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

Candidate Route:
SAINT FRANCIS' WAYS
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

SAINT FRANCIS' WAYS

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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.*

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1. Executive Summary

Franciscan values, monuments, art and philosophy are undoubtedly part of the European cultural heritage. The candidate route intends to promote these values to different target groups, with pilgrims on the first place, and spiritual, cultural tourists on the second place. The network has made outstanding progress in the past decade, though some elements of the project are still ongoing. The initiation started from Italy, and the Italian dominance is still present both in the members and the activities, but, on the other hand, the network is in progress to widen its membership and strengthen its European character. The member countries, where the route is crossing, which are also member of the Enlarged Partial Agreement, are the following: Croatia, France, Greece, Italy, Malta/Gozo, Poland, Portugal, San Marino, Spain, Slovak Republic, Hungary – and there are members from Palestine and the USA.

The network carries out quite lot and several kinds of activities, according to the priority fields of Resolution CM/Res(2023)2 – they are analysed in detail in the relevant chapters. Despite sometimes the European identity is hard to recognize, it is due to inappropriate communication, as the activities involve several members and partners, and coordinated by the Secretariate of the organisation. They have cooperation with tour operators as well, who offer package tours to pilgrims, for both groups and individuals. Moreover, there are partners who act as local representatives of the route outside Italy.

The organisation's form is association, has its headquarters in Rome, and operational office in Assisi. They work democratically and visible. The financial situation is stable.

The network does and have done a lot of things, with great enthusiasm from both the management and the members. As a strategic plan, even for short or mid-term, was not provided, it is recommended to elaborate one, setting clear visions and goals, define the members' role and expertise, and give a comprehensive framework to the project. They must "put everything in order", in a clear and effective way, set the goals step-by-step. *A 3C program is recommended, considering the development of communication (as a network), cohesion and (network) competencies.*

The candidate cultural route network complies with the criteria of Resolution CM/Res(2023)2, according to the below scores:

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

2. Introduction

The name of the cultural route is European route of Franciscan heritage: Saint Francis' Ways. Its legal headquarters can be found in Rome, in San Francesco a Ripa church and convent, and has an operational office in Assisi. The legal form is association, registered on 24th July 2020. The number of the network is 33, the countries crossed are Croatia, France, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Malta/Gozo, Palestine, Poland, Portugal, San Marino, Spain and Slovak Republic and the USA. The members are heritage site (1), national authority (1), regional authority (1), cultural institution (2), media institution / other (2), local authority (4), tourism stakeholder (4), other (6) and university / research centre (12). There are several new potential members identified by the Scientific Committee, like Franciscan Friary Dubrovnik (Croatia), Municipality of Marburg (Germany), Franciscan Friary Baja (Hungary), Rovinj convent founded by Giovanni da Capestrano, Greyfriars Abbey in Ystad (Switzerland), GlobenMuseum c/o Austrian National Library (Austria) and others.

The milestones of the project are summarized in the timeline below:



1. Figure : Timeline of Saint Francis Ways
Source : own compilation

The central figure of the route is Saint Francis of Assisi, who was born in 1182, as a son of a rich merchant, and got good education. As other careless young men at that age, he joined an army, but captured, and after returning to Assisi he got an illness, and had some envisions, which turned him into spiritual thinking. In 1206 he broke from his family links and went to live in the nature, poor and simply, like Jesus. Later other friends joined him, and his charity, spirituality and charisma attracted thousands of followers. He became the founder of the Franciscan order, and co-founder of the Clarissa order (for women). He preached to nature, birds and animals of forests as if he communicated with them. His rules were accepted by the Pope as well.

He is one of the most influencing medieval saints, with significant cult in western culture. He is an iconic personality, whose life the best reflects Jesus's life. Several artists perpetuated his figure, several churches, public spaces, town parts or towns are named after him, especially in areas inhabited by Catholic people. Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio, who was elected as Pope in 2013, took on the name "Francis" in honour of him. In Italy he is the patron saint of the animals, merchants and nature. Pope John Paul 2nd pronounced him as the patron saint of environmental protection and ecology. He is the greatest extender of the idea of fraternity. His holiday is on the 4th of October, which is the World Animal Day since 1931.

As it was outlined in the application form, the St. Francis' Ways Cultural Route is based on three main pillars:

1. the network of European universities, some of which were founded by the Franciscans, while others have had them as scholars and others cultivate an interest in certain themes related to Franciscan culture;
2. the network of Franciscan cultural heritage, of a very varied nature, preserved in Europe in numerous religious or secular places: these are monuments, archives or book heritage and works of art and talent that the Franciscan presence has generated and preserves on our continent;
3. the network of Franciscan paths that have developed since the 1990s, especially in central Italy and France, and now in Portugal.

As it was stated, the 'cultural' nature of the itinerary is linked with the spiritual and religious value of Franciscans, and it articulates its message in ways that are accessible to all, so that certain themes and values can become more and more the common heritage of European citizens – especially young people – and help to build a more human community. The personality and ideals of Francis can represent a point of reference for many people for their ethical and existential choices. The cultural itinerary, therefore, will focus on some dimensions of the Franciscan experience, which can be lived along the paths or learned and reinforced in academic studies. Therefore, the main themes of the project are:

- human rights: the human being as a set of values
- the labour and dignity of the worker
- the economy, from capitalism to sustainable solidarity
- the progress of man and the beginnings of science
- the relationship between science and faith
- dialogue, ecology and peace, complementary aspects of integral human development.

Thus, the conception is well-based, but it is *recommended to elaborate at least a mid-term strategy for the development of the project, with clear vision, settled objectives and defined target groups, according to the range of activities and (tourism) offer.*

The project includes a "route of knowledge", a university network. As it was summarized in the application form, universities were founded in the first decades of the 12th century and continued into the 13th are an evolution of the teaching mainly given in the schools of cathedral churches, monasteries and convents. Paris is the university of philosophical and theological studies where the Dominican Thomas Aquinas and the Franciscan St. Bonaventure taught. Oxford is linked to two Franciscans: Robert Grosseteste and Roger Bacon and played a major role in the foundation an ancient Franciscan convent in 1200. Other European universities were also founded by the Franciscans. Some have had them as scholarly teachers, while others ended up cultivating an interest in themes related to Franciscan culture. The universities currently participating in the project are: Istituto Teologico di Assisi (Italy); Bethlehem; Macerata (Italy); Coimbra (Portugal); Perugia (Italy); Roma La Sapienza (Italy); Roma Tor Vergata (Italy); Ruzomberok (Slovakia); Budapest (Hungary); San Marino (Republic of San Marino); Zagreb (Croatia), and Antioch (USA). Contacts were made with other universities: Bologna, Firenze, Napoli, Pisa, Salerno and Siena in Italy; Orleans, Paris and Toulouse in France; Salamanca, Toledo and Valladolid in Spain; Cambridge and Oxford in England; Vienna in Austria; Krakow in Poland; Prague in the Czech Republic, and Cologne, Erfurt and Heidelberg in Germany.

The network carries out several diversified activities, mainly organised by members with the coordination of the secretary, though these were not always properly communicated as joined activities. With a stronger joint communication, the European character can be more visible, and a good brand can be built. The route is actively promoted through its social media channels, its website, brochures, signposting and scientific works. Promotion and communication activities are increased with special regard to the coming Jubilee, the so-called Saint Year of 2025, when thousands of pilgrims are awaited.

The expert hereby would like to say thanks for the enthusiasm and helpfulness of all the committed people, who helped in the implementation of the field visit on 10-13th November.

3. Main Body Evaluation

The route defines itself as follows:

“The Franciscan experience has left important traces in European history and culture. The European Route of Franciscan heritage proposes a series of thematic itineraries and territorial routes that allow you to engage with that precious legacy. The network of pilgrimage routes connects Assisi with the main Franciscan places and the great destinations of medieval spirituality: Santiago, Rome, Vézelay and Jerusalem. Ideal connections involve universities, institutions and places in several countries as witnesses and custodians of innovative thought. This covers philosophy, science, economics, art and politics, advocating ideals and values of key relevance such as environmentalism, dialogue, solidarity and peace.”

3.1 Cultural Route Theme

The candidate route's theme fulfils to an excellent extent the criteria set by the Council of Europe and established in Resolution CM/Res (2023)2, regarding the values and relevance to European common material and immaterial cultural heritage, nature, history and knowledge. At the same time, the vast potential of the theme carries challenges to the route management as how to integrate these values into a unified concept, meaning the definition of a step-by-step development process, with settled priorities and clear targets. That is why it is *highly recommended to finish the mapping of Franciscan values, advisably based on the methodology of the inventory of resources, used in tourism developments.*

3.1.1 Definition of the theme of the route

Franciscanism is much more than a Catholic order. It is a way of thinking, a way of meditation, a way of relationship to nature and mankind.

The central figure of the route is Saint Francis of Assisi, who was born in 1182, as a son of a rich merchant, and got good education. In 1206 he broke from his family links and went to live in the nature, poor and simply, like Jesus. Later other friends joined him, and his charity, spirituality and charisma attracted thousands of followers. He became the founder of the Franciscan order, and co-founder of the Clarissa order (for women). He preached to nature, birds and animals of forests as if he communicated with them. His rules were accepted by the Pope as well.

He is one of the most influencing and iconic medieval saints, with significant cult in western culture. Several artists perpetuated his figure, several churches, public spaces, town parts or towns are named after him, especially in areas inhabited by Catholic people. Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio, who was elected as Pope in 2013, took on the name “Francis” in honour of him. In Italy he is the patron saint of the animals, merchants and nature. Pope John Paul 2nd pronounced him as the patron saint of environmental protection and ecology. He is the greatest extender of the idea of fraternity. His holiday is on the 4th of October, which is the World Animal Day since 1931. *(This bears a great potential for the network to establish for instance a Saint Francis Day, with joint and common events in every participating country, on the same day.)*

In 1212, fraternity established in Perziuncola, and the next few years saw the gradual growth of the Franciscan order through a series of preachings that reached the main cities of Italy and Europe. Francis wanted to evangelise the whole world, undertook several journeys in the centre of Italy and to non-Christian countries (Dalmatia, Spain, Egypt, Holy Land). Pope Honorius III approved the Franciscan rule on 29 November 1223, approving the official creation of the ‘Order of Friars Minor’ (the Franciscans). Franciscan sites are mainly small settlements on the outskirts of towns, where the brothers could be close to poor people; many of their old monasteries became large

complexes of outstanding artistic importance; woods and hills, simplicity through minimalist architecture and harmony with nature.

In present day, Franciscan order is one of the 4 great mendicant orders, the largest religious order in the Roman Catholic Church. During the era of St Bonaventura (1257-1274, Minister General), friars spread throughout Europe, while missionaries penetrated Syria and Africa. The friars' houses in university towns such as Paris and Oxford were transformed into schools of theology that rapidly became among the most celebrated in Europe.

The Franciscanism theme is presented with a multidimensional character with the ability of associated other topics such as: the preservation of nature; the integral sustainability of the economy; the Franciscan science; intercultural and interreligious dialogue; and the promotion of peace. The multidimensional character can be demonstrated by the different types of the offer:

- territorial – the route is founded on a series of paths, on the footsteps of Francis
- linear – historically existing pilgrimage paths, bearing the possibility of the connection to other routes, like Saint James Way, Saint Anthony's Route or Via Francigena (as it is the intention of the management)
- reticular – individual sights and locations arranged around a specific theme, like world heritage sites, churches, etc.

The theme assumes two dimensions: (1) material (networks of the Franciscan routes and itineraries across Europe and beyond, from the Iberian Peninsula to the Holy Land; central Italy with Assisi, France, Spain, San Marino, Greece, Holy Land), and (2) immaterial (networks of Franciscan universities, academic institutions and cultural sites).

All the routes reach Assisi as the goal of the Saint Francis' Ways, all the Routes from Vezelay (Chemin d'Assise) from Padua (Saint Anthony Way) from San Marino are linked and go to Assisi and then to Rome. (Though historically Assisi was the starting point of the Franciscan movement...)

The proposed theme has been researched and developed by diverse academics and experts from different regions of Europe. The theme offers a solid basis for the development of youth cultural and educational exchanges, innovative activities, and cultural tourism products.

3.1.2 Historical and cultural context

The Route theme is very illustrative of European memory, history and heritage and may contribute in a pertinent way to an interpretation of the diversity of present-day Europe. The St. Francis' Ways Cultural Route has three roots:

- the network of European universities, some of which were founded by the Franciscans, while others have had them as scholars and others cultivate an interest in certain themes related to Franciscan culture. Some of those Universities are now members (Macerata – Coimbra – Perugia – Bethlehem), some are in the list to be contacted for joining the Network.
- the network of 'Franciscan cultural heritage', of a very varied nature, preserved in Europe in numerous religious or secular places: these are monuments, archives or book heritage and works of art and talent that the Franciscan presence has generated and preserves on our continent.
- the network of Franciscan paths that have developed since the 1990s, especially in central Italy and France. They include: the Saint Francis Ways in Italy – the Saint Francis' Ways in San Marino – The Saint Anthony Way in Italy – The Chemin d'Assise in France – the Saint Anthony Itinerary in Coimbra, and they are working on the development of the Saint Anthony Way from Coimbra to Lisboa.

The three 'roots' are connected through Franciscan friars, religious but also scholars, writers, jurists, doctors, from Francis to Anthony, from Bonaventure to Ockam, from Duns Scotus to Francesco Cupani, from Alexander of Hales to John of Capistrano, through the centuries to the present day. Franciscans, Seculars, Minors, Conventuals or Capuchins, men and women who have planted the roots of Europe and modern thought, and have left thousands of texts, intellectual works, medical recipes, music and words to the world, from the Monti di Pietà (an institutional pawnbroker) to the Universities.

Franciscans were the starters or were present at outstanding events in medieval Europe, gained high influence, their movement coincided with the "birth of Europe" in the 14th and 15th centuries. The most outstanding events and effects were presented in the application form in detail.

The Saint Francis' Ways Itineraries are now present in different European countries (as it is published in the new brochure, which was attached to the application dossier): Italy – France – San Marino Republic – Coimbra, Portugal – Slovak Republic. They are not at the same level of services (the most complete itineraries are in Italy, France, San Marino Republic) but they are going to be developed with more services in Coimbra (Portugal) and the Slovak Republic.

Finally, four weeks ago some people sent by the Saint Francis' Ways Association to Lisboa to walk from Lisboa to Coimbra to test the Itinerary they want to add to the list of Itineraries. For this reason, they are going to organize a meeting with the Saint Anthony Museum, Coimbra Lions Club and the Municipality of Coimbra to develop the project in the next months.

3.1.3 Council of Europe values represented by the theme

The Route theme is definitely representative of European history and common values to several European countries. It portrays Franciscanism as an embodiment of "European values" and "human rights". It proposes the rediscovery of the places of life and history of Saint Francis, and of his followers, rereading them in the spotlight of common European values as sustainability, protection of Creation and creatures, dialogue between religions, and peace, and the Franciscan vision of the relationship between individuals and between Man and the environment to a more sustainable and fairer future.

The Franciscans also experimented with new experiences of solidarity economy, which is an actual economic phenomenon in present Europe. Franciscans also have a long history of advocating for social rights rooted in the values of Saint Francis of Assisi. Their commitment to social justice is evident in various areas. The pandemic has sharpened people's awareness of the phenomenon listed previously, especially among the younger generations.

The Route has got very good potential to embody many of the values expressed in Conventions of the Council of Europe and other international bodies such as the European Cultural Convention, the Faro Convention, the European Landscape Convention, the UNESCO Convention and the White Paper on Intercultural Dialogue. They contribute to human rights, equal dignity and environmental justice.

3.2 Fields of Action

The actions of the candidate route Saint Francis Ways comply with the criteria listed in resolution CM/Res(2013)67 and CM/Res(2023)2. The activities analysed below were collected and refined together with the management of the network and the president of the Scientific Committee. Though several partners are involved in the organisation and implementation of

the activities, they are not always communicated properly as the event of the network. All the activities in the last three years were defined by the Board with the support of the Scientific Committee and developed by the Network. They use working groups to be more concrete and specific in certain territories.

3.2.1 Co-operation in research and development

The theme has been widely researched by several experts from Italy, Spain, France, Portugal and the Holy Land, from diverse disciplines, mainly from the past decade. The main research areas are (1) theme of the history of Saint Francis; (2) topic of botany, sustainability and safeguarding of the natural heritage; (3) theme of the archaeology and artistic – and more generally cultural – heritage; (4) development of tourism linked to the Saint Francis' Ways, researched by experts in tourism, economics, and management in seminars and exhibitions.

The members of the Scientific Committee are from Italy, Spain, Poland, Palestine, Israel, San Marino, Slovakia, Croatia, New England USA and Portugal. Among their research areas and specialisation, there are theology, history, tourism, environmental studies, philosophy, literature, law, biology, psychology. There is a list of 15 universities who participate in the scientific research work on the route's theme.

It is advisable to define the research objectives for the next period, with special regard to the members' expertise and specialisation, in appropriate consistency and cohesion with the strategic aims and the theme of the route.

The activities in this field are arranged into the following table, elaborated together with the president of the Scientific Committee:

1. Table : Activities in research and scientific work

Activity	Partners involved	Summary of the content in a few sentences
Already done in the past 3 years		
Nov 2021 Fairway Santiago (meeting), Santiago	Italy, Slovakia, Spain, Portugal, Israel, Palestine	Saint Francis' Ways participates in the Exhibitions in Santiago de Compostela named Fairway Santiago. They organized with their partner in Spain (Viloria tour operator): a desk in the exhibition; a press conference to present the touristic proposals; participation in the B2B meetings with Tour Operators and Agencies from all over the world.
June 2022 The legacy of Saint Francis' (call for papers), online	Italy, Spain, Portugal, Israel, Palestine, San Marino	A call for papers was published and circulated, however, in the post-pandemic era few participants registered. Therefore, they decided to postpone the implementation to a later date. They will try again in the fall of 2025.
April 2023 Twinning (meeting, conference, study tour), Coimbra, Portugal	Coimbra lions Club, Narni Lions Club, Coimbra Municipality, Narni Municipality, Coimbra University, Saint Francis' Ways in Emilia Romagna Association	The work concerning the twinning started in 2020 but due to Covid the first big event was in Coimbra in April 2023, organized by Saint Francis' Ways, involved many partners. A tour of Franciscan sites was organized in Coimbra (included in the new brochure and in the Itinerary

		developed on the website), an event with Municipality, University, Lions club (representatives from Italy and Portugal), a presentation of the scientific work concerning the itinerary from Coimbra to Lisboa.
10-12 May 2023 Twinning (meeting, conference, study tour), Narni, Italy	Coimbra lions Club, Narni Lions Club, Coimbra Municipality, Narni Municipality	The official signature of the twinning. Many activities: press conference, visits, work sessions (focus on tourism and European projects), conference with stakeholders.
June 2023 Scientific Committee meeting, General Assembly in person/online	all partners	Very useful negotiation in San Marino. Many participants in person, from different countries, including 2 colleagues from Palestine (University of Bethlehem – from the Department of Tourism)
Nov 2023 Pilgrimage tourism for the valorisation of Italian destinations, (conference), Assisi, Italy	Perugia University, Assisi Municipality, Saint Francis' Ways Association	Organized by Perugia University (Department of Tourism) with the participation of the Saint Francis' Ways President, Mr. Paolo Giulietti. The focus was on the theme of pilgrimages and cultural itineraries as development tool for the most marginal territories.
2024		
March 2024 Twinning (meeting conference, study tour), Coimbra, Portugal	Coimbra lions Club, Narni Lions Club, Coimbra Municipality, Narni Municipality	The second part of the Twinning between the Lions Club (Italy and Portugal)
April 2024 Touristic development (meeting), online	Coimbra Municipality, Genesi Agency	Meeting online to develop the new brochure and underline the itineraries to promote with Coimbra Municipality, Tourism Department.
14-17 May 2024 Twinning (meeting, conference, press conference, study tour), Narni, Italy	Coimbra lions Club, Narni Lions Club, Coimbra Municipality, Narni Municipality, Saint Anthony Ways Association, Saint Francis' Ways in Emilia Romagna Association	Three days with Coimbra Lions Clubs in Italy to develop the activities linked to the twinning. Raffaella Rossi met representatives of Lions club to develop new opportunities with Coimbra University (Graffiti Project) and new projects.
June 2024 interview, Zilina	Ruzomberok Catholic University & Communio / NZD magazine	In the summer of 2024, a quite long interview with SFW President Paolo Giulietti was published in the Slovak magazine NZD, published by another partner from Slovakia – Communio Institute. The interview (pdf) was attached.
Oct 2024 "Thinking Francesco". History, memory and political use (conference) Perugia	Italy, Spain, Portugal	Mr. Paolo Giulietti participated in an International Meeting in Perugia, organized by Perugia University for foreign students. Focus on the Meeting history, memories and political use of Franciscan message of Saint Francis.
Nov 2024 Ordinary Assembly (meeting, press conference,	Italy, Slovakia, Poland, Spain	General Assembly in Warsaw organized by the Polish partners. Many activities will be organized in

scientific committee, interviews, diplomacy meetings), Warsaw, Poland		the 3 days of the Assembly: tour of the city, press conference with journalists interested in tourism and culture.
Planned in the coming 3 years		
2025-2026 Call for papers, chapters (peer-reviewed book)	Italy, Slovakia, Spain, Portugal, Palestine, USA, Croatia, Poland	They are planning this as an integrative scientific and academic event.
May 2025 International Media Congress for Peace, Warsaw	Poland, Italy, Slovakia, Portugal	Ongoing: organized by the polish partner. Three days Meeting in Warsaw with focus on peace and dialogue and the role that journalists can play in this action. Journalists from all over the world will be invited.
2025 Conference concerning Luca Pacioli and accounting; Scientific work with Universities (Perugia – Mexico)	Italy, Spain, Mexico	They received an invitation to organize an international conference and other activities concerning friar Luca Pacioli, the inventor of accounting. The “Universidad Fray Luca Paccioli” in Ecatepec de Morelos will be involved.
2025 International congress: “Sister Battista da Varano and the European context of the 13th century Franciscan female observance: writing, architecture, images”	Italy and other partners (not defined yet)	Organized by Macerata University with the Clarisse convent in Camerino.
2025 Publication of a research on an ancient Franciscan herbarium	Italy, Portugal, Spain, Croatia	A study concerning an ancient Franciscan herbarium with a pharmaceutical recipe book.
2025-2026 Visiting research fellowship (on two themes, 2-2 positions)	Italy, Slovakia, Spain, Portugal, Palestine, USA, Croatia, Poland	They are planning to do so, but they need to ensure stable financial coverage.
2025-2026 Twinning in the name of Saint Anthony (Narni, Coimbra, Padua municipalities)	Italy, Portugal	They want to involve the Museum of Saint Anthony in Lisboa and develop with different municipalities the Itinerary of Saint Anthony in Portugal. The twinning with Padua could be important in this line of work. The twinning will be organized with the same activities: press conference – visits – working sessions etc.

Source : own compilation in collaboration with the president of the Scientific Committee

The Scientific Committee works in plenary and in smaller groups to organise activities, events and research, personally or online. The minutes of the following meetings were sent additionally: 10th November 2020 – first general assembly of the committee, 18th May 2021, 3rd June 2022, 5th July 2022, 19th January 2023, 27th June 2023, 23rd April 2024 .

During these meetings the committee defined the research areas of its members, their goals, an itinerary of Franciscan churches in Slovakia, conferences, and defined the mapping of Franciscan sites (in Europe and Holy Land), Franciscan personalities from Middle Ages and Franciscan material and non-material heritage, which work started in 2023, but it is not completed yet. These can be clearly seen from the minutes of the meetings, which were additionally sent to the expert.

Also, the committee participate in a Horizon project called F-Atlas, with the intention of the development of a Franciscan database in the member countries. This was an ongoing project when they started cooperating. The Scientific Committee is working to include the studies in the Network. The committee is working on some actions, like (1) include the F-Atlas Itinerary of convents (Italy – Spain – Portugal – Spain) in the route's website, (2) include some sites in the web app with augmented reality, (3) involve someone of the F-Atlas Scientific Committee in SFW Scientific Committee, (4) support the publication of studies regarding convents (the committee plans to publish an anthology of research papers on Franciscan legacy, in 2025).

On the other hand, the mapping of Franciscan heritage has already started, a not-so-far complete catalogue has been sent, with

- 3 themes (universities, cultural and scientific heritage, pilgrimage),
- universities
 - o with Franciscan foundation (Munster, Montpellier, Gray, Macerata*, Ascoli, Cattolica Del Sacro Cuore, Coimbra*, Siviglia*)
 - o where Franciscan friars taught (Paris, Oxford, Salamanca*, Perugia*) -
*=already member or partner
- outstanding personalities in: herbal gardens, botany, pharmacy, medicine, music, economy, theology, philosophy, law, astronomy, mathematics, alchemy, physics, literature, anthropology
- itineraries of routes.

Consequently, it is highly recommended to develop an inventory of Franciscan values and resources, according to common methodology which is used for instance in tourism planning.

The application form mentions a kind of technical project with Pradella Sistemi, to establish charging stations along the route. It is an ongoing project; services are available along some parts of the route:



2. Figure : Pradella project elements

Source : president of the Scientific Committee

Some other types of services are also available along some parts of the route, like e.g. luggage transfer, cultural guides, experiences (cooking class – cultural visits – wine tasting – truffle hunting etc), guided visit of Franciscan sites, experience of augmented reality concerning Franciscan personalities.

The Scientific Committee and its members have made efforts in development to work as an association, as a community, and not as individuals, partners or friends.

3.2.2 Enhancement of the memory, history and European heritage

The activities of this field are also arranged to a table, following the concept of the one before, filled together with the manager of the network, Ms. Raffaella Rossi, based on the application. The activities listed in the application form are updated here, though

there are still some missing data, mainly on the partners involved. All the other activities will be listed along this sample.

2. Table : Activities in the enhancement of memory, history and heritage

Activity	Partners involved	Summary of the content in a few sentences
Already done in the past 3 years		
Sept 2021 The Lucrezie Complex and other Franciscan monasteries (research and promotional activities), Italy	all university members	Finished. Activities done during the project: – Scientific study concerning Lucrezia della Genga and the story of the convent – Augmented reality materials – Events for communications of results of the project – Conference
2023 photography exhibition on the Assisi-Jerusalem itinerary		The planned activity is postponed to 2026.
2023 medieval festival in Gubbio		Participation of Franco Cardini, member of Scientific Committee, in a conference.
2023 International nativity crib competition		The planned activity is postponed to 2025-26.
Event of charity	Saint Francis Ways Association, Inner Wheel 209 District	Organized with Inner Wheel 209 District for charity: – Presentation of Pilgrims Menu – Presentation of the study concerning Franciscan herbal gardens – Dinner with pilgrim's menu products and ancient recipes
2024		
May 2024 Pilgrimage from San Leo to the capuchin Church (pilgrimage), Italy – San Marino	San Marino Republic – San Marino University – Association Saint Francis in Emilia Romagna	Pilgrimage organized by Italy and San Marino on the Saint Francis' Ways from San Marino to La Verna.
October 2024	Saint Francis Ways Association	Visit of Franco Boarelli in Santiago. Meeting with Manuel Oreiro, representative of Viloria, to involve more partners in Spain and to develop a partnership with Xunta de Galizia.
November 2024	Saint Francis Ways Association	A group of Italian pilgrims on the footsteps of Saint Anthony and Protomartyrs in Portugal from Lisboa to Coimbra – meeting with Coimbra Institutions and Coimbra Lions Club
December 2024	Saint Francis Ways Association, Scientific Committee President, University of Florence (project leader Horizon F-Atlas)	Meeting with representatives of F-Atlas project to develop a common project concerning convents of Observance in Italy – France – Spain – Portugal

Planned in the coming 3 years		
2025 Publication of a study concerning an ancient herbarium	Saint Francis Ways Association	Publication of a study
2025 Event concerning ancient herbaria	Saint Francis Ways Association	Event that include: press conference – exhibition with ancient Franciscan books – international conference
4th Oct 2025 Events	Saint Francis Ways Association	Each partner will organize an event, for example, San Marino will organize an event focused on accessible tourism – Coimbra partners will organize an event concerning Saint Anthony
2025 New members	Saint Francis Ways Association	They want to involve the Saint Anthony Museum in Lisboa and the Santa Cruz Cafeè in Coimbra
2025 Project F-Atlas results	Saint Francis Ways Association	The works with the Horizon project will be closed: itinerary of ancient Franciscan observance convent included in the website and in the webapp.
2025 – 2026 International conference: “Journalists for peace”	Saint Francis Ways Association	Journalists from all over the world will meet in Warsaw to talk about peace and dialogue
2025 – 2026 International nativity crib competition	Saint Francis Ways Association	Postponed from 2023
2026 Events	Saint Francis Ways Association	Each Country will be involved in the 800 th century celebration of Saint Francis’ with exhibitions and conferences all around Europe
2026 Augmented reality and 4.0 technologies applied to historical sites	Saint Francis Ways Association	New Itineraries with augmented reality in Slovakia – Poland – Spain – Croatia included in the webApp. New scientific contents in the website. Conferences.
2026 photography exhibition on the Assisi-Jerusalem itinerary	Saint Francis Ways Association	Postponed from 2023
2027 Film	Saint Francis Ways Association	Film concerning the travels of Saint Francis in Spain – Italy – Holy Land

Source: own compilation in collaboration with the route manager

According to the proposal, Franciscan communities spread all over Europe, and the outstanding legacy of Saint Francis has left immense material and immaterial traces across the continent, and even beyond. Today cultural values mean not only museums or monuments, events and history, but also spirituality, traditions – i.e. social values and parts of the identity of the related communities.

As it was outlined previously, too, the route proposes two types of heritage:

- Tangible heritage: physical manifestations or symbols of cultural expressions or traditions of the societies that are living (or have lived) in the area. Monuments, traditional buildings, archaeological sites, temples, historic cities, etc. are examples of tangible heritage.
- Intangible heritage: non-physical manifestations of the culture and traditions of a society that has its roots in the cultural values and practices of previous

generations. Traditional ways of life, social practices, festivals, music, craftsmanship, etc. are examples of intangible heritage. This classification is useful for understanding different manifestations of Franciscan cultural heritage, although tangible and intangible heritages are mostly interlinked.

On the other hand, it is not clearly stated which are those values and heritage elements which belong to this specific field; thus, the activities seem to be random, and not consciously chosen. Furthermore, some types of activities appear at more than one in different aspects, different fields of actions. This reinforces *the recommendation of a complete inventory of resources, which can help in picking the proper elements. Finally, it is also a strong requirement to communicate these events as joint activities of the network.*

3.2.3 Cultural and educational exchanges for young Europeans

The application contains several initiations for activities specially designed for young people. An interesting initiation started from the part of the Scientific Committee in the form of call for papers on the theme “Legacy of Francis of Assisi for our times”, targeting secondary schools and higher education. As a result, there was an online conference in February of 2023. This initiation can be well internationalized in every participating country, through the university network, and can be a unique joined event.

3. Table : Activities in educational and youth programs

Activity	Partners involved	Summary of the content in a few sentences
Already done in the past 3 years		
2021 Erasmus (project development)	Spain, Italy	Three secondary schools from Italy, Spain and Slovakia. Project regarding the use of walking tours. Itineraries as psychological tool for students and pupils. Unfortunately, not financed
2021-2022 incammini@moci (discover the roots), Italy	Italian schools	
2022 The legacy of Francis of Assisi for our times (call for papers) Slovakia	all universities	A call for papers was published and circulated, however, in the post-pandemic era few participants registered. Therefore, they decided to postpone the implementation to a later date. They will try again in the fall of 2025. It was listed among the scientific events as well.
2022 Young Champions of Peace (school twinning), Italy, Betlehem, Jerusalem	Italy, Palestine, Poland	Stopped for war reasons
2022-2023 Choirs for Peace (concerts) Warsaw, Nazareth, Betlehem	Poland, Italy, Israel, Palestine	Choirs with young people from Ukraine and Poland sing for peace Christmas songs. Four events in Poland, Bethlehem, Nazareth, Jerusalem.
2023 Erasmus (project development)	Spain, Italy, Poland	Three secondary schools from Italy, Spain and Poland. Project regarding the use of walking tours.

		Itineraries as psychological tool for students and pupils. Unfortunately, not financed
2023-2024 Choirs for Peace (concerts) Warsaw, Rome, San Marino, Assisi	Poland, Italy, Israel, Palestine	Choirs with young people from Ukraine and Poland sing for peace Christmas songs. Five events in Poland, San Marino, Italy, Holy See
2024		
2024 Erasmus project	Spain, Italy, Slovakia	
2024-2025 Latera The art Farm (call for young artists), Latera, Italy	Italy, Portugal, Poland, Slovakia and others	Ongoing – International call for artists, more than 100 artists sent the application. In December the Jury will select the winner that will be in residency for one month
2024-2025 Latera The art Farm (young artists residency and development of artistic work, Latera, Italy)	Italy, Portugal, Poland, Slovakia, Spain and others	Creative camp with many different artists from Italy, Spain, Argentina Switzerland. Meeting with artists and citizens community.
Planned in the coming 3 years		
2026 Project : Twinning between schools from Italy and Holy Land (Israel and Palestine)	Saint Francis Ways Association	Hoping in the stop of the war, the focus is on dialogue and cooperation between schools
2025 Experiences for young students concerning botany – astronomy – pharmacy and alchemy	Saint Francis Ways Association	
Erasmus projects with different schools in Portugal – Italy – Spain – Poland - Slovakia	Saint Francis Ways Association	

Source: own compilation in collaboration with the route manager

The Saint Francis itineraries in Italy are already historically well-known and walked by groups of young people from different countries, for cultural and religious reasons. Besides these traditional tours, there are / were other initiations as well, like the project for students about dialogue and peace, or Erasmus project which unfortunately were not funded. The events of “Choirs for peace” were real success, can be kept after wartime is over, for other aims, too. “Latera the art farm” (which is listed among the next field of activities, too) is again a good initiation on international level, targeting young artists, or students of artistic schools. As a further development, it can be organised in different member countries, each year or in every second year, on the basis of an informal application for organisation by the members.

In Italy, the network is working on some activities for children in farms and agrotourism, which can also be internationalised in other member countries, too.

Finally, as it was mentioned before, 4th of October, World Animal Day also offers a good opportunity for the network to establish a common event on the same day in every member country, its nature is a very good theme for children and young people. The support of WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature) can possibly be achieved, through the local representatives of the international organisation. It is worth trying.

3.2.4 Contemporary cultural and artistic practice

For artistic practice they focus on:

- music (many concerts with young people organized in 2022-2023-2024)
- street art – sculpture and painting (activities developed in Latera)

- augmented reality and new technologies applied in Franciscan cultural heritage
- exhibition in San Marino Republic of young artist concerning Saint Francis' and Franciscan friars in centuries
- international call for artists: more than 100 applications arrived from all over the world

All the activities are communicated by their social media platforms.

4. Table : Activities in cultural and artistic practice

Activity	Partners involved	Summary of the content in a few sentences
Already done in the past 3 years		
May 2022 Open dialogue: Francis of Assisi, inspiration today (music exhibition), Slovakia	Ruzomberok university, all members	During the event in Slovakia there was a friar singing and playing guitar
Febr-Dec 2022 IL Monastero delle Lucrezie ed altri Monasteri francescani (content creation) Italy	Francesco Ways' universities	Exhibition of artists from Italy and Australia during the events organized to present the results of the project
June-Dec 2022 Latera the Art Farm (competition) Italy	all members	International competition for young artists
Dec 2022 Concert for the Peace (concert), Betlehem, Nazareth, Warsaw, Jerusalem	Warsaw chamber of Commerce, Vilorio, Pro Terra Sancta, Bethlehem University	Concert of Christmas songs. Choirs of children from Ukraine and Poland
Dec 2023 – Jan 2024 Concert for Peace (concert) Warsaw, San Marino, La Verna, Assisi, Rome	Saint Francis' Ways Association	Concert of Christmas songs. Choirs of children from Ukraine and Poland
2024		
Feb 2024 The life of Saint Francis' and Franciscan friars (exhibition) San Marino	San Marino Republic, Saint Francis' Ways in Emilia Romagna, Saint Francis' Ways Association	Exhibition of artists on the topic of Saint Francis' and Franciscan friars in the world
2024 Herbaria Project (exhibition, research publication) Coimbra	Saint Francis' Ways Association	
2024 Latera the art farm project	Saint Francis' Ways Association	Artistic residency of street artists – sculptors and painters
Planned in the coming 3 years		
2025 Latera Art Farm	Saint Francis' Ways Association	Artistic residency of street artists – sculptors and painters
2025 Launch of an International nativity crib competition	Saint Francis' Ways Association	International competition – press conference to present the competition
2025 photography exhibition on Assisi-Jerusalem itinerary	Saint Francis' Ways Association	Press conference – exhibition in Assisi or Rome
2025-2027 international film on the journeys of Saint Francis	Saint Francis' Ways Association	

Source: own compilation in collaboration with the route manager

The study of Saint Francis influence in art across Europe is also one of the intentions of the Scientific Committee, since his legacy has been subject to many artistic manifestations throughout the centuries. The nature and regularity of these events have to be clearly set, and the joint nature has to be emphasized.

