

PRESS RELEASE

**Embargo until March 17, 3:30 pm CET**

**The Millennial Carrasca of Lecina has won the European Tree of the Year 2021! The results announcement on the internet again...**

The prestigious title of the European Tree of the Year is heading for the first time to Spain! With a historical record of 104.264 votes, the holm oak called The Millennial Carrasca of Lecina left the other rivals far behind. Silver medal goes to Italy, where the veteran tree, The thousand-year-old plane tree of Curinga, obtained 78,210 votes. The exotic candidate from European Far East, The Ancient Sycamore Tree from the Russian federal republic of Dagestan took the third place gaining impressive 66,026 votes.

**A total of 604,544 votes** were cast during the contest this year. It is more than twice as much as the last year and we have to thank all the national organizers of the contest for their amazing campaigns attracting such an enormous attention! Unfortunately, the ongoing pandemic has moved the announcement of the results again to the on-line. The final order of all tree participants as well as the video of the announcement can be found at [www.treeoftheyear.org](http://www.treeoftheyear.org).

*“We wondered how to surprise our supporters and the public who are going to watch the announcement and we decided to create a short animated film about this year contest and its results hoping it will cheer them up. We want our contest to give the people what they need the most these days – a nice piece of nature and green and joyful prospect of their future”* summarizes Josef Jary from the Environmental Partnership Association, the contest organiser.

The tree initially assigned to witches became the tree of Spain and even the tree of Europe - The Millennial Carrasca of Lecina legend tells of the times when witches populated the Guara Mountains's, where they danced and celebrated around the holm oak. A thousand years later, it is this union with people that continues to be the cause for why the holm oak still stands in the small town of Alto Aragón with only 13 inhabitants. The secret will surely be the care and company of Lecina's neighbors and those witches.

The contest was organised by the Environmental Partnership Association in collaboration with the European Landowners' Organisation and under the auspices of MEP Ludek Niedermayer and MEP Michal Wiezik.

*„As a long-term partner of this contest, it brings great pleasure to see this event receive so much recognition and engagement and appreciation from the public. I would like to congratulate Spain for this year's winner, The Millennial Carrasca of Lecina, for such beauty and cultural significance. The inhabitants of Alto Aragón should be incredibly proud of this achievement”*, stressed Mr. Thierry de l'Escaille, secretary general of ELO.

*"This contest reminds us all that the trees are not just the foundation of our climate or serve as a source of energy but on top of that, every tree has a unique story. This is why I would like to thank all of you who*

participated in this year's competition which is one of the few where everyone is a winner," concluded nicely MEP Ludek Niedermayer, one of the ETY patrons.

Before the grand finale, the Partnership Foundation organized the Planting the Future online conference, which addressed the European Commission's plan to plant 3 billion additional trees by 2030. Representatives of the Commission, European Parliament, Ministries, the corporate sector, banks and foundations, as well as representatives of cities and tree planting initiatives and NGOs from across Europe, shared their experiences and made recommendations: How to involve civil society actors as much as possible in this ambitious plan. The conference was kindly supported by Škoda Auto and Nestlé. The recording of the conference can be found on the website [treeoftheyear.org](http://treeoftheyear.org)

## European Tree of the Year 2020: results

Standing	Name	Country	Votes
1	<a href="#">The Millennial Carrasca of Lecina</a>	Spain	104264
2	<a href="#">The thousand-year-old plane tree of Curinga</a>	Italy	78210
3	<a href="#">Ancient Sycamore Tree</a>	Russian Federation	66026
4	<a href="#">Plane Tree of Rossio</a>	Portugal	37410
5	<a href="#">Saint Jan Nepomucen's Linden</a>	Poland	35422
6	<a href="#">The ancient Mother Tree</a>	The Netherlands	34244
7	<a href="#">Apple tree near Lidmans</a>	Czech Republic	32028
8	<a href="#">The Judas Tree on the Church Hill of Mélykút</a>	Hungary	31867
9	<a href="#">The Pouplic</a>	France	31594
10	<a href="#">The Eldest Resident of Medulin - Chocolate Tree of our Memories</a>	Republic of Croatia	31283
11	<a href="#">The Survivor Tree</a>	United Kingdom	31197
12	<a href="#">The Four-Trunked Survivor</a>	Belgium	30886
13	<a href="#">Ancient Oak from Drnava</a>	Slovakia	30058
14	<a href="#">The Old Mulberry</a>	Bulgaria	30055
<b>Total</b>			<b>604544</b>

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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](http://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](http://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](http://www.treeoftheyear.org)

## THE CONTEST IS ORGANISED BY



## SUPPORT



## NATIONAL CONTEST ORGANISERS

