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Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural  
Routes of the Council of Europe  
Certification cycle 2021-2022

Exceptional evaluation:  
**FORTIFIED TOWNS OF THE  
GRANDE REGION**

Independent expert report

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





**Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe  
Evaluation Cycle 2021-2022**

**Independent expert report**

**Fortified Towns of the Grande Region**

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

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Executive Summary p.5
2. Introduction p.6
3. Main Body Evaluation p.7
  - 3.1 Cultural Route Theme p.7
    - 3.1.1 Definition of the theme of the route p.7
    - 3.1.2 Historical and cultural context p.7
    - 3.1.3 Council of Europe values represented by the theme p.7
  - 3.2 Fields of Action p.7
    - 3.2.1 Co-operation in research and development p.7
    - 3.2.2 Enhancement of the memory, history and European heritage p.8
    - 3.2.3 Cultural and educational exchanges for young Europeans p.8
    - 3.2.4 Contemporary cultural and artistic practice p.9
    - 3.2.5 Cultural tourism and sustainable cultural development. P.9
  - 3.3 Cultural Route Network p.10
    - 3.3.1 Overview of institutional /legal structure of the network p.10
    - 3.3.2 Current composition of the network by country and type of member p.10
    - 3.3.3 Network extension since last evaluation p.11
    - 3.3.4 Strategy for the network extension in the three years to come p.11
  - 3.4 Communication tools p.11
    - 3.4.1 Current state of communication tools developed by the network (graphic charter, communication materials, logo, communication channels, signposting, maps, etc.) p.11
    - 3.4.2 Compliance with the Guidelines for the Use of the Logo “Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe” p.11
4. Conclusions and Recommendations p.11
5. List of references p.14
6. Annex 1: Expert field visit and/or online interviews with network management and network members p.15
7. Annex 2: Expert assessment checklist p.16

## 1. Executive Summary

The Cultural Route of Fortified Towns of the Greater Region is based on an international network which brings together in a non-profit association twelve former fortresses and fortified towns located in the Greater Region in eleven villages and cities in France, Germany and the city of Luxembourg. In 2016 this cluster of military heritage was certified as a Cultural Route of the Council of Europe. Members of the network are the local authorities which differ prominently in size and thus in their capacities.

From 2017 - 2020 the network experienced a period of stagnation mainly due to the lack of a professional manager. Although some of the individual members engage in extensive cultural and tourist activities the route as a whole remained barely visible.

The expert has the impression that this will change in the coming years considerably. The in February 2021 newly elected board with the mayor of Longwy as president and the mayors of Saarlouis and Montmedy as vice presidents brings a new dynamic to the route. First and foremost, the board wants to employ a manager with the existing available funds. New communication tools are to be created, contacts with touristic agencies sought and cultural exchanges expanded. Efforts will also be made to improve the financial situation, especially by using the European Interreg program. And the board plans to establish partnerships with other networks working on the same themes like Forte Cultura. Also, the Scientific Commission intends to resume its work.

### **Expert summary conclusions**

The theme complies with criteria listed in Resolution CM/Res(2013)67, **I. List of eligibility criteria for themes. Yes**

The Cultural Route complies with the criteria for actions listed in Resolution CM/Res(2013)67, **II. List of priority fields of action. Partly**

The Cultural Route complies with the criteria for networks listed in Resolution CM/Res (2013)67, **III. List of criteria for networks. Yes**

**The Cultural Route implements the Guidelines for the Use of the Logo “Cultural Route of the Council of Europe” Partly**

## 2. Introduction

The subject of this report is the re-evaluation of the “Cultural Route of Fortified Towns of the Greater Region” which was certified in 2016 as a Cultural Route of the Council of Europe upon an application submitted by the non-profit Association of the Fortified Towns of the Greater Region. The Network of Fortified Towns of the Greater Region brings together twelve former fortresses and fortified towns located in the Greater Region, a region which was for a long time regarded as Europe’s battlefield, represented by the local authorities to which they respectively belong.

The area covered by the sites includes Luxembourg, the French towns and villages of Bitche, Longwy, Marsal, Montmédy, Rodemack, Sierck-les Bains, Simserhof, Thionville and Toul and the German towns of Saarlouis and Homburg. The period covered by the sites dates from the Middle Ages to the twentieth century and thus provides an overview of the shared European history in times of peace and conflict.

The Cultural Route of the Fortified Towns of the Greater Region has a great potential to boost the concept of the new Europe by multiplying cultural exchanges, artistic mobility, the updating of contents and the evaluation of the value of the tangible and intangible assets of the European Network and the confluence of cultural belonging.

As the network experienced a period of stagnation during the last years the expert put the following questions to the members of the network:

Will the Route employ a full-time manager or will a member of the Route release a member of staff for this task?

When will the Route website be activated?

When will the Route become active on social media?

Why is there no reference to the cultural route on the Greater Region website?

Will the routes between the cities and towards the monuments be signposted as Council of Europe routes?

To what extent do the members of the Route refer to the Route in their various actions?

How will you jointly promote tourism?

How will the route be financed in the future?

The board's responses, which are included in the following report, show that there is a strong will to revitalize the route.

### 3. Main Body Evaluation

#### 3.1 Cultural Route Theme

##### 3.1.1 Definition of the theme of the route

On first sight the theme of the route are the impressive fortifications of the twelve sites on the route. However, the fortresses stand for a variety of other themes. Above all, they are witnesses to the history of war and peace in this region in the heart of Europe between France, Germany, Belgium and Luxembourg. The development of fortress construction and military history are also themes of this route.

##### 3.1.2 Historical and cultural context

The territory referred to today by the political term Grande Région (Greater Region) concentrates the neighbouring territories of France, Germany and Belgium around Luxembourg, which is at its heart. Over the centuries this area has been subject to numerous acts of war caused by competing political and economic interests. As a result, the region has an extraordinary concentration of fortifications. Probably no other region in Europe has so many strongholds and military buildings. In no other region of Europe have borders been moved so frequently. These shifting boundaries had to be defended by an accumulation of ever-changing fortified lines. Geologically and strategically eminently well situated, many of these fortified sites show a remarkable historical continuity. Already in use in prehistoric times, they were built in Roman times, transformed into castles in the Middle Ages, and finally, massively remodeled into fortresses in the modern era. In the past, fortresses symbolized disunity. Today they offer a common starting point for cross-border cooperation aimed at preserving cultural and historical heritage while exploring a common European past.

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

The Council of Europe itself accurately describes the European values represented by the route on its website as follows:

„Although the area was a former battlefield, nowadays the route encourages old antagonists to meet in dialogue and cooperation. Whereas, before, the fortresses were sentinels along the borders, contributing to the consolidation of fragmented territories into nation states, they now constitute a common European heritage that promotes cultural and touristic exchanges beyond borders that are fading away. Thus, this route celebrates the cohesion of the European identity in its unity and diversity.”

#### 3.2 Fields of Action

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

A working group "Science" was founded within the network of fortified towns of the Greater Region to promote scientific engagement with fortification research, historical research and scientific exchange. Beyond the above-mentioned objective, the working group has several other tasks. For example:

- to give impulses for scientific exchange
- publications, from tourist flyers to scientific volumes
- exchange and cooperation between museums

- answering specific enquiries about the fortress or its history
- in this context also an advisory function, if necessary, also with regard to the preservation of historical monuments
- lectures and events.

At present the working group is not active, However the members of the group plan to reactivate this scientific committee.

Besides there is a constant exchange between some of its members; sometimes bilaterally, sometimes with several colleagues. This exchange is usually related to concrete projects, such as mutual support for exhibitions, lectures or conferences.

An example of this is the Fortress Forum Saarlouis. This conference is organized by the City of Saarlouis, its concept has been based on cooperation between colleagues from the network from the very beginning. Through the respective continuing contacts, it has in the meantime been possible to establish a regular international symposium taking place every second year. Participants not only come from the Region but from all over Europe. In 2021 the Forum took place on October 23.

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

Through the chain of fortresses, the route takes up a central theme of the European culture of memory, that of past conflicts. The presence of fortifications reminds us of the competition for power between dynasties and states. Fortresses which in the past were sentinels along the borders, helping to consolidate the territorial fragmentation into nation-states are today a common European heritage that promotes cultural and tourist exchange across non-visible borders.

The members of the Route of Fortified Towns of the Greater Region coming from three countries all promote activities enhancing the memory and history of the time of conflict turned into a time of pan European peace. Such activities also point out the development of the fortifications through the centuries thus broadening the view on the European architectural heritage. The majority of activities is undertaken unilaterally. They include on-the-ground interpretation in writing or orally, publications, guided tours, websites etc.

### 3.2.3 Cultural and Educational Exchanges for Young Europeans

Visits to historic fortified sites are included in many school excursion calendars in the Greater Region. On site, young people are usually given in-depth, age-appropriate guidance.

All members offer guided tours of their fortifications and museums and educational workshops for children and young people. These offers, which are primarily aimed at a local audience, can nevertheless generate cross-border school exchanges.

A good example gives the City of Saarlouis which organizes a holiday camp for 24 French and German young people as part of its twinning with the town of Saint-Nazaire.

The program includes the discovery of the fortifications and a city rally. This rally is also organized during visits of students from partner schools in France, Poland and Hungary. Also worth mentioning are the Comenius projects "Ich als europäischer Bürger - ich und meine Stadt" and "2000 Jahre gemeinsame Geschichte im Dreiländereck" carried out by two secondary schools in Saarlouis. In the first project a game was developed which uses the map

of the Saarlouis fortress has a game plan and in the second project the pupils learn about the life and work of Sébastien Le Prestre de Vauban.

### 3.2.4 Contemporary Cultural and Artistic Practice

There is a lively cultural life in the larger towns on the route. Some cultural events take place in the fortifications. An impressive event was the "Citadelles de Feu" in 2007, a festival of light and music in the fortifications, in which several members of the route took part (published as a book; ISBN 978-2-87692-756-8). The history of Thionville, in which the fortress plays an important role, was artistically illustrated in comic form (published as a book; ISBN 978-2-7468-4135-2). In more recent times (2019 - 2021) film nights took place in Longwy, Homburg, Rodemack and Toul; theatre was performed in Homburg, concerts given Rodemack, Toul and Saarlouis, fireworks and illuminations in Toul and Saarlouis.

### 3.2.5 Cultural Tourism and Sustainable Development

The particular topography of the fortifications favours a "gentle", slow-paced tourism. The sites can often only be visited on foot, close to nature. Already in 2009, the Fortified Towns Network, the predecessor of the route, diversified its cultural offer by creating an annual event in the form of a "picnic", which is an invitation to discover the fortifications by day and from a different perspective. The public can attend events around a lunch on the grass: shows by street art companies, book sellers, a local market, etc. The towns of Longwy, Montmédy and Saarlouis meet every year to share the conviviality that characterizes the network in an enchanted setting. As for the city of Luxembourg, it has opted for an annual hike through the extensive fortifications, which allows the city to be circumnavigated in four hours.

Most of the touristic activities are organized by the members of the route individually, e.g. guided tours and hikes to the fortress and the Schlossberg in Homburg, since 2018 in the period April-October. The collaboration between partners focused on organizing study trips from Saarlouis (Volkshochschule Saarlouis) to other locations from the network until 2017. Sustained tourism collaboration has been established between the city of Saarlouis and the tourism office in Rodemack. To some extent exchanges and collaborations took place between cultural departments of various cities and museums.

