

## Introduction

The European Route of Historic Gardens (ERHG) was established at the initiative of the authorities of Lloret de Mar, a seaside resort in Catalonia, within the boundaries of which the Santa Clotilde Gardens are located. In the city leaders' intention, one of the most interesting early twentieth-century garden complexes was to initiate a long-term process of directing the tourists' interest towards the natural and cultural aspects, which have so far lost competition to the holiday and entertainment character of the city. The city of Aranjuez and the University of Barcelona joined the municipality's endeavour; the entities jointly registered the European Network of Historic Gardens on 26 April 2016.

The organisation's mission is to raise the public awareness of the role and importance of the garden heritage in building the stability of the European cultural unity. At the same time, special attention was paid to the cross-border nature of the formation of European garden art in connection with its natural values as a unique example of culture and nature, requiring special protection in the era of global economic, social and environmental crisis.

The specific goals of ERHG's activities are to raise awareness and promote historic gardens, to develop a relationship with the Council of Europe and other European institutions by closely collaborating with the European Institute of Cultural Routes, to promote dialogue and exchange of good practices in terms of the appreciation of Cultural Heritage, to encourage collaboration with public administration and private organisations to carry out joint actions, to promote and carry out educational activities connected with the historic gardens in the cultural route and aimed at young people, in order to stimulate their knowledge of their roots and consolidate European identity, and to harmonise, within sustainable development, cultural and tourist activities that are carried out in the places where historic gardens are situated.

The mission and objectives of the ERHG have always been part of the idea of European cultural routes. Their priority activities are implemented in several main areas, including cooperation in research and development, strengthening the memory of European history and heritage, contemporary cultural and artistic practice, educational exchange of young Europeans, and, last but not least, cultural tourism conducted while maintaining the principles of sustainable development. On 30 October 2020, the Governing Board of the Extended Partial Agreement favour-

## COMMUNICATION

# MUSEUM OF KING JAN III'S PALACE AT WILANÓW IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE EUROPEAN ROUTE OF HISTORIC GARDENS IN THE YEARS 2017–2021

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ably considered the application procedure for the Council of Europe's Cultural Routes (EPA); the ERHG obtained a European Cultural Route certificate and joined the group of 45 certified routes leading through various facets of European culture. The Museum of King Jan III's Palace at Wilanów, represented by Łukasz Przybylak, was very strongly involved in the whole process.

The ERHG is managed by the management board along with representatives of all the member gardens. Currently, the management board consists of Jaume Dulsat i Rodríguez (President), Łukasz Przybylak (Vice-President), Anna Fuentes Fernández (Secretary), Marketa Stevřaková (Treasurer), Xavier Flores Moyano (Member), María del Pozo López (Member). The technical manager coordinates the organisation's activities in the executive scope; the advisory functions are performed by the Scientific Committee. Its members are representatives of academic circles, scientists and specialists in the domain of gardens, heritage, culture and tourism from various countries: Bianca Maria Landi, Elisabeth Keegan, Łukasz Przybylak, María del Pozo López, Maria Matos Silva, Monika Draj, Mónica Luengo Añón.<sup>1</sup>

During the first three years of ERHG's activity, two sets of rules were developed: for the admission of new members and for the verification of gardens already associated in it. Each applicant institution is obliged to fill in a form where it provides information on the history of the complex, its transformations and renewal endeavours, artistic and historical values, cultural, educational and scientific activities carried out, as well as publications related to the garden in question. All submissions are reviewed and verified by the Scientific Committee. The official admission of a garden to the ERHG takes place at one of the two mandatory annual reunions of its members, upon the acceptance of all the partners with full voting rights. Currently, the organisation brings together 37 historic gardens from eight countries, as well as five institutional partners and three independent collaborators.<sup>2</sup> The Museum of King Jan III's Palace at Wilanów was officially accepted as a member on 15 December 2017.

### The European Forums on Historic Gardens

One of the statutory activities of ERHG is the annual Forum on Historic Gardens. It has the character of open discussions on issues presented in two thematic blocks. One of them focuses on historical and cultural issues, the other is devoted to the questions of practical management of garden heritage. The Forum also organises study visits to the host gardens and meetings of the Management Board and the Scientific Com-

1 The composition of the ERHG management board and scientific committee reflects the situation as of September 2021.

2 See Appendix 1. Register of members and partners of the European Route of Historic Gardens (as per 31 December 2021).



Fig. 1

Plaque of the European Route of Historic gardens in the entrance gate to the Wilanów gardens



Fig. 2

Official presentation of the certificate of membership to the Museum of King Jan III's Palace at Wilanów during the 3rd Forum of Historic gardens in Hanover. From the left: Jaume Dulsat i Rodríguez, Nela Kokoszka, Jacek Kuśmierski, Łukasz Przybylak

mittee, where key decisions related to the broadly understood development of the ERHG, including scientific, informational, promotional as well as administrative activities, are taken. So far, four editions of the event have taken place.

The first Forum was held on 7 and 8 September 2017 in Lloret de Mar.

It was primarily devoted to the essence of European cultural routes and their importance for the development of the protection of cultural heritage and tourism. An important part of the event was the presentation of the gardens (including the Wilanów gardens), whose representatives took part in the forum. They complemented the theses put forward during the inaugural lecture given by Prof. José Tito Rojo of the University of Granada (UGR), entitled 'Historic gardens, the past and present of Europe's historic and natural heritage'. The forum culminated in the official establishment of the European Network of Historic Gardens.<sup>3</sup>

The second Forum was hosted by the Italian foundation La Fondazione Nazionale Carlo Collodi, which takes care of the historic gardens of the Villa Garzoni. The meeting took place on 5 and 6 September 2018 and was a general session of the emerging network. It was decided to set up a scientific committee. The then head of the Garden Department of the Museum of King Jan III's Palace at Wilanów, Łukasz Przybylak, was appointed to become one of its members. There was also a discussion on issues of relevance to the newly emerging organisation, including the membership rules and proposed verification methods, the visual identification of associated institutions and the main areas of activities in which the ERHG could take part in the future. The second Forum was preceded by a general meeting of the Management Board, which took place on 8 March 2018 at the Museum of King Jan III's Palace at Wilanów.

The third Forum was held a year later, on 19–21 September in the Portuguese town of Sintra under the heading 'Maintaining and Managing Historic Gardens for a New Era'. The meeting was attended by representatives of 28 historic gardens from six countries. The issues discussed could be directly confronted with reality thanks to study visits to the gardens of the National Palace in Queluz, the park surrounding the Monserrate Palace in Sintra, the gardens of the Gulbenkian Foundation in Lisbon and the botanical gardens of the University of Lisbon: the Ajuda and the Tropical. Participants could also get acquainted with the challenges faced by site administrators of the former Capuchin monastery in Sintra.

The fourth Forum traditionally took place a year later, on 3–5 September 2021, in Hannover, in the Herrenhausen Gardens. The theme was 'Historic Gardens and the Formation of European Identity'. The panellists gave lectures devoted to the preservation and history of historic garden com-

3 Having acquired the cultural route certification, the European Network of Historic Gardens changed its name to the European Route of Historic Gardens.

plexes, thanks to which the listeners learnt about the processes of revitalisation of premises including Herrenhausen, Schwetzingen, the gardens in Gunnebo in Sweden, and others. The lectures were also attended by a representative of the Jan III's Palace Museum at Wilanów Jacek Kuśmierski, who presented the history of the journey of plants from Italy to Poland, as well as the results of the 'Citri et Aurea' project, implemented in cooperation with the Uffizi Gallery – Boboli Gardens in Florence.

### European Days of Historic Gardens

The drive to promote the values of historic gardens led to the establishment of the European Day of Historic Gardens in spring 2020. The date, 26 April, was not chosen at random: it is the day of the establishment of the ERHG, with the purpose to build a wide and varied network of resources to enhance the value of historic gardens. Every year, members prepare many cultural, educational and informational activities for this occasion, thus raising the awareness of the ERHG among a growing audience: not only the institution's guests, but also the international community. The first European Day of Historic gardens in 2020, despite the unfavourable conditions caused by the COVID-19 epidemic, set the course for the years to follow. The museum prepared special educational and promotional materials, which were made available to the public on social media and on the website.

In 2021, the European Day of Historic gardens was celebrated under the heading 'Historic gardens and the Formation of European Identity'. The Museum of King Jan III's Palace at Wilanów focused on the universal, trans-national nature of garden art. The Embassy of Ireland in Poland was invited to a joint celebration and funded three specimens of small-leaved linden (*Tilia cordata*). The commemorative trees were planted on the southern edge of the upper terrace of the Baroque garden by Ambassador Emer O'Connell, the Museum's director Paweł Jaskanis, and the then head of the Garden Department of the Museum and vice-president of the ERHG Łukasz Przybylak. The accompanying events included volunteering in the Museum's gardens and special online workshops taking the participants took into virtual journey through the ERHG member gardens. It was also the time when the ERHG initiated a new series 'Gardens that Vertebrate Europe' with a film on medieval gardens. The Museum also participated in it, as the part explaining the principles applied to Baroque gardens had been recorded in the Wilanów garden. The organisation also granted its patronage for the exhibition 'Plants and Animals. Atlases of natural history in the age of Linnaeus', open to visitors from 7 May to 15 August 2021.

### Scientific projects

Relationships of the Museum of King Jan III's Palace at Wilanów with institutions associated in ERHG also resulted in joint research pro-

jects. One of them is ‘Citri et Aurea’, conducted in cooperation with the Uffizi Gallery – Boboli Gardens in Florence since 2019. The project was based on historical contacts between the court of Grand Duke Cosimo III of Tuscany and the court of King Jan III, established after the victorious battle at Vienna. In 1684, eight boxes filled with many plant species, such as the lumia lemon (*Citrus lumia* ‘Pomum Adami’), were sent from Florence to Warsaw. This story initiated a project devoted to historic citrus collections. So far, the research stage has been completed and its results have been published in six articles, in Polish and English, in the Passage of Knowledge. The Museum staff paid a study visit to Florence and Rome and held an online Polish-Italian seminar on gardens. The project received two subsidies from the Minister of Culture and National Heritage under the ‘Inspiring Culture’ programme.<sup>4</sup>

The cooperation of the institutions associated in the ERHG is also a response to the current challenges faced by specialists and administrators of historic buildings. Therefore, in the years 2020–2021, the Museum took an active part in the research on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on historic gardens, conducted in cooperation with scientists from the Tadeusz Kościuszko Cracow University of Technology and the Hugo Kołłątaj Cracow University of Agriculture. Managers and employees of many complexes associated in the ERHG – based in, among others, Spain, Germany, Poland, Portugal and Italy – took part in a special survey. Not only did its results indicate a number of corollaries to the pandemic; they also helped develop practical recommendations in the event of another similar phenomenon.<sup>5</sup>

## Summary

The five years of membership of the Museum of King Jan III’s Palace at Wilanów in the ERHG have been a period of great activity. The involvement in European forums and Days of Historic Gardens allowed us to establish many contacts and partnerships with institutions from all over the continent. This has undoubtedly contributed to the further development of the existing network of international cooperation, implemented within the framework of individual projects or such organisations as the International Council of Museums ICOM and the European Royal Residences Association ARRE. The garden trend was further strengthened in July 2019, when the Museum joined the European Boxwood

4 J. Kuśmierski, ‘Polsko-włoskie seminarium ogrodowe “Citri et Aurea”’, *Studia Wilanowskie*, vol. XXVII, 2020, pp. 173–80; J. Kuśmierski, Ł. Przybylak, A. Ziemlewska, ‘“Citri et Aurea”: wymiana wiedzy i doświadczeń w zakresie historycznych kolekcji cytrusów’, *Studia Wilanowskie*, vol. XXVII, 2020, pp. 163–72.

5 Detailed research results are found in the article by 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; 13(3):1332. doi.org/10.3390/su13031332.

and Topiary Society (EBTS). The association of ERHG specialists, who daily carry out their tasks in various parts of the old continent, has created unique conditions for creative exchange of ideas and attempts to standardise the conservation and administrative policy towards historic gardens while maintaining the individuality of their diverse resources.

We would like to thank Łukasz Przybylak, ERHG Vice-President, and Ana Rosa Moreno, ERHG Technical Manager, for providing part of the materials for the communication, as well as substantive consultation.



## APPENDIX 1

### Register of members and partners of the European Route of Historic Gardens (as per 31 December 2021)

Country name	Member institution name	Member garden name	Date and place of adhesion	Membership number
Greece	Municipality of the Heroic Town of Naoussa	Naoussa Municipal Park	29.04.2021, Lloret de Mar (online)	18
Georgia	National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation in Georgia, Tbilisi	National Botanical Garden of Georgia in Tbilisi	20.09.2019, Sintra	14
		Tsinandali Alexander Chavchavadze Garden		
		Batumi Botanical Garden		
Spain	Tourist Agency of Galicia in Santiago de Compostela	Alameda Park in Santiago de Compostela	04.09.2021, Hanover	22
		Gardens of the Lourizán Residence in Herbalonga		
		Gardens of the Mariñán Residence in Bergondo		
		Gardens of the Oca Residence in A Estrada		
		Gardens of the Quinteiro da Cruz residence in Ribadumia		
		Gardens of the Rubianes Residence in Vilagarcía de Arousa		
		Gardens of the Santa Cruz de Rivadulla Residence in Vedra		
		Gardens of the of Quiñones de León Residence-Museum in Vigo		
		Gardens of the Soutomaior Castle		

Country name	Member institution name	Member garden name	Date and place of adhesion	Membership number
	Samà Park in Cambrilis	Samà Park in Cambrilis	08.09.2017, Lloret de Mar	3
	Council of Majorca in Palma de Mallorca	Gardens of the Raixa Estate in Bunyola	15.12.2017, Luxembourg (online)	4
	Regional Government of Andalusia Ministry of Culture and Historical Heritage in Seville	Historic gardens of Alhambra and Generalife in Granada	12.04.2019, Aranjuez	9
	Office of the Royal Residence and City of Aranjuez. Aranjuez Cultural Landscape Foundation	The Island Garden and the Prince of Aranjuez Garden	26.04.2016, Lloret de Mar	2
	Municipality of Lloret de Mar	Santa Clotilde Gardens in Lloret de Mar	26.04.2016, Lloret de Mar	1
Germany	Capital of the Federate State of Lower Saxony and of the Hanover Region Municipal Federation	Herrenhausen Royal Gardens in Hanover	20.09.2019, Sintra	15
	Island of Mainau LLC in Constance	Gardens of Mainau Island	29.04.2021, Lloret de Mar (online)	17
Poland	Foundation for the Protection of the Cultural Heritage of Kłodzko County in Żelazno	Garden of the Palace in Kamieniec near Kłodzko	29.04.2021, Lloret de Mar (online)	16
		Park of the Sarny Castle in Ścinawka Górna		
	National Museum in Warsaw	Garden of the Radziwiłł Palace in Nieborów	04.09.2021, Hanover	21
		Romantic Garden in Arkadia		
Museum of King Jan III's Palace at Wilanów, Warsaw	Gardens of the Royal Palace at Wilanów	15.12.2017, Luxembourg (online)	5	

Country name	Member institution name	Member garden name	Date and place of adhesion	Membership number
	Royal Castle in Warsaw – Museum	Gardens of the Royal Castle in Warsaw	15.12.2017, Luxembourg (online)	6
Portugal	Foundation of the José do Canto Garden in Ponta Delgada	José do Canto Botanical Garden in Ponta Delgada	29.04.2021, Lloret de Mar (online)	19
	Serralves Foundation in Porto	Serralves Park in Porto	29.04.2021, Lloret de Mar (online)	20
	Parques de Sintra-Monte da Lua, S.A. in Sintra	Gardens of the National Palace of Queluz	20.09.2019, Sintra	13
		Monserate Park in Sintra		
Pena Park in Sintra				
Hungary	Hungarian Garden Heritage Foundation in Budapest	Park of the Esterháza Palace in Fertőd	04.09.2021, Hanover	23
Italy	Uffizi Gallery in Florence	Boboli Gardens in Florence	05.09.2018, Collodi	8
	Institute of Hadrian's Villa and Villa d'Este in Tivoli	Gardens of Villa d'Este in Tivoli	12.04.2019, Aranjuez	11
	Historical Museum and Miramare Castle Park in Trieste	Miramare Castle Park in Trieste	12.04.2019, Aranjuez	12
	Carlo Collodi National Foundation	Garzoni Historic Garden in Collodi	15.12.2017, Luxembourg (online)	7
	Royal Palace in Caserta	Park of the Royal Palace in Caserta	12.04.2019, Aranjuez	10

#### Cooperating institutions:

1. European Boxwood and Topiary Society (EBTS), United Kingdom;
2. Cracow University of Technology, Department of Landscape Architecture, Poland;
3. University of Barcelona (UB), Spain;
4. University of Lisbon (ULisboa), Portugal;
5. University of Girona (UdG), Spain.

**Independent collaborators:**

1. Christopher Peignart – specialist in historic gardens, France;
2. Jacek Kuśmierski – conservator of historic gardens, Poland;
3. Nathalie Devernon – landscape architect, France.

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The study was conducted as part of the statutory work of the Museum.

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The study was conducted as part of the statutory work of the Museum.

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European Route of  
Historic Gardens

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