



Education and Culture DG

Culture Programme



European Heritage Days  
Journées européennes  
du patrimoine



COUNCIL OF EUROPE  
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

## 'European Dimension' Event Summary

### Event title:

#### ***Places of Arrival and Departure***

#### ***European Heritage Days – Our Common Heritage in the Nordic and Baltic Countries***

### Initiator of the project:

Nordic Council of Ministers - the Nordic governments' co-operation forum. [www.norden.org](http://www.norden.org)

### Work group – the national coordinators of the European Heritage Days:

Sweden: Pia Hedenstedt, National Heritage Board. - **Project Leader**

Estonia: Riin Alatalu, National Heritage Board.

Finland: Hanna Hamalainen, Land Use Department, Ministry of Environment.

Iceland: Gunnar Bollason, Archaeological Heritage Agency.

Norway: Unni B. Walhovd, Kulturminnedagen, The National Association of Cultural Heritage

### Event background:

The theme of European Heritage Days for 2006 was Places of Arrival and Departure. This year the spotlight was on big junctions where long journeys begin or end, such as bus and railway stations, ferry terminals and airports. The focus was also on the smaller meeting points, such as tram stops, roadside taverns and sleepy termini.

European Heritage Days 2006 mark a year of Nordic co-operation, jointly celebrated by Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden on the theme of Places of Arrival and Departure. By sharing a common theme year, the participating countries were able to broaden the scope of knowledge and appreciation of the Nordic area's manifold cultural heritage.

### Short description of the event:

The event has developed "the Nordic model of cooperation" which consists of a series of advice and best practice; such as gathering facts about the other countries way of working, creating a common platform of knowledge, setting aims and goals of the project or having meetings during preparations..

This event gave an opportunity to develop and improve work of coordinators, create the coherence image and common materials which has provided an understanding of the heritage similarities between countries. The project served to expand the scope of knowledge and appreciation of the diverse cultural heritage in the participating countries. Organizers focused their activities on important centers where long journeys start or end (bus and railway stations, ferry terminals, airports) and on smaller-scale meeting places as well (tram depots, wayside pubs, sleepy terminals).

### **European dimension of Places of Arrival and Departure:**

The interest of the European Heritage Days is to involve as wide a public as possible to become aware of the value of the heritage and to discover the historical environment.

The places the event focused on are places testifying to confidence in the future, to grandiose visions – political, economic and social, and the tremendous advances of engineering in what is more and more becoming a world without frontiers. They have stories to tell about people's lives, about every day life, work and leisure, and about communication and travel in the old millennium and the new one. Even apparently insignificant places, those which have fallen into oblivion or decay, are of value.

An expanded knowledge of the cultural differences and commonalities in the neighbouring areas aimed to support a growing Nordic cultural identity and communal spirit and might also serve as an example for other cross-border initiatives in the cultural heritage field throughout Europe.