



# ECOVAST REPORT 56

## July 2014

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### EDITORIAL

Since the Newsletter 55 of December 2013 there has been much activity on the Danube Strategy and the Green Belt of the former Iron Curtain, as well as a growing interest in culture in current and future activities.

There have been no nominations for the post of Secretary General to support the President and the work of the ECOVAST International Committee.

The ECOVAST International website has been updated

A PDF of this newsletter can be accessed at:  
<http://www.dorfwiki.org/upload/PhilTurner/ecovastnews56.pdf>

and, using a search engine, can be translated into your own language.

**Please send copy for the next Newsletter to me, at [p.turner@semantise.com](mailto:p.turner@semantise.com) by 20 September 2014.**

Phil Turner

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT



We were very pleased to be able to host an International Committee meeting in the United Kingdom in May 2014. It was attended by Austria, Croatia, Germany and United Kingdom. All four Vice Presidents and the Treasurer attended. Our former Secretary General, Pam Moore kindly offered to take minutes.

We had an enjoyable meeting and our outing was a tour of the Sussex and Kent Weald. We looked at vernacular architecture and the variety of local building materials used.

We were also celebrating our ECOVAST 30<sup>th</sup> birthday – the organisation was founded in March 1984 – and we agreed to produce a publicity leaflet setting out what had been done over the last 10 years. It is hoped that this will be printed and distributed this summer.

We also all expressed concerns about how better to keep in touch with each other and to make sure we record the outcomes of the work that we do. We agreed that ECOVAST should have a simple code of conduct that would help us in the future. It is important though, that we make sure to produce National Section reports for every Newsletter. Thanks to those who always do but I would like to ask those who are not so conscientious that they should try and do so. It is, of course the way that the rural issues of those countries are given publicity over a wider area across Europe.

At the International Committee there was discussion about where we should hold our Biennial Assembly this year. We decided that we would like to hold it somewhere near a border area which has been part of the 'Green Belt Project'. We have contacts in the Czech Republic and are exploring the possibility of staging it in the border area of West Bohemia. This may take some time to organize and we may not be able to meet until the spring of 2015.

I will be attending the International meeting on "Cultural Landscapes in Natura 2000 sites" in October 2014, Athens Greece. See events at the end of this newsletter.

**Valerie J Carter, President**

## European Common Agricultural Policy



The Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development of the European Commission made contact with Mrs Magdalena Banu, of ECOVAST Romania, about the new communication campaign under the signature '**Europe's Common Agricultural Policy: Taking care of our roots**'.

DG AGRI has issued a short and colourful animation '**CAP – Produce Food**' highlighting the essential role farmers play in ensuring the **supply of healthy, safe and affordable food.**'

<http://web-engage.augure.com/pub/link/337056/0512299019881641403770583249-iservice-europa.eu.html>

The clip is **free of charge and copyright** and is available in **23 EU languages.**

## DG Agri Rural Development Advisory Group: Brussels, BELGIUM: 26 Feb 2014

This DG Agri Advisory Committee on Rural Development is seen as **the Consulting Group for the Commission – which of course has implications for the changes to be made on the future membership of the group for this new programme period and how stakeholders be involved in policy development by DG Agri.** The Commission is there to provide information to the stakeholders of the Committee (and the networks they represent) as well as be given information on activities/concerns etc from the stakeholders.

This was a session primarily about DG Agri **informing the stakeholders of progress** on the new Rural Development Programmes. It invited questions about what was being said – it was **not** a session where the floor was open for general debate with views invited from individual stakeholders. The information given covered the following:

1. The first part of the meeting was about Rural Development Policy 2014-2020 with information about the current **State of Play:**

(i) The **basic Acts** have already been adopted in 2013. The new Rural Development Programme has 114 programmes (more than the 88 in the 2007-13 period). All member states have started on a SWOT analysis and ex-ante evaluations. General points made:

- Remember that the Commission is never imposing any measures on any Member State. The programmes are chosen by the needs in the Member States or in the region of the member states (where they have regional programmes) and the details of how these programmes will be used will need to be set out by each Member State. The Commission will want to see how the measures adopted by the Member State will meet the objectives supported by the Commission.
- Member States also have to meet their own National Regulations as well.
- The guidance provided is not legally binding it is simply 'guidance' – there will be lots of guidance issued and regular updates to each Member State.
- In general payments will only be made on what is done beyond what should normally be done for normal economic farming practices.

(ii) The **Delegated Act** is in preparation for approval in March 2014 to be published in the summer. The European Parliament has up to 4 months to approve this Act – only a YES or NO vote. It will have 20 Articles and 9 Annexes.

(iii) There will be **specific measures** on the following: Young Farmers who are head of farm holding; Assisting farmers and foresters to visit each other and learn something from each other; Promotion of 'quality schemes'; Farm Business Development; Afforestation with minimum environmental requirements; Agri-environment/climate change – with conditions related to extensification; key species loss etc; Conservation genetic measures; No double funding; Animal Welfare; and Co-operation which will define 'local markets' and 'short supply chains', etc.

(iv) The **Implementing Act - Rules and Provisions** which set out Basic Regulations for the period 2014 to 2015 with Transition Rules and the Greening Element (Cross Compliance and Greening are mandatory activities).

(v) a section on the **Organic Farming Sector**.

2. The next part of the meeting was about **European Network for Rural Development (ENRD) (Activities)**; state of play and future development.

Information was provided on how much had been spent up until 2012 over each Axis and how much was left to spend. It will, of course be updated when information for 2013 is analysed and it will be on the ENRD website. There had been several changes over the programme period (2007-2013). There had been 88 programmes in all.

○ **Axis I:** 319,000 farm holdings modernised (investment of E33 billion); 37,000 farm operations and 25,000 forestry operations supported (investment of E6 billion); 19,000 businesses and 15,000 micro businesses supported (investment of E15 billion)

○ **Axis II:** 1,000,000 holdings in mountainous areas supported covering 15,000,000 hectares; agriculture environment payments for 1,300,000 farm holdings under 22,800,000 contracts

○ **Axis III:** 34,000 villages supported (investment of E6 billion); 41,000 actions to support basic services (investment of E4 billion)

○ **Axis IV Leader:** there were 2,402 Leader Action groups which financed 54,000 projects; with 384 Trans National projects

3. The next part of the meeting was about the **Transition Period**

- There were lots of different 'tool-kits' and 'self-assessment tool-kits' available
- A Leader Gateway had been developed with a Leader tool-kit; LAG database; Leader Library listing Leader events and Leader Trans National Co-operation
- There is now a CLLD (Community Led local Development) initiative
- There is a database already of 600 project examples and there will be more – it is recognised that more in-depth life cycle stories are needed
- There is a Rural Development Gateway on the ENRD website – with an EU Rural Development Experience section
- Lots of NRN meetings and workshops and seminars: already planned were:
  - Communications workshop in Vilnius, Lithuania on 3-4 March 2014
  - Training on Innovation in Ghent, Belgium 18-19 March 2014
  - Training on Self-Assessment in Kendal, United Kingdom 7-9 May 2014
  - The Final event (no date yet) will be in Brussels

4. **In preparation for ENRD for 2014-2020**

- The Regulatory Framework is set out in the Rural Development Basic Act Articles 51 and 52
- The Implementing Act to be adopted in Spring 2014 and includes the Implementing Rules for the organisation structure and operations of the ENRD for the new programme

**ENRD objectives** will be about improving the quality of the Rural Development Programmes and will involve stakeholders. A summary of main ENRD tasks are:

- Collect, analyse and disseminate information
- Support for the evaluation process
- Collecting and disseminating good practice
- Thematic works – involving exchange of experts
- Information on development in the EU and in prospective countries
- Holding meetings and seminars

There will be lots more consultation with Member States and Stakeholders and the process will be open and transparent.

