

## Newsletter

### January-February 2021

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## LATEST NEWS

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### EHH Houses of the Month UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT!

The EHH ongoing virtual project, Houses of the Month, is starting to gain some visibility among the media and over the past few days we had a couple of excellent news:

The virtual tour of the [restoration project of the Moravi family in Friesach](#) aroused the interest of the Austrian television channel ORF, which dedicated to it an episode of its cross-border program "Servus, Srečno, Ciao". Part of the EHH team and our President Alfonso Pallavicini were interviewed online. Read the article [here](#).





On January 21, [PATRIMONIO.PT](https://www.patrimonio.pt) included in its Speaker's Corner an interview with Ana Oliveira, an active member of the Portuguese Historic Houses Association, regarding her participation in Houses of the Month with her beautiful family home in Leiria. Read the interview [here](#).

## **CHARTER Kick-Off Meeting**

### **11-14 January 2021**



On the second week of January 2021, the EHH Team took part in the kick-off meeting of *CHARTER*, a big Erasmus+ Blueprint project which we are proud to be a partner of.

***CHARTER - Cultural heritage action to refine training, education and roles*** is a project aiming at developing a pan-European strategy of approach to the cultural heritage professions. The project was approved by the EU Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) last August, it will last four years and it will be funded by the EU.

The project consortium is composed of **28 partners from 14 European countries**, representing **the main academic, institutional and professional actors in the European cultural heritage sector**. The EU funding is allocated among the partners according to the

tasks and the contribution of each to the whole project. The work plan includes **seven work packages** (WPs) and **EHH will contribute to five of them**: *Strategic analysis of Cultural Heritage competences and occupational profiles* (WP2); *Vocational Education and Training (VET) and beyond* (WP3); *Sector integrated dynamics* (WP4); *Alliances, Sustainable Strategies and Policy recommendations* (WP5); and *Communication and Dissemination* (WP6). Generally speaking, EHH will provide methodological input, information, data, knowledge and advice about the private cultural heritage sector, mainly based on the study "[Heritage Houses for Europe](#)" realised by ELO in collaboration with EHH and in turn financed by the EU. Furthermore, EHH will be involved in the organisation of the final conference.

Thanks to the *CHARTER* project, the private owners of historic houses will benefit from a lasting and comprehensive sectoral skills strategy which will bridge the gaps between the educational and occupational systems in the European cultural heritage sector as well as from training and curricula for the development of new skills for cultural heritage professionals.



### ***Identity and Innovation Project: Approved!***

We are happy to share with you that *Identity and Innovation*, another Erasmus+ project which EHH is a partner of and that was submitted in October, was approved for funding by the European Commission.

***Identity and Innovation* is an 18-month project on the exchange of good practices in the field of school education.** It is a cooperation between two secondary schools, two educational heritage service providers and two networking organisations in the field of cultural heritage (including EHH) from Belgium, the UK and Italy. The project partners share the desire to seek a balance between the historic value of educational heritage and the

need to create innovative surroundings for schools. Through workshops, exchange of best practices and round table networking events, the educational and heritage experts involved in the project will develop and put into practice an integrated approach to make school heritage more visible, sustainable, appreciated, creative, and digitalised thus ameliorating the well-being and the quality of living at schools.

Within the project, the role of EHH, together with its Member Associations, will be to share examples of best practices from the private cultural heritage sector.

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# PROJECTS

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# HOUSES OF THE MONTH

Registrations open for March and April 2021

For five months now, every week-end we have been presenting the historic houses of the members of our Member Associations through the broadcasting of short virtual guided tours on EHH YouTube and social media pages. **We are currently looking for suitable candidates who are willing to participate in the project in March and April, being ready to realise their video by the beginning of March.** If you are a private owner and you do not want to miss a good opportunity to present your house to a large public, do not hesitate to contact us via e-mail!

**Contact us!**

If you are interested in participating, remember that your virtual home tour will not need to be anything professional: the idea is for owners to present their homes as they would present them to a visitor in person. Have a look at how the project has been so far here:

## Houses of the Month

As usual, we kindly ask all the National Associations to spread the information and extend the invitation to take part in Houses of the Month as widely as possible among their members.

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# MEET OUR MEMBER

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### Latvijas Privāto Vēsturisko Ēku Asociācija

(Latvian Private Historic Houses  
Association)

**Foundation year:** 2014

**Number of members:** The Association has 10 members, who own some of the most well-known manors and castles in Latvia

**Number of houses:** 10

**Main activities:**

- Taking part/ representing members in different tourism working groups, meetings with state institutions, foreign chambers of commerce etc.;
- Focusing on different activities for attracting the interest of young people. The Association has established close cooperation with



**Website, social media and contacts:**

Website: [www.lpvea.lv](http://www.lpvea.lv)

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/lpvea>

Contacts: [karlsone.egita@gmail.com](mailto:karlsone.egita@gmail.com)

**Financing method:** Membership fees and donations

Junior Achievement Latvia and annually organising contest for students « My business plan for a castle or manor in Latvia »;

- Organising gatherings for association members and various meetings with different guests;
- Within the means promoting association/ members internationally.

**Main goal:**

- Promoting private manor houses and castles in Latvia to draw the attention of the government, state institutions and society and to increase their visibility.

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Interview with

***DANA BELDIMAN***

Founder Member, Governor and European Delegate of Latvijas Privāto Vēsturisko Ēku Asociācija



1. Good morning Dr Beldiman. Let's start with something about yourself. You are a Romanian living between the US and Latvia and a founder member of the Latvian Private Historic Houses

Association: could you give me some more details about your background?

*I was born in Romania, into a German-Romanian family. I was fortunate to be able to leave the country during Communist times and lived in Germany and France, following which I completed my education in the US. By training I am a lawyer, with a doctorate in law, primarily active in the academic field at universities in Germany and the US. I am married and I have four children.*

2. You are a owner of a historic house in Latvia: could you tell me something about it, its history and its current use?

*When Communism ended, I started looking to (re)acquire and restore a country house in Romania, to re-build tradition and re-establish a gathering place for my family, which is scattered throughout Europe. Then I met my current (second) husband, who is of Latvian descent. After the fall of Communism, he received restitution of his family properties in Latvia and we started spending a great deal of time there. My husband and I also purchased a historic estate in Latvia, Rumene Manor, which was in dire need of restoration. The estate itself dates back to the Teutonic order, and the first deed to it was in 1344. Over the centuries, it has been inhabited by numerous Baltic-German families, who built successive manor houses on the estate. The current manor dates back to 1856. We spent several years restoring the manor house, the park, several other buildings in the complex, dredging the lake and building a small golf course. The manor is primarily intended for family use. However, we do offer it for events in the large event hall housed in one of the stables. 20 rooms are available for guest accommodations. During the years spent in restoring the estate, I came to recognise that there is much to learn about successfully owning and running an estate. The operation of a country house touches upon many diverse areas of the economy, including construction, culture, tourism, hospitality, environmental concerns, labor, education, agriculture, forestry, etc. In effect, an estate is a complete economy in miniature. I understood that it is essential for an estate owner to operate in a community of peers for exchange of ideas and experiences and to develop joint initiatives (joint marketing, tourism, etc.), as well as to achieve government recognition and support, both regulatory (permits, etc.) and financial.*

3. When and how did you become the European Delegate of the Latvian Private Historic Houses Association? And about the Latvian Association: what do you think should be its main goals and what are its strengths or the aspects to improve at the moment? Is the Latvian Historic Houses Association a well known reality in Latvia?



*Colleagues from Estonia introduced me to EHH. I began attending EHH meetings as an observer, as I was eager to find people with similar experience, willing to share ideas. In Latvia, private country house owners had emerged but the government was hardly cognisant of the needs of private ownership of country houses. Accordingly, we formed an association of private owners and joined EHH in order to connect our lobby activity at national level with EHH EU lobbying activity. We find that, with increasing visibility of private historic houses at European level, the authorities' and the public's attention in Latvia increases as well. The focus of our national Latvian association is to gain more members and to organise activities which are useful to our members, including exchange of best practices, joint marketing, joint tourism offers, involving the young generation, etc. On the public side, we aim to increase recognition at government level, of historic country houses as economic units, and to obtain support that covers all facets of country house operation, rather than merely on a sectoral basis.*

4. Recently, you have been working a lot on the potential enlargement of EHH, especially with regard to the Eastern European Countries: in summary, why should a national historic houses association join EHH in your opinion? And how is it important for European private owners of historic houses to have an umbrella European association such as EHH?

*The situation of country houses in Central Europe is quite different from that in Western Europe, in that the continuous chain of private ownership has been broken during the Communist period. Restitution of property confiscated during Communism has been uneven. Buildings, personal property and parks have been damaged or simply destroyed. Private ownership of country houses has de facto started in the 1990s, often associated with the significant burden of restoring a partially or fully destroyed historic building. The culture of private ownership of an estate is still evolving. As a result, the strong associations we see in France, Germany, the UK, Denmark, etc. are absent.*

*In light of all this, the goal of a national association of private owners in CE countries should be to re-institute private country houses as a cognizable economic sector in the eyes of the public and of the authorities. Important prerequisites are a community of peers for exchange of ideas and joint initiatives (joint marketing, tourism, etc.), as well as government recognition and support, both regulatory (permits, etc.) and financial. National governments have been approachable to this issue via tourism, cultural and environmental policies; action at European level is also persuasive. Currently, of the former Communist countries, only the Czech Republic, Latvia and Estonia have national associations. While there are individual private owners in many of the other countries,*

*including Romania, Hungary, Bulgaria, Lithuania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Croatia, etc., associations are yet to be formed.*

*At European level, EHH has in the past years, dramatically increased the public visibility of private historic houses. New members from CE countries would further strengthen its reach, credibility and lobby strength. This in turn, would benefit all EHH member associations as well as its individual members, by providing better access to EU information, programs, networking, conferences and political activities. EHH membership would also create synergy with lobbying at national level.*

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## LIFE AT EHH

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### **Internship Opportunity at the EHH Brussels Office**

Given the large amount of work that awaits the EHH Team in 2021, we are looking for a motivated undergraduate or recent graduate (preferably in Art and Cultural Heritage, Architecture, International Relations, European Studies or Communication) to join the Team itself in Brussels. We already had some interviews with excellent candidates but we still invite our Member Associations to spread the information among their younger members, inviting anyone interested to send his/her application following the instructions mentioned in the internship description, available here:

**EHH Internship Description**

Do you want to find out more on what being a trainee at EHH is about? Read below what Theodora Canciu, one of the current EHH trainees, has to say about her experience!



**THEODORA CANCIU**

EHH Trainee September-March 2021

1. Hello Theodora. For the last five months, you have been working as an intern at EHH. Tell me about this experience: what has your work been focused on mainly? How the work environment at EHH is? Overall, are you satisfied with the experience until now and do you think the experience itself has allowed you to grow from a professional and personal point of view?

*Hello! It feels surreal that this rewarding experience comes to an end...*

*I would say that I dedicated most of my work towards visual communication, Web design and the management and organisation of cultural projects, but reality would contradict me. I have to admit that I got the chance to work with everything going on in the office from the basic understanding of energy efficiency directives and the research on the CEE restitution to getting in touch with members and designing both really technical and more creative presentations, as well as websites. I enjoyed it so much to have such a polyvalent internship which helped me decide on which I wanted to dedicate the time so to deepen my*

*proficiencies.*

*I have been working with such special and dedicated people for the past five months and this created the perfect environment. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to both our President, Alfonso Pallavicini and our Vice President, William Cartnett-Hignett, who supported me and offered me challenging responsibilities. I am also thankful both to Ewelina Oksiuta who has always trusted my abilities and been immeasurable understanding, and Margherita Malaspina who has always been my right hand and showed support when needed.*

*This opportunity has imparted me with cross-cultural skills and qualities, providing me with greater knowledge and understanding of private cultural heritage, EU cultural policies, visual and political communication.*

2. What did the lockdown situation mean for you in this period? Do you think this internship would have been much different if there had not been the pandemic?

*EHH team consists of digitally skilled, flexible and creative people who are willing to organise events regardless of the pandemic situation. COVID-19 measurements restricted the office hours and the time spent around people. I am convinced that the internship would have offered even more if there had not been the pandemic. We would have had the chance to physically meet our members, organise events, seminars, travel to Dublin for the NextGen Conference and why not visit historic houses. However, this did not stop us from successfully organising fruitful events and captivating virtual projects.*

3. Now tell me about yourself: where do you come from? What do you study and at which point are you with your studies? And what about your plans for the near and more distant future?

*I am from Romania, but moved to Sweden two years ago for educational purposes. I am a second-year Master's student in European Studies at Lund University. My main priority is to graduate and to search for a job or a new internship, but let's see what the future has in store for me.*

*Until then, I would like to thank all our members, their members, and all our network for contributing to this chapter of my life.*

*Until next time, European Historic Houses!*



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