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Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the
Council of Europe

Certification cycle 2021-2022

Candidate route:

EUROPEAN NETWORK OF HOLY WEEK AND EASTER CELEBRATIONS

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

European Network of Holy Week and Easter Celebrations

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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 European Network of Holy Week and Easter Celebrations is in compliance with the certification criteria. The Network was created in 2019 and in a very short time, has made significant progress. The Network membership consists of European municipalities within five countries that continue to celebrate unique Holy Week events. The candidate's goal is to consolidate the knowledge, experiences, cultural exchanges, and communication tools that make sharing the meaning of these celebrations possible with a wide audience. Though the Network was recently created, the membership has a shared vision that has facilitated collaboration to fulfil these original goals. Long-term goals for the next three years are also planned. One of the objectives is to find new members in other countries and work together to study, safeguard, and disseminate the heritage and the traditions of the European Holy Week and Easter celebrations.

The Network's Scientific Committee carries out the work of developing scientific publications and a scientific congress. The Network provides European citizens with communication tools that allow them to learn about the unique heritage and promote it through digital media, open access to the documentation database, interactive seminars and participating directly in the celebrations. It is anticipated that these activities will be enhanced and enlarged.

The Network supports and promotes the inclusion of younger people into the planning and implementation of the celebrations. It is necessary to continue researching ways the next generation can participate in different aspects of the celebrations. The Network collects information on the different artistic workshops found in the network's member countries. It is necessary to prepare action plans to publicize and promote the workshops.

Holy Week and Easter celebrations currently attract many visitors to the towns where they are organized. The Route had programmed several actions to address the tourist initiatives put forward by all the members but due to the pandemic, it has not been possible to carry out these initiatives. It will be possible to continue with these projects when the situation improves. Finally, the Network has developed a clear and comprehensive communication strategy and that has been embraced by the Network members.

| 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 European Network of Holy Week and Easter celebrations, candidate network for the Cultural Route of the Council of Europe certification, was created in 2019. This is the first time that the itinerary is submitted with this application. The idea of creating a new European cultural route arose from the relevance of deep-felt experiences linked to Holy Week and Easter traditions on the European continent, as well as to the varied and complex ways these traditions are expressed reflecting the values shared by many European countries.

Based on the Andalusian network in Spain “Caminos de Pasión” created in 2002, which has steadily promoted its celebrations, the proposal was made to other European communities which have unique Holy Week and Easter Celebrations. This network is open to all religions and beliefs that commemorate the Passion and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Their cultural heritage is a reference point in the respective countries and/or regions. The objective is to promote and disseminate the cultural heritage, both tangible and intangible, related to the celebrations of Holy Week and Easter through actions that enhance this heritage, promote sustainable touristic development and contribute to safeguarding the intangible heritage through scientific and research work. In the same way, the proposal’s main purpose is to join forces and synergies to create a unified a model for the study, safeguarding and dissemination of the heritage and traditions of Holy Week and Easter in Europe. The Route aims to create a common work methodology, a dynamic exchange of knowledge and experiences and the development of joint promotional tools to enable the sharing of these rituals with everyone. The members of the European Network consider that this work must be carried out hand in hand with the host communities, which have known how to keep this heritage alive throughout the years, and the local populations, who identify with this heritage which, they may consider, the most recognizable feature of their identities. The approach that the route wants to apply to its activities is always defined with the collaboration of the host communities.

A goal of the Network is to protect a legacy that continues to this day in Europe. At the heart of the legacy are the communities, which are the keepers of the knowledge and the traditions of these celebrations. The bearer communities not only preserve these rituals and their corresponding heritage, but they also play a crucial role in the social life of their towns and their regions. Based on research and historical documentation, the Network proposes strategy to promote the celebrations and their transmission to the next generation. The Scientific Committee of the route carries out important work in his field through concrete research and the dissemination of information regarding scientific activities. The creation of collaborative working groups in which the bearer communities are relevant and prominent are considered concrete aspects of the celebration. Through training processes and through the promotion of sustainable tourism, the cultural heritage presented during the celebrations is respected.

The European Network of Holy Week and Easter celebrations has 8 members in 5 countries. It is part of the Italian Foundation Federico II, representing the municipalities of Palermo and Caltanissetta, of Sicily (Italy), the municipality of Birgu (Malta); the Commission for Lent and Holy Week Celebration in Braga (Portugal); the Representations of the Passion of Christ in Skofja Loka (Slovenia); the municipalities that are part of the Caminos de Pasión route: Alcalá la Real, Baena, Cabra, Lucena, Priego de Córdoba, Puente Genil, Carmona, Écija, Osuna and Utrera. Also within the Spanish geography it’s found Orihuela, Lorca and Viveiro. The members potentially interested in a future participation are the Association of Specialist in the Field of Cultural Routes “Holy Places of Undivided Christianity”, a Cultural Institution in Moscow, Russia and the Hai Qormi Local Council” in Qormi, Malta. “Caminos de Pasión is the network responsible for the management of the route and location of its headquarters is the “Museo de Osuna” in Osuna (Sevilla-Spain).

3. Main Body Evaluation

3.1 Cultural Route Theme

3.1.1 Definition of the theme of the route

The European Network of Holy Week and Easter Celebrations is formed by European towns that continue celebrating unique Holy Week events. Holy Week celebrations are events widely distributed throughout Europe and are currently held in many towns, where they are regarded as a highly relevant element of local identity. These celebrations can be considered a common element of the European identity and they exist in all the different Christian creeds, a factor that facilitates the process of cultural dialogue and cooperation among participants. They are living patrimonies that have adapted through time to the various existing realities and to local circumstances. During the long history, the rites have changed according to artistic, social and cultural circumstances. New customs have been incorporated. But even today, one can find a great diversity of celebrations that share the same foundation.

These celebrations involve an important number of social and religious agencies which join forces acting as the collaborative base that supports the current relevance. A special mention is made to the social groups and organizations, brotherhoods, confraternities, associations, etc., which are the mainstays of the celebrations, since the celebrations would not have been able to continue over time without them. These organizations are the main protagonists of the celebrations and carry out a very relevant social role within their communities. They also guarantee the continuance of the traditions by involving younger generations through activities for children, thus influencing future generations.

Holy Week celebrations not only have a symbolic and ritual value, but they also bring together a considerable representation of paramount artistic manifestations such as music, theatre, sculpture, painting, architecture, rites, and crafts (some of which are very specific to the celebrations). There is also a type of gastronomy that is clearly linked to Holy Week, with recipes that are only prepared during this time of the year, that are deeply socially embedded, and that share certain elements throughout the various regions.

The theme lends itself to cultural and educational exchanges among young people and is in line with the Council of Europe in this respect. One of the goals of the Route is to promote the continuity of the celebrations. To fulfil this objective, the network supports the creation of a connection between the younger generation and these celebrations. Activities are designed to encourage participation and facilitate exchange, knowledge and the discovery of the meaning and social role young people play, not only in their communities, but also in other countries. Therefore, the network carries out promotional actions, exchanges, and specific educational activities. It also proposes new interpretations of different cultural and artistic expressions.

The theme permits the development of initiatives, innovative projects and products in the field of cultural tourism and sustainable cultural development. The route encourages the sustainable development of the regions using this theme. Currently many visitors enjoy the Holy Week celebrations and in some cases the influx of tourists is massive. While this represents a very relevant benefit for the regions, it also entails certain difficulties and challenges. The intention of the Network is to work jointly with the regions in a coordinated effort to develop sustainable tourism models that facilitate dialogue between the bearer communities and visitors and that can be applicable to other cultural destinations that are framed in a similar context. The Route also aspires to develop common products that represent diversification of movement along the Route and the organization of tours and products in the

regions, not only during Holy Week, but throughout the year. Within this goal, the network proposes to promote crafts linked to celebrations, their preservation with the incorporation of new artisans and the search for their financial viability.

3.1.2 Historical and cultural context

The theme is researched and developed by groups of multidisciplinary experts from different regions of Europe. There is a large bibliography available, and the subject has been and still is broadly researched. There are many research centers dedicated to the subject matter and universities all around Europe are working on this theme. The origins of Holy Week are not completely documented because part of its origin is transmitted through tradition. Several Religious Councils met during the early days of Christianity and established the formal dates of the celebration, but not without controversy. Over time, the celebration was extended. Today, the Passion as well as the Resurrection of Christ are commemorated.

In the 15th century a general change was generated in all of Europe and the floats started to grow in importance. This process ran in parallel with the creation of confraternities dedicated to the cult of the Passion and Death of Christ and Our Lady of Sorrows. During religious representations, the participants carried sculptures. The Council of Trent (1545-1563) was the greatest incentive for the major development of Holy Week processions as we know them today because Catholics acted against the Reformation by giving more importance to religious images and its veneration. The process of replacing real flagellants (self-flagellation) with statues started in the 15th century. It was firmly established, even if there are some places in Europe, South America and Asia where the rituals are still performed by flagellants.

During the 17th and at the beginning of the 18th century, Baroque ideas combined with the first advances of the enlightenment changed popular mentality. This was a challenge to confraternities and public rituals because the populace felt a more reserved and intimate religiosity. This preference combined with the ecclesiastical confiscation, gave way to a period of decline and, in many cases, abandonment of the processions and other rites of Holy Week. The processions were considered profane and generated almost no devotion and during the first half of the 19th century, Holy Week experienced a period of decline. Nonetheless, the 19th century is the point of origin of the celebration seen today, as the Concordats of the Holy See promoted it. During the 20th century there were periods of splendor that revitalized many confraternities. They started their Holy Week itinerary in the city center, from major cathedrals, and ended in urban neighborhoods, to include the entire village. New confraternities were created based on traditional aesthetics but expressing diverse social and cultural values agreeing with current thought. From the last quarter of the 20th century to the beginning of the 21st century, notwithstanding the rise of secularism, Holy Week is enjoying a new period of expansion and relevance.

3.1.3 Council of Europe values represented by the theme

The themes of the European Network of Holy Week and Easter celebrations is representative of European values. Holy Week and Easter celebrations are two of the most expansive Christian traditions. These celebrations are found throughout Europe and are shared by Christian beliefs. The Celebrations incorporate a broad cultural heritage which has experienced a long-term evolution from, at least, the Middle Ages. Since that time, these celebrations have changed and new rituals have been added based on the religious, cultural, and social trends of each period.

The structure of the European Network of Holy Week and Easter Celebrations is inclusive and democratic and is aligned with the defence of Human Rights regarding cultural access and the participation of all European citizens. The subject of the celebrations unites different religious faiths, providing the ideal setting for intercultural dialogue based on mutual respect, participation and collaboration. The work methodology of the Route is based on respecting the broad social foundation represented by brotherhoods and confraternities (the communities that bear these celebrations or “bearer communities”). These organizations unite different social groups and serve as an exchange and meeting point as well as a forum for dialogue and understanding. The celebrations are elements of relevant social cohesion built on a foundation of conviviality, respect and participation. These are the most representative elements of the celebrations.

The European Network of Holy Week and Easter Celebrations embodies many of the values expressed in the Conventions of the European Council and other international organizations. Within the European Cultural Convention, the Network has the responsibility regarding cultural heritage: its conservation, its promotion, and its sustainability. The Network also establishes measures and actions aimed at research and documentation, and the promotion of the celebrations of Holy Week as common heritage. The Faro Convention is considered when the Route aims to preserve the Celebrations by recognizing the right of any citizen to participate in the cultural life. The Network also fosters cultural diversity by collaborating with other organizations that work and promote cultural heritage linked with Holy Week. Finally, Holy Week celebrations fall within the concept of intangible heritage as it is defined by the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. The Celebrations bring together a broad variety of representations, expressions, knowledge, and techniques with a remarkable and unique collection of customary practices, objects and spaces ritualized by the celebrations themselves. The celebrations have a complex structure that include traditions, oral expressions, music and dramatized representations, artisanal techniques, rituals, festive acts, all with a strong social component.

3.2 Fields of Action

3.2.1 Co-operation in research and development

The themes Holy Week and Easter Celebrations have been widely researched in Europe. Many groups composed of experts and specialists have approached the issue, as is demonstrated by the ample bibliography that exists. This work has been advancing for years and, in recent times, has attracted significant interest, from diverse universities to specialised institutions. The European Network of Holy Week and Easter Celebrations itself is working on the development of a bibliography that will be updated on the Network’s website. It will facilitate access to extensive documentation and the exchange of information among different regions. It is being worked on by 6 members of the Scientific Committee.

The complexity of these celebrations, their long history and the numerous elements that come together within them, have enabled different specialists to conduct research in this field. The members of the Scientific Committee of the network include specialties in Anthropology, History and Linguistics. It is important to consider that Holy Week celebrations gather a major body of immaterial and material heritage components, which means that diverse branches of knowledge can find, in this subject, a profuse amount of material to study. It should be noted that there are research centers specifically dedicated to these studies. Among them several of the centers can be mentioned with which the Network maintains regular contact, such as the International Center of Studies of Popular Religiosity; Holy Week at The University of Valladolid (Spain), an institution that works with the Network; the Federico II Foundation (Italia),

which is a member of the Network; the Museum of Skofja Loka (Slovenia), which is also a member of the Network; the Department of Anthropology of the University of Seville (Spain), which collaborates with the Network's Scientific Committee; the Institute of Advanced Studies of Catholicism and Globalization (Portugal), which also collaborates with the Network; and the Centre for Confraternities Studies in Granada (Spain).

The Networks develop actions of research, study and scientific promotion with publications and Scientific Congresses that open new fields of research. Every two years, the Network organizes a congress that is open to any researcher who wishes to participate. The first edition of the congress named "Holy Week, Common Heritage" took place on March 12 and 13, 2021 in an on-line format. This took place at a time when the celebration of the event was subject to the limitations of the Covid-19 health crisis. This Scientific Congress invited European researchers to present papers on all aspects of the celebrations, classified under different themes, seeking to highlight the historical elements and shared rituals, as well as the study of the validity of Easter celebrations at the European level. The event was divided into the following five thematic areas: Easter as common European heritage; History and Anthropology of Easter in Europe; Artistic Manifestation; the impact of Easter on Tourism; and the Role of Collaboration and Exchange that the Creation of a European Network Could Play. The program included the participation of 9 lecturers from 3 countries. They came from different universities such as Seville, Palermo, Granada or Valladolid, among others. There were also specialists on the subject from different institutions, as well as the presentation of 23 communications by experts on the tradition of Holy Week and Easter from the different countries that constitute this Cultural Network. In this first edition, 225 participants of different nationalities were registered, a large part from Italy, Portugal and Spain. Registration was completely free of charge and done through the site web: <https://holyweekconference.eu/> Drafting of the Minutes of this first event is being completed.

This year, the European Network of Holy Week and Easter Celebrations published "Holy Week, a living tradition". The 200-page book, anthropological orientated, is a compilation of some of the traditions of Holy Week and Easter that are celebrated in different areas of Europe. The book is a collection of several research works carried out by members of the Network's Scientific Committee. The work, to date, is available in Spanish and will soon be available in English. The Network is planning an annual publication. The upcoming one will be about gastronomy and tourism. The Committee has also started working on a scientific magazine. The first issue is expected to be published in 2022 in four languages (English, Spanish, Italian and Portuguese).

3.2.2 Enhancement of the memory, history and European heritage

The Route provides European citizens with tools that allow them to approach this unique heritage and promote it through digital media. This provides open access to documentation databases and participation in seminars by a network of Museums, as well as by visiting and participating directly in the celebrations. The basis of the methodology acknowledges the bearer communities and the right of their members to participate and make decisions within the communities. They are also seen as protectors of the celebrations, stabilising collaboration and encouraging dialogue among them, the scientific community and other people who participate in the celebrations as community members or as tourists. Holy Week celebrations take place all over Europe and are present in diverse Christian beliefs, a factor that facilitates intercultural dialogue. The celebrations' structure itself is based on the participation of different agents (bearer communities, local society, local administrations, religious entities, visitors, etc.) in an environment of mutual respect and collaboration. The spirit of the celebrations is participative and demands a collective action that is the very essence of the festivities.

The historical evolution of this heritage has changed over time. This has brought about adaptations and the incorporation of new elements and rituals. The dynamic process of evolution of the celebrations has been defined by the religious, social, and artistic trends of each time period, which leave their mark on the celebrations structure. Therefore, the celebrations have gradually incorporated the main cultural trends which appeared on the continent as well as having preserved some of the old rituals, originating a dialogue between both the old and the new. There are, for example, shows that continue to represent medieval theatrical pieces, exceptional baroque sculptures that share the spotlight with new modern woodcarvings, costumes from different periods, musical pieces from the 19th and the 20th centuries and ancient arts and crafts. Even the bearer communities, which oversee organizing the diverse events were founded in the 16th and 17th centuries. In these celebrations, it is therefore possible to identify elements with different origins and influences which are integrated within the same cultural context. This offers an excellent opportunity to discover the memory and the evolution of our European heritage. The popular character of Holy Week celebrations throughout history, a feature that is still maintained today, should also be highlighted. Social involvement has enabled the different class tiers to associate in a common cultural and religious event, on equal terms. The events serve as a conveyer of communication and social conviviality. The relevance of the celebrations should be also noted. They are a living heritage which is widely spread across Europe and are still relevant today. The celebrations are not a cultural construct that needs to be recreated, but they are real, fully established and socially appreciated events. This fact facilitates collaboration and intercultural dialogue. Holy Week celebrations are thus a unique example of the common and representative heritage of European culture. The culture is characterized by a long historical trajectory that is constantly incorporating material and immaterial heritage elements. These elements have coexisted for a long time and reflect a European identity with a large, supportive social base.

