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

Candidate route: WOMEN WRITERS ROUTE

Independent expert report

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







2021/22 ENG





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

Independent Expert report

WOMEN WRITERS ROUTE

Author's information:

Name and surname: NAGY, Katalin Affiliation: University of Miskolc, Hungary E-mail address: <u>nagy.katalin@uni-miskolc.hu</u> Mobile phone number: +36 30 228 6540

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	Execu	tive Summary	. 5
2.	Introdu	uction	. 6
3.	Main E	Body Evaluation	. 8
3.	.1 Cu	ultural Route Theme	. 8
	3.1.1	Definition of the theme of the route	. 8
	3.1.2	Historical and cultural context	. 9
	3.1.3	Council of Europe values represented by the theme	. 9
3.	.2 Fie	elds of Action	10
	3.2.1	Co-operation in research and development	10
	3.2.2	Enhancement of the memory, history and European heritage	11
	3.2.3	Cultural and educational exchanges for young Europeans	11
	3.2.4	Contemporary cultural and artistic practice	12
	3.2.5	Cultural tourism and sustainable cultural development	13
3.	.3 Cu	ultural Route Network	19
	3.3.1	Overview of institutional / legal structure of the network	19
	3.3.2	Current composition of the network by country and type of member	23
	3.3.3	Strategy for the network extension in the three years to come	25
3.	.4 Co	ommunication tools	26
	3.4.1	Current state of communication tools developed by the network (graphic charter	ər,
	comm	unication materials, logo, communication channels, signposting, maps, etc.)	26
4.	Conclu	usions and recommendations	28
5.	List of	references	32
6.	Annex	1: Expert field visit and/or online interviews with the network management a	∩d
men	nbers		33
7.	Annex	2: Expert assessment checklist	36
8.	Annex	3: List of acronyms, list of figures, tables, and additional documents.	43

1. Executive Summary

The initiation of Women Writers Route is a very good example of building up a cultural route project consciously. The idea of the route reflects outstanding values of the Council of Europe, such as gender equality and human rights, as focusing on – as the first among all cultural routes – women. The role of women has been quite underestimated before, thus great scientists, actors or writers could not gain the deserted recognition.

The initiation started from the international foundation Forum of Slavic Cultures (FSK), which has been established in 2004, utilizing its wide and diversified international network in 13 Slavic countries. The project has been developed step by step, giving a "best practice" example to other applicants in the future. Based on the past joint activities (conferences, tours, presentations, publications, etc.) the management of FSK suggested the new cultural route project to their partners. They collected a lot of information, attended international events organised by EPA and EICR (Training Academies), studied handbooks and other materials, participated on seminars and interviews, to be truly prepared for the application for certification. They have formed a scientific and a programme council during the preparation period, elaborated an innovative model for the operation of the organisation, started involving the members only when they were also prepared for real cooperation and active participation; and finally, they established the international body for the route management: Cultural Tourist Association Women Writers Route (registered in Slovenia, Ljubljana).

The network now has 25 members from six Slavic countries, but it is continuously broadening. As the theme is "women writers", they would like to broaden the network outside the Slavic countries, too, among their long-term objectives, to all – interested – European countries. The network includes not only institutional members but stakeholders from the private sector, too. The network has its seat in Slovenia, Ljubljana.

The financial model (see in section 3.3) is long-term sustainable thus the operation of the network is stable and effective.

The activities are wisely planned, based on the existing joint activities, and introducing new ones with a particular partner, serving as good example for others. The activities cover all priority fields. Thanks to scientific partners as universities and researchers, the inclusion of the youth gets special attention, as well as young children due to certain services (see in section 3.2). Tourism, gastronomy, and history are also in focus.

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

According to the findings of the above table, based on the study of all application documents and the experiences during the field visit, the expert's opinion is that the certification "Cultural Route of the Council of Europe" can be awarded to the applicant.

2. Introduction

The International Foundation Forum of Slavic Cultures (FSK) is the initiator and organiser of the Women Writers Route. FSK connects and represents Slavic culture, science and arts, their creative charge and heritage, while investing its efforts in bringing the recognizable contribution of Slavic cultures to the global dialogue. They have more than 1200 partners in 13 Slavic countries. It is an international foundation, a non-profit and non-government organization, whose idea emerged in the cultural circles at the turn of the 21th century. The FSK was officially founded in 2004, and today unites more than 300 million Slavs in 13 Slavic countries: Belarus, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Poland, the Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Serbia and Ukraine.



1. Figure: The FSK network | Source : own photo in Villa Zlatica

Their headquarters is in Ljubljana, Slovenia, in Villa Zlatica, the home of the former mayor Ivan Hribar (he served as mayor between 1896 and 1910). He was also a journalist, poet and author, great friend of arts, and Zlatica was his daughter. This georgeous villa gives home to the Cultural Tourist Association Women Writers Route. There are also several programmes and temporary exhibitions organised in the villa and its garden, in relation to literature, and especially to women writers.

The route network has 25 members from 7 countries at the time of the report preparation, but the number of members are continuously increasing. Six of the 7 countries are Slavic countries (Bulgaria, Croatia, Poland, Russian Federation, Serbia and Slovenia), and all of them are EPA member states. There are other interested organisations and persons who would like to become members, as it is stated in the application form (p.20.) from Croatia, Montenegro, Poland, Serbia and Slovenia. The members are municipalities, institutions and natural persons, as it is detailed in section 3.3.

The route as the project of FSK has been systematically built up, based on the existing cooperation partnerships with the Slavic countries. The process was thoroughly mature, the managers studied other routes, collected information from EPA and EICR events and seminars, studied handbooks to be able to fulfil all requirements. They formed scientific and programme bodies, planned the joined activities regarding the priority fields of the related

CoE Resolutions. The already introduced WWR actions can serve as "best practice" to other members and interested potential partners. The final step was the establishment of the international network as an officially registered association. The main milestones are summed up in the following figure:



2. Figure: Milestones in the development of Women Writers Route | Source : own compilation based on interviews and application documents

Women writers pre-empted gender quality, set by Universal Declaration of Human Rights, by the European Convention on Human Rights and recently, by the PEN Charter and Women's Manifesto. The Women Writers Route highlights the outstanding life stories and literary works, which marked the struggle for human and women's rights in the 20th century. Their uniqueness and role in the history and cultural heritage of the entire Slavic and European region was important, yet never truly recognized. The WWR is a narrative way of revealing their life and creativity. It links the symbolic and physical points of their lives and work between museums, memorial rooms, reading rooms, public monuments, cafes and other public spaces. In addition to the scientific and cultural field, the road will also enrich local communities and tourist attractions, creative industry, gastronomy and cultural tourism.

3. Main Body Evaluation

The Main Body is divided according to the check-list chapters and the criteria established in Resolution CM/Res(2013/67) and summarises the results.

3.1 Cultural Route Theme

3.1.1 Definition of the theme of the route

Women... are everyday heroes, solid bases of families, mothers – but also scientists, great historical personalities, and artists. Often nameless – but often famous. However, fame has not been awarded to women for a long time...

There is no other cultural route completely dedicated to women, thus this route can stop a gap. This route puts women in focus.

The route aims to make women writers' achievements, works and literature visible to the public, representing the European values of tolerance, personal freedom and respect for equality and diversity. Other reasons:

- due to women's social status, their work has not been recognized for a long period in time; they got recognition only in the second half of the 19th century, so these women were pioneers in some respect.
- their creativity has not been recognized as an integral and important part of literature.
- by tracking stations of women writers' life, the route puts them in the wider social and historical context; visitors can explore real and imaginative literary spaces, thus encounter the richness of European linguistics, literary and creative diversity. As the applicant wrote, following their life "...enrich and deepen our knowledge of female literary authorship, ... we celebrate women's strength, innovation and creativity".

In the first phase of the route development, it crosses seven countries: Bulgaria, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia, Slovenia, Poland, and Russia. These Slavic countries had similar cultural and literary development and have contacts and dialogue between the writers. In the next stage, the widening of the network is foreseen, as there are other interested, non-Slavic countries even now, too. That is because the theme is for every European nation.

The route promotes literary works and authors, which marked the struggle for human and women's rights in the 20th century. Thus, the goals of the proposed cultural route are the following:

- to establish an efficient network for intercultural dialogue.
- open brand-new pages of the European cultural and democratic history.
- enable and broaden rich scientific, cultural and tourist exploration of women's literature in the context of European history, identity, and values.
- enhance visibility, significance, contribution, and reputation of women writers to European culture and European history of human rights and democracy.
- offer inspirational presentations, dynamic stories and attractive cultural and tourist activities.
- encourage constructive thought, initiate public debate, and strengthen democratic practice.

The theme offers a solid basis for youth cultural and educational exchange, innovative activities, and cultural tourism product development, as it will be shown in the following chapters.

