Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe Programme

Activity Report
Credits
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The Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme continued to thrive during 2019. With the accession of Latvia and the Observer status of Albania, Ireland and Sweden, the 33 member States of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe increased their political and strategic support to the programme. The prestigious label “Cultural Route of the Council of Europe” was awarded to 5 new cultural routes, further expanding both networks’ themes and geographic coverage to include a growing number of destinations in South East and Eastern Europe.

The Finnish, French and Georgian Chairmanships of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe recognised the relevance of the Cultural Routes programme with dedicated conferences, workshops and photo exhibits. Representatives from Member and Observer States, as well as certified Cultural Routes, European Union and International Organisations and aspiring cultural route projects, came together at the occasion of the 9th Annual Cultural Routes Advisory Forum hosted by Romania in the historic town of Sibiu.

Finally, the Carlos V European Prize, awarded by His Majesty the King of Spain Felipe VI to the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme, demonstrated the programme’s relevance as a privileged tool for the promotion of European values and the protection of our shared European heritage.

As the programme continues to grow, it will require the strengthened support of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes and of its member States, in order to further guarantee its relevance as a unique instrument of cultural diplomacy.

The year 2019 made history. The European and Ibero-American Academy of Yuste Foundation delivered the «Carlos V European Award» to the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme. His Majesty the King of Spain presented the prize on the occasion of Europe Day on May 9th. For the first time the prize has been awarded to a European programme and not to an important person in contemporary history. The programme received the award because of its contribution “to the enhancement of Europe’s cultural and historical values”. This is an incentive to continue the journey through space and time we started in 1987 with even more partners and enthusiasts. In this way, we make a significant contribution to mutual understanding and respect for cultural diversity as the basis for peace in Europe. Moreover, we strengthen culture as a strong pillar of sustainable development.

2019 was an extraordinary year for the European Institute of Cultural Routes (EICR) and the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe Program.

The Award of the Carlos V European Prize by His Majesty the King of Spain on Europe Day (9th May) was an extraordinary recognition for the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe and its relevance for the promotion of European values and shared heritage.

The program has indeed grown considerably to include today 38 certified Cultural Routes with this year’s certification of 5 new routes. Many new candidates applied in 2019 for certification, showing the attractiveness of this European label and its interest among cultural heritage practitioners and cultural tourism operators.

As the technical agency of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes (EPA), the European Institute of Cultural Routes continued to deliver throughout the year expert advice and training in Luxembourg and Europe-wide to many new projects and networks interested in the Council of Europe certification.

The EICR co-organised the Training Academy for Cultural Routes which took place in June along The Hansa in Visby, Sweden, and the 9th Annual Advisory Forum hosted by the Romanian authorities in Sibiu last October. The Institute also delivered in November a specialised training to national and local authorities at the request of the Republic of Georgia.

Finally, I would like to express a special thank you to the Ministry of Culture of Luxembourg for its steady support to the Cultural Routes Program and its important contribution to the EICR annual budget.
Since its launch in 1987, the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme has shown that European heritage is not just an idea, but a reality. Cultural Routes put into practice the fundamental principles promoted by the Council of Europe: human rights, democracy, participation, cultural diversity and identity. They encourage intercultural dialogue, mutual exchange and enrichment across borders and centuries.

Today, the 38 Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe encourage European citizens to re-explore their heritage by practicing cultural tourism across the whole European continent and beyond. They aim to act as a channel for intercultural dialogue and promote better understanding of European cultural identity, preserving and enhancing natural and cultural heritage as a source of cultural, social and local development.

In 2010, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe established an Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes (EPA) to enable closer cooperation between states particularly interested in the development of the Cultural Routes, with a focus on themes of symbolic importance for European values, history, and culture and the discovery of less well-known destinations. Today, the programme benefits from cooperation among its 33 member States, regional and local authorities, as well as international Organisations, including the European Union, OECD, UNESCO and UNWTO.

Seat of the EPA, the European Institute of Cultural Routes (EICR), located in Neumünster Abbey in Luxembourg, is the advisory technical agency to the Cultural Routes programme, set up in 1998 under an agreement between the Council of Europe and the government of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.

2019 has been another exceptional year for the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe. The success of the programme in the promotion of European values, respect for identities and diversity, intercultural dialogue and exchanges across borders was recognized with the award of the Charles V Prize by His Majesty the King of Spain. A few months later, the Council of Europe was nominated as new Honorary Ambassador of the Santiago de Compostela Pilgrim Routes by the Council of the Galician Government (Xunta de Galicia).

The EPA has continued to gain new members and political support. Latvia became the 33rd member State to Join the EPA and three new member States requested observer status (Albania, Ireland and Sweden). Five new certifications brough the programme to 38 certified Cultural Routes, which now counts more than 2500 network members crossing some 60 countries in Europe and beyond. Certified Cultural Routes have continued to implement exemplary projects in the five priority fields of action and expanding their geographical coverage. Only in 2019, 170 new members joined 25 route networks.

A great number of activities organized by EPA member States and voluntary contributions to both EPA and EICR budgets testify to a strong commitment from members States in fostering Cultural Routes as tools for the promotion of national cultural heritage and local development. In 2019 the first Cultural Routes National Country Mapping was commissioned and the first Training Seminar on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe for EPA member States was organized in Georgia.

A long-term partnership established in 2018 with the European Commission (DG REGIO) resulted in the implementation of the “Routes4U” Joint Programme, which throughout 2019 has developed successful initiatives in the fields of research, communication, visibility and capacity building in the four EU Macro-regions.

This year has also been marked by a great number of events and activities, such as the 9th Annual Advisory Forum in Sibiu (Romania), the 8th Training Academy in Visby (Sweden) and the participation in numerous conferences, training seminars and events, enabling rich exchanges and cooperation opportunities not only among Cultural Routes’ stakeholders but also by spreading the message of the Cultural Routes to new audiences and partners.

Covering varied themes of European memory, history and heritage, the Cultural Routes contribute to the diversity of present-day Europe and to the shaping of our common European citizenship. Through this 2019 Activity Report, we invite you to join us on these journeys of discovery!

Mr. Stefano DOMINIONI
Executive Secretary, Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes (Council of Europe)
Director, European Institute of Cultural Routes

The Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe Programme is made possible thanks to the support of the member States of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe and the European Institute of Cultural Routes, funded by the Ministry of Culture of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.
Declaration of Santiago de Compostela

1987

Creation of the European Institute of Cultural Routes

1998

Anniversary of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe, Council of Europe Committee of Ministers Declaration (2017)

2017

Establishment of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes

2011

Anniversary of the European Institute of Cultural Routes (2018)

2018
Members of the Cultural Routes network of the EPA and 3 observer States as of December 2019.

- 38 certified Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe
- 5 new routes certified in 2019
- + 60 countries crossed, in Europe and beyond
- 1,1 Million Grant Agreement between the Council of Europe and the European Union
- Carlos V European Award
- 2019
- 33 member States of the EPA and 3 observer States as of December 2019
- + 2,500 members of the Cultural Routes network
The Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme was awarded the Carlos V European Award on 9th May.

The European and Ibero-American Academy of Yuste granted the XIII Carlos V European Award for the first time to a European programme, the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe, for its work promoting European values related to cultural diversity, respect for multiculturalism, intercultural dialogue, and transnational collaboration around cultural heritage and European history.

The Carlos V European Award honours people, organisations, projects or initiatives that contribute “to the enhancement of Europe’s cultural and historical values”. It is delivered each year on the 9th May, on the occasion of the Europe Day, by the European and Ibero-American Academy of Yuste Foundation. His Majesty the King of Spain, Felipe VI, presented the prize to the Council of Europe’s Secretary General Mr. Thorbjørn JAGLAND during a ceremony at the Royal Monastery of Yuste, Spain.

His Majesty the King of Spain presented the prize to the Council of Europe’s Secretary General Mr. Thorbjørn JAGLAND.

Highlights
Ceremony speeches by His Majesty the King of Spain, by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe Thorbjørn JAGLAND and by the President of the Autonomous Community of Extremadura and President of the Fundación Academia Europea e Iberoamericana de Yuste Mr. Guillermo FERNÁNDEZ VARA.

Also present at the event were, among other personalities, Mrs. Carmen CALVO, Vice President of the Government; Mrs. Rebeca GRYNSPAN, Ibero-American General Secretary and Yuste academic; Mrs. Ana PASTOR, President of the Congress of Deputies; and Mr. Marcelino OREJA, awardee of the Eleventh European Carlos V Award, Member of the Academy of Yuste and former Secretary General of the Council of Europe.

The ‘Yuste Olive tree for Peace’ was planted, it being a tree that symbolises peace and European values.

Ambassador Christian BIEVER (President of the European Institute of Cultural Routes), Mrs. Birgitta RINGBECK (Chair of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes) and His Majesty the King Felipe of Spain.
His Majesty the King of Spain presided the event, which was attended by many personalities of the cultural and political fields, as well as representatives from the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme.

«The Committee of Ministers reaffirms Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe as tools to promote a closer unity based on the values of the Council of Europe through better knowledge of European cultural heritage and the management of Cultural Routes by civil society»

«Declaration by the Committee of Ministers on the 30th anniversary of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe (1987-2017)»

RTVE, the Spanish public radio and television service, interviewed the Executive Secretary of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe and Director of the European Institute of Cultural Routes Mr. Stefano DOMINIONI on the occasion of the award and about the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme.

More information

Newsletter: Carlos V European Award
Interview of Mr. DOMINIONI by RTVE
1.2 - The Council of Europe nominated new Honorary Ambassador of the Santiago de Compostela Pilgrim Routes

On 24th October, the Council of the Galician Government (Xunta de Galicia) appointed the Council of Europe as the new Honorary Ambassador of the Santiago de Compostela Pilgrim Routes for its contribution to the knowledge of Saint James Way as well as the promotion and dissemination of Jacobean values.

On the occasion of the Santiago de Compostela Declaration, the Council of Europe certified the Santiago de Compostela Pilgrim Routes as the first Cultural Route of the Council of Europe in 1987. The appointment as Ambassador of the Santiago de Compostela Pilgrim Routes is an honorary and lifelong position recognising the work of natural and legal persons in favour of culture and values of the Camino de Santiago. The Council of Europe is the first organization to receive this distinction.

The Santiago de Compostela Pilgrim Routes, Cultural Route of the Council of Europe certified in 1987, feature a tangible heritage such as places of worship, hospitals, accommodation facilities, bridges, as well as non-tangible heritage in the form of myths, legends and songs along an endless number of branches to Santiago. Nowadays, these ancient pilgrim routes provide an intense human experience, creating a sense of fraternity amongst travellers and a strong bonding with the land.

1.3 - The European Institute of Cultural Routes received the “Black Sea-Danubian Social and Economic Innovator” trophy and diploma of excellence

On the occasion of the European Maritime Day celebrated in Romania on 31st May, the High-Level International Stakeholders Event: “Boosting transnational cooperation through the Black Sea - Danube Macro-Regional Hub” took place under the aegis of the European Commission - DG MARE.

Enjoying of the patronage provided by the European Commission and chaired by the Commission of European Affairs of the Romanian Parliament, and the participation of the representatives of the Romanian Government, the traditional Awarding Ceremony of the Trophies & Diplomas of Excellence “Black Sea -Danubian Social & Economic Innovator” took place.

The European Institute of Cultural Routes was selected to receive one of the trophies for its activity and for establishing a Resource Centre in Romania. The distinction was received by Mrs. Steliana COJOCARIU, representative of Romania to the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes.

Mrs. Steliana COJOCARIU, representative of Romania to the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes, received the award.
«The Cultural Routes, with the essential involvement of countless people and entities, are thus routes that enhance the archaeological, cultural and artistic heritage; as well as customs, religious and secular traditions, landscapes and cities, to show us that culture is the best way and the best place for encounter. [...] Let us continue building Europe from the knowledge and from the encounter»

*His Majesty the King of Spain Felipe VI*
Highlights

Ambras Castle, Innsbruck (Austria), Via Habsburg, Cultural Route of the Council of Europe since 2014
© JordanTan/Shutterstock
On 10th - 11th April, the Governing Board of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe (EPA) approved the certification of five new “Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe”: “Liberation Route Europe”, “European Route of Industrial Heritage”, “Le Corbusier Destinations : Architectural Promenades”, “Iron Curtain Trail” and “Routes of Reformation”, bringing the programme to 38 certified routes. The official Certification Ceremony of the new Cultural Routes was held during the 9th Annual Advisory Forum of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe on 2nd - 4th October in Sibiu, Romania.

Liberation Route Europe is a European cultural route, linking the main regions along the advance of the Western Allied Forces in the 1944-45 latter stages of World War II. The route crosses from southern England across the Channel to Normandy and northern France, through Belgium, the Netherlands and northern Germany to Berlin.

Countries involved:

The European Route of Industrial Heritage network uncovers the European dimension of industrialisation. More than 1,800 sites in 47 countries, more than 100 Anchor Points, 18 Regional Routes and 16 Theme Routes invite visitors to discover the variety of themes and stories that together make up European industrial heritage.

Countries involved:

Mrs. Birgitta RINGBECK (Chair, EPA Governing Board) and Mrs. Snežana SAMARDŽIĆ - MARKOVIĆ (Director General of Democracy, Council of Europe) awarded the “Cultural Route of the Council of Europe” certification to “Liberation Route Europe” representatives.

Mrs. Snežana SAMARDŽIĆ - MARKOVIĆ (Director General of Democracy, Council of Europe) and Mrs. Birgitta RINGBECK (Chair, EPA Governing Board) awarded the “Cultural Route of the Council of Europe” certification to “European Route of Industrial Heritage” representatives.
The Le Corbusier Destinations: Architectural Promenades route seeks to enhance Le Corbusier’s work and reputation across three continents and six countries. Admiration for Le Corbusier’s work is universal and his impact and influence on later building design and urban planning is acknowledged amongst architects and design historians worldwide. He was a true internationalist working freely across multiple borders.

Countries involved: 🇫🇷 🇫🇷 🇲ーズ 🇩🇪 🇨🇭

The Iron Curtain Trail is a cycling route that stretches from the Barents Sea to the Black Sea coast, covering over 10,400 kilometres in 20 countries, both EU (14) and non-EU (6) states. The trail seeks to commemorate the political division of Europe to West and East before 1989 and promotes collective memory, cycling tourism, cultural and heritage tourism, and sustainable development.

Countries involved: 🇷🇺 🇫🇷 🇪🇸 🇬🇷 🇬🇧 🇫🇮 🇫🇷 🇬🇧 🇫🇷 🇦🇹 🇪🇸 🇪🇸 🇵🇹 🇺🇦 🇷🇺 🇬🇷 🇬🇷 🇪🇸 🇨🇿 🇨🇿

The European Routes of Reformation represent the Reformation process as a European movement. The project aims to establish a European Cultural Route of Reformation by identifying, selecting and connecting existing Reformation-themed cultural heritage sites, objects, and non-material legacies around Central Europe.

Countries involved: 🇬🇧 🇫🇷 🇬🇧 🇪🇸 🇪🇸 🇫🇷 🇦🇹 🇵🇹 🇰🇷 🇰🇷

Mrs. Birgitta RINGBECK (Chair, EPA Governing Board) and Mrs. Snežana SAMARDŽIĆ - MARKOVIĆ (Director General of Democracy, Council of Europe) awarded the “Cultural Route of the Council of Europe” certification to “Le Corbusier Destinations: Architectural Promenades” representatives.

Mrs. Birgitta RINGBECK (Chair, EPA Governing Board) and Mrs. Snežana SAMARDŽIĆ - MARKOVIĆ (Director General of Democracy, Council of Europe) awarded the “Cultural Route of the Council of Europe” certification to “Iron Curtain Trail” representatives.

Mrs. Birgitta RINGBECK (Chair, EPA Governing Board) and Mrs. Snežana SAMARDŽIĆ - MARKOVIĆ (Director General of Democracy, Council of Europe) awarded the “Cultural Route of the Council of Europe” certification to “European Routes of Reformation” representatives.
The 9th Annual Advisory Forum on Cultural Routes (Sibiu, Romania)

3 days

+200 participants

+30 countries

+40 speakers

Mrs. Snežana SAMARDŽIĆ - MARKOVIĆ (Director General of Democracy, Council of Europe), speaks at the Opening session of the 9th Annual Advisory Forum. 

Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe Advisory Forum «Cultural Routes FOR Cultural Tourism»

The 9th Annual Advisory Forum was organised under the auspices of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes in co-operation with the Ministry of Tourism of Romania and with the support of the European Institute on Cultural Routes in Luxembourg.

This 9th edition was the occasion to discuss challenges and opportunities for the expansion of cultural tourism and the vital role that the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe can play in its wider development. Representatives of International Organisations (such as EU, UNESCO, UNWTO, ETC, BSEC), EPA member States and Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe focused on how to capitalise the potential for cultural tourism so to foster European heritage and traditions, as well as encourage innovation and creativity in the cultural sector in favour of the tourist experience from different perspectives.

Award Ceremony “Best Practices in Cultural Tourism along the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe 2018” for the European Route of Historic Thermal Towns.
Participants:
- 25 Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe.
- 15 cultural route projects.
- delegates from 20 member States of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes (EPA).
- high-level representatives from the Council of Europe, European Union, UNESCO, UNWTO, ICOMOS, BSEC, Ibero-American States Organization
- NGOs, local and regional authorities, academics and professionals in the cultural tourism sector.

Programme:
4 plenary sessions, main topics:
- Cultural Tourism – Opportunities and Trends: A Trans-national European Perspective.
- Cultural Tourism – Perspectives from EPA Member States and National Tourism Authorities.
- Cultural Tourism Practices and Destination Management – Perspectives from the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe.
- Developing Partnerships and Ideas for Cultural Tourism Development for Cultural Routes.

1 keynote speech
- Mrs. Marina DIOTALLEVI, Head of Ethics, Culture and Social Responsibility United Nations World Tourism Organization - UNTWO.

5 local flash presentations

Highlights
- Accession ceremony for member States who joined the EPA during 2019 (Latvia).
- 2018 Award for “Best Practices in Cultural Tourism along the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe”
- Meeting for Presidents and Managers of Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe
- EPA Bureau meeting and EPA Governing Board meeting
- Meeting for networks interested in the “Cultural Route of the Council of Europe” certification
- Presentation of the 2020 Annual Advisory Forum (Chania, GR)
- Adoption of the Sibiu Declaration
- Side events: visits to explore Sibiu, Slimnic, Valea Viilor, Biertan (RO).

More information

9th Cultural Routes Annual Advisory Forum
Sibiu Declaration
2019 Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe Training Academy “Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe: innovative approaches, challenges and opportunities for sustainable fundraising and youth involvement”.

Hosted by The Hansa, certified Cultural Route of the Council of Europe, the 8th Training Academy on Cultural Routes was held in Visby, Gotland (Sweden), organized in cooperation with Visit Gotland and the European Institute of Cultural Routes.

The training seminars explored innovative emerging trends and strategies for funding cultural routes activities and for youth involvement in cultural, educational, tourism and heritage projects, with a special focus on how Cultural Routes of the Council Europe can seize opportunities in these domains.

The academy was opened by Mr. Jan LINDENAU, President of The Hansa and Mayor of Lübeck; Mrs. Eva NYPELIUS, Mayor of Region Gotland; Mrs. Inger HARLEVI, manager of The Hansa and Mr. Christian BIEVER, President of the European Institute of Cultural Routes.

4 keynote speeches:
- Cultural routes and European funding schemes, by Mr. Eric PHILIPPART, Senior Expert, European Commission, DG for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs
- Promoting youth involvement in Cultural Routes activities: challenges and innovative educational and participative approaches, by Mrs. Sabine DETZEL, International Coordinator, Unit for UNESCO’s Associated Schools Network (ASPnet), Division for Inclusion, Peace and Sustainable Development
- European funding programmes: overview of project management methodology, application process and contractual aspects of implementation”, by Mrs. Leila ZEINALOVA, Head of Unit, Office of the Directorate General of Programmes, Council of Europe

- Routes4U - Fostering regional development through transnational cultural routes, heritage policies and practices in the EU Macro-regions. Opportunities for funding and youth involvement, by Mrs. Constanze METZGER, Senior Project Officer, Routes4U Joint Programme, EPA on Cultural Routes, Council of Europe

7 workshops:
1. Workshop for local and regional representatives of Cultural Routes. Discussion of possible membership in certified Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe.
2. Workshop for candidate Cultural Routes.
3. Workshop for candidate Cultural Routes crossing the Adriatic-Ionian, Alpine, Baltic Sea and Danube Macro-Regions - Routes4U Joint Programme.
4. Funding opportunities for Cultural Routes.
5. Fostering youth involvement in Cultural Routes activities.
6. Successful design of project applications for European funding programmes.

Highlights
More than 60 participants from 15 countries: 16 certified Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe, 14 candidate projects, representatives of the European Commission, (Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs), UNESCO (UNESCO Associated Schools Network), culture and tourism experts and professionals, among others.

- 3 international keynote speakers.
- 2 special sessions for candidate cultural routes on the certification cycle and criteria.
- General discussion between certified Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe and the EICR.
- Two Hanseatic City tours, and a guided tour by bus to parts of the islands where there are landmarks with a connection to different Cultural Routes.

8th Training Academy

Vademecum on Sources of Funding for the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe

Mrs. Inger HARLEVI, Manager of The Hansa, and Mr. Eladio FERNANDEZ-GALIANO (Special advisor to the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme) at the closing session of the 8th Training Academy on Cultural Routes.
2.4 - New member States of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes

1 new member State
3 observer States

During 2019 the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe expanded its membership, and currently features 33 member States.

On the 10th May 2019, Mr Edgars RINKĒVIČS, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia informed Mr Thorbjørn JAGLAND, Secretary General of the Council of Europe of the accession of Latvia to the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes.

During 2019, three new States became observers to the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes:
- Albania
- Ireland
- Sweden

Highlights

Accession Ceremony for the member States who joined the EPA during 2019.

Within the framework of the 9th Annual Advisory Forum of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe, Mrs. Snežana SAMARDŽIĆ-MARKOVIĆ, Director General of Democracy of the Council of Europe, handed over to the representative of Latvia, Mrs. Baiba MURNIECE, Head of Heritage Policy Division of the National Heritage Board of Latvia, the official letter formalizing the accession of Latvia to the EPA.

2.5 - Finnish Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe

The Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe passed from Croatia to Finland, at a meeting on 21st November 2018 at the Council of Europe headquarters, attended by representatives of its 47 member States.

In the framework of the Joint Programme Routes4U and the Finnish Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, a consultation on Cultural Routes in the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) took place the 26th and 27th March 2019 in Helsinki, Finland. Participants discussed how certified Cultural Routes could be strengthened and new projects developed - such as Maritime Heritage, Traces of Ice Age and Modern Movement - which were selected as priorities in the framework of Routes4U. As a result of the meeting, a Roadmap for Cultural Routes in EUSBSR was developed and published.
2.6 - **French Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe**

The Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe passed from Finland to France at a meeting on 16th and 17th May 2019 in Helsinki, Finland, attended by representatives of the Council of Europe's 47 member States.

In regard to the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe, an exhibition on the Cultural Routes was held at the Ministry of Culture of France from 17th June to 17th July, which presented 30 roll-ups of the Cultural Routes crossing France.

Organized by the Ministry of Culture and in close collaboration with the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes, the general public was welcomed to visit this exhibition in the lobby of the Bons Enfants building of the French Ministry of Culture.

2.7 - **Georgian Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe**

The Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe passed from France to Georgia at a meeting on 27th November 2019 attended by representatives of the Council of Europe's 47 member States.

- **Highlights**

  - On 5th - 6th December, a Training seminar on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe was held in Tbilisi, Georgia. The Seminar was organised by the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of Georgia, the National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation of Georgia and the European Institute of Cultural Routes (Technical Agency of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme).

  - Georgia will host the 11th Annual Advisory Forum on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe in Kutaisi in 2021.

  - In the framework of the Committee of Ministers Presidency, Georgia provided the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe with a financial contribution to host an exhibit on Cultural Routes crossing Georgia and a high-level event in the framework of the annual Governing Board meeting of the EPA to take place in Luxembourg on 1st - 3rd April 2020.

“The Presidency of Georgia shall support the Council of Europe’s efforts to promote cultural participation and the democratisation of culture, contribute to streamlining the cultural policies of the Council of Europe’s member States. The Presidency acknowledges the significance of culture and its relevance to consolidating democracy, and believes that culture genuinely yields a transformative power, capable of bringing social change and strengthening social cohesion.”

*Priorities of the Georgian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe*
Council of Europe
Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes (EPA)
### 33 EPA member States

<table>
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<th>Country</th>
<th>Year</th>
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<td>Andorra</td>
<td>2012</td>
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<td>Armenia</td>
<td>2015</td>
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<td>2011</td>
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<td>Azerbaijan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bosnia and Herzegovina</td>
<td>2016</td>
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### 3 Observer States

- EU, UNESCO, OECD, UNWTO

### Observers

- Albania
- Ireland
- Sweden
Since 2010
Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe (EPA)
Political body of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe Programme

14 founding member States in 2010
33 member States as of 1st January 2020
1 new member State in 2019
3 Observers as of 31st December 2019

- open to member and non-member States of the Council of Europe
- political and financial support to the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe Programme
- implementation of the Council of Europe policy guidelines
- Programme strategy
- award of the certification “Cultural Route of the Council of Europe”
- advice and expert assistance for the development, implementation and promotion of the Cultural Routes

- supports of networking and exchanges between Cultural Routes’ operators and other partners in the field of cultural tourism
- 2 statutory bodies:
  - Governing Board composed of representatives from Ministries of Culture and Tourism
  - Statutory Committee composed of Permanent Representatives to the Council of Europe
- Headquarters at the European Institute of Cultural Routes, Luxembourg

Meeting of the EPA Governing Board in Luxembourg, LU.
3.1 - Statutory bodies and staff

**EPA Governing Board Bureau**

- **Mrs. Birgitta RINGBECK**  
  Chair, Germany (Federal Foreign Office, Division for Multilateral Cultural and Media Policy, Council of Europe, EU, ASEM, ICCROM, German Commission for UNESCO)

- **Mr. Levan KHARATISHVILI**  
  Vice-chair, Georgia, (Deputy Minister, Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport)

- **Mrs. Steliana COJOCARIU**  
  Romania (Senior Counsellor, Ministry of Tourism of Romania)

- **Mr. Julien VUILLEUMIER**  
  Switzerland (Scientific Collaborator, Office Fédérale de la Culture, Culture et Société)

- **Mrs. Margarita LIOULIA**  
  Greece (Administrator, Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports)

**EPA Statutory Committee**

- **Ambassador Stephan MÜLLER**  
  Chair, Permanent representative of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg to the Council of Europe

**Secretariat**

- **Mr. Stefano DOMINIONI**  
  Executive Secretary

**Staff**

- **Mrs. Marie SAUTIN**  
  Executive Assistant

- **Mrs. Catherine HANNEQUART**  
  Project Support Assistant (January - May 2019)

- **Mr. Francesco BAU**  
  Project Support Assistant (November - December 2019)

**Trainees**

- **Mrs. Lina HERASUMCHUK**  
  University of Pavia, IT

- **Mrs. Teresa FINSTER**  
  Europa University Viadrina, Frankfurt, DE

- **Mrs. Annapia FERRARA**  
  Università degli Studi di Macerata, IT

- **Mrs. Cécile PEREZ-RAYNAUD**  
  Université Sorbonne Nouvelle, Paris, FR

- **Mrs. Mélanie CHILLON**  
  Université Libre de Bruxelles, BE

3.2 - Governing Board meetings and activities

**Meeting of the Bureau of the EPA Governing Board**


- Evaluation cycle 2018-19 and certification cycle.

- 9th Annual Advisory Forum of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe.

*Meeting of the EPA Governing Board in Luxembourg, LU.*
Meeting of the EPA Governing Board

- Evaluation cycle 2018-19

- election of Mrs. Birgitta RINGBECK as Chair of the Governing Board, Mr. Levan KHRATISHVILI as Vice-Chair of the EPA Governing Board, and election of Mrs. Margarita LIOULIA and Mr. Julien VUILLEUMIER as EPA Bureau Members

- presentations by the representatives of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe under evaluation

- audition of candidate projects for certification

- Annual Advisory Forum: follow up to the Görlitz declaration (2018), presentation of the IX Advisory Forum in Sibiu (Romania, 2019), and the X Annual Advisory Forum in Chania, Greece in 2020

- Cooperation with International Organisations: European Union, OECD.

