

The Luigi Micheletti Award: a successful Italian Story in Europe

The celebration of the 15th anniversary of the Luigi Micheletti Award will be held on 30 September 2010 in Rome (Camera dei Deputati – Sala delle Conferenze, Via del Pozzetto 158), with a European Conference dedicated to the role of museums in the diffusion of technical and scientific culture in Italy and Europe.

The event is being held in collaboration with: the Parliamentary Committee for the Technological Innovation and for the Sustainable Development - COPIT, Rome; MIUR – Committee for the Development of the Scientific and Technological Culture; MIUR – Headquarters of the Internationalization of the Research, Rome; MusIL – Museum of Industry and Labour “Eugenio Battisti”, Brescia; the European Museum Academy (EMA), Den Haag.

The purpose of the event is to celebrate 15 years of the Luigi Micheletti Foundation's engagement in supporting museums of industry, science and techniques distinguished for their innovative concept and for the educative experience offered to their public. Launched in 1995 by the Micheletti Foundation and the European Museum Forum under the patronage of the Council of Europe, the award has put at the center of the stage a series of innovative experiences of influence in the European museum field, starting with the DASA in Dortmund, the first and unique European exhibition dedicated to the topic of safety at work, continuing with the Città della Scienza in Naples and ending – limiting the citations to the last winners – with the Museu da Ciencia in Coimbra (Portugal), the Jærmuseet at Nærbø (Norway) and the Museu Agbar de les Aigües in Barcelona (Spain).

The story of the award is an Italian story because it is connected to the life of the Micheletti Foundation, founded in 1981 by Luigi Micheletti, a partisan during World War II and afterward an entrepreneur in the field of economics. The Micheletti Foundation soon became an important archive in the domain of contemporary history and one of the first Italian institutions engaged in the preservation of industrial heritage, more than 30 years ago. A meeting with the great museologist and father of industrial archeology, Kenneth Hudson, led to the birth 15 years ago of an award whose success has been confirmed, year after year, by the number and the quality of participants.

The Luigi Micheletti Award is also a European story, both for the partnership with European organizations and for the extent of its influence, including all 45 countries within the borders of the Council of Europe.

Like any successful story, the story of the Luigi Micheletti Award is marked by the ability to renew itself. From the 16th edition onwards, the award will be run in collaboration with the European Museum Academy, a Dutch foundation whose qualified Pool of Experts have proven scientific and museological experience.

Moreover, in future the award will be open to new types of institutions: science centres, interpretation centres, local projects, company museums and also projects using exposition language, even if they are not labeled “museums” in the strict sense of the term. So far candidates for the 2011 edition of the award range from the Science Gallery in Dublin to the Porsche Museum in Stuttgart, and from the Techno Museum in Mannheim to the Maison de la Science in Liège. But applications will still be accepted until 30 September and we are currently receiving other important candidates. The application form can be downloaded from the EMA website: www.europeanmuseumacademy.eu.

The past and the future of this project, focused on a cutting domain of European culture, will also

be debated in seminars and conferences organized during the two following days of the celebration, in Brescia and the Camonica Valley, where a museum of hydroelectric energy has been opened, housed in an extraordinary building dating from the beginning of the 20th century. This is another important initiative of the Micheletti Foundation.

www.fondazionemicheletti.it

www.musil.bs.it

www.europeanmuseumacademy.eu