



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Awards for 'Destination of Sustainable Cultural Tourism 2015' go to Poland, Cyprus and Latvia

Brussels, Belgium (24 September 2015)

Cultural and heritage tourism is the fastest growing sector of European tourism and can contribute to the sustainability and competitiveness of tourism in the European Union.

European Cultural Tourism Network (ECTN) has initiated the only award in cultural tourism across Europe for nomination '**Destination of Sustainable Cultural Tourism**' Award to tourism destinations Europe-wide for the benefit of destinations, communities, businesses, citizens and visitors.

The Theme for 2015 was 'Industrial Heritage Tourism' concerning results of actions which have been implemented and have produced significant results and achievements by destinations with a focus on local, regional, state or European context.

The winners of the ECTN Award 2015 on the theme 'Industrial Heritage Tourism' were announced at the Award ceremony during the international conference "**Industrial Heritage: Prospects for Sustainable Tourism Development in Europe**" on 18 September 2015, which was organised in Riga, Latvia.

During the ceremony, the three winners, selected by a Panel of Judges among all candidates were announced, honoured with Award 'Destination of Sustainable Cultural Tourism 2015' and received special prize, certificate and sign by E-FAITH.

The three winners are:

1st prize: Bydgoszcz Water, Industry and Craft Trail TeH2O in Poland

TeH2O: Bydgoszcz Water, Industry and Craft Trail was created in 2014 within a European Union project called SHIFT-X that aimed at bringing back the glamour and knowledge of the past industries. TeH2O is an industrial thematic trail that unites the history of 15 organically water-centred places in Bydgoszcz which unites the tales of the Bydgoszcz craftsmen, entrepreneurs and city activists.

2nd prize: Carob Mill and Warehouse in Limassol, Cyprus

The Carob Mill Complex which is located next to Limassol's Medieval Castle was originally built in the late 1800's and was used as a warehouse. In the late 1920's it was converted into a carob mill where carobs were processed. Carobs were used primarily in the manufacture of film, medicines, honey, chocolate etc. When the ingredients of carobs

were no longer needed for the manufacture of these products, the carob mill was converted into a warehouse for fertilizers in the late 1960 and was used as such until the year 2000. Most of the machinery used for the processing of carobs are still intact and constitute a major attraction for the tourist and local population.

3rd prize: Daugavpils Shot Factory in Latvia

Daugavpils Shot factory is one of the oldest industrial enterprises in the territory of Latvia and one among oldest ammunition factories in Northern Europe founded in 1885.

During 2014 historical part of the Factory was investigated by the State Inspection for Heritage Protection of Latvia and it was recognized as National Industrial heritage monument, being one of just 13 in Latvia.

The next ECTN Award contest for destinations will be announced in March 2016 on different topic and Award ceremony will take a place in Guimaraes – European Capital of Culture 2012 in Portugal during the 9th annual international conference in September 2016.

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Media contacts

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Notes to Editors:

1. The ECTN Award is based on a contest around an annual theme for the benefit of destinations, communities, businesses, citizens and visitors to be launched annually on the different topics.
2. The theme for 2015 'Industrial Heritage Tourism' has been linked with the Campaign for a 'European Industrial and Technical Heritage Year 2015', launched at the Start meeting on 6 March 2015, organised by the European Federation of Associations of Industrial and Technical Heritage (E-FAITH) at the Committee of the Regions in Brussels.
3. The Sustainable Cultural Tourism Award has been initiated by CHARTS project, co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund and made possible by the EU INTERREG IVC programme in 2014. It was agreed, that ECTN (a partner in the CHARTS project) will take it over in the future in order to continue competition between destinations for Cultural Tourism Development and Promotion.
4. European Cultural Tourism Network is the only pan-European network for Cultural Tourism Development and Promotion.
5. ECTN brings together the tourism and cultural industry professionals working in different regions of Europe to exchange experience and information on best practice and to develop new approaches and innovations.
6. ECTN is an international association registered under Belgian Law. ECTN Members are destinations, authorities, NGOs and research institutes.
7. For more information visit: www.culturaltourism-network.eu