



Dear colleagues and friends,

**Herewith we kindly invite you to the 2025 European Heritage Volunteers Project Partners Meeting, the related Annual Conference 2025 "Heritage and People: World Heritage in Practice & Community Engagement for Cultural Heritage".**

The Project Partners Meeting is the core event of the European Heritage Volunteers Network gathering representatives of the heritage-related institutions, organisations, and initiatives involved in various European countries in the European Heritage Volunteers Programme. The annual Project Partners Meetings allow the participants to evaluate the actual season and to plan European Heritage Training Courses and European Heritage Volunteers Projects for the upcoming seasons, to develop and maintain common quality standards, and to exchange experiences and best practice models.

The Project Partners Meeting is held annually in a different country, with recent editions taking place in Poland (2019), Germany (2021), Austria (2022), and Lithuania (2023). This year, it returns to Germany, with a revised schedule – moving from the end of the season to before the start of the 2025 season – to better enhance more detailed planning for the upcoming training courses and projects.

**The European Heritage Volunteers Project Partners Meeting 2025 will take place from May 8<sup>th</sup> (arrival in the evening) to May 13<sup>th</sup> (departure in the morning), 2025, in Saxony / Germany.**

**Participation for the whole duration of the meeting is preferred. However, for participants with limited availability, a shorter participation will also be possible.**



**The Project Partners Meeting will be held at Lauenstein Castle near Dresden, a component of the UNESCO World Heritage site Erzgebirge/Krušnohoří Mining Region (Ore Mountains). It will begin on May 9<sup>th</sup> with a full-day conference, coinciding with Europe Day, focusing on World Heritage and community engagement. The detailed programme of the conference will also include contributions of participants of the Project Partners Meeting which are interested to present the activities of their institution or organisation to a wider audience and will be published in April. The following two days will be dedicated to evaluating the 2024 season and planning for 2025 and 2026, working within the historic setting of Lauenstein Castle. **The meeting will conclude on May 12<sup>th</sup> with a full-day excursion.****



## The Project Partners Meeting

The European Heritage Volunteers Project Partners Meeting is a cornerstone event for the European Heritage Volunteers Network, bringing together a diverse range of heritage professionals, conservation experts, cultural institutions, and grassroots organisations. These partners – each playing a crucial role in the success of the programme – form a dynamic network that drives innovative heritage conservation initiatives, shares best practices, and nurtures new ideas for European Heritage Training Courses and European Heritage Volunteer Projects across Europe. The meeting serves as a crucial forum for collaboration, ensuring the programme's continued growth and impact.



The working sessions on **May 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>** will provide a platform for reviewing the 2024 season, evaluating methodologies, and shaping the 2025 and 2026 European Heritage Volunteers Programme. Discussions will focus on project development, heritage education, and strengthening international cooperation. On the **afternoon of May 10<sup>th</sup>**, our hosts from the Eastern Ore Mountains Museum at Lauenstein Castle will guide us through this historically significant site, a component of the UNESCO-listed Erzgebirge/Krušnohoří Mining Region. The visit will highlight the areas where the

European Heritage Training Course "Conservation & Restoration of Wall Paintings" has been held since 2023 and will continue in 2025, providing insights into ongoing heritage conservation efforts.

The meeting will conclude on **May 12<sup>th</sup>** with a full-day excursion through the Erzgebirge/Krušnohoří Mining Region, offering participants a first-hand look at past and future European Heritage Volunteers Projects in this World Heritage cultural landscape. The itinerary includes a visit to the Technical Museum Paper Mill Niederzwönitz, an associate component to the World Heritage site Erzgebirge/Krušnohoří Mining Region and an aspiring UNESCO site as part of a transnational serial nomination of historical paper mills, where our local partners will introduce the outcomes of the 2024 project and plans for 2025. The excursion continues with a visit to the Markus Röhling Stolln Visitors Mine, an industrial heritage site near Annaberg, where the impact of past European Heritage Volunteers Projects will be presented. The final stop is the Open-Air Museum in Seiffen, a site renowned for its efforts in preserving vernacular heritage as well as unique intangible heritage traditions of traditional wood toy-making and a European Heritage Training Course venue in 2023.

This annual summit is essential for all partners, particularly new ones, to gain a deeper understanding of the programme's scope, exchange knowledge, and strengthen collaborations. The excursion on May 12<sup>th</sup> is strongly encouraged, as it offers a unique opportunity to see the real-world impact of the European Heritage Volunteers Programme, understand its engagement with diverse heritage contexts, and connect with the communities benefiting from these initiatives.





