



THE EUROPEAN
ROUTE OF
HISTORIC
THERMAL
TOWNS

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

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE



European Route of Historic Thermal Towns

Café of Europe 2022 - Thermal Villages: Rural Development Opportunities

Summary

The 2022 Café of Europe, entitled "Thermal Villages: Rural Development Opportunities", was held in the Portalera Thermal Laundry in Caldes de Montbui and online.

Caldes de Montbui has developed many uses for thermal waters, from being a key ingredient in local gastronomic specialities to irrigating crops in the fields with waste thermal water. This is an ancient tradition which has been reinstated after a restoration project in the "thermal orchards". The event venue was one of several historic thermal laundries in the town, used until relatively recently for the town's washing, and whose waters irrigate the crops nearby.

The Café of Europe heard from Patricia Carmona, UNWTO Programme Officer about the UNWTO's "Best Rural Villages" programme as well as about projects in small thermal settlements:

Caldes de Montbui (Spain) and the wider Catalan region - Association of Thermal Villages in Catalunya, La Garriga (Barcelona), El Vendrell (Tarragona), Caldes de Malavella (Girona), Saint-Paul-lès-Dax (France). Experts from S. Pedro do Sul (Portugal), INORDE - Ourense Province (Spain), Bad Ems (Germany), Halkidiki Tourism Organization (Greece) also featured in the programme.

Approximately 40 people were present in person and there were nearly 400 views on facebook

The event was well-covered in the local news.

More information:

<https://votv.alacarta.cat/caldes-de-montbui/noticia/previa-a-la-mostra-de-cultura-catalana-a-la-trobada-de-viles-termals-de-caldes-de-montbui>

Main objectives

EHTTA's Cafés of Europe are occasional seminars held at General Assemblies, to examine particular subjects suggested by the EHTTA Scientific Committee as being of interest to the Cultural Route and its Members.

Fields of action

- Co-operation in research and development
- Enhancement of memory, history and European heritage
- Cultural and educational exchanges for young Europeans
- Contemporary cultural and artistic practice
- Cultural tourism and sustainable cultural development

Type of Best practice

Conference

Contact information

Address: Hôtel de Ville, Rue de l'Hôtel de Ville, 44, 4900 Spa, BELGIUM

contact@ehtta.eu

www.historicthermaltowns.eu

Date and Venue

4 May 2022
Caldes de Montbui, Catalunya, Spain

General Assembly Meeting

5 May 2022
Caldes de Montbui, Spain

10 November 2022
Online