## 5. Information on the EU Networks Structure for ENRD for 2014-2020.

There will be EU-wide networks but ideas for them have not been finalised and are still developing.

- Firstly there will be an **Assembly** which will replace the current ENRD Co-ordinating Committee. This will include EU Organisations; National Managing Authorities; representatives of National Networks; Paying Agencies; Local Action Groups; Advisory Services and Agricultural Research Institutes. It will have 200+ bodies. It is intended that this Assembly be open and inclusive. Those that attend will get financial costs paid. **It will be the place where decisions are made**
- Secondly there will be a **Steering Group** to support the above Assembly. This will have only 50 or so members (but probably on a rotational basis)
- There will be some sort of **Evaluation Network** and a meeting in April 2014 will decide how this will work

These networks will be supported by the following: All will have formal agreements stating how they will work

- **Thematic sub-groups** for Leader; CLLD; Innovation etc. Some may be temporary.
- There will be a **new ENRD Contact Point** which should be in place by July 2014.
- There will be an **Evaluation Help Desk**
- There will be an **EIP Service Point**

## 6. The Final part of the meeting concerned **The European Innovation Partnership (EIP) on agriculture productivity and sustainability**, and the **EIP Service Point**:

The European Innovation Partnership is about encouraging innovation and making use of relevant research. Member States do not have to take up EIPs – it is an individual choice by a Member State. No indication yet which countries will use EIP. The basic building blocks are:

- **Article 35** of the Rural Development Programme (EIP is not a funding instrument)
- **Horizon 2020** research policy network and projects.
- The **Steering Board** – an advisory body who prepares the strategies

Basically to use EIP measures you must meet two criteria: you must have an idea to be tested and must share the results. There must be very clear targets set for what you want to do – they will not be discussion groups.

- The EIP has a website which provides guidance.
- An EIP Service Point which will animate the networks and the Focus Groups

7. The meeting concluded with a statement about DG Agri which had been re-organised with a new Unit H5 Research and Innovation – who would be responsible for EIP work and will need to let stakeholders know how they will share any information gleaned

- 5 operational workshops have been set up already: Portugal end of March; Slovenia in April; Estonia also in April and Czech Republic in May and also France in May. The Member States are divided into 1 of the 5 workshops
- Focus Groups will be launched in March and the end of the year covering various topics – they will cover High Nature Value Farming Profitability; Precision Farming; Profitability of Permanent Grassland; Fertilizer Efficiency.
- An EIP Newsletter will be published

## **DG Agri Meeting of Advisory Group on Rural Development Held in Brussels, Belgium: 14 May 2014**

This meeting was a follow up to the previous meeting of 26<sup>th</sup> February 2014.

The meeting set out the new framework for **Civil Dialogue Groups** which had been approved by the Commission on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2013. There had been a formal call of applications for these groups ending at the end of April 2014. Final membership of them still had to be decided. This was to be announced at a separate informal meeting in July and ECOVAST was asked to participate at this meeting where questions would be answered. It was too short a notice for anyone from ECOVAST to attend but I did respond to the invitation setting out our reason for not attending but also our interest in becoming part of these groups.

The rest of the meetings involved an update on activities since the meeting in February: the state of Partnership agreements and national and regional rural development programmes.

## Announcement of new Civil Dialogue Groups

Since this meeting the membership of the Civil Dialogue Groups was announced on 18<sup>th</sup> April by the Director of DG Agri. 13 separate dialogue groups have been set up and will act for a period of 7 years:

- Animal Products
- Arable Crops
- CAP
- Direct Payments and Greening
- Environment and Climate Change
- Forestry and Cork
- Horticulture, Olives and Spirits
- International Aspects of Agriculture
- Milk
- Organic Farming
- Quality and Promotion
- Rural Development
- Wine

No group was set up for Women in rural areas

I am sorry to say that ECOVAST was not accepted as a member of the Rural Development Dialogue Groups on the grounds that our organisation is not represented at the 'highest level' and we are a member of PREPARE. This is very disappointing news as we have been part of the Rural Development Policy Group since 1998 – for the last two major EU programme periods and a bit more. We have the ability to appeal against this decision within the next 2 years. I suggest we wait a year to see how this new process works and whether we have a case to put forward based on their debates.

Our partner bodies PREPARE, EUROGITIS and APURE were all successful and are now part of the new Rural Development Dialogue Group. We congratulate them.

I hope that we can assure that our detailed views will be represented through PREPARE in the future and that, through them we will get regular reports on what is happening.

We remain a member of the Council of Europe.

**Valerie Carter**

## NEWS FROM THE SECTIONS

### Austria

ALEXANDRU CALCATINGE, Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Urban Planning of the University of Architecture and Urban Planning "Ion Mincu", Bucharest, Romania, who is a member of ECOVAST, Austria, has edited the publication "Critical Spaces" Contemporary perspectives in urban, spatial and landscape studies".

**39.90 EUR, ISBN 978-3-643-90495-9**



This book concerns the challenges and tensions rising from the critical times we are living and from the degrading moral nature of our societies. The scope of the book's theme is global, addressing diversity by rising global issues with respect to our spatial existence.

It contains contributions from the foremost international researchers in the fields of architectural theory and education, urban, spatial and regional studies and cultural landscape studies. Thus the entire texts bring together powerful writings that critically address issues from specific fields in the context of the major cultural, moral, political, economical, ecological, ideological and spiritual crises from today. It provides a focus and a conceptual framework for thinking about our most critical spaces in the light of these crises.

Among the contributors are: Arthur Spiegler, PhD and Brigitte Macaria, PhD who write on *Green Belt landscapes and small towns*. Phil Turner, of ECOVAST UK who describes Citizen involvement in Landscape Character Assessment.

Both contributions refer to the **ECOVAST Landscape Identification Guide to Good Practice**

Below, in the Croatian section report, Tihana tells of our involvement in the European Strategy for the Danube Region.

**Arthur Spiegler and Brigitte Macaria**

## Croatia

A number of activities were undertaken in the first five months of 2014 by members of the Croatian Section. The collaboration continues with the organisation "Expeditio" in Montenegro on the project "Heritage – Driver of Development", an IPA (Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance, EU) funded cross border programme. Presentations of the project took place in Dubrovnik on February 20, 2014 on 'Internet standards and methodologies in protection and management of natural and cultural heritage'.

Another small project is under way in the rural areas around Zagreb in collaboration of ECOVAST Croatian Section and HMRR (Croatian Rural Development Network). Part of the project called Perspectives for Development of Rural Areas on the Fringe of the City of Zagreb was finished in 2013 in the south-east area of Brezovica and a publication is being prepared, while continuation of the project is expected in Sesvete area on the north-east periphery.

The Section was involved in the organisation of the River Show in Vukovar on March 25, 2014 in collaboration with DCSF (Danube Civil Society Forum), which is an international event related to the EUSDR (EU Strategy for the Danube Region) aimed to gather organisations of civil society in the region and give information on the EU Strategy. International and national experts and stakeholders (Stefan Luetgenau from Austria, Peter Langer from Germany, Marton Mehes from Hungary, Tihana Stepinac Fabijanic from Croatia) gave the first-hand information and experience on the EUSDR especially designed for 3 target groups: local public administration, culture sector (art, museums, monuments, artists, music, theatre etc.) and Civil Society and NGOs.

Another closely related project is going on in the Danube region called The Wanted Danube. This interesting project of friendship along the Danube river has been managed by an organisation belonging to Ulm University in Germany, and the idea is that as many as possible members of civil society and other interested people 'knit the Danube' together – parts of knitted thread will be connected (hopefully) into a piece (the length of the river Danube) to be exhibited in the main square of Ulm in July during Ulm Festival.

ECOVAST's Croatian Section is celebrating its 20th Anniversary of its founding in 1993 (although a number of members had been active with ECOVAST in Croatia from 1988). The occasion will be crowned with a publication of the History of the Croatian Section of ECOVAST for which members are currently collecting written data (to be put on the Section's website, possibly as a printed booklet).

Members also participated in conferences and workshops related to the protection of heritage and landscape, and took an active part in the work of the ECOVAST International. The activities may be followed in Croatian language on our web page [www.ecovast.hr](http://www.ecovast.hr) as well as on Facebook.

### The Committee of the Regions

The CoR is relatively unknown among the institutions of the European Union, but has become a very important body since the Lisbon Treaty of 2012. Member of the Croatian section of ECOVAST, Majda Rubic, has a book "The Committee of the Regions in shaping EU legislation" to be available from publishing houses "Autumn" and "Turk".

### **Danube Region: Reports of the 'Participation Day DCSF' in Eisenstadt, June 25th 2014**

### **and of the 3rd Annual Forum of the EUSDR in Vienna, June 26-27, 2014**

A meeting of civil society organisations from 14 European countries related to the European Union Strategy of Danube Region (EUSDR) was held in the Austrian town of Eisenstadt on June 25th 2014, organized by the Danube Civil Society Forum (DCSF) and supported by the Foster Europe Foundation which had also the role of the host in the Esterhazy Castle in Eisenstadt, also by the German Baden-Wurttemberg Region and the City of Ulm, as well as by EUSDR institutions.

*Danube Participation Day* – as was the title of the event by which DCSF continues its efforts in supporting and promoting networking and collaboration between NGOs in the Danube region and their participation in the EUSDR – brought together a number of representatives of civil society along the Danube river giving them a possibility to meet directly and exchange their initiatives, project ideas and experiences in the course of 4 thematic

workshops (civil society, local administration, youth, culture), bringing out results in the form of reports and the so called *Eisenstadt Declaration* which will direct their ideas, proposals and claims towards EUSDR institutions.

This was also an occasion to gather participants of the *Danube River Show*, a project with the goal to spread the idea and information about the EU Strategy in the regions and towns along the Danube and which is still 'on the run', while its last event was organised in March 2014 in Vukovar, Croatia.

Some 170 members of the civil society and other institutions from the Danube region took an active part in Eisenstadt event, while Croatia was represented by 3 members on regional and national level – Tihana Stepinac Fabijanic from the Croatian Section of ECOVAST (European Council for the Village and Small Town), in the same time in the role of the Vice-President of this international organisation, and also a member the EC DCSF as a coordinator of the WG1 (Connecting the Region); other participants were Mrs. Dara Mayer from Vukovar Association of Germans and Austrians functioning also as representative of the Vukovar Association of Tourist Guides, while Mr. Stjepan Esih from Brdovec (near the town of Zapresic) represented the Tourist association of the Sutla and Sava river area west of Zagreb (Brdovec, Dubravica, Marija Gorica).

Croatian participants organized also an exhibition in one of the 'tent-villages' in the courtyard of the Esterhazy castle under the working title 'Danube and its Tributaries in Croatia – culture, tourism, sustainable development', while Culture Workshop was the group in which they actively participated in the afternoon program of the event.

The conference in Eisenstadt organized for the civil society representatives was actually an introduction to the *3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Forum of the European Union Strategy for the Danube Region* which took place in the Vienna Town Hall during the course of the next two days, June 26-27<sup>th</sup> 2014.

Under the title *We Grow Together, Together We Grow* – the Forum gathered more than a thousand and a half people from the Danube region of Europe and elsewhere and from all levels, political and economic to culture and civil society representatives, while in their focus were the issues of inclusion and sustainable growth, multi-stakeholder

European policies for an integrated and competitive Danube Region, as well as smart governance as a criterion of success for the EUSDR. The conference programme was meant to activate participants through lively moderated expert speeches in the plenary sessions, as well as workshops and 'speaker's corners' with various presentations and exhibitions, while final phase included a syntheses of thematic perspectives and proposals for further work on the EUSDR.

In the pauses between and after the sessions there was time available for meetings, lobbying and exchange of ideas and views, and this is how the members of both Croatian and Austrian section of ECOVAST met (Croatia: Tihana, Dara, Lidija; Austria: Brigitte, Arthur).

**Tihana Stepinac Fabijanic**



**Brigitte, Tihana, Dara and Arthur**



**Lidija, Tihana, Dara and Arthur**

## Germany

Several members of the German Section (Bokermann, Fowler and G. Henkel) attended this year's Green Week in Berlin in January 2014. I attended two sessions on church youth and culture in the countryside, and was able to speak briefly with the former EU Commissioner Fischler and recommended to him the Austrian Section of ECOVAST. I was also able to speak to representatives of the newly formally founded and registered German Village Movement.

The German Section has been very busy with the organisation of its meeting and AGM in mid June at Görlitz on the border with Poland. Arthur and Brigitte, from ECOVAST Austria, spoke on the "Green Belt" and there were three Polish participants.

We are also very busy organising this year's stand and participation at Denkmal Leipzig at the beginning of November 2014.

The Förderkreise Alte Kirchen Marburg and Berlin-Brandenburg, both members of the German Section of ECOVAST, are much concerned with the organisation of the international conference of "Future for Religious Heritage" (FRH) "Sustaining the rural religious heritage in Europe in the 21st century" in the Francke'schen Stiftungen in Halle/Saale (Handel's birthplace) at the end of October 2014.

Irmelin Küttner and I attended the World Heritage Day event in Berlin in the Städtelhaus. There was a very good talk by the representative of the Verband Deutsches Handwerk, the association for German Crafts, Titus Kockel. He spoke about an application for intangible World Heritage, traditional crafts, and showed traditional Kratzputz (ornamented graffiti/pargetting) on timber-framed buildings still surviving, for instance particularly in the so-called "Hinterland" area west of Marburg, especially in the village Holzhausen. The Verband is compiling a list and contacts for traditional crafts. I spoke afterwards to Mr. Kockel and told him about the ECOVAST conference in Krizevci/Croatia (when John Sell was Chairman of ECOVAST Vernacular Architecture Working Group) where we talked also about compiling a list with contacts of traditional crafts, particularly for obtaining materials e.g. shingles. For instance the quality of shingles cut in Slovakia was much better than in Poland where they did not last long.

**Angus Fowler**

## CLIMATE FOR CULTURE conference in Munich 9-10 July 2014

Abstracts presented at the conference may be found at:

<http://www.climateforculture.eu/index.php?inhalt=furtherresources.projectresults>

These include the National Trust for England, Wales and Northern Ireland:

WP2\_Nigel Blades and Katy Lithgow (NT): Assessing the impact of climate change on conservation heating in National Trust historic houses

WP2\_Katy Lithgow (NT): Stakeholder experiences - putting "Climate for Culture" in the context of the National Trust

**Phil Turner**

## Romania

### Rosia Montană

(see ECOVAST newsletter Report 55) "Local NGOs, supported by national, European and international heritage organisations, including ECOVAST Romania and International, have been campaigning against this project for years. They call for an alternative and sustainable solution, a long-term social and economic development plan based on the preservation of Roşia Montană's unique assets: the mining landscape with its cultural and natural heritage."



**From the Independent newspaper UK 2 May 2014:**

*"Environmentalists have won an important court ruling this week against a Canadian mining company that wants to create Europe's largest gold mine in the ancient Romanian village of Rosia Montana.*

Over a planned 16-year period the contentious mining project was set to reap 314 tonnes of gold and 1,500 tonnes of silver, flatten four mountain tops, allegedly expropriate hundreds of families, and leave behind a waste lake containing 215 million cubic metres of dammed water containing cyanide – a toxic chemical commonly used in the process of gold extraction.

However, CEO and president of Gabriel Resources, Jonathan Henry, said in a statement earlier this year: “We remain committed to our goal of building one of Europe’s most modern mines in Rosia Montana, developed in full compliance with Romanian and European Union legislation, using the best available practices and sympathetic to the cultural heritage of the area.” The mining company has also argued that job creation would be positive for Rosia Montana, and that the contribution of revenue from the project would be beneficial for the state.

**The critical environmental document required by the foreign miner Gabriel Resources to embark on its plans to create the open-cast gold mine in the Romanian village – was annulled in court this week – causing an eight year regress for the company, which is seen as a huge set-back, and a victory for campaigners against the project.**

Sibiu Regional Environmental Protection Agency (REPA) had issued an environmental permit in 2011 for the ‘Zoning Plan for the Industrial Development Area of [Rosia Montana Gold Corporation]’, despite NGOs contesting the entire environmental procedure from the early stage of information provided in the report.

Prior to the three Romanian NGOs Alburnus Maior, The Independent Centre for the Development of Environmental Resources and Save Bucharest, seeking a lawsuit in 2006 contesting the absence of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), Romanian environmental authorities considered the planned mine did not need an EIA, as they claimed the mine would not have significant environmental consequences.

NGOs and environmentalists who requested an EIA be carried out for the planned project countered this statement.

Campaigners in Romania against the planned metals mine have been highly critical of the

project, claiming the potential for environmental damage outweighs any forecasted economic benefit.

Rosia Montana is home to Europe’s largest gold deposit, and also some of the world’s most extraordinary Roman mine galleries, and fear of losing some of these artifacts to a supposed lunar-landscape also struck a chord with activists.

Campaign groups are calling for the historical area to be granted Unesco World Heritage status.

Gabriel Resources’ will not obtain the valuable go-ahead from the Ministry of Environment, in the absence of an EIA for the zoning plan and the existence of a valid environmental pass, which is essential for legally conducting the environmental permitting procedure, and thus the metals extraction.

Further bad news for the mining company came in court this week as an appeal to lift the suspension of a key Archaeological Discharge Certificate of the area’s richest and largest mountain, Mount Carnic, was rejected. The initial suspension was issued in January this year.

Eugen David, resident of Rosia Montana and President of NGO Alburnus Maior, said: “The courts always cancel the permits received from the authorities. Cyanide surface mining at Rosia Montana has become the obsession of an isolated small group of politicians and a [mining] company.”

Thus far, this saga has prompted protests in the global Romanian community, with up to 30,000 people marching the streets of Bucharest in September last year in opposition to the mine, with mirrored fervour in up to 75 cities worldwide.

This huge setback for Gabriel Resources’ is the latest in a string of events spanning over 14 years, which has seen NGOs and some sections of civil society in Romania take on a fierce battle to hold to account the government and the company’s plans for the proposed project.

The Canadian miner has so far spent £300m on the project.”

**The Independent.**

**Europa Nostra reported on 19 June 2014:**

**ROSIA MONTANA SHOULD BECOME A MODEL OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN EUROPE**

The joint mission of the leading European heritage organisation Europa Nostra and the European Investment Bank Institute (EIBI) to Cluj, Roşia Montană and Bucharest, on 16-19 June has concluded that a new and potentially more constructive period in the approach to the issue of Roşia Montană has now opened, as a result of the recent vote by both chambers of the Romanian Parliament.

**Guy Clause**, Dean of the EIBI, commented on this development: "As the likelihood - and threat - of opencast mining activities in Roşia Montană are rapidly diminishing, the need to formulate an alternative, more diversified and sustainable development strategy for the region becomes essential. The crucial components for such a development strategy must come from within the local community, but Europa Nostra and the European Investment Bank Institute can and will support them in this effort."

Europa Nostra and the EIBI have been collaborating since 2013 on the new pan-European programme 'The 7 Most Endangered', with the aim of selecting monuments and sites which are uniquely important to Europe but are either neglected or at serious risk of destruction. Both the unique importance of its heritage and the serious risk of its destruction are evident in the case of Roşia Montană, which was selected in 2013 as one of The 7 Most Endangered sites in Europe, upon nomination made by the Romanian heritage organisation Pro-Patrimonio. It is the view of Europa Nostra that the Roman mining galleries form an unique and irreplaceable part of our common European heritage which must be preserved.

This unique Roman mining heritage and the outstanding mining landscape and architecture of Roşia Montană have been under serious threat by the proposed opencast mining activity. Now, however, as a result of the remarkable determination displayed by tens of thousands of Romanian citizens and indeed citizens of many other countries both in Europe and elsewhere, and as a result of the recent vote by the two chambers of the Romanian Parliament, the time has come to investigate and propose a social, economic and environmental development plan based on the promotion and valorisation of Roşia Montană's unique assets.