At present, no tour operator has included the route in their catalogues. However, the members of the route maintain individual contacts with tour operators. For example, the City of Saarlouis has contacts with 46 bus companies which have included a visit to the Saarlouis fortifications in their excursion programs.

All members of the route have hotel and/or restaurant facilities. However, the shops, restaurants and accommodation providers do not focus their services solely on the fortifications. The tourist activity of the members of the route is focused on the military heritage besides other points of attraction such as the enamels of Longwy, the history of salt in Marsal or the cathedral of Toul... to name but a few.

The Pays de Longwy tourist office has developed a number of local products related to the fortified heritage. Local restaurateurs offer the "Vauban menu" and pastry chefs have created a new pastry speciality: the Vauban star. In Saarlouis, Ludwig Schokolade GmbH sells its chocolates in boxes decorated with motifs from the fortified heritage.

Most of the sites have developed individually products with fortification motifs for tourists like postcards, pins, key rings, plates, T-shirts, etc.

### 3.3 Cultural Route Network

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

The network of Fortified Towns of the Greater Region is a French non-profit association under the 1908 law (Alsace-Moselle local law) which currently brings together local authorities and communities of communes in France (Lorraine), Germany (Saarland) and Luxembourg.

The mission of this cross-border heritage association is to:

- preserve the cross-border natural, architectural and historical heritage while exploring a common past,
- to cooperate by pooling the know-how of the member towns and communities,
- coordinate the actions of the towns in the fields of heritage, culture and tourism on the scale of the Greater Region,
- share a cross-border exchange of skills in the fields of interpretation, heritage conservation, spatial planning and promotion strategies,
- to develop scientific activities through colloquia and workshops in the Greater Region

The association is open to membership by other local authorities in the Greater Region or communities that own or manage a fortified site of any period.

The board of the association which was newly elected in the General Assembly on February 24, 2021 comprises the President (the mayor of Longwy Jean-Marc Fournel), four vice presidents, among them the mayors of Montmedy and Saarlouis, and a treasurer.

The route has no manager which impairs the functioning of the route. The expert was told by all his interlocutors that the engagement of a manager has highest priority within the network. The board has recognized that Cultural Route of Fortified Towns of the Greater Region is the only route out of 35 which touch France that has no manager. Thus, the board is fully aware that the recruitment of a manager is crucial for the functioning of the route.

The membership fees are to be used preferentially for this purpose. They amount to about € 28.000 annually (the smallest member Marsal with 240 inhabitants pays a fee of € 500 each year, members with less than 10 000 inhabitants like Bitche € 1 000, members with less than 20 000 inhabitants like Longwy € 2 500 and the biggest members like Luxembourg € 5 000). And there is still a cash balance of about 50,000€ which can be used for this purpose. Adding the membership fees for 2021 and 2022 the board counts on budget of about 100.000 €. The board thinks that this budget should be sufficient to hire at least a part time manager and initiate planned projects. Efforts will also be made to obtain money from European sources especially the EU Interreg program and national funding schemes for the route. The board also plans to establish partnerships with tourism and cultural actors and other networks with similar themes like FORTE CULTURA.

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

The network is made up of twelve towns from three countries: France, Germany and Luxembourg. The member towns vary in size. They include villages like Marsal with 240 inhabitants medium sized cities like Longwy and big cities, the biggest of which is Luxembourg with 125 000 inhabitants

### 3.3.3 Network extension since last evaluation

Since the certification of the route as Cultural Route of the Council of Europe in 2016 the network was not enlarged.

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

At present there are no concrete plans to extend the network. According to the proposed action plan 2021 - 2023 former attempts to win the Belgian cities of Arlon and Namur to join the route will be revived.

