple institutions across Slovenia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. With extensive experience in educational programming, the site offers materials in multiple languages and actively participates in EHL initiatives, collaborating with other EHL Sites. In 2020, its commitment to European heritage was recognised through the European Heritage Days 2020 Stories Call. After severe storm damage in July 2023, the hospital remains closed, focusing on safeguarding its intangible heritage, raising awareness, and exploring recovery solutions.

Organisational Capacity

The site is managed by a **dedicated team** consisting of two caretakers, a curator, a director, and a museum assistant. Its **educational mission is strongly oriented towards young people**, who make up over **35% of its visitors**. Guided tours and tailored lessons are provided for different **age groups**, while the site also actively supports students engaged in **research projects and school assignments**, offering guidance and access to materials as needed.

Given its **sensitive location**, the site requires **continuous maintenance**, particularly for the **preservation of wooden structures and objects**. Before

the **severe destruction** it suffered, **major conservation efforts** had already been undertaken. However, **accessibility remains a challenge**, especially for visitors with **reduced mobility**, as the site's **hilly terrain** makes technical adaptations nearly impossible. To ensure inclusivity, the site offers **personalised tours and additional assistance** for individuals with **physical and cognitive disabilities**.

The **immediate surroundings** of the monument pose **significant risks** due to **hydrological and geological factors**, a vulnerability made evident by the **natural disasters of 2023**, which caused **widespread damage to buildings and access roads**. Beyond the core site, **extensive rehabilitation efforts** are necessary in the **gorge and on the slopes above the structures**. Given the complexity of the required interventions, **reconstruction will be a long-term process demanding careful planning and execution**.

Progress and Reflection to previous recommendations

Recommendations – 2016 Monitoring Report

In 2016, the Panel recommended more networking events and cooperation with other EHL Sites.

Recommendations – 2020 Monitoring Report

In 2020, the Panel appreciated the Site's performance since it was awarded the label in 2014. Because of the remote location of the Site, travelling exhibition and other innovative ways of dissemination were suggested. *The proposed development to achieve even greater dissemination in 2020 has largely been fulfilled. This also applies to the high level of multilingual information available compared to many other EHL Sites.*

Recommendations for the site

OVERALL QUALITY

The Franja Partisan Hospital has been an exemplary EHL site but now faces significant challenges due to severe climate-related damage. Adequate financial support from public authorities at various levels is urgently needed. Despite the devastation, the site continues to highlight its European significance through extensive outreach, including exhibitions, online initiatives, and traveling displays, demonstrating its resilience beyond its physical space.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The panel recommends the following actions:

- Strengthening EU-wide networking and cooperation to enhance collaboration and shared heritage initiatives.
- Advocating for and supporting efforts to secure essential funding for the site's restoration, ensuring its preservation for future generations.

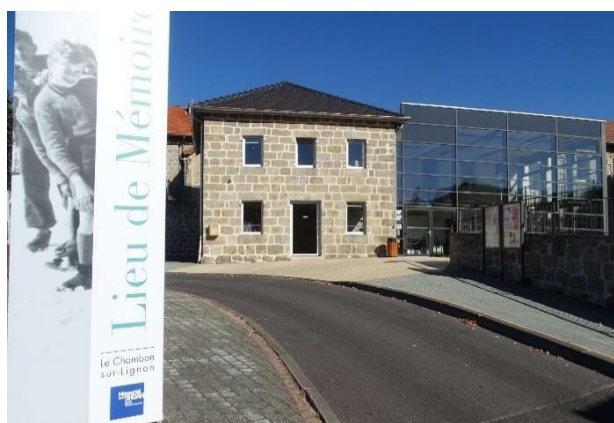
Conclusion

The EHL Site *Franja Partisan Hospital* continues to meet the criteria for the designation of the European Heritage Label.

Lieu de mémoire du Chambon-sur-Lignon

CAMBON-SUR-LIGNON, FRANCE

AWARDED THE EHL IN 2019 | MONITORED FOR THE 1ST TIME



©European Commission

Chambon-sur-Lignon honours the villagers' rescue of 3,000 refugees, including Jews, Spanish republicans, and resistance members, during World War II. The Site features a memorial, testimonies, exhibitions, and a Louis Benech-designed Garden. In 1990, Yad Vashem recognised their bravery.

Implementation of the site's project

The Place of Remembrance presents filmed testimonies of World War II rescues and hosts impactful exhibitions, including *The Righteous and the Rescue of Jews in Europe* (2020-2021). Committed to education, it engages schools and teachers through initiatives like a 2023 educational catalogue and student workshops. By highlighting the Plateau du Chambon-sur-Lignon's role in rescuing Jews, the site connects local history to core European values. Its cultural programme features high-profile exhibitions—Chagall (2022), Cabu (2023), and Varian Fry (2024)—leveraging new facilities to explore broader World War II themes. Since 2019, English texts, audio tours, and guided tours have enhanced accessibility for international visitors. However, as a small, remote site with limited staff, it faces challenges in expanding its activities and networking under the EHL label. Multilingualism remains an obstacle, linked in part to a perceived lack of international audiences.

Organisational Capacity

Since receiving the EHL label in September 2020, management of the Memorial transitioned from the Community to the Shoah Memorial, broadening its scope and reshaping priorities from the original 2019 project. The team now includes four permanent staff, with a new position added in 2023, alongside seasonal hires. A dedicated mediator role has strengthened the integration of the label and the site's European dimension. While accessibility for those with motor disabilities has been prioritised, further improvements are needed for other needs. The Memorial also contributes to a local strategy promoting green, sustainable tourism in this rural,

hilly region.

Recommendations for the site

OVERALL QUALITY

The site honors acts of resistance that saved lives during World War II, educating visitors—particularly young people—on their significance within European history and values through a local perspective. Exhibitions, tours, and workshops reinforce its European dimension while providing cultural engagement for the remote community.

Situated in a rural, hilly region with a well-preserved environment, the 19th-century building underwent eco-friendly renovations in 2019, incorporating insulation and a wood-fired heating system. The Jardin de la Mémoire, carefully maintained by a landscape gardener, enhances the site with a meaningful green space.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The panel recommends the following actions:

- Improving multilingual accessibility, as the Site's theme extends beyond local interest. Engaging schools or students in translation and social media through internships could be a practical solution.
- Strengthening connections with other EHL network members to enhance collaboration and visibility.
- Integrating the EHL dimension into temporary exhibitions by linking with similar Sites that highlight resistance and the fight for freedom.
- Placing the EHL award plaque on the building to make the European connection more visible to visitors and ensuring the EHL label is prominently featured on the website.

Conclusion

The EHL Site *Lieu de Memoire du Chambon sur Lignon* continues to meet the criteria for the designation of the European Heritage Label.

ALCIDE DE GASPERI'S HOUSE MUSEUM

PIEVE TESINO, ITALY

AWARDED THE EHL IN 2014 | MONITORED FOR THE 3RD TIME



©European Commission

Alcide de Gasperi (1881-1954), one of the "Fathers of Europe", was born in this house, now a museum dedicated to his role in post-World War II European integration. Serving as Italy's Foreign Affairs Minister and Prime Minister from 1945 to 1953, he supported Schuman's plans and led the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC). He also played a key role in the creation of the European Economic Community.

Implementation of the site's project

The Museum preserves the heritage of one of the founding fathers of the EU by making use of designated activities for children, young people and the general public to emphasise the importance of the European integration project. The educational activities are closely related to the didactic activities in schools which are adapted to include European themes in their curricula such as European citizenship. Using the funding from the project *Pieve Tesino borgo d'Europa*, financed by the EU from the *Resilience and Recovery Facility*, the Museum is developing multilingual signage for visitors at the village of Pieve Tesino, which naturally also includes the Museum. The site actively participated in many EHL networking activities, and it is considering the possibility of creating a European project with other EHL Sites. The Museum is part of the Network of Houses of the Founding Fathers of Europe and, since 2017 of the European Parliament Network of Political Houses and Founding Fathers of Great Europeans. Various projects have supported this formal membership over the past four years. The main obstacle identified is that the website requires updates to be translated into multiple languages that the website was originally made in. Due to a lack of capacity, a decision was made to translate only the main pages regularly.

Organisational Capacity

The Site has developed a strategic management plan for the coming years, outlining clear objectives and actions. While the Museum's governance structure remains small, it has become more structured, incorporating a broader range of

professionals. Its human resources plan has seen significant progress, with two permanent hires in 2020 and plans for two additional positions in 2024/25. A major achievement has been the collection and digitization of Alcide De Gasperi's documentation, particularly the Epistolary, which has been recognised as an Edition of National Importance by the Italian Ministry of Culture. This digitalisation project will be formally completed in 2024. Reception staff have received training to enhance visitor engagement with a particular focus on multilingual communication. However, frequent staff turnover remains a challenge due to the one-year personnel assignment policy of the Autonomous Province of Trento. The Museum maintains a strong educational focus, particularly in engaging young audiences. It contributed to Valsugana's recognition as the world's first eco-destination, certified by the Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC) in 2019. A key evolution in recent years has been the recognition of communication as an integral cultural activity, rather than merely a tool for promotion. The Museum building, recently constructed, meets the latest environmental sustainability standards. At the management level, challenges have arisen in coordinating the various stakeholders involved in the project. These difficulties stem from both the differing institutional identities of the partners and the limited organisational capacity of the coordinating body.

Progress and Reflection to previous recommendations

Recommendations – 2016 Monitoring Report

In 2016, the Panel recommended more networking cooperation with other EHL Sites.

Recommendations – 2020 Monitoring Report

In 2020, a similar suggestion was renewed. *The Site took in the Panel recommendations and actively participated in many EHL networking activities. It is considering creating a European project with other EHL Sites.*

Recommendations for the site

OVERALL QUALITY

The site continues to successfully implement the work plan as well as to develop and diversify cultural and educational activities with a strong focus on the young generations.

RECOMMENDATION

The panel recommends the following actions :

- Enhancing staff stability to strengthen the site's capacity for development.
- Improving coordination among stakeholders to increase the site's relevance and impact.

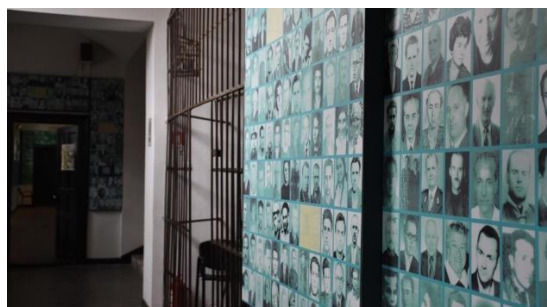
Conclusion

The EHL Site *Alcide de Gasperi's House Museum* continues to meet the criteria for the designation of the European Heritage Label.

SIGHET MEMORIAL

SIGHET, ROMANIA

AWARDED THE EHL IN 2017 | MONITORED FOR THE 2ND TIME.



©European Commission

The Sighet Memorial, located in a former Stalinist prison, honours the victims of communist regimes. Used to imprison resistance members, political opponents, and others, the prison operated from 1948 to the 1970s. The memorial showcases the repression under communist regimes in Romania and Eastern Europe, highlighting the suffering and deaths both inside and outside the prison.

Implementation of the site's project

The Sighet Memorial plays a key role in raising awareness of crimes committed by totalitarian regimes, promoting European democratic values like freedom, justice, and human dignity. Through scientific conferences and seminars, it fosters a shared European heritage based on remembrance. As part of the European Remembrance Programme, the Memorial invites reflection on Europe's cultural diversity and common values. Its educational initiatives—workshops, survivor dialogues, history lessons, seasonal schools, and competitions—engage young people in exploring the roots of totalitarianism while honoring its victims. Over the past four years, it has hosted over 100 events, engaging more than 3,000 participants. Committed to accessibility, the Memorial offers tours in Romanian, French, English, and Hungarian, with exhibit summaries in eight languages. During the COVID-19 pandemic, it adapted by virtually engaging students across Romania and Europe. The Memorial has contributed to EHL@NETWORK initiatives, including producing a comic book and promotional materials, and is a member of the European Platform of Memory and Conscience. A cultural hub for the local community, it attracts increasing numbers of students and hosts theatre performances, installations, and classical music concerts. However, limited funding remains a challenge, worsened by rising energy costs and operational expenses.

Organisational Capacity

Managed by the Civic Academy Foundation and supported by the Romanian state, the Sighet Memorial is a site of national significance. Staff training on the EHL project and label took place in June 2022, with one full-time staff member dedicated to EHL-related activities. Housed in a historic building dating back to 1897, the Memorial undergoes annual conservation work, including roof repairs in

2021, in accordance with regulations for historic monuments. Wheelchair access is available on the first floor, with efforts underway to improve accessibility for upper-floor exhibitions. As Sighet's main tourist attraction, the Memorial plays a key role in the local economy. The adjacent Pauper's Cemetery has been transformed into a Memorial Park, offering a space for reflection and remembrance. Young visitors are actively engaged through reduced entry fees and dialogues with survivors of totalitarian regimes. Partnerships with art schools serve as a model for effective outreach. Challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine, and rising conservation costs continue to impact the site's operations.

Progress and Reflection to previous recommendations

Recommendations – 2020 Monitoring Report

The 2020 report highlights the good practices of the Sighet Memorial in teaching young people history and remembrance through dialogue. *The current report can embrace the evaluation of the previous one by emphasising the Memorial as an impressive example to be followed in terms of representing remembrance and memorial practices about Europe's dark heritage for young people.*

Recommendations for the site

OVERALL QUALITY

The Sighet Memorial stands as a powerful example of a site of remembrance, effectively conveying the significance of European values such as freedom, democracy, and resistance against totalitarianism through its museum exhibitions and diverse activities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The panel recommends the following actions:

- Complying successfully with all criteria of the EHL label, the site effectively communicates its European significance.
- Displaying the EHL logo more prominently on the website is a minor recommendation.

Conclusion

The EHL Site *Sighet Memorial* continues to meet the criteria for the designation of the European Heritage Label.

EUROPEAN DISTRICT OF STRASBOURG STRASBOURG, FRANCE AWARDED THE EHL IN 2015 | MONITORED FOR THE 2ND TIME



©European Commission

Since its creation after the Second World War, the European District of Strasbourg is the home to the Council of Europe, its European Court of Human Rights and the European Parliament of the European Union. It bears witness to European integration, the defense of human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

Implementation of the site's project

Since the last monitoring in 2020, the site has successfully hosted numerous events that have raised awareness of its European significance. Several educational activities, with a strong focus on engaging young and very young audiences, were thoughtfully designed and implemented. Efforts have been made to ensure multilingualism, though it is worth noting that the monitoring survey was only available in French, and the Lieu Europe website is currently in French. While networking activities have been more limited, there is potential for growth in this area. Two areas for potential improvement were identified. First, the site is currently managed by a small team at Le Lieu d'Europe, an institution of the City of Strasbourg, and there is an opportunity to expand the team to enhance operations. Second, there is a need for additional financial support to facilitate the translation of communication and dissemination materials, which would help increase accessibility and reach.

Organisational Capacity

While the management structure of the site has remained largely unchanged, the team continues to carry out various preservation activities, though more specific details could enhance understanding. The site's managing team has limited influence over the European institutions and other bodies involved, which restricts

their ability to improve certain facilities, including reception areas. The response to the monitoring survey regarding accessibility was somewhat general, and there has been no evidence of staff training in recent years. Although the site organises various educational activities, the absence of a dedicated staff member for ongoing educational programs has been noted. Several initiatives aimed at young people are in place, but more could be done to strengthen these efforts. Sustainable tourism practices have not yet been incorporated into the site's strategy. The site currently lacks a dedicated communications officer, but it effectively utilises various digital channels, including its website, social media, flyers, and newsletters, to disseminate information. A new communication strategy is being developed with an increased focus on online platforms. Regarding the environmental management of the site's heritage buildings, the team's limited control over European institution-owned buildings presents some challenges, yet there are ongoing efforts to manage these aspects within the available scope.

Progress and Reflection to previous recommendations

Recommendations – 2020 Monitoring Report

The 2020 Monitoring required further enhancement of the multilingualism of the Site. *Although some encouraging actions have been applied in the area of communication, there is still a lot to do to reach a wider European audience by applying more EU languages in the Site's communication.*

Recommendations for the site

OVERALL QUALITY

The overall evaluation is positive. While the EHL site management has some limitations in terms of action, the site holds significant potential for growth. There are many opportunities for improvement, particularly in areas such as communication (including renovation and making the site multilingual) and networking activities. Given the unique characteristics of the site, a major investment in educational activities could further enhance its impact and value.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The panel recommends the following actions:

- Increasing collaboration and networking with EHL Sites and other similar European heritage initiatives is encouraged.
- Focusing more effort on educational activities would be highly beneficial.
- Enhancing the multilingualism of the site is strongly recommended.

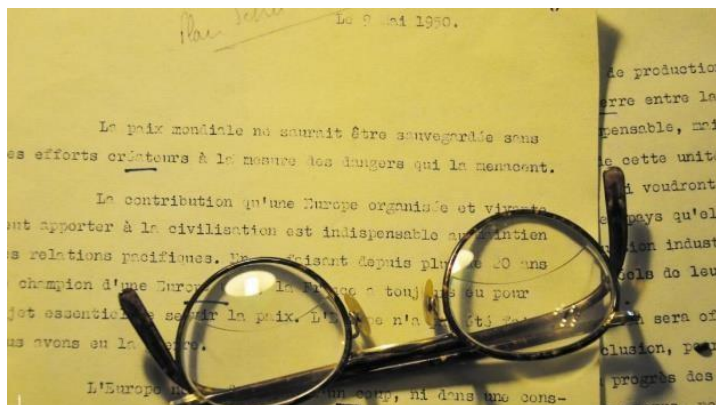
Conclusion

The EHL Site *European District of Strasbourg* continues to meet the criteria for the designation of the European Heritage Label.

ROBERT SCHUMAN'S HOUSE

SCY-CHAZELLES, FRANCE

AWARDED THE EHL IN 2014 | MONITORED FOR THE 3RD TIME



©European Commission

Robert Schuman (1886-1963) is considered as one of the founding figures of the European Union, a "Father of Europe". He bought the house in 1926 and, from 1960 onwards, spent the years of his retirement there. Today it hosts a museum and contains many objects that belonged to Robert Schuman illustrating his attachment to the European ideal.

Implementation of the site's project

The Schuman House effectively showcases its European significance through a variety of activities, proudly displaying the European Heritage Label in recognition of Robert Schuman's pivotal role in the establishment of the European Union. Throughout the year, academics, political scientists, and members of the Europe Direct team engage the public in discussions about European issues. Europe Weeks, held over three weeks starting on 9 May, feature events such as theatre performances, films, and debates. The self-guided tour highlights Schuman's contributions to Europe, as well as key moments in the Schuman Declaration. Visitors can explore the house with a touch-sensitive tablet, using an application available in English, French, and German. This application enhances the experience by bringing documents and photos to life, offering digitised images and excerpts from Schuman's speeches. The site also actively participates in EHL networks, hosting meetings and workshops for EHL members in 2024, and is part of the Maisons des Illustres network, collaborating with institutions like the Alcide de Gasperi House Museum. An area for potential growth has been identified in the challenge staff face in maintaining multilingual communication with the EHL network and the Culture Europe programme.

Organisational Capacity

The Site consists of four buildings and employs 6 FTE, with staff divided across various services. A training program for reception staff has enhanced their awareness of museum practices, including accommodating visitors from abroad

and those with disabilities. The Site's communication strategy is coordinated by the local municipality, which runs an integrated global campaign, except for Facebook pages. Educational activities, such as workshops on European anthems and symbols, are offered for schoolchildren. The site features a 100% organic garden, water collection tanks, and LED lighting, further promoting sustainability through energy reduction, material recycling, and the sale of local products.

The monitoring survey highlighted the need for increased administrative capacity and ongoing attention to the conservation of the historic house.

Progress and Reflection to previous recommendations

Recommendations – 2016 Monitoring Report

In 2016, the Site was praised for its innovative programmes and further networking activities were suggested.

Recommendations – 2020 Monitoring Report

In 2020, the Panel regarded the educational role of the site as extremely valuable and encouraged it to share its experience with other EHL Sites. The 2020 report also found that the Robert Schuman House needed some support to develop further its multilingual aspects. *There is a lot to develop in multilingual communication at the Site. Although the networking activities have been increased, there is still space for further development.*

Recommendations for the site

OVERALL QUALITY

The overall evaluation is positive. While the EHL site management has some limitations in terms of action, the site holds significant potential for growth. There are many opportunities for improvement, particularly in areas such as communication and networking activities. Given the unique characteristics of the site, a major investment in educational activities could further enhance its impact and value.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The panel recommends the following actions:

- Strengthening the capacity for multilingualism is strongly advised. For an EHL site, not offering temporary exhibitions in at least two other European languages hinders its ability to communicate its European significance
- Improving the quality of the text and editing in different languages is recommended, as it is evident that part of the website content is automatically translated without proper editing or adjustment.
- Identifying links with the EHL Bureau and other EHL Sites to exchange best practices and create joint activities.

Conclusion

The EHL Site *Robert Schuman's House* continues to meet the criteria for the designation of the European Heritage Label.

THREE BROTHERS

RIGA, LATVIA

AWARDED THE EHL IN 2019 | MONITORED FOR THE 1ST TIME



©European Commission

The Three Brothers is a complex of three houses in Riga, built between the 15th and 17th centuries, showcasing Hanseatic architecture. Restored in the 1950s, the complex incorporated parts from other destroyed buildings. It became a symbol of resistance to Soviet occupation and a link to Latvian cultural heritage and European values during the time of oppression.

Implementation of the site's project

The site has hosted numerous events at both scientific and public levels, offering special programs for foreign senior officials, children, and other groups. An international research project was also carried out. The EHL logos are prominently displayed both on-site and online. To enhance staff knowledge and understanding of the EHL Action, a training visit to Estonian EHL Sites was organised. Several new educational programs have been developed for schools and children. The site operates in Latvian and English, with guided tours available in Latvian, English, German, Polish, Russian, Swedish, and French. A new audio guide and QR codes have been introduced. The site has collaborated with other EHL Sites in Latvia and Estonia on joint activities. However, it is not currently a member of the EHL Bureau. The site maintains strong connections with regional and national cultural initiatives. Unfortunately, some planned activities were canceled or scaled back due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Organisational Capacity

The site is protected as a monument and is operated, maintained, and restored by the National Heritage Board. Staff members receive regular training to ensure the site's high standards. The site is partially accessible free of charge and fully accessible to people with disabilities. Extended visiting hours help emphasise the European dimension of the site. Visitor flow is carefully managed to preserve its integrity. Special attention is given to young people, with activities such as coloring sheets, guided tours, and heritage classes designed specifically for children. A

variety of activities cater to different audience groups. The site enjoys strong media and social media coverage, and its visual identity has been thoughtfully developed. The European Heritage Label is prominently displayed and well-promoted.

Sustainability measures have been implemented, including the use of LED bulbs, reduced lighting, and a shift from paper to digital solutions to minimise resource consumption.

Recommendations for the site

OVERALL QUALITY

The site is a well-known, well-protected and well-promoted in Latvia representing the wide span of European connections and values from Hanseatic times to nowadays. The Site is impressively active in local, national and regional cooperation, but it should expand its links to other European regions through contacts with EHL Sites.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The panel recommends the following actions:

- Increasing staff capacity is considered essential by the Panel.
- Displaying the EHL logo on the [Three Brothers website](#) is strongly recommended.
- Joining the EHL Network is highly recommended for the site.

Conclusion

The EHL Site *Three Brothers* continues to meet the criteria for the designation of the European Heritage Label.

