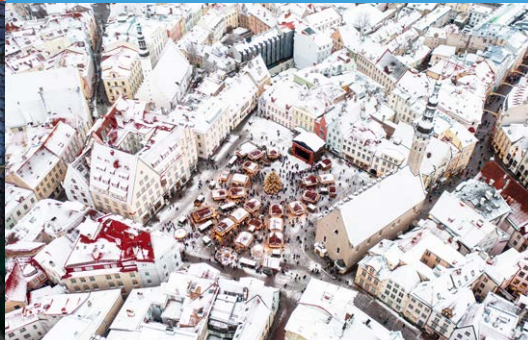




CULTURAL ROUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Report of activities **2025**

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



**CULTURAL ROUTES
OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE**
Report of activities
2025

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Forewords



**Sergio ORTEGA
MUÑOZ**

Chair of the EPA Governing Board
Madrid, Spain, December 2025

Remarkable milestones

I am honoured to address you as Chair of the Governing Board of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes, and to present the programme's achievements in 2025.

Thanks to the dedication of its stakeholders, the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme achieved remarkable milestones this year.

With the accession of the Netherlands and Ireland, 43 member states now support the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes, reaffirming the programme's growing relevance across Europe.

The Governing Board awarded the 'Cultural Route of the Council of Europe' certification to three new routes, thus enriching both the geographical and thematic representativeness and outreach of the programme. The continuing interest of candidate networks reflects the ongoing attractiveness of the certification. The now 49 certified Cultural Routes continue to play a vital role in fostering understanding and promoting our shared cultural heritage through their diverse activities.

The 14th Advisory Forum in Cappadocia, Türkiye, was a resounding success. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Turkish authorities for their exceptional hospitality and organisation. The constructive exchanges and shared experiences have laid a strong foundation for the continued development of the programme and the close relationship between cultural landscapes, sustainable tourism and cultural heritage.

In 2025, the Governing Board resolved to initiate a process of reflection to keep renewing the programme: this will be further deepened in 2026 to include the strengthening of a youth perspective in the programme, the support to cultural routes in Ukraine affected by the armed aggression of the Russian Federation, and a renewed confidence in the representativeness of the wide scope of contributions to our shared sense of European cultural identity.

The Cultural Routes embody the ideal of a united and cohesive Europe, where cross-border co-operation and intercultural dialogue enable the transmission of the Council of Europe's fundamental values to present and future generations. I would like to thank my colleagues on the Governing Board of the programme, and representatives of cultural and heritage authorities in our 43 member states, for their trust and contribution in making this ideal more tangible.

An enduring relevance

2025 was another landmark year for the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme.

The Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes continued its remarkable growth with the accession of the Netherlands and Ireland, bringing the total number of member states to 43. This expanding membership demonstrates the enduring relevance of the programme and its alignment with the values enshrined in the European Cultural Convention.

Luxembourg's Presidency of the Committee of Ministers, which concluded in May 2025, placed particular emphasis on the promotion of culture as one of its key priorities. The Cultural Routes programme featured prominently in this context, reinforcing its position as a practical embodiment of the Convention's objectives: fostering mutual understanding between the peoples of Europe, safeguarding our shared cultural heritage, and celebrating the rich diversity of European cultures.

A highlight of the year was the 14th Advisory Forum, held in Cappadocia, Türkiye. This remarkable gathering brought together hundreds of participants to exchange ideas and strengthen the grass-roots networks that make the Cultural Routes programme so meaningful. The Forum's conclusions on the role of cultural routes as instruments for heritage protection, landscape conservation and sustainable tourism are an example of the very close connection between the cultural routes and the mission of the Council of Europe for peace, democracy and human rights on our continent.

The reflection initiated this year about the representativeness of the programme is full of promises about making this programme fit for the challenges we face regarding intercultural dialogue and co-operation across Europe. I am confident about the commitment of our member states to this process; the success of this programme is a collective achievement.

Forewords



**Ambassador
Patrick ENGELBERG**

Chair of the EPA
Statutory Committee

Strasbourg, France, December 2025

Forewords

A new chapter for the European Institute of Cultural Routes

As President of the European Institute of Cultural Routes' Board of Directors, I am pleased to present the 2025 Activity Report, which demonstrates another year of continued growth for the programme and a new chapter for our Institute.

This year, we welcomed Rui Gomes as the new Director of the Institute. I take this opportunity to wish him every success in this role.

In 2025, the European Institute of Cultural Routes moved into its new premises in the city of Luxembourg, providing an enhanced working environment that supports the programme's expanding activities and the growing number of certified Cultural Routes, which now stands at 49. The Institute, and the programme, now benefits from a dedicated building and facilities, representative for the role and status of the programme.

Luxembourg's Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, which concluded in May 2025, reaffirmed its strong commitment to promoting culture as a cornerstone of European co-operation. The Cultural Routes programme remained central to this vision, illustrating how heritage can serve as a bridge between nations and communities.

Throughout the year, the Institute continued its mission to support the certified Cultural Routes' networks and facilitate their co-operation with national and regional stakeholders. The 12th Training Academy, held in Torres Vedras, Portugal, exemplified this commitment to capacity building and knowledge sharing among route managers and heritage professionals.

I extend my sincere gratitude to the members of the Board of Directors, to our partners and collaborators, and to the dedicated team at the Institute, whose daily efforts contribute to the dynamism of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme. The Institute's mission is to ensure the success of this programme, with the important financial support of the Luxembourg government.

I hope you will enjoy reading this report, which highlights the programme's achievements throughout 2025.



**Ambassador
André BIEVER**

President, Board of Directors
of the European Institute
of Cultural Routes
Luxembourg, December 2025

Welcome to 2025

Dear Reader,

In 1987, the Council of Europe launched the Cultural Routes 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) now numbers 43 member states, following the accession of the Netherlands and Ireland in 2025. The EPA was established to foster closer co-operation among member states, ensuring the continued development and promotion of this important initiative, a central role in the programme's success since its establishment in 1998.

The 'Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe' 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 the EPA member states, who actively 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 UN Tourism, enhances the programme's international reach.

In 2025, the programme continued to thrive, thanks to dedication of all stakeholders and partners. This year saw the certification of three new Cultural Routes – Pyrenean Freedom Routes, Romea Strata and Saint Francis Ways – bringing the total number of certified routes to 49. The vitality of the networks is further demonstrated by the over 300 new members who have joined the Cultural Routes. The University Network for Cultural Routes Studies continued to expand, strengthening the academic foundations and credibility of the programme.

As you read through this 2025 Activity Report, we hope you will gain a deeper appreciation for the mission of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe Programme and its vital contribution to European heritage.

I am still young in my role of Executive Secretary of the EPA and Director of the European Institute of Cultural Routes. The achievements of my first year are by far and large the achievements of the colleagues who form the team of the Secretariat. I look forward to working closely with all the members of the community of cultural routes to make this unique programme a better programme.

Forewords



Rui GOMES

Executive Secretary,
Enlarged Partial Agreement
on Cultural Routes
of the Council of Europe.
Director, European Institute
of Cultural Routes.

Luxembourg, December 2025





Highlights

43 member states

6 May



In 2025, the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe (EPA) welcomed two new member states.

On 6 May 2025, the Netherlands became the 42nd member state of the EPA. Mr. Eppo BRUINS, Minister of Education, Culture and Science of the Netherlands, informed the Secretary General of the Council of Europe of this decision. The Netherlands is currently crossed by 12 certified Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe.

20 May



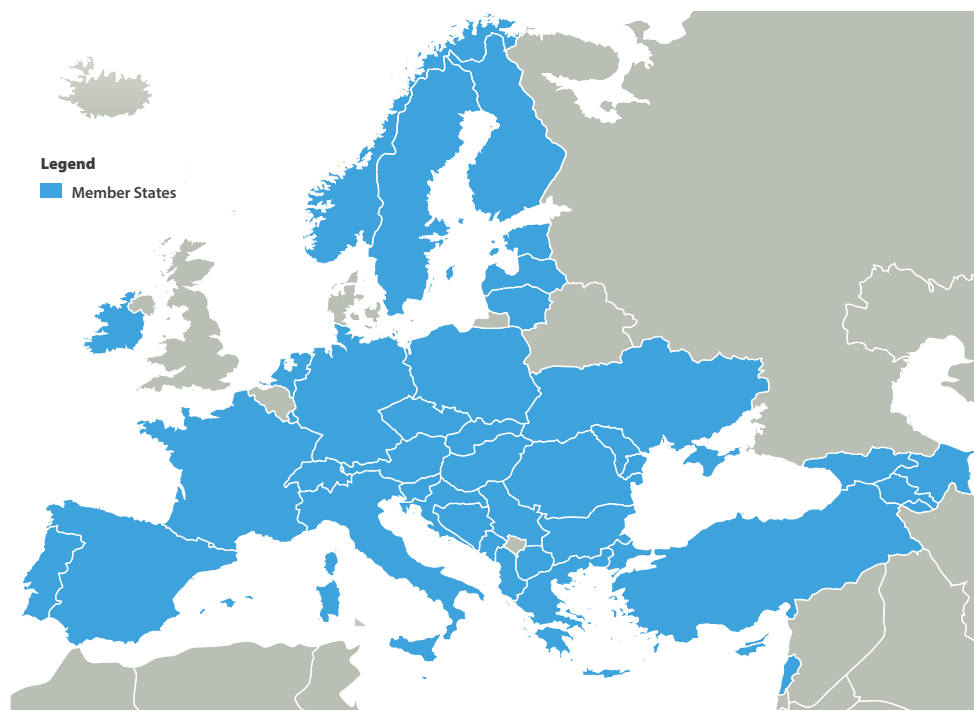
On 20 May 2025, Ireland also joined the EPA as the 43rd member state. Ambassador Caitriona DOYLE, Permanent Representative of Ireland to the Council of Europe, informed Mr. Alain Berset, Secretary General of the Council of Europe.

22 Oct



The formal welcome ceremony for both countries took place on 22 October during opening session of the 14th Advisory Forum in Cappadocia, Türkiye. There are now only five member states of the Council of Europe that have not joined the Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes.

The formal welcome ceremony for both countries took place on 22 October during the opening session of the 14th Advisory Forum in Cappadocia, Türkiye. There are now only five member states of the Council of Europe that have not joined the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes.



43 EPA member states map

Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe certifications in 2025

In its 2025 meeting (6-7 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 three new Cultural Routes: the Pyrenean Freedom Routes, Romea Strata, and Saint Francis' Ways, bringing the number of certified Cultural Routes to 49.

6-7 May

The **Pyrenean Freedom Routes** recount the little-known story of 55,000 women and men who risked their lives escaping occupied France during the Second World War by crossing the Pyrenees. The network currently has members in 10 countries.



Romea Strata follows ancient routes that once guided pilgrims, merchants and diplomats from the Baltic Sea and Central Europe to Rome, fostering centuries of cultural exchange. The network currently has members in seven countries: Austria, Czechia, Estonia, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, and Poland.



Saint Francis' Ways celebrate one of the most influential figures in Christian history, known for choosing a path of poverty and service. The network currently has members in 13 countries.



On the same occasion, the Governing Board renewed the certification of eight Cultural Routes undergoing regular evaluation within the framework of the 2024-2025 certification cycle.

On 22 October 2025, the certification ceremony for Romea Strata, Pyrenean Freedom Routes and Saint Francis' Ways took place during the official opening session of the 14th Advisory Forum in Cappadocia, Türkiye.

22 Oct



(from left to right) Sergio ORTEGA MUÑOZ, Chair of the EPA Governing Board; Raffaella ROSSI, Director of Saint Francis' Ways; Viola GAUDIANO, Project Developer of Romea Strata; Yoan RUMEAU, President of Pyrenean Freedom Routes; Rui GOMES, Executive Secretary of the Enlarged Partial Agreement at the 14th Advisory Forum in Cappadocia, Türkiye ©DMZ

14th Advisory Forum on Cultural Routes, Cappadocia, Türkiye

22 - 24
October



The 14th Advisory Forum on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe took place from 22 to 24 October 2025 in Cappadocia, Türkiye, focusing on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe and Landscapes: Advancing Heritage Protection through Cultural and Sustainable Tourism.

The Forum was organised in collaboration with the ministry of Culture and Tourism of Türkiye and the Türkiye Tourism Promotion and Development Agency. Over 350 participants from across Europe attended the event. The Forum took place within the unique cultural landscape of Cappadocia, shaped over millions of years by volcanic eruptions and erosion, giving rise to the region's iconic fairy chimneys. Nestled among these formations are Byzantine-era cave dwellings, rock-hewn churches, and monastic complexes.

The programme featured general sessions, panel discussions, a welcoming ceremony for new EPA member states, a certification ceremony for newly certified Cultural Routes, and awards recognising inspiring practices.



Participants of the 14th Annual Advisory Forum on Cultural Routes in Cappadocia, Türkiye ©DMZ



Zelve Open Air Museum - Huseyin Eren Obuz (Shutterstock)

Inspiring Practices by Cultural Routes

On 24 October 2025, inspiring practices from the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe were recognised during the closing session of the 14th Advisory Forum in Cappadocia, Türkiye. The selection process was carried out by the EPA Governing Board, highlighting innovative approaches to heritage preservation, sustainable tourism, and community engagement along the Cultural Routes.

These practices illustrate the diversity and richness of actions undertaken by the Cultural Routes, demonstrating their ability to transform heritage into a driver of international cooperation, sustainable development and community engagement:

24 Oct



(left to right): Phoenicians' Route – Ksenija Keča; ATRIUM – Claudia Castellucci and Cristina Vallicelli; European Route of Ceramics – Benedetta Diamanti; Executive Secretary – Rui Gomes; Alvar Aalto – Maija Oinonen; Women writers – Andreja Rihter and Mateja Jančar ©DMZ

- Phoenicians' Route, ***Meta-Sea. The Sea of the Gods: Circulation of cult and attendance of sanctuaries in the ancient Mediterranean***
- ATRIUM, ***Colonial Legacies in Public Space: A Participatory Reinterpretation of the Dissonant Heritage and the Cultural Landscape***
- European Route of Ceramics, ***SHAPED – women's voices in ceramics***
- Alvar Aalto Route, ***Cultural tourism and sustainable development – Strength from Sustainability***
- Women Writers Route, ***Ljubka's Trail – a cross-border literary route of poetry and equality.***



ALVAR AALTO ROUTE
20th Century Architecture and Design



Training Academy, Torres Vedras, Portugal

11 - 13
June



The 12th edition of the Training Academy on Cultural Routes took place in Torres Vedras, Portugal, from 11 to 13 June 2025. The event was organised by the European Institute of Cultural Routes (EICR) in co-operation with the European Federation of Napoleonic Cities (Destination Napoleon) and the European Federation Iter Vitis (Iter Vitis Route), along with the Rota Histórica das Linhas de Torres, the Association of Portuguese Wine Municipalities (AMPV) and the Torres Vedras Municipality.

The 2025 edition was dedicated to Co-operation and Cultural Routes, featuring workshops, keynote speeches, and discussions on governance, policy advocacy, cross-border co-operation, and sustainable tourism development.

The Training Academy concluded with actionable insights and strategic recommendations to further strengthen the role and visibility of the programme, the cooperation among routes and a shared ownership of the programme. The reliance of the Cultural Routes programme on multi-stakeholder cooperation, the involvement of local communities and the examples of resilience it brings, are all important factors for revitalising democracy and democratising cultural and heritage policies.



Participants of the 12th Training Academy on Cultural Routes in Torres Vedras, Portugal ©EICR

The 2025 edition was dedicated to Co-operation and Cultural Routes, featuring workshops, keynote speeches, and discussions on governance, policy advocacy, cross-border co-operation, and sustainable tourism development.



European Cyclists' Federation granted participatory status

The European Cyclists' Federation (ECF) has been granted Participatory status with the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe. The ECF's request was approved by member states at the EPA Governing Board meeting on 6-7 May 2025 in Luxembourg.

In accordance with CM/Res(2013)66, this status allows the ECF to participate more closely in the work of the EPA, strengthening the link between sustainable cycling tourism and the Cultural Routes programme.

The ECF manages the EuroVelo network, including EuroVelo 13 – Iron Curtain Trail, which is a certified Cultural Route of the Council of Europe.



6-7
May



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



© EuroVelo website (de.eurovelo.com)

Reflection Group on Thematic Representativeness

15 - 16
Dec



On 15 and 16 December 2025, the first meeting of the reflection group on thematic representativeness took place in Paris, France, bringing together experts and stakeholders to discuss the future development of Cultural Routes based on specific themes.

This group is tasked with examining the current levels of representativeness within the Programme. Its work focuses in particular on historical and cultural expressions related to women, science, minorities, and intangible heritage, as well as on the consideration of contemporary cultural and technological developments.

It is also responsible for formulating operational recommendations aimed at supporting the strategic development of the Programme and its stronger alignment with the values and priorities of the Council of Europe, including democracy, human rights, intercultural dialogue, and access to culture for all.

Through working groups and plenary sessions, supported by a preliminary study mapping the thematic representativeness of the programme, participants shared their expectations, perspectives, and working methods, which will structure the group's activities until the presentation of its final conclusions, scheduled for May 2027.



First meeting of the reflection group on the thematic representativeness of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe

The European Institute of Cultural Routes honoured with the International Prize of the Compostela Group of Universities and Xunta de Galicia

The European Institute of Cultural Routes (EICR) was awarded the prestigious XXIX International Prize Grupo Compostela-Xunta de Galicia in recognition of its outstanding contribution to European cultural co-operation and heritage preservation over nearly three decades.

The jury distinguished the EICR for its labour-promoting culture, heritage care and protection of the common European values of community and citizenship, which are necessary for the continuation of a united Europe.

15
Sept



XXIX International Prize Grupo Compostela-Xunta de Galicia ©EICR

The presentation ceremony took place on 15 September 2025 at the University of Trás-os-Montes and Alto Douro in Vila Real, Portugal, during the XXXI General Assembly of the Compostela Group of Universities. Rui Gomes, Director of the EICR and Executive Secretary of the EPA, accepted the award, stating, "Cultural Routes in Europe are more than paths – they are bridges between people, histories, and traditions".

The monetary prize of the award was dedicated by the Institute for supporting the participation of Ukraine in the activities of the programme of Cultural Routes.

European Institute of Cultural Routes honoured with the Paestum “Mario Napoli” Award

1 Nov



The awards ceremony took place during the 27th Mediterranean Exchange of Archaeological Tourism conference in Salerno, Italy on 1 November 2025. Irena Guidikova, Head of the Department of Democratic Institutions and Freedoms of the Council of Europe, participated as a speaker and accepted the price on behalf of the Institute.

The Award was established in 2005 (named after the diver and archaeologist Mario Napoli in 2018) and is assigned to personalities and organisations that contribute to intercultural dialogue, the enhancement of cultural heritage and the promotion of archaeological tourism.



Cultural Routes on visiteurope.com

A new collaboration between the European Travel Commission (ETC) and the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe has led to increased visibility for the Cultural Routes through the creation of dedicated online galleries on visiteurope.com.

As part of this initiative, the certified Cultural Routes are showcased in a series of thematic travel clusters that highlight the diversity and richness of Europe's cultural heritage. Visitors can explore the routes through curated categories, marking a significant step in promoting the Cultural Routes to a broader international audience.

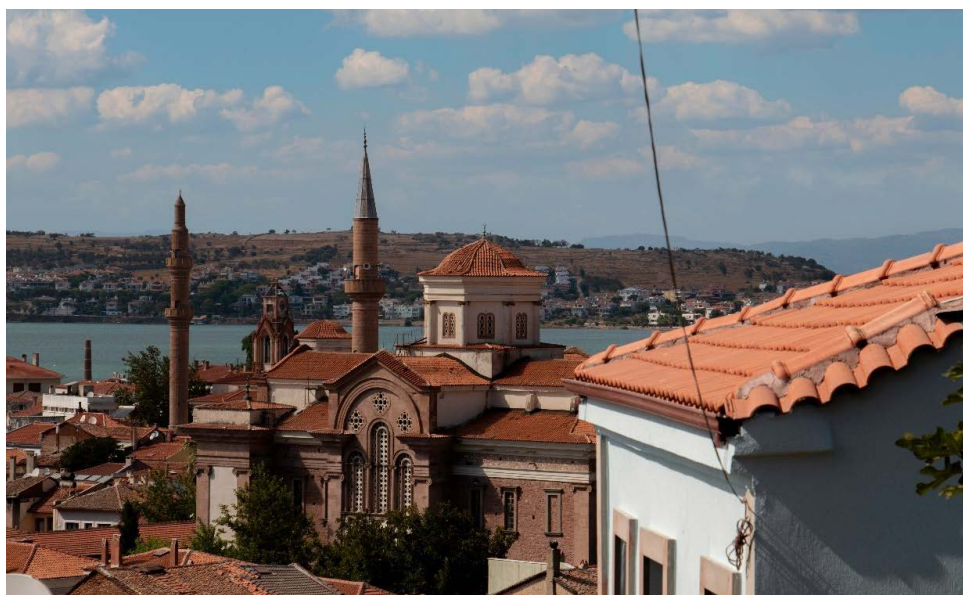


Cultural Routes of Europe

One of the richest sources of inspiration you can consult to plan an incredibly enriching tour through Europe lies in the Cultural Routes of the European Council. These 47 itineraries are carefully designed to take you on a journey through time and across borders to experience Europe's shared living cultural heritage. Trails follow themes such as the evolution and migration of civilizations; religions; food; music; architecture; pilgrims; trades; saints; women writers; ceramics – and fairy tales! You'll see where

Screenshot of the Cultural Routes on visiteurope.com

[Visiteurope.com](https://visiteurope.com) is the official web portal of the European Travel Commission designed to promote Europe as a tourist destination. It offers travel inspiration, destination information, and planning tools for more than 33 European countries, aiming to increase tourism from outside the EU.



Ayvalik, Türkiye ©pamir/Shutterstock

Cultural Routes projects for European Heritage Days

June

The 2025 Call for Project Proposals, organised exclusively for European Heritage Label (EHL) sites and certified Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe under the European Heritage Days programme, announced its winners in June 2025.

Among the winners, two Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe were selected:



European Route of Jewish Heritage, Luxembourg – *Incubator*

The annual platform for training and professional exchange focused on how architectural heritage can foster peace and counter hate speech. The Incubator strengthens the capacity of Jewish heritage professionals while building stronger networks across Europe.

ALVAR AALTO ROUTE

20th Century Architecture and Design

Alvar Aalto Route, Finland – *Open Route Day*

The continent-wide event was dedicated to showcasing the legacy of 20th-century architect Alvar Aalto. Sites across the Alvar Aalto Route opened to the public on the same day, supported by local programming and digital media, in alignment with European Heritage Days 2025.

The selected projects demonstrated how architectural heritage can be a powerful tool for education, community engagement, dialogue, and sustainable development.



©European Heritage Days

The European Heritage Days (EHD) are an annual joint initiative of the Council of Europe and the European Commission, where thousands of cultural sites across 48 nations offer free access and events to the public. The 2025 theme was "Heritage and Architecture: Windows to the Past, Doors to the Future".

Training seminar for candidate routes

On 19-20 June 2025, the Secretariat of the European Institute of Cultural Routes conducted a training seminar aimed at candidates who are interested in applying for the 'Cultural Route of the Council of Europe' certification. The seminar provided guidance on the certification criteria, application process, and best practices for developing transnational cultural route networks.

Eight representatives from five networks interested in the certification participated in the training: The Columban Way, The Cultural Route of Falconry, "Saint Michael Way" Rural Territories and Ancestral Cultures, Grimaldi de Monaco Historic Sites and Via Querenissima. Two certified Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe contributed to the workshops by sharing their experiences and best practices in managing a Cultural Route of the Council of Europe: The Routes of Emperor Charles V and the Phoenicians' Route.

19 -20
June



Participants of the training seminar for candidate routes 2025 ©EICR

MALTA IN the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe

29 30
Oct



This seminar took place on 29-30 October 2025 in Birgu, Malta and was co-organised by the Ministry for Culture, Lands and Local Government of Malta and the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe, forming part of the programme of the Presidency of Malta of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.

MALTA IN the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe was an opportunity for stakeholders in the cultural and heritage fields in Malta to be familiarised with the Cultural Routes programme and to contribute to its development in Malta.



Participants of the "Malta in the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe" seminar ©Ministry for Culture, Lands and Local Government of Malta

Twelve cultural routes representatives were present at the seminar and met with a large number of Maltese actors and stakeholders of cultural and heritage institutions in the country.

In addition to on-site discovery and contact with outstanding heritage sites, including Ħaġar Qim & Mnajdra Archaeological Park and the National Viticulture and Oenology Centre in Buskett, the participants engaged in bi-lateral meetings and talks, setting the foundations for extended forms of cooperation.

The seminar was held in Fort St Angelo, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, which was uniquely placed to host this activity.

Malta joined the Council of Europe in 1965 and the EPA on Cultural Routes in 2023. While relatively young in the programme, Malta's heritage is deeply connected with the cultural values and history of the rest of Europe and as such is connected with many Cultural Routes, even those that are not yet formally represented in the country.









Advisory Forum

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



CULTURAL ROUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE 14th ANNUAL ADVISORY FORUM

Cappadocia, Türkiye, 22-24 October 2025



CAPPADOCIA
THE LAND OF FAIRYTALES



EUROPEAN
INSTITUTE
OF
CULTURAL
ROUTES



The 14th Advisory Forum on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe took place in Cappadocia, Türkiye from 22 to 24 October 2025, organised by the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe (EPA) and the European Institute of Cultural Routes (EICR), in co-operation with the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Türkiye and the Türkiye Tourism Promotion and Development Agency, with the support of local authorities of the Cappadocia region.

Central to this year's Forum discussions was the theme 'Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe and Landscapes: Advancing Heritage Protection through Cultural and Sustainable Tourism' in the face of increasing climate change, pollution, and development pressures. The Forum also celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Council of Europe Landscape Convention.



Nadir ALPASLAN, Deputy Minister of Culture and Tourism of Türkiye ©DMZ

Mr. Ali FİDAN, Governor of Nevşehir, Mr. Nadir ALPASLAN, Deputy Minister of Culture and Tourism of Türkiye, and Ms. Irena GUIDIKOVA, Head of the Department for Democratic Institutions and Freedoms at the Council of Europe, took part in the Official Opening Ceremony. A video message from Mr. Bjørn BERGE, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe, was also delivered. The Forum welcomed over 350 participants representing over 30 member states of the Council of Europe.

The Forum was attended by many Representatives of the 43 member states of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe and the 49 certified Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe, as well as representatives of International Organisations, Observers to the EPA such as UN Tourism, UNESCO, academics from the Cultural Routes University Network and tourism professionals.

The Forum took place within the unique cultural landscape of Cappadocia, shaped over millions of years by volcanic eruptions and erosion, which gave rise to the region's iconic fairy chimneys. Nestled among these formations are Byzantine-era cave dwellings, rock-hewn churches, and monastic complexes – tangible traces of early Christianity, alongside a living cultural heritage that continues to thrive today. Deputy Minister Alpaslan emphasised that hosting the forum in Cappadocia was no coincidence: "Cappadocia is a unique geography where nature, history, and culture intertwine". Cappadocia stands at the centre of key certified routes such as the European Route of Ceramics and Iter Vitis.



The unique landscape of Cappadocia with its fairy chimneys ©DMZ

Irena GUIDIKOVA described Türkiye as a strategic member of the Cultural Routes Programme: “Eleven of the 49 Cultural Routes in Europe pass through Türkiye. This makes Türkiye not only a bridge to southern Europe but to the entire continent”. By offering a diverse schedule of panel discussions, discussions, and meetings, the event created an opportunity for the key stakeholders of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe to convene and collaborate. The Forum featured a keynote speech by Maguelonne DÉJEANT-PONS, former Head of the Spatial Planning and Landscape Division at the Council of Europe and Honorary Member of the International Federation of Landscape Architecture.

On 2 October, during the official opening session, the EPA formally welcomed the Netherlands and Ireland as new member states. The accession ceremony marked the expansion of the EPA to 43 member states.

The certification ceremony for the three newly certified Cultural Routes, Romea Strata, Pyrenean Freedom Routes and Saint Francis' Ways, took place during the official opening session. These routes received the prestigious ‘Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe’ certification as part of the 2024-2025 certification cycle, bringing the total number of certified Cultural Routes to 49.



Certification ceremony for the newly certified Cultural Routes ©DMZ (from left to right) Sergio ORTEGA MUÑOZ, Chair of the EPA Governing Board; Raffaella ROSSI, Director of Saint Francis' Ways; Viola GAUDIANO, Project Developer of Romea Strata; Yoan RUMEAU, President of Pyrenean Freedom Routes; Rui GOMES, Executive Secretary of the Enlarged Partial Agreement, at the 14th Advisory Forum in Cappadocia, Türkiye

The event was also the occasion to celebrate the renewal of the certification of eight Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe following the 2024-2025 certification cycle.

Göreme National Parc, Cappadocia, Türkiye ©mosbahkamel09/Shutterstock



On 24 October, the closing session featured the ceremony for the 'Inspiring Practices of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe' Award 2025. Certified Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe were recognised for their outstanding efforts in promoting cultural heritage through innovative practices. The selection process was carried out by the EPA Governing Board, highlighting innovative approaches to heritage preservation, sustainable tourism, and community engagement along the Cultural Routes.

The closing session also included the presentation of the 2026 Advisory Forum and the 2026 Training Academy, followed by a gala dinner celebrating the successful conclusion of the three-day event.

Gala dinner at the 14th Advisory Forum on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe in Cappadocia, Türkiye ©DMZ



The Forum concluded that heritage protection and tourism development should be mutually reinforcing rather than in conflict. Protecting and maintaining the authenticity and integrity of cultural landscapes, particularly those threatened by overtourism, requires careful, inclusive tourism management. Routes are encouraged to improve their tourism intelligence, collect and share data on community needs and visitor flows, and develop targeted marketing strategies.





COUNCIL OF EUROPE

75

1949 - 2024

CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

UNITED AROUND
OUR VALUES

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

43 EPA member states*

 Albania (2022)	 Greece (2011)	 Norway (2011)
 Andorra (2012)	 Holy See (2018)	 Poland (2017)
 Armenia (2015)	 Hungary (2013)	 Portugal (2011)
 Austria (2011)	 Ireland (2025)	 Romania (2013)
 Azerbaijan (2011)	 Italy (2011)	 San Marino (2017)
 Bosnia and Herzegovina (2016)	 Latvia (2019)	 Serbia (2012)
 Bulgaria (2011)	 Lebanon (2022)	 Slovak Republic (2014)
 Croatia (2016)	 Lithuania (2012)	 Slovenia (2011)
 Cyprus (2011)	 Luxembourg (2011)	 Spain (2011)
 Czechia (2023)	 Malta (2023)	 Sweden (2020)
 Estonia (2024)	 Republic of Moldova (2023)	 Switzerland (2013)
 Finland (2018)	 Monaco (2013)	 Türkiye (2018)
 France (2011)	 Montenegro (2011)	 Ukraine (2021)
 Georgia (2016)	 Netherlands (2025)	
 Germany (2013)	 North Macedonia (2022)	

Observers:

- EU
- UNESCO
- OECD
- UN Tourism

Participative Status with the EPA:

- Education, Science and Culture (OEI)
- European Ramblers' Association (ERA)
- European Federation of Tourist Guide Associations (FEG)
- International Federation of Equestrian Tourism (FITE)
- European Cyclists' Federation (ECF)

* as of 31 December 2025

Since 2010

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

14

founding member
states in 2010

43

member States as of
31 December 2025

2

new member states in 2025:
Netherlands and Ireland

- Open to member and non-member states of the Council of Europe
- Provides political and financial support to the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe Programme
- Implements the Council of Europe policy guidelines
- Responsible for deciding the Programme strategy
- Awards the certification 'Cultural Route of the Council of Europe'

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



- Advises and provides expert assistance for the development, implementation and promotion of the Cultural Routes
- Supports networking and exchanges between Cultural Route-operators and other partners in the field of cultural tourism
- Comprised 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
- Headquarters at the **European Institute of Cultural Routes**, Luxembourg

INSTITUT
EUROPÉEN
DES
ITINÉRAIRES
CULTURELS



EUROPEAN
INSTITUTE
OF
CULTURAL
ROUTES

Statutory bodies and staff

EPA Governing Board Bureau:

Sergio ORTEGA MUÑOZ, Chair, Spain

(Head of Historical Heritage Protection and European Projects. Subdirector General for Cultural Heritage Management and Co-ordination. Directorate General for Cultural Heritage and Fine Arts, Ministry of Culture of Spain)

Eszter CSONKA-TAKÁCS, Vice-Chair, Hungary

(Director, Intangible Cultural Heritage Department of Hungary, Hungarian Open Air Museum)

Maria Giusi LUPRANO, Italy

(Administrative Officer, Department for General Administration, International Relations Service, Ministry of Culture of Italy)

Astghik MARABYAN, Armenia

(Head of Department of Cultural Heritage, Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of the Republic of Armenia)

Ilja KOCIAN, Czechia

(Deputy Head of Unit, Department of Conservation, Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic, EU Affairs Department)

EPA Statutory Committee

Ambassador Patrick ENGELBERG

Chair, Permanent Representative of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg to the Council of Europe

Secretariat:

Rui GOMES, Executive Secretary (since April 2025)

Marie SAUTIN, Project and communication Officer (until July 2025)

Réka HESZTERENYI, Executive Assistant (since August 2025)

Amélie CHARTIER, Project and communication Officer

Henry VINE, Executive Assistant (September-December 2025)

Trainees:

Henry VINE (March-July 2025)

Raffaella CASTELLANI (October 2025-February 2026)

Governing Board meetings and activities

Meeting of the Bureau of the EPA Governing Board

- Activity report 2024 and draft programme 2025
- Evaluation cycle 2024-2025
- Organisation of the EPA Governing Board meeting
- 14th Annual Advisory Forum of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe

25 -26
Febr



Luxembourg, LU



Meeting of the Bureau of the EPA Governing Board 2025, Luxembourg ©EICR

Meeting of the EPA Governing Board

- Evaluation cycle 2024-2025
- Presentations by the representatives of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe under evaluation
- Audition of candidate projects for certification
- Election of the new EPA Bureau Members
- Country mappings and thematic reports

6 -7
May



Luxembourg, LU



Signature of memorandum for the hosting of the 14th Advisory Forum, with the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Türkiye

25 -26
Febr



Strasbourg

Meeting of the EPA Statutory Committee

- Adoption of the EPA budget for 2026-2027
- Adoption of the 2026 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 yearsevaluation of Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe
- Organisation of the Annual Advisory Forum of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe in co-ordination with the EPA member state hosting the event
- Co-operation with the European Union and other international organisations

Certification cycle: regular evaluations and certifications

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



8 certified Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe evaluated
(cycle 2024-2025)

8 candidates presented for possible certification (cycle 2024-2025)

2 certified Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe evaluated
under exceptional evaluation (cycle 2024-2025)

3 new Cultural Routes certified in 2025

8 certified Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe undergoing
evaluation (cycle 2025-2026)

6 new projects undergoing evaluation for possible certification
(cycle 2025-2026)

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 the 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 2024-2025 – completed

Eight Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe were evaluated.

