



## Press release

September 9, 2015

Chisinau

### **The Republic of Moldova was awarded the EU prize for Cultural Heritage**

*The European Commission and Europa Nostra have announced the winners of 2015 EU Prize for Cultural Heritage / Europa Nostra. This is considered one of the most prestigious European heritage prizes. The prize was awarded to the Moldovan Agency for the Restoration and Inspection of Monuments under the category education, training and raising awareness.*

The Republic of Moldova is one of the prize recipients of this year, being represented by the Moldovan Agency for the Restoration and Inspection of Monuments, through a project which was launched at the beginning of 2013 - *“Saving the testimonies of the past to build the future”*.

This is a complex project, which covers two years of activity of the Agency (2013-2014), which had the goal of promoting a respectful attitude towards the heritage of the country. The target groups of the project were the managers and owners of monuments, as well as the general public.

The main goal of the project was to raise awareness of the citizens, companies and beneficiaries - owners or managers of monuments and encourage a civic attitude towards the historical and cultural heritage, developing a profile of the potential visitor of Moldovan monuments at the local level, as well as abroad.

The EU prize for Cultural Heritage / Europa Nostra was launched in 2002 by the European Commission in partnership with Europa Nostra. The Prize celebrates and promotes the best practices related to heritage preservation, management, research, education and communication.

The prize awarding ceremony was organized in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture and the EU Delegation in the Republic of Moldova.

## Background information:

The Europa Nostra Prize has the goal of bringing cultural heritage closer to the European citizens and contributes to a public recognition of the cultural heritage, as a strategic resource of the European society and economy. Each year, European organizations and experts from this field apply for this prize. A specialized jury, including independent experts, analyzes these materials and selects a number of 30 prize winners within 4 categories: preservation, research and digitization, heritage related services, education, training and awareness raising.

In this context, the methods employed by the Agency for the Inspection and Restoration of Monuments for the promotion of cultural heritage protection included: modern education methods; the organization of photo exhibitions; round-tables and conferences organized within the framework of the European Heritage Days event, on the International Day of Historical Monuments and Sites; books presenting historical monuments from different districts, region by region - the Retro series publications - Retro Chisinau, Retro Soroca, Retro Orhei; the Black Book of the Chisinau Cultural Heritage, Moldovan Cultural Heritage: from reality to necessity; a Moldovan Cultural Heritage Protection List were published.

Also, the promotional film - *“Saving the testimonies of the past to build the future”* was released, aiming to raise awareness of society for the cultural-historical heritage with a special preservation status, was released.

**For more information please see the link below:**

[http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/creative-europe/actions/heritage-label/0414-eu-heritage-winners\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/creative-europe/actions/heritage-label/0414-eu-heritage-winners_en.htm)



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The European Commission is the EU's executive body.

The European Union is made up of 28 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders.