

# A EUROPE OF UNITED GARDENS

THE ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN ROUTE OF HISTORIC GARDENS  
IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CULTURAL POLICY  
OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Jacek Kuśmierski





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# Introduction

Gardens convey universal values that are integral to the European heritage and cultural identity. They represent an outstanding civilisational status, reflecting not only the technical and artistic level of a given country or region but also its political and economic importance throughout history. Regardless of their geographical context, gardens were broadly an image of paradise, a kind of demonstration of wealth and power, and at the same time a place to express ideological beliefs and sophisticated narratives.<sup>1</sup> The change in awareness of the cultural significance of gardens that began in Europe in the nineteenth century led to their patrimonialisation, i.e. their inclusion as heritage. Along with extensive research and conservation work, institutionalisation progressed, giving former greenery the rank of monuments under legal protection from the local to the international level. Thousands of cultural initiatives concerning historic gardens have then emerged from this foundation, including specialised organisations, institutes, exhibitions, educational programmes, festivals, routes and much more. The enormous potential in this area is demonstrated by the fact that there are 34 garden and horticultural museums in Europe today, with a further four currently being established. In addition, over the last 20 years, more than a hundred exhibitions devoted to this topic have been organised by various cultural institutions.<sup>2</sup>

Various institutions and bodies of the European Union also have their merits in this field, as they have tried, through various initiatives, legislation, and financial and promotional programmes, not only to foster the preservation of historic gardens, but also to ensure that they can be incorporated into culture. One of the milestones was that the European Route of Historic Gardens obtained Council of Europe certification in October 2020. This was not only a great honour but also an important step in recognising the historic, artistic, social and natural values of historic green spaces. Admission to the Cultural Route of the Council of Europe has also opened up opportunities to participate in various pro-

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<sup>1</sup> A. Mitkowska, *Cywilizacyjna i kulturotwórcza ranga dzieł ogrodowych na wybranych przykładach historycznych* (Civilization and culture creating a rank of garden works on the chosen historic examples) [in:] *Współczesna ranga zieleni zabytkowej*, ed. K. Hodor, K. Łakomy, Cracow 2015, pp. 5–36.

<sup>2</sup> J. Kuśmierski, *Hortuseum. Musealisation of the European Gardens in the Twenty-First Century*, Ścinawka Górna 2020, pp. 23–36, <https://bit.ly/2Xw9VEM> [29.08.2021].

jects promoting culture and tourism at the international level. What could be the role of the European Route of Historic Gardens in this regard? How can it be involved in the implementation of the European Union's cultural policy? This paper seeks to find answers to these questions.

The starting point for the research was to characterise the contribution of historic gardens to the cultural achievements of the European Union to date. The author then examined the statutory activities of the European Route of Historic Gardens up until that time, the challenges relating directly to the conservation and management of historic gardens and the cultural policies of the European Union. The conclusions from the collected analyses were used to prepare recommendations for the above-mentioned organisation. The author would like to thank Łukasz Przybylak, Vice President of the European Route of Historic Gardens, and Ana Rosa Moreno, the Route's Technical Manager, for providing substantive consultation and detailed information about the organisation's activities.

## **Aim and scope of the study**

The research presented in this paper aims to discuss the importance of historic gardens in the cultural policy of the European Union thus far, and to show the potential role of the newly established European Route of Historic Gardens in this field. The findings will be used to develop the Route's statutory activities through cultural projects.

The scope of this paper covered EU cultural funding for 2014-2020 and, for some programmes throughout their history, promotion and accessibility activities. Due to the limited volume of this paper, detailed analyses were only conducted on selected initiatives, as part of good practice studies. Guidance on the possible contribution of the European Route of Historic Gardens to the implementation of the cultural policy of the European Union has been developed within the framework of the organisation's statutes. Geographically, the work covered the Member States and selected third countries, including the United Kingdom, Turkey and Georgia.

## **Research methods and materials**

The methodology of the paper was based on research divided into two stages. The first step was to select and compile the literature on European studies, heritage management and art history, and then to critically analyse it. In the second stage, strategic recommendations for the European Route of Historic Gardens expressed as guidelines were defined using the intuitive method on the basis of the information obtained from the analyses. The resources used during the research came from the author's own collection, bibliography devoted to the cultural policy of the European Union, libraries (the library of the Museum of King Jan III's Palace in Wilanów, the University of Warsaw Library) and internet sources (European Commission, Council of Europe, European Union, UNESCO and European Route of Historic Gardens).



Fig. 3. Royal Gardens of the Herrenhausen Palace in Hanover, Germany

# Historic gardens in the cultural achievements of the European Union to date

## Funding programmes

One of the European Union programmes that formally includes the protection of European gardens is the European City of Culture. The programme, now called the European Capital of Culture, was established in 1985 by the Council of the European Union, with the original objective to 'highlight the richness and diversity of European cultures and the features those cultures share as well as to promote greater mutual understanding between European citizens.'<sup>3</sup> The programme is managed by the European Commission, while the Council of the European Union formally selects the European Capital of Culture. By 2020, there had been 36 editions of the programme, involving 62 cities or regions from 30 countries. The event has been held as often as four times in Belgium (Antwerp 1993, Brussels 2000, Bruges 2002, Mons 2015), France (Paris 1989, Avignon 2000, Lille 2004, Marseille-Provence 2013), Spain (Madrid 1992, Santiago de Compostela 2000, Salamanca 2002, San Sebastián 2016), and Italy (Florence 1986, Bologna 2000, Genoa 2004, Matera 2019).<sup>4</sup> Within the European Capital of Culture action programmes, historic gardens were primarily used as spaces for outdoor cultural events. They rarely became the focus of projects or action programmes. Exceptions include the Baroque gardens at Frederiksborg Castle in Copenhagen, which, thanks to extensive renovation in connection with the European Capital of Culture designation in 1996, have regained their glory from the time of King Frederik IV and have been opened to the public.<sup>5</sup> Other newly established sites should also be mentioned: the 1992 Garden of the Three Cultures

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<sup>3</sup> Decision No 445/2014/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014, establishing a Union action for the European Capitals of Culture for the years 2020 to 2033, and repealing Decision No 1622/2006/EC.

<sup>4</sup> B. Gierat-Bieroń, *Europejskie Miasto Kultury, Europejska Stolica Kultury: 1985–2008*, Cracow 2009; University Network of the European Capitals of Culture, *European Capital of Culture*, <https://bit.ly/3dgiibX> [29.03.2021].

<sup>5</sup> C. Waage Rasmussen, *Danish Royal Garden History through 400 years*, Copenhagen 2019, p. 37.

in the Juan Carlos I Park in Madrid,<sup>6</sup> the 1998 Emma Lundberg garden in Lidingö near Stockholm,<sup>7</sup> the 2002 Lies Vandenberghe garden with a collection of historic rose varieties in Bruges,<sup>8</sup> the 2004 Mosaic of Cultures garden in Lille,<sup>9</sup> and the 2010 Istanbul Island in the Nezahat Gökyiğit Botanical Garden in Istanbul.<sup>10</sup> Several community gardens established through grassroots initiatives have also featured in the European Capital of Culture programmes, such as the urban organic garden in Maribor from 2012<sup>11</sup> or the KVP<sup>12</sup> community garden in Košice from 2013.<sup>13</sup>

Another way of including historic gardens in the European Capital of Culture programme was through various museum exhibitions. The earliest of these was the *The Garden of Europe. Pratolino as a Model in European Culture* (Italian: *Il giardino d'Europa. Pratolino come modello nella cultura europea*) organised at the Palazzo Medici Riccardi in Florence between 25 July and 7 September 1986, and at Villa Demidoff in Pratolino between 25 July and 28 September 1986, under the direction of Marco Dezzi Bardeschi, Alessandro Vezzosi, and Luigi Zangheri. The exhibition recounted the history and great significance of the said Medici park.<sup>14</sup> To mark the 2010 European Capital of Culture in Istanbul, the *Gardens and Flowers of Istanbul* (Turkish: *İstanbul'da Bahçe ve Çiçek*) exhibition opened in Istanbul's Nezahat Gökyiğit Botanical Garden, featuring 152 works of art and objects acquired from 10 libraries and 17 museums. The theme of the exhibition was the importance of nature, gardens and flowers in the culture of the Ottoman Empire from the fall of Constantinople in 1453 to the mid-18th century. Its content was developed in collaboration with the best specialists in the field, including

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<sup>6</sup> E. Esteras Martín, M. Silber Brodsky, C. Añón Feliú and others, *Parque Juan Carlos I Y Jardines De Las Tres Culturas*, Madrid 2001.

<sup>7</sup> S. Westerlund, *Emma Lovisa Lundberg* [in:] *Svenskt kvinnobiografiskt lexikon*, <https://bit.ly/2SshKZG> [25.05.2021].

<sup>8</sup> I. Pauwels, *Een tuin van 1001 rozen: De karakterrozen van Lies Vandenberghe*, Tiel 2007, p. 43.

<sup>9</sup> Les Espaces Naturel de la Mel, *MOSAÏC, le jardin des cultures*, <https://bit.ly/3fjl2aM> [25.05.2021].

<sup>10</sup> Nezahat Gökyiğit Botanical Garden, *Istanbul Island*, <https://bit.ly/3vmfZfm> [25.05.2021].

<sup>11</sup> Maribor2012, *Zelena utopija ali kako je v okviru EPK nastal prvi urbani eko vrt pri nas*, <https://bit.ly/34kdqP3> [25.05.2021].

<sup>12</sup> KVP (Czech: Kulturná výchovné prace) – cultural and educational works. The term is used in the Czech and Slovak Republics to refer to all rehabilitation activities of convicted prisoners in penal institutions. Source: R. John, *Nápravně výchovná činnost v českém vězeňství v éře normalizace*, 'Securitas Imperii' 2018, No. 33/2, pp. 50–79.

<sup>13</sup> R. Zolnaiová, M. Pizňak, *Komunitná záhrada KVP*, Košice 2016.

<sup>14</sup> A. Vezzoni, *Il giardino d'Europa. Pratolino come modello nella cultura europea. Catalogo della mostra*, Milan 1986, pp. 4–10.

a well-known historian of Ottoman and Muslim art, Prof. Nurhan Atasoy.<sup>15</sup> Over the past decade, a touring version of the exhibition has visited 45 cities in Turkey and abroad, such as The Hague, where it was exhibited at the Embassy of the Republic of Turkey to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations with the Kingdom of the Netherlands.<sup>16</sup> One of the largest presentations of garden heritage took place in Aarhus as part of the 2017 European Capital of Culture, during which the ARoS Art Museum organised a special triennial entitled *The Garden – End of Times, Beginning of Times*. The theme of the event was the garden as a symbol of the evolution of man's relationship with nature as viewed by the world of art over the last 400 years. The exhibition, divided into three parts, included works of art from the Baroque to the present day: paintings, sculptures, art installations, and various spatial interventions redefining the boundaries between art and nature. The first part, *The Past*, consisted of 108 objects and took place between 8 April and 10 September 2017 in the ARoS Art Museum. The other two, *The Present* and *The Future*, were exhibited from 3 June to 30 July 2017 in the Port of Aarhus and along the coast in the southern part of the city, with more than 30 works by Danish and foreign artists such as: Fujiko Nakaya, Doug Aitken, Alicja Kwade, Tomás Saraceno, Katharina Grosse, Rirkrit Tiravanija, Simon Starling, Tacita Dean, Yto Barrada, Elmgreen & Dragset, or Superflex.<sup>17</sup>

The first programme devoted entirely to historic gardens was the European Year of Historic Gardens, organised on the initiative of the European Commission in 1993. Out of 666 pilot projects submitted to the competition, the 66 best were selected and awarded funding to carry out conservation work. The beneficiaries included 58 gardens from all 12 of the then Member States and eight gardens from associated countries (Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia and Hungary).<sup>18</sup> The selected sites provided an excellent panorama of the extremely rich and varied European garden art of the last 500 years: 10% had a 16th-century and 20% a 17th-century composition or elements, over 40% were founded in the 18th cen-

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<sup>15</sup> N. Gökyigit, *İstanbul'da Bahçe ve Çiçek Sergi Katalogu / Gardens and Flowers of Istanbul Exhibition Catalogue*, Istanbul 2010.

<sup>16</sup> Ali Nihat Gökyigit Foundation, *İstanbul'da Bahçe ve Çiçek Sergisi*, <https://bit.ly/3rCSXhw> [29.03.2021].

<sup>17</sup> *Aros Triennial: The Garden – End of Times, Beginning of Times*, ed. E.G. Høyersten, London 2017.

<sup>18</sup> See Appendix 1. List of sites with pilot projects receiving funding as part of the 1993 European Year of Historic Gardens.

tury and 30% in the 19th and 20th centuries.<sup>19</sup> The programme was intended to contribute to the protection and conservation of European gardens, as well as to the development and dissemination of best conservation practices and the strengthening of international cooperation for the European cultural heritage, in accordance with Article 128 of the 1992 Treaty on European Union (Maastricht Treaty).<sup>20</sup> To conclude the programme, the European Commission issued a special publication discussing the methodological, philosophical and practical aspects of conserving historic garden settings in Europe, with texts by eminent specialists such as the Italian philosopher Rosario Assunto and the Spanish landscape architect Carmen Añón Feliú.<sup>21</sup> The success of the European Year of Historic Gardens and other earlier and later pilot projects<sup>22</sup> led to the creation of the RAPHAEL programme, the first European Union aid fund for heritage conservation.<sup>23</sup>

A similar participation of historic gardens in subsequent programmes and thematic years of the European Union has not been repeated. Throughout the 2018 European Year of Cultural Heritage, there were quite few events dedicated to historic gardens. Continent-wide, the most significant festival was the *Rendez-vous at the Gardens* (French: *Rendez-vous aux jardins*), held from 1 to 3 June 2018 under the theme 'Europe of gardens'. Organised periodically by the French Ministry of Culture since 2003<sup>24</sup> on the first weekend of June, the event aims to bring the richness and diversity of parks and gardens to a wider public, highlighting

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<sup>19</sup> C. Marchi, J. Palacios, *The Action* [in:] *Historic Gardens. Safeguarding a European heritage*, Brussels –Luxembourg 1996, p. 47.

<sup>20</sup> EUR-Lex, Treaty on European Union, OJ C 191, 29.7.1992, <https://bit.ly/2VRi5Hv>.

<sup>21</sup> European Commission, *Historic Gardens. Safeguarding a European heritage*, Brussels – Luxembourg 1996.

<sup>22</sup> Respectively: 1989 – religious and secular monuments; 1990 – urban and rural buildings and historic complexes; 1991 – testimonies of agricultural, craft, industrial production activity, etc.; 1992 – monuments in cities; 1993 – historic gardens; 1994 – historic buildings and places connected with performing arts (concert halls, opera houses, theatres); 1995 – monuments of sacred architecture. Source: European Commission, *Grants and Loans from the European Union: A Guide to Community Funding*, Luxembourg 1996, p. 106.

<sup>23</sup> C. Fleisch, *Preface* [in:] *Historic Gardens. Safeguarding a European heritage*, Brussels – Luxembourg 1996, p. 3–4.

<sup>24</sup> Themes of previous editions: 2003 – gardeners; 2004 – getting to know gardens and loving them better; 2005 – trees; 2006 – perfumes; 2007 – water; 2008 – the journey of plants; 2009 – land, terrain, territory; 2010 – gardeners and their tools; 2011 – the garden as a source of nourishment; 2012 – the garden in pictures; 2013 – the garden and its creators; 2014 – children in the garden; 2015 – a stroll in the garden; 2016 – colours of the garden; 2017 – sharing the garden; 2018 – Europe of gardens; 2019 – animals in the garden; 2020–2021 – the transmission of knowledge. Source: Ministry of Culture of the Republic of France, *Toutes les éditions des Rendez-vous aux jardins*, <https://bit.ly/3hPOLsT> [29.03.2021].

their artistic and cultural aspects. In addition, it provides an insight into the promotion, protection, maintenance and establishment of gardens and the training of gardeners and landscape architects.<sup>25</sup> To mark the 2018 European Year of Cultural Heritage, the festival was expanded across the continent, with 2,706 gardens from 16 countries participating. The majority, i.e. 2,325, were located in France and its overseas territories. This was followed by Germany with 122 gardens and Italy with 120. Other participants included Belgium – 34, the Netherlands – 33, Ireland – 18, Slovakia – 16, Hungary – 12, Estonia – 10, Switzerland – 5, Croatia, Lithuania, Monaco – 4 each, and Spain, Poland, and Slovenia with one entered garden each. The organisers required, among other things, that the participating venues keep to the set date and theme of the event, dedicate Friday to children and use the same graphic design (the festival logo was changed and translated into national languages). Gardens from all over Europe, regardless of type and form of ownership, could join the programme. These venues not only opened their gates to the public but also hosted 3,961 events, attracting over 2 million visitors to the festival.<sup>26</sup> The event was an opportunity to promote the preservation of biodiversity and sustainable development, as well as to raise the profile of gardens as socio-cultural spaces. Summing up the 17th edition of the festival in 2019, France's then Minister of Culture Franck Riester said: 'Visiting gardens is a cultural practice comparable to visiting monuments or museums.'<sup>27</sup>

One particularly important programme run by the European Union is the European Heritage Label, which is awarded to sites that have made a special contribution to shaping the continent's past and culture or to developing the values that underpin European integration.<sup>28</sup> By 2020, 48 sites from 18 Member States had been awarded this distinction. However, there was not a single historic garden among the those honoured. Although many of the winning sites have such gardens, this fact could be regarded as one of the award criteria only in the case of the imperial Hofburg Palace in Vienna. As part of the Habsburg residence, the

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<sup>25</sup> Communication Department of the General Directorate of Heritage at the Ministry of Culture of France, *Rendez-vous aux jardins. Guide pratique*, Paris 2018, p. 1, <https://bit.ly/3t0PE65> [29.03.2021].

<sup>26</sup> *Les Rendez-vous aux jardins 2018 / The 2018 Rendez-vous aux jardins*, 'Hors Serie Herein', 2019, No. 1, pp. 43–46, <https://bit.ly/3kw732M> [28.03.2021].

<sup>27</sup> Ministry of Culture of the Republic of France, *Lancement des Rendez-vous aux jardins sous le signe de l'Europe, les 7, 8 et 9 juin 2019*, <https://bit.ly/3qOT0b0> [28.03.2021].

<sup>28</sup> B. Gierat-Bieroń, *Znak Dziedzictwa Europejskiego w Polsce w kontekście budowania pamięci europejskiej* [in:] *Dziedzictwo kulturowe w regionach europejskich. Odkrywanie, ochrona i (re)interpretacja*, ed. E. Kocój, T. Kosiek, J. Szulborska-Lukaszewicz, Cracow 2019, pp. 107–128.

garden is a record of a former multi-ethnic and multi-religious empire of great political, administrative, social and economic importance, covering areas that today belong to Austria, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Poland and Slovenia.<sup>29</sup> Other awarded buildings with historic greenery include the Peace Palace in The Hague, the Cluny Abbey and the Kynžvart Chateau in the Czech Republic.

It should be noted that the European Heritage Label has also been awarded to other green areas which do not have the status of historic monuments. These include the Alcide de Gasperi House in Pieve Tesino, the birthplace of the co-founder of the Council of Europe and the European Coal and Steel Community, considered today as one of the fathers of Europe.<sup>30</sup> The family home of the Italian politician is surrounded by a garden built in 2010 and designed by Prof. Anna Scoppola, director of the Botanical Garden and lecturer at Tuscia University in Viterbo, and garden designer Sofia Varola Piazza. The green area, called the Garden of Europe, is set on a slope and resembles an ancient theatre, a timeless architectural design, and the shape of the European Parliament, a symbol of democracy and freedom. The flowerbeds are planted with ornamental and useful native and exotic plants, which is supposed to refer to the idea of unity in diversity and mutual respect. The houses of Alcide de Gasperi in Pieve Tesino, Konrad Adenauer in Bad Honnef on the Rhine in Germany, Jean Monnet in Houjarray and Robert Schuman in Scy-Chazelles in France form a network of European Fathers' Houses<sup>31</sup>.

Historic gardens have been repeatedly awarded the European Union Prize for Cultural Heritage (Europa Nostra Award). Established by the European Commission in 2002 in cooperation with the Europa Nostra Foundation, the award aims to promote the highest standards in conservation, research, and education and training programmes for both professionals and volunteers. In addition, it is intended to stimulate the exchange of knowledge and experience at the international level and to encourage active heritage promotion. The awards are given in four categories: conservation (outstanding achievements in the conservation, enhancement and adaptation to new uses of cultural heritage); research (outstanding research and knowledge transfer projects which lead to tangible effects in the conservation and enhancement of cultural heritage in Europe); dedi-

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<sup>29</sup> European Commission, *The Imperial Palace (Vienna, Austria)*, <https://bit.ly/39pFYcF> [29.03.2021].

<sup>30</sup> European Commission, *Museo Casa Alcide De Gasperi, Pieve Tesino, Italy*, <https://bit.ly/3s38NUH> [29.03.2021].

<sup>31</sup> Fondazione Trentina Alcide de Gasperi, *Il Giardino d'Europa*, <https://bit.ly/2X9I9xZ> [29.03.2021].

cated service by individuals or organisations (open to individuals or organisations whose contributions over a long period of time demonstrate excellence in the protection, conservation and enhancement of cultural heritage in Europe); and education, training and awareness-raising (outstanding initiatives related to education, training and awareness-raising in the field of tangible and/or intangible cultural heritage, to promote and/or to contribute to the sustainable development of the environment).

Up until 2020, 3,150 entries from 39 countries had been submitted to the competition, from which 533 winners and 126 grand prize winners were selected.<sup>32</sup> Only less than 0.03% of the awards made were for historic gardens. The highest number, 10, was awarded for maintenance. These included<sup>33</sup>:

1. The Winzerberg – Royal Vineyard at Potsdam-Sanssouci, Germany (2018),
2. The Botanical Garden of the National Palace of Queluz, Portugal (2018),
3. Baroque Complex and Gardens in Kuks, Czech Republic (2017),
4. The Picturesque Garden of the Museum Van Buuren, Belgium (2015),
5. Abadía Retuerta LeDomaine in Sardón de Duero, Spain (2013),
6. The Hackfall Woodland Garden, United Kingdom (2011),
7. The Royal Site of San Ildefonso, Spain (2010),
8. Max Liebermann Villa and Garden in Berlin-Wannsee, Germany (2008),
9. Warnsborn Garden and Orangery in Arnhem, Netherlands (2004),
10. Gunnebo House and Gardens in Mölndal, Sweden (2002).

In the case of the above-mentioned sites, the jury paid particular attention to the high level of work carried out using appropriate materials and historic plant species and varieties. The interdisciplinarity and comprehensiveness of the projects were also important, and included archaeological and historical research, horticultural and hydraulic works, as well as high-quality craftsmanship. The justifications for the awards emphasised the involvement of local residents and groups at risk of exclusion (refugees, senior citizens, people with disabilities) to ensure high public awareness and sustainability of the results achieved in the garden conservation process.

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<sup>32</sup> European Heritage Europa Nostra Awards, *Winners*, <https://bit.ly/3sATfa7> [29.03.2021].

<sup>33</sup> The list does not take into account the maintenance of buildings located within historic gardens and structures used for growing plants, e.g. orangeries, palm houses.

In the research category, Europa Nostra awarded four prizes to scientific projects that stood out for their comprehensive approach to the subject under study, their exemplary methodology or their results in terms of increasing knowledge of Europe's historic gardens or providing universal tools for their rescue, which could also be applied in other regions. The awardees were as follows:

1. *Transylvanian castle gardens*, Hungary (2014),
2. *An Inventory of Historic Gardens & Designed Landscapes in Ireland*, Ireland (2009),
3. *The Somlóvár Park Conservation Plan*, Hungary (2008),
4. *Sky Space around London's Parks*, United Kingdom (2003).

In the education, training and awareness-raising category, also four projects addressing historic gardens were awarded. The jury paid attention to their interdisciplinarity, the combination of different aspects of tangible and intangible heritage, the variety of educational methods used and the presentation of garden art monuments, the practical learning of old garden crafts, the targeting of different age groups, the involvement of volunteers and networking at local or national level. Among the projects awarded were:

1. *A Place at the Royal Table*, Poland (2018),
2. *Educational programme for Czech cultural heritage*, Czech Republic (2017),
3. *The Fota Walled Garden*, Ireland (2015),
4. *The Jugendbauhütten of the German Foundation for Monument Protection*, Germany (2008).

There was only one initiative among the awarded heritage organisations for historic gardens – the Huis Doorn Association of Friends in the Netherlands (2015), which brings together 180 volunteers who look after the museum collection, the historic Huis Doorn manor house and the surrounding garden. The association has created synergies between the state and non-governmental sectors, thus strengthening community and civic activity.

The last Community programme of the European Commission to feature projects on historic gardens is Erasmus+. Its main objective has been to support higher education, vocational education and training, and school education through actions of an international scope, including mobility, cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices, and support for policy reform.<sup>34</sup>

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<sup>34</sup> European Commission, *Erasmus+. Programme Guide*, Version 3 : 09/04/2014, <https://bit.ly/2WbDL1b> [29.03.2021].

The 2014-2020 Erasmus+ programme implemented 22 projects on historic gardens or garden heritage. They were attended by 60 coordinators and partners from 16 Community and third countries, such as: Israel, Turkey, and Belarus. The total amount of grants for the 2014-2020 period was EUR 1,944,198.49.<sup>35</sup> The most frequently selected action type was VET learner and staff mobility, which accounted for 36.4% of all projects. This was followed by: youth mobility, strategic partnerships for adult education, school education staff mobility, and adult education staff mobility, each with a 13.6% share. The least frequent were volunteering projects and strategic partnerships for vocational education and training – 4.6% each. The projects reviewed included:

1. *Oltre Il Giardino – Social Inclusion Observatory*, Italy, Greece, Spain, Portugal (2020),
2. *GaLaBau*<sup>36</sup> *goes Portugal*, Germany (2020),
3. *Landscaper to apply a plaster in Portugal*<sup>37</sup>, Germany (2019),
4. *Internationalization and development of lifelong green learning – with a focus on social sustainability, green cultural heritage and sustainable cultivation*, Sweden (2019),
5. *Garden of values*, Poland, Lithuania, Czech Republic (2019),
6. *Young commitment for historic gardens*, Germany, Italy, Belarus, France, Spain (2018),
7. *Botanical gARdens as part of EuropeaN cultural heriTage (BARENT)*, Czech republic, Germany, Lithuania, Poland (2018),
8. *European experience in renowned enterprises – the first step to success*, Poland, Spain, Italy (2018),
9. *Sharing knowledge and know-how on the management of historic gardens* (French: *Partage de savoirs et de savoir-faire sur la gestion des jardins historiques*), France, Spain, Hungary, Belgium (2017),
10. *Yung commitment for historic gardens* (German: *Junges Engagement für historische Gärten*), Germany, France, Turkey, Spain, Italy (2017),
11. *European professionals*, Poland, Germany, Spain, Portugal (2017),
12. *Borderless Garden : a school to develop key skills in Europe*, France, Spain, Italy, Portugal (2017),

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<sup>35</sup> European Commission, *Erasmus+*, <https://bit.ly/3dgAP86> [29.03.2021].

<sup>36</sup> GaLaBau (niem. Bundesverband Garten-, Landschafts- und Sportplatzbau e. V.) – Federal Association of Horticulture, Landscaping and Sports Facilities.

<sup>37</sup> The title of the project refers to the skill of laying a traditional Portuguese pavement called "calçada portuguesa".

13. *Professional in our professions – apprenticeship for students of Reda High School in Spain*, (Polish: *Profesjonalni w swoich zawodach – praktyka zawodowa uczniów ZSP w Redzie w Hiszpanii*), Poland, Spain (2016),
14. *Green jobs for green islands* (German: *Grüne Berufe für Grüne Inseln*), Germany, United Kingdom (2016),
15. *Go for Green*, Germany, United Kingdom (2016),
16. *Contemporary arrangements of green areas within historic buildings*, (Polish: *Współczesne aranżacje terenów zieleni w obrębie obiektów historycznych*), Poland, United Kingdom (2015),
17. *From local gardens to the gardens of Europe* (French: *Des Jardins Locaux aux Jardins d'Europe*), France (2015),
18. *A garden without borders: May our spirit flourish in the garden of Europe* (French: *Un jardin sans frontière. Que notre esprit fleurisse dans le jardin de l'Europe*), Italy, Romania, Spain, Portugal, Bulgaria (2014),
19. *Training of adult educators in European art history* (French: *Former des formateurs d'adultes à l'histoire européenne des arts*), France (2014),
20. *Crossing Borders for the Restoration of our Shared Heritage*, Malta, France, Israel (2014),
21. *Learning about art history through European themes to enrich our professional skills* (French: *Comment se former à l'histoire des arts à travers des thématiques européennes pour enrichir nos compétences professionnelles*), France (2014),
22. *Art and heritage: from local space to European space* (French: *Art et patrimoine: de l'espace local à l'espace européen*), France (2014).

Of the projects funded, three deserve special attention. The first one, *Young commitment for historic gardens*, focused on volunteering and was delivered between 2018 and 2019 in the Altdöbern Castle Park in southern Brandenburg. Eight young participants from Germany, Spain, Belarus, Italy and France lived and worked together to renovate and maintain the historic park, acquiring new experiences and competences to prepare them for their future careers. The volunteers also participated in the life of the local community, deepening their sense of belonging to the European community. Through their work, the Altdöbern Castle Park has become a meeting place and a tourist attraction for the region.<sup>38</sup>

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<sup>38</sup> European Commission, *Junges Engagement für historische Gärten*, <https://bit.ly/3dfrFso> [29.03.2021]; European Commission, *Historic gardens bloom with helping hands – project result content*, <https://bit.ly/3cuDxaS> [29.03.2021].

The second project, entitled *Sharing knowledge and know-how on the management of historic gardens*, involved international mobility for nine participants belonging to the Association of Parks and Gardens in the Centre-Val de Loire Region (French: Association des Parcs et Jardins en Région Centre-Val de Loire). The aim of the project was to exchange knowledge and experience with other professionals representing the Spanish Association of Public Parks and Gardens (Spanish: Asociación Española de Parques y Jardines Públicos), Hungarian Association of Arboreta and Botanic Gardens (Hungarian: Magyar Arborétumok és Botanikus Kertek Szövetsége) and the Belgian NGO Parks and Gardens of Wallonia (French: Parcs et Jardins de Wallonie). The results of the project included increasing awareness, knowledge and skills in the management of historical gardens, establishing permanent partnerships in this field and undertaking future international activities.<sup>39</sup>

The third project, entitled *A garden without borders: Let our spirit flourish in the garden of Europe*, concerned school cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices and ran from 2014 to 2017, involving teachers and students aged 11 to 14 from Italy, Romania, Portugal, Spain and Bulgaria. The aim of the project was to improve the skills of participants, to enhance the quality of education, and to introduce modern teaching methods, digital tools and the European perspective in education. The project was implemented through, among other things, participation in discussions and meetings as well as student exchanges and teacher mobility. Interestingly, the garden became the main theme, as it offered an opportunity for interdisciplinary and wide-ranging activities for learning many skills from different fields, including: the history of gardens and art, music, language and literature, phytogeography, computer science, and mathematics. Among the results achieved were numerous events, teaching materials, virtual herbariums, artworks and literature. This is an inspiring example of a project where historical gardens and related disciplines became the basis for school education.<sup>40</sup>

Although the European Union structural funds do not directly target cultural or heritage activities, there are examples of how they have been skilfully in-

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<sup>39</sup> Council of Europe, *The Erasmus + Project "Sharing knowledge and know-how on the management of historic gardens"*, <https://bit.ly/3u3xvDT> [29.03.2021]; European Commission, *Partage de savoirs et de savoir-faire sur la gestion des jardins historiques*, <https://bit.ly/39HGS4L> [29.03.2021].

<sup>40</sup> European Commission, *Un jardin sans frontière. Que notre esprit fleurisse dans le jardin de l'Europe*, <https://bit.ly/3foW62b> [29.03.2021]; *Paysage et patrimoine sans frontière, Mobilités Erasmus+*, <https://bit.ly/2Paf81C> [29.03.2021].

tegrated into larger investment projects. Among the initiatives underway in Europe between 2014 and 2020 were four on historic gardens, supported by two programmes. The first of these was the *Lake Constance gardens – Nature and culture in the garden* project, which received funding from the European Regional Development Fund. The initiative was carried out by the German Lake Constance Gardens (German: Verein Bodenseegärten) together with 14 other partners, such as castles and chateaus, museums, tourism companies, associations and regional authorities. It aimed to enhance the attractiveness of the natural and cultural heritage of sustainable horticulture and to create innovative products and services to increase the number of visitors. Tapping into the blooming gardening trend, the region's natural wealth, favourable climate, cultivation traditions and cultural resources, a decision was made to transform the Lake Constance area into a well-kept garden – a green region promoting sustainable tourism and connecting with nature. The priority for investment was the conservation, protection, promotion and development of the area's natural and cultural heritage. The project was also intended to give the area a competitive edge with a view to the major expositions planned at the time, such as the State Garden Show (German: Landesgartenschau) in Überlingen 2020<sup>41</sup>, Lindau 2021, Wangen im Allgäu 2024 or the planned Swiss National Exhibition (German: *Schweizerische Landesausstellung*) in eastern Switzerland in 2027.<sup>42</sup>

Significantly more, i.e. as many as 10 initiatives on historical gardens, were co-financed in Europe between 2014 and 2020 under the Interreg V cross-border cooperation programme. The total budgets of the projects amounted to EUR 10,153,903.06, with total EU funding of EUR 7,839,544.67, or 77.2%.<sup>43</sup> The leading themes of the projects were garden rehabilitation, garden tourism, and cross-border cooperation:

1. *Chateau Gardens in Holíč – 1st stage*, Interreg V-A Slovakia – Czech Republic,
2. *Cooperation for the conservation and promotion of traditional gardening*, Interreg V-A Romania – Hungary,

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<sup>41</sup> Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the event has been postponed until 2021. Source: Landesgartenschau Überlingen 2020 GmbH, *Landesgartenschau Überlingen 2021*, <https://bit.ly/3duRAfP> [3.04.2021].

