

Relevance of the Cultural Route to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

4.7: Ensure knowledge on sustainable development through education and appreciation of cultural diversity and culture's contribution to sustainable development.

8.9: Promote sustainable tourism that promotes local culture and products.

11.4: Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage.

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Greece in the Association of Significant Cemeteries in Europe

Greece became member of the European Cemeteries Route of the Council of Europe through the First Cemetery of Athens, Athens Municipality, whereas in 2014 Skiathos Cemetery became a member of ASCE, the Route's manager. From then on a significant number of Greek cemeteries, of great historical and artistic value, have also joined or are in the process of joining ASCE. Over the last years the following Municipalities have become members: Kifissia (Municipal Cemetery), Kefalonia (Argostoli Cemetery), Tripoli (Metamorphosis Church Cemetery), Syros (Hermoupolis Cemetery), Volos (Taxiarches Cemetery), and South Kynouria (All Saints Cemetery).

The following Municipalities have also expressed an interest in applying to join ASCE:

MEMBERS

- Athens, First Cemetery of Athens
- Kefalonia, Argostoli Cemetery
- Kifissia, Municipal Cemetery
- Skiathos, Municipal Cemetery
- South Kynouria, All Saints Cemetery
- Syros, Hermoupolis Cemetery
- Tripoli, Metamorphosis Cemetery
- Volos, Taxiarches Cemetery

