

Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe Evaluation Cycle 2019-2020

Expert report

“Pyrenean Iron Route”

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



**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. 4
2. Introduction	p. 5
3. Main Body Evaluation	p. 6
3. 1. Cultural Route Theme	p. 6
3. 2. Fields of Action	p. 6
3. 2. 1. Co-operation in research and development	p. 6
3. 2. 2. Enhancement of the memory, history and European heritage	p. 8
3. 2. 3. Echanges culturels et éducatifs des jeunes Européens	p. 9
3. 2. 4. Cultural and educational exchanges for young Europeans	p. 9
3. 2. 5. Contemporary cultural and artistic practice	p. 10
3. 3. Cultural Route Network	p. 11
3. 3. 1. Network extension since last evaluation	p. 11
3. 3. 2. Network extension in the three years to come	p. 12
3. 4. Communication tools	p. 13
3. 4. 1. Compliance with the Guidelines for the Use of the Logo “Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe”	p. 14
4. Conclusions and Recommendations	p. 15
5. List of references	p. 20
6. Annex 1: Field visit programme	p. 20
7. Annex 2: Expert assessment checklist	p. 22

1. Executive Summary

In May 2004, the project "Pyrenean Iron Route" was certified as a Cultural Route of the Council of Europe.

The Route was then composed of ten sites, one in Andorra, seven in Spain (in the Basque Country, Navarre and Catalonia) and two in France (in the Aquitaine and Midi-Pyrénées). All the sites that were part of the Route were recovered, promoted, open to the public, but they were not really connected within a network, and therefore did not constitute a real Route. It was a Route from a theoretical point of view, with a huge potential, but not from a practical point of view.

The Route also faced an imbalance with the number of sites in each country, mainly between Spain (seven sites) and France (two sites). In Andorra, although only the Rossell Forge - Iron Interpretation Centre was part of the Route, there were nevertheless several other sites scattered throughout the country (mines, coal mines, mining and ironworks, reduction forges, for example) which lead to a strengthened and diversified supply.

The previous evaluation report underlined the following recommendations:

- a) To solve a major problem for the functioning of the Route, i.e. to put into operation the « Pyrenean Iron Route » association.
- b) To expand the Route to new partners, with the integration of other places where the iron industry has had a significant impact.

Both recommendations have been implemented and the Route has been relaunched in February 2017. As a result, the administrative situation of the Route's Association has been completely unblocked. The statutes have been approved and a first three-year plan has been prepared until the end of 2019.

Currently, a number of activities are under way with regards to cooperation in research and development, as well as the enhancement of memory, history and heritage. A travelling exhibition on the industrial heritage of the Pyrenean Iron Route was conceived and presented in the different places of the Route from July 2018 to December 2019.

2. Introduction

According to its promoters, « the Route is consistent with the spirit and lines drawn by the European Institute of Cultural Routes, whose aim is to strengthen unity between its members through culture, while promoting the unity and diversity of European identity. For new generations, awareness of a common European identity and values remains essential. This heritage as a reflection of history must be promoted in order to identify these values and find the links between the different regions and cultures ».

However, from 2011 onwards, the « Pyrenean Iron Route » faced some difficulties that led to its interruption, in 2015-16, by unanimous decision of the members. The Route was then taken over early 2017 after the Ministry of Culture of Andorra had decided to reactivate the initiative, bringing a new momentum to the Route.

The overall objective of the Route is to build on and enhance the material evidence of the steel industry (a strong activity which has played a key role over the years in all of these regions, also in the creation of the society we live in) through cooperation joint actions, and to develop a cultural tourism Route to promote this rich industrial heritage. In this way, this Route will not only help strengthen the cultural identity of its regions within a European framework, but also diversify the tourist offer by promoting socio-economic development.

In 2017 the Route was rebuilt on the basis of 11 institutions covering 14 sites. As of September 2019, the new admissions amount to 20 institutions and 27 sites, plus various associated organizations (including historical sites, museums, government and municipal institutions, cultural organizations, tourism organizations and SMEs). All these entities, amounting to 62, belong to three countries: Andorra (12 entities), Spain (37 entities) and France (13 entities). The extension of the Route to other regions of Spain and France, as well as to Portugal and Italy, is under consideration.

The « Pyrenean Iron Route » is managed by a homonymous association composed of representatives from Andorra, Catalonia, Guipuzkoa and Nouvelle-Aquitaine. The legal address of the association corresponds to the address of the Lenbur Foundation and is located at 16, rue Bikuña-Enea, 20230 Legazpi (Gipuzkoa, Spain).

3. Main Body Evaluation

3. 1. Cultural Route Theme

The theme of the « Pyrenean Iron Route » - iron and its production - fulfills all the criteria required for the creation of a Cultural Route of the Council of Europe. The production of iron clearly represents a common historical, cultural and heritage value for European countries.

Over the years, the production of iron has been a fundamental activity for human survival and, during the period of industrialization, the use of this material in civil construction has been responsible for the building and evolution of contemporary societies. All the departments and regions that are part of this Route have experienced from an early stage a continuous iron production, of which there are many traces and outcomes, such as mines, workshops and factories, in addition to products and material structures (such as bridges, viaducts, and all the iron architecture), as well as a whole heritage integrating social, artistic and intangible aspects. Moreover, directly or indirectly, the productive and commercial activity integrated the iron-producing communities in an interregional, or even international/European space.

Therefore, the theme of this Route reflects this concern to know and reveal the importance gained by the iron production over the years, to promote this heritage consisting of sites and objects, but also of gestures, knowledge, memories and myths, strengthening the unity between its members and contributing to the strengthening of a common European identity.

3. 2. Fields of action

3. 2. 1. Co-operation in research and development

Co-operation in research and development is one of the most important activities undertaken by the « Pyrenean Iron Route », which has created a platform for research cooperation based on a network of Universities and research centres working on this subject.

Within the framework of this cooperation platform, an international scientific committee has been appointed, composed of archaeological and historical researchers, who have carried out studies on the production of iron in the different regions of the Route from the Middle Ages to the present day. The scientific committee is not yet fully constituted and reaching out to other researchers is being considered to ensure wide representation.

The scientific committee is currently composed of the following researchers: Catherine Verna, University professor in medieval history at the University of Paris 8 Vincennes-Saint-Denis, member of the national committee of the CNRS (the French National Center for Scientific Research); Florian Tereygeol, archaeologist, CNRS research fellow, specialized in the study of mining and medieval metallurgy, works at the ArchéoMATériaux Institute; Jean Cantelaube, PhD in history (University of Toulouse), specialized in the history of technology and more particularly of steel and direct steelmaking process; Josep M. Bosch Casadevall, PhD in medieval history (University of Barcelona), specialized in archaeology. He is co-director of the line of research on romanization, feudalism and iron production in the valley of Andorra and has led archaeological campaigns on different cultural goods; Mertxe Urteaga, PhD (University of Valladolid), specialized in iron production in Gipuzkoa; beginning with his early works, he opted for the field of palaeosiderurgy and archaeometallurgy, studying mineral resources and their transformation into metals within the period from Prehistory to the 20th century; he participated in the excavations of the Agorregi forge (Aia, Gipuzkoa), where he developed the restoration plan for this monument, and collaborated in similar projects in Cantabria (Cades forge), Bizkaia (Pobal forge) or Andorra (Rossell forge), and he also produced the catalogue of the hydraulic forges of Gipuzkoa; and Olivier Codina Vialette, PhD in History (University of Perpignan) and member of the Historical Research Unit of the Cultural Heritage Department of Andorra; he has devoted his research to the characterization of the economy and the study of social transformations in the Principality of Andorra during the 16th and 19th centuries; he also manages the line of research on iron through which archaeological and documentary studies have been developed. In addition, he participated in several museological projects, among which the project of the Rossell Forge - Iron Interpretation Centre stands out.

It is important to point out that one of the first tasks undertaken by the scientific committee is to further develop and validate the criteria for widening the « Pyrenean Iron Route ». The existence of a scientific committee will also enable co-operation to develop European values, as part of its research into the history and heritage of the steel industry in the different regions along the Route. The production, trade and use of iron over the centuries is one of the major European themes, and the research to be carried out by the scientific committee will make it possible to bring together and systematize a set of knowledge that has been scattered over the centuries.

The network of the « Pyrenean Iron Route » provides a solid basis for increasing the range of cultural tourism products, thus contributing to the sustainable development of the concerned regions.

3. 2. 2. Enhancement of the memory, history and European heritage

Iron as a theme is clearly representative of European history, memory and heritage, contributing to the interpretation of the diversity of the present Europe.

The importance and the scope of iron mining and production has left an indelible mark on the history, memory and landscape of the European continent, which finds here one of its best forms of representation. The iron and steel industry, to a greater or lesser extent, has affected all European countries and has produced a tangible and intangible heritage which, despite the specific features of the various regions, has contributed to the creation of its own cultural identity. Through its iron-related heritage resources, organized into 3 main sections (mining and forestry, production, and trade), the « Pyrenean Iron Route » explains the historical importance of the tangible and intangible heritage of this activity, in its multiple diversity, as well as the traces left in the different regions. A synthesis of this evidence will be presented in the work on modern Andorran iron and steel industry, which will deal with the « Catalan-style » production of iron in the western Pyrenees and in the metal markets in the north and south of the Pyrenean mountain range. Five specialized academic authors are collaborating on this synthesis study, which will be published in 2020.

Because of their historical and heritage importance, the sites and monuments that make up the Route are well protected by the conservation policies of the countries and regions in which they are located, which respond to the needs of restoration, protection and improvement, landscape and spatial planning. The heritage-related maps, conventions, recommendations and work of the Council of Europe, UNESCO and ICOMOS are also taken into account.

From what I observed during the recent field visit to Guipuzkoa, but also during other previous visits to Catalonia, Andorra and Aquitaine, I recognize the high quality of the sites that make up the Route, in terms of the scientific research work supporting the exhibitions they present, the conservation of their heritage, their museography and museology and the promotional material they provide.

Some sites deserve to be highlighted: the Arms Industry Museum in Eibar, the Machine Tool Museum in Elgoibar, the Mirandaola Forge, the Ironworks Route and Basque Museum of Iron, the Route of Workers in Legazpi (the workers' housing, the school, the chapel and the Fabrika), and the Basque Railway Museum in Azpeitia. Further sites to be underlined are the Rossell Forge - Iron Interpretation Centre in Andorra, the Iron Route of the Madriu Valley - Escaldes - Engordany (inscribed on the World Heritage List) also in Andorra, the Palau de Ripoll Forge, the Cercs Mine Museum in Catalonia, and the site of the Arthez d'Asson Forge in the Pays de Nay, Nouvelle-Aquitaine, who will soon implement its project to enhance and consolidate its structures.

3. 2. 3. Cultural and educational exchanges for young Europeans

There is no doubt that the « Pyrenean Iron Route » is an excellent platform for cultural and educational exchanges for young Europeans. The participation of young people in the visits to the different sites of the Route leads to sharing experiences of great cultural and educational importance, contributing to a better understanding of the concept of European citizenship.

Despite some initiatives undertaken during the European Heritage Days, this type of cultural and educational exchange has not yet been developed in a transversal way within the Route. The great potential of the Route as a platform for cultural and educational exchanges must therefore be much more explored, which requires a strategic approach. The Route can easily achieve this objective by mobilizing its members, providing effective cultural and educational exchanges for young Europeans.

The three-year programme 2020-2023 intends to introduce an international plan for raising awareness among young people and initiate them to dry stone architecture. This international plan will be part of the project for the restoration of the historic paths of the Madriu forge, in coordination with the Andorran National UNESCO Committee and the association of dry stone craftsmen.

3. 2. 4. Contemporary cultural and artistic practice

Although not systematically, the « Pyrenean Iron Route » explores the links between industrial heritage and contemporary culture, especially through the museum dedicated to the life and work of Eduardo Chillida, a well-known world-class Basque sculptor and engraver.

Located in a former paper mill, named Fabrika, in the centre of Legazpi, the site was converted into a cultural space, the Chillida Lantoki (Chillida's workplace), which houses the artist's forge and paper workshops, among other things. The exhibition, which is highly original and in close link with the industrial machinery used by Chillida, shows the processes used by the artist to work with iron and paper. Through this museum, art and industry come together and visitors can feel the contact and perceive the sound of iron. Visitors can also observe the morphological modification of the metal in Chillida's work and how he used heavy machinery to create his works.

Fabrika is also a place dedicated to the industrialization of the Basque Country through social relations using manufactured products and advertisements from the most representative factories of this history. The advertising posters of products manufactured by Basque industries, some of them of high quality, also make it possible to understand the evolution of this artistic activity, from its beginnings to the contemporary era.

Within the framework of the three-year programme 2020-2023, several initiatives are also being considered with regard to contemporary cultural and artistic practice. A digital photo competition will be organized, open to all the territories of the Route. The aim is to bring together creative and pedagogical aspects (art and new technologies) as well as to involve well-known photographers (amateurs and professionals). In the future, this competition should be accompanied by a photographic exhibition, presenting its results, which will be made available to the members of the Route. It is also planned to organise an international symposium on contemporary sculpture, as part of the Iron Men Route of Ordino, in order to continue the previous editions.

3. 2. 5. Cultural tourism and sustainable cultural development

As a cultural tourism Route, the « Pyrenean Iron Route » seeks to develop activities that ensure sustainable cultural development, either by disseminating its heritage to the entities and communities of the different regions that integrate it, or to the general public interested in visiting its different centres. This dissemination activity was carried out during the first three-year programming period (2017-2019) via written press, radio and television. The website was only made available now (November 2019).

