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Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe Certification cycle 2024-2025

Candidate Route:
PYRENEAN FREEDOM ROUTES
Independent expert report

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



**Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe
Certification Cycle 2024-2025**

Independent Expert report

PYRENEAN FREEDOM ROUTES

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS	4
1. <i>Introduction</i>	7
2. <i>Main Body Evaluation</i>	9
3.1 Cultural Route Theme	9
3.2 Fields of Action	11
3.3 Cultural Route Network	17
3.4 Communication tools	21
3. <i>Conclusions and recommendations</i>	23
4. <i>List of references</i>	26
5. <i>Annex 1: Expert field visit and interviews with network management and members</i>	
<i>Annex 2: Expert assessment checklist</i>	30

Executive summary

The main theme of the candidate route Pyrenean Freedom Routes are the "freedom trails" between France and Spain, those of clandestine escape from France through the Pyrenees, during the Second World War. It is estimated that around 55,000 men and women of all nationalities left Europe to fight for freedom or join the Resistance. The route includes 3 main escape phases: the racially persecuted and intellectuals; then Resistance fighters who joined General de Gaulle in London or Allied airmen; finally, those who refused compulsory labour in Germany and headed for North Africa.

The Route now proposes to encourage the citizens of Europe to experience, by walking, the paths that the escapees took during the war. In this way, it pays tribute to the Franco-Spanish cross-border culture that played a fundamental role in the effectiveness of the escape networks. It also highlights all those who helped the escapees (smugglers, helpers, local residents, resistance fighters, etc.).

The application is being put forward by the "Association Itinéraires Pyrénées Liberté" (Association Pyrenean Freedom Routes), governed by the 1901 law. This association was created in the summer of 2022 and registered with Hautes-Pyrénées Prefecture, on the initiative of Mrs Josette Durrieu (Honorary Senator and honorary member of the Council of Europe, daughter of Resistance fighters from the Pyrenees). The Association's mission is to perpetuate the memory of the escape through the Pyrenees. Its application to the European Cultural Routes programme aims to give historical and tourist visibility to the escape routes.

The Association has set up a partnership network that brings together local authorities in France and Spain, the Maison de l'Europe des Hautes-Pyrénées, the departmental services of the National Office for Veterans Affairs (ONAC, Office National des Anciens Combattants), the Vielha history museum (Spain), the Society of Members of the Legion of Honour (Société des Membres de la Légion d'Honneur), departmental hiking committees, communities of communes with the label "Villes et Pays d'Art et d'Histoire" (Towns and Lands of Art and History), and associations such as "Chemins de la liberté" (Paths to Freedom), which is active in researching and disseminating personal accounts.

Seven (7) member States of the Enlarged Partial Agreement (EPA) on the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe are concerned by the Route: Andorra, France, Germany, Italy, Portugal, Romania and Spain. Two (2) Council of Europe member States which are not members of the Enlarged Partial Agreement (EPA) are also involved in Route: the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. Finally, members from six (6) countries are involved in the Scientific Committee: Andorra, France, Italy, Portugal, Romania and Spain.

The association has a list of 88 members (in 2024), most of them recent members (2024), including 27 individuals, 14 local authorities and 7 universities/research centres.

For the moment, the association does not directly employ any staff. The file mentions 5 people who work for the network and who are seconded by one of its members.

The candidate route has set up twelve (12) routes crossing the Pyrenees, each named after a person or network who used these paths during the war between France and Spain. A further eight (8) routes are planned, some of which also include Andorra.

A number of media tools have been put in place (website in 4 languages, FB page).

All of the proposed routes currently involve France and Spain, and Andorra in the very near future. However, the candidate Route insists on the fact that the routes are "truly European" as the aim is not just to look at the Franco-Spanish section of the crossings, but to take into account the upstream and downstream routes taken by escapees from all over Europe, as well as their onward destinations, including beyond Europe.

Over the next 5 years, the candidate route should reflect on the materialization of this European dimension, beyond the Pyrenees region, by relying more on places of remembrance, museums or interpretation centres located in countries such as Portugal, Belgium or England. It should also further develop tourism products beyond the Pyrenees region and possibly consider a unifying cultural activity to better connect members from countries other than France, Spain and Andorra.

In terms of mediation, opening up the debate on Europe's borders and, more generally, on the notion of borders today, a very burning issue for Europe today, would enable the development of more inclusive products, activities and narratives that go beyond the Pyrenees, highlighting the upstream and downstream routes of the escapees.

Criteria	Excellent	Very good	Satisfactory	Poor	Unsatisfactory	Assessment
Compliance with the eligibility criteria for themes listed in Resolution CM/Res(2023) 2, I. List of eligibility criteria for themes.	X					Excellent
Compliance with the eligibility criteria for actions listed in Resolution CM/Res(2023)2, II. List of priority fields of action.		X				Very good
Compliance with the eligibility criteria for networks listed in Resolution CM/Res(2023)2, III. List of criteria for networks.		X				Very good

1. Introduction

The main theme of the candidate route **Pyrenean Freedom Routes** are the "freedom trails" between France and Spain, those of clandestine escape from France through the Pyrenees, during the Second World War. It is estimated that around 55,000 men and women of all nationalities left Europe to fight for freedom or join the Resistance. The route includes 3 main escape phases: the racially persecuted and intellectuals; then Resistance fighters who joined General de Gaulle in London or Allied airmen; finally, those who refused compulsory labour in Germany and headed for North Africa.

The Route now proposes to encourage the citizens of Europe to experience, by walking, the paths that the escapees took during the war. In this way, it pays tribute to the Franco-Spanish cross-border culture that played a fundamental role in the effectiveness of the escape networks. It also highlights all those who helped the escapees (smugglers, helpers, local residents, resistance fighters, etc.).

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Other French partner institutions are mentioned in the application, such as the Shoah Memorial, the Institut des Hautes Études de la Défense Nationale and the Institut Géographique National, as well as international partners: the Erasmus mundus DYCLAM+ master's programme, the Franco-German Youth Office and the European Interparliamentary Association for Security and Defence (London). The Association has a renewed Scientific Committee.

In 2024, the General Assembly of the association decided to amend the association's articles to introduce the name "Europe" in the title of the association and to ensure better representation of members on the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee.

The routes are geographically defined around the Pyrenees, and their aim is to invite a wide range of visitors *"to walk in the footsteps of those who have 'chosen freedom', in an 'immersive' approach to these routes and this specific area, with the aim of making the physical difficulties of these clandestine mountain crossings more sensitive and accessible"*. Several routes have been signposted throughout the Pyrenees. Twelve (12) routes have been selected, each bearing the name of a person who used these paths. Eight (8) more are planned, including Andorra. The dossier insists on the fact that these routes are "truly European" (p. 9), as there is a desire not just to look at the Franco-Spanish section of the routes, but to take into account the upstream and downstream routes of escapees from all over Europe, as well as their subsequent destinations, including beyond Europe.

Seven member States of Enlarged Partial Agreement (EPA) on the Cultural Routes of the Council Europe concerned by the Route: Andorra, France, Germany, Italy, Portugal, Romania and Spain. Two Council of Europe member States which are not members of the Enlarged Partial Agreement (EPA) are also involved in Route: the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. Finally, 6 countries are involved in the Scientific Committee: Andorra, Spain, France, Italy, Portugal and Romania.

In 2024, the association had a list of 88 members, most of whom had joined recently (2024). The membership is as follows: 27 individuals, 14 local authorities, 7 universities/research centres, 6 cultural institutions/NGOs, 4 national authorities, 4 heritage sites, 3 museums, 1 regional authority, 21 "Others".

The presence of members from local authorities (College 1) is significant, due in part to the local political commitment of the Chairman and Secretary. Geographically speaking, the vast majority of members are located in France (57/88), followed by Spain (15/88) and Andorra (5/88), reflecting the route's Pyrenean roots.

The network does not set out specific criteria for selecting future members and has not mapped out potential members. However, a list of potentially interested members is provided. It includes 8 potential members (3 in France, 2 in Spain, 1 in Portugal and 2 in the United Kingdom).

