

ILUCIDARE



PRESS RELEASE

ILUCIDARE SPECIAL PRIZES 2020 FOR 'ARCHAEOLOGY FOR A YOUNG FUTURE' (ITALY/SYRIA) AND ESTONIAN PRINT AND PAPER MUSEUM (ESTONIA)

Brussels, 10 November 2020

The ILUCIDARE Consortium, including Europa Nostra, and the European Commission have just announced the **two winners of the very first edition of the ILUCIDARE Special Prizes:**

- **'Archaeology for a young future' (Italy/Syria)**, for excellence in Heritage-led International Relations. This online exchange programme encourages school students in Italy and Syria to discover their own, local history through archaeology and to virtually exchange these histories with each other in creative ways.
- **TYPA - Estonian Print and Paper Museum, Tartu (Estonia)**, for excellence in Heritage-led Innovation. Founded in 2006, TYPA has preserved the values of historical printing and papermaking through the intersection of contemporary tools and traditional techniques.

The winners of the ILUCIDARE Special Prizes 2020 have just been celebrated – together with the laureates of the European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards 2020 ([read related press release](#)) – during a virtual gathering that connected culture and heritage professionals, policy makers, (young) entrepreneurs, enthusiasts, volunteers and supporters from across Europe and beyond. Mariya Gabriel, European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, awarded the ILUCIDARE Special Prizes during the European Heritage Awards Ceremony.

*“Through a shared vision of cultural heritage, ‘**Archaeology for a Young Future**’ allows children, school staff and communities in Italy and Syria to forge bonds in a spirit of mutual understanding, respect and friendship. Its strong educational component and trans-generational impact can contribute to maintaining and improving relations between the two communities in the long-run. This bottom-up, easily replicable project demonstrates that heritage-led international relations can happen among people and communities on the ground, and are not exclusive of governments or international organisations”, the **ILUCIDARE Jury** emphasised.*

*“The **Estonian Print and Paper Museum** is a brilliant example of heritage-led innovation in many ways: from its unique multi-functional and inter-disciplinary model, to the novel methods used to recover traditional printing techniques, as well as its original ways of engaging local communities and creating value for visitors. In a digital era, TYPA contributes to the safeguard, recovery and reuse of printing techniques and know-how which belong to our common history and shared European heritage”, the **ILUCIDARE Jury** noted.*

Mariya Gabriel, European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, stated: *“In the current circumstances which are challenging for all of us, including in the cultural and creative sectors, the ILUCIDARE Special Prizes winners provide us with comforting perspectives: they demonstrate that our shared heritage is an enticing source of intercultural dialogue and discovery, showcase the huge potential of digital technologies to bring people closer together while they cannot physically meet, and embody the meaningful innovation potential of a sector that needs to be fully part of Europe’s economic and social recovery. I warmly thank you and congratulate you for your achievements.”*

The winners of the ILUCIDARE Special Prizes were selected by the [ILUCIDARE partners](#) among the submitted applications to the European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards 2020. [Six projects](#) had been shortlisted for the final run of the Special Prizes.

“The winners of the first-ever ILUCIDARE Special Prizes embody the creativity and agility of the heritage sector. As such, they stand as best practice examples for the heritage community as well as an inspiration for the broader worlds of innovation, entrepreneurship and international cooperation. Our heartfelt congratulations to the 2 winners on behalf of the ILUCIDARE Consortium! We are looking forward to further support you in upscaling your projects and to making your experiences enthralling role models for the ILUCIDARE network,” said **Koen Van Balen**, ILUCIDARE project coordinator (KU Leuven, Belgium).

The ILUCIDARE Special Prizes are supported by the European Union’s [Horizon 2020](#) Research and Innovation programme, in addition to the European Union’s [Creative Europe](#) Programme for culture and the audio-visual sectors, which supports the European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards.

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WINNERS OF THE ILUCIDARE SPECIAL PRIZES 2020

‘Archaeology for a young future’, ITALY/SYRIA

‘Archaeology for a young future’ is an online exchange programme that encourages school students in Italy and Syria to discover their own, local history

through archaeology and to virtually exchange these histories with each other in creative ways. For many of the schoolchildren who took part, this innovative, yet simple initiative was their first experience of international cultural exchange and a common understanding of shared heritage. The programme has led participants, aged 11 to 14, to realise the value of archaeology, discover new places and become more deeply connected to their own localities. The Associazione per la Valorizzazione dell'Archeologia e della Storia Antica (AVASA) initiated the programme with the financial support of the Steinmetz Family Foundation and the Cariplo Foundation.