BOIS DU CAZIER

MARCINELLE, BELGIUM

AWARDED THE EHL IN 2017 | MONITORED FOR THE 2ND TIME



©European Commission

The Bois du Cazier in Wallonia, Belgium, commemorates 20th-century working-class history and immigration. Site of a 1956 disaster that claimed 262 lives from twelve nations, it ceased mining in 1967 and reopened as a museum in 2002. It focuses on advancements in health and safety initiated by the European Coal and Steel Community.

Implementation of the site's project

The Bois du Cazier (BdC) plays a key role in European cultural heritage, serving both scientific and general audiences. Its activities include guided tours, digital exhibits, themed events, and conferences on UNESCO World Heritage, the EHL, and industrial heritage. The site commemorates the 1956 disaster and offers guide training programs. Educational initiatives cover topics like industrialization, immigration in Wallonia, European mining history, and slag heap preservation. Tours and audio guides are available in six languages.

Post-Covid, BdC strengthened its EHL network connections, partnering with organizations focused on immigration and workplace safety. In 2023, it participated in the Visions d'Europe hybrid conference and collaborated with the Mundaneum and the Migratie Museum Migration (MMM). BdC is part of five European networks, including ERIH, AEMI, and European Mining Routes of Santa Barbara. It also contributes to GR412 and the European MEMENTOES project. BdC is promoted through multilingual platforms, with websites in three languages and a Wikipedia page in thirteen. An access plan for visitors has been implemented.

Organisational Capacity

Rising visitor numbers reflect the success of BdC's strategy in fulfilling its mission through diverse activities. Recent updates include the renewal of the Path of

Memory, featuring twelve exhibited tree species, and a refreshed industrial museum scenography aimed at younger audiences, alongside new interactive panels at the Museum of 8 August 1956. BdC offers guided tours for visitors with disabilities and continues to evolve its activities for young audiences, including exhibitions and events with a special focus on foreign visitors.

Active in both local and European partnerships, BdC provides activities ranging from one-hour sessions to week-long programs, while also benefiting from internships and citizen service initiatives. With a multilingual digital presence, BdC promotes itself via social media, videos, and fair trade participation. Environmental sustainability remains a priority, with a dedicated technical team and a photovoltaic panel project underway. BdC is also a Bienvenue Vélo sustainable tourism destination, integrating renewable energy solutions.

Progress and Reflection to previous recommendations

Recommendations – 2020 Monitoring Report

The 2020 Monitoring stated that the Site would definitely benefit to raise its profile as EHL holder and from a more consistent co-operation with other EHL Sites pertaining to the period of post-war Europe, as well as other European initiatives and programmes. *The Site has joined the EHL Network, but its links to other, thematically relevant, EHL Sites could be intensified.*

Recommendations for the site

OVERALL QUALITY

In alignment with the project submitted for the European Heritage Label, the Bois du Cazier continues to prioritise activities that highlight the European dimension and promote the values of the European Union. The site exemplifies synergies between European projects and UNESCO initiatives, embodying the core mission of the EHL with distinction.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The panel recommends the following actions:

- Increasing awareness and promotion of the Site as part of the EHL Action is recommended.
- Building further synergies with EHL Sites is strongly advised
- To enhance accessibility and enrich the visitor experience, translating the panel texts at the Industry Museum into four languages is recommended.
- The Site's commitment to inclusivity and its appeal to a broader international audience is commendable, and this practice should be disseminated and strengthened.

Conclusion

The EHL Site *Bois du Cazier* continues to meet the criteria for the designation of the European Heritage Label.

THE HISTORIC GDAŃSK SHIPYARD

GDAŃSK, POLAND

AWARDED THE EHL IN 2014 | MONITORED FOR THE 3RD TIME



©Grzegorz-Mehring

The historic Gdańsk Shipyard is the birthplace of the Solidarity movement. It began with the 1970 workers' strike, violently suppressed by state socialist authorities. In 1980, a new wave of strikes led to the signing of the August Agreements, establishing NSZZ "Solidarność" as the first independent trade union in the Eastern Bloc. It became a powerful force for democracy in Poland and inspired Europe.

Implementation of the site's project

The Historic Gdańsk Shipyard is deeply connected to the birth of the Solidarity movement and the democratic transformations in Central and Eastern Europe. Today, the European Solidarity Centre (ESC) tells a compelling story of the movement's achievements through the revitalised shipyard. The ESC seeks to inspire cultural, civic, and European initiatives while actively contributing to the development of European identity. Since 2020, numerous cultural, educational, and research projects have underscored the Site's significance both in Poland and across Europe. Notably, the exhibition SHIPYARD | People. Industry. The city highlights the Shipyard's rich heritage, and two books have been published on the subject. The Site's educational program offers a variety of formats for children, youth, adults, and families, all centred around the motto "**Learn history, decide the future.**" In 2021, the three-year Crossroads in History project concluded, promoting regional identity through collaboration with museums in Germany, Lithuania, Poland, and Sweden.

Organisational Capacity

Out of a total of eighty-eight staff at the European Solidarity Centre (ESC), one FTE is dedicated to coordinating and developing EHL activities. The Centre is actively engaged in ongoing renovation and preservation efforts. A key aspect of ESC's mission is fostering a sense of belonging to the European community,

particularly among young people, which is reflected in its various initiatives. Since 2023, as part of the Youth Knowledge Zone project for young people from the Pomorskie Region, the ESC has organised educational activities aimed at raising civic awareness and promoting pro-European attitudes. In 2021, the ESC established a Green Team as a grassroots initiative to implement green transition ideas, focusing primarily on educational activities and starting efforts to obtain the Green Key environmental certificate.

Progress and Reflection to previous recommendations

Recommendations – 2016 Monitoring Report

In 2016, recognising the challenge of presenting the site's complex history on a popular and scholarly level to a mixed audience of international visitors and local residents, migrants and young people, the panel recommended fostering closer and helpful collaboration with the other European Heritage Label Sites.

Recommendations – 2020 Monitoring Report

While seeing that the Site was implementing its project effectively, the Panel recognised the challenge of depicting the site's complex history on a popular and a scientific level for a mixed public and recommended in both previous monitoring reports to foster closer and helpful networking and cooperation with the other European Heritage Label Sites. *It is important to reiterate that the Panel would be strongly in favor of networking with other EHL Sites.*

Recommendations for the site

OVERALL QUALITY

As already stated in the previous reports, the Gdansk Shipyard carries out in an exemplary manner the idea and objectives of the EHL, building a sense of belonging to the European community among young people has always been one of the main elements of the mission of the European Solidarity Centre and is reflected in many of the activities of the Site, such as (moving) exhibitions, workshops, etc. However, an expansion of website with historical material as well as making it accessible in several languages would be desirable.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The panel recommends the following actions:

- Expanding the website in terms of content and multilingualism is recommended.
- Displaying the EHL logo to enhance visibility is required.
- Developing networking activities with other EHL Sites should be prioritised.

Conclusion

The EHL Site *Historic Gdańsk Shipyard* continues to meet the criteria for the designation of the European Heritage Label.

VILLAGE OF SCHENGEN

SCHENGEN, LUXEMBOURG

AWARDED THE EHL IN 2017 | MONITORED FOR THE 2ND TIME



©European Commission

The Village of Schengen marks a milestone of European integration and a key symbol of one of the principles of the European Union - the free movement of persons. The site communicates this principle through appropriate means both on site and on the website, Center European Schengen FB page and VISITSCHEGEN Instagram.

Implementation of the site's project

The European Museum highlights the evolution of the Schengen Agreement, tracing its journey from the five founding countries to the current twenty-seven member states. It offers guided tours, including a film exploring the European significance of open borders and integration. The historical ship, where the Schengen Agreement was signed in 1985, will be permanently docked as an annex to the museum. The site prioritises educational programs for children and youth, serving as a hub for teachers and educational institutions. A popular feature, the Schengen Experience escape room, combines entertainment with education. Brochures from the European Commission, available in all twenty-four EU languages, are displayed and free to download. Museum texts and signage are provided in English, French, and German. The site is also active on Facebook and Instagram. Furthermore, it regularly participates in EHL@NETWORK conferences, networking days, and the EHL@NETWORK comic book project.

Organisational Capacity

The Centre Européen Schengen asbl manages the site, which also oversees the EUROPE DIRECT Information Centre Schengen (EDIC). With 8 FTE staff, 5 FTE are dedicated to daily operations, and the director is the main contact for EHL matters. The site also benefits from twenty-five volunteer guides.

A museum redesign is planned for completion in June 2025, focusing on low environmental impact, digital tools, and sustainable materials. Energy-efficient digital displays, recyclable furniture, and waste separation practices are part of the update. Open year-round from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., the Tourist Office and museum are free of charge, with trained staff at the reception. The site has expanded educational programs for children and youth, including activities for preschoolers and adolescents. To reduce the carbon footprint, the site encourages public transport (free in Luxembourg) and cycling. The EHL logo is featured on official stationery, email signatures, and publications, strengthening the site's visibility within the European heritage network.

Progress and Reflection to previous recommendations

Recommendations – 2020 Monitoring Report

The Panel appreciated the recent developments in the areas of communication and networking, but recommended that these activities be more focused on the future. *It is recommended that the Site continue on its successful path to fully realise its creative application of ideas during the 2020-2023 monitoring period and to empower its EHL visibility and raising awareness of its European significance by sharing its valuable experience through cooperation and networking with other European Heritage Label Sites. The Panel verified from the monitoring, website, FB and Instagram that the site is actively fulfilling the panel's previous recommendations.*

Recommendations for the site

OVERALL QUALITY

The Village of Schengen is a milestone of European integration and a key symbol of one of the principles of the European Union - the free movement of persons. The site communicates this principle through appropriate means both on site and on the website.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The panel recommends the following activities:

- Highlighting the use of the EHL logo on the European Schengen Facebook page and VISITSCHENGEN Instagram.
- Formalising stronger cooperation with the Schengen Municipality to streamline administrative procedures.

Conclusion

The EHL Site *Village of Schengen* continues to meet the criteria for the designation of the European Heritage Label.

PAN-EUROPEAN PICNIC MEMORIAL PARK

SOPRON, HUNGARY

AWARDED THE EHL IN 2014 | MONITORED FOR THE 3RD TIME



©European Commission

The Memorial Park honors the Pan-European Picnic peace demonstration held on 19 August 1989, which temporarily opened the Hungarian-Austrian border, allowing nearly 600 East Germans to flee to the West. This event marked the beginning of the Iron Curtain's collapse, leading to Germany's reunification and the EU's Eastern enlargement. The park symbolises a post-1989 Europe, united and without borders.

Implementation of the site's project

The Park features a visitor centre, established in 2019, equipped with multimedia tools, educational trails, and informative boards to highlight the European significance of the site. The anniversary of the historic border crossing is commemorated annually, with a live broadcast in 2020. In 2023, the book *Határeset (Case of Border)*, focusing on border guard history, was published and presented alongside eyewitness accounts, an exhibition, and a documentary screening. The documentary on the Pan-European Picnic is also available on social media platforms like YouTube. The site organises a summer academy for young people and hosts meetings with witnesses of the historical events it commemorates. Multimedia tools are actively employed throughout the Park to enhance communication effectiveness. Since 2020, the website has been updated in Hungarian, English, and German, though expanding its content to include more EU languages would further improve accessibility. A significant challenge identified is the Sopron Municipality's limited financial resources, which hinder the extension of the multilingual offerings.

Organisational Capacity

The creation of the visitor's centre and the renovation of the park in 2019, supported by a European grant, significantly enhanced the site. Integrated into Sopron's tourism strategy, the site developed various offerings, including themed and guided tours. One trained staff member currently manages the visitor's centre. The commemoration area was designed with support from the Konrad Adenauer Foundation and the Deutsch-Ungarischen Jugendwerks. The annual summer

academy, aimed at young people, and the park, a free and popular destination for school tours, further contribute to the site's success. The site is committed to biodiversity preservation and promotes bicycle-friendly policies, with solar power used in parts of the site. Wheelchair access is available in the visitor centre, along with navigation for the visually impaired. Communication is strengthened by a marketing strategy from 2019, which highlights the visitor-friendly, interactive features of the park and centre.

Despite challenges posed by minimal staff capacity and the COVID-19 pandemic, the site faces difficulty participating more extensively in EHL networking activities.

Progress and Reflection to previous recommendations

Recommendations – 2016 Monitoring Report

The Panel expected major changes from the Site in terms of its dedication and self-definition as an EHL site.

Recommendations – 2020 Monitoring Report

The Panel appreciated the recent developments in the areas of communication and networking but recommended that these activities should be more focused in the future. *The improvements recommended in 2016 have been realised in 2019 with the dedicated visitor's centre. The website was renewed in 2020 but remains rather limited in terms of its content. Opportunities for networking have not been entirely well used, despite the encouragement from the 2020 report.*

Recommendations for the site

OVERALL QUALITY

The Pan European Picnic Park Sopron is a site of great significance for the opening of Europe's Cold War borders. It has enhanced its infrastructure and facilities as well as its communication strategy in the last period.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The panel recommends the following actions:

- Increasing capacity for the visitor's centre and expanding staff would support the site's objectives, with additional professional training enhancing staff effectiveness.
- Extending the multilingual tour offer and exploring exchanges with other Sites using student support is recommended.
- Expanding the Pan European Picnic website and broadening communications to cover European values and free borders is suggested. Fostering synergies with the Fertő/Neusiedler and the Cultural Landscape World Heritage Site could also be beneficial.

Conclusion

The EHL Site *Pan-European Picnic Memorial Park* continues to meet the criteria for the designation of the European Heritage Label.

MAASTRICHT TREATY

MAASTRICHT, THE NETHERLANDS

AWARDED THE EHL IN 2017 | MONITORED FOR THE 2ND TIME



The Treaty of Maastricht was a major milestone for European integration and provided a joint European framework policy on the monetary and economic union, based on principles of sustainability and subsidiarity. The place where the treaty was signed, the document and the political process that it commenced provide, without doubt, outstanding European significance.

Implementation of the site's project

The Panel encourages the Province of Limburg to further implement the project and recommends exploring new ways to attract an international public. The Site is relevant for the citizens of all twenty-seven Member States of the European Union. Even if the site further developed its multilingualism, the Panel recommends the site to take into consideration the extension of the number of languages provided in its activities.

Organizational Capacity

The management of the Maastricht Treaty site is structured around a practical division of responsibilities between the Province of Limburg and Studio Europa Maastricht (SEM). The province oversees EHL-related requirements, as well as the maintenance and accessibility of the Maastricht Treaty exhibition at the Provincial Government Building. SEM focuses on developing the Europe Archive, including its oral history project, educational materials, and events that emphasise the site's European significance. In 2021, a new exhibition on the Maastricht Treaty was launched at the Provincial Government Building, accessible free of charge with a dedicated tour guide. The Europe Archive is set to open to the public in late 2024. The EHL designation has strengthened the Province of Limburg's youth strategy, with SEM leading initiatives to engage young audiences through projects like My Big Activity Book about Europe and the For and Against Europe magazine. The

site's communication strategy is centered on building and expanding the archive, collecting and researching data on the Maastricht Treaty, and effectively translating this information for a broad audience—particularly young people—through a diverse range of projects, educational activities, and events.

Progress and Reflection to previous recommendations

Recommendations – 2020 Monitoring Report

The previous monitoring report encouraged the Site to widen its multilingual outreach and network activities within the EHL Action. *The Site implemented the recommendation of the Panel in the previous monitoring assessment and consistently engaged in networking and cooperation with other European Heritage Label recipients and further developed its multilingualism.*

Recommendations for the site

OVERALL QUALITY

The site continues to successfully implement its work plan while developing and diversifying cultural and educational activities, with a strong focus on engaging young generations. Ensuring staff stability and enhancing coordination among those involved in site management would further strengthen its capacity to grow and enhance its relevance and impact.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The panel recommends the following options

- Encouraging the Province of Limburg to further implement the project and explore new ways to attract an international audience.
- Recognizing the site's relevance for citizens of all twenty-seven EU Member States, the Panel recommends expanding the number of languages offered in its activities, even if multilingualism is further developed.