The Pyrenean Freedom Routes submitted an initial application in 2022-2023, for which Isabelle Brianço (MCF, University of Avignon) had been appointed expert.

2. Main Body Evaluation

3.1 Cultural Route Theme

3.1.1 Definition of the theme of the route

The main theme of the candidate route is the "paths to freedom", the clandestine escape routes from France through the Pyrenees, between France and Spain, during the Second World War. It is estimated that around 55,000 men and women of all nationalities left Europe to fight for freedom or join the Resistance. This figure includes 3 main phases of escape: firstly, the racially persecuted and intellectuals; secondly, the Resistance fighters who joined General de Gaulle in London or the Allied airmen; and thirdly, those who refused compulsory labour in Germany and headed for North Africa.

The Pyrenean Freedom Routes now proposes to encourage European citizens to experience, by walking, the routes taken by the escapees during the war. The Route pays tribute to the Franco-Spanish cross-border culture that played a fundamental role in the effectiveness of the escape networks.

The routes are geographically defined around the Pyrenees, and their aim is to invite a wide range of visitors *"to walk in the footsteps of those who have 'chosen freedom', in an 'immersive' approach to these routes and this specific area, with the aim of making the physical difficulties of these clandestine mountain crossings more sensitive and accessible"*.

Twelve (12) routes have been selected, each bearing the name of a group or individual who has travelled these roads: "Comète-Bidassoa"; "Comète - Baztan"; "Henri Cazaux"; "Jean Cazenave"; "15 of the escapees from Eysses prison"; "Chuck Yeager", "Paul Mifsud" and "Josette"; "The path of freedom"; "Douanier Parent"/"Claude"; "The paths of the abbot Ginoux"; "Col de Banyuls" "Joseph Kessel - Maurice Druon" "Walter Benjamin". Several routes have been signposted throughout the Pyrenees.

Among the existing routes, and by way of example, the "Comète - Baztan" is the one used by the COMET resistance network, best known for helping Allied pilots and officers to flee occupied territory. It crossed Belgium, then France to Bayonne, St Juan de Luz and finally the Bidassoa river at Hondarlatza to San Sebastian. Another COMET route enabled around 80 Allied soldiers to flee occupied France and reach San Sebastian by bicycle.

The dossier insists on the fact these routes are "truly European" (p. 9), as there is a desire not to fix the limit to the Franco-Spanish section of the crossings, but to take into account the upstream and downstream routes of escapees from all over Europe, as well as their onward destinations, including beyond Europe.

Eight (8) other routes are planned: 5 with Andorra; 1 in the Pyrenees-Mediterranean; 2 in Ariège-Catalonia. Of these, the "Catalonia/Ariège" route is underway. At the time of the visit, the "Canigou" route was well advanced (by Mr Jean-Pierre Bobo, a teacher and historian who has worked on all the other routes in the Eastern Pyrenees) and ready to be mapped in 2025. In Andorra, there is a relationship with the Directorate of Cultural Heritage (letter of support and adhesion in May 2024). The Route has also developed close links with Mr Claude Bénet (former teacher, historian and Andorra's former tourism minister), who is vice-president of the association. Contacts also exist with associations in Andorra (Vielles cases andorranes; Aina de eglisia de Canillo and the Alliance française d'Andorre).

In addition, a Routard Guide to the region is due to be launched on 24 October 2025 to mark the 80th anniversary of the founding of the UN.

3.1.2 Historical and cultural context

The historical period of reference is the Second World War (1939-1945) and the historical context is that of the crossing of the Pyrenees (by a group of people with very different profiles – firstly resistance fighters, but also airmen, Jews, etc.) to reach Spain and, from there, London. The historical context of the route takes into account both the escapees of all profiles – some, like Walter Benjamin, very well known, others anonymous and of all ages, as well as those who helped them – and networks of resistance fighters (Hilaire, Buckmaster, etc.), smugglers, more general networks of mutual aid, etc. who guided the escapees through the mountain paths. In this way, it takes an overall look at the system of places, people and networks that made these escapes possible during the 2nd World War. It pays tribute not only to the escapees themselves, but also to the people, both famous and anonymous, who often risked their lives to help the escapees regain their freedom.

The association has collected the memories of escapees and smugglers. Most of them have now disappeared. It took a long time to collect these memories, and there are still things left unsaid.

The descendants of the escapees or those who helped them escape, members of the Pyrenean Freedom Routes association, preserve, inventory and disseminate these often-fading memories.

The association's Scientific Committee (SC) has the task of overseeing the writing of this history. Several historians, specialists in this period and in the context of the crossing, are making a significant contribution to the historical knowledge of this period and this particular context, on both the Spanish and French sides.

This is the case of Josep Calvet, PhD from the University of Lérida (Catalonia, Spain, *Memorial democràtic* of Catalonia), author of reference works on the subject¹.

This is also the case of contemporary history professor Robert Belot², a member of the Scientific Committee, who has studied the phenomenon from a historical and memorial perspective, drawing on previously unpublished documentary resources as well as the archives of the French Red Cross in Spain, which was responsible for the exfiltration of escapees from 1943 onwards.

The work of historians is shedding new light on this still little-known history. It is particularly important to highlight another aspect of the work of certain members of the SC: more reflective work on the "memorial misfortune" (Robert Belot) of the escapees, attributed to several reasons: 1/ the negative image in the collective imagination of the escapee or exile as "runaway"; 2/ the opposition between the external Resistance (Free France in London) and the internal Resistance; 3/ the diverse and unstructured nature of the escapees; 4/ the memory of the Retirada, the exodus of refugees from the Spanish Civil War to France in 1939; 5/ the fact that, after crossing the border, the escapees found themselves in Franco's Spain. Thus, the role of the Candidate Route seems particularly important for the federation of a body of work.

¹ Books: *Las montañas de la libertad* (Alianza, 2010); *Huyendo del Holocausto* (Milenio, 2014); *La carta olvidada, las gemelas separadas por el nazismo* (Nagrela Publisher, 2022)

² Robert Belot, *S'évader de France sous l'Occupation. Vichy-Madrid-London-Alger*, Paris, éd. Fayard, coll. "Pour une histoire du XXe siècle", 1998, 2nd edition: June 1999, 793 p. preface by Professor Serge Bernstein. "Philippe Viannay-Défense de la France" prize.

3.1.3 Council of Europe values represented by the theme

The Route resonates with the CoE's values of "European identity and citizenship" through knowledge and awareness of Europe's common heritage.

These values, seen in the broadest sense, are those of freedom: the principles of individual liberty, political freedom and the rule of law, on which every democracy is founded. It highlights the fight for this freedom and the determination of men and women facing the Nazi and fascist threat. The Route also reflects the Council of Europe's *European Convention on Human Rights* (1953), which protects human rights and fundamental freedoms throughout Europe.

The Route is a physical reality, thanks to the waymarked paths that can still be explored on foot today - albeit in safety, and "without fear in the belly" - requiring the same physical effort as for the escapees in 1940-44. In this sense, it can also be a "living" learning ground for younger generations, first and foremost about the history of war, but also about a number of values associated with this crossing: the fight for freedom, resistance to totalitarianism, mutual aid and solidarity.

The candidate Route may also resonate strongly with the contemporary situation: refugees, smugglers, the difficult conditions of these crossings during the Second World War, are sadly reminiscent of similar situations in 21st century Europe.

The previous evaluation pointed out that "the application does not refer to conventions specialised in European heritage, or to other international conventions such as that of UNESCO (1972, 2003), although some cultural property is listed at points on the six (note: now 12) routes indicated above, as is the case at Saint-Bertrand de Comminges as part of the Pilgrim's Way to Santiago de Compostela". The expert pointed out, however, that the theme echoes the *1954 Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict* (UNESCO) (*The Hague Convention*). The 2024 application makes little reference to European conventions and charters, although it does state that the theme of the Route is consubstantial "with the values that inspired the Council of Europe's conventions, which are themselves an enhancement of the principles that presided over the birth of the UN and UNESCO". This is undeniable, but it would be useful to place greater emphasis on the relationship with certain conventions, including the Faro Convention.

