

EPACR (2026) Forum2

Luxembourg, 21 September 2026

ROUTES THROUGH TIME AND CULTURES **EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE HERITAGE**

The 15th Advisory Forum on
Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe

Yerevan, Armenia
23-25 September 2026

PROGRAMME

TUESDAY, 22 September*DoubleTree Hotel*

- 09:00-10:45 Meeting of the Bureau of the EPA Governing Board
Chicago Board Room
- 11:00-13:00 Meeting of the Bureau and of the Informal Contact Group on Cultural Routes
Chicago Board Room
- 16:00-18:30 Informal Meeting of Members of the Governing Board of the
Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe
Milano Hall

WEDNESDAY, 23 September*DoubleTree Hotel*

- 08:30 Registration of Participants - *Lobby*
- 09:00 Meeting of representatives of Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe
Parigi Hall
- 11:00-15:30 CULTURAL PROGRAMME IN YEREVAN
- 12:00-14:00 Lunch
- 14:30-15:30 Meeting of Cultural Routes independent experts
Chicago Board Room
- 15:00 PRESS CONFERENCE
- 16:00 **OFFICIAL OPENING** OF THE FORUM, with
- Tigran AVINYAN, Mayor of Yerevan
 - Zhanna ANDREASYAN, Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of the Republic of Armenia
 - Roberto OLLA, Head of Department of Democratic Freedoms and Institutions, Council of Europe
 - Sergio ORTEGA MUÑOZ, Chair of the Governing Board of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes
- 16:30 **Opening speech** on EDUCATION AND HERITAGE by Nazénie GARIBIAN, Professor, Head of the Department of Medieval Art Studies, Matenadaran
- 16:45 **POLICY DIALOGUE SESSION** on the role of Education for Sustainable Heritage
- Alfred KOCHARYAN, Deputy Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sport, Republic of Armenia
 - Roberto OLLA, Head of Department of Democratic Freedoms and

Institutions, Council of Europe

- Mariassunta PECI, Director General for European and International Affairs, Ministry of Culture of Italy
- Cordula WOHLMUTHER, Regional Director for Europe, UN Tourism
- Tatev ASLANYAN, Deputy Minister of High-Tech Industry and Artificial Intelligence of the Republic of Armenia

Moderated by Maria GRAVARI-BARBAS, Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne University

18:30 **Ceremony to welcome new Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe**

Presented by Sergio ORTEGA MUÑOZ; awarded by Rui GOMES, with

- The **European Paganini Route**, represented by Michele TRENTI, Manager
- The **Singing Heritage Route**, represented by Sari KAASINEN, Chair, Kristjan RABA, Board member and Pekka HUTTU-HILTUNEN, Honorary Chair
- **Via Querinissima**, represented by Nicoletta MARTORANA, manager, and Roberto CIAMBETTI, President of the route, with Luca ZAIA, President of the Veneto Regional Council (Italy)

Group photo

19:15 Departure to the dinner venue

19:30-22:00 Welcome reception and dinner – *Megerian Carpet Restaurant and Museum*

THURSDAY, 24 SEPTEMBER

DoubleTree Hotel

08:30 Registration of Participants (*continued*)

09:00 **INTRODUCTION TO THE FORUM**

Rui GOMES, Executive Secretary, Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes

09:15 **Thematic Session 1: STRENGTHENING CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL ECOSYSTEMS THROUGH THE CULTURAL ROUTES**

Opened by Anushik AVETYAN, Chairperson of the Tourism Committee of the Republic of Armenia

With:

- Andries GRYFFROY, Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe
- Erik ESCHWEILER-DIENEROWITZ, World Heritage Education Programme, UNESCO
- Wencke MADERBACHER, ICOM, Head of the education department at the Moesgaard Museum, Denmark

- Oleksandr BUTSENKO, Director, Development Centre 'Democracy through Culture', Ukraine
- Levan KHARATISHVILI, Associate Professor and Founding Dean, School of Arts and Cultural Heritage, New Vision University, Georgia
- Nare SAHAKYAN, SAFAA Boyajian Gallery

Moderated by Seda GRIGORYAN, Cultural Expert, Head of Advocacy Society for the Arts

10:40 Break

11:10 **Thematic Session 2: ENHANCING EDUCATION FOR HERITAGE THROUGH DIGITAL TOOLS: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES**, with :

- Lorena ALDANA, Head of External Relations and Advocacy, Europeana Foundation
- Arman ATOYAN, Co-founder, ARLOOPA
- Hulé KECHICHIAN, General Director, Armenian Cultural Heritage Institute
- John Patrick LEECH, Scientific Committee member, ATRIUM
- Licia CALVI, Breda University of Applied Sciences, The Netherlands
- Evanthia PAPADOPOULOU, Head of the Department of Digital Applications and Innovative Services, and Angeliki MONEDA, Head of the Department of Digital Governance, Archaeological Museum of Thessaloniki, Greece

Moderated by Linn PARAVYAN, creative industry and cultural policy strategist

12:30 **Presentation of the 2027 Forum**, by María AGUNDEZ, Deputy Director-General, Ministry of Culture, Spain

13:00 Lunch

14:30 **ARMENIA'S JOURNEY** in the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe, by Astghik MARABYAN, Head of the Department on Cultural Heritage, Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of the Republic of Armenia

15:00 **Breakout sessions - EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE HERITAGE IN PRACTICE**

1. EDUCATIONAL POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

Facilitator: Karen AYVAZYAN

Resource person: Maria GRAVARI-BARBAS, Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne

Speakers:

- Déborah JIMÉNEZ PEREDA, Ministry of Culture, Spain – “The National Heritage Education Plan: Programme for research and innovation in heritage education”
- Maija TREILE, National Library of Latvia – “The Latvian Cultural Canon: A National Framework for Cultural Literacy and Heritage Education”
- Eleonora BERTI, La Fédération française des Itinéraires culturels européens, France – “Youth activities repository along the Cultural Routes in France”

2. CLASSROOM/FORMAL EDUCATION

Facilitator: Zara LAVCHYAN

Resource person: Silvia DE ASCANIIS, Università della Svizzera Italiana

Speakers:

- Michel LEGROS, In the Footsteps of Robert Louis Stevenson – “The Tremplin Project”
- Sergio FERRARO, Aeneas Route - “Through the Eyes of Young People”
- Erika GIULIANI, Réseau Art Nouveau Network – “Bringing Art Nouveau Heritage back to life – Summer School”
- Francisco SINGUL, St James Way – “Vexo Veo Xacobeo”
- Elka ZLATEVA, Cyril and Methodius Route – “The Cyrillic alphabet as a living bridge between cultural heritage, education, and the digital future”

3. NON FORMAL EDUCATION

Facilitator: Nina GOGOLADZE

Resource person: Jordi TRESSERRAS, Universitat de Barcelona

Speakers:

- Iryna STRASHNENKO, Ministry of Culture, Ukraine – “Cultural Heritage Education and Community Resilience in Ukraine”
- Marisa VÁZQUEZ DE ÁGREDOS PASCUAL, European Route of Historic Pharmacies and Medicinal Gardens – “POMPEII: INTERDISCIPLINARY PROSPECTING IN HISTORY, ARCHAEOLOGY AND HERITAGE”
- Marta RAKVIN, Iron Age Danube Route – “Situlae Festival - School Day at Marof”
- Francisco PALOMO, European Routes of Emperor Charles V – “Collaboration with the Jaradilla de la Vera Secondary School - historical reenactment”

4. CULTURE, ACCESSIBILITY, INCLUSION

Facilitator: Anna YEGHOYAN

Resource person: Leonardo PORCELLONI, University of Genoa

Speakers:

- Martina JANOCHOVÁ, Cyril and Methodius Route – “Weekend on the Cyril and Methodius Route”
- Aleksandra GRBIĆ, Romea Strata - “Heritage and accessible hiking in Lithuania”
- Marina HAKOBYAN, National Gallery of Armenia - “DasArvest”

5. TOURISM AND EXCHANGES/LEARNING THROUGH TRAVEL

Facilitator: Mariana ȚURCAN

Resource person: Mike ROBINSON, United Kingdom National Commission for UNESCO

Speakers:

- Antonio BARONE, Phoenicians’ Route - “Intercultural Travel Project for Schools”
- Mateja JANČAR, Women Writers Route - “Ljubka’s Trail - A Cross-Border Literary Route of Poetry and Equality”
- Łucja ZAWADZKA, European Route of Industrial Heritage - “From the Miner’s Profession to Professional and Mining-related Sustainable Cultural Tourism – ERIH ON TOUR”
- Germinal PEIRO, Prehistoric Rock Art Trails - “European youth mobility programmes”

19:45 Departure from Double Tree Yerevan

20:00 CULTURAL EVENT AND DINNER – Yerevan Municipality

FRIDAY, 25 SEPTEMBER

Holiday Inn

09:00 Introductory remarks on the venue and programme of the day

09:15 **Thematic session 3: TOWARDS A BETTER AND STRONGER PROGRAMME - WHAT TO CELEBRATE AND WHAT TO CREATE?**

Session 3.1 - A better programme...

REPRESENTATIVENESS OF CULTURAL ROUTES | YOUTH PARTICIPATION

- Leonardo PORCELLONI, University of Genoa
- Julien VUILLEUMIER, Federal Office of Culture, Switzerland
- Simone ZAGRODNIK, Executive Director, European Route of Historic Thermal Towns
- Gohar MNATSAKANYAN, President, Sevan Youth Club
- Zara ASLANYAN, Head of the Youth Policy Department, Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of the Republic of Armenia

- Xesc MAINZER, Vice-Chair, Advisory Council on Youth, Council of Europe

Moderated by Carla MARTINS, Chair, University Network for Cultural Routes Studies

10:30 Break

11:00 *Session 3.2 - A stronger programme...*
SUSTAINABILITY, CULTURAL HERITAGE AND TOURISM | STANDARDS FOR EDUCATION ON SUSTAINABLE HERITAGE