Conclusion

The EHL Site *Maastricht Treaty* continues to meet the criteria for the designation of the European Heritage Label.

MIGRATIEMUSEUMMIGRATION (MMM)

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

AWARDED THE EHL IN 2021 | MONITORED FOR THE 1ST TIME



©European Commission

MigratieMuseumMigration (MMM), a project by Foyer vzw, opened in 2019 in Molenbeek, a historic migration hub in Brussels. The museum traces post-World War II migration waves to Europe, highlighting migrants' contributions to European development and shared values like multiculturalism and multilingualism, which are fundamental to European integration.

Implementation of the site's project

The site underscores its European significance by addressing contemporary themes linked to migration. MMM aims to develop European cultural routes inspired by influential figures who lived in Brussels' migration hub, such as Vincent Van Gogh, Neel Doff, and Latin American artists seeking refuge there. Through guided tours and workshops, including The Refugee Game, the site educates students on migration's role in European globalization. The Mobile Museum brings this experience to Belgian classrooms, while collaborations with EU embassies have led to exhibitions on migration, LGBTQ themes, and human rights. Notable partnerships include Being Human with Spain and One Day More by Yevgenia Belorusets. MMM actively fosters intercultural dialogue, coordinating a digital youth exchange between Brussels and Lisbon and establishing a network of European museums focused on community-based museology. It is also part of Molenbeek's bid for European Capital of Culture 2030. Multilingualism is a key strength, with tours available in numerous European and non-European languages. However, its participation in EHL networking activities has been limited, aside from the Cross-EHL Sites Activity and the Awards Ceremony.

Organizational Capacity

The site has a strategic plan for the coming years, supported by one full-time staff member and volunteers. Its long-term approach balances sound financial management with continuous renewal through new initiatives. MMM is well-equipped for accessibility, accommodating visually impaired visitors, young children, seniors, newcomers with language barriers, and wheelchair users. The staff actively facilitates visits for those with special needs, and the building ensures easy access for people with reduced mobility. School groups make up 65% of visitors, a ratio the site aims to maintain by adapting its educational activities. MMM collaborates with key tourism entities, including Visit Brussels, the Jewish Museum, local hotels, and guided tour organizations such as Brukselbinnenstebuiten, ARAU, and Korei. Seeking broader regional impact, it is part of Molenbeek-Brussels' bid for European Capital of Culture 2030 and has begun aligning its communication accordingly. Recent renovations improved the building's insulation and energy efficiency. Additional eco-friendly measures include rainwater recovery for toilet flushing and the installation of photovoltaic panels in April 2022.

Recommendations for the site

OVERALL QUALITY

The site demonstrates a strong commitment to implementing its work program, with proactive and realistic planning for future development. MMM maintains strong connections with local and regional stakeholders, enhancing its visibility and supporting the achievement of its goals.

RECOMMENDATION

The panel recommends the following actions:

- Recognizing the potential of international collaborations to further enhance the site's impact, leveraging the EHL network and activities to strengthen its international reach.
- Identifying thematic connections within the EHL network and building cooperative initiatives based on shared themes.

Conclusion

The EHL Site *MigratieMuseumMigration (MMM)* continues to meet the criteria for the designation of the European Heritage Label.



CONCLUSION

CONCLUSION

The indirect assessment of the European significance through the monitoring

The Monitoring Report in 2020 saw the monitoring as an opportunity to strengthen the integration of the EHL sites towards an increasingly conscious and cooperative network. In line with this conclusion, the current Monitoring Report will also focus on the meaning of the monitoring from the perspective of the EHL Action and the EHL sites. In case of certain sites, especially those who were rewarded in the first selections, the Panel could constate that their enthusiasm for EHL declined during the years. Although it might be discouraging, the Panel consider it as a crucial indicator, which must be reflected upon, and suggests the expansion of the monitoring process by a feedback phase. The monitoring is not a mere recurring technical procedure, but an opportunity to gather information/data and reconnect with the sites, it should be not closed by the end of the monitoring year, but its results should nurture further discussions with the sites and other involved EHL stakeholders. The Panel recommends that the forthcoming revision of the Decision No 1194/2011 should be based on the results of the three monitoring processes. In its current form, the Decision only sets out obligations (the text uses the verb 'must'), and in the event of non-fulfilment of obligations, only a sanction in Article 16. However, the application of the sanction is not evident, as the Panel cannot conclude that a specific EHL site has ceased to fulfil the objectives set out in Article 3 and the criteria under Article 7(1). During the monitoring, the EHL sites have shown difficulties in fulfilling the commitments they submitted under the project under Article 7(2) in the application. From the Panel's point of view, the Decision in its current form therefore appears unbalanced, especially since the Panel has not found support in other instruments that would help to enable the EHL sites to fulfil their commitments under their original Project. A feedback phase would allow the sites to understand and to appropriate the objectives of the monitoring. It would also make it possible for the EHL stakeholders to discuss the criteria of the EHL reward and tackle the following issues:

- How to harmonize and co-represent European significance with local values and history?
- How to interpret European significance for an audience, which is interested in history and culture and not necessarily in European values?
- How to distinguish the World Heritage and the EHL title – more sites received both –, and what is their advantage of being rewarded by the latter?
- How to update their projects and how to use it more efficiently to promote their EHL title?
- How to expand an EHL site – either by new elements/monuments or by including other sites to eventually become a national thematic or a transnational site?

These issues brought the limits of the current legal basis to the surface and require a participative examination and an open dialogue about its revision. The Panel's recommendations worded in the 2023 Selection Report proved to be relevant and are maintained by the general outcome of this year's monitoring.

Setting the path by encouraging examples

Apart from the approval of all the sixty sites, the Panel emphasizes the positive outcomes in the form of 'best practices' exhibited by many sites during the monitored period (2020-2023).

Those sites could boost positive results, which managed to integrate themselves into local and/or EHL networks. In this sense, the establishment of the EHL Bureau and its first Call, which took place – after consultations with the Panel members – in 2024, are institutional. Many of the main challenges that the sites as representatives of the EHL Action must face can be channeled and mitigated by the EHL Bureau and its professional assistance in promotion and communication as well as its financial support in the form of Calls for cooperative projects.

The best practices identified in the individual site reports seem to follow the same logic as the successful applications for the first Call of the EHL Bureau. Their comparative examination could determine encouraging characteristics and practices, which are useful for the future of the EHL Action:

- Although there have been several – unsuccessful – top-down attempts to define (thematic, regional, spatial, etc.) subgroups among the EHL Sites, they could create their own thematic and/or regional networks as soon as it is practical and beneficial in terms of shared activities or projects. Thus, the networking should simultaneously be top-down (common EHL brand, Calls, etc.) and bottom-up by exploiting the collaborations instituted by the sites for the benefits of the whole EHL Action. This approach would contour thematic subgroups (so far art, community values, heritage institutions like Archives and Libraries, landscape and environment as well as music proved to be the most appealing) and transborder regional cooperations (reviving historical regions like the Danube-valley, the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, the Mediterranean, etc.). These cooperations could also lessen the harmful historical divisions of Europe (like East-West, still very much present in the choice of languages of communication at the EHL sites) and could contribute the cultural integration of the continent through EHL sites.
- The EHL sites could also arrange themselves on national level, which is an excellent source for their capacity-building. The French Cultural Ministry organised a conference about the futures of the five French EHL sites in the EHL Site of Robert Schuman's House in May 2024, and three Italian and two Spanish sites proposed successful projects to the EHL Bureau's Call with similar intentions. These are definitely good examples, which could be retained by other countries with multiple EHL Sites.
- Although some sites were struggling to attract young people, there are several excellent cases – especially those, which are educational institutors themselves or established ongoing collaboration with schools and universities – which could welcome thousands of young people to promote their projects. It calls for more synergies with other EU educational and cultural actions (ERASMUS+, Creative Europe). The EHL sites should be encouraged to more intensely take part in these actions. The Panel is convinced, based on the monitoring, that for several (small) EHL sites it is too challenging to fulfil the obligations set out in Article 7 paragraph 1 (b) of the Decision No 1194/2011 on their own. The Panel therefore suggests that the Commission link the EHL project with projects aimed at education at all levels and recommends that Member States ensure that the EHL project is taught in schools at all levels. Inspirations for such measures could be taken from the UNESCO fellowships

- and from European studies students in universities in the EU.
- Although the EHL brand is still on the making and its importance is not equally shared by all the sites, promising networking results that the Panel encountered during the monitoring (both in the forms and in the hearings) and new networking events in 2024 suppose the possibility of the emergence of an EHL governance, in which the sites could continuously find support and reinforcement of their identity as part of the EHL and the different EHL stakeholders feel legitimised to express themselves to turn the EHL Action dynamic and adaptive.
- Although the European significance is not considered as volatile, natural catastrophes could engender the very existence of a site as the case of the Franja Partisan Hospital hit by earth-shattering floods shows. Nevertheless, the Site could successfully prove its sustainability as an EHL site during the monitoring thanks to its enthusiastic team and the support from emergency funds. This case emphasises the Panel's recommendation from 2023 according to which an 'EHL-Site Endangered' programme could be established to assist the development of the site within a 'stand-alone track' under the assistance of the EHL BUREAU.

During the monitoring, the Panel found that a number of sites expressed a lack of financial resources as an obstacle. Since roughly half of the sites can be regarded as 'small' and 'rural', other relevant possibilities of financing could be mobilised for them. The national implementation of the European Regional Development Fund and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development was based on priorities. When it came to cultural monuments, the priorities were based on their value, the degree of their threat and the possible social utility after their conservation. The European Commission has so far considered cultural monuments inscribed on the World Heritage List or cultural monuments inscribed on the so-called Tentative list to be the most valuable cultural monuments. The national implementing authorities were not informed, as far as Panel found, about the existence of the EHL action and the Decision No 1194/2011. A similar evaluation is underway during the implementation of national subsidy programmes aimed at supporting cultural heritage. World heritage monuments are still considered as a priority.

The CulturEU funding guide EU Funding Opportunities for the Cultural and Creative Sectors 2021-2027 also omits EHL financial support. The Panel, without wishing to negatively influence the financial support for the care of World Heritage sites in any way, therefore recommends that the Commission should promote, where appropriate, the prioritisation of financial support for the care of EHL sites, both for the conservation of tangible EHL sites and for their maintenance. The Panel also recommends that the Commission encourage Member States to do the same.

The Panel, as one of the EHL stakeholders, is ready to participate in the forthcoming evaluation of the monitoring results in view of the revision of the Decision No 1194/2011. Therefore, the Panel further recommends that the Commission use the year 2026, the content of which is not specified in the annex to the Decision, for discussions with all stakeholders, i.e., Member States, national coordinators, EHL sites, the Panel and the EHL Bureau, and the adoption of recommendations that will lead to greater effectiveness of the Decision. From the perspective of the Panel, in 2026, there will be a so far unique occasion, when nine out of the thirteen Panel members will have both selection and monitoring experience and could thus more effectively contribute to the sprouting EHL governance.

COMPOSITION OF THE 2024 PANEL

Designated by the European Commission (2023-2026)

Ms Riin Alatalu
Mr Gábor Sonkoly, Chairperson
Ms Anne-Marie Thiesse
Mr Koenraad Van Balen

Designated by the European Parliament (2024-2026)

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

Designated by the Council (2022-2024)

Ms Flavia Barca
Ms Antoaneta Dimitrova
Ms Paulina Florjanowicz
Ms Pia Schönberger

Designated by the Committee of the Regions (2022-2024)

Mr Alin-Adrian Nica

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)

Designated by the European Parliament

Mr Roland Bernecker (2013-2014; 2015-2017)
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)

Designated by the Council

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)

Designated by the Committee of the Regions

Mr Matthias Ripp (2013-2015; 2016-2018; 2019-2021)

Appendix

The idea of a document reflecting the shared values and commitments of various EHL stakeholders—including the EHL Bureau, European Commission, EHL Panel, EHL Sites, and national coordinators—was formulated at the Dohány Street Synagogue in Budapest on October 15, 2024, during the annual meeting of national coordinators and the Panel. While the current text of the Budapest Recommendations was not officially drafted by the EHL Panel, the Panel has chosen to include it in the Monitoring Report for several reasons. The initiative originated from the Panel and was warmly embraced by other participants, underscoring the essential collaboration and continuous dialogue required for the ongoing evolution of the EHL Action. The Budapest Recommendations exemplify this collective effort, and the Panel, along with other stakeholders, contributed to their formulation.

The development of the Budapest Recommendations highlights the value of such gatherings—ideally linked to the EHL Days and hosted at different Sites—which could engage a growing number of EHL Sites and national coordinators in shaping the European identity based on shared values. The Panel also welcomes insights from the Committee of the Regions, the European Council, and the European Parliament, which delegate members to the Panel and play a crucial role in this collective reflection on the future of the EHL Action.

2024 BUDAPEST RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusions of the 2024 European Heritage Label Meeting A roadmap to future-proof European Heritage Label Action

Where are we now?

This document outlines a strategic roadmap to address the key priorities and challenges facing the European Heritage Label (EHL) in the coming years. It is intended to foster meaningful dialogue between **European institutions, National Coordinators, Panel Members, and EHL Site Managers**, collectively charting a course for the future. These discussions, initiated at the 2024 European Heritage Label Meeting in Budapest, have resulted in the recommendations—a set of action points that define the support the EHL's next phase.

Building on the outcomes of the 2024 Budapest meeting, we aim to:

- Devise and implement more efficient governance and tools to assess the impact of EHL Sites and sustain their development.
- Foster deeper connections among the entities coordinating the EHL action.
- Address challenges on EHL Sites and redefine the role of the EHL Bureau to better support these Sites in a rapidly changing landscape.

The development of a robust EHL network, now comprising 67 entities and 278 locations, raises important questions regarding the governance of the EHL action and its continued growth. *Where do we stand now? How can EHL Sites continue to fulfil their role as inclusive spaces for dialogue, exchange, and community-building?*

This policy document builds on the successes of the 2022 and 2024 European Heritage Days in Brussels and Antwerp, while also breaking new ground. It outlines **practical, actionable steps for** the EHL action in the coming years. As a key resource for both National and European Coordinators, it provides **essential guidance for shaping the EHL's future direction**, aligned with the themes explored at the 2024 Budapest Meeting.

PART 1 – DIAGNOSTIC

Executive Summary: Three areas of consideration

This document serves as a catalogue of actionable steps and project ideas stemming from the **2024 Annual European Heritage Label Meeting held in October 2024. It is framed around three key considerations –Governance – Procedure – Community** —which provide a lens for addressing the complexities of the European Heritage Label. These pillars ensure inclusivity in bringing diverse voices into the co-design of EHL initiatives and mechanisms.

Rather than reinventing the wheel, these considerations create room for sharing knowledge, taking time to reflect and learn from others, and identifying gaps in our collective understanding. By focusing on these elements, we acknowledge the potential impact that increased and regular dialogue can have in steering Europe-wide network of heritage Sites.

I. GOVERNANCE

Strengthening the EHL Community Governance

Problem Description

- The existing EHL structure needs to be reinforced by clearly defining roles, responsibilities and expectations in the development of the EHL Community, between the European Commission, Expert Panel, National Coordinators and EHL Bureau.
- Due to the vast number of actors within the EHL community, appropriate communication channels are needed to enable smooth communication and coordination among the different stakeholders.
- the EHL Sites should be consulted when designing the future of the action in order to learn from their valuable experiences and to be able to take their needs into consideration.