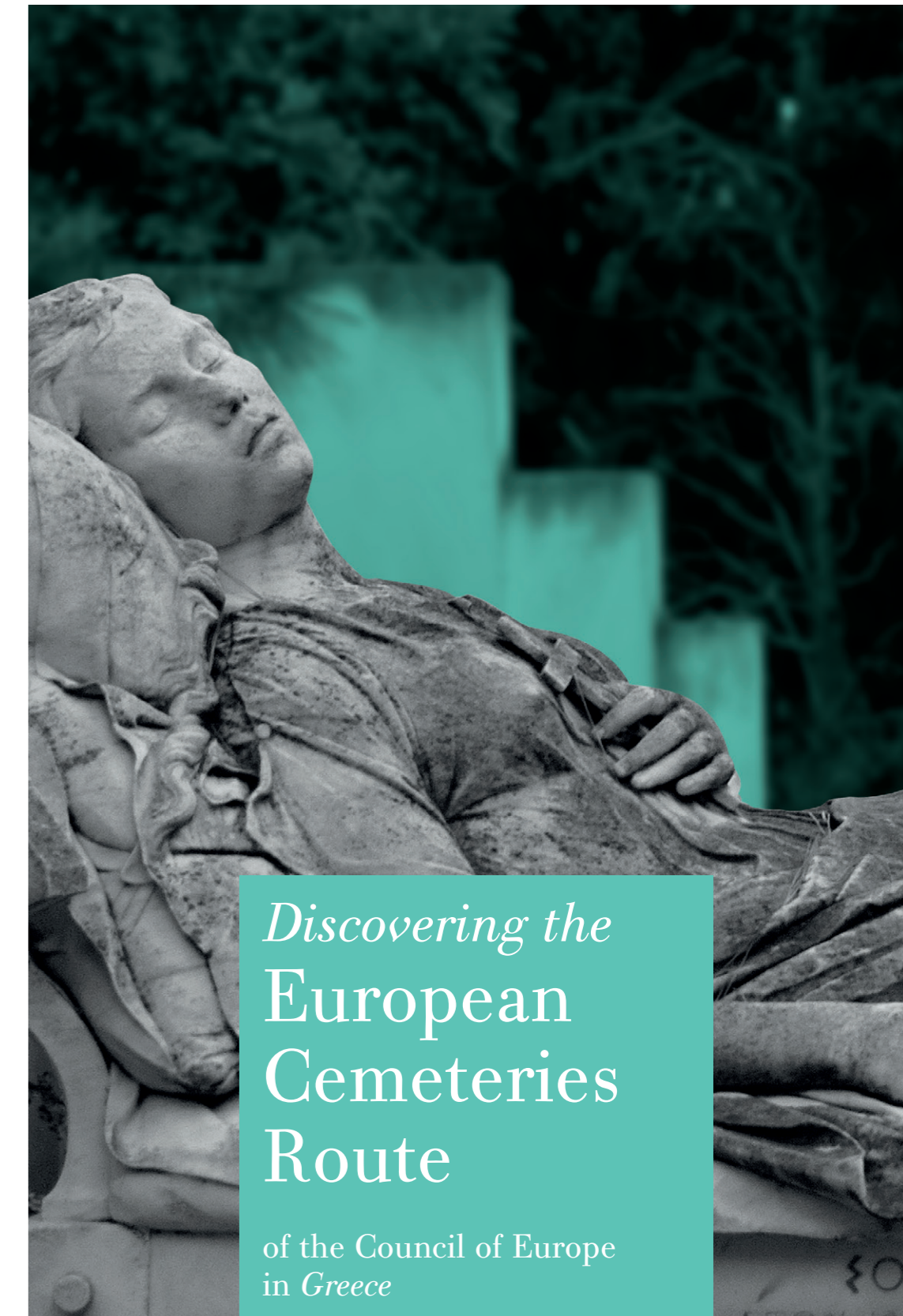
POTENTIAL MEMBERS

- Andros, Municipal Cemetery of Chora
- Chalkis, St Ioannis Cemetery
- Chania, Municipal Cemetery
- Chios, Municipal Cemetery
- Ioannina, St Nikolaos Kopanon Cemetery
- Lesvos, St Panteleimon Cemetery
- Nafplion, Municipal Cemetery
- Piraeus, Cemetery of Anastasis
- Symi, Municipal Cemetery
- Thessaloniki, Evangelistria Cemetery
- Tinos, Pyrgos Cemetery

Athens, ancient cemetery of Kerameikos
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Thessaloniki (Evangelistria Cemetery), Ioannina (Cemetery of St Nikolaos Kopanon), Chalkis (St Ioannis Cemetery), Nafplion (Municipal Cemetery), Lesvos (St Panteleimon of Mytilene Cemetery), Piraeus (Cemetery of Anastasis/ Resurrection), Tinos (Pyrgos Cemetery), Chios (Municipal Cemetery), Andros (Municipal Cemetery of Chora), Chania (Municipal Cemetery), and Symi (Municipal Cemetery).

Theodoros Tzoumas
Mayor of Skiathos
ASCE's Steering Committee member



Discovering the European Cemeteries Route

of the Council of Europe
in Greece

The Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports and the European Cemeteries Route of the Council of Europe

The Ministry of Culture and Sports consistently supports the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe, which highlight important aspects of the European cultural heritage. The Programme is conducive to the development of synergies in the fields of cultural tourism and sustainable development. Our aim is to strengthen Greek participation in the programme, as its key principles are in line with, and promote the fundamental values of European culture, such as human rights, democracy and intercultural dialogue. The European Cemeteries Route, managed by the Association of Significant Cemeteries in Europe, serves as a vehicle for communicating the cultural heritage resting in cemeteries,

by bridging the past with the present. The Route fosters traditional respect for past generations, while preserving social memory. The Ministry's Services, working together with the academic community, local Authorities and the civil society, are engaged in multiple levels of the programme, with a view to promoting the historical value of Greek monumental funerary art and heritage, and its connection with the European cemeteries heritage.

Dr Lina Mendoni
Minister of Culture and Sports



Chios,
Municipal Cemetery



Syros,
Hermoupolis Cemetery



Nafplion,
Municipal Cemetery



Ioannina, St Nikolaos Kopanon
Cemetery



Skiathos,
Municipal Cemetery



Piraeus,
Cemetery of Anastasis

Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe: the European Cemeteries Route in Greece

Thirty years ago the Cultural Routes Programme was established by the Council of Europe, the 47-member States and continent's largest human rights organisation, as a mechanism for building transnational connections, sharing collective memory, and promoting democratic values, cultural exchange and dialogue.

The European Cemeteries Route provides a remarkable example of the values embodied by the Cultural Routes Programme in a European network of excellence. This publication, prepared and coordinated by the Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports, celebrates cemeteries as an essential aspect of our civilisation, both as representations of our tangible heritage, with their works and sculptures, as well as places of intangible heritage, providing a deep understanding of our traditions and collective memory. Throughout these pages the reader will appreciate the important cultural role cemeteries have served, both in Greece and Europe-wide, throughout the centuries, helping raise awareness of their multicultural dimension.

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



Kefalonia,
Argostoli Cemetery



South Kynouria,
All Saints Cemetery



Kifissia,
Municipal Cemetery

Preserving and promoting European Cultural Heritage together

Understanding and promoting the significance of European cemeteries is the most important step towards the preservation and comprehension of European cultures.

In the stones of the oldest Greek cemeteries we can read the stories and symbols defining today's life in our continent.

At the same time, the presentation of the significant cemeteries of Greece is, consequently, a crucial moment for our mission here in ASCE: preserving and promoting European Cemeteries as a fundamental part of the heritage of Europe.

We are sure that in the following years we will have the pleasure to welcome new members from Greece to our Association.

Lidija Pliberšek, M.Sc.
President, Association of Significant Cemeteries in Europe (ASCE)



Athens, First Cemetery of Athens

The importance of Europe's Significant Cemeteries

The Directorate of International Relations and European Union, Department of International Relations of the Ministry of Culture and Sports is the focal point for the Cultural Routes Programme of the Council of Europe.

The Programme was launched in 1987 as a tool to promote, preserve, develop and transmit to future generations our common European heritage. The European Cemeteries Route was certified by the Council of Europe in 2010 whereas the Association of Significant Cemeteries in Europe (ASCE) serves as the route's operator.

Cemeteries are part of our tangible and intangible cultural heritage, a mirror reflecting the culture, history and people of a place in space and time. They are also places of multi-cultural and multi-religious interest. They allow for artistic expression, creativity, diversity and social identity. Joining ASCE in the context of the European Cemeteries Route has multiple benefits, as stakeholders can form synergies and launch projects with various organisations throughout Europe. This process fosters sustainable cultural tourism, a concept of particular significance for Greece, given its cultural heritage.

Marianthi Anastasiadou
Head of the Department of International Relations
Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports



Andros,
Municipal Cemetery of Chora



Volos,
Taxiarches Cemetery



Tripoli,
Metamorphosis Cemetery

Designing Educational Activities for the Cultural Route of European Cemeteries

Besides their undeniable aesthetic significance or peacefulness, cemeteries constitute valuable and multidimensional evidence of tangible as well as intangible heritage.

The Department of Educational Programmes and Communication of the Directorate of Archaeological Museums, Exhibitions, and Educational Programmes, has been working on the design and production of educational material and activities addressed to the general public regarding the European Cemeteries Route of the Council of Europe.

Via suitable educational methodological tools, based on interaction, observation and new technologies, the initiative aims to:

- help visitors realize the eminent and multifaceted cultural importance of the cemeteries
- enable citizens to perceive the distinct connection between cemeteries and their natural, urban or suburban environment
- strengthen each community's bond with local history, cultural identity and tradition
- introduce different aspects of cemeteries through various interpretations and approaches
- facilitate the public's perception of modern cultural production
- cultivate respect and understanding through multiculturalism
- promote tourism development

Despite the awe and the intense feelings they may ignite, cemeteries remain long standing witnesses not only of death, but mainly of life.

Dr Andromachi Katselaki
Head of the Department of Educational Programmes and Communication
Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports