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# Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe Certification Cycle 2022-2023

Regular evaluation :

*CLUNIAC SITES IN EUROPE*

Independent expert report

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





## Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe Evaluation Cycle 2022-2023

### Independent expert report

### Cluniac sites in Europe

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*\*The opinions expressed in this independent expert's report are those of the author and do not engage the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe.*

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## 1. Executive Summary

We can observe the continuity in the development of the Cluniac Sites Route over time. This three-year period has been particularly marked by a strengthening of all the bodies of the European Federation of Cluniac Sites (FESC), with the launch of the preparation of a file for the inscription of the Cluny properties on the World Heritage List. This activity is particularly recognised at the social and international level and therefore allows the network to be even more active, to consolidate it internally and to develop its external relations.

The last three years have been marked by the Covid pandemic, which has paralysed travel and completely prohibited tourist activities. The concentration of many activities on the preparation of the dossier is also to be considered as a response of the FESC, which has continued to work optimising the residual possibilities left by the health regulations; the relative weight of this activity - which in a normal period would be excessive - is to be weighed against this external condition, which not only makes it tolerable but also gives it a value of adaptability of the FESC.

During this period of analysis, the FESC has been able to transform itself to better face these two major events - a historic participation in the World Heritage and an equally historic health crisis - by increasing and securing its budget considerably, by maintaining - as far as possible - the social activities linked to the sites (with their valorisation, their presentation to schools and to the young public and to tourists) and by consolidating the activities of scientific knowledge and those of restoration of the material heritage.

Expert summary conclusions		
	Yes	No
The theme complies with criteria listed in Resolution CM/Res(2013)67, <b>I. List of eligibility criteria for themes.</b>	X	
The Cultural Route complies with the criteria for actions listed in Resolution CM/Res(2013)67, <b>II. List of priority fields of action.</b>	X	
The Cultural Route complies with the criteria for networks listed in Resolution CM/Res (2013)67, <b>III. List of criteria for networks.</b>	X	
The Cultural Route implements the Guidelines for the Use of the <b>Logo “Cultural Route of the Council of Europe”</b>	X	

## 2. Introduction

This text aims to make the functioning of the Cultural route of the Council of Europe "Cluniac Sites in Europe" intelligible. It is a network articulated around the remains of the Cluniac presence on our continent, created over the centuries since the foundation of the Abbey of Cluny in 910.

The challenges of this Cultural Route are remarkable: on the one hand, it aims to enhance the value of the material heritage, which is a very substantial heritage ranging from the great abbeys to the small entities that are often poorly known, and on the other hand, it aims to make this heritage accessible to the populations of today, so that they can be enriched by this historical component that structures our continent.

In order to carry out these tasks, the FESC - the entity carrying out the Cultural Route- has set itself objectives which are at different levels, but which can be brought together in one great target: to make the countless sites work together, to tune them up as in a great orchestra with various instruments: soloists, first violins and less conspicuous instruments, but all participants in this great European symphony.

In accordance with the precepts of the Council of Europe, the communication of supranational values, special attention to youth and the balanced and sustainable development of territories (with a focus on tourism, cultural and sustainable) are themes present in all the activities of the FESC.

It is true that activities with a high degree of social interaction were particularly affected by the covid-19 pandemic and some of them have been virtually wiped out for most of the last three years. The FESC has tried to do what it can to maintain a degree of resilience that is now allowing it to restart activities that are tending to return to pre-pandemic levels.



Two major activities, however, were almost facilitated by the pandemic. The first is the development of the Clunypedia website, an instrumental and interactive repository of knowledge about the Cluniac property network.

The second activity is currently the main one of the network, the one that is currently catalysing attention, namely the creation of a file for the application of Cluny and the network of Cluniac sites to the Unesco World Heritage. This activity makes it possible to energise the network of FESC members, to consolidate the territorial roots of the properties and sites and to give the network itself a particular vitality. The possible disadvantage lies precisely in this strong dynamic which could dominate the scene, overshadowing all other activities. For the time being, the FESC is well structured to limit this disadvantage as much as possible.

Image 1 - Sign at the entrance to the town with the Cluniac rose window and the Council of Europe's Great Cultural Route sign (Image Romeo Carabelli, September 2022).

### 3 Main Body Evaluation

#### 1.1 Cultural Route Theme

##### 1.1.1 Definition of the theme of the route

The European Federation of Cluniac Sites (FESC) was founded in June 1994 in Souvigny (Allier, France) by 24 municipalities concerned with promoting their common heritage. Since then, the federation has expanded by taking over the vast and dense network of Benedictine Cluniac sites that has been structured in Europe since the 10<sup>ème</sup> century. In 2005, the FESC network was recognised by the Council of Europe as a Great Cultural Route. This Route includes the sites that were directly or indirectly dependent on the Abbey of Cluny: more than 800 monasteries, hundreds of other deaneries, villages, hamlets, vineyards, forests and pastures.

This network had a centre - the powerful monastery of the village of Cluny, which became a point of reference for the papacy - and a vast network of sites that were integrated into their geographical regions and made their mark on their territories and the surrounding societies. The monks of Cluny did not withdraw into their own world but worked to transform their environment, founding and developing hundreds of sites, villages and towns in much of Europe: in France, of course, but also in Germany, England, Belgium, Scotland, Spain, Italy, Poland, Portugal and Switzerland.

The FESC is responsible for listing the Cluniac sites - it has been making this knowledge available via the pages of Clunypedia for 10 years now - and supports the life of a common network between the sites, a network dedicated to the enhancement of the heritage, to raising the awareness of its inhabitants but also of the excursionists and tourists, whether they are European citizens or not.

In this way, the FESC wants to encourage attention to this common heritage that we have inherited from the older generations. The action of the FESC - supported by the Cultural Route of the Council of Europe - consists in protecting and enhancing the whole of the Cluniac heritage, starting with the best-known sites (which are often already protected at national level) and extending to the lesser-known entities.

The Federation aims to provide a common, scalable cultural and tourist identity that can unite its many audiences. The members of the Cultural Route are very diverse and include site owners and managers, young people, elected representatives, and representatives of local or European institutions.

The objectives of this route are as follows:

(1) Networking Cluniac sites, sharing skills and launching transnational initiatives (8 countries are participating: France, Germany, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom);

(2) Raising awareness of the history and richness of this heritage among the general public (elected representatives, inhabitants, tourists, representatives of local and European institutions, etc.) in order to better conserve and promote it and

(3) Raising children's awareness of the Cluniac heritage through Cluny Kids - heritage for children to invite them to discover and understand the Cluniac sites in Europe.

### 1.1.2 Historical and cultural context

The Cluniac Sites are the witnesses of the European influence of the abbey of Cluny, founded in 910 in Southern Burgundy. For 8 centuries this abbey, with its enormous size, left its mark on a vast part of the continent with more than 1400 sites spread throughout Europe. These abbeys, priories, deaneries, churches, chapels, villages, castles, vineyards and landscapes have shaped territories, societies and, in a partial and indirect way, the whole continent. The Cluniac activities on the economic, political, agricultural and urban levels are considered by many historians as components of the matrix of modern Europe.

In the historical context of our 21<sup>ème</sup> century, the valorisation of this rich heritage seems quite correct and understandable, even desirable. This is why the FESC has launched a major project: the process of recognition of the Cluniac heritage as a World Heritage Site. Starting in 2018, but with a strong acceleration in 2020, a team has been mandated to put together the dossier that will eventually be delivered to the World Heritage Centre. At the moment, a pre-file has been produced, which is an intermediary instrument that has the task of preparing the file itself as well as being an instrument of internal communication and federation between the members.

### 1.1.3 Council of Europe values represented by the theme

The theme of this Cultural Route certainly represents a value common to several European countries and a basis for a European culture that is not partitioned by today's borders. The monasteries and other Benedictine sites were places of knowledge, social and economic organisation. These monasteries were repositories and places of production of countless texts, reservoirs of knowledge but also places of hospitality and welcome. In the wake of this ancient experience, the European Federation of Cluniac Sites concretises through its actions the values promoted by the European Cultural Convention:

- develops mutual understanding between the peoples of Europe;
- contributes to concerted action and promotes activities of European interest;
- promote national contributions to Europe's common cultural heritage;
- ensures the preservation of European culture.

In order to clarify its position and the role of the Cultural Route, the FESC has produced and distributed to its members an issue of its newsletter totally dedicated to this activity (n.37, January 2020).



### 3.2. Fields of action



The main activity of this period is the creation of a file for the application of the Cluniac network to the Unesco World Heritage: Cluny and the European Cluniac Sites. This activity has a very consequent dimension on the budget of the association and, in order to safeguard the network, the budget has been broken down and divided into independent entities so as not to run the risk of a negative impact of a single action on the whole network. This activity is discussed at length throughout this report.

Image 2 - the rose window in the version dedicated to the formatting of the file for the application to the Unesco World Heritage in the name: Cluny and the Cluniac Sites (from the specific graphic charter, FESC).

#### 3.2.1 Co-operation in research and development

With the creation of the international scientific committee, research and development activities were structured and found a research component in the structure of the federation. Study days, colloquia and conferences have been organised within the framework of the network (with considerable activism from the Spanish members). However, it is not yet possible to speak of an inter-university research programme, although its creation has been planned for the current three-year period. These coordination and capacity-building activities have been particularly affected by the pandemic. The work on the World Heritage dossier now also includes scientific activities, in order to give the dossier a consistent depth.



- Image 3 - Elements of cultural mediation in a Spanish Cluniac site (from the FB pages of Cluny Ibérica, November 2022)

#### 3.2.2. Enhancement of the memory, history and European heritage

The Cultural Route highlights the multiple and multi-national heritage, with an understandable predominance of the materiality of the major properties and sites. In this respect, there is nothing to report beyond the great amount of work carried out by the FESC and its members, a continuous and meticulous work that is made available to tourists and schools.



- Image 4 - Scientific meeting of information and knowledge, reminder of the YouTube link to access the recorded video of the conference (from the FB pages of Cluny Ibérica, November 2022).

### 3.2.3 Cultural and educational exchanges for young Europeans

In the wake of the parent company, many Cluniac sites have set up a "heritage animation" service for young people in the form of educational workshops and guided tours. The participation in the Erasmus+ DECRA project has allowed the reinforcement of cultural exchanges between young Europeans and between the numerous routes (the Cluniac route crosses, in particular, the Way of Santiago and many others). Projects announced in partnership with the FFIC (Fédération Française des Itinéraires culturels) have been stopped because of Covid19 and we hope to be able to relaunch them.

In several sites there is a range of programmes suitable for schoolchildren; a global vision is the one put into practice at Lewes, a Cluniac site in Sussex, at the initiative of the Lewes Priory Trust and which is becoming the primary core of the Cluny Kids project. The latter is a programme that aims to share good practice in the field of heritage promotion with young people. The aim is to provide all Cluny sites with quality tools that have proved their worth in certain sites in order to present this heritage to children in its European dimension.

### 3.2.4 Contemporary cultural and artistic practice

This activity has also been inevitably impacted by the pandemic, before which the FESC had a very rich and extensive cultural and artistic policy, with concerts and literary interventions. Great efforts are being made to put together a travelling exhibition presenting the globality of the Cluniac sites in the different countries that the FESC makes available to its members. If at the local level, artistic enhancement actions are undeniable, better information would be useful to direct the various publics interested in their European specificities.



- Image 5 - Sign indicating the exhibition organised in Cluny (and then travelling) on the Iberian component of the Cluniac network (Image Romeo Carabelli, August 2018).

### 3.2.5 Cultural tourism and sustainable cultural development

The FESC mission includes a strong commitment to the development of cultural and sustainable tourism, but over the past three years the issue of the pandemic has greatly affected tourism activities.

The vastness of the FESC and the great difference between the sites imply that it is difficult to determine the exact tourist dimension of the Route and, above all, to control it with common and reliable indicators. The ownership and use of the properties that make up the material



component of the Route are also multiple, private and public, purely civil or religious, open to the public or not... all multiplied by the national legal configurations of the member sites.

In recent years, it is also senseless to evaluate an average attendance that was estimated at 150,000 visitors per year for the whole federation. A phase of reflection on the new post-covid frequentation is underway, which will be integrated into the World Heritage management plan and will be extended to all the member sites of the FESC.

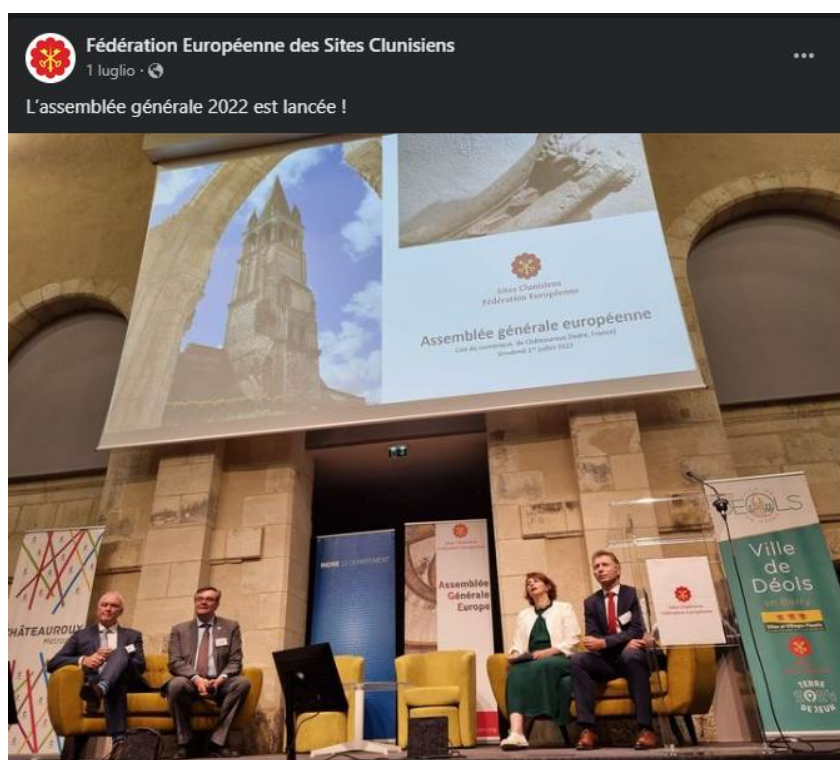
With the actions of integration of the great itinerancy, the FESC supports and develops integrations on the scale of the districts, with soft mobility routes of a few hours, for an eco-sustainable visit of the territories and of the Cluniac heritage.

### 3.3 Cultural Route Network

#### 3.3.1 Overview of the institutional/legal structure of the network

The network is constituted as an association under French law and is therefore subject to a certain number of obligations which have been fulfilled to date. These include, on an annual basis, the holding of a general assembly of all members which elects a board of directors and the latter elects a bureau composed of a president (the official head of the association), a secretary and a treasurer (in the case of the FESC there are also two vice presidents). The president is obliged to present to the general assembly on an annual basis a moral report, a statement of the activities carried out and two budgets, actual and provisional.

The European Federation of Cluniac Sites is a French Association under the 1901 law, registered in Mâcon on 12/09/1994. The official seat of the association is in Cluny, in the Tour des Fromages (a place shared with the Cluny tourist office)



- Image 6 - Launch of the European General Assembly 2022 (from the FB pages of the European Federation of Cluniac Sites, capture November 2022).

The network and its members manage a vast network of institutional and non-institutional support. They maintain numerous relationships with various institutions, which are called upon both to request funding and subsidies for the Federation and for one-off assistance such as, for example, the support of the Fondation du patrimoine for the restoration of the painting of Saint Mark writing his gospel, kept in Souvigny Abbey.

### 3.3.2 Overview of the financial situation of the network

The Cluniac Network, as an association under the French law of 1901, is required to produce - at the annual general meeting - and have approved by a majority of the members a final budget for the past year and a provisional budget for the coming year. Exceeding the annual public subsidy limit of €100,000, the association is also required to have an auditor who controls the proper accounting and financial functioning of the association. From this point of view, the association's budgets are doubly checked and validated (by the auditor and the members' assembly) in addition to being signed by the association's treasurer.

For the purpose of confirming the Route, the Federation provided the three final budgets for 2019, 2020 and 2021 and the provisional budget for 2022. Almost all of the revenue comes from membership fees and public agreements and the four budgets are balanced with a small operating surplus (remember that associations under the 1901 law are not for profit).

For 2019, the budget is approximately €161k with a surplus of 1,326 euros,

For 2020, the budget is approximately 172 k€ with a surplus of 14,013 euros,

For 2021, the budget is approximately 228 k€ with a surplus of 131 euros,

For 2022, the provisional budget is balanced at 467,500 euros, with a very significant increase due to the decision to invest in the preparation of the Unesco application.

It is precisely to avoid management problems for the Federation that the budget has been rigorously separated into two components in order to keep the part intended for the preparation of the dossier for Unesco autonomous (this separation had already been indicated in the 2020 budget).

The increase in the budget reflects important wishes voted by the Federation's membership. Both the President and the Treasurer of the Federation have confirmed to me that they are fully aware of the concerns that such an increase in the budget may entail and that they have taken the necessary measures to manage this new configuration. On reading the budgets, it appears that the increase is perfectly controlled and in line with the network's wishes and management capacities.

### 3.3.3 Current composition of the network by country and type of member

The FESC is an association of 476 members from France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Poland, Spain and Switzerland with a Board of Directors (renewed in 2020) with members of 4 nationalities.

Members can be natural or legal persons, individual members, associations or local authorities and public institutions.

Most of the sites are well represented by the City Council, which gives the network a significant social and demographic strength.

### 3.3.4 Network extension since the last evaluation

The federation has embarked on a major expansion of its own network of members and financiers. During the previous evaluation, the network grew from 123 to 200 members, with an extremely important extension in the different European territories. In the last three years - certainly with the complicity of the World Heritage theme - the number of members has doubled (note: members are not necessarily sites as many sites are often represented by more than one member), often with the consolidation of members.

The increase in membership is reflected in the participation, for example, of a large number of departments that provide a framework for small local authorities, thus giving them the possibility to act more strongly both with regard to the Cluniac heritage on their territory and with regard to the regional and transnational interaction promoted by the FESC.

Alongside the increase in membership, there has been a sharp rise in public funding for the FESC, much of which has been spent on preparing the Unesco application.