<sup>42</sup> European Commission, *Lake Constance gardens – Nature and culture in the garden*, <https://bit.ly/31PMOnz> [3.04.2021]; Verein Bodenseegärten, *Interreg V-Projekt "Bodenseegärten – Schulgärten"*, <https://bit.ly/31GqjSh> [3.04.2021].

<sup>43</sup> Data compiled using information from project fiches. Source: European Commission, <https://bit.ly/3g2QuuP> [12.04.2021].

3. *Mediterranean floriculture; an interacting system to improve market positioning*, Interreg V-A Italy – France,
4. *Garden Pearls. Diversifying garden tourism offer in Estonia and Latvia*, Interreg V-A Estonia – Latvia,
5. *GrünRaum. Use of green spaces*, Interreg V-A Austria – Czech Republic,
6. *HICAPS. Interreg CE HIstorical CAstle ParkS*, Interreg V-B Central Europe (Poland, Slovenia, Croatia, Italy),
7. *Revival of old traditional fruit, vegetable and ornamental plants and their products: Heritage Gardens Tour*, Interreg V-A Latvia – Lithuania,
8. *JARDIVAL. Promotion of the gardens of the Italian-French Coast*, Interreg V-A France – Italy (ALCOTRA – French: Alpes Latines COopération TRAnsfrontalière – Alpine Cross-Border Cooperation),
9. *Muskau Park. Protection, development and promotion of the European cultural heritage*, Interreg V-A Poland – Germany,
10. *NewLINE. New Life of Old Parks: Efficient Management of Historical Nature Objects in LatRus Border Area*, Latvia – Russia (ENI CBC – European Neighbourhood Instrument, Cross-Border Cooperation).

Among the projects mentioned above, the initiatives that stand out in particular are those devoted to the promotion of sustainable tourism based on diversifying the offer by making use of garden heritage in its broadest sense and the seasonal variability of historic gardens. The first one is *JARDIVAL. Promotion of the gardens of the Italian-French Coast*. The project was motivated by the need to protect and enhance the valuable historic gardens of the French and Italian Rivas, whilst at the same time promoting sustainable tourism aimed at a more balanced distribution of visitor flows. The initiative was led by the French Alpes-Maritimes department and partnered by two agencies for the development and promotion of tourism on the Côte d'Azur and Liguria, and by French and Italian regional authorities managing several historic gardens: the Maria Serena Garden in Menton, the Villa Rothschild Park in Cannes, the botanical garden in Grasse, the Villa Ormond Park in Sanremo, the Giacomo Filippo Novaro Park in Costarainera, and the Villa Grock Garden in Imperia. The project also promoted these sites as a cross-border heritage location with outstanding natural and cultural values. The project brought about not only restoration works and new infrastructure to improve tourist traffic, but also communication activities targeting a wide range of residents, garden enthusiasts and potential visitors, and strengthening the Franco-Italian coastal partnership network. A lasting achievement in-

tended to attract visitors outside the so-called high tourist season is the French Riviera Garden Festival (French: Festival des Jardins de la Côte d'Azur), to be held every two years. It took place for the first time from 1 April to 1 May 2017 at various locations in the Alpes-Maritimes department.<sup>44</sup>

Another project, entitled *Garden Pearls. Diversifying garden tourism offer in Estonia and Latvia*, raised similar issues. Its leader was the Latvian Vidzeme Tourism Association (Latvian: Vidzemes Tūrisma asociāciju), and its partners included 16 institutions and venues, including universities and schools, municipal and regional authorities and NGOs. The organisers were prompted to take up this topic by the untapped potential of garden tourism, which is becoming increasingly popular among visitors. The aim of the project was to give impetus to the development of this sector by creating a cross-border, sustainable brand called Garden Pearls. The purpose of creating a route of 44 sites (at the time of application in 2018) was to diversify the existing tourist offer, strengthen the effectiveness of promotional activities and better identify the needs of visitors and attract them also in spring and autumn. An important aspect was to align the attractiveness of the brand's facilities through small investments in infrastructure. The planned effect was to increase the number of visitors (by 15%) to 712,000 in 2022.<sup>45</sup> Currently, the Garden Pearls route includes 76 of the most beautiful sites of various types, located in southern Estonia, northern Latvia and around the city of Tukums. These contain important historical gardens, such as the Allikukivi vineyard, the Suuremõisa and Sangaste parks, the manor park in the Latvian town of Dole managed by the Daugava Museum, and the castle parks in Jaunmok and Jaunpils.<sup>46</sup>

The *HICAPS. Interreg CE HIstorical Castle ParkS* project addressed quite different matters. It was implemented by the leader, the Municipality of Velenje, and nine partners representing NGOs, local and regional authorities, development agencies, and universities from Slovenia, Croatia, Italy and Poland. The initiative focused on revitalising eight historic green spaces, improving environmental management in urban areas and using cultural heritage resources for local and regional development. Consequently, the project developed three work pack-

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<sup>44</sup> European Commission, *Promotion of the gardens of the Italian-French Coast*, <https://bit.ly/3wYQm5A> [12.04.2021]; Interreg ALCOTRA, *JARDIVAL, valorisation des jardins de la Riviera Franco-Italienne*, <https://bit.ly/3uIAWQP> [12.04.2021].

<sup>45</sup> European Commission, *Diversifying garden tourism offer in Estonia and Latvia*, <https://bit.ly/325cWeq> [12.04.2021]; Interreg Estonia-Latvia, *Diversifying garden tourism offer in Estonia and Latvia*, <https://bit.ly/3e1vMc9> [12.04.2021].

<sup>46</sup> Garden Pearls, *Gardens & parks*, <https://bit.ly/2QmqxLC> [12.04.2021].

ages containing universal tools and solutions for revitalising green areas. The first comprised a compilation of good practices from different European countries on the assessment of cultural heritage and the potential of historic parks, not least in economic terms. The second work package contained 12 tools to support consensus processes between the private and public sectors to enable the fusion of the cultural and educational values of garden knowledge with business. The theoretical part was culminated by the third work package, namely the development of revitalisation concepts and technical designs for selected fragments of eight historical sites: the castle park in Bedekovčin and the Josip Juraj Strossmayer walking avenue in Varaždin in Croatia, the park on the city walls of Ferrara and Villa Ghigi in Bologna in Italy, the palace park in Wieniec, the castle park in Łańcut in Poland, and the castle parks of Turnišče and Velenje in Slovenia. Another major outcome of the project was the development of five additional tools useful for the revitalisation of historic green spaces. The first included a thorough analysis of national and local regulations regarding the investment process in historic parks. Another was the transnational Educational Outdoor Trail Tools (EOTT) with effective and easy to implement examples of creative learning spaces. The third tool was a landscape accessibility manual for people with special needs. The latter two are a transnational decision support tool with guidelines to foster and develop the conservation of historic parks and a report of good practices in five thematic areas.<sup>47</sup>

## Promotion and accessibility of gardens

As regards promotional programmes, the European Heritage Days are the most popular event in the European Union. Their origins date back to 1985, but it was only 6 years later that they became a joint initiative of the Council of Europe and the European Union. One of the main objectives of the European Heritage Days is to raise the public's awareness of the wealth and cultural diversity of the continent, to promote mutual respect and to protect the heritage of human civilisation.<sup>48</sup> The themes of previous editions of the event have never explicitly referred to historic gardens. However, in 2017 the European Heritage Days were celebrated under the theme "Heritage and Nature: A Landscape of Possibilities", thus drawing attention to the need to protect and interpret natural heritage – from

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<sup>47</sup> European Commission, *HIstorical CAstle ParkS*, <https://bit.ly/32b447i> [13.04.2021];

Interreg Central Europe, *HICAPS*, <https://bit.ly/2OPM2Ew> [13.04.2021].

<sup>48</sup> Council of Europe, *European Heritage Days*, <https://bit.ly/2Rxirk9> [13.04.2021].

vast national parks to urban green spaces, historic gardens, and domestic backyards. As Tibor Navracsics, then European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sports, pointed out: 'It is a great opportunity to help people acknowledge how human culture shapes the environment and how nature's processes reshape culture. The European Commission is supporting policies focusing on the need to manage and care for natural landscapes as composites of both natural and cultural heritage, as well as on the links between cultural and natural heritage.' Over 70,000 events were organised across Europe at the time.<sup>49</sup> One of these was the Nature in the City festival held in Brussels, which focused on discovering, exploring and understanding nature in the urban environment. To this end, more than 100 sites were made available, including historic gardens where numerous events such as walks, lectures, workshops, exhibitions, etc. were organised from 16 to 17 September 2017. All of this was intended to help Brussels residents and visitors see the city's hidden natural treasures and to give them new relevance in everyday life.<sup>50</sup> In celebration of the festival, the Heritage Department of the Brussels Regional Public Service published a special issue of the 'Brussels Heritage' magazine (Dutch: Erfgoed Brussel), where archaeologists, historians and architects provided a historical perspective on the development of green spaces in the Belgian capital.<sup>51</sup>

The EU's other major initiative is to cooperate with UNESCO and support its activities in the fields of culture, education, freedom of expression and media pluralism, and environmental protection. The outcome of this cooperation is the World Heritage Journeys Europe platform, with four thematic routes. Two of them connect some of the most important green areas of the continent: the Lednice-Valtice Cultural Landscape in the Czech Republic on the Romantic Europe trail, and dozens of palace gardens, botanical gardens, parks and zoos, e.g. in Potsdam, Versailles, Kroměříž, Drottningholm, Aranjuez, Caserta, Sintra on the Royal Europe trail. With funding from the European Union, UNESCO, in partnership with National Geographic, has developed a platform that meets the World Heritage and Sustainable Tourism Programme and the European Commission's objectives of maintaining Europe as a major tourist destination.<sup>52</sup>

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<sup>49</sup> Creative Europe, *"Heritage and Nature: a landscape of possibilities": the pan-European theme for the 2017 European Heritage Days*, <https://bit.ly/2QnevC0> [13.04.2021].

<sup>50</sup> European Heritage Days, *Brussels Celebrated "Nature in the City" with over 100 Events*, <https://bit.ly/3mRgtqs> [13.04.2021].

<sup>51</sup> See 'Erfgoed Brussel', Issue 23–24/2017.

