



## Consultation on Cultural Routes in the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) *Creation of new cultural routes and strengthening of certified Cultural Routes* **26-27 March 2019. Helsinki, Finland**

Korjaamo Culture Factory.  
Töölönkatu 51 A–B, 00250 Helsinki, Finland

### **WORKSHOP 1 "THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW CULTURAL ROUTES IN THE BALTIC SEA REGION: MODERN MOVEMENT"**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

As a theme, **Modern Movement provides an interesting frame for thinking about the relationship between social values and built environment.** The Movement emerged in central Europe in the early 1920s, spreading to the Nordic and Baltic countries. After the Second World War, these ideas became dominant internationally. Modern Movement is closely associated with new building methods, and use of materials such as glass, steel and reinforced concrete. Overall, the designs reflect the ideas of standardization, rationalization and exclusion of decorative details without a functional purpose.

In addition, from the beginning, an integral part of Modern Movement was founded in the recognition that the world had changed. The rapid industrialization after the First World War had resulted in societal tensions represented in growing dissatisfaction with housing conditions, large scale workers' strikes, and the Russian revolution as a single major event. Modern architecture was a response to the societal challenges, offering tangible solutions for them. Need for better housing, public education, healthcare and profound transformations of class-societies towards democratization created a need to rethink also the material conditions of the societies. For architects as a profession, **the movement became associated with international networking, study trips and sharing of ideas.**

In 1929 Alvar Aalto participated in the second Congrès Internationaux d'Architecture Moderne (CIAM) conference in Frankfurt, where he also got to know several of the Bauhaus architects. In Frankfurt, Aalto was inspired by the minimum apartment exhibition and later applied and developed these ideas in his own apartment blocks. In 1930 Aalto was one of the persons behind an exhibition organized in Finland, titled "Minimum apartment", and in the exhibition booklet he described the ideas that a city dweller does not need a large apartment, because in a city it is always possible to go to a library, a movie theatre or a restaurant. This is telling of the **importance of networks,**

drawing inspirations from specific **design solutions**, but also of the **ideology behind the architecture: modern architecture understood as a new way of thinking about the relationship between home and public realm, urbanism and the union of form and function**. The types of buildings representing Modern Movement encompass everything from private houses to schools, hospitals, and factories, including also new types of welfare buildings for public use. Considering the international character of Modern Movement, it has recognizably different forms in different countries, even here in the Baltic Sea Region, which is in many ways varied; politically, historically and geographically. Nevertheless, in retrospect it is easy to “read” these buildings as manifestations of the ideas of new more modern way of life, and the project toward socially equal, democratic society.

**In the young Baltic region nation states, modern architecture became inherently associated with the new national institutions but also with growing industrialization and urbanization.** In the recent years several nations in the Baltic Sea region have celebrated the centennial of their independence. Similarly, a number of the avant-garde movements, as De Stijl, have their centennial celebrations. 2019 marks the Bauhaus centenary, celebrated with projects around the world, with the aim to facilitate the rediscovery of the Bauhaus heritage and its present and future significance.

## MAIN OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of the workshop are to **discuss ways to construct and develop route(s) for modern architecture with view of the cultural and natural assets of the Baltic Sea Region**. Alvar Aalto route is a specific case study to consider more closely.

The Cultural Routes in the Baltic Sea macro-region cover a wide field of themes related to their tangible and intangible heritage. Arts and architecture is a theme which is often represented in form of monuments, groups of buildings or sites. Thus far the routes are Route of Megalithic Culture, Impressionisms Routes and Réseau Art Nouveau Network. In the recommendations, it has been suggested that new projects of cultural routes should take into consideration themes that are currently underrepresented, such as modern heritage.

## KEY QUESTIONS TO BE ADDRESSED

The workshop strives to outline **practical steps toward creation of new routes and developing the existing ones**. In workshop one, there are three presenters introducing routes, each at a different stage of development.

- What are the key steps and issues when constructing a route?

The Iron Curtain Route has applied for certification as Cultural Route of the Council of Europe. This application is still in progress. The Iron Curtain Route manager is invited to explain the stages and pitfalls of the Iron Curtain route construction, for example in the form of some kind of road map of steps of activities, or their current plan with its background. It would be also informative to hear of the experiences concerning mapping of potential members and ways to contact relevant stakeholders, about the current and planned funding strategy and funding mechanism in practice as well as about the visibility and publication plans. This provides practical steps in order to sketch a

route map for creating and further developing routes on modern architecture, or apply recognized best practices on other themes.

The Alvar Aalto Route. The Alvar Aalto Foundation located in Helsinki coordinates the route's development phase. Director of Alvar Aalto Foundation introduces their current network, ideas for the route and work plan.

In this case, it is topical to hear about the route concept. What are the current stages of the relevant partnerships? What are the main challenges? And lastly, what kind of assistance the Routes4U project, and other regional networks could offer to this planned route?

The Coordinator of the BRHC, who works in the National heritage Board of Latvia, will introduce ideas concerning how National Heritage Agencies in the Baltic Sea Region, or the Baltic Region Heritage Committee as a macro-regional network (BRHC) can facilitate, or perhaps even be involved in creating a (BSR) cultural route on cultural heritage?

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