



MINISTRY OF CULTURE
OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA



Cultural Routes
of the Council of Europe
Itinéraires culturels
du Conseil de l'Europe

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

CR-Moldova(2026) Prog

Luxembourg, 14 April 2026

THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA IN THE CULTURAL ROUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

A seminar for partners and stakeholders in the Republic of Moldova
involved in or interested by the programme of Cultural Routes of the
Council of Europe

Chişinău, Republic of Moldova

15-17 April 2026

**PROGRAMME
CONCEPT NOTE**



Organised by the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Moldova and the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe, within the programme of the Presidency of the Republic of Moldova of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe

WEDNESDAY, 15 APRIL 2026

Arrival of participants

19:30 | Networking Event - Informal gathering for participants, route representatives and representatives of the Ministry of Culture and National Tourism Office

Venue: Hotel Mimi Jolly Allon, restaurant Autentic

Dinner

THURSDAY, 16 April 2026 – ASCONI WINERY

08:00 Departure from the Hotel Mimi Jolly Allon to Asconi Winery

09:00 Registration / Welcome drinks

Venue: Asconi Winery

09:30 **Opening Session - Setting the institutional context** with

Moderator: Andrei CHISTOL, Head of Tourism Directorate, Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Moldova

- Corneliu CIRIMPEI, State Secretary, Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Moldova
- Victor LĂPUȘNEANU, Head of the UN and Specialized Agencies Section, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Moldova
- Rui GOMES, Executive Secretary of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe

10:00 **The Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe Programme**

Presentation by Rui GOMES, Executive Secretary of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe

10:25 **Moldova: Heritage, Identity and European Connectivity**, Presentation by Dr. Sergiu MUSTEAȚĂ

10:55 Signing of MoU between National Tourism Office and the Historic Cafés Route

11:00 **Break**

BLOCK I

Moderator: Rui GOMES, Executive Secretary of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe

11:10 **Moldova within the Cultural Routes Programme: Achievements and Consolidation**

Part 1 – Leveraging Achievements; focused presentations by:

- **Iter Vitis**, Natalia ȚURCANU, Elena STEPANOV
- **Historic Cafés Route**, Arnold Günter KLINGEIS
- **European Route of Jewish Heritage**, Alina MARINCEAN
- **European Cemeteries Route**, Theodora Virginia NTALLI
- **European Fairy Tale Route**, Marina D'AMATO

Each intervention to address Moldova's concrete involvement, impact on local heritage and tourism, good practices, lessons learned

12:00 **Strategic Reflection Panel:** How can Moldova scale up its role from participant to proactive partner?

Moderator: Andrei CHISTOL, Head of Tourism Directorate, Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Moldova

- Diana LAZĂR, Wine and Tourism Senior Expert, Iter Vitis Ambassador to Moldova, ANTRIM Honorary Board Member
- Aurelia SALICOV, Ambassador of the European Route of Historic Cafés in the Republic of Moldova
- Eugenia BEJAN, President of the National Section of the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) in the Republic of Moldova, section of the European Fairy Tale Route
- Michael FINCKEL, Manager of From Roman Legions to our Days: Jewish History of Moldova Mosaics, the section of the European Routes of Jewish Heritage in Moldova
- Eszter CSONKA-TAKÁCS, Vice Chair, Bureau of the EPA Governing Board on Cultural Routes, Director of the Directorate of Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Hungarian Open-Air Museum

The discussion should focus on Sustainability, Governance, Project development, International visibility

13:00 Lunch

BLOCK II – THE INTERNATIONAL FOCUS

14:00 **Discovering new Cultural Routes for Moldova**

Moderator: Rui GOMES, Executive Secretary of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe

Presentations by:

- **Aeneas Route**, Sergio FERRARO
- **Iron Age Danube Route**, Szabolcs CZIFRA
- **VIA REGIA**, Caroline FISCHER
- **TRANSROMANICA**, Annemarie SCHMIDT
- **Transhumance trails**, Roberta ALBEROTANZA

15:00 **Moldova's potential new Cultural Routes**

Moderator: Ana Șandra, Interim Director, National Tourism Office of the Republic of Moldova

Presentation of Cultural Routes from the Republic of Moldova to be developed or proposed for inclusion in the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe (panel discussion)

- **European Route of Ukrainian Culture**, Presentation by Svetlana CAZAC, President of the NGO National Association of Business and Industrial Tourism "Pro Tourism Moldova" & Victor COJUHARI, Ecaterina COJUHARI

- **European Route of Comparative Castellology**, Presentation by Maiana ŞLAPAC – Corresponding Member of the Academy of Sciences of Moldova, Doctor Habilitatus in Art Studies, Institute of Cultural Heritage of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Moldova
- **European Route of Rock-Cut Monastic Settlements**, Presentation by Sergius CIOCANU – PhD in Architecture, Institute of Cultural Heritage of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Moldova
- **Cucuteni–Trypillia Cultural-Historical Route**, Presentation by Roxana SLEMCO, Executive Director of North-East Regional Development Agency

15:40 Break

BLOCK III - INTERACTIVE LAB

Moderator: Ana-Luiza MURAVSCHI, Head of coordination of external assistance Service, Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Moldova

15:50 **“Moldova 2030: Expanding our role in the Cultural Routes Programme”**

Objective: to generate concrete strategic directions and priority actions for expanding Moldova’s participation in the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe, with a strong focus on engagement with new routes presented earlier in the day.