<sup>52</sup> UNESCO, *World Heritage Journeys Europe*, <https://bit.ly/3mNG3wj> [13.04.2021].

The last extremely important programme is the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe. They were initiated by the Santiago de Compostela Declaration adopted by the Council of Europe in 1987. According to the adopted criteria, the title is awarded to routes that, through a journey in time and space, connect many cultures and countries of the continent and contribute to the cultivation of a common heritage and European values, as well as to the educational exchange of young people and the promotion of cultural tourism.<sup>53</sup> The first cultural route dedicated to historic gardens was created in 1992 and named Parks and Gardens, Landscape. It was certified as a Great Cultural Route of the Council of Europe on 9 December 2004 in Wrocław, Poland, at the conference of Ministers of Culture held to mark the 50th anniversary of the European Cultural Convention of the Council of Europe. The route integrated sites from 14 countries: Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, France, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.<sup>54</sup> Unfortunately, the organisation lost the title following a negative evaluation.

A new historic gardens route was established on 26 April 2016 at the initiative of the Lloret de Mar City Hall. Together with Aranjuez City Hall and the University of Barcelona they created the European Historic Gardens Association with the aim of promoting and raising awareness of historic gardens and developing the surrounding areas by creating a high-quality cultural and tourist offer. From the first day of its creation, the Association focused on the achievement of the Cultural Route of the Council of Europe certification, which was finally awarded on October 2020. The route currently links 37 historic gardens from eight countries: Greece, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Portugal and Spain.<sup>55</sup> The institutional partners and collaborators include local and regional authorities, academic centres, national agencies, associations and independent professionals. The European Route of Historic Gardens Association is ruled by participatory and democratic principles, and is governed by its Board of Directors and the General Assembly, in which all members are represented. The governance of the association counts with the executive support of the technical manager and the advisory support of the scientific committee, consisting of 12 eminent academics, scientists and professionals working in the fields of heritage, culture

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<sup>53</sup> Council of Europe, *Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme*, <https://bit.ly/3dgAcwq> [13.04.2021]; K. Orzechowska-Kowalska, *Europejskie Szlaki Kulturowe Rady Europy*, 'Turystyka Kulturowa', 2009, No. 12, pp. 4–20.

<sup>54</sup> Council of Europe, *Opening Conference for the 50th Anniversary of the European Cultural Convention*, <https://bit.ly/3uLBVzU> [13.04.2021].

<sup>55</sup> See Appendix 2. Garden Members of the European Route of Historic Gardens.

and tourism. Among the association's most important activities to date are the organisation of three European Forums on Historic Gardens and numerous technical meetings, as well as providing patronage to international projects, events and research carried out by its members.





Fig. 4. Garzoni Historic Garden in Collodi, Italy

## Conclusions and recommendations

Cultural projects concerning historic gardens have repeatedly received funding under the European Funds, 2014-2020, both from Community programmes and the Structural Funds. However, it is worth noting that with the total scale of the funds allocated, their share was very small. No project concerning historic greenery took part in flagship programmes such as Creative Europe or Horizon 2020. The majority, i.e. 22 initiatives, received funding from the Erasmus+ programme. Outside the timeframe adopted, the greatest events of the European Union relating to gardens were the European Year of Historic Gardens, organised on the initiative of the European Commission in 1993, and the European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018 with the Rendez-vous at the Gardens festival, held under the theme 'Europe of Gardens'. Historic green areas have been included in several European Capital of Culture celebrations, for example Florence 1986, Copenhagen 1996, or Istanbul 2010. As far as European distinctions are concerned, 19 initiatives have received the Europa Nostra Award, and one site, the Hofburg Palace in Vienna, has been awarded the European Heritage Label. Within the scope of the Structural Funds 2014-2020, a total of 11 projects received funding, mainly concerning the restoration of historical gardens, cross-border cooperation and the promotion of garden tourism. Historic gardens played an important role in the European Heritage Days in 2017, Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe (certification awarded twice by the European Commission in 2004 and 2020) or cooperation with UNESCO, becoming an essential part of programming and promotional activities, such as the *World Heritage Journeys Europe* project carried out in 2019, developed in collaboration with National Geographic and the European Union.

### Basis for recommendation

The author has taken three points of reference as the basis for the contribution of the European Route of Historic Gardens to the implementation of the cultural policy of the European Union: (1) the statutory activities of the organisation; (2) the challenges relating directly to the conservation and management of historic gardens; and (3) the cultural policies of the European Union. The European Route of Historic Gardens is a non-profit organisation dedicated to the preservation and promotion of historic landscaping. Its members aim to

create a broad, diverse and strong network:

1. To raise awareness and promote historic gardens through the European Route of Historic Gardens.
2. To develop a relationship with the Council of Europe and other European institutions, by closely collaborating with the European Institute of Cultural Routes (EICR).
3. To promote dialogue and the exchange of good practices in terms of the appreciation of Cultural Heritage.
4. To encourage collaboration with public administrations and private organisations to carry out joint actions connected with this cultural route.
5. To promote and carry out educational activities connected with the historic gardens in the cultural route, aimed at young people, in order to stimulate their knowledge of their roots and consolidate European identity.
6. To harmonise, within sustainable development, cultural and tourist activities that are carried out in the places where historic gardens are situated.<sup>56</sup>

Between 2017 and 2020, the members and partners of the European Route of Historic Gardens carried out nearly 200 activities of various kinds that fulfilled their statutory goals: 40 regional and 10 international research projects, 20 training programmes for tourist guides, participation in five international days (14 April – International Day For Monuments and Sites, 26 April – European Day of Historic Gardens, 18 May – International Museum Day, European Heritage Days [date varied], 27 September – World Tourism Day), 20 educational programmes for schoolchildren and students, five educational mobility programmes (volunteering and European Youth Forum) and 40 concerts and festivals.<sup>57</sup> Some of the key initiatives carried out by the organisation include creating the European Day of Historic Gardens on 26 April starting in 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the celebrations so far have taken place virtually via websites and social media, and this year's theme was 'Historic gardens and the formation of the European spirit'. As part of the festival, numerous cultural and educational events were organised to introduce the public to Europe's garden heritage.<sup>58</sup> Other important achievements include the organisation of the

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<sup>56</sup> European Route of Historic Gardens, *Goals of the European Route of Historic Gardens Association*, <https://bit.ly/3buHknt> [16.05.2021].

<sup>57</sup> European Route of Historic Gardens, *European Route of Historic Gardens presentation for the audition of applicants to the "Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe" Certification, 2020*, unpublished.

<sup>58</sup> European Route of Historic Gardens, *European Day of Historic Gardens 2021*, <https://bit.ly/3ynPCYr> [16.05.2021].

European Forums on Historic Gardens, which bring together many prominent figures involved in the management and conservation of historic green spaces and representatives of the EU institutions. The event has now been held four times: 7-8 September 2017 in Lloret de Mar, 5-6 September 2018 at Villa Garzoni in Collodi, 19-21 September 2019 in Sintra, and 3-5 September 2021 at the Herrenhäuser Gardens in Hannover. The European Route of Historic Gardens has extended its support to numerous cultural projects organised by its members, for example the webinar series of the Royal Castle in Warsaw entitled *Four Seasons in the Gardens, the Plants and animals. Atlases of natural history in the age of Linnaeus* exhibition organised by the Museum of King Jan III's Palace in Wilanów, the *Citri et Aurea* project carried out in collaboration between the above Museum and the Uffizi Gallery – Boboli Gardens in Florence, a series of documentaries entitled *Gardens with history* (Spanish: *Jardines con historia*) made by the Spanish RTVE channel or the publication of a paper entitled *Hortuseum: Musealisation of the European Gardens in the twenty-first century* by the Sarny Castle and the Eduard Petzold European Centre for Garden Art. The members of the organisation are also involved in scientific activities and were among the first to conduct a scientific study on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on historic gardens in Europe.<sup>59</sup>

A second important reference point for the role of the European Route of Historic Gardens in the implementation of the cultural policy of the European Union is the challenges of the conservation and management of historic gardens. They are most accurately defined by the International Scientific Committee on Cultural Landscapes ICOMOS-IFLA<sup>60</sup> in a special report on threats to heritage.<sup>61</sup> The authors of the document draw attention to such phenomena as the absence or deficiency of protection and management systems for historic gardens and overtourism.<sup>62</sup> Inadequate educational and training standards for staff in the theoretical foundations of conservation, management and maintenance of historic sites are also a significant challenge. According to the authors of the

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<sup>59</sup> European Route of Historic Gardens, *News*, <https://bit.ly/3whaO0d> [16.05.2021]. Findings available in: K. Hodor, Ł. Przybylak, J. Kuśmierski, M. Wilkosz-Mamcarczyk, *Identification and Analysis of Problems in Selected European Historic Gardens during the COVID-19 Pandemic, 'Sustainability'* 2021, No. 13: 1332, <https://doi.org/10.3390/su13031332> [16.05.2021]

<sup>60</sup> ICOMOS – International Council on Monuments and Sites; IFLA – International Federation of Landscape Architects.

<sup>61</sup> International Scientific Committee on Cultural Landscapes ICOMOS-IFLA, *Historic parks and cultural landscapes* [in:] *ICOMOS World Report 2001–2002 on monuments and sites in danger*, <https://bit.ly/3w9vPKb> [10.05.2021].

<sup>62</sup> The EU lacks a unified policy on historic gardens. To varying degrees, Member States also respect key regulations for historic green spaces, such as the Council of Europe's *Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe* of 3 October 1985, and the *European Landscape Convention* adopted within the Council of Europe on 20 October 2000.

report, this results in ‘poor levels of appreciation, understanding, information and care [about the value of historic gardens – author’s note], among those who, in one capacity or another and at all levels, are responsible for looking after them, from government administrators to gardeners.’<sup>63</sup> Significant shortcomings were also identified in terms of public engagement: ‘inadequate explanation of the garden and landscape heritage to the public and insufficient engagement of them in its conservation,’ which has the effect of undermining the cultural role of historic gardens.

The last most important area is the current strategic objectives of EU cultural policy as set out in *A New European Agenda for Culture*: (1) harnessing the power of culture and cultural diversity for social cohesion and well-being; (2) supporting culture-based creativity in education and innovation, and for jobs and growth; and (3) strengthening international cultural relations.<sup>64</sup> This programme, together with the *European agenda for culture in a globalizing world*<sup>65</sup> creates a strategic framework for the cultural policy of the European Union. The strategic objectives are implemented through the Work Plan for Culture 2019-2022, adopted by the Council of the European Union<sup>66</sup> under six priorities: (1) Sustainability in cultural heritage; (2) Cohesion and well-being; (3) An ecosystem supporting artists, cultural and creative professionals and European content; (4) Gender equality; (5) International cultural relations; (6) Culture as a driver of sustainable development (added as part of the Council conclusions of 26 May 2020<sup>67</sup>). Within these priorities, 18 key themes and related activities have been identified. The European Commission, as the executive body, implements the cultural policy of the European Union through financial programmes and support initiatives. In terms of the European Route of Historic Gardens’ statutory activities, the most important of these is the Creative Europe programme, which offers funding for cultural and artistic projects. On 14 December 2020, the European Parliament and the Council of Europe approved the programme’s budget of EUR 2.2 billion for the period 2021-2027. Creative Europe will be implemented through three sub-programmes: the media,

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<sup>63</sup> Ibid.