In this first revival period of the Route, the main objective was to regain and strengthen its visibility through various activities. Therefore, during the 2018 European Year of Cultural Heritage, a travelling exhibition entitled « The Industrial Heritage of the Pyrenean Iron Route » was organized with the aim of raising public awareness of the main issues related to conservation and restoration of the iron heritage. The exhibition started its itinerary on 6 July 2018 in Alins (Catalonia) and ended on 24 November 2019 at the Zumalakarregi Museum (Ormaiztegui, Gipuzkoa), after having been presented in 18 different venues.

The different members of the Route also develop cultural tourism strategies in collaboration with various institutions and companies in the tourism sector. The aim is to create specific tourism products that can strengthen the supply offered by the Route, but this will nevertheless be developed more systematically as part of the three-year plan 2020-2023.

3. 3. Cultural Route Network

3. 3. 1. Network extension since last evaluation

Following the 2016 evaluation report, the coordinators decided to develop the Route along several axes, including its widening. The first stage of widening, included in the three-year plan 2017-19, focused on the traditional territory of the « Pyrenean Iron Route », in order to increase its representativeness in the Pyrenean chain.

In February 2017, the association that coordinates the Route was re-founded on the basis of 11 institutions bringing together 14 sites. In September 2019, new admissions counted 20 institutions and 27 sites. The remarkable widening of the Route was based on five criteria adopted to maintain the specificity of the project:

« (i) To work for the conservation and enhancement of the cultural heritage of the steel industry on a scientific basis (research);

(ii) To present the heritage and/or history of iron in a cultural structure suitable for visitors (archaeological site, museum, interpretation centre, routes, etc.);

(iii) To represent one of the historical stages in the iron and steel production chain (mines, forges, coal mining, hydraulics) which associates iron with the evolution of the landscape or one of the changes it underwent;

(iv) To illustrate the technical exchanges around the iron production or transformation chain (forging, cementation, etc.) of the iron and steel industry;

(v) To show the social relations, human flows and transregional and/or cross-border trade networks built up around this historic industry ».

By the end of 2020, Navarre, Bizkaia, the French Basque Country, Aragon, Pallars, Conflent and Vallespir should be added to the regions already integrated since 2017. Contacts have already been made: some sites and institutions have already given their agreement in principle and are in the process of officially approving the candidature project.

3. 3. 2. Network extension in the three years to come

The second and wider stage of widening the Route will only start once the actions related to the visibility of the network, foreseen in the three-year plan 2017-2019, have been carried out. This second widening will already be subject to definitive criteria, currently being developed by the scientific committee.

For the second three-year plan (2020-2023), the widening of the Route considers the Landes, Massif Central and Corsica in France; Asturias, Cantabria, Galicia and León in Spain; as well as northern Portugal and Italy. In view of the importance of strengthening the transnational nature of the network, the northern slope has been given priority to consolidate France's representativeness on the Route. However, we consider that the province of Bizkaia should not be forgotten - it should also be given priority - as it is located on the territory of the Basque Country and presents important heritage and museological elements for the Route, such as, for example, the forge of El Pobal (Musques) and the Bizkaia Ferry Bridge (Portugaleta and Getxo, Las Arenas) built between 1888 and 1893 and included in the World Heritage List.

Initial contacts have been made with the following entities/institutions responsible for these sites:

- Martinet de Sorède, France, Eastern Pyrenees (Roussillon, Albères).

- Museum of the Escaro mine, France, Eastern Pyrenees (Roussillon, Canigó).
- Route of the Rancié mine, France, Sem, Ariège (Vicdessos / Auzat).
- Forge of Aulus, France, Ariège (Saint Giron, Oust).
- Forges of Pyrène, France, Ariège (Montgaillard, Foix).
- Fira del ferro d'Alins (Iron Fair of Alins), Spain, Catalonia, Pallars Sobirà (Farrera, Alins).
- Boscos de Ferro (Iron Forests), Spain, Catalonia, Pallars Sobirà (Farrera, Alins).

Contacts have already been established in Corsica (Corte), northern Italy (Brescia) and the Massif Central (Aveyron), but the proposals to join the Route have remained pending. Contacts previously established with Asturias, Galicia and Cantabria (Boal, Taramundi and Cades), and also with the Iron Museum of Moncorvo (Bragança) in Portugal, which had not been completed in the past, will be resumed. The opportunities in Italy and Portugal will allow a strengthening of the transnational character of the « Pyrenean Iron Route ».