One of the first joint actions between the members of the network was the organization of an exhibition of pictures of European Holy Week for Caminos de Pasion and the Fondazione Federico II. The exhibition took place in Seville (Spain) in 2018. This exhibition was hosted by Sicily the year before. A series of conferences about Holy Week took place during this event. The speakers were experts on the subject and several of them belonged to the Scientific Committee of the Network.

The 1st European Forum of Holy Week Celebrations took place on September 11 and 12, 2018 in Lucena (Spain). The Technical forum concentrated on the importance of Holy Week in Europe. As the formation of the Network advanced, collaboration among organizations was put forward and the creation of a European network was proposed. The 2nd European Forum of the European Network of Holy Week and Easter celebrations took place on March 18 and 19, 2019 in Braga (Portugal). This was the meeting point for the different regions of the Network to discuss its organization and become familiar with the towns. The Constituent assembly of the Network took place during the Forum. At the work session, very important points were discussed and adopted, which have guided the association's operations and actions, including the signing the network's founding act, selecting the Managing Committee, creating the Scientific Committee, adopting the action plan and budget, and organizing activities to prepare the European Cultural Route application.

On May 20 and 21, 2021, the Network organized the 1st Forum of Holy Week Brotherhoods and Confraternities in an on-line format. This forum was held with the aim of sharing and discussing several aspects of Holy Week and Easter celebrations. This included, the vision of the Brotherhoods and Confraternities, who were the protagonists of these celebrations, and their preservation and continuity of their participation. It also aspired to build and strengthen foundations and face, in a collaborative way, the future of the traditions, their conservation and

sustainability. The event included a total of four round tables. The colloquia were made up of 22 members of brotherhoods and confraternities, technicians and specialists from Spain, Italy, Portugal, Malta and Slovenia. 80 participants were registered for this first meeting. Registration, completely free of charge, was done on the website:

<https://encuentrodehermandades.eu/en/>

This year, 2021, the network launched the project “The outstanding piece of the Quarter”, with selected pieces from the Museums of the European Network of Holy Week and Easter celebrations (Figure 1). The objective is to disseminate the most representative pieces that are housed in the museums of the eighteen localities that make up the Network and which in turn are representative of local celebrations. There are many places included in this Network that permanently display the traditions of Holy Week to protect and disseminate their heritage to the public. These spaces are a reminder that the presence of Holy Week lasts throughout the year, beyond the dates of its annual celebration. Numerous pieces have been collected throughout the centuries and they represent the uniqueness of traditions passed down from generation to generation. Sculptures, paintings, embroidery, tunics, and jewellery will be some of the pieces that will be posted weekly on the institution’s social network with descriptions in English and Spanish. The list of selected pieces is also updated on the Network’s website.

The museums that participate in this initiative are: the Ecce-Homo Brotherhood House in Alcalá la Real, the Museum of Sacred Art of the Brotherhood of Buen Fin de Cabra, the Museum of the Sacramental Brotherhood of Saint Giles de Écija, the Brotherhood House of the Cofradía Amor y Paz de Lucena, Museum Brotherhood House of Nuestro Padre Jesús de la Columna and María Santísima de la Esperanza de Lucena, Permanent Exhibition of Holy Week in Puente Genil, muBBla (Museum of Embroidery of Paso Blanco de Lorca), Museum of Holy Week in Orihuela and Permanent Exhibition of Holy Week in Viveiro, all in Spain; Museum of the Holy Week of Caltanissetta in Italy; Skofja Loka Museum in Slovenia.

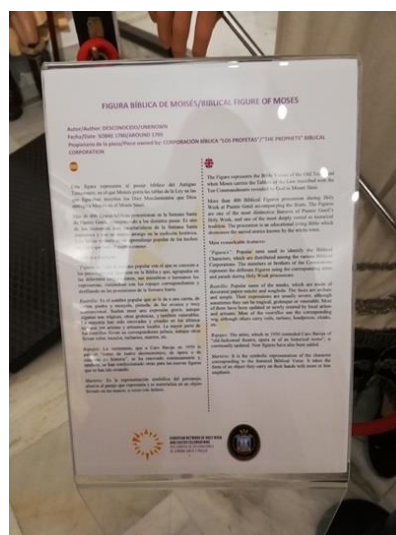


Figure 1. Biblical figure of Moses (The outstanding piece of the Quarter)
Permanent exhibition of the Holy Week at Puente Genil (Spain)

3.2.3 Cultural and educational exchanges for young Europeans

Young people participate in many different roles in the celebrations. In the past years, the bearer communities encouraged the integration of the younger population in celebrations intended for them. School activities are held frequently. The educational approach of the activities is to familiarize children with the identity of their region. The incorporation of younger people into the development of the celebrations is a priority to guarantee the continuity of the traditions. They are also some celebrations for children and youngsters where they play the main role, such as the Children Processions. Some of these processions are new and were created to link the past and the future, facilitating the participation of young people. Others have existed for many decades. The local communities have embraced the old and the new activities, which have become an essential part of the celebrations. Children get to know the traditions which helps them experience Holy Week and Easter with a better understanding of the past. The Network supports and promotes these types of events, and it has created a document for members about Holy Week celebrations for children that will facilitate the development of youth-oriented actions. Twelve towns in the Network are involved in this project as are the technical team and the scientific committee. One of the members that has participated in this project is Braga in Portugal with the example of "*Los Bombos Penitentes*". The festivity involves the younger generations of Braga in the celebration of the cultural, artistic and religious heritage of the city. The participants, of around 40 children between 10 and 16, wear the traditional Farricocos (costumes) and parade through town stopping before Calvaries to play two rhythmical compositions specially created for Holy Week. The pieces are interpreted with drums, cymbals, snare drums and black rattles.

Another description is the "*Semana Santa Chiquita*" in Puente Genil (Spain) (Figure 2). The main event takes place on the 3rd of May, the Day of the Cross (which would be the equivalent of Good Friday during Holy Week). Children recreate what their parents and relatives have done during Holy Week. There are processions of small floats carried by boys and girls that create a colourful atmosphere characteristic of the Andalusian spring. There is documentation that proves that the Day of the Cross dates to the second decade of the 19th century. Today, during this celebration, children are the main protagonists. They represent biblical figures and carry small replicas of the floats that make up the procession during Holy Week. With this celebration, the children become part of Puente Genil's Holy Week and start to discover what it is like to dress-up in the costumes of biblical figures, to carry a float with Christ or with the Holy Mary or to parade dressed as a Roman soldier. At 9 a.m. they attend the Diana (a traditional musical program). They eat at the barracks on the same tables where the parents eat each Lenten Saturday and each day during Holy Week. They listen to marches and pasodobles, the traditional music of Holy Week at Puente Genil. Accompanied by their parents, they start to get involved in the tradition of Puente Genil's Holy Week.



Figure 2. "Semana Santa Chiquita" in Puente Genil
Permanent exhibition of the Holy Week at Puente Genil (Spain)

In parallel, the network is working on developing meetings between young people who already participate in these events and other people of their age from towns included in the route which hold these types of celebrations. The meetings will allow the participants to share information, discover other on-site celebrations and exchange experiences as well as express their vision of the celebrations - how they live them, how they understand them and what they can keep the traditions alive.

Competitions for children and young people (drawing and storytelling) have also been initiated in collaboration with local schools. The competitions revolve around Holy Week celebrations and pursue two objectives: to foster creativity using these celebrations as inspiration and to understand how the children interpret the celebrations. The Network also wishes to develop, in collaboration with schools and with the group of Holy Week Museums that belong to the Network, a program of extracurricular activities that will open the culture and heritage of the celebrations to younger people. The program will incorporate a common methodology that will disseminate the heritage to local educational organizations.

3.2.4 Contemporary cultural and artistic practice

Holy Week Celebrations unite different artistic manifestations. Artistic diversity and complementary are key elements that define the Celebrations' cultural value. This process has occurred many times during the history of the Celebrations and continues today, especially in the case of music where melodies are still being composed for these Holydays, and sculpture, due to the incorporation of new images in the processions. Therefore, there are different artistic periods represented that coexist on this Holiday, offering a historical vision of its evolution over time. This process continues today, always in accordance with the bearer communities.

