

OPEN CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Heritage under the Loupe:

On Site Seminar on Conservation of Synagogue in Subotica, Serbia

Dear colleagues,

We are happy to announce the Call for Applications for seminar on conservation of synagogue in Subotica, which will take place in Subotica from 20th to 25th November 2015. This workshop is the first of activities within the project Heritage under the Loupe, a project which aims to offer a series of education and professional development opportunities in the field of heritage restoration and management around one of the most beautiful examples of Art Nouveau in the Southeast Europe – Synagogue in Subotica. Looking closely at this outstanding monument is an excellent learning opportunity, because the complexities of this monument pose numerous technical and management challenges on the restoration project and the future use.

The workshop is aimed at young experts, postgraduate students, and students of final years and in the field of conservation, engineering, architecture and other areas related to heritage management and protection from Serbia and the region¹. The seminar will gather a mix of lecturers and trainers, both the local experts dedicated to restoration of Synagogue and international experts, engineers and conservation architects. Each participant will get the certificate at the end of the workshop.

The main goal of this seminar is to introduce principles, methods and techniques of assessment, conservation and restoration of Art Nouveau monuments and to offer onsite analytic discussions on the solutions for the restoration of the Synagogue.

The seminar will include:

- Education of the history, architecture and specificities of restoration of Synagogue and Art Nouveau heritage
- Education and training about the basic principles and standards of conservation
- Education and training about the basic assessment and understanding of the structure of historical monuments
- Education and training about the understanding and the technical assessment of construction and capacity of supporting elements, as well as about non-invasive methods to assess bearing capacity of historical structures
- The aspect of the cultural heritage management, the aspect of the decision making structure, responsibility of the community and individuals towards the cultural monument.

¹ Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Hungary, FYR Macedonia, Montenegro, Kosovo*, Serbia

All accommodation and alimentation costs during the course of the workshop will be covered by the organizer, while the costs of travel are to be covered by participants. We have provided 5 travel grants of maximum 150euros for best applicants from the Region² and 5 travel grants of maximum 50euros for the best applicants from Serbia.

The deadline for sending the application form is **November the 1st**. We will inform all candidates about the results of the selection until 7th of November.



About the Synagogue

The Synagogue in Subotica is a pearl of the Central European built heritage. While most of the synagogues dating from the second half of the 19th century were built in the style of Historicism, this one is unique for being conceived in pure Art Nouveau style (Hungarian Secession). It was designed by Hungarian architects Marcell Komor and Dezső Jakab whose differing talents shaped the building into a unique masterpiece. Komor contrived the modern early concrete structure of a building, while Jakab designed the decorative elements from Hungarian folk art motifs and symbols, accomplishing an outstanding work of the Hungarian Art Nouveau. The Synagogue has a symbolic and educational value as a testimony of multiculturalism of Subotica and its formerly big Jewish population, which is now too small to be able to keep up their place of worship.

The synagogue of Subotica which has been restored only in bits and pieces during the last twenty years, has been nominated in 2014 for the Europa Nostra “7 Most Endangered” Monuments list, and before that has been four times on the World Monument Fund List of 100 Most Endangered Sites. The Synagogue is finally coming through the processes of complete restoration and conservation with a donation from the Hungarian Government.

²Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Hungary, FYR Macedonia, Montenegro, Kosovo*

Heritage under the Loupe

The project Heritage under the Loupe is a follow up of the international expert mission to Subotica Synagogue within the “7 Most Endangered” program, run by Europa Nostra and the European Investment Bank, to help the protection of outstanding monuments across Europe, which have for years been deteriorating due to the lack of funding for restoration projects, social neglect, or maltreatment. A project will be realized in the period between October 2015 and summer 2016, with three main segments comprised: a practical workshop on conservation in Subotica for professionals and postgraduate students, lasting for days for 25 participants; Master Class/discussion related to restoration of Synagogue for professionals, which will have a report with observations and recommendations as a final result; study trip to Budapest in January, with a theme of cultural heritage management, where elected professionals from Subotica and other Serbian cities will take part in seminar led by the architect-conservator, Graham Bell; a course within studies of cultural heritage protection at the Faculty for Civil Engineering in Subotica led by Viktorija Aladžić in summer semester, where the case study throughout the whole semester would be Subotica Synagogue.

The project is run by Europa Nostra Serbia, in partnership with the Cultural Heritage without Borders, the City of Subotica, Municipal Institute for Heritage Protection in Subotica, Faculty of Civil Engineering Subotica and the State Institute for Heritage Protection of Republic of Serbia. The whole project has been financially supported by the Headley Trust.



Europa Nostra Serbia

Europa Nostra Serbia (ENS) is a non-profit and non-governmental organization established in 2007 in Belgrade, Serbia, passionately dedicated to raising awareness of cultural heritage as a basic right of every citizen.

Its' vision is to be "the voice of the cultural heritage" which all people, regardless of their background, have right to understand, cherish, use, and safeguard, enjoy and participate in. ENS is a Country Representative of the biggest pan-European heritage network, Europa Nostra, which represents more than 250 non-governmental organizations, 150 associate organizations and 1500 individual members from more than 50 European countries dedicated to safeguarding the cultural heritage and landscape of the continent.

Through many activities ENS is promoting protection and sustainable use of heritage by applying the principles of social museology – campaigns, raising awareness, education and encouraging citizens' activism; strengthening heritage sector through trainings and exchange of experiences, ideas, knowledge and good practices on a local, regional and European level; participating in research, giving advice and consulting heritage related policies, strategies, heritage management and projects on national, regional and European level; advocating for the sustainable individual, social and cultural development based on heritage as one of the priority goals of the Serbian politics and policy.

"The Seven Most Endangered" Program

Europa Nostra, the leading European organisation dedicated to the cultural heritage, launched the program "The Seven Most Endangered" in January 2013 with the European Investment Bank Institute as founding partner and the Council of Europe Development Bank as associated partner. The aim of the program is to serve as a catalyst for action, to raise awareness about the endangerment of the heritage and to promote "the power of example", through helping the endangered monuments. The program provides the work of the international expert team from the field of heritage and the finance specialists from the European Investment Bank Institute, alongside with the local representatives, on the evaluation of the location, the sustainable solutions development and the plan for the revitalization of the 7 most endangered places.

The list of "The 7 Most Endangered" monuments of Europe in 2014 is consisted, beside the Synagogue in Subotica, of the Historic Stage Machinery of the Bourla Theatre from the 19th Century of Antwerp in Belgium, Historical Neighborhoods of Kastoria (Dolcho and Apozari) in Greece, Citadel of Alessandria in Italy, Carillons of the Mafra National Palace in Portugal, Wooden Churches in Southern Transylvania and Northern Oltenia in Romania and the Colour Row Settlement of Chernyakhovsk in Russia.

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