<sup>64</sup> European Commission, *Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions a New European Agenda for Culture*, com/2018/267 final, Brussels, 22.05.2018.

<sup>65</sup> European Commission, *Commission staff working document – Accompanying document to the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on a European agenda for culture in a globalizing world – Inventory of Community actions in the field of culture*, COM(2007) 242 final, Brussels, 10.05.2007.

<sup>66</sup> Council of the European Union, *Council conclusions on the Work Plan for Culture 2019-2022*, C 460/12, Brussels, 21.12.2018.

<sup>67</sup> European Commission, *Council conclusions amending the Work Plan for Culture (2019–2022)*, 2020/C 193/05, Brussels 9.06.2020.

culture, and cross-sectoral strands. The second strand, aimed at cultural and creative operators, is the most relevant for the discussed topic and is open to applications from four grant areas: European cooperation projects, literary translation, European platforms and European networks.<sup>68</sup> The last one in particular, due to its objectives and priorities as well as its requirements, offers great opportunities for the implementation of a cultural project through the European Route of Historic Gardens.

Of the European Commission's other programmes and initiatives in the field of culture, the New European Bauhaus, announced by European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen in her 2020 State of the Union address, offers excellent potential for future action. The initiative aims to promote the creation of aesthetically pleasing, inclusive and sustainable living places in line with the European Green Deal.<sup>69</sup> The European Route of Historic Gardens had the opportunity to become a partner of the New European Bauhaus but also to take an active part in developing innovative projects using the cultural heritage of historic gardens for the benefit of revitalisation processes, improving the quality of life of Europeans, pro-ecological socio-economic transformation, and so on. In line with the guiding principle of the aforementioned European Green Deal, all European Union activities and policies, including cultural policy, are to contribute to the achievement of Community climate neutrality by 2050.<sup>70</sup> As regards culture, some guidance has been provided in a special document entitled the *European Cultural Heritage Green Paper*, produced in collaboration between the Europa Nostra Foundation, ICOMOS and the Climate Heritage Network, with the support of the European Heritage Alliance and the European Investment Bank Institute and the Creative Europe Office. The document refers to each of the ten priorities of the European Green Deal that can also be introduced in historic gardens, such as sustainable cultivation, environmentally friendly food systems, protection of ecosystems and biodiversity, and zero emissions. Each area is summarised by key recommendations for policy makers and managers to indicate potential directions for implementing the governance priorities.<sup>71</sup>

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<sup>68</sup> Creative Europe Desk Poland, *Kreatywna Europa*, <https://bit.ly/3bEthfk> [14.05.2021].

<sup>69</sup> European Union, *New European Bauhaus*, <https://bit.ly/3f1k42F> [17.05.2021].

<sup>70</sup> European Commission, *The European Green Deal* [COM(2019) 640 final], Brussels 11.12.2019.

<sup>71</sup> Europa Nostra, *European Cultural Heritage Green Paper*, 2021, <https://bit.ly/3zwRw9h> [17.05.2021].

## Recommendations for the European Route of Historic Gardens

Taking into account the cultural significance of historic gardens, the cultural policy of the European Union and the conclusions presented in the previous section, the author's most important recommendations for the European Route of Historic Gardens are as follows:

1. To continue and to develop the Forums on Historic Gardens as an international platform to stimulate constructive dialogue between professionals involved in historic gardens;
2. To develop and to promote the celebration of the European Day of Historic Gardens and to increase participation in other international events, for example the European Heritage Days or the Rendezvous at the Gardens;
3. To secure the representation of historic gardens (either as the European Route of Historic Gardens or through its members and partners) in the framework of European cultural funding programmes for the 2021-2027 period, such as Creative Europe (CULTURE strand, i-Portunus programme) – fostering partnerships with cultural and heritage institutions to carry out joint cultural projects on historic gardens, and presentation and development of the institutions' programme offer based on the heritage of the gardens, for example staff mobility, seminars and training; to develop practical toolkits and standards for historic garden staff, publications and garden guides, exhibitions, educational activities and heritage interpretation, methodologies for presenting the heritage of historic gardens, and ways to involve the local community;
4. To collaborate with European institutions and other organisations such as HEREIN<sup>72</sup> at the Garden (French: HEREIN au jardin), to develop coherent legislation and EU policies that support the protection and maintenance of historic gardens;
5. To engage the European Route of Historic Gardens in the delivery of the European Green Deal, for example through the development of universal standards for the management of historic gardens based on sustainable practices and by setting common objectives and ways for members and partners of the Route to achieve these objectives;

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<sup>72</sup> HEREIN – European Cultural Heritage Information Network.

6. To integrate the European Route of Historic Gardens into the New European Bauhaus initiative as a partner and to promote sustainable gardening using traditional natural growing techniques, old crafts and handicrafts, and old plant varieties;
7. To promote sustainable tourism or green tourism founded on historic gardens that will bring economic and social benefits to the area while minimising negative environmental impacts;
8. To establish a mobility grant for garden workers associated with the European Route of Historic Gardens in order to create new training opportunities, and to share knowledge and experience in the conservation and maintenance of historic gardens – each year the grant may have a different patron, thus promoting outstanding European historic gardeners;
9. To run special training courses for professionals with modules on such topics as the current environmental and social challenges of historic gardens or European law and policy on culture and heritage;
10. To support the implementation of vocational education projects for young people, for instance internship and apprenticeship programmes, summer schools for traditional horticulture, and practical courses in ancient garden crafts designed to increase the number of historic garden conservators and strengthen their professional position;
11. To set up a European Historic Gardens Award for excellence or merit in historic gardens and traditional horticulture, for example in conservation, management, design, education and promotion, with the aim of highlighting best practices and promoting historic gardens;
12. To host competitions promoting historic gardens, for example, photographic, video, art and knowledge competitions to engage non-specialists in learning about garden heritage;
13. To support and stimulate all kinds of innovation and interdisciplinary research into, for example, the cultural history of gardens, new methods of conserving historic green spaces, or the restoration of ancient crafts;
14. To develop educational projects focused on the interpretation of the heritage of historic gardens, the perception of gardens, and the relationship of garden art to other cultural fields, such as sculpture, architecture and philosophy.



Fig. 5. Landscape Garden of the Kamieniec Palace, Poland

## Summary

The research carried out has shown that the European Route of Historic Gardens is an organisation with great potential for contributing to the cultural policy of the European Union. This is demonstrated by the cultural projects implemented between 2014 and 2020, the European thematic years, the European Capitals of Culture projects, the numerous European Heritage Awards and many other programming and promotional activities. Historic green areas have become not only a scenery for culture, but also its integral part – a unifying force linking many fields of science and art and a testimony to the outstanding achievements of European civilisation. The mission and statutory goals of the European Route of Historic Gardens are fully in line with the assumptions of EU cultural policy, and the possibility of using its substantive and organisational resources enables the realisation of international cultural and tourism projects. The framework for potential initiatives is set by the complex challenges of the conservation and management of historic gardens, as well as the EU cultural funding programmes for 2021-2027 and initiatives such as the European Green Deal or the New European Bauhaus.

To quote John Sales, former head of gardens for the UK's National Trust: 'Gardening is to a large degree performance art, and like all great music and theatre, gardens need to be constantly reinterpreted to retain their relevance and vitality, while preserving the original fabric.'<sup>73</sup> Building on the great heritage of historic gardens, the European Route of Historic Gardens should implement projects combining cultural activities and tourist services in four main areas: (1) professionalisation of staff through training and mobility, (2) international and intersectoral cooperation in cultural and research projects, (3) sustainability in the conservation and management of historic gardens, and (4) heritage education and interpretation. The last aspect is particularly important, as it guarantees the strengthening of the culture-forming role of historical gardens, a better knowledge and understanding among contemporary audiences, and ultimately preservation for future generations.

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<sup>73</sup> E.T. Haskell, *Le Nôtre's Gardens*, California 1999, p. 11.

Appendix No 1. List of sites whose pilot projects were supported by the European Year of Historic Gardens 1993<sup>74</sup>

**Belgium**

1. Beloeil Castle Park (French: Parc du Château de Belœil)
2. Flower Garden (French: Jardin des Fleurons), Enghien
3. Garden of the la Cambre Abbey (French: Jardins de l'Abbaye de la Cambre), Brussels
4. Rubenshuis Garden (Dutch: Tuin Rubenshuis), Antwerp

**Czech Republic**

5. English park of the Sychrov Castle (cz. Anglický park u zámku Sychrov)
6. Palace Gardens below the Prague Castle: Ledebour Garden, Small and Great Pálffy Garden, Kolowrat Garden and Small Fürstenberg Garden (Czech: Palácové zahrady pod Pražským hradem: Ledeburská, Malá a Velká Pálffyovská, Kolovratská a Malá Fürstenberská zahrada), Prague

**Denmark**

7. Bregentved Park (Danish: Bregentved Park), Haslev
8. Clausholm Castle Park (Danish: Clausholm Slotspark), Hadsten
9. Gisselfeld Park (Danish: Gisselfeld Park), Haslev
10. Landscape Garden of the Naesses Castle (Danish: Landskabshaven ved Næsseslottet), Holte

**France**

11. Arboretum de la Vallée-aux-Loups (French: Arboretum de la Vallée-aux-Loups), Châtenay-Malabry
12. Gardens & Park of Château de Saint-Loup-sur-Thouet (French: Jardins et Parc du Château de Saint-Loup-sur-Thouet), Saint-Loup Lamaire
13. Jean-Jacques Rousseau Park (French: Parc Jean-Jacques Rousseau), Ermenonville
14. Oriental Park of Maulévrier (French: Parc Oriental de Maulévrier)
15. Park of Château du Grand Jardin (French: Parc du Château du Grand Jardin), Joinville
16. Serre de la Madone Garden (French: Jardin Serre de la Madone), Menton

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<sup>74</sup> European Commission, *Support of the Pilot Projects for the Conservation of the European Architectural Heritage*, Press release IP/93/509, 25 June 1993, <https://bit.ly/39t0gSS> [15.03.2021].