- European Mozart Ways
- European Route of Megalithic Culture
- Aeneas Route
- Alvar Aalto Route – 20th-century Architecture and Design
- Cyril and Methodius Route
- European Route d'Artagnan
- Iron Age Danube Route
- Huguenot and Waldensian trail

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

- Via Romea Germanica
- Routes of the Olive tree

Following the exceptional evaluation, the Governing board didn't renew the certification of Via Romea Germanica and the Routes of the Olive tree.

Evaluation cycle 2025-2026 – underway

Eight Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe under evaluation:

- ATRIUM - Architecture of Totalitarian Regimes of the 20th century in Europe's Urban Memory
- Via Habsburg
- Réseau Art Nouveau Network
- Fortified Towns of the Grande Region
- Impressionisms Routes
- European Fairy Tale Route
- Historic Cafés Route
- Women Writers Route

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(2023)2.

2024-2025 Certification cycle – completed

Eight cultural route projects submitted an application for the 'Cultural Route of the Council of Europe' certification.

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

The EPA Governing Board decided to award the 'Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe' certification to three candidates:

- Pyrenean Freedom Routes
- Romea Strata
- Saint Francis' Ways

2025-2026 Evaluation Cycle – underway

Six candidates are currently undergoing evaluation for 'Cultural Route of the Council of Europe' certification

- The Routes of Masonic Architecture and Heritage
- Jerusalem Way
- Singing Heritage Route
- The Columban Way
- European Paganini Route
- Via Querinissima

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

All year	Co-ordination meetings with the Turkish representatives to the EPA, organisation of the 14 th Advisory Forum, online and on-site
10 February	Meeting of the Congress Bureau of Local and Regional Authorities within the framework of the Luxembourg Presidency of the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers; Joint publication produced: Culture without borders: cultural heritage management for local and regional development, Luxembourg
21 May	Participation in the European Heritage Days Assembly, Strasbourg, France
30 June	Bi-lateral meetings with Permanent Representations to the EPA, Strasbourg, France
July – Oct	Co-ordination meetings with the Maltese representatives to the EPA, organisation of the seminar Malta in the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe
7 July	Meeting with Astghik MARABYAN, EPA Bureau member, Presentation of the 15 th Advisory Forum in Armenia, online
24 July	Meeting with the Republic of Moldova on the Committee of Ministers Presidency, online
25-26 Sept	Meeting between the Ministry of Culture and Cultural Routes in France, Paris, France
22 October	Participation in the Ceremony for the accession of the Netherlands and Ireland as new EPA member states, Cappadocia, Türkiye
7 November	Co-ordination meeting with the Croatian representative to the EPA, online
25-29 Nov	Preparation of the 2026 Advisory Forum; Participation in the Conference on Cultural Crossroads, Yerevan, Armenia

Participation in activities of international organisations and NGOs

11 February	Information session on EHD grants for the EHL sites and the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe, online
3 March	1st preparatory meeting Walk the Talk within the framework of the Annual Forum on Cultural Routes, online
24 April	Meeting with the representatives of the European Heritage Days, online
29 April	Participation of Black Sea Economic Cooperation Permanent International Secretariat (BSEC PERMIS) in the EPA Governing Board meeting, online
June	Creation of dedicated online galleries on visiteurope.com in collaboration with the European Travel Commission (ETC), Brussels, Belgium
4 June	Meeting with UN Tourism, discussion of the 14 th Advisory Forum, online
2 October	Meeting with UN Tourism, online
7 October	Meeting with European Parliament Intergroup on Cultural Routes, Strasbourg, France
4 November	Meeting with the European Youth Card Association (EYCA) in Luxembourg relaunching of the Walk the Talk project, online
30 Oct-2 Nov	Participation in the 27 th Mediterranean Exchange of Archaeological Tourism Salerno, Italy
18-20 Nov	Participation in the annual meeting of the Steering Committee for Culture, Heritage and Landscape (CDCPP), Strasbourg, France

Participation in activities along the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe

23 January	Participation in the official ceremony of the 20 th Anniversary of the European Association for the Preservation and Promotion of Jewish Heritage, Strasbourg, France
15-16 May	1st preparatory meeting Walk the Talk within the framework of the Annual Forum on Cultural Routes, online
22 October	Meeting with the representatives of the European Heritage Days, online
4 December	Participation of Black Sea Economic Cooperation Permanent International Secretariat (BSEC PERMIS) in the EPA Governing Board meeting, online
18-19 December	Creation of dedicated online galleries on visiteurope.com in collaboration with the European Travel Commission (ETC), Brussels, Belgium

EPA representatives

Member State	Year of accession to the EPA	Contact in countries
 Albania	2022	Ministry of Culture www.kultura.gov.al
 Andorra	2012	Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport www.cultura.ad
 Armenia	2015	Ministry of Culture www.mincult.am
 Austria	2011	Federal Ministry for Arts, Culture, the Civil Service and Sport www.bmkoes.gv.at/en.html
 Azerbaijan	2011	Ministry of Culture www.mct.gov.az State Tourism Agency www.tourism.gov.az
 Bosnia and Herzegovina	2016	Ministry of Civil Affairs www.mvp.gov.ba
 Bulgaria	2011	Ministry of Culture www.mc.government.bg
 Croatia	2016	Ministry of Culture and Media https://min-kulture.gov.hr/en Ministry of Tourism and Sports www.mint.gov.hr
 Cyprus	2011	Ministry of Education and Culture www.moec.gov.cy
 Czechia	2023	Ministry of Culture https://mk.gov.cz/en
 Estonia	2024	Ministry of Culture www.kul.ee/en
 Finland	2018	Ministry of Education and Culture www.okm.fi
 France	2011	Ministry of Culture www.culture.gouv.fr
 Georgia	2016	Ministry of Culture, Sport and Youth www.garibashvili.ge
 Germany	2013	Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs www.auswaertiges-amt.de
 Greece	2011	Ministry of Culture www.culture.gov.gr/en
 Holy See	2018	Ufficio: Palazzo San Callisto www.vaticanstate.va
 Hungary	2013	Ministry of Culture and Innovation https://kormany.hu/kulturalis-es-innovacios-miniszterium
 Ireland	2025	The National Monuments Service - Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage www.gov.ie/en/departments/departments-of-housing-local-government-and-heritage
 Italy	2011	Ministry of Culture www.cultura.gov.it
 Latvia	2019	Ministry of Culture www.km.gov.lv

Member State	Year of accession to the EPA	Contact in countries
 Lebanon	2022	Ministry of Tourism www.mot.gov.lb
 Lithuania	2012	Ministry of Culture www.lrkmlrv.lt/en
 Luxembourg	2011	Ministry of Culture www.mc.gouvernement.lu
 Malta	2023	Ministry for the National Heritage, the Arts and Local Government https://culture.gov.mt
 Republic of Moldova	2023	Ministry of Culture www.mc.gov.md/en
 Monaco	2013	Direction of Cultural Affairs www.gouv.mc
 Montenegro	2011	Ministry of Culture and Media www.gov.me/en/mku
 Netherlands	2025	Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands, part of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science www.cultureelerfgoed.nl
 North Macedonia	2022	Ministry of Culture www.kultura.gov.mk
 Norway	2011	Arts Council Norway www.regjeringen.no/en/dep/kud/id545
 Poland	2017	Ministry of Culture and National Heritage www.gov.pl
 Portugal (2011)	2011	Ministry of Culture 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
 Slovak Republic	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 www.ktb.gov.tr
 Ukraine	2021	Ministry of Culture and Information Policy mcip.gov.ua



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DE LA QUALITÉ DES MÉDICAMENTS
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4-16 October 2014 - Strasbourg, France

EMA



*Enlarged Partial
Agreement on
Cultural Routes:
Member states'
Activities*

Activities implemented by EPA member states

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

Throughout 2025, 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.

Andorra

Member since 2011

30 June 2025, Encamp, Andorra

Inauguration of the Pyrenean Iron Trail

The Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, together with several municipalities and the Madriu-Perafita-Claror Valley management commission, presented three cultural routes promoting heritage linked to iron culture in the Principality. The first section of the Iron Trail in the Pyrenees was inaugurated: this extends over 65 km and connects Ariège (France) to Catalonia (Spain) via Andorra. The thematic guide is offered in four languages and listed on hiking platforms. The global project aims to federate the transboundary tourist offer by 2026/27, uniting landscapes and iron culture heritage from the Atlantic to the Mediterranean.



Inauguration of the Pyrenean Iron Trail
©Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, Andorra

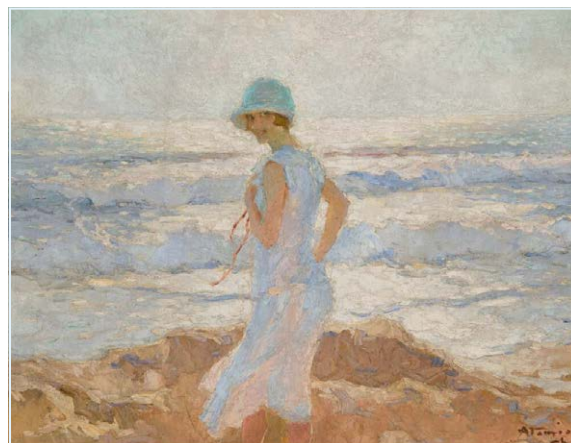
Armenia

Member since 2015

June to October 2025, Barbizon (France)
and Yerevan (Armenia)

Armenian Impressionism: A Cultural Dialogue Across Borders

The exhibition Colours and Lights of Armenian Impressionism, held in Barbizon, France, was organised in partnership with the Impressionisms Routes Network and the National Gallery of Armenia. Showcasing over 30 masterpieces, it highlighted the richness of Armenian Impressionism and its dialogue with European artistic traditions. An international conference entitled Impressionisms: Histories from the Margins followed in Yerevan, bringing together scholars and museum professionals from Armenia, France, Russia, and Georgia.



Karapet (Charles) ADAMIAN (1872, Constantinople - 1947, Paris). Woman in the seaside.
National Gallery of Armenia, Yerevan - Donated by O. Topalian (France) 1969

Couleurs et Lumières Impressionnistes d'Arménie Barbizon, 23 mai - 2 novembre 2025

Hôtel Culturel L'esquisse - 73 Grande rue 77630 Barbizon - Tél. : 01 85 45 01 00



www.impressionismsroutes.fr

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Member since 2016

4 June 2025, Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina Herzegovina Wine Route Festival 2025

The Second Herzegovina Wine Route Festival brought together more than 20 wineries, six restaurants, and two travel agencies. The programme included the round table discussion Wine Encounter of Regions, with guests from Croatia and North Macedonia, followed by the Little School of Žilavka workshop, dedicated to one of Herzegovina's most important indigenous wine varieties. With over 2,500 visitors, the festival strengthened its position as one of the most attended eno-gastro events in Bosnia and Herzegovina.



©Herzegovina Wine Route Festival 2025

24 October to 23 November 2025, Ljubuški, Čitluk, Čapljina, Trebinje, Mostar Herzegovina Wine Route – Open Cellars Days 2025

Over four autumn weekends, 20 Wine Route members opened their doors, offering wine tastings, cellar and vineyard tours, workshops, and themed evenings. Guests sampled traditional and innovative wines, including the region's indigenous varieties. The event highlighted Herzegovina's identity, culture, and hospitality, positioning the region as a premier eno-gastro-nomic destination. 17 October 2025, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

17 October 2025, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina Museum of Pharmacy launches VR application

The Museum of Pharmacy in Sarajevo marked its third anniversary by launching the virtual reality application 'History of Sarajevo Pharmacy', providing users with a journey to the 19th century when the first modern pharmacies were opened under Austro-Hungarian rule. A scientific conference on traditional medicine books (Ljekaruše) was also held, confirming the multi-cultural heritage of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Croatia

Member since 2016

15 May 2025, Zagreb, Croatia Guest lecture at Libertas International University

A guest lecture was held for students of Tourism Management, introducing them to Cultural Routes, the role of the Ministry of Culture and Media, and development opportunities in Croatia and Europe.

7 November 2025, Ministry of Culture and Media, Zagreb National co-ordination meeting of Cultural Routes representatives

The co-ordination meeting brought together national representatives of Cultural Routes and the Ministry of Tourism and Sports. Participants shared data on individual routes, programmes, activities, and future plans. Topics included the 2026 Training Academy and promoting Cultural Routes on the Croatian Tourist Board's website.



National co-ordination meeting of Cultural Routes representatives
©Ministry of Culture and Media, Croatia

13 November 2025, Zagreb, Croatia Presentation of Country Mapping Document at EUSAIR meeting

The Croatian EPA representative presented the Country Mapping Document Croatia at the 26th Meeting of the Thematic Steering Group for Pillar 4 – Sustainable Tourism under the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR).

Cyprus

Member since 2011

2025, Cyprus

Co-ordination meetings with Cultural Routes representatives

The Deputy Ministry of Culture held a series of co-ordination meetings and exchanges of good practices with national representatives of the Cultural Routes. Material was collected to promote Cultural Routes in Cyprus and support the networking of local actions within the framework of the programme.

October 2025, Pafos, Cyprus

SMARTIES for SMEs: European Exchange in Pafos

Pafos hosted the partners' meeting of the SMARTIES for SMEs programme, as part of the Pafos Regional Board of Tourism's participation in the Phoenicians' Route. The event served as a platform for the exchange of innovative ideas and good practices to support SMEs and sustainable, smart, and regenerative tourism across the Mediterranean.



Pafos, Cyprus ©DaLiu/Shutterstock

Finland

Member since 2018

March 2025, Finland, Norway, Poland

Toolkit of Ideas for Cross-border Heritage Events

Based on a survey collecting ideas from Cultural Routes and European Heritage Days National Co-ordinators, the Finnish Local Heritage Federation, with partners including the Finnish Heritage Agency and EHD co-ordinators in Norway and Poland, launched a toolkit offering ideas for cross-border and local heritage events.

April to December 2025, Finland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Sweden, Norway

Cultural Routes for Heritage Co-operation and Capacity Building

The project produced training materials and organised a Baltic-Nordic online meeting in June 2025. Led by the Finnish Heritage Agency, it involved heritage organisations from six countries as partners.

12-13 November 2025, Mikkeli, Finland

Cultural Routes Forum in Mikkeli

The Finnish Heritage Agency and Ministry of Education and Culture organised a two-day Cultural Routes Forum together with the Muisti Centre of War and Peace. The first day featured an open seminar on cultural tourism and regional development. The second day gathered route developers for workshops on tourism product development and Creative Europe funding.



Cultural Routes Forum Finland Seminar ©Leena Hangasmaa

France

Member since 2011

28 April 2025, Sénat – Palais du Luxembourg, Paris Meeting at the French Senate on Cultural Routes

The French Ministry of Culture organised a dedicated event entitled 33 Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe at the Heart of the Regions at the Senate in Paris. Covering all French departments, 33 routes offer local development, cultural tourism, and the involvement of numerous partners. The meeting aimed to raise awareness of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme among senators, and to highlight its role as a tool for dialogue among European professionals in heritage, culture and tourism, institutional representatives, local authorities, civil society and visitors.



Meeting at the French Senate on Cultural Routes ©Ministère de la Culture, France

25-26 September 2025, Maison de l'Europe, Paris Conference on European Heritage Valorisation and Funding

The first meeting between Cultural Routes and European Heritage Label sites brought together national and European institutions, local authorities, associations, and experts. Objectives included strengthening mobilisation for European funding and promoting sustainable heritage tourism.

1 September to 31 October 2025, Maison de l'Europe, Paris Exhibition on Cultural Routes and European Heritage Label sites

An exhibition of roll-up panels allowed visitors to discover the Cultural Routes in France and French sites with the European Heritage Label. Spread across all regions, these sites offer an alternative form of tourism, promoting sustainable mobility and local know-how.

2025, France (online and print)

Updated interactive map and brochure for new routes

Following the 2025 certifications, two new routes with members in France – Pyrenean Freedom Routes and Saint Francis' Ways – were added to the interactive map and bilingual brochure on Cultural Routes in France.

Hungary

Member since 2013

13 October 2025, Hungarian Open Air Museum (Skanzen), Szentendre

National co-ordination meeting at the Hungarian Open Air Museum

Hungary hosted the second national co-ordination meeting of Cultural Routes at the Hungarian Open Air Museum (Skanzen) in Szentendre. With active members from 13 Cultural Routes, 11 of which were represented at the meeting, participants included route representatives, Ministry officials, members of the University Network for Cultural Routes Studies, candidate networks, and heritage experts.



National co-ordination meeting at the Hungarian Open Air Museum

©Hungarian Open Air Museum – Balázs Farkas-Mohi

Italy

Member since 2011

Updated in 2025, Italy

Promotional video on Cultural Routes in Italy

The Italian Ministry of Culture produced a promotional video describing the Cultural Routes, as part of a project implementing a national strategy to promote Cultural Routes in Italy. The video is divided into 10 chapters relating to different thematic areas, each lasting approximately six minutes, and was updated in 2025 with the newly certified routes.

