

*Press release Routes4U – 20180828*

### Hidden treasures to unite the Baltic Sea Region

*First Routes4U meeting for the Baltic Sea Region*

*6-7 September 2018. Oslo, Norway.*

**Oslo, Norway.** The Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe are transnational networks that promote and protect the cultural heritage in Europe since 1987.

The first Routes4U meeting for the Baltic Sea Region (6 and 7 September 2018 in Oslo, Norway) will discuss how to protect and promote the Cultural Route rich and diverse heritage of the Baltic Sea region. Hosted by the Arts Council Norway and opened by Frida BLOMGREN, State Secretary at the Norwegian Ministry of Culture, participants will exchange on regional needs of the Baltic Sea Region with regard to the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme in the framework of the Routes4U Project. "On the one hand it [the Cultural Routes] enables grassroots participation and strengthens democratic participation – and, on the other, it is packed with the entrepreneurial potential from which communities can benefit<sup>1</sup>."

The Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe act as channels for intercultural dialogue and promote a better knowledge and understanding of our European shared history and heritage. 16 Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe cross the Baltic Sea Region, including the Hansa, the Viking Routes, the European Route of Megalithic Culture, the European Route of Cistercian Abbey and the European Cemeteries Route, Destination Napoleon and the Saint Olav Ways.

Routes4U Project, joint programme between the European Union and the Council of Europe, aims at strengthening regional development through the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe in the four EU macro-regions (Adriatic-Ionian, Alpine, Baltic Sea and Danube Region), according to the Council of Europe Faro Convention.

Participants to the meeting include representatives from Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe networks, stakeholders from the cultural and tourism field at national and macro-regional level in the Baltic Sea Region and European Institution.

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More information about the meeting: <https://pip-eu.coe.int/en/web/cultural-routes-and-regional-development/2018-routes4u-eusbsr-meeting>

Journalist that wish to attend our kindly ask to send an e-mail before the 5<sup>th</sup> of September 2018 to [denise.de-roux@coe.int](mailto:denise.de-roux@coe.int)

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<sup>1</sup> Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni, Council of Europe. Routes4U meeting for the Adriatic and Ionian Region. 6 June 2018, Venice, Italy.