



# GREAT SPA TOWNS *of Europe*

## *Media Release*

1<sup>st</sup> June 2022

## Great Spa Towns of Europe are looking for a new Secretary General

The Great Spa Towns of Europe Association is looking for a new Secretary General to co-ordinate the work of the Great Spa Towns of Europe and to be the public face of the organisation. The Great Spa Towns of Europe was inscribed on the World Heritage List in July 2021, and until the formation of a new Association in April this year, has operated as an informal network.

Paul Simons, the current Secretary General has been involved at the heart of the project since its inception in 2011, and is set to retire in 2023, which is why the Association is now seeking a new person to take over the day-to-day running of the World Heritage Site.

Paul Simons said: “Working with the Great Spa Towns of Europe has been a privilege and incredibly rewarding – one of the most complicated but satisfying roles I have ever undertaken. My role until now has been very involved in the development of the project and the co-ordination of the nomination to UNESCO. The new person will be responsible for the development of the World Heritage Site within the framework of the Property Management Plan, liaising with UNESCO, ICOMOS and the seven States Parties. They will ensure that the site is able to manage increasing visitor numbers whilst at the same time ensuring its authenticity and integrity is protected. It’s going to be an interesting and challenging role for the right person, who should be a heritage professional with experience of working with World Heritage Sites.”

Applications for the role close at 17:00 CET on 1<sup>st</sup> of July.

Interviews will be held in Františkovy Lázně in the Czech Republic on the 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> September 2022.

Please see <https://www.greatspatownsforeurope.eu/the-great-spa-towns/work-with-us> for the full Job Description and further details of the application process.

## Contact the Great Spa Towns of Europe:

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## Notes to Editors :

1. The *Great Spa Towns of Europe* is a 'Transnational Serial' World Heritage Site, comprising 11 famous historic thermal spa towns and cities in seven countries. The site was inscribed on the World Heritage List at the 44<sup>th</sup> World Heritage Committee meeting in on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2021.
2. The *Great Spa Towns of Europe* in Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom represent a unique cultural phenomenon which reached its height in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, as well as a particular urban type and form which deserves global recognition as a phenomenon which helped to shape Europe.
3. Inscription on the World Heritage List is the highest international recognition for global cultural and natural heritage sites. It is managed by UNESCO (the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation) on behalf of the United Nations from its headquarters in Paris.
4. There are over 400 working spa towns across Europe and those selected are the *crème de la crème* of Europe's best. The eleven *Great Spa Towns of Europe* possess architectural ensembles, parks, gardens and landscapes which are maintained to the highest standards. They also maintain a wide range of outstanding cultural activities, welcome an international clientele and provide a continuing living tradition of leisure, health and well-being.
5. All of the *Great Spa Towns of Europe* are easily accessible, often by rail, and offer a wide range of quality accommodation. Cultural activities and heritage attractions compliment the health and leisure treatments traditionally associated with spa towns. Local gastronomy and wine present a distinctive feature of each spa town along with more contemporary well-being programmes. Rural pursuits, walking, hiking and cycling in the surrounding therapeutic spa landscape are available for all visitors.