

The Role of Cultural Routes in Strengthening European Heritage and Sustainability The Living Bridge For centuries, bridges connected civilizations Cultural routes are our modern bridges Key difference: Our routes can remain unbroken And the last of th

Today's Question





How can we harness cultural routes' transformative power to strengthen European heritage while building a sustainable future?

Three Focus Areas:

- Heritage Strengthening
- Sustainability Integration
- Cooperation Imperative



HERITAGE STRENGTHENING

Through Cultural Routes







From Fragments to Stories

- Individual sites = Historical fragments
- Cultural routes = Living stories
- Result = Accessible, meaningful heritage

Example: Destination Napoleon - European narrative coherence





Digital Renaissance

Digital Tools Transform Routes:

- QR codes → Multilingual storytelling
- Augmented Reality → Historical immersion
- Virtual Reality → Experience without damage

Remember: Technology serves stories, not vice versa



Community Ownership

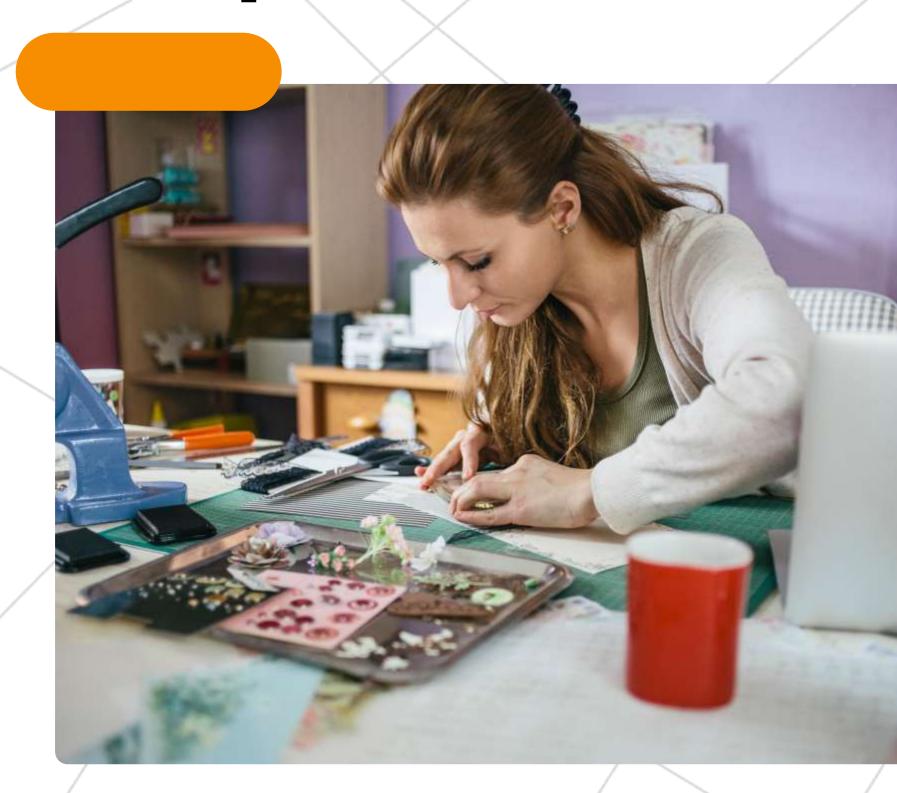
The Sustainability Secret:

Heritage protected by local communities survives longer and thrives better

Route Advantage:

- Economic incentives → Preservation motivation
- Cultural connection → Tradition maintenance

Result: "Heritage Resilience"



SUSTAINABILITY INTEGRATION







Paradigm Shift

Old Paradigm:

Destinations as products to be consumed

New Paradigm:

Destinations as stories to be experienced and continued



Four Pillars:

- Slow Travel Depth over speed
- Seasonal Distribution Spread impact
- Local Economic Integration Strengthen communities
- Cultural Authenticity Preserve traditions





Climate-Conscious Development

Transportation Innovation:

- Rail connections between segments
- Cycling infrastructure development
- Electric vehicle charging networks



Carbon Strategy:

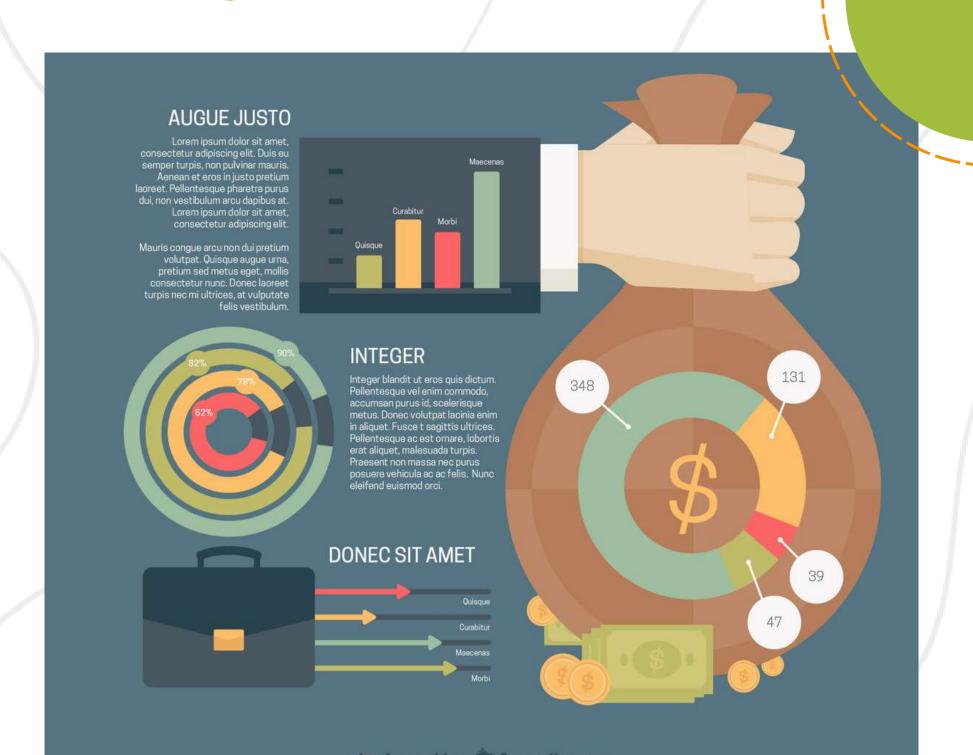
- Calculate route footprint
- Invest offsets in heritage conservation
- Create virtuous preservation cycle

Economic Sustainability

Beyond Traditional Funding:

Diversified Revenue Streams:

- Social enterprise models
- Partnership ecosystems
- Knowledge economy services





Why Isolation Limits Impact



Shared Challenges:

- Overtourism vs. invisible heritage
- Cross-border climate threats

- Demographic changes
- Economic pressures

Truth: No single route can address these alone





The Power of Synergies

When Routes Collaborate:

- Shared Marketing → Reduced costs, expanded audiences
- Knowledge Exchange → Shared solutions, avoid duplication
- Corridor Development → Longer stays, deeper engagement
- Crisis Resilience → Shared resources, collective strength







Collaboration Possibilities:

- Wine routes + Historic cities = "Terroir & Architecture"
- Religious heritage + Artistic routes = "Faith & Creativity"
- Industrial heritage + Environmental = "Sustainability Stories"



Result: Network effects that multiply value

Call to Action

Three Commitments for Tomorrow's Heritage Network:

- Think Beyond Individual Routes → Strengthen the entire network
- Embed Sustainability as Design Principle → Not add-on, but foundation
- Embrace Cooperation as Competitive Advantage → Collective story > individual narrative







Questions We'll Explore:

- How to turn successful collaborations into replicable models?
- What does climate-conscious tourism look like in practice?
- How to overcome barriers preventing deeper partnerships?

The future isn't written in stone

—it's being written by you, right now.



Camino de Santiago & Via Francigena: cooperation between cultural routes

Ildefonso de la Campa Montenegro President, European Federation of Saint James Way

Elena Dubinina, Manager for European Projects, European Association of the Via Francigena Ways







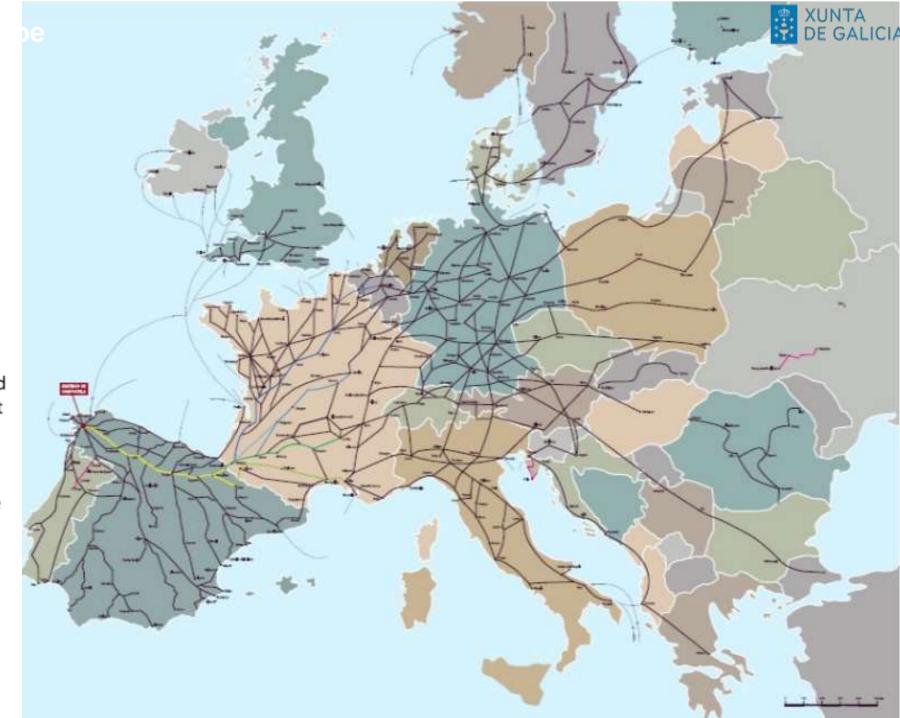








- Hundreds of administrations (municipalities, regional governments and national governments) with management responsibilities along this cultural itinerary.
- Strong involvement of civil society (Associations of Friends of the Camino de Santiago).
- Sustained annual increase in the number of pilgrims arriving in Santiago de Compostela +12.8% in 2024.
- Driver of sustainable economic development with a special impact on European rural municipalities and communities.





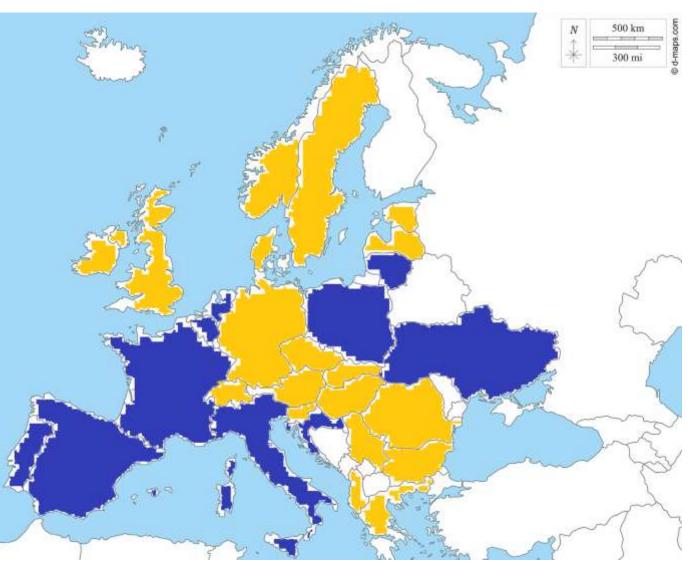


The European Federation of the Way of St James and its representation in Europe

Countries represented in the European Federation

Portugal
Spain
France
Italy
Belgium
Netherlands
Croatia
Poland
Lithuania
Ukraine





States not represented in the European Federation Ireland **United Kingdom** Norway Sweden **Denmark** Switzerland Germany Czech Republic Slovakia Austria Hungary Slovenia Romania Bulgaria Greece Albania Estonia

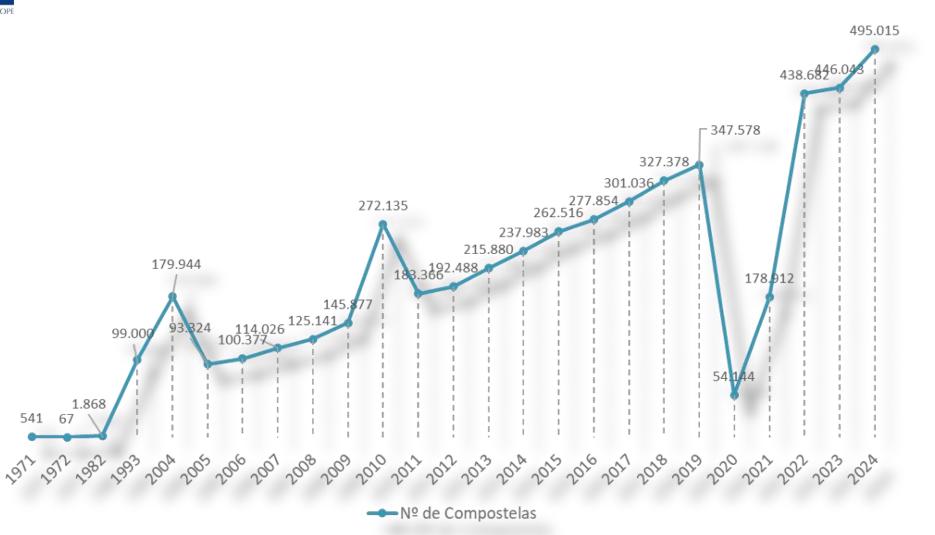
Latvia



1.868

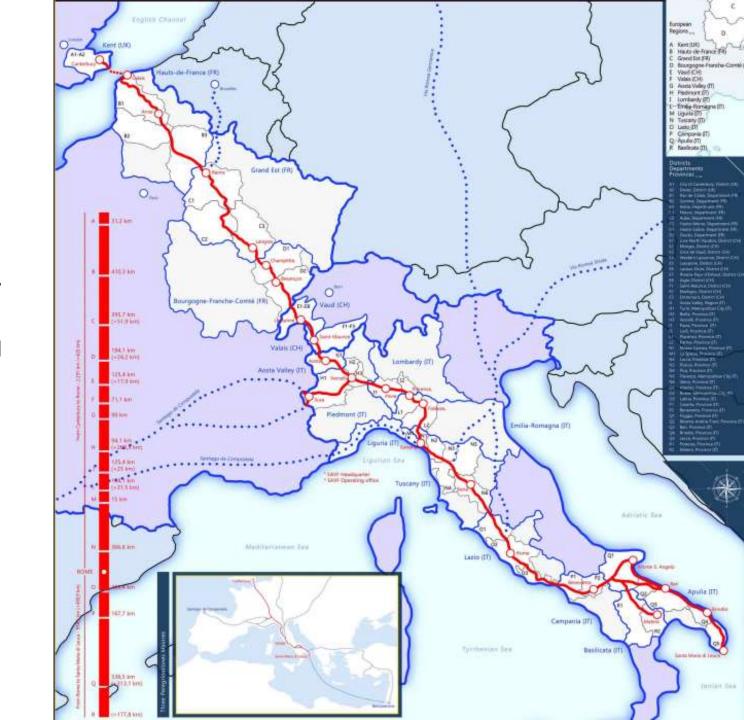
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Nº de Compostelas



The Via Francigena Road to Rome

- The European Association of the Via Francigena consists of 250 local authorities; 96 local nonprofits and 400 private partners
- 3.200 km from Canterbury via Rome to Brindisi
- 5 countries (United Kingdom, France, Switzerland, Italy, Vatican)
- About 50.000 walkers from 55 countries travelled along the VF in 2024, generating €20M of economic benefits
- Main motivations: shared experience, culture, heritage, sports and spirituality
- AEVF sales of pilgrim's passports:
- as of 05/31/2024 n. 7,711 sold
- as of 05/31/2025 n. 10,112 sold
- +2,401 units over the period = + 20-25%





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



Cooperation agreements between European cultural routes. Collaboration between historic pilgrimage routes: Via Francígena and Camino de Santiago











Memorandum of Understanding

stipulated between

European Federation of Saint James Way

Federation of legal persons, Xacobeo-Tunimo de Gallicia Carretera Santiago-Noia, km 3 / A Barcia, 1589? Santiago de Cumpostela Ildefotso de la Campa Montanegro, President

nnd

European Association of Via Francigena Ways

Association of public bodies,
Piazza Duomo 16, 43036 Fidenza, Italy.
Established on 22 April 2001, registered in Fidenza Registry Offlice, model n. 69, series 3, number 1527 on 06:05/2004, Tax code n. 9102/9880340.
Represented by Massims Tedaschi, President, hereinafter referred to as the EAVF:

hereinafter, jointly "the Parties to the Memorandum",

both - oldest Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe, the European human rights arganisation founded on 5 May 1949 in Landon, UK, Launched in 1987, the Cultural Routes Programme demonstrates how the heritage of different countries and cultures of Europe contributes to shared identity, values, exchange, and dialogue. The Suini James way, certified in 1987, was the first route to receive this label, followed by the Via Francigen, certified in 1994.

European Federation of Saint James Way

The European Foderation of the St. James Way was founded by inspiration of the European Institute of Cultural Routes (Council of Europea) on May 25, 2011 in the french city of Le Poys. This organization is made up of adoministrations and public associations of the European turnituries structured by the Rout of St. James, and has the objective of promoting the Innoon pilgrimage route. The European Federation of the Camino is also concerned for the cure and presentation of the Instanceal-cultural beritage linked to the historical phenomenon of the pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela, as well as the cultural and tourist prunotion of the intrincies involved.

European Association of Via Francigena Ways (EAVF)

The EAVF promotes the Via Francigena, an itinerary described in a historic diary of the Archbishop Sigeric of Canterbury in 990.

The EAVF, established in 2001, is an association of municipalities, unions of municipalities, provinces, regions of Italy, Switzerland, France and the United Kingdom. Since 2007 the EAVF is a carrier network of the Vin Francigens - the Cultural Route of the Council of Europe, following the Resolutions no. 98/04, no. 2007/12 and no. 2012/67 of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.

