



International Conference

# European Steel and Coal Heritage

10.04.2025-11.04.2025  
Katowice [PL]

[ticcih.pl](http://ticcih.pl)

## Welcome speech

**Pierre LACONTE**

*Chairman of the Industrial and  
Engineering Heritage Committee  
of Europa Nostra, the voice of  
European heritage*

# The Industrial and Engineering Heritage (IEHC) Committee

- Pierre Laconte (BE), Chair / Président
- David Morgan, MBE, TD (UK) Vice-chair / Vice-président
- Hildebrand de Boer (NL) (International Secretary)
- Peter Ovenstone (UK) (Committee Secretary)
- Paul Smith (FR) (Scientific Director)
- Rienko Wilton (NL) (Founding Secretary)
- Francesco Calzolaio (IT)
- Eusebi Casanelles (ES)
- Prof. Piotr Gerber (PL)
- Prof. Christian Hanus (AT)
- Hesperia Iliadou-Suppiej (IT)
- Dietrich Soyez (GE) (Corresponding Member)

**The Europa Nostra Industrial and Engineering Heritage Committee (IEHC)**  
has more than fifteen years of activity.

It is entirely funded by its twelve members, drawn from different countries and heritage backgrounds.

Since its inception it has held some 20 meetings and study visits hosted by its members, in turn. It has been scouting best practices eligible for each of the Europa Nostra (EN) Awards categories, resulting in a notable increase in awards in its field. It has organised well supported specialised excursions during all EN congresses.

IEHC has increased the visibility of Europa Nostra in the world of industrial and engineering heritage, stressing the importance of both buildings and their engineering features.

Europe's rich industrial and engineering industrial past is being rediscovered and often successfully reused. Not always so.

The unique collection of electricity production machinery was totally taken away from what was to become the Tate Modern Museum.

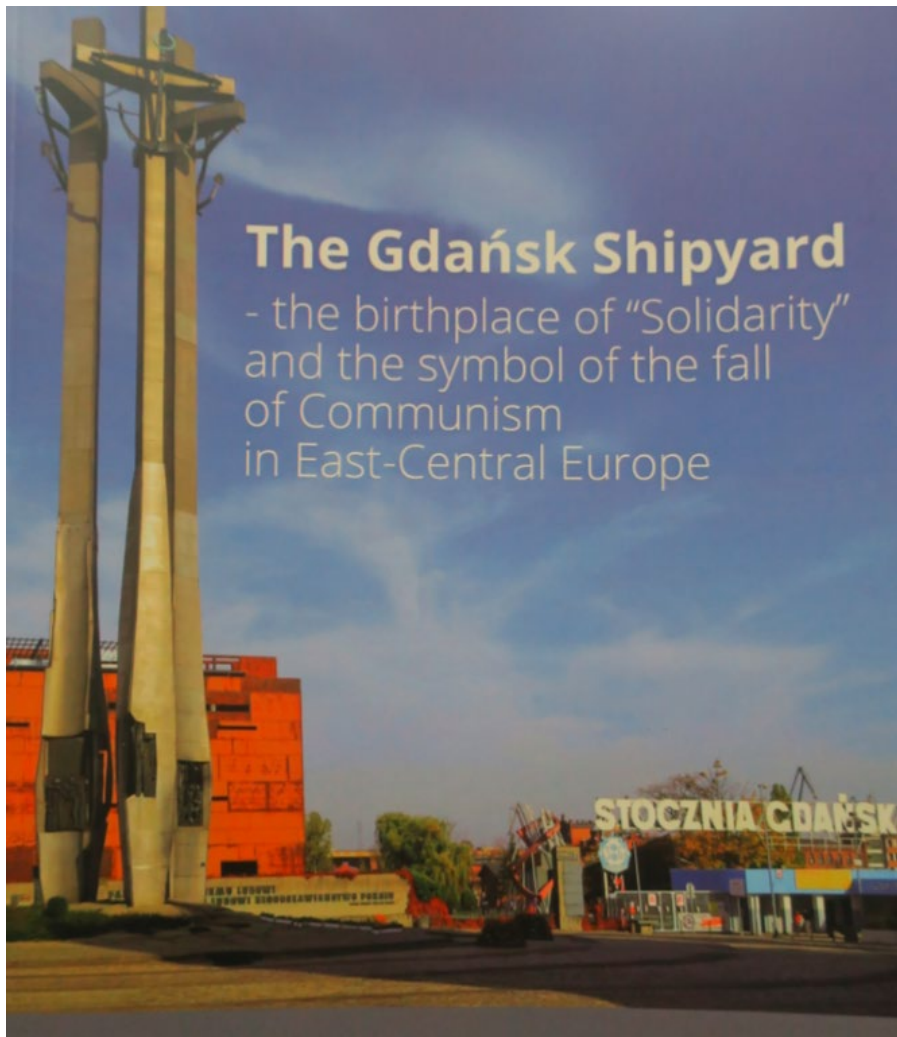
In contrast, the machinery was totally exposed to visitors in Istanbul's Bilgi University Hall, becoming an attraction in its own right.

A view of the Tate Modern in London from the River Thames.

[https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tate\\_Modern](https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tate_Modern)







IEHC has expressed its support to the campaign for major heritage location including the Gdansk Shipyard World Heritage Nomination.

# A few highlights

14 > 16 March 2019

## Gdansk Meeting - The Gdansk Shipyard

<https://www.ffue.org/2018/11/en-industrial-and-engineering-heritage-committee-iehcn/>



Gdansk, European Solidarity Centre, Meeting with former state president Lech Walesa. Photo EN IEHC.



7 > 9 July 2023

EN Industrial and Engineering Heritage Committee met in Rhineland-Pfalz at the invitation of Gabriela and Alexander Fürst zu Sayn-Wittgenstein-Sayn, whose family was pioneer of the German coal and steel industry and maintains a historic cast iron national museum.

<https://www.europanostra.org/en-industrial-and-engineering-heritage-committee-met-in-rhineland-pfalz-and-visited-sites-in-the-koblenz-area-germany/>



Dieter Soyez, Gabriela and Alexander Fürst zu Sayn-Wittgenstein-Sayn, Pierre Laconte, Rienko Wilton, Piotr Gerber, Grazyna Gerber, Hildebrand and Birgitt de Boer. Photo: Europa Nostra



**29/9/2023. IEHC was proudly present at the Europa Nostra 60th Anniversary, held in Venice.**

**Europa Nostra 60th Anniversary General Assembly**

**Some 230 members from across Europe took part in our 60th Anniversary General Assembly hel...**





# "Industrial and Engineering Heritage in Europe"



50 winners of the European Heritage Awards, Edition Donau-Universität Krems, Krems, 01/2021.

Christian Hanus, Pierre Laconte, Richard Sickinger, Paul Smith (Editors).

## Topics

*This anthology compiles 50 award-winning projects, from 19 European countries, which are a part of Europe's industrial and engineering heritage: windmills, watermills, granaries, factories, mining sites and quarries, as well as places and vehicles related to transport by water, road, rail and air.*

*It is published by the Danube University Krems, which houses the awards archives, in partnership with Europa Nostra's Industrial and Engineering Heritage Committee.*



# “First industrial Continent”: industrial projects as an integral part of European history

The next major publication – also to be edited by Donau University Krems - will be a comprehensive survey of large industrial projects.

Examples will be chosen from each country in Europe.

For instance, the Ostrava steel plant (in Czechia), at one time the largest in Europe, manufactured steel for the Eiffel Tower as well as for weapons used by all the belligerents in European wars.

Another case will cover the Brussels’ Thurn und Taxis complex. It was the HQ of an express postal service covering all parts of Charles V’s Empire and later provided state owned docks for trading. Once earmarked for demolition, its Jugendstil buildings are now once again bustling with activity in the complex itself and its surroundings.