

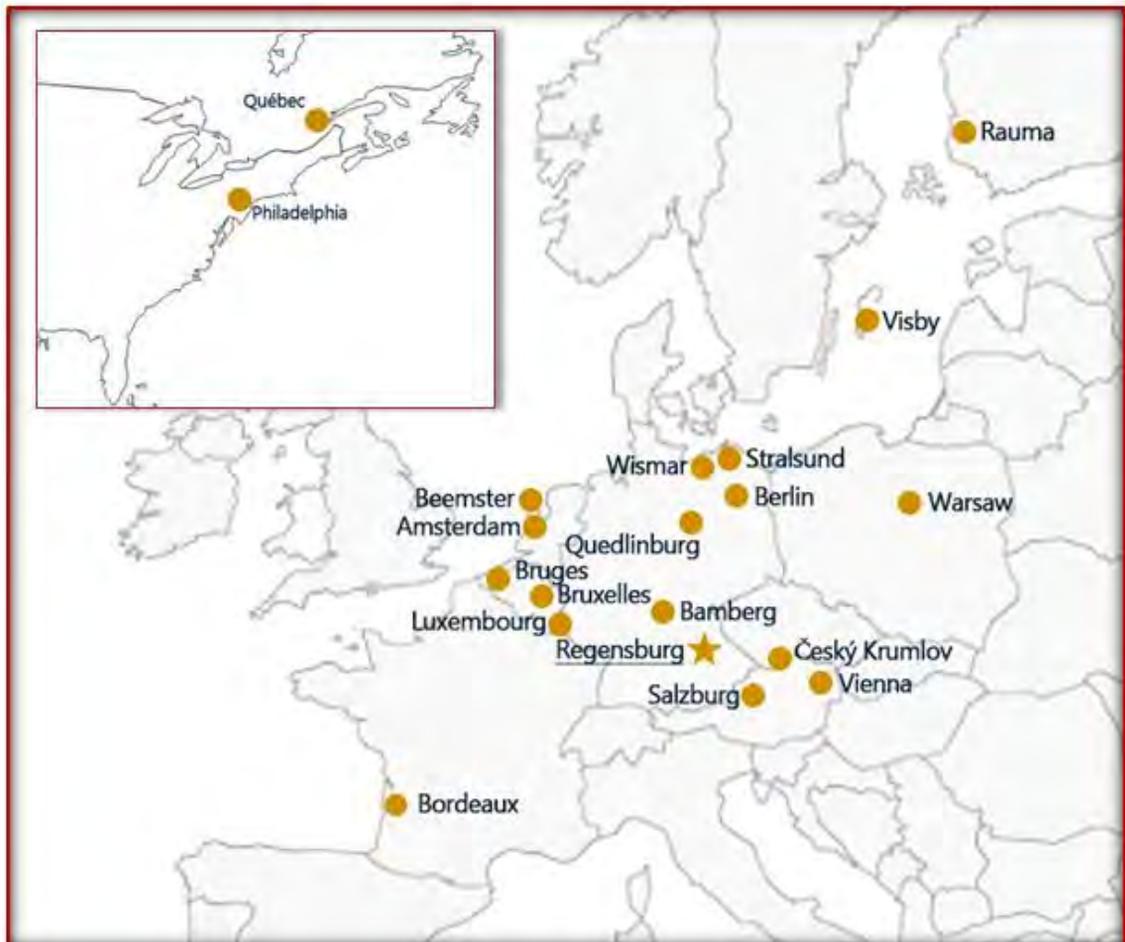


Organisation des villes du patrimoine mondial  
Organization of World Heritage Cities  
Organización de las Ciudades del Patrimonio Mundial  
Organização das Cidades do Património Mundial  
منظمة مدن التراث العالمي



# Activity Report 2015-2016

## OWHC Northwest Europe and North America



## ▪ Main facts:

Since November 2011, the City of Regensburg in Germany holds the seat of the OWHC Regional Secretariat for Northwest Europe. Steady efforts and a challenging working programme have secured growing membership numbers for the region from 12 cities in 2011 to now 20 cities in good standing.

In 2015, our regional OWHC secretariat changed its name: with the decision of the Regional Meeting in Arequipa/Peru, the secretariat now bears the title **“OWHC Northwest Europe and North America”**. This symbolizes our cross-continental structure, integrating our member cities Philadelphia and Québec and proudly showing this in the name of our regional secretariat.

As a new member, we welcome the City of Brussels/Belgium in our group of World Heritage Cities since 2016. Constant cooperation and good communication with the General Secretariat, the Board of Directors as well as with all our members is the main goal of our work. The main activities of our working programme in the region within the years 2015 and 2016 are documented here.

## Communication



## ▪ Photo Competition 2015 “Colours of World Heritage”

A successful concept was repeated according to the wishes of the regional member cities: also in 2015, the Regional Secretariat organized the already 3<sup>rd</sup> Photo Competition, this time focussing on the colourful views of our World Heritage Cities.

13 member cities were registering for participation and from Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> (celebrating the OWHC Foundation Day) until Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> 2015, **more than 600 photos** were uploaded on the webpage of the competition.

The local winning photos were awarded with a prize of 500 Euros, and in January 2016, the overall regional winning photo was chosen by an international OWHC jury.

The winner of our competition was **Mr. Jiri Sneider from Cesky Krumlov** with his wonderful photo “Cesky Krumlov according to Egon Schiele”.

In 2017, the next Photo Competition will be held for our members in good standing and we hope for many participants.



## Communication

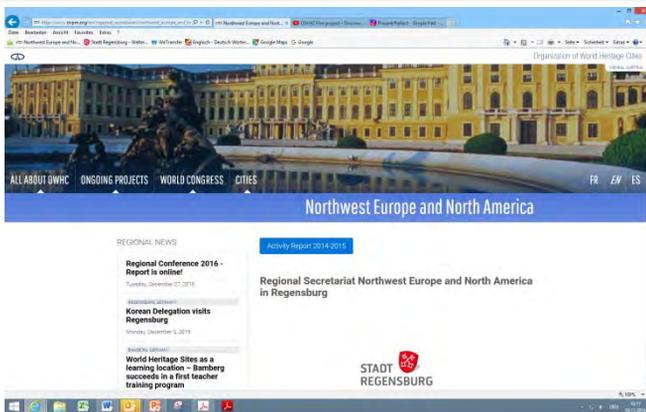
### Film Production

The OWHC film project was successfully finished in July 2015. The video clip was produced as a model project under the Loyalty Reward Programme under patronage of the Regional Secretariat Northwest Europe. After deciding for an agency in the 2014 Regional Conference, the member cities supported the project by supplying photo and film material and revising their clips.

At the XIII. World Congress of OWHC in Arequipa/Peru, the movie was presented to the international audience and found great appreciation.



Please find the OWHC film online under [www.youtube.com/watch?v=PFtc3QwtDJw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PFtc3QwtDJw) or as a member on [Vimeo](https://www.vimeo.com/)

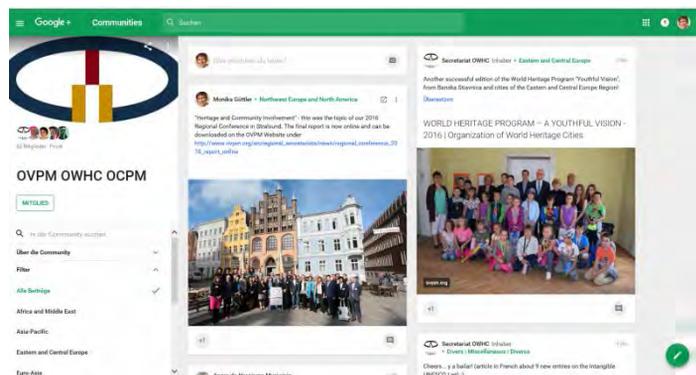


### Website

Our region is well represented on the official OWHC website with regular news from our cities as well as all regional activities. Only in 2016, we posted for example 16 news articles! The platform is open for all members to hand in their local World Heritage activities and promote their work. The regional secretariat translates if necessary and edits the article with photos.

### Google+ Community

With the World Congress in Arequipa, the new OWHC platform on Google+ has been kicked off with help of the City of Québec. All members are invited to get an account and log in. The community level on Google+ serves as an easy modern tool for communicating activities and spreading news amongst all OWHC cities. Our region is very active.

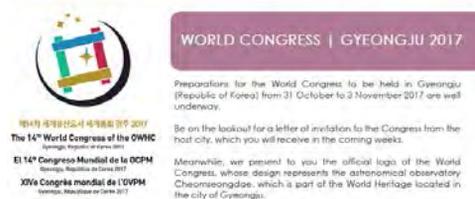


## Communication

### ■ Newsletter

The General Secretariat relaunched the regular NEWSLETTER as a bulletin for quick information on all regional and overall activities in our organization. Our region regularly contributes to the newsletter and is thus also offering another tool for our members to get a wider audience for their activities. The newsletter is sent to all members of OWHC, and thus a great chance to inform colleagues all over the world about our regional and local activities.

For reading all newsletters, please click here:  
[http://www.ovpm.org/en/monthly\\_newsletter](http://www.ovpm.org/en/monthly_newsletter)



## Strategy

### ■ European Cultural Heritage Year 2018

Under the slogan “Sharing Heritage”, all countries in Europe are invited to join the preparations for the European Cultural Heritage Year in 2018. An initiative of European Union and Council of Europe, the national key players in culture and heritage are asked to implement structures and prepare their activities.

Regensburg’s World Heritage Coordination team was invited by the German Commission of UNESCO to join the planning team for Germany also in its function as OWHC secretariat and thus stakeholder for World Heritage in Europe. With a first workshop held in Regensburg aimed for teachers and heritage site managers, also colleagues from our OWHC cities were invited to get involved.

Read more here:

<http://www.sharingheritage.de/en/main/>



photo© City of Regensburg:  
workshop in Regensburg Nov. 2016

## Solidarity & Expertise

### ▪ City-to-City visits/International Delegations

All member cities of the region are invited to share experience and knowledge by the very practical oriented City-to-City visits within the region. The Regional Secretariat offers support with organization and financing.

In June 2016, a delegation from Salzburg visited Regensburg to get information about the Regensburg World Heritage Visitor Center. Alexander Würfl, responsible for OWHC and World Heritage management in Salzburg, brought Prof. Hochleitner (head of museums in Salzburg) as well as Dr. Tröger-Gordon (head of cultural department of the city) and Ms. Aigner (WH and culture in the city) for an extended excursion and information.



photo © city of Regensburg

In November 2016, a delegation from Gyeongju/Korea – led by Vice-Mayor Mr. Sangwook Lee – came to Regensburg. The group was welcomed by Lord Mayor Joachim Wolbergs and handed over the invitation to the 2017 OWHC World Congress in their city. Being also seat of a regional secretariat, the cooperation of the two cities has been very close already.

### ▪ Regional Meeting in Arequipa/Peru in November 2015

The 2015 Regional Meeting was held during the XIII. World Congress of the OWHC, which took place in Arequipa/Peru. Seven member cities in good standing were represented in the delegates session: Bamberg, Beemster, Québec, Philadelphia, Regensburg, Stralsund and Vienna. Observer cities were Kolding/Denmark, Riga/Latvia, San Antonio/US, and Vilnius/Lithuania.

The updated name of our region was decided in this meeting – as documented in the minutes that have been sent out accordingly to all member cities.



photo © city of Regensburg  
Delegates Meeting in Arequipa

## Solidarity & Expertise



### 2016 Regional Conference in Stralsund

More than 50 participants from 20 World Heritage cities came together from September 27 to 29 2016 in the Hanseatic Town of Stralsund in Northern Germany. Under the title “Heritage and Community Involvement”, the conference gave a special focus on thematic work.

The topic was introduced by an external expert on the field of community involvement and presentations from partners from Eurocities network and the Heritage Council Ireland enriched the “setting the field”. In workshops and the new format of a “Knowledge Market”, every single participant was asked to cooperate and profit from the wide experience of colleagues. A kaleidoscope of already implemented best practice examples from the member cities was presented on the second day of the conference.

A profound documentation of the results was edited and can be found under

[http://www.ovpm.org/en/regional\\_secretariats/news/regional\\_conference\\_2016\\_report\\_online](http://www.ovpm.org/en/regional_secretariats/news/regional_conference_2016_report_online)



all photos © city of Stralsund



## Representation & Cooperation

### COMUS

Being a European Union and Council of Europe joint project, the OWHC Regional Secretariat supports COMUS (Community-Led Urban Strategies in Historic Towns) as a strategic partner. After first structures had been elaborated already in 2014, January 1<sup>st</sup> 2015 was the official start of the project. For a total of 2.5 years, the co-operation between OWHC and COMUS focuses on finding experts for the projects, structuring and counselling programmes and trainings and serving as communication partner.

#### Study Visit Bamberg

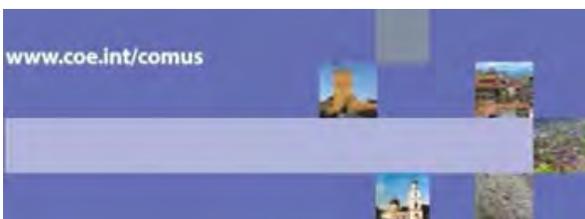
Given this structure of COMUS and OWHC cooperation, it could also be put under the headline chapter of “Solidarity & Expertise”, as it is truly an approach that helps the COMUS partner towns on all levels. OWHC members of our region were asked to show their solidarity in offering Study Visits. The first one was held in July 2016 in Bamberg/Germany. With a most interesting programme, the Center World Heritage Bamberg under lead of Patricia Alberth offered deep insights into the management and practical work of a heritage site in Germany.

18 professionals from the nine COMUS towns, accompanied by Gianluca Silvestrini from Council of Europe, experienced case studies on “Community Involvement”, “Heritage Conservation” and “WH education”. A mixture of workshops and discussions and meetings with experts as well as site visits in the different areas of Bamberg’s World Heritage site gave a platform for information and knowledge transfer.

A further Study Visit might be held in Salzburg in spring 2017, depending on remaining funds of the project budget.



photos © city of Bamberg



## Representation & Cooperation



photo © COMUS

### Workshop Heritage Management

In September 2016, Regional Coordinator Matthias Ripp offered a workshop for COMUS professionals in Armenia. The main focus was to learn about possibilities of raising awareness for heritage and to strengthen capacities in the local administrations. 25 participants attended the course in Yerevan and Gyumri.

<http://pjp-eu.coe.int/en/web/comus/-/4th-regional-workshop-on-heritage-management-in-armenia>

### Mayors' workshop in Georgia

December 8-9 2016, all COMUS town Mayors and representatives gathered with Council of Europe delegates as well as OWHC representative Matthias Ripp in Georgia for a workshop. As an output, a final declaration was signed for future cooperation of the COMUS partners.

<http://pjp-eu.coe.int/en/web/comus/-/signature-of-the-declaration-on-co-operation-by-the-comus-mayors>



photo © M. Ripp

With June 2017, COMUS will end with a final conference, and results will be collected and published. It is planned by Council of Europe to implement a follow-up project to successfully proceed with the COMUS concept.

All news and detailed information to be found:

<http://pjp-eu.coe.int/en/web/comus/>

Funded  
by the European Union  
and the Council of Europe



EUROPEAN UNION

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Implemented  
by the Council of Europe

## Representation & Cooperation

### ■ Representation of OWHC

The Regional Secretariat represented the OWHC and the members of our region on several occasions throughout the past two years. Only some of them are to be mentioned here exemplary:

- May 2015 – Sintra/Portugal: OWHC Advisory Committee
- July 2015 – Bonn/Germany: UNESCO Committee Session side event on resilience
- August 2015 – Ayutthaya/Thailand: OWHC Asia-Pacific Strategic Meeting
- September 2015 – Strasbourg/France: Meeting of Associations of WH Properties in Europe
- November 2015 – Arequipa/Peru: OWHC World Congress “Resilience”
- May 2016 – Mechelen/Belgium: Interpret Europe Conference
- May 2016 – Krakau/Poland: 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ICC Internat. Cultural Centre
- June 2016 – Regensburg/Germany: Study Visit and Workshop for “Culture for Cities and Regions”
- July 2016 – Istanbul/Turkey: UNESCO Committee Session side event on “Urban Resilience and Conservation of Cultural Heritage”
- August 2016 – Berlin/Germany: Experts Workshop on “European cultural heritage year”
- October 2016 – Trier/Germany: Association of German Cities, Workshop of the Working group of UNESCO Old Towns on “Caring for our cities –planning with monuments”
- October 2016 – Vienna/Austria: European Congress on the use, validation and conservation of historic buildings
- November 2016 – Paris/France: Icomos France – “Heritage and public debate” Symposium
- December 2016 – Berlin/Germany: Conference of German Unesco Commission on Transboundary cooperation in World Heritage

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