Governing board statutory activities

- Assistance to EPA member States in identifying potential new cultural routes and existing routes where membership is relevant, dialogue with observer States.

- Assessment of applications for “Cultural Route of the Council of Europe” certification.

- Organisation and review of the regular 3-years evaluation of Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe.

- Organisation of the Annual Advisory Forum of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe in coordination with the EPA member State hosting the event.

- Cooperation with the European Union and other international organisations.

3.3 - Statutory Committee

Meeting of the EPA Statutory Committee of member States

- Budgetary management accounts 2018

- EPA budget 2020-2021

- updated programme of activities for 2019

- draft programme of activities for 2020
3.4 - Evaluations and certifications

Regular evaluation

The certified Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe are evaluated every 3 years, in order to assess their compliance with the certification criteria envisaged by the Committee of Ministers Resolution CM/Res(2013)67 revising the rules for the award of the “Cultural Route of the Council of Europe” certification.

Evaluation cycle 2018-2019 - completed
10 Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe were evaluated.
- Routes of the Olive Tree
- Roman Emperors and Danube Wine Route
- TRANSROMANICA – The Romanesque Routes of European Heritage
- In the Footsteps of Robert Louis Stevenson
- Viking Routes
- European Route of Jewish Heritage
- Cluniac Sites in Europe
- Via Regia
- Destination Napoleon
- European Routes of Emperor Charles V

Evaluation cycle 2018-2019 – underway
8 Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe – under evaluation:
- Santiago de Compostela Pilgrim Routes
- The Hansa
- Via Francigena
- Routes of El Legado Andalusi
- Pyrenean Iron Route
- Iter Vitis Route
- European Route of Ceramics
- Fortified towns of the Grande Région

Evaluation of candidates

Every year projects apply to request the certification “Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe”. Projects are assessed with reference to CM/Res(2013)67.

2018-2019 Certification cycle - completed
Eight cultural route projects submitted an application to the “Cultural Route of the Council of Europe” certification.
- Heloise, European pedagogues Route
- Le Corbusier Destinations: Architectural Promenades
- Iron Curtain Trail
- Routes of Reformation
- Liberation Route Europe
- Cyril and Methodius Route
- European Route of Industrial Heritage
- Places of Peace

The EPA Governing Board decided to award the “Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe” certification to five candidates:
- Le Corbusier Destinations: Architectural Promenades
- Iron Curtain Trail
- Routes of Reformation
- Liberation Route Europe
- European Route of Industrial Heritage

2019-2020 Evaluation Cycle – underway
- Via Romea Germanica
- European Network of Historic Gardens
- Nikola Tesla Network
Cooperation with International Organisations

Council of Europe

The EPA cooperates steadily with other entities, bodies and institutions of the Council of Europe, to strengthen the institutional support to the Cultural Routes programme.

- Presentation of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe Programme by Alfredas JOMANTAS, Head of the Heritage Registry, Public Relations and Education Division of the Department of Cultural Heritage under the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania, at the Steering Committee for Culture, Heritage and Landscape (CDPP), 13th June, Strasbourg, FR.

- Presentation of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe Programme at the meeting of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers’ Rapporteur Group on Education, Culture, Sport, Youth and Environment (GR-C). Mrs. Birgitta RINGBECK (Germany), Chair of the Governing Board of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe (EPA) presented the Programme accompanied by Mr. Stefano DOMINIONI, Executive Secretary of the EPA on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe and Director of the European Institute of Cultural Routes, 8th October, Strasbourg, FR.

- Presentation of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe Programme by Mr. Levan KHRATISHVILI (Georgia), Vice-Chair of the Governing Board of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe (EPA), at the 37th session of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, Chamber of the Regions, 30th October, Strasbourg, FR.

The EPA liaises with various international organisations, in order to support the development of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe, to protect and enhance European cultural heritage and to promote sustainable cultural tourism through the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe.

The Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes underlines “the importance of Cultural Routes as tangible illustrations, through European trans-border itineraries, of the pluralism and diversity of European culture based on shared values, and as means for intercultural dialogue and understanding” Resolution CM/Res(2013)66 confirming the establishment of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes (EPA), 2013

More information

Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe
Resources
European Union

- Cooperation with the European Union External Action Service (EEAS): the EEAS participates in the Governing Board meetings of the EPA as an Observer as of 1st January 2019.

- Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe Exhibition in China

On 17th August, an exhibition showcasing the 38 Cultural Routes certified by the Council of Europe opened at Changchun Library, in Changchun (Jilin Province), People’s Republic of China. Titled “An Encounter on a Journey across Time and Space – Cultural Routes of Europe Exhibition”, the exhibition lasted a week and visited three Chinese cities rich on cultural heritage and related to the concept of “route”: Changchun, along the “Chinese Eastern Railway”, Xi’an, starting point of the Ancient Silk Road, and Beijing, China’s capital and destination of the Chinese Grand Canal.

The next stages of the exhibition took place from 21st to 29th December 2019 in Xi’an, and from 11th to 19th January 2020 in Beijing.

European Commission

- Council of Europe – European Commission Grant Agreement: “ROUTES4U” joint programme (see chapter n°7)

United Nations World Tourism Organisation

Follow-up of the Memorandum of Cooperation, signed in 2016 between the UNWTO and the Council of Europe: cooperation on the Phoenicians’ Route. Promotion of the Phoenicians’ Cultural Tourism Programme, contributing to the development of a new model of sustainable and inclusive tourism, in order to provide a more authentic, community-based experience along 3 Cultural Route Tourism Itineraries

The EPA attends the 64th meeting of the UNWTO Committee for Europe

The sixty-fourth meeting of the World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) Commission for Europe (CEU) was held from 27th to 30th May 2019 in Zagreb, Croatia, and has brought together representatives from more than 40 countries who were welcomed by the Secretary-General of the UNWTO, Mr. Zurab POLOLIKASHVILI and Mr. Andrej PLENKOVIC, Prime Minister of the Republic of Croatia. The Executive Secretary of the EPA on Cultural Routes and Director of European Institut of Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe, Mr. Stefano DOMINIONI, attended the meeting.

“The European Parliament calls on the Commission and the EEAS to strengthen cooperation with the EPA on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe, an institutional tool for strengthening grassroots cultural relations also with third countries, with a view to promoting the fundamental values of cultural diversity, intercultural dialogue and sustainable territorial development of less well-known cultural destinations, while preserving their shared cultural heritage.”

Towards an EU strategy for international cultural relations
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe highlighted in the UNWTO/UNESCO 4th World Conference Declaration on Tourism and Culture

On 12th-13th December, the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) 4th Conference on Culture and Tourism: Investing in future generations took place in Kyoto, Japan.

The World Conference is a major event jointly organized by UNWTO and UNESCO bringing together Ministers, high-level representatives, public and private sector stakeholders and NGOs from across the world to discuss the key issues at the forefront of tourism and culture. The 2019 World Conference focused on cultural transmission, community and capacity building in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGS) and the UNWTO Global Code of Ethics for Tourism.

Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe present at International Conference on ‘Culture 2030 | Rural-Urban Development: The Future of Historic Villages and Towns’ in China

From 10th to 12th June, the International Conference “Culture 2030 | Rural-Urban Development: The Future of Historic Villages and Towns” was held in Meishan, Republic of China.

The conference programme reflected the shared objective of UNESCO and the People’s Republic of China to promote the role of culture for sustainable development, focusing particularly on small settlements. In line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and building on China’s National Rural Revitalization Strategic Plan adopted in 2018, the conference aimed to explore innovative approaches to sustainable local development using culture as a lever.

Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC)

On 26th November, the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme was presented at the Joint Meeting of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) Working Groups on Culture and on Cooperation in Tourism at the BSEC Headquarters in Istanbul, Turkey by Mr. Stefano DOMINIONI, Executive Secretary of the EPA and Director of the European Institute of Cultural Routes. The meeting was the opportunity for the EPA Secretariat to discuss with the BSEC PERMIS Secretary General, Ambassador Mr. Michael B. CHRISTIDES, future cooperation and a possible Regional Cultural Route Mapping Document for the Black Sea Region fostering Cultural Routes development among BSEC member States.

“Cultural Routes are testimony to the very close historical and cultural ties that bind us as Europeans. We are an authentic cultural community that goes beyond national borders.”

Mr. Francisco MILLÁN MON
Member of the European Parliament, 2019

More information

UNWTO/UNESCO 4th World Conference Declaration on Tourism and Culture
The EPA promotes a greater awareness of the links between cultures in Europe and beyond, between heritage, cultural and sustainable tourism and development. This contributes to the communication and dissemination strategy of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe Programme.

**Activities in EPA member states**

- **2nd March, Lucca, IT**
  MeetTourism Lucca
  European Parliament, Federturismo Confindustria, Federculture, Tuscany Region, the City of Lucca, the University of Pisa

- **7th March, Fatima, PT**
  Experiences, Places and Networks of Religious Tourism and Pilgrimage in Europe

- **26th - 27th March, Helsinki, FI**
  Consultation on Cultural Routes in the Baltic Sea Region
  Finnish Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers

- **10th - 11th April, Luxembourg, LU**
  Presentation of the first country mapping of Georgia

- **6th - 7th May, Tbilisi, GE**
  “Connecting Cultures – Shaping a creative future for Georgia and Europe” Forum
  Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia

**Activities along the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe**

- **6th - 10th May, Zagreb, HR**
  Presentation at the “Sense and Sustainability” - International Conference on Archaeology and Tourism
  Archaeological Museum in Zagreb and the European Association of Archaeologists

- **17th May, Pedras Salgadas, PT**
  Participation in the ceremony of establishment of the Portuguese Federation of St James Way

- **16th June, Assisi, IT**
  Slow Way Festival e BTRI – Borsa Turismo Religioso Internazionale
  Rete Assisi Turismo+

**Activities in other Council or Europe member States**

- **17th June - 17th July, Paris, FR**
  Exhibition on the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe at the Ministry of Culture
  Ministry of Culture of France

- **28th June, Luxembourg, LU**
  Meeting with the Deputy Permanent Representative of Austria to the Council of Europe

- **4th July, Istanbul, TR**
  Coordination meeting with the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Turkey
  Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Turkey

- **23rd August, Bern, CH**
  Coordination meeting with national managers of the Cultural Routes
  Federal Office of Culture of Switzerland
23rd – 24th August, Lugano, CH
Middle East Mediterranean Summer Summit Forum 2019
Università della Svizzera Italiana

7th – 8th October, Vilnius, LT
Conference and Workshops on «The Concept of Development of Cultural Routes in Lithuania»

17th October, Strasbourg, FR
General Assembly of the European Heritage Days
National Coordinators

22nd November, Strasbourg, FR
Cycle of High Studies on Culture (CHEC)
Ministry of Culture of France

Participation in activities along the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe

9th-12th January, Beirut, LB
Participation in the XII Euro Mediterranean Intercultural Dialogue on the Phoenicians’ Route

1st – 2nd February, Monteriggioni, IT
Participation in the VI Forum “Comuni in cammino. Via Francigena: Cammini-Europa”

14th March, Vila Nova de Foz Côa, PT
The EPA Executive Secretary awards the “European Rock Art Heritage label” to the Côa Archaeological Park and Museum

19th March, Paris, FR
Certification ceremony of the Impressionisms Routes

24th May, Turku, FI
Extension of the certified Cultural Route St. Olav Ways

16th October, Leipzig, DE
Participation in the 3rd International Congress “Via Regia – Cultural Route of the Council of Europe”

17th October, Berlin, DE
Certification ceremony of the European Route of Industrial Heritage

4th November, Paris, FR
Certification ceremony of Le Corbusier Destinations: Architectural Promenades

29th November, Tarragona, ES
Presentation at the Ancient Olive Trees Congress

3rd – 5th December, Schleswig-Holstein, DE
Participation in the International Conference “Leave no stone unturned! Megaliths in conference”, annual highlight of the European Route of Megalithic Culture

19th - 20th September, Minsk, BY
Programme presentation during the Conference on Council of Europe treaties and instruments
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus and the Council of Europe.
Council of Europe Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes (EPA)

3.7 - EPA representatives

Andorra - 2012
Ministry of Culture
cultura@govern.ad
www.cultura.ad

France - 2011
Ministry of Culture
contact (see website)
www.culture.gouv.fr

Armenia - 2015
Ministry of Culture
info@mincult.am
www.mincult.am

Georgia - 2016
Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport
mc@culture.gov.ge
www.mcs.gov.ge

Austria - 2011
Austrian Federal Chancellery, Division II:
Arts and Culture
ii@bka.gv.at
www.kunstkultur.bka.gv.at

Germany - 2013
Federal Foreign Office
www.auswaertiges-amt.de/de/kontakt
www.auswaertiges-amt.de

Azerbaijan - 2011
Ministry of Culture and Tourism
mct@mct.gov.az
www.mct.gov.az

Greece - 2011
Ministry of Culture and Sport
ddsee@culture.gr
www.culture.gr/en/ministry

Bosnia and Herzegovina - 2016
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
info_mvpbih@mvp.gov.ba
www.mvp.gov.ba

Holy See - 2018
Ufficio: Palazzo San Callisto
00120 Vatican City

Bulgaria - 2011
Ministry of Culture
press@mc.government.bg
www.mc.government.bg

Hungary - 2013
Ministry of Human Capacities
miniszter@emmi.gov.hu
www.kormany.hu

Croatia - 2016
Ministry of Culture
kabinet@min-kulture.hr
www.min-kulture.hr

Italy - 2011
Ministry of Cultural Heritage
and Activities and Tourism
contact (see website)
www.beniculturali.it

Cyprus - 2011
Ministry of Education, Culture, Sport and Youth
moec@moec.gov.cy
www.moec.gov.cy

Latvia - 2019
Ministry of Culture
contact (see website)
www.km.gov.lv

Finland - 2018
Ministry of Education and Culture
kirjaamo@minedu.fi
www.minedu.fi

Lithuania - 2012
Ministry of Culture
centras@kpd.lt
www.kpd.lt
Luxembourg - 2011
Ministry of Culture
info@mc.public.lu
www.gouvernement.lu/mc

Monaco - 2013
Directorate of Cultural Affairs
www.gouv.mc/Gouvernement-et-Institutions/
Le-Gouvernement/Departement-de-l-Interieur/
Direction-des-Affaires-Culturelles

Montenegro - 2011
Ministry of Culture
www.mku.gov.me/en/contact
www.mku.gov.me/en/ministry

Norway - 2011
Arts Council Norway
post@kulturradet.no
www.kulturradet.no

Poland - 2017
Ministry of Culture and National Heritage
rzecznik@mkidn.gov.pl
www.mkidn.gov.pl

Portugal - 2011
Ministry of Culture General Directorate
of Cultural Heritage
dgpc@dgpc.pt
www.patrimoniocultural.gov.pt

Romania - 2013
Ministry of Culture and National Identity,
Department of International Relations and European
Affairs
comunicare@cultura.ro
http://www.cultura.ro

Russian Federation - 2011
Ministry of Culture
contact (see website)
www.mkrf.ru

San Marino - 2017
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
segreteria.affariesteri@gov.sm
www.esteri.sm

Serbia - 2012
Ministry of Culture and Information
contact (see website)
www.kultura.gov.rs

Slovak Republic - 2014
Ministry of Culture
mksr@culture.gov.sk
www.culture.gov.sk

Slovenia - 2011
Ministry of Culture
gp.mk@gov.si
www.mk.gov.si

Spain - 2011
Ministry of Culture and Sports - General Directorate
of Fine Arts
contact (see website)
www.mecd.gob.es

Switzerland - 2013
Federal Office of Culture
info@bak.admin.ch
www.bak.admin.ch

Turkey - 2018
Ministry of Culture and Tourism
Contact (see website)
www.kulturturizm.gov.tr

More information
Council of Europe Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes: member States’ activities
The Enlarged Partial Agreement contributes to the promotion of European identity and citizenship through knowledge and awareness of Europe’s common heritage, and the development of cultural links and dialogue within Europe as well as with other countries and regions.

Throughout 2019, EPA member States organised several national activities for the promotion of cultural routes in their territories, seeking to reinforce routes’ potential for cultural co-operation, sustainable territorial development and social cohesion.

### Activities implemented by EPA member States

#### Austria - Member since 2011

14th - 15th October, Vienna, AT

**Routes4U Meeting on Cultural Routes in the Danube Region and in the Adriatic and Ionian Region**

The meeting was the opportunity for participants to discuss themes for new Cultural Routes in the Adriatic and Ionian Region and in the Danube Region, that were selected as priorities of the Joint Programme Routes4U. Stakeholders learned more about the promotion and brand exercise of Routes4U, and more specifically its implementation through a Cultural Routes Card as well as the production of a macro-regional brand for the Cultural Routes.

#### Bosnia and Herzegovina - Member since 2016

Throughout 2019

**Work with EUSAIR and EUSDR**

The Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina actively participates in the work of EUSAIR (EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region) as well as in the work and activities of EUSDR (EU Strategy for the Danube Region).

**Collaboration with Association Haggadah**

Association Haggadah, established to preserve and promote Jewish culture and tradition in Bosnia and Herzegovina, made a significant cooperation such as signing agreements with different municipalities and institutions, holding conferences and preparing exhibitions.

#### Cyprus - Member since 2010

Throughout 2019

**Promotion of tourism packages**

The Ministry of Tourism prepared and promoted common packages targeted at potential tourists from distant destinations, such as the USA, Canada, China, India and Japan. These packages are based on Cultural Routes developed by the Cypriot authorities in recent years, and also on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe which pass through Cyprus.

**Development of wine routes**

Recent years have witnessed the development of seven wine routes, and as one of the most ancient wine producing countries, Cyprus could be included in the Iter Vitis Cultural Route of the Cultural Routes Programme of the Council of Europe.
November 2018 - May 2019
Finland - Member since 2018

Finnish Presidency of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers
A consultation meeting on Cultural Routes in the Baltic Sea Region was organised in March by Joint Programme Routes4U and the Ministry of Education and Culture in Helsinki. This consultation was the opportunity to discuss important themes for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) such as Modern Architecture, Maritime Heritage and Traces of the Ice Age that were selected as Routes4U-priorities for the development of new Cultural Routes.

27th May, Turku, FI
Seminar of the St. Olav Ways in Turku and Savonlinna
The newest addition to the Cultural Route of St. Olav Ways, St Olav Waterway, opened in May 2019 in Turku, Finland. St. Olav Waterway opens the possibility for further cultural route extension within Finland, towards Savonlinna. In order to expand the route in the future St. Olav's Mainland Way two separate projects were carried out in 2019 by the University of Turku and the Savonlinna Development Services Ltd.

August, Sodankylä, FI
Meeting on the Iron Curtain Trail in Sodankylä
A meeting on the Iron Curtain Trail cooperation was organised in August 2019 in Sodankylä, Finland by the Ministry of Education and Culture and the Municipality of Sodankylä. The meeting discussed the possibilities for developing the Finnish part of this new Cultural Route of the Council of Europe.

22nd November, Mikkeli, FI
The Prehistoric Rock Art Trails seminar in Mikkeli
The rock paintings of Astuvansalmi in Mikkeli, Finland is one of the largest prehistoric rock painting sites in the Nordic countries. Astuvansalmi was accepted as a member of the Cultural Route of Prehistoric Rock Art Trails.

France - Member since 2011

Throughout 2019
Presentation of cultural routes
In order to make the cultural routes program and the French routes better known, the Ministry of Culture has published a presentation sheet which is widely distributed.

17th June - 17th July, Paris, FR
Exhibition on cultural routes
Exhibition carried by the Ministry of Culture and organized within the framework of the French Presidency of the Council of Europe, in partnership with the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes the ministry organized an exhibition which marks the 70 years of the Council of the Europe and the 60 years of the Ministry of Culture.

2019
Article for Air France
As part of its partnership with Air France, the Ministry of Culture publishes an article every month dedicated to a cultural subject. The article was devoted to the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe.

Throughout 2019
E-heritage
An online course in tangible and intangible heritage featured in 2019 a module on the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe.
Georgia - Member since 2016

May 2019

Georgian Airways Magazine promotes the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe

The May 2019 edition of Georgian Airways in-flight Magazine dedicated an article to the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe Programme. The article, entitled ‘Cultural Routes of Georgia’ highlighted the role of Cultural Routes to discover the rich and diverse heritage of Europe as well as the contribution of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe Program to the appreciation of shared European heritage and values.

6th - 7th May, Tbilisi, GE

Forum “Connecting cultures-shaping a creative future for Georgia and Europe”

The Forum was an initiative of the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia. The Executive Secretary of the EPA on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe Mr. Stefano DOMINIONI was invited to give a speech within the framework of the Forum to highlight the importance role of Georgia in the Cultural Routes’ programme.

5th - 6th December, Tbilisi, GE

Tbilisi Training on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe

The Training provided an overview of the main characteristics of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme, serving as an essential reference for managers, developers, stakeholders and representatives of member States.

Germany - Member since 2013

6th - 10th March, Berlin, DE

ITB Berlin

A stand dedicated to the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe crossing Germany was presented at ITB Berlin, the world’s biggest tourism trade fair. The initiative, aiming at promoting the 17 Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe active in Germany, was supported by the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs, founding member State of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe.

Greece - Member since 2011

19th - 20th November, Corfu, GR

Conference «Sustainable Cultural and Tourism Development: Cultural Routes»

The Conference was part of the Greece-Italy cooperation project POLYSEMI, co-funded by the European Union. In the framework of the Conference, a workshop was also organized, aiming to familiarize participants with the use of web tools for the creation of digital routes.

Italy - Member since 2011

26th November, Florence, IT

European Heritage Label Day

The Italian Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities organised a day to promote the European Heritage Label action in the national territory, encouraging operators to submit applications and network within the framework of the Label action.

Lithuania - Member since 2012

7th - 8th October and 14th November, Kaunas and Vilnius, LT

Conference and Workshops on «The Concept of Development of Cultural Routes in Lithuania»

The Ministry of Culture of Lithuania together with Norwegian Authorities organised a conference followed by a workshop dedicated to exchanging experiences on exploring the social-economic potential of Cultural Routes within the context of cultural tourism. A second workshop took place in Vilnius and focused on practical skills for developers of Cultural Routes and stakeholders in the field of cultural heritage interpretation and communication, networking and...
product development. During the conference and workshops, representatives of the Route of Saint Olav Ways, the Hansa and the Viking Routes, Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe, offered their expertise and presented good practices in the aforementioned fields.

Portugal - Member since 2011

April, Lisbon, PT
Meeting of Portuguese partners
The Directorate General for Cultural Heritage of the Ministry of Culture of Portugal promoted the first national meeting of Portuguese partners of the Cultural Routes passing through Portugal. The meeting was attended by 20 representatives of the Cultural Routes in Portugal.

Romania - Member since 2013

2nd - 4th October, Sibiu, RO
9th Annual Advisory Forum on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe
The 2019 Forum was the occasion to discuss challenges and opportunities for the expansion of cultural tourism and the vital role that the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe can play in its wider development. Representatives of International Organisations, EPA member States and Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe focused on how to capitalise the potential for cultural tourism so to foster European heritage and traditions, as well as encourage innovation and creativity in the cultural sector.

Switzerland - Member since 2013

23rd August, Bern, CH
Coordination meeting with national managers of the Cultural Routes
A coordination meeting with the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe crossing Switzerland took place at the Swiss Federal Office of Culture in Bern. Cultural managers and representatives from 8 Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe presented their networks, and discussed challenges and expectations of their projects.

25th - 26th November, Aarau, CH
Routes4U meeting on Cultural Routes Aarau
The Routes4U meeting on Cultural Routes projects in the Alpine and Baltic Sea Region was held in Aarau. The discussion focused on Via Alpina, the mountain heritage, as well as Alvar Aalto modern architecture destinations.

Turkey - Member since 2018

Will be presented in April 2020
Country mapping
The preparation of a «Country mapping» document for Turkey was launched at their request. The General Directorate of Promotion of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism worked with an independent cultural heritage expert to clarify existing and potential cultural routes of Turkey, provide an analysis concerning the country's potential in developing Cultural Routes, and recommendations for all sectors.

4th July, Istanbul, TR
Meeting on Cultural Routes with the Tourism Sector
The Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Turkey co-organized a meeting with the Turkish Cultural Routes Society in Istanbul, to inform the Turkish tourism sector about Turkey's membership of the Enlarged Partial Agreement and the Cultural Routes programme of the Council of Europe, discuss opportunities with regard to developing cultural routes.

26th November, Istanbul, TR
Joint meeting of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) working groups on culture and cooperation in tourism
The Joint Meeting of the BSEC Working Groups on Culture and on Cooperation in Tourism was held on 26th November. Representatives of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Turkey informed the BSEC Member States about Turkey's position and activities within the Enlarged Partial Agreement of the Council of Europe and ongoing endeavours with respect to the country mapping of Turkey.
European Institute of Cultural Routes (EICR) Luxembourg
Since 1998
European Institute of Cultural Routes (EICR). Technical agency of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe Programme

- Support to the EPA Secretariat in the coordination of evaluation and certification cycle of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe and of the candidate projects.
- Advice to the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe and to candidate projects.
- Training for the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe.
- Promotion and visibility.
- Support to the Training Academy and Annual Advisory Forum.
- Cooperation with universities and research centres.
- Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe Programme documentary resources archive.
- Located in the Abbey of Neumünster (Luxembourg).
- Seat of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe.
- Funded by the Ministry of Culture of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.

5.1 - EICR Statutory bodies and staff

Members of the EICR Board of Directors

Government of the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg
- Mrs. Colette FLESCH, Honorary President

- Ambassador Christian BIEVER, President, Director of Consular Affairs and of International Cultural Relations of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs
- Mrs. Barbara ZECHES, Vice-president, European and International Affairs Counsellor to the Ministry of Culture and representative of the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg to the Governing Board of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes (Council of Europe)
- Mrs. Danièle KOHN-STOFFELS, Member, Counsellor of Government 1st Class, Ministry of Culture
- Mr. Robert L. PHILIPPART, Member, representative of the Ministry of Culture of Luxembourg
- Mr. Claude HALSDORF, Member, Head of the joint office, Ministry of Economy, Directorate General of Tourism
5.2 - Statutory meetings

At the occasion of the General Assembly and Board of Directors meetings that took place in 2019, issues regarding procedures, major events and visibility were discussed, in order to pursue the EICR mission of ensuring continuity and implementation of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe Programme.

23rd February
General Assembly and meeting of the Board of Directors. Luxembourg

16th July
Meeting of the Board of Directors. Luxembourg

10th October
Meeting of the Board of Directors. Luxembourg
5.3 Support to the EPA Secretariat in the coordination of the Cultural Routes evaluation cycles

The EICR supports the EPA Secretariat in the coordination of the evaluation cycle of certified Cultural Routes and the certification of candidate projects by the Governing Board of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe. The evaluation and the certification follow the same schedule, starting in July and ending in May of the following year, as outlined below. During 2019, the 2018-2019 cycle was completed and the 2019-2020 cycle started.

2018-2019 certification cycle

**February**

1. Submission of the report by the independent expert. 2. Examination of the evaluation report by the EPA Secretariat with the support of the EICR and recommendations to the EPA Bureau. 3. Examination of the reports during the EPA Bureau; experts audition during the EPA Bureau meeting. 4. Recommendation of the Bureau to the EPA Governing Board.

**March**

Communication to the candidate projects / Cultural Route’s managers of the conclusions of the EPA Bureau meeting. Invitation to applicants and certified Cultural Routes to present at the EPA Governing Board meeting (April).

**April**

Examination by the EPA Governing Board of the evaluation reports and recommendations by the EPA Bureau. Audition of invited candidate projects managers / Cultural Routes managers at the Governing Board meeting and decision concerning the certification by the Governing Board.

**May**

Notification letter by the EPA Executive Secretary to the candidates / Cultural Routes under evaluation concerning the results of their application for certification / evaluation of their network as “Cultural Route of the Council of Europe.”

**From November 2018 to January 2019**

Independent expert review of the applications by certified and candidate routes, contacts with projects’ managers / Cultural Route’s manager, expert field visits, meeting with candidate projects managers / Cultural Routes managers. Preparation of the evaluation report.
“The “Cultural Route of the Council of Europe” certification promotes a bottom up approach: it is awarded to networks supporting culture, promoting citizens involvement and raising awareness, fostering collaboration among stakeholders and institutions”

Mr. Matjiaz GRUDEN,
Director of Democratic Participation, Council of Europe.

2019-2020 evaluation cycle

July
Call for application for certification posted on the EPA website.
Notification letter by the EPA Executive Secretary to the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe under regular evaluation, launching the annual evaluation cycle.

16th & 30th September
Deadlines for submission of the application forms and evaluation files to the EPA by the candidate projects and Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe.

October
Analysis by the EPA Secretariat with the support of the EICR of the documentation submitted by the candidate projects / Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe. Selection by the EPA secretariat of independent experts in charge of drafting the evaluation reports.

From November to December 2019
Independent expert review: contact with candidate projects’ managers / Cultural Route’s of the Council of Europe managers, field visit, meeting with the candidate projects’ managers / Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe manager. Preparation of the evaluation report.

More information

Certification Cycle
Europe Day celebration in Luxembourg

On the occasion of the 2019 edition of the Europe Day, which commemorates the Robert Schuman Declaration of 9th May 1950 - considered as the founding speech of the European Union-, a celebration was organized at the “Place d’Armes” in the city centre of Luxembourg.

For the second year in a row, the European Institute of Cultural Routes held an information booth in the cluster dedicated to European institutions. This event allowed the general public to discover the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe Programme as well as various activities carried out by the European Institute of Cultural Routes. A wide variety of brochures and communication materials were distributed throughout the day.

Highlights

Participants
- European Institutions (Eurostat, Court of Justice of the European Union, European Investment Bank, etc.)
- Representatives from 29 EU countries
- EU projects (ERASMUS+, Euraxess, 2018 European Year of Cultural Heritage, etc.)
- European institutions based in Luxembourg

Activities
Information stands, concerts, youth symposium, artistic workshops, exhibitions

Advisory meetings with Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe

29th April, EICR, Luxembourg, LU
Meeting with representatives of ATRIUM
The EPA Secretariat and EICR staff met with Mrs. Elisa GIOVANNETTI and Mrs. Claudia CASTELLUCI, representatives of “ATRIUM - Architecture of Totalitarian Regimes in Europe’s Urban Memory”, to discuss about the governance of the network, the General Assembly in Uble, Croatia and the upcoming events such as the Cultural Routes Training Academy in Sweden and the Annual Advisory Forum in Sibiu, Romania.

29th June, Luxembourg, LU
Meeting with the President of the European Route of Jewish Heritage, Mr. François MOYSE.

18th July, Luxembourg, LU
Mondorf-les-Bains meets the European Route of Historic Thermal Towns
Representatives of the European Historic Thermal Towns Association (EHTTA) met the staff of the administration of Mondorf-les-Bains (Luxemburg) to present the European Route of Historic Thermal Towns Cultural Route. Mrs. Simone ZAGRODNIK, representative of EHTTA, Mr. Pierre PLUMER, Director of Mondorf Domaine Thermal, Mr. Claude SHOMMER and Mrs. Nathalie HIPPERT, representatives of Mondorf-les-bains Municipality, attended the meeting.

11th October, EICR, Luxembourg, LU
Meeting with the representatives of the Iter Vitis Route and the Moselle Region
The EPA Secretariat and EICR staff met with representatives of the Moselle Region Tourism Direction and of the Iter Vitis Route to discuss possible
synergies between the two parties and the possible future inclusion of the Luxembourg Moselle Region to the Iter Vitis Route.

**Advisory meetings with candidate cultural routes and projects**

17th April, EICR, Luxembourg, LU

**Romea Strata**

This candidate project aims to rediscover the faith and culture of the ancient pilgrimage routes that meet in Emilia Romagna from the border of north-eastern Italy to reach the Via Francigena and continue towards Rome.

3rd May, EICR, Luxembourg, LU

**Danube Route of Emperors and Kings**

This candidate project follows the course of the Danube from the medieval city of Regensburg through Passau, Linz and Vienna and onto Bratislava and Budapest.

18th July, EICR, Luxembourg, LU

**European Route of d’Artagnan**

The European Route d’Artagnan is a linear European route that connects the birthplace to the place of death of the famous musketeer d’Artagnan.

27th August, EICR, Luxembourg, LU

**Via Romea Germanica**

The Via Romea Germanica European Route is an international pilgrimage route, which today is a bridge between the North and the South of Europe.

28th August, EICR, Luxembourg, LU

**Via Memoria Mauthausen**

Network project aiming at linking the many routes, witnessing the deportation of Nazi victims. The aim is to transmit the testimony of the deportees, in an active and educational way to the greater public.

28th August, EICR, Luxembourg, LU

**Via Claudia Augusta**

The Via Claudia Augusta is a symbolic route that spans three nations, each with its own diverse landscape and traditions, artistic treasures and culinary specialities.

3rd September, EICR, Luxembourg, LU

**Forte Cultura**

A cultural route project that links fortresses and fortified regions, cities and monuments from the middle age to the 20th century.

4th September, EICR, Luxembourg, LU

**Nikola Tesla Network**

The Nikola Tesla Network explores many places where this genius spent time in and in which he achieved many of his important creations.

6th September, Videoconference

**European Network of Historic Gardens**

Historic Gardens are highly valued by the public and hold an important cultural and natural heritage.

26th September, EICR, Luxembourg, LU

**Chemin des Espagnols**

The “Chemin des Espagnols” is a historical route that connects Milan and Brussels used by the Spanish army during the 16th and 17th centuries.

28th October, EICR, Luxembourg, LU

**Historic Passages and Galleries in Europe**

The project «Historic Passages and Galleries in Europe» currently involves historical galleries, primarily from the 18th and 19th centuries.
19th November, EICR, Luxembourg, LU

**State Studs (Horses and Heritage)**

The State Studs (Horses and heritage) route draws attention to the history of breeding facilities of different horses.

21st November, EICR, Luxembourg, LU

**Shrines of Europe**

This route connects Europe’s main Marian pilgrimage sites. All these places have one thing in common: they provide spiritual consolation and new strength for life.

**Other activities**

17th January, Visby, SE

2019 Cultural Routes Training Academy: preparation meeting in Sweden

15th March, Luxembourg, LU

Meeting with the representatives of the Grand Est Regional Directorate of Cultural Affairs of the French Ministry of Culture

27th - 28th March, Mainz, DE

Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe presented during the Forte Cultura Meeting in Mainz (videoconference)

17th April, Treviso, IT

Presentation during the General Assembly of the Venetian Cultural Route

22nd - 24th April, Las Palmas, ES

Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme presented at the 7th meeting of the Unesco World Heritage candidature on “Risco Caído and the Sacred Spaces of the Gran Canaria Mountain”

25th June, Aquileia, IT

Presentation of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme at the General Assembly of the European Association of Romea Strata

2nd - 6th September, Galicia, ES

Presentation at the International Landscape Workshop: “In the Footsteps of the Winter Route in the Landscapes of the Ribeira Sacra”, organised by the Galician School of Landscape and the Foundation Juana de Vega

19th - 20th September, Sintra, PT

Presentation at the II Forum on Historic Gardens

25th September, Santiago de Compostela, ES

Presentation at the “Cycling and Cultural Tourism, the Perfect Match” conference, organized by St. James’s Pilgrims Museum and Junta de Galicia

26th September, Zamora, ES

Seminar “Challenges and opportunities of the Douro Region as an intelligent tourism destination”

25th October, Santiago de Compostela, ES

Presentation at the “Linking University Knowledge on the Way” academic meeting, organized by the Compostela Group of Universities

20th November, EICR, Luxembourg, LU

**European Ramblers Association**

The European Ramblers’ Association (ERA) comprises 63 walking organisations from 33 European countries. This meeting was the occasion to discuss potential cooperation between the Association and the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe.

**Training activities**

4th – 7th June, Visby, SE

**8th Training Academy**

During the Training Academy 2019 (see page 20), several workshops and sessions were held for candidate cultural routes in order to improve their networks. These sessions included presentation and guidelines for applications for certification as Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe, funding opportunities.
for cultural routes and a workshop for candidate cultural routes crossing the Adriatic-Ionian, Baltic Sea and Danube Macro-Regions.

2nd - 4th October, Sibiu, RO
9th Cultural Routes Annual Advisory Forum
During the 9th Annual Advisory Forum (see page 18), a special meeting was held for networks interested in the “Cultural Route of the Council of Europe” certification. The cultural routes projects interested in the certification also had the opportunity to present their proposals to the attendees of the Forum, which provided a great visibility platform for new projects based on trans-national narratives.

21st - 25th October, EICR, Luxembourg, LU
Training Seminar organized by the European Institute of Cultural Routes in Luxembourg

A special training seminar was held at the European Institute of Cultural Routes for the association “Paysage et patrimoine sans frontière”, which has created a project where the European blue, its languages and its history are at the centre. These «paths of blue» have traced many cultural paths across Europe and the world, between the different countries of its partners.

When the training concluded, a “transcultural blue carpet”, consisting in different artwork made by participants coming from different countries, was displayed at the Abbey of Neumünster. This «Blue Carpet» is an artistic work in constant progress that juxtaposes different blues photographed in Europe, weaving links between cultures and generations:

5th - 6th December, Tbilisi, GE
Training on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe for national and local stakeholders

The Training provided an overview of the main characteristics of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme, serving as an essential reference for managers, developers, stakeholders and representatives of member States interested in the implementation of Cultural Routes.

The Seminar was co-organised by the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of Georgia in cooperation with the National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation of Georgia and the European Institute of Cultural Routes.

It addressed aspects ranging from the Council of Europe’s conventions to co-creation, fundraising and governance of Cultural Routes with a view to certification as “Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe”, in the form of different workshops that took place over the course of two days.
5.5 - Cooperation with International Organizations

Ibero-American States Organization

In 2018, the European Institute of Cultural Routes signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ibero-American States Organization (OEI). During 2019, both institutions have been working in the design of a joint project aimed at:
- Promoting the development of transnational cultural routes and extension of cultural routes certified by the Council of Europe in Ibero-America.
- Capacity building, knowledge transfer and exchange of experiences and good practices for the development of transnational routes in Ibero-America.
- Promotion of transnational cooperation between Europe and Ibero-America.

Highlights

Implemented activities

- OEI Participation at the 9th Annual Advisory Forum in Sibiu (Romania). Presentation by Luz Amparo Medina, Director General of Culture, at the Plenary Session 4, on 3rd October: “Developing Partnerships and Ideas for Cultural Tourism Development for Cultural Routes” (videoconference)

More information

OEI Website

5.6 - University Network for Cultural Routes Studies (NCRS)

The EICR coordinates the University Network for Cultural Routes Studies (NCRS), a platform for exchanges and mobility for students and researchers and ensures regular interactions among the EICR, the universities and the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe.

Research and cooperation in research are of paramount importance in the creation and development of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe: they enable multidisciplinary knowledge to be brought together and made accessible, provide scientific proof of why the themes addressed by the Cultural Routes are representative of European values, underpinning the effective enhancement of European past and present heritage.

The Network aims to encourage the conduct of research on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe related issues, encourage students to undertake their academic research on Cultural Routes, jointly apply for European Grants with the European Institute of Cultural Routes (EICR), participate in the annual programme of activities of the EICR and offer scientific advice where required.
1 - University of Bedfordshire, UK
Institute for tourism research (intour), NCRS member since 2013

2 - Université Paris 1 Panthéon Sorbonne, FR
Institut de recherche et d'études supérieures du tourisme (IREST), Equipe interdisciplinaire de recherches sur le tourisme (EIREST), NCRS member since 2013

3 - Université de Luxembourg, LU
NCRS member since 2013

4 - Università di Bologna, IT
Centre for advanced studies in tourism (CAST), NCRS member since 2014

5 - University of Haifa, IL
Centre for Tourism, Pilgrimage and Recreation research, NCRS Member since 2015

6 - University of Birmingham, UK
Ironbridge International Institute for Cultural Heritage, NCRS Member since 2013

7 - Université Laval, CA
Département des Sciences Historiques, Institut de Patrimoine Culturel (IPAC), NCRS Member since 2013

8 - Universitat de Barcelona, ES
Faculty of Economical and Political Studies, Laboratori de Patrimoni i Turisme Cultural (LABPATC), NCRS Member since 2013

9 - Saint-Petersburg State University of Culture and Arts, RU
NCRS Member since 2016

New Members who joined in 2019

10 - Compostela Group of Universities, ES
NCRS Member since 2019

11 - Università de la Svizzera Italiana, CH
NCRS Member since 2019

12 - Università degli Studi di Milano-Bicocca
NCRS Member since 2019
“A cultural, educational heritage and tourism co-operation project aiming at the development and promotion of an itinerary or a series of itineraries based on a historic route, a cultural concept, figure or phenomenon with transnational importance and significance for the understanding and respect of common European values”\(^3\)

\(^{3}\text{CM/Res(2013)66 - Confirming the establishment of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes (EPA).} \)
Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe

1987
- The Santiago de Compostela Pilgrim Routes
- The Viking Routes
- The Hansa

1991
- The Via Francigena

1993
- The Routes of El Legado Andalusi

1994
- The Pyrenean Iron Route

1997
- The Phoenicians' Route

1997
- The European Mozart Ways

1999
- The Saint Martin of Tours Route
- The Cluniac Sites in Europe

2003
- The Routes of the Olive Tree

2004
- The European Route of Jewish Heritage
- Via Regia

2005

2007
- Transromanica - The Romanesque Routes of European Heritage

2009
- The Iter Vitis Route
- Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe

By year of certification
Each Cultural Route of the Council of Europe is a grass-root association federating several European stakeholders, legally established in one of the Council of Europe member States, coming from the public as well as from the private sector (local and regional authorities, cultural institutions, etc.). Every year each Cultural Route organises a general assembly, bringing together the various members of the respective associative network.5

- 14
th March, Loutra Pozar, GR. / 9
th - 10
th October, Spa, BE. European Route of Historic Thermal Towns
- 28
th - 30
th March, Tbilisi, GE. The European Route of Jewish heritage
- 26
th March, Briey, FR. Le Corbusier Destinations: Architectural Promenades
- 5
th April, Brussels, BE. Liberation Route Europe
- 10
th April, Oslo, NO. The Route of Saint Olav Ways
- 27
th April, San Benedetto Po, Mantua, IT. The Cluniac Sites in Europe
- 7
th May, Oradea, RO. Réseau Art Nouveau Network
- 7
th May, Copenhagen, DK. Viking Routes
- 15
th May, Brussels, BE. Route of Ceramics
- 16
th May, Lastovo-Uble, HR. ATRIUM - Architecture of totalitarian regimes of the 20th century
- 19
th May, Augsburg, DE. European Mozart Ways
- 22
nd - 24
th May, Landskrona, SE. The European Route of Megalithic Culture
- 8
th - 10
th June, Bad-Homburg, DE. In the footsteps of Robert Louis Stevenson
- 14
th June, Besançon, Doubs, FR. / 18
th October, Bari, IT. The Via Francigena
- 14
th - 16
th June, Ajaccio, Corsica, FR. Destination Napoleon
- 24
th June, Dublin, IE. Iron Curtain Trail
- 29
th June, Rome, IT. Via Charlemagne
- 4
th September, Castello Visconteo, Pavia, IT. Transromanica - The Romanesque Routes of European Heritage
- 6
th September, San Sebastián, Gipuzkoa, ES. The Pyrenean Iron Route
- 13
nd September, Neu-Isenburg, DE. The Huguenot and Waldesian Trail
- 2
nd October, Ghent, BE. The European Cemeteries Route
- 5
th October, Timadeuc, Bretagne, FR. European Route of of Cistercian Abbeys
- 16
th October, Berlin, DE. European Route of Industrial Heritage
- 16
th - 18
th October, Leipzig, DE. The Via Regia
- 25
th October, Bari, IT. The Phoenicians’ Route
- 25
th - 27
th October, Brillon, FR. The Hansa
- 7
th November, Paris, FR. Impressionisms Routes
- 15
th November, Motovun, HR. Iter Vitis Route
- 22
nd November, Hofburg Innsbruck, AT. Via Habsburg
- 29
th November, Capo di Ponte, IT. The Prehistoric Rock Art Trails
- 30
th November, Siena, IT. The Routes of the Olive Tree
- 2
nd - 3
rd December, Finsterwalde, DE. The European Routes of Emperor Charles V

5As per the information requested to the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe and received, the latest, by 29th January 2020
6.2 - Selected activities for priority field of action

Every year the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe implement activities pertaining to the 5 priority fields of actions envisaged in the CM/Res(2013)67:

1. Co-operation in research and development
2. Enhancement of memory, history and European heritage
3. Cultural and educational exchanges for young Europeans
4. Contemporary cultural and artistic practices
5. Cultural tourism and sustainable cultural development

The following subsections highlight some selected activities carried out by the Cultural Routes during 2019.

6.2.1 - Co-operation in research and development

The European Route of Industrial Heritage - Twinning of sites

The project comprised the twinning of thematically similar ERIH sites to share experiences and good practices and to develop skills and competences

- Organization of mutual visits between the twin sites with up to three persons of staff per site.
- The idea is to foster the exchange between sites which face similar challenges in technical, historical on an operational level.
- The twin sites should ideally establish long-term contacts and continue their cooperation in common projects and future exchange.
- The participants are asked to identify “lessons learned”, which can also be beneficial for other sites within the ERIH network.

July - October

Sagunto (ES), Hattingen (DE), Zabrze (PL), Blaenavon (GB)

“By bringing attention to the common values shared across borders, irrespective of language or cultural differences, the cultural routes bring communities together. In particular, their engagement with young people is important in keeping collective memories alive and encouraging the protection of the common cultural heritage well into the future.”

Snezana SAMARDŽIĆ - MARKOVIĆ, Director General of Democracy, Council of Europe; Opening Ceremony, 9th Annual Advisory Forum, Sibiu, Romania, 2019.
6.2.2. Enhancement of memory, history and European heritage


To promote the Routes of El legado andalusí through their artistic interpretation, by the means of ten paintings.

- This is an itinerant exhibition in which Andalusian artists, mostly from Granada, offer their own vision of each of the eleven routes that make up the cultural route.
- The activities are all focused on the promotion of culture, art, heritage and preservation of the natural environment.
- They intend to make people aware of the value of the routes and of the importance of enhancing cultural tourism as a key tool for economic and social development.

The Iron Route in the Pyrenees - Travelling cross-border exhibition “The industrial heritage from the Iron Route in the Pyrenees”

To promote regional scientific exchanges and develop regional cohesion around common values of iron history and industrial heritage.

- Initiative created under the auspices of the European Year of Cultural Heritage and developed by all the partners of the route
- A traveling exhibition on the history of the industrial heritage and the role of the iron and steel industry in the formation of the Pyrenean landscapes.
- Locally, this initiative has been complemented by thematic exhibitions, educational workshops, conferences or specialized classes addressed to tourism professionals and general public.
- More than 50,000 visitors attended these activities.

The Cluniac Sites in Europe - Via Cluny: Guide and digital platform of the Cluny Routes in Switzerland

To discover the treasures of the Cluniac heritage of French-speaking Switzerland.

- The project consists of a new internet platform and a paper tourist guide «The Cluny Routes in Switzerland», which guides the walkers on a 329-kilometer itinerary in 11 stages, to discover 13 sites in French-speaking Switzerland.
- The project is available in both digital and paper versions, is a user-friendly tool for both families and Cluny enthusiasts and history.
- The printed version is a tourist guide of 80 pages, available in two languages.
The Saint Martin of Tours Route - *Publications of European scientific and cultural reports*

To show the European dimension of the theme of Saint Martin, and to recall the significance of his character throughout history.

- In 2019, the European Network of Cultural Centers Saint Martin supported two publications:
  1) Jean-Claude Bonnaud’s «The vine, the cape and Europe».
  2) «A New Martin. Rise and renewal of the figure of Saint Martin of Tours IV – XXI century”, a collection of works from thirty-five European researchers in the fields of history, archaeology, art history, ethnology and theology.
- Both publications were carried out in the context of the Martinian year 2016 (1700th anniversary of the birth of Saint Martin), during which various scientific meetings took place, including an international colloquium.

Huguenot and Waldensian Trail - *Encounters “Voices of Exiles 2019”: Welcome in “Ritalie”*

To provide insight on the history and significance of the Italian immigration to South-Eastern France since the 19th century and, more generally, on the new issues related to ongoing migrations.

The 5-day program of the “Voices of Exiles 2019” consisted of 7 events in different locations together with a mobile exhibition, including the exhibition “Ciao Italia”, film projections, hiking activities and seminars, all around the theme of Italian immigration to France.

Viking Routes - *Follow the Vikings Roadshow*

To show the importance of Viking history and to increase interest in it through an entertainment show.

- Throughout the three-year run of the Follow the Vikings Roadshow, the production has been performed to a total audience of over 12,500 people in six different languages and was a celebration of a great and unique Viking journey.
- The Roadshow was completed with two performances, one in February in Reykjavik (Iceland), as part of their city-wide light Festival; and the final one in York (United Kingdom). In York, as well as the performance, many other activities took place around Viking history, including several seminars and a themed dinner.
The European Route of Cistercian Abbeys - Organisation of regional meetings

To promote links between members, while strengthening relations with all partners thanks to the involvement of the Board of Directors.

- Regional Meetings were held on the initiative of the Board of Directors of the network.
- A territorial division for France, Germany and Belgium was proposed.
- The process was simple: for a defined territory, at least one member of the Council present would ensure its organisation and participation.
- The meetings gathered around 50% of all European members. This project made clear that the prospect of a more structured organization at the territorial level can take shape.

Via Habsburg - Permanent exhibition “Maximilian1”

To create awareness of European culture in the late middle ages, to stimulate young people dealing with common European history and to strengthen European Identity

- On 24 May 2019 the special exhibition “Maximilian I and the Rise of the Modern World” was opened. It was then transformed into the permanent exhibition “Maximilian1”, with the rooms being converted into a “living museum”.
- Cutting edge multi-media technology is used to present the personality of Emperor Maximilian I, his wives, the life at court, and the events that left a deep impression on him.
- Latest research findings on the architectural history, the political, the religious and the economic context round off the exhibition.

Prehistoric Rock Art Trails - European Rock Art Day

To point out the cultural, artistic and touristic relevance and the interest of prehistoric rock art, as well as the risks the rock art sites are facing today in relation of their preservation

- Each destination offered during this day free visits for everyone with special attention to pupil groups (elementary and secondary levels). The tickets control of each place gives the possibility to account the number of visitors.
- Special activities were organised, and accessibility for visually and hearing-impaired people was facilitated.
- A pan-European drawing contest is in process for schoolchildren. The winning drawings will be part of a travelling exhibition and a book called «The Art of Europe's past seen by Europeans of the future».
6.2.3. Cultural and educational exchanges for young Europeans

The Iter Vitis Route - Students exchange in Georgia and Italy

To improve the knowledge about other wine areas and sensibility in landscape and heritage, and to provide the opportunity to share experiences with young students from other countries.

- Ten students, specialized in oenology, from the University of Technology of Georgia were selected to participate in the activity.
- They were hosted at Domus Iter Vitis in Sambuca (wine pilgrims' hostel) and attended daily classes in the local wineries in order to learn local oenology and wine tourism practice from young oenologists.
- They also enjoyed local heritage and landscape led by locals, sleeping in the Palazzo Panitteri and eating with local families.

The Phoenicians' Route - Twinning schools Italy and France – Intercultural Travels

To promote linguistic exchanges and cultural ties through educational visits and the promotion of the values of the Council of Europe and the themes represented by the Phoenicians’ Route among young people.

- Since 2013, the Phoenicians’ Route has created a Network of Mediterranean Schools.
- In the third week of May 2019, the students of the Collège Cours Bastide of Marseille travelled to discover some of the most important cultural and natural places that are part of the Route in Sicily.
- The educational and tourist experience was also enriched by the encounter with other local schools and with productive realities of excellence in the territory, in the name of heritage pedagogy.

European Route of Megalithic Culture - International Workcamp of the Archaeological-Ecological Centre Albersdorf

To learn what life in the Stone Age was like and about the history of Schleswig-Holstein and its people.

- Young people from Italy, Turkey, Ukraine, Russia, China and Germany experienced in a varied programme life in the Stone Age.
- The main area of work was the reconstruction of a Stone Age house from around 3,300 BC, the Middle Neolithic period, in which the Megalithic tombs were erected.
- The camp was the perfect opportunity to learn about life in the Stone Age, not only through guided tours and visits to museums, but also through practical activities such as archery, building a fire and javelin throwing.

To improve the visibility and promotion of the Art Nouveau heritage

- To celebrate the seventh edition of World Art Nouveau Day, the Réseau Art Nouveau Network (RANN) organised a photo contest for the general public and a drawing contest for children on the theme «Art Nouveau Staircases».
- On D-Day, June 10, RANN posted on its Facebook page the album of the photo and drawing contests and testimonials of members’ favourite Art Nouveau Staircase.
- RANN also launched a weekly quiz on its Facebook page, from February to June, featuring a staircase from one of its member cities.

Via Charlemagne - Remember the past, Revision the future

To share with the young people the knowledge of the different pasts in Europe and to learn the aspects of history that they have in common.

- Young people from Portugal, France, Albania, Italy, Romania and Poland were invited to present the work they had previously prepared around the theme of remembering the past of their countries, which had been learned in the population of their towns of origin.
- The public in attendance to these presentations, held in Setubal (Portugal) included other young people from the different delegations, as well as local authorities and partners of the association.

Liberation Route Europe - Making of the history along Liberation Route Europe

To connect American and European students in order to learn about the history of the Second World War and about the transnational hiking trail following the footsteps of the soldiers who liberated Europe in 1944-45.

- During the project, 10 students and 10 teachers from the United States travelled through the Netherlands to mark the U.S. history along the Liberation Route Europe 75 years after the Second World War.
- During the project, the first series of prominent and symbolic markers “Vectors of Memory” were placed along the Liberation Route International Hiking Trail and handed over to members of LREF at the same time.
- In this way, Liberation Route Europe and the project participants contributed in building up a sustainable remembrance trail and paying tribute to the US veterans.
6.2.4. Contemporary cultural and artistic practice

Impressionisms Routes - Participation in the “Salon des Grands Voyages” (Exhibition and stand)

To promote the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe and the Impressionisms Routes among the general public.

- The Impressionisms Routes was invited to present the exhibition “Impressionism in Europe” in the Salon des Grands Voyages, located in the Carrousel du Louvre in Paris. Around thirty reproductions on HQ canvas were presented to more than 3,000 visitors, ensuring a great visibility.
- Impressionisms Routes also had a stand during the event.
European Route of Jewish Heritage - Parallel Traces: A new lens on Jewish Heritage

To unearth specific traces of tangible European Jewish Heritage Urban Spaces through the creation of original digital artwork, to facilitate the transnational circulation of original digital artwork and to create opportunities for increased artist mobility.

- Parallel Traces is a cross-cutting collaborative, pan-European project that offers a renewed look at the significance of Jewish heritage today. It offers an original perspective on the past, present and future of European Jewish history and encourages mutual respect amongst different cultures and ways of artistic expression.
- The project discovers, rethinks and raises awareness about the European Jewish Heritage as an integral part of European history through different mechanisms: a call for artists, off-line and online communication activities and the development of a new app.


To address the history of the Wall that divided the city of Berlin for twenty-eight years, in order to give audience involved the opportunity to get to know some of the stories of the people who tried, often in vain, to cross it, using these recollections as a starting point for reflecting on the larger issues of democracy, freedom, common heritage and European citizenship.

- Since the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall occurred in 2019, as early as 2017, the ATRIUM Route started a collaboration with “MC - Teatro Civile” of Marco Cortesi and Mara Moschini, aimed at creating a theatre show on the Berlin Wall, focused on the history of people who have tried to cross it.
- The show features four true stories which tell of the suffering, courage and determination of the people who sought freedom.

“The Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe [are] an initiative aimed at showing how culture can be at the service of peace and a means of unification between different European societies, thus fostering concord among peoples.”

Pope Francis, address to the members of the diplomatic corps accredited to the Holy See for the traditional exchange of New Year Greetings, 7th January 2019.
6.2.5. Cultural tourism and sustainable cultural development

Via Francigena - *Stop and Taste*

To connect the Via Francigena with the territories it crosses through their gastronomy, and to create a cooperation benchmark on a regional level, which is easy to replicate in other regions.

- The main idea of this project is to introduce travellers to the traditional gastronomy of Emilia-Romagna (Italy), famous for its Parmigiano Reggiano cheese. Making this cheese was part of the artisanal know-how of the Cistercian and Benedictine monks in the 12th century.
- The project brings together private and public partners to open the doors of dairy farms to allow travellers to discover the process of cheese-making, tasting of different types and maturation stages of Parmigiano and learn more about the gastronomy along the Via Francigena.

Via Regia - *Networking the 22 Cultural Routes with German members - awareness raising and scatter effects*

To familiarize the routes that have members in Germany with suitable stakeholders.

- Different activities were implemented, which included the publication of a German website on the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme and the Routes that cross Germany.
- A German brochure with information about the programme was also published.
- The programme was also highlighted by means of the participation in ITB Berlin with a stand that included all routes and their promotional materials.

Transromanica - *Transromanica Bloggers Trip 2019*

To develop cultural tourism, to promote cultural heritage to a wider range of people and younger generations, to evolve sustainable cultural tourism.

- The third edition of the TRANSROMANICA Bloggers Trip was committed to promoting the European heritage of the Romanesque art and architecture.
- In order to develop cultural tourism for younger generations, Transromanica took 5 international bloggers from Greece, United Kingdom, Austria, Netherlands and Spain on a fantastic journey in Spain and Portugal.
- It was a combination between showing cultural heritage, doing outdoor activities and enjoying the extraordinary Romanesque architecture with all its beautiful art and culture.
European Cemeteries Route - **European Cemeteries Tour**

To promote cemeteries as tourist spots and bring to light their cultural heritage, to get tour operators interested by setting an example, and to develop a model for organising such tours in other countries in the future.

- **Zagreb, Zadar, Rijeka (HR)**
- From 2019 onwards

- European Cemeteries Tour is about a region, its people and history. In this tour, which travels along cities, towns and villages, the objective is to reveal important moments of their history, famous people and hidden details, all through their cemeteries.
- This tour achieves the increase of visibility among the general public, but especially among professionals in the field of cemeteries heritage and tourism.

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The Route of St. Olav Ways - **New extension**

To create a pilgrim route from Finland to Norway, with a future prospect to mark the route of the exile king Olav Haraldsson II, on his return to Norway from Novgorod in Russia.

- **Turku, Pargas, Nagu and Korpu. Mariehamn, Åland Islands (FI)**
- **24th May**

- The pilgrim route St. Olav Waterway was created this year. The 625-kilometre route was opened ceremonially on Friday May 24th, 2019 in Turku.
- After the opening a maiden voyage was arranged from Turku to Trondheim. Different kinds of events took place along the route and people interested in pilgrimage had the opportunity to take part in the events.
- In addition to walking, visitors can kayak, sail, ride and bike. Most of the route's passages are currently existing paths, bicycle routes and old forest roads.

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European Route of Historic Thermal Towns - **Co-operation with a UK tour operator**

To raise awareness of tourists, especially from the UK, of the thermal heritage in Europe and of all the travel offers available in the members’ cities.

- **Throughout 2019**
- **Throughout the network**

- EHTTA started cooperating with Fred. Holidays in 2019, one of the UK’s most established travel companies
- EHTTA has its own landing page on the Fred. Holidays website, with the aim of raising awareness about historic thermal towns in Europe, specifically of EHTTA and the Cultural Route members, and the travel packages that they offer to tourists.
- Other benefits of this partnership include that every member has its own entry, but most importantly the increase of visibility.
European Route of Ceramics - Art and culture as tool for the touristic promotion in Russia

To strengthen the relations between Moscow and Faenza, particularly through the Academy of Watercolor and Fine Arts, and to foster the touristic package already working for Faenza.

- From 17th to 21st December 2019 the European Route of Ceramics was in Moscow at the Academy of Watercolor and Fine Arts, with the aim to promote the touristic offer linked to ceramic production and traditions.
- The activity included the realization of a ceramic exhibition, a press conference presenting the Route and a touristic package named “Ceramic emotions” to Russian operators and students, and the participation in international meetings at the Italian Embassy in Moscow.

European Routes of Emperor Charles V - Tourist package of Charles V

To develop consensual strategies for the creation and marketing of thematic tourist products based, among other resources, on historical re-enactment events, hostelry products and craft products relating to Charles V’s period.

- The touristic product club is a “Club of Hostelry, Handcrafts and Agro-food Excellence” intended to give visibility to tourist products distributed along the length of the different routes travelled by the King/Emperor Charles Habsburg. It seeks, as well, to integrate into the Cooperation Network Of The European Routes Of Emperor Charles V the whole fabric of the hostelry, handcraft and agro-food production in the cities and regions through which the different routes pass.
- It is a pilot project in Spain and will be implemented in other Routes of Charles V’s countries in years to come.

In the Footsteps of Robert Louis Stevenson - Increase in accessibility

To increase the accessibility of the trails to disabled people, in order to make the route reachable to everyone.

- The network organised hikes in which people with physical disabilities were accompanied by able-bodied people, in an attempt to show the cultural heritage to everyone.
- Activities were also organised for people in a situation of social exclusion, and the goal is to also include refugees, in order to make the route accessible to all.
### Extra-budgery funding: some examples

In addition to their ordinary budgets, certified Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe receive extra-budgetary funding from different sources (European Union direct and indirect funding, regional funds, etc.). Over the last five years, Cultural Routes received more than 17 million Euros funding, in particular from European Union funding programmes in the cultural, educational and local development sectors. Below you will find a non-exhaustive sample of projects implemented by certified Cultural Routes in 2019 through extra-budgetary funding sources.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cultural Route</th>
<th>Title of Project</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Total Budget</th>
<th>Type of Funding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Viking Routes</td>
<td>Follow the Vikings</td>
<td>2015 - 2019</td>
<td>3,960,000 €</td>
<td>EU Creative Europe</td>
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<tr>
<td>Via Francigena</td>
<td>FORREst: new skills FOR expeRiEntial Tourism</td>
<td>2019 - 2021</td>
<td>264,000 €</td>
<td>EU Erasmus+</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phoenicians’ Route</td>
<td>TRAMES – smart TouRism Across the Mediterranean Sea</td>
<td>2019 - 2021</td>
<td>381,376 €</td>
<td>EU COSME Programme</td>
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<tr>
<td>European Route of Jewish Heritage</td>
<td>Parallel Traces: A new lens on Jewish heritage</td>
<td>2018 - 2020</td>
<td>38,978 €</td>
<td>EU Creative Europe</td>
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<tr>
<td>European Route of Ceramics</td>
<td>Ceramic Land 2019</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>60,000 €</td>
<td>Regional (Emilia Romagna Region)</td>
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<tr>
<td>European Routes of Emperor Charles V</td>
<td>Let’s cook our heritage, let’s cook our future</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>14,742 €</td>
<td>EU Erasmus+</td>
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<td>Iron Curtain Trail</td>
<td>Interreg ATCZ 74 – Kultur und Natur am Grünen Band</td>
<td>October 2016 - December 2019</td>
<td>1,870,030 €</td>
<td>EU Interreg ATCZ</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Interreg SKAT V213 – Kultur und Natur am Grünen Band</td>
<td>April 2018 - April 2021</td>
<td>824,080 €</td>
<td>EU Interreg SKAT</td>
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<td>Liberation Route Europe</td>
<td>History through their Eyes (EYES)</td>
<td>2018 - 2019</td>
<td>100,000 €</td>
<td>EU Europe for citizens</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Each year, the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe Programme sees a growing number of network members. Particularly, the first half of 2019 saw a remarkable development in that figure, with 170 new members engaging in Route networks and thus in the Programme. Such a growth involved almost every certified Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe with some of them welcoming over a dozen new members.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe</th>
<th>Nº of new network members</th>
<th>Countries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Hansa</td>
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<td>Germany (1), Russia (1), United Kingdom (1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Viking Routes</td>
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<td>France (1), Norway (3), Sweden (3), United Kingdom (1)</td>
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<td>Via Francigena</td>
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<td>Italy (8), France (2), Switzerland (1),</td>
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<td>European Mozart Ways</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Germany (1), Ukraine (1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>European Route of Jewish Heritage</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Belarus (1), Bosnia and Herzegovina (1), Czech Republic (1), Croatia (1), Poland (1), Serbia (1), Turkey (1) United Kingdom (1)</td>
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<td>Phoenician’s Route</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Italy (9), Lebanon (1), Spain (2), Tunisia (1)</td>
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<td>VIA REGIA</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>France (1), Germany (5), Poland (1), Russia (1), Ukraine (1)</td>
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<td>France (3), United Kingdom (1)</td>
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<td>Routes of the Olive Tree</td>
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<td>Croatia (6), Greece (3), Republic of North Macedonia (1), Slovenia (3), Spain (1)</td>
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<td>Saint Martin of Tours Route</td>
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<td>Austria (1)</td>
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<td>Iter Vitis Route</td>
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<td>Finland (1), Portugal (1), Spain (1)</td>
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<td>Poland (1), Turkey (1)</td>
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<td>Route of Saint Olav Ways</td>
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<td>European Route of Megalithic Culture</td>
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<td>Roman Emperors and Danube Wine Route</td>
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<td>Via Charlemagne</td>
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<td>Austria (6), Germany (5), Slovenia (1)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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www.erih.net

Routes of Reformation
Routes of Reformation
Detlev GEISSLER, President
Christian BAUMGARTNER and Cathleen SCHEINER, Project Managers
contact@reformationroutes.eu
www.reformationroutes.eu
Council of Europe - European Union Joint Programme: Routes4U
(December 2017 - May 2020)
Objectives

- To enhance the transnational cultural cooperation in the framework of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe;
- To enhance the capacities, expertise and impact of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe;
- To contribute to the objectives of the macro-regional strategies (EUSAIR, EUSALP, EUSBSR, EUSDR), in line with the Faro Convention;
- To create synergies and cooperation between professionals of the Cultural Routes and the macro-regional strategies.

Fields of Action

- Creation of new Cultural Routes and the extension of existing ones in the Adriatic-Ionian, Alpine, Baltic Sea, Danube region;
- Creation of a trip-planner to strengthen the cultural tourism linked to the Cultural Routes;
- Press-trips and blogger-trips to ensure greater visibility and recognition of the Cultural Routes programme and the EU macro-regions;
- E-learning course to increase knowledge about the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe and the macro-regional strategies of the European Union;
- Implementation of a branding strategy to promote the heritage connected to the Cultural Routes and contribute to the specific cultural identities linked to the four EU macro-regions;
- Creation of a Cultural Routes Card with discounts and offers related to the Cultural Routes to attract tourism;
- Retrieval of data on the management and functioning of Cultural Routes to enable a comprehensive analysis of these transnational networks.

Staff

Mr. Stefano DOMINIONI
Executive Secretary, Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes
Mrs. Constanze METZGER
Senior Project Officer
Mrs. Laura LIGAZZOLO
Project Assistant
Mrs. Denise DE ROUX (until August 2019)
Communication Officer
Mr. George HATZIDAKIS (as of November 2019)
Communication Officer

Contact / social networks

routes4u@coe.int
www.coe.int/routes4u
Activities implemented in 2019

January
- Launching of a branding strategy for EUSAIR.
- Development of a digital platform of Routes4U.
- Creation of Routes4U- audio-visual interviews.

February
- Publication of the Roadmap for the Baltic Sea Region.
- Preparation of a feasibility study on the Roman Heritage route in the Adriatic and Ionian Region.

March
- Publication of a map of all Cultural Routes crossing the macro-regions.
- Development of a trip-planner on the 27 countries of the four macro-regional strategies.
- Further information on funding are compiled and published: a webpage on EuroAccess with the EuroAccess-database on funding opportunities. The EuroAccess webpage includes a page on Routes4U.
- The feasibility study on Cultural Routes and the Alpine Region is prepared and put online.

April
- Routes4U Meeting for the Alpine Region (EUSALP) (2nd-3rd April, Bard, IT).
- A total of 6 proposals were chosen for the award of the grant.
- Publication of the first module of the Routes4U e-learning course on the certification and management of Cultural Routes.
- Organization of four macro-regional consultations for EUSALP and EUSBSR, bringing together professionals from the CRs and the macro-regional strategies.
- Organization of a consultation on the creation of new Cultural Routes during the TSG-meeting in Podgorica.
- Launching of a branding strategy for EUSDR.
- Organization of a B2B event and a promotional stand in the framework of the annual forum of EUSAIR in Bucharest, in cooperation with TSG 4-coordinator from EUSAIR.
- Publication of the Roadmap for the Danube Region.

May
- Launching of a branding strategy for EUSALP and EUSBSR

June
- Organization of a B2B event and a stand in the framework of the annual forum of EUSDR in Bucharest.
- Organization of a trip on the Cultural Routes in the Alpine Region
- Finalization of our experts analyses of the “current state” of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe in the four macro-regions (EUSAIR, EUSALP, EUSBSR and EUSDR).
- Finalization of guidelines for signposting of Cultural Routes.

July
- Launching of the Routes4U trip-planner.
- Organization of a Steering Committee with all partners of Routes4U to discuss state of implementation and requirements for the remaining time of implementation (2nd July, Luxembourg, LU).
- Publication of call for proposal for six mini-grants and organization of information session.

August
- Preparation of a feasibility study on an Iron Age cultural route in the Danube Region.
- Preparation of a feasibility study on a Mountain heritage route in the Alpine Region.

September
- Finalization of the e-learning module on cultural tourism.
- Evaluation of proposals for the mini-grants and selection of 2 proposals.
- Finalization of a feasibility study on Iron Age.
- Finalization of the branding study on Cultural Routes in the Baltic Sea Region.
- Organization of a conference on the creation of new Cultural Routes with the Minister of Tourism and the Minister of Culture as well as stakeholders of Routes4U priority projects in Sofia.

