

13th TRAINING ACADEMY

ON CULTURAL ROUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

**PÉCS/HU/ & OSIJEK/HR/ | SHAPING CONFIDENCE
2-5 JUNE 2026 | AND DIVERSITY**

HUMAN RIGHTS,
DEMOCRACY
AND THE RULE OF LAW

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

DROITS DE L'HOMME,
DÉMOCRATIE
ET ÉTAT DE DROIT

THE CULTURAL ROUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

TOWARDS A BETTER PROGRAMME... ***BIGGER?***

RUI GOMES

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

Secrétaire exécutif, Accord Partiel Elargi sur les Itinéraires Culturels du Conseil de l'Europe



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Human rights
Democracy
Rule of law

1949

Strasbourg

KEY DOCUMENTS



COUNCIL OF EUROPE, 1954



Santiago de Compostela Declaration
1987

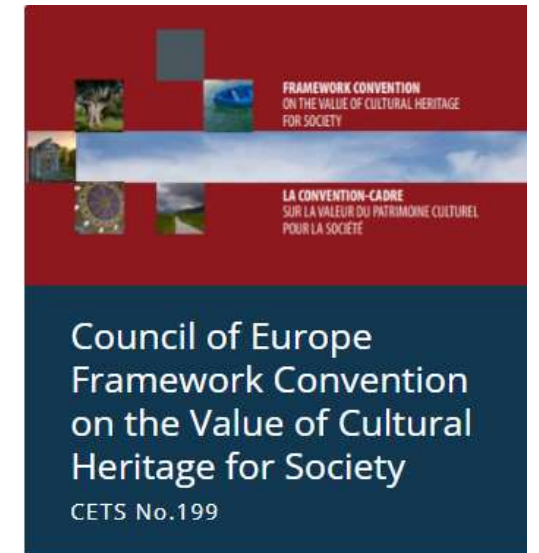
Santiago de Compostela Declaration

23 October 1987

COUNCIL OF EUROPE, 1987



COUNCIL OF EUROPE, 2000



COUNCIL OF EUROPE, 2005

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CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

43

Etats membres

Accord partiel élargi

Member states

Enlarged Partial
Agreement



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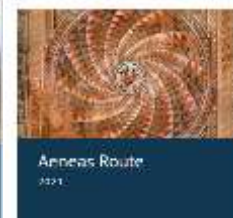
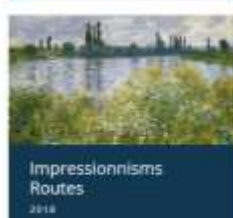
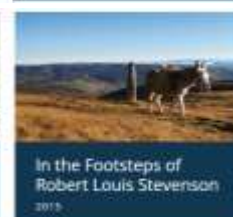
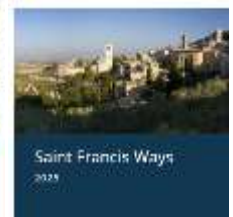
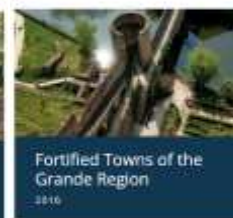
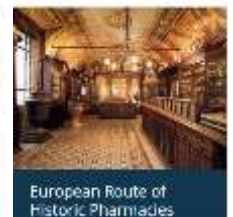


CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

52 CULTURAL ROUTES

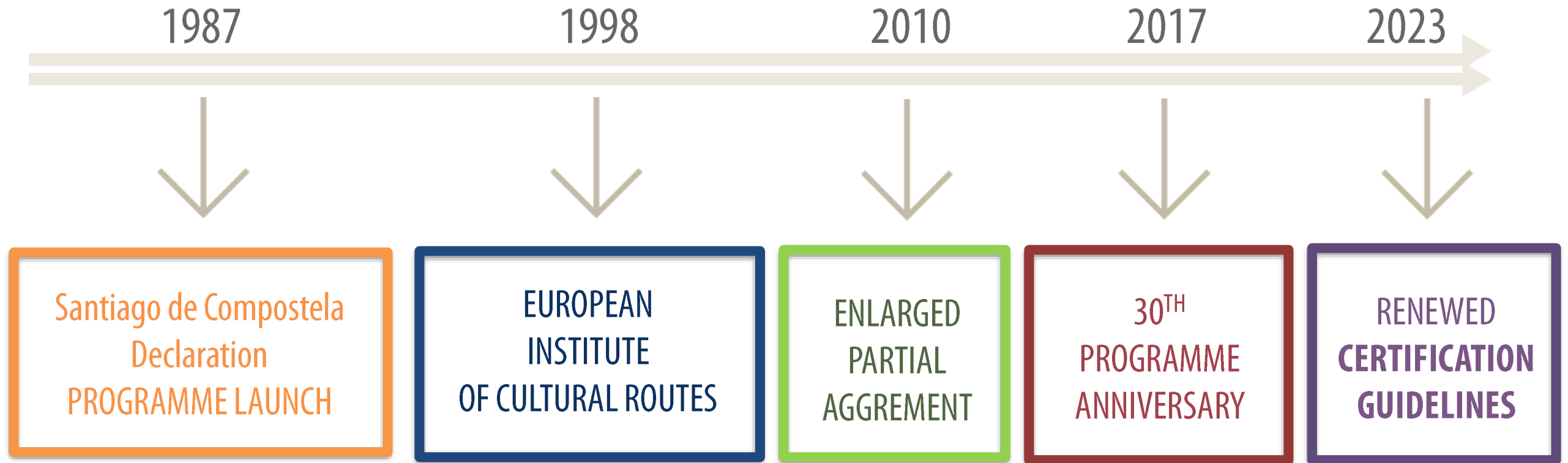


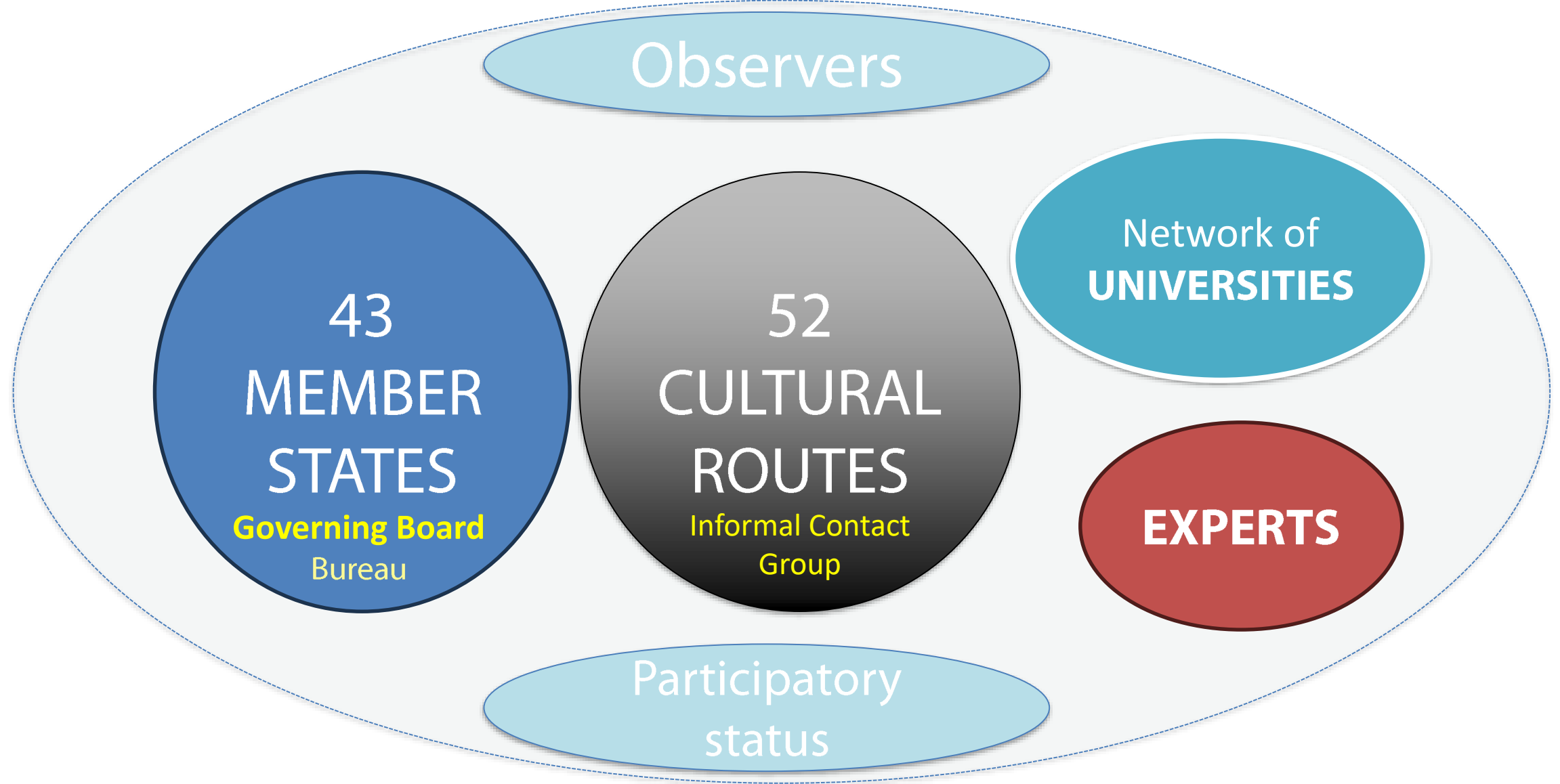
SINGING
HERITAGE
ROUTE



CULTURAL ROUTES: HISTORY AND INSTITUTIONS

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Secretariat of the Enlarged
Partial Agreement

European Institute of
Cultural Routes

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TOWARDS A BETTER PROGRAMME...?

- **REPRESENTATIVENESS**
- **YOUTH PERSPECTIVE**
- **SUPPORT TO UKRAINE**
- **ACADEMIC CONFERENCE**
- **40th ANNIVERSARY**
- **COUNCIL OF EUROPE**
- **EDUCATION FORUM YEREVAN**
- **COMMUNICATION**

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REPRESENTATIVENESS



Thematic Reflection Group

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Thematic representativeness

“Substantial **thematic breadth**, encompassing a wide spectrum of European cultural expressions.

Thematic coverage remains **uneven**, limited prominence of scientific and technological heritage, gender-related themes, contemporary cultural practices, minority and migrant cultures, environment-oriented narratives.”

Representativeness

Geographic distribution remains uneven

Digital transformation is promising but inconsistent

Engagement with minority and vulnerable groups is growing but not widespread



YOUTH PERSPECTIVE | PARTICIPATION

- Advisory Council on Youth in the Advisory Forum
- Reflection Process on Youth Participation
- Youth dimension in the Training Academy



- Survey about current practices of youth participation
- Practical proposals for routes to enhance youth participation based on existing practices
- Guidelines for including a youth perspective in the programme of Cultural Routes.



SUPPORT TO UKRAINE

2021

**Ukraine joins the Enlarged
Partial Agreement (EPA)**

3 Cultural Routes at accession:
Via Regia · Mozart Ways · Industrial
Heritage

February 2022

**Full-scale armed aggression
by the Russian Federation**

All Cultural Route activities disrupted.
Communication with partners
interrupted.

2022-2025

**Routes expand
despite the war**

From 3 to 13 certified Cultural Routes.
A unique experience in the history of the
programme.



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TOWARDS A BETTER PROGRAMME...?