3.2.5 Cultural tourism and sustainable cultural development

Tourism is a great potential for Saint Francis Ways. They work together with several tourism (public) organisations as well, representing regional agencies. From 2024, tourism development work is delegated to member tour operators, Genesi (from Italy, Umbria) and Viloría (Spain, Santiago de Compostela). Therefore, the network would like to focus more on organised incoming tourism, pilgrimages, cultural and spiritual tourism.

Activities in this field are also organised into the following table:

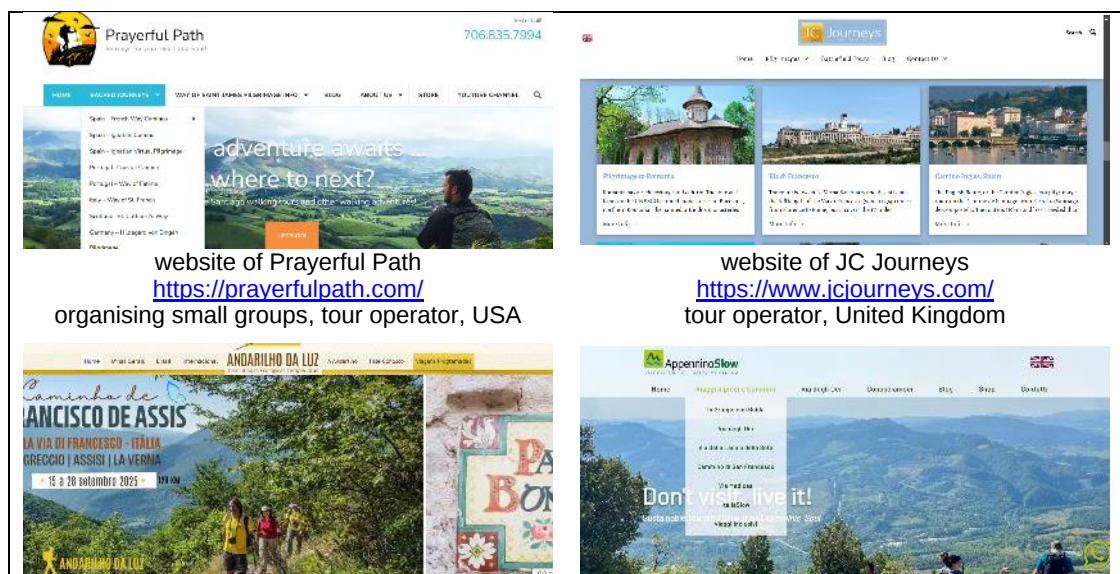
5. Table : Activities in tourism and cultural development

Activity	Partners involved	Summary of the content in a few sentences
Already done in the past 3 years		
2018-2022 packages development, Italy, Spain	Francesco's Ways Associations, Viloría	Touristic products concerning Franciscan itineraries offered by Francesco's Ways
Oct 2020 TTG Rimini Exhibition (B2B workshop)	all partners	Each year they participate in TTG Rimini, the most important sectorial exhibition in the field of tourism in Italy. They participate in B2B events, they have a desk to present proposals.
Aug 2021 On the Saint Anthony's Way (trail and events) Italy	Associazione Cammini di Francesco in Emilia Romagna, Associazione Cammino di Sant'Antonio	Guided tour on the Way
Sept 2021 Opening of the new path from San Marino to San Leo (with press conference) San Marino	Francesco's Ways, San Marino, Associazione Cammini di Francesco in Emilia Romagna	Press conference – event (guided tours) – presentation of the book (guide)
Oct 2021 TTG Rimini Exhibition (B2B workshop)	all partners	Each year they participate in TTG Rimini, the most important sectorial exhibition in the field of tourism in Italy. They participate in B2B events, they have a desk to present proposals.
Nov 2021 Fairway Santiago (workshop, presentation, press conference) Santiago de Compostela	Viloría, Francesco's Ways Associazione, San Marino Government, Scientific Committee members	Participation in the exhibition with press conference – B2B event – own desk to present proposals
June 2022 Study tour, Santiago de Compostela	Saint Francis' Ways in Emilia Romagna Association	Guided tour and meeting with stakeholders of Camino de Santiago for cooperation
Oct 2022 TTG Rimini Exhibition (B2B workshop)	all partners	Each year they participate in TTG Rimini, the most important sectorial exhibition in the field of tourism in

		Italy. They participate in B2B events, they have a desk to present proposals.
Nov 2022 B2B workshop in TT Warsaw	Saint Francis' Ways, Vitoria, TTG Poland, Warsaw Chamber of Commerce	Participation in B2B event with tour operators and tourism agencies
Nov 2022 Educational tour (slow tourism) Italy, Spain	Saint Francis' Ways, Vitoria, Palestine	A group of representatives of a Palestinian tour operator in Italy to study our touristic proposals, services and experiences
2024		
2024 packages for Brazilian tour operators	Saint Francis' Ways, Genesi, Vitoria	Guide tour for a group of 25 people from Brazil
Oct 2023 TTG Rimini Exhibition (B2B workshop)	all partners	Each year they participate in TTG Rimini, the most important sectorial exhibition in the field of tourism in Italy. They participate in B2B events, they have a desk to present proposals.
Planned in the coming 3 years		
2025 training courses	Saint Francis Ways Association	Training courses for helpers and guides in the Holy Land
New Itinerary concerning Franciscan convents in Europe (2024-2025) with Project F-Atlas	Saint Francis Ways Association, Genesi, Vitoria	Development of touristic proposals on the new Itineraries
Fairway Santiago	Saint Francis Ways Association	Press conference – Desk – btob activities with Tour operators
2025 – 2026 – 2027 TTG Rimini	Saint Francis Ways Association	Participation with press conference, desk and B2B events, like the years
2025-2026 New Saint Anthony Itinerary in Port.	Saint Francis Ways Association	Development of the new touristic Itinerary from Lisboa to Coimbra

Source: own compilation in collaboration with the route manager

There are other tour operators from the two mentioned at the beginning of the section, listed in the application form (p.42-43.), some of them were checked with the following result:



website of Prayerful Path
<https://prayerfulpath.com/>
 organising small groups, tour operator, USA

website of JC Journeys
<https://www.icjourneys.com/>
 tour operator, United Kingdom

3. Figure : Offers of different tour operators on Saint Francis Ways
Source : own search and compilation

In the last years they organized tours as Network (for example the last group from Brazil in September), but the technical assistance is done by their tour operator members (Genesi and Vilorio). They also want to organize charters from Santiago to Assisi and from Assisi to Santiago. In the next general Assembly in Santiago (February 2025) this matter will also be in focus. Touristic proposals (trekking tours, tours by bike, cultural tours, eco-tours, slow tours etc.) on the Saint Francis' Ways (Chemin d'Assise – Via di Francesco – Saint Anthony Ways – Protomartyrs – From San Marino to La Verna etc.) are developed by the network and sell by their Tour Operator partners. Different proposals for different target groups, as families, disadvantages people, trekkers, bikers etc.

They work daily with all the partners to develop touristic proposals in each country involved in the network. In the last year they published a new brochure with all the itineraries involved in the European Route of Franciscan heritage (France – Portugal – Slovakian Republic – Italy – San Marino Republic).

As Franciscan sites can mainly be found on the outskirts of towns and in rural environment, Saint Francis Ways is outstandingly suitable for territorial and sustainable development, and can focus on active, spiritual, gastronomical and slow tourism, providing special individual experiences, besides outstanding cultural heritage values. The St. Francis' Way was recognised as Best European 'Destination of Sustainable Cultural Tourism' in Cyprus in 2018, in the category of pilgrimage and religious tourism. This can give a solid base for further development, with special regard to become best practice in representing environmental values and the use of resources in a sustainable way.

Tourism offers

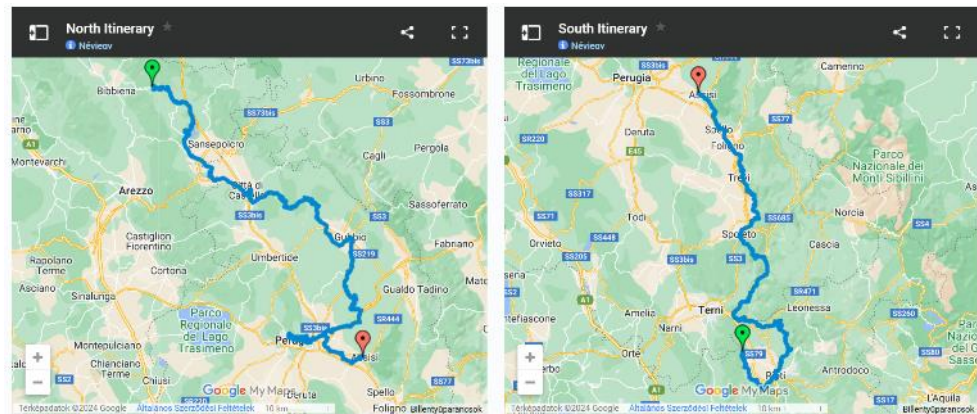
Saint Francis Ways, together with the routes of Saint Anthony and the Protomartyrs, aiming to join Saint James' Ways, are elements of the regions' tourism offer since 2010, attracting about 30 thousand pilgrims yearly. The target groups are (1) pilgrims in the traditional sense, with low service demand, (2) active tourists, trekkers, cyclists, (3) school and youth groups, and (4) families. Considering other activities of the network, professional (MICE) tourism can be a target of future development, regarding researchers, scientists, conferences and exhibitions.

It is highly recommended to build a strong joined brand not only on Italian, but on European level, to promote the cultural heritage values and other tourism products.

The existing offer can be summarized as follows:

1. Pilgrim routes – promotes as physical routes on the website:
 - Francesco's Ways - an itinerary linking together a series of sites associated with the life and teachings of Assisi's saint, which reintroduces the Franciscan experience in the context of the very land Francis walked in his travels. This promotes a northern route: sanctuary of La Verna | Casentino Forest National Park | Alpe della Luna | Upper Tiber River Valley | Gubbio | Assisi – and a southern route: Santa Reatina Valley | Valnerina, a river valley | Visso, Narni | Regional Park of the Nera River | Spoleto Valley (or Umbrian Valley | Foligno and Mount Subasio (a Regional Natural Park) |

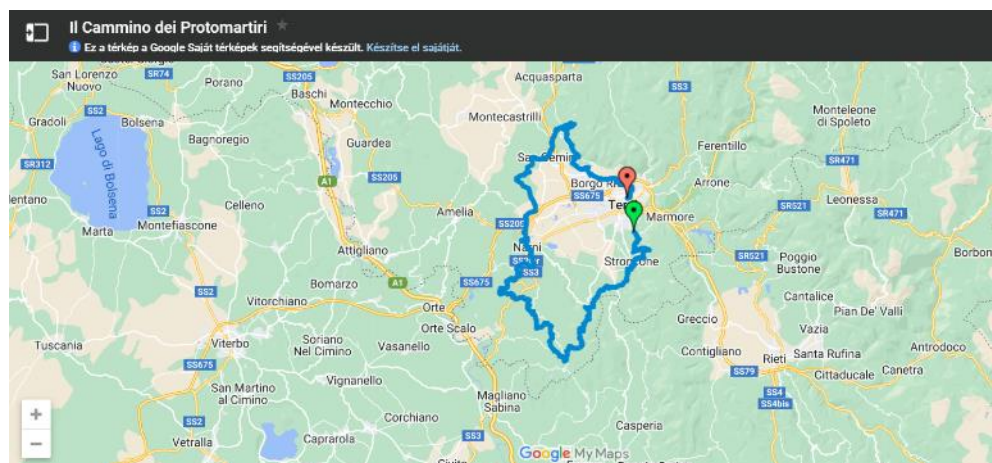
Assisi. Both are well-detailed on the website, and in the new guidebook, with maps, for both trekkers and cyclists.



4. Figure : The itineraries of pilgrim routes

Source : own search, <https://www.saintfrancisways.eu/>

- Saint Francis Ways from Rimini to La Verna - This route connects the main towns where Saint Francis's passing by is cited in either documents or supported by ancient traditions.
- Saint Francis' last journey: Assisi – Bagnara
- Franciscan Routes in Coimbra – A visit to the old town area of Coimbra allows the visitor to be transported to the foundation of the kingdom of Portugal. The journey of Saint Anthony of Padua, right henchman of Saint Francis. The visitor can discover the origin of the establishment of the Franciscan order in the city, and especially the female branch.
- The way of Protomartyrs – with well-detailed information and map on the website:



5. Figure : itinerary of the Protomartyrs Route

Source : own search, <https://www.saintfrancisways.eu/>

2. Virtual routes – which would be much favourable to *rename* for instance 'thematic itineraries', as under such a name it can cause misunderstanding (one can think about a kind of film or augmented, digital tour). in fact they are thematic routes organised around a certain topic or aspect of Franciscan knowledge:

- UNESCO itinerary – Architectural, Pictorial and Sculptural Heritage: linking some beautiful and extraordinary sites which are parts of the World Heritage. This itinerary includes: The Saint Michael the Archangel Monastery | The Town of Assisi | The Ancient City of Jerusalem | Coimbra University | The Battir Eco-Museum
- Architectural, Pictorial and Sculptural Heritage – not only Rome or Bethlehem, but many little places in which one can discover a high-level cultural heritage. This is the heredity of Saint Francis and Franciscan brothers and sisters. This itinerary is rich of beauty and emotions. Many places, little known, that became a story about Franciscans and their pilgrimages. This itinerary includes: The Saint Francis Itinerary in Rome | Bethlehem Basilica (Franciscan 1347) | Kosice Cathedral (Slovakia 1230 In The Name of Saint Elisabeth) | Saint Francis Convent and Church in San Marino (1361 with Paintings of “Guercino”) | Saint Francis Convent In Siviglia | Saint Anthony Convent In Siviglia | Basilica of Saint Francis in Cracovia (1269) | Saint Francis Convent In Subiaco (1223 Cycle Of Frescoes Of “Sodoma”) | Santa Filippa Mareri Monastery (1228 Painting of Giorgio De Chirico) | Saint Francis Church In Ripa – Rome | Clarisse Monastery In Camerino (1483)
- Music itinerary – the musical heritage, linking Germany, France and Italy, although research is still ongoing, and other countries could join the effort. Music and Franciscans have formed a perfect union. The traces of Franciscan presence in European musical circles between the Middle Ages and the Renaissance are conspicuous, starting with one of the greatest Franciscan exponents of the 13th century, the German Giuliano da Spira, the ‘Magister Cantus in the Regis Francorum’; from the Gregorian tradition to 13th century metric music, from the Cantorino di Reims and its primitive polyphonies to the monadic lauds in the vernacular language of Cortona, from 14th century ars novistiche (novel art) compositions to the mathematical speculation of ars subtilior (subtle art), and from 15th and 16th century lauds to 16th century polyphonic architecture. The history of Mediaeval lauds bears testimony to the symbolic ‘marriage’ between music and the Order. This itinerary includes Giuliano da Spira, Germany | Cantorino di Reims, France | Laudi monodiche di Cortona, Italy | Choir of the Holy Valley, Italy
- Vegetable gardens, botanic and pharmacy itinerary – the friars’ garden is a real ‘mythical place’ in the popular imagination. The friars obtain fruit and vegetables, herbs, flowers, roots and berries from the garden, which they skilfully convert into creams, herbal teas, digestive liqueurs, or drops and ancient medicines for all kinds of ailments.
- Interesting Franciscan churches in Slovakia
- Itinerary of literature and academic knowledge

3.3 Cultural Route Network

The candidate Cultural Route complies with the criteria for networks listed in Resolution CM/Res (2013)67 and CM Res (2023)2. The management international Association developed a permanent character, operates democratically, it is organisationally and financially viable, have a legal status under Italian law, representation and gender equality are ensured. Though there is a majority of Italian members (not unexpectedly, as the route based on Italian initiation), the network grows internationally and gains higher attention. There is a clear vision how to widen the network throughout Europe, and already welcomed new member from Portugal at the time of this report.

3.3.1 Overview of institutional / legal structure of the network

The name of network is Saint Francis' Ways. Its legal status is association (founded in 2020, under Italian law). Its official headquarters is in Rome, a new office has just been opened in San Francesco a Ripa church and convent. The operational office is in Assisi. There are so-called headquarters in other countries as well, the officers there are a kind of representatives, who work voluntarily for the network, and employed by a member of the network. They are in Poland (Chamber of Commerce, Marek Trachzik), Slovakia (Ruzomberok University, Ján Hrkut), Holy Land (Bethlehem University) and San Marino Republic (Tourism Secretariat, Loretta Zafferani and Pietro Berti). Visibility is guaranteed in every representative through a plate with the name and logo of the route.



7. Figure : An example of the common plate for the members
Source : route manager

The organisation is managed by the Secretariat which is constituted by Raffaella Rossi who formerly worked part time as an independent worker, from July 2024 she became dependent worker with the role of Project Manager. Roberto Luzi supports the Secretariat. The Association is governed by a Board, that meets throughout the year to define objectives and projects and for day-to-day administration decisions, including the approval of membership requests. Members of the board are from Italy (3 persons), Poland, Slovakia, Spain, San Marino (1-1 person). The president of the association is Mgs. Paolo Giulietti.

There are defined criteria for new members:

- members can be public territorial bodies (municipal, provincial, regional etc), association of towns and municipalities, tourism organizations, cultural associations, business companies, international institutions and universities, museum, etc.
- applicants shall submit a specific application to the Association, presenting the applicant to include for enhancement the European Itinerary and demonstrating the specific interest and requirements

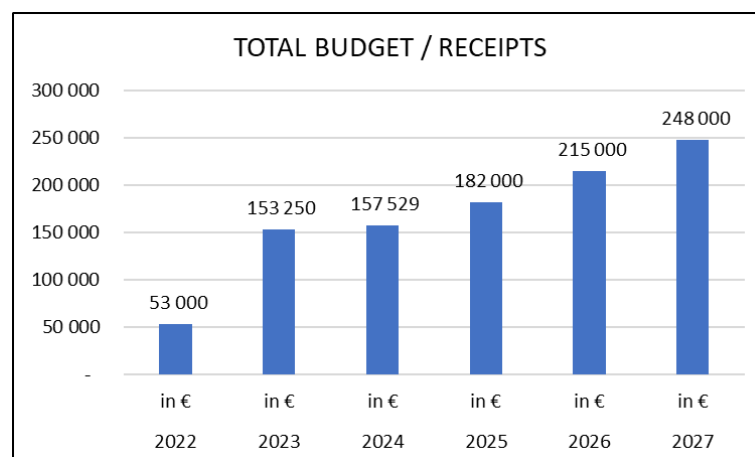
- registration is effective only upon the payment of the Association fee, which must be paid within 90 days from the notification of acceptance
- duration of the membership is indefinite.

General Assembly takes place at least once a year to approve the balance sheet and define annual objectives. The following minutes were provided: 28th December 2021 – online general assembly, 3-4th June 2022 – general assembly in San Marino, 1st December 2022 – extraordinary general assembly (changes in the statute), 21st November 2023 – ordinary and extraordinary general assemblies (with election of president and board members)

The network has a Scientific Committee, with members from the following countries: Italy (4), Palestine (2), Israel (1), Poland (1), Spain (1), San Marino (1), Portugal (1), Slovakia (1) USA (1), Croatia (1). Universities are actively involved in the scientific and research work, they are from Italy (7), Croatia (1), Palestina (1), Spain (1), Slovakia (1), Portugal (1), San Marino (1), Poland (1).

3.3.2 Overview of the financial situation of the network

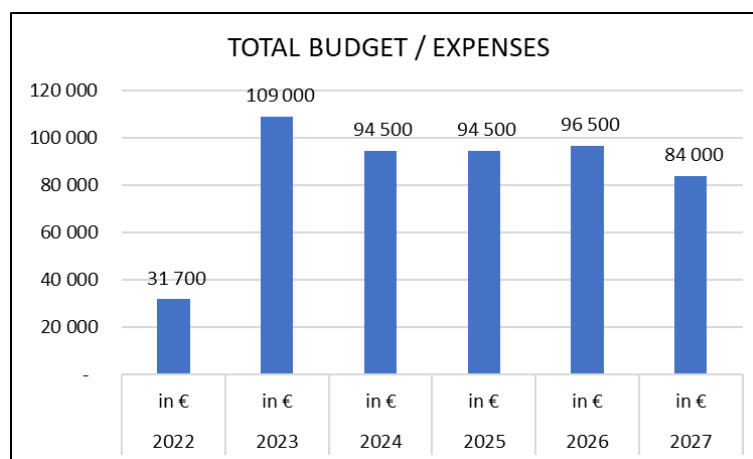
The organisation has a stable financial situation. Detailed information was provided on the annual budget and expenses, which are summarized in the following charts and tables:



8. Figure : Total budget of the organisation 2022 – 2027
Source : own compilation on the basis of the provided data

RECEIPTS						
			present	3-year budget forecast		
	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
	in €	in €	in €	in €	in €	in €
member contribution		10 000	10 000	12 000	15 000	18 000
funded projects	45 000	122 250	130 000	130 000	140 000	150 000
public funding			11 529	10 000	10 000	20 000
sponsors		11 000	1 000	10 000	20 000	20 000
private funds			5 000			
crowdfunding						
by-products		10 000		20 000	30 000	40 000
in-kind contribution	8 000					
other contributions						
TOTAL	53 000	153 250	157 529	182 000	215 000	248 000

9. Figure : Total budget of the organisation by receipt types 2022 – 2027
Source : own compilation on the basis of the provided data



10. Figure : Total budget – expenses, of the organisation 2022 – 2027
Source : own compilation on the basis of the provided data

EXPENSES						
			present	3-year forecast		
	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
	in €	in €	in €	in €	in €	in €
Manager / secretary, other collaborators	20 000	60 000	40 000	25 000	30 000	30 000
Administrative costs		25 500				
General Assembly	5 000	2 500	4 000	8 000	10 000	10 000
Website & web-marketing		8 000	3 000	4 000	4 000	4 000
Brochure / other communication materials		3 000	5 000	5 000	5 000	
Exhibitions and fairs			10 000	10 000	15 000	10 000
Scientific studies and meetings	1 200		22 000	30 000	20 000	20 000
Scientific publications			8 000	10 000	10 000	5 000
Program costs (rental, travelling, accommodation, printing, ...)	3 000					
Outsourcing (communications, IT and online assistance, field experts, financial services, assistance in the preparation and management of legal documents, programmes...)	2 500		500	500	500	3 000
Operational expenses / Fixed costs (rent, communication, accounting, ...)		10 000	2 000	2 000	2 000	2 000
TOTAL	31 700	109 000	94 500	94 500	96 500	84 000

11. Figure : Total budget – types of expenses, of the organisation 2022 – 2027
Source : own compilation on the basis of the provided data

The Secretariat provided a list of funded projects from the last period or running ones, with a budget of more than 419 000 €. Though the funding is mainly coming from Italy, either from national or private donors, other members of the network are included in the implementation, for instance from Poland or Portugal. This is a strength and high merit of the association.