The artistic manifestations linked to the celebrations require the participation of professional as well as amateur artists. Artists are in charge of developing the artistic creations that take part in the celebrations and of the new pieces incorporated over time. Successive artistic and cultural movements have had an obvious influence on the development of these Celebrations in different countries. Artistic manifestations have a very strong local component and can be jealously guarded by host communities. Innovations in artistic fields must be developed by prior agreements and consensus that are evaluated to define artistic content. The Route candidate collects information on the different artistic workshops found in the network's member municipalities. The municipality of Cabra (Spain) for example, stands out for the

artisan manufacture of candles (figure 3), a task linked once again to Holy Week and religious festivals. There are two important candle factories in the town. Hermanos Lama candle maker founded in 1987, is a family-run company that follows in the footsteps of ancient candlemakers that created wax candles during the mid-18th century (figure 3). This involves preparing the materials from scratch with a paraffin base using hydrogenated animal oils, stearic acid (solid fatty acids) and of course beeswax.



Figure 3: Candlemaking “Hermanos Lama” (Cabra - Spain)

In the municipality of Baena (Spain) a whole range of workshops have developed around the city’s Easter celebrations which keep ancient traditions alive and produce extraordinary quality Jewish costumes and elaborate helmets. The Jewish presence is the leading figure during Baena’s Easter Week. This figure plays a special drum which is handcrafted in a local workshop as well (Figure 4). This drum-play ritual has been declared Intangible by the Cultural Heritage of Humanity, UNESCO.



Figure 4: Elaborate helmets and drums in Baena (Spain)

In Skofja Loka (Slovenia), Petra Plestenjak Podlogar hand carves small wooden loaves of bread. Master of hand woodcarving since 1978, Petra is the only master craftsman today making wooden models for the Skofja Loka “small bread”. The long tradition of producing models and baking “small breads” in Skofja Loka region was introduced in the early 18th century by nuns of the Order of Saint Clare. Today, Petra upgrades models with her original motifs and

patterns, thus intertwining rich tradition with contemporary thought. Beside models, she also carves new products such as bookmarks, keyrings, and furniture decorations.

The city of Braga in Portugal offers one of the most multifaceted expressions of Holy Week. The streets are decked in purple, and the smell of incense is omnipresent. The main figure is the *farricocos* (penitents) and these characters wear hoods and coarse clothes with rope belts. They walk barefoot, carrying noisemakers. Braga is home to workshops for the fabrication of these hoods. In Birgu (Malta) the artist Andrew Bugeja crafts statues, designs, custom-made garments and street-art decorations. Finally in Caltanissetta (Italie), Holy Week has a special meaning for the population and is considered one of the most important celebrations in Sicily. In this municipality is possible to find master painters who specialize in painting decorative stucco. There are also master blacksmiths and master upholsterers.

3.2.5 Cultural tourism and sustainable cultural development

Holy Week and Easter celebrations currently attract numerous visitors to the towns where they are organized. The strong tradition and the firm local rooting of these celebrations make them one of the most relevant occasions to reunite with family and neighbours who live in other cities. They also attract many tourists who attend, participate, enjoy, and discover the celebrations. This cultural tourism on the Route is currently fully established. However, there is still room for improvement towards sustainable tourism. The network proposes an approach to tourist activities based on four aspects:

- The promotion of the celebrations to maintain the influx of tourism, an activity which is essential for the socioeconomical development of many regions.
- Guaranteeing the sustainability of tourism.
- “Deseasonalized tourism”: Holy Week related heritage should generate visitors all year, not only during Holy Week.
- Exploring and designing new types of tourism and proposals which facilitate a better integration of tourists within the celebrations. The goal is to improve their insight and their participation and help them to understand the emotions that these celebrations awake in the bearer communities and in the local population to better manage the impact that their presence might have on the celebrations.

The Network works to create sustainable tourism models, putting special emphasis on social sustainability and on reaching and appropriated integration and rapport between tourists and the bearer communities. This will improve the tourist experience. They will obtain a broader knowledge of the uniqueness and of the cultural values of the celebrations that go beyond to the contemplation.

For the itinerary, it is important, from the point of view of sustainable development, to consider other Holy Week related activities, aside from tourism, that also characterize the heritage and have a crucial role in the development of the regions. Holy Week celebrations feature arts and crafts. These practices require highly specialised craftsmen, generate employment and promote the development of a local economy based on the types of professions, as was mentioned in the previous section. Promoting the continuity of these crafts means trying to identify models that contribute to their economical sustainability in the medium to long-term and finding formulas that guarantee their continuity over time. The main goal of the Network is the preservation of the heritage. However, as it is usually the case with immaterial heritage, the goal is always adapting and transforming. A current example of this is the creation of Holy Week Museums, an aspect to which the Network is devoting specific attention, and which serves also to “deseasonalize” the tourist season. There are other plans and proposals along this line.

Tourism, in the context of Holy Week celebrations is a reality in all the towns where the celebrations take place. The members of the Network participated in promoting and commercializing the Celebrations and, before the Covid-19 pandemic, had regular contact with local tourist operators and entrepreneurs that programmed travel within the Route. The public that choose these kinds of trips has a very mixed profile, although families constitute the largest audience. Travel programs can also find good acceptance among seniors, couples, and groups. The demand for these trips also varies, although religious and cultural interest is the most common. In the past, visits mainly revolved around the celebration period. Lately, owing to the popularity of the celebrations and their contribution to the towns, the trips are becoming better known to the public. With the rich heritage associated around Holy Week and what the towns offer outside of Holy Week, visitors arrive throughout the year.

Tourist activities include attending the celebrations, rituals and religious events that take place during these days in each of the towns. Visitors usually complete their visit discovering local landmarks and gastronomy. In this sense the network has launched a publication “Culinary traditions at the European Network of Holy Week and Easter Celebrations” in which all member countries participated. Gastronomy is a characteristic feature of Holy Week and part of the Easter traditions of the towns that belong to the European Network of Holy Week and Easter Celebrations. During the celebration period, there are many dishes prepared in restaurants or at home to commemorate the flavours that have been passed down from generation to generation. This recipe book includes the recipes to prepare fish, meat, vegetables, and numerous traditional sweets.

Members of the Network visited the International Tourism Trade Fair FITUR in Madrid (Spain) from January 22 to 26, 2020. These members contacted different agents during the visit. The Celebration itinerary was presented to the public at the Spanish exhibition stand (Turespaña). The potential and the actual level of tourism surrounding Holy Week celebrations are growing. During 2020 and 2021, the Network programmed several actions to work on the tourist initiatives put forward by all the members. Due to the pandemic, it was not possible to carry out these actions. Holy Week celebrations were suspended for two years, and tourism was restricted. However, there are other touristic collaborative projects that have moved forward and that will be put in place once the situation improves.

From the point of view of commercialization, the first action will be aimed at updating the catalogue of tour operators that include Holy Week celebrations in their offers. The Network has an initial list, although it will need to be checked after the pandemic, since it might have changed. It will also be necessary to implement a special cultural tourist offers during the rest of the year. It is important to consider that many of the towns are very well known among the public precisely because of the relevance of Holy Week celebrations.

3.3 Cultural Route Network

3.3.1 Overview of institutional /legal structure of the network

The European Network of Holy Week and Easter Celebrations was formalized in Braga, Portugal, on March 18, 2019. Led by the Andalusian route “Caminos de Pasión”, the network started with founding members from five countries, Italy, Malta, Slovenia, Spain and Portugal. During the Network working session, several important points which guide the association’s operations and actions, were discussed and adopted. These included the signing the Network’s founding act, selecting the Managing Committee, creating the Scientific Committee, adopting the action plan and budget, as well as organizing activities to prepare the European Cultural Route application.

The Association is a non-profit association that has its own legal identity separate from its members and full capacity to act on its own behalf. The aim of the Association is to promote and disseminate the material and intangible cultural heritage related to Holy Week and Easter celebrations of any religious faith. The area of action is both in Spain and internationally, including the territories of all Council of Europe member countries. The Association's registered address is the same as the Caminos de Pasion Association's current tax address, which is C/ Don Gonzalo, 2, 14500 Puente Genil (Córdoba), Spain. The Association may establish subsidiary offices, branches, agencies and representations in the territory of its members by agreement with the Management Committee.

The Association's priorities are to:

- Conserve, protect and enhance the Cultural Heritage related to Holy Week and Easter celebrations in its social and natural environment, including not only the physical boundaries but also the human milieu.
- Support population sectors that face greater development difficulties, i.e. women, young people, disabled persons, the elderly and ethnic minorities.
- Use new technologies.
- Enhance heritage destinations and their natural and rural environment.
- Promote sustainable tourism.