The very optimistic forecast was to aim for 1000 Cluniac sites by 2021 (Cf. Expert Report 2019: "Thus, more than 1000 European Cluniac sites should, by 2021, contribute to the strengthening of the common cultural awareness, whose presence on social networks (Facebook, twitter...) will be an important relay to make the Cluniac routes better known to the wider public. In the case of the FESC's work in the field of the "Cluniac Routes" (e.g. the "Cluniac Routes" project), it is certain that the years characterised by the COVID19 pandemic were particularly difficult for the FESC as well, and the result obtained seems particularly significant (and perhaps even the previous objective excessive).

The three-year programme which is now coming to an end has certainly been marked by the consolidation of the Cluniac network abroad and, in particular, in the Latin states where the Cluniac Benedictine order has left a more than significant material legacy. In the context of the extension of the network, the presence of the Cluniac abbey of Tyniec, a Polish site that still functions according to the Benedictine rule, is noteworthy.



- Image 7 - Members of a site recently joining the FESC (from the FB pages of the European Federation of Cluniac Sites, capture November 2022).

### 3.3.5 Strategy for the network extension in the next three years to come

In the coming years, there is no expectation of a vast increase in network membership. Indeed, the enlargement of the last few years has led to a sort of globally stable ceiling which should be consolidated before proceeding to consequent enlargements; there will nevertheless continue to be the possibility of integrating the network as time goes by.

It is with the Unesco dossier that the FESC aims to strengthen its cultural and scientific networks, which can now count on a multinational scientific committee made up of academics and researchers specialised in the fields specific to the Cluniac sites and routes.

At this point, it seems quite correct to quote the previous expert report - written by Mr. Jean-Pierre Lozato-Giotart in 2019:

"It is not sufficiently clear what actions are planned to create a genuine inter-Cluniac structure representative of all member countries meeting the criteria of the Council of Europe (ETS No. 18) and, consequently, what the possible funding would be."

to note that the years of the pandemic obviously created worries for the FESC but that the management team took the opportunity to do what could be done under these special conditions and, in particular, to consolidate the network and its funding.

### 3.4 Communication tools

#### 3.4.1 Current state of communication tools developed by the network (graphic charter, communication materials, logo, communication channels, signposting, maps, etc.)

The FESC has a communication department (personified in Mr. Morgan Monerrat - [communication@sitesclunisiens.org](mailto:communication@sitesclunisiens.org), [sitesclunisiens.org](http://sitesclunisiens.org) / Organisation and Missions / The Cluniac Brand) and its work is very consistent and well structured.

The network has a powerful and clear label, managed through a precise graphic charter, containing all the information to be able to respond well to the multiple needs. In the framework of the preparation of the Unesco World Heritage application, another graphic charter - linked to the main charter but different enough to allow discrimination between the two activities - has been developed.

The FESC web pages are all in at least two languages (French and English) and the Cultural Routes pages are written in 5 languages (French, English, Spanish, Italian and Polish) for a better appropriation by the local populations.

The central core of the FESC, the municipality of Cluny and its abbey (although it would probably make more sense to invert the elements and speak of the abbey of Cluny and its municipality), is the bearer of a great example of communication and digital mediation that can be shown as a model for the network, there is a large interactive screen with free access that allows you to "visit" the Cultural Route of the Council of Europe and all the Cluniac sites of Europe.

The Cluny and Clunisois Tourist Office offers documentation on the Cluniac sites in the region as well as the book "Sites clunisiens en Europe". The guide map distributed free of charge at this same tourist office refers to a European cultural network, there is a map that visualises the large number of Cluniac sites in Europe and refers to the digital encyclopaedia Clunypedia (one of the pillars of the FESC's activities) and, of course, to the FESC. Unfortunately, on this guide map we find the logos of the town hall of Cluny, of the Communauté de communes du Clunisois, of the FESC, of the Clunypedia but not of the Cultural Route of the Council of Europe.

At the headquarters of the FESC, the entire archive of the federation can be found, including press clippings and articles and documentation on the many activities undertaken by the FESC, including those related to the Cultural Route of the Council of Europe.

#### 3.4.2 Compliance with the Guidelines for the Use of the Logo "Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe"

The "Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe" logo is present on all the Federation's paper production and is used according to the guidelines indicated. References to the Cultural Routes are frequent and virtuous.

The pre-file for the World Heritage nomination - which is the most carefully prepared of the Federation's documents - devotes a paragraph to the importance of the recognition and



federative functioning of the Cultural Route (cf. "Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe", pp. 34 and 35 of the file: "Cluny and the Cluniac Sites: World Heritage Project").

Unfortunately, there are still some small grey areas regarding the use of the "Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe" logo. One of these areas is the visibility on the digital pages on the Internet. The Cluniac Route access page does have the logo, but it is positioned at the bottom and not at the top of the page as requested (<https://home.sitesclunisiens.org/>). Moreover, the Facebook pages, which carry a large amount of relevant and updated information, are labelled with the rosette of the Federation but without the route logo.

We also noticed the difference in visibility of the different sites. When asked to clarify the situation, the Federation officials explained the situation they had encountered and the problem they were trying to solve. The use of the Cultural Route logo is reserved for the carrier entity, i.e. the Federation, and not for individual members who, in fact, may see the association of the logo with strictly local activities in a not particularly clear way. A clarification between the communication officers of the Council of Europe and the one of the FESC will allow to solve this little dysphasia.

Similarly, we note that road signs sometimes carry the Cultural Route of the Council of Europe logo, but not always. The federation has its own logo - the rosette - which is used, clear and effective. In the documentation concerning the FESC's graphic charter, we find an indication that we think also deserves clarification to improve the visibility of the Cultural Route of the Council of Europe.



*L'utilisation du logo du Conseil de l'Europe est réservé à la FESC*

- Image 8 - Instructions on the use of logos (from the FESC graphic charter - FB pages of the European Federation of Cluniac Sites, capture November 2022).

Practical and clear information will soon enable managers to strengthen the overall image of the network and the route on all active member sites of the federation.



- Images 9 a,b,c,d,e - Signs at city entrances to Cluniac sites (a France, b Italy, c and d Spain, e Switzerland - blurred - from Google Map application, capture November 2022).

The images of the signs at the entrance to some sites (in this case, the images are taken from the Google Map application and illustrate French, Spanish, Italian and Swiss cases, the latter of which makes it clear that the logo is present, although it is fluted on the Internet to follow Swiss legislation) allow us to realise the need for clarification of the use of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe logo and its interaction with that of the Federation.

