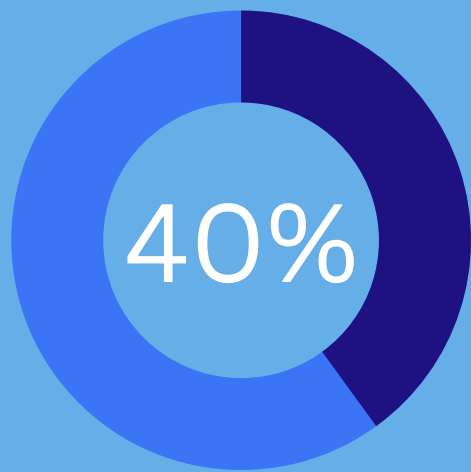


WHO WE ARE

The European Historic Houses (EHH) represents 27 national associations of privately-owned historic houses. Our mission is to advocate for the preservation and appreciation of privately owned historic houses across Europe, recognizing their immense cultural, social, and economic value.



“More than 40% of European heritage houses are privately owned”

WHAT WE REPRESENT

EHH stands as the collective voice for all private historic houses in Europe. We believe that between 5% and 10% of residential buildings in the EU are historically significant and worthy of protection. These buildings range from grand castles in France and palaces in Italy to charming half-timbered houses in Scandinavia or wooden homes in the Alps. A study conducted in 2019 revealed that more than 40% of European heritage houses are privately owned. Restoration, continuous maintenance and management of the house and surrounding land are important financial burdens for the heritage house owners.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO PROTECT HISTORIC HOUSES?

- **Historical Significance**

Cultural Heritage: Historic buildings embody the social and cultural history of Europe. They are witnesses to Europe’s vibrant past and traditions but also offer relevant social context for future generations.

Rural Social Fabric: In depopulated rural areas, historic buildings play a crucial role in maintaining social structure and community cohesion. Family-owned historic houses are assets to the countryside and offer benefits through their ability to attract visitors.

Preservation Efficiency: Private ownership is proven to be easier, cheaper and more efficient. However, this requires supportive policies, including favorable taxation and VAT amortization.

Community Value: Historic buildings provide significant social value to local communities, enhancing their identity and continuity. They support and facilitate social connections and networks.



- **Economic Impact**

Tourism Attraction: Historic buildings are the “image of Europe”! They are the key tourist attraction in rural Europe, driving local businesses and economies and thus also decreasing the pressure on cities.

Economic Development: The potential for tourist development is vast, however, owners often face challenges related to administrative processes. There is a need for more education and incentives to harness the economic potential of these heritage sites.

Policy Support: We advocate pragmatic protective exceptions to regulations that historic houses cannot reasonably meet alongside specific entrepreneurial education for owners and targeted marketing initiatives by countries.

- **Rural Development**

Investment Multiplication: Supporting historic houses stimulates rural investment, generating employment which cannot be delocalized or outsourced and increasing tax revenue in often overlooked regions of Europe.

Sustainable Development: Preservation of historic houses ensures sustainable development of the natural environment and supports local craftspeople.



“We can ensure that these irreplaceable buildings continue to contribute to the social, economic, and environmental fabric of Europe”

Proposed Actions for Valued European Heritage

Regulatory Flexibility: Implement pragmatic exceptions to rules that historic houses cannot comply with.

Entrepreneurial Education: Provide more specific entrepreneurial education to historic house owners to help them develop, manage and promote their properties effectively.

Fiscal Incentives: Advocate for prescriptive actions towards member states to highlight the fiscal advantages of heritage preservation. Too many different taxation approaches in Member States can increase the challenge for private owners, often as an unintended consequence.

Promotional Activities: Increase promotional efforts to underline the value of European heritage and its benefits to local and national economies.

European Historic Houses plays a crucial role in preserving Europe's cultural and historical heritage. By supporting private owners through efficient policies, educational initiatives, and promotional activities, we can ensure that these irreplaceable buildings continue to contribute to the social, economic, and environmental fabric of Europe. Together, we can **protect and promote the legacy of our historic homes** for the benefit of future generations and the wider community.