How can Moldova strategically expand and position itself within the Cultural Routes Programme by 2030? – in 3 thematic clusters:

Cluster A – ***Expanding Membership***

- Which new routes should Moldova prioritise?
- What concrete steps are needed for accession?
- Which institutions should lead?

Cluster B – ***Strategic Impact and Tourism***

- How can Cultural Routes support sustainable tourism?
- How can wine, gastronomy, minorities, archaeology be better integrated?
- How to increase international visibility?

Cluster C – ***Cooperation and Funding***

- Cross-border and regional cooperation opportunities
- Joint projects between routes
- Access to EU and European funding
- Possibility of Moldova initiating a new thematic route

Group Work “Reframing Cultural Routes: Representation, Regional Cooperation and Local Heritage in Moldova”

16:25 **Rapid Reporting per group**

BLOCK IV – ACCELERATION FORMAT

16:40 **B2B and Networking sessions**

18:30 Evaluation and Closing

Moderator: Rui GOMES, Executive Secretary of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes

19:00 Networking post-event

19:40 Asconi Winery guided tour/free time

20:00 Official Dinner

International experts + organisers

21:45 | **Departure to the hotel**

FRIDAY, 17 April 2026

Morning: Guided Cultural Programme

08:00 Chişinău, Hotel Mimi Jolly Alon – meeting point and departure

CHIŞINĂU CITY TOUR, with visits to the following sites (exterior viewing):

- Zero Kilometer – Moldova Post
- Chişinău City Hall
- Metropolitan Cathedral of Chişinău
- Holy Gates (Triumphal Arch)
- Cathedral Square
- Mitropolit Bănulescu-Bodoni Street
- National Opera and Ballet Theatre “Maria Bieşu”
- Presidency of the Republic of Moldova
- Former Fine Arts Museum Building
- Parliament of the Republic of Moldova
- Cineplex Loteanu
- Alley of the Classics
- Stephen the Great Monument

Afternoon: Departure of participants

THE CULTURAL ROUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

The [Council of Europe](#) is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It comprises 46 member States, including all the members of the European Union. All Council of Europe member States have signed the [European Convention on Human Rights](#), a treaty designed to protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

The [Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe](#) programme was launched in 1987 to demonstrate, through journeys across space and time, how the heritage of different countries in Europe contributes to a shared cultural heritage. The programme serves as a platform for intercultural dialogue and promotes better knowledge and understanding of European cultural identity, while safeguarding and enhancing natural and cultural heritage as a source of cultural, social and local development.

In 2010, the [Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes \(EPA\)](#) of the Council of Europe was established to strengthen the programme politically and financially. The EPA, based on criteria established by Committee of Ministers Resolution CM/Res(2023)2, awards the "Cultural Route of the Council of Europe" certification during meetings of its Governing Board.

A Cultural Route is a cultural, educational, heritage and tourism cooperation project designed to develop and promote an itinerary or series of itineraries based on a historic route, a cultural concept, figure, or phenomenon of transnational importance, contributing to the understanding and respect of shared European values.

Today, there are [49 certified Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe](#), connecting cultural and heritage actors across the continent. Three of these Routes have [members in the Republic of Moldova](#).

ABOUT THE SEMINAR: THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA AND THE CULTURAL ROUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

The Republic of Moldova joined the Council of Europe in 1995 and the EPA on Cultural Routes in 2023. While relatively young in the programme, the Republic of Moldova's heritage is deeply connected with the cultural values and history of the rest of Europe and as such is connected with many Cultural Routes, even those that are not yet formally represented in the country. The upcoming [Moldovan Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe](#) (November 2025 – May 2026) provides an excellent opportunity to raise the visibility of the Cultural Routes programme in the country, and to strengthen the activities of the programme of the presidency on culture and heritage.

By bringing together national stakeholders in the name of cooperation and mutual understanding in the field of heritage, the seminar will embody the ambition of the Ministry of Culture to preserve and promote the national cultural heritage for future generations.

This seminar will serve as a platform for cultural and heritage stakeholders in the Republic of Moldova to become more familiar with the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme and to contribute to its development in the Republic of Moldova. Similar national seminars have been held successfully in the framework of other Presidencies, including [Malta \(2025\)](#).

Objectives

The seminar aims to enhance the visibility and engagement of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe in the Republic of Moldova. Its main objectives are:

- To provide information and an overview of the main characteristics of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe to various stakeholders concerned with cultural heritage in the Republic of Moldova.
- To strengthen participants' capacity to establish and maintain collaborative relationships with national and international partners to support transnational cultural routes.
- To identify opportunities and challenges for the development of new Cultural Routes and the extension of certified Routes within the country.
- To facilitate contacts between Cultural Routes and Moldovan stakeholders to encourage membership or cooperation with existing networks.
- To link Moldovan cultural and heritage initiatives with the priorities of the Moldovan Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.

Participants

The seminar will bring together:

- Representatives of national and local authorities, non-governmental organisations, cultural institutions, academic institutions, tourism operators and other professionals in the Republic of Moldova concerned with the programme of Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe (to be invited by the Ministry of Culture).
- Moldovan members or partners of existing Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe (to be invited by the Ministry of Culture).
- Representatives of networks of certified Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe with presence in the Republic of Moldova or interest in developing it (to be invited by the Council of Europe).
- Officials and representatives of the Enlarged Partial Agreement (EPA) on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe (to be invited by the Council of Europe).

Essential Information

- Dates: 15–17 April 2026
- Venue: Chişinău, Republic of Moldova, ASCONI WINERY
- Working languages: English and Romanian (simultaneous interpretation provided)
- Organising institutions: Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Moldova, National Tourism Office and the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe