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Regular evaluation:  
**HUGUENOT AND  
WALDENSIAN TRAIL**

Independent expert report

Cultural route  
of the Council of Europe  
Itinéraire culturel  
du Conseil de l'Europe



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*\*The opinions expressed in this independent expert report are those of the author, and do not engage the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe.*

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## **1 Executive Summary**

The Cultural Route “Sur les pas des Huguenots et des Vaudois” is a trail of remembrance, contributing to the understanding of European history in the 17th and 18th centuries and simultaneously establishing the link with current societal questions regarding migration and integration in Europe. This reference to current social issues opens up a multitude of possible activities to transmit the theme. In summary, many ambitious partners and volunteers on national and international level fill the theme with life by professionally and passionately implementing a multitude of projects.

National and international activities comprise – among others - publications, scientific and non-scientific conferences, events, signposting of the route, guided hikes, education for young Europeans, marketing activities, contemporary cultural and artistic practice and cultural tourism. All current activities evaluated comply with high standards of scientific research and professional thematic mediation.

Since the last evaluation, the theme was further researched and communicated, new regional itineraries were added and signposted and the artistic practice was diversified.

For the next years to come, the problems of internal structures of the national networks have to be addressed in order to give more responsibility to local/regional level and yet to assure uniformity with the goals of the association and the visibility of the CoE. On international level, a formal frame for the work of the Scientific Committee is needed. Regarding digitalisation (and especially digital guidance of hikers/bikers), the transfer from printed material to a user-friendly and effective online communication will be a challenge. The use of the graphic charter, established in 2010, has to be evaluated internally considering that the design of the information panels and the design of the websites differs enormously in the member states. The ongoing common international project of “Exil des plantes” needs further innovative elements in order to attract an audience of young Europeans.

## 2 Introduction

The Cultural Route “Sur les pas des Huguenots et des Vaudois” was certified as a Cultural Route of the Council of Europe in 2013. In 2015, the “Union internationale Sur les Pas des Huguenots et des Vaudois” was founded. The association under French law has four members only, namely the French “Association Sur les pas des Huguenots”, the German “Hugenotten- und Waldenserpfad e.V.”, the Swiss “Fondation VIA - Sur les pas des Huguenots et des Vaudois du Piémont” and the Italian “Waldensian Cultural Centre Foundation”.

Each member has a vast national network of municipalities, regions, individuals, tourism service providers, private companies, parishes and other organisations.

The international association has its seat in Dieulefit, France. The presidency and the international project management of the Union is rotating from one member to the other after each evaluation cycle.

Currently, Jean-Louis Hilaire is the president and Laure Alvarez is the project manager (succeeding Johannes Melsen who was stated in the application form). Decisions for international activities are taken within annual general international assemblies. Having no budget of its own (peculiarity of the legal form of French association) and no staff employed, common activities are financed by each member state paying its share.

The national networks meet with their national partners and take decisions in general national assemblies (applying for associations only). The associations are funded through subsidies, project-related financing and membership fees. The foundations dispose of own assets, the foundation board (in the case of Switzerland) decides on the use of funds.

The route extends today to approx. 2,500km, which is 500 km more than in the last evaluation. Extensions of the physical route were realised intra-nationally only, no further member state has joined. Whereas the length of the route has increased, the progress of the number of members of the national networks differs in the various countries. France has lost members, Germany has gained members in the last three years. Italian and Swiss partners are organised as foundations, this is why no formal members exist.

Presumably in 2021, the French association will undergo a process of re-structuring and change its statutes: There will be local sections, with local responsibilities, federated within the national association. The latter will then be responsible at the national and international levels. Germany shows interest in a similar re-structuring in order to give more responsibility to the local/regional level, but there are no concrete plans yet.

The level of co-operation with the “Routes of Reformation”, Cultural Route of the Council of Europe certified in the last evaluation cycle, was discussed among the members. The members of the Union wish to co-operate but decline an integration into the Routes of Reformation.

The theme of the route represents the common cultural heritage of Huguenots and Waldensians in Europe. Throughout the European cultural route, the exile and integration of the Huguenots and Waldensians are represented and transmitted. Simultaneously, the link is established with current societal questions regarding migration and integration in Europe.

The aims of the international association are i) the enhancement of the historic and cultural Huguenot and Waldensian heritage, ii) the support of local economy through quality tourism and iii) the raising of awareness for cooperation and European citizenship through human exchange.

### **3 Main Body Evaluation**

#### **3.1 Cultural Route Theme**

##### **3.1.1 Definition of the theme of the route**

The theme of the route represents the common cultural heritage of Huguenots and Waldensians in four European countries, namely France, Italy, Switzerland and Germany. The Huguenot and Waldensian trail reflects European history in the 17th and 18th centuries and contributes to the understanding of contemporary European diversity. The theme addresses the European value of freedom, namely freedom of religion, freedom of thought, freedom of expression and freedom of movement. Throughout the European cultural route, the exile and integration of the Huguenots and Waldensians are represented and transmitted. Simultaneously, the link is established with current societal questions regarding migration and integration in Europe.

It is a trail of remembrance based on a European Cultural Itinerary of long-distance hiking that follows as closely as possible the historical routes of the exiles of the Huguenots and Waldensians to Switzerland, Italy and Germany, after the revocation of the Edict of Nantes (1685–1690).

##### **3.1.2 Historical and cultural context**

In 1685, King Louis XIV revoked the Edict of Nantes and a climate of persecution settled in France. 250,000 Huguenots then sought refuge in Protestant lands in Europe and around the world. From the Dauphiné, the Cévennes and the Luberon, where the Reformation was very much in evidence, clandestine departures were organised in the direction of Geneva, the nearest Protestant city, and then to Germany, where they were welcomed and could found colonies. The Waldensians of the Piedmont valleys, who adhered to the Reformation, also went into exile via Geneva, after having been persecuted in the Waldensian Valleys by the Duke of Savoy; they followed the same paths as the Huguenots in 1686. In 1689 the Waldensians, helped by the Duke of Orange, returned to the Waldensian Valleys after a forced 350 km march through the Alps (“Glorieuse Rentrée des Vaudois du Piémont”).

##### **3.1.3 Council of Europe values represented by the theme**

The values promoted by the Council of Europe such as freedom, tolerance, equality, solidarity, democracy and human dignity are an inherent part of the project and are its objectives. These values permeate not only the contents and actions of the project, but also the relations between partners and the networking of partnerships at local, regional, national and international level.

Beside the values, the main lines of work, the resolutions CM/Res(2013)66 and CM/Res(2013)67, its conventions (European Convention on Human Rights, the European Cultural Convention, the Faro Convention, the European Landscape Convention, the White Paper on Intercultural Dialogue, the UNESCO Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage and the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage) and recommendations are respected within the work of the route.

The theme affects both the content of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights itself and the partial agreements derived from it.

## 3.2 Fields of Action

### 3.2.1 Co-operation in research and development

The Scientific Committee consists of ten scientists from universities, cultural centres and research institutions from all four countries. Except for one Swiss member, all scientists belong to the route since 2010 (Swiss partner since 2020). Their competences extend both to Valdensian and Huguenot history and culture. Some of the scientists are involved in other national associations relevant to the theme (e.g. the German association of Waldensians “Deutsche Waldenservereinigung”). According to the route management, the scientists have built a local expert network around them, also including young scientists. The contribution of these local scientific networks can not be evaluated, as there is no formal frame for these networks.

The role of the Scientific committee members was never fixed or described in the statutes of the international association. In the last evaluation period, the members have not met as one group (neither personally nor digitally), so no reports about knowledge transfer between the members could be given. There is no joint published publication of the Scientific Committee on transnational level.

Currently, the co-operation with the Scientific Committee members works on demand and is characterised by an informal working method. Whenever the national partners plan a conference or need scientific advice (e.g. for the evaluation of potential new members, extension of the route or for publications, search for sources), they contact their national member of the Scientific Committee.

For example, the scientists provided advice to the transnational project “Exil des plantes” and prepared presentations for the “Voix d’Exils” event programme. The scientists of the Committee might also recommend other scientists that have shown expertise in a specialized field of work. Moreover, they (co-)publish books about the theme.

Within conferences on international level of the route, some of the Committee members gave speeches and have already met.

The expert interviews led during the evaluation have shown that they understand their role also as an impulse generator for new themes along the route and as researchers for undiscovered sources.

Consulting the Scientific Board only on demand contains the risk of dispersing the efforts. It is strongly advised to formally fix the tasks of the Scientific Committee to (a) clarify expectations towards the scientists and (b) to facilitate the acquisition of new members of the board with clear tasks. The latter seems important as scientists are mostly involved in their daily work at universities or research centres and need to know how much time they need to invest.

Moreover, it is recommended to initiate regular annual meetings between all members of the committee, to (a) exchange about current national research or findings and (b) to receive input or feedback on potential new transnational/common topics or projects from the different angles of scientific disciplines and (c) to articulate needed assistance for topics that need further research. The documentation of such meetings could also serve as an assistance for further potential members to find orientation within previous discussions of the committee.

The scientific committee as well as other research institutions have contributed to a series of seminars treating different aspects of the route. Examples thereof are “Le Patois vaudois au Bade-Wurtemberg: sa préservation et son développement au Piémont” (2018, in Germany)”, “La culture Réformée et l’idée européenne” (2017, in France) or “L’eredità della Riforma protestante” (Italy). No individual examples were given for the member state of Switzerland,



yet the website and the information panels at the sites contain scientific research. Switzerland as a member state apparently does not have a focus of activities in research and development (in terms of contributing to conferences); yet it is advised to exchange with the other board members and to make own research visible.

Within the “Shared Heritage” project in 2018, the transnational congress “Randonner sur les pas des Huguenots et des Vaudois depuis le 19<sup>e</sup> siècle” took place. Several interesting documentary tomes were published by the German association Hugenotten- und Waldenserpfad e.V. in German language. The publication of the tomes is mentioned on the German website (<https://www.hugenotten-waldenserpfad.eu/tipps,-anregungen,-empfehlungen/angeboteaktuell.html>) of the route, but the 5 tomes are not linked for download but can be ordered by post.

It is recommend that such interesting scientific findings and documentations – which treat the theme in several countries – should be published as summarizing multilingual easy-to-read-content on the websites or at least as downloadable files in order to reach more readers. An attractive way to link scientific information is presented on the website of the Swiss partner (<https://www.via-huguenots.ch/fr/l-histoire/un-peu-d-histoire>), published in 2014. On the Italian and French websites, the scientifically interested reader will find no further information about the route except for the information on single points of interest and the bibliography which does not correspond to today’s standards of knowledge transfer.

### **3.2.2 Enhancement of the memory, history and European heritage**

The route enhances the memory and history of escape and arrival as well as the European heritage of Huguenots and Valdensians by organising events and animating its tangible and intangible heritage. The theme of the route reflects the European history during the Reformation and its consequences for the following centuries.

The activities help to understand the European diversity and the connection between the Huguenot escape and the enlightenment.

Considering not only the countries of escape, but also the countries of welcoming the Huguenots and Valdensians, the route puts a focus on the change (economical, demographic and scientific) the refugees brought to the countries. This change brought by refugees is not only a topic of the past but it is still very relevant. It helps to understand today's migration processes and provides several perspectives of transmitting the theme. Archives, libraries, local and regional museums, historic and cultural institutions and professional guides are involved in the enhancement of the memory.

Immigration and emigration, central to European heritage, are presented as part of the development of the European countries and their cultural history. The route’s activities understand very well to transmit the exchange of knowledge and know-how.

The project “Développement du patrimoine européen dans les zones industrielles en cours de restructuration économique” was discussed among the partner countries and dealt with the transition of manufactory industry and preindustry from Southern to Northern Europe during the exile of the Huguenots (e.g. silk manufacturing, leather production, metallurgical industry).

Especially the chosen common project (partly realised and activities still upcoming) "L'exil des plantes, de l'agriculture et de l'utilisation des produits agricoles" showcases the valorisation of the Huguenot's and Waldensian contribution to the expansion of gardening culture and the world of plants in Europe. It is a very suitable theme to create identification

and easy understanding for the public as people will easily relate to the need of refugees to take familiar plants (to grow, to eat) with them.

Moreover, several plants and dishes were “imported” by the Huguenots and Waldensians that are today part of the welcoming countries culinary culture. It also shows that emigrants can (still) be proud of what they brought to other cultures, which at the same time contributes to the identity building of minorities. The project will be further developed and offers many facets of interpretation. It started with a conference in 2019 in Germany with international contributions and will be followed by an exhibition in 5 parts, highlighting the theme from the perspective of every member country and as an overview.

The project about the exile of plants shows very well the route’s understanding of the enhancement of memory: Those responsible of the route do not stop at the historical reappraisal of the theme but transfer its significance to today’s cultural circumstances. They look for themes that create points of contact with people’s everyday lives, themes that touch people.

Further activities in this field comprise cultural hikes, seminars, publications (direct and indirect), participation in congresses, lectures, exhibitions, inauguration of new branches of the route, open door days, and installation of memorial plates.

It is recommended to further proceed the process of identifying common themes by thorough research and transnational communication among partners and the Scientific committee. Whenever possible, it is advised to communicate the common theme in simple language with striking titles in order to raise awareness among the general public.

Furthermore, it is advised to regularly evaluate the number of participants of the activities (e.g. seminars) and to draw consequences in case the number of participants (and therefore the people reached) is not proportionate with the efforts taken. This measure should help not to waste efforts on activities that do not reach (enough) people.

Structured feedback should be obtained from the participants of the events/seminars in order to learn for the next events and to collect the wishes for further activities.

### **3.2.3 Cultural and educational exchanges for young Europeans**

The route offered several activities for the cultural and educational knowledge transfer of young Europeans, such as the “itinéraires ludiques familiales” in France in 2018, the thematical hike “Wo ist das Fremde heute” in Germany in 2018, presentation by young people (within the event “Scritto misto” in Italy, 2018) or the musical “Schiffbruch” in Switzerland in 2019. Some of the activities were broadcasted on TV and radio and were communicated in newspapers and online.

A few projects present a durable offer for young people, e.g. the playful workshop about construction measures in Medieval times “Eureka” in Le Poët-Célar in France raises awareness of the route and is an indoor exploratory activity. In Germany, a geocaching route on the trail of Waldensians was created in 2019 and addresses young people.

Three activities with a true transnational character of exchange could be identified: Firstly, the journey of a group of 5 young people from Saluzzo to Genève in 2017 discovering the trail of the Waldensians. The route managers gave logistic support together with the church of Pinerolo and prepared official receptions in Genève and Scalenghe. The journey was taken on video and reached national media (newspaper) attention.

Secondly, in 2019, four young Italians went on a journey from Piedmont to Genève, following the footsteps of their ancestors and commemorating the “Glorieuse Rentrée des Vaudois du Piémont”. A reception was held by the Swiss partners.

In Germany in 2018, four communities commemorated the construction of the Landgraf-Carl-channel along the route (the channel was finally not built) by constructing and painting four wooden dowsing barges together with young people. In the community of Bad Karlshafen, two young refugees from Aleppo individually designed the barge in a multiple-weeks-lasting workshop. During this time, the workshop became a meeting point for locals, tourists and newly arrived persons.

It is recommended to strengthen the efforts for enabling more exchanges for young Europeans between the route’s member states. Therefore, it is advised to address schools and/or other national Huguenot and Waldensian associations. The latter might provide contact to young people (or even young members) who would like to follow the footsteps of their ancestors.

It is also imaginable to put a stronger focus on the connections of Huguenots/Waldensians and today’s refugees. The cultural transfer of refugees from their countries to the welcoming countries could be a starting point for didactical measures.

At the same time, it is advised to put more emphasis on the media coverage during these transnational events by e.g. leading interviews with the young Europeans about the meaning of their journey or to let them tell their story in their own social media accounts and to share those.

### **3.2.3 Contemporary cultural and artistic practice**

The contemporary cultural and artistic practice is actively promoted by the route’s members states. They promote intercultural dialogue and multidisciplinary exchange between various artistic expressions and link cultural heritage and contemporary culture.

A repeating annual event in France, “Voix d’exils”, is a fixum concerning the coming together of cultural interpretation along the route. In 2019, a theatre piece, a concert, an exhibition (installation itinérante “Jusqu’où tu es chez toi”) and a concert-film were organised to offer encounters around the theme of the route. The programmes of the event in the last years (in 2020 the programme was reduced due to COVID) show an excellent balance between the artistic practice and a co-operation with multidisciplinary artists.

Several permanent artistic works were established in the last years: The monument “Naufrage Moment mal re garde” was inaugurated in 2017 in Switzerland, commemorating the drowning of 111 Huguenot refugees in 1687. It is a common work of a regional artist, a Cuban artist and current asyle seekers. The project brings together cultural practices from various parts of the world.

A further example is the artistic staging of the route is the German “Kleiner Grimm pfad” itinerary with monuments of sculptors, painters and other artists/cultural educators. The above mentioned wooden dowsing barges are another example of cultural and artistic practice in the German member state. The project creates a link to the history of skill development (construction of a channel and ancient boats).

No Italian contributions were made visible in the application documents for the re-certification, neither show the reports of Italian activities hints for contemporary cultural and artistic practice.

In the future, to support the theme of “L’Exil des plantes” (see above), the artistic practice of painting (especially still life) is considered as relevant and will be further elaborated.

In the last evaluation, it was mentioned that music played a dominant role as artistic practice. This can not be confirmed for the current evaluation, meaning that the route’s artistic practices have diversified.

It is considered very positive that the artistic practices of the route comprise both temporary (spectacles, performances, exhibitions) and durable (monuments) installations.

It is advised to broaden the artistic practice along the route to the Italian member state. Furthermore, the artistic staging of the upcoming theme “L’Exil des plantes” should be more diversified to address also a young public.

### **3.2.5 Cultural tourism and sustainable cultural development**

Considering the activities in the field of cultural tourism and sustainable cultural development, the actions taken add up to the activities of contemporary cultural and artistic practice, the enhancement of memory and the exchanges of youth – all these activities provide a well-researched and comprehensive tourist offer.

Concretely developed tourist offers (in the last evaluation period) are thematic short-breaks, biking trips, discovery tours, thematic (guided) hikes, informational publications/guides/guidebooks and newly signposted stages (especially in Switzerland). A tour for elderly people and a bus-trip was equally programmed, so the route is aiming at diversifying the cultural product. A familiarization trip for travel agents in France, Germany and Switzerland was planned in 2020 but had to be delayed due to Corona.

The landscape as well as the villages and their architecture are the main points of interest for the tourists. To promote tourism, some of members states co-operate with tourist accommodations and gastronomy as well as (local, regional) tourist information offices, marketing companies and tour operators. Germany and France recommend tour operators and guides on their websites, on the German partner website even tour operators for the French route are recommended. Six new agencies have joined as partners in France. In more general terms, the route co-operates with public and private institutions. Nevertheless, especially the German partner needs more support from European and national level to raise the awareness of the CoE-certification of CR at regional tourism boards.

The main forms of tourism that are advertised are hiking or cycling along the route, both being sustainable forms of travelling. All member states provide comprehensive information on the cultural heritage, thereby assisting in local, regional and national identity formation. Individual travellers will find a multitude of published guides in different types and qualities as flyers or books.

Quality criteria for the route stages (e.g. each stage has to have one “anchor attraction”, integration into the marketing activities of the communities/regions) and the integration of rural and urban communities provide a good basis for a sustainable cultural development.

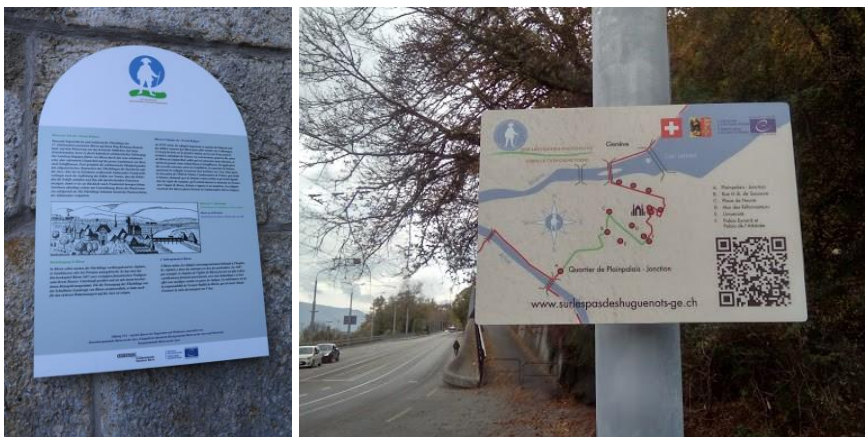
The route addresses individual travellers and a few organised group travellers. Considering the tourist offer, the basic infrastructure for the trail is still being expanded. Signposts along the route and information panels in the communities are the main physical infrastructure provided. In the future, especially Italy, France and Switzerland will continue the signposting and construction of information panels. In France, the signposting follows the GR-signposts. In total, both signposting and information panels differ a lot between the countries.

**Figure 1: Information panels along the route (Germany, France)**



Information panel in Friedrichsdorf (Germany) and in Saint-Pancrasse (France)

**Figure 2: Information panels in Switzerland**



Information panel in Büren (Switzerland), information panel/signpost in Geneva

**Figure 3: Signposting in France, Italy and Germany**



Signposting in Germany, in France and in Italy

Considering that many hikers nowadays use digital guidance and information about the points of interest, the digital information provided was evaluated in detail:

For the tourist, there is easy-to-access data about the course of the route, accommodation, guided tours and further information. That information can not be found online for the Italian course on the national website that is linked on the website of the international association.

- France assembles tourist information in professionally published guidebooks (Topoguide GR965) and in an online-database on their website (including map, heritage information, accommodation and services for every route stage, available as download pdf and GPX).
- Germany provides information in maps and guidebooks (as download or for purchase), lists of accommodation facilities (sorted by route stages) and links to outdooractive.com, a professional hiking platform providing topographic and further information. Unfortunately, the content on outdooractive.com is not well-kept by the association, therefore it does not provide much additional information about the route except for the online map.
- Switzerland presents the cartography of the route as a downloadable pdf of the overview map. For more detailed information, nearly all stages are marked in “SUISSE MOBILE”, a mapping platform which only provides topographic information about the route but not information about the sites. On the regional Swiss websites, information about the points of interests is partly given. For example, the website [www.via-huguenots-geneve.ch](http://www.via-huguenots-geneve.ch) presents an additional map (google maps) where the points of interests are linked to very detailed subsites with information about the cultural heritage. Whereas another regional website, <http://www.via-huguenots-vd.ch/> provides no map and nearly no information about the cultural heritage.
- Regarding Italy, visitors coming to the international website [www.surlespasheduhuguenots.eu](http://www.surlespasheduhuguenots.eu) are linked to <http://www.lestradedeivaldesi.it/>, where no tourist relevant information can be found. Only on the website [www.fondazionevaldese.org](http://www.fondazionevaldese.org), information about tours and points of interest are given (in Italian only), no digital map is provided.

To sum up, it is a pity that the four member states do not profit from each other's experiences and knowledge in tourist guidance. The hard- and the software for guidance (guidebooks/leaflets, signposting, information panels, technical solutions for displaying the route) differ from country to country, in Switzerland it even differs from one Canton to the other. The same applies for the written information about the points of interest, which is mainly very scientific, in very various depth and only sometimes available in several languages.

The co-operation with service providers and tour operators is at various levels in the countries; France and Germany obviously having established most of the contacts. Italy and Switzerland are currently not displaying online information on accommodation/further services, which is a missed chance considering that a sustainable development integrates the economic wellbeing of local and regional businesses.

It is advised to produce a “stakeholder map” of the national tourism partners and to filter which information about these stakeholders (hotels, tour agencies, tourist offices...) is relevant for the guest. Then each partner should check whether this information is given on their national websites.

Once the national website is analysed, it is recommended to put digital guidance on the agenda on international level. Partners should talk about the benefits and costs of their

system of digital guidance and also the digital extension of the information panels (e.g. QR-Codes on the Swiss panels for more information).

Especially in Switzerland, the national association should take care of a common standard among the Cantons in visitor guidance and of the scope of the online-information about the points of interest.

It is advised to change the website of the Italian partner on [www.surlespasdeshuguenots.eu](http://www.surlespasdeshuguenots.eu), as this website (<http://www.lestradedeivaldesi.it>) has no relevant information for tourists.

Further it is advised to find an understanding among the partners what kind of tourism they plan to offer in the future. Therefore, each member should collect its main and most successful tourism products, to see which are the success factors of product development and what knowledge can be transferred to the partners.

Visitor monitoring is only carried out by two departments by counting the hikers and the number of overnights in the accommodation facilities. There, the numbers in the French departments of Drôme and l'Isère show an increase of 11% per year between 2013 and 2019. It is advised to do further visitor monitoring and research and to consult also national studies about hiking. At least one national meeting per year should be dedicated to tourism in the member country, bringing together the service providers, accommodation facilities, tour operators etc. at one table and to talk about their needs and experiences when “offering” the route. The learnings of these national meetings should be communicated on international level. This international meeting should also be dedicated to a knowledge transfer about how to address tour operators, as France and Germany seem to have good practice.

### 3.3 Cultural Route Network

#### 3.3.1 Overview of institutional/legal structure of the network

The network of the Cultural Route comprises four Council of Europe’s member States, namely France, Germany, Italy and Switzerland.

The member states have founded the international ‘L’Union internationale Sur les Pas des Huguenots et des Vaudois’ in 2015. The following figure provides an overview:

**Figure 4: Overview of the network**

|                           |   |  |  |   |
|---------------------------|---|--|--|---|
| International association | ‘L’Union internationale Sur les Pas des Huguenots et des Vaudois’ |  |  |   |
| Legal form                | Association under French law                                      |  |  |   |
| Seat                      | Dieulefit (France)  |  |  |   |
| Founded in                | 2015  |  |  |   |
| Members of the Union      | France:<br>Association "Sur les pas des Huguenots"                | Germany:<br>Hugenotten- und Waldenserpfad eingetragener Verein | Switzerland:<br>La Fondation VIA - Sur les pas des Huguenots et des Vaudois du Piémont | Italy:<br>Waldensian Cultural Centre Foundation |

The objectives of the Union are a) the enhancement of the historic and cultural Huguenot and Waldensian heritage, b) the support of local economy through quality tourism, c) the raising of awareness for cooperation and European citizenship through human exchange.

The Union meets once a year. In 2018 it could not meet because the French association as current “chef de file” was in staff-related and financial difficulties. Only the 4 members of the

association have the right to vote (majority vote), partners and members of the national members do have no vote. The case of stand off has yet not arrived, all decisions were taken unanimously. Every member has one vote, independent from its size or budget. The General Assemblies are mostly attended by one person of the member state.

The Union has no own budget, which is a peculiarity of the French legal form. Every national member has its own budget and finances the activities that concerns them. The financing of common actions is guaranteed by all participating members and can only be realised when the members participating in the common activities have made funds available. The various national budgets allocated to international projects depend on common European activities and their own expenses for travel, meetings etc.

The management of the international association is the responsibility of the so-called “chef de file”, he/she is the project manager for 3 years until the next re-certification as CR of the CoE. The role of the “chef de file” is fixed in the statutes, among other, he/she is the contact person for the EICR and prepares the application form for the regular evaluation. Germany was the “chef de file” in the last evaluation period, currently it is France and it will be Italy after this (possible) re-certification.

The system of rotating “chef de file” has the advantage of distributing the workload equally and having no administrative expenses. On the other hand, the national members (mostly it is the national coordinator of the association/foundation who will then take over as “chef de file”) get no funds for this additional task, there is a natural inconsistency regarding the working mode of the management (loss of know-how, contacts etc.) and a constant change of the contact partner for the EICR. The president of the route is changing according to the country providing the chef de file. Currently, Jean-Louis Hilaire is the president.

The continuation of the Union is linked to the re-certification as CR of the CoE – whenever this certification is withdrawn, the Union will dissolve. It can be stated that on administrative level, the Union is just a formality and serves as an umbrella organisation. But on organisational level, it is a catalysator for common European projects of the route and an indispensable means of communication between the member states.

The working languages in the Association are German, French and Italian.

### 3.3.2 Current composition of the network by country and type of member

Whereas the international Union has only 4 members, there are many members and co-operation partners on national level. The legal form on national level is either association or foundation, whereas the network partners within the nations are rather of the same nature. figure 5 provides an overview:

**Figure 5: Composition of the network by country and type of member**

|                      |   |   |   |  |
|----------------------|---|---|---|--|
| Members of the Union | France: Association "Sur les pas des Huguenots" | Germany: Hugenotten- und Waldenserpfad eingetragener Verein | Switzerland: La Fondation VIA - Sur les pas des Huguenots et des Vaudois du Piémont | Italy: Waldensian Cultural Centre Foundation |
| Legal form           | Association under French law                    | Association under German law                                | non-profit Foundation under Swiss law   | non-profit Foundation under Italian law      |
| Seat                 | Dieulefit (France)                              | Neu-Isenburg (Germany)                                      | Biel/Bienne (Switzerland)   | Torre Pellice (Italy)                        |
| Founded in           | 2011  | 2009  | 2009  | 1989   |



|  |  |  |   |                          |
|--|--|--|---|--------------------------|
| National members of the members (number) | 90 members (2020, awaiting several renewals of membership at the end of 2020), 139 (2019), 153 (2018), 200 (2017)<br><br><i>Structure of members:</i><br>2020 (status quo November): 58 individuals, 14 associations, 7 hosts, and 11 municipalities | 118 members (2020), 110 (2019), 105 (2018), 98 (2017)<br><br><i>Structure of members 2020:</i><br>28 cities and communities, 3 regions (Landkreise), 3 nature parcs, 2 regional tourism organisations, 1 hiking association, 21 cultural institutions, 10 parishes, 15 enterprises, 25 private persons | By law, a foundation has no members, but consists only of earmarked assets, the use of which is monitored by a board of trustees.<br><br>The board of trustees consists of 5 persons. The board of trustees is currently examining options for the creation of a community of interest to the VIA Foundation or an association of Friends of the VIA Foundation, which would be open to membership. | no information delivered |
|--|--|--|---|--------------------------|

Whereas the Union does not employ any staff, the national partners do.

- The **French** association shows a constant decrease of members since 2017, even though it opened new stages in the south of France. A process of re-organisation has started in 2018 and was moderated by an external agency which presented several scenarios for the future organisational and financial commitment of the members. The members of the national association have decided to have local sections, with local responsibilities, federated within the national association. The latter will then be responsible at the national and international levels. New statutes are currently being prepared. The new structure of local sections shall help to generate new funding on local level; national funding will further be the task of the national association. In the last evaluation period, one person was employed part-time, other tasks were accomplished by interns or volunteers. Within the national network, internal communication flow was organised by a newsletter, conferences and reports of meetings. The main financial means of the national association came from membership fees and projects, LEADER among them.
- In **Germany**, new members and new loop itineraries could be added since the last evaluation. In expert interviews with German members and Scientific board members it was stated that the responsible network partner in Germany, Dr. Renate Buchenauer, is the central contact person for the organisation, coordination and information - without her, "nothing would work" (quote). Although, many volunteers and committed members contribute to make the route work.

In the last evaluation period, one person was employed part-time (Dr. Buchenauer) and another person was employed to disseminate material.

Within the national network, internal communication flow is organised by a newsletter, website updates, conferences, meeting reports, direct contact and social media activities. The main financial means of the national association came from membership fees and subsidies.

Considering that the national route coordinator is not employed full-time and that many activities are based on voluntary commitment of her and other passionate fans of the route, a re-structuring of the German route in sections with individual responsibility could also be a suitable measure, especially as there are contact persons for every section of

the route. First considerations were taken, but it is a very comprehensive task as the members of the German association in one region are quite heterogeneous. But as project manager on national level, Dr. Buchenauer might use her excellent contacts on regional level in order to increase the level of own initiative in the communities and regions.

- In **Switzerland**, there are 7 initiatives within the national foundation that work rather autonomous, among them 3 regional associations cantonales or intercantonales that implement activities in the regions: Association genevoise ([www.via-huguenots-geneve.ch](http://www.via-huguenots-geneve.ch)), Association en pays de Vaud ([www.via-huguenots-vd.ch](http://www.via-huguenots-vd.ch)) and Association "Chemin des Huguenots et Vaudois du Piémont Argovie-Zurich-Schaffhouse" ([www.ref-sh.ch/kg/via/](http://www.ref-sh.ch/kg/via/)). These 3 regional associations have members, but the number of members is not known to the Swiss foundation which raises the question of the level of cooperation between the national foundation and the regional associations.
- In **Italy**, the Foundation manages a library, the tourist office and the museum, it displays collections and publishes texts about the Waldensian movement. It also deals with cultural promotion and regional development. According to provided information in expert interviews that could not be confirmed by desk research, the route has equally opened 8 new loop itineraries.

As the system of providing more responsibility to local/regional level (as foreseen in France) interests the German partner as well, it is recommended to the French partner to share the experiences of the restructuring-process with the international partners. Germany, at the same time, should start a dialogue on regional level. The aim should be that there is one anchor point as national coordination that brings together local and regional stakeholders, co-ordinates the communication and gathers information and that the regional stakeholders initiate local projects and provide necessary information. Another aim is to unlink personal commitment from the institutional level – necessary tasks on regional and national level should be backed up with enough staff power and financing.

In general, the members of the Union should meet more often (considering that they are only 4 persons and meetings can easily be done on video) and put emphasize on special themes to exchange about the functioning of internal matters (e.g. tourism development [see above], organisational structure, communication with members).

This also concerns the decision making process. Whereas only 4 persons decide what is done on international level, a multitude of stakeholders decides on national level. Considering that the Union only meets once a year and the members of the Union await decisions of their national general assemblies, decision making takes too long.

It is recommended to make the development of the national members more visible, as otherwise, one gets the impression that the international network (i.e. number of members) remains static with four members. An easy way would be to show the development of the length of the road – on the website, several lengths of the route can be found. In the last evaluation report, it was 2,000 km, in the current application form, 2,500 km were mentioned. To make this progress visible could already help.

Regarding the internal information flow, on international level there are only the reports of the General Assemblies that are not existent in every working language. It is recommended to assure that the activity reports of the other countries as well as decisions taken on international level are made available to the members of the national members in their language.

### **3.3.3 Network extension since the last evaluation**

No new partners have joined the Union. It is not foreseen that new regions in the existing member countries become a member of the Union, these candidates would become “members” of the national associations/foundations. Nevertheless, France has lost members on national scale, Germany has won members, Switzerland co-operates with more associations on regional level, for Italy no information was delivered.

The extension to the German region of Uckermark, that was stated in the last evaluation, was not realised as the feasibility study in this region came to no affirmative result regarding the membership. Another extension to Poland was discussed in 2017, but was finally not realised.

### **3.3.4 Strategy for the network extension in the three years to come**

The international Association is open to candidacy of new members. They, however, cannot bear the title ‘European Cultural Route Sur les pas de Huguenots et des Vaudois’ and/or the logo of the Council of Europe before they have been re-certified by the EICR of the CoE. No further national memberships are foreseen.

On national level, there are several procedures and necessary documents, that a new member has to fulfil. The Scientific Committee is equally engaged in the acquisition and check of new members on national level.

## **3.4 Communication tools**

### **3.4.1 Current state of communication tools developed by the network**

The route has developed a multitude of communication tools – reports, flyers, brochures, books, guidebooks, games, an audiovisual interpretation (“Wo ist das Fremde heute”) and videos. The website of the Union, national and regional websites, three facebook channels and one instagram channel are means of communication that are regularly updated.

A graphic charter and a guideline for the use of the logo was designed in 2010. Whereas the logo of the white figure of a Huguenot man against a light blue circle with a green line underneath is employed on all publications reviewed, the color code and page-subdivision proposed in the graphic charter has become more and more vague in print materials. In terms of website appearance, the graphic charter is not applied consequently.

The website [www.surlespasdeshuguenots.eu](http://www.surlespasdeshuguenots.eu) is a central means of communication. It is online in French, English, German, Italian and Dutch. A national brochure for France is currently being developed and has been developed for Germany. Switzerland presents a map with summarizing information about the regions crossed by the path. One map for the whole path exists as well. The communication tools of signposting/information panels and digital visitor guidance were treated above, none of it is in common design on international level.

In contrast to the last evaluation, all websites are working. The international website looks outdated in terms of usability and appearance (design from 2010) and has collected many information. One section is only about the international itinerary, 4 sections present the national partners and 2 more sections treat the project background and partners.

All national partners except for France use separate websites to promote their part of the itinerary. For the French part, it is obvious that the website does not provide the perfect frame for comprehensive hiking information – there is no digital map, topofiches are only for

download, and some of the links do not work anymore. Germany and Switzerland link directly to their own website, which are both in different designs. The link to the Italian itinerary goes to [www.lestradedeivaldesi.it](http://www.lestradedeivaldesi.it) – a website that is only available in Italian and that offers no relevant tourist information, only one page without pictures and links about the history of the trail. It is strongly recommended to rather use [www.fondazionevaldese.org](http://www.fondazionevaldese.org). The German website is not available in any other language. The information on the German website is overboarding and it is hard to find out which information is relevant for the tourist and what is relevant for the people simply interested in the theme.

The German facebook channel is very well maintained and contains updated information, underlined with many pictures. The French facebook channel is not as regularly updated. The Italian channel contains many life videos, posts regularly and has a big fanbase.

**Figure 6: Indicators of the social media channels**

| Channel            | Website  | Indicators                        |
|--------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| Facebook, Germany  | <a href="http://www.facebook.com/HugenottenWaldenserpfad/">www.facebook.com/HugenottenWaldenserpfad/</a> | 524 likes, 608 abonnements        |
| Facebook, France   | <a href="http://www.facebook.com/surlespasdeshuguenots/">www.facebook.com/surlespasdeshuguenots/</a>     | 634 likes, 712 abonnements        |
| Facebook, Italy    | <a href="http://www.facebook.com/lestradeivaldesi/">www.facebook.com/lestradeivaldesi/</a>               | 1,067 likes, 1,130 abonnements    |
| Instagram, Germany | <a href="http://www.instagram.com/derwegindiefreiheit/">www.instagram.com/derwegindiefreiheit/</a>       | 157 abonnements, 52 contributions |

It is advised to do put the graphic charter on the agenda of the Union meetings. Considering that more and more digital means of communication do not apply the graphic charter anymore, members need to discuss the question whether they want to stick to a graphic charter and if yes, if it needs a redesign.

In general, one technical and uniformly designed framework for all national (and more importantly, considering the re-organisation on national level to come: regional) partners would be the best solution as it would guarantee a homogenous design and usability. It needs to be discussed which information the national platforms shall give, which information is outsourced to technical/thematical providers (e.g. outdooractive) and what kind of information the local/regional level should provide.

When discussing these points, the usability should be in the focus. Moreover, for all the scientifically researched results (e.g., documentation of seminars), a suitable section on the website needs to be found. These documents, that contribute to the enhancement of the memory, should be multilingual and available for download.

Considering the sustainability of the project, the amount of printed material should be reduced on the long term by having only one central printed publication on national level (instead of many leaflets) and transferring the content to the own digital platform or to integrate it in other (tourism) websites.

Regarding the social media channels, the constant updating should be continued, as it presents an added value to the internal network as well as to newly interested people.

### **3.4.2 Compliance with the Guidelines for the Use of the Logo “Cultural Route of the Council of Europe”**

In many communication materials, the logo of the CR of the CoE is applied. This applies especially to printed material and information panels. It appears also on the international website (which is the French national website as well) and in the Swiss website, but not on the German and Italian website. The Swiss regional websites, on the other hand, show a more diverse picture, as only 1 of 3 regional association uses the logo on the website.

The logo of the CoE is applied on the information panels, but not in the signposting – as this would be rather unusual considering the little space available.

The autocollant “Vous êtes ici sur un Itinéraire culturel européen” shows the logo of the CR of the CoE.

In general, it is recommended to constantly communicate to the partners in the member states that they should apply the logo at all times in conformity with the guidelines.

## **4 Conclusions and Recommendations**

To conclude, the route still complies with the main criteria of Resolution CM/Res(2013)67. Recommendations were given in the chapters above and are summarized here.

### **4.1 List of eligibility criteria for themes**

The route, and therefore all national partners, comply with all of the required criteria regarding the theme. No recommendations can be provided.

### **4.2 List of priority fields of action**

#### **4.2.1 Co-operation in research and development**

There is no formal frame for the work of the Scientific Advisory Board. It is strongly advised to formally fix the tasks of the Scientific Committee to (a) clarify expectations towards the scientists and (b) to facilitate the acquisition of new members of the board with clear tasks.

Moreover, it is recommended to initiate regular annual meetings between all members of the committee, to (a) exchange about current national research or findings and (b) to receive input or feedback on potential new transnational/common topics or projects from the different angles of scientific disciplines and (c) to articulate needed assistance for topics that need further research. The documentation of such meetings could also serve as an assistance for further potential members to find orientation within previous discussions of the committee.

The only member of the route that is new to the Scientific committee is the Swiss partner. It is advised to exchange with the other Board members and to make own research visible.

It is recommended that interesting scientific findings and documentations – which treat the theme in several countries – should be published as summarizing multilingual easy-to-read-content on the websites or at least as downloadable files in order to reach more readers.

#### **4.2.2 Enhancement of the memory, history and European heritage**

It is remarkable to what extent the route does not stop at the historical reappraisal of the theme but transfers its significance to today's cultural circumstances. The route managers look for themes that create points of contact with people's everyday lives.

Whenever possible, it is advised to communicate the common theme in simple language with striking titles in order to raise awareness among the general public.

Furthermore, it is advised to regularly evaluate the number of participants of the activities (e.g. seminars) and to draw consequences in case the number of participants (and therefore the people reached) is not proportionate with the efforts taken. Structured feedback should be obtained from the participants of the events/seminars.

#### **4.2.3 Cultural and educational exchanges for young Europeans**

It is recommended to strengthen the efforts for enabling more exchanges for young Europeans between the route's member states. Therefore, it is advised to address schools and/or other national Huguenot and Waldensian associations. The cultural transfer of refugees from their countries to the welcoming countries could be a starting point for

didactical measures. At the same time, it is advised to put more emphasis on the media coverage during transnational exchanges.

#### **4.2.4 Contemporary cultural and artistic practice**

It is advised to broaden the artistic practice along the route to the Italian member state. Furthermore, the artistic staging of the upcoming transnational theme “L’Exil des plantes” should be more diversified to address also a young public.

#### **4.2.5 Cultural tourism and sustainable cultural development**

The four member states do not benefit from each other’s experiences and knowledge in tourist guidance.

It is advised to produce a “stakeholder map” of the national tourism partners and to filter which information about these stakeholders (hotels, tour agencies, tourist offices...) is relevant for the guest. Then each partner should check whether this information is given on their national websites.

Once the national website is analysed, it is recommended to put digital guidance on the agenda on international level. Partners should talk about the benefits and costs of their system of digital guidance and also the digital extension of the information panels (e.g. QR-Codes on the Swiss panels for more information).

Especially in Switzerland, the national association should take care of a common standard among the Cantons in visitor guidance and of the scope of the online-information about the points of interest.

It is advised to change the website of the Italian partner on [www.surlespadeshuguenots.eu](http://www.surlespadeshuguenots.eu), as this website (<http://www.lestradedeivaldesi.it>) has no relevant information for tourists.

Further it is advised to find an understanding among the partners what kind of tourism they plan to offer in the future. Therefore, each member should collect its main and most successful tourism products, to see which are the success factors of product development and what knowledge can be transferred to the partners.

It is advised to do further visitor monitoring and research and to consult also national studies about hiking. At least one national meeting per year should be dedicated to tourism in the member country. The learnings of these national meetings should be communicated on international level.

### **4.3 List of criteria for networks**

The national coordinators in France and Germany are employed part-time and have a massive work load. As the system of providing more responsibility to local/regional level (as foreseen in France) interests the German partner as well, it is recommended to the French partner to share the experiences of the restructuring-process with the international partners. Germany, at the same time, should start a dialogue on regional levels.

In general, the members of the Union should meet more often (considering that they are only 4 persons and meetings can easily be done on video) and put emphasize on special themes to exchange about the functioning of internal matters (e.g., tourism development [see above], organisational structure, communication with members).

It is recommended to make the development of the extent of the four national networks more visible, e.g., by showing the development of the length of the road.

To resume the recommendations given in the last evaluation period, it is advised to set standards within the work of the Swiss cantonal work and to have more frequent and detailed information flow between the partners.

#### **4.4 Communication tools**

It is advised to do put the graphic charter on the agenda of the Union meetings. Considering that more and more digital means of communication to not apply the graphic charter anymore, members need to discuss the question whether they want to stick to a graphic charter and if yes, if it needs a redesign.

In general, one technical and uniformly designed framework for all national (and more importantly, considering the re-organisation on national level to come: regional) partners would be the best solution as it would guarantee a homogenous design and usability. It needs to be discussed which information the national platforms shall give, which information is outsourced to technical/thematical providers (e.g. outdooractive) and what kind of information the local/regional level should provide.

When discussing these points, the usability should be in the focus. Moreover, for all the scientifically researched results (e.g. documentation of seminars), a suitable section on the website needs to be found. These documents, that contribute to the enhancement of the memory, should be multilingual and available for download.

Considering the sustainability of the project, the amount of printed material should be reduced on the long term by having only one central printed publication on national level (instead of many leaflets) and transferring the content to the own digital platform or to integrate it in other (tourism) websites.

Regarding the social media channels, the constant updating should be continued, as it presents an added value to the internal network as well as to newly interested people.

In general, it is recommended to constantly communicate to the partners in the member states that they should apply the logo of the CoE at all times in conformity with the guidelines.

The following table in figure 7 summarizes the fulfilment of the recommendations given in the last reporting period and provides keywords for the above mentioned recommendations of the current evaluation.



Figure 7: Table of recommendations

| CRITERIA                             |   | Recommendations previous evaluation 2016–2017 | Has the route the addressed the recommendation since the last evaluation? |                          | Recommendations current evaluation 2020–2021   |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|---|--------------------------|--|
|                                      |   |   | YES   | NO                       |  |
| <b>I. Cultural Route theme</b>       |   | none  | <input type="checkbox"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/> | none   |
| <b>II. Priority fields of action</b> | <b>Cooperation in research and development</b>                | continue research to the theme                | x   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>formally fix the tasks of the Scientific Committee</li> </ul>   |
|                                      |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>initiate regular annual meetings between all members of the committee incl. reports</li> </ul>                              |
|                                      |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>involve the Swiss member of the Scientific Committee in research activities</li> </ul>                                      |
|                                      |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>publish Scientific findings/documentation of conferences multilingually as easy-to-read-content on the website</li> </ul>   |
|                                      | <b>Enhancement of memory, history and European heritage</b>   | none  | <input type="checkbox"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>communicate the common theme in simple language</li> </ul>  |
|                                      |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>regularly evaluate the number of participants of the activities, ask for feedback of the participants</li> </ul>            |
|                                      | <b>Cultural and educational exchanges for young Europeans</b> | a greater focus on technology in exchanges    | x   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>address schools and/or other national Huguenot and Waldensian associations to enable more international exchange</li> </ul> |
|                                      |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>put more emphasis on the media coverage during transnational exchanges</li> </ul>   |
|                                      | <b>Contemporary cultural and artistic practice</b>            | promote other forms of art                    | x   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>broaden the artistic practice along the route to the Italian member state</li> </ul>  |
|                                      |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>artistic staging of the upcoming transnational theme “L’Exil des plantes”</li> </ul>  |

|  |  |  |                          |                          |   |
|--|--|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
|  |  |  |                          |                          | should be more diversified to address also a young public   |
| <b>Cultural Tourism and Sustainable Cultural development</b> |  |  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>produce a “stakeholder map” of the national tourism partners</li> </ul>  |
|  |  |  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>put digital guidance on the agenda on international level</li> </ul>   |
|  |  |  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>take care of a common standard in visitor guidance among the Cantons of Switzerland</li> </ul>   |
|  |  |  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Change the link of the website to the Italian route on the website of the international route</li> </ul>   |
|  |  |  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify success factors of product development, use them for knowledge transfer among partners</li> </ul>   |
|  |  |  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>do further visitor monitoring</li> </ul>   |
|  |  |  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dedicate at least one meeting on international level to tourism development in the member states</li> </ul>  |
| <b>III. Cultural Route Network</b>                           | Swiss partner's work has to become more centrally managed                          |  | <input type="checkbox"/> | x                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the members of the Union should meet more often and put emphasize on special themes to exchange about the functioning of internal matters</li> </ul> |
|  | more frequent and detailed information flow between the partners                   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> | x                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>make the development of the extent of the four national networks more visible</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Communication Tools</b>                                   | leaflets for international visitors, should also be produced in English (at least) |  | <input type="checkbox"/> | x                        | Discuss the graphic charter and the technical framework of the website on international level   |
|  | all individual homepages of the partners should be homogenised in terms of         |  | <input type="checkbox"/> | x                        | Find a new section on the website to make available multilingual scientific reports   |

|  |  |                          |                          |   |
|--|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
|  | appearance, content and practical information  |                          |                          |   |
|  | all homepages to offer translations in at least all languages spoken by the existing partners of the Route   | <input type="checkbox"/> | x                        | Reduce the amount of printed material   |
|  | Translation in all languages spoken among the partners, or at least in English and French should be available for the printed material.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | x                        | constantly communicate to the partners in the member states that they should apply the logo |
|  | The website of the Swiss partner, which is currently down, should be amended as soon as possible   | x                        | <input type="checkbox"/> |   |
|  | The phrase 'Cultural Route of the Council of Europe' should be present on all communication materials, (logo use is not enough)  | <input type="checkbox"/> | x                        |   |
|  | The website design, which does not allow for the integration of the logo of the CoE in its designated position should be adjusted  | x                        | <input type="checkbox"/> |   |
|  | signposting of the Route should be completed. The signs applied, especially in urban sites (i.e. Friedrichsdorf) could become larger, as they are not easily visible, especially after dark. |                          | x                        |   |

## **5 Annex 1: List of references**

The following documents were provided by the Cultural Route and analyzed:

- Application Form for the re-certification 2020/2021
- Reports and programmes of events, guided tours and conferences
- Guidebooks and leaflets
- Graphic charter from 2010, use of logo from 2010
- Examples of signposting, autocollant and information boards
- Revues de presse 2017-2019
- Hiking studies
- Legal Statute of the 'Union International Sur les pas des Huguenots et des Vaudois' from 2015
- List of members of the Union 2020
- Reports of the General Assemblies of the Union 2017–2020
- Forecast of activities
- Reports of German and French General Assemblies 2017 – 2020
- Budget information for German and French association from various years

The references section should contain only the list of documents provided by the Cultural Route and analysed by the expert.

All documents required had been duly submitted by the Cultural Route.

## **6 Annex 2: Online interviews with the network management and members**

The following group interviews were led for the evaluation:

### **(a) The network's president and the network's manager or director**

12.11.2020, 5 pm/zoom-Meeting

- Jean-Louis Hilaire/President of the Union/[jlhilaire@gmail.com](mailto:jlhilaire@gmail.com)
- Francois Wencelius/person of contact for the evaluation of the CoE/[fwencelius@gmail.com](mailto:fwencelius@gmail.com)
- Dr. Renate Buchenauer/coordinator German association/[info@hugenotten-waldenserpfad.eu](mailto:info@hugenotten-waldenserpfad.eu)

### **(b) Members of the Scientific Committee of at least 3 different countries**

17.11.2020, 6 pm/zoom-Meeting

- Prof. Siegfried Becker/Member of the Scientific Committee/[becker4@mail.uni-marburg.de](mailto:becker4@mail.uni-marburg.de) or [becker4@staff.uni-marburg.de](mailto:becker4@staff.uni-marburg.de)
- Prof. Dr. Bernard Delpal/Member of the Scientific Committee/[b.delpal@orange.fr](mailto:b.delpal@orange.fr)  
→cancelled the appointment shortly before
- Dr. Albert de Lange for Italy/Member of the Scientific Committee/[slabsch@aol.com](mailto:slabsch@aol.com)
- Johanna Stiller/German Association/[j.stiller@hugenotten-waldenserpfad.eu](mailto:j.stiller@hugenotten-waldenserpfad.eu)
- Dr. Renate Buchenauer/coordinator German association/[info@hugenotten-waldenserpfad.eu](mailto:info@hugenotten-waldenserpfad.eu)

### **(c) Network members from at least 3 different countries**

20.11.2020, 5 pm/zoom-Meeting

- Heike Havenstein/member Germany/[heike.havenstein@friedrichsdorf.de](mailto:heike.havenstein@friedrichsdorf.de)
- Dorothee Römer/member Germany/[Dorothe-Roemer@landkreiskassel.de](mailto:Dorothe-Roemer@landkreiskassel.de)
- Philippe Faure/member France/[cophifaure@club-internet.fr](mailto:cophifaure@club-internet.fr)
- Davide Rosso / coordinator Italian foundation/[direzione@fondazionevaldese.org](mailto:direzione@fondazionevaldese.org)
- Florian Hitz/coordinator Swiss foundation/[florian\\_hitz@bluewin.ch](mailto:florian_hitz@bluewin.ch)

## 7. Annex 3: Expert assessment checklist

Submitted equally as xls-document

| EXPERT ASSESSMENT CHECK-LIST |  |   |   |   |     |                  |                   |
|------------------------------|--|---|---|---|-----|------------------|-------------------|
| QUESTIONS                    |  |   |   |   | Yes | No               | Comments (if any) |
| 3.1 THEME                    | 1  | Does the theme of the Route represent a common value (historical, cultural, or heritage) to several European countries? | 1   |   |     |                  |                   |
|                              | 2  | Does the theme of the route offer a solid basis for youth cultural and educational exchanges?                           | 1   |   |     |                  |                   |
|                              | 3  | Does the theme of the route offer a solid basis for innovative activities?  | 1   |   |     |                  |                   |
|                              | 4  | Does the theme of the route offer a solid basis for cultural tourism products development?                              | 1   |   |     |                  |                   |
|                              | 5  | Has the theme been researched/developed by academics/experts from different regions of Europe?                          | 1   |   |     |                  |                   |
| 3.2 FIELDS OF ACTION         | 3.2.1 Co-operation in research and development | 6   | Does the Route offer a platform for co-operation in research and development of European cultural themes/values?                              | 1 |     |                  |                   |
|                              |  | 7   | Does the Route play a unifying role around major European themes, enabling dispersed knowledge to be brought together?                        | 1 |     |                  |                   |
|                              |  | 8   | Does the Route show how these themes are representative of European values shared by several European countries?                              | 1 |     |                  |                   |
|                              |  | 9   | Does the Route illustrate the development of these values and the variety of forms they may take in Europe?                                   | 1 |     |                  |                   |
|                              |  | 10  | Does the Route have a network of universities and research center working on its theme at the European level?                                 |   | 1   | informal network |                   |
|                              |  | 11  | Does the Route have a multidisciplinary Scientific Committee?   | 1 |     |                  |                   |
|                              |  | 12  | Does the Scientific Committee work on its theme at the European level?  | 1 |     |                  |                   |
|                              |  | 13  | Does the Scientific Committee carry out research and analysis of the issues relevant to its theme and/or activities on the theoretical level? | 1 |     |                  |                   |
|                              |  | 14  | Does the Scientific Committee carry out research and analysis of the issues relevant to its theme and/or activities on the practical level?   | 1 |     |                  |                   |

|  |    |  |   |   |  |
|--|----|--|---|---|--|
| 3.2.2 Enhancement of the memory, history and European heritage | 15 | Do the Route activities take into account and explain the historical significance of tangible and intangible European heritage?  | 1 |   |  |
|  | 16 | Do the Route activities promote the values of the Council of Europe?   | 1 |   |  |
|  | 17 | Do the Route activities promote the brand of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe?   | 1 |   |  |
|  | 18 | Does the route work in conformity with international charters and conventions on cultural heritage preservation?   | 1 |   |  |
|  | 19 | Do the Route activities identify, preserve and develop European heritage sites in rural destinations?  | 1 |   |  |
|  | 20 | Do the Route activities identify, preserve and develop European heritage sites in industrial areas in the process of economic restructuring?   |   | 1 |  |
|  | 21 | Do the Route activities valorize the heritage of ethnic or social minorities in Europe?  | 1 |   |  |
|  | 22 | Do the Route activities contribute to a better understanding of the concept of cultural heritage, the importance of its preservation and sustainable development?  | 1 |   |  |
|  | 23 | Do the Route activities enhance physical and intangible heritage, explain its historical significance and highlight its similarities in the different regions of Europe?   | 1 |   |  |
|  | 24 | Do the Route activities take account of and promote the charters, conventions, recommendations and work of the Council of Europe, UNESCO and ICOMOS relating to heritage restoration, protection and enhancement, landscape and spatial planning (European Cultural Convention, Faro convention, European Landscape Convention, World Heritage Convention, ...)? | 1 |   |  |
| 3.2.3 Cultural and educational exchanges of young Europeans    | 25 | Are the youth exchanges (cultural and educational) planned to develop a better understanding of the concept of European citizenship?   | 1 |   |  |
|  | 26 | Are the youth exchanges (cultural and educational) planned to emphasize the value of new personal experience through visiting diverse places?  | 1 |   |  |
|  | 27 | Are the youth exchanges (cultural and educational) planned to encourage social integration and exchanges of young people from different social backgrounds and regions of Europe?  | 1 |   |  |
|  | 28 | Are the youth exchanges (cultural and educational) planned to offer collaborative opportunities for educational institutions at various levels?  | 1 |   |  |
|  | 29 | Are the youth exchanges (cultural and educational) planned to place the emphasis on personal and real experiences through the use of places and contacts?  | 1 |   |  |

|  |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|
|  |   | 30  | Are the youth exchanges (cultural and educational) planned to set up pilot schemes with several participating countries?  |   | 1 |  |  |
|  |   | 31  | Are the youth exchanges (cultural and educational) planned to give rise to co-operation activities which involve educational institutions at various levels?  | 1   |   |  |  |
|  | 3.2.4 Contemporary cultural and artistic practice | 32  | Do the Route's cultural activities promote intercultural dialogue and multidisciplinary exchange between various artistic expressions in European countries?  | 1   |   |  |  |
|  |   | 33  | Do the Route's cultural activities encourage artistic projects that establish links between cultural heritage and contemporary culture?   | 1   |   |  |  |
|  |   | 34  | Do the Route's cultural activities encourage innovative cultural and contemporary art practices* connecting them with the history of skills development?  | 1   |   |  |  |
|  |   | 35  | Do the Route's cultural activities encourage collaboration between culture amateurs and professionals via relevant activities and networks creation?***   |   | 1 |  |  |
|  |   | 36  | Do the Route's cultural activities encourage debate and exchange - in a multidisciplinary and intercultural perspective - between various cultural and artistic expressions in different countries of Europe? | 1   |   |  |  |
|  |   | 37  | Do the Route's cultural activities encourage activities and artistic projects which explore the links between heritage and contemporary culture?  | 1   |   |  |  |
|  |   | 38  | Do the Route's cultural activities highlight the most innovative and creative practices?  |   | 1 |  |  |
|  |   | 39  | Do the Route's cultural activities link these innovative and creative practices with the history of skills development?***  |   | 1 |  |  |
|  |   | 3.2.5 Cultural tourism and sustainable cultural development | 40  | Do the Route's activities (relevant to sustainable cultural tourism development) assist in local, regional, national and/or European identity formation?  | 1 |  |  |
|  |   |   | 41  | Do the Route's activities (relevant to sustainable cultural tourism development) actively involve 3 major means to raise awareness of their cultural projects: print, broadcast and social media? | 1 |  |  |
|  | 42  |   | Do the Route's activities promote dialogue between urban and rural communities and cultures?  | 1   |   |  |  |
|  | 43  |   | Do the Route's activities promote dialogue between developed and disadvantaged regions?   |   | 1 |  |  |
|  | 44  |   | Do the Route's activities promote dialogue between different regions (south, north, east, west) of Europe?  | 1   |   |  |  |



|             |  |    |  |   |   |                                |
|-------------|--|----|--|---|---|--------------------------------|
|             |  | 45 | Do the Route's activities promote dialogue between majority and minority (or native and immigrant) cultures?   | 1 |   |                                |
|             |  | 46 | Do the Route's activities open possibilities for co-operation between Europe and other continents?   |   | 1 |                                |
|             |  | 47 | Do the Route's activities draw decision makers' attention to the necessity of protecting heritage as part of the sustainable development of the territory? | 1 |   |                                |
|             |  | 48 | Do the Route's activities aim to diversify cultural product, service and activities offers?  | 1 |   |                                |
|             |  | 49 | Do the Route's activities develop and offer quality cultural tourism products, services or activities transnationally?                                     | 1 |   |                                |
|             |  | 50 | Do the Route's activities develop partnerships with public and private organisations active in the field of tourism?                                       | 1 |   |                                |
|             |  | 51 | Did the network prepare and use tools along the route to raise the number of visitors and the economic impacts of the route on the territories crossed?    | 1 |   |                                |
| 3:3 NETWORK |  | 52 | Does the Route represent a network involving at least three Council of Europe's member States?   | 1 |   |                                |
|             |  | 53 | Was the theme of the route chosen and accepted by the network members?   | 1 |   |                                |
|             |  | 54 | Was the conceptual framework of the route founded on a scientific basis?   | 1 |   |                                |
|             |  | 55 | Does the network involve several Council of Europe member states in all or part of its projects?   | 1 |   |                                |
|             |  | 56 | Is the network financially sustainable?  | 1 |   |                                |
|             |  | 57 | Does the network have a legal status (association, federation of associations, EEIG,...)?  | 1 |   |                                |
|             |  | 58 | Does the network operate democratically?   | 1 |   |                                |
|             |  | 59 | Does the network specify its objectives and working methods?   | 1 |   |                                |
|             |  | 60 | Does the network specify the regions concerned by the project?   | 1 |   |                                |
|             |  | 61 | Does the network specify its partners and participating countries?   | 1 |   |                                |
|             |  | 62 | Does the network specify the fields of action involved?  | 1 |   |                                |
|             |  | 63 | Does the network specify its overall strategy in the short and long term?  | 1 |   |                                |
|             |  | 64 | Does the network identify potential participants and partners in Council of Europe member states and/or other world countries?                             | 1 |   |                                |
|             |  | 65 | Does the network provide details of its financing (financial reports and/or activity budgets)?   | 1 |   | German and French partners did |

|                         |       |   |  |  |    |    |  |
|-------------------------|-------|---|--|--|----|----|--|
|                         |       | 66  | Does the network provide details of its operational plan?  | 1  |    |    |  |
|                         |       | 67  | Does the network append the basic text(s) confirming its legal status?                                   | 1  |    |    |  |
| 3.4 COMMUNICATION TOOLS |       | 68  | Does the Route have its own logo?  | 1  |    |    |  |
|                         |       | 69  | Do all partners of the network use the logo on their communication tools?                                | 1  |    |    |  |
|                         |       | 70  | Does the Route have its own dedicated website?   | 1  |    |    |  |
|                         |       | 71  | Is it the website available in English and French?   | 1  |    |    |  |
|                         |       | 72  | Is it the website available in other languages?  | 1  |    |    |  |
|                         |       | 73  | Does the network use effectively social networks and web 2.0?  | 1  |    |    |  |
|                         |       | 74  | Does the network publish brochures on the Route?   | 1  |    |    |  |
|                         |       | 75  | If yes, are the brochures available in English?  | 1  |    |    |  |
|                         |       | 76  | If yes, are the brochures available in French?   | 1  |    |    |  |
|                         |       | For certified Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe only | 77   | Is the title of "Cultural Route of the Council of Europe" present on all communication materials (including press releases, webpages, publications, etc.)? |    | 1  |  |
|                         | 78    |   | Is the certification logo present on all communication materials?  |  | 1  |    |  |
|                         | 79    |   | Is the certification logo used in accordance to the guidelines for its use (size and position,...)?      | 1  |    |    |  |
|                         | 80    |   | Are the logos (Cultural Route + certification logo) provided to all the members of the Route?            | 1  |    |    |  |
|                         | 81    |   | Does the Council of Europe certification logo appear on road signs/boards indicating the cultural route? | 1  |    |    | yes for information boards, no for small signs |
|                         | SCORE |   |  |  | 71 | 10 |  |