3.2 Fields of Action

3.2.1 Co-operation in research and development

The Scientific Committee has 14 members. It is chaired by Professor Robert Belot, Jean-Monnet University of Saint-Etienne, holder of the Jean Monnet EUPOPA Chair from 2018 to 2022. Professor Belot is also the director of the Erasmus Mundus DYCLAM+ Consortium³, a partner in the Route. DYCLAM+ is supported by the Université Jean Monnet (UJM) in Saint-Etienne (France), the Polytechnic Institute of Tomar (IPT) in Maçao (Portugal), the Babes Bolayi University in Cluj (Romania) and the Università Federico II (UNINA) in Naples (Italy). All DYCLAM+ universities are members of the Scientific Committee and members of the network.

³ <https://masterdyclam.univ-st-etienne.fr/fr/le-master-dyclam/le-consortium-dyclam.html>

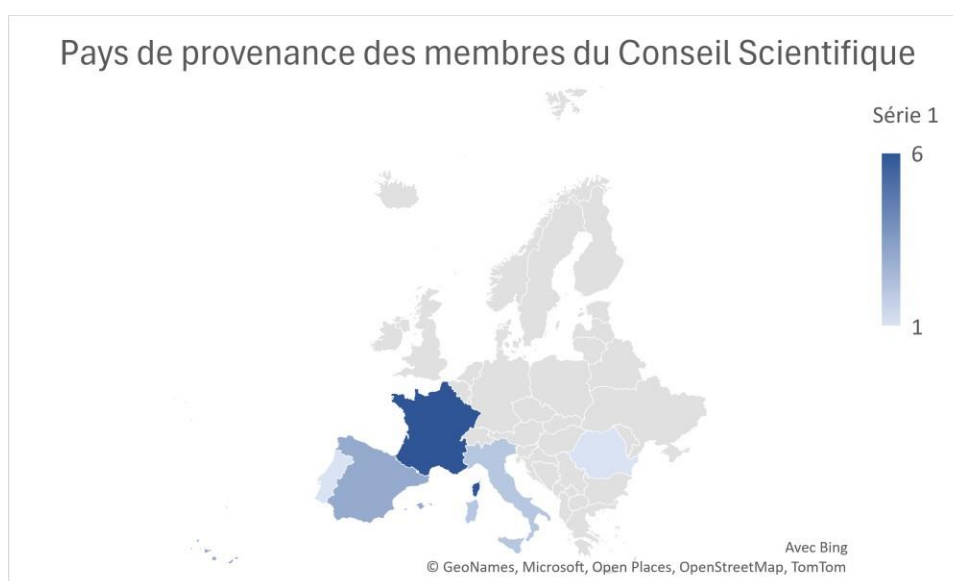


Figure 1: Countries of origin of the members of the Scientific Committee of the Pyrenean Freedom Routes

The list of the network's general activities mentions meetings of the Scientific Council (i.e. on 1st February 2023, chaired by J. Calvet, from the Memorial Democràtic of Catalonia). However, the application file does not provide the minutes of the Scientific Committee meetings, so we do not know how often they are held or what the content of the sessions is.

The majority of the network's members are historians (8 out of the 14 members). The others are political scientists (2), sociologists (2), archaeologists (1) and international relations specialists (1). The presence of geographers (human and social geography), anthropologists-ethnologists, museum specialists and tourism specialists is particularly recommended.

3.2.2 Enhancement of the memory, history and European heritage

For a whole series of reasons mentioned above, which in themselves call for *ad hoc* research, the history and memory of the Pyrenean crossing during the Second World War remain imperfectly explored. For a long time, the smugglers kept their stories to themselves, in a context of secrecy that characterised their actions even after the war, sometimes contradictory or even conflicting in the context of a circumscribed area where families knew each other and where freedom of speech was not always possible. These stories are now emerging and come at a time of transition, when living witnesses have disappeared and the families and descendants who lived these stories up close are also beginning to disappear. So, even though the Pyrenees were a crucial territory during the Second World War, the human and social history of the Pyrenees has remained one of the forgotten parts of history, whether on the side of the Allies or the occupiers.

The Pyrenees region has the capacity to act as a condensed version of part of the history of the 2nd World War, a region that is therefore didactic, materialising history and conveying memories.

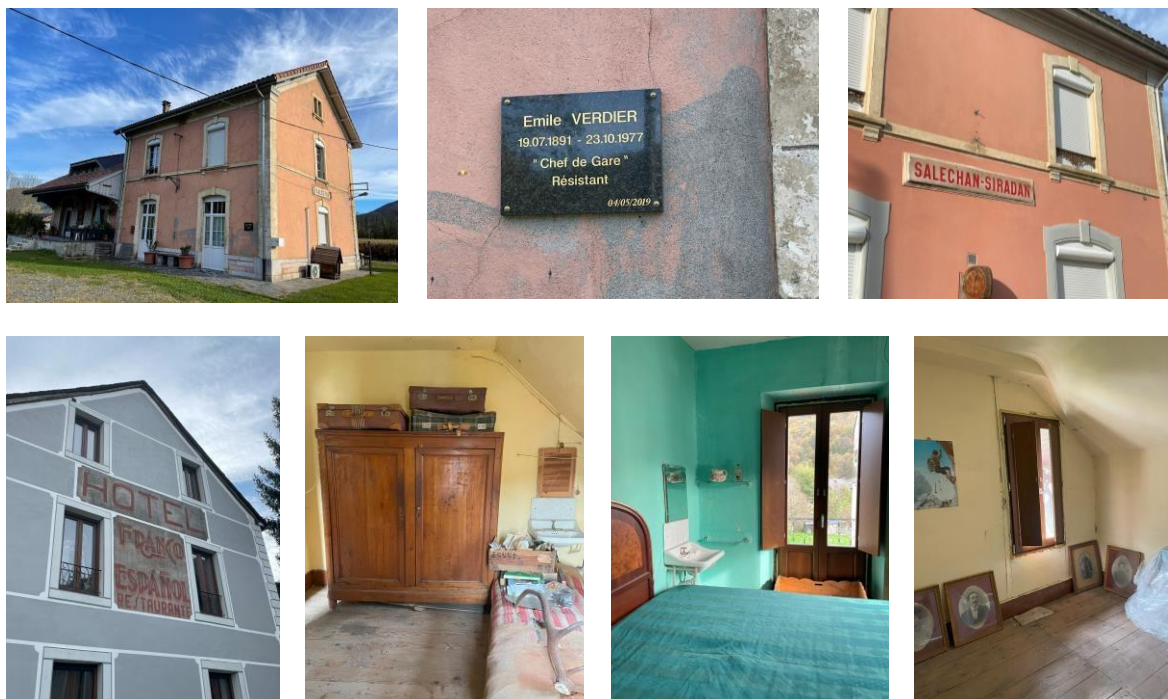
The Pyrenees have a major role to play in the remembrance and heritage of the Second World War, because of their ability to "embody" the war in Europe.

At a time when Europe's borders are moving outwards and around the edges of the continent, showing this internal frontier has the potential to act as a first-rate educational ground for younger generations, a compendium of history and memory.

The Scientific Committee has a major role to play writing this history, particularly through academic publications, and it is recommended that these develop in the years to come in parallel with the publications of works of remembrance, which have become increasingly numerous in recent years. With the aim of uniting the players in the area and giving them greater scientific cooperation, the Cultural Route is collaborating with numerous French and European institutions (ONACVG, archives,

museums). Beyond France, cooperation with Israel provides an international dimension.

There is also considerable scope for enhancing the heritage of the area by gradually integrating more and more places linked to these crossings. A number of these sites exist - museums, collections, sites linked to the crossing - Saléchan station (photo 2 A) or the Hôtel Franco-Espagnol (photo 2 B). These are private sites, but are open to visitors from the outside (Saléchan station) or have future development projects (Hôtel Franco-Espagnol) linked to the history of the area.



Photos 2 A and B: Places and evanescent traces of the crossing of escapees in France and Spain
© MGB, November 2028

In addition to the heritage linked strictly speaking to the history of the escapees, the region has an exceptional architectural heritage (churches, chapels, rural heritage, etc.) that can help tourists discover the area.

3.2.3 Cultural and educational exchanges for young Europeans

The 12 routes already produced, and no doubt those in preparation, provide interesting and easy-to-use teaching aids for educational projects, whether *in situ* or online.

There are a variety of educational initiatives (the routes themselves - memorial mountain hikes to give young people an idea of the physical efforts made by the escapees; signs and signposting along the routes; mobile visitor applications; a comic strip retracing the history of the refugee crossings, etc.).

Digital tools are available in several languages (French, English, Spanish) and in hybrid format (audio guide, interactive map). For example, *Les Chemins de la Liberté* invite young people to experience the 4-kilometre route taken by a group of Resistance fighters who made their way to Bausen (Spain) via Mont Burat.

The Route has also co-produced a comic strip entitled *Les Chemins de la liberté (Freedom paths)* about the families who crossed the route in October 1943, as told by Josette, an 11-year-old girl who took the route. The comic⁴ is linked to the Martignac educational trail. It is developed in French on a local (Pyrenees) and regional scale. It would be useful for the candidate Cultural Route to work with its European partners to translate it into other languages, particularly for young Europeans.

A number of activities for young people are organised by members of the network. Some are linked to sport and Europe, but not necessarily to the route's theme.

Others with art, such "Music at the Gurs camp" (internment camp in the Atlantic Pyrenees) on 31 May 2024 and the conference-concert "The keys to survival". A pianist and a soprano performed songs and scores written by the camp's internees. The debate introduced questions about the role of art, the Shoah, the Holocaust, deportation and resistance.

Special mention should be made of the Franco-Spaniard and Franco-German youth meetings. The Franco-German exchange (2023) in particular consisted of organising a double mobility for 44 French and German pupils (one week in France in May 2023 and one week in Germany in July 2023), around the project "climbing for peace" within the framework of the Élysée friendship treaty signed in 1963, in partnership with the OFAJ (Franco-German Youth Office), the National Union of School Sports (national and departmental), the Climbing Federation and League, the Rectorate, the Academic Inspectorate and middle schools, the Council of Europe's EPAS "Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport" (sport division), the French Federation of European Houses.

Four secondary schools took part in the operation (in France: Desaix in Tarbes and Beaulieu in Saint Laurent de Neste and in Germany (Bavaria): Landau and Wursburg).

For the French trip, the project enabled pupils climb part of the Henri Cazaux route, in the footsteps of the escapees. The aim of the experience was to explain the Resistance and, beyond that, to reflect on Europe's borders and values, including the Schengen area.

In Germany, the trip included visits to places such as the Olympic stadium and the Bundestag. At the end of the trip, a European Youth Card was distributed to the 44 students taking part in this mobility, with the participation of the Council of Europe and the French Federation of European Houses.

3.2.4 Contemporary cultural and artistic practice

The dossier submitted lists 7 activities relating to the contemporary practice of culture and arts: Gurs commemorative ceremony in the Pyrénées Atlantiques; Screening of the film *Passages et débat à Saint Gaudens, France*; Inauguration of the National Route 125 "Freedom Route" and the monumental sculpture (photo 3); the exhibition "*30000 cailloux pour un Consul*" (30,000 Pebbles for a Consul) in Bordeaux, in honour of the Portuguese Consul Aristides de Sousa Mendes, Righteous Among the Nations, who in June 1940 risked his life to save more than 30,000 people; a meeting with Franco-Portuguese metal sculptor Fernando Costa, Les Eyzies, France; "*Les clés de la survivance*" (The keys to survival) conference and concert at the Gurs camp, Tarbes; France 3 television programme "*Des racines et des ailes*", entitled "*Sur les chemins oubliés du Pays basque*" (On the forgotten paths of the Basque Country).

⁴ Christian Staebler, *Les Chemins de la Liberté*, educational booklet produced by the Communauté de Communes Pyrénées Haut-Garonnaises



Photo 3: National Route 125, labelled "Route la liberté", adorned a monumental sculpture created on an *ad hoc* basis
© MGB, November 2024

The list is not exhaustive, of course, but all the events presented are in France.

The Route has not developed a specific artistic project related to the theme of the application, although several members have done so. Artistic creation does not seem to be a strategic priority for the candidate Route. The candidate Route undoubtedly does not have the resources at this stage to organise events such as a festival or more regular events that require significant ongoing resources and staff. The network's artistic activities are therefore those of its members, without there being a cultural strategy as such. This is undoubtedly a point of vigilance for the network, as is the way in which future cultural activities can create links between members from several countries, in order to avoid a focus on France.

3.2.5 Cultural tourism and sustainable cultural development

Not to mention the fact that this has long been a very popular tourist region (to give just a few examples, the region counts 44 ski resorts in France, 15 in Spain and 3 in Andorra; 29 thermal spas in France, 7 in Spain and 1 in Andorra). In the Pyrenees, the route passes through a memorial area, linked to the theme of the Route, with many points of interest. It is also an area of outstanding natural beauty, with a considerable cultural heritage. The region covered by the existing and future signposted routes is therefore of particular interest to tourists.

There are many areas of great interest: national parks (Parc national des Pyrénées occidentales, Parc national d'Aygués Tortes), regional nature parks (Pyrénées ariégeoises, Pyrénées catalanes, Comminges Barousse Pyrénées) or the Val d'Aran, recognised by UNESCO as a Biosphere Reserve in July 2024.

As well as this natural heritage, dotted with architectural marvels - both monumental and vernacular - there is also an intangible heritage made up of traditions, practices and know-how, and gastronomy.

This context allows for a gentle form of tourism - *slow tourism* - that favours gentle itineraries (hiking, cycling, horse riding) along signposted paths. Travelling the same paths as the escapees, making the same physical effort as they did and learning their stories from the guides is a remarkable tourist experience. The signposting of several of the trails offers a very interesting support for tourist products.

A large number of paths are available in France (IGN Rando - Path of Memory - In the Footsteps of Jean Cazenave; IGN Rando - Path of Memory - In the Footsteps of Henri Cazaux; Pyrénées 2 Vallées Tourist Office: the Rioumajou Valley; Neste Barousse Tourist Office: Pic du Douly Trail; Pyrénées 31 Tourist Office: Marignac Freedom Trail; Haute-Garonne Departmental Tourism Committee: the Freedom Trails Opus 1; Couserans-Pyrénées Tourist Office: 4-Day Sports Hiking Route between Saint-Girons and Esterri d'Àneu; Pyrénées Méditerranée Tourist Office: In the Footsteps of Walter Benjamin and the Retirada), or in Spain (Val d'Aran Tourist Office; Alt Urgell Tourist Office...).

Corinne Crabé, Director of the Pyrénées2vallées Tourist Office, is also a member of the Route's Scientific Committee, which is a major advantage.

A number of other qualified tourism professionals are also part of the network: Cécile Delaumone, Tour Guide and Lecturer Land of Art and History, Community of municipalities Aure Louron; Assumpta Guixot, Culture and cross-border cooperation coordinator, Community of municipalities Pyrénées; and others. In this way, the Pyrenean Freedom Routes are working people who have all skills in the region. The circle of people must now be widened beyond the Pyrenees to consider initiatives involving other countries more closely.

