



Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe Programme

Activity Report

2024

2024

**Cultural Routes
of the Council of Europe Programme**

Activity Report

Credits

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Forewords

Thanks to the dedication of stakeholders, the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme continued to thrive in 2024, effectively driving forward the goals of the Governing Board of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe (EPA).

Following Estonia's accession and the granting of observer status to the Netherlands, 41 member States have reaffirmed their ongoing support for the programme. The 48 Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe continue to play a vital role in fostering a deeper understanding and in promoting our shared cultural heritage through their activities.



The Governing Board of the EPA awarded the prestigious "Cultural Route of the Council of Europe" certification to two Cultural Routes networks, broadening the geographical and thematic scope of the programme. The growing number of candidate networks is a further manifestation of the increasing attractiveness of the "Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe" certification.

Another highlight of the year was the 13th Annual Advisory Forum, held in Visegrád, Hungary. It was a highly successful gathering, and the constructive feedback and shared experiences from Hungary have laid a strong foundation for the preparation of the 14th Annual Advisory Forum, for which we eagerly look forward to welcoming you to Cappadocia, Türkiye, in 2025.

The Cultural Routes are the fruit of a common commitment and continue to reflect the ideal of a united and cohesive Europe, where transborder co-operation, dialogue and exchanges between cultures enable the transmission and affirmation of the fundamental values of the Council of Europe, today and for tomorrow's generations.

Ms Meltem ÖNHON,
Chair of the Governing Board
Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe
Strasbourg, France, December 2024

As the newly appointed President of the European Institute of Cultural Routes, I am honoured to present the 2024 Activity Report - a year marked by inspiring achievements and Luxembourg's continuous involvement with the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme.

Luxembourg's role in 2024 was especially significant, as it took over the Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe for a period of six months in November 2024. This responsibility places Luxembourg at the forefront, playing an active and visible role in advancing the Council's human rights and heritage objectives.

Luxembourg's dedication to the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe Programme became even more evident during this year's European Heritage Days, themed "Routes, Networks, and Connections". The Ministry of Culture, in partnership with the European Institute of Cultural Routes, published a new brochure showcasing Luxembourg's eight certified Cultural Routes, inviting locals and visitors alike to explore these historic pathways.

Further key events such as the commemorative inauguration of the new Luxembourgish trail of Liberation Route Europe in Ettelbruck and the celebration of Europe Day at the European Parliament in Kirchberg, which brought together dignitaries, citizens, and heritage enthusiasts, underscoring Luxembourg's proactive role in the Programme's mission and its commitment to fostering a shared European identity.

Looking ahead, Luxembourg's ongoing Presidency of the Committee of Ministers reinforces its commitment to supporting the Programme's mission. I express my profound gratitude and recognition to the various partners and collaborators who play a vital role in enhancing the dynamism of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe Programme. I wish you an enjoyable reading of the report, which outlines the programme's achievements in 2024.



Mr André BIEVER
President, European Institute of Cultural Routes
Luxembourg, Luxembourg, December 2024

2024 was yet another busy year for the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme.

The recent growth of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes (EPA) continued in 2024 with the accession of Estonia to the EPA and the granting of observer status to the Netherlands. The programme now enjoys the political and financial support of 41 member States. This growing interest is testament to the continued relevance of the European Cultural Convention, which celebrated its 70th anniversary in December 2024. The EPA serves as a pertinent example of the practical application of this pioneering Convention. Indeed, the EPA serves as a clear illustration of the achievements of the Convention's objectives: the development of mutual understanding between the peoples of Europe and reciprocal appreciation of their cultural diversities; the safeguarding of European culture; and the promotion of national contributions to this common cultural heritage.

A highlight of the year was the 13th Annual Advisory Forum, held in Visegrád, Hungary. Organised in collaboration with the Hungarian authorities, the Forum brought together over 350 participants to share valuable ideas and explore means of involving young people more closely in the Cultural Routes.

Successive presidencies of the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers have consistently stressed the importance of the Cultural Routes programme. In June, the Lithuanian Presidency organised the Cultural Routes Training Seminar for national stakeholders in Vilnius. This initiative highlighted the programme's commitment to supporting national stakeholders and fostering cultural co-operation across Europe.



The Luxembourg Presidency, which began on November 13, will continue its efforts to promote the programme. In this context, a roundtable entitled "The Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe as a Platform for Intercultural Dialogue" was held on 29 November. An exhibition devoted to the Cultural Routes which cross the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg will be hosted in Luxembourg and Strasbourg.

Cultural co-operation, strengthening mutual understanding, and celebrating Europe's rich cultural diversity are three particularly important objectives for the Luxembourg Presidency, which sees them as an integral part of the Council of Europe's core missions. The Cultural Routes programme remains an essential tool for achieving these aims

Ambassador Mr Patrick ENGELBERG ,
Chair of the EPA Statutory Committee,
Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes, Council of Europe
Strasbourg, France, December 2024





Introduction

In 1987, the Council of Europe launched the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme, embarking on a journey that would unite the heritage of its member States through shared history and identity. The programme's vision, which continues to grow today in both scope and importance, demonstrates the profound role that heritage plays in shaping our collective European memory.

The Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe (EPA) that now counts 41 member States was established to foster closer co-operation among member States, ensuring the continued development and promotion of this important initiative. Each year, the EPA Governing Board confers the prestigious "Cultural Route of the Council of Europe" certification, following a meticulous evaluation process grounded in established criteria adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe. The headquarters of the Cultural Routes programme, located at Neumünster Abbey in Luxembourg, is home to both the EPA and the European Institute of Cultural Routes (EICR). Through the generous support of the Ministry of Culture of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg - and the close cooperation and support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs - the EICR has, the EICR has played a central role in the programme's success since its establishment in 1998.

The "Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe" certification has become a globally recognised quality label, admired for its rigorous methodology, certification procedure and high standards. This is further supported by the unwavering commitment of EPA member States, who promote the programme at the national level. Our ongoing collaboration with esteemed international organisations, such as the European Union, UNESCO, OECD, the Organisation of Ibero-American States and the United Nations World Tourism Organisation, enhances the programme's international reach.

The programme continued to thrive in 2024, thanks to the tireless dedication of the EICR, EPA member States, partner institutions and, in particular, the Secretariat, which oversees the statutory mission of the programme. This year saw an increase in interest and engagement from stakeholders, a testament to the lasting impact of the programme. We are particularly excited by the developments surrounding the University Network for Cultural Routes Studies, which welcomed 10 new academic members and successfully held its first international conference, in collaboration with the Compostela Group of Universities.

As you read through this 2024 Activity Report, we hope you gain a deeper appreciation for the mission of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe Programme and its vital contribution to European heritage.



As we reflect on another successful year for the Cultural Routes programme, it is with mixed emotions that I announce my departure from the role of Executive Secretary of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes and Director of the European Institute of Cultural Routes, effective December 31 2024. It has been a great privilege to lead this valuable initiative, and I am deeply grateful for the incredible support, collaboration and commitment that I have received from all our stakeholders, including the member States, partner institutions and our dedicated team.

While I look forward to the next chapter in my career, I leave with fond memories of the meaningful relationships we have built and the remarkable achievements we have accomplished together. I am confident that the programme will continue to thrive and I wish my successor, and all involved in the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme, continued success in the years ahead.

Thank you for your trust, your partnership and your unwavering commitment to the shared vision of promoting Europe's rich cultural heritage. It has been an honour to serve in this role.

Mr Stefano DOMINIONI

Executive Secretary, Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes (Council of Europe)

Director, European Institute of Cultural Routes

Luxembourg, Luxembourg, December 2024



Declaration of Santiago
de Compostela

1987



Establishment of the
Enlarged Partial Agreement
on Cultural Routes

2011

20th

Anniversary
of the European Institute
of Cultural Routes

2018

1998



Creation of the
European Institute
of Cultural Route

2017



30th

Anniversary
of the Cultural Routes of
the Council of Europe



Council of Europe Committee
of Ministers Declaration (2017)



1.1 € million

Grant Agreement between
the Council of Europe and
the European Union

48

certified Cultural Routes
of the Council of Europe

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



41



member States
of the EPA

1

observer State
as of December 2024

2023

2024

2019

25th

Anniversary
of the European Institute
of Cultural Routes



Carlos V
European Award



> 3000

members of the
Cultural Routes network



> 60

countries crossed,
in Europe and beyond





1

Highlights

|



1.1 - Estonia: new member state of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe (EPA)



(from left to right) Mrs Meltem ÖNHON, Chair of the EPA Governing Board, and Mrs Anu KIPPASTO, Consul, Embassy of Estonia, in Hungary on 27 September, during the closing ceremony of the 13th Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe Annual Advisory Forum.

1

**new member State
in 2024**



Estonia

14

**founding
member States
in 2010**

41

member States

as of 31st December 2024



14 May



Estonia became the 41st member State of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe (EPA). Estonia gained its status a year after it has been granted observer status on 17 April 2023. Estonia is currently crossed by five “Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe”: The Hansa, the Viking Route, the European Cemeteries Route, the Route of Saint Olav Ways and the Alvar AALTO Route.

1.2 - Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe certifications in 2024



21-22 May



European Route of Historic Pharmacies



Leonardo Da Vinci Route



At its 2024 meeting (21-22 May, Luxembourg), the Governing Board of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe (EPA) awarded the “Cultural Route of the Council of Europe” certification to the **European Route of Historic Pharmacies** and the **Leonardo Da Vinci Route**, bringing the number of certified Cultural Routes to 48.



(from left to right) Mr Stefano DOMINIONI, Executive Secretary of the Enlarged Partial Agreement, Director of the European Institute of the Cultural Routes; Mrs María Luisa VÁZQUEZ DE ÁGREDOS, Director of the European Route of Historic Pharmacies; Mr Daniele VANNI, President of the Leonardo Da Vinci Route and Mrs Meltem ÖNHON, Chair of the EPA Governing Board.



21-22 May



On the same occasion, the Governing Board of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe **renewed the certification of seven Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe** via regular evaluation in the framework of the 2023-2024 certification cycle.



Santiago de Compostela Pilgrim Routes



The Hansa



Via Francigena



Routes of El Legado Andalusi



Iron Route in the Pyrenees



Iter Vitis Route



European Route of Historic Gardens



Two Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe will undergo an **exceptional evaluation** during the 2024-2025 certification cycle.



Routes of the Olive Tree



Via Romea Germanica



One Cultural Route of the Council of Europe saw its **certification withdrawn** by the EPA Governing Board following an exceptional evaluation in the framework of the 2023-2024 certification cycle due to the lack of compliance with the certification criteria.



Routes of Reformation

1.3 - Certification ceremony for the Leonardo Da Vinci Route



6-7 December



The Leonardo Da Vinci Route celebrated its certification as a new Cultural Route of the Council of Europe at the Biblioteca Leonardiana in Vinci, focusing on the theme: “The participation of young people”. A preliminary official certification ceremony took place on 27 September at Pesti Vigadó in Budapest, Hungary, coinciding with the conclusion of the 13th Annual Advisory Forum on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe. The Governing Board of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe (EPA) conferred the certification during its meeting in May 2024 as part of the 2023-2024 Certification cycle.

The event commenced with remarks from Mr Daniele VANNI, President of the International Association “Le Vie di Leonardo DA VINCI” and Mayor of Vinci, alongside Mr Lorenzo MICHELI, City Councillor responsible for Youth Policies, and Ms Roberta BARSANTI, Director of the Leonardiana Library.

The two-day programme also featured interventions from various speakers, including Ms Buse AKGUN, Director of Le Vie di Leonardo; Ms Carmen BIZZARRI from the University of Rome - Ministry of Tourism; Ms Maddalena SANCHIETTI from the Ministry of Culture of Italy; Ms Meltem ÖNHON, Chair of the EPA Governing Board (via video); Mr Tommaso SACCHI, Councillor for Culture of the Municipality of Milan (via video); and Ms Claudia SERENI from the Metropolitan City of Florence. Mr Stefano DOMINIONI, Director of the European Institute of Cultural Routes (EICR), presented a certificate recognising the Leonarda DA VINCI Route as a Cultural Route of the Council of Europe to its President Mr Daniele VANNI.



Exhibition “Leonardo Da Vinci Route” ©European Leonardo DA VINCI Ways

1.4 - Certification cycle 2024-2025 - eight new applications received









Each year, the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme sees a number of cultural route networks applying for the “Cultural Route of the Council of Europe” certification. To be eligible for certification by the Council of Europe, networks must comply with the certification criteria established in resolution CM/RES (2023)2.



This year, eight candidate networks submitted an application for the “Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe” certification.

The Certification cycle 2024-2025 focuses on the regular evaluation of eight certified Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe, the exceptional evaluation of two certified Cultural Route of the Council of Europe and the evaluation of eight candidate networks applying for the “Cultural Route of the Council of Europe” certification. From early March, the EPA Secretariat – with the support of the European Institute of Cultural Routes – worked on the coordination of the Certification cycle 2024-2025.

Candidates for the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe certification:

- | | |
|---|---|
|  European Cultural Route of Sports |  Pyrenean Freedom Routes |
|  European Route of Historic Theatres |  Romea Strata |
|  The European Route of Nikos Kazantzaki |  Saint Francis' Ways |
|  Mary's Route |  The Way of the Holy Grail, Route of Knowledge, Path of Peace |



On 14-15 May 2024, a training seminar for networks interested in applying for the “Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe” certification under the 2024-2025 certification cycle was organised by the Secretariat in Luxembourg, followed by individual advisory meetings with each candidate network.

1.5 - 11th Training Academy on Cultural Routes in Brindisi, Italy



4-7 June



The **11th edition of the Training Academy on Cultural Routes** took place in **Brindisi, Apulia, Italy**. It was organised by the **European Association of Via Francigena Ways** (certified Cultural Route of the Council of Europe since 1994) and the **European Institute of Cultural Routes**, with the **support of the Apulia Region and the City of Brindisi**, and in **co-operation** with the **association “Brindisi e le Antiche Strade”**. This edition marked the 30th anniversary of the Via Francigena’s certification as a Cultural Route of the Council of Europe.

The theme of the Training Academy 2024 was “European co-operation and sustainable development.” Over four days, participants attended six working sessions, focused on walking routes, European projects, co-operation, tourism, and sustainability. The discussions were enriched by presentations by keynote speakers, including experts from TEAM Tourism Consulting, the Apulia Region, the European Travel Commission and The Hansa.



Participants of the 11th Training Academy on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe, Brindisi, Italy

1.5 – 11th Training Academy on Cultural Routes in Brindisi, Italy

Participants also had the chance to exchange experiences and best practices in managing their respective Cultural Routes. A specific session on slow tourism involved key stakeholders and representatives from Via Francigena members, travel operators and cultural institutions. In addition to the working sessions, the programme visits to discover the heritage the Apulia region. The conclusions of the 2024 Training Academy were presented at the 13th Annual Advisory Forum in Visegrád, Hungary.



Participants of the 11th Training Academy on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe, Brindisi, Italy

1.6 - Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe training seminar for Lithuanian stakeholders in Vilnius, Lithuania



19-20 June



Held in Lithuania, in the framework of the Lithuanian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, the seminar was organised by the Department of Cultural Heritage under the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania, in co-operation with the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe (EPA) and the European Institute of Cultural Routes (EICR).

The seminar was opened by numerous high-profile Lithuanian professionals of the Heritage field. Ms Meltem ÖNHON welcomed participants as Chair of the Governing Board of the EPA. Professor Magda ANTONIOLI, Vice-President of the European Travel Commission, delivered the keynote speech.



Training seminar for Lithuanian stakeholders ©Justina Jakšaitė Pictures

Through the participation of experienced specialists from the fields of cultural heritage and tourism, and representatives of 10 Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe, the seminar strengthened professional capacities for the effective design, implementation and management of Cultural Routes at national level in line with the guidelines established by the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme.

The seminar, attended by over 120 local and national stakeholders, provided effective tools and resources for identifying, supporting and extending certified Cultural Route networks across Lithuania.



Training seminar for Lithuanian stakeholders ©Justina Jakštaitė Pictures

1.7 - PACE - roundtable on Cultural Routes in the framework of the Luxembourg Presidency of Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe



19-20 June



A roundtable discussion titled “Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe as a platform for intercultural dialogue” took place on 29 November 2024 in Luxembourg. This event was organised by the Parliamentary and Electoral Co-operation Division of PACE, in partnership with the Luxembourg delegation to PACE and the Chamber of Deputies of Luxembourg.

This colloquium was held at the conclusion of a meeting of the Standing Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), which convened approximately 60 parliamentarians from the 46 member States of the Council of Europe.

The roundtable served as a significant occasion to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the European Cultural Convention, coinciding with the Luxembourg Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, from 13 November 2024 to 14 May 2025.

1.7 - PACE - roundtable on Cultural Routes in the framework of the Luxembourg Presidency of Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe

The event started with opening remarks delivered by Mr Claude WISELER, President of the Chamber of Deputies of Luxembourg, and Mr Theodoros ROUSOPOULOS, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. This was followed by a presentation by Mr Eric THILL, Luxembourg Minister of Culture. The agenda of the colloquium featured thematic contributions from Mr Andries GRYFFROY, PACE rapporteur on "Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe as a platform for intercultural dialogue"; Mrs Meltem ÖNHON, Chair of the EPA Governing Board on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe; and Mr André BIEVER, President of the European Institute of Cultural Routes.



(from left to right on the stage) Mr André BIEVER, President of the European Institute of Cultural Routes; Mr Claude WISELER, President of the Chamber of Deputies, Luxembourg; Mr Theodoros ROUSOPOULOS, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe; Mr Eric THILL, Minister for Culture, Luxembourg; Mrs Meltem ÖNHON, Chair of the EPA Governing Board on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe; Mr Andries GRYFFROY, PACE rapporteur on "Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe as a platform for the intercultural dialogue" © Chamber of Deputies Luxembourg

1.8 - Co-operation with the Organisation of Ibero-American States (OEI) in the framework of the ADELANTE 2 EU programme



27–28 May



In 2024, the European Institute of Cultural Routes (EICR) and the Organisation of Ibero-American States for Education, Science and Culture (OEI) advanced their partnership through a series of activities under the ADELANTE 2 programme. This triangular co-operation initiative fosters collaboration between the European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean, emphasising Cultural Routes as tools for sustainable territorial development.

The EICR participated in training workshops in Ecuador from 11 to 15 March, organised under the Ventana Adelante initiative. These workshops aimed to build local capacity and share expertise on developing Cultural Routes as tools for sustainable territorial development. On 27-28 May, the International Congress on "Cultural Routes and Itineraries for the development of territories" in Cáceres, Spain, brought together nearly 200 participants from 25 countries. The congress outcomes were reviewed on 31 May at OEI headquarters in Madrid.

On 4 July 2024, an online conference titled "RUTEALC: Current Situation of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe and Ibero-America" provided a platform to assess progress and explore synergies between the two regions.



Participants of the International Congress "Cultural Routes and Itineraries for the development of territories" in Cáceres, Spain

1.9 - Europe Day at the European Parliament in Luxembourg



9 May



The Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe Secretariat and the European Institute of Cultural Routes participated in Europe Day celebrations at the European Parliament in Luxembourg. Europe Day pays tribute to Robert Schuman's 1950 declaration and celebrates European values of peace, unity, democracy, and freedom. This year's events celebrated the 20th anniversary of the EU's largest enlargement in 2004, welcoming 10 new member States. The day also formed part of the "Council of Europe Visibility Days".

The Council of Europe and the European Institute of Cultural Routes (EICR) hosted both a distinct information stand. The stands attracted hundreds of visitors, featured the 47 certified Cultural Routes and their activities, with a quiz engaging participants in discovering these routes. The event was honoured by the presence of His Royal Highness Grand Duke Henri of Luxembourg and Luxembourg's Minister for Culture, Mr Eric THILL, who visited both the Council of Europe and EICR stands, underscoring the importance of cultural heritage.



Europe Day event at the European Parliament in Luxembourg

1.10 - Ukraine: workshop on the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe



24–25 October



The workshop "European Cultural Routes: the Path to Sustainable Development of Ukrainian Heritage" was held in Vinnytsia, organised by the city's Council, Regional Administration, and Development Agency. It gathered participants from Ukraine's Ministry of Culture, local authorities, cultural institutions, and NGOs to discuss integrating Ukrainian heritage into the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe Programme.

Key discussions included expanding the Santiago de Compostela Pilgrim Routes in Ukraine, with plans for the Camino Podolico and the new Camino Galitziano linking Chortkiv to Lviv and the EU border. A co-operation protocol was signed by Zhmerynka town council, Via Regia Ukraine and the Association of Friends of St James in Ukraine.

Having joined the EPA in 2021, Ukraine is currently crossed by 11 Cultural Routes. At the 2023 Council of Europe Summit, the 46 Heads of State established a Register of Damage for Ukraine. This register centralises information on the victims and destruction caused by the Russian Federation's invasion of Ukraine, including that concerning cultural heritage.



Workshop on Cultural Routes development in Vinnytsia, Ukraine

1.11 - Spain: 3rd Encounter of Managers of Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe



8-9 May



For the third consecutive year, the Ministry of Culture of Spain organised a Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe Managers meeting, enabling managers of Cultural Routes crossing Spain to discuss ways in which Cultural Routes can promote the culture in building cohesive and democratic societies.

Co-operation between the European Institute of Cultural Routes and the Organisation of Ibero-American States (OEI) was also discussed. It is proving very successful in pilot projects aimed at developing new Cultural Routes in this region. Spain is one of the founding member States of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe. Mr Sergio ORTEGA, Head of the Heritage Protection and European Programmes Service of the Ministry of Culture, is Spain's Representative to the EPA Governing Board and a member of its Bureau.



3rd Encounter of Spanish Managers of Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe

1.12 - France: discovering the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe through an e-learning module



In a partnership with the Ministry of Culture of France, Atout France (France's National Tourism Development Agency), launched an e-learning module on the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe, with a focus on France. It is an educational and interactive module for testing one's knowledge and discovering some of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe crossing France, using videos, maps, photos and quizzes.

Today, France is the European country with the most Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe, with more than 30 crossing the country. 14 of these are headquartered in France.



Screenshot of the e-learning module ©Atout France

1.13 - The European Fairy Tale Route: recipient of a European Heritage Days Stories grant



The European Heritage Days (EHD), jointly organised by the Council of Europe and the European Commission, celebrate cultural heritage to foster unity. The 2024 theme, “Heritage of Routes, Networks, and Connections”, invited communities to share narratives reflecting European values.

The European Fairy Tale Route, accredited as a Cultural Route of the Council of Europe since 2022, is one of the laureates of the “European Heritage Days Stories” Competitive Grant Award. Currently spanning 19 countries, the Cultural Route promotes the shared heritage of fairy tales, linking local cultures to common European roots.

Blending tradition and imagination, the Route promotes tourism through itineraries and conferences, engaging academics, communities and visitors. With plans to expand, it continues to connect cultures, ensuring fairy tales inspire shared values and understanding across Europe.



Rosenlew Museum, Pori, Finland ©Mika Haavisto





2

Annual Advisory Forum

|



*13th Annual Advisory Forum
- Visegrád, Hungary -*

2. - Annual Advisory Forum in Visegrád, Hungary, 25-27 September



The 13th Annual Advisory Forum on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe: "Transmission and innovation: Fostering youth participation along the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe"

The **13th Annual Advisory Forum on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe** took place in **Visegrád, Hungary on 25-27 September**, organised by the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe (EPA) and the European Institute of Cultural Routes, in co-operation with the Ministry of Culture and Innovation of Hungary and the Hungarian Open Air Museum.



Mr Balázs HANKÓ, Minister of Culture and Innovation of Hungary

Central to forum discussions this year were the concepts of transmission and innovation to promote greater youth involvement along the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe while also ensuring the protection of Europe's cultural heritage. **Mr Balázs HANKÓ**, Minister of Culture and Innovation of Hungary, **Mr Dénes EÖRY**, Mayor of the Municipality of Visegrád, and **Ms Meltem ÖNHON** (Türkiye), Chair of the EPA Governing Board, took part in the official opening ceremony and welcomed **over 350 Forum participants, representing over 30 member States of the Council of Europe**.



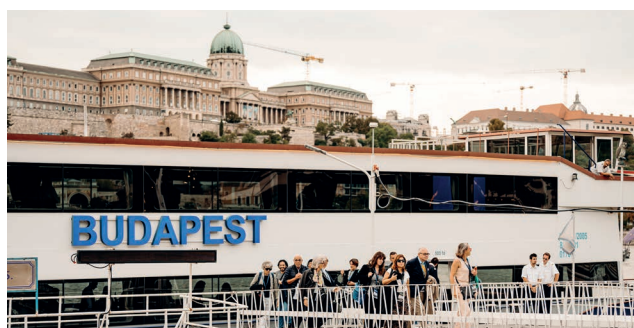
A roundtable on transmission and innovation to promote greater youth involvement on day one of the Forum.

The Forum was attended by many representatives of the **41 member States of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe** and the **48 certified Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe**, as well as representatives of international organisations, observers to the EPA such as UNWTO, UNESCO, ERA, academics from the Cultural Routes University Networks and tourism professionals.



Workshop on Day 1 of the Forum

Visegrád, located around 40 kilometers north of Budapest, is celebrated for its exceptional viewpoints overlooking the Danube Bend, its thermal baths and its well-preserved medieval architecture. On the first day, participants had the opportunity to visit some of these sites during a guided tour. On the second day, at the Hungarian Open Air Museum (Skanzen), participants were welcomed by Mr Miklós CSERI, General Director of the Museum, and Mrs Eszter CSONKA-TAKÁCS, Director of the museum's Directorate of Intangible Cultural Heritage. Ms Zsuzsanna BATÁRI NAGYNÉ, Director of the Hungarian Open Air Museum's Department for Science and Interpretation, hosted the workshops on good practices in the exhibit units of the museum that allowed participants to enjoy hands-on experiences of various initiatives for young people and families. On the final day of the Forum, participants travelled from Visegrád to Budapest by boat, taking in scenic views and commentary from a tour guide.



Arrival of the cruise at Budapest quays on day 3 of the Forum

With a diverse programme of panels, discussions, and meetings, the event brought together key stakeholders of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe to collaborate. **Around 60 Forum programme speakers** from Europe and beyond participated over the 3 days.

The Closing Ceremony was held at the Vigadó Concert Hall in Budapest, featuring a speech by **Ms Zsófia NAGY-VARGHA**, Deputy State Secretary for Youth in the Ministry of Culture and Innovation of Hungary; and a video message by **Mr Bjørn BERGE**, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe. This event also marked the formal acceptance of **Estonia as a new member State**, which joined the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe in 2024. Additionally, **the latest Cultural Routes**, namely the **"Leonardo Da Vinci Route"** and the **"European Route of Historic Pharmacies"**, received the prestigious Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe certification as part of the 2023-2024 certification cycle.



Picture: (from left to right) Mr Stefano DOMINIONI, Executive Secretary of the Enlarged Partial Agreement, Director of the European Institute of the Cultural Routes; Mrs María Luisa VÁZQUEZ DE ÁGREDOS, Director of the European Route of Historic Pharmacies; Mr Daniele VANNI, President of the Leonardo Da Vinci Route; and Mrs Meltem ÖNHON, Chair of the EPA Governing Board.

The event also celebrated the **renewal of the certification of seven Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe** following the 2023-2024 certification cycle: the Santiago de Compostela Pilgrim Routes, The Hansa, Via Francigena, Routes of El Legado Andalusi, the Iron Route in the Pyrenees, Iter Vitis Route and the European Route of Historic Gardens.

The conclusion also featured the ceremony for the **"Best Practices of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe Award 2024"**. Six certified Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe received a "Best Practice Award" for their outstanding efforts in promoting cultural heritage through innovative practices: **Roman Emperors and Danube Wine Route, Phoenician's Route, Women Writers Route, Leonardo Da Vinci Route, European Cemeteries Routes and Iron Age Danube Route.**



(from left to right) Mr Sergio ORTEGA MUNOZ, Vice-Chair of the EPA Governing Board; Mr; Danko COSIC, Director of Programmes, Roman Emperors and Danube Wine Route; Ms Mateja JANČAR, Manager, Women Writers Route; Ms Elena TANOU, President, Phoenicians' Route; Ms Szilvia FÁBIÁN, President, Iron Age Danube Route; Ms Chiara MARTELLI, representative, Leonardo Da Vinci Route; and Mrs Meltem ÖNHON, Chair of the EPA Governing Board.





CULTURAL ROUTES OF
THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE
ANNUAL ADVISORY FORUM

Visegrád, Hungary, 25-27 September 2024



VISEGRÁD



COUNCIL OF EUROPE

75
1949 - 2024

CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

UNITED AROUND
OUR VALUES

3

Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe (EPA)

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



3.1 - 41 EPA member States¹

 Albania (2022)	 Finland (2018)	 Luxembourg (2011)	 Serbia (2012)
 Andorra (2012)	 France (2011)	 Malta (2023)	 Slovakia (2014)
 Armenia (2015)	 Georgia (2016)	 Moldova (2023)	 Slovenia (2011)
 Austria (2011)	 Germany (2013)	 Monaco (2013)	 Spain (2011)
 Azerbaijan (2011)	 Greece (2011)	 Montenegro (2011)	 Sweden (2020)
 Bosnia and Herzegovina (2016)	 Holy See (2018)	 North Macedonia (2022)	 Switzerland (2013)
 Bulgaria (2011)	 Hungary (2013)	 Norway (2011)	 Türkiye (2018)
 Croatia (2016)	 Italy (2011)	 Poland (2017)	 Ukraine (2021)
 Cyprus (2011)	 Latvia (2019)	 Portugal (2011)	
 Czechia (2023)	 Lebanon (2022)	 Romania (2013)	
 Estonia (2024)	 Lithuania (2012)	 San Marino (2017)	

Participative status with the EPA

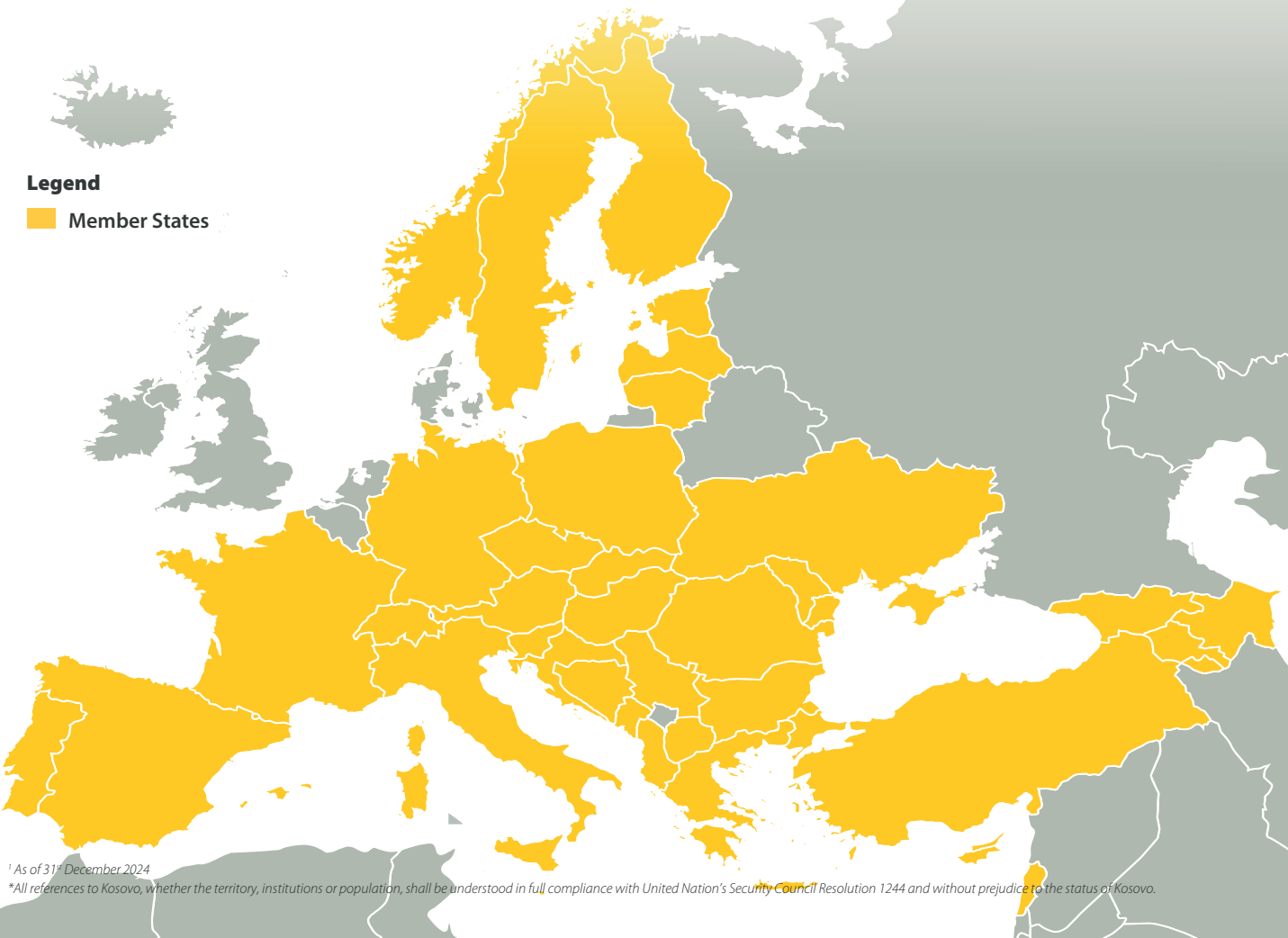
- Organisation of the Black Sea Economic Co-operation (BSEC),
- Organisation of Ibero-American States for Education, Science and Culture (OEI)

Observer organisations

EU-EEAS, UNESCO, OECD,
UNWTO, ERA, FEG, FITE

Legend

 Member States



¹ As of 31st December 2024

*All references to Kosovo, whether the territory, institutions or population, shall be understood in full compliance with United Nation's Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

**Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe (EPA), established in 2010:
political body of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe Programme**

14

**founding
member States
in 2010**

41

member States

as of 31st December 2024

1

**new member
State in 2024**

 **Estonia**

- Open to **member and non-member States of the Council of Europe**
- **Awards the certification “Cultural Route of the Council of Europe”**
- Implements Council of Europe policy guidelines
- Responsible for deciding the **Programme strategy**
- **Advises and provides expert assistance** for the development, implementation and promotion of the Cultural Routes
- **Supports networking and exchanges** between Cultural Routes’ operators and other partners in the field of cultural tourism
- Provides **political and financial support** to the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe Programme
- Composed of **two statutory bodies**:
 - **Governing Board** composed of representatives from Ministries of Culture and Tourism
 - **Statutory Committee** composed of Permanent Representatives to the Council of Europe and Ministries of Foreign Affairs
- Headquartered at Neumünster Abbey, Luxembourg, with the **European Institute of Cultural Routes**

3.2 - EPA Statutory Bodies and staff

EPA Governing Board Bureau:



Ms Meltem ÖNHON, Chair, Türkiye
Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Türkiye



Ms Baiba MURNIECE, Latvia
*Director of Cultural Policy Department,
Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Latvia*



Mr Sergio ORTEGA MUÑOZ, Spain
*Head of the Heritage Protection and European Programmes
Service, Subdirector General for the Management and
Coordination of Cultural Heritage,
Ministry of Culture and Sport of Spain*



Ms Eszter CSONKA-TAKÁCS, Hungary
*Director, Intangible Cultural Heritage Department,
Hungarian Open-Air Museum*



Ms Maria Giusi LUPRANO, Italy
*Representative to the EPA on Cultural Routes
of the Council of Europe, Ministry of Culture of Italy*

EPA Statutory Committee

Chair:

- **Ambassador Patrick ENGELBERG**
*Permanent Representative of the Grand
Duchy of Luxembourg to the Council of Europe*

Secretariat:

- **Mr Stefano DOMINIONI, Executive Secretary**
- **Ms Marie SAUTIN, Project and Communication Officer**
- **Ms Amélie CHARTIER, Executive Assistant**
- **Ms Amélie PERDRIEU, Supporting Assistant**

Trainees:

- **Ms Cécile ZIEGLER,**
*University College Maastricht, Netherlands
(March-July 2024)*

3.3 - EPA Statutory Bodies meetings and activities



MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF THE EPA GOVERNING BOARD



28-29 February, Luxembourg, LU 



Agenda

- Activity report 2023 and draft programme 2024
- Evaluation cycle 2023-2024
- Organisation of the EPA Governing Board meeting
- 13th Annual Advisory Forum of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe



Meeting of the Bureau of the EPA Governing Board 2024, Luxembourg



MEETING OF THE EPA GOVERNING BOARD



21-22 May, Luxembourg, LU 



- Evaluation cycle 2023-2024
- Presentations by the representatives of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe under evaluation
- Audition of candidate projects for certification
- Election of the EPA Bureau Members and of the EPA Chair and Vice-Chair
- Country mappings and thematic reports



Meeting of the Bureau of the EPA Governing Board 2024, Luxembourg



MEETING OF THE EPA STATUTORY COMMITTEE



14 October, Strasbourg, FR 



- Adoption of the EPA budget for 2025-2026
- Adoption of the 2025 programme of activities



Palais de l'Europe, Council of Europe, Strasbourg, France ©Hadrian/shutterstock

GOVERNING BOARD STATUTORY ACTIVITIES

- Assistance to EPA member States in identifying potential new cultural routes and existing routes where membership is relevant, dialogue with observer States
- Assessment of applications for “Cultural Route of the Council of Europe” certification
- Organisation and review of the regular five-year evaluation of Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe
- Organisation of the Annual Advisory Forum of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe in coordination with the EPA member State hosting the event
- Co-operation with the European Union and other international organisations

3.4 - Certification cycle: regular evaluations and certifications

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



- 9** certified Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe evaluated (cycle 2023-2024)
- 5** candidates presented for possible certification (cycle 2023-2024)
- 1** certified Cultural Route of the Council of Europe evaluated under exceptional evaluation (cycle 2023-2024)
- 2** new Cultural Routes certified in 2024
- 8** certified Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe undergoing evaluation (cycle 2024-2025)
- 1** certified Cultural Route of the Council of Europe under exceptional evaluation (cycle 2024-2025)
- 8** candidates undergoing evaluation for possible certification (cycle 2024-2025)



REGULAR EVALUATIONS

The certified Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe are evaluated every five years, in order to assess their compliance with the certification criteria envisaged by the Committee of Ministers Resolution. The decision takes into account CM/Res(2023)2 extension of the regular evaluation of certified Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe from three to five years with its entry into force with the certification cycle 2024-2025.



Evaluation cycle 2023-2024 - completed

Nine Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe were evaluated:

- 🕒 European Route of Historic Gardens
- 🕒 Iron Route in the Pyrenees
- 🕒 Iter Vitis
- 🕒 Routes of the Olive Tree
- 🕒 Santiago de Compostela Pilgrim Routes
- 🕒 The Hansa
- 🕒 The Routes of El Legado Andalusi
- 🕒 Via Francigena
- 🕒 Via Romea Germanica

One Cultural Route of the Council of Europe under exceptional evaluation saw its certification withdrawn:

- 🕒 Routes of Reformation



Evaluation cycle 2024-2025 – underway

Eight Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe under regular evaluation:

- 🕒 Aeneas Route
- 🕒 European Mozart Ways
- 🕒 Alvar AALTO Route - 20th Century Architecture and Design
- 🕒 European Route of Megalithic Culture
- 🕒 Cyril and Methodius Route
- 🕒 European Route d'Artagnan
- 🕒 Huguenot and Waldensian Trail
- 🕒 Iron Age Danube Route

Two Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe under exceptional evaluation:

- 🕒 Route of the Olive Tree
- 🕒 Via Romea Germanica



EVALUATION OF CANDIDATES

Every year projects apply to request the certification “Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe”. Projects are assessed with reference to resolution CM/Res(2013)67.



2022-2023 Certification cycle - completed

Five cultural route projects submitted an application to the “Cultural Route of the Council of Europe” certification.

- 🕒 AROMAS ITINERARIUM SALUTIS - The European Route of Historical Pharmacies and Medicinal Gardens
- 🕒 European Paganini Route
- 🕒 European Network of Holy Week and Easter Celebrations
- 🕒 European Leonardo DA VINCI Ways
- 🕒 Via Querinissima

The EPA Governing Board decided to award the “Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe” certification to two candidates:

- 🕒 The European Route of Historical Pharmacies
- 🕒 The Leonardo Da Vinci Route



2025-2025 Evaluation Cycle – underway

Eight candidates to the “Cultural Route of the Council of Europe” certification

- 🕒 European Cultural Route of Sports
- 🕒 European Route of Historic Theatres
- 🕒 The European Route of Nikos Kazantzaki
- 🕒 Mary's Route
- 🕒 Pyrenean Freedom Routes
- 🕒 Romea Strata
- 🕒 Saint Francis' Ways
- 🕒 The Way of the Holy Grail, Route of Knowledge, Path of Peace

3.5 - Co-operation with international organisations

The EPA liaises with various international organisations to support the development of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe, to protect and enhance European cultural heritage, and to promote sustainable cultural tourism.

1 Council of Europe



The EPA cooperates with other entities, bodies and institutions of the Council of Europe, to strengthen institutional support for the Cultural Routes programme:



ROUNDTABLE: “CULTURAL ROUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE AS A PLATFORM FOR THE INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE”



29 November Luxembourg, LU



Organised by PACE’s Parliamentary and Electoral Co-operation Division, in collaboration with the Luxembourg delegation to PACE and the Chamber of Deputies of Luxembourg. This colloquium was framed at the end of meeting of the Standing Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) that brought together around 60 parliamentarians from the Council of Europe’s 46 member States.



(from left to right on the stage) Mr André BIEVER, President of the European Institute of Cultural Routes; Mr Claude WISELER, President of the Chamber of Deputies, Luxembourg; Mr Theodoros ROUSOPOULOS, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe; Mr Eric THILL, Minister for Culture, Luxembourg; Mrs Meltem ÖNHON, Chair of the EPA Governing Board on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe; Mr Andries GRYFFROY, PACE rapporteur on “Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe as a platform for the intercultural dialogue”. © Chamber of Deputies Luxembourg

2 European Travel Commission



ONLINE GALLERY SHOWCASING THE CULTURAL ROUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE



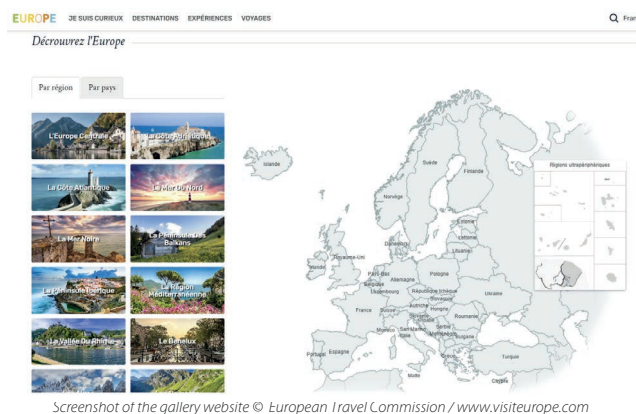
2024 - Online



In 2024, the European Travel Commission (ETC) added to its “Visit Europe” website a gallery showcasing the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe, highlighting the rich cultural heritage embodied by these routes.

The gallery includes a foreword by Mr. Stefano DOMINIONI, Executive Secretary of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme, and an interactive map of the routes. Ten of the most renowned Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe are featured. Over the course of 2025, the remaining Cultural Routes will be added to the gallery.

Via this gallery, the ETC, a non-profit organisation which works to promote Europe as a tourist destination in long-haul markets, foregrounded the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe in the presentation of Europe's cultural heritage to tourists.



3 European Commission



EXCHANGES BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION AND THE EPA ON CULTURAL ROUTES



18 March, Brussels BE 🇧🇪



Mr Stefano DOMINIONI, Executive Secretary of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe, met with Mr SCHINAS, Vice-President of the European Commission, in Brussels.

Mr DOMINIONI presented the work of the EPA, outlining the technicalities of the certification process. He highlighted connections between the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe Programme and various EU programmes, such as the European Heritage Days and the European Heritage Label. Mr SCHINAS recognised the importance of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe Programme for the protection and promotion of European cultural heritage, and suggested expanding co-operation between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in this respect. They also discussed prospects for a Cultural Route specifically dedicated to the history of European integration.



Mr DOMINIONI and Mr SCHINAS © Aurore Martignoni, European Union

3.5 - Co-operation with international organisations



UNESCO



UNESCO CHAIRS CONFERENCE, OMAN: 'OPPORTUNITIES FOR HERITAGE' AND THE POTENTIAL FOR CULTURAL ROUTES IN THE ARAB REGION



February 2024, Muscat, Sultanate of Oman



The Cultural Routes of the Council Europe programme was represented at the 'Opportunities for Heritage' conference in Oman, February 2024. Hosted by the UNESCO Chair for World Heritage and Sustainable Tourism Management in the Arab Region, in collaboration with the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH), the conference welcomed participants and guests from over 20 countries.

Mr. Stefano DOMINIONI, Executive Secretary of the EPA on Cultural Routes, spoke on a panel dedicated to managing tourism at World Heritage Sites. Mr. Dominioni presented the Cultural Routes programme and explored its potential for growth in the Arab region.























German University of Technology in Oman ©Gutech














3.6 - Activities

The EPA promotes a greater awareness of the links between cultures in Europe and beyond, between heritage, cultural and sustainable tourism, and development. This contributes to the communication and dissemination strategy of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe Programme.

PARTICIPATION IN ACTIVITIES IN EPA MEMBER STATES


-  26 January, Online 
Working meeting with European Heritage Days (EHD) representatives
-  30 January, Luxembourg 
Visits of the Irish and Turkish Ambassadors to the EPA Secretariat in Luxembourg
-  30 January, Online 
Meeting with Cultural Routes Task Force
-  31 January, Online 
Meeting with the Luxembourg Delegation for the European Heritage Days
-  19 February, Luxembourg 
Meeting with Roberta SPOTO (Luxembourgish Presidency of the Council of Europe)
-  13 March, Luxembourg 
EPA Executive Secretary met the Hungarian Ambassador in Luxembourg to celebrate a century of Hungarian-Luxembourgish co-operation
-  15 March, France 
The SEDEC published an article on the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe Programme
-  21 March, Luxembourg 
Meeting with the representatives of the Ministry of Culture (European Heritage Days)
-  7-9 April, Tirana, Albania 
The EPA Secretariat participated in the 70th meeting of the Commission for Europe (CEU)
-  13 April, Strasbourg, France 
Meeting with the Italian Permanent Representative and visit to the Irish Permanent Representation

Meeting with Claudia LUCIANI, Director of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities

Meeting with a delegation of the Swiss Federal Office for Culture 
-  10-13 April, Split, Croatia 
The Secretariat of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe Programme attended the 6th International Rural Tourism Congress
-  8-9 May, Cantabria, Spain 
3rd Managers of Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe meeting
-  12 June, Luxembourg 
Visit of the Ambassador of Denmark to Luxembourg and the permanent representative of Denmark to the Council of Europe
-  19-20 June, Vilnius, Lithuania 
Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe training seminar for national stakeholders in Vilnius
-  2 September, Online 
Meeting of the EPA coordinators Working Group - Nordic Cultural Fonds - "Opstart grant"
-  3 September, Online 
Luxembourg for Tourism GIE - meeting with Dr Sebastian Reddeker, CEO

3.6 - Activities




20 September, Paris, France 
E-learning module on the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe



8 October, Luxembourg 
Visit by Ms. PROIDL, Austrian Ambassador to Luxembourg, to the EPA Secretariat




24-25 October, Vinnytsia, Ukraine 
Workshop on the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe in Ukraine



29 October, Online 
Meeting with the representatives of the European Travel Commission (ETC)




20-21 November, Strasbourg, France 
Annual meeting of the Steering Committee CDCPP at the Council of Europe




26 November, Luxembourg 
Visit of the PACE President to the EPA headquarters



29 November, Chamber of Deputies, Luxembourg, 
Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe
Roundtable on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe: a platform for intercultural dialogue

PARTICIPATION IN ACTIVITIES ALONG THE CULTURAL ROUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE



18-21 January, Helsinki, Finland 
Alvar AALTO Route presented at the Matka Nordic Travel Fair 2024




26 November, Online 
National Information Seminar: "The Bulgarian Cyril and Methodius Cultural Route"



11 October, Tenerife, Spain 
Certification ceremony for the Transhumance trails hosted in the Canary Islands



6-7 December, Vinci, Italy 
Certification ceremony for the Leonardo Da Vinci Route

OTHER ACTIVITIES



24 February, Muscat, Oman 
International Conference in Oman discussing the potential of Cultural Routes in the Arab region



18 July, Online 
Meeting with National Geographic Traveler


























12 March, Online 
Meeting with Ms Begona ROS GRAS from Don Bosco Youth-Net



22 August, Online 
Meeting with representatives of The Netherlands

3.7 - EPA representatives

 ALBANIA (2022) Ministry of Culture www.kultura.gov.al	 ESTONIA (2024) Ministry of Culture https://www.kul.ee/en
 ANDORRA (2012) Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport www.cultura.ad	 FRANCE (2011) Ministry of Culture www.culture.gouv.fr
 ARMENIA (2015) Ministry of Culture www.mincult.am	 GEORGIA (2016) Ministry of Culture, Sport and Youth www.garibashvili.ge
 AUSTRIA (2011) Federal Ministry for Arts, Culture, the Civil Service and Sport https://www.bmkoes.gv.at/en.html	 GERMANY (2013) Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs www.auswaertiges-amt.de
 AZERBAIJAN (2011) Ministry of Culture www.mct.gov.az State Tourism Agency www.tourism.gov.az	 GREECE (2011) Ministry of Culture www.culture.gov.gr/en
 BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA (2016) Ministry of Civil Affairs www.mvp.gov.ba	 HOLY SEE (2018) Ufficio: Palazzo San Callisto www.vaticanstate.va
 BULGARIA (2011) Ministry of Culture www.mc.government.bg	 HUNGARY (2013) Ministry of Culture and Innovation https://kormany.hu/kulturalis-es-innovacios-miniszterium
 CROATIA (2016) Ministry of Culture and Media https://min-kulture.gov.hr/en Ministry of Tourism and Sports www.mint.gov.hr	 ITALY (2011) Ministry of Culture www.cultura.gov.it
 CYPRUS (2011) Ministry of Education and Culture www.moec.gov.cy	 LATVIA (2019) Ministry of Culture www.km.gov.lv
 CZECHIA (2023) Ministry of Culture https://mk.gov.cz/en	 LEBANON (2022) Ministry of Tourism www.mot.gov.lb
 FINLAND (2018) Ministry of Education and Culture www.okm.fi	 LITHUANIA (2012) Ministry of Culture www.lrkmlt.lt/en/
	 LUXEMBOURG (2011) Ministry of Culture www.mc.gouvernement.lu

3.6 - EPA representatives



MALTA (2023)

Ministry for the National Heritage,
the Arts and Local Government

<https://culture.gov.mt/>



MOLDOVA (2023)

Ministry of Culture

<https://www.mc.gov.md/en>



MONACO (2013)

Direction of Cultural Affairs

www.gouv.mc



MONTENEGRO (2011)

Ministry of Culture and Media

<https://www.gov.me/en/mku>



NORTH MACEDONIA (2022)

Ministry of Culture

www.kultura.gov.mk



NORWAY (2011)

Arts Council Norway

<https://www.regjeringen.no/en/dep/kud/id545/>



POLAND (2017)

Ministry of Culture and National Heritage

www.gov.pl



PORTUGAL (2011)

Ministry of Culture

<https://www.portugal.gov.pt/pt/gc23>



ROMANIA (2013)

Ministry of Culture

www.cultura.ro

Ministry of Entrepreneurship and Tourism

www.imm.gov.ro



SAN MARINO (2017)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

www.esteri.sm



SERBIA (2012)

Ministry of Culture and Information

www.kultura.gov.rs



SLOVAKIA (2014)

Ministry of Culture

www.culture.gov.sk



SLOVENIA (2011)

Ministry of Culture

www.mk.gov.si



SPAIN (2011)

Ministry of Culture and Sports

www.culturaydeporte.gob.es/



SWEDEN (2020)

Ministry of Culture

www.government.se



SWITZERLAND (2013)

Federal Office of Culture

www.bak.admin.ch



TÜRKIYE (2018)

Ministry of Culture and Tourism

<https://www.ktb.gov.tr/>



UKRAINE (2021)

Ministry of Culture and Information Policy

<https://mcip.gov.ua/>



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OF MEDICINES
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EDQM 50 ANS
À L'AVANT-GARDE
DE LA QUALITÉ
DES MÉDICAMENTS
Tracer la voie vers l'avenir

8-9 October 2014 - Strasbourg, France

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4

Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe: member States' activities



4.1. - EPA member States' activities

The Enlarged Partial Agreement promotes of European identity and citizenship through knowledge and awareness of Europe's common heritage, and the development of cultural links and dialogue within Europe and with other countries and regions.

Throughout 2024, EPA member States organised several national activities for the promotion of Cultural Routes in their territories, seeking to reinforce the Routes' potential for cultural co-operation, sustainable territorial development and social cohesion.

Armenia

Member since 2015

- 11-14 September 2024, Areni, Armenia - **8th UN Tourism Global Conference on Wine Tourism**

Armenia served as the host for the 8th UN Tourism Global Conference on Wine Tourism. This event was subsequently complemented by the 3rd International Crafts Festival, which showcased both wine and artisanal crafts.



8th UN Tourism Global Conference on Wine Tourism

The festival took place in Areni village, renowned for being home to the oldest winery in the world and coincided with the start of the European Heritage Days, which were celebrated under the theme of routes, networks, and connections. During the wine-related events, Emanuela Panke, the President of the Iter Vitis Cultural Route of the Council of Europe, was invited as a distinguished speaker and guest. Her participation aimed to foster new opportunities for enhancing connections and promoting the shared heritage of viticulture.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Member since 2016

- 17 October, Sarajevo, Bosnia & Herzegovina - ***The Pharmacy Museum in Sarajevo became a member of the European Route of Historic Pharmacies***

The Pharmacy Museum in Sarajevo was opened on 17 October 2023, as a specialised museum exhibition. This museum represents a unique cultural and tourist heritage in Sarajevo, which promotes and conducts research into the history of pharmacies in Bosnia and Herzegovina through a permanent museum exhibition, workshops and the promotion of healthy lifestyles. The Pharmacy Museum is a member of Aromas

Itinerarium Salutis (AIS), on the initiative of which the “European Route of Historic Pharmacies” was launched. This route became a Cultural Route of the Council of Europe in June 2024.

- 2024, Bosnia -

Country Mapping Document for Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Country Mapping Document for Bosnia and Herzegovina was presented at the Governing Board of the EPA. The document functions as a framework for upcoming initiatives within the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme, aimed at enhancing engagement at local, national and regional levels. It is also an essential instrument for shaping future cultural and tourism policies.



2024
Commissioned by the
Enlarged Partial Agreement
on Cultural Routes of the
Council of Europe (EPA)



Cover of the Country mapping document for Bosnia and Herzegovina.



Croatia

Member since 2016

- 10 November 2023, Ministry of Culture and Media, Zagreb, Croatia -

Coordination meeting of national representatives of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe in Croatia

This coordination meeting brought together national representatives of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe in Croatia and representatives from the Ministry of Tourism and Sports. The meeting was held at the Ministry of Culture and Media with the main purpose to network and share data on individual routes, their programmes and activities over the past year, new memberships, as well as reviewing their future plans. Attendees worked on the country mapping document and presented preliminary research results.



Coordination meeting of national representatives of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe in Croatia

- 6 May, Pula, Croatia -

Adria Camino Festival

The first Adria Camino Festival, organised by the Croatian Confraternity of St. James and the tourism cluster South Istria, was held with the central theme “Camino de Santiago – A Shared European Path”. During the three days, the programme attracted over 600 participants from 17 countries. The representative of Croatia to the EPA spoke on the Cultural Routes in Croatia and their role in promoting common European heritage and identity, as well as examples of good practices in coordination between Routes.

4.1. - EPA member States' activities



Adria Camino Festival

- 23 January, Juraj Dobrila University of Pula - *Guest lecture at the Interdisciplinary Study of Culture and Tourism*

This guest lecture was held for students from the Interdisciplinary Study of Culture and Tourism department of the Juraj Dobrila University of Pula. The EPA representative of the Republic of Croatia introduced the Cultural Routes to the students and elaborated on the role of the Ministry of Culture and Media in the development of Routes in Croatia. The representative also discussed opportunities for co-operation, practice and professional training at the European Institute for Cultural Routes in Luxembourg.



Guest lecture at the Interdisciplinary Study of Culture and Tourism, Juraj Dobrila University of Pula

- 19 September, Velika Gorica Library - *European Heritage Days in Velika Gorica*

The European Heritage Days in 2024 were celebrated in 66 locations throughout Croatia. As part of the events, the Croatian representative of the European Heritage Association delivered a presentation regarding the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme, highlighting the potential of the cultural heritage in the Velika Gorica region for the development of new routes. The exhibition was coordinated by the Ministry of Culture and Media, in collaboration with the Velika Gorica Library, where the display was held.

- 11-12 March, Rijeka, Adriatic Galenic Laboratory - *International forum on historical pharmacies and medicinal gardens in the Adriatic Galenic Laboratory*

The second international forum on historical pharmacies and medicinal gardens was organised in co-operation with the Adriatic Galenic Laboratory and the association Aromas Itinerarium Salutis. One of the main goals was the presentation of the European Route of Historic Pharmacies. A representative from the Republic of Croatia to the EPA delivered a presentation on Cultural Routes, focusing on their application within Croatia and highlighting the opportunities presented by the country's numerous preserved historical pharmacies.



Cyprus

Member since 2011

- 2024, Cyprus - *Horizontal policy approaches in encountering Cultural Routes*

The Deputy Ministry of Culture (DMC) of the Republic of Cyprus was created in 2022. In 2023, the Department of Antiquities came under the jurisdiction of the DMC. There was also a transfer of responsibilities of European and international affairs from the Ministry of Education to the Deputy Ministry of Culture. In light of these developments, the European and International Affairs Unit of the DMC is exploring ways to promote the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe in both national and international settings.



Estonia

Member since 2024

- 14 May, Estonia -

Estonia becomes the 41st member of the EPA

On 14 May 2024, Ms Heidy Purga, Minister of Culture of Estonia, informed Ms Marija Pejčinović Burić, General Secretary of the Council of Europe, of Estonia's decision to join the EPA. The Republic of Estonia is currently crossed by five Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe. To introduce the Cultural Routes programme, an article was published on the website and in the newsletter of the Estonian Ministry of Culture.

- 12 March, Online-

Webinar: "Introduction to the ATRIUM Route"

The Estonian Ministry of Culture organised this webinar together with the ATRIUM route, Patrick Leech, member of the Scientific Committee of the ATRIUM Route and Yasho Minkov, Vice President of ATRIUM Association, informed potential members about the Route and its activities. The webinar was a part of the online events organised by the Working Group on Cultural Routes Under Baltic Region Heritage Committee and was open to all Baltic Sea region states.

- 8-10 February, Tallinn, Estonia -

Exhibition: "Estonian Heritage on the World Map"

The exhibition "Estonian Heritage on the World Map" by the Estonian Art Academy was presented to the public at Estonia's "Travel Fair Tourest" 2024. Among other heritage sites, the exhibition featured the five Cultural Routes currently crossing Estonia: The Hansa, Viking Route, European Cemeteries Route, Route of Saint Olav Ways and Alvar AALTO Route.



Exhibition "Estonian Heritage on the World Map"



Finland

Member since 2018

- 17 May, Finland -

16 Finnish sites join the European Route of Industrial Heritage

The European Route of Industrial Heritage (ERIH), certified as a Cultural Route of the Council of Europe in 2019, has expanded into Finland with 16 new sites joining through a project led by the Association of Industrial Heritage (Teollisuusperintöseura). This association promotes the documentation, research and preservation of Finland's industrial heritage, connecting these sites to a broader European network. The project also launched the Finnish Industrial Heritage Route, featuring 19 destinations that showcase Finland's industrial history and promote domestic tourism.

- May 2024, Online -

Project grants for co-operation and development projects to strengthen the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe activities

These grants, awarded by the Finnish Heritage Agency, aim to strengthen Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe in Finland. Grants can be awarded to co-operation and development projects promoting the Cultural Routes.

- March to October 2024, Finland -

County Tour on sustainable tourism practices and webinars with Cultural Routes representatives

The Finnish Heritage Agency, in collaboration with regional councils, hosted a series of 11 events across various locations in Finland. These gatherings aimed to showcase international initiatives, conventions, and programs, while facilitating discussions on contributions to the advancement of sustainable tourism.

In February, the Finnish Heritage Agency conducted two webinars in partnership with representatives from the Cultural Routes network. One webinar focused on the Réseau Art Nouveau Network, while the other centered on the Women Writers Route. In April, a webinar was conducted in collaboration with the Finnish Center for Cycling Tourism to educate the public on the advantages of integrating cycling tourists into the development of Cultural Routes.

4.1. - EPA member States' activities

- 27-28 November, Forssa, Finland - *Cultural Routes Forum*

This event, coordinated by the Finnish Heritage Agency, comprised two distinct segments. The initial day featured a seminar on cultural tourism that was accessible to the general public. The following day was reserved for an exclusive gathering aimed at organisations that are actively engaged in the development of Cultural Routes initiatives within Finland. The agenda included a workshop focused on communication strategies and a presentation on the synergies between the Cultural Routes programme and European Heritage Days.

Fund. The project received funding, which facilitated the organisation of a workshop in Tallinn. The primary objective of this workshop was to develop a two-year action plan for the working group.



Cultural Routes Forum, Finland Forssa 2024

- 3-4 December, Tallinn, Estonia - *Workshop of Baltic and Nordic Cultural Routes coordinators funded by the Nordic Culture Fund*

The Finnish Heritage Agency leads the Baltic-Nordic working group focused on Cultural Routes. In collaboration with this group, they submitted a grant application to the Nordic Culture

France

Member since 2011

- 25-27 October, Autun, Burgundy Region -

Meeting of the representatives of the 33 Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe that cross France

Every year, the World Heritage Mission brings together the French representatives of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe that cross France. Organised in partnership with the *Fédération française des itinéraires européens* (FFICE), this meeting was held in Burgundy, at the crossroads of several routes, in order to meet the partners at regional level, review the year with each route, and plan joint projects and courses of action. These meetings help to maintain momentum at local, national and European level.



Meeting of the representatives of Cultural Routes in France

- 2024, throughout France -

Support for the organisation of events at the crossroads of several Cultural Routes

Throughout the year, numerous Cultural Routes extended invitations to representatives from other Routes to participate in their events. For instance, the Via Francigena welcomed eight Cultural Routes to a gathering commemorating the 30th anniversary of its certification in 1994, aiming to enhance awareness of the programme.

Additionally, Le Corbusier Destinations hosted several crossroads events during the European Heritage Days. The Cluniac Sites

invited five Cultural Routes to join their celebration of their 30th anniversary. Furthermore, the Huguenot and Waldensian Trail engaged eleven Routes in their crossroads event held in conjunction with their General Assembly Meeting. In the context of Europe Month, the European Route d'Artagnan also invited five Routes to a meeting.

Greece

Member since 2011

- 5 June, Attiki, Greece -

Presentation of the educational programme "The Grandfather Aesopos travels all over Europe"

The 40th Preschool of Peristeri, Attiki, Greece, during the 2023-2024 school year, organised and implemented the education programme entitled: "The Grandfather Aesopos travels all over Europe". The specific programme was implemented with the initiative of the head of the school, Ms Eleftheria VELOGIANNI, within the framework of the European Fairy Tale Cultural Route of the Council of Europe. This was done in collaboration with the Directorate of International Relations of the Hellenic Ministry of Culture and the European Fairy Tale Route Association.

The programme aimed to promote to schoolchildren European principles and values such as justice, peace, democracy, equality, identity and respect for the environment, through the intangible cultural heritage of Aesop's fables. At the ceremony, Ms Patricia Masouraki of the Hellenic Ministry of Culture was invited to give a speech on the Cultural Routes Programme.

- 14 June, Xanthi, Greece -

Smarties for SMEs

This event was organised by the Xanthi Chamber of Commerce, in the framework of the SMART WAYS initiative and in co-operation with The Phoenicians' Route and Iter Vitis Route, both Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe. Its primary objective was to enhance the development and promotion of Cultural Routes in a more intelligent and efficient manner, aimed at safeguarding cultural heritage, boosting tourism and encouraging intercultural dialogue. Representatives from the Hellenic Ministry of Culture, including Mr Fotis VLACHOS and Mr Spyridonas TSIRIGKA from the Directorate of International Relations and the EU, addressed the audience.

4.1. - EPA member States' activities

Engaging discussions took place with local authority representatives and small to medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Furthermore, Mrs Anthi PANAGIOTOU from the Xanthi Chamber of Commerce, along with Mr Antonio BARONE and Mrs Emmanuela PANKE, who represent The Phoenicians' Route and the Iter Vitis Route Cultural Route of the Council of Europe, delivered pertinent presentations and insights.

- 28-30 June, Kastoria, Greece -

1st Annual Meeting of the Greek Members of the Iter Vitis Cultural Route of the Council of Europe in Greece

The meeting took place in Kastoria from 28-30 June and was organised by the Municipality of Kastoria, the Ephorate of Antiquities of Kastoria, and the Directorate of International Relations and EU of the Hellenic Ministry of Culture. All thirteen Greek participants of the Iter Vitis Cultural Route were present. The main objectives of the initiative were to highlight the importance of the Iter Vitis Route in Greece, to foster collaboration among Greek members by showcasing past activities conducted by each participant and to strategise future collective endeavours.

- 2 September, Ierapetra, Crete -

Ierapetra city in Crete officially joined the European Federation of Napoleonic Cities through a formal membership ceremony

Ierapetra officially joined the European Federation of Napoleonic Cities as the 47th member after the signing of the membership certificate by Mayor Emmanuel Fragoulis and the founder and honorary president of the Federation, Charles Bonaparte. The certificate was signed during a ceremony in the outdoor area of Kale Fortress, in the presence of local authorities, institutions, officials and visitors.



Membership Ceremony of Ierapetra city in Crete joining the European Federation of Napoleonic Cities

- 2024, Athens, Greece -

Creation of information booklets for the public on the European Cemeteries Route of the Council of Europe in Greece

The Hellenic Ministry of Culture's Department of Educational Programmes and Communication has developed information booklets regarding the European Cemeteries Route specifically addressing the eight Greek cemeteries that are part of the Association of Significant Cemeteries of Europe (ASCE).



Booklet: "Discovering the European Cemeteries Route of the Council of Europe in Greece" ©Ministry of Culture of Greece

In 2023, booklets were released for the Municipal Cemetery of Kifisia and the Hermoupole's Cemetery of Syros, with an additional booklet for the All-Saints Cemetery of South Kynouria scheduled for publication in 2024. These publications explore various subjects, including the historical context of the cities and cemeteries, the types and decorations of funerary monuments, prominent artists and figures associated with these sites, and their broader cultural significance.



Italy

Member since 2011

- 4-7 June, Brindisi, Italy -

11th Training Academy on Cultural Routes held along the "Via Francigena" in Brindisi

From 4 to 7 June, the 11th edition of the Training Academy on Cultural Routes took place in Brindisi, Apulia, Italy. It was organised by the European Association of Via Francigena Ways

(certified Cultural Route of the Council of Europe since 1994) and the European Institute of Cultural Routes, with support from the Apulia Region and the City of Brindisi, in co-operation with the association "Brindisi e le Antiche Strade".

This edition marked the 30th anniversary of the Via Francigena's certification as a Cultural Route of the Council of Europe. The theme of the Training Academy 2024 was "European co-operation and sustainable development". Over four days, participants had the chance to exchange experiences and best practices in managing their respective Cultural Routes.



Participants of the 11th Training Academy on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe, Brindisi, Italy

- 2 September, Sicily Region, Italy - **"Communicate the Ancient" event**

This event was coordinated by the Naxos-Gardini Taormina Archaeological Park, part of the Sicilian Region, in collaboration with The Phoenician Routes. Representatives from the Hellenic Ministry of Culture, including Mr Fotis VLACHOS from the Directorate of International Relations and EU and Dr. Eleni RAPTI, an archaeologist from the General Directorate of Antiquities and Cultural Heritage, participated in the event, enhancing collaborative efforts to establish and promote ancient cities of Greek heritage within The Phoenicians Route. Dr. Gabriella Tigano, the Archaeologist and Director of the Archaeological Park, along with Mr Antonio BARONE, Director of The Phoenicians Route, organised this historically significant event, which made a notable contribution to the initiatives aimed at safeguarding cultural heritage in the Adriatic and Ionian region.

Hungary

Member since 2013

- 25-27 September, Visegrád, Hungary - **13th Annual Advisory Forum on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe**

The 13th Annual Advisory Forum on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe was held in Visegrád, Hungary. It was organised by the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe (EPA) and the European Institute of Cultural Routes, in co-operation with the Ministry of Culture and Innovation of Hungary and the Hungarian Open-Air Museum.



Banner for the 13th Annual Advisory Forum

The Forum was attended by over 350 participants, including many representatives of the 41 member States of the EPA and representatives of the 48 certified Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe, as well as representatives of international organisations.

Through a rich programme of panels, interventions and meetings, the event provided a platform for bringing together the main stakeholders in the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe. 60 Forum programme speakers from Europe and beyond took the floor during the three-day event to explore the theme of "Transmission and innovation to promote greater youth involvement along the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe".

4.1. - EPA member States' activities

- 17-18 April, Budapest, Hungary -

"Garden Heritage in Tourism, Tourism in Gardens" conference by the Hungarian Garden Heritage Foundation

The International Conference "Garden Heritage in Tourism, Tourism in Gardens", organised by the Hungarian Garden Heritage Foundation, took place on April 17-18 in Budapest, Hungary. It gathered experts and academics to discuss the promotion, protection and management of gardens as part of European heritage. Mr Stefano DOMINIONI, Executive Secretary of the EPA, highlighted best practices in sustainable tourism and landscape protection through the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe. Among the then 47 certified Routes, over 90% actively contribute to the long-term preservation and enhancement of diverse European landscapes. This synergy underscores the value of gardens and landscapes in fostering cultural connection and sustainability.

- 10 April, Budapest, Hungary -

Cooperation agreement signed by the Budapest European Youth Centre and the Hungarian Open-Air Museum

The European Youth Centre Budapest and the Hungarian Open-Air Museum, known as Szentendrei Skanzen, formalised a co-operation agreement. This collaboration focused on the organisation of the 13th Annual Advisory Forum of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe, emphasising the engagement of youth in the event. The agreement was signed by Dr. Miklós Cseri, the General Director of Szentendre Skanzen, and Bálint Molnár, the Executive Director of the European Youth Centre Budapest.



The Budapest European Youth Centre and the Hungarian Open-Air Museum signed a co-operation agreement



Lebanon

Member since 2022

- 17 May, Douma, Lebanon -

Douma wins Best Tourism Villages award by UNWTO

The Ministry of Tourism and Douma Municipality celebrated Douma's recognition as one of the best tourism villages in the world for 2023 by UN TOURISM, in the presence of Secretary-General Zurab Pololikashvili, ministers, ambassadors and local figures. The event also launched the renovation of the old Douma Souk, funded by Qatar, with its Ambassador in attendance. The celebration featured artistic performances, panels and promotional clips about Lebanon and Douma, followed by a tour of the souk and the town's tourist and heritage landmarks.



Participants at the ceremony of Douma, laureate of the Best Tourism Villages by UNWTO

- 1 July, Beirut, Lebanon -

Mishwar Rayheen Mishwar Campaign

The Lebanese Ministry of Tourism launched the "Mishwar Rayheen Mishwar" campaign in the presence of Tourism Minister Walid NASSAR, Prime Minister Najib MIKATI, and officials and ambassadors. This initiative promotes local tourism, urging Lebanese citizens and international visitors to explore Lebanon's natural and cultural beauty, particularly in rural areas. Amid challenging economic conditions, the campaign emphasises tourism as a vital sector, showcasing Lebanon's exceptional destinations as an alternative to travelling abroad.

Lithuania

Member since 2012

- 19-20 June, National Museum, Vilnius, Lithuania - *Training seminar for national stakeholders and representatives of member states of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe*

This two-day training seminar, co-organised with the European Institute of Cultural Routes, provided an extensive overview of and practical tools related to the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme. Representatives from various Cultural Routes presented insights into the implementation and management of these routes at the national level, adhering to the guidelines set out by the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme. The seminar placed particular emphasis on collaboration with the tourism sector.



National Museum, Vilnius. © Augustas Didžgalvis

presented an opportunity to explore cultural heritage across Europe, particularly through the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe.

To align the theme of the European Heritage Days 2024 with the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme, the Ministry of Culture of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, in collaboration with the European Institute of Cultural Routes (based in Luxembourg), published a brochure showcasing the eight Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe that cross Luxembourg. The brochure details the locations and heritage sites associated with each Cultural Route in Luxembourg and includes a fold-out map for navigation, to encourage visitors to explore the routes independently. Most of the featured sites are significant highlights of the Cultural Routes and can serve as starting points for further discovery. The brochure is available for download on the EHD section of the Ministry of Culture website.



Booklet: "Discovering the European Cemeteries Route of the Council of Europe in Luxembourg"
©Ministry of Culture of Luxembourg

Luxembourg

Member since 2011

- Autumn 2024, Luxembourg - *European Heritage Days and the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe in Luxembourg*

Since 1991, the Council of Europe has organised European Heritage Days (EHD) with the assistance of the European Union. EHD's 2024 theme, 'Routes, Networks and Connections',



Malta

Member since 2023

- 15-16 March, Malta - *Phoenicians' Route dialogue*

This event was coordinated by the Association of Local Councils Malta, in partnership with Inizjamed and with support from Heritage Malta, aimed at commemorating the European Year

4.1. - EPA member States' activities

of Islands 2024, the 30th Anniversary of the Association and the 20th Anniversary of the Cultural Routes celebrated the previous year. Notable contributions were made by Mario Fava, the Association's President, Dr. Sandro Debono, a museum scholar, and Dr. Antonio Barone, Director of the Phoenicians' Route, among others. The programme included the Annual General Meeting (AGM), a conference, networking opportunities and site visits.

- 2-7 April, Malta -

European Artistic Crafts Days in Malta and Gozo

Through the co-ordination of the Malta Crafts Foundation, Malta is participating in the European Artistic Crafts Days (EACD), which are held yearly in spring. During this time, Malta joined the rest of Europe to promote crafts by inviting the public to visit artisans who opened the doors of their workshops for EACDs. To further promote participating artisans, the Malta Crafts Foundation created an interactive map marking their location to ensure that interested visitors could easily make their way to their preferred artisan to witness first-hand how their crafts are made.



Malta Crafts Foundation workshop

on October 8-9, focusing on the Cyril and Methodius Route and cultural heritage in Skopje and its vicinity. Scholars and participants from Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Bulgaria and North Macedonia engaged in discussions aimed at enhancing the recognition of the legacy of Cyril and Methodius. Particular emphasis was on monuments, artefacts and manuscripts that can foster cultural development and tourism.



Participants in the 2024 conference on the Cyril and Methodius Route in Skopje

The conference also included an exhibition showcasing the photographs of Pavol Demes, depicting locations associated with the journeys of the saints.

Additionally, project members participated in two General Assemblies: one scheduled for May 2024 in Sofia, featuring Macedonian photographs, and another in Zlin in November 2024, in preparation for the upcoming assembly in Ohrid in 2025.



Norway

Member since 2011



North Macedonia

Member since 2022

- 8-9 October, Skopje, North Macedonia -

International conference on Cyril and Methodius Route

The Institute of Macedonian Literature at Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje organised an international conference

- 25 April, Oslo, Norway -

Workshop for Norwegian members of and partners with Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe

A one-day workshop was held in conjunction with the European Union National Institutes for Culture (EUNIC) seminar at the Italian Institute in Oslo. This venue served as a platform for thematic presentations and discussions involving the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe, emerging networks, cultural NGOs and public institutions. Invitations were extended to all Norwegian Cultural Routes, with five of them in attendance.

Throughout the year, Norwegian stakeholders actively participated in the regular meetings of the EPA Working Group, where they shared insights on their respective practices across countries and collaborated on a grant application to the Nordic Cultural Fund.



Italian Institute in Oslo. © Istituto Italiano di Cultura di Oslo from www.licoslo.esteri.it

- 10 July, National Coast Days, Bodø -

Hosting the Annual Meeting of Via Querinissima organisation

The annual gathering of Via Querinissima took place at Arts and Culture Norway in Bodø. The national coordinator of Norway received a special invitation to participate in the meeting. Throughout the assembly, the route was afforded the chance for comprehensive follow-up and feedback from the viewpoint of the national coordinator. This engagement will enable the route to focus on the essential areas of action, with the goal of submitting the most effective application for certification in either 2025 or 2026.



Panoramic of Bodø ©Gerd Eichmann



Poland

Member since 2016

- 23-24 May, Warsaw, Poland -

Meeting of EHD regional coordinators and representatives of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe

National representatives of the EPA, along with regional coordinators of the European Heritage Days in Poland, convened to deliberate on the execution of the 2024 edition, themed "Routes, Networks and Connections", while also sharing insights from their past experiences. The meeting commenced with opening remarks from Ms Marta CIENKOWSKA, Undersecretary of State at the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, and Mr Stefano DOMINIONI, Director of the European Institute of Cultural Routes. Over the course of the two-day event, participants engaged in discussions regarding the initiatives undertaken by the Routes, their accomplishments, future plans and their roles in the execution of the EHD 2024.



Banner for the 2024 European Heritage Days in Poland ©www.europeanheritagedays.com



Portugal

Member since 2011

- 2024, Portugal -

Annual meeting, workshop and website

In addition to an annual meeting aimed at reviewing the completed work, representatives organised a summer visit

4.1. - EPA member States' activities

to explore the Cultural Routes traversing Portugal. In August, national representatives were received by the managers of Linhas de Torres Vedras, which is associated with the Destination Napoleon Route. Also in August, they visited the managers of Cemitério do Alto de São João and Cemitério dos Prazeres, two cemeteries in Lisbon that are part of the European Cemeteries Route.



Workshop in Porto in October

In October, a one-day workshop was conducted to facilitate the exchange of experiences regarding the enhancement of the programme's visibility. Subsequently, in November, an institutional website was launched, focusing on the cultural heritage of Portugal. This website includes information and a dedicated page for the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme and its activities in Portugal.



Romania

Member since 2013

- 17 October, Feleacu, Romania -

The Sensory Landscapes of Hygeia in Europe SPICES project

This project by the European Route of Historic Pharmacies involved a show cooking session accompanied by a series of interviews. These interviews, in conjunction with those carried out in Italy and Spain, will constitute the foundational elements of an Oral Memory Archive. This archive is designed to preserve and emphasize the significance of Mediterranean materia medica within Europe, referred to as Hygeia's Legacy. Romanian stakeholders played a vital role in the Aromas Salutis General Assembly.



Serbia

Member since 2012

- 7-15 June, Subotica, Serbia -

World Art Nouveau Day in the City of Subotica

Celebrated worldwide on June 10, World Art Nouveau Day and World Secession Day were highlighted by a week-long cultural programme in Subotica, recognised as the "City of Art Nouveau". The events commenced with a city tour on June 7, titled "Light of the New Time - Subotica Bank Buildings".

On June 8, the City Museum facilitated a guided tour of the exhibition, entitled "Masterpieces of the Art Colony of Nađabnja".

The activities on June 10 included workshops for both children and adults, such as "Coloured Light" and jewelry making, in addition to the "Organ Night" concert at the Synagogue. Furthermore, in May, Subotica hosted the Museum Night, an event established in 2008, which once again provided a diverse range of cultural experiences for enthusiasts of culture and ethnic folklore.



Centar II building, part of the Art-Nouveau buildings bank in Subotica, Serbia © Mister No

- 15 October-1 December, City of Zaječar, Serbia -

Exhibition on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe in Serbia

In conjunction with the European Heritage Days festivities, the National Museum Zaječar inaugurated a unique exhibition that emphasised the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe within Serbia. This initiative, organised by the Ministry of Culture in partnership with the Ministry of Tourism and Youth, as well as the Tourist Organisation of Serbia, presented important cultural

and historical links across Europe. In alignment with the theme for this year's European Heritage Days - "Routes, Networks, and Connections" - the exhibition highlighted the shared values and principles that the Council of Europe seeks to promote and safeguard.



Exhibition in Zaječar, Serbia ©Ministry of Culture and Information, Serbia



Spain

Member since 2011

- 8-9 May, Cantabria, Spain -

Third working meeting "Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe in Spain"

A collaborative meeting was held with national representatives of Cultural Routes in Spain, as well as experts in the domain of cultural heritage. This event took place at the National Museum and Research Centre of Altamira in Cantabria. The primary goals of the meeting were to exchange knowledge about the current landscape of Cultural Routes in Spain, to enhance communication and share experiences among the representatives of different Cultural Routes, and to contemplate the conditions that led to either successful or unsuccessful outcomes in these endeavours.

- 11 October, San Cristobal de La Laguna, Canary Islands,

Spain -

Certification ceremony of the Transhumance trails

On 11 October the Transhumance trails network celebrated its certification as a new Cultural Route of the Council of Europe. This honour, awarded in July 2023, was officially conferred at the Teatro Leal in San Cristobal de La Laguna, located in the Canary Islands. The Route emphasises both contemporary and historical practices of livestock transhumance along traditional pathways. This initiative, spearheaded by Spain, Italy and Sweden, encompasses regions from various European nations. It also includes participants from Mexico and Guatemala.



©Emeterio Suárez (from left to right) Mr Stefano DOMINIONI, Executive Secretary of the Enlarged Partial Agreement, Director of the European Institute of Cultural Routes; Mr Francisco GARCIA, Rector of the University of La Laguna and Mr Sergio ORTEGA of the Legal and European Programmes Delegation of the Spanish Ministry of Culture.



Sweden

Member since 2020

- 22 February, Online -

First national seminar on Cultural Routes

The Swedish National Heritage Board hosted its first national seminar dedicated to Cultural Routes, gathering representatives from various Cultural Routes initiatives in Sweden. The seminar focused on Cultural Routes as effective tools for fostering sustainable tourism and regional development. Notable presentations were made by speakers from Visit Sweden, the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth, along with representatives from Cultural Routes.

The seminar's goal was to establish a national network that will





European Institute of Cultural Routes (EICR)

INSTITUT
EUROPÉEN
DES
ITINÉRAIRES
CULTURELS



EUROPEAN
INSTITUTE
OF
CULTURAL
ROUTES



The European Institute of Cultural Routes (EICR), Luxembourg



European Institute of Cultural Routes, Neumünster Abbey, Luxembourg, LU ©frantic00/shutterstock

European Institute of Cultural Routes (EICR), founded 1998: technical agency of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe Programme



KEYS INFOS

- Located in Neumünster Abbey, Luxembourg
- Seat of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe
- Funded by the Ministry of Culture of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

MISSIONS

- Support to the EPA Secretariat in the coordination of evaluation and certification cycles of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe
- Advice to the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe and to candidate projects
- Training for the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe
- Promotion and visibility
- Support to the Training Academy and Annual Advisory Forum
- Co-operation with universities and research centres
- Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe Programme documentary resources archive

5.1 - Statutory bodies and staff

Ambassador André BIEVER was elected President of the European Institute of Cultural Routes at its Board of Directors meeting, held on 14 October in Luxembourg. Ambassador Biever is an experienced diplomat who has represented Luxembourg in various capacities, including roles in Switzerland, India, Belgium, and Nicaragua. He is currently Director for Consular Affairs and International Cultural Relations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Luxembourg. The Board and the EICR team both express their warmest congratulations to Ambassador Biever and look forward to a fruitful collaboration going forward.

MEMBERS OF THE EICR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Government of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg:

Ambassador Jean Claude KUGENER,
EICR President (to October 2024); Director of Consular Affairs and International Cultural Relations, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Luxembourg

Ambassador André BIEVER,
EICR President (from October 2023); Director of Consular Affairs and International Cultural Relations, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Luxembourg

Mr Claude HALSDORF,
EICR Vice-President; Counsellor, Ministry of Economy, Directorate General of Tourism, Luxembourg

Ms Barbara ZECHES,
EICR Board of Directors member; Representative of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg on the Governing Board of the EPA on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe; Advisor, Ministry of Culture, Luxembourg

Mr Patrick DONDELINGER,
EICR Board of Directors member; Head of Studies, Intangible Cultural Heritage, Ministry of Culture, Luxembourg

Mr Robert L. PHILIPPART,
EICR Board of Directors member; UNESCO site manager for Luxembourg City, Ministry of Culture, Luxembourg

Council of Europe:

Mr Matjaž GRUDEN,
*EICR Board of Directors member;
Director of Democratic Participation, Council of Europe*

Ms Meltem ÖNHON,
EICR Board of Directors member; Expert at the General Directorate of Promotion of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism (Türkiye); Chair of the Governing Board of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes (Council of Europe)

Mr Eladio FERNANDEZ-GALIANO,
EICR Board of Directors member; Special Advisor to the Cultural Routes Programme of the Council of Europe

Secretariat:

Mr Stefano DOMINIONI,
Executive Secretary of the EPA

Staff:

Mr Stefano DOMINIONI, *Director of the EICR*
Ms Carolina CLARK, *Project Manager*
Mr Dylan HERGENHAHN, *Administrative Assistant*
Ms Cindy BLESER, *Communication Officer*
Ms Crina ZUGRAV, *Junior Project Manager (since August)*

Trainees

Ms Crina ZUGRAV
Université Jean Monnet, Saint-Etienne, France (February-July)
Mr Felix SANCHEZ
Sciences Po, Saint Germain en Laye, France (October-December)

5.2 - Statutory meetings

At the General Assembly and Board of Directors meetings that took place in 2024, issues regarding procedures, major events and visibility were discussed, in order to pursue the EICR mission of ensuring continuity and implementation of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe Programme.

1st March, Luxembourg, LU 

General Assembly and Board of Directors of the European Institute of Cultural Routes meeting

14th October, Luxembourg, LU 

General Assembly and Board of Directors of the European Institute of Cultural Routes meeting

5.3 - Supporting the EPA Secretariat with Cultural Routes certification cycles

The EICR supports the EPA Secretariat in the coordination of the certification cycles for certified Cultural Routes and candidate projects. The evaluation and the certification follow the same schedule, starting in July and ending in May of the following year, as outlined below. During 2024, the 2023-2024 cycle was completed and the 2024-2025 cycle was launched.

2023-2024 certification cycle

September - December 2023

Independent expert review of the applications by certified and candidate routes, contacts with projects managers/Cultural Routes managers, expert field visits, meeting with candidate projects managers/Cultural Routes managers. Preparation of the evaluation report.

Preparation of the evaluation report.

December 2023

1. Submission of the report by the independent expert.

January - February

2. Examination of the evaluation report by the EPA Secretariat with the support of the EICR and recommendations to the EPA Bureau.
3. Examination of the reports during the EPA Bureau; experts audition during the EPA Bureau meeting.
4. Recommendation of the Bureau to the EPA Governing Board.

March

Communication to the candidate projects/Cultural Routes managers of the conclusions of the EPA Bureau meeting. Invitation to applicants and certified Cultural Routes to present at the EPA Governing Board meeting (April).

Call for applications for certification posted on the EPA website.

Notification letter by the EPA Executive Secretary to the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe under regular evaluation, launching the annual evaluation cycle.

March

2024-2025 certification cycle

May

Examination by the EPA Governing Board of the evaluation reports and recommendations by the EPA Bureau.

Audition of invited candidate projects managers/Cultural Routes managers at the Governing Board meeting and decision concerning certification by the Governing Board.

June

Notification letter by the EPA Executive Secretary to the candidates/Cultural Routes under evaluation concerning the results of their application for certification/evaluation of their network as a "Cultural Route of the Council of Europe".

Analysis by the EPA Secretariat with the support of the EICR of the documentation submitted by the candidate projects/Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe.

Selection by the EPA Secretariat of independent experts in charge of drafting the evaluation reports.

August

Deadline for submission of the application forms and evaluation files to the EPA Secretariat by candidate projects and certified Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe.

July

Independent expert review: contact with candidate projects managers/Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe managers, online meetings with route's representatives and members.

Preparation of evaluation reports.

September-December






















2025































5.4 - Advisory meetings and activities

MEETINGS WITH CULTURAL ROUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

 8 January, Online 	 Advisory meeting with the European Cyclists' Federation
 25 January, Online 	 Meeting with Compostela Group of Universities
 8 February, Online 	 Information meeting with the Representatives of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe to present the Call for European Heritage Days Stories
 13 February, Online 	 Coordination meeting - 2024 Training Academy
 3 April, Online 	 Presentation of the Programme during the General Assembly of the European Route of Megalithic Culture
 10 April, Luxembourg, LU 	 Visit of Nataša Urošević from Juraj Dobrila University of Pula, new member of the University Network for Cultural Routes Studies
 4-7 June, Brindisi, IT 	 11th Training Academy on Cultural Routes
 27 June, Online 	 Meeting with EuroVelo 13 - Iron Curtain Trail as a Cultural Route of the Council of Europe
 27 June, Luxembourg, LU 	 Meeting with Via Habsburg representatives
 11 July, Online 	 Information meeting with Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe certified in 2024
 22 September, Ettelbruck, LU 	 Liberation Route Europe: Launch of new Luxembourg trails in Ettelbruck marking the 80th anniversary of the Grand Duchy's liberation
 24 October, Online 	 Meeting with the representatives of the Cultural Relations Platform - Goethe Institut Brussels
 13-14 November, Santiago de Compostela, ES 	 1st International Conference on Universities and Cultural Routes

ADVISORY MEETINGS WITH CANDIDATE CULTURAL ROUTES AND PROJECTS

 10 January, Online 	 Meeting with the Irish Heritage Council
 24 January, Luxembourg, LU 	 Advisory meeting Via Memoria Mauthausen
 6 February, Online 	 Follow-up meeting with the European Cultural Route of Sport (ECROS)
 14 February, Online 	 Meeting with the European Royal Residences
 6 March, Online 	 Advisory meeting with ROMHERITAGE: Itineraries of Roma Cultural Heritage
 19 March, Online 	 Advisory meeting with The Chocolate Way
 14-15 May, Luxembourg, LU 	 Training seminar for candidates interested in certification

 14 June, Online 	 Advisory meeting with Itinéraires Liberté Pyrénées
 17 June, Online 	 Advisory meeting with the European Sauna Culture and Lifestyle Route
 24 June, Online 	 Advisory meeting with Mary's Route
 24 June, Online 	 Advisory meeting with Romea Strata
 4 July, Online 	 Advisory meeting with the European Cultural Route of Sport (ECROS)
 10 July, Online 	 Advisory meeting with the Way of the Holy Grail
 25 July, Online 	 Meeting with the Routes of Masonic Architecture and Heritage
 11 September, Luxembourg, LU 	 Meeting with the Cultural Route on the founders and memorial sites of the European construction
 29 October, Online 	 Advisory meeting with European Mining Routes of Saint Barbara Federation
 4 December, Online 	 Meeting with representatives of the Routes of Masonic Architecture and Heritage

5.5 - Co-operation with international organisations

1 Organisation of Ibero-American States for Education, Science and Culture (OEI) **OEI**

In 2024, the European Institute of Cultural Routes (EICR) and the Organisation of Ibero-American States for Education, Science, and Culture (OEI) advanced their partnership through a series of activities under the ADELANTE 2 programme. This co-operation initiative fosters collaboration between the European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean, emphasising cultural routes as tools for sustainable territorial development. The EICR participated in training workshops in Ecuador from 11-15 March, organised under the Ventana Adelante initiative.

 28-29 May, Cáceres, Spain 



The International Congress on “Cultural Routes and Itineraries for the development of territories” brought together nearly 200 participants from 25 countries. Discussions focused on Ecuadorian cultural routes, such as the *Cocoa Origin Route* and the *Florida Tulipe Route*, as models for sustainable tourism and regional growth.

 4 July, Online 



The conference “RUTEALC: Current Situation of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe and Ibero-America” provided a platform to assess progress and explore synergies between the two regions.





6

University Network for Cultural Routes Studies



6. University Network for Cultural Routes Studies (NCRS)



1st International Conference on Universities and Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe

The European Institute of Cultural Routes has been involved since its creation in co-operation actions with various universities and academic institutions. In 2012, the University Network for Cultural Routes Studies (NCRS) was established with the purpose of providing regular exchanges between the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme, universities active in the field of preservation and promotion of cultural heritage, and certified Cultural Routes.



33

*universities members of
the Network for
Cultural Routes Studies*

9

*new members
in 2024*

4000

*books and magazines
in the EICR library*

Research and co-operation in research are of paramount importance in the creation and development of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe: they enable multidisciplinary knowledge to be brought together and made accessible, provide scientific proof of why the themes addressed by the Cultural Routes are representative of European values, and underpin the effective enhancement of European heritage, past and present.

The network aims to encourage of research on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe related issues, and to encourage students to undertake their academic research on Cultural Routes, to jointly apply for European Grants with the European Institute of Cultural Routes (EICR), to participate in the annual programme of activities of the EICR and offer scientific advice where required.

At the invitation of the Secretariat of the European Institute of Cultural Routes, the university network compiled all the activities (projects, papers, special courses, EU funded projects, journal articles etc.) implemented in the last three years with reference to the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe:

- 9 research projects
- 21 courses, modules or workshops
- 27 articles published
- 35 Master's or PhD theses
- 12 EU projects

Network members are specialised in a variety of disciplines, such as: cultural heritage, landscape, heritage management, interpretation and mediation, urban requalification, tourism, economy of tourism, geography, local development, sociology and others.

Under the framework of the University Network for Cultural Routes Studies, two successful editions of the Cultural Routes Academic Workshops were held online in 2021 and 2023.

In 2024, the European Institute of Cultural Routes and the Compostela Group of Universities (member of the University Network for Cultural Studies) organised the **1st International Conference on Universities and Cultural Routes that took place on 13-14 November in Santiago de Compostela, Spain.**



©Compostela Group of Universities

This edition brought together a total of 231 participants, including 58 in person, from 46 countries and 71 academic establishments. Academics, researchers and professionals explored the relationship between heritage, education and sustainable tourism for the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe.

The first day of the conference was structured around three key sessions, where moderators, speakers and questions from the audience powered discussions on the following topics:

- “Cultural Routes: Intersections of heritage, education and communities”
- “Measuring impacts along the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe: Economic benefits, sustainability and management strategies”
- “Landscapes, tourism and emerging trends”

The second day was devoted to strategic discussions developing and structuring the University Network for Cultural Routes Studies. The network now has 33 members, including 9 new members who joined in 2024.

Discussions focused on opportunities for co-operation between universities, the launch of sector-based thematic groups, the forthcoming organisation of academic seminars and the planning of the next international conference.

In addition to the rich academic debates, the conference was also the opportunity for some cultural visits, such as a guided tour of the historic city-centre of Santiago de Compostela and a walk along the Camino de Compostela which took participants to the town of Padrón.


Several network outcomes were settled:

- The Compostela Group of Universities will hold the Chair of the Network for the biennium 2024-2026. The Chair will be holding a biannual agenda for common activities. Thus, a call for interest was launched to collect the proposals with regards to joining different working groups and priority topics of interest.
- The Università della Svizzera italiana will be hosting the 2nd edition of the International Conference in Lugano, Switzerland in 2026.


6. University Network for Cultural Routes Studies (NCRS)

The University Network for Cultural Routes Studies has 33 members:



UNIVERSITY OF BEDFORDSHIRE, UK 
INSTITUTE FOR TOURISM RESEARCH (INTOUR)
Member since 2013




UNIVERSITÉ PARIS 1 PANTHÉON SORBONNE, FR 
INSTITUT DE RECHERCHE ET D'ÉTUDES SUPÉRIEURES DU
TOURISME (IREST), EQUIPE INTERDISCIPLINAIRE DE
RECHERCHES SUR LE TOURISME (EIREST)
Member since 2013




UNIVERSITÉ DE LUXEMBOURG, LU 
Member since 2013



UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA, IT 
CENTRE FOR ADVANCED STUDIES IN TOURISM (CAST)
Member since 2014




UNIVERSITY OF HAIFA, IL 
CENTRE FOR TOURISM, PILGRIMAGE AND RECREATION
RESEARCH
Member since 2015



UNIVERSITÉ LAVAL, CA 
DÉPARTEMENT DES SCIENCES HISTORIQUES,
INSTITUT DE PATRIMOINE CULTUREL (IPAC)
Member since 2013



UNIVERSITAT DE BARCELONA, ES 
FACULTY OF ECONOMICAL AND POLITICAL STUDIES,
LABORATORI DE PATRIMONI I TURISME CULTURAL (LABPATC)
Member since 2013



COMPOSTELA GROUP OF UNIVERSITIES (NCRS), ES 
Member since 2019



UNIVERSITÀ DE LA SVIZZERA ITALIANA, CH 
Member since 2019



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA, IT 
Member since 2019



MID SWEDEN UNIVERSITY, SE 
Member since 2020



BLACK SEA UNIVERSITIES NETWORK (BSUN)
Member since 2020



**DIST, POLITECNICO DI TORINO AND UNIVERSITY OF
TORINO, IT** 
Member since 2020



UNIVERSITY OF ANGERS, FR 
Member since 2021



MARDIN ARTUKLU UNIVERSITY, TR 
Member since 2021



UNIVERSITY OF PIRAEUS, GR

Member since 2021



ARMENIAN NATIONAL AGRARIAN UNIVERSITY, AR

Member since 2021



NOTTINGHAM TRENT UNIVERSITY, UK

Member since 2021



UNIVERSITY OF MARIBOR, SI

Member since 2022



UNIVERSITY OF DONJA GORICA (UDG), ME

Member since 2022



CONSTANTINE THE PHILOSOPHER UNIVERSITY IN NITRA, SK

Member since 2022



LEBANESE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY-LOUIS CARDAHI FOUNDATION, LB

Member since 2022



EGE UNIVERSITY, TR

Member since 2023



UNIVERSITY OF REGGIO CALABRIA, IT

Member since 2023

New Members who joined in 2024:



JURAJ DOBRILA UNIVERSITY OF PULA, HR

Member since 2024



ANTALYA BILIM UNIVERSITY, TK

Member since 2024



NEVSEHIR HACI BEKTASI VELI UNIVERSITY, TK

Member since 2024



BALIKESIR UNIVERSITY, TK

Member since 2024



BUDAPEST METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY, HU

Member since 2024



UNIVERSITY OF EÖTVÖS LORÁND, HU

Member since 2024



UNIVERSIDAD DE LA LAGUNA, ES

Member since 2024



UNIVERSITÀ CA' FOSCARI VENEZIA, IT

Member since 2024



LUIGJ GURAKUQI UNIVERSITY OF SHKODËR, AL

Member since 2024





7

Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe: Highlights



³ CM/Res(2013)66 - Confirming the establishment of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes (EPA).

7.1. Statutory meetings

Each Cultural Route of the Council of Europe is a grassroots association composed of several European stakeholders, involving both public and private sectors. Every year, each Cultural Route organises a general assembly, bringing together the various members of the respective associative network.¹

2024

January

February

26th - 29th

Aachen, DE  - **Liberation Route Europe**

March

11st

Rijeka, HR  - **European Route of Historic Pharmacies**

16th

Bormla, MT  - **Phoenicians' Route**

26th

Online  - **Women Writers Route**

29th

Pessac, FR  - **Le Corbusier Destinations**

April

3rd

St. Helier, JE  - **Megalithic Routes**

18th

Pori, FI  - **Alvar AALTO Route**

22nd

Online  - **Route of St Olav Ways**

23rd

Tskaltubo, GE  - **European Route of Historic Thermal Towns**

May

3rd - 5th

Plymouth, UK  - **Destination Napoleon**

17th - 19th

Barcelona, ES  - **European Route of Jewish Heritage**

23rd

Sofia, BG  - **Cyril and Methodius Route**

30th

Zugdidi, GE  - **European Route of Historic Gardens**

June

16th

Gdansk, PL  - **The Hansa**

19th

Online  - **European Route of Ceramics**

26th

Brussels, BE  - **Réseau Art Nouveau Network**

¹As per the information requested to the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe and received, the latest, by December 2024.

7.1. Statutory meetings






July

- 4th - 5th Santiago de Compostela, ES  - *Santiago de Compostela Pilgrim Routes*
- 5th - 7th Souvigny, FR  - *Cluniac Sites in Europe*

August

- 29th Faenza IT  - *European Route of Ceramics*

September

- 13th Carbonia, IT  - *ATRIUM - Architecture of Totalitarian Regimes of the 20th Century in Europe's Urban Memory*
- 19th Budapest, HU  - *European Cemeteries Route*
- 20th Spa, BE  - *European Route of Historic Thermal Towns*
- 23rd Viborg, DK  and online  - *Iron Curtain Trail - EuroVelo 13*

October

- 19th Purcari, MD  - *Iter Vitis Route*
- 23rd Łódź, PL  - *European Route of Industrial Heritage*
- 23rd Online  - *TRANSROMANICA*
- 29th Provence, FR  - *Huguenot and Waldensian Trail*

November

- 6th Zlín, CZ  - *Cyril and Methodius Route*
- 15th Chiclana de la Frontera, ES  - *Phoenicians' Route*
- 21st Varkaus, FI  - *Alvar AALTO Route*
- 23rd Tarascon-sur-Ariège, FR  - *Prehistoric Rock Art Trails*
- 28th Melilla, ES  - *European Routes of Emperor Charles V*
- 29th Brussels, BE  - *Réseau Art Nouveau Network*

December

- 6th - 7th Vinci, IT  - *Leonardo Da Vinci Route*

2025

7.2. Priority activities for Cultural Routes

Every year the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe implement activities pertaining to the five priority fields of actions envisaged in the CM/Res(2013)67:

1. Co-operation in research and development
2. Enhancement of memory, history and European heritage
3. Cultural and educational exchanges for young Europeans
4. Contemporary cultural and artistic practices
5. Cultural tourism and sustainable cultural development

The following subsections highlight some selected activities carried out by the Cultural Routes during 2024.

7.2.1 Co-operation in research and development

Cyril and Methodius Route



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



Conference: “The European Cultural Route of Saints Cyril and Methodius in the Cultural Heritage of Skopje and Greater Skopje Area”

8-9 October 2024

Skopje, North Macedonia 

The Institute of Macedonian Literature at Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje hosted an international conference focusing on the Route of Saints Cyril and Methodius and its significance within the cultural heritage of Skopje and the surrounding Greater Skopje area. The event brought together 70 participants from various institutions, including the University Constantine the Philosopher in Nitra, Slovakia; the Route's Secretariat in Zlin, Czech Republic; the Cyrillo-Methodian Research Center at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences in Sofia; and several organisations from North Macedonia, such as the Institute of Macedonian Literature in Skopje and the Institute for Old Slavic Culture in Prilep.



Visit to Matka monastery during the Conference in Skopje, North Macedonia ©Institute of Macedonian Literature in Skopje

Iter Vitis



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



Agreement between Iter Vitis and the Municipality of Rome

Since August 2024

Rome, Italy 

Rome made a notable advancement in promoting its viticultural heritage on a global scale through a new partnership with Iter Vitis. This collaboration seeks to conduct a thorough study aimed at establishing a network of urban vineyards throughout the city, thereby positioning them as integral elements of Rome's cultural and historical identity. A crucial aspect of this partnership involves the formation of a scientific committee tasked with conducting a detailed investigation to pinpoint areas within Rome that are suitable for urban vineyard development. The study will encompass not only geographical and agricultural considerations but also strategies for the cultural and educational promotion of these vineyards.



Rome, Italy ©Maria Vonotna/Shutterstock

8.2.1 Co-operation in research and development

European Route of Historic Pharmacies



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



2nd Annual International Forum on Historic Pharmacies and Medicinal Gardens



11-12 March 2024

Rijeka, Croatia 



The second Forum, organised by the Aromas Itinerarium Salutis (AIS) association, in partnership with Jadran Galenski Laboratorij, the JGL Pharmacy Museum, the Municipality of Rijeka, the Rijeka Tourism Board, the Civic Museum, and the University of Rijeka (UNIRI), convened specialists from 12 European nations. The forum included the AIS General Assembly, expert-led discussions centered on the theme "Building the Future from Heritage to Education", and cultural events that showcased Rijeka's extensive historical background. This gathering promoted the exchange of knowledge and reinforced the interdisciplinary network dedicated to the European Route of Historic Pharmacies. The event culminated in a ceremony honouring the induction of 23 new members and 4 countries (France, Hungary, Bulgaria, Lithuania) into AIS.



Forum Participants at the JGL Pharmacy Museum, Rijeka, Croatia ©AIS

European Route of Historic Thermal Towns



THE EUROPEAN
ROUTE OF
HISTORIC
THERMAL
TOWNS

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



European Spa Heritage Festival



9-10 October 2024

Saratoga Springs, NY, USA 



The European Route of Historic Thermal Towns, in collaboration with international partners, organised a conference at Saratoga Spa State Park, as part of the expert forum European Thermal Heritage Day. This event occurred during the International Spa Heritage Festival and coincided with the Centennial Celebration of the New York State Park system. A significant aspect of the event was the visit of a delegation from the European Historic Thermal Towns Association (EHTTA), which sought to honor the heritage of Saratoga Spa and to share insights into European spa culture with American attendees. EHTTA encompasses 50 thermal destinations across 18 European nations, and Saratoga Spa State Park has been an international partner of EHTTA for the past two years. The delegation comprised officials, mayors, and tourism leaders from over 11 countries, including Italy, Spain, Croatia, Germany, and France. A B2B tourism workshop for the travel trade, supported by the European Travel Commission (ETC), was also conducted.



Participants in the European Spa Heritage Festival in Saratoga Springs, USA ©EHTTA

7.2.2 Enhancement of memory, history and European heritage

Cluniac Sites in Europe



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



Second scientific seminar on the UNESCO candidacy



21-23 October 2024

Carrión de los Condes, Spain



The second scientific seminar concerning the UNESCO candidacy of the Cluniac network took place at the historic monastery of San Zoilo de Carrión de los Condes in Spain. This event was organised by the Federation in collaboration with the Diputación de Palencia, the Junta de Castilla y León, the Bureau of the candidacy, and the Cluny Ibérica association. Coordinated by project manager Enrique SAIZ, the seminar convened representatives from the Cluniac Territorial and Local Committees, which include Cluniac sites affiliated with the FESC, alongside international experts specialising in World Heritage.

The primary objective was to enhance the methodology for establishing the Cluniac property and to develop a provisional list of sites that will advocate for the Outstanding Universal Value of the Cluniac property as it seeks World Heritage designation.



Second scientific seminar on the UNESCO candidacy in Carrión de los Condes, Spain
© European Federation of Cluniac Sites

Huguenot and Waldensian Trail



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



Traveling exhibition "Taking Root: Humans and Plants in Exile"



Since 2023

Several cities in France , Germany , Italy and Switzerland



The travelling exhibition titled "Taking Root: Men and Plants in Exile" was organised for autumn 2023. The displayed items are diverse, including panels, flags, cubes, boxes, crates and scarves, among others. These artefacts illustrate the knowledge and skills related to plants and dietary practices that were carried by the Huguenots and Vaudois. The exhibition strategically positioned in towns and villages across France, Germany, Italy and Switzerland along the historical route, is frequently enhanced by various cultural activities such as lectures, tastings, festivals, and musical performances. The years 2023 and 2024 saw a significant number of visitors. For 2025, the exhibition has already been booked by multiple local authorities, churches and community organisations.



The exhibition 'Taking root, Men and Plants in Exile', Waldensian Museum in Mörfelden-Walldorf, Germany ©Claudia Batistella, Waldensian Museum

7.2.2 Enhancement of memory, history and European heritage

European Route of Jewish Heritage



MiDorLeDor Project Europe

July and September 2024

Warsaw, Poland  and Berlin, Germany 

The third phase of the MiDorLeDor-Europe cooperative project meeting took place in Warsaw from 7-12 July, organised by the AEPJ in collaboration with the Taube Center for Jewish Life & Learning, Centropa and the Jewish Heritage Network. During this five-day event, the project's team of trainers participated in rigorous training sessions to prepare for an upcoming educator training programme focused on Jewish heritage across various European nations. This programme resumed in September in Berlin, Germany, signifying the conclusion of the trainers' training and the initiation of decentralised activities.

MiDorLeDor-Europe, which translates to "from generation to generation" in Hebrew, is an interdisciplinary and inclusive educational initiative for early-career professionals aimed at fostering the transmission of Jewish heritage in Europe.



Third phase of the MiDorLeDor-Europe in Warsaw, Poland ©AEPJ

Route of St. Olav Ways



ST.OLAV WAYS
THE PILGRIM PATHS TO TRONDHEIM

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



Specialised workshop on St. Olav

October 2024

Norwich, England 

A specialised workshop focused on St. Olav took place in Norwich, England, in October. This event was organised through a collaboration between Norwich Cathedral and Norfolk County Council, alongside experts associated with the St. Olav Route, to investigate the historical ties between Scandinavia, Norfolk and various parts of the United Kingdom. The workshop drew participation from churches and heritage sites honouring St. Olav, including representatives from the Orkney Islands, the Isle of Man, London, Cumbria, Chester and York. Notably, Norfolk County Council has become the inaugural UK member of the St. Olav Ways, thereby enhancing the network of St. Olav heritage sites across the UK and establishing a foundation for the future expansion of St Olav Ways within the country.



Specialised workshop on St. Olav, October 2024, Norwich, England ©Association for the Route of St. Olav Ways, ACSOW



Women Writers Walks at European Heritage Days



25 September 2024, Nova Gorica, Slovenia
3 Oct 2024, Celje, Slovenia 🇸🇮



The Women Writers Route played a significant role in this year's European Heritage Days, themed "Routes, Network and Connections". In the context of the Heritage Days programme, it coordinated the activities of all Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe that traverse Slovenia. Additionally, the Women Writers Route organised two guided tours that traced the paths of writers Ljubka ŠORLI in Nova Gorica and Alma KARLIN in Celje. Both authors are featured in the Women Writers Route. Through these initiatives, the Route successfully developed two new cultural tourism offerings and enhanced the visibility of both the Women Writers Route and the overall programme.



Walking tour on Alma Karlin in Celje, Slovenia ©WWR

7.2.3 Cultural and educational exchanges for young Europeans



Active Remembrance Youth Programme



November 2024
Breda, Netherlands 🇳🇱



Active Remembrance represents a methodology for memory transmission that emphasises the acquisition of historical knowledge through immersive experiences. The Active Remembrance Youth Project (ARYP) exemplifies this strategy, specifically aimed at engaging younger audiences and fostering their active participation in historical discourse. Participants were involved in diverse activities, including the curation of personal narratives and biographies, the installation and unveiling of 'Vectors of Memory' (LRE trail markers designed by architect Daniel Libeskind), as well as the creation of podcasts, interviews and video productions. The initiative was supported by the European Union, with all interactions occurring along the LRE route.



Youth Exchange group of the Active Remembrance Youth Programme visit the Polish Field of Honour at the Maczek Memorial in Breda, the Netherlands ©LRE Foundation

7.2.3 Cultural and educational exchanges for young Europeans

TRANSROMANICA

TRANSROMANICA
The Romanesque Routes of European Heritage

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



3rd TRANSROMANICA Award



4 June 2024

Seehausen, Germany



The third international TRANSROMANICA award was bestowed upon Dr. Birgit HEINZE, Ms Christine JAHN and Ms Kathrin SCHNEIDER in recognition of their exceptional voluntary contributions at the extracurricular learning site located within the Kaiserdom in Königsutter am Elm. Driven by a strong motivation to enhance the sense of identity among young individuals through a connection to their local heritage, the extracurricular learning center has experienced significant growth. The centre offers 11 workshops focused on creativity, history, religion, music, architecture and herbalism, making it a truly unique educational experience.



3rd TRANSROMANICA Award 2024 ©Annemarie Schmidt

The Hansa



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



Baltic Sea Youth Dialogue 2024



11-16 November 2024

Gdansk, Poland



The 11th edition of the Baltic Sea Youth Dialogue was held from 11-16 November in Gdansk, Poland. This event brought together 20 young individuals from the Baltic Sea region, including representatives from several Hanseatic cities, to engage in discussions, workshops and input sessions focused on their shared cultural heritage and contemporary regional connections. The initiative was co-organised by the Council of the Baltic Sea States and The Hansa, with active involvement from the youth Hansa. Funding for the project was provided by the German Federal Foreign Office. Participants created resources on Hanseatic cities and other relevant stakeholders in the Baltic Sea region, designed to engage more young people in cultural heritage.



Baltic Sea Youth Dialogue 2024, Gdansk, Poland ©CBSS

Destination Napoleon



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



"Napoleon, the Hidden Gems" project



26 October 2024
Autun, France



Napoleon, the Hidden Gems initiative, has been established in collaboration between the Centro documentazione Residenze Reali Lombarde, Conservatoire de Musique du Grand Autunois Morvan and conductor Mr Stefano NIGRO. This project aimed to revive and promote the music composed for Napoleon's family, which has remained unpublished and stored in the archives of the Conservatorio di Milano for the past two centuries. The travel expenses for Mr NIGRO were funded by Culture Moves Europe. The concert was held on 26th October at the Autun Municipal Theatre and served as a pilot for an upcoming project focused on rediscovering this lesser-known repertoire.



"Napoleon, the hidden gems" concert at the Autun Municipal Theater, France ©Destination Napoleon

Santiago de Compostela Pilgrim Routes



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



Flag relay along the Camino Podolico route: "The road of the Ukrainian flag across Europe"



14 May-6 June 2024
Vinnytsia, Ukraine



Two flags commenced their journey in Vinnytsia, marking the starting point of the Camino Podolico route. These flags were transported by enthusiastic youth along this pilgrimage path. Subsequently, the flags were entrusted to Roman Stepanenko, a Ukrainian resident of Karlsruhe (a sister city to Vinnytsia) for over a decade. Roman and his companions continued the journey with the flags along the Camino Inglés. One flag was deposited in the Santiago Pilgrimage Museum, while the other was returned to Vinnytsia, where it is now preserved in the local museum.

Camino Podolico, also known as the St. James Way of Podillia, has emerged as the first officially organised walking and cycling cultural route in Ukraine. This route traverses the scenic cities of Podillia, a historical region of Ukraine that showcases over seven centuries of European history, evident in its sacred and secular architecture.



Ukrainian flag relay along the Camino Podolico route 2024 ©Vinnytsia City Council

7.2.4 Contemporary cultural and artistic practice

European Route of Ceramics



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



"Ceramics at the Palace" exhibition

30 August-22 September 2024

Palazzo del Podestà, Faenza, Italy 

This exhibition drew inspiration from the high standards of European applied arts, serving as a call to revisit the knowledge inherent in craftsmanship and the aesthetic appeal of everyday objects, alongside exquisite furnishings found in private art collections and museums along the European Route of Ceramics. Its objective was to strengthen the relationship with the broader realms of design and art, showcasing a curated selection of distinctive items and limited edition artworks that exemplify the ceramic creations of collaborators associated with the European Route of Ceramics. The exhibition featured approximately one hundred ceramic pieces crafted by renowned artisans and masters within this artistic tradition.



The Palazzo del Podestà was the venue for the exhibition "Ceramic at the Palace" in Faenza, Italy ©European Route of Ceramics/Andrea Piffari

European Route of Industrial Heritage



European
Route
of Industrial
Heritage

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



ERIH Annual Conference

23-25 October 2024

Łódź, Poland 

The 20th ERIH Annual Conference, held in October, in Łódź, Poland, attracted approximately 120 attendees in person and 80 participants online. Participants engaged in discussions regarding the implementation of sustainability in industrial heritage sites. The event featured a range of presentations showcasing practical case studies, as well as working groups and discussion panels. Additionally, the conference included an excursion programme that highlighted significant sites of industrialisation in Łódź.



ERIH Annual Conference 2024 ©ERIH e.V.

Leonardo Da Vinci Route



LE VIE DI
LEONARDO
DA VINCI

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



"Leonardo Da Vinci Route" exhibition



2023-ongoing
Udine and Vinci, Italy 



This art exhibition features 53 pieces, each created by a participating artist, offering a contemporary interpretation of Leonardo DA VINCI. The artworks encompass a range of mediums, including sculpture, mixed media and digital sculpture. Artists from all four founding countries of the Network are represented. Following its initial stop in Udine, the exhibition made its appearance in Vinci in April 2024. The travelling exhibition is set to continue in 2025, with planned stops in Slovenia, Amboise in France, and various cities in Türkiye, including Adana, Izmir, Ankara and Istanbul. Each venue of the exhibition is accompanied by a printed catalogue titled 'ItaliArts,' which features all exhibited works and introduces the artists.



Exhibition "Leonardo Da Vinci Route" ©European Leonardo DA VINCI Ways

Phoenicians' Route



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



"CYPREA: The Network of Aphrodite" exhibition



27 September-27 November 2024
Colosseum Archaeological Park, Rome, Italy 



The international exhibition "CYPREA: The Network of Aphrodite" was held at the Colosseum Archaeological Park in Rome, Italy, under the artistic leadership of Ms Stefania PENNACCHIO and the scientific guidance of Ms Fulvia TOSCANO. This exhibition intricately combined contemporary art with archaeological elements, honouring the figure of Aphrodite and exploring the cultural and historical connections within the Mediterranean region. It showcased the works of eight artists from Italy and Cyprus. The inauguration was attended by notable figures, including Ms Alfonsina RUSSO, Head of the Department of Cultural Heritage at the Italian Ministry of Culture; Ms Eugenia ROCCELLA, Minister for Equal Opportunities and the Family; Mr Alessandro GIULI, Minister of Culture; and Mr Yiorgos CHRISTOFIDES, the Ambassador of Cyprus to Rome.

















27 settembre - 26 novembre 2024
Museo del Foro Romano - ingresso arco di Tito
Parco Archeologico del Colosseo, Roma

CYPREA

LA RETE
DI AFRODITE
A cura di
Giorgio Calcarà

Gabriels
Rosa Mundi
Stefania Pennacchio
Nicola Veriato

Eleni Kyndini
Lefteris Tapas
Panikos Tembriotis
Vassilis Vassiliades

7.2.5 Cultural tourism and sustainable development



Alvar AALTO Route

ALVAR AALTO ROUTE
20th Century Architecture and Design

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



Promoting the Alvar AALTO Route at international travel fairs

18-21 January 2024, Helsinki, Finland 
5-7 March 2024, Berlin, Germany 

In 2024, the Alvar AALTO Route took part in the Matka Nordic Travel Fair held in Helsinki and Berlin, with backing from the Finnish Heritage Agency. The primary objective was to enhance awareness of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe and to advocate for sustainable cultural tourism. At the Helsinki event, the exhibition highlighted various Alvar AALTO locations, allowing route members to engage in networking with attendees. Meanwhile, the route was represented in



Berlin by its own booth within the Visit Finland exhibit. Additionally, a new catalogue for the Alvar AALTO Route, which included details on route sites and travel packages, was launched at both events.



Matka Nordic Travel Fair, Helsinki, Finland ©Alvar AALTO Route

European Cemeteries Route



**EUROPEAN
CEMETERIES
ROUTE**

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



Week of discovering European Cemeteries: Environmental sustainability and climate change

24 May-2 June 2024
Europe-wide

The cultural heritage of notable cemeteries is manifested not only in their remarkable monuments and mausoleums, but also in the thoughtfully designed and tranquil horticultural landscapes that accompany them. In 2024, the Association of Significant Cemeteries of Europe encouraged their members to host events during the Week of Discovering European Cemeteries, thereby aligning their annual initiatives with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 11 from the 2030 Agenda: to create inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements. A total of 22 members from 7



European nations participated by organising over 30 events focused on sustainability, which included guided tours and exhibitions aimed at promoting awareness and understanding of sustainable development.



Central Cemetery, Vienna, Austria ©Natalija Popović;

Le Corbusier Destinations

Architectural Promenades
DESTINATIONS LE CORBUSIER
Promenades architecturales

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



Two exhibitions during the European Heritage Days 2024



September 2024

France 🇫🇷 (Ronchamp, Pessac, Firminy, Paris, Val-de-Brie, Marseille, Rezé) and Switzerland 🇨🇭 (La-Chaux-de-Fonds)



In 2024, Le Corbusier sites organised two concurrent exhibitions for the European Heritage Days: "Destinations Le Corbusier: Architectural Promenades" and "Depuis nos corbus". This initiative encompassed eight cities and sought to enhance cultural tourism opportunities for local populations, enabling them to reconnect with their regional heritage while exploring distant locations. Additionally, a unified programme showcased all scheduled activities for the European Heritage Days and underscored the intersections of cultural routes throughout France, Switzerland and Germany. The city of Pessac organised guided tours for 363 visitors, and the Chapel in Ronchamp welcomed nearly 1,150 visitors during the EHD.



Le Corbusier Destinations exhibition: architectural promenades presented in Ronchamp, La-Chaux-de-Fonds, Firminy, Pessac and Paris, France ©Association of Le Corbusier Sites

Iron Curtain Trail – EuroVelo 13



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



Online meeting on EuroVelo 13



27 June 2024
Online 🌐



This online meeting provided a platform for participants to gain a deeper insight into the significance of being recognised as a Cultural Route of the Council of Europe and the ways in which this recognition can enhance the full potential of Iron Curtain Trail – EuroVelo 13. Discussions also encompassed the management of EuroVelo 13 in its capacity as a Cultural Route, alongside the role of the Scientific Committee. Over 35 partners from 14 different countries convened for this event, which included National EuroVelo Coordination Centres associated with EuroVelo 13, project collaborators from ICTr-CE and members of the Scientific Committee for EuroVelo 13 as Cultural Route.



Part of the Iron Curtain Trail – EuroVelo 13 ©European Cyclists' Federation, ECF

7.2.5 Cultural tourism and sustainable cultural development

European Route of Megalithic Culture



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



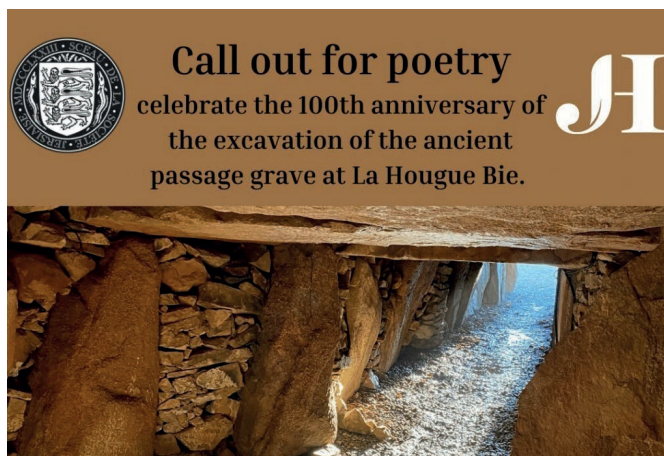
100 Years of La Hougue Bie



14-15 September 2024
St. Helier, Jersey



To commemorate the centenary of the excavation at La Hougue Bie, the Société Jersiaise, in collaboration with Jersey Heritage, arranged a variety of public events. Attendees participated in numerous on-site activities that transported them to the Neolithic period, such as workshops for crafting shell jewelry, demonstrations of flint knapping and guided explorations of the megalithic structure. Additionally, the festivities included poetry readings in the local Jèrriais language and a modern musical installation titled "Lithophilia".



©Société Jersiaise

Prehistoric Rock Art Trails



CAMINOS DE ARTE RUPESTRE PRÉHISTÓRICO
PREHISTORIC ROCK ART TRAILS
CHEMINS DE L'ART RUPESTRE PRÉHISTORIQUE

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



ART-POINTS - Multimedia services for visiting cave destinations without a guided tour



22 July 2024-30 September 2025
Various sites



ART-POINTS represents an innovative technological initiative designed to enhance the experience of visiting archaeological sites featuring rock art, particularly in locations lacking guided tour services. This project encompasses the development of various applications that are hosted on a sophisticated web platform, accessible through QR codes or NFC technology embedded in 'Art-points' beacons. The applications offer a comprehensive guided tour of the site, including presentations by a virtual guide, videos, supplementary images, text information and augmented reality features.



