

2015 European Industrial and Technical Heritage Year



The Council of Europe has declared 2015 as European Industrial and Technical Heritage Year, following a campaign spearheaded by an informal network of small voluntary organisations involved in the conservation, protection, promotion and sometimes conversion of historic industrial sites. Members of E-FAITH* include charitable trusts and non-profit organisations who aim to rescue redundant industrial buildings, run small independent museums, operate every possible kind of mill, keep steam engines and locomotives moving, and involve local people in understanding about and participating in the industrial heritage and associated social history on which their community is founded.

E-FAITH encourages small voluntary sector (generally unstaffed) organisations to meet and network, sharing issues, challenges, best practice and solutions. It is hoped that 2015 will provide an opportunity to increase interaction between groups from all over Europe, through meeting in person or through social media and e-communications. Informal relationships may lead to 'twinning' of similar projects and ultimately to shared bidding for EU funding for collaborative projects. To get the conversation started, E-FAITH has suggested a number of themed steering groups, for example, Factory Chimneys and Collective Memory; Dangerous Industrial Heritage (buildings at risk, contaminated sites etc); M³ May is the Month for Mills; and Barges and Inland Navigation. Several European countries have agreed to promote industrial heritage as a theme for their Heritage Open Days, and others have commissioned touring exhibitions or conferences. We in the UK seem to be a bit slow in catching on.

To find out more, and to download the branding materials and logo for 2015 European Industrial and Technical Heritage Year, visit <http://www.e-faith.org/> or the embryonic (English only!) website for the Industrial Heritage Year: www.industrialheritage2015.eu. To advise of any activities you are undertaking that could be promoted as part of the Industrial Heritage Year, or to join one of the steering groups, email Adriaan Linters at secretariat@e-faith.org.



* E-FAITH is the acronym for the European Federation of Associations of Industrial and Technical Heritage.