



CONFERENCE

HERITAGE AND PEOPLE

Lauenstein Castle near Dresden / Germany – May 9th, 2025

The 2025 conference “Heritage and People – World Heritage in Practice & Community Engagement for Cultural Heritage” sets the stage for an inspiring exchange on how heritage can be preserved, interpreted, and reactivated through both institutional frameworks and community-led initiatives.

Coinciding with Europe Day, the 2025 European Heritage Volunteers Annual Conference will bring together heritage professionals, cultural institutions, and engaged actors from across Europe for a day of dialogue, reflection, and exchange. The event will be hosted at Lauenstein Castle, a component of the UNESCO World Heritage site “Erzgebirge/Krušnohoří Mining Region,” providing a meaningful setting to examine the social role of heritage within contemporary European society.

The programme will explore the intersection of World Heritage and community engagement, presenting case studies from across Europe that illustrate how heritage sites are sustained, reinterpreted, and revitalised through inclusive and participatory practices. While the morning sessions will focus primarily on World Heritage contexts, the themes of dialogue and engagement will continue throughout the day, with contributions addressing diverse heritage settings, scales, and frameworks.

Celebrating Europe’s shared cultural values, the conference will provide a platform for heritage practitioners and partners to exchange methodologies, reflect on challenges, and contribute to strengthening collaborative practices in heritage conservation and interpretation.

Conference language is English. Participation is free of charge.

Only in presence – no online transmission.

The registration forms can be found at our homepage www.heritagevolunteers.eu

in the section for annual conferences (above and left side);

the filled form should be submitted by email to info@heritagevolunteers.eu

Organisers:



Supported by:



10:00	Registration and Coffee		Stična Monastery: Living Monastery, Slovene Museum of Christianity and Anchor for the Local Identity – Simon Vidic, Curator at the Slovene Museum of Christianity, Slovenia	Old Manners in New Guise: Reanimating Pieces of Land in Hungarian Landscape Heritage – Barbara Sólyom, Project Manager at the Hungarian Garden Heritage Foundation, Hungary
10:15	Opening Words		Beyond the End of the Mining Industry: The Cultural Afterlife of Mining Landscapes – Silke Franzl, Mayor of Ehrenfriedersdorf, World Heritage Site Erzgebirge /Krušnohoří Mining Region, Germany	Weimar beyond Goethe: Parks and Gardens as Spaces of Heritage and Belonging – Andreas Pahl, Consultant for the Department of Gardens and Parks at Klassik Stiftung Weimar, World Heritage Site Classical Weimar, Germany
	Opening address – Dr. Bert Ludwig, Director of European Heritage Volunteers		Palauet Nolla: The complex Management of a Des-abandoned Heritage Site – Xavier Laumain, President of the Centre for Research and Dissemination of Nolla Ceramics, Spain	Moderation: Juan Barrientos
	Welcoming address – Barbara Meyer, State Secretary, Saxon Ministry for Infrastructure and Regional Development			
	Welcoming address – Dr. Tobias Michael Wolf, Deputy State Conservator at the State Office for Heritage Conservation of the Free State of Saxony			
	Welcoming address – Gabriele Gelbrich, Director of the Eastern Ore Mountains Museum Schloss Lauenstein		Moderation: Dr. Bert Ludwig	
10:35	Keynote Speech on the occasion of Europe Day	12:55	Group Photo	16:00 Coffee Break
	The Importance of Cultural Heritage for a Shared European Identity – Miguel Senra Hermana, Culture and Citizenship Manager at the European Heritage Label Bureau	13:00	Lunch Break	16:30 Panel 5: Heritage Communities – Saving Tangible & Intangible Aspects of Cultural Heritage
10:55	Video “Traditional Skills in Practice Training Courses”	14:00	Panel 3: Re-awakening of Neglected Heritage Sites through Volunteering and Community Engagement	Sustaining and Promoting Tradition and Cultural Practices at the Open Air Museum of Lithuania – Dr. Aistė Lazauskienė, Deputy Director at the Open-Air Museum of Lithuania
	Impressions of the European Heritage Volunteers Programme		Through Good Times and Bad Times: Caring for Mudurnu, A Small Turkish Silk Road Town – Dr. Ege Yıldırım, President of Terra Mudurnu, Türkiye	The Museum Association Heimatwelten Zwönitz: World Heritage Meets Local Identity – Marco Blechschmidt, Head of the Museum and Technical Monument Knochenstampfe Dorfchemnitz & Museum Staff at the Heimatwelten Zwönitz, Germany
11:00	Panel 1: World Heritage Sites – Challenges & Potentials beyond the Iconic Façades		Conservation of Roman Mosaics in Valandovo as a Booster for the Local Identity – Tome Filov, Mosaic Conservator-Restorer at the National Institution for the Preservation of the Archaeological Site Stobi, North Macedonia	Filling the Gaps: The Recovery of 18 th -century Vernacular Architecture and Forgotten History in the Czech Borderlands – Tereza Kobosilová, Member of the Friends of Czech Heritage, United Kingdom
	Between Maintenance and Preservation of Monuments, Claims and Living Tradition: Experiences of a Newcomer among World Heritage Sites – Andrea Kretschmar, Chairperson of the Evangelical Moravian Church Community in Herrnhut, World Heritage Site Moravian Church Settlements, Germany		Vaeküla Manor: From forgotten Heritage to Cultural Revival – Niina Bostrova & Iana Pali, Vaeküla Manor Association, Estonia	Moderation: Marija Konjević
	Casa Batlló: Between Global Fame and Local Belonging – Pamela Meraz, Museologist, Casa Batlló in Barcelona, World Heritage Site Works of Antoni Gaudí, Spain		Resurrecting Mandritsa: A Forgotten Adobe Gem of Bulgarian Heritage – Rumen Dzhagarov, Architect, Member of Association Meshtra – Traditional Knowledge and Crafts, Bulgaria	17:30 Panel 6: First-Hand Experiences of Participants of the European Heritage Volunteers Programme
	The Challenges for Public Institutions to Respond to Local Initiatives – Roland Lehner, Former Head of Construction Department at Burghauptmannschaft Österreich, World Heritage Site Historic Centre of Vienna, Austria	15:15	Panel 4: Volunteering and Community Engagement at Historic Parks and Cultural Landscapes	Rania Abdelmegid, BA Architecture, MA Architectural Design & History, Egypt
	Moderation: Juan Barrientos		Practical and Theoretical Reflections of Restoring a Lost Garden Monument in Freudenstadt – Siegfried Schmidt, Chairman of the Freudenstadt Heritage Association, Germany	Tereza Kobosilová, BSc Architecture, MA Heritage Studies, MSc Spatial Planning, Czech Republic
12:00	Panel 2: Echoes of History – Returning Heritage Sites to the Heart of Community Life			Pedro Romero, Msc Engineering, PhD(ca) in Urban Studies, Colombia
				Lora Samuilovic, BA Conservation & Restoration, MA World Heritage Studies, Serbia
				Moderation: Juan Barrientos
				18:00 Closing words