Membership, with full voting rights, shall be open to public and private organisations with objectives similar to the Association's, and the capacity to act on those objectives. All members must be established under the laws of the various States and be governed by the principles of the European Union and the Council of Europe.

The following membership exist:

- Ordinary Members: Those legal persons who become a member by submitting their application to the Managing Committee, which shall include their express will of becoming a member, accepting this Constitution and any associated regulations, as well as any other legal provisions and their inherent rights and obligations. Cities, towns, institutions or organisations can become Association's members.
- Honorary Members: Those organisations or individuals who, in the opinion of the General Meeting, have prominently helped or prominently help the Association fulfil its aims.

The Association's management and administration shall be exercised by its management bodies: the General Meeting, the Managing Committee and the Chairperson. The Association's internal organisation and the operations must be democratic and guarantee pluralism as a right. The General Meeting is the highest ruling organ and expresses the will of the Association. It shall be constituted by all members, who shall be represented in accordance with the following scheme:

- Entities or institutions, one representative per entity.
- Supra-municipal entities:
 - o Up to 50.000 inhabitants, one representative
 - o Up to 100.000. inhabitants, two representatives
 - o 100.000+ inhabitants, three representatives

The General Meeting shall be called by the Chair of the Association. Written notice of the meeting must be sent to every member at least fifteen days in advance, stating the date, time and place of the meeting, as well as the agenda. General Meetings may be ordinary or extraordinary. The General Meeting shall meet in an ordinary session at least once a year, within the four months following the end of the financial year. The General Meeting shall meet in an extraordinary session when circumstances require, when the Chairperson deems it necessary, by agreement of the Managing Committee, or when proposed in writing by at least

25% of the members. The Association shall be administered by a Managing Committee made up of a Chairperson, a First Vice-Chairperson, a Second Vice-Chairperson, a Secretary, a Treasurer and at least another two members. Managing Committee offices shall be valid for two years and the members may be re-elected at the end of that period. The official languages of the Association are Spanish and English.

The European Network for Holy Week and Easter Celebrations founding members agree on establishing the Technical Management Department's head office at the address: C/ Sevilla, 37, Museo de Osuna, Osuna, Seville, Spain, which is also the Caminos de Pasion Association's head office. The Caminos de Pasion Association's Management shall undertake its tasks. The Technical Management Department resolve, plan and implement the annual programmes in a professional manner. The department's duties are developed by its staff and coordinated by Management, which be responsible for promoting and implementing the initiatives and agreements made by the General Meeting, among other objectives.

At the headquarters of the Association as well as at the central offices of its members, there is information available about the Network. The available information includes:

- A copy of the statutes and of the requirements demanded to belong to the Network, available to anyone interested in entering the organization.
- A presentation brochure.
- Publication: Holly Week: A Common Heritage.
- The list of the members and information about each of them.
- The list of members of the Scientific Committee.
- Annual Activity Report.
- Annual Activity Plan.
- The minutes of the Association's General Assemblies

The financial year begins on 1 January and concludes on 31 December, coinciding with the calendar year. The Association function with an annual budget. The treasurer prepares the budget draft before 1 January each year so that it can be approved by the Ordinary General Meeting. Most of the income from the network are the annual membership fees that mainly are used to cover the Association's ordinary technical and administrative expenses and in principle no other type of income is planned in the next three years for the network (grants, donations, etc.). The annual fee and the final payment calendar are proposed annually by the Managing Committee and approved in the Ordinary General Meeting.

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

The European Network of Holy Week and Easter Celebrations is an organization currently formed by eighteen towns from five European countries. The network is directed by the Andalusian route "Caminos de Pasión" and the founding countries are Spain, Portugal, Malta, Slovenia and Italy (Figure 5), in a total of eight entities, which organize, in their different geographical regions, ceremonies related to Holy Week and Easter Celebrations.

The European Network of Holy Week and Easter Celebrations consists of the Frederick II Foundation, representing Palermo and Caltanissetta (Sicily, Italy); the town of Birgu (Malta), Braga's Holy Week and Lent Commission (Portugal), the Skofja Loka Passion Plays (Slovenia), the towns on the Caminos de Pasion route, including Alcalá la Real (Jaén), Baena, Cabra, Lucena, Priego de Córdoba and Puente Genil (Córdoba) and Carmona, Écija, Osuna and Utrera (Seville), as well as Orihuela (Alicante), Lorca (Murcia) and Viveiro (Lugo) in Spain.

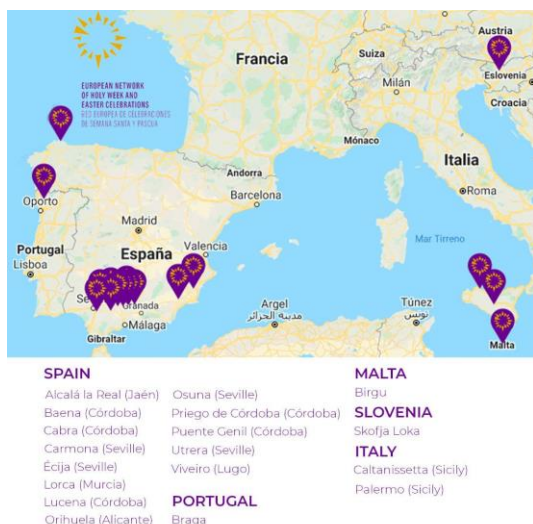


Figure 5: Network members' map
 Source: European Network of Holy Week and Easter Celebrations

The Scientific Committee is important with regard to recruiting new members, in order to set heritage, culture and geographical criteria for new members.

The annual fees are as follows:

- Towns with up to 5.000 habitants: 500 €
- Towns with up to 15.000 inhabitants: 1.000 €
- Large towns with between 15.000 and 50.000 inhabitants: 2.000 €
- Large towns and cities with more than 50.000 inhabitants: 3.000 €
- Town/city/regional networks or other entities: 5.000 €

Camino de Pasión's Chair proposed creating an internal regulation that sets out the selection criteria for new members, also taking into account suggestions and recommendations made by the Scientific Committee. In this sense, a procedure for the entry of new members has been established, with the requirements and a form which can be downloaded from the web page of the network. The requirements in order to join the network are:

- Singularity: i.e. celebrations that owing to particular circumstances add a new value or offer specific values of interest
- Authenticity: in terms of celebrations that have enjoyed clear continuity in time, including any necessary adaptation, but preserving most of their original values.
- Validity: in that the celebrations are fully implanted socially in the town with a clearly defined bearing community.
- Interest of external collectives: which can be assessed by the tourist interest that the celebrations attract and the declarations and awards they have received.
- The wish to join the network: measured in terms of the real degree of involvement of the collectives in each town towards their interest in the project; shown by
 - o Agreement to apply to join the network supported by the administrative authority with affective power in each case.
 - o Declaration in favour from the brotherhoods and confraternities involved, which will be shown by their agreement to participate in the project.

At least four of the five requirements must be fulfilled clearly. Moreover, the last point is mandatory in the case of all the applications. An official form has been created with all the above points and simple explanations to facilitate its completion by applicant. During the

application procedure, the Scientific Committee can help the applicant by clearing up any doubts as regards the presentation of the documentation.

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

One of the actions is to create a database of places with similar Holy Week/Easter celebrations that may be interested in joining the project. Regarding this point, it has not been possible to actively look for new members because of the current health situation. However, some places have shown an interest in joining the network. After the conference, the Network received several application requests from new members. They were asked to apply formally. Applications received from Spain included Antequera, Calatayud and Crevillent. Some follow-up has also been done on international contacts. Members are asked to make new contacts in their areas. In order not to unbalance the number of members of the network, it is proposed to find international members instead of adding new Spanish members. Contacts have been made with other regions, namely Latin America, where these traditions are also deeply rooted. It would be interesting to welcome members from France and Germany. The Network has an interest in including the countries in Europe that follow the Orthodox Church (Greece, Romania, etc.).

The municipality of Hal Qormi (Malta) is an independent member that has an interest in joining the Network. Another region, in the south of Malta, comprising 12 towns of which Hal Qormi is a part would also like to become part of the European Network and apply for membership independently. If the application is accepted, in the future, Hal Qormi will cancel its membership and the region will become a member. Another potential future member is the Association of Specialist in the Field of Cultural Routes “Holy places of Undivided Christianity” in Moscow (Russia). This association is a candidate to the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe certification.