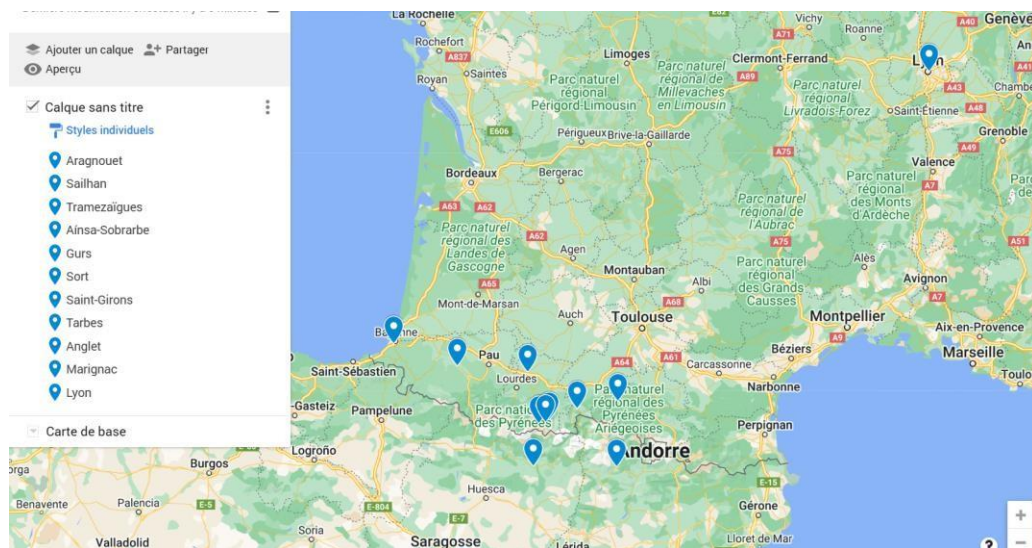


Figure 4: Places included in the "tourism products developed by the network and its members" mentioned in the application file.

The two main museum and interpretation sites have been set up in heritage sites related to the theme of Route. In France, these are the "maison du chemin de la Liberté" (house of the Freedom path) in Saint-Girons, in the former station where would-be escapees arrived in the town, and the Gurs camp. In Spain, it is the Sort Museum, in the former prison where the escapees were held.

However, it is recommended that the range of tourism products be made more geographically open. The map of products presented under the heading "Tourism products developed by the network and its members" (figure 4) shows an almost exclusive concentration on either side of the Pyrenean mountain range, limiting the tourism offer to 2 of the 7 countries in which the network has members.

The accession of the Eden camp in York, the Miranda del Ebro camp interpretation centre, the Rivesaltes Memorial and the Exile Memorial in La Jonquera should improve the geographical balance of the network and enable it to be redeployed on a European scale.

3.3 Cultural Route Network

3.3.1 Overview of institutional /legal structure of the network

The network's coordinating body is the French association "Itinéraires Liberté Pyrénées", governed by the law of 1901. This association was founded in 2022, when the application for certification was submitted to the Council of Europe. Its main objective is to co-ordinate initiatives relating to the memory of the Pyrenean escape routes (France-Spain), including the English "souvenir".

The association is governed by a 19-member executive, chaired by Yoan RUMEAU, President of Neste-Barousse intercommunal authority, and co-chaired by 10 vice-presidents (5 French, representing the departments/countries of Pyrénées Atlantiques, Hautes-Pyrénées, Haute-Garonne, Ariège and Pyrénées Méditerranée, 2 from Spain, 2 from Andorra, 1 from Portugal and 1 from the UK). Mrs Josette DURRIEU is the secretary-manager.

According to its articles of association, signed in 2024, the association has set the objective to achieve a *"comprehensive cultural, memorial, tourist and economic project"* that it hopes to complete and develop.

The purpose of association behind the project is as follows:

- *"The submission of an application for certification of the "Pyrenean Freedom Routes" as Cultural Route of the Council of Europe.*
- *"Supporting existing projects in the Occitanie region, Catalonia and Aragon to finalise the interconnection of routes and encourage exchanges (...)"*.
- *(...) "the production of joint materials to promote and explore the routes from end to end and to develop activities to promote and enhance the heritage through exhibitions, artistic and cultural events and discovery tours, particularly in the context of tourist, school or university exchanges".*
- *The installation of appropriate, coordinated signposting on all routes.*
- *Support for the creation of specific services (mobility, accommodation, catering, health, etc.) and places of remembrance.*
- *Putting local players in touch with each other in order to lead and organise regular meetings between partners.*
- *Collaboration with public and private bodies, cultural associations, consortia, companies and cooperatives (...).*
- *Membership of national and international organisations with similar objectives or which help to achieve its objectives.*

3.3.2 Overview of the financial situation of the network

According to the association's articles of association, "The association's resources come from: membership fees; subsidies (EU, States, local authorities, etc.); memberships; donations from benefactor members and various gifts; its own income (consultancy and study assignments, sales of products, etc.) and any other resources authorised by the texts and regulations in force, including income from sponsorship. The membership fee is set annually by the Board of Directors at the Annual General Meeting.

Because the association is so young, it is not possible to analyse its finances over a long period of time. The first budgetary figures date from 2022, when it applied for the Cultural Routes certification.

Financial position 2022-2023

During the second half of 2022 and in 2023, the association was able to exist thanks to the direct assumption of costs by the founding members of the ILPE association (Itinéraires Liberté Pyrénées Europe).

The "Maison de l'Europe des Pyrénées" association covered the costs of running the secretariat. The Community of municipalities Pyrénées Haut Garonnaises has made a secretary available for one day a week. The Community of municipalities Neste Barousse provides premises for the head office, working meetings and statutory meetings. It has covered the costs of receptions, accommodation and the organisation of the various meetings and gatherings required to carry out the project.

In addition, a number of senior members of the association travelled to make contact with or meet new partners or members of the network, or to attend meetings organised by the Cultural Routes permanent

secretariat (Forum in Chania and hearing in Luxembourg).
 In 2023, the 'Escalade de la Paix' (Climbing for peace) project, an exchange between young Germans and French with a budget of just under €30k, was entirely co-financed by members of the association and other institutional partners such as the UNSS (Union Nationale du Sport Scolaire), the OFAJ and the Council of Europe.

According to the minutes of the AGM of 16 November 2023, in 2023 the association did not record any income or expenditure. The actions carried out were supported by the member local authorities and the Maison de l'Europe des Pyrénées association.

The association's bank account was opened in 2024.

According to the association, *"during this initial phase, the founding members of the ILPE association, mainly the local authorities, chose to provide material and human support for the development of the project (...) The increase in membership in 2023 and 2024 means that we now have the resources to operate and to seek other public and private financial support. Certification will help to strengthen our approach and raise its profile. It will reinforce the reality of the support we receive from our various public and private partners, and showcase their commitment over the long term."*

Budget 2024

The 2024 budget, approved at the AGM on 11 July 2024, is presented in balance (€30,000 of expenditure and income).
 Revenue breaks down as follows:



Figure 5: 2024 budget for the Pyrenean Freedom Routes (prepared by MGB, ILPE data)

In addition to operating expenses, a ¼ FTE position has been budgeted.
 The file does not provide details of the actual paid-up members. Supporting documents for income, grants, etc. include documents relating to the ‘Escalade de la Paix’ activity, which enabled the organisation of a France-Germany mobility programme (young Germans in France in May 2023 and young French people in Germany in July 2023).

The 2025 budget is almost identical to that of 2024 (€30,000).

The 2026 budget shows an increase in costs and income (€39,000). The increase in income is due to higher membership fees and contributions in kind. This will enable to cover staff costs for a further ½ FTE.

In conclusion, the association's budget currently allows the foundation to operate and carry out its activities. It is advisable to stabilise membership fees in particular, in order to have a stable, long-term budget that can be renewed from one year to the next. This would also make it possible to stabilise the staff who are essential to the smooth running of the association, beyond the current ¼ FTE and ½ projected for 2026.

In addition, some of the network's projects have received national and European funding. For example :

"La Route de la Liberté" (Figure 3), inaugurated on 22 March 2024, along the RN 125, from Seilhan to Pont du Roy on the French-Aranian border. The total cost of the project has been financed to the tune of 85,000€ by FEDER-LEADER funds, the State (ONAC), the Region, the Department and the Community of municipalities Pyrénées Haut Garonnaise.

The Marignac educational route (Figure 6) (2022), which enables visitors to follow in the footsteps of a group of Resistance fighters who in October 1943 made their way to Bausen (Spain), has received €51,300 in funding from Europe, the French government, the Region, the Department, the Onacv⁵ and the Community of municipalities Pyrénées Haut-Garonnaises. In 2024, the trail was awarded the "disabled tourism" certification for all 4 disabilities (motor, visual, hearing and mental).