The joint mission of Europa Nostra and the European Investment Bank Institute was composed of **John Sell**, Europa Nostra's

Executive Vice-President; **Costa Carras**, Europa Nostra's longest standing Vice-President; Guy Clause, Dean of the EIBI; **Ştefan Bâlici**, Europa Nostra's Council Member and Vice-President of ARA - Architecture, Restoration, Archaeology; and **Maria Berza**, member of the Advisory Panel of 'The 7 Most Endangered' programme. In Cluj, the mission held a series of important meetings with members of the academic community and civil society, at the Centre for Regional Geography of the Babeş-Bolyai University, and also with the President of the Romanian Chamber of Architects. The mission also spoke with many members of the wider local community, including people active in business, at a meeting hosted by the local NGO Alburnus Maior in the cultural centre of Roşia Montană itself. These meetings were very productive. In addition, there was a meeting in Cluj with five representatives of Rosia Montana Gold Corporation (RMGC), at their request.

In Bucharest, members of the mission held meetings at the offices of the European Commission Representation in Romania, at the Ministry of European Funds, at the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, at the Ministry for Culture and National Heritage, with the Romanian Academy and with the Romanian Union of Architects together with ICOMOS Romania.

"During our meetings, and particularly at the enthusiastic meeting in Roşia Montană itself, it has become evident that the seeds for a proposal for the sustainable development of the area, including heritage conservation, promotion of local crafts and different forms of agricultural, tourism and industrial activities already exist," stated Costa Carras.

"A great deal more needs to be done but there is a clear determination at the local and regional levels to achieve solutions based on sustainable development and respect for the cultural heritage, simultaneously fostering a true sense of community and making Romania an example to be followed throughout Europe. This would be fully in line with the [Conclusions of the Council of the European Union](#) (Education, Youth, Culture and Sport) adopted unanimously on 21 May 2014 in Brussels and stating that cultural heritage is a strategic resource for a sustainable Europe," added the Vice-President of Europa Nostra.

Source: <http://www.europanostra.org/news/>

## Russia

### Architectural Association of Wood Housing section WOODFOCUS held 15 May 2014

<http://www.npadd.ru/page/3377-forsayt-sessiya-arhitektura-derevyannogo>



**Olga, second from the right**

The expert group consisted of 30 people, it included several well-known architects and young professionals, the geography of participants was also different (mainly from Moscow, St.

Petersburg, as well as from Omsk). They all took part in the session on "Architecture in a wooden

construction ". Presiding over this section Alexei Yatsyna (organisation "Constructors communities

Practice ") and Catherine Furman, deputy Chairman of the Board of the Partnership NP ADD. Olga Sevan, of the Institute Heritage Committee and ECOVAST participated. See the video (Olga speaks at 03.20)

<https://yadi.sk/d/3zCraAyiQeAMR>

Olga Sevan took part in the International Conference in the Czech Republic "Wooden architecture in the cultural landscape" with her paper "Wooden architecture in Russia: history and nowadays"

<http://www.heritage-institute.ru/>

Dr. of architecture S. Ilvitskaya, professor, chief of the department of Architecture" of teh Moscow State University of Land Management and a member of Russian ECOVAST, organised the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Department "Architecture". Students of the university are working in many fields of architecture, including rural areas and towns. [http://www.ecovast.ru/news14\\_1.htm](http://www.ecovast.ru/news14_1.htm)

### "Cultural mosaic of small towns and villages"

Russian design competition "cultural mosaic of small towns and villages," which was organised by the Charitable Foundation Helena and Gennady Timchenko, with the participation of Association of Cultural Managers, held March 24, 2014 a panel discussion on "Prospects of development of the territories of small towns and villages across the socio-cultural projects." It was held in a wonderfully sunny and warm day in the Museum-Estate "Yasnayaglade." The meeting was attended by representatives of many towns and districts of the Tula field guide to the regional Ministry of Culture, employees of a number of museums and public organisations. Representatives of the contest organizers were meeting together with invited experts. Russian Research Institute of Cultural and Natural Heritage reports and presentations made by Olga Sevan, a candidate architecture leading researcher in the Department of integrated regional conservation programs and use of cultural and natural heritage. Olga is the President of the Russian Section of the European Council for Villages and Small Towns - ECOVAST, a member of the International Council of ICOMOS and the Association European open-air museums.

**Olga Sevan**

## PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

### CivilScape

[www.civilscape.eu](http://www.civilscape.eu)

"CivilScape currently initiates a declaration on territorial participation to forward to the Council of Europe, the Landscape Forum Strasbourg on 27 - 28 June 2014 was a great opportunity to create a space primarily for teenagers and young adults to express their conceptions of a European Community. The Landscape Forum Strasbourg is in line with 2013 declared European motto "European Year of Citizens".

CivilScape wants to ensure that European citizenship will remain a topic of ongoing discussion even in 2014 and beyond. In comparison with previous events the Landscape Forum Strasbourg was addressed primarily to the European youth such as students of landscape ecology, geography, sociology and everybody else interested in the future of our European Landscapes. Particularly in the context of the demographic change in Europe, the voice of the youth should not remain unheard.

As a result of the demographic change, especially elderly people will influence the political processes within Europe in future. Not only in regard to the basic idea of the ELC it is therefore important to ensure, that young people will have a say in future landscape issues as well.

**CivilScape** is setting up a series of landscape forum events that aim to increase dialogue between civil society, regional and national authorities. The conferences are focusing on the interaction between actors and stakeholders, including the role of civil society. They will furthermore highlight national and international examples and landscape perspectives in seminars and during excursions.”

<http://www.civilscape.eu/civilscape/content/en/events/pages/1374154292.xml>

## PREPARE



Partnership for Rural Europe

[www.preparenetwork.org](http://www.preparenetwork.org)

“PREPARE is steadily its extending its contacts in Turkey, and its contributions to events in that country. In mid-June, Michael Dower (former coordinator of PREPARE) represented us at a meeting in Tatvan in southeast Turkey organised by the KKG network, the Hüsnü M. Özeyğin Foundation and the Böll Foundation.

This event included a fascinating day of field visits to mountain villages in the Kavar Basin, which are home to Kurdish people, many of whom have returned to the villages after being forcibly moved away by the government following the conflicts of the 1990s. They have had to rebuild homes which were damaged or destroyed, and to bring abandoned land back into cultivation.

During the last five years, the Özeyğin Foundation has helped the villages to strengthen their fragile economies and social infrastructure. It paid for the training of women in beekeeping, and supplied 10 beehives to each woman who wished to keep bees. It funded the creation of a village oven for bread-making; the planting of orchards; and the equipment for a new enterprise to grow ornamental flowers, managed by a group of women. It paid for the construction of a primary school, to serve the whole group of eight villages; and for the construction or conversion of a number of buildings to serve as village halls. This support from the Foundation has been matched by a great deal of voluntary effort from the villagers.

While he was in Turkey, Michael Dower held meetings in Ankara with the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Livestock; the Ministry of Development; the European Union Delegation to Turkey; and the Development Foundation for Turkey. These contacts will help PREPARE in considering how it can assist the strengthening of civil society, and the building of closer relations between civil society and government, in Turkey.”

<http://www.preparenetwork.org/news-archive/299-turkey->

Valerie Carter and Michael Dower will be attending the PREPARE Gathering 2014 in Finland and in Estonia from 5th to 9th September.

## THE EUROPEAN RURAL UNIVERSITY (ERU)



[www.agraria-ature.hu](http://www.agraria-ature.hu)

Several past members of APURE, together with the new President Istvan Bali and Vice President Maria Gzzechynka, met in Sucha Beskidzka at the end of June to discuss the future of the organisation. Those attending were from Hungary, Poland, France, Italy and the United Kingdom.

The outcome of the discussions which we formally voted upon was that the organisation would join with an existing network in Poland and be registered in Poland rather than France. The Statutes need to be amended and simplified and then taken to the Polish courts for formal registration. It is hoped to stage a Rural University event in Sicily, Italy in 2015. Past members will be informed when this has taken place.

**Valerie J Carter**

## **EUROPA NOSTRA**



### **Cultural heritage**

For the first time ever, the Council of the European Union has adopted Conclusions on cultural heritage as a strategic resource for a sustainable Europe.

Under the leadership of the Hellenic Presidency of the European Union, the Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council adopted these historic conclusions at its meeting on 21 May in Brussels.

These conclusions adopt a holistic policy approach by the EU to cultural heritage - tangible, intangible or digital - recognising it as a unique and non-renewable resource and a major asset for Europe and for the entire European project. The conclusions emphasize the important role that cultural heritage plays in creating and enhancing social capital, as well as its important economic impact and its specific role in achieving the Europe 2020 strategy goals for a smart, sustainable and inclusive growth because of its social and economic impact and its key contribution to environmental sustainability.

The conclusions call for more resources to be invested in cultural heritage and for the mainstreaming of cultural heritage in national and European policies. Member States are invited to consider including cultural heritage in the framework of the next Council Work Plan for Culture which will be implemented from 2015 onwards.

The European Commission is also invited to further support at EU level the networking of, and pooling of resources between, public and private sector heritage experts and practitioners as well as civil society organisations.

Europa Nostra wishes to congratulate, also on behalf of other members of the European Heritage Alliance 3.3, the Hellenic Presidency of the EU, and especially the Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports, for this major step forward in developing a comprehensive EU strategy for the protection and promotion of our shared cultural heritage, as a strategic resource for a sustainable Europe.

Source: The full text of the conclusions is on the website:

[www.europanostra.org/news/460/](http://www.europanostra.org/news/460/)

More news on Cultural Heritage: [http://ec.europa.eu/culture/library/publications/2014-heritage-communication\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/culture/library/publications/2014-heritage-communication_en.pdf)

Following the annual Congress in Vienna in May 2014 there was an announcement about the Awards from 2015:

**“Brussels / The Hague, 26 May 2014** - The leading European heritage organisation Europa Nostra has been selected by the European Commission to be the organising partner of the annual European Union Prize for Cultural Heritage for a new period of 4 years, from 2015 to 2018. The selection was made following an open call for proposals launched at the beginning of this year on the basis of the new EU Creative Europe programme. The aim of the Prize is to highlight exemplary achievements related to heritage conservation, management, research, education and communication. In this way, the Prize will bring cultural heritage closer to European citizens and contribute to a stronger public recognition of cultural heritage as a strategic resource for Europe’s society and economy. It will also promote audience development for heritage in Europe.

The partnership between Europa Nostra and the European Commission for the running of this Prize was initiated in 2002 and was renewed in 2007, with the support of the previous EU Culture programme. The call for entries for the 2015 edition of the EU Prize for Cultural Heritage / Europa Nostra Awards will be launched in mid-June 2014. The deadline for submissions in four different categories will be on 15 October.”

Speaking at the 2014 European Heritage Awards Ceremony held on 5 May in Vienna, **Androulla Vassiliou**, European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Multilingualism and Youth, stressed: "Working in the field of cultural heritage, and in particular with Europa Nostra, has been one of the most rewarding experiences I had as Commissioner. I take this opportunity to warmly thank the President of the organisation, Maestro **Plácido Domingo**, and its Secretary General, **Sneška Quaedvlieg-Mihailović**, and, through them, Europa Nostra and its devoted members for our wonderful cooperation. I thank you for the inspiration you have given me and I wish you much success for the future."

<http://www.europanostra.org/news/461/>

The 2015 European Heritage Awards Ceremony will take place in Norway, at the Oslo City Hall, internationally-known for hosting the Nobel Peace Prize Ceremony, on 11 June. This major public event will be co-hosted by the world renowned opera singer and President of Europa Nostra, Plácido Domingo, and the new European Commissioner in charge of Culture.

**Phil Turner**

## **ECOVAST project ASSET: Action to Strengthen Small European Towns**

### **FINAL MEETING OF RURBAN, BRUSSELS: 28 January 2014**

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the involvement of the regional and local stakeholders in the **Sustainable rural-urban partnerships** and the role of future cohesion policy in stimulating future partnerships. There were two panels of RURBAN members invited to respond on the network had meant to them and how it would influence their future work. ECOVAST/PREPARE was a member of the first panel and invited to make a presentation on 3 separate points:

#### **Question 1: was about the roles of the organisations I represent:**

This presentation set out the roles of both ECOVAST and PREPARE as pan-European NGOs. I was invited to join the RURBAN network by DG Regio as a result of our work on small towns. I also explained my involvement with OECD – attending their 3 conferences and was a speaker to the final event in Bologna. My main role was to set out

why small towns were important and I made the following points:

- Small towns act in the same way as large towns but on a smaller scale
  - They are essential to their rural hinterlands
  - Most are a treasure house of history and architecture which has often been lost or degraded in many large towns as they expanded
  - Small towns are very used to working in partnerships with the rural areas they serve and have a strong history of such experience
  - There are also networks of smaller towns in many countries including Croatia, England, Hungary and England
  - All sectors – the Public Sector; Private Sector and the Voluntary Sector have a high profile in small towns
  - Many regions in Europe are not dominated by one single large town but are polycentric with small towns and medium sized towns and larger towns all playing important parts in the future potential for their regions
- ECOVAST and PREPARE feel very strongly that small towns play an important role in any rural partnership (and they have been part of such partnerships in rural areas for many years) but they are the smallest representation of towns (or urban areas) and should form a key link between urban and rural areas. They could be the jam in the sandwich. There is clearly a lot of potential for rural urban partnerships but small towns need to be equal partners and not subservient to the larger towns.

#### **Question 2: What will the RURBAN results mean for ECOVAST ?**

Both the ECOVAST and PREPARE networks meet at least twice a year in different parts of Europe to discuss emerging issues that will impact on rural areas and this will include the potential for rural/urban partnerships.

My answers concentrated on the potential role of small towns in emerging partnerships:

- It was clear from the debates, particularly at the three conferences organised by RURBAN and OECD, that small municipalities are regarded as being a very important component of any future rural-urban partnerships.
- The ECOVAST formal position paper called 'Importance of Small Towns' finalised at the end of October 2013 has already taken on board the potential of future rural-urban partnerships and is now referred to in the text of the report. It promotes the statement that small towns need to play a critical role in the formation of new rural-urban partnerships.

•ECOVAST's report is being circulated widely and promoted by our sections in different countries and has already been submitted to the Council of Europe and the European Union – both DG Regio and DG Agri. We will also be converting our report into a more glossy publication for local authorities across Europe (should be completed by end of 2014).

•All members of the PREPARE Network will receive a copy of this report asking for the potential for rural/urban partnerships be considered by their individual country networks and will be circulated to the members of the PREPARE Organising Group by the end of February 2014.

•However some other issues arose about potential partnerships. The concept of a rural/urban partnership is about function and the relationship between the component rural and urban parts. It is not about administrative areas and local authority boundaries. This can create difficulties in getting really good co-operation from public sector bodies which cross boundaries of political responsibilities. Any partnership will need political support.

### **Question 3: was about the use of European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) to the work of ECOVAST & PREPARE:**

Both networks and their national sections will be asked to be on the look-out for opportunities in the future to get involved with rural urban partnerships if funding opportunities are promoted. However as many of the networks are entirely voluntary it seems difficult to envisage how EU funds can apply themselves or become partners as they would find it difficult to find match funding.

**Valerie Carter**

## **OTHER EUROPEAN RURAL ORGANISATIONS**

### **European Rural Community Alliance**

ERCA and ERA are very happy to announce that agreement has been reached as to the merger of two important European rural networks: the European Rural Alliance (ERA) and the European Rural Community Association (ERCA). In the future they will work as one organisation: the European Rural Community Alliance (ERCA). This greatly strengthens the position of this important network for the rural communities of Europe.

The first Board of the new ERCA was elected in November 2013 and Staffan Nilsson of Sweden was elected Chair of the Board. The membership of ERCA will involve approximately 14 countries.

ERCA is also currently seeking to identify appropriate organisations and inviting membership from countries which have not previously been involved.

ERA will continue as an independent organisation until the end of 2014 to finalise the implementation of one project, but otherwise all work will now be carried forward under ERCA.

One of the most important projects of the new ERCA is the development of the European Rural Parliament. The first European Rural Parliament was successfully held in Brussels on November 13, 2013, as a partnership between ERCA, ERA and PREPARE. It was attended by representatives from over 30 countries, comprising 70 organisations, more than 10 European networks and many local development groups.

Further details can be found on the website: [www.ruralcommunities.eu](http://www.ruralcommunities.eu)

## **Rural Parliaments in Europe**

**The Swedish Rural Parliament took place in May 16th-18th in Sandviken, the county of Gävleborg. The aim of the 2014 session was to strengthen the village action movement and influence rural politics for the coming national and European elections during this year.**

A rural parliament is a major meeting-place for the rural movement, where inspiration, seminars and exhibitions unite with dialogue and delight. It takes place every second year in different parts of the country.

During the parliament days some key issues of political importance were discussed in a joint process with an election strategy from all Swedish counties, called Open Space. Almost 30 international guests also participated in the process.

Five out of eight leaders of all Swedish political parties represented in parliament attended the Rural Parliament's final day, Sunday May 18. They were participating in a conversation and Questions & Answers session about their views on the future development of Swedish and European rural areas.

Over 750 persons, representing village movements, other organisations and authorities, participated. Many exhibitors showed examples of local rural development in the region nearby, as well as authorities that presented how Sweden will implement multifunds for the coming programme period in local led development.

The food was mostly local produce from the area and organic.

A European Rural Parliament seminar will be held in Estonia on 7<sup>th</sup> September as part of the PREPARE Gathering 2013. Valerie Carter and Michael Dower will be attending.

## **OBITUARY JANE WADE 1937 – 2014**



It was with shock and sorrow that we heard of the sudden death of Jane Wade in January. She and her husband John Sell had been long time members and supporters of ECOVAST as well as Europa Nostra, of which John is Executive Vice-President. However, I knew Jane before I was involved in ECOVAST – we met through the Historic Farm Buildings group in the 1980s of which Jane and John were founder members.

Born in Swansea, Jane Morris, as she was then (apt, given her appreciation of the work of the William Morris, English textile designer, poet, novelist, translator, and socialist activist, associated with the English Arts and Crafts movement, whose wife was also called Jane), lived in many parts of England during her childhood, due to her father's work. She attended boarding school before studying sculpture at Nottingham School of Art.

In 1961 she went to America to take a Master's Degree at Philadelphia University.

Whilst there she met her first husband, Anthony Wade, an architect. They moved back to England and lived in Kent with their two children, Rebecca and Amyas.

For many years, Jane taught at the Canterbury School of Architecture and whilst there, she wrote and edited the excellent series of publications "Traditional Kent Buildings", a project which led her to direct the Kent Farmstead Survey, which recorded the details of hundreds of historic farm buildings in the County.

After Anthony's death, Jane met John Sell, a widower with two children and they settled at Lords, their beautiful house near Faversham.

Jane was an enthusiastic and influential champion of vernacular architecture, and took a particular interest in the preservation of British farm buildings, but had many other passions too. After the Great Storm of 1987, her love of landscape drew her into surveying parks as a consultant to English Heritage and to restoring many of them, including those in Kent at Benenden school, Cobham Hall and Goodnestone Park. She was, for many years, a guardian of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, (a body founded by William Morris to save historic and listed buildings from decay, demolition and destruction) and also a Council Member of the Architectural Association.

Then, of course, there was her work for ECOVAST and Europa Nostra. A memorable trip to Bosnia in 2001 comes to mind, led by John and Jane, as do the many Europa Nostra Congresses we all attended. Jane had a particular interest in the Balkans and she advised on postwar reconstruction in Croatia and Bosnia. She and John had a home in Croatia and had just returned from that country when Jane passed away.

Jane Wade will be greatly missed not only by John, her children, stepchildren and grandchildren but by all her many friends and colleagues. The high regard in which she was held and the warm affection she engendered was evident at the remarkable Memorial event which John hosted at their home on 6 July, when almost 200 people gathered to remember Jane.

(with acknowledgment to John Sell's obituary of Jane, published in The Guardian on 16 February 2014).

**Pam Moore**

## EVENTS NOTIFIED TO THE EDITOR

**1 - 6 September 2014** Association of Local Democracy Agencies (ALDA) **SUMMER SCHOOL ON EUROPE, PARTICIPATION, REMEMBRANCE** Monday Asiago (Vicenza), Italy **Active European citizenship and European commemoration.**

[http://www.alda-europe.eu/newSite/newsletter\\_event-asiago-rovereto2014.html](http://www.alda-europe.eu/newSite/newsletter_event-asiago-rovereto2014.html)  
<http://www.alda-europe.eu/newSite/>

**2 - 6 September 2014 European Walled Towns Symposium Chichester UK**  
**"Heritage and Cultural Tourism"**

Contact: [H.Monckton@chichestercity.gov.uk](mailto:H.Monckton@chichestercity.gov.uk)  
<http://walledtowns.com>

**23 - 26. September 2014**

**8<sup>th</sup> Pan-European Green Belt Conference**, Slavonice, Czech Republic. Conference venue is the CENTRE FOR THE FUTURE (Náměstí Míru 456, 378 81 Slavonice.

[www.centreforthefuture.cz/contact](http://www.centreforthefuture.cz/contact) ).  
Registration deadline was **30 June 2014**  
[greenbelt@bund-naturschutz.de](mailto:greenbelt@bund-naturschutz.de).

**26 September 2014** in Hotel Koran - Srakovčić in Karlovac, Croatia. A national conference **"the cooperation of local energy development"**, which will be held on The conference is the final event of the project **Local energy dialogue** jointly conducted by Society for Sustainable Development, Science and Education Center Visnjan and Bell with Cup. Our goal is to introduce the concept of local energy development planning and examples of successful projects and programs, which has led to cooperation at the local level.

More information about the project can be found on the website:

[www.localenergydialogue.net](http://www.localenergydialogue.net) .

**25-27 September 2014**, Dubrovnik Croatia. **The Best in Heritage 2014.**

The Best in Heritage is an annual survey of award-winning museum, heritage and conservation projects. Organised under special patronage of ICOM and in partnership with Europa Nostra, it is supported by The City of Dubrovnik and Croatian Ministry of Culture. The conference programme features examples of best practices from the field of museums and heritage. Twenty-four laureates awarded in 2013, coming from all over the world, will present their achievements and take part in Q&A sessions and moderated panels. For programme and further details:

<http://www.thebestinheritage.com/conference/programme>

**26-27 September 2014**, Rome Italy. The 2nd INTERNATIONAL **CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**. The 2nd ICSD 2014 will be held at the Sapienza University of Rome, from Friday 26 to Saturday 27 September, 2014. The Conference theme is: "Creating a unified foundation for Sustainable Development: research, practice and education".

For conference details:

<http://www.ecsdev.org/index.php/conference/2d-icsd-2014>

**29-30 September 2014, Madrid Spain.**  
**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN HISTORIC BUILDINGS: EXPERIENCES & SOLUTIONS.**

How to improve the energy efficiency of historic buildings while preserving their historic character, values and historical integrity. The conference will be held in the Escuela Técnica Superior de Ingenieros de Madrid.

For conference programme and further details:

<http://www.energy-heritage.com>

**6 - 7 October 2014 5th European Congress on Rural Tourism** in Alpbach/ Tyrol, Austria.

[http://europeanrtcongress.org/en/index.php?we\\_lv\\_start\\_news\\_listview=4](http://europeanrtcongress.org/en/index.php?we_lv_start_news_listview=4)

**10 - 11 October 2014, Athens Greece.**  
International meeting-“**Cultural Landscapes in Natura 2000 sites: towards a new policy for the integrated management of cultural and natural heritage**”

Download the preliminary programme and general information:  
[http://www.historic-towns.org/newsletter\\_june\\_2014/General%20Information%20Cultural%20Landscapes.pdf](http://www.historic-towns.org/newsletter_june_2014/General%20Information%20Cultural%20Landscapes.pdf)

**9-11 October 2014** Marstrand, Sweden

#### **SCANDINAVIAN LANDSCAPE FORUM 2014**

Along the shoreline of the North Sea sea foods has played since centuries an eminent role in creating a certain culture and identity. Even today while the coastal economy is not solely depended on these resources, the fishery still is very present for the local people, but also for the tourists which visit this coast line in an increasing number.

Our landscape is a shared resource and a shared responsibility where different values – like cultural, ecological, aesthetic, social and economic – meet. The European Landscape Convention (ELC) is a successful instrument for ensuring a richer life environment, where landscape diversity is managed sustainably. The ELC provides a clear democratic aspect. First, it highlights the region's social significance, and because it emphasizes the importance of people to actively participate in the evaluation and management of the landscape. The democratic aspect is also evident in the Convention's definition of landscape as “an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors.”

<http://www.civilscape.eu/civilscape/content/en/events/pages/1398072678.xml>

**October 9-11 2014, Newcastle/ Gateshead UK**

Culture Action Europe  
Conference “Beyond the Obvious”

**21 October 2014, Brussels, Belgium.**  
**ENCLOSE project Final Conference.**

The project's final conference “*The Sustainable Urban Logistic Plan: A key element for the future of the small and medium city*” will be held in the city of Brussels, Belgium.

Further details will be available soon on the project website:  
<http://www.enclose.eu>

<http://www.cultureactioneurope.org>



**29 OCTOBER – 1 NOVEMBER 2014,**  
**HALLE – GERMANY**

**“SUSTAINING EUROPE'S RURAL RELIGIOUS HERITAGE”**

The vast majority of Europe's religious heritage is in the countryside. It is often hard to access physically as well as intellectually and suffers from underuse and high maintenance and conservation needs.

[www.frh-europe.org/Halle](http://www.frh-europe.org/Halle) and

[www.frh-europe.org/FRH-Conference-2014](http://www.frh-europe.org/FRH-Conference-2014)

**6-8 November 2014, 1st Scottish Rural Parliament, Oban, Scotland, UK**

The Rural Parliament will bring together the people of rural Scotland and policy makers to enable better understanding, improve policy making and address rural issues. A series of smaller

events are planned across Scotland in the run up to the Rural Parliament which will feed into the discussion and debate at the event itself.

<http://www.scottishruralparliament.org.uk>

**6 - 8 November 2014. "denkmal" at  
Leipziger Messe, Leipzig, Germany**

European Trade Fair for Conservation, Restoration and Old Building Renovation – With its exhibition spectrum ranging from monument maintenance, restoration and rehabilitation, and a wealth of first-class conferences and congresses about these issues, along with a qualified trade audience, denkmal has established itself as a leading European trade fair in this segment.

"Historic Facades – Stucco.Plaster.Paint." is 2014's special focus topic,

**7-8 November 2014**

**IBERIAN LANDSCAPE FORUM Madrid  
(Spain)**

The European Landscape Convention (ELC) is considerably well implemented in Spain and Portugal, but this process has been mainly a top-down process like other European policies. We consider that still, public participation processes need to be reinforced. The Forum is organized as a travel through scales: from the bi-national and frontier experiences, through regional, metropolitan and local scales.

The aim of the Iberian Landscape Forum is to present the different experiences that have been taking place in the last five years in Spain and Portugal regarding the engagement of citizens regarding landscape.

<http://www.civilscape.eu/civilscape/content/en/events/pages/1374336962.xml>

**9 - 14 November 2014, 18th ICOMOS  
General Assembly and Scientific Symposium  
"Cultural heritage and natural landscapes -  
the heritage of humanity" Florence, Italy**



**Europa Nostra**

**June 2015. The 2015 European Heritage  
Awards Ceremony and Europa Nostra  
Congress** will take place in Oslo, Norway in  
June 2015.