



EXHIBITION

EUROPE ENACTED

A HISTORY OF EUROPE TOLD
THROUGH NOTARIES' ACTS

11-15 NOVEMBER 2019

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

BRUSSELS

OPENING CEREMONY AND FIRST EDITION OF THE INNOVATION PRIZE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE NOTARIATS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

13 November 2019
from 18.00

WWW.NOTARIESOFEUROPE-EXHIBITION.EU





For centuries, notaries have been **privileged witnesses to history**. Their notarial acts contain **real treasures that reveal** a story, an event or a social fact. From wills to contracts of sale, from marriage contracts to company formations, the words, images and accounts contained in **these documents** never cease to expose **unique moments of life**.

The travelling exhibition **“Europe Enacted”** aims to **highlight notarial acts of major historical value preserved in the national archives**. From the 13th to the 20th century, these acts reflect **the richness of Europe’s heritage**: the will of Queen Isabel la Católica, the award of the George Cross to the Maltese nation, the renunciation document signed by Archduchess Marie-Antoinette of the crowns belonging to the House of Austria, etc.

The notary’s role is **a common thread that runs through the ages**. On behalf of the authority that invested them, notaries impartially collect and express, in accordance with the law, **the wishes of the parties**. They ensure that certain facts are never forgotten and that the undertakings made are respected. The performance of this mission follows cultural, societal and economic as well as technological developments. This is why the exhibition also presents **the digital tools created by notariats** to provide a modern and efficient service for their clients and the States. In this regard, it would be interesting to know how our grandchildren and great-grandchildren will view our times in the future, with the acts left by notaries as a mirror of them.

Mr THIERRY THOMAS
CURATOR OF THE EXHIBITION
“EUROPE ENACTED”





Law is an intrinsic part of our European culture and notaries are a key element of it, since they have been present in 22 of the Member States of the European Union for **several centuries**, as the exhibition “**Europe Enacted**” highlights. Notaries are part of our daily lives and are involved, whether or not we are historical figures, in the most important moments in life: marriage, buying a property, setting up a business, settling a succession, etc. Through their instrument, the authentic instrument, they provide **legal certainty** and therefore **social peace**.

The **digitalisation of notaries’ activities is rapidly expanding** and covers several aspects: the creation and interconnection of registers, online company formation, the use of e-signatures, authentic instruments on electronic media, videoconferencing and many others. Today **the notarial profession is at the forefront of the legal professions in this field**. That is why we wanted these developments to have their rightful place in the exhibition “Europe Enacted”.

One of the highlights of the exhibition will be the announcement, on **Wednesday 13 November 2019**, of the winners of the first **CNUE Innovation Prize**. This prize will be awarded to **the European notariats’ most innovative projects**. It will rightly illustrate the following observation: **the profession of notary is rooted in the past, the present and the future**.

Mr PIERRE-LUC VOGEL

**PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL OF THE
NOTARIATS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION**





Connectivity, artificial intelligence, robotics and digitalisation will change everything: how we interact, how we live, how we spend our leisure time, how we work. This is also true regarding the legal professions. In concrete terms: What does that mean for notaries? Are notaries soon going to be replaced by blockchain technologies?

This exhibition - **"Europe Enacted"** - shows that **change is needed**, that **the legal professions must also adapt**. However, the historical documents on display in this exhibition will also illustrate that **notaries are still needed** regardless of time, because of trust in notaries, trust in legal transactions.

Notaries have always been and will continue to be an **honest broker of trust for European citizens and businesses**. In an increasingly connected and digitalised world, trust and confidence are **paramount assets** and, as a consequence, I am convinced that notaries will keep their unique status **if they are open to new technologies and ready to adapt their everyday business**.

Being open to change is key not only for notaries but for every European business. Accordingly, **the exhibition will not only tell us something about European history but maybe also about the European future**.

**MEP PROF.
DR. ANGELIKA NIEBLER**
PATRONAGE OF THE EXHIBITION





**WITH THE “EUROPE ENACTED” EXHIBITION,
DISCOVER NOTARIAL ACTS
THAT HAVE SHAPED THE HISTORY OF EUROPE**

WILL OF QUEEN ISABEL LA CATÓLICA

- Spain, 1504

A notary’s job is to ensure that **certain facts are never forgotten, that words and deeds maintain their effects**. It’s a profession bestowed with the authority of the State; a public function in silent combat with the voracity of time. We know that **Isabel la Católica** wanted three children; one to be **heir to the Spanish throne**, another **archbishop of Toledo** and the third, **notary of Medina del Campo**. This was what the Queen of Castille manifested on her deathbed in the presence of a notary, then a scribe, who drew up her royal will.

Spain. Ministry of Culture and Sports. Simancas General Archive.





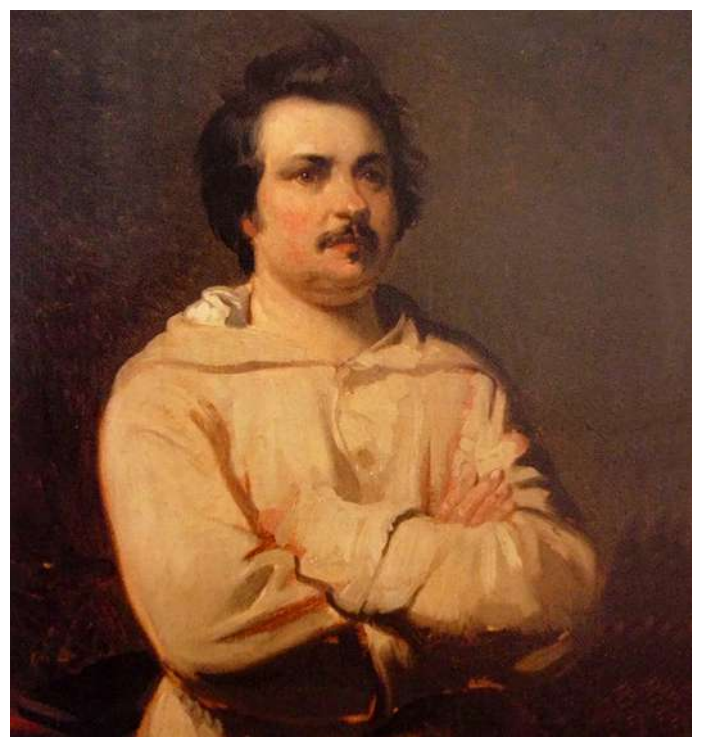
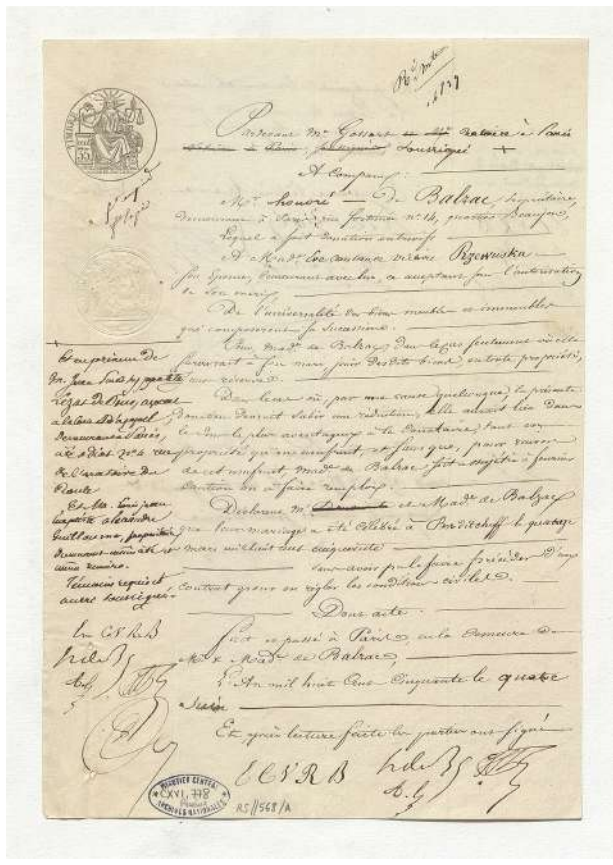
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MUTUAL GIFT BETWEEN SPOUSES BY HONORÉ DE BALZAC
 AND CONSTANCE VICTOIRE RZEWESKA