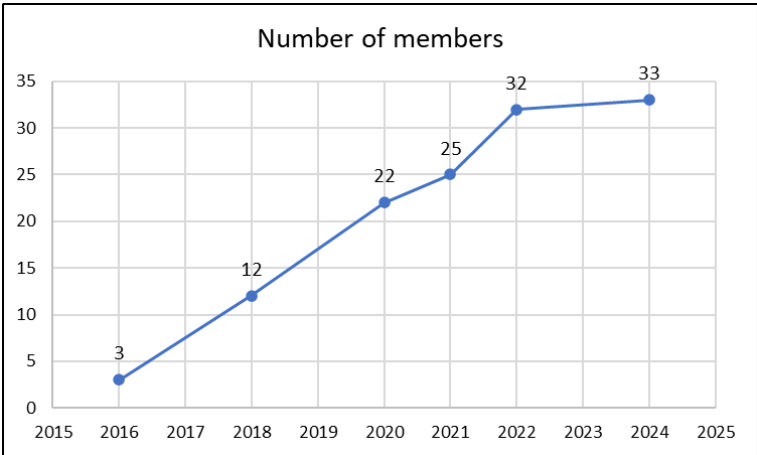
The annual membership fees are different according to the type of the member, and they are the following: 300 € for Municipalities, States and Universities, 200 € for private companies, 100 € for Associations.

They have partners who support, financially and organisationally, different parts of the activities of the network: for example, Poland organized the events with choirs in Poland, Italy, and Holy See with own and with national resources (Touristic Ministry of Poland), and San Marino gave resources to organize the event in San Marino Republic. The exhibition of artists organized in 2023, was financed by the Secretariat of Tourism of the San Marino Republic. Ruzomberok University organized the conference in Slovakia with own financial resources. Twinning between Italy and Portugal was

financed by partners of each Country. Therefore, it is now more evident that the Saint Francis' Ways actually works as a Network and all the partners are involved in activities financially and organisationally as well.
 From the data provided it can be stated that the operation of the organisation is stable and balanced.

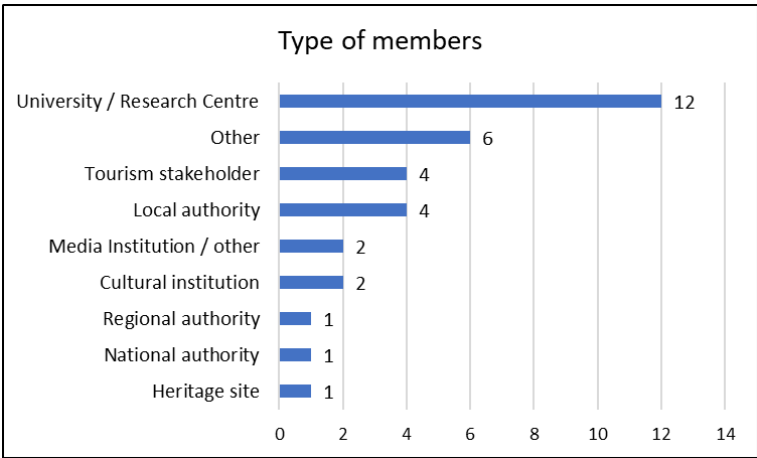
3.3.3 Current composition of the network by country and type of member

The analysis of the current composition of the network was made based on the application dossier and its annexes. There are 33 members according to the actual Excel file attached to the application form.
 The number of members, according to the year of accession:

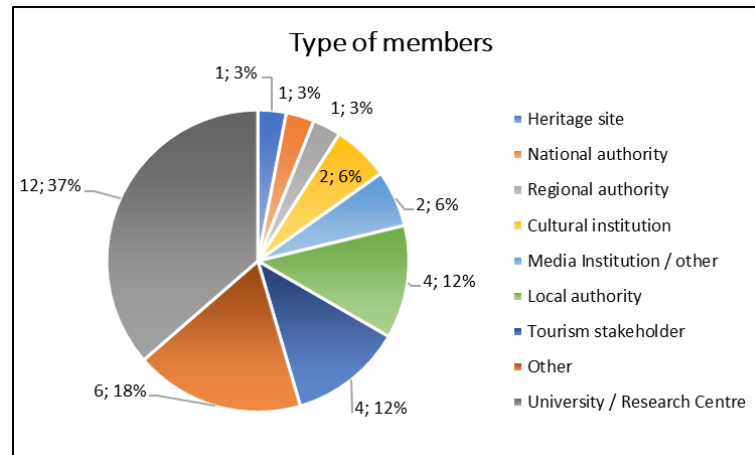


12. Figure : Number of network members 2016 – 2024
 Source : own compilation on tha basis of the provided data

According to the route's website (saintfrancisways.eu), there are 30 members, 11 partners and 2 patrons. There are members listed who in fact are not members, thus some real members are missing.
It is highly recommended to keep the website up-to-date, and it would be beneficial to give the opportunity to the member for a short introduction (e.g. by clicking on the name) with a direct link to its own website.
 The types of members are the following:

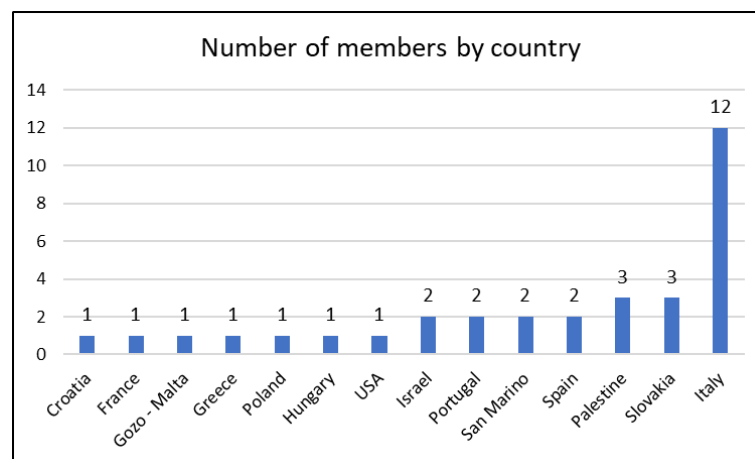


13. Figure : Types of the present members
 Source : own compilation on tha basis of the provided data



14. Figure : Types of the present members in percentage
Source : own compilation on the basis of the provided data

The number of members by country – the majority, 36.36 % is from Italy (1 = 3,03,%; 2 = 6,06 %; 3 = 9,09 %):



15. Figure : Number of the present members by country
Source : own compilation on the basis of the provided data

The highest percentage of members come from Italy, but it is not surprising being an Italian project initiation. Members are universities, associations, local, regional and national authorities, tourism operators and media organisations. It should be noted the good advance in terms of number and diversity of origins and nature of the membership since 2016. The fact that one of the physical General Assembly was held in San Marino and another in Poland is a good sign in regards decentralisation of the project beyond Italy.

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

Network extension can be done in two ways:

- widening the range of members: include new countries
- deepening the range of members: involve other types of members, especially stakeholders, entrepreneurs and companies from the already member countries and regions.

As several regional tourism agencies are members, it could be favourable to indicate the number of stakeholders who are participating in products or events connected to Saint Francis Ways, i.e. indirectly members of the network. For instance, during the field visit, the interview with Dr. Monica Valeri (Project Manager of the Pilgrimage Circuit and Pilgrimage Routes - Religious Tourism of the Emilia Romagna Region Tourism Promotion Company), she said that about 40 different stakeholders (e.g. restaurants, B&B) or smaller associations are involved in the Saint Francis offer in their region. *It is highly recommended to involve individual members and small and medium sized enterprises as members of the network.* The network can be further developed with local entities, and foster the cooperation, including museums, churches, religious communities, entrepreneurs. On the website of Emilia Romagna Region, there are 451 different types of offers, 80 of them are related to Saint Francis Ways, and tourism operators are listed there.

The Extraordinary General Assembly held online on the 1st of December 2022, made it possible that natural persons may also become members of the Network.

The Scientific Committee made a list of potential members, names and sites linked with Franciscans. It is the beginning of a significant catalogue that includes many places in Europe and in other continents.

Some potential members who were listed in the application form are:

- Franciscan Friary Dubrovnik (Church, convent, library and the oldest pharmacy) (Croatia)
- Municipality of Marburg: ruins of the ancient Hospital of Saint Elisabeth (Germany)
- ex-Franciscan Convent of Ratisbon (today Museum) (Germany)
- Franciscan Friary Baja (Hungary)
- National library of France (Francois Mitterand)
- Rovinj convent founded by Giovanni da Capestrano
- Greyfriars Abbey in Ystad (Svezia)
- The International Coronelli Society
- GlobenMuseum c/o Austrian National Library (Austria)
- Sociedade Geografia de Lisboa (Portugal)
- Wurzburg convent (Germany)
- Castell Monestir de Sant Miquel d'Escornalbou (Spain)
- Convento de San Francisco Chelva (Spain)

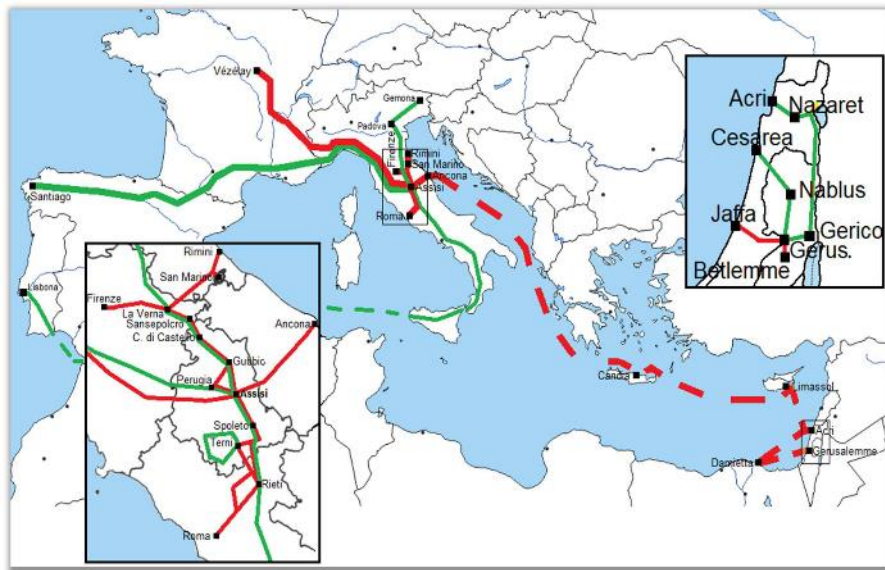
New potential members in the process of accession to the network are:

- Franciscan visitors centre in Alsóváros (Szeged, Hungary)
- F-Atlas: Franciscan Landscapes: the Observance between Italy (Italy, France, Portugal, Spain)
- Coimbra Municipality (Portugal; already a partner)

3.4 Communication tools

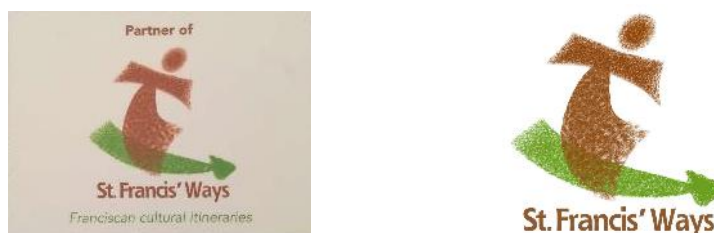
In many different Countries actually, the Saint Francis' Network is doing important activities to enlarge visibility. In the last two years this goal was reached due to twinning, conferences, meetings, press articles and other events listed before. The Network made efforts to enlarge its visibility contents and dissemination means, including other languages than Italian. Common materials (as brochure) and social media have been significantly developed in the last two years. They tried to do their best to underline and promote all the activities in different countries on their Facebook page, and press articles supported this kind of work. However, the European identity of the Network, promoting a common brand across the Route's Members and proposals is still not complete, one can has some hardly formulated lack. A common strong brand should be built, through common and conscious communication, emphasizing the unity of the organisation.

Though it was indicated, a visibility guide was neither attached to the application dossier nor provided during and after the field visit. However, it would be a very important document for the common visibility, so it is *highly recommended to elaborate one*, if not so far, but now, in the phase of applying for certification. Common visibility, common graphic elements, colours, logos are enhancing the unity of the network. The possibility for inserting the Council of Europe logo and other visibility elements should be left open.



