

## EuCheMS Historical Landmarks

### Background

Chemistry is an integrant part of the Cultural Heritage of Europe. However, while there are many touristic signs marking the very place where important intellectual developments or events happened, only a few chemical sites are identified and publicized. Most of the existing programmes are run by national chemical societies (RSC Blue Plaques, GDCh “Historische Stätte der Chemie” and across the Atlantic, the ACS with the National Historic Chemical Landmarks, for instance), and therefore often overlook the European, and even the international dimension, of the chemical sciences. The European Physical Society has initiated such a series, the EPS Historic Sites, and has invited EuCheMS to award a Landmark jointly, whenever relevant.

For all these reasons, EuCheMS decided to set up a Historical Landmarks Programme. It will reinforce the sense of belonging of European chemists and remind them that as far as the history of chemistry goes, people and ideas alike have circulated, been shared and shaped through meetings and communication. It would also bring to the general public some sense of how chemistry is part of the general cultural heritage and history of every European citizen, especially as the plaques are accompanied with communication material providing information on the discoveries and breakthroughs celebrated, and the impact they had.

EuCheMS takes into account that some countries already have national landmarks programme, while others have an interest but have nothing in place. In view of this, two levels of EuCheMS Landmarks are foreseen i.e. for major and for local initiatives. To be efficient, such a programme requires the full involvement of the local community.

### Guiding principle for the selection criteria and process

- Periodicity: one or two per year can be awarded at each level to allow to focus on quality events and documents.
- Criteria: Applications should be supported by one member society at least, and a local community willing to carry the responsibilities of the event and the gathering of all the elements for the potential communication. The historical role of the site has to be documented, and the impact of the event on the development of chemistry has to be of European dimension. The latter shall be an important criteria e.g. a chemist was working in at least two countries in Europe. The Landmarks should be limited to deceased chemists. A call for application should be made annually, and the selection process should not take longer than a year.
- Selection Committee: the Landmark programme committee comprises members from a variety of background, and involves a representative of the EuCheMS WP on History of Chemistry and representatives from other EuCheMS Professional Networks. A mandate for members of the Selection committee is four years, renewable once. There shall not be more than five members of the Selection Committee. As the whole of chemistry is concerned, the

Selection committee should be allowed to invite guest members to help review the applications, and draw back on the multifaceted expertise of EuCheMS Professional Networks.

- Administrative support: A call for landmarks and the Selection Committee members, administration, promotional and other activities, as agreed and needed, are done by the EuCheMS Secretariat.
- Communication Materials: The communication material has to be produced in original language and in English.
- Publicising: the communication materials are available on the EuCheMS website for all to download, but to integrate this task in the academic life and also make sure the word is widely shared inside the chemical community, producers of the materials would be invited to publish in scientific journal publication (Angewandte Chemie, ChemPubSoc, Nachrichten aus der Chemie, Chemistry World, ...etc).
- Finance: Plaques in English and local language, with around 50 cm diameter, with embossed metal will be provided by EuCheMS. The local community is in charge of the organization of the event during which the plaque is unveiled, in close collaboration with the EuCheMS secretariat.

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