



EUROPEAN CAMPAIGN FOR INDUSTRIAL AND TECHNICAL HERITAGE

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1. The Industrial Revolution originated in Europe in the 18th and early 20th century, and spread later to the other continents. It was the start of a global economy, where techniques and technologies, materials, engines and tools, capital, new social and political ideas crossed borders without limits. The industrial and technical heritage is as such a pan-European heritage. Therefore cross-border cooperation and exchange of knowledge and information is necessary to research, save and interpret the industrial and technical heritage of countries and regions.

2. Some years ago associations from different European countries, united in E-FAITH (European Federation of Associations of Industrial and Technical Heritage) launched the idea to take initiatives and to launch actions in as many countries as possible in the course of one specific year, at the same time, to set this heritage in the spotlights. This idea was taken up in a report adopted by the Council of Europe ¹: *“The Assembly calls for continuous encouragement of public involvement and volunteer work that generates awareness and appreciation of the value of the industrial heritage and contributes through grassroots initiatives to designating for protection, preserving and converting to new uses thousands of industrial heritage sites across Europe. In this respect, the Assembly supports the campaign of the European Federation of Associations of Industrial and Technical Heritage (E-FAITH) calling for a European Industrial Heritage Year in 2015.”*

3. At present more than 150 organisations and institutions from 19 European countries have endorsed the initiative, and on many places volunteers and NGOs but also public authorities and institutions are devising projects and programmes to take place in 2015.

¹ Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media: ***Industrial heritage in Europe. Report*** (Doc. 13134, 15 February 2013. Rapporteur: Ms Ismeta DERVOZ) - 8 March 2013. This report can be downloaded in English and French from: <http://www.e-faith.org/home/?q=content/council-europe>

The campaign for the European industrial and technical heritage year arose from the grassroots and is growing bottom-up, in contrast with most other European campaigns that are initiated top-down. Thus it is an exemplary example of citizens' initiative and the power of associations. It will also be an experiment and a test which will show how public authorities and public institutions do respond to and encourage, how they appreciate and support the devotion and efforts of volunteers and voluntary associations.

4. Since the interest in the industrial heritage came into being, from the 1960s onwards in the United Kingdom, later in other countries, voluntary associations always have been at the spearhead of initiatives and developments. Without their devotion and efforts a large part of it would have gone, forever. And without them even today we would still lose large parts of our industrial and technical heritage.

2015, the European Industrial and Technical Heritage Year therefore will be and should be an homage to the non-paid and unselfish dedication of so many, within organizations or individually.

5. E-FAITH's main aim is to promote in 2015 contacts and co-operation across borders of associations and volunteers. Indeed, together they reach and realize more, they can support each other's initiatives and activities, they can exchange ideas, experiences and expertise.

2015 should be a first but important step, a start to continue and go further for the years to come.

Two priorities are forwarded:

5.1. E-FAITH promotes the **twinning between associations** who do have the same aims and objectives, who are dedicated to the same kind of industrial heritage. Twinning involves two associations from two different countries who meet and learn to know each other and each other's approaches, and who commit themselves to mutual co-operation and support - and of whom board members and members maybe one day will become real friends.

5.2. E-FAITH promotes the establishment of **transnational thematic steering groups** - to reach and develop a common approach to common problems or to prepare gazetteers and record specific types of industrial and technical heritage

The initiative for an steering group is taken by a non-profit association from one country (the leader), who involves at least two other associations (partners) from two different countries. The intention is that these steering groups will start in 2015 but continue their approach beyond that year, develop a strong project, and - who knows - one day could become eligible for a European grant.

At present three steering groups already have been established and have started with their activities, namely:

- dangerous industrial heritage (heritage which is polluted or installations and machinery which are not compliant with the health and safety regulations)
- factory chimneys as symbols and landmarks in the landscape
- conservation and new uses for harbour cranes

Other steering groups will soon also be launched, one of them being M³ - May Month of the Mills).

In most European countries volunteers and NGOs are working hard to turn the Campaign '2015 European Industrial and Technical Heritage Year' into a succes. May we call everbody, organizations and individuals, to join this initiative - it's upon you and so many other to take up the challenge.

Please spread the message via you're your media: your newsletter or journal, website, newsgroups, social media etc.

If your association or institute does have ideas or plans special activities for 2015,

if you are looking for contacts and co-operation with colleagues or similar organizations in other European countries

then

get as soon as possible in touch with the European campaign secretariat
E-FAITH

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or see the websites

- www.e-faith.org/home (click in the right column)

- www.industrialheritage2015.eu (now 'under construction', to be launched in September)