

2020/21 ENG

Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe
Certification cycle 2020-2021

Regular evaluation:
**EUROPEAN ROUTE OF
MEGALITHIC CULTURE**

Independent expert report

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



Independent expert:

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ICOMOS

**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 European Route of Megalithic Culture is based on an international network for the preservation and promotion of this culture which was founded in 2005. To manage this network a non-profit association was established in 2012. The network was certified as Cultural Route of the Council of Europe in 2013. Today the route has 36 members of different background (local, regional and national authorities, museums, tours stakeholders, NGOs, Natural/Geo-parks) from 9 European countries. This shows that megalithic culture is common to the whole of Europe and thus represents common European heritage. The fact that during the last 3 years the number of members of the route has risen from 20 to 36 proves the attractiveness of the route.

Most of the activities are carried out by the members, but always under the “umbrella” of the Cultural Route. Scientific advice to activities is given by the Scientific Advisory Council of the route. The activities include cooperation projects in research and development, communication materials, guided tours, workshops, the European Day of Megalithic Culture etc enhancing the memory and history of the megalithic heritage, international youth work camps, outdoor classes and excursions within youth exchange programmes, an artistic land art project and cultural tourism on signposted car and cycle routes (with the proper use of the CoE logo).

The newly elected board is full of vigour to enlarge the route, intensify scientific research and make the route more attractive to the general public. The board has the vision that the route will become a UNESCO World Heritage site. This enthusiasm and commitment will surely lead to further development of the European Route of Megalithic Culture.

2. Introduction

When megalithic buildings were clustered in the local area, circular hiking trails developed early on. The first widely designed car holiday route “Road of Megalithic Culture” was opened in 2009 in north-west Germany. Over a length of 330 kilometres it connects 33 individual stations with a total of 76 megalithic buildings. The success of this project also prompted the foundation of the Megalithic Routes association with the aim of establishing the concept of the “Road of Megalithic Culture” throughout Europe.

In 2013, the Council of Europe honoured this initiative under the title “European Route of Megalithic Culture” (in the following Megalithic Routes) with the certificate “Cultural Route of the Council of Europe”. Since then, the development of comparable route projects has been initiated in various regions of the nine European member states of MR. They link the oldest monuments of Europe and also highlight the manifold features of the surrounding landscape. Throughout Europe there is a close link between the origin of megalithic monuments and the early history of the cultural landscape. They both begin at the same time and in a way symbolise the first efforts of human communities to tame nature and shape the natural environment.

By now the Road of Megalithic Culture has also become a route for walkers and cyclists. Since 2014 there has been a cycle route to megalithic culture (opened during the Council of Europe’s first blogger trip to the European Cultural Routes) and a transnational long-distance hiking trail called the Hünenweg (= Pathway of Giants) between the Netherlands and Germany, which has been under construction since 2017. Both projects are mainly managed by members of the Megalithic Routes association. They are committed to the principles of “low-impact tourism” and refrain from any irreversible measures affecting the natural environment when developing opportunities for tourism.

Nowadays, there are numerous independent route projects with different characteristics and offers of use within the regions of the members of Megalithic Routes. For the future, the establishment of so-called premium stations is planned. These can be information centres with or without separate exhibition areas. However, they could also be newly designed open-air elements that serve both for orientation and visitor information. For both subjects first studies and pilot projects are in existence within the Megalithic Routes membership.

Member institutions are museums, tourism organisations, Geological Parks, NGOs and regional and local authorities. The cultural route is managed by a non-profit association.

3. Main Body Evaluation

3.1 Cultural Route Theme

3.1.1 Definition of the Theme of the Cultural Route

The theme of the route is the Megalithic Culture which is still visible in its monuments and architecture mainly built between 5000 BC and 2000 BC and found all over Europe. The illustration of the theme is however not reduced to the stone monuments but covers their interpretation, their surroundings and their inheritance testified in a multitude of legends and myths.

3.1.2 Historical and cultural context

Big stones - literally in old Greek mega-liths - were widely used by prehistoric communities for the building of monuments, burial places and sanctuaries. They belong to the Neolithic period (5000 BC to 2000 BC) and represent the oldest surviving architecture in Europe. Many regional styles can be seen, but in all areas building materials were carefully chosen and attention was paid to the colour and texture of the stones. Dolmens with great capstones, stone henges, menhirs and thousands of passage graves with one or more centrally placed chambers containing rich deposits of decorated pottery, hunting weapons, body jewellery etc. are today regarded as the most important legacies and documents from a time when, for the first time in Europe, the sedentary way of life became established and small-scale territorial structures developed. As well as tombs and menhirs, the megalithic tradition also includes alignments, circles, and rectangles.

Because of their unique history of origins, the megalithic monuments thus symbolise the origin of the settlement systems, including the fundamental social, economic and technological changes as well as collective and individual achievements and skills, which are regarded as of the basics of contemporary civilisation. Of decisive historical importance in this context is the establishment of arable and livestock farming, i.e. the change from an appropriated to a productive way of life. This was the first time in Europe that large-scale, irreversible interventions in nature took place.

This strong connection between millennia-old monuments, which are still preserved and visible today, the foundations of the settlement history and the first impacts to shape the surrounding natural landscape is typical for the common roots of the history of Europe. It applies to the majority of the European countries.

The construction of megaliths was a common practice, based on a common worldview and shared beliefs, and on a unity of faith and worship among all members of the same community. Later, not only throughout history but also nowadays, these constructions have remained as identity-building elements of great relevance to the local communities that inherit this prehistoric cultural heritage in different parts of Europe.

3.1.3 Council of Europe values represented by the theme

The theme represents common European roots: a common European culture independent of today's borders with similarities in beliefs, in the view on the world and on the same stages of development. Thus the route being present in nine European countries represents European values. It is illustrative of European history, heritage and memory. Thus it encourages inter cultural dialogue, mutual exchange and enrichment across the European continent and maybe in future even beyond.

3.2 Fields of Action

3.2.1 Co-operation in research and development

Research on Megalithic Culture started in the 17th century with first excavations bringing concrete results. During the 19th and 20th century a big number of excavations throughout Europe resulting in scientific documents and publications took place. The international research project “Early Monumentality and Social Differentiation in Northern Europe” which started in 2009 brought astonishing new results. Scientists who worked on this project were involved in the foundation of the Megalithic Routes Association (in the following the Megalithic Routes) which inaugurated the European Route of Megalithic Culture and is its supporting organisation.

So from the start scientific researchers play an important role in Megalithic Routes. Today the Scientific Advisory Council overlooks research cooperation. Among the fifteen members of the Council are archaeologists, geologists, an astronomer and a folklorist. They come from Denmark, Germany, Spain, Sweden, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. Also the Association itself comprises members who are engaged in research (museums, authorities responsible for the preservation of monuments). The evaluation report of the Association lists for the years 2018–2020 thirteen co-operation projects in research and development in six European countries in most of which members of Megalithic Routes were/are involved.

For the annual general meeting of Megalithic Routes in March 2021 representatives of the Turkish cultural administration are invited to discuss the accession of Turkish megalithic associations. Of special interest is the megalithic complex “Göbekli Tepe” in Anatolia (now a World Heritage Site) which was discovered in 1963 which confirmed the thesis that also in this part of the world the construction of megaliths and the beginning of the sedentary way of life belong together.

In May 2021 (originally scheduled for May 2020) the opening conference of a new international research project under the title “Tumuli and Megaliths in Eurasia” is planned in Portugal. Members of Megalithic Routes are participating in this project.

Portugal also prepares the project “MegaLOD” which is intended to develop new three-dimensional documentation techniques for the registration of all European megalithic structures. Here Megalithic Routes has a seat on the scientific advisory board.

Most of the members of Megalithic Routes are themselves scientists. Besides archaeologists there are art historians, astronomers, geologists, and experts in religious and folkloristic sciences. There are good to excellent contacts within the individual disciplines. The involvement of the scientists in individual projects in the field of research and education forms the basis for the interdisciplinary network of members of Megalithic Routes.

3.2.2 Enhancement of the Memory, History and European Heritage

Megalithic Routes was founded on the very basis of enhancing the megalithic culture as an element of the foundation of European civilisation and culture and an outstanding factor of the development of European history. Megalithic culture which is still visible in an estimated 35 000 individual sites across Europe receives a lot of attention. This gives numerous municipalities and regions the opportunity to deal with this part of the European cultural heritage. Even in places where these monuments no longer exist, reconstructions, museum presentations or symbolic representations are used to remind people of the great importance for local culture, the origins of history and for the creation of a local identity. In some of these municipalities, such symbolic representations have even become part of the official coat of arms.

The members of Megalithic Routes coming from nine European states and being regions, local authorities, governmental monument protection agencies, Geoparks, museums, tourism agencies and NGOs all promote activities of enhancing the memory and history of the megalithic heritage. The

majority of activities is undertaken unilaterally or within one local route. Activities include on-the-ground interpretation written or orally, publications, touristic communication material, guided tours, workshops, web sites etc.

The European Day of Megalithic Culture which takes place annually on the last Sunday in April is the event which links most of the members of the Megalithic Routes. The day is marked by public events on a theme and different venues which change from year to year. The themes were in 2017 Moving Stones, in 2018 Hiking Tours, in 2019 Voluntary Working Groups and in 2020 The Origin of the Stones.

3.2.3 Cultural and Educational Exchanges for Young Europeans

The subject of megalithic culture is one of the few topics from the field of prehistory that is also dealt with in general education at schools. Therefore, visiting museums and monument sites that represent this topic is part of the standard repertoire of these schools. The approach to this topic is multi-perspective: on the one hand, it belongs to the field of history teaching, on the other hand, the visit of the museums and monuments should also convey local history contents. Such visits are organised individually by the members of Megalithic Routes. Some of the museums of the Megalithic Routes members offer a great spectrum of possibilities to schools, groups of young visitors and families to learn more about the monuments and this important prehistoric epoch of European history. At present, no precise figures are available on the extent to which young people, especially schools, use these services. Depending on the size and specialisation of the centre, these figures range from several hundred to several tens of thousands of individual young visitors. The front-runner is the Hunebedcentrum in Borger, which has been attracting almost 100,000 visitors a year for more than 10 years, including more than 2/3 young people.

Members also organise excursions as common part of national or international youth exchange programs. The great advantage of Megalithic sites is that they are usually accessible without any restrictions.

In 2019, the Archaeological-Ecological Center Albersdorf in Schleswig-Holstein/Germany, member of Megalithic Routes, arranged an international youth work camp with participants from Italy, Turkey, Ukraine, Russia, China and Germany.

3.2.4 Contemporary Cultural and Artistic Practice

On the occasion of the European Day of Megalithic Culture in 2016 in Jeggen/Germany, the megalithic tomb was part of an Artistic Land-Art project. In collaboration with the artist Reinhard Dasenbrock, the value of cultural heritage in dialogue with contemporary artistic forms of representation was expressed. Also contemporary cultural practice are photo exhibitions, e.g., of the photo artist Hermann Pentermann from Osnabrück with the exhibition "Pittoresk" from January 2018 to January 2019.

However Megalithic Routes considers it desirable to give priority to the original appearance of the megalithic structures not been altered by modern artistic productions. To this end the European Day of Megalithic Culture (see 3.2.2) is a good instrument of enhancing the attractiveness of megalithic monuments.

3.2.5 Cultural Tourism and Sustainable Cultural Development

Megalithic Routes is specialised in mediation of and tourist offers for sites in rural areas where the majority of megalithic monuments are found. All activities are committed to the principles of "low-impact tourism" and refrain from any irreversible measures affecting the natural environment when developing opportunities for tourism. Priority is given to the use of existing roads and routes as well as to the promotion of mobility in tune with nature and current social concepts such as hiking and cycling.

This strategy also serves to do justice as far as possible to the authenticity and originality of the monuments as “silent messengers from a distant past”. In this context, the special value of landscape in which the monuments are set is conveyed as the cultural memory of mankind to visitors.

The aim of Megalithic Routes is to draw attention to the megalithic monuments, which have been less attractive in the public eye so far compared to those listed as world heritage. Thus Megalithic Routes intends to achieve the following

“1. The richness of the landscape in cultural legacies becomes clear and leads to a greater sensitivity in dealing with the natural environment and cultural heritage.

2. The tourist hotspots with the negative effects of a hardly manageable number of visitors will be relieved.

3. The realisation that megalithic monuments are not a local phenomenon but are widespread in large parts of Europe leads to new forms of cross-border tourism, which is committed to the principles of environmentally sustainable tourism.”

The members of Megalithic Routes are working to realise these goals. Until now there are only a few examples of successful partnerships with commercial tour operators which offer guided tours only focused on this theme. Another offer especially by Nature and Geoparks to tourists are guided tours led by semiprofessional tour guides or volunteers.

For visitors exploring nature on their own Megalithic Routes is working on the development of innovative digitally based guiding and information tools which can be used by single visitors as well as by larger groups of visitors. This opens a new space of infotainment. These innovative tools in addition to the improvement of the traditional guiding elements like signposts and information panels will make the visit and appreciation of megalithic monuments a precious part of sustainable landscape tourism. For the marketing and distribution of these offers and tools, the members of Megalithic Routes use museums and tourism offices or are engaged to develop new visitor centres.

3.3 Cultural Route Network

3.3.1 Overview of institutional/legal structure of the network

Megalithic Routes was established in August 2012, in Falköping (Sweden), as an international non-profit organisation for the furtherance and preservation of the megalithic culture. Its legal status is that of a non profit association under German law (eingetragener Verein , e.V.) entered in the official Register of Associations in Germany. The seat of the association is Osnabrück, the management is now located at the Landesmuseum Natur und Mensch in Oldenburg/Germany. The new manager of Megalithic Routes Dr. Ursula Warnke is the director of the museum in Oldenburg. She has the personnel and material infrastructure of the museum behind her. There is a good chance that the State of Lower Saxony will grant half a staff position for the secretariat of Megalithic Routes.

The purpose of the Association is to explore and preserve megalithic constructions in the partner regions, bring them to the general public’s attention and facilitate access to them. In accordance with the international network concept, the Association supports and develops

- the network concept,
- the sensitive touristic valorisation of megalithic monuments,
- the professional qualification and further education of its members and their staff,
- identity-building measures in the partner regions,
- cultural events and art projects highlighting megalithic culture,
- the publicity for megalithic culture and the network in publications, conferences, press reports, trade

fairs, media etc.,

- the subject-related education for children, youth and adults.

Megalithic Routes has 36 members, in detail: 3 natural persons, 8 museums, 10 local, regional and national authorities, 6 tourism stakeholders, 8 NGOs and 2 Natural/Geo-Parks. The height of the membership fees for municipalities and local authorities depends on the number of inhabitants and ranges from €300 to €1,000 annually. The fees for other institutions depend on the number of their full-time employees and range from €200 to €1,000, the annual fee for private individuals is €20. For additionally planned activities like exhibitions, excursions and the like specific fees may be raised.

The Association has the following bodies:

-The General Meeting – assembles at least once a year with the generally known tasks (e.g. approval of annual and audit reports, elections, membership fees, decisions on actions, etc.),

- The Board – consists of a Chairperson, a Deputy Chairperson, the Keeper of the Minutes and the Treasurer, they all have to be of different nationality. They are elected by the General Meeting for two years. They meet at least once a year, and are responsible for the operation and budget of the Association,

- The Scientific Advisory Council – consists of at least five members with scientific competence. The Council's tasks are besides advising the board initiating scientific projects, research and publications, maintaining contacts with experts. In practice the members of the Scientific Advisory Council are mainly partners of individual non-scientific members. The scientists are available to their partners, for example, if subject-related statements are to be scientifically substantiated within a planned mediation measure. This aspect is particularly important in the cooperation between tourism experts and archaeologists when the tourism experts are in charge of the mediation project.

Besides these bodies the board may co-opt public figures to a Board of Trustees and more important the board may appoint a Secretary for the management of the current business and employ further employees working full-time or part-time.

The statutes of the (German) association determine English as the working language of Megalithic Routes.

The goals of Megalithic Routes appear indirectly very clearly in the criteria for new members which are summarised on the website of Megalithic Routes and which are the following:

“Organisations or individuals have to. . .

- be involved in some way with megalithic monuments, e.g., museums, universities, tourist organisations or heritage institutes, archaeologists
- represent a region where a number of megalithic monuments remain in their original form - be willing to participate in an annual joint activity to be specified at the Annual General Meeting of Megalithic Routes organisations - be willing to link together the megalithic monuments in their region to form a route which can be accessed both by local residents and tourists
- support the further growth and perfection of the network concept of Megalithic Routes and a touristic valorisation sensitive to the preservation of historic monuments

Organisations or individuals should (fulfil as possible). . .

- take identity-building measures and encourage voluntary commitment,
- (there) place the focus of their work on (as) a subject-related education for children, youth and adults,

- organise cultural events and art projects which highlight the unique character of the respective megalithic tombs and are compatible with the preservation of historic monuments
- ensure that (lie) the priority of members is on (should be) publicity for the network and megalithic tombs as well as on general information and lobbying work concerning the subject of megalithic culture in all kinds of publications, conferences, press reports, presence at trade fairs and in the new media”.

