

# WHV - Maintenance of a Cultural Landscape

## Upper Middle Rhine Valley, Germany

Cultural property inscribed on the List of World  
Heritage since 2002

27/08/2017 – 09/09/2017



The Upper Middle Rhine Valley is an outstanding organic cultural landscape, the present-day character of which is determined both by its geomorphologic and geological setting and by the human interventions, such as settlements, transport infrastructure, and land use, that it has undergone over two thousand years.

### Project objectives:

The project will focus on the diversity of the cultural landscape Upper Middle Rhine Valley and illustrate – during both the hands-on part and the educational part – different aspects of the maintenance of the World Heritage site.

### Project activities:

The conservation of the area is partly in a bad state because of the numerous vineyards which are out of use. Furthermore, the maintenance of dry stone walls and biotopes demands full physical attention, while the traditional maintenance technique is slowly dying out. Under the guidance of experienced masons, the volunteers will restore parts of the historical dry stone wall system between the former vineyards. Aside, the participants will support the maintenance of biotopes by cutting long-grass meadows at slopes with brush cutters; the traditional way to cut grasses with scythes will be taught too. Moreover, at some of the countless meadows, the volunteers will top trees and cultivate the tree pits from scattered fruit trees, which are typical for the region. During all these hands-on works, the volunteers will have the possibility to get to know different places of the Upper Middle Rhine Valley. They will gain practical skills and learn about biodiversity and the endangered fauna and flora. A rich study part will give the theoretical background of the project.



## Partners:

Association Upper Middle Rhine Valley; Town of Rhens; Rießling Charta

**European Heritage Volunteers**

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