Recommendations

- **Creation of a National Coordinators Platform:** National Coordinators have requested the establishment of a platform to exchange information and enhance capacity-building efforts. This initiative could facilitate greater cooperation and knowledge sharing and support the EHL BUREAU's action.
- **More Resources for Capacity Building:** Increased resources should be allocated for capacity-building efforts, including access to contact details and other support tools to help National Coordinators fulfil their roles more effectively.
- **Involvement in the Review of EHL Decision 1194/2011/EU:** National Coordinators should be actively involved in the revision of the

EHL decision, e.g. based on lessons learned from past monitoring cycles. This review should be prioritized to ensure the EHL action aligns with current practices and challenges.

- **Regular meetings** should ideally be organized twice a year – one in person and one online - by the Commission and the EHL Bureau to bring together National Coordinators and Panel Members, facilitating efficient and in-depth information sharing. Alternatively, these meetings could be conducted online if necessary.
- **Creation of a semi-structured EHL Community of Practice:** Increased cooperation between the Panel, National Coordinators and Sites – with clear roles and responsibilities – under a defined Community managed by the Bureau, will increase participation and ownership of the EHL Action
- **National Coordinators have also raised the need for a stronger shared vision** regarding the EHL’s objectives and definitions as well as for more detailed information and exchange on upcoming processes/activities.

II. PROCEDURES

Engaging in a Holistic Revision of the Monitoring Cycle

Problem Description

- The panel recognizes the significant diversity among EHL Sites, as highlighted in recent monitoring results. It is important to emphasize that monitoring should not be viewed as an examination or competition but as a collaborative effort focused on enhancing the performance and impact of EHL Sites.
- Feedback from EHL Sites suggests a preference for qualitative questions in monitoring forms, which should be incorporated into future evaluations to improve clarity and ease of response.
- National Coordinators have also emphasized their limited ability to verify the information provided by the Sites in the monitoring forms.

Recommendations

Before the Monitoring Exercise

- **Developing guidelines for a Continuous Monitoring Tool:** The revision of the EHL legal basis could consider leveraging the EHL Bureau’s capacity and deriving opportunity from their regular field missions, to transform the monitoring process into an **ongoing data collection effort**, gathering information on site structures and activities more consistently. This could create a more dynamic and accurate overview of site performance.

- **Enhancing the role of the EHL Bureau:** The EHL Bureau, with its close contact with Sites and regular field missions, should play a central role in the monitoring process. The Bureau, as the primary interlocutor for Sites, is well-positioned to derive insights from events and on-site activities, contributing to a more continuous and collaborative monitoring process.
- **Revising the Monitoring Agenda:** Considering the steady growth of the EHL action, it is recommended to shift from a rigid monitoring calendar to a more flexible cycle (e.g., every four years starting from the date of the awarding of the site), aligned with the timeline of site nominations. This approach would allow for better long-term planning and evaluation. Hence the panel will only have a handful of Sites to monitor every year rather than the entire action on a fixed year.
- **Development of an Extension Form and Protocol:** The European Commission, in consultation with panel members, should develop an extension form and related protocol to streamline the monitoring process, allowing the Sites to request the extension of the Label coverage to additional locations and buildings within the originally labelled EHL Site.
- **Information Sessions:** The European Commission should organize coordination meetings with National Coordinators to ensure a consistent understanding of monitoring questions among EHL Sites.
- **Capacity-Building Sessions: pending budget availability):** In collaboration with the EHL Bureau, the European Commission should organise capacity-building sessions for EHL Sites to improve their understanding of the monitoring process and ensure a more effective and meaningful monitoring.
- **Format of the Monitoring Form:** preferring a word/ pdf document rather than an EU Survey.
- **Enhanced Communications:** The positive reception of increased communication between the panel and National Coordinators should be maintained and expanded to ensure continuous and effective dialogue.

During the Monitoring Exercise

- **National Coordinators as Key Support:** In the remit of their capacities and availability, National Coordinators should be the first line of support for EHL Sites, working collaboratively to address any issues identified during monitoring.
- **Coordination Meetings:** The European Commission should organise sessions with National Coordinators to ensure a consistent and thorough understanding of the monitoring forms.
- **Capacity-Building Sessions pending budget availability):** The European Commission, in collaboration with the EHL Bureau, should offer capacity-building sessions to support EHL Sites in understanding their roles and responsibilities within the monitoring process.
- **Ongoing Communications:** The importance of frequent and timely communication between the panel and National Coordinators has been reaffirmed. The European Commission should ensure that communication

channels remain open and are further strengthened to support ongoing collaboration.

III. COMMUNITY

Problem Description

- Feedback from the Sites shows a limited knowledge of other Sites' EHL projects and associated values. The Coordinators and the Panel have also reported difficulties in following up with the implementation of the EHL projects by the Sites, beyond the existing Monitoring procedures.
- The European Heritage Label has a limited visibility at the European and national levels, which hinders its potential to harness more impact and extended financial support.
- The European Heritage Label Action could benefit from utilizing synergies with other heritage related initiatives (e.g. Cultural Routes and others) in order to increase its visibility and not be perceived as a solitary heritage action.

Recommendations

- **Enhancing Communications:** The Commission and the EHL Bureau should share an updated calendar twice a year to keep National Coordinators and EHL Panel Members informed about upcoming opportunities and actions (e.g. providing timely information on projects awarded through the EHL Bureau Call for Projects), ensuring full transparency of the EHL Action, and if necessary links with other European initiatives.
- **Strengthening Communication Materials:** The EHL Bureau should enhance its training offerings by incorporating the "European dimension." This includes providing training events and a clear narrative for both Sites and National Coordinators about the initiative's European aspect and how it can be integrated into daily activities. A broader narrative should encompass all Sites and highlight their contributions to the European community.
- **Reinforcing the Mutual Benefits Dimension:** It is important to emphasize to the Sites how they can contribute to European goals.
- **Developing Operational Guidelines:** Create a comprehensive set of operational guidelines for the entire community, establishing a clear roadmap for action and the transformation of the EHL.
- **Redrafting EHL National Coordinator Guidelines:** Update the EHL guidelines to be more precise and relevant, outlining both long-term and short-term goals.
- **Reinforcing Capacity Building:** Strengthen the capacity of Sites in project drafting and management to enhance their effectiveness.
- **Presenting EHL to the CAC and EP:** Increase the frequency of presentations about the EHL to the Cultural Affairs Committee (CAC) and the European Parliament (EP) to raise awareness and support.

- **Sharing Selection Criteria:** Distribute the selection criteria from the experts' panel to the National Coordinators to ensure consistency and transparency in the selection process.
- **Developing an Extension Form:** Create an "extension form" in conjunction with the monitoring and selection processes for Sites wishing to expand the coverage of the Label beyond the remits of its original labelization.
- **Visibility and communication materials:** The Bureau, with the collaboration of the National Coordinators, should produce brochures, maps and other visibility products on the Label, to be distributed and disseminated by all the EHL community members.

PART 2 – ROADMAP

2024	<p>Commission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Commit to hosting the European National Coordinators meeting on a bi-annual basis (every six months in-person and/or online) that connects panel members and policy stakeholders for regular discussions on the governance, procedure and EHL Community, focusing also on the sustainable, digital and social challenges facing the sector. Inviting spokespersons from the EHL Sites Networks. - Embed the new EHL Bureau Action in Creative Europe’s Work Programme 2026 for the 2027-2028-2029 years and explore the possibility of broadening the EHL Bureau's roles for shared monitoring / assessment of the Sites within the context of the revision of the EHL’s legal base. - Commit to involve National Coordinators and Panel Members in the Revision of the EHL action’s Legal base.
2025	<p>Commission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hosting a European National Coordinators event focusing on the governance of the action, revision of the legal base but also on the sustainable, digital and social challenges facing the sector. - Involve National Coordinators and Panel Members in the Revision of the EHL action’s Legal base. - Design the 2027 Selection form with the National Coordinators - Commit to invite the EHL Bureau as a fully-fledged member of the CHEG.
By 2027	<p>Commission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Roll out a revised legal base for the EHL Action. - Launch EHL Bureau II.



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