- France, 1850

On 14 March 1850, Honoré de Balzac, the author of *La Comédie Humaine*, married Countess Evelyne Hanska in Ukraine. The couple had only been back in Paris for a few days when, on 4 June 1850, before their notary, they made a gift to each other. Balzac died in the summer months, on 18 August 1850. It was in 1833 that the already famous novelist met Constance Victoire Rzewuska (Evelyne Hanska née Ewelina Rzewuska) with whom he fell passionately in love following an epistolary exchange. Evelyne was of Polish origin; she was married and had a young daughter. In 1834, they became lovers. Despite the husband’s death in 1842, Balzac did not marry her until 1850, on 14 March, in Berditcheff near Kiev (Ukraine). Balzac’s letters to his mistress were published under the title *Lettres à l’étrangère*, “Letters to a Foreigner”, in 1906.

Paper, handwritten, 30 x 22.5 cm (two acts), Paris, National Archives, Central Register, ET/CXVI/778 (RS/568).



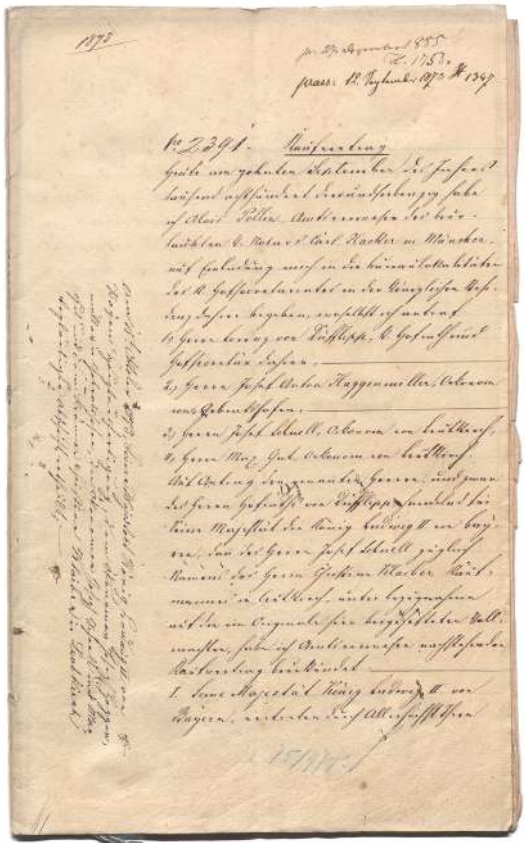


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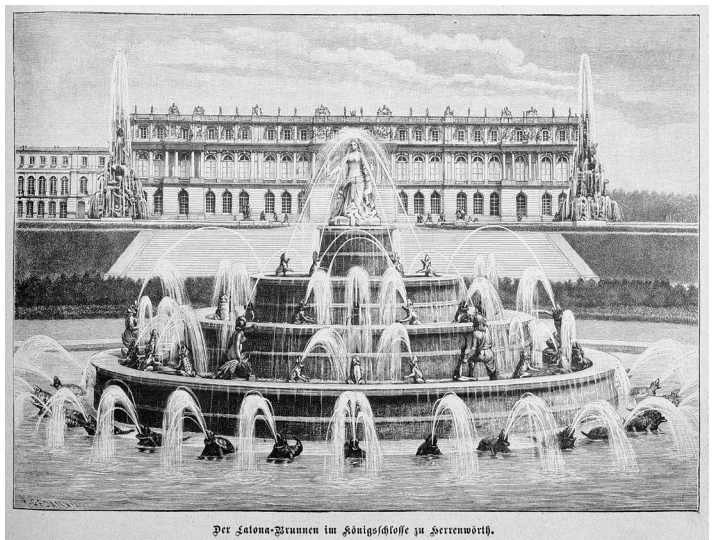
PURCHASE OF HERRENINSEL ISLAND BY KING LUDWIG II OF BAVARIA

- Germany, 1873

Herreninsel (also known as Herrenwörth), with a total area of 238 hectares, is the largest of the three main islands on Lake Chiemsee. Until **secularisation in 1803**, the island was owned by the **Convent of Herrenchiemsee**. After the dissolution of the Diocese of Lake Chiemsee in 1808, **the island was in changing ownership**. In 1870, the trees on the island were almost completely cleared by a wood producer of Baden-Württemberg, who owned the island for a short time. Fortunately, the environment-conscious monarch **Ludwig II purchased Herrenchiemsee Island for 350,000 florins on 10 September 1873** and saved the forest. The idea of building a castle on the island emerged only in 1874/75, when the construction plans of **Meicost Ettal** or Tmeicos Ettal, **a residential palace following the model of Versailles**, became more and more extensive, so that the surface of the planned building site in Graswang Valley became too small. Thus, Ludwig II relocated his “Versailles” to Herreninsel on Lake Chiemsee.



StAM (EIH) notarial office Munich III, register number 2391/1873. Original, paper, stapled, 33 x 22 cm.



Der Salona-Brunnen im Königschloße zu Herrenchiemsee.

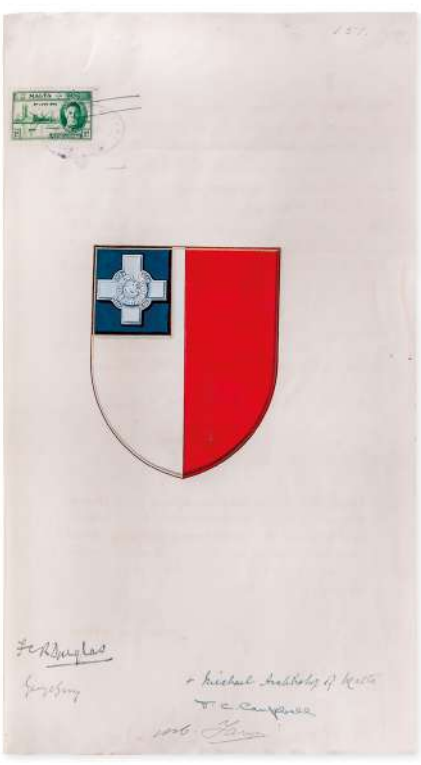
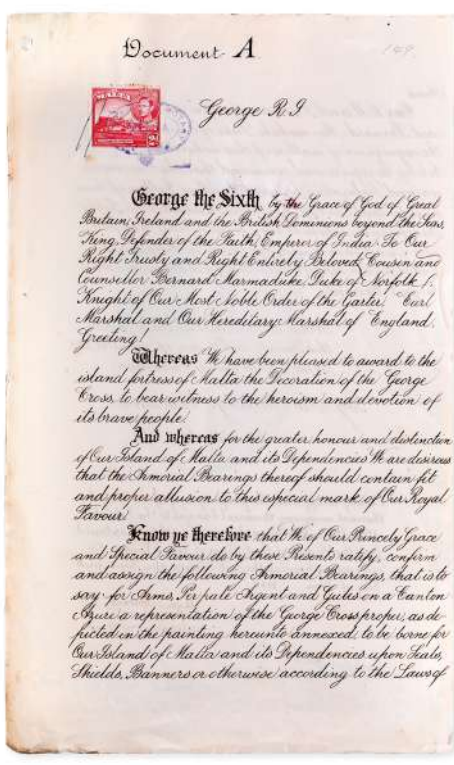


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**AWARD OF THE GEORGE CROSS TO THE MALTESE NATION
- Malta, 1942**

The **George Cross** was awarded by His Majesty **King George VI** to the **Maltese nation** on **15 April 1942** for the **valour and perseverance displayed** during the Second World War. The deed was published at the Governor’s Palace, Valletta in the presence of His Grace Monsignor Michael Gonzi, Metropolitan Archbishop of Malta, on 7 February 1947. The volume contains **the enrolment of the act** drawn by the **Chief Notary to Government, Dr. Carmelo Farrugia**. The contract is between **Sir Francis Campbell Ross Douglas**, Governor and Commander in Chief of the Island of Malta and its Dependencies, and **Sir George Borg**, Chief Justice and President of His Majesty’s Court of Appeal, “wherein King George VI being desirous that for the greater honour and distinction of the Island of Malta” grants that a representation of the George Cross proper is placed on a canton azure to be borne for the Island of Malta and its dependencies upon **seals, shields, banners or otherwise according to the law of arms**.

