



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nomination for 'Destination of Sustainable Cultural Tourism 2015' Award is open on Industrial Heritage Tourism

Brussels, Belgium (26 May 2015) – European Cultural Tourism Network (ECTN) has opened a contest for nomination '**Destination of Sustainable Cultural Tourism 2015**' Award to all tourism destinations Europe-wide for the benefit of destinations, communities, businesses, citizens and visitors.

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

Winners will be recognised as **examples of excellence** inspiring other tourism destinations and stimulating further development of regional initiatives.

One overall winner and two runners-up will be awarded.

The Winners will be announced at the Award ceremony and receive the Awards during the international conference "**Industrial Heritage: Prospects for Sustainable Tourism Development in Europe**", to be held on 18 – 19 September 2015 in Riga, Latvia, all candidates will be invited.

Applications for Award can be submitted by the **30 June 2015 24.00 CET** (Central European Time). No fees required for submission and no paper version of the application is needed.

Materials submitted will be promoted with acknowledgement to the Applicant at website www.culturaltourism-network.eu and announced in social media of ECTN.

Applications will be evaluated by the special Award Commission (panel of judges) consisted of the experts from various countries. The Award Commission will assess the quality of all applications according following five criteria: technical content of actions, evidence of success, sustainability of the actions; added value to Regional policies for Tourism Sustainability and contribution to Europe 2020 targets.

As this is an international panel of judges, Applications must be submitted in English.

To review guidelines and how to submit an Application, visit Award 2015 page at <http://www.culturaltourism-network.eu/award-2015.html>

About ECTN Award

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.

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 will take it over in the future in order to continue competition between destinations for Cultural Tourism Development and Promotion.

For more information including past winners, candidates and photo gallery, please, visit <http://www.charts-interreg4c.eu/events/charts-award-2014/>

The ECTN Award is based on a contest around annual theme for the benefit of destinations, communities, businesses, citizens and visitors to be launched annually on the different topics.

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.

The ECTN Award is aimed at tourism destinations Europe-wide, for achievements of results and outputs on cultural tourism.

About ECTN

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

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