3. 4. Communication tools

The communication tools are essentially of two types: the website and the leaflets, brochures and books. We can also mention the organisation of a travelling exhibition for the promotion of the Route, already mentioned above.

- Website:

As a promotional platform, the website of the « Pyrenean Iron Route » (URL: routeduferdanslespyrenees.fr) presents its various resources, grouped into three sections: subject, location and type of visit. Each of these sections is then divided into several themes allowing the visitor to select the one he likes best. By subject, it is divided into: forges, mines, ironwork; by location: Andorra, Ariège, Basque Country, Catalonia, Pyrénées-Atlantiques; by type of visit: itineraries, museums/monuments.

The site has a good readability, is pleasant to read and presents an adequate hierarchy of contents. It is also easy to browse, with clear and easily accessible links and content. It is simple and "light" (without unnecessary animations, widgets, photos or illustrations) but the content is relevant and of high quality. It is a useful tool for the independent traveller, who can easily create his own route with several options. The information on each member of the Route is well presented, in a simple but effective way, indicating the essential data: location (with GPS coordinates), timetables and fares, access by public transport, languages spoken, services and facilities. In some cases, links are provided for further information. One of the

strong points of the website is the possibility of accessing the information in six languages, including French, Spanish, Catalan, Basque and English.

However, given the importance of the website as an instrument for the promotion of the Route, and also for its management, there are some aspects that need to be improved (see 4. 4. Communication tools).

- Leaflets, brochures and books:

Printed material for the promotion of the Route and information for visitors are well designed: attractive and with useful information. In addition to this, there are also other printed documents published by its member sites, some of great quality and scientific rigor (such as, among others, the catalogues of the Arms Industry Museum in Eibar, the Machine Tool Museum in Elgoibar, the Lenbur Foundation in Legazpi, the Basque Railway Museum in Azpeitia, the Rossell Forge - Iron Interpretation Centre, or the Mining Museum in Cercs), which I will not analyse here. I will limit myself to the documents published on a centralized basis by the Route, which include leaflets and brochures :

- *The route of the iron and steel industry in the Madriu-Perafita-Claror valley* (32 pages, high quality, very well illustrated and with maps, excellent information);
- *Forge your adventure* (in 5 languages): 4 pages, generic leaflet on the Route;
- *The Industrial Heritage of the Pyrenean Iron Route* (10 pages; presentation of the Route);
- *El Patrimonio Industrial de la Ruta del Hierro en los Pirineos* (in Spanish, 15 pages; detailed information about the Route).

As mentioned, a scientific monograph on the modern Andorran iron and steel industry is also in preparation.

3. 4. 1. Compliance with the Guidelines for the Use of the Logo “Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe”

The use of the logo of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe complies with the guidelines in the printed and digital documents mentioning the Route. The visited sites all clearly displayed the logo of the Route and the logo of the Cultural Routes.

However, in Guipuzcoa - where the field visit took place - there are no signposts with the Route logo on any of the roads that cross this territory. As the persons in charge of the Route explained to me, this situation is due to the Basque Government's very restrictive regulations on road signs, which makes it difficult to put up road signs. This difficulty must therefore be overcome in order to give the necessary visibility to the « Pyrenean Iron Route ».

4. Conclusions and Recommendations

4. 1. Cultural Route Theme

The theme of the « Pyrenean Iron Route » remains representative of the common European cultural and historical heritage and has the potential for cultural, educational and scientific exchanges. I will not suggest any specific recommendations in this area.

The Route has improved a lot since the last evaluation, and therefore the certification can be maintained even though some aspects would need to be corrected. The performance of the Route over the last three years is in line with most of the certification criteria of the Council of Europe [CM/Res(2013)67].

4. 2. Fields of action

With regard to cooperation in research and development, the work carried out is of high quality. The « Pyrenean Iron Route » has a specific platform for cooperation in research and development on cultural values and themes related to its objectives. A scientific committee has been set up to ensure the quality of its achievements and to work with local actors.

The enhancement of European memory, history and heritage is one of the successful aspects in the presentation of the sites that make up the Route. The historical significance of the tangible and intangible heritage of the activity of iron extraction and production is very well explained in their communication media.

The cultural and educational exchanges of young Europeans have not yet been extensively developed within the Route. Its great potential in this field therefore needs to be explored much more in depth, which requires a specific strategic perspective. The possibility of increasing these exchanges should be analyzed, in particular with the support of the resources made available by European Union programmes. In the future, the Route should consider carrying out activities that encourage the participation of European University students, particularly those attending courses in archaeology, history, heritage or tourism.

