This photo contest is organised by ICLEI Europe in the framework of the RURITAGE project (see Background for more information).

Our RURITAGE community is formed by many rural areas from all over the world. Many of them are hidden treasures with a unique identity that only locals have been lucky enough to enjoy... up to now!

Do you want to show the world what makes your rural area special? Help us see it the way you do!

Take part in the RURITAGE photo contest!
WHAT IS THE RURITAGE PHOTO CONTEST ABOUT?

The RURITAGE photo contest is a unique opportunity for local communities to showcase the potential of the natural and cultural heritage of their rural areas. We want to discover what it is like to see those areas from the local point of view and to understand what is distinctive and special about them.

While the overarching topic of the photo contest is the natural and cultural heritage of rural areas, participants can submit pictures that reflect one or several of the following aspects: nature, landscape, architecture, daily life, activities, food, traditions, challenges, pilgrimage, resilience, migration, and art & festivals.

The photo contest is focused on the following territories:

1. Karavanke/Karawanken UNESCO Global Geopark (Austria/Slovenia)
2. Magma UNESCO Global Geopark
3. Geo-Naturpark Bergstrasse-Odenwald (UNESCO Global Geopark) (Germany)
4. Festival of Love in Negova village (Slovenia)
5. Appignano del Tronto (Italy)
6. Izmir Geopark in Gediz-Bakircay Basins (Turkey)
7. Hidden Heartlands (Ireland)
8. St. Olav Waterway (Finland)
9. I Cammini Di Francesco (Italy)
10. Marinas Corunnesas Biosphere Reserve (Spain)
11. Lower Prut Biosphere Reserve (Republic of Moldova)
12. Styrian Eisenwurzen Geopark (Austria)
13. Restad gard Migration Centre (Sweden)
14. Meseta Iberica Biosphere Reserve (Portugal)
15. Cincu (Romania)
16. Ripe San Ginesio (Italy)
17. Ifugao Houses (Philippines)
18. Tetrtskar (Georgia)
19. Causeway Coast (UK)
20. Historic vineyards in Santa Maria (Portugal)
21. Battir (Palestine)
22. Ostarp Museum (Sweden)
23. Terre Astigiane Ecomuseum (Italy)
24. Via Mariae (Romania)
25. French Santiago Way through Castilla & Leon (Spain)
26. Take Art, County of Somerset (UK)
27. Austrått and Ørland landscape (Norway)
28. Lesvos Islands Global UNESCO Geopark (Greece)
29. Colombian Coffee UNESCO Culture Landscape (Colombia)
30. Douro Cultural Landscape (Spain/Portugal)
31. Visegrád (Hungary)
32. Wild Atlantic Way (Ireland)
33. Human resilience in South Iceland Katla Geopark (Iceland)
34. Resilience in Crete Psiloritis UNESCO Global Geopark and NHMC (Greece)
35. Agro-food production in Apulia (Italy)
36. PIAM- Migrants hospitality in the Asti Province (Italy)
WHAT ARE THE ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS?

- The photos can be submitted by an individual in their own name or in the name of an organisation or an institution.
- The person submitting photos should be 18 years old or older.
- The photos must be taken in and be representative for one of the territories indicated in the previous section. Photographer will need to agree the picture has been taken in one of the eligible territories. The responsibility in case the statement is not truth will lie with the photographer.
- Participants can submit photos of as many territories (from the list presented above) as they wish.
- Each participant can upload a maximum of five photos. Each photo has to be uploaded via a dedicated submission form (the link is provided below). Photos that had been submitted for other contests are not accepted.
- Participants must own the copyright for the submitted photos.
- Participants must have permission for taking the photo of any person that might be recognised in the photo. In case the person photographed is a minor, you must have the permission of their legal representative (e.g. the parents).
- Photos are not allowed to contain scenes of violence, cruelty, nudity or anything else that can be considered offensive.
- Photos must be submitted in jpg or jpeg file format, not bigger than 10 MB per file.
- The photographer will need to keep the original file and, if necessary, share it with the organisers at its maximum quality. In case the file shared in the submission form is of the maximum quality, please indicate this in the field “Additional comments”.
- Participation is open to anyone interested except for first degree relatives of the organisers and members of the evaluation committee.

Other aspects:
- Participants are encouraged to add a short text (up to 300 characters) describing the submitted pictures. This text can be anything from a description of the photographed place to a poem. The submission of the explanatory text is not a mandatory requirement.

WHEN CAN YOU SUBMIT PHOTOS?

From 1st June 2020 until 31st October 2020.

The Evaluation Panel reserves the right to extend the deadline if needed or shorten it in case the maximum storage capacity of the website is reached.

HOW THE WINNERS WILL BE SELECTED

The Evaluation Panel formed by experts from the University of Bologna, UNESCO and ICLEI Europe will rate the images.

They will select the winning photos on the basis of:

- Link to the territory: The photo must be taken in one of the rural territories indicated in the section “What is the RURITAGE photo contest about?”.
- Link to the topic: The photos need to show the uniqueness and identity of the territory and highlight what is particular about it.
- Relation to the rural topic: The photo should be related to the topic of rural life and environment as well as preferably highlight local regeneration processes (if possible). This can refer to: landscape,
cultural and natural heritage, agriculture, architecture, daily life, local activities, food production, traditions, art, festivals, local challenges, etc. This list is not exhaustive.

**Additional points** will be given to those pictures (and their descriptions) that stand out because of their:
- High artistic and technical quality
- High originality and creativity

**IS THERE A PRIZE?**

The photos that meet the contest requirements will be published and promoted on the RURITAGE website and social media, ensuring visibility of their authors and presenting their rural areas at the European level.

From among the submitted photos, three best photos will be selected. The winners will be individually contacted via email and announced on the RURITAGE website.

- The winner of the **first prize** will be **invited to the RURITAGE Final Conference in Paris (France) in spring 2022**. The travel and accommodation (2-3 nights) costs **up to 500 Euro** will be covered by the RURITAGE project (exception: if the winner is travelling from the Philippines, Colombia or Palestine, the cap is 1000 Euro). In case the winner is an organisation or institution, the organisers of the photo contest will cover the travel costs for only one of its representatives.
- Pictures that will be selected as the second and the third finalists will be **showcased at the RURITAGE Final Conference** organised at the UNESCO premises in Paris in 2022. Furthermore, they will be prominently presented at the RURITAGE website and awarded with an official diploma.

The best photos participating in the contest will be included in a **photo exhibition** that will be organised at various areas participating in the RURITAGE projects.

**WHEN WILL THE WINNERS BE ANNOUNCED?**

The winners will be announced on the website **approximately four weeks after** the end of the submission period.

**HOW CAN YOU SUBMIT THE PHOTOS?**

The images must be submitted via this submission form: [https://forms.gle/N4Gz5EXm1TDtx9a38](https://forms.gle/N4Gz5EXm1TDtx9a38)

**RURITAGE RESPECTS YOUR PERSONAL DATA**

The RURITAGE partners in charge of the contest will process only your basic contact data to allow your participation and keep in touch with you for possible communications concerning the contest (for example, to inform you if you win a prize). Your data will be processed in Europe, in compliance with the **GDPR** and national data protection laws and may be communicated only to project staff or to service providers (e.g. cloud, email). We will keep your data only until the finalisation of RURITAGE Project. Your data will not be used for commercial purposes, nor will you be profiled. You can exercise your rights (access, correction, cancellation, limitation, portability, opposition) by writing to **RURITAGE@iclei.org**
BACKGROUND INFO

RURITAGE is a four-year EU-funded research project (started in June 2018) that strives to enable rural regeneration through cultural and natural heritage. Rural areas in Europe tell us the story of thousand-year-long interactions between nature and human society. These landscapes embody unique examples of cultural and natural heritage, which not only need to be safeguarded but also recognised as drivers for sustainable development. RURITAGE aims to sustainably enhance unique local heritage for regional and community development.

For any inquiries related to the RURITAGE Photo contest, please contact RURITAGE@iclei.org