Interview with Stefania Ermidoro, Director of AVASA, project leader

1) What was the most difficult or challenging moment during this project?

The greatest challenge to our project in the past years has been the terrible war that raged in Syria, forcing our physical absence from the archaeological site and the local communities who live around it.

2) What was the most rewarding?

One of the most emotional moments has been seeing the images of the exceptional concert which the very young musicians of the Roj Ava Orchestra held on the monumental staircase of Tell Mozan. Many of these youngsters were children involved in our Project School, and they engaged their directors and friends in the discovery of ancient Urkesh, through the music.

3) What does the future of your project look like?

We had already begun a new exchange of schools between Italy and Greece, and we were about to put the European students in communication with Syrian peers, when the pandemic forced us to stop this project. However, we did not give up, and the school project is still ongoing, with a completely original approach: individual students in Italy, Syria, the US and now also China are communicating with each other, being tutored by educators and members of our staff, on a "one-on-one" basis.

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TYPА - Estonian Print and Paper Museum, Tartu, ESTONIA

TYPА - the Estonian Print and Paper Museum, founded in 2006, is dedicated to the preservation of print and paper heritage and the promotion of international relations. Printing and papermaking, their industry and heritage have a long and

central role in the history of Europe. TYPA preserves this shared heritage in an innovative way, creating value for and preserving the values of historical printing and papermaking through the intersection of contemporary tools and traditional techniques. The museum's collection is made up of historic printing equipment that has been preserved, wherever possible, to full working order, allowing visitors to try out historical printing and papermaking techniques. The museum also promotes innovative artistic and skill-sharing approaches and a rich programme of events. The museum shows how innovation can stem from the understanding of historical technologies and techniques.

Interview with Charlotte Biszewski, Studio & Residency Manager, and Lemmit Kaplinski, Board Member

1) What was the most difficult or challenging moment during this project?

There are always challenging aspects with the museum, finding definition and recognition for the work that we do has been a continued struggle. It sets us aside from museums, galleries, and fine-art studios. Instead, we have often found ourselves in not quite fitting into a traditional role, by being aligned with programs such as ILUCIDARE do find opportunity to better understand ourselves.

2) What was the most rewarding?

There is a rewarding moment which is shared by every member of our small staff. It is when a new visitor enters, not knowing what to expect. Once they have ventured through the threshold and signed themselves over to our tour guides, it is not long until they are captivated. Often it is the first time they have made paper, learnt how complicated the typesetting process was and witnessed the final stages of traditional bookbinding.

3) What does the future of your project look like?

In the future, we would like to extend our international collaborations, working with like-minded institutions in innovative approaches to heritage. We would like to further our knowledge in our own print technology, organise conferences and skill-sharing on a wider European level.

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ABOUT THE ILUCIDARE SPECIAL PRIZES

The ILUCIDARE Special Prizes, selected within the [European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards](#), put a spotlight on European change-makers in **heritage-led innovation** and **international relations**.

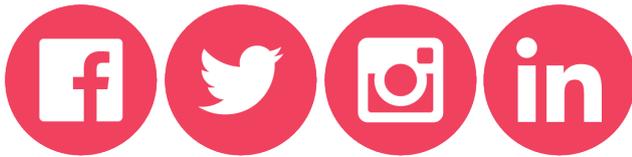
The European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards are run by Europa Nostra in partnership with the European Commission since 2002 and is widely recognised as Europe's top honour in the field of cultural heritage.

These newly-launched Prizes, running for **2 editions**, are one of the highly-visible actions of the **ILUCIDARE project**, of which Europa Nostra is a proud partner, together with **7 international organisations**. The ILUCIDARE project demonstrates and advocates for the importance of cultural heritage as a driver for innovation which improves our society at large as well as people-to-people international relations. The ILUCIDARE project and the Special Prizes are supported by the European Union's **Horizon 2020** Research and Innovation programme.

For this very first edition of the ILUCIDARE Special Prizes, [6 inspiring projects](#) carried out by dedicated professionals from **9 countries** were shortlisted.

The winners of the ILUCIDARE Special Prizes will have the unique opportunity to join the **ILUCIDARE Champions Programme**, a tailor-made excellence programme together with European and international experts as well as the ILUCIDARE partners. The **ILUCIDARE Champions Programme** will provide the two winners with an unmatched space to share their achievements and good practices, expand their networks, find suitable solutions to the encountered challenges and upscale their success.

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