3.4 Communication tools

3.4.1 Current state of communication tools developed by the network

A communication strategy clear and comprehensive has been developed by the network and applied by all network members. The objectives are the following:

- Show the brand European Network of Easter Celebrations and position it in the countries that currently comprise it: Spain, Italy, Portugal, Malta and Slovenia.
- Disseminate the product and the offer of the European Network of Holy Week and Easter celebrations with concrete actions in online channels (social networks and website) and offline (communication media).

The resources involved in the execution of the communication of the network are the following:

- Responsible for communication of the European Network of Holy Week and Easter Celebrations.
- Support from the Secretariat of the European Network of Holy Week and Easter Celebrations.
- Support from the partners of the member countries of the European Network of Holy Week and Easter Celebrations.

The central communication theme of the European Network of Holy Week and Easter Celebrations revolves around the religious, cultural, artistic, and historical heritage of the event, as well as the social component of the traditions within the municipalities. The tone has a

markedly informative and scientist character, as a meeting centre for scientists, researchers, institutions and members of brotherhoods, confraternities and interested groups. Finally, it is relevant to present the Network's member municipalities as tourist destinations for enthusiasts of Holy Week, cultural heritage, history, traditions, crafts, gastronomy, music, rituals and children's activities.

The Network designed a graphic charter in September 2019, and it is currently in application. The Portuguese Network member in Braga coordinated the design of the Network's logo, which was then approved by the Network Assembly. The charter includes the Network's logo and its applications. The Network created its website (<http://www.holyweekeurope.com/>) available in English and Spanish and its Facebook page and Instagram account in these two languages. The contents include references to the activities developed by the Network as well as to the promotion of the heritage of the diverse celebrations. Aside from this type of content, which is updated periodically, the Route organizes targeted publicity campaigns about the events and includes extracts of research work developed by the Scientific Committee.

The Network uses Facebook to stream several activities and promote them more widely. The post always includes graphics (pictures, video, etc.) and it pays special attention to the quality and relevance of these materials. The material comes from the image database created by the Secretariat of the Network and to which all members of the Network can contribute. As Instagram is a visual network which focuses mainly on images and pictures, The Network pays special attention to the selection of graphics and uses a database created especially for this purposes. The Network post regularly, maintaining an average of two posts a week. The network has also a channel You Tube that includes the conferences of the 1st Congress to reach a wider public. Future plans include the disseminating of other informative material about the celebrations in video format.

The candidate Route has created materials to increase the visibility of the Route. There is an 8-page brochure available which includes a presentation of the Network and the celebrations. The brochure is available in print and on digital media. Print material has been created to make the Network of Museums known. It includes all the available offers in the region of the Network. A recipe book with the most iconic dishes from the different regions is also available in English and Spanish. The included recipes are traditionally prepared during Holy Week. There is also a document that lists all the celebrations organised in the member Network towns for children. The intention of this material is to promote the Route activities to encourage younger people to participate in the celebrations. All the documents are available in English and Spanish.

This material can be found at tourist offices, fairs, organized activities, and events. It is available on e-mail and sent by mail on request, etc. The material is made available to the members to promote the Route in all the regions. Information can also be found on the webpage, where anyone can access it. Through communication and documentation, the Board of the Network expresses its hope to be part of the European Council's Cultural Routes. The Network's webpage includes a section explaining what the European Cultural Routes are and its intention of participating in this initiative. The Route also an interactive map which includes the location of all the members of the Network. It allows access to all the information about the celebrations of each of the locations.

The European Network of Holy Week and Easter Celebrations has installed identifying signage in the museums and organizations associated with it. In total, 32 spaces are designated, of which 15 are museums and 17 organizations. By means of a 35 x 25 cm plaque with an identifying text in English and Spanish, a QR code is added that directs the user to the website (www.holyweekeurope.com). The spaces, located in the municipalities of the five member

countries of the Network (Spain, Italy, Portugal, Malta and Slovenia), include museums, brotherhood houses, exhibitions, and associated organizations.



Figure 6: Identifying signage of the European Network

4. Conclusions and recommendations

The European Network of Holy Week and Easter Celebrations candidate was created in 2019. The idea came from the wealth of experiences and activities linked to Holy Week and Easter traditions on the European continent, as well the varied and complex ways they are expressed. The values of the Celebrations are shared by many European countries. The Network came up with the idea thanks to the “Caminos de Pasión”. The Network saw that the Holy Week and Easter celebrations had connections with Europe and that it would be interesting to develop the idea at a European level. Holy Week and Easter celebration themes have been broadly researched in Europe and the scientific committee quickly started working on this topic. Included in the work were local communities that regarded having a European identity an important part of their social base.

The European Network of Holy Week and Easter Celebrations is formed by European towns that continue celebrating unique Holy Week events. These celebrations can be considered a common element of the European identity and a living patrimony that has adapted though time to existing realities and to local circumstances. Holy Week celebrations not only have a symbolic and ritual value, but they also bring together a considerable representation of artistic manifestations and a type of gastronomy that is clearly linked to these festivities. The theme lends itself to cultural and educational exchanges for young people and is in line with the Council of Europe in this respect. The theme also permits the development of initiatives, innovative projects, and products in the field of cultural tourism and sustainable cultural development.

The Network develops action plans for research, study and scientific promotion with publications and scientific congresses that open new fields of research. The Scientific Committee of the itinerary carries out important work in this field through concrete research and the promotion of sites. The first edition of the congress named “Holy Week, Common Heritage” was presented in an on-line format. This event was part of the Network’s commitment to investigate and disseminate traditions related to Holy Week. It was a step towards the process of developing the candidacy for the European Network of Holy Week and Easter Celebrations as a European Cultural Itinerary.

The Route candidate provides European citizens with communication tools that allow them to approach a unique heritage and promote it through digital media, open access to the documentation database, interactive seminars, interpretation provided by the network of Museums and by visiting and participating directly in the celebrations. Holy Week celebrations are held in small towns as well as in big cities, and each of the celebrations has unique features. The network helps to share this heritage and facilitates the creation and strengthening of bonds between rural and urban bearer communities. It is a heritage element that exists in many places in Europe, and it is also an important component of intangible heritage. The evolution of this heritage has adapted over time. This has contributed to the incorporation of new elements and rituals in the celebrations. These celebrations are a living heritage, seen throughout Europe and are still relevant today. In this sense the network facilitates activities between the members of the network like the 1st Forum of Holy Week Brotherhoods and Confraternities in an on-line format and the project “The outstanding piece of the Quarter”.

The bearer communities continue to encourage the younger population to celebrate Holy Week and Easter. The incorporation of younger people in the development of the celebrations is a priority to guarantee its continuity. The Network supports and promotes these events. It has created a document for members about Holy Week celebrations for children that will foster the development of youth-oriented activities. At the moment, there are two countries represented in this publication, Portugal and Spain. It would be interesting to analyse and disseminate other

existing celebrations for young people to the other member countries of the Network. In parallel, the Network is working on setting up meetings among young people who already participate in these events. Work towards the creation of competitions for children and young people has also been initiated in collaboration with local schools and a program of extracurricular activities. This will open up the culture and the heritage of the celebrations to younger people. It would be interesting if in the following years, the necessary resources were found to carry out these projects and create the Network's working group of young people.

Holy Week Celebrations unite different artistic manifestations. Diversity and similarity are two of the key elements that define the Celebrations cultural value. The artistic manifestations linked to the celebrations require the participation of professional as well as amateur artists. They oversee the development of the artistic creations which are a major part of the celebrations. New, artistic pieces are incorporated over time. The Network collects information on the different artistic workshops found in the Network's member municipalities. It will be necessary to develop a plan to publicize and promote these workshops.

Holy Week and Easter celebrations currently attract many visitors to the towns where they are organized. The Network wants to foster the development of sustainable tourism models, putting special emphasis on social sustainability. The goal is to create rapport between tourists and the bearer communities. Before the Covid-19 pandemic, all the members of the Network had regular contact with local tourist operators and entrepreneurs that arranged travel and visits to the celebrations. During 2020 and 2021, the Network had planned several initiatives to work on sustainable tourism. Due to the pandemic, it has not been possible to carry out these initiatives. It would be convenient to continue with these projects when the situation improves.

The inspiration for the European Network of Holy Week and Easter Celebrations is based on the Andalusian network in Spain the "Camino de Pasión", with a long history of networking in Spain and which solidly promotes its celebrations. The proposal was made to other European communities, which have unique Holy Week and Easter Celebrations. The Network is operating and aims to develop a common work methodology, a dynamic knowledge base, shared experiences, information exchange and joint promotion tools that will enable members to share the day-to-day reality and meaning of these celebrations with a general audience. The Network functions through meetings and organizing activities. All the members have information about the Network, and they are motivated and involved. Some quality activities have been carried and there are other activities in the planning stage. It is foreseeable that important topics such as contemporary cultural and artistic practices, cultural tourism and sustainable cultural development will be expanded.

Currently, the number of member countries is small, although it fulfils the requirements of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe criteria. There are some applications from new members, centralized in Spain. The health crisis has restricted recruitment activities for new members. It has a budget to carry out the network's activities but there are no future members who will be able to join in the next three years. Network membership is open to all religions and beliefs that commemorate the Passion and Resurrection of Jesus Christ and whose cultural heritage is a reference point in their respective countries and/or regions.

The Network has developed a clear and comprehensive communication strategy for Network members. The Network route has a logo, a website in English and Spanish, a Facebook page and Instagram account in both languages. To publicize the route, the candidate created materials which include museums, children's activities, and culinary traditions surrounding Holy Week and Easter. Identifying panels are placed on member buildings included in the Network.

| CRITERIA | | Fulfilment of certification criteria by the candidate network |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| I. Cultural route theme | | The Holy Week and Easter Celebrations can be considered a common element of the European identity. It is a living patrimony that has adapted through time to the various existing realities and local circumstances. |
| II. Priority fields of action | Cooperation in research and development | The Network develops actions for research, study and scientific promotion with publications and scientific congresses. The Scientific Committee, although it does not have several years' experience, has begun to carry out important work in this area through specific research. |
| | Enhancement of memory, history and European heritage | The Network provides European citizens with tools that allow them to learn about the unique heritage and promote it through digital media, open access to the documentation database and interactive seminars and to participate directly in the celebrations. |
| | Cultural and educational exchanges for young Europeans | The Network has started to promote the incorporation of younger people in the planning of the celebrations. It is necessary to continue to research this possibility and to carry out different projects and create a working group. |
| | Contemporary cultural and artistic practice | The artistic manifestations linked to the Holy Week Celebrations require the participation of professionals as well as amateur artists. The network collects information on the different artistic workshop located in the network's member countries, but it will be necessary develop the actions to publicize and promote these workshops. |
| | Cultural Tourism and Sustainable Cultural development | Holy Week and Easter celebrations currently attract many visitors to the towns where they are organized. During 2020 and 2021, the Network had programmed several actions to work on the tourist initiatives put forward by all the members but due to the pandemic, it has not been possible to carry out these actions. It would be convenient to continue with these projects when the situation improves. |
| III. Cultural Route Network | | Even though it is a recently created route, the permanent secretary's department is completely consolidated, and the network is operating. Some quality activities have been carried out but is necessary to expand important topics like contemporary cultural and artistic practice, cultural tourism and sustainable cultural development. It is necessary to find new members in other countries. The Network has a current budget to carry out its plans, but there are no futures members who will be able to join in the next three years. The route |

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| | has not applied for subsidies; the network will expect the next years when is more consolidated. |
| <i>Communication Tools</i> | The Network has developed a clear and comprehensive communication which is used by the network members. It is important to continue with this strategy for future development. |

5. List of references

- Certification form completed;
- Self-assessment grid completed;
- Declaration of honour;
- Updated legal status of the network;
- Updated list of members of the network;
- Ordinary and extraordinary General Assembly meeting reports of the past three-years (if applicable);
- Financial information (Current operational budget, financial information of the past three years; 3-year Budget forecast; Extra-budgetary funding);
- 3-year Programme of Activities forecast;
- Procedure for the admission of new members;
- Working groups documentation;
- Network of Holy week celebrations Museums;
- I European Forum on Holy Week and Easter Celebrations;
- Publication of the book “La Semana Santa, una tradicion viva”;
- Exhibition and conference “Pasos y misterios”;
- Activities implemented by members;
- Branding;
- Communication Plan;
- Brochures:
 - o General brochure;
 - o Holy week museums;
 - o Traditions for children;
 - o Culinary traditions.

All documents required for the evaluation had been duly submitted by the candidate route.

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

Date and programme of the field visit:

Program

From 2nd to 5th November 2021

Tuesday 2nd November

- Arrival to Seville (Spain)
- Dinner and night in Osuna, at *La Casona de Calderón* Hotel

Wednesday 3rd November

- Meeting with the Head of the Technical Secretariat of the network and the Coordinator of the Scientific Committee to review the documentation presented.
- Visit the Collegiate Church of Osuna
- Interview with the President of the network in the City Hall of Osuna
- Lunch with the President of the network, the Coordinator of the Scientific Committee and the Head of the Technical Secretariat at *Mesón del Duque de Osuna*
- Displacement to Puente Genil, visit to a Holy Week barracks and the Holy Week Museum of Puente Genil
- Dinner at the *Casa Pedro* Restaurant
- Night at Puente Genil, at Hotel El Carmen

Thursday 4th November

- Baena. Drum beat, a UNESCO intangible cultural heritage
- Cabra. Visit a candle marker artisan
- Lunch at the *Círculo de la Amistad* of Cabra
- Lucena. Children's traditions
- Dinner at *Tres Culturas* Restaurant
- Night at the Hotel Santo Domingo of Lucena

Friday 5th November

- Visit to Utrera to learn about the preparation of traditional Easter pastries. Works developed by the network on the gastronomy of Holy Week.
- Visit to Carmona, to know the *Saeta* as a characteristic artistic manifestation of Holy Week, and review of other similar manifestations and the proposed network strategy
- Lunch at the *Parador de Carmona* and return to Seville in the afternoon

Visited places:

Osuna:

- Hotel *La Casona de Calderón*
- Collegiate Church of Osuna
- City Hall of Osuna
- *Mesón del Duque de Osuna*
- Headquarters of the network in the "Museo de Osuna"
- Hotel *La Casona de Calderón*

Puente Genil:

- Holy Week barracks, *corporación bíblica Las Sectas judaicas*
- Holy Week Museum

- Casa Pedro restaurant
- Hotel El Carmen

Baena:

- Museum of Baena

Cabra:

- Hermanos Lama candle marker
- *Círculo de la Amistad* of Cabra

Lucena:

- Museum of Lucena
- Visit the most emblematic sites of the municipality
- *Tres Culturas* restaurant
- Hotel Santo Domingo

Utrera:

- Visit of the municipality
- Cake shop *Cordero*

Carmona:

- Saeta School, *Peña cultural amigos de la Guitarra*
- *Parador de Carmona*

People met/interviewed by the expert:

- Encarnación Giráldez, Head of the Technical Secretariat of the network, info@holyweekeurope.com
- Julio Grande Ibarra, Coordinator of the Scientific Committee of the network, jgrande@sepinum.com
- Beatriz Cuevas, Head of visits at the Collegiate Church of Osuna
- Rosario Andújar Torrejón, President of the network and Mayor of Osuna
- María Luisa Ceballos Casas, Mayor of Priego de Córdoba
- Lucía González García, Tourism Technician of the Priego de Córdoba City Council
- Manolo Delgado, Member of the Biblical Corporation *Las Sectas judaicas*
- Juan Miguel Granados, Responsible for the permanent exhibition of Holy Week in Puente Genil
- Sandra Martínez, Tourism Technician of the Puente Genil City Council
- Pedro Lucena, owner of the *Casa Pedro* Restaurant in Puente Genil
- Francisco Tovar, *Cuadrillero de la Quinta Cuadrilla de la Cola Negra*, a civic association in Baena
- Nicolás Fernández, *Cuadrillero de la Segunda Cuadrilla de la Cola Blanca*, a civic association in Baena
- Guillermo Bernal, President of the Association of Brotherhoods of Baena
- Javier Vacas, Councillor for Culture of the Baena City Council
- Adela Ruiz, Culture Technician of the Baena City Council
- Isidoro Lama Esquina, Manager of the *Hermanos Lama candle marker* in Cabra
- Antonio Ramón Jiménez Montes, Member of the *Aguilar y Eslava Foundation* in Cabra
- Francisco Casas Martín, Councillor for Tourism and Culture in Cabra
- Cesar del Espino García, Vice-president of the *Peña el Santero* in Lucena
- Juan Pérez Guerrero, Mayor of Lucena
- Eduardo García, President of the *Peña el Santero* in Lucena

- Gonzalo Beato, President of the *Venerable Archicofradía de Nuestro Padre Jesús Nazareno* in Lucena.
- Lope López, Restaurant Manager *Tres Culturas* in Lucena
- Daniel Rodríguez García, Administrator of the *Cordero* Pastry Shop
- Alfonso Jiménez Ballesteros, Tourism, Celebrations and Commerce Technician of The Utrera City Council
- María del Carmen Cabra Carmona, Councillor for Tourism, Major Festivities and Promotion of the Utrera City Council
- Carlos Vega, Director of the *Saeta* School “Peña cultural amigos de la Guitarra” in Carmona
- Eduardo Fernández, President of the *Saeta* School “Peña cultural amigos de la Guitarra” in Carmona
- Paula Moreno, Tourism Technician of Carmona

7. Annex 2: Expert assessment checklist

| EXPERT ASSESSMENT CHECK-LIST | | | | | |
|------------------------------|--|---|---|----|---|
| QUESTIONS | | | Yes | No | |
| 3.1 THEME | 1 | Does the theme of the Route represent a common value (historical, cultural, or heritage) to several European countries? | 1 | 0 | |
| | 2 | Does the theme of the route offer a solid basis for youth cultural and educational exchanges? | 1 | 0 | |
| | 3 | Does the theme of the route offer a solid basis for innovative activities? | 0 | 1 | |
| | 4 | Does the theme of the route offer a solid basis for cultural tourism products development? | 1 | 0 | |
| | 5 | Has the theme been researched/developed by academics/experts from different regions of Europe? | 1 | 0 | |
| 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 | 0 |
| | | 7 | Does the Route play a unifying role around major European themes, enabling dispersed knowledge to be brought together? | 1 | 0 |
| | | 8 | Does the Route show how these themes are representative of European values shared by several European countries? | 1 | 0 |
| | | 9 | Does the Route illustrate the development of these values and the variety of forms they may take in Europe? | 1 | 0 |
| | | 10 | Does the Route have a network of universities and research center working on its theme at the European level? | 1 | 0 |
| | | 11 | Does the Route have a multidisciplinary Scientific Committee? | 1 | 0 |
| | | 12 | Does the Scientific Committee work on its theme at the European level? | 1 | 0 |
| | | 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 | 0 |
| | | 14 | Does the Scientific Committee carry out research and analysis of the issues relevant to its theme and/or activities on the practical level? | 1 | 0 |
| | 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 | 0 |
| | | 16 | Do the Route activities promote the values of the Council of Europe? | 1 | 0 |
| | | 17 | Do the Route activities promote the brand of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe? | 1 | 0 |
| | | 18 | Does the route work in conformity with international charters and conventions on cultural heritage preservation? | 1 | 0 |
| | | 19 | Do the Route activities identify, preserve and develop European heritage sites in rural destinations? | 1 | 0 |
| | | 20 | Do the Route activities identify, preserve and develop European heritage sites in industrial areas in the process of economic restructuring? | 0 | 1 |
| | | 21 | Do the Route activities valorize the heritage of ethnic or social minorities in Europe? | 0 | 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 | 0 |

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| | | 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 | 0 |
| | | 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 | 0 |
| | 3.2.3 Cultural and educational 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 | 0 |
| | | 26 | Are the youth exchanges (cultural and educational) planned to emphasize the value of new personal experience through visiting diverse places? | 1 | 0 |
| | | 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 | 0 |
| | | 28 | Are the youth exchanges (cultural and educational) planned to offer collaborative opportunities for educational institutions at various levels? | 1 | 0 |
| | | 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? | 1 | 0 |
| | | 30 | Are the youth exchanges (cultural and educational) planned to set up pilot schemes with several participating countries? | 1 | |
| | | 31 | Are the youth exchanges (cultural and educational) planned to give rise to co-operation activities which involve educational institutions at various levels? | 1 | 0 |
| | 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? | 1 | 0 |
| | | 33 | Do the Route's cultural activities encourage artistic projects that establish links between cultural heritage and contemporary culture? | 1 | 0 |
| | | 34 | Do the Route's cultural activities encourage innovative cultural and contemporary art practices* connecting them with the history of skills development? | 1 | 0 |
| | | 35 | Do the Route's cultural activities encourage collaboration between culture amateurs and professionals via relevant activities and networks creation?** | 1 | 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 countries of Europe? | 1 | 0 |
| | | 37 | Do the Route's cultural activities encourage activities and artistic projects which explore the links between heritage and contemporary culture? | 0 | 1 |
| | | 38 | Do the Route's cultural activities highlight the most innovative and creative practices? | 1 | 0 |

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| 3.2.5 Cultural tourism and sustainable cultural development | 39 | Do the Route's cultural activities link these innovative and creative practices with the history of skills development?*** | 1 | 0 |
| | 40 | Do the Route's activities (relevant to sustainable cultural tourism development) assist in local, regional, national and/ or European identity formation? | 1 | 0 |
| | 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 | 0 |
| | 42 | Do the Route's activities promote dialogue between urban and rural communities and cultures? | 1 | 0 |
| | 43 | Do the Route's activities promote dialogue between developed and disadvantaged regions? | 1 | 0 |
| | 44 | Do the Route's activities promote dialogue between different regions (south, north, east, west) of Europe? | 1 | 0 |
| | 45 | Do the Route's activities promote dialogue between majority and minority (or native and immigrant) cultures? | 0 | 1 |
| | 46 | Do the Route's activities open possibilities for co-operation between Europe and other continents? | 1 | 0 |
| | 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 | 0 |
| | 48 | Do the Route's activities aim to diversify cultural product, service and activities offers? | 1 | 0 |
| | 49 | Do the Route's activities develop and offer quality cultural tourism products, services or activities transnationally? | 1 | 0 |
| | 50 | Do the Route's activities develop partnerships with public and private organisations active in the field of tourism? | 1 | 0 |
| | 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? | 0 | 1 |
| 3.3 NETWORK | 52 | Does the Route represent a network involving at least three Council of Europe's member states? | 1 | 0 |
| | 53 | Was the theme of the route chosen and accepted by the network members? | 1 | 0 |
| | 54 | Was the conceptual framework of the route founded on a scientific basis? | 1 | 0 |
| | 55 | Does the network involve several Council of Europe member states in all or part of its projects? | 1 | 0 |
| | 56 | Is the network financially sustainable? | 1 | 0 |
| | 57 | Does the network have a legal status (association, federation of associations, EEIG,...)? | 1 | 0 |
| | 58 | Does the network operate democratically? | 1 | 0 |
| | 59 | Does the network specify its objectives and working methods? | 1 | 0 |
| | 60 | Does the network specify the regions concerned by the project? | 1 | 0 |
| | 61 | Does the network specify its partners and participating countries? | 1 | 0 |
| | 62 | Does the network specify the fields of action involved? | 1 | 0 |
| | 63 | Does the network specify its overall strategy in the short and long term? | 1 | 0 |

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| | | 64 | Does the network identify potential participants and partners in Council of Europe member states and/or other world countries? | 1 | 0 |
| | | 65 | Does the network provide details of its financing (financial reports and/or activity budgets)? | 1 | 0 |
| | | 66 | Does the network provide details of its operational plan? | 1 | 0 |
| | | 67 | Does the network append the basic text(s) confirming its legal status? | 1 | 0 |
| 3.4 COMMUNICATION TOOLS | | 68 | Does the Route have its own logo? | 1 | 0 |
| | | 69 | Do all partners of the network use the logo on their communication tools? | 1 | 0 |
| | | 70 | Does the Route have its own dedicated website? | 1 | 0 |
| | | 71 | Is it the website available in English and French? | 0 | 1 |
| | | 72 | Is it the website available in other languages? | 1 | 0 |
| | | 73 | Does the network use effectively social networks and web 2.0? | 1 | 0 |
| | | 74 | Does the network publish brochures on the Route? | 1 | 0 |
| | | 75 | If yes, are the brochures available in English? | 1 | 0 |
| | | 76 | If yes, are the brochures available in French? | 0 | 1 |
| | 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.)? | | |
| | | 78 | Is the certification logo present on all communication materials? | | |
| | | 79 | Is the certification logo used in accordance to the guidelines for its use (size and position,...)? | | |
| | | 80 | Are the logos (Cultural Route + certification logo) provided to all the members of the Route? | | |
| | | 81 | Does the Council of Europe certification logo appear on road signs/ boards indicating the cultural route? | | |
| SCORE | | | | 68 | 8 |

8. Annex 3: List of acronyms, list of figures, tables and additional documents.

List of figures:

Figure 1. Biblical figure of Moses (The outstanding piece of the Quarter). Permanent exhibition of the Holy Week at Puente Genil (Spain)

Figure 2. Semana Santa Chiquita” in Puente Genil. Permanent exhibition of the Holy Week at Puente Genil (Spain)

Figure 3. Candlemaking “Hermanos Lama” (Cabra - Spain)

Figure 4. Elaborate helmets and drums in Baena (Spain)

Figure 5. Network members’ map. Source: European Network of Holy Week and Easter Celebrations

Figure 6. Identifying signage of the European Network