PRESS RELEASE

**On Thursday, 17 September** an award ceremony will be held at the Open Air Museum in Tallinn. The Open Air museum is a proud winner of the **Grand Prix of the EU Prize for Cultural Heritage/ Europa Nostra Award 2015 for education, training and awareness rising**. The awarded program helps owners of rural houses with practical hands-on training for maintaining and renovating their historic homes, which often are not listed as monuments, but are typical to the countryside in Estonia.

 *In organizing different training courses, the museum has grown from its original territory and extended its activities throughout the nation. Special courses are based on case studies where participants can learn by doing, and thus contribute with their work to the preservation and future maintenance of the vernacular architecture of the different regions. In the years since its foundation, the Museum has organised more than 80 practical training courses for over 1700 participants.*

On 17 September **Erik Schultz**, Council member of Europa Nostra will present the award to the Director of the Open Air Museum **Merike Lang**. The Museum is grateful to its partners in the program for their enthusiasm and valuable contribution and will take the opportunity to thank them during the celebration.

The [EU Prize for Cultural Heritage / Europa Nostra Awards](http://www.europanostra.org/heritage-awards/) was launched in 2002 by the European Commission in partnership with Europa Nostra. The Prize celebrates and promotes best practices related to heritage conservation, management, research, education and communication.

[Europa Nostra](http://www.europanostra.org/)is the European federation of heritage NGO’s. Covering 42 countries in Europe and beyond, the organisation is the voice of civil society committed to safeguarding and promoting Europe’s cultural and natural heritage. Europa Nostra campaigns to save Europe's endangered monuments, sites and landscapes, in particular through ‘The 7 Most Endangered’ programme, run in partnership with the European Investment Bank Institute. It celebrates excellence through the EU Prize for Cultural Heritage / Europa Nostra Awards. It also seeks to contribute to European strategies and policies related to heritage. Founded in 1963, Europa Nostra is today recognised as the most representative and influential heritage network in Europe. In 2014, the organisation received an EU grant from the Creative Europe programme to support its network’s activity on ‘Mainstreaming Heritage’ in Europe.

Helle Solnask

Council member of Europa Nostra
Estonian Heritage Society