

PRESS RELEASE

European Cultural Heritage Year 2018

642 heritage houses open during the European Private Heritage Week!

Under the motto 'Our House, Your Heritage', the European Private Heritage Week gathered more than 642 heritage houses in 17 European Countries (Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Serbia, Switzerland, UK).

European citizens have been able to visit and explore exceptional places through art and crafts exhibitions, medieval fairs, concerts, theatre plays, culinary art festivals featuring local cuisine and tastings of home products, folk dances, private, conferences, exclusive visits of houses and gardens, and special activity for children and students.

Across the continent private families care for many thousands churches, chapels, historic houses, castles, manors and their surroundings: a tangible memory of our European culture that connects us with our past and provides context and guidance to inform our lives and reaffirm our identities. The European Private Heritage Week was the occasion to showcase to European citizens the essential role of individual owners/ private entrepreneurs in the maintenance and dynamism of Europe's heritage.

The European Private Heritage Week has seen emblematic houses participate from Vaux-le-Vicomte in France to a modest water mill in Czech Republic. ***During the Week, 39 houses open freely in Greece, 80 in Switzerland, and as much as 130 houses across three Baltic countries (Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania). A picnic was organized in 9 houses in Romania, while Latvian heritage houses launched the contest 'My business plan for a Latvian manor' for students who visited the houses.***

This initiative organised by the European Historic Houses Association, in partnership with the European Landowners Organization, the Friends of the Countryside, the Young Friends of the Countryside, the Future for Religious Heritage, the International Union of Property Owners was designed to be the main contribution of privately-owned heritage houses to the 2018 European Year of Cultural Heritage.



www.europeanhistorichouses.eu