©PRAT-CARP Association

**Project HIKE****1 April 2024-30 September 2025****Italy** , **Greece**  and **Türkiye** 

HIKE fosters healthier living by integrating walking, cultural experiences and sports along designated Cultural Routes. This initiative encompasses events in Italy, Greece, and Türkiye, highlighting the unique heritage and natural landscapes of these regions. The project commenced with workshops aimed at physical readiness, uniting local communities, specialists and international attendees. More than 800 participants across the three nations engaged in hands-on workshops concerning preparation and safety, as well as in walking events that included sports and cultural excursions, thereby reinforcing cultural ties and promoting wellbeing throughout the Mediterranean area.






Via Francigena Project HIKE, Bari, Italy ©EAVF

7.3 Extra-budgetary projects

Extra-budgetary funding: some examples






In addition to their ordinary budgets, certified Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe receive extra-budgetary funding from different sources (European Union direct and indirect funding, regional funds, etc.). In 2024, 18 Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe submitted information on extra budgetary funding. For their individual and joint projects, they received funding totalling more than 8.5 million euros, in particular from European Union funding programmes in the cultural, educational and local development sectors. Below you will find a non-exhaustive list of projects implemented by certified Cultural Routes in 2024 through extra-budgetary funding sources.

Individual projects

Route	Title of Project	Date	Total Budget <i>Part of the total budget of the Cultural Route*</i>	Source of Funding
Alvar AALTO Route 	Cultural Travel Ecosystem Project	1 January 2022 -31 May 2024	216 666 € *195 000 €	Next Generation EU
	Promoting international visibility and sustainable cultural tourism	20 June 2023 -31 December 2024	47 696 € *43 360 €	Finnish Heritage Agency
	Strength from sustainability on Alvar AALTO Route	1 June 2024 -31 December 2025	73 700 € *60 300 €	Finnish Heritage Agency
Cluniac Sites in Europe 	Cluny and Cluniac Sites in Europe, UNESCO World Heritage candidature	2024 (since 2018)	341 500 € *60 500 €	Regional and local authorities
Cyril and Methodius Route 	International Co-operation in the Development of Thematic Cultural Routes	May 2024	11 500 €	Norway Funds, EEA grants
	Religiosity and the values of sustainability	1 July 2023 - 30 June 2027	180 000 € *90 000 €	The Slovak Research and Development Agency
	Religious Tourism in Slovakia and its Potential for Regional Development	1 January 2024 -30 December 2026	17 969 €	The Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth of the Slovak Republic - Cultural and Educational Agency
	Erasmus+ KA171 Call 2023	2023-2027	573 170 €	SAAIC - Erasmus+ National Agency for Education and Training (SK01)
	Erasmus+ KA171 Call 2024	2024-2027	489 060 € *114 750 €	SAAIC - Erasmus+ National Agency for Education and Training (SK01)
	Conference: "The European Cultural Route of Saints Cyril and Methodius in the Cultural Heritage of Skopje and Greater Skopje Area"	February 2024 -November 2024	4 400 €	Ministry of Culture - Republic of North Macedonia

Cyril and Methodius Route 	Cisterscapes connecting Europe	2019 - 2024	1 500 000 € *31 000 €	Bavarian State Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Forestry; European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development; Bavarian State Heritage Office; Sparkasse Bamberg Foundation for the Promotion of Arts, Culture and Heritage Conservation; Upper Franconia Foundation; Archdiocese of Bamberg; Diocese of Würzburg; and local action groups
	Treasury of Great Moravia	2022-June 2024	5 000 000 € *2 020 000 €	ERDF (Interreg V-A SK-CZ), Zlin Region, Municipality of Modrá, sponsors + public collection
	RIMROM - cross-border Roman history	2024-2025	199 950 € *79 950 €	Small Project Fund GO! 2025 - Interreg Programme VI-A Italia-Slovenia 2021-2027
	REEVALUATE - framework for safe, open, collaborative and inclusive digitisation and management of cultural heritage	2024-2026	3 955 225 € *118 275 €	HORIZON-CL2-2023-HERITAGE-01
	Ri/VIVERE IN DOMUS	2024-2025	200 000 €	PR FESR 2021-2027 -co-financed by UE
	AQUILEIA A IMPATTO 0 ("AQUILEIA 0 IMPACT")	2024-2025	100 000 €	Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities of Italy, the Autonomous Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia, the Municipality of Aquileia, the Province of Udine and the Archbishopric of Gorizia
	Exhibition "For Cyril and Methodius, Then and Now"	2024	3 500 €	Sofia Municipality
	Cyril and Methodius Cultural Route in Bulgaria	2024	9 100 €	Ministry of Culture of Republic of Bulgaria
European Route of Ceramics 	Poland and Norway on the European Ceramics Trail: inclusion of Bolesławiec and Porsgrunn in the international network of ceramic tradition cities	2021-2024	7 400 000 € *90 262 €	Culture Programme within the EEA Financial Mechanism
	Terra che rinasce / Reborn Clay	2024-2025	95 000 € *10 000 €	PNRR by the European Union – Next Generation EU
	CERE - Ceramics Education Residence Experience	2024-2025	54 948 €	ERDF Emilia-Romagna
European Route of Historic Pharmacies 	The Sensory Landscapes of Hygeia in Europe. Act I: Spices	1 July 2024 -31 March 2025	10 000 €	European Cross-Frontier Co-operation Projects
European Route of Historic Thermal Towns 	GreenSPAS - Improving public policies of thermal spa cities and regions facing climate change	2024-2027	1 795 450 € *188 960 €	Interreg Europe
European Route of Industrial Heritage 	ERIH 4.0 – Protecting, linking and promoting Europe's industrial heritage in a changing world	1 January 2022 -31 December 2024	709 000 € *236 000 € (2024)	Creative Europe Network funding

7.3 Extra-budgetary projects

European Route of Jewish heritage 	European Days of Jewish Culture 2023: Memory	2023-2024	545 000 € *50 355 €	CERV
	NOA- Networks Overcoming Antisemitism	2024-2026	1 250 000 € *75 000 €	CERV
	THRIVE	2024-2026	*65 000 €	CERV
	MiDorLeDor Europe	2024-2026	382 775 € *59 798 €	CERV
European Routes of Emperor Charles V 	EUmunicipal: Euromunicipalism for a Unified Europe	1 May 2022 -30 April 2024	148 000 € *15 550 €	CERV
	Erasmus + Project: 'Horse4Growth: equestrian and cultural tourism, a new opportunity'	29 May-7 June 2024	28 624 €	Accreditation Erasmus + (Erasmus KA1)
	Itinera Carolus V Imperator	July 2024 -September 2025	221 240 €	Tourism Spain Experience Project of the Ministry of Industry, Tourism and Trade of the Government of Spain
	MARY4ALL: Music and Arts of the Renaissance	November 2024 -November 2026	250 086 € *37 007 €	Creative Europe Project
	The routes of Charles V in Extremadura	January 2024 -December 2024	12 000 €	Direct Grant of the Government of Extremadura
Iron Curtain Trail – EuroVelo 13 	ICTr-CE: Innovative participatory sustainable business model for cycling along the Iron Curtain Trail	2023-2026	2 670 000 € *245 200 €	Interreg Central Europe
Le Corbusier Destinations 	Le Corbusier destinations: developing a route, a network and connections as part of the EHD 2024	2024	13 850 € *10 000 €	Directorate General of Heritage and Architecture of the Ministry of Culture of France
Liberation Route Europe 	"Persecution through their Eyes"	April 2022 -February 2024 (finished)	179 710 € *105 710 €	CERV-2021-CITIZENS-REM
	"Resistance through their Eyes"	March 2023-March 2025 (ongoing)	169 135 € *95 135 €	CERV
	EDJC 2023 Memory	February 2023-July 2024	486 760 € *45 675 €	101091102- CERV-2022 CITIZENS-REM
	Active Remembrance Youth Programme	March 2024 -February 2026	342 905 €	101143730- CERV- 2023-CITIZENS-REM
	Preserving the Past, Shaping the Future: Strengthening	November 2024 -October 2026	200 000 € *106 639 €	CREA-CULT-2024-COOP
	WWII Memory Transmission in Europe			
	Art of Remembrance	November 2024 -October 2026	200 000 € *42 193 €	CREA-CULT-2024-COOP
	AI Remembers	November 2024 -October 2026	200 000 € *85 152 €	CREA-CULT-2024-COOP

Phoenicians' Route 	U-Mar promoting Enhancing underwater archaeology to make it an innovative tool for developing sustainable & creative tourism	2022-2024 (24 months)	294 844 € *70 709 €	Erasmus+
	QUEST promoting QQuality intErnships in Sustainable Tourism and cultural heritage management	2021-2024 (36 months)	380 065 € *37 321 €	Erasmus+
	SMARTIES for SMEs. Pills of Sustainable, Smart, Regenerative Tourism to Empower SMEs in the EU Mediterranean area	September 2023 -August 2026	3 154 766 € *122 211 €	COSME
	I-DEMO Improving DEstination Management Offer through game-based strategies	October 2024 -March 2027	400 000 € *60 500 €	Erasmus+
Prehistoric Rock Art Trails 	ART-POINTS Multimedia services for visiting cave destinations without a guided tour	22 July 2024 -30 September 2025	192 154 €	Next Generation EU
	Cross-roads at Cultural Routes in Spain	1 December 2024 -30 September 2025	200 000 € *40 000 €	Next Generation EU
Réseau Art Nouveau Network 	Art Nouveau: a new EUtopia. How the past can be a bridge to a sustainable future	2024-2027	1 402 570 € *181 728 €	Creative Europe
The Hansa 	Hansa Organ Project	Since October 2023	103 628 € *10 601 €	Swedish Institute
	Baltic Sea Youth Dialogue 2024 (BSYD)	15 September 2024 -31 December 2024	52 750 € *3 105 €	German Federal Foreign Office
Via Francigena 	HIKE: hiking for a healthier lifestyle	1 April 2024 -30 September 2025	200 000 € *94 000 €	Erasmus Sport
	DETOUR	1 November 2024 -30 November 2026	2 108 916 € *525 789 €	COSME
	Erasmus 2023-1-IT01/KA121/VET/000117226	1 June 2023 -31 December 2024	136 633 €	Erasmus+ VET
	Francigena Fidenza Festival 2024	11-14 April 2024	120 000 € *10 600 €	Local funding
	Training Academy of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe 2024 and EAVF General Assembly in Monte Sant'Angelo (Apulia)	7 June 2024 and 17-19 October 2024	80 000 € *68 500 €	Regional and local funding
	Project Via Francigena in Lombardy Region, towards the 2025 Jubilee	1 June 2024 -31 December 2024	35 000 € *28 000 €	Regional funding
	Carrefour des Itinéraires	25 November 2024	13 500 € *10 000 €	French Ministry of Culture, Grand Besançon Métropole
Women Writers Route 	Ljubka's Trail, a cross-border literary trail of poetry and equality	December 2023 -December 2025	197 956 € *118 621 €	Interreg (SPF)

Total N°1: 7 676 602 €

7.3 Extra-budgetary projects

Joint projects

Routes	Title of Project	Date	Total Budget	Source of Funding
- Destination Napoleon	"De d'Artagnan à Napoléon, pas à pas l'Europe de Dumas"	2023-2027	430 000 €	Erasmus+
- European Route d'Artagnan				
- Phoenicians' Route	NEXT ROUTES - Upskilling of staff through digital, creative gamification and innovative strategies for the enhancement of EU Cultural Routes	2023-2025	399 923 €	Erasmus+
- European Route of Jewish Heritage				
- European Mozart Ways				
- ATRIUM				
- Iron Age Danube Route				

Total N°2: 829 923 €










Total N°1 7 676 602 €

+ Total N°2 829 923 €





























































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7.4 New Cultural Routes network members in 2024

Each year, the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe Programme sees a growing number of network members. According to the information submitted by the Cultural Routes, **at least 131 new members** joined the Route networks and thus the Programme. Some Routes even welcomed over a dozen new members. ⁴

Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe	N° of new network members	Countries
Aeneas Route	5	 Italy (4),  Spain (1)
Alvar AALTO Route	2	 Italy (1),  Finland (1)
ATRIUM	1	 Poland (1)
Cluniac Sites in Europe	4	 France (4)
Cyril and Methodius Route	4	 Czechia (1),  Italy (2),  Poland (1)

⁴ Information submitted by the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe networks as of December 2023.

Destination Napoleon	3	 Greece (1),  France (1),  Italy (1)
European Cemeteries Route	2	 Germany (1),  Italy (1)
European Route of Ceramics	4	 France (1),  Greece (2),  Türkiye (1)
European Route of Historic Pharmacies	22	 Bulgaria (1),  France (1),  Hungary (1),  Italy (10),  Lithuania (1),  Romania (1),  Spain (7)
European Route of Historic Thermal Towns	2	 Italy (1),  Slovenia (2)
European Route of Industrial Heritage	16	 Finland (16)
European Route of Jewish Heritage	1	 Germany (1)
European Routes of Emperor Charles V	1	 Spain (1)
Iron Curtain Trail – EuroVelo 13	4	 Austria (1),  Belgium (1),  Germany (1),  Norway (1)
Iter Vitis	1	 Türkiye (1)
Leonardo Da Vinci Route	7	 France (1),  Italy (4),  Slovenia (1),  Türkiye (1)
Liberation Route Europe	16	 Belgium (1),  France (4),  Italy (7),  Netherlands (3),  Spain (1)
Phoenicians' Route	8	 Italy (6),  Slovenia (1),  Spain (1)
Prehistoric Rock Art Trails	4	 Croatia (1),  Spain (3)
Réseau Art Nouveau Network	3	 France (1),  Italy (2)
Route of Saint Olav Ways	1	 United Kingdom (1)
Routes of the Olive Tree	22	 Türkiye (1),  Italy (2),  Greece (2),  Tunisia (5),  France (6),  Italy (5),  Portugal (1)
Santiago de Compostela Pilgrim Routes	4	 Italy (1),  Poland (1),  Spain (2)
The Hansa	3	 Germany (1),  Spain (1),  Sweden (1)
Via Francigena	5	 France (1),  Italy (3),  Switzerland (1)
Women Writers Route	8	 Finland (5),  Slovenia (3)

TOTAL NEW NETWORK MEMBERS in 2024: 131*

* Information submitted by the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe networks as of December 2024

7.5 Contact information*

Santiago de Compostela Pilgrim Routes



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The Hansa



Hansebüro

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Viking Routes



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Via Francigena



European Association of the Via Francigena Ways EAVF

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Routes of El legado Andalusi



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Phoenicians' Route



International Confederation "The Phoenicians' Route"

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Iron Route in the Pyrenees



Asociación "Ruta del hierro en los Pirineos"

info@ironrouteintheypyrenees.com
www.ironrouteintheypyrenees.com

European Mozart Ways



Europäische Mozart Wege e.V.

office@mozartways.com
www.mozartways.com

European Route of Jewish Heritage



AEJ Association Européenne pour la Préservation et la Valorisation de la Culture et du Patrimoine Juif

aepj@jewishheritage.org
director@jewishheritage.org
www.jewishheritage.org

Saint Martin of Tours Route



Fédération Européenne Centre Culturel Saint Martin

contact@saintmartindetours.eu
www.saintmartindetours.eu

Cluniac Sites in Europe



European Federation of Cluniac Sites

administration@sitesclunisiens.org
www.sitesclunisiens.org

Routes of the Olive Tree



Cultural Foundation "Routes of the Olive Tree"

info@olivetreeroute.gr
www.olivetreeroute.org

Via Regia



European Center for Culture and Information in Thuringia

netz@via-regia.org
www.via-regia.org

TRANSROMANICA-The Romanesque Routes of European Heritage



TRANSROMANICA Association
info@transromanica.com
www.transromanica.eu

Iter Vitis Route



"Iter Vitis" International Federation
info@itervitis.eu
www.itervitis.eu

European Cemeteries Route



Association of Significant Cemeteries in Europe, ASCE
admin@significantcemeteries.org
www.cemeteriesroute.eu

Prehistoric Rock Art Trails



International Association PRAT-CARP
info@prehistour.eu
www.prehistour.eu

European Route of Historic Thermal Towns



European Route of Historic Thermal Towns Association, EHTTA
contact@ehtta.eu
www.ehtta.eu

The Route of Saint Olav Ways



Association for the Route of St. Olav Ways (ACSOW)
post@acsow.org
www.acsow.org

The European Route of Ceramics



Associazione Strada Europea della Ceramica
europeanrouteofceramics@comune.faenza.ra.it
www.europeanrouteofceramics.eu

The European Route of Megalithic Culture



Megalithic Routes e.V.
info@megalithicroutes.eu
www.megalithicroutes.eu

The Huguenot and Waldensian Trail



Union internationale "Sur les pas des Huguenots et des Vaudois"
info@surlespasdeshuguenots.eu
www.surlespasdeshuguenots.eu

ATRIUM-Architecture of Totalitarian Regimes of the 20th Century in Europe's Urban Memory



ATRIUM Association
info@atriumroute.eu
www.atriumroute.eu

Réseau Art Nouveau Network



Réseau Art Nouveau Network asbl
info@artnouveau-net.eu
www.artnouveau-net.eu

Via Habsburg



Via Habsburg
viahabsburg@outlook.com
www.viahabsburg.online

The Roman Emperors and Danube Wine Route



Danube Competence Center
office@danubec.org
www.romanemperorsroute.org

7.5 Contact information

The European Routes of Emperor Charles V



Co-operation Network of European Routes of Emperor Charles V

management@itineracarolusv.eu
admin@itineracarolusv.eu
www.itineracarolusv.eu
www.theroutesofcharlesv.com

Destination Napoleon



European Federation of Napoleonic Cities

contact@napoleoncities.eu
www.napoleoncities.eu
www.destination-napoleon.eu

In the Footsteps of Robert Louis Stevenson



European Network in the Footsteps of Robert Louis Stevenson

contact@rlstevenson-europe.org
www.rlstevenson-europe.org

Fortified Towns of the Grande Région



Réseau des Villes fortifiées de la Grande Région

rvgr@free.fr
www.villesfortifiees.eu

Impressionisms Routes



Association "Eau & Lumière"

lucenet.georges@wanadoo.fr
www.impressionismsroutes.com

European Route of Industrial Heritage



European Route of Industrial Heritage (ERIH)

info@erih.net
www.erih.net

Iron Curtain Trail



European Cyclists' Federation

office@ecf.com
www.eurovelo13.com

Le Corbusier Destinations: Architectural Promenades



Association des Sites Le Corbusier

association@sites-le-corbusier.org
www.sites-le-corbusier.org

Liberation Route Europe



"Liberation Route Europe" International Association

info@liberationroute.com
www.liberationroute.com

European Route of Historic Gardens



European Network of Historic Gardens

info@europeanhistoricgardens.eu
www.europeanhistoricgardens.eu

Via Romea Germanica



European Association of Via Romea Germanica

contact@viaromeagermanica.info
www.viaromeagermanica.info

Aeneas Route



"Aeneas Route" Association

info@rottadienea.it
edremitstrateji@gmail.com
www.aeneasroute.org

Alvar AALTO Route



Cultural Route on AALTO's Architecture and Design Heritage Association

route@alvarAALTO.fi
visit.alvarAALTO.fi

Cyril and Methodius Route



Association of the European Cultural Route of Saints Cyril and Methodius

info@cyril-methodius.eu
www.cyril-methodius.eu/en

European Route d'Artagnan



Association of the European Route d'Artagnan

secretariat.routedartagnan@gmail.com
www.route-dartagnan.eu

Iron Age Danube Route



Iron Age Danube Route Association

ironagedanuberoute@gmail.com
www.ironagedanuberoute.com

Historic Cafés Route



historiccafesroute@gmail.com
www.historiccafesroute.com

The European Fairy Tale Route



info@europeanfairyyaleroute.eu
www.europeanfairytalesroute.eu

Women Writers Route



Cultural Tourist Association Women Writers Route

info@womenwriters.eu
www.womenwriters.eu

Transhumance trails



Fundación General de la Universidad de La Laguna

info@ttrr.eu
transhumance.eu@gmail.com
www.ttrr.eu

Leonardo Da Vinci Route



European Leonardo DA VINCI Ways

leviedileonardodavinci@gmail.com
www.leviedileonardodavinci.com

European Route of Historic Pharmacies



AROMAS ITINERARIUM SALUTIS - The European Route of Historical Pharmacies and Medicinal Gardens

director@aromassalutis.eu
www.aromassalutis.eu



Cultural Routes

Home

Cultural Routes

Certification

Activities

Member States

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Resources

About

You are here: Democracy and Human Dignity > Cultural Routes > Cultural Routes



Cultural Routes

The Cultural Routes are grass-roots networks promoting the principles which underlie all the work and values of the Council of Europe: human rights, cultural democracy, cultural diversity, mutual understanding and exchanges across boundaries. They act as channels for intercultural dialogue and promote a better knowledge and understanding of European history.