- Aysegül YILMAZ, Cultural Routes Independent expert
- Stefanie BISCHOF, Manager, The Hansa
- Maija OINONEN, Executive Director, Alvar Aalto Route
- Tatjana HORVATIC, Ministry of Culture and Media, Croatia
- Sandra VUJINOVIC, Executive Manager, Organisation of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation
- Raphael CALLOU, Director General of Culture, Organization of Ibero-American States for Education, Science and Culture

Moderated by Sharon SULTANA, Representative of Malta to the EPA Governing Board

12:15 Feedback from the sessions on Education for Sustainable Heritage in Practice

12:30 PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATE ROUTES FOR CERTIFICATION

- Sonja SKALNIK, **Castle Route between Orient and Occident**
- Daniela HAUF, **European Goethe Ways**
- Alexandra BITUŠÍKOVÁ, **European Mining Routes**
- Filippo CAILOTTO, **Forte Cultura - Cultural Route of Fortified Monuments**
- Levente István FÖLDVÁRY, **Mary's Route – Connecting communities through heritage**
- Apolónia RODRIGUES, **Places of Peace - The European Route of Peace Heritage**
- Marcel VAN DEN BROEK, **Saint George and the Dragon**

Moderated by Eszter CSONKA-TAKÁCS, Vice-Chair of the Bureau of the EPA

13:00 Lunch

- 14:30 "B2B" SESSIONS between Cultural Routes stakeholders and partners
Artashat Hall
- 14:30 Meeting of members of the University Network for Cultural Routes Studies
Yerevan Hall
- 16:30 Break
- 17:00 **CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FORUM**
- 17:30 **CLOSING SESSION**
- Renewal of Certifications for Cultural Routes in 2026**
- Claudia CASTELLUCCI, **ATRIUM - Architecture of Totalitarian Regimes of the 20th Century in Europe's Urban Memory**
 - Marina D'AMATO, **European Fairy Tale Route**
 - Pierre BEDOUELLE, **Impressionisms Routes**
 - Erika GIULIANI, **Réseau Art Nouveau Network**
 - Mateja JANČAR, **Women Writers Route**
- Presentation of the 2027 Training Academy** by Victor SORENSSEN,
European Route of Jewish Heritage
- Awarding of Inspiring Practices of Cultural Routes, by Rui GOMES**
- Closing remarks, by:**
- Karen AVETISYAN, Director of the Cultural Development Foundation
 - Rui GOMES, Council of Europe, Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes
 - Alfred KOCHARYAN, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth and Sport of Armenia
- 19:00 Departure to Zvartnots Cathedral (by bus)
- 20:00-23:00 GALA DINNER *Zvartnots Cathedral*

SATURDAY, 26 SEPTEMBER

- Departure of participants
- CULTURAL TOURISM PROGRAMME (optional and by pre-booking).

The Forum

The Cultural Routes Advisory Forum is a key activity of the [Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe](#) programme. The Forum addresses current trends and challenges related to Cultural Routes, offers a platform for sharing experiences, reviews the programme's progress, discusses emerging professional practices, and supports the launch of new initiatives and partnerships.

The Advisory Forum brings together the wide range of stakeholders, including representatives of member states, certified and candidate cultural routes networks, international heritage and tourism organisations, universities, local and regional authorities, civil society organisations, as well as professional bodies in the fields of tourism, heritage and culture.

This year's Forum will explore the close relationship between cultural heritage and education, and the potential of Cultural Routes to create meaningful learning opportunities across Europe and beyond. As transnational networks connecting historic routes, cultural themes, heritage sites, institutions and communities, Cultural Routes provide unique environments in which heritage can become a living resource for education, intercultural dialogue and lifelong learning.

Hosted in Yerevan, the Forum will also offer participants the opportunity to experience Armenia's rich cultural heritage and its strong connections with education, creativity and contemporary cultural life.

The Forum is co-organised by the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe and the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of the Republic of Armenia, in partnership with the European Institute of Cultural Routes, the Tourism Committee of the Republic of Armenia, and the Foundation for the Development of Culture, with the support of the Municipality of Yerevan.

Aims, objectives, outputs

The 2026 Yerevan Forum explores how stronger connections between education and cultural heritage can contribute to sustainable development, inclusive societies and the transmission of shared cultural values. It will provide a space to exchange experiences, identify innovative approaches and strengthen co-operation between Cultural Routes and the wider cultural and educational sectors. In particular, the Forum aims to:

- Stimulate high-level policy dialogue on the deeper integration of the cultural and educational sectors, reinforcing their complementary roles in sustainable development.
- Strengthen recognition of education and heritage as essential drivers of inclusive, resilient, and culturally diverse societies.
- Enhance the role of cultural education in the philosophy of the Cultural Routes programme and connect it with the ongoing developments regarding, inter alia, the thematic representativeness and quality development of the programme around its 40th anniversary.
- Develop institutional cooperation between Cultural Routes networks and educational and cultural institutions and deepen the role of education for sustainable heritage in the Cultural Routes programme.

The principal outcome of the Forum will be a **Recommendations Framework** for Cultural Routes, providing guiding principles, strategic directions and practical approaches to support the development of impactful educational activities, integrate cultural heritage into diverse learning practices and foster inclusive participation.

-