

Europarådets pressekorrespondent i de nordiske lande

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Czech Republic launches European Heritage Days

Strasbourg, 29.08.2005 – This year's European Heritage Days (EHD) will be officially launched on 2 and 3 September in Prague and Chrudim.

The opening ceremony will take place on Friday 2 September at 6 pm in the Mirror Chapel of the Clementinum, in the presence of the Czech Minister of Culture, Vitezslav Jandak, the Mayor of Prague, Pavel Bem, and Maud de Boer-Buquicchio, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe. It will be followed by a reception at the Art Nouveau residence of the Mayor of Prague.

The festivities, organised by the Association of Historical Settlements in Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia, in co-operation with the City of Prague, the Czech Ministry of Culture and the Council of Europe, will continue the next day in Chrudim, a historical town in eastern Bohemia. The numerous attractions will include a music festival and a traditional craft fair.

On Sunday 4 September, participants will be able to join in the Coronation Procession in honour of Holy Roman Emperor Charles IV, King of Bohemia, who was instrumental in Prague's development in the 14th century.

A press conference will be held on Friday 2 September at 11.30 am, at the Zofin Restaurant, Slovansky ostrov 226, Prague 1.

The Europe-wide celebration of the EHD dates back to 1991, when the Ministers of Culture of the Council of Europe decided to extend the "open days" launched in France in 1984 to the rest of Europe. Today, 48 countries participate. In 2004, the 32,000 monuments and sites opened to the public for the occasion attracted over 20 million visitors.

The purpose of the EHD is to give as many people as possible an opportunity to discover and appreciate the value of Europe's heritage and its historical background.

For the full programme and further information, see: www.coe.int/events/ehd/

Thalys is associated with the event for the first time, in order to encourage its European dimension. It has a special programme "European Heritage Days" available on its site: www.Thalys.com (France, Netherlands, Germany, Belgium).

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I de nordiske lande afholdes **European Heritage Days** følgende dage:

Danmark (Bygningskulturens Dag):

10.-11 Tema: Modernismens Huse, 1915-1970 (se: www.kulturarv.dk)
Kontaktperson: Elisabeth von Buchwald, e-mail: eli@kuas.dk

Finland:

- 9.-11. Tema: Gardens and Parks (se: www.ymparisto.fi/erp)
Kontaktperson: Hanna Hämäläinen, e-mail: hanna.hamalainen@ymparisto.fi

Island:

10. Tema: Old cemeteries
Kontaktperson: Kristin Huld Siguroardottir, e-mail: kristinhuld@natmus.is

Norge (Kulturminnedagen):

11. Tema: Fra slegge til mus - Forandringens hundreår 1905-2005 (se: www.kulturminnedagen.net)
Kontaktperson: Unni Blegen Walhovd, e-mail: post@kulturminnedagen.no

Sverige (Kulturhusens dag):

11. Tema: Sjöfartens miljöer (se: www.raa.se/khusdag/index.asp)
Kontaktperson: Pia Hedenstedt, e-mail: pia.hedenstedt@raa.se