

MEDIA RELEASE

European heritage and financial experts visited endangered Neptune Baths building and met relevant stakeholders in Bucharest

In the framework of the implementation of the 7 Most Endangered Programme, run by Europa Nostra in partnership with the European Investment Bank Institute, a team of experts met representatives of relevant Romanian national institutions in Bucharest with the aim to offer expert assistance with the recovery of the endangered [Neptune Baths](#) building in the thermal town of Băile Herculane. The expert mission was led by **Constantin Christofidis** from the European Investment Bank (EIB) Institute and **Mario Crecente**, President of the European Historic Thermal Towns Association (EHTTA) Scientific Committee, and took place from 31 January to 2 February 2023.

The delegation included **Laurent Levi-Strauss**, Board member of Europa Nostra, who for personal emergencies had to cancel his trip to Romania at the very last moment but contributed online to the mission. In Romania, the delegation had the support of **Oana Chirila**, President of Locus Association, which nominated the Neptune Baths to the 7 Most Endangered programme 2022.

On 31 January, the expert team met with **Oana Zaharia**, General Manager of the National Institute of Heritage and her team; EIB Jaspers Programme managers at the European Investment Bank office in Bucharest; **Csilla Hegedus**, Secretary of State and representatives of the Romanian Ministry of Investments and European Projects.

On 1 February, the delegation visited the Neptune Baths to examine first-hand the state of the building and its surroundings and to evaluate the risks that affect it. On 2 February, the delegation had talks with **Dan Buru**, Cultural Inspector and other representatives of the Municipality of Băile Herculane, and **Luminita Munteanu**, Chief Architect, Caraş Severin County.

The need for urgent action to save it justifies the decision by Europa Nostra, with the support of EHTTA, to put this historic thermal site on the [list of the 7 Most Endangered monuments and heritage sites in Europe for 2022](#). By saving the Neptune Baths, which form the central piece of the thermal urban ensemble of the historical town of Baile Herculane, this Romanian city will recuperate its past splendour and ensure its prosperous future through the use of its cultural heritage as a source of sustainable social and economic development.

The recent approval of Baile Herculane as EHTTA member, which will be confirmed at the next General Assembly of this European network in May 2023 in Baden bei Wien (Austria), will help to further enhance

the importance of this site, among others through its participation in the European Cultural Route, and through EHTTA's role as Affiliate Member of the UNWTO.

The delegation is preparing the mission report which will be submitted to the nominator and all relevant national, regional and local authorities in Romania.

PRESS CONTACTS

EUROPEAN HISTORIC THERMAL TOWNS ASSOCIATION

Simone Zagrodnik

EHTTA Executive Director

E. simone.zagrodnik@ehтта.eu; M. +49 (0)172 3080097

EUROPA NOSTRA

Joana Pinheiro

Communications Coordinator

E. jp@europanostra.org, M. +31 6 34 36 59 85

Antigoni Michael

7 Most Endangered Programme Coordinator

E. am@europanostra.org; T. +31 (0) 70 302 40 51

TO FIND OUT MORE

<https://historicthermaltowns.eu>

www.7mostendangered.eu

www.europanostra.org

Background information

7 Most Endangered Programme

The [7 Most Endangered Programme](http://www.7mostendangered.eu), which celebrates its 10th anniversary this year, is run by [Europa Nostra](http://www.europanostra.org) in partnership with the [European Investment Bank Institute](http://www.eib.org). It also has the support of the [Creative Europe](http://www.creative-europe.eu) programme of the European Union. Launched in 2013, the programme forms part of a civil society campaign to save Europe's endangered heritage. It raises awareness, prepares independent assessments and proposes recommendations for action. It also provides a grant of €10,000 per listed site to assist in implementing an agreed activity that will contribute to saving the threatened site. In most cases, the listing of an endangered site serves as a catalyst and incentive for the mobilisation of necessary public or private support, including funding.

Europa Nostra

[Europa Nostra](http://www.europanostra.org) is the European voice of civil society committed to safeguarding and promoting cultural and natural heritage. It is a pan-European federation of heritage NGOs, supported by a wide network of public bodies, private companies and individuals, covering over 40 countries. It is recognised as the largest and

the most representative heritage network in Europe, maintaining close relations with the European Union, the Council of Europe, UNESCO and other international bodies. Founded in 1963, Europa Nostra celebrates its 60th anniversary this year.

Europa Nostra campaigns to save Europe's endangered monuments, sites and landscapes, in particular through the [7 Most Endangered Programme](#). It celebrates excellence through the [European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards](#). Europa Nostra actively contributes to the definition and implementation of European strategies and policies related to heritage, through a participatory dialogue with European Institutions and the coordination of the [European Heritage Alliance](#).

Europa Nostra is among the official partners of the [New European Bauhaus](#) initiative developed by the European Commission, and is the Regional Co-Chair of the [Climate Heritage Network](#) for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States.

European Investment Bank Institute

The [European Investment Bank Institute](#) (EIB-I) was set up within the EIB Group (European Investment Bank and European Investment Fund) to promote and support social, cultural, and academic initiatives with European stakeholders and the public at large. It is a key pillar of the [EIB](#) Group's community and citizenship engagement. More information at <http://institute.eib.org>

European Historic Thermal Towns Association

The [European Historic Thermal Towns Association](#) (EHTTA) is a membership organisation representing historic thermal spa towns across Europe. EHTTA was founded in 2009 as a non-profit association based on the need to encourage the protection and enhancement of thermal, artistic and cultural heritage throughout Europe. Since 2010 it has been certified by the Council of Europe to manage the European Route of Historic Thermal Towns, as part of the Cultural Routes programme.

- ENDS -