

WHV – Analysis and conservation of wall paintings from Renaissance and 19th century

Erzgebirge/Krušnohoří Mining Region (Schloss Lauenstein), Germany

PROJECT DATES

Cultural property inscribed on the World Heritage List (2019)

20 July - 02 August 2025

THE SITE - Erzgebirge/Krušnohoří (Ore Mountains) spans a region in south-eastern Germany (Saxony) and north-western Czechia, which contains a wealth of several metals exploited through mining from the Middle Ages onwards. Due to the longevity and intensity of mining, the entire cultural landscape of the Ore Mountains is largely impacted by its effects, and is anchored by the mines themselves and by the mining towns that developed spontaneously with, and adjacent to, the silver bonanzas of the 15th and 16th centuries, their original urban layout and architecture reflecting their importance as administrative, economic, educational, social and cultural centres and retained as the basis for embellishment in the 18th and 19th centuries.

OBJECTIVES - The primary goal is to continue the works carried out in the previous year, and carry out interventions aiming to conserve and restore wall paintings from the Renaissance period and the 19th century within Lauenstein Castle. This endeavor aims to preserve the artistic and historical integrity of the site, enhance the understanding of traditional restoration techniques among participants, and contribute to the broader efforts of maintaining the cultural heritage of the Ore Mountains region.

ACTIVITIES - Participants will engage in a range of hands-on conservation activities, including research and documentation to study the historical context, artistic techniques, and condition of the wall paintings. They will stabilise and clean the paintings, employing appropriate methods to reveal original details obscured by time, and use traditional materials and techniques to restore damaged sections. Under the guidance of certified restorers specialising in plaster, stucco, and wall paintings, participants will gain practical skills in heritage conservation. The project's educational component will feature lectures, guided tours, and in-depth discussions on the cultural and historical importance of Lauenstein Castle and its artworks.

PARTNERS - Eastern Ore Mountains Museum Schloss Lauenstein and the Saxon State Office for the Conservation of Monuments

European Heritage Volunteers

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