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- Celebrate
- Renew
- Reclaim

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Political relevance and visibility of the programme can be strengthened

A growing programme requires additional resources

The brand value and promise of "Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe" can be enhanced

Routes need support and incentives

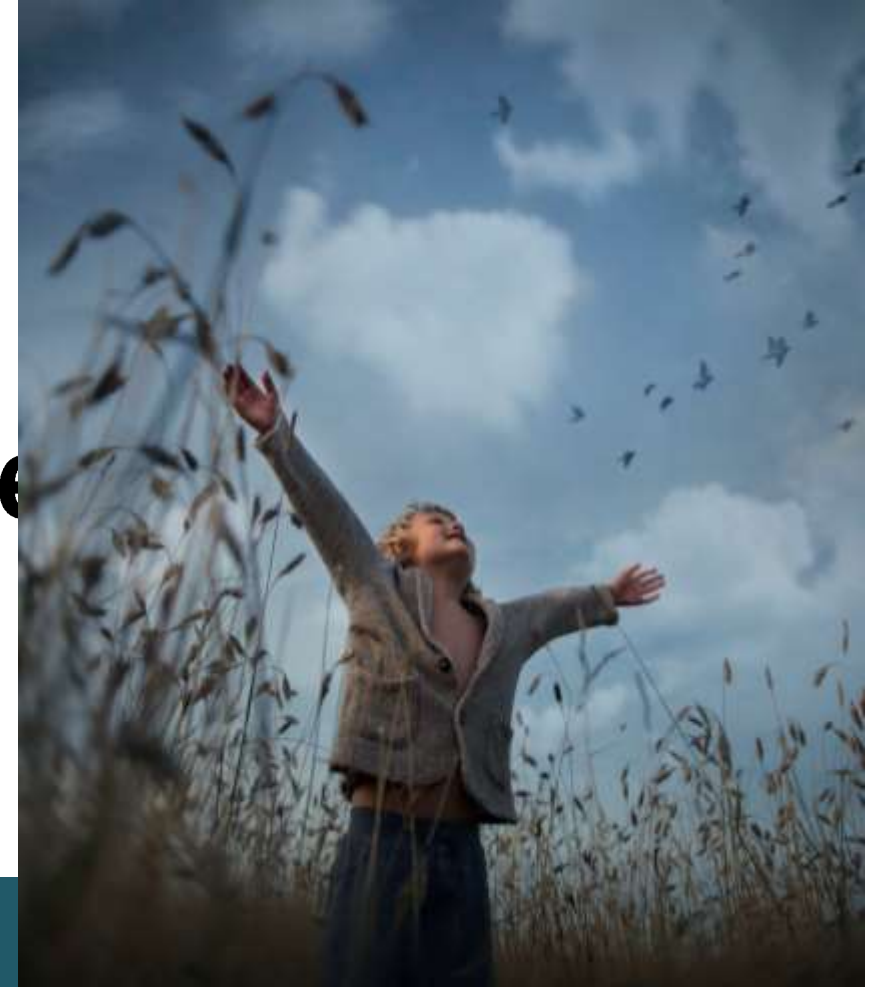
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GETTING CLOSER...

The Cultural Routes programme requires routes to “**bring to life Council of Europe values**”, including human rights, cultural democracy and intercultural dialogue.

Parliamentary Assembly
Congress of Local and Regional Authorities
New Democratic Pact (...)

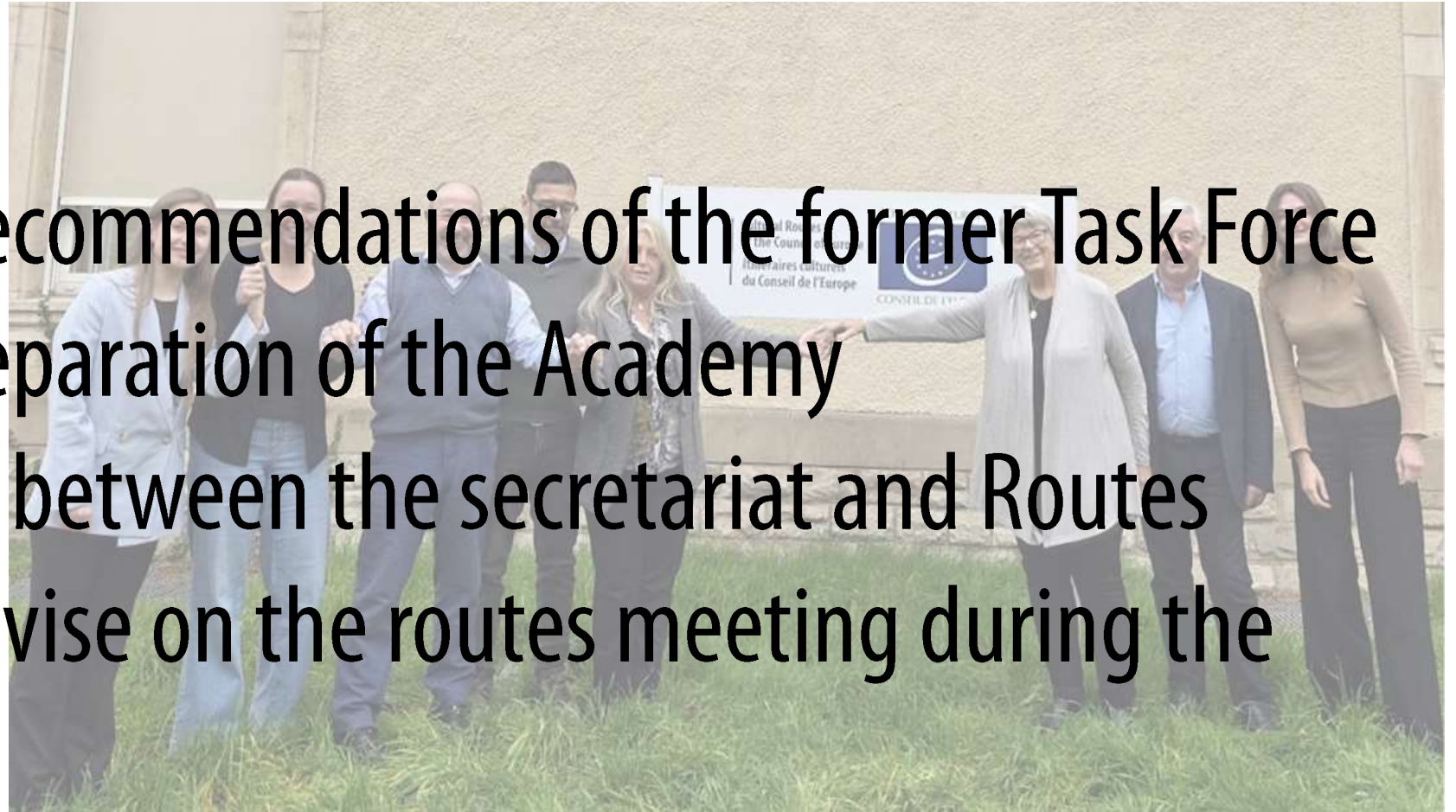


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INFORMAL CONTACT GROUP OF CULTURAL ROUTES

- To facilitate the recommendations of the former Task Force
- To support the preparation of the Academy
- To be an interface between the secretariat and Routes
- To support and advise on the routes meeting during the Advisory Forum



NETWORK OF UNIVERSITIES

- To bring Universities closer to Routes and programme
- To identify areas of expertise
- To enlarge pool of experts
- To strengthen the scientific credibility



1987 The human dimension of society, the ideals of freedom and justice, and confidence in progress are the principles which have forged the different cultures that make the specifically European cultural identity ...made possible by a space bearing a collective memory and criss-crossed by roads and paths which overcome distances, frontiers and language barriers.

2017 ...) the Cultural Routes continue to be remarkable instruments to illustrate the multiple elements of European cultural identity, history and heritage and to ensure a better understanding of Europe. They preserve and enhance European natural and cultural heritage.

Thank you!

CULTURAL ROUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

www.coe.int/routes