The Route should also strengthen contemporary practice of culture and arts within its network of museums and historical and heritage sites. It would be interesting and useful if the artistic and cultural initiatives carried out along the different member sites - as in the case of Chillida,

for example - were to be disseminated on the website, thus making it possible to understand the European dimension of this activity.

Agreements and partnerships with tourism professionals or companies should be deepened, taking into account the importance that tourism and cultural activities take on in the Route's activities. One of the objectives of this collaboration should be to create specific tourism products that can reinforce the already existing offer.

Knowledge of the number and diversity of visitors passing by or staying on the Route should be sought in order to increase and improve the Route's tourist offer. This can be achieved by conducting surveys, which can also be made available to visitors on the website. It is also necessary for the Route to strengthen its presence on social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram).

4. 3. Cultural Route Network

The « Pyrenean Iron Route » has grown considerably over the last three years. This expansion was a recommendation of the previous evaluation. At present, further enlargement is planned for other regions in Spain and France, as well as for northern Portugal and Italy. Particular attention should be paid to the province of Bizkaia.

4. 4. Communication tools

Nowadays, the website of the « Pyrenean Iron Route » is the main point of access for the public interested in visiting the Route or any of its sites. Special attention to the website is therefore justified so that it can be continuously improved and the potential information offered can also be better exploited.

As mentioned, the Route's website is well designed but can easily be improved by taking the following measures:

- there is no contact information for the Route's Office (an e-mail address), although there is some for each of the sites that can be visited;
- the interactivity is good, but a contact form would be needed to get in touch with the Route's Office (to allow visitors to participate, make suggestions, criticize, etc.);

- there is no information on maintenance or updating of the webpage;
- the possibility of using the webpage as a marketing tool to attract visitors to the Route should be underlined, in particular by developing a medium-term marketing plan;
- so far, the Route is not active on Facebook and does not use Twitter or Instagram, and this must be taken into account;
- Google Analytics could be used to obtain valuable information on the most visited members of the Route and on the audiences;
- an informative section on current activities carried out by Route members could be created;
- in the case of printed materials, there is also some room for improvement, for example including PDFs of all leaflets and brochures for downloading on the Route's website;
- with regard to signposting, solving the problem of the lack of signs on the roads of the Basque Country indicating the sites and the logos of the Route and of the Council of Europe.

Recommendations from the previous evaluation (2015-16):

1. It is recommended to solve a major problem for the functioning of the Route, that is, to start up the Association " Pyrenean Iron Route".
2. It is recommended that the Route be extended to new partners, with the inclusion of other regions of Spain where the iron industry has had a significant expression (Asturias and Galicia), as well as the region of Northern Portugal (Municipality of Torre de Moncorvo).
3. Given the interest shown by the Government of the Principality of Andorra, as well as the Lenbur Foundation - the entity that was responsible for managing the Route - it is recommended to analyze the best ways of continuing the project, in order not to lose all the work already done and to put an end to an initiative of great historical, heritage and tourist value and interest.
4. It is proposed to grant, on an exceptional basis, a period of one year to enable the Route to be relaunched.

CRITERIA	Recommendations previous evaluation 2015-2016	Has the Route addressed the recommendation since the last evaluation?		Recommendations current evaluation 2019-2020
		YES	NO	

	I. Cultural route theme	There was no recommendation. The theme is representative of European values.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	There is no specific recommendation.
II. Priority fields of action	Cooperation in research and development	Develop cooperation in research and development.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	An international scientific committee has been set up, but its composition needs to be completed.
	Enhancement of memory, history and European heritage	There was no recommendation. The sites and monuments that make up the Route are well protected by conservation policies.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	There is no specific recommendation.
	Cultural and educational exchanges for young Europeans	To develop cultural and educational exchanges for young people as part of the activities of the Route as a whole.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Not entirely	Intensify these exchanges, in particular with the support of the resources made available by European Union programmes. In the future, the Route should consider carrying out activities that encourage the participation of European University students, particularly those taking courses in archaeology, history, heritage or tourism.
	Contemporary cultural and artistic practice	There was no recommendation.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Implement the initiatives planned for contemporary cultural and artistic practice.
	Cultural Tourism and Sustainable Cultural development	To develop tourism products related to the theme, in partnership with tourism agencies	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	To strengthen agreements and partnerships with professionals and tourism companies. One of the objectives

		and other operators active in tourism.			of this collaboration should be to create specific tourism products capable of boosting the existing offer.
III. Cultural Route Network		Start up the "Pyrenean Iron Route" Association. Ensure financial viability.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	There are no specific recommendations. The Association works very well.
		Expand the Route with new partners.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Implement the planned expansion programme. Include the province of Bizkaia in the Route.
Communication Tools		There was no recommendation.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Solving the problem of the lack of signposting on the roads of the Spanish Basque Country.
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Improve the website with: - a contact for the Route's Office (an e-mail address and a form to fill in); - information on maintenance or updating of the website; - include PDFs of all leaflets and brochures on the website, so that they can be downloaded; - Join Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

5. List of references

The analysis was carried out on the basis of the documents of the « Pyrenean Iron Route » provided by the European Institute of Cultural Routes and the promotional documents published by the Route, in addition to its website (URL: routeduferdanslespyrenees.fr).

All the documents required for the evaluation have been duly submitted by the « Pyrenean Iron Route ».

6. Annex 1: Field visit programme

Date of the field visit: 3-4 December 2019

Location of the field visit: Guipuzkoa province

Programme

December 3rd:

In the morning. Places visited:

Arms Industry Museum (Eibar)

Railway Museum (Azpeitia)

In the afternoon. Places visited:

Machine Tool Museum (Elgoibar)

Back to Eibar

Dinner in the presence of Mrs. María José Tellería and Marina Barrena.

December 4th:

In the morning. Places visited:

Lenbur Fundazioa (Legazpi):

Chillida Lantokia (Fabrika space)

Worker's Route (the workers' housing, the school, and the chapel)

In the afternoon. Places visited:

Lenbur Fundazioa (Legazpi)

Iron Museum

Forge of Mirandaola

Back to Eibar

Group dinner at Eibar

List of people met/interviewed during the field visit (name, role in the network):

Mrs Gabriela Vives Almandoz, Head of the Department of Historical and Artistic Heritage and of the Archives of the Diputación Foral de Gipuzkoa

Mrs María José Tellería Etxeberria, Head of Culture of the Diputación Foral of Gipuzkoa

Mr Francisco Javier Lejardi Galarraga, Councillor for Culture of the City of Eibar

Mr José Luís Gonzalez Blanco, Director of Culture of the City of Eibar
 Mrs Marina Barrena, Director of the Arms Industry Museum
 Mr Juanjo Olaizola Elordi, Director of the Basque Railway Museum
 Mrs Beatriz Ansola, Director of the Machine Tool Museum (Elgoibar)
 Mr Pedro Ortuondo, founder of the Machine Tool Museum (Elgoibar)
 Mr Aurelio González, Director of the Lenbur Fundazioa

The programme was very well organized by Mrs Gabriela Vives Almandoz and Mrs María José Tellería Etxeberria.

7. Annex 2: Expert assessment checklist

EXPERT ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST			
		Yes	No
3.1 THEME	Does the theme of the Route		
	- represent a common value - historical, cultural, or heritage -to several European countries?	1	
	- offer a solid basis for		
	youth cultural and educational exchanges?	1	
	innovative activities?	1	
	cultural tourism products development?	1	
	Has the theme been researched/developed by academics/experts from different regions of Europe?	1	
3.2 FIELDS OF ACTION	3.2.1 Co-operation in research and development		
	Does the Route		
	- offer a platform for co-operation in research and development of European cultural themes/values?	1	
	- play a unifying role around major European themes, enabling dispersed knowledge to be brought together?	1	
	- show how these themes are representative of European values shared by several European countries?	1	
	- illustrate the development of these values and the variety of forms they may take in Europe?	1	

- have a network of universities and research center working on its theme at the European level?	1	
- have a multidisciplinary scientific committee?	1	
Does the scientific Committee		
work on its theme at the European level?	1	
carry out research and analysis of the issues relevant to its theme and/or activities on:	1	
- theoretical level?	1	
- practical level?	1	
3.2.2 Enhancement of the memory, history and European heritage		
Do the Route activities (according with the theme)		
- take into account and explain the historical significance of tangible and intangible European heritage ?	1	
- promote the CoE values?	1	
- promote the CoE CRs brand?	1	
- work in conformity with international charters and conventions on cultural heritage preservation?	1	
- identify, preserve, and develop European heritage sites in rural destinations?	1	
- identify, preserve, and develop European heritage sites in industrial areas in the process of economic restructuring?		0
- valorize the heritage of ethnic or social minorities in Europe?		0
- contribute to a better understanding of the concept of cultural heritage, the importance of its preservation and sustainable development?	1	
- enhance physical and intangible heritage, explain its historical significance and highlight its similarities in the different regions of Europe?	1	
- 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	
3.2.3 Cultural and educational exchanges of young Europeans		
Are the youth exchanges (cultural and educational) planned to		
- develop a better understanding of the concept of European citizenship?	1	

	- emphasize the value of new personal experience through visiting diverse places?	1	
	- encourage social integration and exchanges of young people from different social backgrounds and regions of Europe?	1	
	- offer collaborative opportunities for educational institutions at various levels?		0
	- place the emphasis on personal and real experiences through the use of places and contacts?		0
	- set up pilot schemes with several participating countries?		0
	- give rise to co-operation activities which involve educational institutions at various levels?		0
	3.2.4 Contemporary cultural and artistic practice		
	Do the Route's cultural activities (contemporary cultural and artistic practice related)		
	- promote intercultural dialogue and multidisciplinary exchange between various artistic expressions in European countries?	1	
	- encourage artistic projects that establish the links between cultural heritage and contemporary culture?	1	
	- encourage innovative cultural and contemporary art practices* connecting them with the history of skills development?		0
	- encourage collaboration between culture amateurs and professionals via relevant activities and networks creation?*		0
	-encourage debate and exchange - in a multidisciplinary and intercultural perspective - between various cultural and artistic expressions in different countries of Europe?	1	
	- encourage activities and artistic projects which explore the links between heritage and contemporary culture?	1	
	- highlight the most innovative and creative practices?	1	
	- link these innovative and creative practices with the history of skills development?***		0
3.2 FIELD S OF ACTI ON			
	3.2.5 Cultural tourism and sustainable cultural development		
	Do the Route's activities (relevant to sustainable cultural tourism development)		
	- assist in local, regional, national and/ or European identity formation?	1	
	- actively involve 3 major means to raise awareness of their cultural projects: print, broadcast and social media?	1	
	- promote dialogue between		

	urban and rural communities and cultures?	1	
	developed and disadvantaged regions?	1	
	different parts (south, north, east, west) of Europe?		0
	majority and minority (or native and immigrant) cultures?		0
	- open possibilities for co-operation between Europe and other continents?	1	
	- draw decision makers' attention to the necessity of protecting heritage as part of sustainable development of the territory?	1	
	- aim to diversify of cultural product, service and activities offers?	1	
	- develop and offer quality cultural tourism products, services or activities transnationally?	1	
	- develop partnerships with public and private organisations active in the field of tourism?	1	
	Did the network prepare and use tools all along the route to raise the number of visitors and the economic impacts of the route on the territories crossed?	1	
3.3 NETW ORK	Does the Route represent a network involving at least three Council of Europe's member states?	1	
	Was the theme of the network chosen and accepted by its members?	1	
	Was the conceptual framework for this network founded on a scientific basis?	1	
	Does the network involve several Council of Europe member states in all or part of its project(s)?	1	
	Is the network financially sustainable?	1	
	Does the network have a legal status (association, federation of associations, EEIG,...)?	1	
	Does the network operate democratically?	1	
	Does the network		
	- specify		
	its objectives and working methods?	1	
	the regions concerned by the project?	1	
	its partners and participating countries?	1	
	the fields of action involved?	1	
	the overall strategy of the network in the short- and long term?	1	
- identify potential participants and partners in CoE member states and/or other world countries?	1		

	- provide details of its financing (financial reports and/or activity budgets)?	1	
	- provide details of its operational plan?	1	
	- append the basic text(s) confirming its legal status?	1	
3.4 COM MUNI CATION ON TOOL S	Does the Route have its own logo?	1	
	Do all partners of the network use the logo on their communication tools?	1	
	Does the Route have its own dedicated website ?	1	
	Is it the website translated into English and French?	1	
	Is it the website translated into other languages?	1	
	Does the network use effectively social networks and web 2.0?		0
	Does the network publish brochures on the Route?	1	
	if yes, are the brochures translated in English?		0
	if yes, are the brochures translated in French?	1	
	Is the title of “Cultural Route of the Council of Europe” present on all communication materials (including press releases, webpages, publications, etc.)?	1	
	Is the logo of the Council of Europe present on all communication materials ?	1	
	Is the CoE logo used in accordance to the guidelines for its use (size and position,...)?	1	
	Are the logos (Cultural Route + CoE) provided for all the members of the Route?	1	
Does the Council of Europe logo appears on road signs/ boards indicating the cultural route?	1		
	SCORE	68	13
Note:	Please insert 1 for every positive answer and 0 for a negative one. See your total score at the bottom of the column.		
* E.g. visual arts, the performing arts, creative crafts, architecture, music, literature, poetry or any other form of cultural expression			
** Particularly in terms of instruction for young Europeans in the relevant fields			
*** Whether these fields include visual arts, performing arts, creative crafts, architecture, music, literature or any other field			