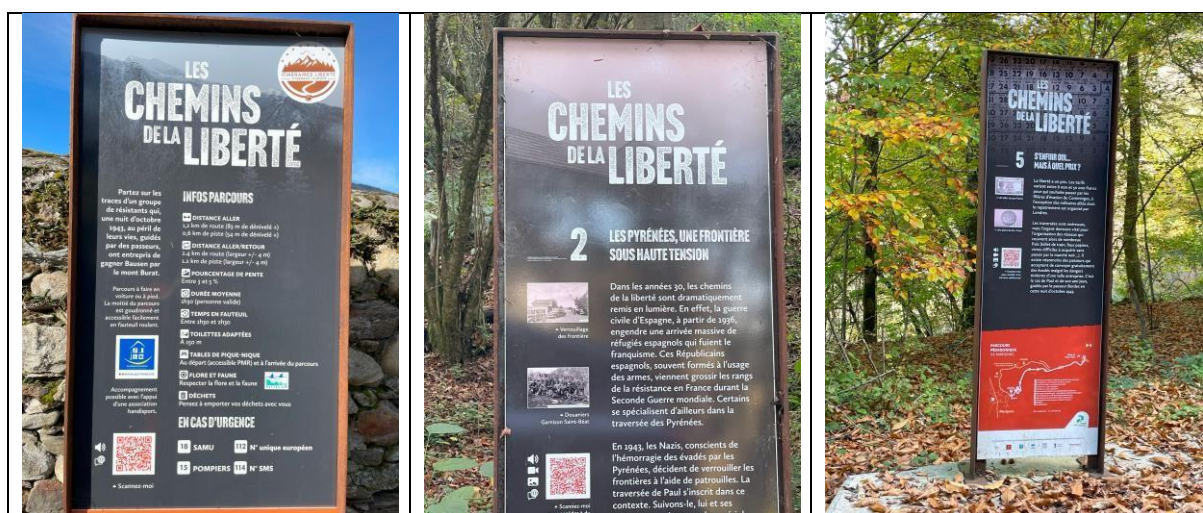


Figure 6: Les Chemins de la Liberté, the first footpath in Occitanie to be approved for all 4 types of disability © MGB, November 2024

⁵ Office National des Anciens Combattants et Victimes de Guerre (French National Office for Veterans and Victims of War)

3.3.3 Current composition of the network by country and type of

member

The members of the network are organised into 4 colleges, as follows:

- 1st college: active members representing the member local authorities, with one member per local authority.
- 2nd college: public and private cultural institutions contributing to the realisation of the association's projects (museums, foundations, institutions, companies, etc.).
- 3rd college: associations involved in this action.
- 4th college: qualified personalities, appointed on the basis of services rendered, competent individuals, writers, historians, witnesses, etc.

In 2024, the association had 88 members. Most of these recent members (2024), which testifies to the dynamism of the network.

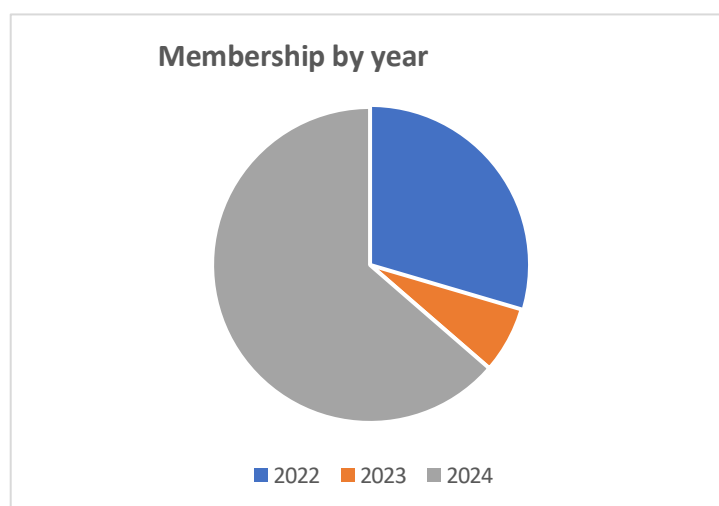


Figure 7: Year in which network members joined.
Prepared by MGB, based on data supplied by ILPE, 2024

The members are as follows:

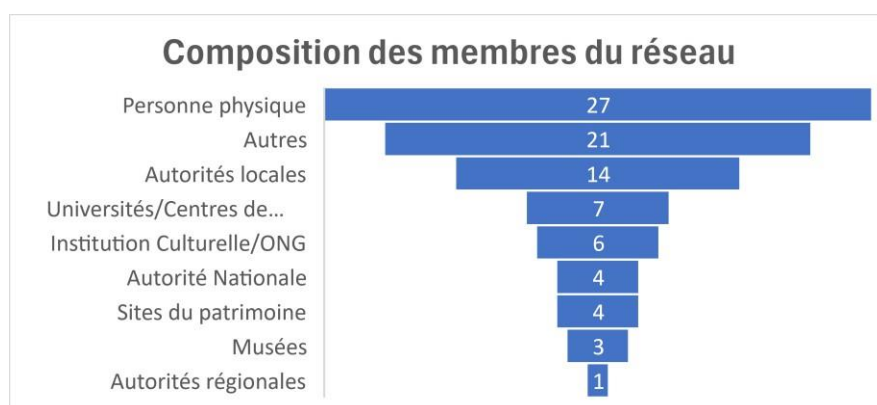


Figure 8: Membership of the ILPE network. Prepared by MGB, based on data supplied by ILPE, 2024.

It is important to highlight the presence of members from local authorities (college 1) due, among other things, to the local political commitment of the Chairman and the Secretary. The vast majority of members are from France (57/88), followed by Spain (15/88) and Andorra (5/88), reflecting the route's Pyrenean roots.



Figure 9: Countries represented by ILPE members. Prepared by MGB, based on data supplied by ILPE, 2024.

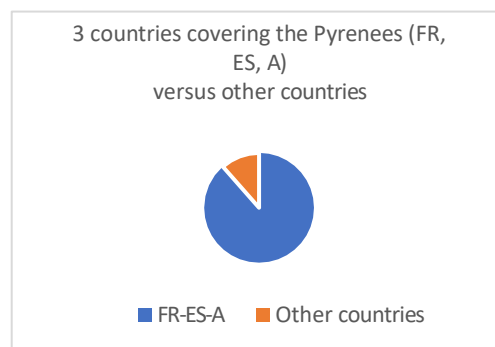


Figure 10: Members located in the 3 countries covering the Pyrenees to other countries. Prepared by MGB, based on data supplied by ILPE, 2024.

3.3.4 Strategy for the network extension in the three years to come

The network does not set out any specific criteria for selecting future members and has not drawn up a map of potential members.

However, a list of potentially interested members is provided. It includes 8 potential members (3 in France, 2 in Spain, 1 in Portugal and 2 in the United Kingdom).

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 association has a "Itinéraires Liberté Pyrénées" logo featuring the name of the Cultural Route and a stylised representation of the Pyrenees. The logo exists in French and has not been translated into English.



It is advisable to ensure that the logo is correctly displayed on all possible media, and in particular on all signposted routes. At present, this is not the case for a number of signs, even though they relate to the theme.

The candidate route also has a website available in 4 languages. In particular, the site presents the historical background to the route, information about the association and its governance, and the 12 signposted trails. It also provides important bibliographical references, highlighting the significant research work that has been carried out on this theme in recent years. The site's content could be further developed, in particular to highlight the European dimension (in the geographical sense of the term): showing places of remembrance, sites and museums related to the network's theme and located beyond the current marked routes.

The expert's report in 2022 proposed to "strengthen a dissemination space for the various categories of members of the association" and "highlight the testimonies of the 'smugglers' as a major (intangible) cultural heritage of European significance" and encouraged *"a real work of history and archives, enhanced by technical tools (website), the digitisation of documents, the broadcasting (video) of interviews with these great men and the translation (English, Spanish) of these interviews wherever possible"*. Real progress has been made in this direction, but it is advisable to continue.

3. Conclusions and recommendations (2-3 pages)

CRITERIA		Fulfilment of certification criteria by the candidate network
I. Cultural route theme		The theme of the candidate network is highly relevant and fundamentally European in its historical and symbolic dimensions. It is little studied, for reasons that are very aptly pointed out by the candidate route, which takes a reflexive stance on the very object of its study.
II. Priority fields of action	Cooperation in research and development	The candidate route has a high-quality scientific network of specialists in the field.
	Enhancement of memory, history and European heritage	The theme proposed by the candidate route offers real added value for the construction and development of European memory, history and heritage. The network's focus on the crossing of the Pyrenees on foot during the Second World War (and also "remembering" and "making history") represents a particularly important element in the development of common and European history.
	Cultural and educational exchanges for young Europeans	Over the past year, a number of activities have been in place to bring together school groups, in particular through the development of mobility schemes between France and Germany. They are remarkable and very ambitious.
	Contemporary cultural and artistic practice	The candidate network is organising a number of conferences, commemorations and exhibitions on various themes related to the network. A more strategic reflection on contemporary activities and practices in culture and the arts has yet to be carried out.
	Cultural Tourism and Sustainable Cultural development	The candidate network offers a range of particularly interesting and well-executed tourist products, linked to the very rich cultural and natural heritage, both tangible and intangible, of the Pyrenees.
III. Cultural Route Network		The candidate network, organised into four colleges of members as set out in the statutes of the association in charge of the application, currently has 88 members. The majority of members are located in France, with a secondary presence in Spain and Andorra, reflecting the route's Pyrenean roots. The number of members has increased considerably over the course of 2024, reflecting the dynamic nature of the network.

Communication Tools	The association has a logo (in French), a website (in 4 languages) and a FB page. The logo does not feature prominently on the partner networks' communication media, including for activities and initiatives co-organised by the network. The content of the site highlights the 12 routes already on offer and explains the theme of the network in a relevant way. The content of the site (which is still new) is still underdeveloped in terms of presenting the elements produced by historical research or the collection of oral histories (although the site does present published works relating to the issue).
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Advice for the coming years

I. Theme of the cultural route

The European geographical dimension of the network needs to be developed in its physical dimensions (places of remembrance, interpretation, museums).

II. Priority fields of action

Cooperation in research and development

It is advisable to develop cooperation and links with other research centres on a European and international scale, with the UK, Belgium and the Netherlands. It is also recommended to enrich the disciplines of the Scientific Committee with members specialising in the humanities and social sciences (in particular sociology, ethnology, social and cultural geography, tourism sciences and the arts).

Enhancement of memory, history and European heritage

The crossing of the Pyrenees on foot during the Second World War, which is showcased (and also commemorated and historicized) by the network, represents a particularly important element in our shared and European history. The idea now is to give it another European spatial dimension, by changing the focus and approaching it as a historical fact that can link various places in Europe. It is also advisable to work with the diasporic networks of escapees: in the documentary "L'hommage à Sousa Mendes", ARTE Regards⁶ presents the descendants of the escapees' visit to Portugal thanks to the visas granted by this consul. Many of them have long been unaware of their origins, or even of the names of their parents who escaped thanks to the actions of the consul, who is now a national hero in Portugal. This "tourism of roots" involves the networking of these populations in exile and gives an extraordinary dimension to the network, connecting Europe with many other places in the world, such as the United States.

Cultural and educational exchanges for young Europeans

It would be important to further develop relations between young Europeans by redeploying the entire crossing chain. The fact that mobility schemes have been set up between young French and German people is very positive. It would be great to develop similar initiatives with other European groups (i.e. young Germans and Spaniards, young Portuguese and French, etc.). Obviously, these initiatives are very costly and require a great deal of preparation, which means that the network needs to develop and initiatives from other countries need to emerge.

As a first step, it would be important to consider educational materials in several languages for all the countries represented on the cultural route.

Contemporary cultural and artistic practice

It is advisable to think strategically about the cultural activities to be carried out, over and above the

rich programme of conferences and seminars currently on offer, possibly bringing together the various members of the network.

Cultural tourism and sustainable cultural development

It is recommended that the European dimension of the network be reflected by equally European scope of the tourist products and the cultural and remembrance sites to be visited beyond Pyrenees, where the tourist offer is undoubtedly perfectly developed. The possible development of new museums and places of remembrance (i.e. the project to develop the house of consul Aristides de Sousa Mendes into a museum venue, or the project to develop a museum at the Château de Nestes in Arreau as a reference point for the route).

III. Cultural route network

It is recommended to further develop the number of members located in countries that are still under-represented. In addition to a more perfect balance between Portugal and Spain (which, while being the most represented countries, show a significant imbalance in favour of the number of French members), it is advisable to develop the number of members in the UK in particular or in Portugal.

Communication tools

It is recommended that the content of the site be developed further and that the geographical dimension of the network be enhanced by highlighting important sites and places of remembrance outside the Pyrenees area *stricto-sensu*.

It is also recommended that the collection of testimonies from the descendants of the escapees be continued and that real oral archives be set up. The Itinéraires Liberté Pyrénées Europe have a very high European thematic legitimacy and it is now necessary to find the means (the importance of which should not be underestimated) to establish itself, thanks to a high quality and increasingly international scientific network, as a key place for historical and memorial production and study in relation to the Second World War.

⁶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uwO5yg8xFx0>

4. List of references

The list below is not exhaustive. It essentially covers the documents submitted with the file. Several other documents were given to the expert in person during the visit.

1. EVALUATION FILE

1.1. General information

Maps of the 12 routes

A network connection

Itinéraires Liberté Pyrénées Europe: a network connection

1.2. RESPONSIBLE NETWORK

Activities 2022 - 2024

Itinéraires Liberté Pyrénées Europe - Partners Technical

Committee

Scientific Committee

Bureau

1.3. Compliance with Values

-European values

Participation of the ILPE in the European Movement colloquium in Lourdes

-Research and development

ILPE a network connection

-Cultural tourism and sustainable development

Cultural tourism and sustainable development The Pyrenees Letter of

support M. Peiro President ICCE CARP

The "Chemins de la Liberté" trail, awarded the Tourism and Disability label

-Tourist products

Linking cultural and tourist attractions at the crossroads of different cultural routes

1.4. ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED BY THE NETWORK

-R&D COOPERATION

Conference in BANYULS-SUR-MER 2024

Conference in LOURDES 2023 poster

Conference in LOURDES 2023 programme

Conference in MARIGNAC and SAINT-GAUDENS 2024

1.5. ENHANCEMENT OF MEMORY, HISTORY AND EUROPEAN HERITAGE

2023 12 SORT JORNADAS MEMORIA DE LA FRONTERA

2024 01 Evadés d'Eysse exhibition Musée Déportation Tarbes 2024 02

Tribute to Consul Aristide De Sousa Mendes in Bordeaux

2024 04 24 Commemoration of the 510th anniversary of the Treaty of Lies and Passeries

2024 05 08 Commemoration of the Spanish exile in Bielsa

2024 06 Tribute to Castelnau d'Auvignon

2024 07 08 Provence Landings exhibition Maison de la Liberté Saint-Girons 2024 07 12-24

Memorial walk Chemin de la Liberté Saint-Girons Sort

2024 07 20 Commemoration of the Liberation of Saint-Bertrand-de-Comminges and Arbon

2024 09 6-8 Memorial walk Comète Pays Basque network

2024 09 07 SMLH65 Memorial walk 07 September

2024 Commemoration of the Liberation of Portet d'Aspet and the smugglers' hut

2024 Memorial Democratic T'enyoro Cartes per la memoria exhibition

1.6. CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGES FOR YOUNG EUROPEANS

2023 PEACE CLIMBING

ILPE 2023 BERLIN visits Bundestag - MP Frank Schwabe

1.7. VISIBILITY

Graphic-chart-chemins-de-la-liberte

Society of members of the Legion of Honour

The Paths to Freedom Documentary Series Project

1.8. PUBLICATIONS

Maps of the 12 routes

Educational documents produced - Members Documents

Chemin de Marignac

Educational booklet Musée de Sort

Educational pack EAJ_e-mail

Guides Perseguitats i salvats

Comète network

BELOT Robert - Rediscovering the living word of those who escaped Nazi Europe through the Pyrenees 2024

1.9. ECONOMIC AND TOURISM IMPACTS

ILPE Appendix 7 Economic and tourism impacts of the cultural route

1.10. PHOTOS LOGO

2. STATUTES

2024 07 11 - Statutes signed 2024

receipt itinéraires liberté pyrénées 2022

3. MEMBERS

ILPE MEMBERSHIP DOCUMENTS 2022-2024

Membership letter F. Boya Sec Gen Reto Demografico Gobierno de Espana List of network members 31 07 2024

4. GENERAL MEETINGS

5. BUDGET DOCUMENTS

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS 2022 2023

2024 07 23 - ILPE finances 2022-2023

ILPE budget 2024

ILPE Budget 2025

ILPE Budget 2026

6. ACTIVITIES

Other documents

NETWORK ACTIVITIES AND OPERATIONS 2022-2024

2024 07 12 - ILPE Three-year plan Universities

2024 07 23 - ILPE Three-year plan of activities

7. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

IHEDN session 229 - Committee report 4

ILPE Appendix 7 Economic and tourism impacts of the cultural route

5. Annex 1: Expert field visit and interviews with the network management and members

7- 9 November 2024

Thursday 7 November

22:30 Reception at Tarbes-Lourdes-Pyrénées airport by Mrs Josette DURRIEU and Mr Yoan RUMEAU.

Escort to Hotel Candide in Saint-Bertrand-de-Comminges.

Friday 8 November: Haute-Garonne, Val d'Aran (Catalonia), Ariège

08.45 - 09.15 Visit to the St-Bertrand de Comminges/Valcabrère site

A UNESCO World Heritage Site, part of the Camino de Santiago de Compostela.

A major site in Occitanie.

09:15 Route de la Liberté (Seilhan, Saléchan, Marignac)

Meeting with Pascal LOUSTAU, Mayor of Saléchan, and Jacques SIMON and Claude VANDERGHEYST (Chemins de la liberté Association).

10h00 Marignac. Parking de la salle des fêtes.

Meeting with Mr Alain PUENTE, Chairman of the CC Pyrénées Haut-Garonnaise

10.30am - 11.30am Visit of the memorial route up to end of the 12 interpretation panels. 2.2 km.

Comments by Sonya BEYRON Regional Delegate for Occitania, ONCAVG

12.00 Pont du Roy, Franco-Spanish border

Meeting with the Spanish delegation: presentation of the "Perseguits i Salvats" programme. 13:00

Lunch in Lès (Spain) with the French and Spanish delegations

14.30-16.00 Transfer to Saint-Girons

16.00-18.30 Visit to the Chemin de la Liberté Museum in Saint-Girons (Ariège) by Colonel (ER) Jean SERIS, the Mayor of Saint-Girons and President of the Pyrénées Couserans Regional Council, the Sub-Prefect of Saint-Girons

Saturday, November 9 - Hautes-Pyrénées, Aragon

8.15 am Departure from the hotel in Saint-Bertrand-de-Comminges accompanied by Josette Durrieu and Yoan Rumeau

9.15 am Welcome at Aragnouet Town Hall, reception by Mr Jean MOUNIQ, Mayor, and Mr Philippe CARRERE, President of the Aure-Louron CC.

Present: Mr Yoan RUMEAU, President of the CC Neste-Barousse, Mrs Josette DURRIEU, President of the Maison de l'Europe des Pyrénées, Jeannie CAMES, SMLH General Secretary (in charge of the Cazaux-Cazeneuve trails) and Mrs Cécile DELAUMONE, tour guide for the Pays d'Art et d'Histoire.

Visit to the Templar church and the Monument aux Évadés de France at Plan d'Aragnouet

10:15 Reception at Arreau Town Hall - Meeting attended by Michel Pelieu, President of the Hautes-Pyrénées Departmental Council,

Exchanges with members of the network and partners, and members of the Scientific Committee, in person and by videoconference.

PATRICIPANTS AT THE VIDEOCONFERENCE

Prof. Robert BELOT	Chairman of the Scientific Committee
Alberto SABIO ALCUTEN	Professor Jean Monnet University (Saint Etienne) Prof.
Prof. Laurent JALABERT	Professor, University of Zaragoza
Jean-Pierre BOBO	University of Pau - Pays de l'Adour
Olivier FAUP	High school teacher - Author
Denis BRUHL	Teacher - Filmmaker film "Passages"
Claude CORET	Son escaped from Eysses prison
Gilles COLLAVERI	President of the association "CultuREVE" Luchon
Isabel BARRADAS	Director of the ATR Archaeology Museum
Michel CAMPAN	President of the Aristides De Sousa Mendès Support Committee
Colin CAMERON	Witness - son of Jean Campan (network escapee)
	Chairman Europe Association IHEDN
	(Institut des Hautes Etudes Défense Nationale) President
	ESDA - Europe Security Defence Association
Pierre ESTOURNEL	Journalist - Lecturer
Richard PRIME	WW Escape Lines Memorial Society (British) Jean
Pierre ROUMEGAS	Chairman European Youth Card
Miguel NOGUERO MUR	Mayor of Bielsa (Spain)

13:00 Heritage walk around Arreau and visit to the "Château des Nestes" (planned but time ran out).

13:30 Buffet lunch

14:15 Departure Tarbes Lourdes Pyrénées airport

6. Annex 2: Expert assessment checklist

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		
	2	Does the theme of the route offer a solid basis for youth cultural and educational exchanges?	1		
	3	Does the theme of the route offer a solid basis for innovative activities?	1		
	4	Does the theme of the route offer a solid basis for cultural tourism products development?	1		
	5	Has the theme been researched/developed by academics/experts from different regions of Europe?	1		
3.1 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	
		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	
	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	
	18	Does the route work in conformity with international charters and conventions on cultural heritage preservation?		1 Implicitly
	19	Do the Route activities identify, preserve and develop European heritage sites in rural destinations?	1	
	20	Do the Route activities identify, preserve and develop European heritage sites in industrial areas in the process of economic restructuring?		1
	21	Do the Route activities valorize the heritage of ethnic or social minorities in Europe?		1
	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	
	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 Convention, World Heritage Convention, ...)?		1 Implicitly
3.2.3 Cultural and educational	25	Are the youth exchanges (cultural and educational) planned to develop a better understanding of the concept of European citizenship?	1	
	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 schemes with several participating countries?	1	
		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 practices	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	This is a point that needs be consolidated
		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 Implicitly
		37	Do the Route's cultural activities encourage activities and artistic projects which explore the links between heritage and contemporary culture?		1 This is a point that needs to be consolidated
		38	Do the Route's cultural activities highlight the most innovative and creative practices?	1	Yes, in sense of using multimedia
		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	
	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	
	44	Do the Route's activities promote dialogue between different regions (south, north, east, west) of Europe?	1	Yes, but it's a point to be consolidated
	45	Do the Route's activities promote dialogue between majority and minority (or native and immigrant) cultures?		1
	46	Do the Route's activities open possibilities for co-operation between Europe and other continents?	1	Yes, via diasporic networks in particular, but to be developed
	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	
3.3 NETWORK	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	
	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	
	57	Does the network have a legal status (association, federation of associations, EEIG,...)?	1	
	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	implicitly
	61	Does the network specify its partners and participating countries?	1	implicitly
	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 Europe member states and/or other world countries?	1	
	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	
3.4 COMMUNICATION TOOLS		68	Does the Route have its own logo?	1
		69	Do all partners of the network use the logo on their communication tools?	1
		70	Does the Route have its own dedicated website ?	1
		71	Is it the website available in English and French?	1
		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
		76	If yes, are the brochures available in French?	1
	For certified Cultural Routes of Europe	77	Is the title of “Cultural Route of the Council of Europe” present on all communication materials (including press releases, webpages, publications, etc.)?	
		78	Is the certification logo present on all communication materials?	

		79	Is the certification logo used in accordance to the guidelines for its use (size and position,...)?			
		80	Are the logos (Cultural Route + certification logo) provided to all the members of the Route?			
		81	Does the Council of Europe certification logo appear on road signs/ boards indicating the cultural route?			
SCORE				63	13	