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Official invitation



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ZENTRALVERBAND DES
DEUTSCHEN HANDWERKS

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Berlin, 10 July 2018
Per E-Mail

Craft Congress „Craft Heritage and Heritage Craft Trades in Europe“

- 12 – 14 September 2018

Summary

The German Confederation of Skilled Crafts invites to an meeting on craft conservation, traditional heritage skills and the intangible craft heritage in Europe. Participation is free of charge. Please circulate this invitation and register by 17 August 2018.

Dear Sir or Madam,

The European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018 aims at enabling people to become closer to and more involved with their cultural heritage and to enhance a European sense of identity.

As well as creating a sense of community, cultural heritage and its preservation present a range of opportunities to individuals for vocational as well as academic specialisation and personal development. Moreover, conservation is an important field of economic occupation, e.g. in the craft trades. In Germany alone, craft businesses achieve an annual turnover of 7.5 thousand million Euros in this area accounting for some 1.3 % of the overall turnover in the craft trades sector. It is likely that other European countries show similar proportions.

However, the economic development potential is far from being fully exploited. With the consequence that the overall interest in cultural heritage has declined in recent years, with apprentices and students, as with businesses, owners and investors. With respect to the challenges and opportunities craft enterprises active in the field are facing in Europe, we wish to initiate, in the European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018, we would like to launch a process of discussion on cultural heritage which will focus on its economic significance and its capacity for economic development.

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DAS HANDWERK
DIE WIRTSCHAFTSMACHT VON NEBENAN.

At the same time, we want to raise public awareness for the dual nature of heritage – the tangible substance itself and the intangible craft skills as a prerequisite for its coming into being and preservation –, and to highlight the significance, commitment and needs of craft organisations and enterprises in the safeguarding of the European cultural heritage. Various events during the congress provide opportunity for craft conservators and their partners in Europe to expand their networks.

This is why we joined forces with the European Federation for Architectural Heritage Skills (FEMP) and several other organisations involved in craft heritage skills this year to organise the heritage craft congress “Craft Heritage and Heritage Craft Trades in Europe”. We would like to invite you to discuss with us the dual nature of heritage and to address current safeguarding issues. The official ceremony for the inscription of Organ Craftsmanship and Music on the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity marks the end of the congress. Craft trades inscribed on the German Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage present topics of safeguarding and vocational education and training in a supporting exhibition. Please also refer to the programme enclosed. Participation is free of charge.

Please circulate this invitation in your sphere of influence and inform interested organisations, institutions or individuals. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us. Ms Sophia will be happy to help you (wegener@zdh.de, Tel.: +49 30 20619-337). We kindly ask you to register with her by 17 August 2018.

Yours sincerely

Dr. Peter Weiss
Head of Department

Dr. Titus Kockel
Head of Unit