



COOPERATION WITH THE ENLARGEMENT PARTIAL AGREEMENT ON CULTURAL ROUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE
DE TOURISME EQUESTRE





THE FITE

Created in 1975, the FITE currently has 26 members present on 4 continents, including 22 National Equestrian Tourism Organizations and 4 associate members.

Through an MoU signed in 2017, the Fédération Equestre Internationale exclusively recognizes the FITE for its missions of promotion, regulation and organization of international equestrian tourism, leisure and competition. It also mandates the FITE to manage the 4 outdoor riding disciplines: TREC, working equitation, skijoring and horseback archery.

EQUESTRIAN TOURISM

At the beginning of 2022, the FITE launched two quality labels: Equestrian Tourism Centre and Horse-Friendly Lodging, respectively to certify equestrian structures offering equestrian tourism activities as well as accommodation with facilities adapted to the reception of equestrian hikers and their mounts.

As a founding member of the ERAA, the FITE participated in the creation of the European Road of d'Artagnan, the first equestrian route to be certified as a Cultural Route of the Council of Europe in May 2021.

TRAINING

Since 2017, the FITE has offered training and technical support for organizations wishing to develop equestrian tourism and its disciplines in their territory.

In 2021, the FITE has developed an international regulations for the diploma of equestrian guide, level 1.

INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATION

The FITE is a member of several European and international organizations:

- the European Horse Network (EHN),
- the European Network of Outdoor Sports (ENOS),
- the Rurality-Environment-Development / European Countryside Movement (RED-ECM),
- the European Road Association of d'Artagnan (ERAA).

The FITE participates in an expert group for the implementation of the Package Travel Directive and in consultations of the European Commission, on subjects impacting equestrian tourism activities.



FIRST INTERNATIONAL MEETING OF EQUESTRIAN TOURISM

Organized by the FITE, the first International Meeting of Equestrian Tourism will take place the 13th of September 2022. Planned at the opening of the Euro'Meet, ENOS's event bringing together outdoor sports stakeholders, the FITE meeting will take place in Denmark. The event aims to bring together the different actors of outdoor sports and equestrian tourism, to discuss and share around common topics, such as rural development or shared routes.



COOPERATION ON EQUESTRIAN CULTURAL ROUTES

EXISTING RELATIONS WITH THE EUROPEAN INSTITUTE OF CULTURAL ROUTES

As a founding member of the European Road Association of d'Artagnan, the FITE has been actively participating since 2013 in the creation of the European Road of d'Artagnan, the first transnational cultural equestrian route, crossing 6 countries. The Belgian, Dutch, French, German, Italian, and Spanish NETOs are actively mobilized on this theme.

In May 2021, this route was the first equestrian route to be certified as a Cultural Route of the Council of Europe.

For many years, the FITE has exchanged with Stefano DOMINIONI, Director of the European Institute of Cultural Routes. He intervened at a Board of Directors of the FITE in December 2015, to discuss about possible equestrian variations of the certified European Cultural Routes and a possible recognition of the FITE as an expert on equestrian tourism in Europe.

The FITE has participated in several Cultural Routes Advisory Forums: in 2015 (Aranjuez), in 2016 (Vilnius) and in 2017 (Lucca).

AVENUES FOR COOPERATION

The practice of outdoor sports, and equestrian tourism, contributes to the vitality of the territories, especially through the discovery of their cultural, historical and natural heritage. The FITE wishes to take an active part in **the creation of equestrian routes or routes shared with other outdoor sports**. These routes are in fact the pillars of the development of equestrian tourism.

In this sense, the FITE, through its NETOs, wishes to propose **equestrian versions of the certified European Cultural Routes**.

A feasibility study on the possible development of equestrian routes to the 45 cultural routes of the Council of Europe could be carried out, following the example of the inauguration of the Via Francigena on horseback in the early 2000s. This work could serve as a basis for the collaboration between the Enlarged Partial Agreement of the Council of Europe and the FITE.

Moreover, the FITE would like to contribute to the support and promotion of cultural equestrian routes of European stature.

The extension of GeoCheval.com, the French NETO's websig, on a European level could contribute to the promotion of equestrian routes having a cultural or historical thematic.

A double-labeling project could also be envisaged, by integrating the selection criterion used to certify the Cultural Route of the Council of Europe into the specifications of the Grand Itinéraire Equestre in France, with a specific version for candidates proposing a project with a transnational vocation.

Thus, **the FITE would be very honored to collaborate with the Enlarged Partial Agreement of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe on these development paths, and wishes to apply for the Observer status**.

In addition, the FITE would be very happy to participate in the 2022 Training Academy and the annual Consultative Forum of Cultural Routes to present its work and exchange with stakeholders for the purpose of an effective collaboration.