## 3.4 Communication tools

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

At present there are no communication tools created by the network itself available. The expert was told that a map of the route depicting the twelve sites is being prepared. A proposed action plan 2021 - 2023 of the network envisages furthermore the production of a touristic brochure, the production of „goodies” like postcards, placemats and the like, a small book presenting all the sites of the route

The former website by the network (<http://www.villesfortifiees.eu>) now leads to dubious commercial firm. Bids are currently sought for the creation and operation of a new website as well as a new common email address. The Facebook site of the network which was active until 2016 is being reactivated the expert was told. In future there will also be a reference to the route on the website of the Greater Region (<http://www.granderegion.net/en>).

Most of the members of the route have their own communication material, On the material relating to the fortifications which was presented to the expert usually the logo „Villes Fortifiees/Festungsstädte/Grande Region” is shown, on some of them the logo „Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe” as well.

Until today the route itself has not yet been signposted but in the cities, signposts lead to the sites. The board plans to establish a working group for tourism before the end of 2021. This working group will among other tasks will also look into the necessity of signposting the route.

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

On the communication material of the members of the route which the expert could inspect the use of the logo as far as it was placed on the material was in compliance with the guidelines.

## 4. Conclusions and Recommendations

The theme of the Cultural Route of Fortified Towns of the Greater Region covers common European roots. It represents a common historical and cultural European heritage. It offers a solid basis for cultural, educational, scientific and touristic exchanges which can exemplify the development from a war-torn Europe to a peacefully united Europe. However, the potential of

the route has not yet been fully exploited. The individual members of the network partly offer extensive cultural and tourist events and programs in or in connection with their fortifications but cooperation under the umbrella of the route is still expandable and should be developed.

The in February 2021 newly elected board of the route association has clearly recognized that since 2017 the tasks associated with a route certified by the Council of Europe have been neglected. The expert has the impression that a new dynamic is now developing that promises to make the route more visible in every respect.

The expert agrees with the network's plans and strongly recommends hiring a manager to coordinate and develop the members' activities. Furthermore, the tourism working group should be set up as soon as possible. Together with the manager it should work on publishing new communication material, develop a new website, convince tour operators to develop package tours along the route and care for proper signposting along the route. All these tasks should of course be fulfilled in compliance with the regulations of the Council of Europe for cultural routes.

In order to strengthen the financial basis, European funding programs, especially the Interreg program should be used. The major members of the network should use their experience in applying for funding for the tasks of the route.

As proposed by the board the network should partner with Forte Cultura, the European Route of Fortified Monuments ([www.forte-cultura.eu](http://www.forte-cultura.eu)) either as an associate or as a full member. Forte Cultura is a Europe wide network of clusters of fortified monuments in 16 European countries founded in 2014. It has a professional management which is of big help to the members of the network taking care of marketing, contacts to tour operators etc. A cooperation with Forte Cultura could be a big asset for a new manager for the route. The Route of Fortified Towns of the Greater Region would retain its autonomy and its certification or should Forte Cultura itself be certified in the future be part of that certification.

In the following overview, reference is made to the recommendations of the 2015-2016 evaluation.

CRITERIA	Recommendations previous evaluation 2017-2018	Has the route addressed the recommendation since the last evaluation?		Recommendations current evaluation 2021-2022
		YES	NO	
<b><i>I. Cultural route theme</i></b>	Define the theme more precisely		x	A task for the scientific working group
	Define the theme more precisely		x	A task for the scientific working group

<b>II. Priority fields of action</b>	<b>Cooperation in research and development</b>	Integrate experts on communication and tourism		x	Establish a working group on tourism
	<b>Enhancement of memory, history and European heritage</b>	---			---
	<b>Cultural and educational exchanges for young Europeans</b>	Establish educational programs for young people		x	Realisation of the old recommendation
		Publish didactic guidebooks		x	Realisation of the old recommendation
	<b>Contemporary cultural and artistic practice</b>	Organize a festival which brings together artistic performances from all the sites on the route		x	Realisation of the old recommendation
	<b>Cultural Tourism and Sustainable Cultural development</b>	Cooperation with tour operators; Development of a website and making use of social media; interaction with other cultural routes		x	Realisation of the old recommendation
	<b>III. Cultural Route Network</b>	Develop a handbook of best practices for managing the sites of the route		x	Realisation of the old recommendation
<b>Communication Tools</b>	Develop an interactive website to promote touristic activities		x	Realisation of the old recommendation	

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## 5. List of References

All documents required for the evaluation were duly submitted (except for a financial statement) by Cultural Route of Fortified Towns of the Greater Region. The Certification Form (59 pages), the Self-Assessment Grid and the Declaration of Honor. These documents were supplemented as required by the legal statutes of the network, a list of members, the minutes of a meeting of the board on December 12, 2020, the minutes of two extraordinary General Assemblies of January 14, 2021 and February 24, 2021, the proposal of an Action Plan 2021 - 2023 and a short history of the network.

In addition, Ms. Silvia Beltramo's evaluation report of the evaluation cycle 2015 - 2016; Ms. Laura Demeter's evaluation report of the evaluation cycle 2019 - 2020 and Ms. Josee Hansen's report on the route commissioned by the Luxembourg Ministry of Culture in 2021 were available to the expert. The expert also included in his report the content of the written answers given by the newly elected board to the questions he had addressed to the members of the network on Sept.29,2021.

## Annex 1

Field visit to Longwy, Thionville, Luxembourg and Saarlouis.

From November 8 to 10, 2021 the expert visited the biggest cities on the route.

In Longwy on November 8 in the morning the expert met Mr. Jean Marc Fournel, the Mayor of Longwy and President of the route ([fournel@mairie-longwy.fr](mailto:fournel@mairie-longwy.fr)) and Mr. Olivier Cortesi, ([cortesi@mairie-longwy.fr](mailto:cortesi@mairie-longwy.fr)), Director of the city of Longwy responsible for culture, heritage, tourism etc. After an extensive exchange of informations he visited the fortifications and the museum of the city.

In the afternoon of November 8 the expert departed for Thionville where he was welcomed by Mr. Bruno Touveron, Director of the museum ([touveron.B@mairie-thionville.fr](mailto:touveron.B@mairie-thionville.fr)) and Mr. Jackie Helfgott ([helfgott.Jackie@mairie-thionville.fr](mailto:helfgott.Jackie@mairie-thionville.fr)), Deputy Mayor of Thionville in charge of culture and tourism and President of the Tourism Commission of the Regional Council Grand Est. Mr. Olivier Kormann ([olivier.Kormann@mairie-rodemack.fr](mailto:olivier.Kormann@mairie-rodemack.fr)), Mayor of Rodemack joined our discussions. A visit of the museum with the temporary exhibition „Napoleon” followed the discussions.

On November 9, 2021, the expert paid a visit to the European Institute of Cultural Routes in Luxembourg where he met its Director Mr. Stefano Dominiononi and Ms. Carolina Clark, project officer. The afternoon was reserved for Mr. Guy Thewes ([gthewes@2musees.vdl.lu](mailto:gthewes@2musees.vdl.lu)), Director of the Luxembourg Museums with whom the state of the route was extensively discussed. A visit to the Luxembourg History Museum followed.

November 10, 2021, was spent in Saarlouis. There the expert met the Mayor of Saarlouis Mr. Peter Demmer, Ms. Christiane Bähr ([christiane.Baehr@saarlouis.de](mailto:christiane.Baehr@saarlouis.de)) responsible for cross-border cooperation in the City of Saarlouis, Mr. Benedikt Loew ([benedikt.Loew@saarlouis.de](mailto:benedikt.Loew@saarlouis.de)), Director of the City Museum and Mr. Jürgen Baus Urban Planner of Saarlouis. Mr. Michael Emser ([michael.Emser@homburg.de](mailto:michael.Emser@homburg.de)), Deputy Head of the Department of Urban History and Monument Preservation of the City of Homburg and Ms. Petra Simon ([petra.simon@homburg.de](mailto:petra.simon@homburg.de)), responsible for city partnerships in Homburg joined the meeting as well as Mr. Cyrill Fritz, Director of the Fortress in Bitche ([citadelle-bitche-lorange.fr](http://citadelle-bitche-lorange.fr)). During the meeting the fortress and the museum of Saarlouis were visited.