## **Germany**

17. Amphitheatre & Prince Moritz Canal (German: Amphitheatre & Prinz-Moritz-Kanal), Kleve
18. Clemenswerth Castle Park (German: Schlosspark Clemenswerth), Sögel
19. Karl-Marx-Allee, Berlin
20. Neuwerk Garden (German: Neuwerkgarten), Schleswig
21. Park on the Ilm (German: Park an der Ilm), Weimar
22. Prince Georg Garden (German: Georgengarten / Georgium), Dessau
23. Prince's Park (German: Fürstlicher Park), Krauchenweis

## **Greece**

24. Garden of the Kaisariani Monastery (Greek: Μονή Καισαριανής ; Moní Kaisarianís)
25. Garden of the Simonopetra Monastery (Greek: Ιερά Μονή Σίμωνος Πέτρας ; Ierá Moní Símonos Pétras), Mount Athos
26. Pasha's Garden (Greek: Οι Κήποι του Πασά ; Οι Κίποι του Pasá), Thessaloniki
27. Psilalonia Square (Greek: Ψηλαλώνια ; Psilalónia), Aigio

## **Hungary**

28. Orczy Garden (Hungarian: Orczy-Kert), Budapest

## **Ireland**

29. Hilton Park, Scotshouse
30. Iveagh Gardens, Dublin
31. Kilfane Glen & Waterfall, Thomastown
32. Killruddery Gardens, Bray
33. Powerscourt Gardens, Enniskerry

## **Italy**

34. Botanical Garden (Italian: Orto botanico), Padua
35. Garden of Pagano Palace (Italian: Giardino di Palazzo Pagano), Quadrelle
36. Garden of the Villa della Regina (Italian: Giardino di Villa della Regina), Turin
37. Garden of the Villa Garzoni (Italian: Giardino di Villa Garzoni), Collodi
38. Pratolino Medici Park (Italian: Parco Mediceo di Pratolino)
39. The Shrine of Italian Victories (Italian: Vittoriale degli Italiani), Gardone Riviera

## **Luxembourg**

40. Gardens of the New Castle of Ansembourg (fran. Jardins du Grand-Château d'Ansembourg), Ansembourg

## **Netherlands**

41. Baroque Gardens of the Neercanne Castle (Dutch: Baroktuinen van terrassenkasteel Neercanne), Maastricht
42. Garden of the Noorder Sanatorium (Dutch: Noorder Sanatorium), Zuidlaren
43. Garden of the Sypesteyn Castle (Dutch: Kasteeltuin Sypesteyn), Nieuw-Loosdrechtsedijk
44. Genbroek Estate (Dutch: Landgoed Genbroek), Beek
45. Groenesteeg Historic Graveyard (Dutch: Historische graftuin Groenesteeg), Leiden

## **Poland**

46. Gardens of the Royal Castle in Warsaw (Polish: Ogrody Zamku Królewskiego w Warszawie)

## **Portugal**

47. Ajuda Botanical Garden (Portuguese: Jardim Botânico d'Ajuda), Lisbon
48. Garden of the Ajuda National Palace Ladies (Portuguese: Jardim das Damas / Jardim do Palácio Nacional de Ajuda), Lisbon
49. Gardens of the Convent of Arrábida (Portuguese: Jardins do Convento da Arrábida), Azeitão
50. Gardens of the Palace of Carvalhos (Portuguese: Jardins do Palácio dos Carvalhos), Lisbon
51. Gardens of the Palace of Estoi (Portuguese: Jardins do Palácio de Estoi), Faro
52. Gardens of the Palace of Visconde d'Olivã (Portuguese: Jardins do Palácio Visconde d'Olivã), Campo Maior
53. Gardens of the Quinta Real de Caxias (Portuguese: Jardins da Quinta Real de Caxias), Caxias

## **Slovakia**

54. Natural Park of the Manor House of Betliar (Slovak: Prírodný park kaštieľa Betliar), Betliar

## **Spain**

55. Charles V Gardens of the Yuste Monastery (Spanish: Jardines de Carlos V del Monasterio de Yuste), Cuacos de Yuste
56. Fountain of the King (Spanish: Fuente del Rey), Priego de Córdoba
57. Garden-Huerta of the Veruela Monastery (Spanish: Jardín-Huerta del Monasterio de Veruela), Vera de Moncayo
58. Genovés Park (Spanish: Parque Genovés), Cádiz
59. La Orotava Acclimatization Garden (Spanish: Jardín de Aclimatación de La Orotava), Puerto de la Cruz
60. Labyrinth Park of Horta (Spanish: Parque del Laberinto de Horta), Barcelona

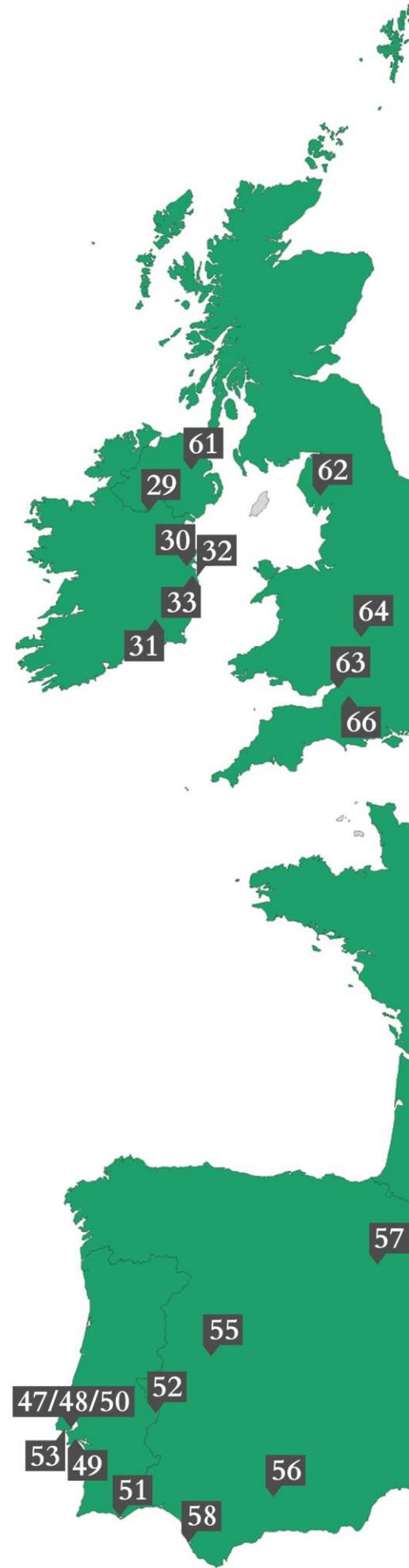
## **United Kingdom**

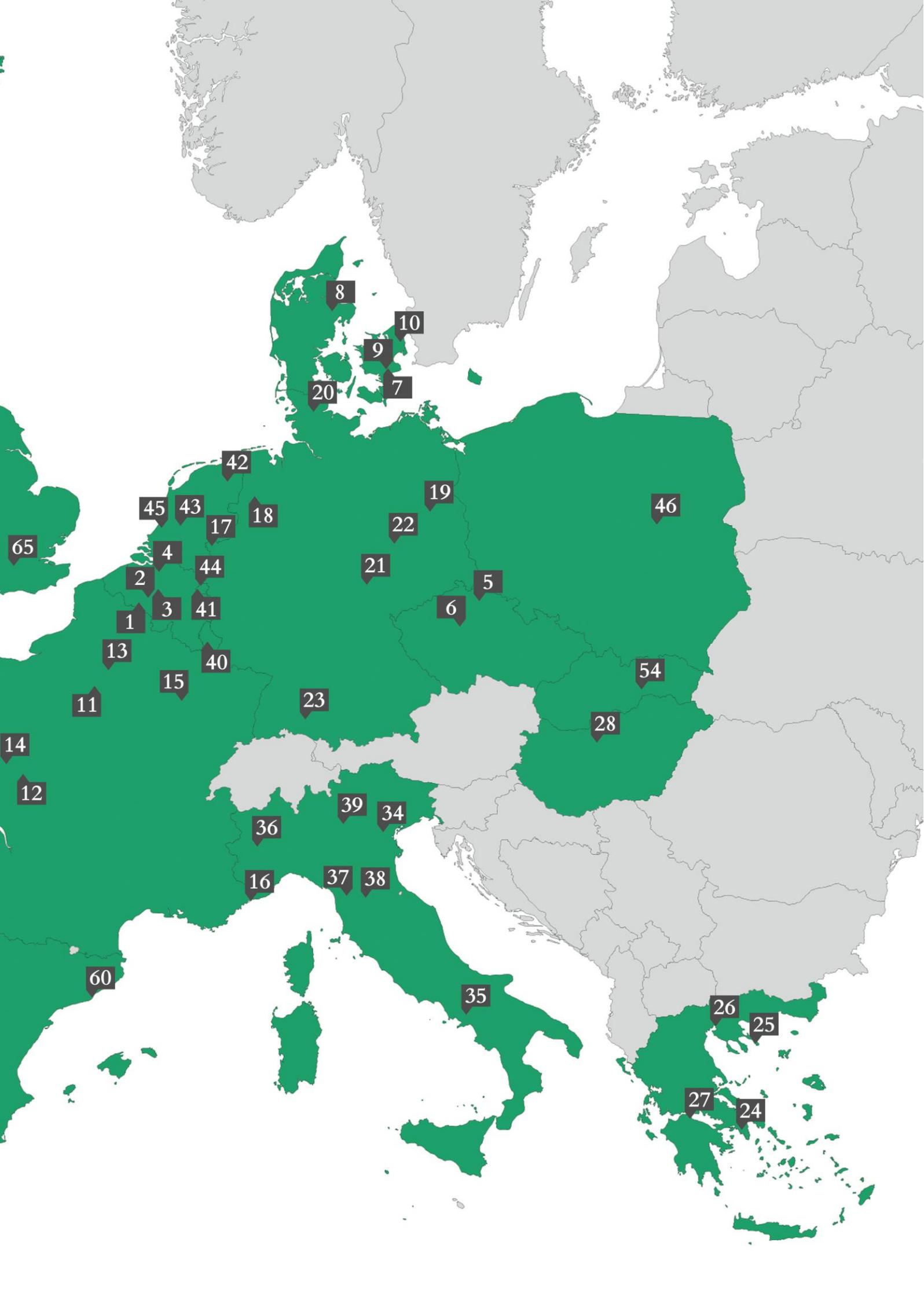
61. Antrim Castle Gardens
62. Brantwood Gardens, Coniston
63. Garden Terrace at Harewood House, Leeds
64. Hanbury Hall Gardens, Droitwich
65. Painshill Park, Cobham
66. Prior Park, Bath

Fig. 6. List of sites whose pilot projects were supported by the European Year of Historic Gardens 1993

## Map symbols

 site location





## Appendix No. 2. Garden Members of the European Route of Historic Gardens<sup>75</sup>

### Georgia

1. Batumi Botanical Garden (Georgian: ბათუმის ბოტანიკური ბაღი, batumis bot'anik'uri baghi)
2. Garden of the Alexander Chavchavadze House Museum (Georgian: ალექსანდრე ჭავჭავაძის ბაღი სინანდალაში, aleksandre ch'avch'avadzis baghi sinandalashi), Tsinandali
3. National Botanical Garden of Georgia (Georgian: საქართველოს ეროვნული ბოტანიკური ბაღი, sakartvelos erovnuli bot'anik'uri baghi), Tbilisi

### Germany

4. Mainau Island (German: Insel Mainau), Lake Constance
5. Royal Gardens of the Herrenhausen Palace (German: Herrenhäuser Gärten), Hanover

### Greece

6. Naoussa Municipal Park (Greek: Δημοτικό Πάρκο Νάουσας, Dimotikó Párko Náousas)

### Hungary

7. Esterházy Castle Park (Hungarian: Esterházy-kastély park), Fertőd

### Italy

8. Boboli Gardens (Italian: Giardino di Boboli), Florence
9. Gardens of Villa d'Este (Italian: Giardini di Villa d'Este), Tivoli
10. Garzoni Historic Garden (Italian: Storico Giardino Garzoni), Collodi
11. Park of the Miramare Castle (Italian: Parco del Castello di Miramare), Trieste
12. Royal Park at Caserta (Italian: Parco Reale di Caserta)

### Poland

13. Garden of the Radziwiłł Palace (Polish: Ogród Pałacu Radziwiłłów), Nieborów (Submission In-Progress)

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<sup>75</sup> European Route of Historic Gardens, *Gardens*, <https://bit.ly/3rzJ18k> [15.03.2021].

14. Gardens of the Museum of King Jan III's Palace at Wilanów (Polish: Ogrody Muzeum Pałacu Króla Jana III w Wilanowie), Warsaw
15. Gardens of the Royal Castle in Warsaw (Polish: Ogrody Zamku Królewskiego w Warszawie)
16. Landscape Garden of the Kamieniec Palace (Polish: Ogród krajobrazowy pałacu Kamieniec), Kłodzko
17. Landscape Park of the Sarny Castle (Polish: Park krajobrazowy zamku Sarny), Ścinawka Górna
18. Romantic Park in Arkadia (Polish: Romantyczny park w Arkadii), near Nieborów (Submission In-Progress)

### **Portugal**

19. Gardens of the National Palace of Queluz (Portuguese: Jardins do Palácio Nacional Queluz)
20. José do Canto Botanical Garden (Portuguese: Jardim Botânico José do Canto), Ponta Delgada, Azores
21. Park of Monserrate (Portuguese: Parque de Monserrate), Sintra
22. Park of Pena (Portuguese: Parque da Pena), Sintra
23. Serralves Park (Portuguese: Parque de Serralves), Porto

### **Spain**

24. Alameda Park (Galician: Alameda de Santiago de Compostela), Santiago de Compostela
25. Alhambra and Generalife Historic Gardens (Spanish: Jardines Patrimoniales de la Alhambra y Generalife), Granada
26. Island Garden and Prince's Garden (Spanish: Jardín de la Isla y Jardín del Príncipe), Aranjuez
27. Palace of Lourizán (Galician: Pazo de Lourizán), Herbalonga
28. Palace of Mariñán (Galician: Pazo de Mariñán), Bergondo
29. Palace of Oca (Galician: Pazo de Oca), A Estrada
30. Palace of Quintero da Cruz (Galician: Pazo Quintero da Cruz), Ribadumia
31. Palace of Rubianes (Galician: Pazo de Rubianes), Vilagarcia de Arousa
32. Palace of Santa Cruz de Rivadulla (Galician: Pazo de Santa Cruz de Rivadulla), Vedra
33. Park Samà (Catalan: Parc Samà), Cambrilis

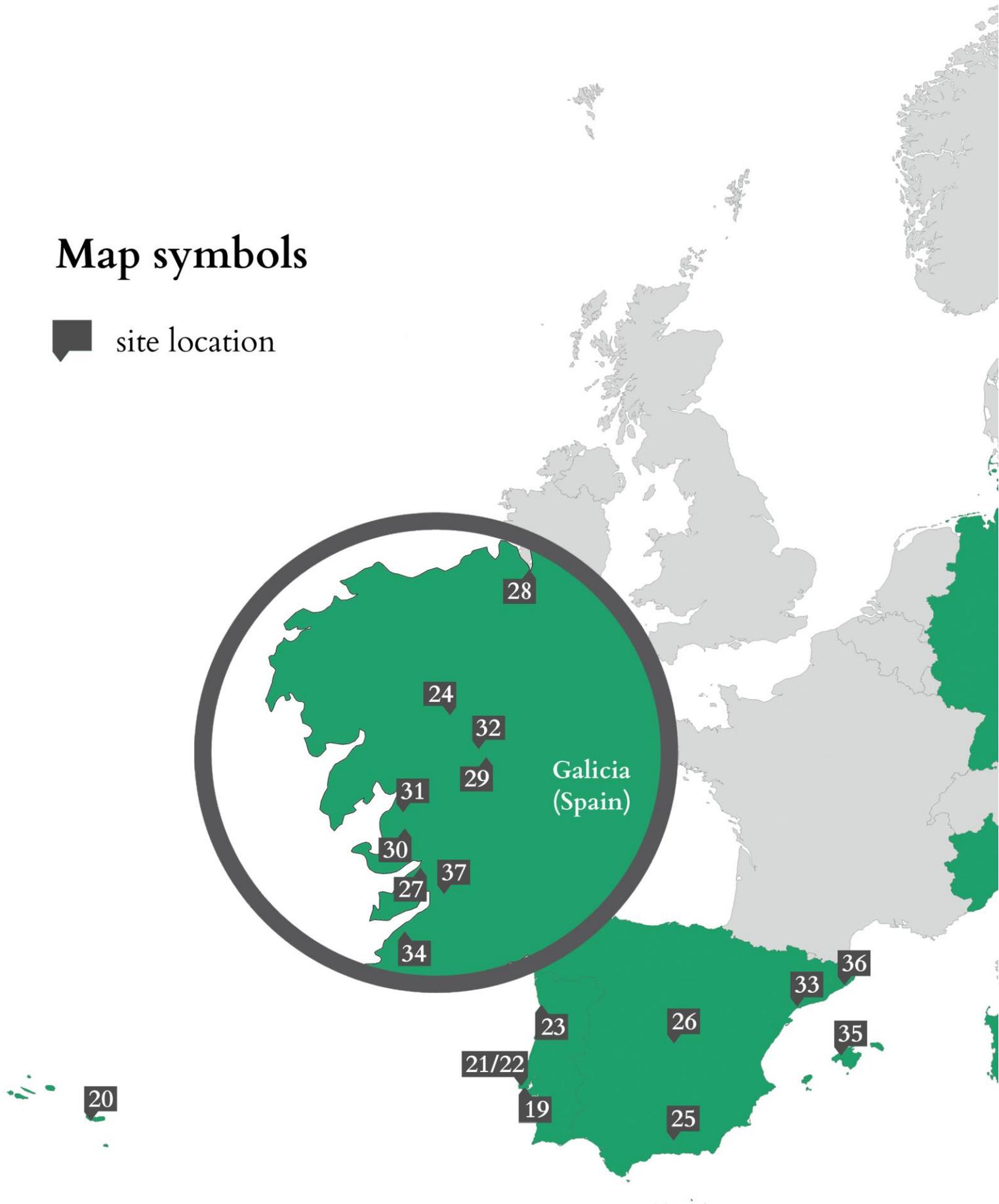
34. Quiñones de León Palace Museum (Galician: Pazo-Museo Quiñones de León), Vigo
35. Raixa Estate (Catalan: Finca Raixa), Bunyola, Balearic Islands
36. Saint Clotilde Gardens (Catalan: Jardins de Santa Clotilde), Lloret de Mar
37. Soutomaior Castle (Galician: Castillo de Soutomaior), Soutomaior

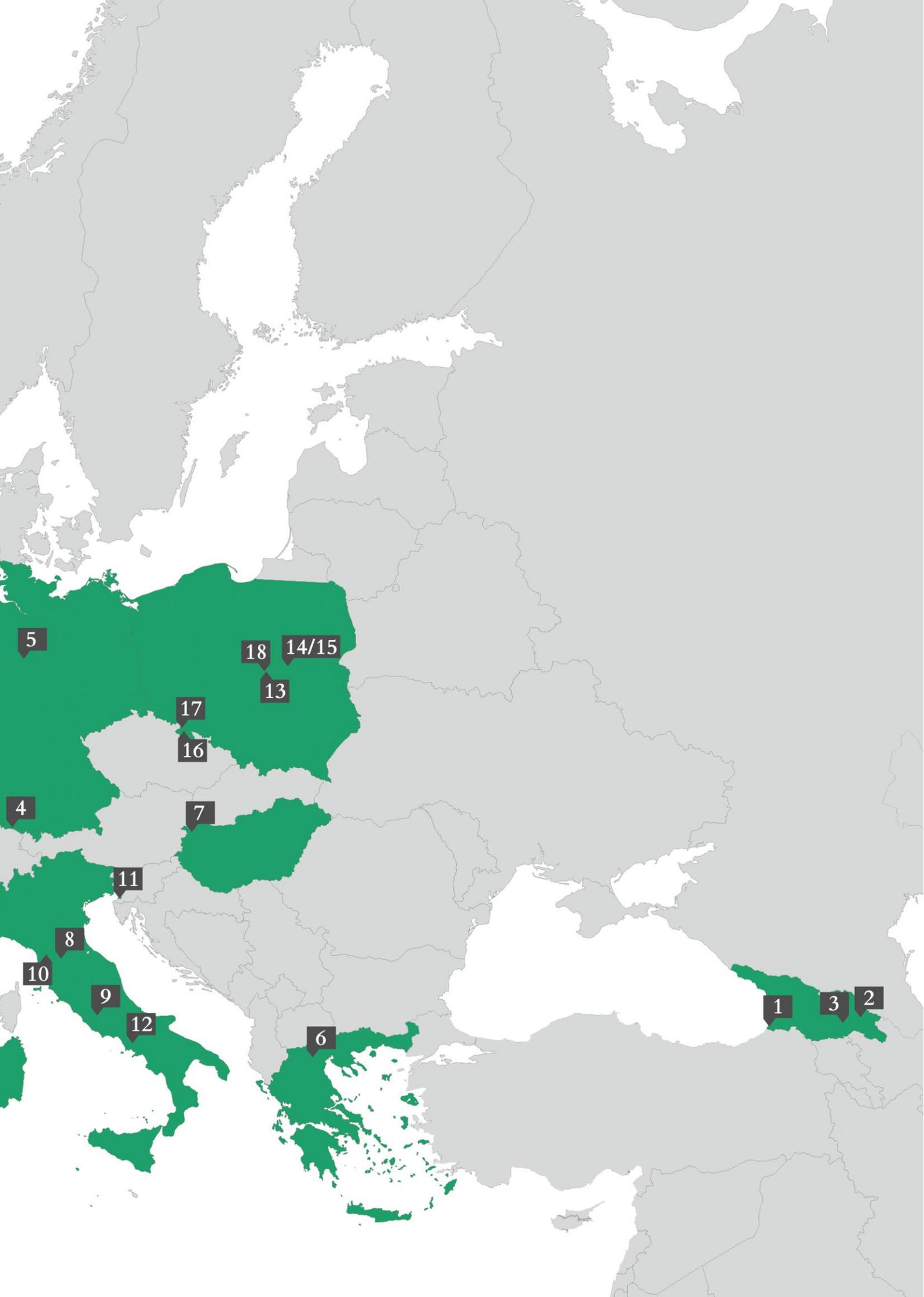


Fig. 7. Garden Members  
of the European Route of Historic Gardens

## Map symbols

 site location





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In October 2020, the European Route of Historic Gardens was certified by the Council of Europe. This was not only a great honour, but also an important step in recognising the historic, artistic, social and natural values of historic green spaces. Admission to the Cultural Route of the Council of Europe has also opened up opportunities to participate in various projects promoting culture and tourism at the international level. What could be the role of the European Route of Historic Gardens in this regard? How can it be involved in the implementation of the European Union's cultural policy? This paper seeks to find answers to these questions.

## About the Author



Jacek Kuśmierski is a conservator of historic gardens and a museum professional, member of the International Council of Museums (ICOM), the Association of Landscape Architecture – Poland and an Independent Collaborator for the European Route of Historic Gardens. He has been involved in establishing the Eduard Petzold European Centre for Garden Art in Ścinawka Górna since 2020.

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