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ECTN's third Annual Conference 'The Creative Future, Cultural Tourism as a Sustainable and Growing Sector' will take place in Gothenburg, Sweden 22- 24 November 2006-

The third annual ECTN conference will focus discussions on ways in which cultural tourism can support sustainable economic development, and foster mutual understanding of cultural diversity between nations and cultures of Europe. The aim of the conference is to bring together cultural and tourism professionals to exchange experience and move the issue of cultural tourism forward on the European agenda. Go to www.congrex.com/ectn2006

ECTN INTERREGIIC project partners will present their final project report which includes examples of good practice in cultural tourism development at regional and local level. Discussions will concentrate on how future development of cultural tourism can be strengthened in Europe. The conference will prepare issues and challenges for a joint meeting between ECTN, the Committee of the Regions, the European Economic and Social Committee and EU Parliament in 2007.

[Click here for preliminary conference programme](#), [registration details](#) and [online registration form](#).

European Discussions on Cultural Tourism

On 29 June, ECTN representatives met with representatives from the committee of the regions to discuss. If you would like to contribute to these discussions in Brussels, please contact ectn@wales.gsi.gov.uk

ECTN Events for 2006

| Date | Organiser | Activity & Themes |
|----------------|------------------------------|---|
| 12-13 Sep 2006 | TURKU Finland | Workshop – Cross sector working |
| 22-24 Nov 2006 | VASTRA GOTALAND Sweden | ECTN 3rd Annual conference & report on development of Cultural Tourism. |

For further information visit www.cultural-tourism.net or email; ectn@wales.gsi.gov.uk
[Click here to register for information on future meetings and events](#)

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Reports from ECTN thematic Workshops

Creative culture, ethnic/minority communities and development of cultural tourism – Miskolc 26-28 April 2006

The workshop was attended by 60 delegates – representatives from the Miskolc region as well as project partners from Wales, Italy, Finland, Spain, Sweden, Latvia, Hungary and Ireland. During the workshop delegates participated in study visits to the.

Speakers highlighted how cultural tourism development in Miskolc and other European regions has linked creative and cultural industries, and minority communities. In order to be sustainable, cultural tourism development of needs to allow for various uses and engage with the local community. A full report of the workshop is available from <http://www.cultural-tourism.net/miskolc2006/default.htm>

ECTN Partner & Member news

Turku European Capital of Culture 2011

Click here for further information on Turku's candidacy for European Capital of Culture <http://www.turku2011.fi/public/?sid=&lang=en>

Wales – National Tourism Strategy Mid Term Review

Achieving our Potential 2006 - 2013 is a mid term review of the tourism strategy produced for Wales, originally launched in 2000. Prepared by the former Wales Tourist Board in consultation with the industry, the review sets out to ensure that strategic priorities align with tourism trends, emerging challenges and the strategic priorities of the Welsh Assembly Government. Download from the Visit Wales website: www.wales.gov.uk/tourism or click: [Achieving our Potential 2006 - 2013](#)

Wales – 2007 Centenary of Amgueddfa Cymru-National Museum Wales and the National Library for Wales - Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru

Two leading cultural organisations in Wales will be celebrating their hundredth birthday in 2007. Celebrations will be launched at a special event on the National Eisteddfod in Swansea, Wales on 9 August 2006 (for information about the National Eisteddfod visit: www.eisteddfod.org.uk). This partnership will continue during the centenary celebrations over the next eighteen months. For further information see the [National Museum Wales' website](#) and [The National Library of Wales website](#).

News from Latvia

Latvia – the land that sings Latvia is “The Land that Sings”. This is a very capacious, open and colourful motto that gives wide possibilities for interpretation and variations. The meaning of the motto is to show that in Latvia people sing thus symbolising our traditional culture, also Latvia sings and sounds itself – sea, forest, bells of the churches, nature around.

Latvia has a lot of tourism possibilities and various tourism products, but the single logo and motto unites them all in the common vision of Latvia. For further information on tourism in Latvia see <http://latviatourism.lv/>

Ecclesiastical tourism in Latvia A two year Ecclesiastical tourism project in Latvia will conclude the summer. This project supports the Latvia Tourism national development programme 2001 – 2010, and was led by Latvia tourism development agency. The project aims were to support product development of religious and cult places to tourist needs of the tourist, also to set up information spots and develop information material about the ecclesiastical values in Latvia and to create new tourism routes along these cultural sites. 163 initiatives submitted by religious

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institutions and municipalities received support from Latvia Tourism Development Agency in total amount of 1,5 million lats (approximately 2,14 euro).

Cēsis – 800 Cēsis is one of the oldest towns in Latvia and is still carrying its medieval architectural and cultural values – old Stone Castle of the Livonian Order, small streets, specific houses and bronze and silver working. This year Cēsis celebrates its 800 anniversary and thousand of visitors are invited to enjoy the atmosphere of the old town in the most remarkable way. The 2006 festivities will be part of the UNESCO 2006 anniversary calendar thus attracting hundreds of cultural tourists to join this anniversary, for further information see <http://www.cesis.lv>

Latvia travel marathon The Latvia Tourism Development Agency is leading the 'Latvia travel marathon' that will last till the end of 2006. The idea of the project is to introduce both tourists and tourism specialists to the diversity and possibilities of tourism in different regions in Latvia. This initiative aims to attract more people to tourist attractions and facilitate local tourism development as well as cooperation between tourists and tourism enterprises in Latvia.

Links with other networks

Europa Nostra Forum on Cultural Tourism 19 May 2006 Valletta, Malta

Nigel Adams, Lead Partner of the European Cultural Tourism Network presented a paper at the Europa Nostra Forum on 19 May 2006, Valletta, Malta. The conference discussed the Malta declaration on cultural tourism which recognises the need to balance cultural tourism development and conservation of heritage [Click here for further information](#) or see: http://www.europanostra.org/lang_en/index.html.

European Institute of Cultural Routes (EICR) Conference 21-23 September 2006, Neumünster Abbey, Luxembourg

Julie Russell will be representing ECTN at the EICR PICTURE (Pro-active management of the Impact of Cultural Tourism upon Urban Resources and Economies) Final Conference on 21 September. For further information see: <http://www.culture-routes.lu>

ERIH Conference 6th - 7th September 2006 at Zaanse Schans in Zaandam in the Netherlands

Programme and Registration form are available for download in the "Latest news section" of the ERIH (European Routes of Industrial Heritage) website <http://en.erih.net>. Participation in the conference (incl. food & drinks) as well as the excursion are provided for free. Registration deadline is 6 August, email info@erih.nl.

EAHTR International Symposium Dubrovnik 27-29 September 2006 Cultural Tourism Economic Benefit or Loss of Identity?

The European Association of Historic Towns and Regions (EAHTR), International Symposium 2006 will be held at Fort Revelin, Dubrovnik, Croatia. Further information is available from <http://www.dubrovnik.hr/eahtr2006/>

Culture 2007

Timetable for the 2007 call for Culture 2007 is likely to be:

October 2006 - Informal announcement of final criteria

February 2007 - Formal announcement of final criteria

April 2007 - Deadline