Malta

Member since 2023

29-30 October 2025, Birgu, Malta

Stakeholders' seminar: Malta in the Cultural Routes

This seminar aimed at strengthening the visibility of Cultural Routes in Malta and facilitating contacts between routes and local stakeholders. Held as part of the programme for the Maltese Presidency of the Council of Europe, the well-attended seminar enabled first-hand contact between local participants and route representatives, and can help Malta increase its presence in some Cultural Routes.



Stakeholders' seminar 2025 – Malta in the Cultural Routes ©Ministry for Culture, Lands & Local Government, Malta

North Macedonia

Member since 2022

16 April 2025, Skopje, North Macedonia

Forum on Cultural Routes for Cultural Tourism Development

Under the auspices of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, the Forum presented the Cultural Routes in which North Macedonia participates: Iter Vitis, the Cyril and Methodius Route, and the Roman Emperors and Danube Wine Route. Opened by Minister Zoran Ljutkov, the forum concluded with a site visit to the archaeological complex of Stobi.



Forum on Cultural Routes for Cultural Tourism Development in Skopje, North Macedonia ©Ministry of Culture and Tourism, North Macedonia

20-21 May 2025, Skopje, North Macedonia

General Assembly of the Cyril and Methodius Route

The Institute of Macedonian Literature hosted the General Assembly of the Cyril and Methodius Route Association. Six new members from Bulgaria and Slovakia were admitted, expanding the network to 43 members across 10 countries. The event included book promotions and was opened by Minister Zoran Ljutkov. Representatives subsequently visited Ohrid to experience the enduring legacy of Saints Cyril and Methodius.

Norway

Member since 2011

April to December 2025, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania

Baltic-Nordic Cultural Routes Co-operation Project

The project, funded by the Nordic Culture Fund, supported networking of Cultural Routes in the Baltic-Nordic region and strengthened capacity to protect, promote, and sustainably use cultural heritage. Activities included online workshops, communication efforts, and development of training materials.

April 2025 to June 2026, Telemark Museum, Porsgrunn
Cultural tourism project with the European Route of Ceramics

Telemark Museum received funding for the project Diversified Decorative Techniques and Cultural Tourism, with the European Route of Ceramics as official partner. The project addresses decorative techniques as intangible cultural heritage and their role in cultural tourism.

29 August 2025, Oslo, Norway

European Heritage Day seminar

The seminar supported the synergy between Cultural Routes, European Heritage Days, and European Capitals of Culture. The expansion of the Women Writers Route to Norway was celebrated, with Perspective Museum of Tromsø becoming a new partner.

April to August 2025, Tromsø, Norway

Women Writers Route expands to Norway

The Perspective Museum in Tromsø, which promotes the life and work of Norwegian writer Cora Sandel, signed a membership agreement with the Women Writers Route, marking the route's expansion to Norway.



Perspektivet Museum in Tromsø, Norway ©WWR

Poland

Member since 2017

Throughout 2025, Online

Development of online content on Cultural Routes in Polish

The Ministry of Culture and National Heritage expanded the availability the content of Cultural Routes in Polish by updating the national website and providing content for the Polish-language version of the programme's website at coe.int. This fundamental tool improves communication with stakeholders and promotes Cultural Routes to the general public.

Portugal

Member since 2011

11 to 13 June 2025, Torres Vedras, Arruda dos Vinhos, Vila Franca de Xira

12th Training Academy on Cultural Routes

Portugal hosted the 12th edition of the Training Academy on Cultural Routes, organised by the European Institute of Cultural Routes together with Destination Napoleon and Iter Vitis Route, in co-operation with the Rota Histórica das Linhas de Torres, the Association of Portuguese Wine Municipalities (AMPV), and Torres Vedras Municipality. The 2025 edition was dedicated to 'Co-operation and Cultural Routes', bringing together representatives of certified Cultural Routes for workshops on partnerships, funding opportunities, visibility strategies, project development, governance, and sustainability.

12th Training Academy on Cultural Routes in Torres Vedras, Portugal ©EICR

Serbia

Member since 2012

February 2025, Belgrade, Serbia (International Tourism Fair)

Tourist Passport for Cultural Journey Through Subotica

The Subotica Tourist Organisation presented a tourist passport guiding visitors through the city's Art Nouveau heritage. Visitors collect stamps from sites including the City Hall, Synagogue, Museum, and Modern Gallery. The initiative has become popular among tourists and locals alike.

7 to 9 April 2025, Cervia, Italy

ATRIUM General Assembly and FORTIC project meeting

The delegation of the Municipality of Dimitrovgrad participated in the ATRIUM General Assembly in Cervia, Italy. Key topics included the election of the new President and Deputy. Participants also visited the cultural route of Cervia as part of the programme.

16 April 2025, Skopje, Republic of North Macedonia

Roman Emperors and Danube Wine Route at the National Forum on Cultural Routes of the Republic of North Macedonia

The Danube Competence Centre, as the managing body of the Roman Emperors and Danube Wine Route, participated as a panellist at the National Forum on Cultural Routes, hosted by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of North Macedonia. Route Manager Danko Ćosić presented the Route as a platform for regional tourism innovation and cross-border co-operation, highlighting its role in connecting heritage, wine and sustainable tourism.

May to September 2025, Dimitrovgrad, Serbia **Dimitrovgrad sites added to ATRIUM Route**

The Municipality of Dimitrovgrad submitted five significant sites to the ATRIUM route: the Elementary School, the Sloboda Factory, the Municipal Administration Building, the Cultural Centre Building, and the Cultural House in the village of Petrlaš. Detailed information and photographs were collected and translated into Serbian and English.

7 to 10 June 2025, Subotica, Serbia

World Art Nouveau Day: Book presentation and cultural programme

World Art Nouveau Day was marked with a rich cultural programme, including the presentation of 'The Origin and Development of Subotica's Architectural Heritage from 1700 to 1974' by Victoria Aladžić. An open-air film screening, organ concert in the Synagogue, and workshops for children and adults were also organised. A professional conference entitled Art Nouveau and Contemporary Architecture explored challenges in preserving Art Nouveau heritage and establishing a harmonious urban environment. Cross-border projects with Hungarian municipalities were also presented.

3 to 5 September 2025, Ljubljana, Slovenia

RANN General Assembly in Ljubljana

Representatives of Subotica participated in the Réseau Art Nouveau Network (RANN) General Assembly in Ljubljana. Activities included the launch of a new educational resource (Primotheke), Art Nouveau-themed board games, and an exploration of Ljubljana's Secession architecture.

22 to 24 October 2025, Cappadocia, Türkiye

Danube Competence Centre at the 2025 Advisory Forum on Cultural Routes

Representatives of the Danube Competence Centre, as the managing body of the Roman Emperors and Danube Wine Route, attended the 14th Annual Advisory Forum on Cultural Routes in Cappadocia, Türkiye, where they presented the upcoming 13th edition of the Training Academy, to be hosted by the Roman Emperors and Danube Wine Route in Pécs, Hungary, in 2026.



Danube Competence Centre at the 2025 Advisory Forum on Cultural Routes
©Danube Competence Centre

Slovak Republic

Member since 2017

June to October 2025, Bratislava Devín, Dolný, Svätý Jur, Modra

Historical events on the Cyril and Methodius Way

Historical events were held along the Cyril and Methodius Way route to support visibility. The events take place every year at local community meeting places.

1 June to 30 September 2025, Slovakia (4 regions) and Czechia (2 regions)

Children's Cyril and Methodius passport

A seasonal summer product for families with children encourages them to discover monuments, collect stamps, and receive gifts. Families make excursions along the Cultural Route and learn about cultural heritage in a playful way.

April to November 2025, various cities, Slovakia

History through experience workshops

In museums, elementary school children are taught ancient history by combining historical interpretation with working with ceramics and the ancient Glagolitic script. They take home the ceramics as a gift and are left with a memorable experience.

April to May 2025, Spišská Kapitula, Bňa, Diakovce

Photo and video materials for TRANSROMANICA monuments

A team from the Monument Office of the Slovak Republic visited three locations and produced over 1,000 photos and videos. The videos are being adapted for presentation on local and TRANSROMANICA official websites.

Slovenia

Member since 2011

14 to 16 April 2025, Nova Gorica (Slovenia)
and Gorizia (Italy)

Conference on Cultural Routes in Cross-Border Areas

The international conference focused on cross-border co-operation and the role of Cultural Routes in connecting communities, as well as synergies between the Cultural Routes programme and the European Capital of Culture 2025. Participants from nine countries exchanged good practices and learned about the Ljubkina Pot project, awarded as an inspiring practice at the 14th Advisory Forum in Cappadocia, Türkiye.



Conference on Cultural Routes in Cross-Border Areas in Nova Gorica (Slovenia)
©Ministry of Culture, Slovenia

April 2024 to June 2025, Nova Gorica – Gorizia region
(Slovenia / Italy)

GO Walking Project: Cross-border St. Martin Circuit

The cross-border St. Martin Circuit, part of the Via Sancti Martini, is a 240km scenic hiking route connecting Slovenia and Italy. Fully waymarked and equipped with information panels, the route encircles the twin European Capital of Culture 2025 towns. An international opening conference was held in April 2025, and a cross-border management strategy was developed.

13-14 June 2025, Novo Mesto, Slovenia

Situlae Festival

The 10th edition of the Situlae Festival, celebrating Iron Age life and culinary arts, offered visitors an all-day experience of the rich archaeological heritage of Dolenjska. Activities included handicraft demonstrations, culinary workshops, martial arts, dance animations, and a guided tour of the museum's archaeological collection. This year featured special emphasis on glass production.

Spain

Member since 2011

2-3 April 2025, La Laguna, Tenerife, Canary Islands
4th meeting of Cultural Routes Managers in Tenerife

The working meeting with national representatives of Cultural Routes crossing Spain and heritage professionals shared knowledge on the current status of Cultural Routes, promoted communication and exchange of experiences, and reflected on conditions for success.



4th meeting of Cultural Routes Managers in Tenerife ©Ministry of Culture and Sports

May 2025 to May 2027, Spain

Spain holds EPA Bureau Presidency 2025-2027

Spain now holds the presidency of the EPA Governing Board Bureau. The country seeks to strengthen its presence through annual manager meetings, promoting co-operation between EPA member countries, consolidating Ministry support for Cultural Routes, advising on new certifications, and promoting co-operation with UNESCO Conventions.

30 May to 15 June 2025, El Retiro Park, Madrid

Cultural Routes exhibition at Madrid Book Fair

An open-air photographic exhibition at Spain's major annual Book Fair showcased the 27 Cultural Routes crossing Spain. Seeking to increase visibility and public awareness, the exhibition was presented by the Deputy Director General for Cultural Assets. The Ministry also organised a storytelling activity for families and a communication campaign with banners on the Ministry building.

16 May 2025, La Nau Cultural Centre, Valencia

Certification ceremony of the European Route of Historic Pharmacies and Medicinal Gardens

The Aromas Itinerarium Salutis Association, chaired by the University of Valencia, held the official certification ceremony for the European Route of Historic Pharmacies and Medicinal Gardens. The event was attended by university officials, representatives from participating European countries, and the Ministry of Culture.

15 September 2025, Benetússer, Valencia

Benetússer joins ATRIUM Route

The official ceremony marked the incorporation of the municipality of Benetússer into the European Route of Architectural Heritage of Totalitarian Regimes (ATRIUM), becoming the first Spanish partner in this Cultural Route.

Türkiye 

Member since 2018

10 April 2025, Türkiye (online)

Online meeting with Turkish Cultural Routes stakeholders

The meeting was held with Deputy Minister of Culture and Tourism Nadir Alpaslan and over 80 stakeholders from across the country. It highlighted the importance and tourism potential of Cultural Routes, Türkiye's role, and local participation and contribution to the 2025 Annual Forum in Cappadocia.

22 to 24 October 2025, Cappadocia, Türkiye

14th Annual Advisory Forum in Cappadocia

Türkiye successfully hosted the 14th Annual Advisory Forum under the theme 'Cultural Routes and Landscapes: advancing heritage protection through cultural and sustainable tourism', with over 300 culture and tourism professionals from across Europe. The Forum included sessions, panels, exhibitions, a press meeting, and cultural tours related to Cultural Routes.







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



European Institute of Cultural Routes

Statutory bodies and staff of the Institute

Members of the EICR Board of Directors

Government of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg:

- **Ambassador André BIEVER**, EICR President, Director of Consular Affairs and International Cultural Relations, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Luxembourg
- **Claude HALSDORF**, EICR Vice-President, Counsellor, Ministry of Economy, Directorate General of Tourism, Luxembourg
- **Barbara ZECHES**, EICR Board of Directors member, Representative of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg on the Steering Committee of the EPA on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe, Advisor, Ministry of Culture, Luxembourg
- **Patrick DONDELINGER**, EICR Board of Directors member, Head of Studies, Intangible Cultural Heritage, Ministry of Culture, Luxembourg
- **Robert L. PHILIPPART**, EICR Board of Directors member, UNESCO site manager for Luxembourg City, Ministry of Culture, Luxembourg

Council of Europe:

- **Matjaž GRUDEN**, EICR Board of Directors member, Director of Democratic Participation, Council of Europe
- **Sergio ORTEGA MUÑOZ**, EICR Board of Directors member, Head of Heritage Protection and European Programs Service at the Ministry of Culture (Spain), Chair of the Governing Board of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes (Council of Europe)
- **Eladio FERNÁNDEZ-GALIANO**, Treasurer, Special Advisor to the Cultural Routes Programme of the Council of Europe

Secretariat

- **Rui GOMES**, Executive Secretary of the EPA

Staff

- **Rui GOMES**, Director of the EICR
- **Carolina CLARK**, Project Manager
- **Cindy BLESER**, Communication Officer
- **Dylan HERGENHAHN**, Administrative Assistant
- **Crina ZUGRAV**, Project Officer
- **Beyza GOCGUN**, Project Officer (from November 2025)

Trainees

- **Beyza GOCGUN** (February-July 2025)
- **Anja ZIVANOVIC** (September-November 2025)

Statutory meetings

On the occasions of the General Assembly and Board of Directors meetings that took place in 2025, 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.

16 June, Luxembourg, LU

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

10 September, Luxembourg, LU

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

13 November, Luxembourg, LU

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

Co-ordination of the Cultural Routes certification cycles

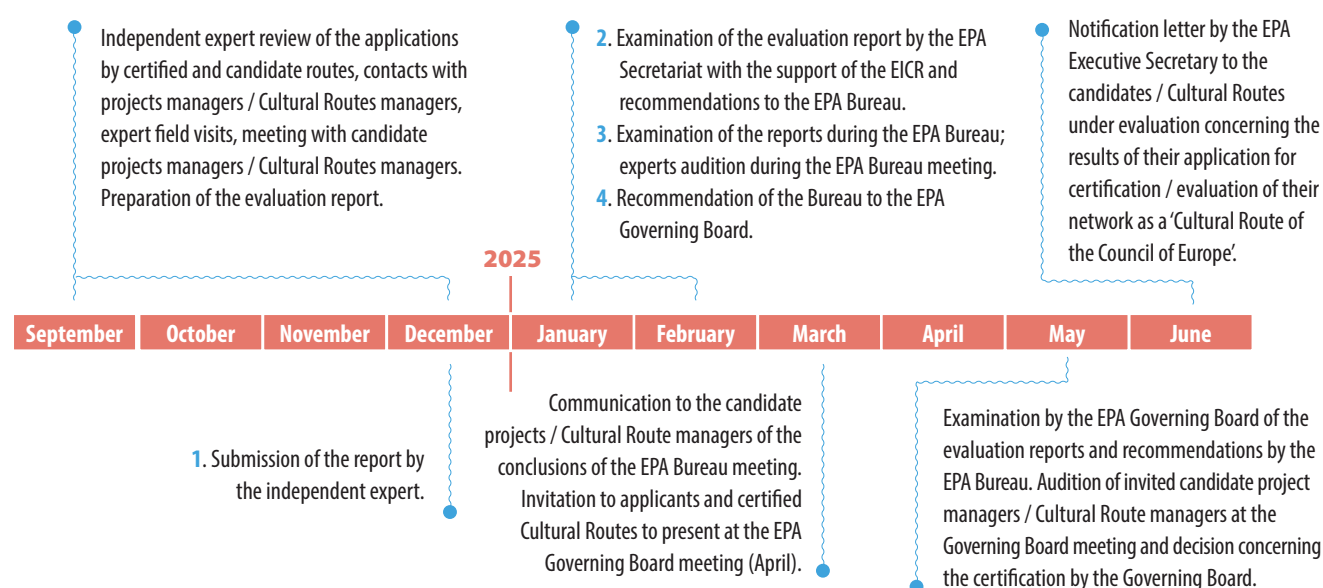
The EICR supports the EPA Secretariat in the co-ordination of the evaluation cycle of certified Cultural Routes and the certification of candidate projects by the Governing Board of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe.

The evaluation and the certification follow the same schedule, starting in July and ending in May of the following year, as outlined below. During 2025, the 2024-2025 cycle was completed and the 2025-2026 cycle was launched.

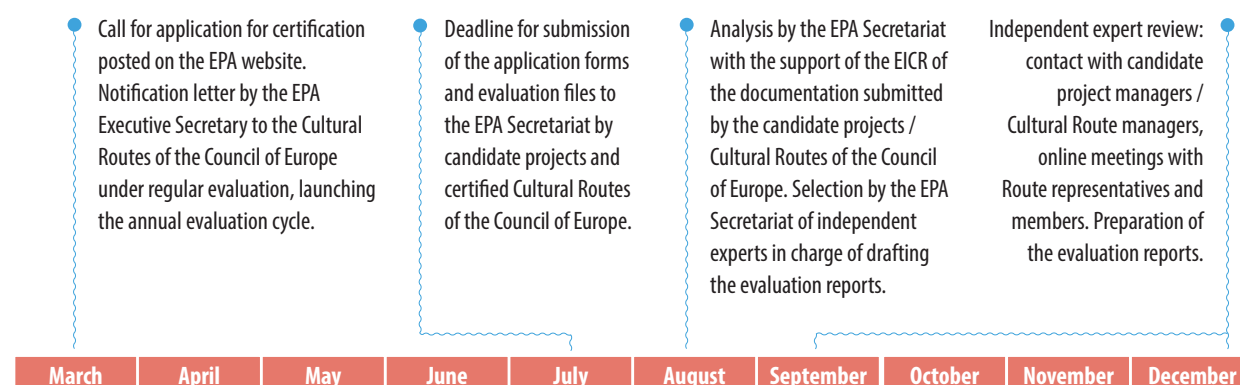


More information: Evaluation Cycle: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/cultural-routes/about-the-certification>

2024 - 2025 Certification cycle:



2025 - 2026 Certification cycle:



Advisory meetings and activities

Meetings with the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe

March-June

Co-ordination meetings with the representatives of Destination Napoleon and Iter Vitis on the 2025 Training Academy, online

20 May

Meeting on Cultural Routes within the framework of the Intergroup on European Cultural Heritage, the Way of Saint James and other European Cultural Routes, Brussels, Belgium

7 July

Information meeting with newly certified Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe in 2025, online

9 October

Meeting with the representatives of the Roman Emperors and Danube Wine Route, preparation of the 2026 Training Academy, online

6 November

Participation in the public presentation of the Routard Guide dedicated to the Pyrenean Freedom Routes, Toulouse, France

2 December

Meeting with the representatives of ATRIUM, online

9-10 December

Participation in the Cultural Crossroads seminar organised by St. Olav Ways and Via Querinissima, Trondheim, Norway

Advisory meetings with candidate cultural routes

6 March

Advisory meeting with the Columban Way, online

14 May

Advisory meeting with Epics of Normandy and Normans in Europe, online

23 May

Advisory meeting with Routes of Masonic Architecture and Heritage, online

20 June

Advisory Meetings with Via Querinissima, Luxembourg

20 June

Advisory meeting with the Columban Way, Luxembourg

20 June

Advisory meeting with the European Paganini Route, Luxembourg

30 June

Advisory meeting with the Isla Del Mar, online

4 July

Advisory meeting with the Singing Route, online

7 July

Advisory meeting with Routes of Masonic Architecture and Heritage, online

8 July

Advisory meeting with the Jerusalem Way, online

8 July

Advisory meeting with the Forte Culture, online

17 July

Advisory meeting with the Via Micaelica, online

28 July

Advisory meeting with the European Paganini Route, online
17 July Advisory meeting with the Via Micaelica, online

2 September

General Information Meeting with the Independent Experts of the 2025-2026 certification cycle, online

Sept-Oct

Individual meetings with the Independent Experts of the 2025-26 certification cycle, online

7-8 October

Participation in the International conference on Marine, Lighthouse Tourism and Maritime Heritage, Dublin, Ireland

17 November

Meeting with the European Paper Route, Luxembourg

24 November

Advisory meeting with Cross-Border Castle Road Network, online

Cooperation with International Organisations

3 February

Meeting with the Organisation of Ibero-American States for Education, Science and Culture (OEI), online

28 November

Meeting with the Organisation of Ibero-American States for Education, Science and Culture (OEI), Revision of the OEI-EPA Statute, online





University Network

University Network for Cultural Routes Studies



1st International Conference on Universities and Cultural Routes in Santiago de Compostela, Spain
© Compostela Group of Universities

35

universities members of the Network
for Cultural Routes Studies

> 4000

books and magazines in the
EICR library

+ 2

new member states in 2025

The European Institute of Cultural Routes co-ordinates the Universities Network for Cultural Routes Studies (NCRS), a platform for exchanges and mobility for students and researchers, and ensures regular interactions among the EICR, the universities and the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe.

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, underpinning the effective enhancement of European past and present heritage.

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

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 in Santiago de Compostela, Spain.



©Compostela Group of Universities

The Compostela Group of Universities currently holds the Chair of the Network for the biennium 2024 to 2026, and is organising a biannual agenda for activities they have in common.

The Università della Svizzera italiana will be hosting the 2nd edition of the International Conference in Lugano, Switzerland in 2026.

As of today, the University Network for Cultural Routes Studies numbers 35 members:

- **UNIVERSITY OF BEDFORDSHIRE, GB**
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 Economic and Political Studies, Laboratori de Patrimoni i Turisme Cultural (LABPATC)
Member since 2013
- **COMPOSTELA GROUP OF UNIVERSITIES, 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, GB**
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 CARDACHI FOUNDATION, LB**
Member since 2022
- **EGE UNIVERSITY, TR**
Member since 2024
- **UNIVERSITY OF REGGIO CALABRIA, IT**
Member since 2024
- **JURAJ DOBRILA UNIVERSITY OF PULA, HR**
Member since 2024
- **ANTALYA BILIM UNIVERSITY, TK**
Member since 2024
- **NEVŞEHİR HACI BEKTAŞVELİ UNIVERSITY, TK**
Member since 2024
- **BALIKESİR 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
- **UNIVERSITY OF TIRANA, AL**
Member since 2025
- **HASAN KALYONCU UNIVERSITY, TR**
Member since 2025





*The Cultural
Routes of the
Council of Europe:
Highlights*

49 Cultural Routes

Aeneas Route ~ 2021

Alvar Aalto Route – 20th Century Architecture and Design ~ 2013

ATRIUM – Architecture of Totalitarian Regimes of the 20th Century ~ 2014

Cluniac Sites in Europe ~ 2005

Cyril and Methodius Route ~ 2021

Destination Napoleon ~ 2015

European Cemeteries Route ~ 2010

European Fairy Tale Route ~ 2023

European Mozart Ways ~ 2002

European Route d'Artagnan ~ 2022

European Route of Ceramics ~ 2021

European Route of Historic Gardens ~ 2020

European Route of Historic Pharmacies and Medicinal Gardens ~ 2022

European Route of Historic Thermal Towns ~ 2010

European Route of Industrial Heritage (ERIH) ~ 2019

European Route of Megalithic Culture ~ 2013

European Routes of Emperor Charles V ~ 2015

European Routes of Jewish Heritage ~ 2004

Fortified Towns of the Grande Region ~ 2015

Historic Cafés Route ~ 2022

Huguenot and Waldensian Trail ~ 2013

Impressionisms Routes ~ 2018

In the Footsteps of Robert Louis Stevenson ~ 2015

Iron Age Danube Route ~ 2022

Iron Curtain Trail - EuroVelo 13 ~ 2019

Iron Route in the Pyrenees ~ 2019

Iter Vitis Route ~ 2009 ~

Le Corbusier Destinations:
Architectural Promenades ~ 2019

Leonardo da Vinci Route ~ 2019

Liberation Route Europe ~ 2014

Phoenicians' Route ~ 2003

Prehistoric Rock Art Trails ~ 2010

Pyrenean Freedom Routes ~ 2025

Réseau Art Nouveau Network ~ 2014

Roman Emperors and Danube Wine Route ~ 2015

Romea Strata ~ 2025

Route of Saint Olav Ways ~ 2010

Routes of El legado andalusí ~ 1997

Saint Francis Ways ~ 2025

Saint Martin of Tours Route ~ 2005

Santiago de Compostela Pilgrim Routes ~ 1987

The Hansa ~ 1991

Transhumance trails ~ 2024

Transromanica ~ 2007

Via Francigena ~ 1994

Via Habsburg ~ 2014

Via Regia ~ 2005

Viking Routes ~ 1993

Women Writers Route ~ 2022

Statutory Meetings

Each Cultural Route of the Council of Europe is a grass-roots association federating several European stakeholders, legally established in one of the Council of Europe member states, coming from the public as well as from the private sector. Every year, each Cultural Route organises a general assembly, bringing together the various members of the respective associative network.

When? Where?	Who?
<i>3 February 2025, Salzburg, AT</i>	European Mozart Ways
<i>14 February 2025, online</i>	European Route d'Artagnan
<i>3-4 March 2025, Aquileia, IT</i>	Romea Strata
<i>10 March 2025, online</i>	St. Olav Ways
<i>10-13 March 2025, Krakow, PL</i>	Liberation Route Europe
<i>21 March 2025, Marsala (Sicily), IT</i>	The Phoenicians' Route
<i>25 March 2025, Celje, SI</i>	Women Writers Route
<i>4 April 2025, Florence, IT</i>	Leonardo Da Vinci Route
<i>8 April 2025, Cervia, IT</i>	ATRIUM
<i>25 April 2025, Saaremaa, EE</i>	Viking Route
<i>28 April 2025, Haldensleben, DE</i>	European Route of Megalithic Culture
<i>5-7 May 2025, Lucca, IT</i>	Destination Napoleon
<i>8 May 2025, Băile Herculane, RO</i>	European Route of Historic Thermal Towns
<i>9 May 2025, Grossklein, AT</i>	Iron Age Danube Route
<i>11-12 May 2025, Rome, IT</i>	European Routes of Jewish Heritage
<i>15 May 2025, Kouvola, FI</i>	Alvar Aalto Route
<i>15-16 May 2025, Ronchamp, FR</i>	Le Corbusier Destinations
<i>16 May 2025, Troyes, FR</i>	Via Francigena

When? Where?	Who?
<i>23 May 2025, Skopje, MK</i>	Cyril and Methodius Route
<i>27 May 2025, Brussels, BE</i>	European Route of Historic Gardens
<i>8 June 2025, Visby, SE</i>	The Hansa
<i>17 June 2025, online</i>	European Route of Ceramics
<i>19 June 2025, online</i>	European Fairy Tale Route
<i>3-4 July 2025, Toulouse, FR</i>	Saint Francis Ways
<i>4-6 July 2025, Agen and Moirax, FR</i>	Cluniac Sites in Europe
<i>4 September 2025, Dresden, DE</i>	European Cemeteries Route
<i>5 September 2025, Ljubljana, SI</i>	Réseau Art Nouveau Network
<i>15 September 2025, online</i>	Huguenot and Waldensian Trail
<i>24 September 2025, Balatonfüred, HU</i>	EuroVelo 13-Iron Curtain Trail
<i>25 September 2025, Montegrotto Terme, IT</i>	European Route of Historic Thermal Towns
<i>27 September 2025, San Vicente de la Barquera, ES</i>	European Routes of Emperor Charles V
<i>14 October 2025, hybrid</i>	Transromanica
<i>16 October 2025, Castellón de la Plana, ES</i>	European Route of Ceramics
<i>7 November 2025, Rome, IT</i>	Via Francigena
<i>4-6 November 2025, Paris, FR</i>	In the Footsteps of Robert Louis Stevenson
<i>18 November 2025, Torregrotta, IT</i>	European Route of Historic Pharmacies and Medicinal Gardens
<i>19 November 2025, Brno, CZ</i>	Cyril and Methodius Route
<i>20 November 2025, Raseborg, FI</i>	Alvar Aalto Route
<i>21 November 2025, online</i>	European Route of Industrial Heritage
<i>12 December 2025, PT</i>	Prehistoric Rock Art Trails
<i>18-19 December 2025, Assisi, IT</i>	Saint Francis' Ways

Selected activities by fields of action

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(2023)2:

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 2025.

Co-operation in research and development

Route: ATRIUM

Activity: Mapping of Contested Heritage: EURban Deco and the Critical History Tours Map

Description: The practice brings together participatory mapping of colonial and dissonant heritage in European cities in order to build critical guided tours addressing difficult pasts, also engaging students, residents, migrant communities, artists and educators, fostering dialogue and inclusive memory. The two maps can be viewed under the link below.



ATRIUM
Architecture
of Translational Regimes
of the XX Century
in Europe's Urban Memory





Route: Cluniac Sites in Europe

Activity: Conference : Cluniac sites UNESCO bid, state of play and perspectives

When/Where: 30 September 2025

Description: The European Federation invited residents, associations and partners of Clunisois territory to a meeting to review the progress of the UNESCO bid. Christophe Voros, director of the European Federation of Cluniac Sites, recalled the history of the application. A round table discussion brought together various stakeholders – elected officials, representatives of associations and site managers – to present the perspectives of the inscription on UNESCO's World Heritage List.



Conference on the Cluniac sites UNESCO bid ©European Federation of Cluniac Sites

Route: Cyril and Methodius Route



Activity: Constantine's Letters (scientific journal)

When/Where: 2008 to 2025

Description: The Journal is a scholarly periodical dedicated to supporting cultural, historical, and educational activities connected with the heritage of Saints Cyril and Methodius and the development of the Cyril and Methodius Route. The main goal of the journal is to disseminate information, raise public awareness of the cultural and spiritual heritage of the Thessalonian brothers, and support scientific research activities. Contributions are made accessible to the public, and the printed version is regularly distributed to libraries in multiple countries, allowing the journal to reach a wide audience.



Constantine's Letters (scientific journal) ©Martin Peterka

Route: European Route of Industrial Heritage

Activity: ERIH Annual Conference 2025

When/Where: 22 to 24 October 2025, Chemnitz, Germany

Description: The conference took up the theme of the European Capital of Culture ‘C the unseen’, and examined the potential, challenges, interpretation and marketing of intangible industrial cultural heritage. Over 100 delegates from 17 countries participated, and another 80 followed the livestream.

Representatives from former European Capitals of Culture explored the extent to which a European Capital of Culture can be a driving force for industrial culture.



ERIH Annual Conference 2025 ©ERIH, Industriemuseum Chemnitz, Dirk Hanus

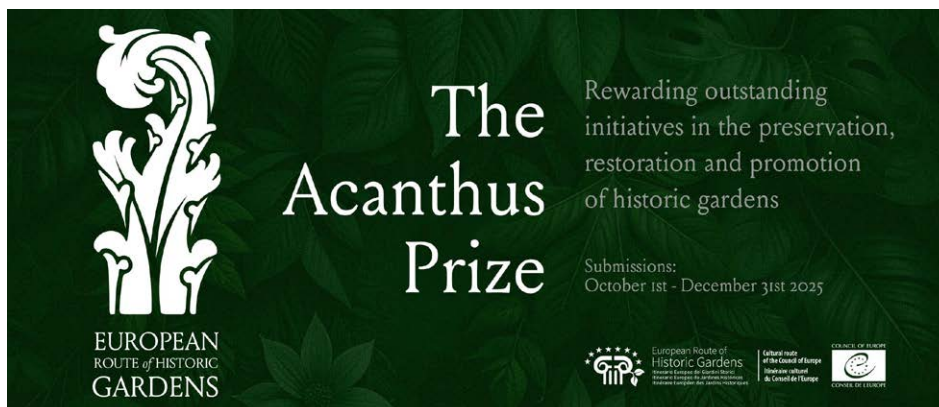


Route: European Route of Historic Gardens

Activity: The Acanthus Prize – Celebrating Excellence in Historic Garden Heritage

When/Where: First edition, end of submission 31 December 2025

Description: The Acanthus Prize was established by the European Route of Historic Gardens (ERHG) during its General Assembly on 27 May 2025, in Brussels, as part of the VIII European Forum on Historic Gardens. Organised by the ERHG's Scientific Committee, the Prize recognises and rewards outstanding initiatives in the preservation, restoration, and promotion of historic gardens. The name of the Prize is inspired by the acanthus leaf, a classical motif in European art and architecture.



©European Network of Historic Gardens

Route: European Route of Historic Pharmacies and Medicinal Gardens



Activity: International Conference on Herbaria

When/Where: 16-17 October 2025, València, Spain

Description: Promoted by Aromas Itinerarium Salutis with Generalitat Valenciana and Universitat de València, the Forum celebrated the Cultural Route of the Council of Europe certification for the European Route of Historic Pharmacies and Medicinal Gardens. It gathered the EPA Board, Spain's Ministry of Culture, AIS delegates, experts, and students. The programme included plenary and working sessions, guided visits, a ceremony for new members, and the first screening of the SPICES documentary, produced by AIS.



1st Aromas Itinerarium Salutis Forum. València, Spain ©Centre Cultural La Nau – Universitat de València

Route: Huguenot and Waldensian Trail



Activity: Exhibition Taking Root – Humans and Plants in Exile

When/Where: 28 September 2025, closing event in Switzerland

Description: From June 6 to September 28, the exhibition, Taking Root – Humans and Plants in Exile, was showcased at Place de l'Octroi in Carouge. The closing event coincided with the Semaine du Goût, and included presentations by an economic historian and an ethnobotanist, along with a buffet featuring vegetables from Geneva with Huguenot heritage.



Exhibition Taking Root – Humans and Plants in Exile ©Huguenot and Waldensian Trail, International Union

Route: Prehistoric Rock Art Trails

Activity: TupART (Territories united by first ART)

When/Where: 2025 (to 2028), France, Spain and Portugal

Description: TupART addresses the challenge of enhancing the cultural and economic revitalisation of rural areas within the SUDOE space (a programme that facilitates co-operation among the regions of south-west Europe) through the preservation and management of their Palaeolithic Rock Art (RA).

The primary goal is to stimulate rural tourism by advocating for a transition towards tourism that incorporates the inherent potentials of these regions through the application of innovative solutions aimed at improving local quality of life and bolstering economic development. Furthermore, a new perspective on RA management will be introduced, directing its management towards sustainability and social inclusion. TupART employs a collaborative strategy grounded in transnational co-operation due to the geographical distribution of RA and the common challenges encountered by SUDOE regions that have RA listed as UNESCO World Heritage sites.



Route: Women Writers Route

Activity: International conference Women's Path through Fairy Tales

When/Where: 28 to 30 October 2025

Description: The conference brought together scholars and literature enthusiasts from several European countries: Poland, Slovenia, Serbia, Romania, and Croatia. The event centred on expert presentations from the academic sector that examined the relationship between this literary genre and the female authors highlighted on the Route, particularly focusing on the advocacy of humanrights. Women's Path through Fairy Tales signifies an investigation into storytelling that employs fantasy to elucidate the real world while showcasing women's creativity.



International conference Women's Path through Fairy Tales ©Cultural Tourist Association Women Writers Route



Route: Réseau Art Nouveau Network



Activity: Publication *Bringing Art Nouveau heritage back to life*

When/Where: June 2025

Description: This anthology of essays, sourced from the global symposium entitled Bringing Art Nouveau Back to Life: Theory and Practice in Restoration (held in Brussels on 28 and 29 November 2020) explores the modern difficulties associated with the preservation and restoration of this cultural heritage, referencing the Venice Charter and the Turin Declaration. Serving as a prominent event within the Art Nouveau as a New EUtopia initiative, which is supported by the Creative Europe programme, it presents a sustainable vision where historical influences shape future developments.



Route: Santiago de Compostela Pilgrim Routes



Activity: Training Academy and exchange of experiences between cultural routes in Latin American countries and Saint James Ways

When/Where: 27-28 May 2025

Description: In May 2025, Galicia welcomed an official delegation led by Martín Llaryora, the Governor of Córdoba, Argentina. Accompanied by representatives from the Córdoba Tourism Agency, the Bishop of Cruz del Eje, and officials overseeing the Cura Brochero pilgrimage route, the visit aimed to foster collaboration between the S.A. de Xestión do Plan Xacobeo and the Córdoba Tourism Agency. This partnership focused on enhancing the promotion of their respective pilgrimage routes: the Camino de Santiago and the Camino del Cura Brochero.



Training Academy and exchange of experiences between cultural routes in Latin American countries and Saint James Ways
©European Federation of Saint James Way

Enhancement of memory, history and European heritage

Route: Le Corbusier Destinations

Activity: Celebrating children during the 2025 European Heritage Days

When/Where: September 2025

Description: In preparation for the 2025 European Heritage Days, the Le Corbusier sites collaborated on a unified programme that showcases their extensive and varied activities. Additionally, they introduced a collective educational resource: the engaging exploration, entitled Welcome to Le Corbusier's Universe, which is featured at multiple locations. Numerous events, including drawing competitions, riddles and treasure hunts, as well as creative workshops, were organised to honour the architectural heritage of the 20th century.



©Le Corbusier Destinations

Architectural Promenades
DESTINATIONS LE CORBUSIER
Promenades architecturales



Route: Destination Napoleon

Activity: From history to comics: Destination Napoleon at Lucca Comics & Games

When/Where: 30 October to 3 November 2025, Lucca, Italy

Description: From 30 October to 3 November 2025, the European Federation of Napoleonic Cities took part in the Lucca Comics & Games in Lucca, Italy, presenting Napoleonic heritage through the format of comics, manga and interactive media. Held within the Japan Town section of the festival, the event brought together heritage, pop culture and creative media. A key activity was the conference entitled Napoleon in the Eroica Manga, chaired by Antonio D'Onofrio (eCampus University) and Francesco Ristori, which explored how the figure of Napoleon Bonaparte appears in the Japanese manga by Riyoko Ikeda.



©Destination Napoleon





Route: European Route of Historic Thermal Towns

Activity: Thermal Congress 2025

When/Where: 4 to 6 June 2025, Budapest, Hungary

Description: This congress was organised by the European Historic Thermal Towns Association (EHTTA) with the assistance of the UN Tourism. The Thermal Tourism Congress 2025, held in Budapest, convened over 140 municipal leaders, tourism experts, researchers, and wellness operators from 30 different countries. They engaged in discussions regarding the changing requirements of contemporary travellers and the significance of historic thermal towns within the current tourism framework. Panel discussions concentrated on themes such as sustainability, heritage, innovation, and wellness in thermal destinations. For instance, the incorporation of traditional thermal practices into modern, sustainable offerings and the education of young people through digital communication tools were key focal points.



Historic Thermal Towns Congress 2025 ©EHTTA



Route: European Route of Jewish Heritage

Activity: Mi Dor Le Dor Europe – Cultural and educational experiences implementation

When/Where: May 2025 to November 2025, several cities throughout Europe

Description: Following training sessions for educators in France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Poland, Spain and Ukraine, over 225 practitioners developed 36 innovative cultural and educational initiatives. These MDLDE experiences aim to engage citizens by highlighting how Jewish cultural diversity has enriched European history and continues to do so today, promoting understanding and serving as a tool to counter hate speech.



Mi Dor Le Dor Europe Project ©European Route of Jewish Heritage

Route: The Hansa

Activity: 45th International Hanseatic Day

When/Where: 5 to 8 June 2025, Visby Sweden

Description: The 45th Hanseatic Day was held in the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Old Town of Visby, Sweden, featuring participation from over 70 Hanseatic cities. The entire city centre transformed into a vibrant scene filled with market stalls, stages, and a variety of spontaneous cultural events representing the Hanseatic cities. The HANSEartWORKS exhibition focused on performance art. Additionally, for the first time, an organ festival was included as part of the International Hanseatic Day.



45th International Hanseatic Day in Visby ©Region Gotland



Route: Iron Age Danube Route

Activity: The Festival of Situlæ

When/Where: 14 June 2025, Novo Mesto, Slovenia

Description: The Festival of Situlæ (Praznik situl) honours Novo Mesto, known as the 'City of Situlæ', renowned for its bronze, ornately designed Iron Age vessels. The 2025 Festival marked the 10th anniversary of this Festival of Prehistoric Life and Culinary Arts, which centred around a theme related to glass. The event showcased a prehistoric market, traditional crafts (including pottery, glass-making, and smithing), Iron Age culinary offerings (such as wild game and mead), and workshops for children (featuring archery and crafting). Notable attractions included the historical reenactment entitled *A Performance at the Princely Court*, a depiction of 'Spiritual Life', and a guided tour of the situlæ collection housed at the Dolenjski Museum.



The Festival of Situlæ, 2025, Novo Mesto, Slovenia ©Dolenjska Museum





Route: Romea Strata

Activity: Inclusive cultural hikes for visually-impaired pilgrims

When/Where: Since September 2021; each year in August-September

Description: The Camino Lituano team, member of Romea Strata and national co-ordinator in Lithuania, engages blind, partially-sighted pilgrims and youth in inclusive hikes and awareness events. Activities are implemented with the contribution and support of municipalities and NGOs (Hiking Centre for Social Inclusion) and include cultural and exploratory walks as well as a powerful role-reversal hike, where the blind become the guides, leading sighted citizens who are blindfolded.



Inclusive cultural hikes ©Associazione Europea Romea Strata E.T.S.

Route: European Routes of Charles V



Activity: Exhibition: Mary of Hungary: Art and Power in the Renaissance

When/Where: 21 November 2025 to May 2026, Royal Museum Mariemont, Belgium

Description: The exhibition illuminates the strategies employed by Emperor Charles V towards the conclusion of his reign, aimed at strengthening his imperial image and arranging the dynastic succession that commenced in the early days of his son's reign, the future Philip II. By reinterpreting a pivotal period in European history (approximately 1540 to 1560) through fresh academic insights, the exhibition explores the contributions of significant individuals within Charles V's circle, starting with the prominent involvement of his sister, Mary of Hungary, as well as the shared historical background of the former Netherlands and Spain.



MARY4ALL 2025. A musical canon for Mary of Hungary by Benedictus Appenzeller ©Joachim Thôme – Les Productions du Verger

Route: TRANSROMANICA

Activity: 4th TRANSROMANICA Award

When/Where: 24 May 2025, Quedlinburg, Germany

Description: In 2025, the evangelical-reformed Parish Church of Our Lady, along with its Church Building Association, received recognition for its outstanding contributions to the European Romanesque network and its active role in preserving the local Romanesque heritage in Halberstadt. The municipality positions itself as a resource for refugees, serving as the 'Central Contact Point for Asylum Seekers' in the state of Saxony-Anhalt, located in Halberstadt. For the past three years, the church has been made available to a Ukrainian Orthodox community for their worship services.



4th TRANSROMANICA Award ©TRANSROMANICA Association

TRANSROMANICA
The Romanesque Routes of European Heritage



Cultural and educational exchanges for young Europeans

Route: In the Footsteps of Robert Louis Stevenson

Activity: Aréthuse, a board game for ages 8 and up

When/Where: Currently available, Belgium and France

Description: In the year 1876, Robert Louis Stevenson, accompanied by a friend, embarked on a canoe expedition from Antwerp to Pontoise. The canoes they used were named La Cigarette and L'Aréthuse. The Stevenson Association Des Canaux du Nord (Canals of the North), in collaboration with the province of Hainaut in Belgium, used Interreg funding to develop a board game that simulates Stevenson's voyage. This game is designed for three to six players aged 8 and older.



©In the Footsteps of Robert Louis Stevenson

Route: European Fairy Tale Route



Activity: Storytelling Day

When/Where: 20 March 2025, Collodi, Italy and online

Description: Storytelling Day honoured the fairy tale, which is the most ancient and effective method of conveying the essence of life from one generation to another. The project was realised with the support of the European Heritage Days 2024, the European Union, and the Council of Europe. During a conference held both live and online, participants from the European Fairy Tale Route shared and narrated the theatrical, pantomime, storytelling, and narrative endeavours they engaged in over the previous year, aiming to safeguard the European heritage of the past that underpins the future.



©European Fairy Tale Route

Route: European Mozart Ways



Activity: Mozart – Sing Along

When/Where: November 2024 to February 2025

Description: MozartSingAlong is a participatory project that immerses participants / pupils in the fascinating world of Mozart's music: at the Mozart Children's Choir Concert MozartSingAlong, school classes and children's choirs from Salzburg & Schwetzingen sang selected songs from the Mozart Songbook for Children arranged by Stefan David Hummel (edited by European Mozart Ways in 2024), a project initiated by the European Mozart Ways Association, the Mozarteum University and the Mozarteum Foundation.



Mozart Sing Along ©Salzburg University Mozarteum

Route: The Phoenicians' Route

Activity: Intercultural Travel Project for Schools

When/Where: Throughout 2025, several schools in Marseille and the south of France and Malta

Description: The Intercultural Travel Project is a collaborative initiative with the Milan-based tour operator 'Stippelli Travel to Learn', a prominent player in Italy's school tourism sector. The proposed itineraries are developed in partnership with the Phoenicians' Route, ensuring that only member destinations are included. Activities are designed around heritage pedagogy, featuring workshops led by qualified staff. This programme enables young participants to connect with peers from different countries, fostering knowledge exchange and cultural understanding.



Intercultural Travel Project for Schools 2025 ©International Association of the Phoenicians' Route

Route: Saint Francis' Ways

Activity: Summer School ISCIS – International Smart Cities School

When/Where: September 2025, Norcia, Italy

Description: A group of 24 young students from six distinct countries (Portugal, Spain, , Italy, Poland, France, Croatia) participated in a week-long Summer School, accompanied by one professor from each nation. The focus of the week was on smart tourism. The students engaged in presentations and project work that addressed innovative tools and communication strategies aimed at enhancing tourism in the city of Norcia, as well as in other locations featuring religious routes and cultural heritage.



International Smart Cities School 2025 ©Saint Francis' Ways Association

Contemporary cultural and artistic practice

Route: Leonardo Da Vinci Route



Activity: Contemporary Art Exhibition

When/Where: 15 April 2025, Vipava, Slovenia

Description: The exhibition, co-ordinated by the Leonardo Da Vinci Route, showcased the works of 50 artists from different nations, each of whom produced a piece inspired by da Vinci. This travelling exhibition initially took place in Udine, Italy, followed by Vinci, Italy. After its stop in Slovenia, it will proceed to Amboise, France, and subsequently to Istanbul, Türkiye.



Contemporary Art Exhibition 2025 in Vipava, Slovenia ©European Leonardo Da Vinci Ways

Route: European Route of Ceramics



Activity: SHAPED – women's voices in ceramics

When/Where: July 2025 to September 2025, Faenza, Italy

Description: The exhibition was a hybrid event that united ceramics and photography to honour the contributions of women in the arts. The ERC partnered with a youth photography collective, Aula 21, alongside 11 female ceramists from six different countries, creating an exhibition that highlighted both the obstacles and achievements of women in the artistic field. Each artist was represented by one original ceramic piece, four photographs showcasing them and their artwork, as well as their reflections on how their identities as women influenced their professional journeys.



SHAPED – women's voices in ceramic, Faenza, Italy ©Matilde Raffoni, Gruppo Fotografia Aula 21

Route: EuroVelo 13-Iron Curtain Trail

Activity: Article on cycling EuroVelo 13-Iron Curtain Trail

When/Where: 14 March 2025

Description: An article on EuroVelo.com details the cycling journey undertaken by German author Rebecca Maria Salentin along the EuroVelo 13-Iron Curtain Trail. This trail represents one of the most significant challenges within the European cycle route network. Recognised as a certified Cultural Route by the Council of Europe: it spans nearly 10,000 kilometres, tracing the path of the former Iron Curtain from the Barents Sea to the Black Sea. Notably, Rebecca Maria Salentin is the first woman to complete the entire route in a single journey. Her travelogue, published in 2023, regarding this expedition became a bestseller in Germany, effectively introducing this cultural route to a broad and varied audience.



Mountains of Greece on the EuroVelo 13-Iron Curtain Trail ©Rebecca Maria Salentin



Route: Liberation Route Europe

Activity: Art of Remembrance

When/Where: Since 1 November 2024

Description: The Art of Remembrance project bridges contemporary art with the history of World War II, offering a platform for creative dialogue about the past. By inviting artists to reinterpret the stories of the Second World War through innovative works, the project connects audiences to this pivotal chapter of history in meaningful and unexpected ways. It highlights the power of art to spark reflection and foster a deeper understanding of how the past shapes the present and future.



Art of Remembrance residency sites ©LRE Foundation

Route: St. Olav Ways



Activity: Room for Reflection – resting places with art along the St. Olav Ways in Norway

When/Where: Throughout 2025, County of Innlandet, Norway

Description: Five artworks have been installed across five municipalities along the St. Olav Ways. This brings the total to 10 art installations in 10 municipalities. The initiative Room for Reflection was conceived to establish natural stopovers along the Pilgrim path featuring art or architectural installations. These locations will serve as spaces for reflection and contemplation. The project is overseen by the Innlandet county council.



Art installation M.A.U.R by Eric Pirolt ©Siri Leira

Route: Iron Route in the Pyrenees



Activity: Second photography competition

When/Where: 22 September to 22 October 2025

Description: The Pyrenees Iron Route Association's photography competition took place under the theme 'Iron Architecture / Iron in Architecture'. The event aimed to promote understanding of the iron and steel heritage of the Route and to encourage creativity and interaction between communities. Submitted images will be added to the Pyrenean network's archives and in 2027, the winning photos will be featured in a travelling exhibition.



First prize of the Pyrenees Iron Route Association's photography competition ©J.L. Bobin

Cultural tourism and sustainable cultural development

Route: Alvar Aalto Route

Activity: Open Alvar Aalto Route Days

When/Where: August-September 2025

Description: In September 2025, the European Heritage Days were celebrated along the Alvar Aalto Route, offering diverse architectural experiences such as open houses, tours, exhibitions, and workshops. The 2025 theme, 'Architectural Heritage', encouraged reflection on preservation for future generations. Nearly 30 events took place in Finland, France, and Italy, culminating in Alvar Aalto Week in Rovaniemi. The project was co-ordinated by the Alvar Aalto Route Association and funded by the Council of Europe and the EU (European Heritage Days).



European Heritage Days 2025, outdoor cinema event at the Studio Aalto in Helsinki, Finland ©Kaari Freese, Alvar Aalto Foundation

ALVAR AALTO ROUTE
20th Century Architecture and Design

Route: European Route d'Artagnan

Activity: Tourism development phase

When/Where: June and September 2025, France

Description: The Association European Route d'Artagnan (ERA) has launched two new sections of their Route: one located in Charente Maritime, known as the Route des Cardinaux; the other situated in the Grand Est region, referred to as the Route de Madame d'Artagnan. During these inaugurations, a variety of activities were provided, including hikes, conferences, and exhibitions, all centred around d'Artagnan. Since its establishment in 2015, AERA has initiated a range of efforts to promote the Route and the regions it encompasses. AERA aims to actively encourage the organisation of such events. Approximately 15 departments have either joined or are in the process of joining AERA.



Art of Remembrance residency sites ©LRE Foundation



Route: Via Francigena



Activity: 'I Love Francigena 2025' walks

When/Where: April to October 2025, throughout Italy

Description: 'I Love Francigena' is a series of annual hikes along the cultural route of the Via Francigena, organised by the European Association of the Via Francigena Ways (AEVF). The initiative promotes slow travel, healthy lifestyles, and the discovery of local natural and cultural heritage. Each walk features guided interpretation, cultural visits, and tasting of local products on arrival, while encouraging environmental awareness through clean-up activities. Supported by private partner Coop, the project reaches a wide audience, engaging its 6 million members across Italy. Thanks to this public-private partnership, 45 hikes have taken place over the past four years, involving over 1,500 participants (900 in 2025) in seven Italian regions (Piedmont, Lombardy, Emilia-Romagna, Liguria, Tuscany, Lazio, Apulia).



"I Love Francigena 2025" walks @AEVF

Route: European Cemeteries Route



Activity: Significant cemeteries for sustainable Europe

When/Where: Throughout 2025

Description: Acknowledging the important impact cemeteries can have on society and the environment, the Association of Significant Cemeteries in Europe (ASCE) integrates sustainability as a fundamental principle of its work and the work of its members, including long-term management, community engagement, and new development projects. The United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a global plan adopted by all UN member states in 2015 to improve the quality of life for people everywhere while safeguarding the planet for future generations by 2030. Building on this foundation, ASCE launched the Significant Cemeteries for Sustainable Europe initiative in 2024 to actively support and promote the values and objectives of the UN 2030 Agenda. This long-term initiative highlights the unique role of cemeteries as multifunctional public spaces, contributing to sustainability efforts while raising awareness and inspiring similar initiatives across Europe.



Significant Cemeteries for Sustainable Europe 2025 ©Association of Significant Cemeteries in Europe, ASCE

Route: European Route of Megalithic Culture

Activity: European Day of Megalithic Culture

When/Where: 27 April 2025, Haldensleben, Germany

Description: A new section of this route was opened on Megalithic Culture Day. The local press and television were present, as were the mayor and other representatives from local politics. The volunteers who worked on the restoration of a special megalithic tomb (Küsterberg) organised a public celebration on site. The Young Archaeologists, a group of young people, played a major role in the restoration of the tomb. They also participated in various excavations at the megalithic sites in the Altmark region (Saxony-Anhalt, Germany).



Sign of the western Altmark route of Megalithic culture ©Ursula Warnke

Route: Viking Route

Activity: Annual General Meeting and conference in Estonia

When/Where: 24-27 April 2025, Kuressaare, Estonia

Description: The Destination Viking Association (DVA) held its Annual General Meeting with 55 participants from 11 countries, along with seminars, workshops, and site visits, in Kuressaare, Estonia. During the AGM on 24 April, a decision was made to experiment with a digital-only format for the 2026 meeting, while also committing to host at least two in-person conferences featuring member gatherings and site visits throughout the year. The meeting welcomed two new members, Västerås from Sweden and Telemark County Council from Norway, and showcased the upcoming Viking Age Museum in Oslo. Workshops concentrated on enhancing route development, and afternoon sessions emphasised Estonia's Viking heritage, culminating in a group dinner at the Asva Viking Farm. The following day included excursions around Saaremaa Island, and the event concluded with a dinner where honorary diplomas were awarded to Bjørn Butler Jakobsen and Geir Sør-Reime.

FOLLOW THE
VIKINGS



AGM participants outside Asva Viking Farm in Saaremaa ©Destination Viking Association

Funding for projects

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 2025, 23 Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe submitted information on extra budgetary funding. Below you will find a non-exhaustive list of projects implemented by certified Cultural Routes in 2025. This information is indicative and carries no legal or formal value.

Route	Title of Project	Date	Total Budget	Part of the Cultural Route of the total budget	Type of Funding
Alvar Aalto Route	Strength from Sustainability on Alvar Aalto Route	1.6.2024 – 31.3.2026	€67 000	€60 300	Finnish Heritage Agency
	Open Alvar Aalto Route Days	1.7.2025 – 31.3.2026	€14 500	€14 500	European Heritage Days
	In the footsteps of Alvar Aalto in Europe	1.6.2025 – 31.12.2026	€74 720	€67 248	Finnish Heritage Agency
ATRIUM	Beyond the Surface: Colonial Traces and Multiple Memories	Apr. 2025 – Dec. 2025	€34 680	€17 300	Emilia-Romagna Region
	EUrban DECO	Mar. 2024 – Feb. 2026	€16 495	€45 015	CERV
Cluniac Sites in Europe	UNESCO World Heritage List candidature	Since 2018	€301 000	€80 500	European public authorities
Cyril and Methodius Route	Pilgrimage Milestones	01.01.2025 – 31.12.2025	€29 327 €	€29 327	Interreg Slovakia-Czechia
European Route of Historic Gardens	MERITAcubed	Oct. 2025 – Oct. 2029	€2 800 000	€34 282	Creative Europe
European Routes of Jewish Heritage	Networks Overcoming Antisemitism 2 - NOA2	2023-2025	€680 502	€69 615	CERV
	THRIVE	2024-2026	€393 748	€65 000	CERV
	MiDorLeDor Europe (MDLDE)	2024-2026	€382 775	€59 798	CERV
	European Memorialisation Data Space Blueprint	2025-2027	€361 905	€25 372	CERV
EuroVelo 13 - Iron Curtain Trail	ICTrCE	01.03.2023	€2 670 000	€245 200	Interreg Central Europe
The Hansa	Hansa Organ Project	Oct. 2023 – Sep. 2025	€103 628	€10 601	Swedish Institute
Huguenot and Waldensian Trail	Cultural mediation and Network meetings	Autumn 2024	€7 268	€1 992	LEADER
Le Corbusier Destinations	Crossed perspectives on Le Corbusier's work	2025-2026	€12 620	€2 620	Ministry of Culture France
Liberation Route Europe	CERV-2022-CITIZENS-REM	Mar. 2023 – Feb. 2025	€169 135	€169 135	CERV
	Resistance through their Eyes	Feb. 2023 – Jul. 2024	€486 760	€486 760	CERV
	Active Remembrance Youth Programme	Mar. 2024 – Feb. 2026	€342 905	€342 905	CERV
The Phoenicians' Route	SMARTIES for SMEs	Sep. 2023 – Aug. 2026	€3 154 767	€122 211	COSME

Route	Title of Project	Date	Total Budget	Part of the Cultural Route of the total budget	Type of Funding
Prehistoric Rock Art Trails	TupART	2025-2028	€1 280 000	€128 000	Interreg SUDOE
	ARTPOINTS	2025	€200 000	€200 000	EU Next Generation
Réseau Art Nouveau Network	Art Nouveau as a New EUtopia	Jan. 2023	€1 000 000	€180 000	Creative Europe
Romea Strata	DATA4Rural	Oct. 2025 – May 2028	€400 000	€51 694	Erasmus+
	Giubileo 2025	Dec. 2023 – Dec. 2025	€203 970	€203 970	Italian Ministry of Tourism
	Young pilgrims of hope	Dec. 2023 – Nov. 2025	€60 000	€29 460	Erasmus+
	Ruralities	Oct. 2022 – Sep. 2027	€4 434 000	€263 400	Horizon Europe
Saint Francis Ways	The Art Farm	2024-2025	€1 200 000	€200 000	Next Generation EU
The Routes of Charles V	MARY4ALL: Music and Arts of the Renaissance	Oct. 2024 – Dec. 2026	€200 000	€37 007	Creative Europe
	Systematisation of Itinera Carolus V Imperator	Nov. 2024 – Sep. 2025	€200 000	€200 000	Plan de Experiencia Turismo España
Via Francigena	HIKE: hiking for a healthier lifestyle	01.04.2024 – 30.09.2025	€200 000	€94 000	Erasmus Sport
Via Francigena	DETOUR	01.11.2024 – 30.11.2026	€2 108 917	€525 789	COSME
Women Writers Route	Ljubka's Trail	Dec. 2023 – Nov. 2025	€197 956	€118 621	Interreg Italy-Slovenia
Women Writers Route	CEEPUS Network Summer School	27.08.2025 – 01.09.2025	€8 500	€8 500	CEEPUS Mobility
Women Writers Route	International conference 'Women's Path through Fairy Tales'	28-30.10.2025	€7 000	€7 000	Ministry of Culture Croatia
SUBTOTAL			€24 004 078	€4 193 122	

Joint Projects

Cultural Routes	Title of Project	Date	Total Budget	Type of Funding
ATRIUM, The Phoenicians' Route, European Routes of Jewish Heritage, Iron Age Danube Route	NEXT ROUTES - Upskilling of staff through digital, creative gamification	Oct. 2023 – Oct. 2025	€400 000	Erasmus+ KA220 VET
The Routes of Charles V, TRANSROMANICA	CURV: Cultural Routes towards Vocational training	Sep. 2025 – Aug. 2026	€60 000	Erasmus+ KA210-VET
European Route d'Artagnan, European Route of Ceramics	OTR'ART	2025-2026	€200 000	Creative Europe
European Route d'Artagnan, European Route of Ceramics	CERE – Ceramics Education Residence Experience	2024-2025	€54 949	ERDF Emilia-Romagna
SUBTOTAL			€714 949	

New Cultural Routes network members in 2025

Each year, the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe Programme sees a growing number of network members. According to the information submitted by some of the Culture Routes, despite the pandemic, at least 315 new members joined the Route networks and thus the Programme. Some Routes even welcomed over a dozen new members.

Cultural Route	New members	New Countries
Alvar Aalto Route	7	Finland (7)
ATRIUM	3	Albania (1), Italy (1), Spain (1)
Cluniac Sites in Europe	2	France (2)
Cyril and Methodius Route	7	Bulgaria (5), Slovakia (2)
Destination Napoleon	2	France (1), Italy (1)
European Cemeteries Route	2	Greece (1), Spain (1)
European Fairy Tale Route	6	Algeria (2), Italy (1), Malta (1), Morocco (1), Senegal (1)
European Route d'Artagnan	3	France (3)
European Route of Ceramics	2	Belgium (1), Türkiye(1)
European Route of Historic	6	Greece (1), Hungary (1), Spain (1), Switzerland (3) Gardens
European Route of Historic Pharmacies	16	Argentina (1), Italy (2), Lithuania (2), Poland (1), Romania (2), Spain (7), Switzerland (1)
European Route of Historic Thermal Towns	2	Bulgaria (1),Türkiye (1)
European Route of Jewish Heritage	2	Italy (1), Spain (1)
European Route of Megalithic Culture	4	Germany (2), Malta (1), Portugal (1)
Huguenot and Waldensian Trail	5	France (4), Germany (1)
Iron Age Danube	1	Hungary (1)
Iron Curtain Trail - EuroVelo 13	1	Poland (1)
Leonardo Da Vinci Route	2	Italy (1), Poland (1)
Liberation Route Europe	13	Belgium (2), Finland (3), France (3), Greece (1), Italy (3), United Kingdom (1)
Prehistoric Rock Art Trails	2	France (1), Spain (1)
Réseau Art Nouveau Network	2	Belgium (1), United Kingdom (1)

Cultural Route	New members	New Countries
Romea Strata	3	Latvia (1), Lithuania (1), Poland (1)
Routes of Charles V	8	Italy (1), Portugal (1), Spain (6)
Santiago de Compostela Pilgrim Routes	2	Poland (1), Portugal (1)
St. Olav Ways	2	Norway (1), Spain (1)
The Hansa	2	Germany (1), Poland (1)
The Phoenicians' Route	7	Albania (1), Georgia (1), Italy (3), Malta (2)
Via Francigena	9	France (2), Italy (5), Switzerland (2)
Viking Route	5	Denmark (1), Iceland (1), Ireland (1), Ukraine (1), United Kingdom (1)
Women Writers Route	4	France (1), Italy (1), Norway (1), Spain (1)

TOTAL: 132 new members across 30 Cultural Routes

Newly Certified Cultural Routes 2025

In 2025, the Governing Board of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes awarded the 'Cultural Route of the Council of Europe' certification to three new routes: the Pyrenean Freedom Routes, Romea Strata, and Saint Francis' Ways.

Cultural Route	Total Members (before 2025)	Countries
Pyrenean Freedom Routes	88	France (57), Spain (14), Andorra (6), Portugal (3), Italy (2), United Kingdom (2), Belgium (1), Germany (1), Netherlands (1), Romania (1)
Romea Strata	62	Italy (33), Austria (13), Poland (6), Czech Republic (5), Latvia (2), Lithuania (2), Estonia (1)
Saint Francis' Ways	33	Italy (12), Palestine (3), Slovakia (3), Israel (2), Portugal (2), San Marino (2), Spain (2), Croatia (1), France (1), Greece (1), Hungary (1), Hungary (1), Malta (1), Poland (1), USA (1)

TOTAL: 183

Contact information

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 www.visit.alvaraalto.fi
ATRIUM – Architecture of Totalitarian Regimes of the 20th Century in Europe's Urban Memory	ATRIUM Association info@atriumroute.eu www.atriumroute.eu
Cluniac Sites in Europe	European Federation of Cluniac Sites administration@sitescluniens.org www.sitescluniens.org
Cyril and Methodius Route	Association of the European Cultural Route of Saints Cyril and Methodius info@cyril-methodius.eu www.cyril-methodius.eu/en
Destination Napoleon	European Federation of Napoleonic Cities contact@napoleoncities.eu www.napoleoncities.eu / www.destination-napoleon.eu
European Cemeteries Route	Association of Significant Cemeteries in Europe, ASCE admin@significantcemeteries.org www.cemeteriesroute.eu
European Fairy Tale Route	European Fairy Tale Route info@europeanfairytaleroute.eu www.europeanfairytaleroute.eu
European Mozart Ways	Europäische Mozart Wege e.V. office@mozartways.com www.mozartways.com
European Route d'Artagnan	Association of the European Route d'Artagnan secretariat.routedartagnan@gmail.com www.route-dartagnan.eu
European Route of Ceramics	Associazione Strada Europea della Ceramica europeanrouteofceramics@comune.faenza.ra.it www.europeanrouteofceramics.eu
European Route of Historic Gardens	European Network of Historic Gardens info@europeanhistoricgardens.eu www.europeanhistoricgardens.eu

European Route of Historic Pharmacies and Medicinal Gardens	AROMAS ITINERARIUM SALUTIS - The European Route of Historical Pharmacies and Medicinal Gardens director@aromassalutis.eu www.aromassalutis.eu
European Route of Historic Thermal Towns	European Route of Historic Thermal Towns Association, EHTTA contact@ehtta.eu www.ehtta.eu
European Route of Industrial Heritage (ERIH)	European Route of Industrial Heritage (ERIH) info@erih.net www.erih.net
European Route of Jewish Heritage	AEPJ Association Européenne pour la Préservation et la Valorisation de la Culture et du Patrimoine Juif aepj@jewishheritage.org / director@jewishheritage.org www.jewishheritage.org
European Route of Megalithic Culture	Megalithic Routes e.V. info@megalithicroutes.eu www.megalithicroutes.eu
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
Fortified Towns of the Grande Région	Réseau des Villes fortifiées de la Grande Région rvgr@free.fr www.villesfortifiees.eu
Historic Cafés Route	Historic Cafés Route historiccafesroute@gmail.com www.historiccafesroute.com
Huguenot and Waldensian Trail	Union internationale Sur les pas des Huguenots et des Vaudois info@surlespasdeshuguenots.eu www.surlespasdeshuguenots.eu
Impressionisms Routes	Association Eau & Lumière luenet.georges@wanadoo.fr www.impressionismsroutes.com
In the Footsteps of Robert Louis Stevenson	European Network in the Footsteps of Robert Louis Stevenson contact@rlstevenson-europe.org www.rlstevenson-europe.org

Iron Age Danube Route	Iron Age Danube Route Association ironagedanuberoute@gmail.com www.ironagedanuberoute.com
Iron Curtain Trail - EuroVelo 13	European Cyclists' Federation office@ecf.com www.eurovelo13.com
Iron Route in the Pyrenees	Asociación, Ruta del hierro en los Pirineos info@ironrouteinthepyrenees.com www.ironrouteinthepyrenees.com
Iter Vitis Route	Iter Vitis International Federation info@itervitis.eu www.itervitis.eu
Le Corbusier Destinations: Architectural Promenades	Association des Sites Le Corbusier association@sites-le-corbusier.org www.sites-le-corbusier.org
Leonardo Da Vinci Route	European Leonardo Da Vinci Ways leviedileonardodavinci@gmail.com www.leviedileonardodavinci.com
Liberation Route Europe	Liberation Route Europe International Association info@liberationroute.com www.liberationroute.com
Phoenicians' Route	International Confederation, The Phoenicians' Route info@fenici.net www.fenici.net
Prehistoric Rock Art Trails	International Association PRAT-CARP info@prehistour.eu www.prehistour.eu
Pyrenean Freedom Routes	Association Itinéraires Libertés Pyrénées contact@itinerairesliberte.eu www.itinerairesliberte.fr
Réseau Art Nouveau Network	Réseau Art Nouveau Network ASBL info@artnouveau-net.eu www.artnouveau-net.eu
Roman Emperors and Danube Wine Route	Danube Competence Center office@danubecc.org www.romanemperorsroute.org
Romea Strata	Associazione Europea Romea Strata E.T.S. info@aeromeastrata.eu www.romeastrata.org

Routes of El Legado Andalusi	Fundación El Legado Andalusi info@legadoandalusi.es www.legadoandalusi.es
Saint Francis' Ways	Saint Francis' Ways Association saintfrancisways@gmail.com www.saintfrancisways.eu
Saint James Way	European Federation Saint James Way contact@saintjamesway.eu www.saintjamesway.eu
Saint Martin of Tours Route	Fédération Européenne Centre Culturel Saint Martin contact@saintmartindetours.eu www.saintmartindetours.eu
Saint Olav Ways	Association for the Route of St. Olav Ways (ACSOW) post@acsow.org www.acsow.org
The Hansa	Hansebüro hansebuero@hanse.org www.hanse.org
Transhumance Trails	Fundación General de la Universidad de La Laguna info@ttrr.eu / transhumance.eu@gmail.com www.ttrr.eu
TRANSROMANICA – The Romanesque Routes of European Heritage	TRANSROMANICA Association info@transromanica.com www.transromanica.eu
Via Francigena	European Association of the Via Francigena ways EAVF segreteria@viefrancigene.org / Luca.bruschi@viefrancigene.org www.viefrancigene.org
Via Habsburg	Via Habsburg viahabsburg@outlook.com www.viahabsburg.online
Via Regia	European Centre for Culture and Information in Thuringia netz@via-regia.org www.via-regia.org
Viking Routes	Follow the Vikings post@destinationviking.com / Geir@destinationviking.com www.followthevikings.com
Women Writers Route	Cultural Tourist Association Women Writers Route info@womenwriters.eu www.womenwriters.eu



Cultural Routes

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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

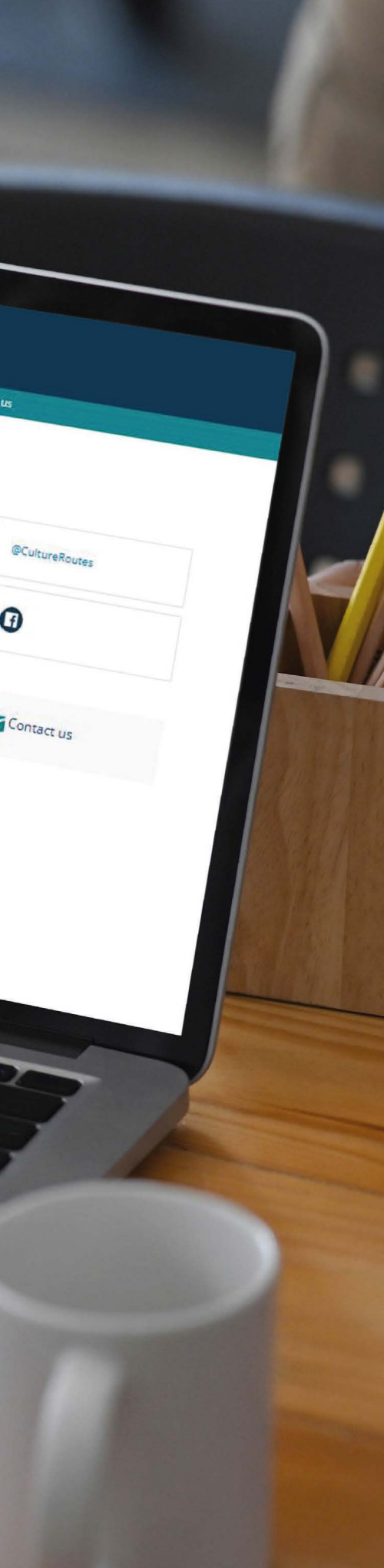


List of Countries crossed by certified Cultural Routes



Cultural Routes Database (members)





Communication & Visibility

Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe Programme website



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, Turkish.

It provides information on the following:

- Cultural Routes by theme and 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 (38 news posts in 2025)
- Contact
- Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe Database

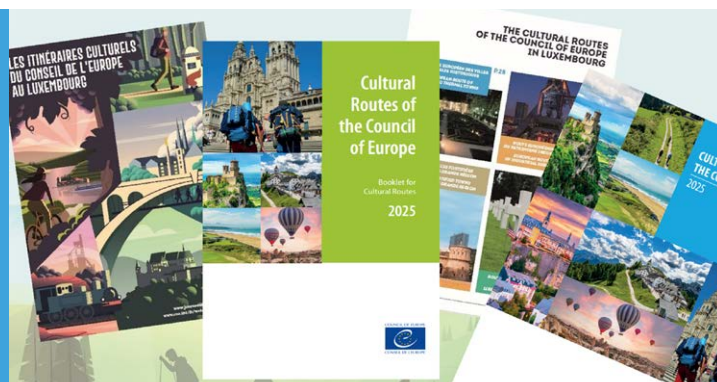
Since June 2020, the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe Database has hosted a structured and extensive database together with an interactive map organising all 3500+ network members of the 48 certified Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe. The certification cycle 2025-2026 saw a new growth with the addition of over 315 new members engaging in Route network activities and in the Programme.



Inspiring practices database

Since 2017, the EPA Secretariat has collected best practices implemented by the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe in the five fields of action. In 2024, the EPA Secretariat launched a database dedicated to inspiring practices, enabling users to search for these practices based on various parameters, including year, member states, certified Cultural Routes, certification criteria, and format. This database is designed to be continuously updated.

Resources and visibility material



- Activity Reports from 2017-2025
- 3 branding booklets available: 1 for member states, 1 for travellers and 1 for Cultural Routes, available in English and French, updated in 2025
- Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe brochure: available in English (2025), French (2025), Armenian, Italian, Polish and Turkish
- Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe leaflets: available in English (2025), French (2025), German, Italian, Spanish, Armenian, Catalan, Georgian, Greek, Hungarian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Polish, Portuguese (2025), Romanian, Russian, Swedish, Turkish, Ukrainian and Luxembourgish (2024)
- Brochure on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe in Luxembourg (together with the Ministry of Culture of Luxembourg within the framework of the European Heritage Days 2024)
- Visibility products (notebooks, bags, folders, pens, etc.)
- Roll-ups on the 48 Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe: (English and French 2024)
- Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe: reference texts and conventions (Resolutions, declarations and roadmaps, etc.)
- Country Mapping documents for Armenia (English), Bosnia and Herzegovina (2024, English), Croatia (2025, English), Georgia

(English and French), Greece (2024, English), Montenegro (English and French), Poland (English and French) and Türkiye (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

Social media

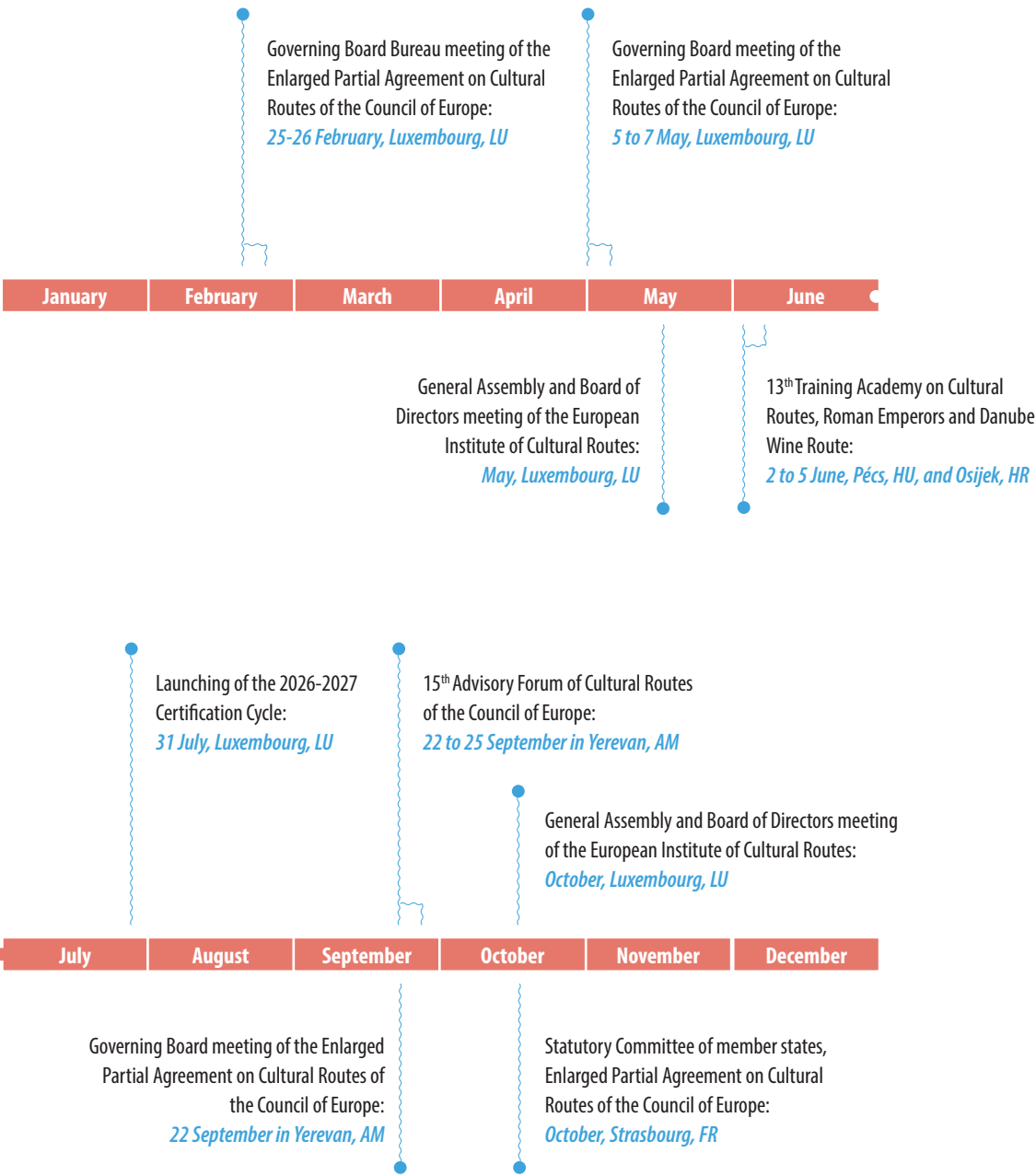
- >16,500 Facebook followers
- 50+ news posts from the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme on Facebook





*2026
Outlook*

2026 Outlook





List of reported activities in 2025

- **23 January**, Strasbourg, France, Official ceremony of the 20th Anniversary of the European Association for the Preservation and Promotion of Jewish Heritage
- **3 February**, online, Meeting with the Organization of Ibero-American States for Education, Science and Culture (OEI)
- **10 February**, Luxembourg, Luxembourg, Meeting of the Congress Bureau of Local and Regional Authorities; Joint publication Culture without Borders
- **11 February**, online, Information session on EHD grants for the EHL sites and CoE Cultural Routes
- **25-26 February**, Luxembourg, Luxembourg, Meeting of the Bureau of the EPA Governing Board
- **3 March**, online, 1st preparatory meeting Walk the Talk within the framework of the Annual Forum on Cultural Routes
- **6 March**, online, Advisory meeting with the Columban Way
- **March-June**, online, Co-ordination meetings with representatives of Destination Napoleon and Iter Vitis on the 2025 Training Academy
- **24 April**, online, Meeting with representatives of the European Heritage Days
- **29 April**, online, Participation of BSEC PERMIS in the EPA Governing Board meeting
- **6 May**, Netherlands; The Netherlands becomes 42nd member state of the EPA
- **6-7 May**, Luxembourg City, Luxembourg, Meeting of the EPA Governing Board (certifications, evaluations, elections, country mappings)
- **14 May**, online, Advisory meeting with Epics of Normandy and Normans in Europe
- **15-16 May**, València, Spain, Certification Ceremony of the European Route of Historic Pharmacies and Medicinal Gardens
- **20 May**, Ireland; Ireland joins EPA as 43rd member state
- **20 May**, Brussels, Belgium, Meeting on Cultural Routes within the framework of the Intergroup on European Cultural Heritage
- **21 May**, Strasbourg, France, Participating in the European Heritage Days Assembly
- **23 May**, online, Advisory meeting with Routes of Masonic Architecture and Heritage
- **11-13 June**, Torres Vedras, Portugal, 12th Training Academy on Cultural Routes – Co-operation and Cultural Routes
- **16 June**, Luxembourg City, Luxembourg, General Assembly and Board of Directors meeting of the EICR
- **19-20 June**, Luxembourg City, Luxembourg, Training seminar for candidate routes
- **20 June**, Luxembourg City, Luxembourg, Advisory meeting with Via Querinissima
- **20 June**, Luxembourg City, Luxembourg, Advisory meeting with the Columban Way
- **20 June**, Luxembourg City, Luxembourg, Advisory meeting with the European Paganini Route
- **June**, Brussels, Belgium, Creation of dedicated online galleries on visiteurope.com (collaboration with ETC)
- **June**, European Heritage Days 2025 Call for Projects – winners announced
- **24 June**, online, Meeting with UN Tourism, discussion of the 14th Advisory Forum
- **30 June**, Strasbourg, France, Bi-lateral meetings with Permanent Representations to the EPA
- **30 June**, online, Advisory meeting with Isla Del Mar
- **4 July**, online, Advisory meeting with the Singing Route
- **7 July**, online, Meeting with Astghik Marabyan, EPA Bureau member-Presentation of the 15th Advisory Forum in Armenia
- **7 July**, online, Information meeting with newly certified Cultural Routes of the CoE in 2025
- **7 July**, online, Advisory meeting with Routes of Masonic Architecture and Heritage
- **8 July**, online, Advisory meeting with the Jerusalem Way
- **8 July**, online, Advisory meeting with Forte Culture
- **17 July**, online, Advisory meeting with the Via Micaelica

- **24 July**, online, Meeting with the Republic of Moldova on the Committee of Ministers Presidency
- **28 July**, online, Advisory meeting with the European Paganini Route
- **July-October**, Malta, Co-ordination meetings with Maltese representatives to the EPA; organisation of Malta in the Cultural Routes of the CoE seminar
- **2 September**, online, General information meeting with Independent Experts of the 2025 –2026 certification cycle
- **10 September**, Luxembourg City, Luxembourg, Extraordinary General Assembly and Board of Directors meeting of the EICR
- **15 September**, Vila Real, Portugal, EICR honoured with XXIX International Prize Grupo Compostela-Xunta de Galicia
- **25-26 September**, Paris, France, Meeting between the Ministry of Culture and Cultural Routes in France
- **September-October**, online, Individual meetings with Independent Experts of the 2025-2026 certification cycle
- **2 October**, online, Meeting with UN Tourism
- **7 October**, Strasbourg, France, Meeting with European Parliament Intergroup on Cultural Routes
- **7-8 October**, Dublin, Ireland, International conference on Marine, Lighthouse Tourism and Maritime Heritage
- **9 October**, online, Meeting with representatives of the Roman Emperors and Danube Wine Route – preparation of 2026 Training Academy
- **13 October**, Strasbourg, France, Meeting of the EPA Statutory Committee (adoption of EPA budget 2026–2027 and 2026 programme)
- **22 October**, Cappadocia, Türkiye, Accession ceremony for the Netherlands and Ireland as new EPA member states
- **22 October**, Cappadocia, Türkiye, Certification ceremony for Romea Strata, Pyrenean Freedom Routes and Saint Francis' Ways
- **22-24 October**, Cappadocia, Türkiye, 14th Annual Advisory Forum on Cultural Routes – Cultural Routes of the CoE and Landscapes
- **24 October**, Cappadocia, Türkiye, Inspiring Practices Award ceremony at the 14th Advisory Forum closing session
- **30 October-2 November**, Salerno, Italy, 27th Mediterranean Exchange of Archaeological Tourism
- **4 November**, online / Luxembourg, Meeting with the European Youth Card Association (EYCA) – relaunching of Walk the Talk project
- **6 November**, Toulouse, France, Public presentation of the Routard Guide dedicated to the Pyrenean Freedom Routes
- **7 November**, online, Co-ordination meeting with the Croatian representative to the EPA
- **13 November**, Luxembourg City, Luxembourg, Luxembourg, General Assembly and Board of Directors meeting of the EICR
- **17 November**, Luxembourg City, Luxembourg, Meeting with the European Paper Route
- **18-20 November**, Strasbourg, France, Annual meeting of the Steering Committee for Culture, Heritage and Landscape (CDCPP)
- **24 November**, online, Advisory meeting with Cross-Border Castle Road Network
- **25-29 November**, Yerevan, Armenia, Preparation of the 2026 Advisory Forum; Conference on Cultural Crossroads
- **28 November**, online, Meeting with OEI – Revision of the OEI-EPA Statute
- **2 December**, online, Meeting with representatives of ATRIUM
- **4 December**, Aquileia, Italy, Certification Ceremony of Romea Strata
- **9-10 December**, Trondheim, Norway, Cultural Crossroads seminar organised by St. Olav Ways and Via Querinissima
- **15-16 December**, Paris, France, First meeting of the Reflection Group on thematic routes
- **18-19 December**, Assisi, Italy, Certification Ceremony of Saint Francis' Ways

This Activity Report presents the main activities and achievements of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme in 2025. It covers the work of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes (EPA), including the accession of two new member states and the certification of three new Cultural Routes.

The report documents the proceedings of the 14th Advisory Forum held in Cappadocia, Türkiye, the 12th Training Academy in Torres Vedras, Portugal, and the activities of the European Institute of Cultural Routes (EICR) and the University Network.

It also features a selection of activities and projects carried out by EPA member states and certified Cultural Routes throughout 2025, highlighting their contributions to heritage protection, cultural cooperation, and sustainable tourism across Europe and beyond.

The report concludes with the programme's communication activities, financial statements, and an outlook for 2026.

Altogether, this publication is a testimony of the vitality and complexity of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme and its contribution for a more cohesive, peaceful and intercultural Europe.

www.coe.int/routes

ENG

www.coe.int

The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It comprises 46 member states, including all members of the European Union. All Council of Europe member states have signed up to the European Convention on Human Rights, a treaty designed to protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The European Court of Human Rights oversees the implementation of the Convention in the member states.