Main topics of all meetings were questions of how to revive the route and ways of financing the revival. All persons the expert met agreed on the necessity of a full or at least part time manager for the route.

Annex 2

Expert Assessment Check List

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?	x			
	2	Does the theme of the route offer a solid basis for youth cultural and educational exchanges?	x			
	3	Does the theme of the route offer a solid basis for innovative activities?	x			
	4	Does the theme of the route offer a solid basis for cultural tourism products development?	x			
	5	Has the theme been researched/developed by academics/experts from different regions of Europe?	x			
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?	x		
		7	Does the Route play a unifying role around major European themes, enabling dispersed knowledge to be brought together?	x		
		8	Does the Route show how these themes are representative of European values shared by several European countries?	x		
		9	Does the Route illustrate the development of these values and the variety of forms they may take in Europe?	x		
		10	Does the Route have a network of universities and research center working on its theme at the European level?		x	
		11	Does the Route have a multidisciplinary Scientific Committee?	x		The Committee is at present not active; it will be reactivated; a multidisciplinary approach is planned.
		12	Does the Scientific Committee work on its theme at the European level?	x		
		13	Does the Scientific Committee carry out research and analysis of the issues relevant to its theme and/or activities on the theoretical level?	x		
		14	Does the Scientific Committee carry out research and analysis of the issues relevant to its theme and/or activities on the practical level?	x		
		3.2.2 Enhancement of the memory, history and European	15	Do the Route activities take into account and explain the historical significance of tangible and intangible European heritage ?	x	
	16		Do the Route activities promote the values of the Council of Europe?	x		
	17		Do the Route activities promote the brand of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe?	x		Very limited.
	18		Does the route work in conformity with international charters and conventions on cultural heritage preservation?	x		
	19		Do the Route activities identify, preserve and develop European heritage sites in rural destinations?	x		

		20	Do the Route activities identify, preserve and develop European heritage sites in industrial areas in the process of economic restructuring?		x	
		21	Do the Route activities valorize the heritage of ethnic or social minorities in Europe?		x	
		22	Do the Route activities contribute to a better understanding of the concept of cultural heritage, the importance of its preservation and sustainable development?	x		
		23	Do the Route activities enhance physical and intangible heritage, explain its historical significance and highlight its similarities in the different regions of Europe?	x		
		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, ...)?	x		
		25	Are the youth exchanges (cultural and educational) planned to develop a better understanding of the concept of European citizenship?	x		
		26	Are the youth exchanges (cultural and educational) planned to emphasize the value of new personal experience through visiting diverse places?	x		
		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?	x		
		28	Are the youth exchanges (cultural and educational) planned to offer collaborative opportunities for educational institutions at various levels?	x		Not yet at all levels.
		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?	x		
3.2.3 Cultural and educational exchanges of young Europeans	30	Are the youth exchanges (cultural and educational) planned to set up pilot schemes with several participating countries?		x		
	31	Are the youth exchanges (cultural and educational) planned to give rise to co-operation activities which involve educational institutions at various levels?	x		Not yet at all levels.	
	32	Do the Route's cultural activities promote intercultural dialogue and multidisciplinary exchange between various artistic expressions in European countries?	x			
	33	Do the Route's cultural activities encourage artistic projects that establish links between cultural heritage and contemporary culture?	x			
	34	Do the Route's cultural activities encourage innovative cultural and contemporary art practices* connecting them with the history of skills development?		x		
	35	Do the Route's cultural activities encourage collaboration between culture amateurs and professionals via relevant activities and networks creation?*		x		
	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?	x			
	37	Do the Route's cultural activities encourage activities and artistic projects which explore the links between heritage and contemporary culture?	x			
	38	Do the Route's cultural activities highlight the most innovative and creative practices?		x		
	3.2.4 Contemporary cultural and artistic practice					

3.2.5 Cultural tourism and sustainable cultural development	39	Do the Route's cultural activities link these innovative and creative practices with the history of skills development?***		x	
	40	Do the Route's activities (relevant to sustainable cultural tourism development) assist in local, regional, national and/ or European identity formation?	x		
	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?		x	Print and social media marketing is planned.
	42	Do the Route's activities promote dialogue between urban and rural communities and cultures?		x	
	43	Do the Route's activities promote dialogue between developed and disadvantaged regions?		x	
	44	Do the Route's activities promote dialogue between different regions (south, north, east, west) of Europe?		x	
	45	Do the Route's activities promote dialogue between majority and minority (or native and immigrant) cultures?		x	
	46	Do the Route's activities open possibilities for co-operation between Europe and other continents?		x	
	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?	x		
	48	Do the Route's activities aim to diversify cultural product, service and activities offers?	x		At present such offers are limited. It is planned to expand them.
	49	Do the Route's activities develop and offer quality cultural tourism products, services or activities transnationally?	x		At present such activities are limited. It is planned to expand them.
	50	Do the Route's activities develop partnerships with public and private organisations active in the field of tourism?		x	Such partnerships are planned.
	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?		x	It is planned to prepare and use such tools.
	3.3 NETWORK	52	Does the Route represent a network involving at least three Council of Europe's member states?	x	
53		Was the theme of the route chosen and accepted by the network members?	x		
54		Was the conceptual framework of the route founded on a scientific basis?	x		
55		Does the network involve several Council of Europe member states in all or part of its projects?	x		
56		Is the network financially sustainable?	x		The financial basis is weak. It is planned to raise additional financial sources.
57		Does the network have a legal status (association, federation of associations, EEIG,...)?	x		
58		Does the network operate democratically?	x		
59		Does the network specify its objectives and working methods?	x		
60		Does the network specify the regions concerned by the project?	x		
61		Does the network specify its partners and participating countries?	x		
62		Does the network specify the fields of action involved?	x		At present only limited.

	63	Does the network specify its overall strategy in the short and long term?		x		
	64	Does the network identify potential participants and partners in Council of Europe member states and/or other world countries?		x		
	65	Does the network provide details of its financing (financial reports and/or activity budgets)?		x		
	66	Does the network provide details of its operational plan?		x		
	67	Does the network append the basic text(s) confirming its legal status?	x			
3.4 COMMUNICATION TOOLS	For certified Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe only	68	Does the Route have its own logo?	x		
		69	Do all partners of the network use the logo on their communication tools?	x		
		70	Does the Route have its own dedicated website ?		x	A new website is planned.
		71	Is it the website available in English and French?		x	
		72	Is it the website available in other languages?		x	
		73	Does the network use effectively social networks and web 2.0?		x	Activities on Facebook are planned.
		74	Does the network publish brochures on the Route?		x	The publication of such brochures and maps is planned.
		75	If yes, are the brochures available in English?		x	
		76	If yes, are the brochures available in French?		x	
		77	Is the title of "Cultural Route of the Council of Europe" present on all communication materials (including press releases, webpages, publications, etc.)?		x	
	78	Is the certification logo present on all communication materials?		x		
	79	Is the certification logo used in accordance to the guidelines for its use (size and position,...)?	x		The expert found the logo only on one publication. There it was correctly used.	
	80	Are the logos (Cultural Route + certification logo) provided to all the members of the Route?		x		
81	Does the Council of Europe certification logo appear on road signs/ boards indicating the cultural route?		x	Signposting is planned.		
SCORE			50	31		