



Contract signed for the organisation of the Europa Nostra Heritage Hub in Kraków

2022-11-18

Last week Robert Piaskowski, acting on behalf of the Mayor of Kraków Jacek Majchrowski, signed a contract for the organisation and operation of the Europa Nostra Heritage Hub for Central and Eastern Europe . As a result of an open tender conducted by the Municipality of Kraków, the role of operator of the first regional centre of this important European organisation dealing with heritage issues was assumed by the Society of Friends of Kraków History and Heritage. Prof. Jacek Purchla signed the agreement on behalf of the Society.

The main tasks of the Europa Nostra Heritage Hub in Kraków are to represent the organisation in the Central and Eastern Europe, transfer knowledge and expertise, initiate cooperation with NGOs and the private sector in heritage conservation and management, and identify and publicise sites, areas and practices calling for support and protection at the European level. The agreement was signed for the period up to 2025.

The Europa Nostra is a pan-European federation of non-governmental heritage organisations established in the 1960s. It brings together more than 250 member organisations from 40 countries and is recognised as a key complementary voice of European civil society to UNESCO for the broader cultural heritage of the continent. Headquartered in The Hague, the organisation runs high-profile media campaigns such as the 7 Most Endangered Programme, the prestigious Europa Nostra Awards, and maintains close relations with the European Union and the Council of Europe seeking attention and resources for specific conservation and preservation activities.

A letter of intent to establish the Europa Nostra regional centre in Kraków was signed on 9 May, the Europe Day, by the Mayor of Kraków prof. Jacek Majchrowski and prof. Hermann Parzinger, Europa Nostra's Executive President. The Kraków Hub is the first of several planned regional Europa Nostra centres on our continent - the second centre covering the Balkan region will soon be launched in Athens. The decision to create the centre is not only an expression of international recognition of the heritage of Kraków, one of the first cities inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List, but also of the commitment of the conservation community, museums and local NGOs dealing with tangible and intangible heritage.

The winner of the open tender announced by the Department of Culture and National Heritage of the Municipality of Kraków for the organisation and management of the Kraków centre was the Society of Friends of Kraków History and Heritage - one of the oldest Polish NGOs, with its metric dating back to 1897. The headquarters of the Europa Nostra Heritage Hub in Kraków is located in a historic building at ul. Św. Jana 12, which is also the Society's office. The strategic objectives for the coming years include in particular the creation of a broad network of non-governmental partners in the Central European region, the identification of cases of heritage at risk and lobbying for its protection at the European forum, as well as the challenge of linking modern heritage management with the objectives of the EU climate policy.

The contract for the organization and operation of the Hub runs from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2025 and is for the amount of 750,000 PLN.