## 2. Conclusions and Recommendations

Over the past year, activities have resumed - especially tourism activities - although with somewhat different characteristics than in the pre-covid period. In particular, local tourism is taking a larger share of the market than before. All activity indicators are growing, tending towards a new normality, which should be achieved over the next three years.

The meetings of the FESC members - linked to the life of the Cultural Route and the preparation of the dossier - have resumed with great vitality (there were three in the last quarter alone, in Spain, Italy and France) and the calendar of events is being restructured, as are the activities for schools, which are a strong activity of the Federation sites.

Some FESC members have developed particularly interesting digital mediation tools and can offer suggestions and consolidated experience to other members. We are thinking here in particular of:

- The three-dimensional reproduction of the Last Judgement on the portal of Autun Cathedral (note that a cast of this work is in the Musée de l'Architecture de Chaillot - Paris).
- The three-dimensional interactive guide to the capitals of Autun Cathedral itself, a product of great scientific and communicative value created during the limitation due to the pandemic period.
- The interactive terminal capable of simulating a possible reconstruction of Cluny Abbey in augmented reality, also installed in the last three years
- The reading offer of the abbey of Déols in augmented reality outside and in three-dimensional simulations in the museum of the site.

For the activities on the ground, one can only confirm the opinion of the previous review, a confirmation that shows not only the capacity of the FESC to persevere in the pursuit of its objectives but also its overall resilience in facing the difficulties imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic.

"Many efforts have been and continue to be made to better inform the widest possible public, believers and non-believers alike, in a true spirit of spiritual and ecumenical openness. [...] educational and training programmes for young people [...] to encourage and develop European citizenship. The work in the field is also remarkable [...] to manage and animate each site [...] to contribute to the search for the funding that is essential for the life of the churches, abbeys and other types of concrete witnesses to European Cluniac durability. All this by diversifying the range of artistic and intellectual activities: musical days, concerts, exhibitions, thematic meetings... Production and sale of documents, CDs and the production of films for internal use by site visitors".

The previous expert report concluded with a series of recommendations that the network was able to take into consideration, despite the pandemic crisis that had a strong impact on the Cultural Route.

The first recommendation indicated the need to create a scientific committee responsible for proposing and implementing projects on scales larger than those of the single sites. This committee has been created and is composed of eminent academics specialised in the Cluniac theme. The second recommendation indicated the need to link the cultural activities of the network (both at local and federal level) to structured training courses such as masters and university degrees. The pandemic situation of institutional blockage did not allow to stimulate these activities, but nevertheless the activities continued and the situation is now favourable to its revival.

The third recommendation indicates the need to further integrate tourism and cultural activities in order to enhance the special status of the Cluniac sites. The enlargement of the general partnership - with the inclusion of several new local authorities - gives the structure the capacity to act in this sense, and in the actions undertaken for the preparation of the Unesco dossier, there is a renewed spirit of interaction between tourism and cultural entities on a multi-site basis.

The fourth recommendation suggests an expansion of visitor and tourist data recording with the introduction of a comprehensive methodological action. Activities were suspended because the period under review did not lend itself to field trials to establish a new methodology for visitor data capture. On the other hand, "vertical" integrations with local institutions (communities of communes, departments, cantons and/or regions according to national configurations) have been improved.

The fifth recommendation indicated the development of a partnership with ICOMOS in order to prepare the application as a UNESCO World Heritage site. Some informal exchanges have taken place without any formalisation. The last recommendation indicated the need to present more clearly the impacts and the search for funding to support all forms of past and future action. The capacity to increase the budget was considerable and, given the constitution of the contributions (in their main component of public subsidies), it can be assumed that the support of the territorial authorities is acquired and clear.

We refer to these previous recommendations, which the FESC has generally tried to follow, to make some recommendations, some of which are in line with the previous ones.

With a priceless stock of tangible and intangible cultural heritage, the Federation's missions are essentially to develop primary knowledge of the Cluniac entities, to promote the dissemination of knowledge to the multiple components of the European population (local and non-native) and to increase the networking of the sites. The recommendations are therefore along these lines.

1. Ensure understanding of the added value by the networks to the different sites
  - 1.1. Continue to promote the network, both in terms of visibility (including the use of logos) and exchanges between the various partners
2. Keeping 'non-priority' collective actions active.
  - 2.1. The preparation of the World Heritage file is time-consuming and catalyses a large part of the network's energies. Particular attention must be paid to other activities which must not be penalised by this priority activity, in particular:
3. Clunypedia - this is a major asset of the structure and route comprising fundamental scientific knowledge that deserves to continue to grow
  - 3.1. Cluny Kids - a dedicated youth activity center, the foundations have been laid during the triennium, active development during the next triennium is to be considered.
4. Develop the priority activity - which is currently the preparation of the Unesco application - with a focus on the negative effects that this activity could have, especially if World Heritage status is not granted.
  - 4.1. The desire to apply for Unesco World Heritage status is clear and particularly positive for the network; while we hope that it will be successful, it must be noted that this priority activity has a considerable impact on the network and the Route. It is essential to think carefully about the complementary impacts of this action, the positives are clear - integration between the sites, consolidation of local anchoring both institutionally and with civil society, increased visibility - while it becomes essential to prepare for the mitigation of any possible concerns:
    - 4.1.1. Prolongation of the file production process over a long period of time - and consequent risk of "fatigue" of the partners

4.1.2. Difficulties in managing the inclusion of sites in the scope of the dossier - some sites will be excluded against their will, with a risk of friction within the federation

4.1.3. Risk of non-acceptance of the file by Unesco with the inevitable feeling of disillusionment of the sites.

Overall, the FESC is a consolidated and active network, but it remains essential to be able to maintain the pace of work and attention to the many smaller sites.

CRITERIA		Recommendations Previous evaluation 2018-2019	Has the route addressed the recommendation since the last evaluation?		Recommendations current evaluation 2022-2023
			YES	NO	
<b>I. Cultural route theme</b>			X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Continue to enhance the network, in terms of visibility and exchanges.
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	To give a clearer hierarchy in the activities of the cultural route.
<b>II. Priority fields of action</b>	<b>Cooperation in research and development</b>	Create a scientific committee.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Take advantage of the World Heritage file to structure and update scientific knowledge of the Cluniac world.
	<b>Enhancement of memory, history and European heritage</b>	Linking network activities to formal training.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	Continue to grow Clunypedia.
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<b>Cultural and educational exchanges for young Europeans</b>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Develop Cluny Kids.
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Support smaller members in their local actions
	<b>Contemporary cultural and artistic practice</b>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Increase the interaction with local actors present in the multiple sites of the route.

			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<b>Cultural Tourism and Sustainable Cultural development</b>	Increasing tourism integration	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Support post-pandemic revitalization.
<b>III. Cultural Route Network</b>			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Consolidate the Unesco application.
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Assist members in understanding the added value of the route.
<b>Communication tools</b>			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Reinforce the use of logos.

### 3. List of References<sup>1</sup>

1. Emeline BALLESTEROS (2020 ?), *Towards the recognition of an international list "Cluny and the Cluniac Sites" The process as seen by the representatives of the Cluniac sites Final survey report*, FESC, Cluny, 12 pp.
2. FESC (2022), *Certification Cycle 2022-2023*, FESC, Cluny, 44 pp.
3. FESC (2022), *Activity Report 2021*, FESC, Cluny.
4. FESC (2021), *Activity Report 2020*, FESC, Cluny.
5. FESC (2021), *The Launch: Cluniac Sites World Heritage Candidacy*, FESC, Cluny, 66 pp.
6. FESC (2020), *Cluny and the Cluniac Sites: World Heritage Project - pre-dossier 2020*, FESC, Cluny, 136 pp.
7. FESC (2020), *Activity Report 2019*, FESC, Cluny.
8. FESC (2016), *FESC Statutes and Rules*, FESC, Cluny
9. French Federation of European Cultural Routes (2019), *European Cultural Routes Today. Bilan du projet DECRA 2017-2019*, Paris, 50 pp.
10. Fondation du Patrimoine (2022), *I give! For the restoration of the painting of Saint Mark writing his Gospel*, leaflet, 2 pages
11. Jean-Pierre LOZATO-GIODART (2019), *Cluniac Sites in Europe*, expert report, 11 pp.
12. Jean-Louis REMILLEUX (2019), *Secrets d'histoire : Anne de France*, Société Européenne de production, 1 DVD
13. Christophe VOROS (2013), *Cluniac Sites in Europe*, European Federation of Cluniac Sites, Cluny, 172 pp.

On the occasion of the field visits, a number of small documents, leaflets and maps were provided or made available by the local municipalities and associations. Also from a distance, a series of documents presenting the multiple activities of the last three years. Some of the images come from the pages of the social network Facebook (® from Meta) and the Google map application (from Google ®).

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<sup>1</sup> European Federation of Cluniac Sites = FESC



#### **4. Annex 1: Expert field visit and interviews with network management and members**

The organisation of the field visit was planned in the spirit of questioning the choice of committing to the perilous path of a Unesco candidacy. As this activity - as mentioned above - is by far the one that has the most impact on the Federation and the Route, the evaluator considered it essential to treat this subject as a priority.

This led to a three-day visit to four Cluniac sites, followed by a remote interview with three members of the Board of Directors and a return interview with the director of the federation.

The three-day visit was organised in agreement with the management of the Federation and included meetings with members of the Federation (normally Mayors or their representatives) but also mediators in order to understand the large-scale functioning of the Federation but also the local functioning, the one that, on the ground in the different sites, is on the front line with tourists, schools and multiple users. The mission was particularly useful because it allowed us to realise the complexity of the federal system which is involved at multiple levels to promote the Cluniac heritage.

As it was not possible to carry out multiple missions both in France and in the different countries, three members of the Board were interviewed by telephone, two Italians and one Swiss (the treasurer). Below is a brief outline of the field visit.

Wednesday 23 November - Souvigny (Allier, France) - Federation member site

Morning: meeting at the Town Hall with :

- Ms Nelly MÉRITET, representative of the Mayor of Souvigny for Heritage and
- Mr. Matthieu PRADELS, Heritage Project Manager, Souvigny

Afternoon: in-depth visit of the abbey (including the sites affected by the restoration work carried out and planned) and the museum.

Thursday 24 November - Déols (Indre, France) - Federation member site

Morning: meeting at the Town Hall with :

- Ms Christian GENESTE, Deputy Mayor,
- Ms Andy CHAMBON, Head of the Culture and Heritage Department and
- Mr. Xavier BACHIMONT, Director of Attractiveness and Local Life. Visit of the Cluniac site and the mediation apparatus for adults and children.

Working lunch with

- Mr Marc FLEURET, President of the Departmental Council, 1<sup>er</sup> Vice-President of Châteauroux Métropole and Vice-President of the European Federation of Cluniac Sites

Friday 25 November - Autun (Saône-et-Loire, France) - Federation member site

Morning: meeting at the Town Hall with :

- Mr Vincent CHAUVET, Mayor of Autun and President of the Council of Europe's Cultural Route: Destination Napoleon and

- Ms Anne PASQUET, Heritage / Tourism / Digital / Territorial Development Project Officer.

then: meeting at the Town Hall with

- Mr Rémy REBEYROTTE, member of the French National Assembly and President of the European Federation of Cluniac Sites, then visit of the Cluniac site and the mediation centre.

Friday 25 November - Cluny (Saône-et-Loire, France) - Federation member site

Afternoon - meeting at the Town Hall with

- Mrs Marie FAUVET, Mayor of Cluny and Honorary President of the European Federation of Cluniac Sites,
- M. Jean-Luc DELPEUCH, President of the Communauté de Communes du Clunisois
- Virginie GOUTAYER, Deputy Administrator of the Cluny Abbey
- Mr Christophe VOROS, Director of the European Federation of Cluniac Sites, then visit of the Cluniac site

Monday 5 December - video and telephone interview

Mrs. Maria Teresa SAPIENZA - association In Agro Calventiano (Vizzolo Predabissi, Lombardy, Italy - member site of the Federation) - Administrator of the European Federation of Cluniac Sites and leader of the Clunykid activity.

Mr Roberto GOZZI - Deputy Mayor (San Benedetto Po, Lombardy, Italy - member site of the Federation) and Administrator of the European Federation of Cluniac Sites

Wednesday 7 December - telephone interview

Mr Fabrice DE ICCO - Prefect (Yverdon-les-Bains, Switzerland - in charge of the site of Romainmôtier, Vaud, Switzerland - member site of the Federation) and Treasurer of the European Federation of Cluniac Sites.

Previously, on September 14, 2022, the evaluator had the opportunity to visit the Cluniac site of Grazac (Haute-Loire, France) and on August 19, 2020, the Cluny site (which allowed him to admire the exhibition on the Cluniac sites in Spain and to understand the novelties of the digital mediation introduced in the latter year).

## 5. Annex 2: Expert assessment checklist



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EXPERT ASSESSMENT CHECK-LIST				
QUESTIONS		Yes	No	Comments (if any)
3.1 THEME	1	Does the theme of the Route represent a common value (historical, cultural, or heritage) to several European countries?	1	a common value for several European countries and a basis for a European culture that is not partitioned by borders
	2	Does the theme of the route offer a solid basis for youth cultural and educational exchanges?	1	scholastic
	3	Does the theme of the route offer a solid basis for innovative activities?	1	offers a solid basis for innovative activities, as evidenced by the digital developments allowing a better understanding of the theme (videos, interactive reconstruction s...).
	4	Does the theme of the route offer a solid basis for cultural tourism products development?	1	cultural
	5	Has the theme been researched/developed by	1	the subject continues to be studied by

			academics/experts from different regions of Europe?			high-level scientific experts from several countries
3.2 FIELDS OF ACTION	3.2.1 Co-operation in research and development	6	Does the Route offer a platform for co-operation in research and development of European cultural themes/values?	1		
		7	Does the Route play a unifying role around major European themes, enabling dispersed knowledge to be brought together?	1		
		8	Does the Route show how these themes are representative of European values shared by several European countries?	1		
		9	Does the Route illustrate the development of these values and the variety of forms they may take in Europe?	1		
		10	Does the Route have a network of universities and research center working on its theme at the European level?	1		The theme of the route is such an important historical and social subject that it is at the origin of many multidisciplinary scientific initiatives at the national and international level.
		11	Does the Route have a multidisciplinary Scientific Committee?	1		
		12	Does the Scientific Committee work on its theme at the European level?	1		
		13	Does the Scientific Committee carry out research and analysis of the issues relevant to its theme and/or activities on the theoretical level?	1		

3.2.2 Enhancement of the memory, history and European heritage	14	Does the Scientific Committee carry out research and analysis of the issues relevant to its theme and/or activities on the practical level?	1		
	15	Do the Route activities take into account and explain the historical significance of tangible and intangible European heritage ?	1		a considerable part of the current configuration of itinerary activities is based on the transnational historical significance of tangible and intangible heritage
	16	Do the Route activities promote the values of the Council of Europe?	1		
	17	Do the Route activities promote the brand of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe?	1		yes, but with some small problems
	18	Does the route work in conformity with international charters and conventions on cultural heritage preservation?	1		
	19	Do the Route activities identify, preserve and develop European heritage sites in rural destinations?	1		The strong points of the Route are sites that respect historical geographical dynamics that are not necessarily directly linked to current dynamics and that are particularly linked to the rural world
	20	Do the Route activities identify, preserve and develop European heritage		1	

			sites in industrial areas in the process of economic restructuring?			
		21	Do the Route activities valorize the heritage of ethnic or social minorities in Europe?		1	the main strength of the Route is that it has been structuring European culture and spatiality for centuries; the Cluniac sites are the basis for the construction of European culture
		22	Do the Route activities contribute to a better understanding of the concept of cultural heritage, the importance of its preservation and sustainable development?	1		
		23	Do the Route activities enhance physical and intangible heritage, explain its historical significance and highlight its similarities in the different regions of Europe?	1		the Route highlights the multiple and multi-national heritage, with an understandable predominance of the materiality of goods and sites that are, in fact, more than significant
		24	Do the Route activities take account of and promote the charters, conventions, recommendations and work of the Council of Europe, UNESCO and ICOMOS relating to heritage restoration, protection and enhancement, landscape and spatial planning (European Cultural Convention, Faro convention, European Landscape	1		

			Convention, World Heritage Convention, ...)?			
	3.2.3 Cultural and educational exchanges of young Europeans	25	Are the youth exchanges (cultural and educational) planned to develop a better understanding of the concept of European citizenship?	1		Youth exchange activities - especially at a level other than the immediate neighborhood - are limited. It should be noted, however, that the last three years have been severely affected by the pandemic issue, which has negated long-distance exchanges.
		26	Are the youth exchanges (cultural and educational) planned to emphasize the value of new personal experience through visiting diverse places?	1		
		27	Are the youth exchanges (cultural and educational) planned to encourage social integration and exchanges of young people from different social backgrounds and regions of Europe?	1		
		28	Are the youth exchanges (cultural and educational) planned to offer collaborative opportunities for educational institutions at various levels?	1		
		29	Are the youth exchanges (cultural and educational) planned to place the emphasis on personal and real experiences through the use of places and contacts?	1		
		30	Are the youth exchanges (cultural and educational) planned to set up pilot	1		

			schemes with several participating countries?			
		31	Are the youth exchanges (cultural and educational) planned to give rise to co-operation activities which involve educational institutions at various levels?	1		
	3.2.4 Contemporary cultural and artistic practice	32	Do the Route's cultural activities promote intercultural dialogue and multidisciplinary exchange between various artistic expressions in European countries?	1		
		33	Do the Route's cultural activities encourage artistic projects that establish links between cultural heritage and contemporary culture?	1		
		34	Do the Route's cultural activities encourage innovative cultural and contemporary art practices* connecting them with the history of skills development?	1		
		35	Do the Route's cultural activities encourage collaboration between culture amateurs and professionals via relevant activities and networks creation?**	1		
		36	Do the Route's cultural activities encourage debate and exchange - in a multidisciplinary and intercultural perspective - between various cultural and artistic expressions in different countries of Europe?	1		
		37	Do the Route's cultural activities encourage activities and artistic projects which explore the links between heritage and contemporary culture?	1		
		38	Do the Route's cultural activities highlight the most innovative and creative practices?	1		
		39	Do the Route's cultural activities link these innovative and creative practices with the history of skills development?***	1		



3.2.5 Cultural tourism and sustainable cultural development	40	Do the Route's activities (relevant to sustainable cultural tourism development) assist in local, regional, national and/ or European identity formation?	1	Also because of the pandemic, special attention was given to the development of the Clunypedia site, a true jewel of global knowledge of the Route.
	41	Do the Route's activities (relevant to sustainable cultural tourism development) actively involve 3 major means to raise awareness of their cultural projects: print, broadcast and social media?	1	
	42	Do the Route's activities promote dialogue between urban and rural communities and cultures?	1	
	43	Do the Route's activities promote dialogue between developed and disadvantaged regions?	1	the geographical structure of the route responds to very old processes that are no longer linked to the economic development of contemporary territories. Consequently, the activities of the route develop between sites at different levels of development.
	44	Do the Route's activities promote dialogue between different regions (south, north, east, west) of Europe?	1	

		45	Do the Route's activities promote dialogue between majority and minority (or native and immigrant) cultures?		1	the question is not relevant in this case
		46	Do the Route's activities open possibilities for co-operation between Europe and other continents?		1	a Cluniac micro-presence is historically identified in what is today Turkey and in Jerusalem, but these do not seem to constitute more than subjects of medievalist study
		47	Do the Route's activities draw decision makers' attention to the necessity of protecting heritage as part of the sustainable development of the territory?	1		
		48	Do the Route's activities aim to diversify cultural product, service and activities offers?	1		
		49	Do the Route's activities develop and offer quality cultural tourism products, services or activities transnationally?	1		
		50	Do the Route's activities develop partnerships with public and private organisations active in the field of tourism?	1		Some members of the route are entities active in the tourism sector
		51	Did the network prepare and use tools along the route to raise the number of visitors and the economic impacts of the route on the territories crossed?	1		
		52	Does the Route represent a network involving at least three Council of Europe's member states?	1		
3.3 NETWORK		53	Was the theme of the route chosen and accepted by the network members?	1		

	54	Was the conceptual framework of the route founded on a scientific basis?	1		
	55	Does the network involve several Council of Europe member states in all or part of its projects?	1		
	56	Is the network financially sustainable?	1		The main activity of this period was the creation of a Unesco World Heritage nomination file for the Cluniac network; this activity had a very significant impact on the association's budget and, in order to protect the network, the budget was broken down and divided into independent entities so as not to run the risk of any one action having a negative impact on the entire network. The budget has been divided into independent entities so as not to run the risk of any one action having a negative impact on the network as a whole.

	57	Does the network have a legal status (association, federation of associations, EEIG,...)?	1	The network is constituted as an association according to French law, and is therefore subject to a certain number of obligations that have been fulfilled to date (on an annual basis: a general assembly of all members, an elected board of directors, a statement of activities, an annual report, and a budget-audited by an external professional-which gives the size of the budget).
	58	Does the network operate democratically?	1	
	59	Does the network specify its objectives and working methods?	1	
	60	Does the network specify the regions concerned by the project?	1	
	61	Does the network specify its partners and participating countries?	1	
	62	Does the network specify the fields of action involved?	1	
	63	Does the network specify its overall strategy in the short and long term?	1	
	64	Does the network identify potential participants and partners in Council of	1	

3.4 COMMUNICATION TOOLS			Europe member states and/or other world countries?			
		65	Does the network provide details of its financing (financial reports and/or activity budgets)?	1		
		66	Does the network provide details of its operational plan?	1		
		67	Does the network append the basic text(s) confirming its legal status?	1		
		68	Does the Route have its own logo?	1		
		69	Do all partners of the network use the logo on their communication tools?	1		it is not possible to check all the production of all the partners, in the sample of control made the logo is present
		70	Does the Route have its own dedicated website ?	1		
		71	Is it the website available in English and French?	1		the federation's website (which hosts the route's website) is written in 5 languages (French, English, Spanish, Italian and Polish)
		72	Is it the website available in other languages?	1		
		73	Does the network use effectively social networks and web 2.0?	1		
		74	Does the network publish brochures on the Route?	1		
		75	If yes, are the brochures available in English?	1		

For certified Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe only	76	If yes, are the brochures available in French?	1	
	77	Is the title of "Cultural Route of the Council of Europe" present on all communication materials (including press releases, webpages, publications, etc.)?		The Council of Europe's Cultural Route title and certification logo can be found on all printed materials and on the federation's website, and conforms to the guidelines for use. Unfortunately, it is not present in social media communications, nor is it always present on websites and "face-to-face" signage (road signs and billboards).
	78	Is the certification logo present on all communication materials?	1	
	79	Is the certification logo used in accordance to the guidelines for its use (size and position,...)?	1	
	80	Are the logos (Cultural Route + certification logo) provided to all the members of the Route?	1	
	81	Does the Council of Europe certification logo appear on road signs/ boards indicating the cultural route?		1
	SCORE		75	6

## 8. Annex 3: List of acronyms, figures and tables

### List of images :

- Image 1 - Sign at the entrance to the town with the Cluniac rose window and the signposting of the Great Cultural Route of the Council of Europe (Image Romeo Carabelli, September 2022).
- Image 2 - the rose window in the version dedicated to the formatting of the file for the application to the Unesco World Heritage in the name: Cluny and the Cluniac Sites (from the specific graphic charter, FESC).
- Image 3 - Elements of cultural mediation in a Spanish Cluniac site (from the FB pages of Cluny Ibérica, November 2022).
- Image 4 - Scientific meeting of information and knowledge, reminder of the YouTube link to access the recorded video of the conference (from the FB pages of Cluny Ibérica, November 2022).
- Image 5 - Sign indicating the exhibition organised in Cluny (and then travelling) on the Iberian component of the Cluniac network (Image Romeo Carabelli, August 2018).
- Image 6 - Launch of the European General Assembly 2022 (from the FB pages of the European Federation of Cluniac Sites, capture November 2022).
- Image 7 - Members of a site recently joining the FESC (from the FB pages of the European Federation of Cluniac Sites, capture November 2022).
- Image 8 - Instructions on the use of logos (from the FESC graphic charter - FB pages of the European Federation of Cluniac Sites, capture November 2022).
- Images 9 a,b,c,d,e - Signs at the entrance to the city of Cluniac sites (a France, b Italy, c and d Spain, e Switzerland - blurred - from the Google Map application, capture November 2022).
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- List of acronyms used in the report:
  - European Federation of Cluniac Sites - FESC