3.1.2 Historical and cultural context

As women having been denied accessing education or science for long centuries, intellectual self-expression was mainly limited to literature, but without any feedback from the society. Many women writers could overcome these obstacles only in the 20th century, especially in Central and Eastern Europe. However, women writers could add very valuable thoughts to generations, from feminism to children literature, representing a different, sometimes special viewpoint on the topics they wrote about. They have an outstanding role in shaping values, diversity and richness of European history and heritage, and this must become more visible.

In the first phase, the activities, events, and programmes are focused on the following women writers:

- Jelisaveta Bagrjana (Bulgaria)
- Marija Jurić Zagorka, Ivana Brlić Mažuranić (Croatia),
- Divna Veković (Montenegro),
- Maria Konopnicka (Poland),
- Anna Akhmatova, Marina Tsvetaeva, Zinaida Gippius (Russian Federation),
- Jelena Dimitrijević, Desanka Maksimović, Isidora Sekulić (Serbia), and
- Zofka Kveder, Lili Novy, Ljubka Šorli (Slovenia).

These writers are representatives of the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries and the first half of the 20th century. With the publication and information of their novels, short stories, poems, letters, memoirs, etc. to the public, they also want to inspire the younger generations to search for the "lost" parts of our common history and culture. On the other hand, they also want to show the local population how rich their localities, heritage is, and values can be found not only in big cities, but in rural areas as well.

The definition of the theme is based on scientific research by multidisciplinary experts from different countries, as it is described in section 3.2.1.

3.1.3 Council of Europe values represented by the theme

The theme of the route is highly representative of the values of the Council of Europe. With the presentation of outstanding women writers, their life, work and struggles, the route represents the fight for human and women's rights, gender equality, national independence and use of national languages. These writers often demonstrated active citizenship and paved the way to a more plural and open society. They were also the representatives of fighters for women's rights to education, profession, freedom to travel, financial income and financial independence, and social independence. Their lifestyles and travels contributed to intercultural dialogue, and freedom of expression. "The literary history, and the history of women literature show that European identity and common cultural space with all its richness and diversity existed long before it was recognized by political decision-makers" – can be read in the application document.

Thus, the route represents principles and values expressed in important documents and declarations, such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the European Convention of Human Rights, the European Cultural Convention, the White Paper on Intercultural Dialogue, the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, and recently the PEN Charter and Women Manifesto. It also considers United Nations' sustainable development goal nr. 5.

The European Landscape Convention can also be considered, as these writers lived and worked in different landscapes, often in countryside, and in their works the space and landscape is often related to traditions, believes, customs, local knowledge, and symbolism.

3.2 Fields of Action

3.2.1 Co-operation in research and development

The theme of the route is researched by several experts from different countries, the members of the Scientific Committee are among the most recognized scholars in the field of research of women writers. They were worked together in several projects during the last decade, like

- Cost Action, Women Writers in History to create an international research collaboration network, and to produce a Road Map for further research on European women's literary history, breaking the former neglect of women as cultural agents.
- HERA project Travelling Texts studied the role of women writing in the transnational literary field during the 19th century, with researchers from Finland, Norway, the Netherlands, Slovenia, and Spain.
- DARIAH Working Group Women Writers in History addressed the reinforcement of the former projects' networks, the development of virtual research environment and initiate new research areas, supporting teaching, and building relations to other relevant networks.
- Doctoral course at the University of Belgrade "Bringing Theory, Activism and Cultural Practices Together: Feminist Press in Serbia in the 90s and 2000s"
- Knjiženstvo project Theory and History of Women's Writing in Serbian Language till 1915 – conducted by 20 outstanding scholars, started in 2011, resulting in a digital database of women authors before 1915, and a digital journal. This project was also part of COBWWWEB project (2013-14) in developing the virtual research environment. The database can be searched without any special permissions. (<u>http://www.womenwriters.nl/index.php/ Women_writers%27_networks</u>)

The route plays a unifying role in research and interdisciplinary analysis and studies both in theoretical and practical level.

The most important activities in this field were the following, in the past few years:

- 2019, 1 April International Conference on Women Writers at the Beginning of the 20th Century (Ljubljana, Slovenia) – with 40 participants from 5 countries, at the time of the founding meeting of the Scientific Committee.
- 2019, Fall Creation of CEEPUS Network Women Writers in History (Nova Gorica, Slovenia) – teaching women writers of Central Europe with digital materials and tools.
- 2019, 16-17 September International Conference: The Route of European Women Writers of the early 20th Century (Moscow, Russia; online) – with 22 speakers; FSK presentation of WWR project; lectures about the different aspects of life and work of women writers featured in the route.
- 2021, 26 March Presentation of the scientific volume Defiant Trajectories: Mapping Out Slavic Women Writers Route (online, with 25 participants) – with six scientific papers.

The route has a Scientific Committee, with 10 members from Bulgaria, Croatia, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, the Russian Federation, Serbia, and Slovenia. They represent 8 universities, a state library, and an academy of sciences. The members' fields of expertise are the following:

- event management
- languages and literary history
- cultural studies

- feminist and gender studies
- women writers' studies
- human rights
- IT applications in humanities.

It can be declared that the specialisation and geographical distribution of the members, and the institutions they represent, are sufficient.

3.2.2 Enhancement of the memory, history and European heritage

The more systematic research on issues like feminism, testimonies, life stories, material and intangible cultural heritage, the fight for women's equality in all fields of life; and the imagination and the fairy world they have been created – all contributes to a better understanding of European history and cultural heritage.

The route contributes to a better understanding of the periods before the 19th century, also after the entry of women into public spheres from the 19th century.

The most important activities in this field were the following in the past few years:

- 2018, 3-7 August Conference of the ICOM International Committee for Literary and Composers' Museums (Riga, Latvia) – with 70 participants; FSK presentation of WWR project.
- 2017 1st International Conference: Cultural Routes of the Slavic World on the Map of Europe (Ljubljana, Slovenia)
- 2018 2nd International Conference: St. Petersburg International Cultural Forum: Cultural Routes of the Slavic World on the Map of Europe (St. Petersburg, Russia) – with 100 participants; the ministers of cultures stressed the importance of cultural heritage, and benefits of Joint projects.
- 2019, 3-24th December Lectures on Jelena Dimitrijevic (Belgrade, Serbia) with 50 participants; she is a writer included in WWR.
- 2020, 8th March WWR launch; Children's Programme (Ogulin, Croatia; Warsaw, Poland; Ljubljana, Slovenia) – with different programmes in the three towns (workshop, book presentation, performance, exhibition).
- 2020, 8th March WWR Launch; A Day with Maria Konopnicka (Warsaw, Poland) literary walk around Warsaw, lecture, exhibition.
- 2020, 27th December Film "Women Writers from the Gorizia Region" (Nova Gorica, Slovenia) – the film was published on YouTube.
- 2021, 18th April Video presentation on the birthday of Ivana Brlić-Mažuranić (Ogulin, Croatia).

3.2.3 Cultural and educational exchanges for young Europeans

The route offers several quality possibilities for spare-time and educational programmes for children and the youth. The most important bases are:

- Ivana's House of Fairy Tales, Ogulin, Croatia providing educative and informative content of the famous local fairy tale writer, based on knowledge, creativity, and technology. Their special programme "A Course with Ivana" is officially approved by the national education agency and implemented for 10and 12-years old children from 2018.
- Vodnik Homestead, Ljubljana Slovenia providing workshops and narrative productions for schoolchildren; the walking tour "Women of Letters Walk" targets high-school students, with the assistance of teachers and experts.
- University of Nova Gorica, Slovenia the central institution of route activities for university students, with its CEEPUS Network Women Writers in History. Its main objective is "Teaching women writers from Central Europe by using

digital materials and tools". They offer courses on women writers, collaboration between universities within the network, develop digital teaching materials, on-line courses, and webinars. They will organise a summer school "Central European literary foremothers" in 2022 (it was planned for 2021 but delayed because of the pandemic), as the first of a series, focusing on different aspects of women's writing, each year. In the first year they focus on databases, presenting the new Virtual Research Environment, developed by the University of Belgrade. The summer school is planned for 5 days, with 10 participants.

There are several webinars and other useful information about activities what have been done already at the website (<u>https://women-writers.net/category/activities/</u>)

Planned activities for the upcoming years:

- Summer school (see above)
- o Monthly webinars
- Conference the working title is "Intimacy in female correspondences"

An important activity in this field was:

2019, 27-31st May – Summer School of Museology (Koper, Slovenia) – with 60 participants; among the program of the traditional summer camp, there was a presentation "New cultural route: The legacy of 20th century women writers as a strong foundation for a modern multi-focal network". The participating students were interested in activities in future projects.

