



Evaluation Cycle 2017-2018  
Council of Europe Cultural Routes

VIA CHARLEMAGNE

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The opinions expressed in this independent expert report are those of the author, and do not engage the Council of Europe's Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes nor the European Institute of Cultural Routes.

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There is no doubt regarding the exceptional value of the Via Charlemagne, being a cultural, educational, patrimonial and touristic cooperation project, based on a transnational figure of relevance for the understanding and respect of the common European values.

The financial viability strategy of the Network "Via Charlemagne Association", in charge of the management and operation of the Route, is still too weak in its current state: as the budget funding the administrative comes from public funds for more than € 400.000,00, it would be necessary to gather more members for the Via Charlemagne association, with resolutions on spending for the annual membership fees, and/or decisions to award a grant and/or financial agreements.

Unfortunately none of the Network's associated has provided any membership negotiation: the Network does not ensure the financial and organisational viability of the proposed projects, therefore it does not satisfy the criteria listed in part III of the Annex to Resolution CM/Res (2013).

The project is however very promising, thanks to recently established relationships with the regions; therefore, it is advised to encourage further application requests for the next evaluation cycles.

#### **Summary of the conclusions**

The theme still complies with the eligibility criteria for themes, CM/Res(2013)67, I. List of eligibility criteria for themes.

The Cultural Route still complies with the eligibility criteria for themes, CM/Res(2013)67, II. List of priority fields of action, CM/Res(2013)67.

The Cultural Route does NOT comply with the eligibility criteria for themes, CM/Res(2013)67, III. List of criteria for networks.

Under the present circumstances, the Network does not ensure the financial and organisational viability of the proposed projects, therefore it does not satisfy the criteria listed in part III of the Annex to Resolution CM/Res (2013)67.

## 2. Introduction

"Every man has two countries - his own and France!"  
Charlemagne in La Fille de Roland, Act III, scene 2

Nowadays, we could say "Every man has two countries - his own and Europe!"

In 800, Charlemagne, King of the Franks and of the Lombards, left Aachen and crossed many towns, nowadays German, Belgian, French, Swiss and Italian towns, before reaching Rome, where he was crowned Emperor of the Romans by Pope Leo III. Three centuries after the fall of the Roman Empire, his coronation symbolises the reunification of Western Europe into a single Empire. During his reign, Charlemagne, often referred to as the "Father of Europe", strove for the unification of the political, administrative and monetary systems, and established a common school organisation for the entire Empire.

The Route is composed of three itineraries:

Via Charlemagne n°1 (Hamburg-Barcelona), extended between the eastern and western boundaries of the Carolingian Empire<sup>1</sup>; it is based on the places where the presence of Charlemagne has been documented<sup>2</sup>.

Via Charlemagne n°2 (Via Carolingia Rouen-Rome): based on the itinerary followed by Charlemagne in 800 to reach Rome, this path was one of the main axes connecting Northern Europe to the Regnum Italiae during the 8th and 9th centuries. The Network suggests extending it to Rouen, in order to attest to the presence of Charlemagne on the Channel coast. The Via Carolingia, whose headquarters are in Italy, was awarded the title of Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe in 2007. The Network mentioned the current document exchange between the two associations, aiming at the incorporation of the Via Carolingia in the Via Charlemagne.

Via Charlemagne n°3<sup>3</sup>: mainly related to the presence of the Roland statues in Eastern Europe, this itinerary creates a junction of routes connecting Romania, Croatia and Bulgaria through Roland's paths in Dubrovnik, Prague, Bratislava and Budapest, as well as the Hansa Cultural Route. This itinerary also includes legends originated in Eastern Europe (Krali Marko in the Balkans, for example).

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<sup>1</sup>The destinations of the Route are:

Germany: Aachen, Bremen, Frankfurt, Hamburg, Mützenich, Osnabrück, Paderborn, Prüm, Verden, Enger

Belgium: Brussels, Dinant, Ghent, Herstal, Jupille, Liège, Namur, Dendermonde

Spain: Barcelona, Girona, Huesca, Roncesvalles, Zaragoza

France: Attigny, Belin-Beliet, Blaye, Bordeaux, Charleville-Mézières, Charroux, Chartres, Châlons-en-Champagne, Douzy, Epernay, Gavarnie, Germiny-des-Prés, Givet, Melle, Metz, Montcornet, Orléans, Paris, Poitiers, Ponthion, Reims, Saint-Denis, Saint-Savin-sur-Gartempe, Sedan, Thionville, Toulouse, Tours

Luxembourg: Echternach

Holland: Maastricht, Nijkerk

Principality of Andorra: Andorra

<sup>2</sup> The scientific support is Jean-Luc Duvivier de Fortemps and Benjamin STASSEN's work "Charlemagne and the four sons of Aymon", Weyrich Editions (ISBN 2874891654).

<sup>3</sup> The scientific support is "Roland's European Paths", edited by Adriana Kremenjas-Danicic and published by the Europe House Dubrovnik (ISBN 953-95338-0-5).

### 3. Main Body Evaluation

#### 3.1 Cultural Route Theme.

The subject matter is a perfect illustration of "the Western unification (if not Europe's unification) and its spiritual and political renewal under the aegis of Charlemagne"<sup>4</sup>. Thereby, it portrays an immense common value, starting from the countries situated within the Carolingian Empire but that can be a source of inspiration for all European countries, an aspiration for "unity in diversity".

In terms of cultural tourism as well as innovative activities and educational exchanges, this theme can achieve meaningful results, as "in medieval Europe, Charlemagne was one of the most important figures of historical folklore, whose existence influenced more than a millennium of our history".<sup>5</sup>

At the same time, a theme so deeply rooted in the collective imagination and in the common European history, studied by academics of all eras, can achieve a rather in-depth scientific structure within this Cultural Route.

Many European countries are situated along the Route or are currently establishing a destination on the itinerary: Germany, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia, Bulgaria, Croatia, Spain, France, Ireland, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Poland, Serbia, Czech Republic, the United Kingdom, Slovakia and Switzerland.

Numerous leading figures have granted their patronage to the project, providing evidence of Europe's interest for the content and for the values embodied by this Route, inter alia the President of the European Parliament Martin Schulz (2012), the Academician Alain Decaux (2011) and the Head of the European Commission Representation in France Anne Houtman (2011).

#### 3.2 Fields of Action

##### 3.2.1 Co-operation in research and development.

In Europe, Charlemagne has become the symbol of "nostalgia for unity". Around this perspective, the itinerary can raise awareness about the importance of cooperation to face common issues and challenges.

The Network has a high-level scientific committee, consisting of experts in various disciplines, from medieval history to geography, touristic engineering, literature, roman philology, with a special focus on the Carolingian period.

These experts come from notorious universities of France, Spain, Italy, Germany and Austria. Carolingian cultural heritage experts have been integrated into the group: Miren Lacassagne, Mr Jean Joseph Dardennes, history expert of the Académie palatine, and Mrs Sabine Maffre, director of the Carnegie Library, where the drawings of the Reims Gospel are preserved.

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<sup>4</sup> ICOMOS, 3 April 1978, estimate for the inscription of the Palatine Chapel in Aachen on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

<sup>5</sup> Romain Cordonnier. *Entre mythe et réalité, l'utilisation de la figure de Charlemagne à la fin du Moyen-Age (XIVe-XVe siècles)*, 2009

The Scientific Committee had a first meeting in June 2015, at the Luxembourg Palace (Paris), seat of the French Senate, and a second meeting on 5 February 2016 at the Palace of Tau (Reims).

The Steering Committee and the Scientific Committee can plan a common research and development work on the subject. The project is very active on the local area of the Ardennes and on the theme of Carolingian legends: for these reasons, the Network of universities could broaden the outreach of their work by identifying more general research areas, such as artistic heritage and the historical landscape.

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

"This geographic area is the cradle of emblematic legends of the Carolingian saga inspired by a multitude of places, buildings, objects and landscapes which have built the local cultural heritage from the early Middle Ages to this day<sup>6</sup>".

The dossier "Les 4 fils Aymon entre épopée et légende", published on the bimonthly review "Histoire et Image médiévales" of April-March 2013, is a good starting point to study the legends and literature of this route. As a matter of fact, it contains a large number of archaeological, anthropological and geographical references about the Ardennes area (the "pierre Roland", the Rocher Bayard, the Polivache Castle and the Amblève Castle), but also some images of Reinold in Germany and a reference to puppets in Sicily (Italy).

Therefore, it is necessary to extend the research to further areas other than the Ardennes, by considering all the UNESCO historical sites and monuments that can be found along the itinerary and that are linked to the Route's theme. Research has already been carried out in three other French regions hosting traces of the Carolingian heritage: Grand Est, Nouvelle Aquitaine and Occitanie.

Research fields (4.18) focus mainly on the legendary aspects of the Carolingian saga. It is, thus, necessary to concentrate on the concepts of tangible and intangible heritage. In accordance with this research, it is necessary to justify with historical criteria each one of the destinations chosen in every country.

### 3. 2. 3 Cultural and educational exchanges of young Europeans

The Network has had the very constructive initiative to involve the "Office franco-allemand pour la Jeunesse" (OFAJ), an international organisation promoting Franco-German cooperation so as to encourage exchanges between the youth of both countries, as a laboratory for cross-border projects and European cooperation.

The youth is also involved through the "Ligue de l'enseignement" of the Ardennes region, organising school trips as well as extra-curricular trips. The Network has also answered calls for proposals for the ERASMUS + programme.

Initiatives with the young singers of the twinned towns Reims and Aachen, as well as a Franco-British school trip and two French-German-Belgian-Luxembourgian workshops have been implemented, also in the Ardennes.

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<sup>6</sup> VIA CHARLEMAGNE: from its conception to its realisation, text provided by the Network.

A cooperation has been launched with the Charlemagne European Youth Award, "designed to encourage the development of European consciousness among the youth, as well as their participation to projects fostering European integration", award annually conferred jointly by the European Parliament and the Foundation of the International Charlemagne Prize of Aachen.

### 3. 2. 4 Contemporary cultural and artistic practice.

So far, the contemporary cultural and artistic practice has mostly taken place in Champagne Ardenne, with the Legends Festival and a sculpture of Charlemagne; an opera - whose name is unknown - has been produced with a German partnership in Bayreuth and Montreux, as well as a comic strip together with Belgium.

In this area, too, the presence of the Via Charlemagne on the whole itinerary has to be encouraged.

It is advised to proceed with the relationship started with Riga, European Capital of Culture 2013, in order to bring to light the most innovative and creative practices.

With a view to the European Year of Heritage 2018, it is recommended to encourage artistic projects that can draw connections between cultural heritage and contemporary culture.

### 3. 2. 5 Cultural tourism and sustainable cultural development

The Network established a range of touristic initiatives about the Ardennes with innovative educational and entertainment products of high quality, conceived for the inhabitants and for the tourists. The products have been conveyed by the Ardennes' "Ligue de l'enseignement", with around 30 school trips as well as extra-curricular trips. Some Tourist Offices in the Ardennes have done the same for adults. A considerable effort has been made around living history methods, with satisfactory results. In the Belgian, French, Luxembourgian and German parts of the Ardennes, an operation for the reconstitution of the whole Ardennes Eifel is under way, on which to base the development of the Via Charlemagne itineraries within this territory. Jean-Pierre Lozato Giotart's dossier (Paris III Sorbonne Nouvelle) "La route Charlemagne durable : quel type d'Optimum ?" perfectly indicates the kinds of long-term economic issues of the Route.

### 3.3 Cultural Route Network.

Five countries are already clearly involved in the Network: Germany, Belgium, Spain, France and the Netherlands; in case of the incorporation of the Via Carolingia to the Network, it will also be extended to Italy and Switzerland. Luxembourg is currently confirming its membership, as well as the Principality of Andorra, where the European Movement has, however, not been created yet.

The initiator of the Network is the "European Movement- France Marne<sup>7</sup>" (area of activity), a local branch of the European Movement-France, created in 2006, which Statute has been modified in February 2014 (see Statute).

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The Network operator is the Route des Légendes Européenne association (RLE)<sup>8</sup>, an association established in January 2009 under the French law of 1901 (see the attached statute and list of the affiliate members in the annex). Are available the income statements of 2010 (€ 25.000,00, assets + € 5.000,00), 2011 (€ 30.000,00, assets + € 70,00), 2012 (€ 26.000,00, assets + € 360,00), 2013 (€ 14.763,13, balanced), 2014 (€ 18.196,06, liabilities € 12.196,06), 2015 (€ 21.286,96, balanced).

The Network unifier is the Via Charlemagne<sup>9</sup>, an association established in August 2015 under the French law of 1901 (see the Statute). The RLE has been incorporated into the Via Charlemagne Network with the European Movement associations of France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Spain, Italy, Luxembourg (under way), Switzerland and Ireland as "members constituting the basis of the association". The Via Charlemagne Association is the Network that has submitted the application<sup>10</sup>. At present, following the Executive Board meeting on April 8th and 9th 2017 in Cologne, are elected: Chairman Henrik Kröner (NL), Secretary General Noël Orsat (F), Deputy Secretary General Rita Darboven (D).

The Income statement 2015 of the Via Charlemagne association is available (annex), revealing the minimum revenue per contributor (€ 415,00). The 2016 forecast budget of the Via Charlemagne association (€ 117.000,00) was based on revenues that have not actually been discussed by the territorial authorities, neither by other associates. More than half of the budget (€ 60.000,00) was based on the quantification of voluntary work, and € 30.000,00 are benefits in kind.

The Network is currently strengthening its financial viability by establishing a funding by the Regions for its bedrock, as well as by seeking European funding, patrons, sponsors, and tourism products.

The forecast budget is built on three pillars: administrative € 456.000, Entertainment € 409.500, Investment € 2.400.000.

For the purposes of this evaluation, it is particularly important to look into the first pillar with its team of permanent and temporary staff, its operating costs, its own shares (notably its communication). In this instance, the funders are the members of the Network willing to participate to its development and to benefit from its budgetary returns, as well as the Regions situated on the Route and a share from the States.

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"Last Updated" Date	01-11-2014
Workforce	0 employee (units which have had employees during the reference year but not anymore on 31/12)

8

Address	RUE ELISEE JULLIEN 08130 TOURTERON
SIRET	511 324 709 00019
Legal form	Declared Association
Creation Date	20-01-2009
"Last Update" Date	01-11-2014
Workforce	0 employee (units which have had employees during the reference year but not anymore on 31/12)

9

Address	122 B RUE DU BARBATRE 51100 REIMS
SIRET (headquarters)	81741237200010
Legal form	Declared Association
Creation Date	20-08-2015
"Last Update" Date	24-12-2015
Workforce	0 employee (units which have had employees during the reference year but not anymore on 31/12)

<sup>10</sup> The Association had already submitted an application form for the 2016-2017 Evaluation Cycle of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe, withdrawn on 2 February 2017.

On the occasion of the field visit, it has been asked to describe the Network's strategy in terms of financial viability: as the budget funding the administrative comes from public funds (subsidies and contracts from the Regions situated on the Route, and a share from the States based upon 10 per cent of their contribution) for more than € 400.000,00, it would have been necessary to provide supporting documentation such as:

- Decisions of the Municipal/Regional/Departmental Councils and other possible authorities on formal membership to the Via Charlemagne association, with resolution on spending for the annual membership fees, and/or decision to award a grant and/or a financial agreement.
- Decision of the European Movement "Route Européenne des Légendes" with resolution on spending (Membership fees/Service revenues) moving from a contribution of € 500,00 in 2016 to a contribution of € 10.000,00 as stated in the dossier.

After the field visit, the Chairman of the Executive Board Henrik Kröner sent letters to seven French Regions situated on the Via Charlemagne (Occitanie, Centre, Normandy, Ile de France, Grand Est, Hauts de France, Nouvelle Aquitaine) to request a full year contribution to the annual operating budget, amounting to € 20.000.

They will be followed by letters for the Regions of Bourgogne - Franche, Auvergne Rhône-Alpes, Provence-Alpes Côte-d'Azur, Pays de la Loire, as well as for the Walloon Region in Belgium, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, the German Länder, provinces of the Netherlands such as Limburg, the five Spanish regions involved, the Swiss cantons involved and the Italian regions of the Via Carolingia.

At present, unfortunately none of the Network's associated has provided any membership negotiation with resolution on spending for the annual membership fees: the Network does not ensure the financial and organisational viability of the proposed projects; therefore it does not satisfy the criteria listed in part III of the Annex to Resolution CM/Res (2013).

### 3. 4 Communication tools

The destinations of the Route are described in a global mapping with an overview of the three itineraries included in the Route, as well as a very clear brochure. The presentation clearly unifies the numerous existing projects (Via Bayard, Route of the Legends, Route of the 4 sons of Aymon, Via Carolingia) into one unique Route, the Via Charlemagne - the Via Bayard remains an equestrian trail, riding annex to the Via Charlemagne.

Via Charlemagne's visual communication is based on Hervé Gourdet's graphic representing Charlemagne along with the monogram and name of Via Charlemagne in Carolingian writing. The logo that has been chosen is the equestrian statuette of Charlemagne exhibited in the Louvre Museum (originally kept in Metz Cathedral).

The chosen color is imperial purple for the background and golden for the graphic.

The typography is Carolingian minuscule; the shape of the signs will be the Carolingian octagon.



#### 4. Conclusions and Recommendations

##### Cultural Route Theme

###### Conclusions

The theme complies with the eligibility criteria for themes CM/Res(2013)67, I. List of eligibility criteria for themes.

###### Recommendations

- Formalising the current document exchanges in order to integrate the Via Carolingia to the Via Charlemagne.
- Encouraging the participation of the European Movement- Luxembourg.

##### Fields of Action

###### Conclusions

The Cultural Route complies with the eligibility criteria for themes CM/Res(2013)67, II. List of priority fields of action, CM/Res(2013)67.

###### Recommendations

Co-operation in research and development.

- Broadening the outreach of the work carried out by the scientific committee and the network of Universities on Carolingian legends. It is necessary to identify more general research areas, such as artistic heritage and historical landscape.

Enhancement of the memory, history and European heritage

- Extend the research to areas other than the Ardennes, by considering all the UNESCO historical sites and monuments that can be found along the itinerary and that are linked to the Route's theme.
- Focusing the attention on the concepts of tangible and intangible heritage. In accordance with this research, it is necessary to justify with historical criteria each one of the destinations chosen in every country.

Cultural and educational exchanges for young Europeans.

- Establishing the presence of the Via Charlemagne along the entire itinerary.

Contemporary cultural and artistic practice

- It is recommended to maintain the cooperation started with Riga, which was European Capital of Culture in 2013, in order to enhance the most innovative and creative practices.

- Also with regard to the European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018, it is recommended to foster artistic projects establishing connections between cultural heritage and contemporary culture.

#### Cultural Route Network

#### Conclusions

The Route does NOT comply with the eligibility criteria for themes.  
CM/Res(2013)67, III. List of criteria for networks.

Under the present circumstances, the Network does not ensure the financial and organizational viability of the proposed projects, therefore it does not satisfy the criteria listed in part III of the annex to Resolution CM/Res (2013)67.

#### Recommendations

- Strengthening the financial viability of the Network, and namely its backbone, by increasing the funding provided by regions and other local authorities. This, together with European funding, will enable the recruitment of a permanent team of experts.
- Seeking formal membership of partners for the Via Charlemagne, through membership negotiations and a resolution on spending establishing the amount of money for the annual membership fees.

## 5. List of references

Introductory document to the Council of Europe Cultural Routes project (2017)

Statute of the association European Movement- France Marne (9 March 2006)  
Annual report of the European Movement-France Marne Association (2011) Annual  
report of the European Movement-France Marne Association (2012) General  
income statement 2012 of the European Movement- Marne Association Annual  
report of the European Movement- France Marne Association (2013) Activity report  
2013 of the European Movement- Marne Association (2013) Ordinary General  
Meeting European Movement- Marne 2012 (12 July 2013) General income  
statement 2013 of the European Movement- Marne Association  
Statement of amendment receipt for the Statute of the association European Movement-  
France (ME-F) Marne (11 February 2014)  
Letter dated 1 December 2014 by Dominika RUTKOWSKA-FALORNI (ME-F)

Ordinary General Meeting European Movement- Marne (6 April 2016)  
General Assembly European Movement- Marne of 6 April 2016: annex Activity report of 2015  
Enlarged Executive Board European Movement- Marne (18 April 2016)

Statute of the association "Route Européenne des Légendes" (20 January 2009)  
Composition of the Executive Board of the "Route Européenne des Légendes" (no date)  
Composition of the Executive Board of the "Route Européenne des Légendes" following the  
General Assembly of 8 March 2010  
Composition of the Executive Board of the "Route Européenne des Légendes" (2015): 1st  
Constituency (cultural) 2nd Constituency (tourism) 3rd Constituency (international)  
Income statement of the "Route Européenne des Légendes" Association (2010)  
Income statement of the "Route Européenne des Légendes" Association (2011)  
Income statement of the "Route Européenne des Légendes" Association (2012)  
Renewal of the Executive Board of the "Route Européenne des  
Légendes" following the General Assembly of Liège on 21 October 2016

Statute of the association Via Charlemagne (August 2015)  
European Committee of the Regions Minutes about the presentation of Via Charlemagne on  
16 September 2015  
Meeting minutes of 16 September 2016 at the Committee of the Regions in Brussels  
Via Charlemagne Minutes of the General Assembly of Liège on 23 October 2016  
2017 List of the Via Charlemagne association members  
Excerpt from the Minutes of the General Assembly of Reims on 11 February 2017  
Chronological documentation Via Charlemagne leadership issues April 2017  
Graph of the functional structure of Via Charlemagne 07.04.2017  
Project for the new distribution of the Via Charlemagne association  
List of the cities that have been joined to the Via Charlemagne  
Record of the Via Charlemagne Executive Board's decisions in Madrid 21 - 22 September  
2017  
Statute of the "Groupement Européen des Ardennes et de l'Eifel" (Admission of the French  
branch, decided by the General Assembly on 28 October 2017)  
Information Commission Meeting of the Via Charlemagne association in Brussels on 25  
November 2017

Newspaper: "La route européenne des Légendes. Dernière étape, un collège pour les  
collectivités" (article by Noel Orsat)

Brochure: "Sur la piste de la diligence à travers la Via Bayard"  
Brochure: "Il faut sauver le cheval bayard !"  
Brochure: "Au Patrimoine Culturel mondial à Völklingen / Sarre" (10 November 2009)

Letter of Intent by the Académicien Alain Decaux (2011)  
Letter of Intent by the Head of the European Commission Representation in France  
Anne Houtman (2011)  
Letter of Intent by the President of the European Parliament Martin Schulz (2012)

CD: "Il faut sauver le cheval bayard !" - film 1  
CD: "Il faut sauver le cheval bayard !" - film 2  
Brochure: "Via Bayard, je chevauche entre les monde – l’empreinte"  
Brochure: "Tourisme de mémoire, Champagne – Ardenne Picardie Lorraine – Première guerre mondiale"  
Book: The four sons of Aymon  
Brochure: "60 (1955-2015)"  
Magazine "Histoire et Images médiévales (avril – mai 2013)"  
Events: Le Forum IGR Grande Region 2009 – Le Festival des Légendes 2011 –  
Charlemagne par dessus les tombes 2013 – Gathering via Charlemagne 2015 –  
Launch of the via Charlemagne 2016  
Brochure: "Séjours nature en Vallée de Semoy"  
Newspaper: "MEM info" (May 2015)  
Brochure: "via Charlemagne, Route Historique et légendaire de la geste carolingienne, une épopée pour l’Europe"  
Brochure "La route européenne des Légendes : présentation du projet et de son fonctionnement"  
Book and images: "Via Charlemagne"

Documents made available during the field visits:

List of the Historical Monuments and sites registered on the UNESCO World Heritage List situated along the Route  
List of the affiliate members of the Route des Légendes Européennes Association  
Income statement 2013 2014 2015 of the Route des Légendes Européennes Association  
Income statement 2015 of the Via Charlemagne association  
Budget 2016 of the Via Charlemagne association with a list of their revenue and expenditure  
List of the extra-European Movement partners  
Brief text about the long term strategy of the  
Network Brochure Via Charlemagne – Via  
Carolingia EuroVelo Map  
Cross-border map Eifel Ardennes 1:250000  
Brochure "Ardennes Françaises – Guide découverte" 2017  
Poster "L’enchantement", Congress of the GP Ardennes Eifel  
Jean-Pierre Lozato Giotart's dossier (Paris III Sorbonne Nouvelle) "La route Charlemagne durable : quel type d’Optimum ? "  
Data sheet n° 1: formation  
Data sheet n° 2: Investments Grand Est  
Data sheet n° 3: Investments Nouvelle Aquitaine  
Data sheet n° 4: European Funding  
Data sheet n° 5: Rural renewal of remote territories  
Data sheet n° 6: Image  
Data sheet n° 7: Creation of lasting jobs, not at risk of relocation  
Data sheet n° 8: Events

Documents sent by the Network:

L'Ardennais Article 15-09-2013 La Route Charlemagne sera ouverte aujourd'hui et demain  
L'Ardennais Article 18-09-2013 Attigny ouvre la Via Charlemagne  
Photo article ardennais Attigny 18-09-2013.JPG  
L'Ardennais Article 19-09-2013 Les fils Aymon se mettent en quatre  
L'Ardennais Article 19-09-2013 Qui accueillera la statue de Charlemagne  
Cover from the Ardennais journal 19-09-2013  
L'Ardennais Article 21-09-2013 Charlemagne, en hommage à Jacques Félix

Logo model version 1, logo model version 2

Committee of the Regions Minutes  
LETTER BERTRAND SCHOENTGEN of 5 January 2017  
LIST OF THE UNESCO SITES of Via Charlemagne  
Activity report of the via Charlemagne 2016  
RECORD OF DECISIONS of the General Assembly of Liège  
Organisation Plan  
LONG TERM STRATEGY OF THE NETWORK  
Video presented to the European Commission and to the European Parliament in Madrid

#### 6. Field visit programme.

2016-2017 Cycle

Monday, December 12th 2016

10.30 to 12.30: meeting session in the operational headquarters of the Via Charlemagne Association (Tourteron City Hall) and visit of the association's archives

14.30 to 16.30: field visit

Visited cities: Attigny, Charleville-Mézières, Reims

Were present:

Mr Jean Paul Bachy, Chairman of the Monitoring Committee (outgoing President of the Region) Mrs Rita Darboven, KreaScientia gGmbH Director  
Mr Noel Orsat, Secretary General of the Via Charlemagne association  
Mr Jean-Pierre Lozato-Giotart, Chairman of the scientific Committee (by videoconference) Mr Bertrand Schoentgen Honorary Chairman of the Marne European Movement Ms Claire Thibaux, intern for a civic service at the Route des Légendes (Ligue de l'enseignement)

2017-2018 Cycle

Saturday, December 9th 2017

10.30 to 12.30: meeting session in the headquarters of the Via Charlemagne, 122 B Rue du Barbatre 51100 Reims

Were present:

Mr Henrik Kröner Chairman of the Via Charlemagne association  
Mrs Laurence Malassagne, Treasurer of the via Charlemagne association  
Mr Noel Orsat, Secretary General, Founding Director of the association  
Monsieur Jean-Pierre Lozato-Giotart, Chairman of the association's scientific Committee  
Mr Philippe Vaillant, Chairman of the Route des Légendes Européennes

**Evaluation Cycle 2017-2018 Council of Europe Cultural Routes  
VIA CHARLEMAGNE**

**Checklist**

	Yes	No	
<b>3.1 THEME</b>	Does the theme of the Route		
	- represent a common value - historical, cultural, or heritage -to several European countries?	1	0
	- offer a solid basis for	1	0
	youth cultural and educational exchanges?	1	0
	innovative activities?	1	0
	1	0	
	1	0	
<b>3.2 FIELDS OF ACTION</b>	Has the theme been researched/developed by academics/experts from different regions of Europe?	1	
	<b>3.2.1 Co-operation in research and development</b>		0
	Does the Route		0
	- offer a platform for co-operation in research and development of European cultural themes/values?	1	0
			0
			0
	- show how these themes are representative of European values shared by several European countries?	1	0
	- illustrate the development of these values and the variety of forms they may take in Europe?	1	0
	- have a network of universities and research center working on its theme at the European level?	1	0
	- have a multidisciplinary scientific committee?	1	0
	Does the scientific Committee		
	work on its theme at the European level?	1	0
	carry out research and analysis of the issues relevant to its theme and/or activities on:		0
	- theoretical level?	1	0
	- practical level?	1	0
			1
			0
	<b>Do the Route activities (according with the theme)</b>		0
	- take into account and explain the historical significance of tangible and intangible European heritage ?	1	0
	- promote the CoE values?	1	0
	- promote the CoE CRs brand?	1	0
	- work in conformity with international charters and conventions on cultural heritage preservation?	0	0
	- identify, preserve, and develop European heritage sites in rural destinations?	1	0
	- identify, preserve, and develop European heritage sites in industrial areas in the process of economic restructuring?	1	0
	- valorize the heritage of ethnic or social minorities in Europe?	1	1
	- contribute to a better understanding of the concept of cultural heritage, the importance of its preservation and sustainable development?	1	0
	- enhance physical and intangible heritage, explain its historical significance and highlight its similarities in the different regions of Europe?	1	0
	- 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, ...)?	0	0
			0
			0
	<b>Are the youth exchanges (cultural and educational) planned to</b>		0
	- develop a better understanding of the concept of European citizenship?	1	0
- emphasize the value of new personal experience through visiting diverse places?	1	0	
- encourage social integration and exchanges of young people from different social backgrounds and regions of Europe?	1	0	
- offer collaborative opportunities for educational institutions at various levels?	1	0	
- place the emphasis on personal and real experiences through the use of places and contacts?	1	0	
- set up pilot schemes with several participating countries?	1	0	
- give rise to co-operation activities which involve educational institutions at various levels?	1	0	
		0	
		0	
<b>Do the Route's cultural activities (contemporary cultural and artistic practice related)</b>		0	
- promote intercultural dialogue and multidisciplinary exchange between various artistic expressions in European countries?	1	0	
- encourage artistic projects that establish the links between cultural heritage and contemporary culture?	1	0	
- encourage innovative cultural and contemporary art practices* connecting them with the history of skills development?	1	0	
- encourage collaboration between culture amateurs and professionals via relevant activities and networks creation?*	1	0	
-encourage debate and exchange - in a multidisciplinary and intercultural perspective - between various cultural and	1		

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	<b>3.2.5 Cultural tourism and sustainable cultural development</b>		
	Do the Route's activities (relevant to sustainable cultural tourism development)		
	- assist in local, regional, national and/ or European identity formation?	1	0
	- actively involve 3 major means to raise awareness of their cultural projects: print, broadcast and social media?	1	0
	- promote dialogue between		
	urban and rural communities and cultures?	1	0
	developed and disadvantaged regions?	1	0
	different parts (south, north, east, west) of Europe?	1	0
	majority and minority (or native and immigrant) cultures?	0	1
	- open possibilities for co-operation between Europe and other continents?	1	0
	- draw decision makers' attention to the necessity of protecting heritage as part of sustainable development of the territory?	1	0
	- aim to diversify of cultural product, service and activities offers?	1	0
	- develop and offer quality cultural tourism products, services or activities transnationally?	1	0
	- develop partnerships with public and private organisations active in the field of tourism?	1	0
	Did the network prepare and use tools all along the route to raise the number of visitors and the economic impacts of the route on the territories crossed?		
	Does the Route represent a network involving at least three Council of Europe's member states?	1	0
	Was the theme of the network chosen and accepted by its members?	1	0
3	Does the network involve several Council of Europe member states in all or part of its project(s)?	1	0
	Is the network financially sustainable?	0	1
	Does the network have a legal status (association, federation of associations, EEIG,...)?	1	0
	Does the network operate democratically?	1	0
	- specify		
	its objectives and working methods?	0	1
	the regions concerned by the project?	1	0
	its partners and participating countries?	1	0
	the fields of action involved?	1	0
	the overall strategy of the network in the short- and long term?	0	1
	- identify potential participants and partners in CoE member states and/or other world countries?	1	0
	- provide details of its financing (financial reports and/or activity budgets)?	0	1
- provide details of its operational plan?	0	1	
- append the basic text(s) confirming its legal status?	1	0	
TOOL	Does the Route have its own logo?	1	0
	Do all partners of the network use the logo on their communication tools?	1	0
	Does the Route have its own dedicated website ?	1	0
3.4 COM	Is it the website translated into other languages?	0	1
	Does the network use effectively social networks and web 2.0?	1	0
	Does the network publish brochures on the Route?	1	0
	if yes, are the brochures translated in English?	0	1
	if yes, are the brochures translated in French?	1	0