

## **EuChemS Historical Landmarks Award**

### **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.

For all these reasons, EuChemS decided to set up EuChemS Historical Landmarks Award. 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 no such scheme in place. In view of this, two levels of EuChemS Landmarks are foreseen:

- i) for initiatives with impact at the European level and
- ii) for initiatives with impact at regional level.

### **Guiding principle for the selection criteria and process**

- *Periodicity*: maximum two per year can be awarded at each level to allow to focus on quality events and documents.
- *Criteria*: A call for application should be typically made annually, and the selection process shall not take longer than a year since the deadline for a certain call. The **historical role** of the site has to be documented, and its **impact** on the development of chemistry has to be of either European or regional dimension. Having impact on European or regional level shall be an important criterion e.g. a chemist was working in at least two countries in Europe. The EuChemS Historical Landmarks Award should be limited to deceased chemists. Applications should be supported by at least one additional member society. Local community shall express its willingness to carry the responsibilities for organising the Award event at the place where the plaque will be mounted.
- *Historical Landmark Award Committee (HLAC)*: the Historical Landmark Award Committee comprises members from a variety of background, and involves a

representative of the EuChemS Working Party on History of Chemistry and representatives from other EuChemS Professional Networks. A mandate for members of the HLAC is four years, renewable once. There shall not be more than five members of HLAC. As the whole of chemistry is concerned, the HLAC is 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 nominations for the EuChemS Historical Landmark Award and HLAC members, administration, promotional and other activities, as agreed and needed, are done by the EuChemS Secretariat.
- *Promotional material:* The promotional material has to be produced in original language and in English.
- *Publicising:* the promotional 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 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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