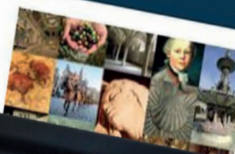
List of certified Cultural Routes



List of Countries crossed by certified Cultural Routes



Cultural Routes Database (members)



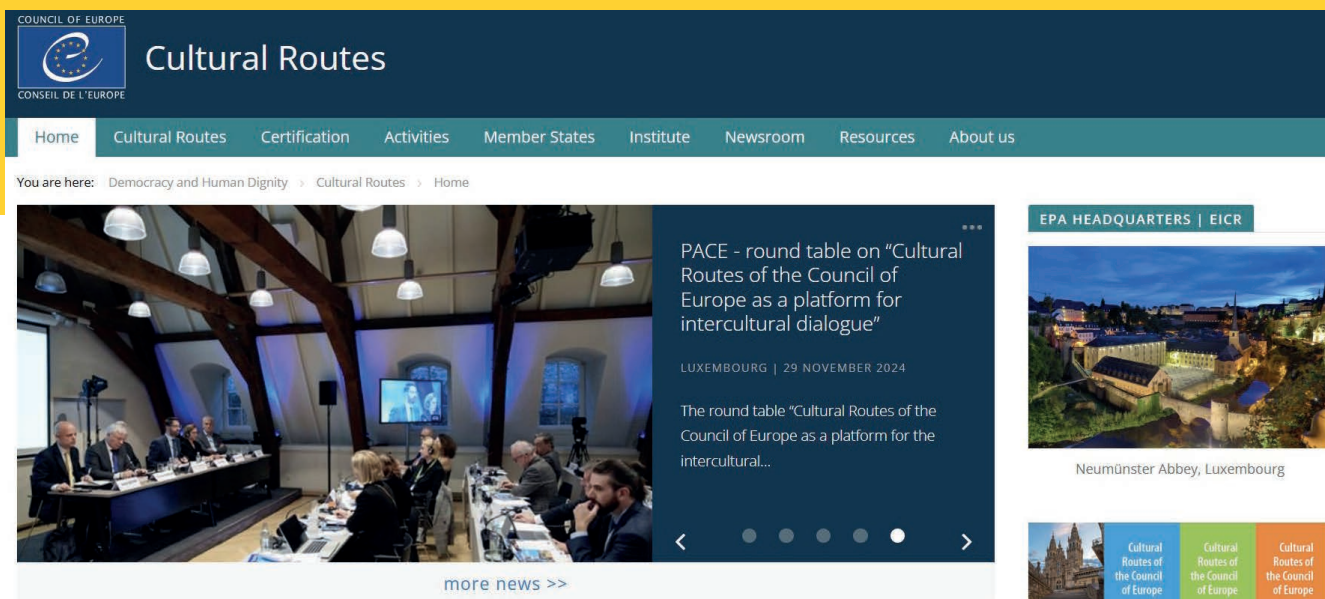


8

Communication and visibility



8.1 - Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe Programme website



Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme

Launched by the Council of Europe in 1987, the **Cultural Routes** demonstrate, by means of **a journey through space and time**, how the heritage of the **different countries and cultures** of Europe contributes to a **shared and living cultural heritage**.

Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe Programme website

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



New Branding Brochures
of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe
Programme



Since April 2017, the Council of Europe online portal has had a website dedicated to the programme, which provides extensive information on the EPA, the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme and on the European Institute of Cultural Routes. It is available in eight languages: English, French, German, Italian, Polish, Russian, Spanish and Turkish.

It provides information on:

Cultural Routes by theme, country and certification

Cycles (links to individual certified Cultural Routes websites)

Activities (Annual Advisory Forum, Training Academy, Academic Workshop etc.)

Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes member States (links to the websites of the responsible ministries)

European Institute of Cultural Routes

Newsroom (48 news posts in 2024)

Contact details

Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe Databases

Since 2017, the EPA Secretariat has collected best practices implemented by the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe in five fields of action. Since June 2020, the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe database has hosted a structured and extensive database together with an interactive map organising all 3 500+ network members of the 48 certified Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe. In 2024, the EPA Secretariat launched a database dedicated to best practices, enabling users to search for these practices based on various parameters, including year of certification, member States, certified Cultural Routes, certification criteria and format. The database is continuously updated.



Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe Database interface

Resources and visibility material

- Activity Reports from 2017-2024
- Three branding booklets available: one for member States, one for travellers and one for Cultural Routes, available in English and French, updated in 2024
- Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe brochure: available in English, French, Armenian, Italian, Polish and Turkish
- Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe leaflets: available in English, French, German, Italian, Spanish, Armenian, Catalan, Georgian, Greek, Hungarian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Polish, Romanian, Russian, Swedish, Turkish, Ukrainian and Luxembourgish
- Visibility products (notepad, bags, folders, pens etc.)
- Roll-ups on the 48 Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe: available English and French 2024
- Reference texts and conventions (Resolutions, declarations and roadmaps etc.)
- Country mapping documents for Armenia (English), Montenegro (English and French), Poland (English and French), Türkiye (English and French) and Georgia (English and French)
- Joint report on the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe and Ibero-America – summary, available in English, Spanish and Portuguese
- Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe report 2023: "The Cultural Routes: A platform for intercultural dialogue", available in English and French



Sections of Ressources of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe website



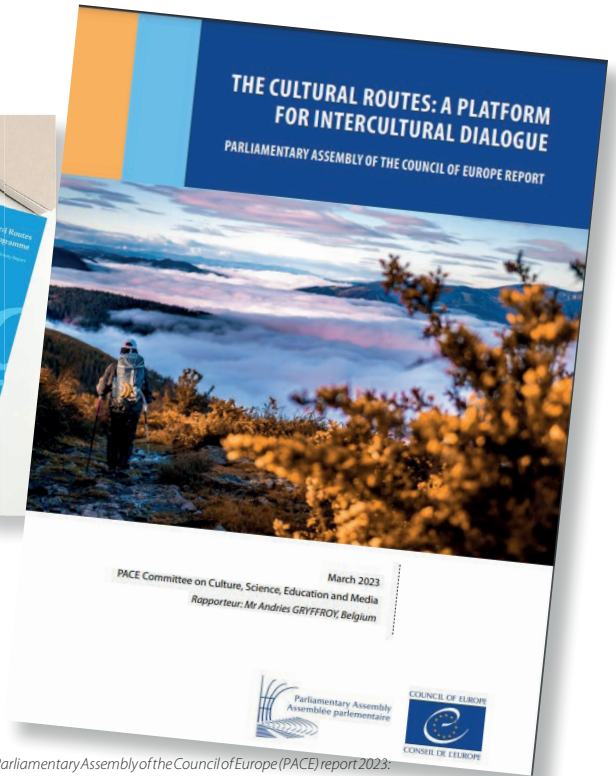
Roll-ups on the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe 2024

8.1 - Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe Programme website

RESOURCES AND VISIBILITY MATERIAL



Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe Activity reports 2020-2022



Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) report 2023: "The Cultural Routes: a platform for intercultural dialogue"



Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe branding booklets for member States, travellers and Cultural Routes 2024



Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe



Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe leaflet 2024



Country mapping documents for Montenegro, Poland and Türkiye

SOCIAL MEDIA

16 400 +
followers
on Facebook
in 2024

48
newsroom posts
in 2024

facebook

Cultural Routes
of the Council of Europe
programme

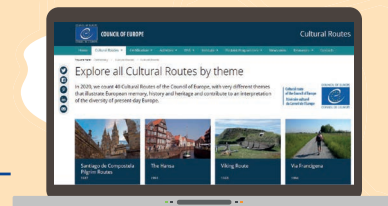
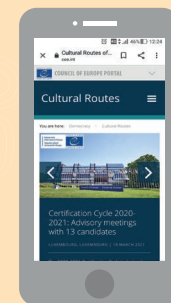
+60
news posts
on Facebook
in 2024

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

www.coe.int/routes







2025 outlook



***14th Annual Advisory Forum
- Nevşehir, Cappadocia, Türkiye -***

2025

EPA activities

*(in the framework of Luxembourg's
Presidency of the Committee of Ministers
of the Council of Europe)*

13th November-14th May 2025,
Strasbourg, FR

Governing Board meeting of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe

6th-7th May,
Luxembourg, LU

General Assembly and Board of Directors meeting of the European Institute of Cultural Routes

May,
Luxembourg, LU

Governing Board Bureau meeting of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe

25th-26th February,
Luxembourg, LU

Workshop for Cultural Routes candidates

*(in the framework of the
2025-2026 Certification cycle)*

May, Luxembourg, LU

**2025-2026
certification cycle
launch**

31st July,
Luxembourg, LU

**Statutory Committee
of member States,
Enlarged Partial Agreement
on Cultural Routes
of the Council of Europe**

October,
Strasbourg, FR

**General Assembly and
Board of Directors
meeting of the
European Institute of
Cultural Routes,**

October,
Luxembourg, LU

2026

**12th Training Academy
on Cultural Routes
of the Council of Europe
("Destination Napoleon"
and "Iter Vitis")**

11st-13rd June,
Torres Vedras, PT

**Governing Board
meeting of the Enlarged
Partial Agreement on
Cultural Routes of the
Council of Europe**

*(during the 14th Annual Advisory
Forum on Cultural Routes of the
Council of Europe)*

22nd October 2025,
Nevşehir, Cappadocia, TR

**14th Annual
Advisory Forum on
Cultural Routes of the
Council of Europe**

22nd-24th October 2025,
Nevşehir, Cappadocia, TR





10

Financial statements



10 - Financial statements

Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe

(Funded by member States)

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Ordinary budget	320 322 €	331 600 €	352 000 €	364 000 €	377 800 €	384 600 €	537 900 €	608 500 €	633 900 €
Extra-budgetary resources (Voluntary contributions)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Luxembourg	-	-	5 200 €	-	-	-	-	-	-
Georgia	-	-	-	20 000 €	-	-	-	-	-
France	-	-	-	5 000 €	20 000 €	103 000 €	-	-	-
Switzerland	-	-	-	-	-	10 000 €	-	-	-
Total *	320 322 €	331 600 €	357 200 €	389 000 €	377 800 €	497 600 €	537 900 €	608 500 €	633 900 €

* The total income does not include the financial resources of each Cultural Route of the Council of Europe

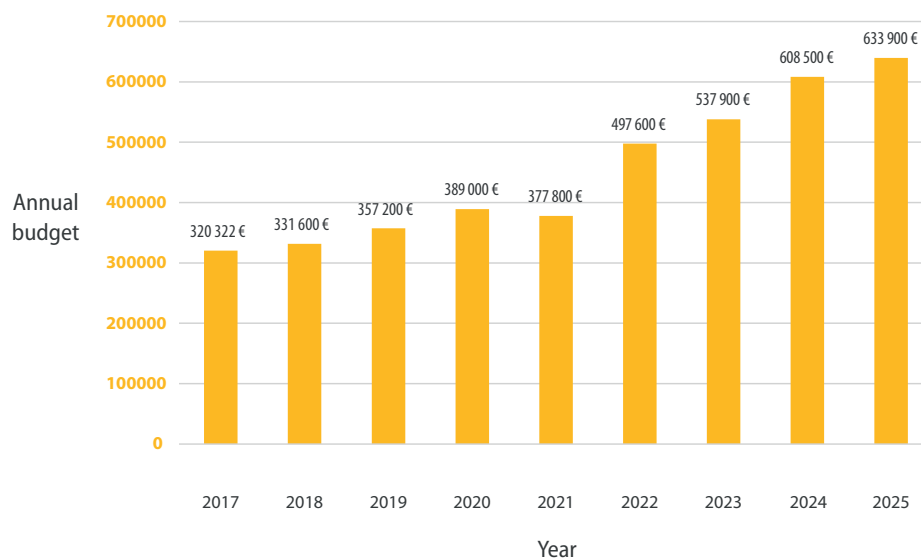
European Institute of Cultural Routes (Funded by the Ministry of Culture, Government of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg)

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Ordinary budget	200 000 €	210 000 €	210 000 €	250 000 €	255 000 €	260 000 €	273 000 €	273 000 €	324 000 €
Extra-budgetary resources (Voluntary contributions)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ministry of Culture, Government of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg	-	-	30 000 €	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg	-	6 800 €	11 900 €	-	-	-	5 000 €	-	-
Total *	200 000 €	216 800 €	251 900 €	250 000 €	255 000 €	260 000 €	278 000 €	273 000 €	324 000 €

* The total income does not include the financial resources of each Cultural Route of the Council of Europe.

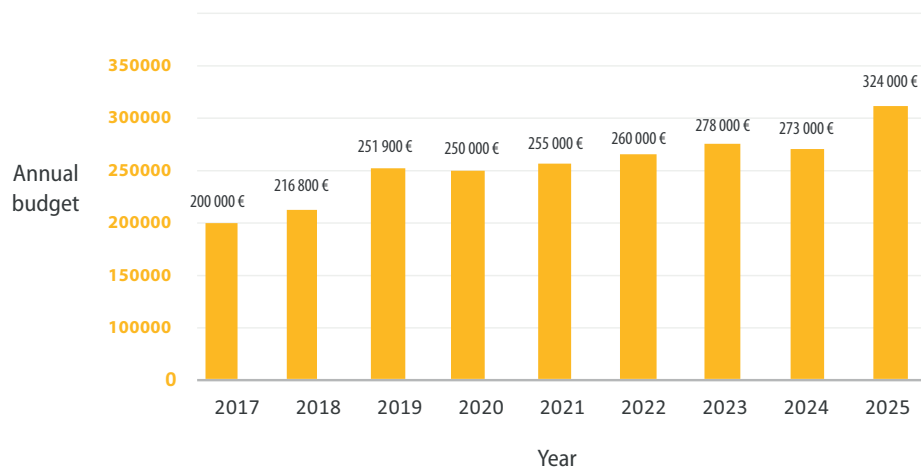
ENLARGED PARTIAL AGREEMENT ON CULTURAL ROUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Evolution of the total budget



EUROPEAN INSTITUTE OF CULTURAL ROUTES

Evolution of the total budget



2024

Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe and European Institute of Cultural Routes - Calendar of activities and presentations at events

- 8 January, Online, Advisory meeting with the European Cyclists' Federation
- 10 January, Online, Meeting with the Irish Heritage Council
- 18-21 January, Helsinki, Finland, Alvar AALTO Route presented at the Matka Nordic Travel Fair 2024
- 24 January, Luxembourg, Advisory meeting Via Memoria Mauthausen
- 25 January, Online, Meeting with Compostela Group of Universities
- 26 January, Online, Working meeting with the European Heritage Days (EHD) representatives
- 30 January, Luxembourg, Luxembourg, Visits of the Irish and Turkish Ambassadors to Luxembourg at the EPA Secretariat
- 31 January, Online, Meeting with the Luxembourg Delegation for the European Heritage Days
- 30 January, Online, Meeting with Cultural Routes Task Force
- 6 February, Online, Follow-up meeting with the European Cultural Route of Sport (ECROS)
- 8 February, Online, Information meeting with the Representatives of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe to present the Call for European Heritage Days Stories
- 13 February, Online, Coordination meeting - 2024 Training Academy
- 14 February, Online, Meeting with the European Royal Residencies
- 19 February, Luxembourg, Luxembourg, Meeting with Ms Roberta SPOTO (Luxembourg Presidency of the Council of Europe)
- 24 February, Muscat, Oman, International Conference in Oman discussing the potential of the Cultural Routes in the Arab region
- 28-29 February, Luxembourg, Luxembourg, Meeting of the Bureau of the EPA Governing Board
- 1 March, Luxembourg, Luxembourg, General Assembly and Board of Directors of the European Institute of Cultural Routes meeting
- 6 March, Online, Advisory meeting with ROMHERITAGE Itineraries of Roma Cultural Heritage
- 12 March, Online, Meeting with Ms. Begoña ROS GRAS Don Bosco Youth-Net
- 13 March, Luxembourg, Luxembourg, EPA Executive Secretary was invited to meet the Hungarian Ambassador in Luxembourg to celebrate a century of Hungary-Luxembourg cooperation
- 15 March, France, The SEDEC publishes an article on the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe Programme
- 18 March 2024, Brussels, Belgium, Executive Secretary of the EPA met with the Vice President of the European Commission
- 19 March, Online, Advisory meeting with the Chocolate Way
- 21 March, Luxembourg, Luxembourg, Meeting with the representatives of the Ministry of Culture (European Heritage Days)
- 3 April, Online, Presentation of the Programme during the General Assembly of the European Route of Megalithic Culture
- 7-9 April, Tirana, Albania, The EPA Secretariat participated at the 70th meeting of the Commission for Europe (CEU)
- 10 April, Luxembourg, Visit of Ms Nataša UROŠEVIĆ from Juraj Dobrila University of Pula, new member of the University Network for Cultural Routes Studies
- 13 April, Strasbourg, France, Meeting with the Italian Permanent Representative and visit to the Irish Permanent Representation
- 13 April, Strasbourg, France, Meeting with Ms Claudia LUCIANI, Director of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities and Meeting with a delegation of the Swiss Federal Office for Culture
- 10-13 April, Split, Croatia, The Secretariat of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe Programme attends the 6th International Rural Tourism Congress in Split, Croatia
- 8-9 May, Cantabria, Spain, 3rd Encounter of Managers of Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe
- 9 May, Luxembourg, Luxembourg, Europe Day celebration in Luxembourg with stands of the EPA Secretariat and the EICR showcasing their activities and those of the 48 certified Cultural Routes
- 14-15 May, Luxembourg, Training seminar for interested candidates in the certification
- 21-22 May, Luxembourg, Luxembourg, Meeting of the EPA Governing Board
- 4-7 June, Brindisi, 11th Training Academy on Cultural Routes
- 12 June, Luxembourg, Luxembourg, Visit of the Ambassador of Denmark to Luxembourg and the permanent Representant of Denmark to the Council of Europe
- 14 June, Online, Advisory meeting with Itinéraires Liberté Pyrénées
- 17 June, Online, Advisory meeting with the European sauna culture and

lifestyle route

- 19 - 20 June, Vilnius, Lithuania, Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe Training Seminar for national stakeholders in Vilnius
- 24 June, Online, Advisory meeting with Mary's Route
- 24 June, Online, Advisory meeting with Romea Strata
- 27 June, Online, Meeting with EuroVelo 13 – Iron Curtain Trail as a Cultural Route of the Council of Europe
- 27 June, Luxembourg, Meeting with Via Habsburg representatives
- 4 July, Online, Advisory meeting with the European Cultural Route of Sport (ECROS)
- 10 July, Online, Advisory meeting with the Way of the Holy Gray
- 11 July, Online, Information meeting with Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe certified in 2024
- 18 July, Online, Meeting with National Geographic Traveler
- 25 July, Online, Meeting with the Routes of Masonic Architecture and Heritage
- 22 August, Online, Meeting with the Representatives of The Netherlands
- 2 September, Online, Meeting with the EPA coordinators Working Group - Nordic Cultural Fonds - "Opstart grant"
- 3 September, Online, Luxembourg for Tourism GIE - meeting with Dr Sebastian REDDEKER, CEO
- 11 September, Luxembourg, Meeting with the Cultural Route on the founders and memorial sites of the European construction
- 20 September, Paris, France, Discover the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe through a playful e-learning module
- 22 September, Ettelbruck, Luxembourg, Launch of the new Luxembourg trails of Liberation Route Europe in Ettelbruck marking the 80th anniversary of the Grand-Duchy's liberation
- 8 October, Luxembourg, Luxembourg, Visit by Ms PROIDL, Austrian Ambassador to Luxembourg
- 11 October, Tenerife, Spain, Certification ceremony of Transhumance trails held on Canary Islands
- 14 October, Luxembourg, Luxembourg, General Assembly and Board of Directors of the European Institute of Cultural Routes meeting
- 14 October, Strasbourg, France, Meeting of the EPA Statutory Committee
- 24 October, Online, Meeting with the representatives of the Cultural Relations Platform - Goethe Institut Brussels
- 24-25 October, Vinnytsia, Ukraine, Workshop on the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe crossing the Ukraine
- 29 October, Online, Meeting with the representatives of ETC (European Travel Commission)
- 29 October, Online, Advisory meeting with European Mining Routes of Saint Barbara Federation
- 13-14 November, Santiago de Compostela, Spain, 1st International Conference on Universities and Cultural Routes
- 20-21 November, Strasbourg, France, Annual meeting of the Steering Committee CDCPP at the Council of Europe
- 26 November, Luxembourg, Luxembourg, Visit of the PACE President to the EICR headquarters
- 26 November, Online, National Information Seminar «The Bulgarian Cyril and Methodius Cultural Route»
- 29 November, Luxembourg, Luxembourg, PACE - round table on "Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe as a platform for intercultural dialogue"
- 4 December, Online, Meeting with the representatives of the Routes of Masonic Architecture and Heritage
- 6-7 December, Vinci, Italy, Certification ceremony of the Leonardo Da Vinci Route

