

PRESS RELEASE

Brussels, July 1, 2019,



The second edition of the **European Private Heritage Week**, held on May 16-19, was a real success! Sixteen countries¹ participated, and we gathered more than **244.785 visitors in 468 houses**.

For this second edition, **children were once more at the centre stage**, with numerous dedicated activities. In Czech Republic, Castle Kvasiny held a children concert while Castle Ratměřice had a special performance of The Sleeping Beauty for children and Castle Mitrowicz organized the 'Mariánská pouť', a historical family day. Enniscoe House (IE) had a special day for schools on May 17: **visit of the house and garden in the morning, study of nature, environment and climate change in the afternoon**. In the Home of the Family Cvetec in Kraljevo (RS), 84 kids from primary school "Knez Lazar" took a part in interpretation and recognition of common intangible cultural heritage.

Our Latvian Association renewed its initiative "My Business Plan for Latvian Castle or Manor", aiming at **promoting the pupils' in-depth interest in cultural heritage objects**. Classes have to choose a castle among the 29 properties participating (both public & private), come for a visit during the Week, and write a business plan – the winning team gets to organize a memorable class evening in a Latvian castle!

Food as common intangible heritage was also highlighted in several countries, proof that culinary traditions of Europe are a strong bonding factor. The Ratiu House (RO) held a **multicultural dinner where a Syrian and a British chef cooked together** for the guests. Castle Dolni Kounice (CZ) organized wine tasting while owners of Castle Chyšé showcased the castle's cellars. At the Curtisoara Domain (RO) students of the School of Chaillot (FR) and Timisoara (RO) bounded over a picnic under the linden tree. Castle Dětenice (CZ) held a Medieval Food Festival. Schloss Hollenegg (AT) organized an exhibition of contemporary design objects presented in the historical rooms of the castle, exploring the table as a place where we come together, share food, behave, fight and reunite.



¹ Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Spain, United Kingdom



Numerous **historic houses would not be complete without their garden and surroundings** – an aspect also reflected upon during the European Private Heritage Week. Parc Samà (ES) and Castle Hradek (CZ) both held special garden tours, as did Curraghmore House (IE) – led by its head gardener. At the Casa Senhorial Verde de Oliveira, visitors had the chance to enjoy a **special yoga session in the gardens**. In Santorini (GR), our Association Elleniki Etairia organized ‘architecture tours’ linking the houses, and the villages’ historical nuclei making the visit a more inclusive experience.

This edition of the European Private Heritage Week saw a **special tribute to the Notre Dame cathedral** in Paris – which frame burnt to ashes last April. Appalled by the event, owners of some historic monuments in Carinthia (AT) decided to organize guided tours through the historic attics of the region with the aim of raising people’s awareness of the dangers and the protection of historic roofs. The proceeds from the ticket sales were donated to the restoration of the Notre Dame cathedral.



The [European Private Heritage Week](http://www.europeanhistorichouses.eu/activities/european-private-heritage-week/) is an initiative from the [European Historic Houses](http://www.europeanhistorichouses.eu/).

Created to celebrate the 2018 European Year of Cultural Heritage, the first edition was a true success gathering more than 300.000 participants throughout Europe.

Stay tuned for information on the 2020 edition!

Website <http://www.europeanhistorichouses.eu/activities/european-private-heritage-week/>

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