



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Annual cultural tourism conference on industrial heritage held in Riga

Brussels, Belgium (24 September 2015)

Industrial Heritage Tourism consists of the remains of industrial culture which are of historical, technological, social, architectural or scientific value of buildings and machinery, workshops, mills and factories, mines and sites for processing and refining, warehouses and stores, places where energy is generated, transmitted and used, transport and all its infrastructure.

Year 2015 was marked as 'European Industrial and Technical Heritage Year' by a campaign of European Federation of Associations of Industrial and Technical Heritage (E-FAITH), supported by the Council of Europe.

In the framework of this campaign by E-FAITH and on the occasion of 'European Heritage Days', European Cultural Tourism Network (ECTN) organised its 8th annual international cultural tourism conference on the theme 'Industrial Heritage: Prospects for Sustainable Tourism Development in Europe' on 18 – 19 September 2015 in Riga, Latvia.

The international conference gathered together distinguished speakers, heads of European Federations: Adriaan Linters, E-FAITH General Secretary, Pierre Laconte, Europa Nostra Council member and Chairman of Industrial and Engineering Heritage Committee and David Morgan, FEDECRAIL President. Also, experts and professionals working in industrial heritage field from ERIH (European Route of Industrial Heritage) in Germany, Belgium, Romania, Serbia, Russia, Croatia, Greece, as well as the Deputy State Secretary Raimonds Aleksejenko from Ministry of Economics of Republic of Latvia, with ECTN Members and participants from Latvia.

During the Conference the latest trends in the field of **industrial heritage**, including innovation, creativity, design, research and development, **sustainable tourism** product development were discussed, as well as the major challenges for the future.

The Conference showcased relevant experience, shared best practices, methods and concepts of successful implementation and provided practical recommendations to preserving, restoring, deploying and promoting **industrial heritage for sustainable tourism development**.

Panelists from E-FAITH, Europa Nostra, FEDECRAIL, Bournemouth University (UK) and Industrial Heritage Trust of Latvia shared examples and views, while engaging the whole audience into an open discussion, moderated by Manos Vougioukas, Transport and Tourism Advisor from Greece.

During this Conference there was a ceremony of the ECTN Award 2015 prize for "Destination of Sustainable Cultural Tourism" on theme 'Industrial Heritage Tourism'. The Panel of Judges has decided that the Award "Destination of Sustainable Cultural Tourism 2015" 1st prize is awarded to Bydgoszcz Water, Industry and Craft Trail TeH₂O in Poland, with the 2nd prize awarded to Carob Mill and Warehouse in Limassol, Cyprus and the 3rd prize awarded to Daugavpils Shot Factory, in Latvia for significant results and achievements in Industrial Heritage Tourism in Europe.

The Conference was combined with post-Conference study visits at industrial heritage sites in Vidzeme region – Ligatne Paper Mill Factory, as well as Felt Factory, Museum of living Silver and old Firefighter's Depot in Limbazi city.

At the end of the Conference it was announced that the next, 9th annual international conference on cultural tourism in Europe will take a place in Guimaraes - one of the most important historical cities in Portugal and European Capital of Culture 2012. Guimaraes historical center is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

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Notes to Editors:

1. European Cultural Tourism Network is the only pan-European network for Cultural Tourism Development and Promotion.
2. 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.
3. ECTN is an international association registered under Belgian Law.
4. ECTN Members are destinations, authorities, NGOs and research institutes.
5. For more information visit: www.culturaltourism-network.eu