Object of collaboration

The parties declare by signing their willingness to:

- Facilitate cooperation in fields of enhancement of slow tourism, pilgrimages and walking, cultural heritage, sastainability, youth and artistic practices.
- Potential participation in mutually-beneficially activities, actions and projects including European projects (in particular Horizon 2020, surAllure - Promotion of rural museums and heritage sites in the vicinity of European pilgrimage routes).
- Cooperation and facilitation in promotion, marketing and communication.
- Exchange of knowledge and good practices.
- Mutual facilitation of contacts and interaction with pertners, members and relevant stakeholders.

The Memorandum has a validity of 3 years from the date of signature with an automatic renewal upon agreement of both parties.

in Brindisi, on June, 5, 2024

Ridefonso de la Campa Montenegro, President

European Federation of Saint James Way

Massimo Tedeschi, President

European Association of the Via Francigena Ways

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



OBJECT OF THE AGREEMENT



Facilitate cooperation in fields of enhancement of slow tourim, pilgrimages and walking, cultural heritage, sustainability, youth and artistic practices.



Potential participation in mutuallybeneficially activities, actions and projects incluiding european projects (rurAllure)



Cooperation and facilitation in promotion, marketing and communication.



Exchange of knowledge and good practices.

Congress on the Roman and Compostelan Jubilees. Exchange of knowledge between the International Committee of Experts and La Sapienza University of Rome.





Mutual facilitation of contacts and interaction with partners, members and relevant stakeholders.

Agreement between Galicia and Latium region



- Signed on 6 February 2025 in Rome
- By regions' presidents
 Francesco Rocca e Alfonso
 Ruela Valenzuela
- With an objective of promoting sustainable and responsible tourism, as well as offering new opportunities to pilgrims and travellers the Via Francigena and the Camino de Santiago.

Itinerant exhibition



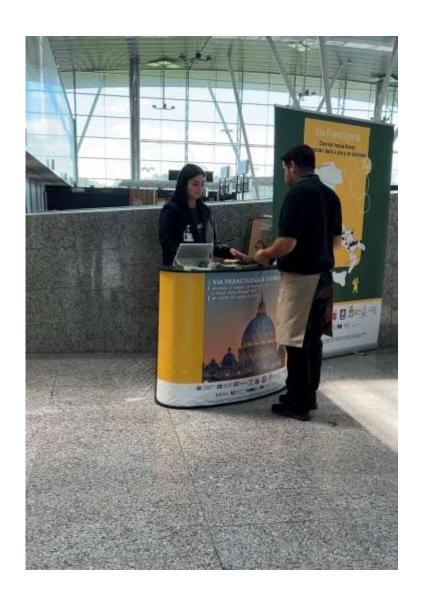






- In the framework of the agreement between Galicia and Latium regions
- Roll-ups of cultural routes (by the It Ministry of culture), Via Francigena roll-up + photos by Camino
- 2 weeks in Rome + itinerary in Italy
- Didactic work with schools

Via Francigena Stand



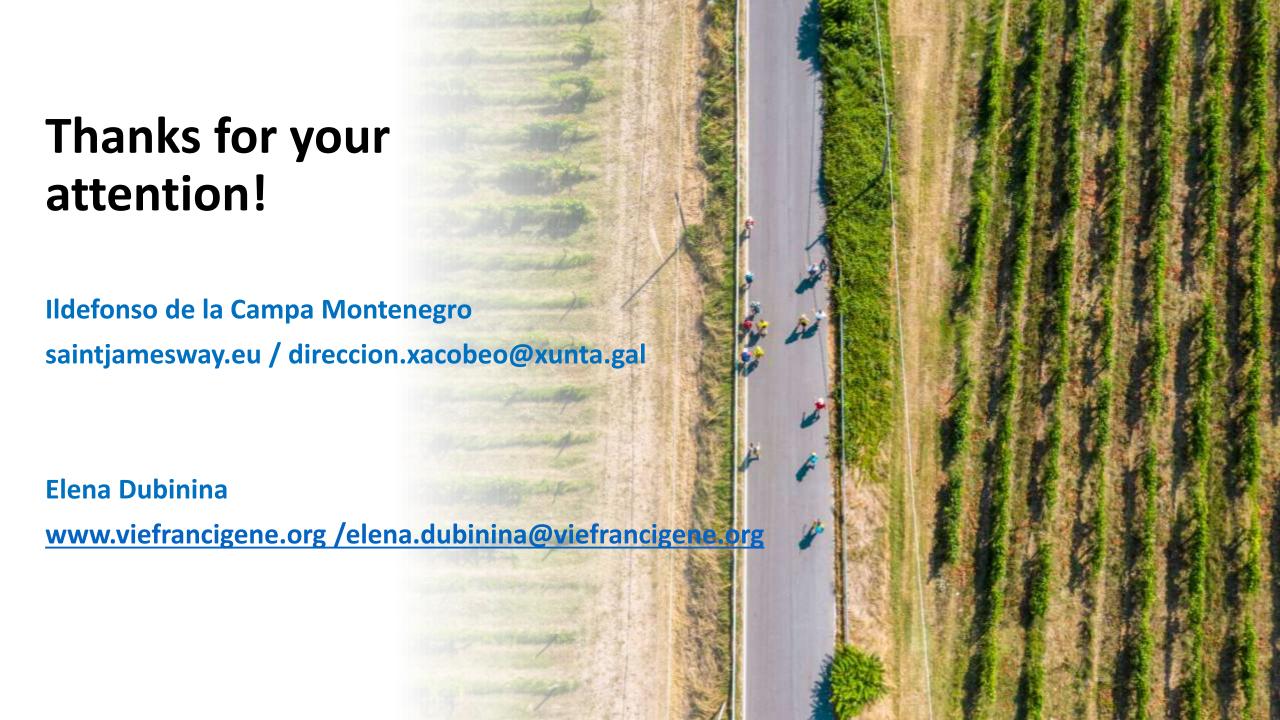


- At the airport of the Santiago de Compostela
- May 2025 (30 days / 7 days a week)
- Reaching to out to the walkers and pilgrims as target audience
- Supported by the Italian Ministry of Tourism in cooperation with Latium region in the framework of 1.6m euro promotional project