Notarial Archives Malta, Notary Carmelo Farrugia, R 407, 7 February 1947, ff.142-152.





LIST OF NOTARIAL ACTS PRESENTED IN THE EXHIBITION

ACTS PRESENTED ON PANELS AND DIGITAL SCREENS

1. Will of the King of Portugal D. Alfonso II - **Portugal, 1214**
2. Foreign notaries at the service of Dubrovnik - **Croatia, 1284**
3. First peace of Toruń - **Poland, 1411**
4. Will of Queen Isabella the Catholic - **Spain, 1504**
5. Testimony of the notary Giacomo Baldacchino concerning the Great Siege of Malta which took place on the order of Suleiman the Magnificent - **Malta, 1565**
6. Power of attorney given by Miguel de Cervantes to take legal action against those who printed or intended to print “El Quijote” - **Spain, 1605**
7. Declaration concerning Rembrandt, drawn up by the notary Jacob van Zwieten - **Netherlands, 1632**
8. Obligation by Joseph François Dupleix, former General Commander of the French Establishments in India, with respect to two Amsterdam merchants - **France, 1761**
9. Document of Renunciation signed by the Archduchess Marie-Antoinette of the crowns under the Habsburg dominions - **Autriche, 1770**
10. Mutual gift between spouses by Honoré de Balzac and Constance Victoire Rzeweska - **France, 1850**
11. Will of King Leopold I - **Belgium, 1857**
12. Sales contract – Purchase of Herreninsel Island by the King Ludwig II of Bavaria – **Germany, 1873**
13. Matrimonial property agreement of Dr István Bittó, Hungarian Royal Prime Minister, and of his wife, Irma Bittó - **Hungary, 1890**
14. Deed for a court-ordered real estate, signed by a Justice of the Peace, acting as a notary - **Bulgaria, 1894**
15. Will of Giuseppe Verdi - **Italy, 1900**
16. Probate inventory of the estate of Johann Strauss - **Austria, 1900**
17. Adoption act - Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen (discoverer of X-rays) - **Germany, 1903**
18. Notarial deed of incorporation of Acíéries Réunies de Burbach-Eich-Dudelange (ARBED) - **Luxembourg, 1911**
19. The legacy (decendent estate) after the death of Dr Pavel Turner - **Slovenia, 1924**
20. Will of Alcide De Gasperi - **Italy, 1935**
21. Will of the great diplomat Nicolae Titulescu - **Romania, 1940**
22. Award of the George Cross to the Maltese nation - **Malta, 1942**
23. Page of the index of the Register of Wills drawn up at the notariat of the State of the Romanian People’s Republic and the Region of Bucharest - **Romania, 1952 – 1954**
24. Deed of deposit of the handwritten will of Konstantinos Karamanlis - **Greece, 1986**



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ACTS PRESENTED ON DIGITAL SCREENS

25. Notarial deed on the course and outcome of the election of Dietrich, Canon of the archbishop's domain of St. Peter's in Salzburg and Provost of Wieting [district of Eberstein], as Abbot of St. Paul's on 26 March 1283, held at the Benedictine monastery of St. Paul in Lavanttal in Carinthia - **Austria, 1283**
26. The importance of protocols in the notarial practice in Dubrovnik - **Croatia, 1326**
27. Personal profile of the notary - **Croatia, 1383**
28. Five notaries issued in Basel the document in which the Council of Basel asked the Bishop of Lodi to acquire information relating to the dispute between the Archbishop and the Riga Chapter and the Teutonic Order of Livonia - **Poland, 1434**
29. A verse from Erasmus's prohibited book, the Colloquia, inscribed in the notarial volume of Notary Don Brandano Caxaro - **Malta, 1541**
30. Notarial act regarding privateer Francis Drake's attack on the island of La Palma - **Espagne, 1583**
31. Teaching contract for Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck by notary Lieven Heijlink - **Netherlands, 1597**
32. Annuity purchase by Jean-Baptiste Lully from Jean-Baptiste Poquelin, known as Molière - **France, 1670**
33. Will of Boris, Prince Kurakin, Russian Minister of State, adviser to Peter the Great and ambassador to the King of France - **France, 1727**
34. Statement regarding illegal printing of Rousseau's work by notary Hendrik - **Netherlands, 1762**
35. Will of Georgios son of Petrobey Mavromichalis - **Greece, 1831**
36. Contract of dowry - **Grèce, 1842**
37. Inventory after death of Frédéric Chopin - **France, 1849**
38. Donation of Eleni Tositsa, wife of Michael Tositsas - **Greece, 1860**
39. Legal and inheritance contract - **Slovenia, 1860**
40. Inventory after death of the Dowager Queen of Sweden and Norway, in her hotel, rue d'Anjou - **France, 1861**
41. Inheritance contract - **Slovenia, 1873**
42. Authorisation by William Lindley for his son to sign the contract with the City Council of Warsaw for the construction of a water supply network and sewerage system in Warsaw - **Poland, 1881**
43. Marriage Contract of Emile Mayrisch and Aline de Saint-Hubert - **Luxembourg, 1894**
44. Deed for purchase and sale of a real estate signed by a notary - **Bulgaria, 1903**
45. Approval of the division of the inheritance of the children of the writer Kálmán Mikszáth concerning the estate purchased by the Hungarian State as a gift for their father - **Hungary, 1923**
46. Deed of establishment of the public limited company "Hellenic Conservatoire" and Excerpt from its Constitution - **Greece, 1923**
47. Will of Baron Géza Lukacich of Somorja, Lieutenant General, and of his wife - **Hungary, 1925**
48. Will of Baron Géza Lukacich of Somorja, Lieutenant General, and of his wife - **Hungary, 1942**
49. Last will of Georg of Bavaria - **Germany, 1943**
50. Notary letter of invitation (enforceable) - **Bulgaria, 1943**
51. Notarial act of incorporation of Neuhaus Ltd. - **Belgium, 1969**
52. Ana Aslan's Certificate of Succession and the first page of the succession inventory - **Romania, 1988**



NOTARIES AND NEW TECHNOLOGIES

The **digital revolution** has transformed many sectors, including that of **legal professionals**. The notaries of Europe have adapted to these developments and offer many practical solutions. **Discover the innovative digital tools and services** developed by **the profession at national and European level**, such as the search for wills in Europe, the creation of online companies, multi-lingual information websites, etc.

NOTARIES OF EUROPE INFORMATION WEBSITES

We provide the general public with thematic information websites:



Successions in Europe

www.successions-europe.eu



Couples in Europe

www.couples-europe.eu



Buying property in Europe

www.buyingmyhome.eu



The Vulnerable in Europe

www.the-vulnerable.eu



Authentic Acts in Europe

www.authentic-acts.eu

These websites are **multilingual** and provide an overview of **the national law of the Member States**. In short, these are valuable tools to consult **before going to see your notary!**

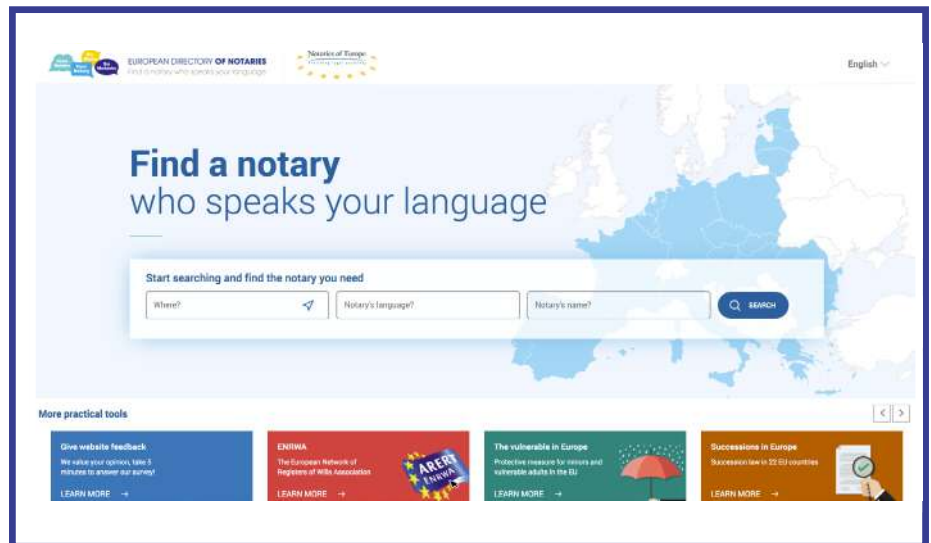


NOTARIES AND NEW TECHNOLOGIES

EUROPEAN DIRECTORY OF NOTARIES

www.notaries-directory.eu

The directory lists the data of some **40,000 European notaries**. Searches can be carried out on the basis of **country, language spoken or name**.



EUROPEAN NOTARIAL NETWORK (ENN)

www.enn-rne.eu

The ENN assists notaries in the **handling of cross-border cases** by offering a series of **practical and information tools** via a secure platform.



NOTARIES AND NEW TECHNOLOGIES

EUROPEAN NETWORK OF REGISTERS OF WILLS ASSOCIATION (ENRWA)

www.enrwa.eu

The ENRWA works on the **inter-connection of registers of wills and European Certificates of Succession (ECS) in Europe**. **Fourteen registers of wills and three ECS registers** are now interconnected thanks to the ENRWA. Each year the network registers **more than 2500 queries and finds more than 350 wills** in a foreign register.



EUFIDES

www.eufides.eu

EUFides is a **secure collaboration platform** that facilitates **cooperation between European notaries handling cross-border cases**. Originally designed to deal with **cross-border real estate transactions**, EUFides now **handles succession and company law files**.



CNUE INNOVATION PRIZE

On 13 November 2019, on the occasion of the opening of the exhibition “**Europe Enacted**”, the CNUE will award its first innovation prizes. The jury will decide between projects submitted by European notariats in the following areas:

- 1) **online services ;**
- 2) **digital security ;**
- 3) **the paperless office ;**
- 4) **customer relations.**

Among the projects presented :

GERMANY

Under Directive (EU) 2019/1151, Member States must ensure that **limited liability companies** can be **incorporated entirely online without the founders having to appear in person before a court, notary or any other body competent** under national law. The Federal Council of the German Notariat (Bundesnotarkammer) will provide **an innovative digital framework that will enable notaries to offer an online service that guarantees a simple and secure approach to the formation of a German limited liability company (GmbH) by exclusively digital means.**



SPAIN

The Notarial Certification Agency (Ancert) was created by the General Council of the Spanish Notariat in 2002 to promote **the use of technology for the benefit of citizens.** The electronic notarial signature, the single computerised index, the private notarial network and the integrated notarial management system are the cornerstones on which Ancert’s technological infrastructure is based and they have made the Spanish notariat **the reference in terms of modernity and adaptation to the new technologies of the legal sector.**





CNUE INNOVATION PRIZE

AUSTRIA

Being well advised by the notary – this is the very purpose of notarial involvement in the field of company law. In a context of **digitalisation of the company formation process**, the Austrian Chamber of Civil Law Notaries has launched the project **“Founding a GmbH online with a notary’s support”**. After a preliminary phase of approximately 48 months, the legal framework was created on 1 January 2019 to launch the actual process of setting up the GmbH **“entirely online”**.



HUNGARY

Since 2010, **the payment order procedure** has been a competence of notaries. It is **a fast and efficient method for the recovery of financial claims**. It is **mandatory** in the case of overdue financial claims not exceeding 3 million forints, i.e. the claimant cannot take legal action.



MALTE

The Valletta Notarial Archives recently started a collaboration called “NotaryPedia”. **It aims to make the invaluable body of knowledge available in the archives more easily accessible and searchable by researchers and the general public.**

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