
CULTURAL ROUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Highlights of the 2019 programme

EPA Accession and Observer Status Request

On 10 May 2019, Latvia became the 33rd Member State of the EPA

On 1st January 2019, Albania became an Observer Member State with the EPA for a period of one year.

On 31st January 2019, Ireland became an Observer Member State with the EPA for a period of one year.

On 15th February 2019, Sweden became an Observer Member State with the EPA for a period of one year.

Evaluation cycle 2018-2019

As its meetings on 10-11 April 2019, the Governing Board of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes (EPA) took the following decisions, bringing to 38 the number of certified Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe:

1. With respect to the evaluation of candidates routes for certification (2018-2019 evaluation cycle)

Decided to award certification to:

- Destination Le Corbusier, Architectural Promenades
- Iron Curtain Trail
- Routes of Reformation
- Liberation Route Europe
- European Route of Industrial Heritage

Decided not to award certification to:

- Heloise, European pedagogue Route
- Cyril and Methodius Route
- Places of Peace

2. With respect to the regular evaluation of Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe (2018-2019 evaluation cycle)

Decided to confirm the certification of the following Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe:

- Roman Emperors and Danube Wine Route
- Transromanica
- In the Footsteps of Robert Louis Stevenson
- Viking Routes
- European Route of Jewish Heritage
- Cluniac Sites in Europe
- Via Regia
- Destination Napoleon
- European Routes of Emperor Charles V

Found compliance with certification criteria stated in Resolution CM/Res(2013)67 unsatisfactory and decided to request a new report to be submitted by 31st December 2019 for the following Cultural Route of the Council of Europe:

- Routes of the Olive Tree

Evaluation cycle 2019- 2020

The regular evaluations of cultural routes certified by the Council of Europe and the examination of candidates are taking place in the current evaluation cycle 2019-2020.

Certified routes submitted to a regular three-year evaluation:

- Santiago de Compostela Pilgrim Routes
- The Hansa
- Via Francigena
- Routes of El Legado Andalusi
- Pyrenean Iron Route
- Iter Vitis Route
- European Route of Ceramics
- Fortified Towns of the Grande Région

Among cultural routes already certified, one was analysed in the previous evaluation cycle and found not in compliance with the criteria and is being re-assessed:

- The Olive Tree Routes

Candidatures are being assessed to confirm their compliance with the Resolution CM/Res(2013)67 revising the rules for the award of the "Cultural Route of the Council of Europe" certification:

- Via Romea Germanica
- European Network of Historic Gardens
- Nikola Tesla Network

First Country Mapping for Georgia (10-11 April 2019, Luxembourg)

During the EPA Governing Board Meeting (Luxembourg, 10-11 April 2019), Mr Levan KHARATISHVILI, EPA Representative for Georgia and Vice-Chair of the EPA Governing Board presented the First EPA Country Mapping prepared between December 2018 and March 2019. Country Mappings are reports prepared in close collaboration with one EPA Member State with a view to better assisting EPA member States interested in surveying Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe present at national level, their networks and activities. The next EPA Country Mapping will be done in Turkey.

Carlos V European Award (9 May, Yuste, Spain)

Each year on the 9th May (Europe Day) the European and Ibero-American Academy of Yuste Foundation delivers the "Carlos V European Award" during a ceremony presided over by His Majesty the King of Spain, at the Royal Monastery of Yuste to honour people, organisations, projects or initiatives that have contributed to the general knowledge and the enhancement of Europe's cultural and historical values or to the European Union's process of integration.. The 2019 edition of the Carlos V European Award granted the award to the initiative of the "The Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe" for its work promoting European values related with cultural diversity, respect for multiculturalism, intercultural dialogue, and transnational collaboration around cultural heritage and European history. The price had previously been awarded to key European figures such as Simone Veil, Helmut Kohl, Mikhail Gorbachev or Jacques Delors.

Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe Chairmanship (France) (17 June – 17 July, Paris)

During its Chairmanship, the Ministry of Culture of France decided to organise an exhibition on the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe crossing France in the hall of the Ministry. The exhibition was opened by Mrs Catherine LALUMIERE, former Secretary General of the Council of Europe. Accessible to the general

public, the exhibition was the opportunity to discover the programme through the roll-ups of the 30 certified Cultural Routes crossing France today.

IX Cultural Routes Advisory Forum (2-4 October 2019, Sibiu, Romania)

The Forum, organized by the Council of Europe, in collaboration with the Romanian Ministry of Tourism, has brought together in Sibiu (Romania) almost 200 participants from more than 20 countries. Representatives of the Cultural Routes certified by the Council of Europe, as well as delegates from Member States of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes, European Union, European External Action Service, European Commission, UNESCO, ICOMOS, OEI and the UN World Tourism Organization attended the event.

During the two days of workshops and interactive debates, the Forum deepened the theme of "Cultural Tourism for Cultural Routes".

An accession ceremony took place to welcome Latvia to the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe. Through its accession on 10th May, Latvia officially became the 33rd Member State of the EPA.

A certification Ceremony celebrated the 5 newly certified Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe.

A Best Practices Award Ceremony on the theme of the Forum, Cultural Tourism, for activities implemented by certified Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe during the year 2018 was put into place and will become a repeating feature for each Forum

Next year, the Annual Advisory Forum will be held in Chania, Greece, on the theme of Cultural Routes and Intangible Heritage, at the invitation of the Greek Authorities during the Greek Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.

Meeting of the GR-C (8 October 2019, Strasbourg)

The Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme was presented in front of the GR-C on 8th October 2019. The Chair of the EPA Statutory Committee, Ambassador Stephan MÜLLER, Permanent Representative of Luxembourg to the Council of Europe, opened the presentation and then gave the floor to the Chair of the EPA Governing Board, Mrs Birgitta RINGBECK (Germany).

Meeting of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities (30 October 2019, Strasbourg)

The Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme was presented during the meeting of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities on 30th October by the Vice-Chair of the EPA Governing Board, Mr Levan KHARATISHVILI (Georgia).

Council of Europe/European Commission DG REGIO Joint Programme

The Council of Europe's 2017-2020 Grant Agreement with the European Commission (Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy – DG REGIO), "Fostering regional development through transnational cultural routes, heritage policies and practices / Routes4U", on the role and impact of cultural routes in regional development in the four European macro-regions (Baltic Sea Region; Danube Region; Adriatic and Ionian Region; Alpine Region) has entered its final implementation months. The project has seen several meetings and publications, grants for certified Cultural Routes and candidate networks, mapping, trip planner, and e-learning modules.

Visibility and Communication

The Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme brochure was updated in a 2020 version including Latvia as a Member State, Albania, Ireland and Sweden as Observer States, the 5 newly certified Cultural Routes, and the latest Cultural Routes members per country.

The Programme website was regularly updated and is now presenting several additional features such as past events dedicated pages and evaluation reports for certified Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe.