

2021/22 ENG

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

Candidate route:

HOLY PLACES OF UNDIVIDED CHRISTIANITY

Independent expert report

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



Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe Certification Cycle 2021-2022

Independent Expert report

Holy Places of Undivided Christianity

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

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1. Executive Summary

The Holy Places of Undivided Christianity Route was founded in 2018. The Route operates as an Association and currently has twenty-five members. The headquarter and coordinating centre is situated in the Library for Foreign Literature in Moscow, Russian Federation. Members are from Poland, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, and Spain.

The overarching aim of the Route is to position European Christian cultural heritage as a uniting factor by highlighting and showcasing the main cultural and religious sites in Europe which represent a united Christian heritage. This includes ancient books, manuscripts, museum collections, churches, and monasteries where relics and icons of saints are kept.

The theme of the Holy Places of Undivided Christianity route is religious interaction, interfaith dialogue and reproachment amongst religions in Europe, following the 1054 split of the Christian Church into Western and Eastern branches. The Route seeks to achieve this by fostering research and education into Christian religions through their shared saints and personalities, traditions, cultural and religious artefacts, and monuments.

This evaluation report aimed to assess the potential of Holy Places of Undivided Christianity Route to become part of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe. Based on the submitted dossier, the supporting documents and having conducted online evaluation meetings, following Resolution CM/Res (2013)67/18 Dec 2013, this report concludes that the Holy Places of Undivided Christianity Route satisfies the eligibility criteria for themes, addresses the list of priority fields of actions, and responds to the list of criteria for networks.

Expert summary conclusions		
	Yes	No
The theme complies with the eligibility criteria for themes listed in Resolution CM/Res(2013)67, I. List of eligibility criteria for themes.	X	
The Cultural Route complies with the criteria for actions listed in Resolution CM/Res(2013)67, II. List of priority fields of action.	X	
The Cultural Route complies with the criteria for networks listed in Resolution CM/Res (2013)67, III. List of criteria for networks.	X	

2. Introduction

The Holy Places of Undivided Christianity Route was founded in 2018. The Route operates as an Association and currently has twenty-five members. The headquarter and coordinating centre is situated in the Library for Foreign Literature in Moscow, Russian Federation. Members are from Poland, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, and Spain.

The overarching aim of the Route is to position European Christian cultural heritage as a uniting factor by highlighting and showcasing the main cultural and religious sites in Europe which represent a united Christian heritage. This includes ancient books, manuscripts, museum collections, churches, and monasteries where relics and icons of saints are kept.

An important recent impetus to the creation of the Route was the historic meeting of Pope Francis and Patriarch Kirill in Havana, Cuba, on 12 February 2016. Section 16 of the Joint Declaration of Pope Francis and Patriarch Kirill reads: "The process of European integration, which began after centuries of blood-soaked conflicts, was welcomed by many with hope, as an earnest of peace and security. Nevertheless, we caution against such integration which is devoid of respect for religious identities. Being open to the contribution of other religions to our civilisation, it is our conviction that Europe must remain faithful to its Christian roots. We call upon Christians of Western and Eastern Europe to unite in their shared witness to Christ and the Gospel, so that Europe may preserve its soul, shaped by two thousand years of Christian tradition".

The theme of the Holy Places of Undivided Christianity Route is religious interaction, interfaith dialogue and reproachment amongst religions in Europe, following the 1054 split of the Christian Church into Western and Eastern branches. The Route seeks to achieve this by fostering research and education into Christian religions through their shared saints and personalities, traditions, cultural and religious artefacts, and monuments.

Most current members are from the Russian Federation, with Poland, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, and Spain represented by one member each.

Membership includes libraries, museums, cultural centres/forums, universities/research centres, regional authorities, a centre for film festivals and international programmes, a religious community, an educational TV channel, religious monuments/churches, and a travel agency. There is a strong national library presence in the Route, with the National Library of Poland, the National Library of Russia, The Russian State Library, the State Public Historical Library of Russia being amongst the members.

The Route is supported by the Ministry of Culture of Russia and has received a grant from the President of the Russian Federation in 2018.

The purpose of this evaluation report is to assess the potential of Holy Places of Undivided Christianity route to become part of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe. Following Resolution CM/Res (2013)67/18 Dec 2013, this report evaluates the extent to which the Holy Places of Undivided Christianity route satisfies the eligibility criteria for themes, addresses the list of priority fields of actions, and responds to the list of criteria for networks.

3. Main Body Evaluation

3.1 Cultural Route Theme

3.1.1 Definition of the theme of the Route

The Route has a unique theme of religious interaction, interfaith dialogue and rapprochement in the European context. The Route aims to foster this amongst the Christian religions of Orthodox Christianity, Protestant Christianity, and the Catholic Church.

The overarching aim of the Route is to position Christian cultural heritage as a uniting factor in Europe. It aims to achieve this by highlighting and showcasing the European cultural and religious objects and sites which represent and communicate a united Christian heritage.

3.1.2 Historical and cultural context

The historical context is the 1054 split of the Christian Church into Western and Eastern branches and the resulting formation of the two major branches: the Western Roman Catholic Church and the Eastern Orthodox Church. This split was what today we call the Great Schism.

The process of rapprochement started 1,000 years later with the meeting of Pope Paul VI and Orthodox Patriarch Athenagoras in Jerusalem in 1964.

A significant recent impetus to rapprochement and to the creation of the Route was the historic meeting of Pope Francis and Patriarch Kirill in Havana, Cuba on 12 February 2016. Section 16 of the Joint Declaration of Pope Francis and Patriarch Kirill after this meeting reads: "The process of European integration, which began after centuries of blood-soaked conflicts, was welcomed by many with hope, as an earnest of peace and security. Nevertheless, we caution against such integration which is devoid of respect for religious identities. Being open to the contribution of other religions to our civilisation, it is our conviction that Europe must remain faithful to its Christian roots. We call upon Christians of Western and Eastern Europe to unite in their shared witness to Christ and the Gospel, so that Europe may preserve its soul, shaped by two thousand years of Christian tradition".

The Route focuses on common Christian saints – saints of the undivided Church - venerated by the unified Christian Church before the Great Schism of 1054. Among them are the apostles, the first martyrs, the Church Fathers, missionaries, enlighteners, warriors, several famous saints, such as Nicholas the Miracle-Worker and Spiridon Trimyfuntsky. In the first millennium, over 10 thousand saints were worshipped in Europe. Among them were the Apostle Peter - the founder of the Roman Church (the first Pope); Blessed Augustine; Ambrose of Milan; Pope Gregory the Great, also known as Gregory Dvoeslov - compiler of the Liturgy of the pre-consecrated Gifts; St. Patricius (Patrick) the Baptist and patron of Ireland. All of them are respected by Orthodox Christians.

Recently in the Russian Federation, interest in the saints of the undivided Church has increased significantly. Responding to this spiritual inquiry caused by the desire to touch the spiritual roots of Europe, in 2017 the Russian Orthodox Church included more than a dozen western saints in its holy calendar. In turn, the Catholic Church honours the Apostles Cyril and Methodius, the Martyr Lyudmila of the Czech and Equal Apostles Princess Olga, St. Vladimir the Baptist of Russia, and the martyrs of the Passion-Bearers Boris and Gleb.

3.1.3 Council of Europe values represented by the theme

The Route aims to implement the principles and values expressed in the conventions of the Council of Europe by collecting and promoting information about cultural, historical, and natural heritage, protecting freedom of access to the material and to spiritual values of humanity. The Route aims to show the diversity and richness of the common Christian heritage in Europe through traditional thinking but in a modern way.

The theme is in line with the principles of human freedom, protection of civic rights and self-expression, and protection of vulnerable groups' interests. Importantly, the Route aims to highlight significant historical and cultural heritage objects through which it is possible to comprehend and preserve collective memory.

The Route calls to remember the unity of space through the common European heritage.

The theme of the Holy Places of Undivided Christianity Route is representative of European values and promotes the history of Europe.

Furthermore, it highlights the ideas of unity and common European heritage. The theme is illustrative of European memory, history and heritage and contributes to an interpretation of the unity of present-day Europe.

3.2 Fields of Action

3.2.1 Cooperation in research and development

The Route offers an important platform for cooperation in research and development. This cooperation is already demonstrated by a series of scientific meetings and conferences carried out around the Route's theme and organised or attended by members. Meetings include the following:

- Conference "Russia-Italy: Common Cultural Layer", held at Ca'Foscari University, Venice, Italy, 20 April 2018.
- XX International Conference in Memory of Father Alexander Men' - "Russia in the Context of Common Christian history", held at Oval hall, Rudomino All-Russia State Library for Foreign Literature, Moscow, the Russian Federation, 18 September, 2018.
- Round Table About Metropolitan Nikodim (Rotov) and His Spiritual Heritage in the XXI Century, held at Alexander Men' Museum at the Rudomino All-Russia State Library for Foreign Literature, Moscow, Russia, 28 October, 2019.
- Round table "Common Slavic Spiritual Heritage and its Popularisation", held at Center for Slavic Cultures, Rudomino All-Russia State Library for Foreign Literature, Moscow, Russia, 25 May 2021.
- Online Round table on the Cooperation between Russian and Polish Cultural Institutions (Association "Holy Places of Undivided Christianity", held at Rudomino All-Russia State Library for Foreign Literature, National Library of Poland, Polish Cultural Centre in Moscow, online, 4 June 2021.

The Route offers ample opportunities for interaction between science and religion to explore and understand the role that the united Christian cultural heritage objects play in our civilisation.

The objects require careful attention and research in terms of historical data, origins, typology, and descriptions, which can be used as theoretical and methodological material to build a shared knowledge base and share this knowledge with a broad scientific audience and the general population.

Although several events are noted in this regard, it must be noted that events tend to focus on individual activities or events attended by route members – as opposed to cooperation activities involving the entire membership of the Route. Furthermore, in the 2018-2021 period, no scientific publications were reported by the Route.

It is essential to recommend that cooperation in research and development includes the entire membership and aims to generate scientific output in the form of books and academic articles, and conference/seminar proceedings.

Furthermore, it is also recommended that cooperation in research and development takes a more substantial tourism dimension, exploring how the relevant knowledge can be transformed into tourism products and experiences and that collaboration expands to activities organised by the Route and involving the entire membership of the Route.

3.2.2 Enhancement of the memory, history and European heritage

As specified in the Resolution CM/Res(2013)67 the ‘identification of European values and a common European cultural heritage may be achieved via cultural routes tracing the history of peoples...’. The Holy Places of Undivided Christianity route does this by tracing the history and legacy of common saints and Christian religious monuments, representing a common European heritage.

The Route enhances the historical memory and European heritage within the framework of the common Christian space. Through historical objects, books and manuscripts, biographies of significant historical personalities and religious buildings, it does.

European memory, history, and heritage are well represented in the Route and it offers the opportunity to scientists, religious scholars, and the public to learn about the common Christian history and heritage of Europe.

However, it is essential to recommend focusing more on the public, visitors and youths. This will ensure that the Route enhances the memory, history and European heritage amongst the wider public, including visitors and tourists and students, not only amongst the scientific and religious community.

3.2.3 Cultural and educational exchanges for young Europeans

The Route has the potential to provide a platform for cultural and educational exchanges for young Europeans.

The project aims at attracting and encouraging young people to familiarise themselves with the spiritual heritage embodied in European Christianity. The theme – “Holy Places of Undivided Christianity” - has already led to several exchanges for young people and it aims to develop a new toolkit to provide such kinds of exchanges on a regular basis within the framework of the cultural Route. An example of such cultural and educational exchange is the VII. Training on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe, held at the Royal Monastery of Yuste and Charles V Palace in Cuacos de Justice, Extremadura, Spain, 12-14 June 2018, which was attended by young specialists of the Holy Places of Undivided Christianity route.

However, there is a need for a stronger focus on young Europeans and to develop new and innovative ways of engagement with local educational institutions.

It would also be beneficial to develop projects that support young people's social integration from different social, cultural, and religious backgrounds.

3.2.4 Contemporary cultural and artistic practice

The Route does not involve any contemporary cultural and artistic practices.

3.2.5 Cultural tourism and sustainable cultural development

The Route has significant potential for cultural tourism and sustainable tourism development. Locations of the Route include visitor attractions, museums, landscapes, rare books, documents, and other memorials of the past. These, on the one hand, offer great potential for the enhancement of collective memory and historical knowledge and, on the other hand, provide invaluable opportunities to enjoy and learn about European history.

At the same time, currently, the tourism potential of the Route is not yet fully utilised. Although one of the Route's goals is to attract people to the sites dedicated to undivided Christianity and to include sites and artefacts that have tourism potential, the initial efforts cater more to the scientific community than the public.

Several scientific meetings were held to explore the potential for and to support the development of cultural tourism along the Route:

- Russian-Italian Cultural and Tourism Forum “Holy Places of Undivided Christianity”, 1-2 February 2018.
- International conference “Cultural and spiritual tourism as factors of the all-European dialogue” at the Russian State Library in Moscow, 10 October 2018.
- Professional round table on cultural tourism at the National Library of Russia in Saint-Petersburg, 12 March 2021.

- Scientific and practical seminar dedicated to the project of cultural routes "Holy Places of Undivided Christianity", 18 May 2021.
- Round table "Cultural tourism and its role in the development and promotion of Russian libraries", 8 June 2021.
- Analytical and presentation events within the framework of the All-Russian project "Museum Routes of Russia", 18-19 June 2021.
- Discussion of Issues of Including Museum Collections in the Project on the Vladimir Suzdal Museum Base, held at Vladimir-Suzdal Museum-Reserve, Vladimir Region, Russia, 9 March 2021. Discussed collaboration on international cultural routes, engaging the creative community, interaction between art and religion. Awarding of diplomas to the authors of the route "City under the Protection of the Virgin". Joining the Route.
- Discussion of the Development of Joint Programs with the Bogolubov Arts Library, Bogolubov Arts Library Moscow, Russia, 24 March, 2021. Discussed the involvement of various art and cultural Institutions: museums, exhibit halls and other cultural institutions into the route activities. Joining the Route.

A promising aspect is a development cultural tourism itineraries. These are presented as Mini Routes and are promoted through the Route's website (www.travelholypplaces.org).

The majority of existing Mini Routes are in Russia and are as follows:

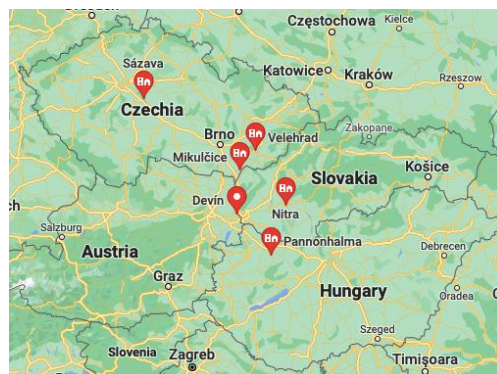
- Christian Incunabula from the Inostranka Collection
- To the Sources of Christianity: Saints of the Undivided Church on the Pages of Manuscripts
- Tale of the Land of Siberia
- Christian Relics of Transbaikalia
- The Third Rome of St. Nicholas
- Levra-Zvenigorod Rus- New Jerusalem
- Valaam

In the Russian context, the Route was included in the promotional material of the Federal Agency for Tourism and the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation.

One Mini Route titled "Heritage of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Slovak Republic and Czechia" is transnational and includes three countries, Slovak Republic, Czechia, and Hungary:

As an illustration, the itinerary includes the following sites:

- Bratislava, Slovakia
- St. Martin-s Temple, Bratislava, Slovakia
- Devin, Bratislava, Slovakia
- Nitra, Slovakia
- Pannonhalma, Hungary
- Mikulčice, Czechia
- Velehrad, Czechia
- Uherske Hradiste, Czechia
- Sázava, Czechia



- St. Cyril and Methodius Cathedral, Prague, Czechia
- Vysehrad, Czechia
- St. Vitus Cathedral, Prague, Czechia
- St. George Basilica with the Grave of St. Liudmila, Prague, Czechia
- Lodinitse, Czechia
- Tetin, Czechia
- Cave of St. John of Bohemia, The Hermit, Czechia
- Church of Saints Peter and Paul, Karlovy Vary, Czechia
- Church of St. Olga, Czechia
- Church of St. Vladimir, Czechia

The development of tourism itineraries in the form of Mini Routes and larger routes is a vitally important aspect of the Route. However, currently, the Mini-Routes are detached from the route membership and, with one exception, do not represent transnational routes.

It is recommended to strengthen the tourism focus of the Route by expanding the development of tourism itineraries, especially itineraries with transnational nature involving the Route's members.

In addition, it is recommended to hold educational and training workshops to develop the capacity of local officials and entrepreneurs about how to turn the cultural assets into tourism products and experiences and on the sustainable usage of local cultural resources.

3.3 Cultural Route Network

3.3.1 Overview of institutional /legal structure of the network

According to the Statute, the legal entity behind the Route is an Association called the Association of Specialists in the Field of Cultural Routes "Holy Places of Undivided Christianity". The Association was registered in July 2018 by the Main Directorate of the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation. The Association is headquartered in Moscow, in the Library for Foreign Literature.

The Association is a voluntary, corporate, membership-based association of fully capable citizens who share the goals and principles of the Association, created to represent and protect common interests. The Association is an independent legal entity and carries out its activities in accordance with the Civil Code of the Russian Federation, the Federal Law "On Non-Profit Organisations" and the Statute.

The Association has separate property, has an independent balance sheet and (or) an estimate. In accordance with the established procedure, the Association has the right to open bank accounts in the territory of the Russian Federation and outside its territory, except cases established by federal law. The Association has the right to have stamps and letterheads with its name. The Association has a seal with the full name in Russian. The Association has the right to have symbols - emblems, coats of arms, other heraldic signs, flags and hymns, the description of which must be contained in the constituent documents.

The Association is not responsible for the obligations of its members. Members of the Association bear subsidiary liability for the obligations of the Association in the amount of the paid contributions. The Association may carry out income-generating activities specified in its Statute, provided that the activities comply with the requirements of the current legislation. The full name of the Association in Russian: Association of Specialists in the Field of Cultural

Routes "Holy Places of Undivided Christianity". Abbreviated name of the Association in Russian: Association "Holy Places of Undivided Christianity". The full name of the Association in English: Association of Specialists in the Field of Cultural Routes "Holy Places of Undivided Christianity". The abbreviated name of the Association in English: Association "Holy Places of Undivided Christianity".

Membership in the Association is voluntary. Members of the Association can be:

- fully capable citizens
- legal entities
- as well as foreign citizens and stateless persons who are legally in the Russian Federation or outside the Russian Federation

who have made an entrance fee and comply with the provisions of this Charter, internal documents of the Association.

Admission of new members of the Association is carried out by the Council based on a submitted application addressed to the Head of the Association. The applicant is obliged to pay an entrance membership fee within ten days from the date of the decision on admission to the Association. A candidate is considered accepted as a member of the Association after paying an entrance fee.

The supreme body of the Association is the General Meeting of the Members of the Association. There is also a permanent collegial executive body of the Association, the Council of the Association. The sole executive body of the Association is the Head of the Association. The Association also created a control and auditing body, the Auditor. In the Association, other advisory working bodies may be formed in the form of committees, commissions, councils, inspections, working groups, the decision on the creation, early termination of powers, quantitative and personal composition, the term of office and determination of the functions of which is adopted by the General Meeting. These bodies carry out their activities based on the Regulations approved by the General Meeting.

The institutional/legal structure of the network allows membership from Russia and other European countries and gives the right to admit both private individuals and legal entities.

However, the name of the Association (Association of Experts) implies that membership is for private individuals and can be misleading and could hinder network expansion at the level of cultural, tourism and educational organisations and enterprises.

In terms of financing, according to the current operational budget, in 2021 the Association received a Euro 30,932.80 grant from the Russian Cultural Foundation and Euro 1,728.66 from private donations to cover the membership fees. Although there is a membership fee, it has not been collected so far. Evidently, the regular financing of the Association currently does not rely on membership fees. These, even if fully collected, given the current size of membership, would not provide a sufficient budget for the Route's operation.

In addition, it is important to note that in 2018 the Association received a highly prestigious award from the Presidential Grants Fund (grant value of Euro 5899,01).

Grant funding received from the Russian Cultural Foundation in 2021 has been instrumental for the operation of the Association in 2021, and whilst there is a possibility of a further round of funding from this source, and from the Presidential Grants Fund, the funding stability of the Association is currently unclear.

To address these issues, it is recommended to reconsider the name of the Association to move away from the concept of an association of experts.

Furthermore, it is also important and highly recommended to actively seek additional funding streams through collaborative European projects within the network, with network members and to collect the membership fees from the members.

3.3.2 The current composition of the network by country and type of member

The majority (80%) of the Route's current members are from the Russian Federation, with Poland, Serbia, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia, and Spain represented by one member each.

There is a strong national library presence in the Route, with the National Library of Poland, the National Library of Russia, The Russian State Library, the State Public Historical Library of Russian Federation and The National Library of Serbia being amongst the members.

Membership includes libraries, museums, cultural centres/forums, universities/research centres, regional authorities, a centre for film festivals and international programmes, a religious community, an educational TV channel, religious monuments/churches, and a travel agency.

Overall, this represents a somewhat unbalanced network composition by country and type of members.

It is recommended that the Route better balances membership by country and includes more sites that connect with the public and youth and includes more tourist sites and attractions and educational institutions.

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

The Route's three-year network extension strategy involves a phased approach, planned in three stages. First, the planned focus is on consolidating the Route in Russia and in the current member states. In stage two, the plan is to grow the network in Eastern Europe and in stage three, to focus will be on expansion in Western Europe.

Prospective members were identified as:

- The University Library and Archives of Eotvos Lorand University, Hungary
- Romualdo Del Bianco Foundation, Italy
- Ministry of Tourism of the Tver Region, Russia
- Kirillo-Belozersky Historical, Architectural and Art Museum-Reserve, Russia
- State History and Art Museum New Jerusalem, Russia
- The National Library of the Republic of Karelia, Russia
- The European Network of Holy Week and Easter Celebrations, Spain

It must be noted that membership of the Route has already expanded since the application and there is high potential to extend the Route, given the large number of relevant sites and organisations and the perceived interest in the routes to date.

Whilst the phased expansion is logical, it is recommended to ensure a more balanced membership both in terms of countries and types of members.

It is particularly important to actively seek to extend the Route by including cultural and heritage monuments of tourism importance from several countries to make the Route relevant and interesting to the wider public, including the youth, and increase its tourism appeal.

3.4 Communication tools

The Route has started developing its communication tools. It has a logo that is presented in all communication, including a website, leaflets, Facebook page and roll-ups of the Association.



The Route also has a dedicated website that introduces the Route, the Association, the members and contains information on the Saints of Undivided Christianity. The website is available in English and in Russian.

The Route has its Facebook page, which shares regular weekly posts. Signposting is currently being developed.

Significant emphasis is put on creating digital content that can be made available to the scientific community, including students, and the wider public. Thus, there is good potential to utilise various media platforms including the website, social media, online resources, digital and audio-visual tools to enhance the knowledge about the shared Christian cultural heritage in a modernised form.

The logo, although it exists, is not yet used by network members in a consistent manner.

It is recommended to continue developing the communication channels, particularly the website and social media channels and to develop signposting in line with Route expansion and the development of the tourism aspects of the Route. It is also recommended to encourage members to use the logo at their events in a consistent manner.

4. Conclusions and Recommendations

Based on the submitted dossier and the supporting files and after having conducted online interviews with Route members, it is concluded the Route complies to the eligibility criteria for a designation as Cultural Route.

The Route satisfied the criteria by:

- having a theme which is representative of European values and promotes the history of Europe, highlights ideas of unity and common European heritage
- representing European values
- having researched and developed by a group of multidisciplinary experts from different countries of Europe
- illustrating European memory, history and heritage and contributing to the interpretation of the diversity of present-day Europe
- facilitating cultural and educational exchanges for young people
- permitting the development of initiatives and projects in the field of cultural tourism and sustainable cultural tourism development
- promoting the development of tourist products in partnership with tourist agencies and operators aimed at different publics, including the youth.

Theme of the Route

It can be concluded that the Route has a unique theme of religious interaction, interfaith dialogue and reproachment in the European context. The Route aims to implement the principles and values expressed in the conventions of the Council of Europe by collecting and promoting information about cultural, historical, and natural heritage, protecting freedom of access to the material and to spiritual values of humanity. The Route aims to show the diversity and richness of the common Christian heritage in Europe through traditional thinking but in a modern way.

The theme is in line with the principles of human freedom, protection of civic rights and self-expression, and protection of vulnerable groups' interests. Importantly, the Route aims to highlight significant historical and cultural heritage objects through which it is possible to comprehend and preserve collective memory. The Route calls to remember the unity of space through the common European heritage. The theme of the Holy Places of Undivided Christianity Route is representative of European values and promotes the history of Europe. Furthermore, it highlights the ideas of unity and common European heritage. The theme is illustrative of European memory, history and heritage and contributes to an interpretation of the unity of present-day Europe.

Fields of Action

It can be concluded that the Route offers an important platform for cooperation in research and development and provides opportunities for interaction between science and religion to explore and understand the role that the united Christian cultural heritage objects play in our civilisation. Although several events are noted in this regard, it must be noted that events tend to focus on individual activities or events attended by route members – as opposed to cooperation activities involving the entire membership of the Route. Furthermore, in the 2018-2021 period, no scientific publications were reported by the Route. To strengthen cooperation in research and development, it is recommended that cooperation includes the entire membership and aims to generate scientific output in the form of books and academic

articles, and conference/seminar proceedings. Furthermore, it is also recommended that cooperation in research and development takes a more substantial tourism dimension, exploring how the relevant knowledge can be transformed into tourism products and experiences and that collaboration expands to activities organised by the Route and involving the entire membership of the Route.

As specified in the Resolution CM/Res(2013)67 the 'identification of European values and a common European cultural heritage may be achieved via cultural routes tracing the history of peoples...'. The Holy Places of Undivided Christianity route does this by tracing the history and legacy of common saints and Christian religious monuments, representing a common European heritage. The Route enhances the historical memory and European heritage within the framework of the common Christian space. Through historical objects, books and manuscripts, biographies of significant historical personalities and religious buildings, it does. European memory, history, and heritage are well represented in the Route and it offers the opportunity to scientists, religious scholars, and the public to learn about the common Christian history and heritage of Europe. However, it is essential to recommend focusing more on the public, visitors and youths. This will ensure that the Route enhances the memory, history and European heritage amongst the wider public, including visitors and tourists and students, not only amongst the scientific and religious community.

The Route has the potential to provide a platform for cultural and educational exchanges for young Europeans. However, there is a need for a stronger focus on young Europeans and to develop new and innovative ways of engagement with local educational institutions. It would also be beneficial to develop projects that support young people's social integration from different social, cultural, and religious backgrounds.

The Route currently reports no contemporary cultural and artistic practice. It is strongly recommended to develop a programme of action for this area.

The Route has significant potential for cultural tourism and sustainable tourism development. However, currently, the tourism potential of the Route is not yet fully utilised. Although one of the Route's goals is to attract people to the sites dedicated to undivided Christianity and to include sites and artefacts that have tourism potential, the initial efforts cater more to the scientific community than the public. A promising aspect is a development of cultural tourism itineraries, Mini Routes. The development of tourism itineraries is a vitally important aspect of the Route. However, currently, the Mini-Routes are detached from the route membership and, with one exception, do not represent transnational routes. It is recommended to strengthen the tourism focus of the Route by expanding the development of tourism itineraries, especially itineraries with transnational nature involving the Route's members. In addition, it is recommended to hold educational and training workshops to develop the capacity of local officials and entrepreneurs about how to turn the cultural assets into tourism products and experiences and on the sustainable usage of local cultural resources.

The institutional/legal structure of the network allows membership from Russia and other European countries and gives the right to admit both private individuals and legal entities. However, the name of the Association (Association of Experts) implies that membership is for private individuals and can be misleading and could hinder network expansion at the level of cultural, tourism and educational organisations and enterprises. In terms of financing, although there is a membership fee, it has not been collected so far. Evidently, the regular financing of the Association currently does not rely on membership fees. These, even if fully collected, given the current size of membership, would not provide a sufficient budget for the Route's operation. To address these issues, it is recommended to reconsider the name of the Association to move away from the concept of an association of experts. Furthermore, it

is also important and highly recommended to actively seek additional funding streams through collaborative European projects within the network, with network members and to collect the membership fees.

The majority (80%) of the Route's current members are from the Russian Federation and there is a strong national library presence in the Route. Overall, this represents a somewhat unbalanced network composition by country and type of members. It is recommended that the Route better balances membership by country and includes more sites that connect with the public and youth and includes more tourist sites and attractions and educational institutions.

The Route's three-year network extension strategy involves a phased approach, planned in three stages. It must be noted that membership of the Route has already expanded since the application and there is high potential to extend the Route, given the large number of relevant sites and organisations and the perceived interest in the routes to date. Whilst the phased expansion is logical, it is recommended to ensure a more balanced membership both in terms of countries and types of members. It is particularly important to actively seek to extend the Route by including cultural and heritage monuments of tourism importance from several countries to make the Route relevant and interesting to the wider public, including the youth, and increase its tourism appeal.

The Route has started developing its communication tools. It has a logo that is presented in all communication, including a website, leaflets, Facebook page and roll-ups of the Association. However, members do not use the logo in a consistent manner.

It is recommended to encourage members to use the logo in a consistent manner at all relevant events and to continue developing and using the communication channels, particularly the website and social media channels. It is also recommended to develop signposting in line with Route expansion and the development of the tourism aspects of the Route.

CRITERIA		Fulfilment of certification criteria by the candidate network
I. Cultural route theme		<p>The Route fulfils the criteria.</p> <p>The Holy Places of Undivided Christianity Route theme is religious interaction, interfaith dialogue, and reproachment amongst European Christian religions, following the 1054 split of the Christian Church into Western and Eastern branches. The Route aims to foster this amongst Orthodox Christianity, Protestant Christianity, and the Catholic Church.</p> <p>The overarching aim of the Route is to position Christian cultural heritage as a uniting factor in Europe. It aims to achieve this by highlighting and showcasing European cultural and religious objects and sites which represent and communicate a united Christian heritage.</p> <p>The theme of the Holy Places of Undivided Christianity Route is representative of European values and promotes the history of Europe. Furthermore, it highlights the ideas of unity and common European heritage. The theme is illustrative of European memory, history and heritage and contributes to an interpretation of the unity of present-day Europe.</p>
II. Priority fields of action	Cooperation in research and development	<p>The Route fulfils the criteria, but recommendations were made for further strengthening the Route's work in this regard.</p> <p>The Route offers an essential platform for cooperation in research and development. This cooperation is already demonstrated by a series of scientific meetings and conferences carried out around the Route's theme and organised or attended by members.</p> <p>Although several events are noted in this regard, events tend to focus on individual activities or events attended by route members – as opposed to cooperation activities involving the entire membership of the Route. Furthermore, in the 2018-2021 period, no scientific publications were reported by the Route.</p> <p>It is essential to recommend that cooperation in research and development includes the entire membership and aims to generate scientific output in the form of books and academic articles and conference/seminar proceedings.</p> <p>Furthermore, it is also recommended that cooperation in research and development takes a more substantial tourism dimension, exploring how the relevant knowledge can be transformed into tourism products and experiences and that collaboration expands to activities organised by the Route and involving the entire membership of the Route.</p>

	<i>Enhancement of memory, history and European heritage</i>	<p>The Route fulfils the criteria.</p> <p>The Route aims to implement the principles and values expressed in the conventions of the Council of Europe by collecting and promoting information about cultural, historical, and natural heritage, protecting freedom of access to the material and to spiritual values of humanity. The Route aims to show the diversity and richness of the common Christian heritage in Europe through traditional thinking but in a modern way.</p> <p>The theme of the Holy Places of Undivided Christianity Route is representative of European values and promotes the history of Europe. Furthermore, it highlights the ideas of unity and common European heritage. The theme is illustrative of European memory, history and heritage and contributes to an interpretation of the unity of present-day Europe.</p>
	<i>Cultural and educational exchanges for young Europeans</i>	<p>The Route fulfils the criteria, but recommendations were made for further strengthening the Route's work in this regard.</p> <p>The Route has the potential to provide a platform for cultural and educational exchanges for young Europeans. The project aims at attracting and encouraging young people to familiarise themselves with the spiritual heritage embodied in European Christianity.</p> <p>However, there is a need for a stronger focus on young Europeans and to develop new and innovative ways of engagement with local educational institutions. It would also be beneficial to develop projects that support young people's social integration from different social, cultural, and religious backgrounds.</p>
	<i>Contemporary cultural and artistic practice</i>	<p>The Route does not fulfil the criteria.</p> <p>No activities were reported or observed in this regard.</p>
	<i>Cultural Tourism and Sustainable Cultural development</i>	<p>The Route fulfils the criteria, but recommendations were made for further strengthening the Route's work in this regard.</p> <p>The Route has significant potential for cultural tourism and sustainable tourism development. Locations of the Route include visitor attractions, museums, landscapes, rare books, documents, and other memorials of the past. These, on the one hand, offer solid potential for the enhancement of collective memory and historical knowledge and, on the other hand, provide invaluable opportunities to enjoy and learn about European history.</p> <p>At the same time, currently, the tourism potential of the Route is not yet fully utilised. Although one of the Route's goals is to attract people to the sites dedicated to undivided Christianity and to include places and artefacts that have tourism potential, the initial efforts cater more to the scientific community than the public.</p>

		<p>The development of tourism itineraries in the form of Mini Routes and more extensive routes is a vitally important aspect of the Route. However, currently, the Mini-Routes are detached from the route membership and, with one exception, are not transnational.</p> <p>It is recommended to strengthen the tourism focus of the Route by expanding the development of tourism itineraries, especially itineraries with transnational nature involving the Route's members.</p> <p>In addition, it is recommended to hold educational and training workshops to develop the capacity of local officials and entrepreneurs about how to turn the cultural assets into tourism products and experiences and on the sustainable usage of local cultural resources.</p>
III. Cultural Route Network		<p>The Route fulfils the criteria, but recommendations were made for further strengthening the Route's work in this regard.</p> <p>The majority (80%) of the Route's current members are from the Russian Federation, with Poland, Serbia, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia, and Spain represented by one member each. Membership includes libraries, museums, cultural centres/forums, universities/research centres, regional authorities, a centre for film festivals and international programmes, a religious community, an educational TV channel, religious monuments/churches, and a travel agency. It must be noted that there is a strong library presence in the network. Overall, this represents a somewhat unbalanced network composition by country and type of members.</p> <p>It is recommended that the Route better balances membership by country and includes more sites that connect with the public and youth and includes more tourist sites and attractions and educational institutions.</p> <p>The institutional/legal structure of the network allows membership from Russia and other European countries and gives the right to admit both private individuals and legal entities. However, the name of the Association (Association of Experts) implies that membership is for private individuals and can be misleading and could hinder network expansion at the level of cultural, tourism and educational organisations and enterprises.</p> <p>To address these issues, it is recommended to reconsider the name of the Association to move away from the concept of an association of experts.</p> <p>In terms of financing, according to the current operational budget, in 2021 the Association received a grant from the Russian Cultural Foundation, funding from private donations. Previously, the Association was awarded the prestigious Presidential Grant. Although there is a membership fee, it has not been collected so far.</p>

	<p>Grant funding received from the Russian Cultural Foundation and the previous Presidential Grant have been instrumental for the operation of the Association. Whilst there is a possibility of a further round of state funding from the Russian Federation, the funding stability of the Association is currently unclear.</p> <p>It is highly recommended to actively seek additional funding streams through the membership fees and collaborative European projects within the network, with network members.</p>
<i>Communication Tools</i>	<p>The Route fulfils the criteria, but recommendations were made for further strengthening the Route's work in this regard.</p> <p>The Route has started developing its communication tools. It has a logo that is presented in all communication of the Association, including a website, leaflets, Facebook page and roll-ups. However, members do not consistently use the logo.</p> <p>It is recommended to encourage members to use the logo consistently at all relevant events and to continue developing and using the communication channels, particularly the website and social media channels. It is also recommended to create signposting in line with Route expansion and the development of the tourism aspects of the Route.</p>

5. List of references

Certification Application 2021-2022

Current Operational Budget 2021. “Holy Places of Undivided Christianity” Network

Letter – European Network of Holy Week and Easter Celebrations

List of the Members of the Network

Memorandum of Membership to the Association of Specialists in the Field of Cultural Routes
“Holy Places of Undivided Christianity”

Presence of the Cultural Route on the Library for Foreign Literature Website

Statue of the Association of Specialists in the Field of Cultural Routes “Holy Places of
Undivided Christianity”

3-Year Programme of Activities Forecast

Website of Route in English: <http://travelholypplaces.org/en/home>

Website of Route in Russian: <http://travelholypplaces.org/ru/home>

6. Annex 1: Expert field visit and/or online interviews with network management and network members

1. Online (Zoom) Meeting with network management, 19 November 2021:

Miguel PALACIO, Head of the Association Holy Places of Undivided Christianity,
Deputy Director-General for Interregional and International Cooperation Margarita -
Rudomino All Russia State Library for Foreign Literature

Olga Dzhavad, Project Manager of the Association Holy Places of Undivided Christianity

1. Online (Zoom) Meeting with network members, 30 November 2021:

Miguel Hayrovich Palacio, Head of the Association "Shrines of Undivided Christianity"

Svetlana Antonovna Tarasova, Director of the Novosibirsk State Regional Scientific Library

Elena Valerievna Koshemchuk, Director of the Kaliningrad Regional Scientific Library

Diana Tekrarovna Hasanova, Director of the Museum of the History of World Cultures and Religions (Derbent, Republic of Dagestan)

Ekaterina Aleksandrovna Teryukova, Deputy Director for Research, State Museum of the History of Religion (St. Petersburg)

Ana Milutinovic, National Library of Serbia

Mateja Jančar, Coordinator of the Association Cultural Route The Way of Writers (Forum of Slavic Cultures, Ljubljana, Slovenia)

Archimandrite Seraphim (Shemyatovsky), Representative of the Orthodox Church of the Czech Lands and Slovakia under the Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia

Archpriest Victor Grigorenko, Rector of St. Sergius Church (Sergiev Posad, Moscow region)

Olga Vasilievna Javad, Coordinator of the Cultural Route Shrines of Undivided Christianity

7. Annex 2: Expert Assessment Checklist:

EXPERT ASSESSMENT CHECK-LIST					
QUESTIONS			Yes	No	Comments (if any)
3.1 THEME	1	Does the theme of the Route represent a common value (historical, cultural, or heritage) to several European countries?	1		
	2	Does the theme of the route offer a solid basis for youth cultural and educational exchanges?	1		
	3	Does the theme of the route offer a solid basis for innovative activities?	1		
	4	Does the theme of the route offer a solid basis for cultural tourism products development?	1		
	5	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	6	Does the Route offer a platform for co-operation in research and development of European cultural themes/values?	1	
		7	Does the Route play a unifying role around major European themes, enabling dispersed knowledge to be brought together?	1	
		8	Does the Route show how these themes are representative of European values shared by several European countries?	1	
		9	Does the Route illustrate the development of these values and the variety of forms they may take in Europe?	1	
		10	Does the Route have a network of universities and research center working on its theme at the European level?		0
		11	Does the Route have a multidisciplinary Scientific Committee?	1	
		12	Does the Scientific Committee work on its theme at the European level?	1	
		13	Does the Scientific Committee carry out research and analysis of the issues relevant to its theme and/or activities on the theoretical level?	1	
		14	Does the Scientific Committee carry out research and analysis of the issues relevant to its theme and/or activities on	1	

			the practical level?			
	3.2.2 Enhancement of the memory, history and European heritage	15	Do the Route activities take into account and explain the historical significance of tangible and intangible European heritage ?	1		
		16	Do the Route activities promote the values of the Council of Europe?	1		
		17	Do the Route activities promote the brand of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe?	1		
		18	Does the route work in conformity with international charters and conventions on cultural heritage preservation?	1		
		19	Do the Route activities identify, preserve and develop European heritage sites in rural destinations?	1		
		20	Do the Route activities identify, preserve and develop European heritage sites in industrial areas in the process of economic restructuring?		0	
		21	Do the Route activities valorize the heritage of ethnic or social minorities in Europe?	1		
		22	Do the Route activities contribute to a better understanding of the concept of cultural heritage, the importance of its preservation and sustainable development?	1		
		23	Do the Route activities enhance physical and intangible heritage, explain its historical significance and highlight its similarities in the different regions of Europe?	1		
		24	Do the Route activities take account of and promote the charters, conventions, recommendations and work of the Council of Europe, UNESCO and ICOMOS relating to heritage restoration, protection and enhancement, landscape and spatial planning (European Cultural Convention, Faro convention, European Landscape Convention, World Heritage Convention, ...)?	1		
education al exchanges of young Europeans		25	Are the youth exchanges (cultural and educational) planned to develop a better understanding of the concept of European citizenship?	1		

		26	Are the youth exchanges (cultural and educational) planned to emphasize the value of new personal experience through visiting diverse places?	1		
		27	Are the youth exchanges (cultural and educational) planned to encourage social integration and exchanges of young people from different social backgrounds and regions of Europe?	1		
		28	Are the youth exchanges (cultural and educational) planned to offer collaborative opportunities for educational institutions at various levels?	1		
		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?		0	
		30	Are the youth exchanges (cultural and educational) planned to set up pilot schemes with several participating countries?		0	
		31	Are the youth exchanges (cultural and educational) planned to give rise to co-operation activities which involve educational institutions at various levels?	1		
	3.2.4 Contemporary cultural and artistic practice	32	Do the Route's cultural activities promote intercultural dialogue and multidisciplinary exchange between various artistic expressions in European countries?		0	
		33	Do the Route's cultural activities encourage artistic projects that establish links between cultural heritage and contemporary culture?		0	
		34	Do the Route's cultural activities encourage innovative cultural and contemporary art practices* connecting them with the history of skills development?		0	
		35	Do the Route's cultural activities encourage collaboration between culture amateurs and professionals via relevant activities and networks creation?**		0	
		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		0	

			countries of Europe?			
		37	Do the Route's cultural activities encourage activities and artistic projects which explore the links between heritage and contemporary culture?		0	
		38	Do the Route's cultural activities highlight the most innovative and creative practices?		0	
		39	Do the Route's cultural activities link these innovative and creative practices with the history of skills development?***		0	
	3.2.5 Cultural tourism and sustainable cultural development	40	Do the Route's activities (relevant to sustainable cultural tourism development) assist in local, regional, national and/ or European identity formation?	1		
		41	Do the Route's activities (relevant to sustainable cultural tourism development) actively involve 3 major means to raise awareness of their cultural projects: print, broadcast and social media?	1		
		42	Do the Route's activities promote dialogue between urban and rural communities and cultures?	1		
		43	Do the Route's activities promote dialogue between developed and disadvantaged regions?	1		
		44	Do the Route's activities promote dialogue between different regions (south, north, east, west) of Europe?	1		
		45	Do the Route's activities promote dialogue between majority and minority (or native and immigrant) cultures?	1		
		46	Do the Route's activities open possibilities for co-operation between Europe and other continents?	1		
		47	Do the Route's activities draw decision makers' attention to the necessity of protecting heritage as part of the sustainable development of the territory?	1		
		48	Do the Route's activities aim to diversify cultural product, service and activities offers?	1		
		49	Do the Route's activities develop and offer quality cultural tourism products, services or activities transnationally?	1		
		50	Do the Route's activities develop partnerships with public and private organisations active in the field of	1		

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

		72	Is it the website available in other languages?	1		
		73	Does the network use effectively social networks and web 2.0?	1		
		74	Does the network publish brochures on the Route?		0	
		75	If yes, are the brochures available in English?		0	
		76	If yes, are the brochures available in French?		0	
	For certified Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe only	77	Is the title of "Cultural Route of the Council of Europe" present on all communication materials (including press releases, webpages, publications, etc.)?		0	
		78	Is the certification logo present on all communication materials?	1		
		79	Is the certification logo used in accordance to the guidelines for its use (size and position,...)?	1		
		80	Are the logos (Cultural Route + certification logo) provided to all the members of the Route?	1		
		81	Does the Council of Europe certification logo appear on road signs/ boards indicating the cultural route?		0	
	SCORE			63	0	