October
- Organization of a stakeholder’s meeting on cultural routes projects in the Danube and Adriatic and Ionian Region (14th-15th October, Vienna, AT).
- Finalization of a feasibility study on Mountain heritage.
- Finalization of the branding study on Cultural Routes in the Adriatic and Ionian Region.
- Update of the Routes4U trip-planner with 300 new points of interests.

November
- Organization of a stakeholder’s meeting on cultural routes projects in the Alpine and Baltic Sea Region in Aarau, CH (25th-26th November).
- Organization of a B2B event and a promotional stand in the framework of the annual forum of EUSALP in Milan.
- Presentation of the Routes4U at the Baltic Tourism Forum in Belgium.
- Organization of a Routes4U stand in the framework of the annual forum annual forum of EUSALP in Milan.
- Finalization on the branding study on Cultural Routes and the Danube Region.

December
- Publication of a manual on signposting
- Publication of a roadmap on Cultural Routes in the Alpine Region
- Finalization of a publication on national and transnational policies in the Adriatic and Ionian Region.
- Finalization of a publication on national and transnational policies in the Danube Region.
- Publication of a manual on the certification of Cultural Routes.
Communication
Communication platforms

- since April 2017 the Council of Europe online portal has a website dedicated to the programme, which provides extensive information on the EPA, the Cultural Routes programme and on the European Institute of Cultural Routes;

- the Council of Europe portal section on Democracy - Democratic Governance, has under the section “Culture and Cultural Heritage” a webpage dedicated to the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe;

- the Council of Europe portal section on Democracy – Sustainable Democratic Societies links to the website dedicated to the Cultural Routes Programme;

Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe Programme Portal

- resources and visibility material online (leaflets, brochures, in several languages)

- Cultural Routes by theme and country

- European Institute of Cultural Routes

- Institutional newsroom

- Joint programmes with the European Union

- Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes (member States, statutory bodies, partners)

- Activities (Annual Advisory Forum, Training Academy)
  All the certified

- Reference documents

- since January 2017, a monthly newsletter is sent to over 3,000 subscribers.

www.coe.int/routes

More information
Press and media archive

100+ articles
referring to the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe in the international press

51 news pieces
from the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme

Highlights – International Press

09/05/2019
Felipe VI entrega el Premio Europeo Carlos V a los Itinerarios Culturales del Consejo de Europa / El País (ES)

21/06/2019
Fronton. Le vignoble sur les «chemins de la vigne» européens – La Dépêche du Midi (FR)

11/09/2019
Sibiul, punct de întâlnire pentru specialiștii din domeniul turismului cultural / Mesagerul de Sibiu (RO)

31/10/2019
10 of the best pilgrim routes in Europe: readers’ travel tips / The Guardian (GB)

Social Media

Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme
@CultureRoutes
@CultureRoutes
@CultureRoutes

www.coe.int/routes

13,000+ followers on Facebook
21,000+ views on YouTube
12,000+ visits on our website per month

More information
2020 Outlook
November 2019 – May 2020

Georgian Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, Strasbourg, FR

13th February
General Assembly, European Institute of Cultural Routes

13th - 14th February
EPA Bureau Meeting, Luxembourg, LU

1st – 2nd April
EPA Governing Board meeting, Luxembourg, LU

27th – 29th May
Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe Training Academy, Fontainebleau, FR.

May – November 2020

Greek Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, Strasbourg, FR.
June
- Cultural Routes photo exhibition in Pfaffenthal, Luxembourg,

7th – 9th October
- 10th Annual Advisory Forum of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe, Chania, GR

November 2020 - May 2021
- German Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, Strasbourg, FR

June
- Training for candidates applying for the “Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe” certification, Luxembourg, LU,

October
- EPA Statutory Committee of member States, Strasbourg, FR

November
- Training week for cultural route projects, Luxembourg, LU

2021
Financial Statements
### European Institute of Cultural Routes
(Funded by the Ministry of Culture, Government of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>- Ministry of Culture, Government of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg</td>
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### Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe
(Funded by the Member States)

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<tr>
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<td>305,903</td>
<td>320,322</td>
<td>331,600</td>
<td>357,200</td>
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### Co-funding joint programmes COE/EU

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<td>207,333 €</td>
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<td>2017</td>
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European Commission DG GROW -
Council of Europe Joint Programme
(2015-2017)<sup>9</sup>

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### European Commission DG REGIO -
Council of Europe Joint Programme:
“Routes4U” (2017-2020)<sup>10</sup>
1.1 Million € (30 months)

<table>
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Total

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<th>Year</th>
<th>2015</th>
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<th>2020</th>
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<td>2017</td>
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<td>2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>2020</td>
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<sup>1</sup> The total income does not include the information pertaining to the financial resources of each Cultural Route of the Council of Europe.

<sup>2</sup> The total income does not include the information pertaining to the financial resources of each Cultural Route of the Council of Europe.

<sup>3</sup> Amount corresponding to annual contribution pro-rata.

<sup>4</sup> Amount corresponding to annual contribution pro-rata.
2019 Council of Europe Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes and European Institute of Cultural Routes - Calendar of activities and presentations at events

9th -12th January, Beirut, LB, Participation in the XII Euro Mediterranean Intercultural Dialogue on the Phoenicians’ Route

17th January, Visby, SE, 2019 Cultural Routes Training Academy: preparation meeting in Sweden

1st – 2nd February, Monteriggioni, IT, Participation in the VI Forum “Comuni in cammino. Via Francigena-Cammini-Europa”

23rd February, EICR, Luxembourg, LU, General Assembly and meeting of the Board of Directors of the EICR

28th February – 1st March, Luxembourg, LU, Meeting of the Bureau of the EPA Governing Board

2nd March, Lucca, IT, MeetTourism Lucca

6th - 10th March, Berlin, DE, ITB Berlin

7th March, Fatima, PT, Experiences, Places and Networks of Religious Tourism and Pilgrimage in Europe

14th March, Vila Nova de Foz Côa, PT, EPA Executive Secretary awards the “European Rock Art Heritage label” to the Côa Archaeological Park and Museum

15th March, Luxembourg, LU, Meeting with the representatives of the Grand Est Regional Directorate of Cultural Affairs of the French Ministry of Culture

19th March, Paris, FR, Certification ceremony of the Impressionisms Routes

26th - 27th March, Helsinki, FI, Consultation on Cultural Routes in the Baltic Sea Region

27th - 28th March, Mainz, DE, Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe presented during the Forte Cultura Meeting in Mainz

10th – 11th April, Luxembourg, LU, Meeting of the EPA Governing Board

10th – 11th April, Luxembourg, LU, Presentation of the first country mapping of Georgia

17th April, Treviso, IT, Presentation during the General Assembly of the Venetian Cultural Route

17th April, EICR, Luxembourg, LU, Meeting with Romea Strata

22nd - 24th April, Las Palmas, ES, Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme presented at the 7th meeting of the Unesco World Heritage candidature on “Risco Caído and the Sacred Spaces of the Gran Canaria Mountain”

29th April, EICR, Luxembourg, LU, Meeting with representatives of ATRIUM

3rd May, EICR, Luxembourg, LU, Meeting with Danube Route of Emperors and Kings

6th - 7th May, Tbilisi, GE, “Connecting Cultures – Shaping a creative future for Georgia and Europe” Forum

6th - 10th May, Zagreb, HR, Presentation at the “Sense and Sustainability” - International Conference on Archaeology and Tourism

9th May, Yuste, Extremadura, ES, Carlos V European Award

9th May, Luxembourg, LU, Europe Day celebration in Luxembourg

17th May, Pedras Salgadas, PT, Participation in the ceremony of establishment of the Portuguese Federation of St James Way

24th May, Turku, FI, Extension of the certified Cultural Route St. Olav Ways

27th May, Turku, FI, Seminar of the St. Olav Ways in Turku and Savonlinna

27th – 30th May, Zagreb, 64th meeting of the UNWTO Committee for Europe

31st May, Bucharest, RO, EICR received the “Black Sea-Danubian Social and Economic innovator” trophy and diploma of excellence

4th – 7th June, Visby. SE, 8th Training Academy
10th – 12th June, Meishan, CN, International Conference on ‘Culture 2030 | Rural-Urban Development: The Future of Historic Villages and Towns’

13th June, Strasbourg, FR, Presentation of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe Programme at the Steering Committee for Culture, Heritage and Landscape (CDPP)

16th June, Assisi, IT, Slow Way Festival e BTRI – Borsa Turismo Religioso Internazionale

17th June - 17th July, Paris, FR, Exhibition on the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe at the Ministry of Culture

25th June, Aquileia, IT, Presentation of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme at the General Assembly of the European Association of Romea Strata

28th June, Luxembourg, LU, Meeting with the Deputy Permanent Representative of Austria to the Council of Europe

29th June, Luxembourg, LU, Meeting with the President of the European Route of Jewish Heritage

4th July, Istanbul, TR, Coordination meeting with the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Turkey

16th July, EICR, Luxembourg, LU, Meeting of the Board of Directors of the EICR

18th July, Luxembourg, LU, Mondorf-les-Bains meets the European Route of Historic Thermal Towns

18th July, EICR, Luxembourg, LU, Meeting with European Route of d’Artagnan

17th August, Changchun, CN, Inauguration of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe Exhibition in China

23rd August, Bern, CH, Coordination meeting with national managers of the Cultural Routes

23rd – 24th August, Lugano, CH, Middle East Mediterranean Summer Summit Forum 2019

27th August EICR, Luxembourg, LU, Meeting with Via Romea Germanica

28th August, EICR, Luxembourg, LU, Meeting with Via Memoria Mauthausen

28th August, EICR, Luxembourg, LU, Meeting with Via Claudia Augusta

2nd - 6th September, Galicia, ES, Presentation at the International Landscape Workshop: “In the Footsteps of the Winter Route in the Landscapes of the Ribeira Sacra”, organised by the Galician School of Landscape and the Foundation Juana de Vega

3rd September, EICR, Luxembourg, LU, Meeting with Forte Cultura

4th September, EICR, Luxembourg, LU, Meeting with Nikola Tesla Network

6th September, Videoconference, Meeting with European Network of Historic Gardens

19th - 20th September, Minsk, BY, Programme presentation during the Conference on Council of Europe treaties and instruments

19th - 20th September, Sintra, PT, Presentation at the II Forum on Historic Gardens

25th September, Santiago de Compostela, ES, Presentation at the “Cycling and Cultural Tourism, the Perfect Match” conference, organized by St. James’s Pilgrims Museum and Junta de Galicia

26th September, Zamora, ES, Seminar “Challenges and opportunities of the Douro Region as an intelligent tourism destination”

26th September, EICR, Luxembourg, LU, Meeting with Chemin des Espagnols

2nd – 4th October, Sibiu, RO, 9th Annual Advisory Forum on Cultural Routes

7th – 8th October, Kaunas, LT, Conference and Workshops on «The Concept of Development of Cultural Routes in Lithuania»

13th November, Vilnius, LT, Conference and Workshops on «The Concept of Development of Cultural Routes in Lithuania»

8th October, Strasbourg, FR, Presentation of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe Programme at the meeting of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers’ Rapporteur Group on Education, Culture, Sport, Youth and Environment (GR-C)
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>10th October</td>
<td>EICR, Luxembourg, LU</td>
<td>Meeting of the Board of Directors of the EICR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11th October</td>
<td>EICR, Luxembourg, LU</td>
<td>Meeting with the representatives of the Iter Vitis Route and the Moselle Region</td>
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<tr>
<td>14th - 15th October</td>
<td>Vienna, AT</td>
<td>Routes4U meeting on Cultural Routes in the Danube Region and in the Adriatic and Ionian Region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16th October</td>
<td>Leipzig, DE</td>
<td>Participation in the 3rd International Congress “Via Regia – Cultural Route of the Council of Europe”</td>
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<tr>
<td>17th October</td>
<td>Strasbourg, FR</td>
<td>General Assembly of the European Heritage Days</td>
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<tr>
<td>17th October</td>
<td>Berlin, DE</td>
<td>Certification ceremony of the European Route of Industrial Heritage</td>
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<td>21st - 25th October</td>
<td>EICR, Luxembourg, LU</td>
<td>Training Seminar organized by the European Institute of Cultural Routes in Luxembourg</td>
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<tr>
<td>23rd October</td>
<td>Strasbourg, FR</td>
<td>Meeting of the EPA Statutory Committee of member States</td>
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<tr>
<td>24th October</td>
<td>Santiago de Compostela, ES</td>
<td>Council of Europe nominated new Honorary Ambassador of the Santiago de Compostela Pilgrim Routes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25th October</td>
<td>Santiago de Compostela, ES</td>
<td>Presentation at the “Linking University Knowledge on the Way” academic meeting, organized by the Compostela Group of Universities</td>
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<tr>
<td>28th October</td>
<td>EICR, Luxembourg, LU</td>
<td>Meeting with Historic Passages and Galleries in Europe</td>
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<td>30th October</td>
<td>Strasbourg, FR</td>
<td>Presentation of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe Programme at the 37th session of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, Chamber of the Regions</td>
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<td>4th November</td>
<td>Paris, FR</td>
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<td>EICR, Luxembourg, LU</td>
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<td>Meeting with European Ramblers Association</td>
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<td>Meeting with Shrines of Europe</td>
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<td>Cycle of High Studies on Culture (CHEC)</td>
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<td>Mikkeli, FI</td>
<td>The Prehistoric Rock Art Trails seminar in Mikkeli</td>
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<td>25th - 26th November</td>
<td>Aarau, CH</td>
<td>Routes4U meeting on Cultural Routes Aarau</td>
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<tr>
<td>26th November</td>
<td>Istanbul, IT</td>
<td>Joint Meeting of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) Working Groups on Culture and on Cooperation in Tourism</td>
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<td>26th November</td>
<td>Florence, IT</td>
<td>European Heritage Label Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29th November</td>
<td>Tarragona, ES</td>
<td>Presentation at the Ancient Olive Trees Congress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd - 5th December</td>
<td>Schleswig-Holstein, DE</td>
<td>Participation in the International Conference “Leave no stone unturned! Megaliths in conference”, annual highlight of the European Route of Megalithic Culture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th - 6th December</td>
<td>Tbilisi, GE</td>
<td>Training on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe for national and local stakeholders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12th - 13th December</td>
<td>Kyoto, JP</td>
<td>UNWTO/UNESCO 4th World Conference Declaration on Tourism and Culture</td>
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More information