

EUROPÄISCHER DORFERNEUERUNGSPREIS 2024



EUROPEAN VILLAGE RENEWAL AWARD 2024

# INVITATION TO THE AWARD CEREMONY

12. - 14. September 2024

in Stadtschlaining, Burgenland, Austria

Europäische ARGE Landentwicklung und Dorferneuerung |  
European Association for Rural Development and Village Renewal

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## Thursday, 12th September 2024

- 14:00 – 18:00: **Reception and registration** – Rathaus | Town Hall (Baumkircher Gasse 1)
- 16:00 – 17:30: **Workshop** – the jurors of the European Village Renewal Award 2024 will use the projects and development processes in the participating communities to shed light on trends in village, municipal, and inter-municipal development. They will address the special challenges and opportunities facing rural areas in Europe now and in the future, and will work together with representatives from the participating communities to develop and present perspectives. Granarium | Granary of Burg | Castle Schlaining (Rochusplatz 1) – *in German and English*
- 17:30 – 19:00: **Open Space** – the jurors are available to answer the participants' questions regarding the evaluations in small groups or, if desired, in one-on-one discussions – Granarium | Granary of Burg | Castle Schlaining (Rochusplatz 1)
- from 19:00: **Exhibition „Thirst for future“** – the 21 participants of the European Village Renewal Award 2024 present their communities, projects and products in pavillons – Rochusplatz and Burghof | Castle Yard
- from 19:00: **Come together. Welcome evening** with music and catering by local clubs and associations – Festival tent on the Hauptplatz | Main Square

*Meals and drinks have to be payed by the participants themselves on this evening.*

## Friday, 13th September 2024

- 08:00 – 09:30: **Reception and registration** (if not done the day before) – Rathaus | Town Hall (Baumkircher Gasse 1)
- 09:00 – 12:00: **Southern Burgenland introduces itself** – and invites guests to get to know the surrounding communities, their special features, projects, and initiatives through various excursions.

*Please note: The capacities for the excursions are limited, the principle “first come – first serve” applies. However, if individual excursions are overbooked, the local hosts will contact you and try to find suitable alternatives for you.*

**Meeting point for all excursions:**

**08:45: Parking space close to tennis court/school center Stadtschlaining (Schanzgasse)**

– Departure of all excursions at 9:00

– Arrival of all excursions approximately at 12:00

- **Excursion 1 – Municipality of Bad Tatzmannsdorf „Spa and health tourism as engine of development“: - in German and English**

A place where recovery and relaxation are of essential importance is the traditional spa municipality of Bad Tatzmannsdorf, where guests have been seeking well-being and healing for over 400 years, thereby revitalizing the municipality again and again. The program includes visits to the spa hotel and the AVITA Thermal Spa Resort, as well as a stroll through the beautiful spa park in the heart of the municipality, highlighting the development and history of the local spa industry and its impact on the community. Another highlight is a visit to an open-air museum where life from 'days gone by' becomes tangible. Lastly, the tour also pays homage to Bad Tatzmannsdorf's typical coffee house culture: with coffee and cake, the excursion concludes with a culinary delight.

- **Excursion 2 – Municipality of Oberschützen „In the sign of tradition and diversity“: - in German and English**

At the beginning of the excursion, the municipality of Oberschützen prepares a hearty welcome at the cross-border competence center “Haus der Volkskultur” (house of folk culture), whose architecture has won awards. The oldest school village in Burgenland presents its traditional side with Burgenland folk music, folk dances in local costumes, and demonstrations of rural crafts. A brief language lesson at the local museum offers not only a humorous exploration of dialects from all four linguistic groups in Burgenland but also a general overview of the colorful linguistic diversity of Austria's easternmost federal state. Of course, regional culinary delights are also not to be missed: a small snack with a glass of Uhdler (a specialty wine from southern Burgenland) provides the perfect opportunity for exchange.

- **Excursion 3 – Municipality of Rechnitz „Nature tourism as a driving force“: - in German and English**

The excursion to Rechnitz at the edge of the mountain Geschriebenstein (with a total of 884 meters the highest elevation in the Burgenland) begins with a guided tour through the historic center of Rechnitz. This includes a visit to the Bootmaker's Museum, also known as the "Csizmenmachermuseum" – a genuine rarity and unique in Austria. The tour continues with a presentation of numerous projects in the "Geschriebenstein Nature Park," known for its vineyards, orchards, and extensive oak and hornbeam forests. After visiting the reservoir, the excursion concludes with a traditional "Buschenschank snack & wine tasting," offering a cozy ending.

- **Excursion 4 – Municipality of Bernstein „Mining history valued“: - in German and English**

The municipality of Bernstein is located at the edge of the Bernstein Mountains, in one of the most picturesque areas of the Burgenland. The municipality gained renown for its globally unique occurrence of precious serpentine stone. A hike to the so-called "Guglhupf" offers a breathtaking panoramic view of the scenic landscape. Back in the village's center, visitors explore the Rocks Museum and a workshop facility specializing in serpentine craftsmanship, featuring demonstrations. Here, it becomes evident how significant mining was for the people of Bernstein and the entire region. The perfect conclusion to the stroll is a special guided tour through the fairytale-like castle.

- **Excursion 5 – Municipality of Oberwart „Functions of a pulsating medium-sized central hub for the entire region“: - in German and English**

Oberwart is the largest town in Southern Burgenland with 7,500 residents, serving as a dynamic hub that combines economy, commerce, education, sports, and culture. Following a culinary reception at the town hall, where current projects are presented, the excursion continues with a visit to the beautifully designed city park, a highly regarded village renewal project. The tour then proceeds to the recently established educational campus and the newly constructed facility of the district branch of the Red Cross. Finally, an exclusive insight into the Oberwart Clinic is provided – opened as recently as May 2024, this innovative medical facility not only offers essential healthcare services but also boasts state-of-the-art equipment and advanced medical care.

- **Excursion 6 – Municipality of Großpetersdorf and care home Dornau „Practiced Inclusion“: - in German and English**

This excursion begins with the introduction of a very special regional project: In the care home "Kastell Dornau," a shared living community, inclusion has been wholeheartedly and successfully practiced for a long time. Sports, creativity, and togetherness are emphasized. The next stop on this tour is the municipality of Großpetersdorf, which has established itself as a business location and also offers a livable and lovable home to its 3,500 residents of all ages. After visits to the nursing care competence center of the Samaritan Federation and the workshop facility for the promotion of children "Rettet das Kind," the tour concludes with a visit to a traditional inn with time for conversations and a small snack.

- **Excursion 7 – Municipality of Deutsch Schützen „Future of viticulture in the so called Wine Idyll of Southern Burgenland“: - in German and English**

Southern Burgenland is a diverse region with almost endless peculiarities. Viticulture, in particular, plays a significant role here. The "Wine Idyll of Southern Burgenland" regularly garners international acclaim with its manageable vineyards. During a stroll through the picturesque landscape, visitors will explore the typical small vineyards of Eisenberg. The excursion focuses on the history of viticulture, its importance for tourism, and future challenges facing the region, such as climate change. Finally, a traditional visit to a Buschenschank (rustical and for the Burgenland typical wine tavern), including tasting of excellent wines, rounds off the experience.

## Lunch:

- partly as part of the excursions (just snack-character)
- catered by local clubs in the festival area
- local gastronomy

**15:30 - 18:30:**

## **Ceremonial gala „Thirst for future“**

**Awarding of the European Village Renewal Awards 2024**

Festival tent on Hauptplatz | Main Square

**from 14:30:**

**Entrance** (seats are assigned)

from 18:30:

**Exhibition „Thirst for future“** – the 21 participants of the European Village Renewal Award 2024 present their communities, projects and products in pavillons – **Rochusplatz and Burghof | Castle Yard**

from 19:30:

**Celebrate together with a lot of „Thirst for future“** – having dinner, getting to know each other, exchange of experiences, networking, making music, dancing, ... – **festival tent on Hauptplatz | Main Square**

**The state Burgenland invites all participants. Vouchers for meals and drinks will be handed out upon registration.**

## **Saturday, 14th September 2024**

each tour at 09:00 and 10:30:

**Stadtschlaining introduces itself** – and invites the guests to get to know the municipality, its people, and the projects through walks and guided tours:

**Meeting point for all walks and tours at 9:00 and at 10:30: festival tent on Hauptplatz**

- **„From the armed castle to the Peace Center “ – in German and English**  
 For centuries, Burg Schlaining has shaped the region, particularly Stadtschlaining itself and its residents. In an exciting “time travel” walking through the city and castle, we follow the traces that transformed the powerful late medieval fortress into the modern Peace Center of today. From the newly designed main square to the "Arena," an innovative concert venue, the tour leads into the mighty walls of the Castle, which has evolved into a cultural, excursion, seminar, and event hotspot. With its impressive wine cellar, the "Weinkosterei," beautiful Engelsäle (Angel Halls), and a unique museum area, the “Peace Castle” Schlaining stands as the vibrant heart of the "colorful city of peace."
- **„The jewish side of Schlaining and the coexistence of religions and cultures“ – in German and English**  
 In Stadtschlaining, it's not just talk about living together, but actually doing it. For centuries, different religious communities have peacefully coexisted in the "colorful city of peace." The Jewish community, in particular, plays a significant role in this harmony. During this excursion, we trace the history of this coexistence from the Reformation and settlement of the Jewish community to present-day projects. The former synagogue on the main square will be part of this tour, alongside the Protestant parish church and the former Catholic monastery church of Stadtschlaining. And of course, we won't forget about culinary delights along the way.
- **„Building Bridges – winner of the European Village Renewal Award 2022“: – in German and English**  
 The tour through the "colorful city of peace" traces the path Stadtschlaining has taken from being one of the once infrastructurally weakest regions in Austria to becoming an innovative lighthouse municipality, from the perspective of local politics. Mayor Markus Szelinger illustrates how the sometimes demanding and difficult processes unfolded. The tour includes visits to the newly designed center with the new castle hotel, the protected historic town center, the new and modern educational center with primary school, kindergarten, and music school, as well as the town hall and the main square, which also serves as a venue for numerous events. Renewable energy, environmental protection, and quality of life also play a significant role in people's everyday lives and are discussed during this tour.

09:00 - 12:00: **Take down of the presentation stands**

**Lunch:**

- catered by local clubs in the festival area
- local gastronomy

13:00: **Official farewell to the guests – in the festival tent on Hauptplatz**

Following the official end of the award ceremony festivities for the European Village Renewal Award 2024, the 65th anniversary celebration of Stadtschlaining's brass band will take place on Saturday and Sunday, to which delegations from the different European regions are warmly invited.

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## Accommodations

Please contact Mrs. Christina Taucher from the Südburgenland Tourismus | South Burgenland Tourism Association as soon as possible, using the reference "Europäischer Dorferneuerungspreis" (sued@burgenland.info; Tel: +43 57 610 210). She and her team will assist you in finding accommodations to the best of their ability.

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## Contact persons in the European Association for Rural Development and Village Renewal (ARGE):

Theres Friewald-Hofbauer, CEO and project leading  
Doris Hofbauer, project managing  
Beate Schrank, organizational issues

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