16. Figure : Map of the Franciscan locations and routes
Source : application form

The route has its own logo, which is indicated also on a common plate, which is placed at every network member (as it was presented before):



17. Figure : The network's logo
Source : application form, website

Communication channels

- Digital and online tools:
 - The route has its own website: www.saintfrancisways.eu . It operates in English and Polish at the moment. It is continuously improved.
This site presents and promotes the existing routes, either physical or “virtual” – though it would be more favourable to rename these later routes to, for instance, “thematic itineraries”. Under the main menu of “Events and activities” there are only a few information, namely concerts for peace and the latest brochure – it would be desirable to place an event calendar and other communication materials, and a separate section for the press. Important actions, like, for instance, the call for papers by the Scientific Committee or other activities are also not present, thus not disseminated. The descriptions of the physical routes are well detailed, providing a lot of useful information. The “Info” menu should also be developed, the member list has to be up to date, giving the possibility of a short introduction and a direct link to the member’s own website.
Previously there were two websites, but the other one (francescosways.com) was handed over to the tour operator partner, Genesi. They promote packages, itineraries and other services. This website operates in English, German, Italian and Spanish.
 - Social media:
 - Facebook page: www.facebook.com/europeansaintfrancisways
 - Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/saintfrancisways?igsh=MWV5aDIwb3oyN2Zzaw==>
- Physical material:

The network uses the following visibility materials: brochures, one with the itinerary and one, new, concerning all the itineraries in each country; brochure concerning a project named Pilgrims Menu (an innovative cookbook, attached to the application); printed and interactive maps.



18. Figure : The new guidebook and map
Source : own photo

The dissemination of these materials are in exhibitions, study tours, for bloggers, guides, journalists; for tourists; they have a good collaboration with 4 publishing houses (3 Italian, 1 English).

- Publications

They have several direct or indirect publications: scientific and academic publications, press articles; audio-visual contents on YouTube; conference proceedings, books. They were listed in the application form.

- Pilgrims' certificate

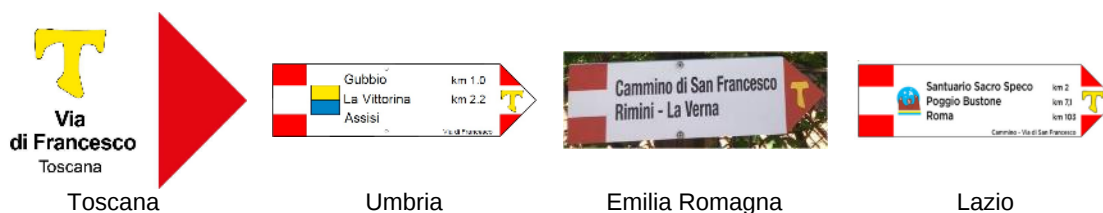
It is always a very hard question to tell the number of tourists or the number of pilgrims arriving to a certain area. In this case, they have the right number of pilgrims with Credentials that walk the Ways, and they also have a lot of information about them (personal data, country of origin, profession, etc). A special place, office, the Statio Peregrinorum was established in Assisi where all the pilgrims go to take the Testimonium, the document that certifies that they completed the route. This means that they know the real number of people who reach Assisi, from France, San Marino, Rome, Florence etc. and all the steps they took. The number of Credentials increased from about 3 thousand in 2018 to about 6 thousand in 2020.



19. Figure : Certification and questionnaire for pilgrims
Source : own documents

- Signposting

Signposting is the competency of the regional tourism agencies in Italy and is different in every country. A process of progressive integration has been underway for years and is the competency of the Italian National Tourism Institute. The routes, paths of national importance are marked with the colours red and white. The signs which are used now have the colours of yellow and blue, and the letter Tau as the symbol for Franciscans. Some examples are shown in the pictures below:



20. Figure : Signposting in different regions of Italy
Source : route manager

- Internal communication

The network uses a WhatsApp group and mailing list among the members for everyday and operational communication. No newsletter or any other form of regular communication has been referred to. It is advisable to start a professional newsletter to the press and travel agencies, tour operators, to members and stakeholders, with appropriate content. Regular press releases can also be an effective tool for communication.

4. Conclusions and recommendations

There are some general and overall conclusions of this evaluation report, regarding the work and operation of Saint Francis Ways Association. First, the performance of the network complies with the requirements and expectations of the Council of Europe Programme eligibility criteria and guidelines, though to a different extent concerning the criteria. As it was indicated in the executive summary, the theme's compliance is relevant and excellent, the activities' compliance is satisfactory, and the network's compliance is very good. Second, from a very practical approach, a 3C development program is advised to the management, according to the following:

- Communication: the network must emphasize their unity, they must send messages as a network, not as independent members, though doing so means, at the same time, a bit of giving up a part of their own identity. This also means the strengthening of a common European identity.
- Cohesion: the management of the network must find the main unifying messages, priorities, to put every item "in order", according to an established conception, which are reflected in every action and activity.
- Competencies:
 - First, (strategic) planning is still a lack, as no – at least mid-term – strategy was provided. This includes the finishing of the ongoing mapping process, that is elaborating a complex inventory of Franciscan resources. Having such an inventory will contribute to "putting the items in order", a very effective tool for finding priorities, picking out the appropriate elements for different target groups, different types of actions and activities.
The strategy should contain a network development plan as well, and similarly an activity plan in all member countries, fundraising strategy, a research agenda and a communication strategy. A visibility guide is also expected.
 - Second, network competencies should also be developed, to be able to manage the members as network, using stakeholder management tools and act as a knowledge and competence centre.

Regarding the recommendations of the previous evaluation report, the route management made significant efforts for their fulfilment.

- The Scientific Committee started a big work concerning mapping the sites, personalities and material/non-material heritage of Franciscans in Europe. They have now a map and a table to use for scientific purposes, to increase the members, to realize activities and events to communicate the big cultural heritage of Franciscans. This work should be completed with the above recommended inventory of resources.
- Though there is not a clear-cut strategic plan, the Scientific Committee and the Board are working on conscious planning regarding many events and activities for the next years, especially due to the Jubilee (Saint Year in 2025) and Franciscan 800 Anniversary that are important opportunities to communicate the work of the Network.
- Concerning expanding the activities, each country now organizes events and activities concerning their Franciscan heritage, focus on tourism, institutional twinning, cultural activities, young people and artists exchange, and scientific conferences.
- The website is under continuous development, though some recommended functions are still not working (e.g. event calendar).
- regarding partnerships, they work together with tour operators and agencies to develop touristic proposals, and with public institutions (like San Marino Republic, Coimbra Municipality and Italian regions) to include the Route in their projects and events.
- A newsletter is also under development, it is planned to be presented at the next General Assembly in Santiago.
- Cooperation with different certified routes is unsuccessfully so far.

The theme:

The theme is evidently fulfilling the requirements, very illustrative to European history and heritage, by focusing on Saint Francis of Assisi, and outstanding medieval personality, one of the main saints of the Catholic church. The proposal well demonstrates how his legacy contributes to enriching the common European cultural and natural heritage, how the Franciscan ideas contributed to the development of the new Europe, from the 14th century. It has a multidimensional character, refers to science, nature, human rights, equity and the appreciation of several charters and conventions. The route unifies several countries in Europe and has members from the USA and the Holy Land. It is suitable for programs to cultural and educational exchanges for young people, the development of initiatives and exemplary and innovative projects in the field of cultural tourism and sustainable cultural development, for different target groups, together with travel professionals. The theme has been researched and developed by diverse academics and experts from different regions of Europe.

At the same time, the vast potential of the theme carries challenges to the route management as how to integrate these values into a unified concept, meaning the definition of a step-by-step development process, with settled priorities and clear targets. It is highly recommended to finish the mapping of Franciscan values, advisably based on the methodology of the inventory of resources, used in tourism developments.

Fields of action:

All the activities in the last three years were defined by the Board with the support of the Scientific Committee and developed by the Network. They use working groups to be more concrete and specific in certain territories. The Scientific Committee is well composed regarding the different expertise and geographical location. The network initiated excellent programs for young people, it is a pity that their Erasmus projects were not funded. For artistic practice they focus on music, street art, augmented reality and new technologies applied in Franciscan cultural heritage, international call for artists. Several traditional pilgrimage tours and cultural tourism products are offered, with the involvement of tour operators.

Though several partners are involved in the organisation and implementation of the activities, they are not always communicated properly as the event of the network. There are also some confusions between the defined fields, sometimes activities with the seemingly same content are listed among more fields, and the nature of the activities of different fields are not clearly defined and distinguished. The formerly proposed inventory would give a great help in this issue as well.

The 4th of October, as the holiday of Saint Francis, and World Animal Day at the same time, offers a great potential for organising a Saint Francis Day in every member countries, with joint activities and events, focusing on the same aspect each year, concerning nature and environment, very suitable for targeting young people and children. The Call for papers initiated by the Scientific Committee is another possibility for joint action, targeting students from secondary and higher education, with a conference in different countries each, or every second year.

The network:

Regarding governance, democratic and visible operation, diversity and number of members, the network's performance is continuously improving. They have a stable financial background and are successful in fundraising. There are several possible new members, some of them are in the process of joining. The former independent worker officer in the secretariate became employed staff member as project manager, which gives stability but responsibility as well.

On the other hand, the Italian dominance is still experienced, and probably will never be overcome. The network should be widened and deepened, attracting other countries and individual members, too. The collaboration and partnership with other cultural routes should be kept in focus.

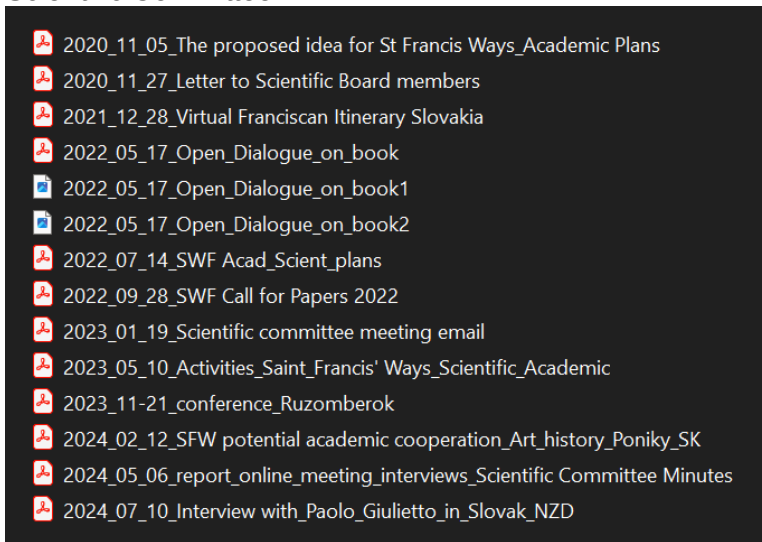
CRITERIA	Fulfilment of certification criteria by the candidate network
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I. Cultural route theme		Compliance is excellent. The theme is illustrative to European history and heritage, demonstrates how Saint Francis' legacy contributes to enriching the common European cultural and natural heritage, how the Franciscan ideas contributed to the development of the new Europe. It is suitable for programs to cultural and educational exchanges for young people, the development of initiatives and exemplary and innovative projects in the field of cultural tourism and sustainable cultural development, for different target groups, together with travel professionals. The theme has been researched and developed by diverse academics and experts from different regions of Europe.
II. Priority fields of action	Cooperation in research and development	Compliance is very good. The Scientific Committee is well composed, from both expertise and geographical point of view. They started the mapping of Franciscan values; this work should be finished by completing the inventory of resources. They initiated very good activities, especially targeting young people and scientific research.
	Enhancement of memory, history and European heritage	Compliance is satisfactory. The route promotes tangible and intangible cultural and natural heritage. Target groups and contents should be more precisely chosen with the help of the previously referred inventory and the advised strategy.
	Cultural and educational exchanges for young Europeans	Compliance is very good. There are very good initiations of programs for young people and children, it is a pity that their Erasmus projects were not funded. 4th of October as World Animal Day could be well utilised in joined events for this target group.
	Contemporary cultural and artistic practice	Compliance is satisfactory. For artistic practice they focus on music, street art, augmented reality and new technologies applied in Franciscan cultural heritage, international call for artists.
	Cultural Tourism and Sustainable Cultural development	Compliance is very good. Several traditional pilgrimage tours and cultural tourism products are offered, with the involvement of tour operators. Supported by detailed information on the website.
III. Cultural Route Network		Compliance is very good. Regarding governance, democratic and visible operation, diversity and number of members, the network's performance is continuously improving. They have a stable financial background and are successful in fundraising. There are several possible new members, some of them are in the process of joining.
Communication Tools		Compliance is very good. A wide range of communication channels are used, website, Facebook and social media on the digital field, brochures, maps and guidebooks as printed traditional tools, scientific and press publications. Signposting is satisfactory at the moment, using unified symbols, integration into the national system is an ongoing negotiation. Internal communication could be developed.

5. List of references

All documents required for the evaluation had been duly submitted by the candidate route. The list of documents used are the following:

1. Application dossier provided by the EICR
 - Application form and its annexes
 - Statutes
 - Members' list
 - Minutes of General Assemblies
 - Financial information
 - 3-year forecast of activities
 - Communication materials (brochures, cookbook)
2. Previous evaluation report by Cristina Farinha
3. Council of Europe documents:
 - Guidelines for independent expert evaluations
 - Resolution CM Res(2023)2
 - Resolution CM Res (2013)66
 - Cultural routes management – From theory to practice
 - Evaluation checklist
 - Materials of information meeting 13th September 2024
4. Website of the route: <https://www.saintfrancisways.eu/>
5. Additional information sent by the candidate route:
 - Minutes of the Scientific Committee meetings as follows: 10th November 2020 – first general assembly of the committee; 18th May 2021 ; 3rd June 2022; 5th July 2022; 19th January 2023; 27th June 2023; 23rd April 2024
 - Materials of academic and research activities, sent by the president of the Scientific Committee:



 - Catalogue of Franciscan heritage, collected so far, sent by the president of the Scientific Committee
 - Additional financial and event data, sent by the secretariat of the organisation, Ms Raffaella Rossi
6. Brochures and maps collected during the field visit

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

The field visit took place between 10-13th November, in Italy and San Marino, according to the following programme:

Means of transport used to arrive at the destination: Plane from Budapest | Car from Bologna to San Marino – Car from San Marino to La Verna Convent – Car from La Verna to Assisi – Car from Assisi to Rome – Plane from Rome to Budapest

The visit has been arranged in coordination with the management of the route.

Description of the activities carried out during the trip:

Sunday, 10th November

Arrivals at Bologna Airport

17:40 Prof. Nagy - Flight FR 3827

20:00 Prof. Hrkut - Flight FR 4767

20:15 Transfer to Rimini | Driver: Marco Pacelli (The Ways of Francis in Emilia Romagna)

22:00 Rimini: Meeting with Franco Boarelli (Board of Saint Francis' Ways) | Dinner in a local restaurant | Overnight stay: Card International Hotel

Monday, 11th November

08:00 Breakfast in hotel

08:30 Hotel's meeting room | Meeting with prof. Jan Hrkut (Scientific committee SFW) and Mr. Franco Boarelli

09:30 Visit of Tourist information office in Rimini, where pilgrims receive the credential of Saint Francis' Way

10:00 Transfer to San Marino. Driver: Franco Boarelli

10:45 San Marino Republic

- Meeting with Dr. Pietro Berti (Government consultant for the cultural valorisation of sacred art and for the development of religious tourism in the Republic of San Marino).
- Visit to the Basilica of San Marino and the Church of San Francesco, starting point of the Way of St. Francis from San Marino to La Verna
- Meeting with Dr. Federico Pedini Amati, Minister of Tourism of San Marino Republic | Organized by the Secretariat of State for Tourism
- Online Meeting with Dr. Monica Valeri (Project Manager of the Pilgrimage Circuit and Pilgrimage Routes - Religious Tourism of the Emilia Romagna Region Tourism Promotion Company)

13:00 Light lunch in San Marino

14:00 Transfer to Sant'Agata Feltria, crossing part of the territory of Saint Francis' Way from Rimini to La Verna

15:00 Sant'Agata Feltria

- Guided tour of the historic centre and the Mariani Theatre
- Meeting with Dr. Goffredo Polidori (mayor of the town)

16:30 Transfer to Pieve Santo Stefano

18:00 Arrival, dinner and overnight stay in Hotel Santo Stefano

Tuesday, 12th November

07:30 Breakfast with msg. Paolo Giulietti, President of Saint Francis' Ways

08:30 Transfer to La Verna Sanctuary. Driver: msg. Paolo Giuli

09:00 Guided tour of the Sanctuary

10:00 Transfer to Assisi.

12:00 Assisi

- Meeting with Dr. Raffaella Rossi, project Manager
- Meeting with Assisi Municipality, Mr. Fabrizio Leggio (responsible for tourism)

13:00 Lunch

14:30 Visit to *Statio peregrinorum* and Sacro Convento in Assisi

- Greetings of fr. Marco Moroni
- Meeting with Fr. Jorge Fernandez and visit of *statio peregrinorum*
- Visit of the monumental churches

17:00 Transfer to Santa Maria degli Angeli

17:30 Visit to Basilica Santa Maria degli Angeli

19:00 Transfer to Perugia

19:30 Arrival, dinner and overnight stay in Hotel Sacro Cuore

Wednesday, 13th November

08:00 Breakfast

09:00 Transfer to Rome

10:00 Terni

- Visit in St Anthony Church
- Meeting with Mr. Mauro Andretta (Lions club Narni) and fr. Stefano Tondelli (Holy Land Custody)

11:00 Stroncone

- Visit in St Francis Convent and the Pilgrim Hostel in Old Town with fr. Danilo

12:00 Transfer to Tor Vergata University, Roma. Driver: Roberto Montagnoli – Board)

12:30 Tor Vergata

- Meeting with professor Luca Gaspari and Professor Enrico Luigi Redi
- Visit of the *People Garden*

14:30 Transfer to Rome

15:00 Visit to St. Francis' Ways new headquarter

- Visit in San Francesco a Ripa church and convent (new headquarter)
- Meeting with Fr. Paolo and Friar Matteo

16:30 Late lunch in Roma

18.30 Transfer to Ciampino airport | Flight FR 8246 - CIA-BUD 20.55-22.35

Based on the information I gathered during the field visit, and from the additional documents and data which I have requested after the visit, it was not necessary to organise other meetings. Some minutes of the field visit:



1st day: with Mr Hrkut, Mr Boarelli and a pilgrim from the USA in Rimini Tourist Information Office



1st day: with Mr Federico Pedini Amati, minister of Tourism of San Marino and Mr Pietro Berti, Mr Boarelli



1st day: on the way to Sant'Agata Feltria



2nd day: convent of La verna



2nd day: in Assisi, with Mr Fabrizio Leggio and Ms Raffaella Rossi



2nd day. in Assisi cathedral



3rd day: in St Anthony Church, Terni, with Mr Giulietti and Mr Mauro Andretta



3rd day: in Stroncone, St Francis Convent



3rd day: San Francesco a Ripa church and convent, location of the network's new headquarters



The new headquarters in Rome, San Francesco a Ripa church and convent



21. Figure : Moments of the field visit Source : own photos

7. 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	0		
	2	Does the theme of the route offer a solid basis for youth cultural and educational exchanges?	1	0		
	3	Does the theme of the route offer a solid basis for innovative activities?	1	0		
	4	Does the theme of the route offer a solid basis for cultural tourism products development?	1	0		
	5	Has the theme been researched/developed by academics/experts from different regions of Europe?	1	0		
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	0	
		7	Does the Route play a unifying role around major European themes, enabling dispersed knowledge to be brought together?	0	1	not yet
		8	Does the Route show how these themes are representative of European values shared by several European countries?	1	0	
		9	Does the Route illustrate the development of these values and the variety of forms they may take in Europe?	1	0	
		10	Does the Route have a network of universities and research center working on its theme at the European level?	1	0	
		11	Does the Route have a multidisciplinary Scientific Committee?	1	0	
		12	Does the Scientific Committee work on its theme at the European level?	1	0	
		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	0	
		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	0	
	3.2.2 Enhancement of the memory, history	15	Do the Route activities take into account and explain the historical significance of tangible and intangible European heritage ?	1	0	
		16	Do the Route activities promote the values of the Council of Europe?	1	0	
		17	Do the Route activities promote the brand of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe?	0	1	not relevant yet

3.2.3 Cultural and educational exchanges of young Europeans	18	Does the route work in conformity with international charters and conventions on cultural heritage preservation?	1	0	
	19	Do the Route activities identify, preserve and develop European heritage sites in rural destinations?	1	0	
	20	Do the Route activities identify, preserve and develop European heritage sites in industrial areas in the process of economic restructuring?	0	1	not relevant
	21	Do the Route activities valorize the heritage of ethnic or social minorities in Europe?	0	1	not relevant
	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	0	
	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	0	
	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	0	
	25	Are the youth exchanges (cultural and educational) planned to develop a better understanding of the concept of European citizenship?	1	0	
	26	Are the youth exchanges (cultural and educational) planned to emphasize the value of new personal experience through visiting diverse places?	1	0	
	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	0	
	28	Are the youth exchanges (cultural and educational) planned to offer collaborative opportunities for educational institutions at various levels?	1	0	
	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	0	
	30	Are the youth exchanges (cultural and educational) planned to set up pilot schemes with several participating countries?	0	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	0	
3.2.4 Contemporary	32	Do the Route's cultural activities promote intercultural dialogue and multidisciplinary exchange between various artistic expressions in European countries?	0	1	

		33	Do the Route's cultural activities encourage artistic projects that establish links between cultural heritage and contemporary culture?	1	0	
		34	Do the Route's cultural activities encourage innovative cultural and contemporary art practices* connecting them with the history of skills development?	0	1	
		35	Do the Route's cultural activities encourage collaboration between culture amateurs and professionals via relevant activities and networks creation?***	0	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?	0	1	
		37	Do the Route's cultural activities encourage activities and artistic projects which explore the links between heritage and contemporary culture?	1	0	
		38	Do the Route's cultural activities highlight the most innovative and creative practices?	0	1	
		39	Do the Route's cultural activities link these innovative and creative practices with the history of skills development?***	0	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	0	
		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	0	
		42	Do the Route's activities promote dialogue between urban and rural communities and cultures?	1	0	
		43	Do the Route's activities promote dialogue between developed and disadvantaged regions?	1	0	
		44	Do the Route's activities promote dialogue between different regions (south, north, east, west) of Europe?	1	0	
		45	Do the Route's activities promote dialogue between majority and minority (or native and immigrant) cultures?	0	1	
		46	Do the Route's activities open possibilities for co-operation between Europe and other continents?	1	0	
		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	0	
		48	Do the Route's activities aim to diversify cultural product, service and activities offers?	1	0	
		49	Do the Route's activities develop and offer quality cultural tourism products, services or activities transnationally?	1	0	
		50	Do the Route's activities develop partnerships with public and private organisations active in the field of tourism?	1	0	

		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	0	
3.3 NETWORK		52	Does the Route represent a network involving at least three Council of Europe's member states?	1	0	
		53	Was the theme of the route chosen and accepted by the network members?	1	0	
		54	Was the conceptual framework of the route founded on a scientific basis?	1	0	
		55	Does the network involve several Council of Europe member states in all or part of its projects?	1	0	
		56	Is the network financially sustainable?	1	0	
		57	Does the network have a legal status (association, federation of associations, EEIG,...)?	1	0	
		58	Does the network operate democratically?	1	0	
		59	Does the network specify its objectives and working methods?	0	1	
		60	Does the network specify the regions concerned by the project?	1	0	
		61	Does the network specify its partners and participating countries?	1	0	
		62	Does the network specify the fields of action involved?	0	1	
		63	Does the network specify its overall strategy in the short and long term?	0	1	
		64	Does the network identify potential participants and partners in Council of Europe member states and/or other world countries?	1	0	
		65	Does the network provide details of its financing (financial reports and/or activity budgets)?	1	0	
		66	Does the network provide details of its operational plan?	1	0	
		67	Does the network append the basic text(s) confirming its legal status?	1	0	
3.4 COMMUNICATION TOOLS		68	Does the Route have its own logo?	1	0	
		69	Do all partners of the network use the logo on their communication tools?	1	0	
		70	Does the Route have its own dedicated website ?	1	0	
		71	Is it the website available in English and French?	0	1	
		72	Is it the website available in other languages?	1	0	
		73	Does the network use effectively social networks and web 2.0?	1	0	
		74	Does the network publish brochures on the Route?	1	0	
		75	If yes, are the brochures available in English?	1	0	
		76	If yes, are the brochures available in French?	1	0	

For certified Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe only	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?	-	-	
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8. Annex 3: List of acronyms, figures and tables

Acronyms were intentionally not used throughout the report.

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