3.2.4 Contemporary cultural and artistic practice

Most of the certified cultural routes face difficulty in including contemporary arts and cultures into their themes, which are mainly in connection with the past, some kind of historical, and cultural heritage. This field of activity can be handled a bit easier in case of literary theme like this. The main events in this field were the following in the past few years:

- 2019, 24th October Roundtable Discussions on Women Writers at the Belgrade Book Fair, with 25 participants.
- 2020, 5th March WWR Launch Lecture with a literary walk and month of women, with 24 participants.
- 2020, 8th March this day, the International Women's Day, was the official launch of all WWR joint activities, within several events, in different places, cities and countries. Within the Fabula Festival, there was a literary evening after a guided walk, with a young German writer. Also in this day, within the Ljubljana Sunday's flea and art market, there was a mini book fair, with a selection of books by women writers.
- 2020 October November International Translation Contest "Writers of the Silver Age about War", with 60 participants, organised by the Russian State Library, to support young translators and to promote Russian language. There were poems from outstanding women authors, too, to be translated.
- 2021, 11th June Literary evening after a guided Women of Letters Walk, with a Slovenian writer presenting her second novel, and a guitar performance. The programme was part of the Fabula Festival.

FSK has an international literary programme called "100 Slavic Novels", producing a beautiful book-series. The programme promotes contemporary Slavic literature written after the fall of the Berlin Wall. The collection represents a highly successful example of literary exchange among the Slavic cultures, establishing close ties among Slavic writers, translators, and readers. With a well-thought-out selection of

the twelve best novels from the participating countries – Belarus, Bulgaria, Croatia, North Macedonia, Montenegro, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, and Slovenia – it fills a literary gap in modern Slavic literature and breathes new life into the Slavic literary world. So far 83 books have been published. As a new element, videos of readings by women writers included in the series was initiated, and two videos have already been made.

The place of the headquarters, Villa Zlatica, also a unique location for organisation literary and artistic events. There are several "events in the garden".

Gastronomy and food tourism are also popular themes nowadays. FSK has a publication "At the Table with the Slavs", and several events organised under this name. The first world monography of Slavic cuisine won the prestigious Gourmand Award in 2017 and won a place among the best cookbooks in the 25-year history of the jubilee Gourmand Award – Best of the Best in 25 years. The theme can be well included in the basic theme of the route.

It is important to mention that 8th February is National Holiday of Culture in Slovenia, and during its events, the programme of Women Writers Route can be

3.2.5 Cultural tourism and sustainable cultural development

Woman Writers Route has a great potential in cultural and educational tourism, focusing on tourists interested in literature, as the main target group. It can also serve niche target groups, those who are interested in sociology, human and women's rights. It comprises various historical and heritage places, in both urban and rural spaces.

The different attractions (birthplaces, museums, libraries, etc.) and locations connected to women writers are very diverse, and through meaningful interactions, shared knowledge and information provide tourists a unique experience. At the same time, as women writers are less known, these – sometimes remote – places are also not in the focus of tourism, thus tourists can meet new stories and fresh tourism products.

The two main target groups in case of WWR are (1) children and youth, and (2) middle-age and senior audience.

This route offers tourism products mainly for domestic tourists, but, on the other hand, international cooperation can bring foreign tourists as well to those places, which were unknown for them before (e.g., Fairy Tale Festival in Ogulin, Literary Walks in Ljubljana, which city focuses on literature otherwise, too).

The type of tourism products offered by the route is sustainable, environmentally friendly, and opens new possibilities for slow and creative tourism as well.

The basic idea of providing tourism products along Women Writers Route is to construct, then create – i.e., first combine and use already existing initiatives and take advantage of the possible synergies. The tourism products offered by the route now are the following:

 Women of Letters Walk, Ljubljana, Slovenia – guided walking tour, provided by a small private non-profit organisation, Ptich, and financed by a member, Vodnik Homestead. A special walk is organised for high-school teachers, too.



3. Figure: Women of Letters Walk | Source : <u>https://ptich.si/ljubljana-women-of-letters-walking-tour/</u>

- Similar walks were prepared within the network in Warsaw, Poland following the footsteps of Maria Konopnicka, and in Belgrade by the project Knjiženstvo. There is Zagreb Walk with Marija Jurić Zagorka, organized by the Zagreb Tourist Board – an organization that expressed intent to join the WWR Network – and Marija Jurić Zagorka Society in Croatia. The network is discussing membership with the agency Katapult from Zagreb, Croatia which produced Tajne Griča: theatrical nocturnal tour of Gornji Grad (based on Zagorka's historical novels.
- Ivana's House of Fairy Tales, Ogulin, Croatia providing guided tours, creative and educative workshops for children, families, and adults (16 times a year) and other special thematic programmes. The centre cooperates with Ogulin Tourist Board, several Croatian tourist agencies, and the private sector (tourist stakeholders). There is also a local Fairy Tale Route introducing the magical places of Ogulin. There are 12 locations marked with specific fibreglass and metal installations. Their project is the outstanding fairy tale database as well.

They also have very good relations to private enterprises, like Heritage Hotel Frankopan, where the rooms are named after fairy tale persons; or another organises driving test for a driver's license to ride a broom.

 Ogulin Festival of Fairy Tales, Croatia – organised by the Ogulin Tourist Board (they intent to become a member in the network).

The main events in this field were the following in the past years:

- 2019, 21-22nd February Conference of Russian spiritual culture in Serbia (Belgrade, Serbia) – with 150 participants. The establishment of cultural routes, and their potential for local tourism and culture were discussed.
- 2019, 20-24th May Meeting of UNESCO Cities of Literature Network (Nottingham, UK), where WWR project has been introduced.
- 2019, 14th November 3rd International Conference: St. Petersburg International Cultural Forum: Cultural Routes of the Slavic World on the Map of Europe (St. Petersburg, Russia) – with 120 participants; where the WWR project was presented, and the participants stressed the potential of the route in tourism.
- 2019, November Literary Walk: following the steps of women writers around Belgrade (Belgrade, Serbia) – with 25 participants; within Knjiženstvo project.
- 2020, 8th March Women Writers Tours on WWR Launch Day (Ljubljana, Slovenia; Warsaw, Poland) – with 60 participants; guided tours and exhibitions in both towns.

- 2021, 8th March Online exhibition "Female Characters in Ivana's Fairy Tales"
- 2021, 18th April Video presentation on the birthday of Ivana Brlić-Mažuranić (Ogulin, Croatia).

An outstanding ongoing tourism project is "Biciklistinja" – a cycling route, joint project of the School of Humanities students and School of Engineering and Management students at University of Nova Gorica. Students can learn through their activities in the project about the history of women, while it has a symbolic meaning as well: bicycle was a catalyst for women's emancipation as a means of escape and freedom. As project outcomes, there will be a study about the possibilities of development of the tourism in the municipality of Loški Potok, containing the possible combination of cultural tourism and sport activities, acknowledging the importance of Zofka Kveder in literature and cultural history. They also prepare an application for the cell phones, leading to excerpts from Kveder's writings about places in Loški Potok, and a leaflet. Students will elaborate a communication strategy for the cycling route, too. The project ends in May 2022.

The route network has cooperation with different Tourist Boards, some of them are members, or potential future members of the association. They do not have travel agency or tour operator partner yet, but the initiation is among the plans.

Regarding the fields of actions as a whole, the main goals of the route are somehow embedded the aims and events and activities of the member institutions, so each member is very active in organising events under the name of the Women Writers Route. On the other hand, they are keen on organising events highlighting the goals and aspects of the route.

Museum of Literature, Warsaw (Poland)	Vodnik Homestead – house of reading, writing and storytelling (Slovenia)	Ivana's House of Fairy Tales (Croatia)	Ministry of Culture and Information of the Republic of Serbia (Serbia)	M. I. Rudomino AllRussian State Library for Foreign Literature (Russia)
 Popular science lecture about Maria Konopnicka; poetry reading for children Exhibition of published books, including translations and a show of illustrations, and a lecture on the writing of Maria Konopnicka (Outdoor event combined with poetry reading and workshops for children (creating illustrations and creating your own book) Panel on the languages of the text and translations of Maria Konopnicka and other writers into Polish (European Day of Languages) 	 Selling books of women writers – pop-up bookstore, mini open-air book-fair, public liteary events (readings, discussions); Birthdays of Slovenian writers Presentations and readings of contemporary women writers upon book publications, translations etc. – in cooperation with literary fettivals Exhibitions dedicated to women writers, their time, life and work in Villa Zlatica (headquarters of the FSK) – possibility of open-air exhibitions. Establishing of the WWR library in the Villa Zlatica Further development and regular organization of the Women of Letters Tour. https://ptich.si/ljubijana- women-of-letters-walking- toury – prepared and organization Urbana Vrana Organized public visits to the landmarks, connected to women writers guided by experts and scientists – at special occasions (authors birthdays etc.). At least two workshops or storytelling events per year at Vodnikova domačija or in Villa Zlatica in co-operation with the City Museum of Liubijana. 	 Exhibition on Ivana Brlić-Mažuranić and female characters in Ivana's fairy tales (8 March); Panel on translation and intermational reception of the works of Ivana Brlić-Mažuranić + public reading of the works by Ivana Brlić-Mažuranić in Croatian and in translation (European Day of Languages); Stonytelling for kindergarten children (World Stonytelling Day, 20 March); Presentation of Ivana's work (Croatian Book Day, 22 April); Temporary exhibition: Ivana through artwork of kindergarten children (Ivana's birthday, 18 April); Lecture on Ivana's life and works, and video presentation through contemporary media (Ivana's birthday, 18 April); Presentation of Ivana's books + book binding workshop for children (Croatian Book Month, 15 October – 15 November). 	Exhibition at the National Library of Serbia on Serbian women writers.	 International translation contest "Writers of the Silver Age about war" (ceremony of awarding the winners in January 2021); Preparation of the eBook with the translations of the contest "Writers of the Silver Age about war"; Preparation of book collections of Anna Akhmatova, Zinaida Gippius, Marina Tsvetaeva (book collection of Margarita Rudomino All-Russia State Library for Foreign Literature).

4. Figure: An overview of the programmes in 2021 | Source : Tihana Turković, president of the Programme Council

The Programme Committee has already set the route's planned activities for the years to come, which can be divided into two main groups:

- 1) Activities on important dates
 - 20th February International Day of Tourist Guides they plan special tours for tour guides in many places. For instance, in Slovenia, they plan a special tour for all Slovenian guides in Ljubljana "Zofka Kveder Route", and a bike route in Loski Potok. Together with the Local Tourist Guide Association, they plan to make another route being more touristic, starting also in February 2022, with the intention to transfer the idea to other cities out of Ljubljana.
 - 8th March International Women's Day this date is the most important for the route. They plan coordinated conferences and lectures emphasizing the importance of these women writers for human rights, aiming the general public and tourists as well.
 - 20th March World Storytelling Day good possibility to use this ancient technique to tell stories about the women writers, aiming all age groups both from the locals and tourists.
 - 21st March World Poetry Day some of the women writers are poets, or others inspired other poets. They plan activities in cooperation with creative groups and educational institutions.
 - 27th March World Theatre Day these events can be connected to women writers' art, to draw the attention of all age groups.
 - 23rd April World Book and Copyright Day to promote reading, publishing, and writing. The events can be of the interest of all age groups, give opportunity to publish new editions (and translations) of women writers' works, which can also be souvenirs for tourists.
 - 9th May Mothers' Day through activities, the motif of motherhood expressed also in the works of women writers, can be presented.
 - 12th August International Youth Day to organise special events to children and young persons.
 - 23rd September European Day of Languages a day of intercultural heritage, which gives the opportunity to present translations of women writers' works, and to achieve a greater understanding of their literature.
 - 10th December Human Rights Day through different events the women writers' efforts can be brought into limelight.
- 2) Joint activities along the route
 - storytelling oral interpretation of the women writers' works
 - exhibitions in a wide spectrum of photos, memories, artifacts, visual arts, using specific and online platforms as well
 - conferences, seminars, and lectures aiming students, teachers, and researchers, but also general public, too
 - theatre a successful way to introduce a literary work or story to the public; plays can be organised in theatres, cultural institutions, and schools, or in community spaces. It is a good opportunity for the inclusion of local communities, too.
 - reading events can be thematic, or targeting one particular group, and can be easily live streamed on online platforms.
 - workshops most often for children, can be creative or educational
 - publishing reprints and new translations, or a collection of selected works; a great platform for intercultural exchange.

All the activities suggested for the period from 2021 to 2023 aim to enhance the visibility of these writers in their local communities, but also to encourage intercultural exchange

along the Route and beyond it. In the years to come, these numerous activities shall surely enhance visibility, significance, contribution, and reputation of women writers throughout Europe and beyond. These activities shall also establish strong connections between the institutions, organizations, and municipalities along the Route through partnerships, joint projects, and their common goal of promotion of women who left their mark not only on the history of literature and Europe.

This is the right place to mention, that after the expert field visit, an online SURVEY has been circulated among the network members, with 3 questions: (1) Why have you become the member of the Women Writers Route network? (2) What are the main benefits for you / for your organisation? and (3) What will be your main contribution to the network activities in the next three years? What activities will you carry out?

And happened what all researchers are dreaming about: there was 100 % answering rate! That means that all the members filled out the questionnaire, proving their commitment to the network, and their appreciation of the work done by the route management for the certification.

The members have been divided into 5 main groups [by the expert], according to their main character. The following table summarizes their main contributions to the network's activity, in the coming few years.

Universities	 Education and research with conferences, lectures, seminars, round tables, workshops, public lectures. Summer School (organised by the CEEPUS Network) Cycling route and other student projects Research of the transnational relationships of women writers, women writers in the peripheral regions and multicultural women writers with hybrid identities. Dissemination and collaboration Work on finding new potential members for the network, and authors to be included in the route Inclusion of existing sites and female writers in field teaching and field trips of students of tourism. Involving tourism students in research assignments and writing graduate and master's theses on the topics of this cultural route. 			
Libraries	 Lectures, exhibitions Digital forms of programmes Scientific conferences, round tables; book and illustrative exhibitions; organization of creative contests for young people; publications Festival of Slavic Cultures (Russia) Collection of books by all women writers in the project in different languages of the world. Exhibition about WWR in Serbia Next year Novi Sad is a host of the Women Writers Route, and they are preparing an exhibition of Isidora Sekulić's work. Promotion and dissemination Public library will improve the position of the Museum of Native Writers in Valjevo, and its part related to Desanka Maksimović. We will develop a network of local associates in charge of tourist facilities. 			
Municipalities Ogulin "Homeland of Fairy Tales": supports the promoti Brlić-Mažuranić through WWR. Annual Fairy Tale Festi Ivana's House of Fairy Tales Visitor Centre is a basic the route.				

	 City of Ljubljana and its different institutions: Promoting and developing Women of Letters Tour organized by a non-profit organization Ptich Promoting and developing Walking and bicycle tours organized by tour-guides, members of the Association of Local Tourist guides Organized public visits to the landmarks, connected to women writers guided by experts and scientists – at special occasions (authors birthdays etc.) Pop-up bookstores, mini open-air book fair of women literature (traditionally on 8 March) on the riverbanks of Ljubljana Presentations and readings of contemporary women writers upon book publications, translations etc. – in cooperation with literary festivals (Fabula, City of Women, Mesto knjige) and other projects (100 Slavic Novels) Exhibitions dedicated to women writers, their time, life and work in Villa Zlatica Support of the WWR library in the Villa Zlatica (FSK and WWR headquarters) in the historical library of Ivan Hribar Activities for children and youth (story-telling events) about women in history and women writers around the bicycle route "Biciklistinja" developed together with the University of Nova Gorica. Promotion, signposting, tourist infrastructure. Activities for local inhabitants and school children – Zofka Kveder memorial room and statue.
Cultural institutions	 Calendar of events Regular and occasional events, programmes Information and promotion activities Association "Holy Places of Undivided Christianity" is interested, first, in the religious and religious-philosophical dimension of life and work of those remarkable writers who were included in the route, in particular Cherubina de Gabriac, Marina Tsvetaeva and Anna Akhmatova. Educational, scholarly, and research meetings in accordance with WWR. FSK: literary events of women writers, assistance in establishing WWR library, making its premises available for summer schools, events, workshops, and the summer Library under the Treetops in its garden.
Natural persons	• They have very diversified reasons to support the work of the network, some of them are staff members but wanted to emphasize their commitment by becoming a member; they do promotion, coordination, social network manager. Some of them are real experts of the theme, and want to contribute somehow with their knowledge, organisation of events, exhibitions, share their know-how and innovative ideas. All of them are seeking new relations and collaborations.

3.3 Cultural Route Network

3.3.1 Overview of institutional / legal structure of the network

As it was described before, the initiation of the route was the project of the Forum of Slavic Cultures, based on their existing cooperation network in 13 Slavic countries. After several years of preparation, the final step was to officially establish the route network as legal entity, this is the Cultural Tourist Association Women Writers Route, which was registered in December 2020, under Slovenian law.

The headquarters is in Ljubljana, Slovenia, in Villa Zlatica. The logo of the network can be found at the gate:



5. Figure: WWR logo and name at the gate of Villa Zlatica | Source : own photo

The mission of the Cultural Tourist Association Women Writers Route is to pursue joint interests of individuals, institutions, local communities, and regions participating in cultural creation and performance, education and scientific creativity and pursuits as well as in the promotion of tourism associated with women's literature.

The Association's objective is to set up and manage the cultural route Women Writers Route, which is dedicated to women writers and will:

- raise awareness of European history of human rights and democracy,
- present the exceptional efforts of women writers in these processes,
- expand cultural exploration of women's literature in the context of European history, identity, and values,
- introduce the wider public to their lives and works through inspiring presentations and dynamic cultural activities,
- expand and integrate professional, cultural and tourist exploration of women's literature, their life stories, and relevant locations.

The Association pursues its mission by:

- dissemination of knowledge about women writers in the context of European heritage and history,
- promote cultural and study exchanges of young Europeans,
- fostering dialogue and exchange of good practices,
- development of sustainable and ethical tourism,
- raising the awareness of our common European history with local stories,

- promotional activities for cultural and tourism development,
- meetings and events, and coordinating the Association's activities,
- liaising with similar organizations worldwide,
- cooperation of research institutions, universities, and professionals,
- publishing (<u>www.women-writers-route.eu</u>).

The main bodies of the association are:

- Honorary President: it is the mayor of Ogulin, Croatia, who played an outstanding role in promoting culture as a tool of development. It is adopted in the statute that the honorary president is a person with special merits for the Association and its mission. This title is for 2 years.
- Management Board 3 members: it consists of a president (Slovenian), a treasurer (Slovenian) and a member (Russian, representing the member Association of Specialists in the Field of Cultural Routes "Holy Places of Undivided Christianity").
- Steering Committee 5 members: the members are from 5 different countries (Croatia, Poland, Russia, Serbia, and Slovenia).
- Secretariat 5 members: the honorary president from Croatia and 4 people working full-time at FSK and manage WWR as part-time worker or volunteer.
- Programme Council 5 members; the members are from 5 different countries (Croatia, Poland, Russia, Serbia, and Slovenia). They represent different cultural institutions.

The Programme Council proposes and plans activities of the network. WWR Programme Council's mission is to prepare a programme proposal for Association's activities, to prepare transnational and local promotional activities, to prepare the annual report on its activities, and to monitor the quality of the activities conducted in the context of the cultural route and express opinions thereon.

 Scientific Committee – 10 members: the members are from 10 different countries (Bulgaria, Croatia, Montenegro, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovenia, The Netherlands). They represent different fields of science (see in section 3.2.1).

The Scientific Committee supports the cultural route with different activities based on the expertise of its members on women writers; organizes different events, e. g. conferences, round tables, conveys different research projects (for instance, in October 2021 – conference George Sand, and in August 2022 exploratory workshop Censoring Intimacy in Women's Writing and Reading). Most of the members of the scientific committee are also university teachers, they teach women writers and encourage students to do projects, BA, MA, and PhD thesis on women writers. Some members of the scientific council are also members of the CEEPUS network which will organize a summer school.

The first General Meeting of the Cultural Tourist Association Women Writers Route was held on 14th December 2020, in Ljubljana, Slovenia. The second General Meeting was held on 10th June 2021, online. The president has been elected for 4 years.

The route has a stable financial background. In the years 2019 – 2020, before the establishment of the Association, their budget is shown in the following figure:



6. Figure: Financial situation in EUR, in the years 2019-2020, by types of expenditures | Source : own complilation on the basis of the application documentation

The budget of the network was 23 523 EUR in 2019, and 17 502 EUR in 2020. After the establishment of the Association, the present financial situation and the financial forecast for the upcoming years are summarized in the following figures:



7. Figure: Present and planned revenues in EUR, by type | Source : own complilation on the basis of the application documentation

The Association has a new financial model with the basic idea that municipalities or national institutions pay membership fees in money, and other institutions, members "pay" membership fees in-kind – with their activities and programmes.

Membership fees for municipalities are calculated according to the number of inhabitants and UN Officials retail index per country (last updated October 2019). The fees are calculated for all the places, where the writers currently included in the route lived or worked. New cities will be added once the network is spread and new writers

from different countries (not necessary Slavic) are included. As recently the countries and municipalities are in the crisis of pandemic, the association charged discounted amounts as membership fees: 55 % for sites with partially developed infrastructure with no existing program for the route, 85 % for sites with no infrastructure and no program. The idea is that local communities should pay less and invest some funds into infrastructure to better fit into the programme of the route. Once the route activities will be in full swing, the charged membership fees will be higher. They also expect new municipality members in the future. Thus, the forecast of increasing membership fees is based on two feet: (1) "normal" or higher fees from existing municipalities after the pandemic crisis, and (2) new fees from new members.

On the other hand, new members are carefully selected based on their full commitment to the aims of the association and the route, only in case they are willing to undertake all their pledges. This means a very important principle: quality is much more important than quantity, i.e., number of members.





8. Figure: Present and planned expenses in EUR, by type | Source : own complilation on the basis of the application documentation

All these financial data have been adopted at the General Assembly on 10th June 2021.

The financial state can be well supported by different funds. As the Association has been recently established, their members' former or running projects have been involved in the route activities. The main projects are:

2011 – 2019 | Theory and History of Women's Writing in Serbia until 2015, financed by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development of Serbia, resulting in database, journal, and publications – it can be paired to activities of (1) cooperation in research and development, (2) enhancement of European culture, and (3) contemporary cultural and artistic practice.

- ongoing from 2013 | Visitor Centre Ivana's House of Fairy Tales in Ogulin, financed by EU Regional Development Funds, the Ministry of Culture of Croatia, the Municipality and Tourist Board of Ogulin, and other associations it can be paired to activities of (1) cultural and educational exchanges for young Europeans, (2) cultural tourism and (3) enhancement of European heritage.
- ongoing from 2019 | CEEPUS Network for Women Writers in History, financed by CEEPUS Central European Exchange Program for University Studies, resulting in webinars, mobility, summer school and scientific research – it can be paired to activities (1) cooperation in research and development, and (2) cultural and educational exchange programmes for young Europeans
- June November 2020 | Bedtime Fairy Tales financed by Ministry of Culture of Croatia, resulting in the database of 10 audio fairy tales available at Ivana's House – it can be paired to cultural and educational exchanges for young Europeans.
- March 2021 | Fairy Tale Winter by the Fireplace, financed by the Ministry of Culture of Croatia, resulting in a 5-day festival of storytelling with audio and video recordings – it can also be paired to cultural and educational exchanges for young Europeans.

Naturally, in the future, the Association by itself will be able to apply for different funds for supporting their activities.

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



The network has 25 members now, from seven different countries (six Slavic countries + Portugal).

9. Figure: Network members by country | Source : own compilation

The next figure will show the members by type. It is eye-catching that there are quite a high number / proportion of natural persons, correlated to other cultural routes. There are different reasons for that. On the one hand, their institutions or organizations for some reason cannot become members but these persons are very active in the WWR association, usually as experts. Some of the members are also writers (e.g. awarded and acclaimed Slovenian writer Suzana Tratnik) who are freelancers and do not belong to any institutions. On the other hand, there is a group of individual members who believe they can be more actively involved if they are also members. At the FSK the employees and students who work for them also became members so they can identify themselves with the WWR and separate their work for the WWR and for the FSK.



10. Figure: Network members by type | Source : own compilation

If we consider the accession year of the present members, we can see that one third of the members accessed last year, in the year of the official foundation of the association, while two-third accessed this year, though the number of members is continuously growing. It must be remarked that meanwhile the report has been prepared, two other new members have joined the organisation, thus the number of current members is 27.



11. Figure: Network members by accessing year | Source : own compilation

In the previously mentioned survey (see at the end of section 3.2) there were questions related to the reason and importance of membership. In the following section there are some answers for these questions:

We believe that it would be important to include our work in even wider network not only within the educational field but also on the field of museums, associations, and other institutions of cultural heritage. The exchange of activities and experience could benefit the faculty (students, lecturers, etc.) as well as the network as a whole. [a university]

In addition to the personal benefits with which I have new experience and knowledge and competencies, I can also apply the current knowledge in the work of this association. Then, with this participation I will make new contacts, acquaintances, and an opportunity for potential cooperation between many stakeholders within and outside the Association and Route. I want, both as a parent and as a researcher, to contribute to raising awareness and the importance of the role of women in the world of literature and in society in general. [a university member]

Because I think that the idea of connecting women authors from the past via a route will initiate new forms of cultural collaboration -- we will be learning from each other and develop ideas how to present their merits for the audience other than just academic one. [a natural person]

An interesting cooperation project between a network of European museums. A project dedicated to women important to culture, history, and the development of the idea of emancipation in my country. Perspective of direct international cooperation. The perspective of the development of the museum network. A chance for cooperation between cultural sites and academic networks for women's history. Deepening the European, especially Slavonic context for Polish female authors. [a library]

I am particularly interested in women issues, and I would like to improve my competencies in this field and contribute to the promotion of the new association, cultural route, and activities within. I would like to strengthen my international contacts, be part of the sustainable international network and to become familiar with the past which has impacts everyday life today. [a natural person]

The Women Writers Route network reflects different aspects of the European literary process in the 20th century, and in particular, the intercultural interaction, the reciprocal influence of cultures, writers, literary figures from different countries. And, of course, Russian literature, generally oriented towards spiritual striving, is of great importance in this process. It is worth mentioning, that the religious and religious-philosophical reflections are of particular interest to the Association "Holy Places of Undivided Christianity." We want it to occupy its appropriate place in the project. [an association]

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

There are several potential members queuing up for acceding to the network, from Croatia, Montenegro, Poland, Serbia and Slovenia, the number of members is increasing even during the preparation of this report. Among the potential new members, there are municipalities, Tourist Boards, libraries, museums, and a university.

