

PRESS RELEASE

With one-week left, Spanish, Italian and Russian trees dominate the European Tree of the Year contest

The current standings of the European Tree of the Year contest are going to become a secret as the voting enters its final phase. This way, fans and supporters will not know the winner of the contest until the final announcement is made. Out of the 14 countries competing in this year's edition, the current standings give the top three spots to the Spanish, Italian and Russian tree candidates. Polls remain open until 12:00 p.m. on February 28 at www.treeoftheyear.org.

"This year we are experiencing a record level of votes and support for our contest. Perhaps due to the pandemic people more understand the important place nature have in our life. More than 360 thousand votes have already been casted. Every vote matters and can stir up the order and decide the future winner. People still have one more week to vote for their tree champion of ETY 2021," explains Josef Jary from the **Environmental Partnership Association (EPA)** organizer of the 11th edition of this prestigious competition.

The results will be announced on **March 17 at 3pm** during the **online Award Ceremony**, which will follow the **„Planting for the Future“** conference, starting at 1 pm. This conference is a joint event of our Award Ceremony and will discuss the **EU commitment to plant additional 3 billion trees in Europe by 2030**. This plan listed among priorities of the EU Green Deal is of high interest for the whole European „tree community“. We want to contribute to the plan the most efficient way and we believe that all sectors of civil society would like to take their parts in it as well.

The conference received patronage from Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, Tomáš Petříček and is hosted by MEPs Ludek Niedermayer and Michal Wiezik, patrons of the European Tree of the Year contest and by our partners from European Landowners' Organisation.

The latest visible standings rank as follows:

1st	The Millennial Carrasca of Lecina	Spain	48.369	votes
2nd	The thousand-year-old plane tree of Curinga	Italy	42.159	votes
3rd	Ancient Sycamore Tree	Russia	38.093	votes
4th	Saint Jan Nepomucen's Linden	Poland	23.902	votes
5th	The ancient Mother Tree	Netherlands	22.325	votes
6th	Plane Tree of Rossio	Portugal	21.074	votes
7th	The Pouplic	France	20.242	votes
8th	The Survivor Tree	United Kingdom	19.967	votes
9th	The Old Mulberry	Bulgaria	19.541	votes
10th	The Judas Tree on the Church Hill of Mélykút	Hungary	19.413	votes

11th	Ancient Oak from Drnava	Slovakia	19.364	votes
12ve	The Eldest Resident of Medulin - Chocolate Tree of our Memories	Croatia	19.347	votes
13th	Apple tree near Lidmans	Czech Republic	19.265	votes
14th	The Four-Trunked Survivor	Belgium	15680	votes

[Download the tree pictures here](#)

Media Contacts:

Josef Jary, Communication officer josef.jary@nap.cz — (+32) 493 84 35 01

The **Environmental Partnership Association (EPA)** is a leading environmental organization established for almost 30 years in Central and Eastern Europe. With a team of 80 employees, the EPA operates in 6 countries via its 6-member foundations in Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovakia. The EPA boasts 30-years of experience in project coordination and carrying out activities oriented to changing people's mind-sets in order to protect and improve the environment.

www.environmentalpartnership.org

The European Landowners' Organization (ELO), created in 1972, is a unique federation of national associations from the 28 EU Member States and beyond, which represents the interests of landowners, land managers and rural entrepreneurs at the European political level. Independent and non-profit making, the ELO is the only organization able to stand for all rural entrepreneurs. The ELO promotes a prosperous countryside through private property dynamism. Its Secretariat is based in Brussels

www.europeanlandowners.org

The **European Tree of the Year** is a contest that highlights the significance of trees in the natural and cultural heritage of Europe and the importance of the ecosystem services trees provide. The contest is not looking for the most beautiful tree, but for a tree with a story, a tree rooted in the lives and work of the people and the community that surrounds it.

www.treeoftheyear.org

THE CONTEST IS ORGANISED BY



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