



White Tower in Mellieħa
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Inclusive European Heritage Residency 2026

Various sites in Malta
13-19 September

Call for Participants
Apply by 15 May

 europeanostra.org



INCLUSIVE EUROPEAN HERITAGE RESIDENCY 2026 CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

[Europa Nostra](#), the leading European heritage civil society network, and [INTO – the International National Trusts Organisation](#) are organising the **second edition of the Inclusive European Heritage Residencies from 13 to 19 September 2026**, in collaboration with [Din I-Art Helwa - the National Trust for Malta](#). Around **10 heritage professionals** will be selected to gather in Malta to exchange best practices, discuss key challenges, and explore strategies for building strong and resilient heritage organisations.

Focusing on **Building Strong Heritage Organisations**, this practical Residency is targeted at professionals and leaders of small or medium-sized heritage organisations who want to strengthen their growth and sustainability. It is designed to support organisations looking to reinforce their capacity, enhance financial sustainability, improve governance, engage volunteers, increase visibility, and effectively manage small heritage sites or natural areas. Both cultural and environmental organisations are welcome.

The Residency's programme will offer a rich mix of case studies, practical sessions, site visits and peer learnings. Din I-Art Helwa, a non-governmental and non-profit voluntary organisation founded in 1965 to safeguard Malta's cultural and natural heritage, is featured as the key case study. It operates with a very small staff team, supported by a large group of committed volunteers, and manages a wide range of properties, including coastal towers, historic gardens, chapels and natural sites. Many of these sites are open to visitors thanks to volunteer support.

The Inclusive European Heritage Residency 2026 is organised in the frame of the network project [Europa Nostra Heritage Agora](#), co-funded by the [Creative Europe](#) Programme of the European Union. The [2025 edition of the Residency](#), hosted at the historic Hardwick Hall estate in central England, explored inclusive, sustainable and community-driven approaches to heritage. Read the [INTO article “Reimagining Heritage: A week at Hardwick”](#) and/or watch the [video testimonials](#) conveying the shared experience of both the participants and the organisers of the Residency in England.

The Inclusive European Heritage Residencies are an opportunity for heritage professionals to experience first-hand how heritage policies and projects are implemented in practice. This **immersive programme** is designed to support participants in gaining **practical insights** into heritage conservation, fostering **collaborative solutions**, and advancing **knowledge sharing** and **intergenerational dialogue** about heritage and heritage management across Europe. The **peer-learning methodology** of the programme is designed to stimulate interaction, collaborative learning, and solution-building in a supportive expert environment.

The highlights of the Inclusive European Heritage Residency 2026 include:

- Understanding how Din l-Art Helwa (DLH) grew from a small volunteer group to the National Trust for Malta, through sessions at the Valletta headquarters and presentations from DLH leaders;
- Governance and administration workshops, covering transparency, registration, accounting, handling donations, reporting and managing committees and regulators;
- Real restoration case studies, including a visit to Victory Church in Valletta, to explore donor engagement, technical reports and opening heritage sites to the public;
- Fundraising strategies based on the development of Majjistral Park, exploring how to build a vision and inspire supporters;
- Hands-on conservation experience at Majjistral Park, with activities such as flora and fauna surveys, rubble wall building, alien species removal or other restoration tasks;
- Volunteer management and visitor operations, through site visits to the Red Tower and White Tower and conversations with wardens and volunteers;
- Communications and campaigning sessions, learning how DLH runs environmental campaigns, works with the media and raises its public profile;
- Property acquisition and management, with a visit to Dwejra Tower in Gozo and discussions on how smaller trusts can obtain and manage new sites;
- Technical conservation insights, including a session on the 14th-century chapel at Hal Millieri and other DLH properties;
- Peer learning and participant case studies, presented throughout the week, with time to revisit and refine ideas at the end of the Residency.

WHEN

The programme will be held from **13 to 19 September 2026** (arrival on Sunday 13 September, departure on Saturday 19 September).

WHO

Focusing on building strong heritage organisations, this practical Residency is designed for professionals and leaders of small or medium-sized heritage organisations - both cultural and environmental - who want to strengthen their capacity and sustainability. It is ideal for those seeking to enhance governance, financial management, volunteer engagement, visibility, or the effective management of small heritage sites or natural areas.

We encourage applications from professionals in influential roles within their organisations who are interested in learning from the National Trust model and its potential for adaptation, ready to implement strategic change, and eager to share best practices globally.

Applicants from all ages, races, faiths, genders, sexual orientations, and with disabilities are encouraged to apply. Adaptations to the programmes will be made wherever possible to ensure it is accessible according to the participant's needs.

The working language will be English.

COSTS

The programme will cover the participants' accommodation for six nights, and all breakfasts, lunches, dinners, and local travel. Participants will be hosted in individual rooms at Majjistral Park. Participants are kindly asked to arrange and pay for their own travel expenses, and medical insurance.

DRAFT PROGRAMME

Sunday 13 September: arrival at Malta International Airport in Valletta

Monday 14 September: *Headquarters Valletta*

- Introductions to Din l-Art Helwa, INTO and Europa Nostra
- Module 1 - Case Study: "DLH 1965 to today (from small beginnings)"
- Module 2 - Shared experiences
- Module 3 - Governance, Administration and Donor Management
- Module 4 - Victory Church Restoration - Case study on multi-disciplined restoration

Tuesday 15 September: *Majjistral Park*

- Module 5 - Fund-Raising - How to approach donors, raising profile and leveraging your brand
- Module 6 - Hands-On Experience in the park

Wednesday 16 September:

- Module 7 - Volunteers opening sites for visitors
- Module 8 - Campaigning and Advocacy - pushing the environmental agenda

Thursday 17 September: Gozo

- Module 9 - Property Acquisition - Case study
- Module 10 - Site Visits

Friday 18 September:

- Module 11 - Technical aspects of restoration for non experts: wall paintings, building restoration and structures
- Module 12 - Shared experiences & Site Visits
- Presentation Dinner

Saturday 19 September:

- Departure from Malta International Airport in Valletta

See [map](#) for more information on the various venues.

HOW TO APPLY

Submit your application via the [following link](#). Make sure to upload your CV (max one page). In case you have difficulties, please send your CV to Liola Urso at lu@europanostra.org

The deadline to submit applications is **15 May 2026**.

The following criteria will be considered in the selection:

- Overall quality of the application
- Professional or educational background linked to the topic
- Motivation to participate in a specific Residency module: to improve a certain practice or project; or, to implement a new practice or project
- Relevance of the theme of the Residency to the needs of the applicants

The organisers will aim for an equal balance of gender, age, and nationality, to ensure a good level of representation and diversity among the participants. Selected candidates will be informed by **19 June 2026**.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The organisers (Europa Nostra, INTO and Din I-Art Helwa) will do their best to provide a safe environment and offer sufficient instructions to ensure the safety of participants during the Residency activities. The organisers will not accept liability for any loss or damage to property, nor injury by any cause. The organisers are not responsible for any loss associated with disruption or cancellation of travel plans. The selected participants will be expected to have sufficient medical and travel insurance to take part in the Residency and the associated activities.

During the Residency, photos and videos will be taken. By applying for the Residency, the selected participants give the right to the event's organisers to use any photograph/video taken without further permission of those depicted within the photographs/videos. The organisers may use the photographs/videos in publications or other media material produced, including but not limited to: social media, brochures, invitations, books, newspapers, magazines, television, websites, etc. Participants should contact staff to withdraw this permission.

KEY DATES AND DEADLINES

- **15 May 2026:** Deadline for applications
- **19 June 2026:** Notifications to selected participants
- **13-19 September 2026:** Inclusive European Heritage Residency in Malta (13 September: arrival; 19 September: departure)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

ORGANISERS

Europa Nostra

[Europa Nostra](#) is the European voice of civil society committed to safeguarding and promoting cultural and natural heritage. It is a pan-European federation of heritage NGOs, supported by a wide network of public bodies, private companies, and individuals, covering over 40 countries. It is the largest and the most representative heritage network in Europe, maintaining close relations with the European Union, the Council of Europe, UNESCO, and other international bodies. Founded in 1963, Europa Nostra celebrated its 60th anniversary in 2023.

Europa Nostra campaigns to save Europe's endangered monuments, sites, and landscapes, in particular through the [7 Most Endangered Programme](#). It celebrates and disseminates excellence through the [European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards](#). Europa Nostra contributes to the definition and implementation of European strategies and policies related to heritage, through a participatory dialogue with European Institutions and the coordination of the [European Heritage Alliance](#). It is also a partner of the [New European Bauhaus](#) initiative developed by the European Commission, and a European member and supporter of the [Climate Heritage Network](#). Europa Nostra has led the European consortium selected by the European Commission to run the [European Heritage Hub](#) project since 2023.

Europa Nostra implements the network project [Europa Nostra Heritage Agora](#) (2025-2028), co-funded by the Creative Europe Programme of the European Union. The Inclusive European Heritage Residency 2026 is part of this project's activities promoting training and advice to heritage professionals.

INTO - the International National Trusts Organisation

[INTO](#) brings the global National Trust family together to share knowledge and tools for the protection of cultural and natural heritage. With over 100 members worldwide, we are a global movement of people who care about nature and culture and are inspired to celebrate and protect it. Our programmes and projects facilitate collaboration in the international heritage sector.

Din I-Art Helwa

[Din I-Art Helwa](#), established in 1965, is a non-profit organisation dedicated to preserving Malta's cultural and natural heritage. We focus on the protection and restoration of historic sites, monuments, and landscapes across the island. As Malta's leading heritage pressure group, we engage in active campaigns and legal actions to safeguard both cultural and natural heritage.

We manage a range of heritage sites, from historical buildings to natural parks, prioritising their conservation and public accessibility. These sites are maintained by volunteers who help with restoration, upkeep, and events. Some of these sites can also be hired out.

Din I-Art Helwa operates with a board of council members and relies on the support of membership fees, donations, sponsorships and volunteers to carry out its work. We strive to raise awareness about the importance of preserving Malta's heritage for future generations.

SUPPORT

Creative Europe

[Creative Europe](#) is the European Union's flagship programme to support the cultural and creative sectors, including cultural heritage, enabling them to increase their contribution to Europe's society, economy and living environment. With a budget of over €2.4 billion for 2021-2027, it supports organisations in the fields of heritage, performing arts, fine arts, interdisciplinary arts, publishing, film, TV, music and video games as well as tens of thousands of artists, and cultural and audiovisual professionals.