

EU assists international cultural exchange about Otto Bartning

Project 'Otto Bartning in Europe' (eurOB) has started

– Press release of *Otto Bartning-Arbeitsgemeinschaft Kirchenbau (OBAK)*, 16/11/2010 –

He was a distinguished classical modernist architect with an honorary doctor for theology and is considered among the 20th century most important church master-builders; having built churches all round Europe. Together with Walter Gropius, he is considered one of the founding fathers of Bauhaus. From an early age, he pleaded for the agreement between nations, during an era when nationalistic ideas predominated and proclaimed a modern understanding of faith, one not constricted by denominational differences: *Prof. D. Dr Otto Bartning* (1883-1959) was inspirational, 1919 as well as 1949; when termed "master builder of hope" it did by no means refer only to his architecture.

The interest in Otto Bartning has noticeable increased following the commemoration activities during the 'Bartning Years 2008/2009/2010' – celebrating his 125th birthday, the 50th anniversary of his death, the Bauhaus year 2009 and the anniversaries of some of his more significant churches. We are pleased that the impact of his work, and the research thereof, is getting further recognition with the EU's project funding for the 'Grundtvig Program for Lifelong Learning':

The EU will assist the '**Otto Bartning in Europe**' (eurOB) project, an initiative of the *Otto Bartning Arbeitsgemeinschaft Kirchenbau (OBAK)*. In addition to OBAK (as the project coordinator), the *DenkmalAkademie of the German Foundation for Monument Protection* and parishes with a 'Bartning church' in Austria, the Netherlands, the Czech Republic and Lithuania, as well as two cultural institutions (the *Severočeské Museum v Liberci* in the Czech Republic, and the *Centre national de littérature* in Luxembourg) are participating in the project. There are also cooperation partners who will contribute: The *TU Darmstadt's 'History and the Theory of Architecture'* department and *Otto Bartning Archive*, the *Institute of Architecture and Construction* from *Kaunas University of Technology*, an in Berlin the *NEUE KULTUR Foundation*. For final presentation in Berlin a cooperation with the *Guardini Gallery* and with *Berlinische Galerie (Museum of Modern Art, Photography, and Architecture)* is under discussion. Through the international exchange of expertise amongst people with a diverse backgrounds (church, culture, science, monument conservation, and education practitioners), we hope to make Otto Bartning's work, and its Europe-wide cultural legacy, more known and accessible. As part of the project we want to compile, prepare, and present archive documents and picture materials of Otto Bartning's work. Furthermore, the current state of his architecture will be documented and the need for preservation of his buildings is to be shown. In particular, Otto Bartning as an inspiration for the church, society, human social life and his influence beyond the realm of architecture is one of the key activities of the eurOB project.

To facilitate the transfer of the project objectives to the public, the project partners will network, share knowledge and methodologies, establish contact with local and regional key communicators and create new ways of communication. In the near future till July 2012 we are planning international work meetings and public presentations, such as a presentation in autumn 2011 in Dornbirn, Austria and in July 2012 the final presentation in Berlin.

We will present our project on a public symposium on 21st November 2010 in Essen, Germany (European Capital of Culture): 3-5 o'clock p.m. in Auferstehungskirche (Manteuffelstr. 26).

The project also has a website (including a list of all project partners):

www.otto-bartning.eu

Berlin-Pankow, 16/11/2010

Sgd., Immo Wittig

For the executive committee of the *Otto Bartning-Arbeitsgemeinschaft Kirchenbau e.V. (OBAK)*

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