Common projects

- Previous project such as rurAllure (Horizon2020)
- With a spin-off of the creation of the European Pilgrimage Network
- In 2025 application for an Erasmus+ project "HIKE4ALL"continuation of "HIKE" project focused on hiking as a means of psycho-physiological health and wellbeing for all including vulnerable groups
- together with St James way, St Olav, St Cyril and Methodius, Templars route and St Paul trail















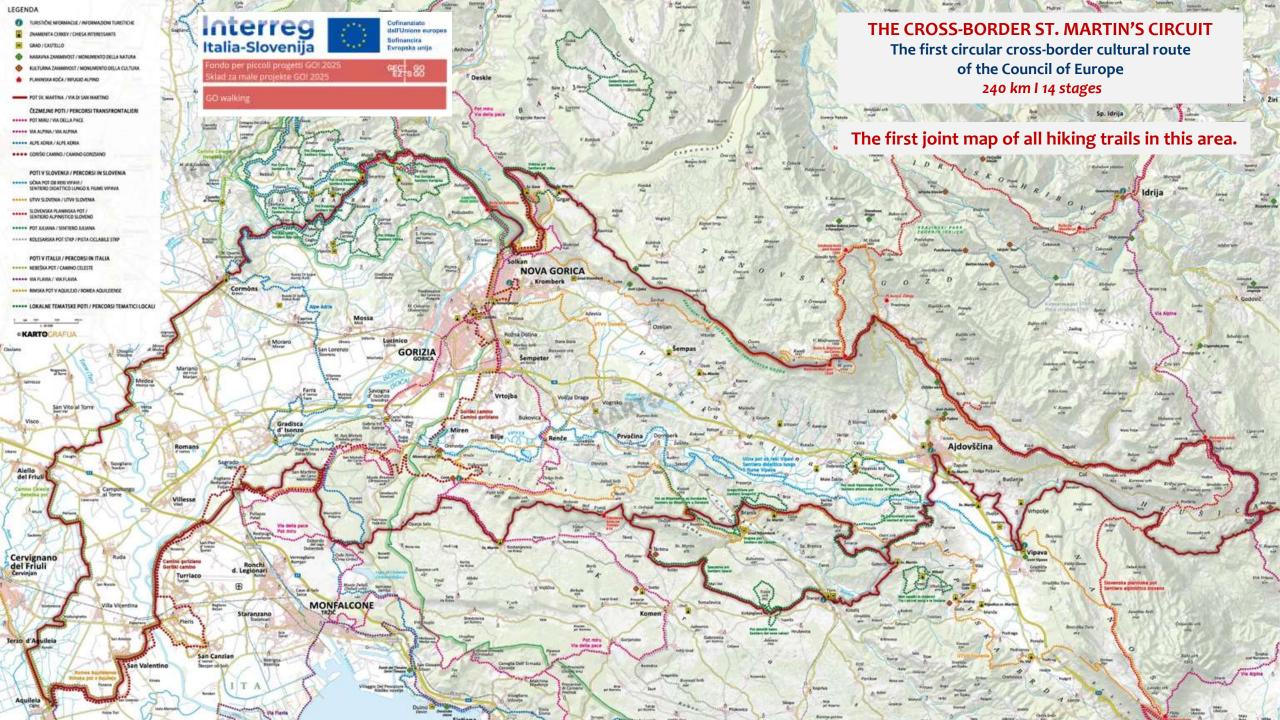




2,500 km from Szombathely to Tours

550 km through Slovenia





Responsible for this content Evropski kulturni center sv. Martin Tourski - Slovenija

T2 moderate

240.8 km ++

72:55 h Ø

6.054 m ·

6,054 m ·

1,266 m =

1 m =

Difficulty ~

Distance

Duration

Ascent

Descent

Highest point

Lowest point

Multi-stage route

Multi-day route St Martin Cross-border Circuit

✓ Long-Distance Hiking Select stage



The route Details Roadbook How to get there Literature Current information Stages Equipment

The St Martin Cross-border Circle is a 240 km circular route that begins and ends in Hrušica. It forms part of ning approximately 2,500 km across Hungary, Slovenia, Italy, and France. This itinerary provides a unique oplandscapes.

The route winds along the southern slopes of the Trnovo Forest Plateau, offering stunning views over the Vipava Valley and the Karst, before continuing through the vineyards of Goriška Brda, including the charming village of Medana. From here, the path descends into Friuli-Venezia Giulia, a region renowned for its rich cultural traditions, dedicated to St Martin (Grgar, Šmartno, Terzo d'Aquileia, San Martino del Carso/Martinščina, Doberdob/Doberdo del Lago, Kostanjevica na Krasu, Žapuže, Brje, and Gaberje). Starting in Hrušica, the route initially ascends the southern slopes of the Trnovo Plateau, before descending through Grgar to Sveta Gora and Solkan, then continuing towards Šmartno in Brda. From there, it leads to Aquileia and, after passing through San Martino del Carso/ Martinščina, re-

outdooractive















the official itinerary of the St Martin of Tours Route, one of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe, spanportunity to experience an extraordinary blend of natural and cultural heritage, passing through picturesque

culminating in Aquileia, a town of immense historical and cultural importance. The route then reaches San Martino del Carso/Martinscina, where it joins the official St Martin of Tours Route. Along the journey, there are nine churches turns to Slovenia. The circuit, divided into 14 stages, is characterised by a striking variety of landscapes and, in some sections, is also suitable for cyclists.





POT SVETEGA MARTINA

VELIKA EVROPSKA KULTURNA POT SVETA EUROPE

Šmartno v Brdih

Smartno v Brdih - Medana

N 46 00' 57", E 13 55' 58", n.v. 258 m



Smartno v Brdih - Koča na Sabotinu (3 h 15 min



Evropsko kulturno pot Sveti Mar-tin Tourski (316-397) je Svet Evrope leta 2005 uvrstil v program kulturnih poti, ki so posvečene velikim evropskim osebnostim. Začne se na Madžarskem v

Nadaljuje se v Sloveniji in gre od Marihora preko Ljubliane in Aldovičine vse do meje z Italijo. Iz Ogleja vodi do Pavie in naprej do Francije, kjer preko Toursa, kjer je bil sv. Martin posvečen za škofa in kjer je tudi njegov grob, zaktjuči v vasici Candes-Saint-Martin, kjer je umrt.

Temelina vrednota poti je vzajemna delitev, ki ima svojo zgodovinsko osnovo v resničnem dogodku, ko je mladi Martin takrat še rimski vojak, delil vojaški plašč z revežem pred mestnimi vrati fran-

coskega mesta Amiens, pogosto upo doblienem na cerkvenih slikah Celotna razdalja med Sombotelom in krajem Candes-Saint-Martin je dolga 2500 km, pot pa je namenjena romarjem, pohodni-kom, športnikom ter ljubiteljem naravnih

Nel 2005, l'Itinerario Culturale Europeo di San Martino di Tours (316-397) è stato inserito nel programma degli Itinerari Culturali del Consiglio d'Europa, dedicato alle grandi personalità europee. Il percorso ha inizio in Ungheria, a Szombathely, città natale di San Martino e prosegue in Slovenia, attraversando Maribor, Lubiana e Ajdovščina, fino a raggiungere il confine con l'Italia. Da Aquiteia, il cammino continua verso Pavia, per poi giungere in Francia, pas-sando per Tours, città in cui San Martino fu consacrato vescovo e dove si trova la sua tomba, per concludersi nel piccolo villaggio di Candes-Saint-Martin, luogo della sua morte. Il valore centrale di questo itinerario risiede nella condivisione reciproca, che trova la sua origine storica in un episodio reale: il giovane Martino, all'epoca soldato romano, divise il suo mantello con un mendicante davanti alle porte della città di Amiens, un gesto frequentemente raffigurato nell'iconografia cristiana. La distanza totale tra Szombathely e Candes-Saint-Martin è di 2500 km. Questo percorso è destinato a pellegrini, escursionisti, sportivi e a chiunque desideri esplorare le bellezze naturali e

In 2005, the European Cultural Route of Saint Martin of Tours (316-397) was included in the Council of

Europe's Cultural Routes programme dedicated to great European personalities. It begins in Szombathely, Hungary, the birthplace of Saint Martin. It contin-

ues through Slovenia, passing through Maribor, Ljubljana, and Ajdovičina, all the way to the Italian border. From Aqui-

leia, the route continues to Pavia and then

to France, passing through Tours, where

Saint Martin was ordained bishop and

where his tomb is located, before end-

ing in the village of Candes-Saint-Mar-tin, where he passed away. The route's

core value is mutual sharing, rooted in a historical event when the young Martin,

then a Roman soldier, shared his military cloak with a beggar outside the gates of the French city of Amiens. This moment

is often depicted in church paintings. The total distance from Szombathely to Can-des-Saint-Martin is 2,500 km. The route

is intended for pilgrims, hikers, athletes, and those who appreciate natural and

cultural beauty.

in kulturnih lepot.

(1 h 30 min







Osrednia mamenitost vasi Šmartno je beročna cerkev sv. Martina, največia v Brditi. Nien corrects committed and share the parameter and a service of the control of the co

L'attractione principale del piese di Snartro è la chiesa barrocca di Sain Marrino, ia più gradis della regione di Dira. E campionita, originariamente un bircrione addiesa della for-tezza, sepita una compinana del 1930 concrata con an mettor artigirusario il Ne Magi. 15-terno presenta tre immanigiliosi altari in marmo e uni imporente pulpina in marmo baino, chiata sul Lati destro della nainata il prosibilorio, il girino digili attra l'aterni el 41% cru-cios sono operio di Tolio Xirai (1900-1973), pittore, graficio e southere siloveno, subare anche il di miliariosi altra della discontinazione.

The central landmark of the village of Smartno is the Barque Church of St Martin, the largest in the first report. Its bell those, originally a fortress tower, houses a bell trum 1957, adorsed with a motif of the Three-Wise Mart, beside, there are three distinguished marble altan and an exceptional whot marble pulph on the right side of the church new. The presbytery, the paintings for the side alliars, and the Stations of the Croos were created by Sone Kral (1900-1975), a Slovene painter, graphic artist, and scolptor, who is also the author of numerous charts invaste.









Interreg Italia-Slovenija

www.ita-slo.eu/SPF • www.euro-go.eu/spf

Čezmejni Martinov krog obsega 240 km pohodne poti, ki obkroža Vipavsko dolino. somestje Nove Gorice in Gorice ter Furtansko nižino do Ogleja. Ustvarjen je bil v proiektu GO walking v času Evropske prestol-

Il Circuito Transfrontaliero di San Martino è un percorso di 240 km che attraversa la valle del Vipava, l'area urbana di Nova Gorica e Gorizia, fino a raggiungere la pianura friulana e Aquileia. Il percorso è stato realizzato nell'ambito del progetto GO walking. promosso in occasione della Capitale Europea della

i parvisso interrussorio, se sergiar inventorio a con comprisso o con securio a contractional directionale, inaliente alle active attitutio, cono Finanziari dell'inviene Europea attra-versa el Finode per i piccoli progetti GCI 2025, parte del programma hiberneg VF-A. Hallo-Sciences 2027-3027, cestillo dell'EDITO GO.

The St. Martin Cross-Border Circuit covers 240 km of hiking trail that encircles the Vipava Valley, the urban areas of Nova Gorica and Gorizia, and the Friulian plain up to Aquileia. It was created as part of the GO walking project during the European Capital





The information bushty, mainte plaques lesturing Martinis, temporar, directional signs, and other project arbitities are finded by the European black through the Small Projects Ford 20 2025 of the feating Vins Baly-Shorena 2021-2027 pro-gramme, makegat by 5075-505.

Regijska razvojna agencija ROD Ajdovščina



















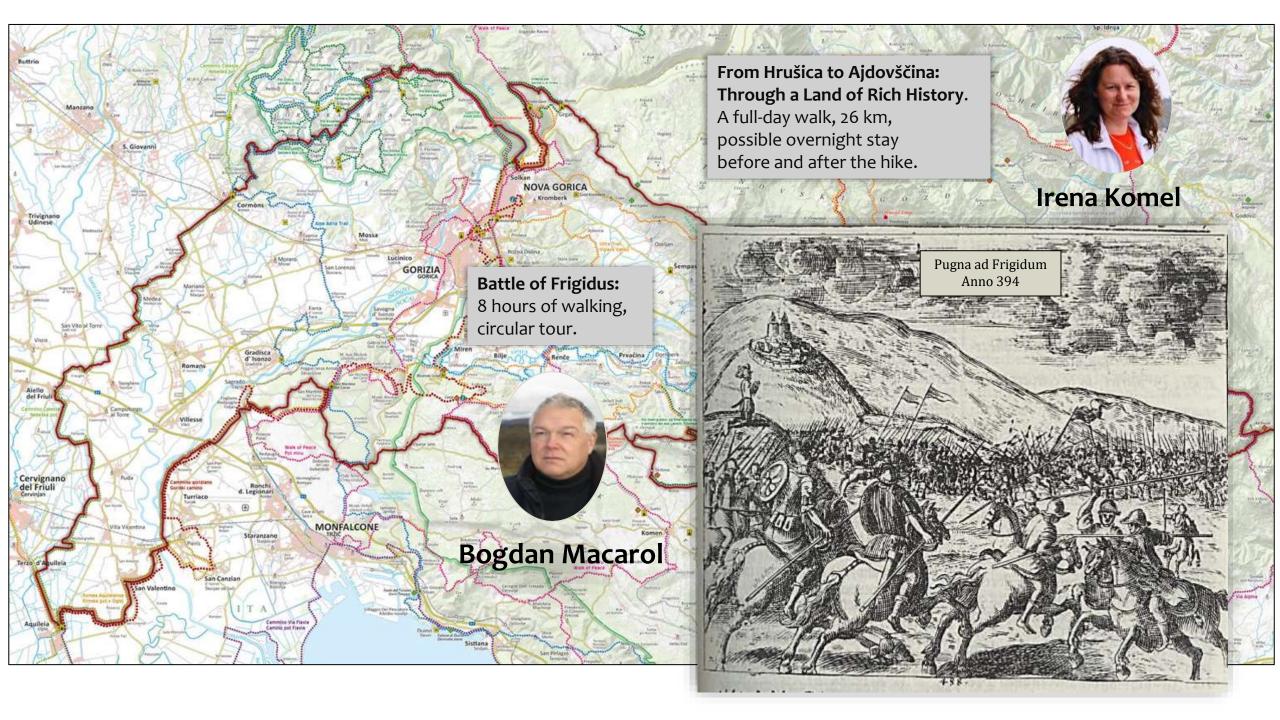






























University of Maribor

assoc. prof. dr. Maja Turnšek Faculty of Tourism



Faculty of Tourism

linkedin.com/in/maja-turnsek-ab8a185 maja.turnsek@um.si

University of Udine

Dr. Dario Bertocchi

Department of Languages, Literature, Communication, Education and Society



dario.bertocchi@uniud.it

After the conclusion of the project, we aim to achieve:

- a new website with all the necessary information for hikers,
- working meetings with service providers and local communities,
- closer collaboration with tourist guides and agencies,
- establishing a broader network connecting all thematic trails in the area.





THANK YOU!



Contact:

European Cultural Center St. Martin of Tours, Slovenia

info@svetimartintourski.si

12 TRAINING ACADEMY

ON CULTURAL ROUTES
OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

COOPERATION AND CULTURAL ROUTES

TORRES VEDRAS, PORTUGAL, 11-13 JUNE 2025







NEXT ROUTES – Upskilling of staff through digital, creative gamification and innovative strategies for the enhancement of EU Cultural Routes























Upskilling of staff through digital, creative gamification and innovative strategies for the enhancement of EU Cultural Routes

is a KA220 project – Cooperation Partnerships in Vocational Education and Training (VET) co-funded by the **Erasmus+** Programme of the European Union.











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





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





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



The project involves 6 Cultural Routes certified by the Council of Europe (in addition to the Phoenicians' Route, the European Route of Jewish Heritage, the Mozart Ways, the Routes of the Olive Tree, ATRIUM - Architecture of Totalitarian Regimes of the 20th Century In Europe's Urban Memory and the Iron Age Danube Route), Mobile Idea Srl, one of the leading private companies in the EU specialised in technological innovation applied to the cultural and tourism sector, and the Breda University of Applied Sciences.

Partnership

LP: The Phoenicians' Route – headquarters in Italy

PP1: European Association for the Preservation and

Promotion of Jewish Culture and Heritage, AEPJ -

Luxembourg

PP2: Association of the European Mozart Ways - Austria

PP3: Iron Age Danube Route Association - Croatia

PP4: ATRIUM Association - Italy

PP5: "The Routes of the Olive Tree" Cultural Foundation -

Greece

PP6: Mobile Idea srl – Italy

PP7: Breda University of Applied Sciences, The Netherlands

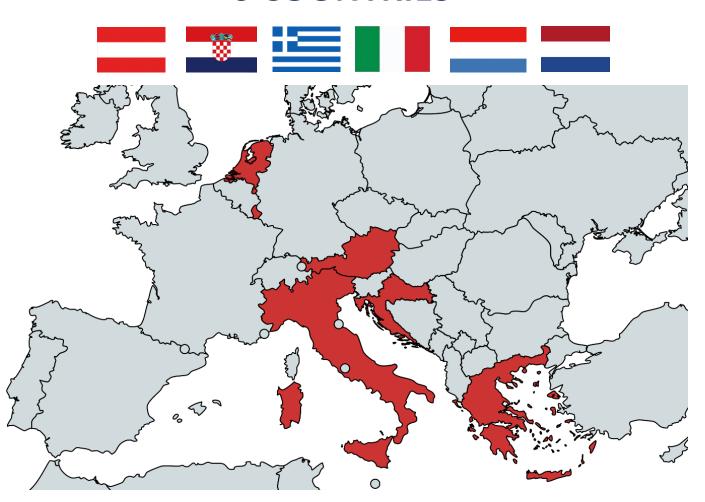








6 COUNTRIES







Project Objectives

NEXT ROUTES seeks to bridge the digital gap between the staff managing these routes and the expectations of a modern, high connected audience by:

- 1. Enhancing Digital Skills
- 2. Development of Innovative Tools
- 3. Promotion and Outreach





Provide Cultural Routes staff with the necessary digital and creative skills to innovate and enhance the attractiveness of the routes.



Create and distribute an innovative tool that includes gamification elements, thereby improving visitor interaction and engagement.



Increase the visibility of CR at local, national and transnational level, attract a broader and diverse audience, and reinforce the network of stakeholders.





Expected **Results**

01

Training Methodology

Development of a training program to transfer digital and creative skills to the route staff, for the enhancement of the Cultural Routes. 02

Toolkit

An interactive platform that delivers tailored training pathways specifically designed for upskilling the digital competencies of Cultural Routes staff. 03

User Manual

A comprehensive step-by-step guide to assist in the utilization of the toolkit for training purposes and for the creation of customized game-based solutions.





A SYSTEMIC APPROACH to INNOVATION

1) MAPPING best practices on gamification and digital tools applied to the cultural heritage and tourism fields;

2) **INVESTIGATE** CRs <u>training needs and preexhisting knowledge</u> on digital & creative skills and gamification;





FOCUS GROUPS







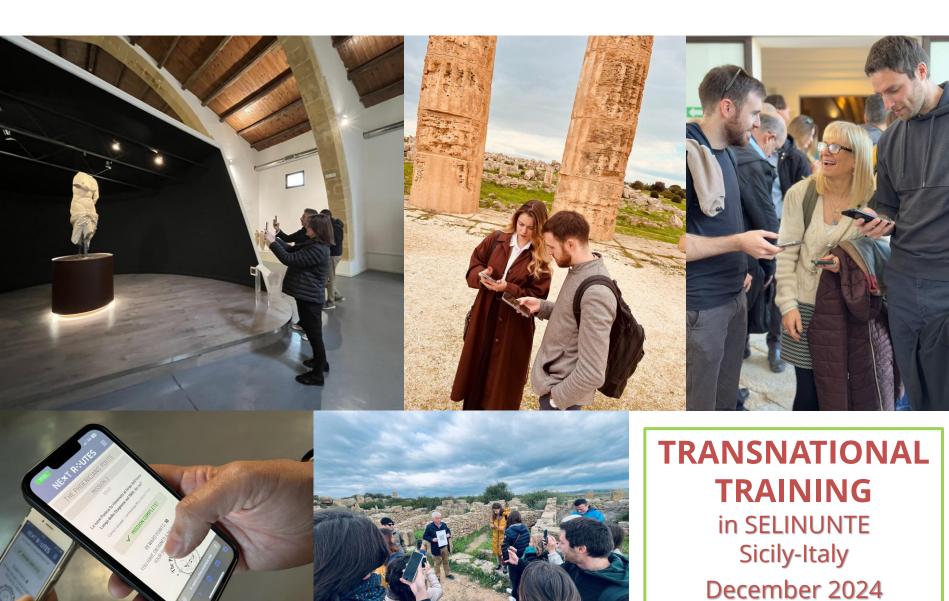


4 INNOVATIVE TRAINING MODULES

- Co-creatively defined
- Led by BUAS University Staff
 - 1. Digital competencies for marketing, promotion and communication
 - 2. Digital competencies for audience engagement and participation
 - 3. Digital competencies for Cultural Heritage promotion
 - 4. Digital competencies for gamification approaches









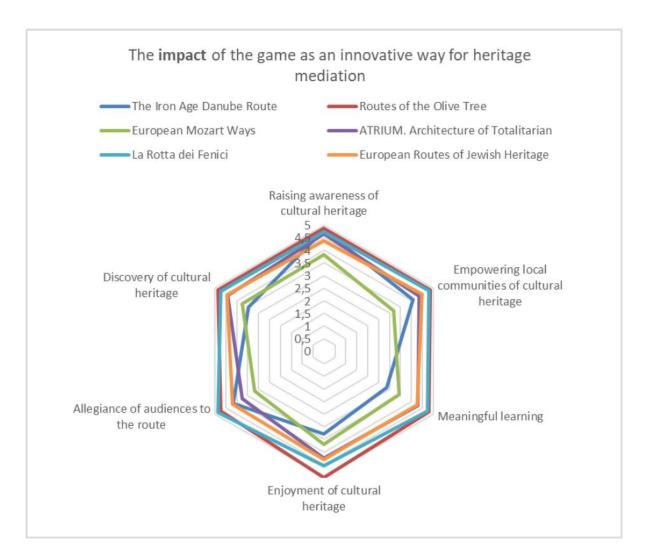








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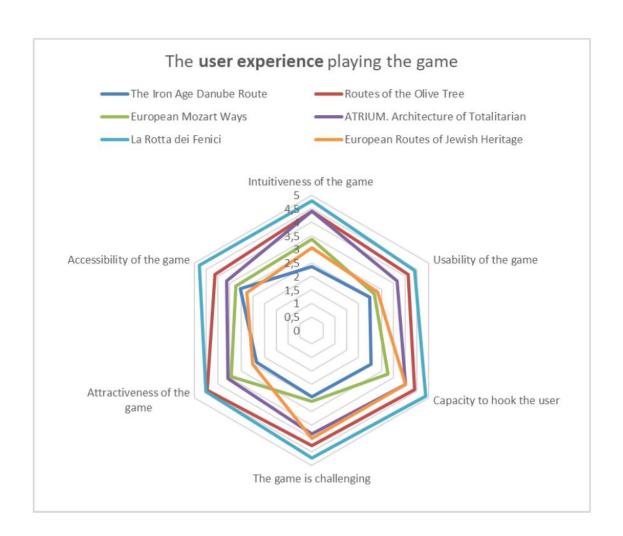


➤ Data processing by AEPJ - European Route of Jewish Heritage





Experience



Data processing by AEPJ - European Route of Jewish Heritage





Click this button to download an overview of the Toolkit and all the material available about it (documentation, webinars, further info).

Strike a Pose - Description

Strike a Pose Strike-a-pose is a web application based on Artificial Intelligenge and Computer Vision, which performs analysis and...



Face-Fit - Description

Face-Fit Face-fit asks the user to replicate an artwork, concentrating on facial expressions that require a much more refined matching. The...



Smart Lens - Description

Smart Lens This web application allows museums visitors to create an interactive visual guide that recognizes the details of artworks. Using...



Multimedia ChatBot - Description

Multimedia Chatbot Experience art in a new and exciting way with VIOLA Multimedia Chatbot! Developed by the UNIFI Media Integration and...



Smart Tourism app - Description

Smart tourism App - loading This application is designed for cultural smart tourism and provides functionalities for landmark recognition...



Smart Video Restoration - Description

Want to easily restore old historical photos and videos? Discover Smart Video Restoration, the innovative web application designed for...