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

Megalithic Routes at present has 36 members. Their composition is as follows:

- Denmark has 4 members, one national authority, two museums and one NGO;
- France has 2 members, one local authority and one NGO (museum/heritage site);
- Germany has 16 members, two regional authorities, three local authorities, five NGOs, four tourism stakeholders, one (state) museum and one natural person;
- Italy has one member, a regional authority (archaeological park);
- Portugal has one member, a geo-park;
- Spain has 5 members, two local authorities, one museum, one university (research center) and one natural person.
- Sweden has 3 members, one local authority and two tourism stakeholders;
- The Netherlands has 2 members, one museum and one geo-park;
- The United Kingdom has 2 members, one NGO (museum) and one natural person.

3.3.3 Network extension since the last evaluation

The number of Megalithic Routes members has risen from 20 members at the time of the last evaluation to 36 members now. This very significant rise during the last three years speaks for the attractiveness of Megalithic Routes and shows that the efforts of management and the board of Megalithic Routes have been most successful.

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

At present 14 institutions are in the process of acceding to the network or are potentially interested in a future accession. Among the interested parties are institutions (mainly museums) from five countries which are not yet represented among the members of Megalithic Routes (Turkey, Libanon, Poland, Switzerland and Belgium).

3.4 Communication tools

3.4.1 Current state of communication tools developed by the network

Megalithic Routes uses a range a communication tools that are all designed according to a uniform layout. Used by all members are a signpost “Member of Megalithic Routes”, a brochure and a certificate of membership. The website of Megalithic Routes (www.megalithicroutes.eu) is very informative presenting all members of the network. Megalithic Routes also has a group on Facebook with 388 members. Besides these communication tools used by all members each member publishes its

own information material. This visibility material is usually published in the language of country of the member and in English. It is disseminated in museums, tourist offices and on events like the European Day of Megalithic Culture. This day is organised by the members of Megalithic Routes since 2017 every year on the last Sunday in April. All the material except for very old publications use the logo “Cultural Route of the Council of Europe” and the logo of Megalithic Routes.

In the last three years authors working for the members of Megalithic Routes published nine scientific articles and six books on Megalithic Culture in Dutch, English, German and Italian. In addition three audio-visual publications were edited. The subject was also covered by press articles and publications by authors not directly linked with a member of Megalithic Routes.

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

The website of Megalithic Routes and the communication material issued by Megalithic Routes complies fully with Guidelines for the Use of the Logo “Cultural Route of the Council of Europe”. As to the material issued by the members the impression is that at least the new material complies with the guidelines.

On the Facebook site “Megalithic Routes” however both logos are missing. This although the site is “The group (that) serves as a platform for museums, Geoparks, scientists, experts in tourism and individuals who are interested in this theme to underline the outstanding importance of the megalithic culture for European history and to improve their protection as part of the common cultural heritage.” And the administrators are members of Megalithic Routes.

Communication among the members of Megalithic Routes is based on institutionalised events such as the general meetings or the planning for the European Day of Megalithic Culture or extended board meetings or participation in conferences. Additional occasions arise, for example, through queries for updating the website or for special projects such as a currently planned Germany-wide publication on the occasion of the Stonehenge exhibition in September 2021 at the Westfälisches Landesmuseum, where Megalithic Routes will be presented with numerous individual contributions.

4. Conclusions and Recommendations

Megalithic Routes complies with all the criteria of CM/Res (2013) 67. The theme of the Megalithic Routes covers the most ancient common European roots. It represents a common cultural, historical European heritage and it offers a solid basis for cultural, educational and scientific exchanges.

The network with its Scientific Advisory Council is active in research and development, its activities are orientated in the enhancement of the memory, history and European heritage. The Megalithic Routes offer educational activities (such as guided tours for schools), exchanges between young Europeans and foster to a certain extent cultural and artistic activities. In the area of cultural tourism and sustainable cultural development the presence and visibility of Megalithic Routes has improved. The network of Megalithic Routes has the legal status of an association and involves nine Council of Europe member states. It works on a conceptual framework based on scientific research.

As to the recommendations of the last evaluation of Megalithic Routes in the evaluation cycle 2016–2017 a number of these recommendations were implemented. Since 2017 in connection with the annual General assemblies a special scientific programme which includes excursions is offered to the public. Common activities with volunteers, especially young people, are organised by members of Megalithic Routes presenting megalithic monuments. In museums volunteers are trained as guides and museum helpers. In addition special campaigns are organised by members which include children and young people. Communication tools are being “modernised” respecting the guidelines for the use of the logo “Cultural Route of the Council of Europe”. The main recommendation for the network to raise the number of members has been implemented very successfully: the number of members has augmented from 19 at the end of 2016 to 36 in July 2020.

However there is of course still room for further improvement of Megalithic Routes. Some of the suggestions and ideas put forward with the last evaluation remain to be implemented, e.g. the idea to involve local food and other products, programmes for locals, enlargement of the project of outdoor classes, workshops and competitions addressed to children and young people to write tales and stories and to local artists and craftsmen to design new products. The recommendation to stabilise the budget of the association is always valid.

The new board of Megalithic Routes which was elected at the end of October 2020 has at its first meeting on November 24, 2020 taken a number of decisions which are fully supported as recommendations. The new board understands its role as a working and not as just a decision making board. Consequently it was decided that one member will be responsible for tourism, one member for marketing, one member for archaeology and one member for social media. A meeting is scheduled every one/two months. The board furthermore wants to update and simplify the web site in a way that each member can add directly its input and review and revise the statutes of the association introducing the new name for the association “Megalithic Routes”. The Scientific Advisory Council which in future should meet parallel to the General Assembly shall be given the task to agree on a definition of megalithic culture. A map of Europe is planned showing all members of Megalithic Routes and its sites. Closer links and exchanges of experience will be sought with the Prehistoric Rock Art Trails Route (some members belong to both routes). The recruitment of new members will remain a priority, special efforts will be made to convince World Heritage sites like Stonehenge and Göbekli Tepe to join Megalithic Routes. As a major goal and vision Megalithic Routes wants to become a UNESCO World Heritage site.

CRITERIA		Recommendations previous evaluation 2016-2017	Has the Route addressed the recommendation since the last evaluation?		Recommendations current evaluation 2020-2021
			YES	NO	
Cultural Route Theme		-----			Closer links with Prehistoric Rock Art Trails Route; efforts to become world Heritage, „Megalithic Routes“ as new name for the association
II. Priority fields of action	Cooperation in research and development	Organisation of scientific/touristic public conference each year covering route tourism and connected sciences	x		Intensified cooperation with and within the Scientific Advisory Council, efforts to agree on a definition of megalithic culture
	Enhancement of memory, history and European heritage	Workshops and competitions to write tales and stories		x	-----
	Cultural and educational exchanges for young Europeans	Common activities with young volunteers ; integration into European exchange programs	x		-----
	Contemporary cultural and artistic practice	Competitions addressed to artists and craftsmen to design new products		x	
	Cultural Tourism and Sustainable Cultural development	Involve local food and other products; programmes for locals		x	
III. Cultural Route Network		Increase the number of members; stabilise the budget	x		Further recruitment of new members especially world heritage sites
Communication Tools		Revision of the marketing material respecting the guidelines for the use of the logo „Cultural Route of the Council of Europe“ , drawing of an international route map; use the brand „Megalithic Route „ as an umbrella brand, look for partners to carry out and finance activities	x		Update and simplify the website in a way that each member can add directly its input; creation of a map of Europe showing all members of Megalithic Routes and their sites

5. List of references

All documents required for the evaluation were duly submitted by Megalithic Routes, the Certification Form (56 pages), the Self-Assessment Grid (7 pages) and the Declaration of Honour. These documents were supplemented as required by the legal statutes of the network, an updated list of members, the minutes of the General Assemblies of 2017, 2018, 2019 and (during the evaluation) 2020, financial information and a 3-year Programme of Activities Forecast.

6. Annex 1: Online interviews with the network management and members

To familiarise myself with the topic of Megalithic Routes I exchanged several emails and had a number of telephone conversations with Mr. Bodo Zehm (0049 5413234433; zehm@osnabrueck.de), initiator and manager of the network until July 2020.

To the following members of the Scientific Council

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Andreas Haenel, astronomer, Germany, 0049 1769648484, ahaenel@uos.de;

Claudia Liebers, folklorist, Germany, 0049 22412014373,

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Sven Illum Hansen, archaeologist, Denmark, svillum@gmail.com;

Angel Belmonte Ribas, geologist, Spain, 0034 974518024, anchelbr@unizar.es;

Javier Rey, archaeologist, Spain, gerencia@sobrarbe.com;

Tony Axelsson, archaeologist, Sweden, 0046 511126055, tony.axelsson@qu.se;

a questionnaire was sent by email on October 9 and 11, 2020 with the following questions:

How do you see the tasks of the Scientific Advisory Council?

Does the Council meet regularly? If so how often?

Are you in regular contact with members and/or the board of the MR?

Is your scientific advice sought after by the members of the MR?

What advantages do you see in MR for the research and the spread of knowledge about megalithic culture?

What could be improved in MR? .

To the following members of Megalithic Routes:

Thorsten Karlen, Tourist Office Landskrona Sweden, 0046 709932020, thorsten.karlen@landskrona.se;

Harrie Wolters, Museum Hunebedcenter Borger, The Netherlands, 0031 599236374, hwolters@hunebedcentrum.nl;

Rosalind Le Quesne, Society of Jersey, UK, 0044 1534758314, underground.hello@gmail.com;

Gianfranco Zidda , Archeologica Park St.-Martin-de-Corleans Aosta , Italy , 0039 3346968981 , g.zidda@regione.vda.it ;

a questionnaire was sent on October 11, 2020 with the following questions:

What are advantages for your institution of being a member of MR?

How do you cooperate with the other members?

Do you inform the board/the secretariat regularly about actions taken for MR?

Does your institution use the logo “Cultural Route of the Council of Europe” on its publications, website etc. taking into account the guidelines for the use of the logo by the Council of Europe of November 2019?

How does your institution cooperate with the Scientific Advisory Council of the MR? Does it seek the advice of members of the Council?

What could be improved in MR?

On November 17, 2020 and on November 18, 2020 extensive telephone conversations were held with Ms Dr. Ursula Warnke (0049 44140570301, u.warnke@landesmuseum-ol.de) the new manager of Megalithic Routes and Dr. Rüdiger Kelm (00494853213652, aoeza@gmx.de) its newly elected president

7. Annex 2: Expert assessment checklist

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?	x			
	2	Does the theme of the route offer a solid basis for youth cultural and educational exchanges?	x			
	3	Does the theme of the route offer a solid basis for innovative activities?	x			
	4	Does the theme of the route offer a solid basis for cultural tourism products development?	x			
	5	Has the theme been researched/developed by academics/experts from different regions of Europe?	x			
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?	x		
		7	Does the Route play a unifying role around major European themes, enabling dispersed knowledge to be brought together?	x		
		8	Does the Route show how these themes are representative of European values shared by several European countries?	x		
		9	Does the Route illustrate the development of these values and the variety of forms they may take in Europe?	x		
		10	Does the Route have a network of universities and research center working on its theme at the European level?	x		
		11	Does the Route have a multidisciplinary Scientific Committee?	x		
		12	Does the Scientific Committee work on its theme at the European level?	x		
		13	Does the Scientific Committee carry out research and analysis of the issues relevant to its theme and/or activities on the theoretical level?	x		
		14	Does the Scientific Committee carry out research and analysis of the issues relevant to its theme and/or activities on the practical level?	x		

3.2.2 En- hancement of the memory, history and European her- itage	15	Do the Route activities take into account and explain the historical significance of tangible and intangible European heritage?	x			
	16	Do the Route activities promote the values of the Council of Europe?	x			
	17	Do the Route activities promote the brand of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe?	x			
	18	Does the route work in conformity with international charters and conventions on cultural heritage preservation?	x			
	19	Do the Route activities identify, preserve and develop European heritage sites in rural destinations?	x			
	20	Do the Route activities identify, preserve and develop European heritage sites in industrial areas in the process of economic restructuring?	x			
	21	Do the Route activities valorize the heritage of ethnic or social minorities in Europe?	x			
	22	Do the Route activities contribute to a better understanding of the concept of cultural heritage, the importance of its preservation and sustainable development?	x			
	23	Do the Route activities enhance physical and intangible heritage, explain its historical significance and highlight its similarities in the different regions of Europe?	x			
	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, . . .)?	x			
	3.2.3 Cultural and educa- tional ex- changes of young Euro- peans	25	Are the youth exchanges (cultural and educational) planned to develop a better understanding of the concept of European citizenship?	x		
		26	Are the youth exchanges (cultural and educational) planned to emphasize the value of new personal experience through visiting diverse places?	x		
		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?	x		
		28	Are the youth exchanges (cultural and educational) planned to offer collaborative opportunities for educational institutions at various levels?	x		
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?	x			

		30	Are the youth exchanges (cultural and educational) planned to set up pilot schemes with several participating countries?	x		To a certain extent depending on the engagement of the individual members
		31	Are the youth exchanges (cultural and educational) planned to give rise to co-operation activities which involve educational institutions at various levels?	x		
	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?	x		
		33	Do the Route's cultural activities encourage artistic projects that establish links between cultural heritage and contemporary culture?	x		
		34	Do the Route's cultural activities encourage innovative cultural and contemporary art practices* connecting them with the history of skills development?	x		
		35	Do the Route's cultural activities encourage collaboration between culture amateurs and professionals via relevant activities and networks creation?*	x		Especially new visibility and communication projects
		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?	x		
		37	Do the Route's cultural activities encourage activities and artistic projects which explore the links between heritage and contemporary culture?	x		
		38	Do the Route's cultural activities highlight the most innovative and creative practices?	x		
		39	Do the Route's cultural activities link these innovative and creative practices with the history of skills development?*	x		
		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?	x	
	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?	x		
	42		Do the Route's activities promote dialogue between urban and rural communities and cultures?	x		
	43		Do the Route's activities promote dialogue between developed and disadvantaged regions?	x		
	44		Do the Route's activities promote dialogue between different regions (south, north, east, west) of Europe?	x		
	45		Do the Route's activities promote dialogue between majority and minority (or native and immigrant) cultures?	x		

		46	Do the Route's activities open possibilities for co-operation between Europe and other continents?	x		
		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?	x		
		48	Do the Route's activities aim to diversify cultural product, service and activities offers?	x		As this is a rectangular pattern route, it depends foremost on the members of the route to prepare and use such tools. Members who manage a route use these tools in different ways and to a different extent.
		49	Do the Route's activities develop and offer quality cultural tourism products, services or activities transnationally?	x		
		50	Do the Route's activities develop partnerships with public and private organisations active in the field of tourism?	x		
		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?	x		
3.3 NETWORK		52	Does the Route represent a network involving at least three Council of Europe's member states?	x		
		53	Was the theme of the route chosen and accepted by the network members?	x		
		54	Was the conceptual framework of the route founded on a scientific basis?	x		
		55	Does the network involve several Council of Europe member states in all or part of its projects?	x		
		56	Is the network financially sustainable?	x		Yes, however a better financial background is desirable.
		57	Does the network have a legal status (association, federation of associations, EEIG, . . .)?	x		
		58	Does the network operate democratically?	x		
		59	Does the network specify its objectives and working methods?	x		
		60	Does the network specify the regions concerned by the project?	x		
		61	Does the network specify its partners and participating countries?	x		
		62	Does the network specify the fields of action involved?	x		
		63	Does the network specify its overall strategy in the short and long term?	x		
		64	Does the network identify potential participants and partners in Council of Europe member states and/or other world countries?	x		
		65	Does the network provide details of its financing (financial reports and/or activity budgets)?	x		

	66	Does the network provide details of its operational plan?	x			
	67	Does the network append the basic text(s) confirming its legal status?	x			
3.4 COMMUNICATION TOOLS	68	Does the Route have its own logo?	x			
	69	Do all partners of the network use the logo on their communication tools?	x			
	70	Does the Route have its own dedicated website?	x			
	71	Is it the website available in English and French?	x		Only in English	
	72	Is it the website available in other languages?	x		In Dutch, German, Danish and Swedish	
	73	Does the network use effectively social networks and web 2.0?	x		Several members do, the network only to a limited extent, improvement is a priority.	
	74	Does the network publish brochures on the Route?	x			
	75	If yes, are the brochures available in English?	x			
	76	If yes, are the brochures available in French?	x			
	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.)?	x		On older communication material of some members, especially new members, the title may not yet be present but it will be on all new communication material.
		78	Is the certification logo present on all communication materials?	x		See point 77
		79	Is the certification logo used in accordance to the guidelines for its use (size and position, . . .)?	x		See point 77
		80	Are the logos (Cultural Route + certification logo) provided to all the members of the Route?	x		
		81	Does the Council of Europe certification logo appear on road signs/boards indicating the cultural route?	x		See point 77
SCORE			80	1		