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## **Europa Nostra Industrial and Engineering Heritage – IEHC 2019 Report by Pierre Laconte, EN Council member, Chair of IEHC.**

Europa Nostra Industrial and Engineering Heritage Committee is entering its eleventh year of activity. It is entirely funded by its twelve members, from different countries and heritage backgrounds. Since its inception it has held some 20 meetings and study visits hosted in turn by its members. It has been scouting best practices eligible for each of the EN Awards categories, resulting in a notable increase of Awards in its field.

IEHC increased the visibility of EN and its membership in the world of industrial and engineering. It also organised well attended optional specialised excursions during all EN congresses, adding to their attractiveness and attendance.

The latest one, on 29/10, to the former Menier Chocolate factory and “company town” in Noisel, now Nestlé-France HQ, vividly illustrated the rise and fall of an industrial empire and its pioneering architecture.

IEHC is presently producing a trilingual illustrated book reporting 40 best practices in industrial and engineering heritage linked to EN European Awards. It is designed by the Danube University Krems, under the editing of Dean Christian Hanus, member of the IEHC, with the support of Europa Nostra Austria. Danube University is also retrieving the entire EN Awards archive.

The book will be launched by IEHC in March 2020, in Krems, at the occasion of its next meeting and the university’s international Conference about shipbuilding heritage. This conference is to be held as part of IEHC’s campaign in favour of putting the emblematic Gdansk Solidarnosc shipyards on the World Heritage list.

More importantly IEHC intends to publish a book on the “First industrial Continent”, stressing the European impact of European industrial projects as an integral part of European history. As an example, the Ostrava steel plant (CZ), at one time the largest in Europe, delivered steel as well for the Eiffel Tower as for weapons used by all belligerents of European wars. Another example is the Brussels Turn und Taxis complex. It was the HQ of an express postal service covering all parts of Charles the Fifth Empire, later providing Royal docks for its trading. Once ear-marked for demolition, its Jugendstil buildings are now again bustling with activity. One example will be chosen in each country of Europe.

These two publications and other IEHC activities aim at pursuing the momentum of the 2018 European Year of Cultural Heritage, at further developing its modest volunteer contribution to EN’s “Voice of European Heritage” and at further acting for Europe’s recognition of its rich industrial and engineering heritage.

Paris Cultural Heritage summit 29/10/2019

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