On the other hand, the network has a well-based strategy for the extension, as it was described before: new members are carefully selected based on their full commitment to the aims of the association and the route, only in case they are willing to undertake

all their pledges. This means a very important principle: quality is much more important than quantity, i.e., number of members.

Another direction of network extension is to widen the cooperation with non-Slavic countries, as there are significant women writers in other European countries as well. And the theme itself is not restricted to only Slavic women writers.

Finally, a very appreciated aim of the network is to include as many private (small) enterprises as possible, mainly concerning tourism product development. There are already started initiations, for instance:

- developing a guided tour (walking and bicycling) around Ljubljana with Mateja Kregar Gliha, a tourist guide and the president of the Slovenian Local Tourist Guides Association. The tour will be then transferred and multiplied to other cities and town by her colleagues in the Local Tourist Guide Association. The tours can be carried out live or online
- Women of Letters Walking Tour held by a small non-profit organization Ptich
- Co-operation with the Association of Slovenian Tourist guides
- Co-operation with the self-employed storyteller and tourist guide: Sabina Gvozdič
- Co-operation with the a local tourist company Regoč Tours from Ogulin
- Discussing the co-operation with Katapult.hr (Katapult is an agency dealing with event organization and production. It was founded in Zagreb in 2002.)

3.4 Communication tools

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

The Association has already created a visibility guideline in Serbian and English languages. Their symbol has a complex meaning: letter W stands for words Woman and Writer / writing and an equilateral downward-facing triangle that represents Venus mound (mons veneris) and female energy. They form a pen tip together.



12. Figure : WWR logo | Source : WWR Manual

The Manual contains the logotype, its proportions, colours, its possible variations, letter types, the basic samples for business cards, letterhead, Power Point presentations, and a leaflet. The Manual contains the possible combination with the Cultural Route of the Council of Europe logo, too, in case of a positive decision about the certification.

The network has a strong online and social media presence, they have

 Website: <u>www.women-writers-route.eu</u> – this site is in English, but there are also information in 12 Slavic languages on the FSK website (<u>www.fsk.si</u>).

- Facebook page in English; contains news, updates, facts, events, information about writers, photos, and videos; it is updated about twice a week; one person from the staff is responsible for the online sites, normally a student on internship.
- Instagram page same as above.
- Twitter page is under construction.
- YouTube channel provides videos, events, conferences, webinars, etc.

Printed, traditional materials:

The network has published a leaflet, and the members also use the route logo in their event posters and other materials. These are always in English plus the national language where it is published.

Signposting is under way, the plans and models are ready, but for financial efficiency, the decision about the certification would be waited for.

There are also several books and other publications indirectly related to the route, several of them are listed in the application document.

The network management and the individual members have good connections with the media, there are several articles, TV and radio, and online news appear around the events. (For instance, after the expert field visit, quite a long article was published in a national Croatian newspaper. <u>http://www.neodoljivahrvatska.eu/2021/11/03/ruta-spisateljica-u-ogulinu/?fbclid=lwAR2GFukdK- rGmsJr8ylfbubHO36 NMUhZ HHfOj1zMRcO-giqdm13mMWks</u>)

4. Conclusions and recommendations

After a long learning process, with active participation at EICR events as well, Women Writers Route has been systematically built, step by step. The result is a well-though network, using existing cooperation to be widened. The process itself can be a best practice for future candidates. The same systematic and careful work characterise the application document as well: there are all the necessary information and detail, without any tautology.

The network has done a lot of things so far, and have settled plans for the future, regarding both their activities and the network development.

Women Writers Route is unique in several ways. First, it has a theme focusing on women, from every possible aspect, emphasizing their role in culture and human rights. Second, it crosses Eastern and Central European countries, which are still less included in many certified routes. Third, the composition of its members well represents the cooperation between public and private sector, institutions, and natural persons, from diverse professional background, which gives the possibility for innovative ideas.

Their "route", way until the fulfilment of the conditions of becoming a certified cultural route of the Council of Europe has been described in detail in the previous chapters.

CRITER	IA	Fulfilment of certification criteria by the candidate network
<i>I.</i> C	Cultural route theme	The route is unique in its nature among the other certified routes, focusing on women. In its present, first phase, the route concentrates on Slavic authors, but, in compliance with its main targets, will be extended to other European countries as well. The route aims to make women writers' achievements, works and literature visible to the public, representing the European values of tolerance, personal freedom and respect for equality and diversity. The theme offers a solid basis for youth cultural and educational exchange, innovative activities, and cultural tourism product development. The theme of the route is highly representative of the values of the Council of Europe.
	Cooperation in research and development	The route has a very stable scientific base, with a Scientific Committee with 10 members from 10 countries. The specialisation and geographical distribution of the members, and the institutions they represent, are sufficient. The involved (member) universities carry out several activities, both in education (for students and researchers) and for the public (seminars, lectures). They are very active in international collaborations and projects. Several conferences were organised, and a dedicated summer school is planned for next year (delayed because of the pandemic).
ll. Priority fields of action	Enhancement of memory, history, and European heritage	Systematic research on issues like feminism, testimonies, life stories, material and intangible cultural heritage, the fight for women's equality in all fields of life; and the imagination and the fairy world they have been created – with the route, all contributes to a better understanding of European history and cultural heritage; of the periods before the 19 th century, also after the entry of women into public spheres from the 19 th century. There were conferences, lectures, film publishing, literary walks among the activities in this field.
II. Priority fié	Cultural and educational exchanges for young Europeans	The route offers several quality possibilities for spare-time and educational programmes for children and the youth. The most important bases are Ivana's House of Fairy Tales (Ogulin, Croatia), University of Nova Gorica (Slovenia) and Vodnik Homestead (Ljubljana, Slovenia). Many different programs and events have been organised to this important target group. All age-groups within this segment could be reached.

	Contemporary cultural and artistic practice	Including this kind of activity is a bit easier for such a literary themed route than others, mainly concentrating for historical or cultural heritage from the very past. The route organised several literary evenings, and a translation contest, as good examples. The initiator Forum of Slavic Cultures has an acknowledged project of 100 Slavic Novels, a beautiful book series, which has 83 publications so far. The route has a very good potential for gastronomy, as a trendy topic, they won Gourmand Award "Best of the Best" with the book "At the Table with the Slavs".
	Cultural Tourism and Sustainable Cultural development	Woman Writers Route has a great potential in cultural and educational tourism, focusing on tourists interested in literature, as the main target group. It can also serve niche target groups, those who are interested in sociology, human and women's rights. It comprises various historical and heritage places, in both urban and rural spaces. The different attractions (birthplaces, museums, libraries, etc.) and locations connected to women writers are very diverse, and through meaningful interactions, shared knowledge and information provide tourists a unique experience. At the same time, as women writers are less known, these – sometimes remote – places are also not in the focus of tourism, thus tourists can meet new stories and fresh tourism products. The two main target groups in case of WWR are (1) children and youth, and (2) middle-age and senior audience. The type of tourism products offered by the route is sustainable, environmentally friendly, and opens new possibilities for slow and creative tourism as well. So far, they have organised several guided walking tours in the footsteps of the outlined women writers, there were conferences, video performances. Some member institutions (like e.g. Ivana's House of Fairy Tales, or city libraries, museums and other cultural institutions) have a wide range of programme and tourism product offer. It is important to emphasize that in several cases these products are developed together with small private enterprises, or with municipalities (bicycle route).
	talented and creat coming years. The	emphasize, that the Route has a Programme Council as well, with very ative members, who have elaborated a well-thought activity plan for the ney focus on (1) activities on important dates (like International Women's etry Day), and (2) common activities and events along the route.
III. Cultural Route Network		The route was the project of the Forum of Slavic Cultures, based on their existing cooperation network in 13 Slavic countries. After several years of preparation, the final step was to officially establish the route network as legal entity, this is the Cultural Tourist Association Women Writers Route, which was registered in December 2020, under Slovenian law. The headquarters is in Ljubljana, Slovenia, in Villa Zlatica. It has 25 members from 7 different countries, and the number of the members is continuously growing (at the time of the preparation of this report it is 27). The network operates democratically, with elected bodies. It has General Assembly, Steering Committee, Management Board, Secretariat, Scientific and Programme Committee. Its financial background is stable, thanks to their model for operation. New members are carefully selected based on their full commitment to the aims of the association and the route, only in case they are willing to undertake all their pledges. This means a very important principle: quality is much more important than quantity.
Commu	nication Tools	The Association has already created a visibility guideline in Serbian and English languages. They are very active in social media (Facebook, Instagram), and have a YouTube channel. The route has a good website in English language.

According to the above table, the candidate route fulfilled all the certification criteria. They have done so much, and have well-defined ideas for the future – thus, just some recommendations can be written here, as inspiration for further thoughts.

Cultural route theme:

 In accordance with its main target, try to include at least one non-Slavic country, with national women authors, in the network, in the next 3 years.

Cooperation in research and development:

- As cultural tourism and sustainable tourism product development is an important field of action, please involve a tourism expert as well into the Scientific Committee.
- Try to increase cooperation with member and non-member universities and other higher education institutions, to encourage students to write their thesis on cultural routes; or involve them in project initiations.
- Later, a conference on tourism topics, impacts and possibilities can also be inserted among the existing conference themes.

Cultural and educational exchanges for young Europeans:

- Besides the very good educational and project targets, try to emphasize the value of new personal experiences which can be gained through these activities and the visits in new places.
- Summer camps can be organised on a certain topic, related to a defined location, activity, or idea, with concrete outputs, products; project elements (like leaflets, signposts, souvenirs); take turns at organising in different country each year. This type of camp (intentionally not called school) can be organised under the same umbrella name.
- As a long-term target, member universities can develop a special subject in the theme
 of the route, offering in Erasmus programme.

Contemporary cultural and artistic practice:

- Try to include creative topics into existing events, or establish new events, in connection with, for example,
 - o fashion, jewels, embroidery
 - household and career (a day with XY writer...)
 - local cuisine (a dinner with XY...).
- Include contemporary artists into the network's activities, through exhibitions or contests (e.g., modern meanings of women writers' work, in visual arts; design for souvenirs...)
- Keep on translation projects!
- Publication possibilities (tale books, colouring books ...)

Cultural Tourism and Sustainable Cultural development:

- In the programme plan (not only for the coming three years), please include World Tourism Day, 27th September as well, among the important dates. Organise a special touristic event on this day, each year.
- Creative ideas can bring new events, especially connected to important dates, for instance
 - storytelling contest for guides (20th March, Storytelling Day)
 - o poet contest, drawing contest for children (21st March, Poetry Day)
 - amateur groups festival (27th March, Theatre Day)
 - tale writing contest, public reading events (23rd April, Book Day)

- New products in slow tourism can be developed with local community involvement, where, for instance, the local woman writer can be the host and guide.
- "Excursions with the writers" can be a hiking product, while exploring the natural sites, there are literary readings during picnic at the end of the hiking tour. It can also be a bicycle tour.

As it was stated before, the contribution of individual members with their events and programmes is very significant. The network management will have to pay attention to the geographical balance of the individual events, and the inclusion of other members (institutions, countries). Activities must reflect transnational cooperation and network dynamics. Also be aware of a healthy balance between the five different fields of actions.

Cultural Route Network:

- The route management must work on the extension of the network, in three directions:
 - \circ $\,$ include new countries, both from Slavic and non-Slavic areas
 - o include new women writers into the highlighted ones
 - include as many different member profiles as possible, with special regards to small enterprises, travel agencies, and local communities.
- Keep on finding other (certified) routes to cooperate with (the initial meeting with Iron Route has already happened)
- The Association should start applying for European and national development funds by itself

Communication tools:

- The network must put emphasis on common signposting (especially in case of the certification)
- Though the network is active on social media and internet, traditional brochures should also be published about the route, the writers, the main locations and offers (tourism products and events) – it can be a joint one or by countries, in English and the native language. It is suggested to publish it in a Manual format, which is suitable for presenting the route to tour operators. It would be a useful tool to organise study tours for travel agents. Though, this can be a long-term goal.
- A map should be produced, either on paper or digitally, and inserted into the website, too.
- Try to find "ambassadors" of the route, especially for the younger generations, like a popular blogger, vlogger, or influencer, and organise special events, meetings, or study tours for them.
- Insert a web-shop into the website.

5. List of references

The References section should contain the list of documents provided by the candidate cultural route and any additional documentation or information sources analysed by the expert (if applicable).

Please indicate if all documents required for the evaluation had been duly submitted by the candidate route.

The candidate cultural route has been duly submitted all required documents to be analysed, according to the following list:

Application dossier submitted by the candidate route (the dossier was very well organised, without any unnecessary annexes):

- □ 1 Application form
 - Annex No5 Visibility
 - WWR Design Logotype Guidelines
 - WWR Leaflets
 - 🗁 Logo
 - WWR logo in different formats
 - Deriv Photos
 - Certification form
- \square 2 Statutes
 - WWR Statutes
- 2 3 Members
 - WWR List of network members
- 2 4 General Assemblies
 - WWR Minutes of General Meetings
- ▷ 5 Financial information
 - WWR Financial information budget plan report
- ☐ 6 Activities
 - WWR Programme of activities for 2021 2023
- 7 Additional information
 - WWR Additional information

Other analysed resources:

Website of International Foundation Forum of Slavic Cultures: <u>www.fsk.si</u> Website of Women Writers Route: <u>www.women-writers-route.eu</u> Website of WWR Russia: <u>http://press-libfl.tilda.ws/womenrouteeng</u> Website of WomenWriters, Huygens Institute, Amsterdam: <u>http://www.womenwriters.nl/index.</u> <u>php/Women_writers%27_networks</u> CEEPUS Network Women Writers in History: https://women-writers.net/

All the links were checked, which are included in the application document.

Expert's survey made via Google Form, online.

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

The field visit took place on 26-29 October 2021, according to the following programme:

Tuesday, 26 October 2021

- 17.00 Arrival to Ljubljana, Slovenia
- 19.00 Informal meeting with the WWR President and Manager; dinner

Wednesday, 27 October 2021

Ogulin, Croatia, WWR member

- 9.00 Departure from Ljubljana (Hotel Center)
- 11.15 Arrival to Ogulin
- 11.30 Meeting with the Mayor of the Municipality of Ogulin, Mr Dalibor Domitrović, Honorary President of the WWR Association; and Ms. Sonja Drašković, Director of the Tourist Office | *Municipality of Ogulin, UI. Bernardina Frankopana 11, Ogulin*



13. Figure: Meeting at the Municipality of Ogulin | Source : own photo

- 12.30 Walk around the town, the Route of Fairy Tale Ogulin
- 13.00 Lunch
- 14.00 Visit to the Ivana's House of Fairy Tale, WWR member | *Trg hrvatskih domoljuba 2, Ogulin*



14. Figure: Ivana's House Visitor Centre | Source : own photos

- 15.30 Meeting with the President of the WWR Programme Council and the Ivana's House of Fairy Tales Director Ms Tihana Turković *Topics:* WWR Programme of Activities and the WWR activities and members in Croatia | *Director's Office, UI. Alojza Stepinca 1, Ogulin*
- 16.30 Departure for Ljubljana
- 18.30 Arrival to Ljubljana

Thursday, 28 October

Nova Gorica (SLO) and Gorizia (IT)

- 9.30 Departure to Nova Gorica
- 10.40 Arrival to Nova Gorica
- 11.00 Visit to the University of Nova Gorica and meeting with the President of the WWR Scientific Council Prof. Katja Mihurko Poniž

Topics: scientific foundations and reasons for the route; projects for students – summer school, seminars; CEEPUS Project Women Writers in History, possibility of cross-border cooperation, etc. | *Gorica, School of Humanities, Vipavska cesta 13, Nova Gorica*



15. Figure: Meeting at the University of Nova Gorica, Prof. Mladen Franko, vice-rector for education | Source : own photo

16. Figure: Presentation of the president of the Scientific Committee, Prof. Katja Mihurko Poniž | Source : own photo

- 12.30 Lunch
- 14.00 Walk around Nova Gorica and Gorizia, *visiting the memorials to women writers*
- 16.00 Departure for Ljubljana
- 17.30 Arrival to Ljubljana

Friday, 29 October

Ljubljana, WWR Headquarters

10.00 Meeting at the headquarters of the Cultural Tourist Association Women Writers Route with the President Dr Andreja Rihter and Manager of the Association Ms Mateja Jančar

Topics: management of the route, plans and projects, finances, members, etc. | *Villa Zlatica, Cesta 27. aprila 47, Ljubljana*



- 17. Figure: Meeting at WWR headquarters, Villa Zlatica | Source : own photo
- 12.30 Guided visit of Villa Zlatica
- 13.30 Walk to lunch past the memorials to women writers
- 14.00 Lunch

7. Annex 2: Expert assessment checklist

EXPERT ASSESSMENT CHECK-LIST							
QUES [®]	QUESTIONS					Comments (if any)	
		1	Does the theme of the Route represent a common value (historical, cultural, or heritage) to several European countries?	1		The route crosses seven countries now, broadening is foreseen.	
			Does the theme of the route offer a solid basis for youth cultural and educational exchanges?	1			
		3	Does the theme of the route offer a solid basis for innovative activities?	1			
		4	Does the theme of the route offer a solid basis for cultural tourism products development?	1			
3 1 THEME	- -	5	Has the theme been researched / developed by academics/experts from different regions of Europe?	1			
		6	Does the Route offer a platform for co- operation in research and development of European cultural themes/values?	1			
	development	_	7	Does the Route play a unifying role around major European themes, enabling dispersed knowledge to be brought together?	1		
			8	Does the Route show how these themes are representative of European values shared by several European countries?	1		
		9	Does the Route illustrate the development of these values and the variety of forms they may take in Europe?	1			
		10	Does the Route have a network of universities and research centre working on its theme at the European level?	1			
	earch a	11	Does the Route have a multidisciplinary Scientific Committee?	1		It has 10 members from 10 different countries.	
FIELDS OF ACTION	n res	12	Does the Scientific Committee work on its theme at the European level?	1			
	eration in	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		See the list of publications in the application document.	
3.2 FIELDS	3.2.1 Co-operation in research and	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		A good example is the "Biciklistinja", a cycling route project, initiated by the University of Nova Gorica.	

r - r			1	1	
	15	Do the Route activities take into account and explain the historical significance of tangible and intangible European heritage?	1		
	16	Do the Route activities promote the values of the Council of Europe?	1		
	17	Do the Route activities promote the brand of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe?	1		
	18	Does the route work in conformity with international charters and conventions on cultural heritage preservation?	1		
	19	Do the Route activities identify, preserve, and develop European heritage sites in rural destinations?	1		
heritade	20	Do the Route activities identify, preserve, and develop European heritage sites in industrial areas in the process of economic restructuring?	0	1	
nean	21	Do the Route activities valorise the heritage of ethnic or social minorities in Europe?	1		
orv and Fu	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		
memory history and Furonean heritade	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		
3 2 5 Enhancement of the n	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		

rr			1		
	25	Are the youth exchanges (cultural and educational) planned to develop a better understanding of the concept of European citizenship?	1		
ov l	26	Are the youth exchanges (cultural and educational) planned to emphasize the value of new personal experience through visiting diverse places?	0	1	
3.2.3 Cultural and educational exchanges of young Europeans	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		
nanges of yc	28	Are the youth exchanges (cultural and educational) planned to offer collaborative opportunities for educational institutions at various levels?	1		
cational excl	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		
al and edu	30	Are the youth exchanges (cultural and educational) planned to set up pilot schemes with several participating countries?	1		E.g., summer schools
3.2.3 Culture	31	Are the youth exchanges (cultural and educational) planned to give rise to co-operation activities which involve educational institutions at various levels?	1		

r	-			,
	32	Do the Route's cultural activities promote intercultural dialogue and multidisciplinary exchange between various artistic expressions in European countries?	1	
	33	Do the Route's cultural activities encourage artistic projects that establish links between cultural heritage and contemporary culture?	1	E.g., gastronomy, an 100 Slavic Novels series
	34	Do the Route's cultural activities encourage innovative cultural and contemporary art practices* connecting them with the history of skills development?	1	Plans to include fashion items for instance
tice	35	Do the Route's cultural activities encourage collaboration between culture amateurs and professionals via relevant activities and networks creation? **	1	
3.2.4 Contemporary cultural and artistic practice	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	
ary cultural a	37	Do the Route's cultural activities encourage activities and artistic projects which explore the links between heritage and contemporary culture?	1	
empore	38	Do the Route's cultural activities highlight the most innovative and creative practices?	1	
3.2.4 Cont	39	Do the Route's cultural activities link these innovative and creative practices with the history of skills development? ***	1	

				r	[]
	40	Do the Route's activities (relevant to sustainable cultural tourism development) assist in local, regional, national and/ or European identity formation?	1		
	41	Do the Route's activities (relevant to sustainable cultural tourism development) actively involve 3 major means to raise awareness of their cultural projects: print, broadcast, and social media?	1		
	42	Do the Route's activities promote dialogue between urban and rural communities and cultures?	1		
	43	Do the Route's activities promote dialogue between developed and disadvantaged regions?	1		
	44	Do the Route's activities promote dialogue between different regions (south, north, east, west) of Europe?	1		
	45	Do the Route's activities promote dialogue between majority and minority (or native and immigrant) cultures?	0	1	
lopment	46	Do the Route's activities open possibilities for co-operation between Europe and other continents?	0	1	
3.2.5 Cultural tourism and sustainable cultural development	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		
iinable o	48	Do the Route's activities aim to diversify cultural product, service and activities offers?	1		
and susta	49	Do the Route's activities develop and offer quality cultural tourism products, services, or activities transnationally?	1		
al tourism	50	Do the Route's activities develop partnerships with public and private organisations active in the field of tourism?	1		
3.2.5 Culture	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	Signposting is the task of the future; there are signposts or other signs at certain concrete locations.

				1	
		Does the Route represent a network	_		
	52	involving at least three Council of	1		
		Europe's member states?			
	53	Was the theme of the route chosen			
		and accepted by the network	1		
		members?			
		Was the conceptual framework of			
	54	the route founded on a scientific	1		
		basis?	•		
	55	Does the network involve several			
			1		
	55	Council of Europe member states in	•		
		all or part of its projects?			
	56	Is the network financially	1		
		sustainable?	-		
		Does the network have a legal status			
	57	(association, federation of	1		
		associations, EEIG,)?			
	5	Does the network operate			
	58	democratically?	1		
		Does the network specify its			
	59	objectives and working methods?	1		
	60	Does the network specify the regions			
		concerned by the project?	1		
	61	Does the network specify its partners			
			1		
		and participating countries?			
	62	Does the network specify the fields	1		
		of action involved?			
	63	Does the network specify its overall	0	1	
		strategy in the short and long term?	Ŭ	-	
	64	Does the network identify potential			
		participants and partners in Council	1		
		of Europe member states and/or			
		other world countries?			
		Does the network provide details of		1	
×	65	its financing (financial reports and/or	1		
R		activity budgets)?	•		
N N		Does the network provide details of			
E I	66		1		
3.3 NETWORK		its operational plan?			
<u>.</u>	67	Does the network append the basic	1		
с. С		text(s) confirming its legal status?			

		68	Does the Route have its own logo?	1		
		00	•			
		69	Do all partners of the network use the logo on their communication tools?	1		
		70	Does the Route have its own dedicated website?	1		
		71	Is it the website available in English and French?	0	1	It is available in English so far.
		72	Is it the website available in other languages?	0	1	Information in other languages (12 Slavic languages) in the website of FSK
		73	Does the network use effectively social networks and web 2.0?	1		
		74	Does the network publish brochures on the Route?	1		An information leaflet so far
		75	If yes, are the brochures available in English?	1		
		76	If yes, are the brochures available in French?	0	1	
3.4 COMMUNICATION TOOLS	of the	77	Is the title of "Cultural Route of the Council of Europe" present on all communication materials (including press releases, webpages,			
	tes		publications, etc.)?			
	Routes	78	Is the certification logo present on all communication materials?			
	For certified Cultural Council of Europe only	79	Is the certification logo used in accordance with 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			67	9		
Note:			Plage insert 1 for eveny positive ensurer	88%		
NOIE:			Please insert 1 for every positive answer and 0 for a negative one. See your total score at the bottom of the column.			
architec cultural	* E.g., visual arts, the performing arts, creative crafts, architecture, music, literature, poetry, or any other form of cultural expression					
**Partic the relev			ns of instruction for young Europeans in			
***Whet	ther the	ese fi	elds include visual arts, performing arts, tecture, music, literature, or any other field			

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

List of acronyms used throughout the report:

- CoE = Council of Europe
- EICR = European Institute of Cultural Routes
- EPA = Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes
- FSK = International Foundation Forum of Slavic Cultures
- WWR = Women Writers Route

List of figures:

1. Figure : The FSK network Source : own photo in Villa Zlatica
2. Figure : Milestones in the development of Women Writers Route Source : own
compilation based on interviews and application documents7
3. Figure : Women of Letters Walk Source : https://ptich.si/ljubljana-women-of-letters-
walking-tour/14
4. Figure : An overview of the programmes in 2021 Source : Tihana Turković, president of
the Programme Council15
5. Figure : WWR logo and name at the gate of Villa Zlatica Source : own photo19
6. Figure : Financial situation in EUR, in the years 2019-2020, by types of expenditures
Source : own complilation on the basis of the application documentation
7. Figure : Present and planned revenues in EUR, by type Source : own complilation on the
basis of the application documentation21
8. Figure : Present and planned expenses in EUR, by type Source : own complilation on the
basis of the application documentation22
9. Figure : Network members by country Source : own compilation23
10. Figure : Network members by type Source : own compilation24
11. Figure : Network members by accessing year Source : own compilation24
12. Figure : WWR logo Source : WWR Manual26
13. Figure : Meeting at the Municipality of Ogulin Source : own photo
14. Figure : Ivana's House Visitor Centre Source : own photos
15. Figure : Meeting at the University of Nova Gorica, Prof. Mladen Franko, vice-rector for
education Source : own photo
16. Figure : Presentation of the president of the Scientific Committee, Prof. Katja Mihurko
Poniž Source : own photo
17. Figure : Meeting at WWR headquarters, Villa Zlatica Source : own photo