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PRESS RELEASE & INVITATION

Four Italian heritage achievements will receive Europe's top Award in the presence of Minister Franceschini in Rome on 14 November

Rome, 8 November 2016 - Four exceptional Italian winners – the rehabilitation of the **Diocletian Baths**, the research project '**Granaries of Memory**', Mrs **Giulia Maria Crespi**, who has devoted her life to the vigorous defence of Italy's cultural heritage, and the education programme '**Apprendisti Ciceroni**' run by FAI - Fondo Ambiente Italiano – will receive a **2016 EU Prize for Cultural Heritage / Europa Nostra Award**, Europe's highest honour in the field, during a high-profile event in Rome on 14 November. **Dario Franceschini**, Italian Minister of Cultural Heritage, **Silvia Costa**, Chair of the Committee on Culture and Education of the European Parliament, and **Androulla Vassiliou**, Vice-President of Europa Nostra and former European Commissioner for Culture, will pay tribute to these remarkable laureates from Italy. They will also take part in the debate 'Cultural Heritage Counts for Europe', spotlighting these and other powerful examples of heritage that generates countless economic, social, cultural and environmental benefits. The debate will start with the presentation of the [Italian Edition](#) of the 'Cultural Heritage Counts for Europe' Executive Summary, produced by Europa Nostra with the support of the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Cultural Activities and Tourism (MiBACT).

This exceptional event will be held on **Monday 14 November** (16:00-20:00) at the **National Roman Museum of the Diocletian Baths** (Aula X).

PROGRAMME

I. 'Cultural Heritage Counts for Europe' Debate

Moderator: Sneška Quaedvlieg-Mihailović, Secretary General of Europa Nostra

Presentation: [Italian Edition](#) of the Executive Summary & Strategic Recommendations of the Report 'Cultural Heritage Counts for Europe', Rossana Bettinelli, Board Member of Europa Nostra

Speakers: Androulla Vassiliou, Vice-President of Europa Nostra

Silvia Costa, MEP, Chair of the Committee on Culture and Education of the European Parliament
Dario Franceschini, Minister of Cultural Heritage, Cultural Activities and Tourism

The [Report](#) 'Cultural Heritage Counts for Europe' provides compelling evidence of the value of heritage and its positive impact on Europe's economy, culture, society and environment. It was produced by Europa Nostra along with five European partners, and published in 2015. Since then, the Report has been widely recognised as a key study on the impact of cultural heritage, most recently in the European Commission's [proposal](#) to organise a European Year of Cultural Heritage in 2018 (*find out more in the Background section below*).

II. Awards Ceremony and Presentations by the Italian winners

The Diocletian Baths: charter house and open-air pool (*Category Conservation*)
Rosanna Friggeri, Director of the National Roman Museum of the Diocletian Baths
Marina Magnani Cianetti, Architect responsible for the rehabilitation project

'Granaries of Memory' (*Category Research*)

Piercarlo Grimaldi, Dean of the University of Gastronomic Sciences in Pollenzo

Mrs. Giulia Maria Crespi, GRAND PRIX (*Category Dedicated Service*)

Programme "Apprendisti Ciceroni" (*Category Education, Training and Awareness-Raising*)

Annamaria Ansaloni, Delegation of FAI in Rome

For detailed information about the Italian winners and the EU Prize for Cultural Heritage / Europa Nostra Award, which is supported by the Creative Europe programme of the European Union, refer to the Background section.

III. Concluding remarks

Moderator: Erminia Sciacchitano, DG Education and Culture of the European Commission

Speakers: Antonia Pasqua Recchia, Secretary General of MiBACT

Maria Rosaria Iacono, Vice-President of Italia Nostra

Marco Magnifico, Executive Vice-President of FAI

Beatrice Covassi, Head of the European Commission's Representation in Italy

Sneška Quaedvlieg-Mihailović, Secretary General of Europa Nostra

Media professionals are invited to attend the event.

Please **register** your attendance by sending an email to **Ms Joana Pinheiro**

Upon request, it may be possible to arrange **interviews** with the winners and key representatives

CONTACTS

Europa Nostra

Joana Pinheiro, jp@europanostr.org

+31 70 302 40 55, +31 6 34 36 59 85

Elena Bianchi, eb@europanostr.org

+31 70 302 40 58

TO FIND OUT MORE

www.europanostr.org

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BACKGROUND

Italian winners of the 2016 EU Prize for Cultural Heritage / Europa Nostra Awards

Category Conservation

[The Diocletian Baths: charterhouse and open-air pool, Rome](#)

The Diocletian Baths were built between 298 and 306 AD. In the 16th century, the extensive building was assigned to the Carthusian monks by Pope Pius IV and transformed into an impressive charter house with an adjoining church, following a design by Michelangelo. The small cloister of the charter house and the ancient open-air pool have been damaged in recent decades and suffer from structural problems, which led to the site being largely closed to the public for safety reasons.

Preserving the many phases of the Baths was a crucial element of maintaining the site's history. The construction of a new museum within the site posed a threat to the area's original aspect and called for intelligent intervention. Because of this, the renovation works were completed using non-invasive innovative technologies, cleverly concealing them throughout the site.

"This renovation project has reopened a vital part of Rome to the public and has reinterpreted the building to convey the significance of the Baths to visitors," noted the Awards' Jury.

Contact: Francesca Boldrighini, francesca.boldrighini@beniculturali.it, +39 06 48020756

Category Research

['Granaries of Memory', Bra](#)

Professional researchers from the University of Gastronomic Sciences in Northern Italy conducted over 1,000 interviews in various communities to capture people's memories of food and the regional cuisine. These interviews were recorded and are available to the public online in video format. While food holds the central focus of the project, the lifestyle surrounding its production and preparation clearly came to the fore.

"Its thorough and wide basis of selection has the potential to be considered on a wider scale and should be observed in Europe as an example of good practice in conserving intangible heritage. This project is an occasion to give an Award to the memory of common people," stated the Jury, who also admired the involvement of the community in this project. Although the interviews were carried out by professional researchers, the engagement of participants was broad and also fostered interest among younger generations.

Contact: Piercarlo Grimaldi, rettore@unisg.it, +39 017 245572

Category Dedicated Service

[Mrs Giulia Maria Crespi, Milan](#) **GRAND PRIX**

From a young age, Mrs Giulia Maria Crespi has had an active role in charitable activities and has devoted her life to the vigorous defence of Italy's cultural heritage. Driven by this passion, Mrs Crespi co-founded FAI - Fondo Ambiente Italiano in 1975, a non-profit organisation modelled on the National Trust of England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Until 2010 she served tirelessly as the leader of the organisation. FAI has been

responsible for an extensive amount of high-quality conservation, educational, and awareness-raising projects. The jury noted that *“with her strong personality and leadership, Mrs Crespi has had a direct influence on policy and decision-making with regard to cultural heritage in Italy. She has challenged the authorities time and again and mobilised private and public support to protect Italy’s landscape and heritage. Her many achievements serve as a legacy for present and future generations. With this Grand Prix, we pay tribute to an outstanding individual for her voluntary dedication to saving cultural heritage”*.

Contact: Valentina Pantalena, valentina.pantalena@segreteria.crespi.it, +39 02 76002996

Category Education, Training and Awareness-Raising

Cultural Heritage Education Programme: “Apprendisti Ciceroni”, Milan

“Apprendisti Ciceroni” is a programme that instils an awareness of the value of heritage in Italy in young people. It has enjoyed a sustainable rate of growth since its creation in 1996. Students aged 14-19 are given the opportunity to study one or two heritage sites in their region and to present them as tour guides to the public during special events, organised by non-profit organisation FAI - Fondo Ambiente Italiano, as well as for private and public cultural institutions. Students engage in training activities that take place both in the classroom and outside in the field using a methodology developed by FAI.

“FAI has established an impressive network of teachers, professionals and volunteers and has reached thousands of students, all while promoting cultural heritage in Italy. In targeting this audience of young students, FAI has managed to develop active citizenship among those who are less likely to visit cultural institutions with a well thought out programme of educational activities”, the Jury noted.

Contact: Cristina Marchini, c.marchini@fondoambiente.it, +39 02 467615285

European Union Prize for Cultural Heritage / Europa Nostra Awards

The **European Union Prize for Cultural Heritage / Europa Nostra Awards** was launched by the European Commission in 2002 and has been run by Europa Nostra ever since. It celebrates and promotes best practices related to heritage conservation, research, management, voluntarism, education and communication. In this way, it contributes to a stronger public recognition of cultural heritage as a strategic resource for Europe’s economy and society. The Prize is supported by the **Creative Europe** programme of the European Union.

Since 2002, independent expert juries have selected **426 award-winning projects** from **34 countries**. Spain leads the list of winners (59 awards), followed by the United Kingdom (58 awards) and **Italy** (33 awards). In addition, a total of **95 Grand Prix**, worth €10,000 each, have been presented to outstanding heritage initiatives, selected from among the award-winning projects.

The EU Prize for Cultural Heritage / Europa Nostra Award has further strengthened the capacity of the heritage sector in Europe by highlighting best practices, encouraging the cross-border exchange of knowledge, and connecting various stakeholders to gain wider networks. It has also brought major benefits to the winners, such as greater (inter)national exposure, follow-on funding, and increased visitor numbers. Furthermore, it has raised awareness about our shared heritage amongst the general public, while highlighting its intrinsic European character.

‘Cultural Heritage Counts for Europe’

The **project ‘Cultural Heritage Counts for Europe’** (CHCFE) aims to raise greater awareness about the many benefits of cultural heritage for Europe’s economy, society, culture and environment; it also presents strategic recommendations on how to tap into heritage’s full potential. This European cooperation research project was funded by the **EU Culture programme** and carried out from 2013 to 2015.

The CHCFE project was coordinated by Europa Nostra through a Steering Group, composed of the following **partners**: ENCATC (The European Network on Cultural Management and Cultural Policy Education), Europa Nostra, Heritage Europe (The European Association of Historic Towns and Regions), The Heritage Alliance from England (UK), as well as The International Cultural Centre in Krakow (Poland), and The Raymond Lemaire International Centre for Conservation at the University of Leuven (Belgium).

This two-year project culminated in the publication of the **report ‘Cultural Heritage Counts for Europe’**. The nearly 300-page **Report**, with its **Executive Summary & Strategic Recommendations**, demonstrates that heritage creates jobs, encourages investment and can improve social cohesion. An estimated 300,000 people work directly in the cultural heritage sector in the EU and as many as 7.8 million jobs indirectly. The key findings of the project were presented at a major conference held on 12 June 2015 in Oslo, during the European Heritage Congress organised by Europa Nostra.

Europa Nostra has engaged in an active dissemination strategy of the project’s outcomes and has so far enabled the translation of the CHCFE Executive Summary & Strategic Recommendations into **six languages** (Dutch, German, Italian, Norwegian, Polish and Spanish). The German version will be launched on 10 November in Leipzig during the debate ‘Towards a European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018’, organised by Europa Nostra.

Europa Nostra

[Europa Nostra](#) is a pan-European federation of heritage NGOs, supported by a wide network of public bodies, private companies and individuals. Covering 40 countries in Europe, the organisation is the voice of civil society committed to safeguarding and promoting Europe's cultural and natural heritage. Founded in 1963, Europa Nostra is currently recognised as the most representative heritage network in Europe. The organisation campaigns to save Europe's endangered monuments, sites and landscapes, in particular through 'The 7 Most Endangered' programme. It celebrates excellence through the EU Prize for Cultural Heritage / Europa Nostra Awards. It also contributes to the formulation and implementation of European strategies and policies related to heritage, through a structured dialogue with European Institutions and the coordination of the European Heritage Alliance 3.3. **Plácido Domingo**, the world-renowned opera singer and conductor, is the President of the organisation.

Creative Europe

[Creative Europe](#) is the EU programme that supports the cultural and creative sectors, enabling them to increase their contribution to jobs, growth and integration. With a budget of €1.46 billion for 2014-2020, it assists organisations in the fields of heritage, performing arts, fine arts, interdisciplinary arts, publishing, film, TV, music, and video games, as well as tens of thousands of artists, and cultural and audiovisual professionals. The funding provided by the programme allows all these actors to operate across Europe, to reach new audiences, and to develop the skills required in the digital age.