## Venue, Accommodation & Logistics

The *Wappensaal* at Lauenstein Castle is a magnificent historic hall that will serve as **the central venue** for the 2025 European Heritage Volunteers Project Partners Meeting and Conference. This remarkable space has long been a setting for important gatherings, making it a fitting backdrop for discussions on heritage conservation and community engagement. The hall's grandeur, combined with its historic significance, will provide an inspiring atmosphere for presentations, debates, and strategic planning, ensuring that participants experience a truly immersive connection to European cultural heritage throughout the event. Other spaces in the castle will also be available for working sessions as well as for bilateral and trilateral exchanges.

Throughout the event, an **exhibition showcasing the European Heritage Volunteers Programme** will be displayed in the castle, offering insights into almost twenty past and ongoing projects throughout various European countries.

**Meals** will be provided at **Lauenstein Castle**, ensuring a comfortable and communal experience for all participants. **Accommodation** is arranged in a **small hotel three kilometres from the castle**, with **two-bed rooms available**. Depending on availability, **double rooms may be used as single rooms** for those covering the additional cost. A **shuttle service** between the hotel and the castle will be provided, and a scenic footpath along the stream offers an alternative walking route.

For those preferring a **simpler lodging option**, **shared accommodation is available in the sports hall within the castle ensemble**, ideal for younger participants. Those which will be accommodated with this option should bring their own sleeping bags.

## Technical & Financial Aspects

The **participation** at the Project Partners Meeting and the included Conference is **free of charge**.

**Accommodation and board** as well as the participation in the **excursion** will be **provided for free**. If institutions, organisations or initiatives would be able to pay a contribution to the related costs of their representatives, this would be welcome. An invoice can be provided.

For representatives of institutions, organisations, and initiatives based in a country which joined European Union from 2004 onwards or which is not member of the European Union, **partly reimbursement of the travel costs** can be provided. Likewise, for representatives of non-profit organisations and civil society initiatives which are based in a country which had been member of the European Union before 2004 or are based in Norway, Switzerland, or the United Kingdom and which's annual budget does not exceed 500,000 Euro, partly reimbursement of the travel costs can be provided.

In all aforementioned cases, the reimbursement will be provided for the cheapest reasonable variant from the place of residence or the seat of the institution or organisation to Lauenstein and back. The partly reimbursement will be provided on the base of invoices and proofs of payment based on the prices on March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at the latest. The prices shall be proofed by a screenshot of a comparison portal or similar tools. The reimbursement rates are **80% of the travel costs**. Costs for seat reservations and luggage exceeding hand luggage will not be reimbursed. Train tickets will be reimbursed for the second class, flight tickets for the economy class.





**Every institution, organisation or initiative can send one participant** in line with the aforementioned regulations. A **second person can participate on request** depending on the places available. For this second participant the organisers will provide board for free but will not finance the accommodation or provide partly reimbursement of travel costs.

**We kindly ask you to inform us until March 13<sup>th</sup> (end of the day) at the latest by email sent to [info@heritagevolunteers.eu](mailto:info@heritagevolunteers.eu)**

1. if your institution, organisation, or initiative will send a representative to the European Heritage Volunteers Project Partners Meeting and the included conference
2. the name, surname of the aforementioned person and her / his position in your institution, organisation, or initiative
3. if the representative would be able to participate during the whole duration of the events and, if not, when s/he plans to arrive / to depart
4. if your institution, organisation, or initiative would be interested to send a second participant in case that places would be available including the name, surname and position of this person
5. if the representative of your institution, organisation, or initiative would be interested to present at the conference as speaker or panellist
6. in case you want to receive partial reimbursement of travel costs a screenshot which shows the selected travel connection thus enabling to compare the price with other possible travel connection

**We will then come back to you within few days and confirm both your participation as well as the partly reimbursement of travel costs.**

**The possible confirmation of the participation of a second representative is expected to be send out during the last week of March.**

**We will react on your expressions of interest to present at the conference as speaker or panellist during the last week of March, too.**

**To ensure that this email has reached you and the information did not get lost, please, provide us also information in case that no representative of your institution, organisation, or initiative would be able to participate.**

Looking forward to your response and meeting you all in May at Lauenstein Castle.

Best regards,

Dr. Bert Ludwig  
Director